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# 1 SUMMARY

*The Aggregate Landscape of Somerset: Predicting the Archaeological Resource* was commissioned by English Heritage in 2005 and represents a survey of the archaeological resource of the aggregate mineral producing areas within the County of Somerset. The project was funded through the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund (ALSF) which was introduced in 2002 to attend to issues arising from the extraction of aggregates.

The project comprises of a largely HER based assessment of the archaeological resource within six character areas of past and current aggregate extraction within the County of Somerset. Included in these areas is a consideration of regions identified as possible future sources for aggregates from the Somerset Minerals Local Plan (MLP). The Resource Assessment is followed by a Research and Outreach Agenda for the character areas. In addition the report includes the interim results of an aerial survey carried out for two pilot areas consisting of the Eastern Mendip Hills and the Westonzoyland and Chedzoy Burtle Beds on the Somerset Levels.

The results of the Resource Assessment have established that approximately 25% of the archaeological resource within Somerset lies within areas suitable for aggregate extraction including 28% of the County's prehistoric monuments, 11% of the Roman, 14% of the Early Medieval, 14% of the Medieval and 29% of the Post Medieval monuments within Somerset. The Resource Assessment also highlighted a general dearth across all the character areas for good quality modern archaeological excavations; geophysical prospection, environmental surveys, artefact studies and scientific dating.

The Research and Outreach Agendas propose areas for future study and re-assessment in particular focussing on a number of monuments severely impacted on or destroyed by aggregate extraction that have hitherto been poorly investigated.

The results of the two pilot aerial photographic surveys centred on the Eastern Mendip Hills and the Westonzoyland and Chedzoy area of the Burtle Beds created a total of ninety-eight new Somerset HER records and amended sixty. On the Mendips sixty-five new records were created and twenty were amended, the majority relating to Medieval and Post Medieval agricultural practice. For the Burtle Beds thirty-three new records were created and forty were amended, many of which related to the Prehistoric and Post Medieval periods. Of particular interest within the Burtle Beds pilot area numerous areas of Medieval or Post Medieval sand extraction were identified.

## **2 INTRODUCTION**

### **2.1 Background to the Project**

Somerset has a range of geological resources used as aggregates both in the past and present; these include the Carboniferous Limestone, sometimes the Middle Jurassic Limestone which overlie the older formations and Silurian Andesite of the Mendip Hills, the Devonian Sandstone and Shales of Exmoor, the Quantock and Brendon Hills, the Triassic Pebble Beds of the Vale of Taunton, the Quaternary sand deposits of the Burtle Beds and Brean and Berrow dunes system and the Quaternary gravel deposits of the valleys. In 1996, the total output of aggregates from Somerset, was 10.8 million tonnes, most of which was produced from the quarries located on the Mendip Hills.

Somerset County Council is the minerals planning authority, with the exception of extraction below the low water mark of the Severn Estuary, licences for which are issued by the ODPM. However landing facilities for these marine aggregates are considered within the Minerals Local Plan (MLP).

On 7<sup>th</sup> April 2004 a countywide Minerals Local Plan (1997-2011) was adopted after being considered at an Examination in Public and by an Inspector's Report. The plan identified numerous sites for minerals extraction including the supply of aggregates, the results of which have been the cause of widespread debate. In particular the location of a number of the aggregate quarries within the Mendip and Quantock Hills Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauties (AONBs) is a cause for concern.

Consideration of the archaeological implications of aggregate site allocation is frequently complicated as judgements are often affected by insufficient archaeological information. There are procedures in place once the allocations have been made and the strategic plan adopted to allow the archaeological implications to be investigated within the planning policy guidance framework. There are however many factors which limit these mechanisms including the restrictions of commonly used archaeological science and with particular reference to the Carboniferous Limestone areas the difficulties in dealing with hidden cave deposits. Therefore the majority of the strategic decisions regarding land allocation are made on the basis of insufficient knowledge.

Within the regions of aggregate resource in the County old planning permissions for aggregate extraction (granted prior to the adoption of current archaeology and planning guidance and legislation) exist. Limited progress has been made in addressing the archaeological implications of these permissions through their review by the minerals planning authority. However there has been no systematic examination of the issue with regards to archaeological contexts.

The primary purpose of this project is to improve the quantity and quality of the archaeological information available for the aggregate producing areas within Somerset therefore providing a greater resource base that can be used to provide informed advice regarding the implications of aggregate extraction on archaeological sites to be given at:

- Future Minerals Local Plan Reviews
- Re-assessments of existing minerals planning permissions
- Assessment of new applications for minerals planning permission

The implementation of this project provides an opportunity to create an overview of both the nature and extent of the aggregate producing deposits within Somerset, and the archaeological resource within these regions. The results of which can be used to inform future decision making on priorities for the preservation of nationally and internationally important archaeological sites through designation and management of archaeological remains through the minerals planning process. The production of a Research Agenda will help to inform judgments and the project will also create a greater awareness of archaeological issues within the minerals industry and the local communities affected by aggregate extraction.

## **2.2 Project Objectives**

The aims and objectives for this project have been drawn up with reference to the criteria published on the English Heritage website for the Aggregate Levy Sustainability Fund (ALSF) projects. The project is designed to fulfil two of the three main criteria for the ALSF projects defined on that webpage:

- A. Projects to increase the understanding and dissemination of knowledge gained from previous work undertaken on aggregate extraction landscapes: both to the local communities and the wider academic and public. This work will also improve our ability to predict future impacts in such environments (see B).*
- B. Projects aimed at developing the capacity to manage the impact of aggregate extraction on historic landscapes in the future. To develop reliable predictive information to enable curators, planners and the industry to better manage the impact of future extraction on the historic environment.*

The project was commissioned by English Heritage on the basis of a project outline submitted in December 2004, and accepted by English Heritage in xxxxxx. A Project Design was submitted in January 2005, in support of an application for the funding of the project under the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund (project number 3994). The Project Design outlined eight aims for the project and these were:

*To facilitate decisions regarding strategic planning, management and preservation of archaeological sites and historic landscapes in the aggregates producing areas.*

*To define the aggregate producing resource in Somerset*

*To identify areas of past, present and future aggregate extraction*

*To undertake limited data capture to facilitate the other aims*

*To assess the state of knowledge regarding the archaeology of the aggregate areas*

*To develop draft archaeological research agendas for the aggregate areas*

*To increase public and industry awareness of the archaeology of the aggregate producing areas.*

*To briefly trial the usefulness of LiDAR and IFSAR data in aggregate areas.*

In order to comply with the project objectives a methodology (see Methodology, Section X) was created. The main elements of the methodology were the identification of aggregate minerals producing deposits and the collection of all available data regarding minerals planning permissions. The Somerset HER was then used to identify archaeological data for the aggregate producing areas and the nature, date and extent of this material was assessed. This allowed the creation of archaeological research and outreach agendas to address the current gaps in our knowledge of these areas and identify ways in which to increase public awareness of the archaeology of the aggregates landscape.

## 3 METHODOLOGY

### 3.1 Introduction

A methodology was developed to meet the project aims of identifying past, present and future areas of aggregate production within Somerset and to define the impact of aggregate extraction on archaeological remains. The basic components comprise of:

- The identification of the aggregate producing geology within the county.
- The identification of geology within these areas which has been worked both historically and currently.
- The identification of known archaeological deposits within this geology.

Data for the project was obtained exclusively from the Somerset HER. This information was treated as correct, and no attempts were made to verify the HER data. However during the course of the production of the Resource Assessment corrections were made to the HER where obvious mistakes were apparent.

During the project a pilot aerial photographic scheme was started to use National Mapping Programme (NMP) methodology in appropriate areas to produce digital mapping and textual descriptions of all archaeological sites using the Somerset HER GIS and database and to assess non-NMP methodologies for different landscapes and levels of survey. All the areas of survey were recorded to NMP standard. An assessment of the digital vertical aerial photographs for the Somerset HER GIS was also undertaken. This work was carried out at NMR base in Swindon (see appendices for results).

An assessment of the usefulness of a LiDAR survey of the Mendip Hills was also planned. However the information from the survey has not yet been made available and is therefore not integrated into this project.

### 3.2 Identification of geological deposits capable of producing aggregates

Somerset County Council has obtained digital geology maps of the County from the British Geological Survey and holds them on their GIS system. This data incorporates information from the BGS *Lexicon of Named Rock Units* and it includes general geological rock types for instance limestone and sandstone, known as ROCK types and specific lithologies known as a LEX type, such as Black Rock Limestone and Hangman Sandstone. It is possible to search this data on both levels and the results have been plotted onto a background map of the County.

Phase one was to identify all the geology within Somerset which had potential for producing aggregates, whether there were any plans for future extraction or not. Maps of each region within Somerset were then produced from the BGS digital data. Six distinct areas were identified and they then became the basis for the HER searches. The character areas are listed below:

The Mendip Hills  
Exmoor, the Brendons and the Quantock Hills  
Coastal Deposits  
River Terrace Deposits  
The Burtle Beds  
The Budleigh Salterton Pebble Beds

### **3.3 Collection of data concerning all aggregate minerals planning permissions**

Information regarding past and present aggregate mineral planning permissions was obtained from Somerset County Council Minerals Planning Officers. This consisted of digital maps of current planning permissions and paper maps and associated paperwork relating to past areas of extraction since 1947. Unfortunately the archives containing many of the pre-1997 permission were incomplete and therefore limited success was made in the identification of some of the earlier extraction areas. The results of this search were combined, tabulated and plotted onto GIS. The geological formations on which the quarries lie and which have aggregate producing potential were then identified for each area and tabulated, the results are in figures 1-6 below.

During the search of the historic aggregate minerals planning permissions a number of small-scale sand and gravel quarrying operations across the County were identified. These quarries were located in areas that are no longer considered to be viable for aggregate extraction and as the paper files no longer exist for the works it was only possible to obtain limited information for each site. As a consequence it was considered that these quarries should be treated separately from the other character areas. The geological formations on which these quarries lie are listed below in Table 7.

Figures 8-11 contain the aggregate quarries that have current permissions for extraction. These include sites that are classified as active but have not been operational for many years and those which are dormant but which have extant permissions. Amongst these quarries are those which are considered to be in locations where there is potential for quarrying operations to have an adverse impact on the environment, or where it is considered unlikely that quarrying will resume or both.

A list of 45 “lapsed” permissions under the Environment Act 1995 and known historical quarries was also compiled from the data provided by the Minerals Planning Officers, in some cases it was possible to identify from the paper archives that these quarries had been used for aggregate extraction in others it was not. All the quarries located on the aggregate producing geology regardless of whether they can be proved to have extracted aggregates are contained in this list as it was considered to be relevant to the development of the project. The lists of these quarries by geological formation are illustrated in figures 12-15.

**Table1 Quarried Geologies in the Mendip Hills Character Area**

<b>Description</b>	<b>BGS Tag</b>
Clifton Down Limestone Formation	CDL-LMST
Cheddar Oolite Member	CDRO-OOLM
Cheddar Limestone Member	CDRL-LMST
Burrington Oolite Subgroup	BO-LMST
Black Rock Limestone Subgroup	BRL-LMST
Vallis Limestone Formation	VL-LMST
Oxwich Head Limestone Formation	OHL-LMST
Coalbrookdale Formation	CBRD-ANDE
Coalbrookdale Formation	CBRD-TUFF
Coalbrookdale Formation	CBRD-MDST
Inferior Oolite Group (only where overlying older rocks)	ION-OLM
Portishead Formation	POB-SDST

**Table2 Quarried Geologies in the Exmoor and Quantock Character Area**

<b>Description</b>	<b>BGS Tag</b>
Baggy Sandstones Formation	BYS-SDSM
Rawns Member	RWN-MDSD
Pilton Shale Formation	PLT-MDST
Little Hangman Member	LHS-SDST
Hangman Sandstone Formation	HASA-SDST
Pickwell Downs Sandstones Formation	PDS-SDST
Trentishoe Member	TGR-SDST

**Table3 Quarried Geologies in the Coastal Character Area**

<b>Description</b>	<b>BGS Tag</b>
Marine Deposits (Undifferentiated)	MDU-GRAV
Marine Deposits (Undifferentiated)	MDU-SAND
Storm Beach Deposits	STOB-GRAV
Blown Sand	BSA-SAND
Beach Deposits	BCHD-SAGR

**Table4 Quarried Geologies in the River Terrace Deposits Character Area**

<b>Description</b>	<b>BGS Tag</b>
River Terrace Deposits (undifferentiated)	RTDU-SAGR
River Terrace Deposits, 1	RTD1-SAGR
River Terrace Deposits, 2	RTD2-SAGR
River Terrace Deposits, 3	RTD3-SAGR
River Terrace Deposits, 4	RTD4-SAGR
River Terrace Deposits, 1B	RTD1B-SAGR
Sand and Gravel of Uncertain Age and Origin	SGAO-SAGR

**Table5 Quarried Geologies in the Burtle Bed Character Area**

<b>Description</b>	<b>BGS Tag</b>
Burtle Beds	BUB-SAGR

**Table6 Quarried geologies in the Pebble Bed Character Area**

<b>Description</b>	<b>BGS Tag</b>
Budleigh Salterton Pebble Beds Formation	BSP-CONG



**Table7 Miscellaneous Geologies from which Sand and Gravel have been historically extracted**

Description	BGS Tag
Head (undifferentiated)	HEAD-CSSG
Alluvium	ALV-CSSG
Otter Sandstone Formation	OS-SDST
Clay with flints	CWF-CSSG

**Table8 Carboniferous Limestone quarries with current permissions for aggregate extraction**

Name	Reference	Grid Reference	Status
Barnclose	L27	ST 693 478	Dormant
Battscombe	L4	ST 460 548	Active
Callow Rock	L6	ST 443 558	Active
Castle Hill/ Cannington Park	L17/18	ST 249 407	Active/Dormant
Cloford	L29	ST 718 445	Dormant
Cookswood/Holcombe	L60	ST 675 476	Dormant
Dulcote	L80	ST 569 441	Active
Emborough	L64	ST 620 507	Dormant
Gurney Slade	L67	ST 625 495	Active
Halecombe	L30	ST 698 475	Active
Highcroft	L69	ST 619 497	Dormant
Holwell/Colmans	L33	ST 725 455	Active
Lime Kiln Hill	L32	ST 732 486	Dormant
Shipham Hill	L8	ST 451 561	Dormant
Stoke Lane	L75	ST 668 472	Dormant
Tor Hill	L84	ST 559 455	Dormant
Torr Works	L72	ST 695 445	Active
Westbury	L79	ST 513 508	Active
Westdown	L26	ST 725 455	Dormant
Whatley	L41	ST 725 480	Active

**Table9 Silurian Andesite quarries with current permissions for aggregate extraction**

Name	Reference	Grid Reference	Status
Moons Hill	B1	ST 661 460	Active
Tadhill	B3	ST 687 461	Dormant

**Table10 Devonian Sandstone quarries with current permission for aggregate extraction**

Name	Reference	Grid Reference	Status
Vinnicombe – West Quantoxhead	SS6	ST 115 415	Dormant

**Table11 Sand and Gravel quarries with current permissions for aggregate extraction**

Name	Reference	Grid Reference	Status
Chard Junction (located in Dorset)	No reference	ST 343 047	Active
Whiteball Sand Pit	SG3	ST 098 197	Active

**Table12 Carboniferous Limestone Quarries with lapsed permissions for aggregate extraction**

Name	Reference	Grid Reference
Windsor Hill	L88	ST 613 452
Chelmscombe	L7	ST 462 544
Webbington North Quarry (Compton Bishop)	L11	ST 386 562

Westdown (Holwell)	L26	ST 715 455
Tedbury Covert	L31	ST 746 489
Vobster	L39	ST 704 497
Asham Wood	L59	ST 709 454
Downhead	L63	ST 685 460
Fairy Cave	L65	ST 656 476
Gurney Slade Bottom	L66	ST 625 495
Hamwood	L68	ST 610 452
Highcroft	L69	ST 618 486
Paradise Hill	L73	ST 588 437
Waterslip	L76	ST 661 445
Stoke Lane	L23	ST 669 474
Maesbury	L82	ST 596 474
Stonybottom Horrington	L83	ST 590 474
Underwood	L85	ST 540 468
Shipham Gorge	L9	ST 451 555

**Table13 Silurian Andesite quarries with lapsed permissions for aggregate extraction**

Name	Reference	Grid Reference
Stoke Lane (now incorporated into Moons Hill)	B2	ST 660 460
Downhead	B4	ST 658 460

**Table14 Devonian Sandstone quarries with lapsed permissions for aggregate extraction**

Name	Reference	Grid Reference
Bincombe	SS2	ST 173 384
Triscombe	SS4	ST 161 355
Conygar	SS5	SS 992 441
Slowley	SS7	SS 988 381
Halsway	SS8	ST 134 380
Barlynch	SS14	SS 930 292
Windwhistle	SS13	SS 812 478
Bicknoller	SS10	ST 115 399

**Table15 Sand and Gravel quarries with lapsed permissions for aggregate extraction**

Name	Reference	Grid Reference
Headon	SS11	SS 932 461
Troytes	SS12	SS 933 451
Burn Lane and Barrow Golf Club (Brightholme)	S2	ST 295 552
Berrow "Sand Tots"	S3	ST 294 536
"Three Acres" Brean Coast Road	S8	ST 295 551
Roughlands Berrow	S9	ST 293 567
Brean (Axbridge RDC sandpit)	S10	ST 295 544
Unity Farm	No reference	ST 294 539
King's Cliff Sandpit	S4	ST 276 325
Blindwell Lane	S5	ST 186 390
Knighton	No reference	ST 193 445
Cutley	S6	ST 372 319
Moon Lane	S7	ST 287 304
Greylake 1 (Hobb's Field)	No reference	ST 392 335
Greylake 2 (Halsom Quarry)	No reference	ST 383 337
Blagdon Hill (Fairview)	SG2	ST 196 167
The Downs and Gallows Close	SG4	ST 125 206

### **3.4 Data Collection**

For the purpose of this project only archaeological information from the HER was used. Information derived from the LiDAR survey and digitisations of historic environment features from aerial photographs for Somerset were not available at the start of the project. Unfortunately the LiDAR data has not yet been made available and therefore is not contained within this project. The aerial photographic data has been included as an additional resource to the core data but not incorporated into the searches.

For each character area the HER records that lay within the aggregate producing geological regions were captured and isolated, these included sites which were partially located on the surrounding geologies but which lay substantially within the core areas. These records were then sorted by period in order to obtain a basis for the resource assessment.

A search by period of the HER for the whole County was also undertaken in order to compare the results of the character areas to the pattern across the County. For each area a 1 kilometre buffer zone was created and searches carried out so that a comparison of site type and period could also be made on a more localised level, in order to assess whether the types of archaeological remains varied according to the underlying geological formations.

Where there are sand and gravel extractions from isolated geologies such as the undifferentiated Head deposits a 1 kilometre search of the HER was made around the location of the quarries in order to capture any known archaeological sites. These were not treated as a character area as they are distributed across the southern and western part of the County but were treated as isolated units. The results have been formulated in the same way as the other six character areas.

### **3.5 Archaeological Resource Assessment**

The basis for the resource assessment is a search of the HER for the six aggregate producing areas and the miscellaneous sand and gravel extractions. The data collected has been analysed and plotted on GIS by period. The chronological periods adopted by the Somerset HER form the foundation for the period identified for the purpose of the project. They are as follows:

**Palaeolithic**  
**Mesolithic**  
**Neolithic**  
**Bronze Age**  
**Iron Age**  
**Prehistoric (general)**  
**Roman**  
**Early Medieval (5<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> Centuries)**  
**Medieval (11<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> Centuries)**  
**Post-Medieval (17<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> Centuries)**  
**Uncertain**

**Designated sites** (Scheduled monuments) are also listed.

Due to the way in which the HER data is categorised sites which span chronological boundaries for example Late Iron Age/Roman were included in both periods. The Medieval records have been divided into the Early Medieval period (5<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> Centuries) and the Medieval period (11<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> Centuries). Sites which have been identified as Medieval to Post Medieval are also included in both categories.

It should also be noted that the Post Medieval records for most of the character area are affected by the number of Second World War sites. Therefore these records are quantified and discussed separately within the Post Medieval resource assessments and are included in the overall number of Post Medieval entries for each character area.

Some sites span more than one chronological period and in each case these appear in each period designated. There are sites that have produced more than one entry for a specific period and only limited attempts have been made to rectify this, in cases where this has not been altered it is because the date assigned to the monument has not been clarified through excavation. Sites and records that form part of larger records for example field systems may also appear singly and collectively, although attempts have been made to highlight this in the text.

In order to prevent an unnecessary bias towards the archaeological record of urban areas all the towns and cities have been removed from the relevant character areas and buffer zones. No attempts however have been made to remove smaller settlements such as villages.

The results of these searches were tabulated and quantified and statistics based on location, period and record type were calculated. Period maps, graphs and charts for each character area have also been produced. As the areas for the six character areas vary a consideration of these differences should be taken into account. An attempt has been made to assess the character areas in terms of raw numbers of HER entries, to quantify these as a percentage of the total number of chronologically searched records for each area and to compare these to the buffer zone and County. No attempt to consider that status of the archaeology in the buffer zones beyond record type and period has been made.

The diversity of the size of the six character areas and their buffer zone is illustrated in Table16 below.

**Table16 Size of the Six Character Areas and Buffer Zones**

<b>Character Area</b>	<b>Area (km<sup>2</sup>)</b>	<b>Buffer Zone</b>	<b>Area (km<sup>2</sup>)</b>
Mendip Hills	252	Mendip Hills	96
Exmoor and Quantock Hills	316.2	Exmoor and Quantock Hills	264.8
Coastal Deposits	15.4	Coastal Deposits	132
River Terrace Deposits	58.6	River Terrace Deposits	666. 2
Burtle Beds	14.2	Burtle Beds	90
Budleigh Salterton Pebble Beds	25.5	Budleigh Salterton Pebble Beds	135

During the production of the Resource Assessment it was not possible to undertake any primary fieldwork or extensive documentary research, although it was necessary to verify information. This took place in the form of consultation of the HER site files and or published site reports. This was particularly important when trying to assess how well recorded excavated sites were. Where the information was available it was possible to discuss the nature and extent of the archaeological intervention in order

to try and understand the level of archaeological work undertaken in the aggregate producing areas.

### **3.6 Archaeological Research Agenda**

The Archaeological Resource Assessment provides a summary of the state of the existing knowledge of the archaeology from within the aggregate producing areas, including the information on the fragility and in some cases unique nature of the archaeological resource identified. The purpose of the Research Agenda was to identify sites and artefacts from within those areas which are in need of assessment or re-assessment. One of the primary aims of the Research Agenda was to identify gaps in the knowledge of the archaeology of the aggregate producing areas, to compare this to the County as a whole and consider how these gaps could be closed.

### **3.7 Archaeological Outreach Agenda**

The purpose of the Outreach Agenda was to identify existing public information available within the aggregates producing areas, to consider how widely available this material was and to assess its relevance to results of the Resource Assessment. The Outreach Agenda also contains where relevant recommendations for dissemination of information and areas for further study.

## 4 DESCRIPTION OF THE AGGREGATE RESOURCE WITHIN SOMERSET

It is acknowledged by the British Geological Survey (BGS) that information regarding minerals resources is irregularly distributed throughout the country and is of an inconsistent quality (Ellison and Smith 1998). Identifying minerals resources is imprecise and limited by the information available. In addition this procedure is affected by what minerals resources may be considered viable for future extraction. The BGS therefore adopt a tripartite system of classification, dividing the minerals resources into inferred, indicated and measured categories.

Inferred resources are defined from existing geological data and the BGS is currently compiling detailed interpretations on a regional basis of this information. This will be produced for the whole of England and Wales and will take the form of 1:100 000 scale resource maps and accompanying text. A projected completion date for the Somerset resource is not currently known.

Indicated resources have been defined by drilling and sampling and have had the bulk of their technical properties characterised. These form the basis of reports on the bulk mineral resources of the UK and the BGS have produced over 140 reports, which were funded by the (then) Department of the Environment. The minerals covered by these reports were sand and gravel, hard rock aggregates, limestone, conglomerate and celestite. The Carboniferous Limestone resources within Somerset were included within these survey programmes.

Measured resources are defined by closely spaced drilling, an evaluation of the quality of the mineral material, its market suitability and general economic value.

The BGS also holds a database of active quarries (Britpits) and publishes a *Directory of Mines and Quarries*. There is also a GIS-based minerals information system (MINGOL) that includes characteristics of the minerals in the BGS surveys.

The BGS minerals data, comprising largely of digital geological data, was combined with information provided by the Somerset County Council Minerals Planners to produce a description of the aggregate producing areas of Somerset. The minerals industry has a long history within Somerset and it continues to be a major source of employment and stimulates the local economy. In particular the Carboniferous Limestone of the Mendip Hills is of national significance and provides a strategic resource of hard rock aggregates that make a major contribution to the construction industries of southern England. The Somerset MLP considers that the key strategy for aggregate production is for Somerset to make an appropriate contribution to the local, regional and national need for aggregates.

The Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980 allow Mineral Planning Authorities (MPAs) to define Mineral Consultation Areas (MCAs). These are areas where it is thought a workable resource exists but where there is little detailed information regarding the nature of the mineral. These are the areas which are notified to the District Planning Authorities (DPAs) as areas in which development is likely to affect or be affected by the winning and working of minerals. Within the MCAs are Specific Sites, Preferred Areas and Areas of Search as recommended by Government guidance and they collectively make up Designated Minerals Areas (DMAs). For the purpose of this report all the DMAs related to all forms of aggregate extraction were considered as important regardless of whether there were any intentions for future aggregate extraction. Additionally, known areas of historical

aggregate extraction were also included. As a result the six main geological areas were identified and formed the basis for the character areas, listed below.

#### **4.1 The Mendip Hills Character Area**

The Mendip Hills form the northern boundary of the County of Somerset. They stretch from the Severn Estuary in the west to Frome in the east, where they extend into the southern reaches of the Cotswolds. The Mendips are steeply elevated on both the north and south sides and are bisected by a series of gorges and combes, but they are perhaps most famous for the impressive network of cave systems created by continuous rainwater action since the formation of the hills.

The modern landscape of Mendip bears the scars of past and present mining and quarrying, and livestock farming takes place in some areas. The whole of the western half of the hills are designated as an AONB and there are several areas of Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

There are two main rock types on Mendip: the Devonian Sandstones visible around Blackdown and Downhead and the Carboniferous Limestones, which dominate the hills and surround the older rock formations. The Limestones are the most intensively exploited geology on Mendip in some areas where younger Jurassic Limestones overlie the older deposits these are used as aggregates. Aggregate working can be divided into three distinct areas, West, Central and East. Outside of Mendip proper there is a Carboniferous Limestone outcrop at Cannington near Bridgwater from which aggregates are extracted for the local market. The eastern reaches also contain small deposits of Silurian Andesite, the oldest rock formation in Somerset, limited to the area around Downhead these deposits are currently quarried for use in the aggregate industry.

Within the Western part of the Mendips, which is designated as an AONB, there are currently three main quarries these are:

Battscombe  
Callow Rock  
Westbury

Both Callow Rock and Battscombe have substantial permitted resources and these will enable them to maintain production throughout the life of the current minerals plan and no doubt beyond. Westbury on the other hand has only limited resources and is surrounded on three sides by an SSSI.

Within the Central Mendip area there are two small scale active quarries and these are:

Dulcote  
Gurney Slade

Both these sites produce relatively low outputs and largely serve the local market and in both cases they have only recently been granted permission for working and restoration schemes.

The East Mendip area is responsible for producing approximately 90% of Somerset's crushed rock aggregate, currently there are five active quarries and at least two of

them have sufficient reserves to continue working beyond the life of the current MLP. These quarries are:

Torr Works  
Whatley  
Holwell  
Halecombe  
Moons Hill (Andesite producer)

Additionally there are other sites including Westdown and Cloford that have permitted reserves and are considered to represent suitable areas for further extraction.

## **4.2 The Exmoor and Quantock Hills Character Area**

The higher ground of west Somerset comprising Exmoor, the Brendons and the Quantock hills represent the most significant formations of Devonian rocks in Somerset. Although the Vale of Taunton Deane, which stretches from the coast at Watchet to Taunton, separates the Quantocks from Exmoor they are geologically continuous.

In 1954 Exmoor was designated as a National Park comprising of an area of 686 kilometres, much of which lies in Somerset with approximately a third in Devon. Most of Exmoor is above 300 metres OD with Dunkery Beacon representing the highest point and three ridges, the southern escarpment, the central ridge and the northern ridge dominating it. It is a landscape comprising moorland, wooded glades and rugged coastlines.

In the past permissions for aggregate extraction have allowed the Pickwell Down Formations, the Pilton Formation and the Hangman Grits to be exploited. Whilst the areas designation as a National Park currently excludes any renewed aggregate production it has been included in the project because of the historical activity and the potential for future extraction beyond the life of the current MLP.

The Quantock ridge stretches from the coastline at East Quantoxhead to Kingston St Mary in the south and is designated an AONB. The plateau is mainly formed of the Devonian sandstones of the Trentishoe and Little Hangman members and largely comprised of heathland. The southern side of the Quantocks have been subject to aggregate quarrying in the past and at Vinnicombe there remains one quarry with an extant permission, although it is currently dormant. Although the current MLP considers it unlikely that further aggregate extraction will take place on the Quantocks it is included in the project because of the historical activities and possibility, however slim, of renewed work beyond the life of the current plan.

## **4.3 The Coastal Character Area**

The western edge of Somerset is bordered by the Bristol Channel. The coastline varies from the rugged cliff tops around Exmoor to the lower areas around Burnham where the Levels meet the sea.

The northern half of the coastline from Burnham-on-Sea to Brean Down consists of exposed sand and mud flats behind which lie the Berrow Dunes. The Dunes form a natural barrier from the sea for the Levels and Moors that lie behind them to the west.



They are the only active dune system in Somerset and sand from them has been utilized in the past for aggregates.

Much of the area around Burnham-on-Sea and Berrow has been extensively developed for both the Tourist Industry and residential purposes. This is a stark contrast to the southern half of the coastline from Minehead to the estuaries of the Parrett and Brue that have remained relatively undeveloped, no doubt as a result of their restricted beach access and safety.

In the recent past permission was given to extract sand for aggregate use from the Berrow dunes, however large amounts of the foreshore and dunes system are now designated as an SSSI and as severe coastal erosion would be a likely result of further development within the life of the current MLP no further permission will be granted. Strict controls for new developments or extractions also apply to all undeveloped coastal areas within Somerset. The historical activities associated with this area and the possibility of future extraction beyond the life of the current MLP are the reasons why this area has been included in the project.

#### **4.4 The River Terrace Deposits Character Area**

River terrace deposits of sand and gravel criss-cross the County in small pockets none of which are much of 12 square kilometres in area. The location of these deposits tends towards the southern central areas of the County in some places capping areas of solid geology on relative high ground such as near Norton Fitzwarren.

Extraction of the river terrace deposits for aggregates currently takes place just outside the County boundary in Dorset near Chard Junction. Other small-scale excavations of these river terrace deposits have taken place in the past and while they are not currently considered to be viable, it is possible that constructional needs in the future may see further working taking place, most likely in the form of “borrow pits”, which are temporary mineral workings used solely for a specific construction needs. An example of such activity relates to the construction of the M5 Motorway when sand from Westonzoyland was extracted for the project.

#### **4.5 The Burtle Beds Character Area**

The Somerset Levels and Moors are situated in the Centre of the County and comprise of approximately 63,000 hectares of low lying land most of which is below 15 metres OD. In the north they are bounded by the Mendip Hills and by the Blackdowns in the south. The Polden ridge separates the area known collectively as Sedgemoor from the Peat Moors to north and the Wedmore ridge to the north bisects the upper part of the area.

Modern drainage methods protect the Levels and Moors from flooding and livestock farming takes place across the area. Limited peat extraction takes place now and a number of nature conservation agencies operate in the exhausted exploitation areas. Approximately 29,000 hectares of the Levels and Moors are designated as an ESA and a further 7,500 hectares are an SSI.

The geology of the area consists of Jurassic lower Lias clays, inter-bedded with thinner limestones. In most parts of the Levels and Moors there are very few

exposures of the underlying geology as they are overlain by superficial layers of peat and estuarine clay of varying thicknesses.

Amongst the peat rise a number of small “islands”, these are clusters of marine sand deposited during the last interglacial and are known as the “Burtle Beds”. In some places the bands of sand have merged and become solidified into the limestone below them, whilst in others they remain free flowing. The BGS have mapped fourteen Burtle Beds, however historical information and local knowledge suggests that there are likely to be at least double that amount although many of them are probably very small in area. During the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries the sand from the Burtle Beds was actively quarried for aggregates.

There are no active quarries within the area at moment but the greatest concern is threat posed from “borrow pits”.

#### **4.6 The Budleigh Salterton Pebble Beds Character Area**

The Vale of Taunton Deane stretches from the coastline at Watchet to the base of the Blackdowns around Taunton. It represents a sheltered, fertile plain which is used for both arable and livestock farming. It is also one of the most densely populated areas in Somerset with both Taunton and Wellington dominating the Vale.

The bedrock of the area consists of the red marls of the Triassic feature and the lower Jurassic shales, both of which are relatively soft. The most striking of the Triassic deposits are the conglomerates of the Budleigh Salterton pebble-beds in the south-western part of the Vale.

The pebble-beds currently represent the most workable area for the extraction of sand and gravel in the County and the processing of the formations for aggregates takes place on both sides of the Somerset County boundary at Whiteball. Whiteball East, which lies entirely in Somerset, is dormant but was temporarily reactivated in 1996/97. The Somerset MLP acknowledges that it is possible that future demands may mean the extension of the workings across the pebble-bed deposit.

#### **4.7 Miscellaneous Sand and Gravel Extraction Sites**

Somerset County Council Mineral Planning hold records pertaining to six small areas from which sand and gravel have been extracted in the past. The geological formations on which these sites are located vary and they are largely limited to the southern and western areas of Somerset. Due to the nature of these deposits they cannot be considered to represent a cohesive character area and therefore each area has been treated separately.

## 5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE ASSESSMENT

### 5.1 Mendip Hills Resource Assessment

#### 5.1.1 Introduction

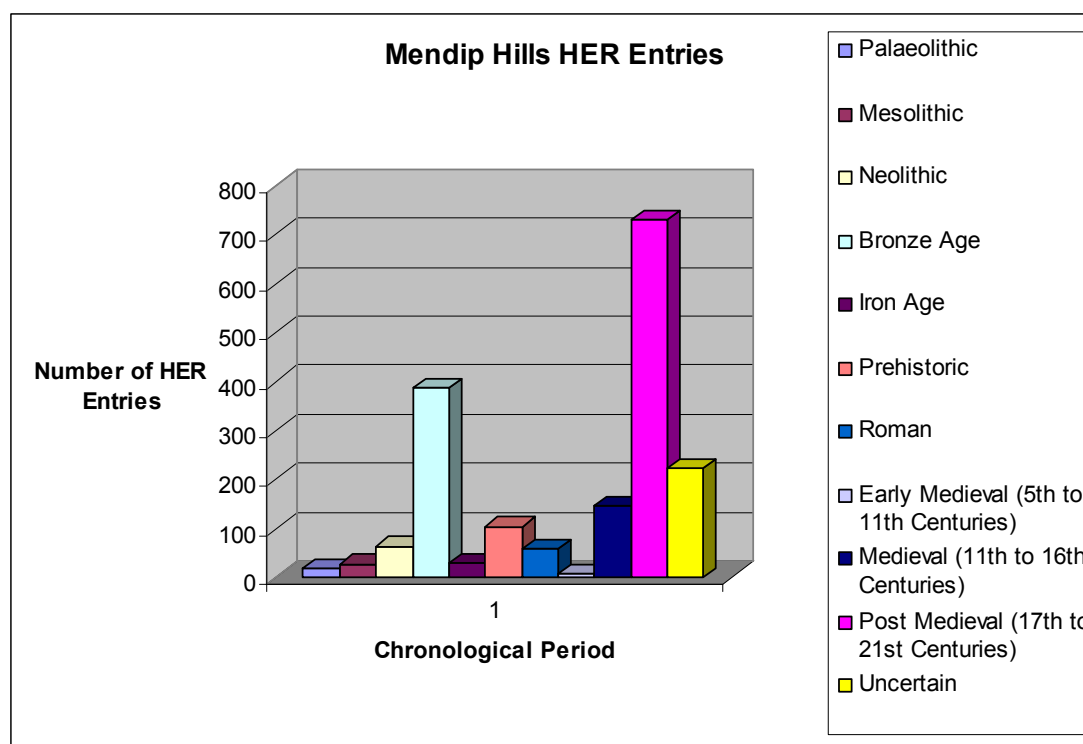
The Mendip Hills character area covers approximately 252 square kilometres including part of the AONB. A search of the Somerset HER identified one thousand six hundred and seven entries for the area including sites which overlapped within the surrounding geology but which lay substantially within the core Mendip character area. These records were then searched chronologically and produced one thousand seven hundred and ninety-six separately dated archaeological entries.

In addition to the search performed for the Mendip Hills character area a further chronological search was made of a one kilometre buffer zone around the core covering an area of 96 square kilometres, this was performed in order to assess whether types of archaeological monuments recorded on the HER varied according to the underlying geology. These two datasets were compared to results for the County as a whole, which has an area of 3,504 square kilometres and the results of the searches are illustrated in Table17.

**Table17 Table of Chronological HER Search Results for the Mendip Hills Character Area**

Period	Mendip Hills	Buffer Zone	Somerset Number & %	
Palaeolithic	20	9	80	<1%
Mesolithic	27	4	124	<1%
Neolithic	64	26	323	<2%
Bronze Age	386	75	1242	1%
Iron Age	28	12	230	<2%
General Prehistoric	104	30	2731	16%
<b>Total number of Prehistoric Entries</b>	<b>(629)</b>	<b>(246)</b>	<b>(4730)</b>	<b>(29%)</b>
Roman	59	51	1032	6%
Early Medieval (5th to 11th Centuries)	8	7	169	1%
Medieval (11th to 16th Centuries)	147	149	2723	16%
Post Medieval (17th to 21st Centuries)	730	408	5850	35%
Uncertain	223	96	1870	11%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1796</b>	<b>867</b>	<b>16374</b>	

**Table18 Graph of Chronological HER Search Results for the Mendip Hills Character Area**



### 5.1.2 The Palaeolithic Period

There are twenty Palaeolithic entries for the core Mendip character area. Eleven of the Palaeolithic entries represent material recovered from cave sites, including faunal remains and lithic artefacts. All of these sites have been subject to some form of excavation and the artefacts recovered predominantly date to the Upper Palaeolithic. Four of the cave sites Great Oone's Hole, Cheddar, Picken's or Scragg's Hole, Compton Bishop, Browne's Cave, Stoke St Michael and Limekiln Quarry Cave, Mells (PRNs 10397, 10459, 24956 and 25394) have been Scheduled and four of the sites; Great Oone's Hole, Picken's Hole (Scragg's Hole), Primrose Rock Shelter (Pulpit Cave), Ebbor Gorge and Limekiln Quarry Cave, Mells (PRNs 10397, 10459, 25441 and 25394) have been evaluated for the English Heritage Monuments Protection Programme. Three of the caves, Chelmscombe cave, Westbury cave and Limekiln Quarry cave (PRNs 10384, 24849 and 25394) were discovered as a direct result of aggregate quarrying.

Eight of the Palaeolithic records relate to surface lithic discoveries and the material found includes handaxes, points and scrapers. An independent artefact collector was responsible for recovering all the material and one biface from near Townsend Farm, Priddy (PRN 24231) was included in material assessed by the Southern Rivers Palaeolithic Project. The HER suggests that all of these collections have been deposited either with Axbridge or Wells Museums.

Triple H Cave, Axbridge was explored by the Axbridge Caving and Archaeological Society between 1953 and 1955 and produced numerous Pleistocene faunal remains but it is uncertain whether there was much human activity at the site. Flint Jack's Cave, Cheddar (PRN 10387) was discovered and initially investigated in 1893 when human remains and several artefacts with Upper Palaeolithic attributes were

recovered. It is not however known whether the artefacts and remains are contemporary. Weston-Super-Mare and the British Museum may have material relating to this site and the University of Bristol Spelaeological Society (UBSS) published an account of this cave in 1953.

Chelmscombe Cave, Cheddar Gorge (PRN 10384) was discovered as a result of quarrying and excavated under the supervision of H. E. Balch between 1925 and 1926. Amongst the finds which included material from the Neolithic, Iron Age and Roman periods there were two pieces of worked bone, one may have been some form of notation device and the other has been suggested to be a whistle, both have been compared to continental Upper Palaeolithic parallels. The archive and excavated material is housed in Wells Museum. R. C. Gough found faunal remains while investigating Sugar Loaf Slitter, Cheddar (PRN 10394) in 1890, and the finds remain in the Gough's Cave Museum, but there are no further details available.

Great Oone's Hole, Cheddar (PRN 10397) has been subject to much disturbance since its discovery at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Weston-Super-Mare Museum has material that may relate to this site and it is reported that partial excavation took place in 1902 and the 1970s, the former possibly by H. E. Balch and the latter by the UBSS. The artefacts recovered include a flint knife with a bone handle and several artefacts of a later date. Picken's Hole (Scragg's Hole), Compton Bishop (PRN 10459) was excavated initially by Mr Stanton of Sidcot School between 1945 and 1947, while evidence of Roman activity was apparently found there are no surviving records for these investigations. In the 1960s the UBSS carried out further excavations and recovered lithic artefacts, and faunal and human remains. This collection is held at the Society's Museum and a radiocarbon date suggests the Upper Palaeolithic activity was taking place between 30,000 and 35,000 BC.

At Bridged Pot Hole, Ebbor Gorge (PRN 24332), H.E. Balch carried out partial excavation in 1926, amongst the finds were late Pleistocene animal bones and in a niche a hoard of eleven leaf-shaped bifacial spearheads of Upper Palaeolithic character, lithics and pottery of Bronze Age character were also found. One of the most important cave sites on the Mendip Hills is Westbury Cave (PRN 24849) discovered in 1969 as a direct result of aggregate quarrying, the site once represented a closed cave and has produced large quantities of Pleistocene faunal remains and may contain man-made lithics. Scientific dating techniques have suggested the main sequence of deposition took place between 524,000 – 478,000 BP and although there is still debate about whether the lithics are man-made the site is widely considered to represent the earliest evidence for hominid occupation in the Country. Excavations were carried out in the 1970s on behalf of the Natural History Museum and the results were published in 1999.

Browne's Cave, near Cook's Wood, Stoke St Michael (PRN 24956) was excavated by a L. M. Browne of Frome between 1947 and 1950. Towards the back of the cave an Upper Palaeolithic flint blade was recovered and there were also artefacts dating to the Iron Age and Roman periods. Limekiln Quarry Cave, Mells (PRN 25394) was discovered as a result of aggregate quarrying and excavations were initiated by the UBSS in 1974 and ended in 1984. A chert handaxe dating to the Middle Palaeolithic was recovered along with a large collection of faunal remains which are in the UBSS museum. The Somerset HER records that small trenches were dug in Primrose Rock Shelter (Pulpit Cave) in Ebbor Gorge (PRN 25441) and the lithics, which demonstrate Upper Palaeolithic attributes are in Bristol City Museum. Wells Museum may also have material from this site there is however no formal record of the excavation and therefore it is unclear whether the material does truly belong to this site

The final Palaeolithic entry for the character area relates to Upper Palaeolithic artefacts recovered from the sand cliff at Brean Down (PRN 10133). Archaeological remains covering are recorded as having been eroding from the sand cliff at Brean since at least the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Over time members of the UBSS began to collect this material and in 1961 a catalogue and a description of limited excavations at the site was published in the Society's proceedings. Artefacts considered to be of a Palaeolithic date were several flint scrapers which it has been suggested bear similarities to continental material of the same date.

The Palaeolithic evidence from the Mendip Hills character area demonstrates that there has been human activity in Somerset since the Lower Palaeolithic. The earliest evidence comes from Westbury Cave (PRN 24849) and although it is not possible to ascertain whether there was hominid occupation of the cave or whether the lithic material came from elsewhere it is still recognised as an internationally important site.

The material recovered from the caves sites in the character area does not appear to represent organised settlement, however it illustrates that these natural shelters played an important role in the occupation of the Mendip area during the Palaeolithic period. Most of the material recovered from the caves within the Mendip character area relates to the Upper Palaeolithic whilst the lithic material recovered from the open air sites has Middle Palaeolithic attributes and four of these find spots are centred in the parish of Priddy (PRNs 18244, 24231, 25444 and 25445).

We should not however assume that the differentiation is necessarily significant as there are other cave sites outside the bounds of this character area that have produced larger collections of Middle Palaeolithic material and it has to be acknowledged that very few of the collections recovered from the core Mendip character area have been subjected to recent scientific study. In the case of Picken's Hole (PRN 10459) more recent analysis on artefact remains suggested that the hominid occupation of the cave was an intermediate stage between the Middle Palaeolithic and Upper Palaeolithic proper.

The lithic material assigned to the Palaeolithic period is largely represented by single artefacts including handaxes, scrapers and points. It is difficult to assess what these find spots represent as there are no cohesive collections of material. Both the cave based and chance lithic discoveries do, however, demonstrate that the Mendip Hills were an area that was occupied during the Palaeolithic. The faunal remains recovered from some of the cave sites for example Triple H Cave (PRN 10060), Sugar Loaf Slitter (PRN 10394) and Westbury Cave (PRN 24849) certainly provide evidence of a varied animal resource that could have been exploited. It may be the case that the different cave and open air areas sites show a seasonal pattern of movement between the shelter of the gorges in the winter months and the plateaus, such as Priddy, in the summer, possibly related to animal movement but without further investigation this hypothesis remains unproved.

### **5.1.3 The Mesolithic Period**

There are twenty-seven Mesolithic entries in the Mendip character area. Twenty-five of these entries represent surface artefact discoveries and with exception of one stone macehead find from Island Plantation (PRN 23288) all of the material represents flint and chert lithics. There have been a number of independent lithic collectors on the Mendip Hills and they are responsible for the recovery of fifteen of the artefact discoveries. Four of the collections have been discovered as a result of

fieldwalking exercises and these are from Middledown Drove (PRN 10424), Ebbor Gorge (PRN 16117), Cloford Quarry (PRN 17752) and Charterhouse (PRN 25939). The fieldwalking exercise at Cloford Quarry (PRN 17752) was carried out by a commercial archaeological unit in response to an application to extend the quarrying activities. At Middledown Drove (PRN 10424) test pitting exercises also took place at in 1997.

A further two lithic collections were reported by the Ordnance Survey Archaeology Division and they are from Callow Hill (PRN 11412) and Ebbor Gorge (PRN 24450) and two were chance finds including a crescentic microlith from near Charterhouse Farm (PRN 15167). One collection from Durston Drove (PRN 24224) was reported by an SCC archaeology officer and Mesolithic activity (PRN 15768) was discovered beneath a Medieval enclosure (PRN 23020) at Blackmoor, Charterhouse during excavations (PRNs 15798 and 15799) in 1993 and 1994 carried out by student from Exeter University.

The remaining records relate to artefacts and human bone from Totty Pot Cave, Cheddar (PRN 10349) and a possible occupation site at Lower Pitts Farm, Priddy (PRN 23965). Totty Pot Cave was excavated by the Wessex Caving Club in the 1960s and human remains were recovered but some was subsequently handed to the Police and cremated. Mesolithic flints and some Neolithic material was also recovered. Further excavations, as part of a PhD study, took place in 1998 around the cave mouth but there was no evidence of occupation in this area uncovered. Further study including analysis and scientific dating of the remaining human remains, animal bones and the whole lithic collection is currently being undertaken

A series of excavations took place at Lower Pits Farm, Priddy in the 1970s under the direction of a Bristol City Museum curator (PRNs 18293-18297) in response to the large quantities of Mesolithic flints turning up in the surrounding area. The excavations revealed the remains of two burnt turf huts in Yard Park Field along with numerous stake holes. A single radiocarbon date gave a range of 3978 – 3673 BC calibrated, suggesting a late Mesolithic date for the activity.

The Mesolithic material from the character area demonstrates significant activity. The parish of Priddy has produced large quantities of material which may be the remains of episodes related to hunting expeditions. Some of the material collected has been donated to local museums and notes have been published in local journals and the Proceedings of the Somerset and Archaeological Natural History Society. The evidence of burial or body deposition in caves e.g. Totty Pot cave (PRN 10349) correlates with other known sites from the area but outside the core character area and the buffer zone, for example Javelins Hole in North Somerset and Gough' Cave (PRN 10398). Despite the material from Lower Pitts Farm (PRN 23965) there is no evidence of settlement, the interpretation of the structures from this site suggest temporary shelters and while there were external hearths associated with the material there was no evidence of lithic knapping.

#### **5.1.4 The Neolithic Period**

There are sixty-four entries for the Neolithic period within the Mendip character area. Most of the records, 46 relate to lithic finds including flint scatters and polished stone axe fragments. Nineteen of these entries relate to material recovered by independent collectors, including a perforated axe head (PRN 23907) from Holwell aggregate quarry and eleven were recovered as a result of fieldwalking projects, including one commissioned as a result of proposed extension plans to Cloford aggregate quarry

(PRN 17752). Another site at Middledown Drove was initially suggested to represent an occupation area (PRN 10424) was also subject to test pitting, although no evidence for occupation was recovered. Nine of the lithic discoveries were chance finds, five were reported by the OSAD, one was reported by an SCC officer and one collection was recovered during rotavation of a new runway at Draycott Aerodrome (PRN 15667).

Seven of the records relate to long barrows and features that may be long barrows, E.K. Tratman reported three of these monuments, Grinsell two, an independent researcher one and one barrow near Brimble Pit Pool (PRN 23971) was excavated by the UBSS. These excavations produced evidence for two hearths, one of which was enclosed by stone slabs, little in the way of human remains were recovered. It may have had a stone revetment wall and a re-interpretation in 2002 suggested it represented a non-megalithic structure with an unusual cist. A long barrow at Penn Hill, St Cuthbert Out (PRN 24356) was subjected to a geophysical survey in 1999 but the proximity to a radio transmitter rendered the results inconclusive. Four of these monuments at Castle Farm, Chewton Mendip, Brimble Pit Pool, Priddy, Hill Grove and Penn Hill, St Cuthbert Out have been Scheduled (PRNs 23248, 23971, 24351 and 24356).

There are five cave sites that have produced Neolithic material, and four have been subject to some form of excavation. At Chelmscombe Cave, Cheddar Gorge (PRN 10384) excavations under the direction of H. E. Balch between 1925 and 1926 revealed some pottery of probable Neolithic date and the remains of four individuals in a cist below the cave were considered contemporaneous. Chelmscombe Cave and cist have now been completely destroyed by quarrying.

In the 1960s Wessex Caving Club carried out some excavations at Totty Pot, Cheddar (PRN 10349) and recovered a large quantity of lithics, most of the artefacts dated to the Mesolithic period but there was a Neolithic component amongst the assemblage. Outlook Cave, Ebbor Gorge (PRN 24331) produced a leaf-shaped arrow or spearhead and some pottery which is considered to be of Neolithic date, it would appear these artefacts were recovered during some form of excavation but there are no further details on when it happened or by whom it was carried out. The finds are however reported to reside in Wells Museum. Outlook Cave is also Scheduled.

At Tom Tivey's Hole, Leighton Hanging (PRN 24774) members of the UBSS began excavations in 1958 and Neolithic pottery was recovered along with finds of a later date. The fifth cave site on Axbridge Hill (PRN 10073) was reported by CRAAGS as containing flints, but it is unclear as to whether it was also subject to any form of investigation.

There are two henge sites within the Mendip character area, both are Scheduled monuments. E.K. Tratman reported one to the NE of Drove Cottage, Priddy (PRN 24154) and the other Gorsey Bigbury (PRN 11439), near Lower Farm, Cheddar was excavated by the UBSS. The excavations determined that it was a circular henge with a rock cut ditch and a single causeway but no evidence of internal features. There was also evidence of early Bronze Age occupation activity in two areas of the ditch.

Neolithic material was discovered during excavations at two sites on Brean Down these are; the Roman Temple (PRN 10117) where a single potsherd was discovered during the excavations carried out by members of the UBSS during the 1950s and 1960s. At the Prehistoric occupation site on Brean Down (PRN 10133) rescue



excavations in the 1980s under the direction Martin Bell produced pottery and a leaf-shaped arrowhead from a buried soil. Excavations at the Mesolithic site Lower Pits Farm (PRN 23965) also produced Neolithic flints and there is a report of an alleged burial chamber from which three or possibly four stones were removed when the area was levelled at Little London, Ashwick (PRN 23057) there do not appear to have been any human remains and no further information is available.

The Neolithic records for the Mendip character area are dominated by lithic discoveries many of which have been recovered by independent collectors. Where quantities and tool types have been recorded scrapers are the most common type of artefact, there are also a number of axe fragments and arrowheads. While the axes, of which there are at least six, may indicate clearance perhaps associated with agricultural activities, hunting is also indicated by the presence of arrowheads and scrapers. Whilst utilisation of cave sites seems to continue in this period there is not enough good quality information about these sites to suggest the Neolithic activity was anything other than temporary. The human remains recovered from Chelmscombe Cave (PRN 10334) may represent burial or body deposition as is known from the Mesolithic period within the area, however without the use of scientific dating techniques their assignment to the Neolithic period remains an assumption.

The phenomenon of megalithic long barrow building does not appear to have reached the Mendip Hills character area and of the non-megalithic structures recorded on Mendip there is little information. While excavation revealed the form of the Gorsey Bigbury henge (PRN 11439) knowledge of the Mendip henge sites is also poor. Even the Neolithic material recovered from Brean Down (PRNs 10117 and 10133) where there is definite settlement evidence for the Bronze Age suggests little more than fleeting activity on the Down during the Neolithic period.

### **5.1.5 The Bronze Age**

There are three hundred and eighty-six records relating to the Bronze Age within the Mendip character area. Three hundred and thirty-eight of these entries represent barrows and cairns, Table 18 below illustrates the means by which they were first identified and recorded. The majority of the barrows and cairns within the character area lie on the Mendip Hills proper, there are however at least six barrows or cairns on Brean Down and they form the barrow cemetery PRN 11450.

The barrows and cairns in Somerset have been subject to intensive scrutiny and the earliest recorded interventions date to the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Within the character area there are a number of individuals who have played an important role in the identification and excavation of these monuments. The Reverend Skinner, of Camerton was perhaps one of the earliest explorers of Bronze Age funerary remains on Mendip, his investigations were largely carried out in the early half of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and he was responsible for opening many of the best known examples of barrows and cairns within the character area including cemeteries such as those at Ashen Hill (PRN 23812). Skinner's methods were crude by modern standards however he documented his actions within his journals and in some cases sketched the material recovered and the locations of monuments.

E.K. Tratman of the University of Bristol Spelaeological Society (UBSS) is largely credited with being the first individual to produce a catalogue of Mendip barrows and along with other members of the Society including R. F. Read and Herbert Taylor undertook numerous excavations for example the Tynings Farm barrows near

Cheddar (PRNs 11428-11432). Leslie Grinsell (LVG) is perhaps the best known individual to have produced a detailed catalogue of the Mendip barrows in which he reviewed all the known material for each site as well as describing the location, dimension and status of each monument, after his death his ashes were scattered over one of the Priddy Nine Barrows (PRN 23244).

More recently the barrows and cairns within the AONB were reconsidered as part of an archaeological survey commissioned jointly by Somerset County Council and English Heritage. Further recent work has been undertaken by Jodie Lewis as part of fieldwork for her PhD thesis and this included geophysical surveys of the barrows near Carscliff Farm, Cheddar (PRN 10352), Long Wood, Cheddar (PRN 11440) and Southfield Farm, Priddy (PRN 24156) and the excavation of the Carscliff Farm monument (PRN 10352).

**Table19 Methods of identification used for the Mendip Hills Barrows and Cairns**

<b>Means of Identification</b>	<b>No. of Barrows and Cairns</b>
E. K. Tratman	192
L. V. Grinsell	39
Rev. Skinner	37
A. T. Wicks	25
A. Bulleid	18
Ordnance Survey Archaeology Division (OSAD)	5
Independent Researchers	4
Aerial Photography	4
English Heritage Field Monument Wardens	4
Woodland Trust Commissioned Survey (Beacon Wood)	3
AONB Mendip Hills Survey	2
Documentary Evidence	2
H. Taylor	2
O. G. S. Crawford	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>338</b>

Two hundred and nine of the barrows and cairns, including those on Brean Down (PRN 11450), are Scheduled Monuments. There are records indicating that fifty-seven have been excavated in some fashion; thirty-three of these investigations were carried out by Skinner, and there are three other barrows that possibly received his attentions, these are on Brean Down (PRN 10126), and near Townsend Farm, Priddy (PRNs 23978 and 23979). Skinner also recorded the opening of Westbury Beacon (PRN 24848). Twelve excavations were done by members of the UBSS, five were excavated in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and there are five records for 20<sup>th</sup> Century investigations including the work at the Carscliff Farm barrow by Jodie Lewis (PRN 10352). However these may only represent a small portion of the actual number of barrows and cairns investigated. Forty-two of these monuments are recorded as having central hollows a popular manner in which to gain access to the primary interment. Whilst these features may also represent degradation in the structure of the barrows or cairns such as the decomposition or collapse of a central chamber, deliberate mutilation cannot be ruled out. Additionally a further eight barrows and cairns show evidence of some form of trenching.

The barrows and cairns within the Mendip character area have also been subject to mutilation from other forms of activity the most prolific of which is ploughing and there are fifty-five monuments which exhibit plough damage. The results geophysical surveys (PRNs 16501 and 16502) carried out at Long Wood, Cheddar (PRN 11440) and Southfield Farm, Priddy (PRN 24156) demonstrated that in some cases ploughing action was so severe that it had reduced two barrows to one amorphous

mound and at Long Wood this action had previously led to an erroneous identification as a long barrow. There are a further ten barrows and cairns that are likely to have been completely destroyed by plough action. Other forms of disturbance include stone walls crossing barrows and cairns of which there are fifteen incidences and destruction caused by the Forestry Commission plantations for example at Beacon Wood, Doultling (PRNs 17730 and 17737). Unfortunately this type of damage represents a reflection of the way in which the ancient landscape of Mendip has been affected by modern land use.

There is a certain amount of variety in the Bronze Age funerary monuments on Mendip, they appear singly such as at Walltyning Cottage, Cranmore (PRN 12046) but more commonly in pairs such as at Wigmore Farm, Chewton Mendip (PRNs 23203 and 23204) or in cemeteries such as the Priddy Nine Barrows (PRN 23951). Additionally the structural elements differ, in some cases they appear to have outer ditches such as at Southfield Farm (PRN 24156), whilst in others it is less clear. There also appears to be different methods to their overall construction, there are largely earthen barrows sometimes with inner kerbs such as at Carscliff Farm (PRN 10352), whilst there are also small central cairns covered with earthen and stone mounds over interments such as at Rowberrow Warren (PRN 10768 and 10770).

There only seems to be one example of an inhumation and it was discovered beneath the Priddy Glebe barrow (PRN 23949) during investigations carried out by the Vicar of Priddy Reverend Palmer in 1894. It was contracted and lay with its head to the west, the mound also contained a secondary cremation, flint, a bronze knife dagger and a bronze awl. Generally the interments represent cremations and primary and secondary cremations have been discovered beneath inverted urns, for example at the Tynings Farm barrow cemetery (PRNs 11429, 11430, 11432). There are also examples of small central cists containing cremated bone, for example at Harptree Lodge (PRN 24040). There also appears to be differences between the monuments within the same cemeteries. The barrows at Tynings Farm are another example of which whilst three of the barrows contained cremations within urns as mentioned previously two (PRNs 11428 and 11431) appeared to have the cremated bones placed within a central cist or pit.

Equally there are notable differences in the types, if any, of grave goods recovered from the barrows. The material ranges from ceramics including burial urns to amber beads like those recovered by Skinner at one of the Ashen Hill barrows (PRN 23819). There are examples from Rowberrow Warren (PRN 10768), Tynings Farm (PRN 11429) and the Ashen Hill cemetery (PRN 23819) of cremations accompanied by pygmy cups like those found in the Wessex burials. In some cases the burials appear to be unaccompanied as at three of the barrows opened by Skinner in the Townsend Pool cemetery in Priddy (PRNs 23981-23983).

The majority of the barrows and cairns within the Mendip study area are considered to be bowl barrows, with or without ditches. However there are also examples of what may be disc and bell barrows for example PRN 23956 and PRN 23957 in the Priddy Nine Barrow cemetery. The greatest problem faced when trying to assess the construction techniques and forms of the barrows is the variety in the quality of the reported excavations. Most of the barrows excavated by Skinner and the 19<sup>th</sup> Century explorers are referred to in terms of what they produced rather than the morphology of the monuments themselves.

There are forty-eight additional entries for the Bronze Age, the largest group represents lithic materials of which there are twenty records. Nine of these entries were recovered by independent collectors, five were chance finds, four of which have

been recovered as part of organised fieldwalking exercises and two through excavation, from the Roman Fort at Charterhouse (PRN 23024) and Dursden deserted farm (PRN 24390). One of the fieldwalking exercises was carried out by a commercial archaeological unit in response to a proposal for the extension of Cloford aggregate quarry (PRN 17752).

Nine of the Bronze Age entries for the Mendip character area relate to metalwork including axes, spearheads and knives. Five of these artefacts are recorded as chance finds, two were discovered by metal detectorists and two were found during maintenance works, for example a flanged axe was recovered during the excavation of a gate post hole in Walltyning plantation (PRN 24959). The metalwork seems to span the whole of the Bronze Age period.

There are seven cropmarks, six of which were identified from aerial photographs including one 1940s RAF and several 1970s County Council images, the final feature was noted by the Mendip Hills AONB survey. Mostly the features identified are circular and may be barrows, the Mendip Hills survey identified two curvilinear features near Beechbarrow (PRN 25424) and a photograph of the area taken from Penn Hill shows three annular marks which may be barrows.

There has been Bronze Age material recovered from seven cave sites within the character area. They include Chelmscombe (PRN 10384) that was discovered as a result of quarrying and investigated by H. E. Balch between 1925 and 1926. The excavations produced Beaker pottery as well as human bone although it is not clear whether the pottery and bone were associated. At Bone Hole, Cheddar Gorge (PRN 10389) human and animal bones are recorded as having been found as early as the 19<sup>th</sup> Century when the stalagmites were sold for souvenirs and the site was quarried out. From 1967 to 1976 the Mendip Caving Group carried out a series of unsystematic excavations and amongst the finds were animal and human bone and at least one Beaker. Charterhouse Warren Farm Swallet (PRN 24097) has produced a stratified sequence of deposits from the Bronze Age to the Roman period including the remains of at least 30 individuals, a plano-convex knife and sherds of decorated beaker. The site was excavated by the UBSS and Wessex Caving Club in the 1970s.

Bridged Pot Hole, Ebbor Gorge (PRN 24332) was partially excavated by H. E. Balch in 1926 and he recovered a number of lithics and a polished stone axe considered to be earlier Bronze Age in date along with some decorated beaker sherds. At Bracelet Cave, also in Ebbor Gorge (PRN 24334), a chance discovery was made outside the cave of a mid to late Bronze Age bracelet with trumpet terminals, subsequent amateur excavations produced human bone within the cave but the date is uncertain.

Bos Swallet (PRN 24128) is more of a natural depression than a conventional cave. In the 1960 members of the UBSS excavated the site and it produced early and middle Bronze Age potsherds and burnt stone. A recent re-interpretation suggests the site was located by a stream and that the large quantity of burnt stones recovered during the original excavations represent the remains of a boiling pot. It has been suggested that the site represents a seasonal camp. At Hope Wood Rock Shelter, Ebbor Gorge (PRN 24335) the Westminster Spelaeological Society carried out excavations in 1950 and 1951, amongst the material recovered was animal, the remains of Middle and Late Bronze Age cinerary urns and a crouched inhumation, which was considered to be Iron Age in date, although this has not been tested.

Two of the records represent standing stones, at Crowland Wood in the parish of St Cuthbert Out (PRN 24388) Tratman noted two stones incorporated into a modern field boundary and a possible third which he considered to be antiquities. The other

record relates to a standing stone (PRN 25968) to the east of Priddy Church. There are also two records relating to burials without mounds; one was discovered during the construction of a new green at Wells Golf Course in the 1920s and consisted of a contracted inhumation without grave goods (PRN 24347). The other burial record consists of the discovery of a cremation cemetery (PRN 24134) of between seventy and eighty pits to the west and south-west of cairn PRN 24133 (not on geology) in Mendip Lodge Wood. The cemetery was discovered by members of the UBSS during their excavations of the cairn (PRN 24133) and some of the pits are reported to contain pottery, the tip of a burnt tanged razor was also recovered.

There are two records relating to Bronze Age activity on Brean Down, the first entry was reported in 1936 following severe weather and was a small pit containing most of a beaker, an additional sherd from a different vessel, charcoal and an unworked flint (PRN 11345). It has been suggested that this could represent the remains of a burial where the bones have decalcified, a radiocarbon date of 2020-1540 BC calibrated (2 sigma) was obtained from a charcoal sample.

The other record from Brean Down provides one of the only examples of Bronze Age settlement evidence from within the County (PRN 10133). Bronze Age material including pottery had been collected from the site by members of the UBSS for some time and they carried out limited investigations but more recent work was carried out under the direction of Martin Bell in response to the threat of coastal erosion. There appears to have been a consistent exploitation of the Down from the Early Bronze Age which produced ceramics, flints and possible cultivation marks, to the Middle Bronze Age where the excavations found evidence of at least two round houses with stone walls and clay and ash floors. Finally the Late Bronze Age evidence consisted of an occupation level with stone faced banks and ditches suggesting land division. Two gold Late Bronze Age bracelets and pelves had also been eroded from the cliff and may have been associated with a burial.

The final entry for the Bronze Age relates to Gorsey Bigbury henge near Lower Farm, Cheddar (PRN 11439). Excavations by the UBSS produced evidence relating to the form of the monument and in two areas of the surrounding ditch evidence of Beaker occupation was found including flint objects, daub, charcoal, hearths and animal bone. Amongst the flint material recovered were scraper, arrowheads, knives, serrated implements and points. In one section which adjoined the causeway was a partial human burial in the remains of an alcove or cist, accompanying the bones were four bone needles, a bone scoop, a flint knife, a barbed and tanged arrowhead and a beaker sherd. Other fragmentary human remains were found within the ditch intermingled with animal bone. Radiocarbon dates obtained from the animal bone suggested a date of between 1900 – 1700 BC.

The Bronze Age on Mendip is dominated by funerary monuments and although 17% of these features have been excavated there are few well documented examples of these investigations, in fact there is only one example (PRN 10352) from the recent past. What can be said is that the methods used to construct the barrows and cairns and those used to inter the dead vary enormously even in areas where the monuments appear to be related. The trend which moved away from barrow building in the Middle Bronze Age towards cremation cemeteries is not well documented on Mendip as it is in other parts of the country but the example from Mendip Lodge Wood (PRN 24134) demonstrates that it was taking place, whether there are other examples perhaps located near barrows remains to be discovered.

On Mendip proper little is known about settlement activities, the material from the ditch of Gorsey Bigbury henge (PRN 11439) suggests some form of occupation and

the presence of daub suggests structures, although the excavators found no evidence of post holes. The animal remains are dominated by cattle and pig suggesting the keeping of livestock. While there were numerous arrowheads found at the site the excavators found only three fragments of red deer bones at the site. However many of the other lithic collections assigned to the Bronze Age in the character area also contain arrowheads which surely indicate hunting practices. The material from the cave sites does not however suggest occupation but perhaps the use of these natural shelters on a temporary basis. The metalwork objects represent functional artefacts and only in one case, the two spearheads from Horrington Hill (PRN 24444), do they appear in multiples, it is difficult to ascertain whether these represent any more than chance losses.

The evidence from Brean Down does however demonstrate that cohesive, organised settlement was taking place during the Bronze Age and it indicates that settled farming practises were taking place at least at the very western tip of the Mendip limestone ridge. Therefore it is perhaps fair to propose that further sites are likely to exist on the Hills proper but have yet to be discovered.

#### **5.1.6 The Iron Age**

There are twenty-eight Iron Age records within the core character area. There are fifteen records representing Iron Age settlements and these consist of seven occupation areas including enclosures, six hillforts and two earthworks probably associated with hillforts or settlements. Three of the non-hillfort sites may be defended settlements and these are Pitchers Enclosure, Garrow (PRN 24081), King's Castles Enclosures, Wells (PRN 24336) and the Prehistoric earthwork at Merehead (PRN 24775). They were identified by the OSAD, and from documentary evidence.

Three of the undefended Iron Age occupation sites have been excavated. At Brean Down (PRN 10133) the site was initially discovered as a result of erosion, and it represents a long period of prehistoric occupation. Members of the UBSS had been collecting material ever since the earlier part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century and carried several small and limited investigations, the results of which were published in the Society's proceedings in 1961, the Iron Age material consisted largely of potsherds. During the 1980s rescue excavations were undertaken and more Iron Age pottery was recovered at the northern end of the site. There was also evidence of a major erosion episode that the excavators felt may have taken place during this period due to agricultural practice or the construction of the nearby Hillfort (PRN 10115).

At Cannington (PRN 10302) a circular enclosure was identified by Philip Rahtz in the 1960s, trial trenches produced evidence of a rock cut ditch with post holes and Iron Age pottery including Glastonbury ware was also recovered from the trenches. The site has subsequently been completely destroyed by aggregate quarrying. To the west of Carscliff Farm at Cheddar H.E Balch reported the discovery of over 100 hut circles and an enclosure (PRN 10347) at least two of these circles were dug before 1930 and produced pottery, paved floors and hearths. By the 1960s all the surface remains had been destroyed by ploughing and field clearance. In 1980 members of the Axbridge Archaeology and Local History Society carried out a survey at the site although as the prehistoric remains had been destroyed it is not clear what they recorded.

The final occupation site may in fact represent field systems and is also near Carscliff Farm (PRN 11939). It was identified by an SCC archaeology officer and an

earthwork survey was undertaken by a Bristol University undergraduate between 1999 and 2000, this identified a series of possible prehistoric lynchets. PRNs 10133, 24336 and 24775 are Scheduled Monuments and PRNs 24081 and 24336 were included in Burrow's BAR Hillforts and Hilltop settlement report and PRN 24336 was included in the English Heritage Monuments Protection Programme.

There are six hillforts within the Mendip character area, all are Scheduled and were included in Burrow's BAR report on Hillforts and Hilltop settlements. Four of these sites are on Mendip proper one is at Cannington (PRN 10439) and the other on Brean Down (PRN 10115). Three of the hillforts have been subject to excavations, these are Brean Down (PRN 10115), Cannington (PRN 10439) and Dinies Camp (PRN 23428) and two were initially identified by antiquarians e.g. Harold St George Gray. Two of the sites at Cannington Camp (PRN 10439) and Tedbury Camp, Elm (PRN 23442) have been damaged by aggregate quarrying.

The excavations in 1974 (PRN 17220) at Brean Down hillfort (PRN10115) showed that the defences consisted of rubble banks revetted on both sides with drystone walls. Radiocarbon dates suggested a late Iron Age date for these works. Three phases of excavations took place at Cannington Camp, in 1905, in 1913 and the 1960s, which demonstrated the defences had also been made of dry stone walls and produced Glastonbury and Meare style pottery. A single trench was dug across the bank at Dinies Camp in 1961 and three test pits were excavated in the interior. These indicated that the bank had been constructed over an earlier ditch which had probably been cut into an earlier bank. An archaeological monitoring project undertaken during property works at Wadbury Hillfort (PRN 23850) did not produce any archaeological features or finds.

At Pitchers Enclosure, Garrow (PRN 24081) the site seems to represent an area enclosed by a stony bank. The OSAD reported that there were at least seven hut circles in the interior and that pottery was found during the excavation of one of these. There are two earthworks which are considered to be connected to either hillforts or settlement sites. There was an earthwork to the south of Cannington Camp (PRN 10308) which has been completely destroyed by quarrying but an archaeological monitoring project (PRN 90099) noted evidence of post holes, early and late Iron Age potsherds. Between Lyatt and Furzy Sleight (PRN 23373) there are a series of banks forming enclosures which an SCC archaeology officer noted were probably related to the King's Castle Enclosures (PRN 24336). A postgraduate earthwork survey suggested that there were a series of regular and irregular enclosures formed of stone banks. Near Lyatt there were trackways, a cross ridge dyke and possible hut circles.

Eleven of the records relate to cave sites which have produced Iron Age material, largely pottery. Ten of these sites have been subjected to some form of excavation and the eleventh record represents a chance find of pottery at Fairy Cave, Stoke St Michael (PRN 24957). At Chelmscombe Cave (PRN 10384) in Cheddar Gorge (subsequently destroyed by quarrying) an Iron Age smelting furnace was reportedly discovered during excavations carried out between 1925 and 1926 under the direction of H. E. Balch. At Sow's Hole and Pig's Hole Rock Shelters, Cheddar Gorge (PRNs 10390 and 10391) Iron Age pottery was discovered during amateur excavations. However there appear to be no records of these investigations and it is not clear which site, or whether both produced the pottery.

At Great Oone's Hole (PRN 10397), also in Cheddar, partial excavations took place in 1902 and by the UBSS in the 1970s. The Iron Age material consists of spindle whorls and early Iron Age pottery. Gough's Old Cave (PRN 10399) is a former show

cave within Cheddar Gorge and was excavated between 1954 and 1958 by the UBSS. A possible hearth, pottery and quernstone fragments found date to the Iron Age and there was also material of Roman date recovered. Both Great Oone's Hole (PRN 10397) and Gough's Old Cave (PRN 10399) are Scheduled and included in the English Heritage Monuments Protection Programme.

Charterhouse Farm Swallet (PRN 24097) underwent two phases of excavation in the 1970s by the UBSS and the Wessex Caving Club, the results showed stratified deposits dating from the Bronze Age through to the Roman period. At least 30 individuals were represented amongst the human remains and Iron Age pottery was also recovered. Read's, or Keltic, Cavern (PRN 24127) was excavated by members of the UBSS between 1919 and 1931 and an Iron Age occupation level was discovered, amongst the finds were pottery, antler cheekpieces and animal bones. The Westminster Spelaeological Society opened Hope Wood Rock shelter (PRN 24335) in 1950 and in 1951 discovered Middle and Late Bronze Age cinerary urns, animal bone, an iron axe head of unknown date and a crouched inhumation. It was considered that the inhumation was Iron Age in date although this has not been confirmed through scientific dating.

The cave known as White Woman's Hole, Leighton Hanging (PRN 24776) has been subject to much disturbance, however it was investigated by members of the UBSS who recovered Iron Age pottery and bone needle from contexts mixed with Roman and possible Early Medieval artefacts. Between 1947 and 1950 Browne's Cave near Cook's Wood, Stoke St Michael (PRN 24956) was excavated by a L. M. Browne of Frome, amongst the finds including Upper Palaeolithic flint, animal and human bone and Roman coins and pottery, were some sherds of late Iron Age pottery.

The final two entries for the Iron Age in the Mendip character area are for artefacts. An independent collector recovered an alleged sculpted head (PRN 15170) from near Priddy, made of limestone and with some shaping of the eyes, nose and mouth and showing similarities to known examples of such artefacts. It is extremely degraded and retained by the finder. The other entry relates to a coin hoard (PRN 23907) found near Nunney recovered during ploughing in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and consisting of two hundred and fifty coins of Dobunnic type as well as a number of Roman coins contained within an urn, the find site is now within the boundaries of an aggregate quarry.

The Iron Age records for the Mendip character area largely relate to varying forms of settlement. Cave evidence is prominent although the quality of information varies and it does not seem that any of these sites represents occupation as such. The material recovered from Brean Down (PRNs 10115 and 10133) demonstrates the longevity of activity in that area during the Prehistoric period. Similarly the area around Cannington (PRNs 10302, 10308 and 10439) appears to have been the focus of intense activity during the Iron Age, the excavations and analysis carried out at these sites by Philip Rahtz suggested these sites were interlinked with the settlement PRN 10302 acting as an outlier or extra mural farmstead to the hillfort (PRN 10439). It is not impossible that the earthworks of PRN 10308 performed a similar function. Unfortunately the systematic destruction of this area as a result of aggregate quarrying means that any future investigation will be severely limited.

On Mendip proper there are also examples of what may represent farmsteads as well as defended settlements. Use of the local limestone in the construction of these sites is evident for example in the stone banks constructed between Lyatt and Furzy Sleight (PRN 23373). The hillforts and hilltop settlements demonstrate the use of natural features in the construction of defensive structures, for example at Merehead



(PRN 24775). It would also seem that the area west of Carscliff Farm may also represent a landscape which was modified and settled during the Iron Age, both PRN 10347 and 11939 seem to suggest there was agricultural activity which predates the Medieval and Post Medieval modifications.

Generally it would seem that the Iron Age on the Mendip character is characterised by farmsteads or small settlement sites with a later Iron Age between these sites and the area's hillforts. The recovery of a coin hoard of over two hundred and fifty late Iron Age coins (PRN 23907) provides a tantalising glimpse of another side to this period, unfortunately the location of this site within an aggregate quarry suggests that any associated features or finds within this particular area are lost or are likely to be in the future.

### **5.1.7 General Prehistoric Entries**

One hundred and four records have been assigned general prehistoric dates, and the most prolific relate to lithic finds. There are thirty-seven entries relating to lithics; fifteen of these are collections and artefacts recovered by independent collectors. The OSAD reported six, five were recovered as a result of geological fieldwork reported in the PUBSS, a further five were recovered during fieldwalking exercises carried out by the Downhead Community Archaeology Group, two have been reported by SCC archaeology officers and single incidences have been recorded by Harold St George Gary, A. T. Wicks, O.G.S Crawford and H. E. Balch. Three of these collections recovered from Nunney (PRN 12152), Mells (PRN 23846), and Holywell (PRN 23904) come from areas that are subject to aggregate quarrying permissions.

There are twenty-four field systems and associated enclosures, they vary from linear structures such as Bradley Cross Farm (PRN 10355) which were planned and published in PSANHS, to circular and sub-rectangular structures as those near North Hill in Priddy Parish (PRNs 25828 and 25834). Eleven were identified from aerial photographs, eight of which were SCC 1970s runs, two by the UBSS and one from the SCC aerial Claylands survey. The Mendips Hills AONB survey identified five of the field systems and enclosures, three were noted by the OSAD, two were recorded by SCC archaeology officers, a further two by the Downhead Community Archaeology Group and one was reported by E.K. Tratman.

At Bradley Cross (PRN 11243) the features were initially subject to an earthwork survey under the direction of a North Somerset Archaeology Officer and work (PRN 16391) carried out by a Bristol University undergraduate identified a series of later agricultural features. At North Hill, Priddy (PRN 25834) the sub-rectangular features may have been excavated during the 1950s as part of an investigation into a Roman building (PRN 23963) however the HER has no clear records to confirm this.

There are eighteen cave sites which have produced material of prehistoric origin; four were reported by H. E. Balch, two by SCC archaeology officers, two by the Downhead Community Archaeology Group, two were subject to antiquarian investigations and a further two investigated by members of the UBSS. Single incidences are recorded by independent researchers, Philip Rahtz, the OSAD, the Westminster Spelaeological Society and one is recorded on an Ordinance Survey map. Two of the caves are at Cannington (PRNs 10301 and 44861) and have been destroyed by the aggregate quarrying. Investigations have taken place at nine of the cave sites and their position within this category is largely down to the quality of these explorations.

At Jackdaw Cave, Cannington (PRN 10301) a series of investigations were carried out, prior to its destruction, in the 1950s and 1960s, by Cambridge University Archaeology Department and the UBSS. Animal remains including dog and aurochs were recovered but there was no evidence of human occupation. Limited investigations were undertaken at the Park or Boulder Cave, Cannington (PRN 44861) following its discovery as a result of quarrying blasting. Animal and human bones were found on the cave floor and some seemed to exhibit *Homo erectus* like features, others were thought to have been more recent intrusions from the cemetery above (PRN 10503). There are other examples of human remains without dating evidence for example, Kids Cave, Ebbor Gorge (PRN 17603) and Nettlehole Cave, near Ubley Warren Farm (PRN 24220). Others like Charterhouse Warren Swallet (PRN 24097) produced more tangible prehistoric remains for example lithics as well as later material. Three of these Bracelet Cave, Ebbor Gorge (PRN 24334), Browne's Cave, Stoke St Michael (PRN 24956) and Savory's Hole also in Ebbor Gorge (PRN 25360) have been Scheduled.

Fifteen of the general prehistoric records relate to mounds which may be barrows or cairns; five were reported by the Mendip Hills AONB survey, three by the Downhead Community Archaeology Group, two by O.G.S. Crawford, two by E.K. Tratman, and single incidences were reported by L.V. Grinsell, A.T Wicks and as a result of a landscape evaluation and monitoring project at Fernhill Farm, Priddy (PRN 44922).

There are four enclosed settlements assigned to the general prehistoric period, although they may in fact represent Iron Age sites. Two of these sites, Longbottom Camp (PRN 10774) and Rowberrow Camp (PRN 10777), were recorded by members of the UBSS. Philip Rahtz identified one at Cannington (PRN 10444) which may be a field system, and Tratman initially recorded Westbury Camp Hillfort (PRN 24269) which has subsequently been suggested as a non-defensive enclosure. PRNs 10774, 10777 and 24269 are Scheduled and all of these sites are included in Burrow's BAR report on Hillforts and Hilltop Settlement.

There are three hut circles within this category; one at Callow Hill (PRN 10412) was reported by the Axbridge Archaeology and Local History Society, several near Cheddar Gorge (PRN 10413) were reported by E.K. Tratman and one identified by the Mendip Hills AONB survey near Harptree Lodge (PRN 25981) may also be a ring cairn. The final two entries represent a possible occupation area near Lyatt (PRN 23375) identified initially by E. K. Tratman which may be part of the Iron Age occupation area between Lyatt and Furzy Sleight (PRN 23373) and a possible area of prehistoric quarrying at Rookham (PRN 25982) identified by the Mendip Hills AONB survey.

In many ways the entries within the general prehistoric category reflect the difficulties in assigning periods to un-investigated sites and monuments, this is particularly true of cropmarks and earthworks considered to be field systems or enclosures. Many of the cave sites seem to appear in the group because the quality of the excavations may have lead to some question over which prehistoric period the material should be assigned to. That the largest group are lithics is not surprising, artefacts have been assigned to this period because they represent worked pieces which may be indicative of one or more prehistoric period or which are un-diagnostic. Neither is it surprising that the general prehistoric period should contain monuments which may be barrows or cairns, with over three hundred known Bronze Age funerary monuments within the character area it seems probable there are more of these features.

The presence of cave sites within this group which apparently contain archaeological deposits but ones which cannot always be assigned a date demonstrates not only a potential resource for further study but it also highlights the need for accurate scientific investigations of such sites. Amongst these artefacts are a number of human remains which if scientifically dated may provide more secure information about these sites. Unfortunately the number of records within this category illustrates the need for further study and this is particularly important where material is being produced from aggregate extraction areas.

### **5.1.8 The Roman Period**

There are fifty-nine records assigned to the Roman period within the character area. Fourteen of the records relate to artefact discoveries; four were recorded by the OSAD, three are known from documentary sources, two were found by an independent collector, two were metal detector finds and a further two were chance finds. One collection of material came from a fieldwalking exercise at Cloford Quarry commissioned as a result of a planning application for an extension to the aggregate quarry. Six of the records relate to coin finds, including two coin hoards. One was found at Charterhouse (PRN 23016) in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and it contained largely 3<sup>rd</sup> Century AD coins. The other, also found in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, came from Westdown Farm in the Parish of Nunney (PRN 23907), most of the coins were late Iron Age in date. Other finds include pottery and quernstone fragments and lead ingots are recorded as having been discovered on Blackmoor, Charterhouse (PRN 23028) and Rookery Farm, Chewton Mendip (PRN 23029).

There are eleven caves that have produced Roman material, nine have been subjected to some form of excavation and one was recorded by H. E. Balch. Four of these sites; Gough's Old Cave (PRN 10399), Picken's Hole (PRN 10459), Bracelet Cave (PRN 24334), Browne's Cave (PRN 24956) are Scheduled. At Chelmscombe Cave, Cheddar (PRN 10384) H.E. Balch directed a series of excavations between 1925 and 1926. The Roman finds included pottery, a brooch and 25 coins, including an early 4<sup>th</sup> Century AD third brass. Between 1954 and 1958 members of the UBSS excavated Gough's Old Cave, Cheddar Gorge (PRN 10399) and discovered at least two hearths, one of which was associated with Roman potter. This site was formerly a show cave and coins dating to between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Centuries AD are reported to have been found either at this site or Long Hole Cave and Slitter (PRN 10400). R. C. Gough cleared out Long Hole Cave and Slitter (PRN 10400) between 1887 and 1889 and human remains of at least 15 individuals along with Roman pottery, iron spears and many coins are reported (some of which may have come from Gough's Old Cave, PRN 10399).

Initial investigations at Picken's Hole or Scragg's Hole (PRN 10459) were carried out by a master at Sidcot School between 1945 and 1947 and it is reported that there was evidence of Roman occupation however there are no records for this work. In the 1960s E. K. Tratman of the UBSS carried out further investigations and recovered a few small Roman potsherds. Charterhouse Farm Swallet (PRN 24097) has produced a series of deposits the earliest of which date to the Bronze Age, Roman material including Samian ware, a shale bracelet, sandal nails and a bronze ring were recovered along with the remains of approximately 30 individuals during excavations in the 1970s by the UBSS and Wessex Caving Club. Bracelet Cave, Ebbor Gorge (PRN 24334) was subject to somewhat haphazard excavations in the 1950s, as well as Bronze Age material there was evidence of at least 9 individuals possible associated with a small amount of Roman pottery found.

At Tom Tivey's Hole, Leighton Hanging (PRN 24774) excavations by the UBSS began in 1958 and found Roman pottery as well as artefacts dating to the Neolithic period. White Woman's Hole, also in Leighton Hanging (PRN 24776), was investigated by members of the UBSS and evidence of a counterfeiters den dating to the Constantinian period comprising of approximately 200 coins, flans and rods was accompanied by Roman pottery and material of earlier and later dates. Browne's Cave, near Cook's Wood, Stoke St Michael (PRN 24956) was investigated by L. M. Browne of Frome between 1947 and 1950. Amongst finds of an earlier date were 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> Century AD pottery and coins, and human and animal bone.

There are thirteen records relating to occupation sites and buildings, eight of these including two villa sites at Whatley Combe (PRN 23900) and Priddy (PRN 23946) have been excavated. Two were recorded as a result of independent research, one was discovered as a result of ploughing, one as a result of flooding and one was identified from aerial photographs held by the UBSS. Town Field, Charterhouse (PRN 23021) represents the remains of a Roman Town.

At Carscliff Farm (PRN 10347) H. E. Balch recorded the discovery of approximately 100 hut circles in 1924, two of which were dug and produced paved floor and hearths and Roman and Iron Age potsherds. The surface remains were destroyed by ploughing and field clearance in the 1960s but it is recorded that members of the Axbridge Archaeology and Local History Society carried out some form of survey in the 1980s. At Blackmoor, Charterhouse, a Medieval enclosure (PRN 23020) was excavated in 1993 and 1994 (PRNs 15798 and 15799) under the direction Malcolm Todd by students from Exeter University. Slight evidence of Roman occupation was found beneath the Medieval settlement.

At Town Field, also at Charterhouse (PRN 23021), 19<sup>th</sup> Century excavations, mostly conducted by Reverend Skinner, recovered lead ore, slag, flue and roof tiles. In the 1860s and 1870s furnaces, drains, stone building remains and a hoard of 900 3<sup>rd</sup> Century AD coins (PRN 23016) were discovered. Excavations during the latter part of the 1940s (PRN 16163) and the 1960s (PRNs 15827, 15828 and 15830) were carried out by members of the UBSS who found further evidence for both buildings and lead working. A geophysical survey in 2005 confirmed the site as an extensive part of a Roman town. To the north-west of Town Field (PRN 23021) lies Rain's Batch earthwork (PRN 23029), a quadrilateral embanked enclosure. The 1967 UBSS excavations (PRN 15829) failed to find any building remains, however recent geophysical (PRN 12164) and earthwork (PRN 12465 and surveys) suggest a square or rectangular building within a hexagonal building or wall connected to the town (PRN 23021) street network. It has been suggested that this site may represent a temple or shrine.

A variety of artefacts are recorded as having been discovered at Rookery Farm, Chewton Mendip (PRN 23210) including lead ingots (PRN 23209), a bronze fibula and glass bead. Between 1956 and 1966 excavations by an amateur archaeologist uncovered the remains of occupation dating to between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Centuries AD. The remains of floor, water channels and hearths were found and it was suggested the site represents an iron and lead smelting site and associated domestic area.

There are three villa sites amongst the Roman occupation activity. At Mells Park (PRN 16143) the site was identified from aerial photographs. At Whatley Combe (PRN 23900), excavated both in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries, the villa contained an Orpheus mosaic and is thought to have been constructed in the late 3<sup>rd</sup> Century AD with an extension in the 4<sup>th</sup> Century. Whatley Villa is Scheduled. To the east of Priddy church Roman building remains (PRN 23946) were excavated in 1964 and produced

evidence of rough walling, hypocaust tiles, pottery including Samian and coarse wares and 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> century coins. A recent geophysical survey (PRN 18298) of this site suggests it represents a small villa site.

There are five earthworks associated with roads within the character area, one record relates to Beacon Hill (PRN 15879), they are thought to form part of the Fosse Way and were surveyed and investigated as a result of work commissioned by the Woodland Trust (PRN 15878). One road runs north from the Mendip Hills and was reported by the OSAD (PRN 24130), another relates to the road that runs across from the Mendips to Old Sarum (PRN 25357) and in 1906 three sections were excavated (PRN 16126) in the parish of Chewton Mendip which suggested it was constructed from local Old Red Sandstone. The final entry relates to earthworks near Oakhill, identified from aerial photographs which follow the parish boundaries and are thought to be related to the Fosse Way (PRN 25542).

There are three field systems believed to be Roman in date, they are on Brean Down (PRN 10116) which is also Scheduled, at Worminster (PRN 12023) and in the parish of Priddy (PRN 18246). These were identified through documentary evidence and independent research. There are also three records relating to burial, two are cemeteries, one was discovered at Shute Shelve in Compton Bishop during railway construction (PRN 10462) and the other at Cannington (PRN 10503) was excavated in response to the threat of aggregate quarrying. The other record relates to a cremation burial within a 1<sup>st</sup> Century AD urn (PRN 23027) found during the excavation of a water pipe trench within the limits of the settlement at Town Field, Charterhouse (PRN 23201).

At Cannington (PRN 10503) human remains are reported to have been discovered in the quarry from as early as 1880. Between 1962 and 1963 the cemetery was excavated by Philip Rahtz in advance of its destruction by the quarrying. Approximately 400 graves were found, oriented east-west and cut into the limestone, two of which were covered by mounds. Largely the cemetery is of Early Medieval date however there appears to have been some late Roman activity and Roman coins were found in the fills of some of the graves. It is thought that the site once contained as many as 1000 graves and may have been associated with the Roman settlement at Comwich (PRN 10306 not on the geology).

There are three records relating to Roman mining activity within the character area, two of them relate to the area around St Cuthbert's in Priddy and represent the lead works (PRN 23962) and buildings found in close proximity to the site which was initially discovered during turf removal and subsequently excavated (PRN 23963). The excavations produced evidence of rough masonry walls and clay floors and the finds included glass and bone gaming pieces, spindle whorls, pottery of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Century AD dates and smelted lead. The proximity of the later lead works (PRN 23962) which were identified from documentary evidence to PRN 23963 suggests that they were probably Roman in origin. At Charterhouse (PRN 25720) excavations by Exeter University students under the direction of Malcolm Todd (PRN 15799) across three of the lead mining rakes indicated that they were cuts dug down the bedrock and were 1<sup>st</sup> Century AD in date.

There are two hillforts which have produced Roman material these are Brean Down (PRN 10115) and at Tedbury Camp, Elm (PRN 23442). At Brean excavations (PRN 17220) by the UBSS suggested occupation of the Iron Age site continued into the Roman period and 1<sup>st</sup> Century AD coins were recovered from the site. At Tedbury Camp a pot containing Roman coins was allegedly discovered in 1691. Both sites are Scheduled.

The remaining records relate to single monuments, three of which are situated at Charterhouse. The Roman fort (PRN 23024) was excavated in 1993 and 1994 under the direction of Malcolm Todd (PRNs 15978 and 15799) by students from Exeter University. The excavations revealed it was of considerable size, occupied during the 1<sup>st</sup> Century AD and it is probably a lead collection point. There is also an Amphitheatre (PRN 23025) which was excavated by Harold St George Gray in 1909 (PRN 16164), the excavations revealed it had two entrances to the east and west, although no evidence of interior structures could be found. An earthwork survey in 1997 suggested it had similar features to other known amphitheatres in Britain. The other Charterhouse entry is a dam (PRN 23026) recorded by the OSAD. The fort (PRN 23024) and amphitheatre (PRN 23025) are Scheduled.

There is a Roman Temple on Brean Down (PRN 10117) it is Scheduled and was excavated in the 1950s by the UBSS. It is a square cella with a veranda and porch. Artefactual evidence suggested it was built in the 4<sup>th</sup> Century AD and the site reused in the 5<sup>th</sup> Century after the temple went out of use. The final record relates to quarrying activity in Beacon Wood (PRN 15485), the area has been investigated by the University of Birmingham surveyed on behalf of the Woodland Trust (PRNs 15878 and 16889). It is thought to be a quarry for querns and road stone of Devonian Sandstone conglomerate.

The Roman records for the Mendip character area demonstrate a range of monuments throughout the period. There is activity on Brean Down as demonstrated by the continued occupation of the hillfort (PRN 10115) and field system (PRN 10116) and the construction of the temple (PRN 10117) provides evidence of religious practices associated with activity on the Down. The cemetery evidence from Cannington (PRN 10503) suggests that there may have been continuity of activity in that area also. On Mendip proper Charterhouse was clearly an important area within the period, the settlement site (PRN 23021) may represent a small town, with earthworks like those at Rain's Batch (PRN 23029) associated with it and the presence of the amphitheatre (PRN 23025) nearby attests that there was sizable occupation in the area. The lead mines of Mendip played a key role in the Roman world and there is good evidence of this from the mines themselves at Charterhouse and St Cuthbert's (PRNs 25720 and 23962) to the associated buildings such as the Charterhouse fort (PRN 23024) and St Cuthbert's buildings (PRN 23963).

The roads and road structures that cross the sometimes uneasy terrain of the Mendip Hills are further testament the importance of the area and the quarry site in Beacon Wood (PRN 15485) shows that minerals were not the only commodities utilised in the area during the Roman period. The number of find spots and their distribution also demonstrates that Roman activity took place across the Mendips.

### **5.1.9 The Early Medieval Period**

There are eight Early Medieval entries relating to the Mendip character area. There are two cemeteries attributed to this period, one at Brean Down (PRN 10131) which was investigated in the 1960s by the UBSS and again in the 1980s as a response to erosion damage to the Down. In the 1980s evidence of eighteen graves was found, including both adults and children, none of which were accompanied by grave goods. Radiocarbon dating indicated the cemetery was in use during the 7<sup>th</sup> Century AD and it is within the Scheduled area of Brean Down. The other cemetery is at Cannington (PRN 10503) where human remains have been found since the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. In the 1960s an excavation was carried out by Philip Rahtz in response to

the threat of the site from aggregate quarrying (PRN 44860) and at least four hundred burials were found, the graves had been cut into the limestone bedrock. Some of the burials were accompanied by brooches, pottery, knives and even an amber bead. The site which may have contained over one thousand graves at one time is now destroyed by quarrying.

There are two field systems assigned an Early Medieval date. One on Brean Down (PRN 10116) may be earlier in date and was initially identified from documentary source, it is also Scheduled. The other is at Pelting Drove, Westbury (PRN 25093) noted by the Mendip Hills AONB survey. The remaining records represent single incidences and are: a boundary bank at Shute Shelve Hill, Axbridge (PRN 10061), a fragment of cross shaft from All Saints Church, Nunney (PRN 23903), an iron pin from White Woman's Hole in Leighton Hanging (PRN 24776) and the temple site at Brean Down (PRN 10117). The temple is Scheduled and the UBSS excavations found building evidence on the site after the temple had become disused.

In common with the rest of Somerset the Early Medieval period is poorly represented within the core Mendip character area. There is no settlement evidence and yet there are two cemeteries, one of which at Cannington (PRN 10503) must represent a sizeable population. The only area in which there is a concentration of Early Medieval material is Brean Down, the entries from Mendip proper represent a disparate collection of monuments spread across the character area. Therefore it remains difficult to truly assess the Early Medieval records for this period except to add a cautionary note that arguably the most important cemetery site within the County was destroyed by aggregate quarrying.

#### **5.1.10 The Medieval Period**

There are one hundred and forty-seven entries for the Medieval period within the Mendip character area. Ninety-nine of the records relate directly to rural settlement including deserted farms and villages, field systems, enclosures and boundary features. Forty-seven of these entries directly relate to settlement and occupation evidence; twelve were identified by the Mendips Hills AONB survey, eight were identified from aerial photographs, six by SCC archaeology officers, six by independent researchers, six from documentary sources, three by the OSAD, two were noted by the CBA archaeological review, two as a result of an archaeological assessment, one by the Axbridge Archaeology and Local History Society (AALHS), one by CRAAGS and one was identified from an OS map. Twenty of these records relate to deserted farmsteads and nine are deserted villages or hamlets. Eight are holloways and seven are trackways

Twelve of the settlement sites have been the subject of earthwork surveys, these are; a farm near Battscombe Quarry (PRN 11460), a village near Carscliff Farm (PRN 11586), a trackway at Bradley Cross (PRN 12806), two holloways in Ashwick Parish (PRNs 15036 and 15037), holloways at Lodge Farm, Doultling (PRN 15486), holloways at Beacon Wood (PRN 15502), a farm near Stoke Woods (PRN 24284), a farm near Rodney Stoke (PRN 24268), two farms at Westbury both surveyed by English Heritage (PRNs 24856 and 24857) and another farm at Westbury (PRN 25675). Two of the sites have been excavated they are the village at Carscliff Farm (PRN 11586), dug by University of Bristol students and an evaluation carried out at Poole House, a hamlet near Chantry (PRN 25374). Three of the settlement sites are Scheduled.

At Carscliff (PRN 11586) a complex of house platforms, holloways and walls were discovered during excavation. The Poole House hamlet (PRN 25374) and a farm site (PRN 25375) were assessed as part of an archaeological investigation of sites near Whatley Quarry. Documentary sources suggested that the hamlet (PRN 25374) was in existence by 1515 and there is evidence at the site of building platforms. Trial trenching, however, only provided evidence of a building and yard of a Post-Medieval date. The Farm site (PRN 25375) is thought to have been in existence by 1225 but has been now completely destroyed by quarrying.

Forty-two of these records relate to field systems, lynchets and field clearance structures; eighteen have been identified from aerial photographs, twelve by the Mendip Hills AONB survey, five by SCC archaeology officers, three by the OSAD, two were recorded as a result of independent research, one by a Parish Survey and one by the AALHS. Five of these features have been subject to earthwork survey: Bradley Cross (PRN 11243 survey number PRN 16391 and PRN 12805), Oakhill (PRN 15504), Westbury Beacon (PRN 15673) and at Croscombe (PRN 23348).

There are seven enclosures of Medieval date within the character area; two were recorded by the Mendip Hills AONB survey, two were noted by the Downhead Community Archaeology Group, and single incidences have been recorded through independent research, antiquarian investigators and through excavation. Two of these enclosures have had earthworks surveys carried out, Asham Wood (PRN 12157) and Beacon Hill (PRN 15498). One site at Town Field, Charterhouse (PRN 23030) has been surveyed using geophysical techniques which they suggested a double ditched enclosure with internal subdivisions. At Blackmoor, Charterhouse (PRN 23020), a series of excavations took place in 1993 and 1994 by Exeter University students under the direction of Malcolm Todd (PRNs 15798 and 15799). The site consists of a rectangular banked and ditched enclosure with a smaller internal enclosure. The banks were constructed of stone and clay and both the internal and external ditches had silted up naturally, evidence for metalworking was found and in the interior was a mass of stone, possibly the remains of drystone shelters, this site is also Scheduled.

There are three boundary banks or ditches of a Medieval date, one was identified by a SCC archaeology officer, one by the Mendip Hills AONB survey and one by CRAAGS which is also a Scheduled monument and it is at Shutes Shelve Hill, Axbridge (PRN 10061).

There are ten ecclesiastical buildings within the character area seven of which are parish churches, identified as a result of documentary evidence. The other records relate to three sites which may have monastic origins, identified through independent research, by a SCC archaeology officer and from a documentary source. One is a man-made watercourse at Long Wrangle Plantation (PRN 17778) and two farm sites in Green Ore and Charterhouse (PRNs 25116 and 25392). It is thought these three sites may relate to a Cartusian Monastery.

There are also three well sites recorded as Medieval, two were identified from documentary evidence and one was recorded by the OSAD. Five of the Medieval records relate to deer parks and related structures, two were identified by SCC archaeology officers, one by the OSAD and one was identified from a documentary source. They include Westbury (PRN 24861) and Mells (PRN 23827). There are four boundary stones or markers of Medieval date within the character area, two were recorded by the OSAD, one by the Committee for Rescue Archaeology in Avon, Gloucester and Somerset (CRAAGS) and one from a documentary source. These



include Stow Barrow at Crowland Farm (PRN 24026) a Bronze Age burial mound which was re-used as a boundary marker. There are also four entries relating to lead mining activity; two were identified from documentary sources, one by the UBSS and one by an independent researcher. Two of the records relate to Chewton Mendip (PRNs 23249 and 25116), one to St Cuthbert's (PRN 23962) and one to Chancellor's Farm, Priddy (PRN 25392) which assessed for the English Heritage Monuments Protection Programme.

There are two crosses of Medieval date, both identified from documentary sources, one at Nunney is a market cross (PRN 25311) and is thought to have originated from a churchyard. The other is a village cross at Worminster (PRN 25319). There are two possible mill sites, one identified by an independent researcher and the other from a documentary source. There are two records relating to warrens these are a pillow mound at Ashwick identified by a landscape survey (PRN 15083) and a warren in Stoke Woods (PRN 24304). There are also two records relating to artefacts, these are a Henry III penny recovered by as a result of metal detecting at Charterhouse (PRN 18248) and material collected as a result of a fieldwalking exercise in advance of aggregate quarry expansion at Cloford (PRN 17752).

The remaining thirteen records relate to single incidences and they include an iron works, a dam, a gallows site, a sheep fold, a limekiln, a quarry site, a stream revetment wall, a clapper bridge, a lane, a manor house and a cave site. The gallows site is on Blackdown (PRN 15176) within the Scheduled area, and the quarries are within Beacon Wood (PRN 15485) and have been surveyed. This group also contains Lowsey Mere pool and Hundred Acre barn near Cheddar (PRN 15309) which was the subject of an earthwork survey by Bristol University Extra Mural students, Longbottom Camp (PRN 10774) which is a Scheduled Monument and Nunney Castle which is also a Scheduled Monument.

The Medieval records in the Mendip Hills character area suggest that agricultural practices dominated the region during the period in many ways as it does still today. The form of these features provides a contrast to the modern fields which resulted from the enclosure acts. There are areas of extensive activity for example at Bradley Cross (PRNs 11243, 11465, 12805 and 12806). The desertion of rural farmsteads and villages is evident within this character area and any number of explanations including economic migration or disease could be responsible for the abandonment of these sites. Survivors of these desertions are hinted at by villages which have churches with Medieval origins which include Ashwick (PRN 23018) and Priddy (PRN 23945). Archaeological investigations such as at Carscliff Farm (PRN 11586) have shown these sites to be well organised and complex in nature. Evidence of large estates appears in the boundary markers and the deer park remains such as at Westbury (PRNs 24255, 24860 and 24861).

The exploitation of minerals and hard rock which undoubtedly began in the prehistoric is demonstrated at areas like Charterhouse (PRN 25392) and Beacon Hill (PRN 15485) and the existence of an early limekiln at Halfway Farm, Cheddar (PRN 16173) is a precursor to the industrialised processing of limestone in the Post Medieval period and even the aggregate quarrying of the present day. There has been a significant interest in recording the Medieval sites on Mendip, chiefly by individuals and amateur archaeology groups, and their meticulous earthwork surveys provide a good indication of how extensive was the Medieval activity on Mendip.

### **5.1.11 The Post Medieval Period**

There are seven hundred and thirty Post Medieval records for the Mendip character area. One hundred and thirteen of these records relate to sites and monuments directly associated with the Second World War. Thirty-nine of these are pillboxes; ten were identified by the Fortress Study Group, a further ten by SCC Archaeology Officers, seven were recorded on OS maps, five were identified from RAF aerial photographs, four were identified by independent researchers and three were identified from civilian aerial photographs. One of these records relates to the remains of a possible pillbox within the Emborough aggregate quarry (PRN 16745).

There are twenty-seven Second World War records relating to activity on Brean Down, all these monuments fall within the Scheduled area and they include the barracks (PRN 12485), various Nissen Huts (for example PRNs 12488 and 12489), decoy bunkers (PRN 12572) and searchlight posts (PRNs 12357 and 12358). Twenty-three of these monuments were identified by an SCC archaeology officer, three by the Fortress Study Group and one by a North Somerset Council archaeology officer. Twenty-four of the Second World War records represent anti-tank obstacles; twelve were identified from RAF aerial photographs, six by independent researchers, five from civilian aerial photographs and one by a SCC archaeology officer.

There are nine records which illustrate Second World War activity on Blackdown; five of these are bombing decoys, four were identified by an English Heritage survey and one from RAF aerial photographs. There are two decoy site bunkers (PRNs 25041 and 25995) and one anti-aircraft obstruction (PRN 24114), these three sites fall within the Scheduled area of Blackdown. There are five auxiliary base units, all identified by the Defence of Britain project. At Tynings Gate, Cheddar, there is a decoy site and a Z projector anti-aircraft battery (PRNs 11466 and 12835) both sites are Scheduled. Two records relate to road blocks, one was reported to the HER by a former resident of the area and one was visible on RAF aerial photographs.

The final Second World War records relate to a possible tank trap (PRN 16477) reported by an independent researcher, a Prisoner of War Camp at Stowberry Park (PRN 17552) recorded by the Defence of Britain project, a pit (PRN 17733) possibly associated with Home Guard activities identified by a survey commissioned by the Woodland Trust (PRN 16889), a Military Camp at Green Ore (PRN 18306) visible on RAF aerial photographs and a Civil Defence Radio Station at Charterhouse (PRN 25663) also identified by the Defence of Britain project.

The remaining Post Medieval records are dominated by monuments and sites of industrial and agricultural processes. One hundred and seventy-nine entries relate to limekilns, mostly identified from historical ordnance survey maps. Sixty-five of the entries are agricultural structures, these include barns, field systems, stock ponds and cattle pounds. Thirty-six of the Post Medieval records relate to mining activities including eleven incidences of lead mining, four ochre mines, Barytes mine (PRN 12826) and a manganese mine (PRN 23352). Twenty-nine records relate to quarrying activities, including known aggregate quarries which are still in operation, for example Moon's Hill Quarry (PRN 18436).

There are thirty-nine Post Medieval entries relating to settlement, sixteen relate to deserted farmsteads, nine are larger hamlets and villages and five relate to single dwellings. At Poole House Hamlet (PRN 25374) archaeological investigations within the vicinity of Whatley Quarry found evidence of a building and yard dating to this period. Additionally, nine of these records are trackways. Twenty-five of the entries

are mounds and barrows which are considered more likely to relate to field clearance or mining activities. There are twenty incidences of secular building remains including ruined buildings and those identified from historical ordinance survey maps.

There are nineteen railway structures within the Mendip Post Medieval group, some of which may relate to quarrying activity within the area. Seventeen records relate to stone stiles, many of which were identified and recorded by the Mendip Hills AONB survey. Fifteen of the records represent pillow mounds and rabbit warrens, and a further fifteen records relate to mills, including three woollen mills and two sawmills.

Fourteen of the Post Medieval records are to ponds and a further fourteen are associated with ecclesiastical remains, most of which represent upstanding buildings, for which there are historical records. Thirteen of the records are associated with Post Medieval activity on Brean Down these include the Victorian battery, port and barracks (PRNs 10128, 10136 and 12485).

There are ten Iron works and related features, eight plantation banks, eight milestones or posts and six boundary markers. Mile stones and boundary markers are largely known as a result of historical ordinance survey maps. Seven of the Post Medieval records are parks, five records relate to wells and a further five are enclosures of uncertain function, some visible only from the air. There are another four cropmarks of unclear form. There are also four war memorials identified by the UKNIWM and four roads and associated structures.

An additional four records relate to artefacts and these are: pottery recovered from Great Oone's Hole (PRN 10397) a Henry III penny and pottery found by a metal detectorist at Swymmer's Farm, Charterhouse (PRN 18248), a slipware jar found near Penn Hill (PRN 24435) and pottery sherds collected at Park Farm, West Horrington (PRN 24448).

There are three manor houses; three gardens, three follies, three brickworks and three rifle ranges. Two of the entries relate to tree ring enclosures, two represent grottos, two are for burial grounds and two relate to Oakhill Brewery (PRNs 23081 and 23086).

The remaining twenty-eight records relate to single incidences of secular and industrial monuments including an industrial site (PRN 11495), a flagstaff (PRN 17736), a pump house (PRN 24349) and an ice house (PRN 24881). Many of these sites have been located from historical ordinance survey maps.

The Post Medieval records for the Mendip character area reflect the dramatic changes to the landscape caused by the industrialisation of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries. Prior to this period quarrying and mining activities were limited to a small number of sites largely dating to the Roman and Medieval periods, however the increased extent of these industries is keenly obvious during the Post Medieval period. The agricultural remains also illustrate the importance of the rural economy to the Mendip Hills and the number of records which relate specifically to livestock reflect the farming patterns still practised in the area today.

#### **5.1.12 Uncertain Entries**

Within the core Mendip character area there two hundred and twenty-three records which have been assigned to the Uncertain group. The largest numbers of entries relate to mounds or barrows of which there are thirty-eight. Twenty-eight of the

records relate to cropmarks which are only defined on the HER as vegetational marks, some of which were noted by the Mendips Hills AONB survey.

There are twenty-three circular cropmarks visible on aerial photographs. Twenty-one of the records relate to linear features, sixteen are cropmarks, three are earthworks and two were identified from documentary sources. There are twenty-two enclosures, eleven visible as cropmarks, nine are earthworks and two were identified from documentary sources. There are twenty field systems, eleven of which appear as cropmarks, eight as earthworks and one was identified from a documentary source.

There are nine trackways and holloways of uncertain date and eight features simply identified as earthworks. There are also eight records relating to mining activities, seven of which were identified from aerial photographs and one from a documentary source. Seven of the Uncertain entries relate to alleged incidences of standing stones. There are six quarries and five records relating to artefacts including flint (PRNs 15668 and 25702), pottery (PRN 24778), a needle grinder (PRN 24234) and stone implements (PRN 25697). Four of the Uncertain records relate to boundary markers and there are also four rectilinear earthworks. There are three caves, three wells and three records of building remains of an uncertain date.

Two of the records are pits found during survey work at Beacon Hill (PRNs 17733 and 17734). The nine remaining records are single monuments including a causeway (PRN 12246), a burial at Dinder Wood (PRN 23368), which contained nothing to indicate a date, and a settlement site (PRN 25854).

The number of Uncertain records within the core character area which have been located as a result of aerial photography reflects the difficulties posed in assigning dates to monuments without archaeological investigation on the ground. This is also illustrated by the large number of mounds or barrows assigned to this group, some of which may well represent Bronze Age funerary monuments, field clearance structures or spoil from mining or quarrying, but it is impossible to prove without further investigation.

### **5.1.13 Extent and Nature of Archaeological Investigations**

The archaeological sites and monuments of Mendip Hills have a long history of exploration, in particular cave sites and barrows have been intensively investigated since at least the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Whilst some of the antiquarian explorers kept records and illustrations of their work, others were less meticulous and what is left is often based on conjecture. Equally, even where records were kept these are not comprehensive by modern standards. In the 20<sup>th</sup> Century the Mendip Hills have attracted the attention of various organisations associated with Bristol University, the most important of which in terms of excavation, and indeed publication, is the Spelaeological Society. More recent work has been undertaken by undergraduate and post-graduate members of the Department of Archaeology.

There have also been a number of individuals who have carried out independent artefact collection, often on ploughed fields and over a long period of time, on the Mendip Hills. In the best cases the material collected has been quantified and the discoveries are reported to the HER and published in publications such as the Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society (PSANHS), and the material deposited with local museums. This sort of independent investigation is important to our understanding of past landscapes, in particular the prehistoric periods, however it has to be acknowledged that these activities by no means represent organised study. Raising questions about how the artefacts recovered are identified and, in the case of lithics, is all material collected solely obvious tool types? These are not easy questions to answer and only a comprehensive study of such collections could go any way to solving such issues.

#### **5.1.13.1 Extensive Surveys**

The Mendip Hills have not been subject to the same intensive archaeological surveys as the Exmoor National Park and the Quantock Hills. The only comprehensive work took place between 1986 and 1988 and comprised a survey of the archaeological sites within the Mendip AONB, a joint funded project by Somerset County Council and English Heritage. The survey reviewed all aerial photographic material for the AONB such as of RAF 1946 photographs and material commissioned by Somerset County and Avon County Councils from 1971, 1975 and 1981. A fieldwork element to this study included site visits, and in some cases, earthwork survey. The success of this work is reflected by the discovery of an additional four hundred and forty-five sites and monuments within the AONB.

However this survey is now nearly twenty years old only represents one part of the core character area of the current project. In particular eastern Mendip which plays host to the greatest concentration of aggregate quarries was not within the bounds of the AONB and was excluded, demonstrating the need for a more widespread archaeological survey of the region as a whole.

#### **5.1.13.2 Archaeological Excavations**

The two types of monuments that have been most intensively excavated are cave sites and barrows and cairns. Many of the Mendip caves have produced material ranging from the Palaeolithic to at least the Roman period and the competence with which they have been investigated varies widely. Caves and rock shelters are notoriously challenging to excavate due to the difficulties often posed by tricky access and the complex way in which the deposits build up. Many individuals and groups including R. C. Gough, H.E. Balch and the University of Bristol Spelaeological

Society have taken an interest both in the formation of the caves systems themselves and the archaeological deposits within them.

The HER records indicate that twenty-seven of the cave sites within the character area have been subject to investigations. Table20 below illustrates the date of the excavations (if known) and where the material was published.

**Table20 Excavated Cave Sites in the Mendip Hills Character Area**

PRN	Site Name	Date	Published Accounts
10060	Triple H Cave, Axbridge	1955-1958	Axbridge Caving Group and Archaeological Society Journal. Limited plans and section style drawings
10301	Jackdaw Cave, Cannington	1960s	Cambridge University Archaeology Department and UBSS. Included in Rahtz's Cannington Britannia Monograph published in 2000.
10349	Totty Pot, Cheddar	1960s and 1998	Early work by Wessex Caving Club unpublished. 1998 Bristol University Postgraduate excavation unpublished.
10384	Chelmscombe Cave, Cheddar	1925-1926	PSANHS. Descriptions and illustrations of all the artefacts recovered.
10387	Flint Jack's Cave, Cheddar	1893	1958 PUBBS account describing human remains and some lithics.
10389	Bone Hole, Cheddar	c.1800s, 1900s and 1967-1976	No records of early investigations. Limited account in HER files for 1960s and 1970s work by the Mendip Caving Group.
10390	Sow's Hole, Cheddar	1930	No published account
10391	Pig's Hole, Cheddar	1930	No published account
10394	Sugar Loaf Slitter, Cheddar	c.1890	Excavator R.C. Gough no published account.
10397	Great Oone's Hole, Cheddar	c. 1850, 1900 and 1970s	1970s published in PUBSS and included plans, sections and artefact illustrations.
10399	Gough's Old Cave	c. 1890 and 1954-1958	1954-1958 excavations published with descriptions, plans and sectional style drawings in PUBSS.
10400	Long Hole Cave and Slitter, Cheddar	1887-1888 and 1960s	No record of Gough's explorations in the 1880s. 1960s account in PUBSS
10459	Picken's or Scragg's Hole, Cheddar	1940s and 1960s	No record of early excavations. 1960s published in PUBSS and 1986 radiocarbon dating of animal bone (also PUBSS).
23826	Limekiln Hill Quarry Cave	1971-1974	No published account.
24097	Cave Deposits, SW of Charterhouse Warren Farm, Priddy	1974	Published accounts in the Wessex Caving Club Journal and PUBSS
24127	Read's or Keltic Cavern, Priddy	1919-1931	Published in 1954 in PUBSS
24128	Bos Swallet, Blackdown	1960s	Initially PUBSS and a detailed a re-assessment in 1997 also in PUBSS.
24331	Outlook Cave, Ebbor Gorge	?	No published account.
24332	Bridged Pot Hole, Ebbor Gorge	1926	H.E. Balch published a limited account in the Antiquaries Journal
24334	Bracelet Cave, Ebbor Gorge	1955	No published account of the excavations but gold bracelet described in PSANHS
24335	Hope Wood Rock Shelter, Ebbor Gorge	1950-1951	Account of human remains in PSANHS but there is no excavation report.
24774	Tom Tivey's Hole, Leighton Hanging	1958	PUBSS account includes descriptions, illustrations and artefact analysis.

24776	White Woman's Hole, Leighton Hanging	1970s	PUBSS account includes descriptions illustrations of some of the artefacts recovered.
24849	Westbury Cave, Westbury	1976-1984	Excavation by the Natural History Museum. Full publication of results in 1999.
24956	Browne's Cave, Stoke St Michael	1947-1950	No published account.
25360	Savory's Hole, Ebbor Gorge	1913, 1919 and 1958	Early excavations by Mendip Nature Reserve Committee unpublished. 1958 by members of the Prehistoric Society limited account published in PPS.
25394	Limekiln Quarry Cave, Mells	1971-1974 and 1974-1984	Partial excavation and publication of a note concerning the site in PUBSS.
44861	Park or Boulder Cave, Cannington	1962	Included in Rahtz's Britannia Monograph, published in 2000

There are records indicating that fifty-seven of the barrows and cairns within the Mendip character area have been subject to some form of excavation. The most prolific of the early investigators was the Reverend John Skinner of Camerton in the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century, who kept a record of the sites he opened in his journals, in some cases these were accompanied by sketch plans of the barrows and the artefacts within them. Whilst we can be fairly sure in most cases which of the extant barrows were opened by Skinner it is not possible in every case to be absolutely sure. Table21 below illustrates which of the barrows and cairns Skinner excavated and what, if anything, was recovered.

**Table21 Barrows and Cairns Opened by Reverend John Skinner**

PRN	Name and Location	Result
10126	Barrow, Brean Down	Possibly opened by Skinner, no primary cremation but sherds of Roman pottery and human remains found on the surface.
23394	Barrow, Beacon Hill, Doultong	No finds
23395	Barrow, Beacon Hill, Doultong	No finds
23397	Barrow, Beacon Hill, Doultong	Possibly primary cremation
23398	Barrow, Beacon Hill, Doultong	Primary cremation beneath inverted urn in a stone cist
23400	Barrow site, Beacon Hill, Doultong	No finds except large central stones
23403	Beacon Hill, Doultong	Primary cremation with tanged bronze razor beneath an inverted urn in a stone cist.
23404	Barrow site, Beacon Hill, Doultong	"Ashes" found beneath an inverted urn on a stone slab in a stone cist
23813	Barrow, Ashen Hill, Chewton Mendip	Primary deposit of cremated bone no urn or cist
23814	Barrow, Ashen Hill, Chewton Mendip	Primary deposit of cremated bone, charcoal and part of a bronze knife or blade
23815	Barrow, Ashen Hill, Chewton Mendip	Primary deposit of cremated bone in a cist with charcoal and sherds of large broken urn, cist covered with a small cairn, the rest of the barrow was earth
23816	Barrow, Ashen Hill, Chewton Mendip	No finds. Opened again c. 1896 by H. E. Balch
23817	Barrow, Ashen Hill, Chewton Mendip	Primary deposit of cremated bone in a cist accompanied by a 3 rivetted knife/dagger with the remains of a wooden sheath, cist covered with a small cairn, the rest of the barrow was earth

23818	Barrow, Ashen Hill, Chewton Mendip	Primary deposit of cremated bone with or possibly beneath a broken inverted urn in a cist of loose stones covered with a slab. The mound consisted of stones with an earthen cap, beneath which was a second deposit of cremated bone inside a cavity covered with a slab.
23819	Barrow, Ashen Hill, Chewton Mendip	Primary cremation in a cist consisting of three slabs place on end; accompanied by five amber objects one perforated, three were only bored on one side, one was heart shaped, one blue opaque (? Faience) glass bead, one pygmy cup and part of a riveted knife with a wooden sheath. The cist was covered by a cairn and the finds appear to be in Bristol Museum
23820	Barrow, Ashen Hill, Chewton Mendip	Primary cremation with a broken urn (? inverted) below the natural surface in an oval cist covered by a flat stone. Possible secondary deposit found on east side of cremated bone on a flat stone without a cover
23952	Round Barrow, North Hill, Priddy	Ashes and charcoal found
23966	Bowl Barrow, SE of Eastwater Farm, East Water	Primary cremation with flint arrowhead and charcoal
23967	Barrow, NE of Lower Pits Farm, Priddy	No finds
23968	Barrow, W of Lower Pits Farm, Priddy	Two barrows dug together (PRNs 23968 and 23969) one was empty and the other contained a disturbed cremation, a flint arrowhead and charcoal. Uncertain which barrow was which.
23969	Barrow, W of Lower Pits Farm, Priddy	Two barrows dug together (PRNs 23968 and 23969) one was empty and the other contained a disturbed cremation, a flint arrowhead and charcoal. Uncertain which barrow was which.
23975	Bowl Barrow, SW of Townsend Farm, Priddy	No finds
23976	Bowl Barrow, SW of Townsend Farm, Priddy	Cremated bones within a crude stone cist
23977	Bowl Barrow, SW of Townsend Farm, Priddy	No finds
23978	Barrow site, S of Townsend Pool, Priddy	No primary cremation found but a secondary cremation with a bronze razor discovered beneath an inverted urn. This record could refer to PRN 23979
23979	Barrow site, S of Townsend Pool, Priddy	No primary cremation found but a secondary cremation with a bronze razor discovered beneath an inverted urn. This record could refer to PRN 23978
23981	Bowl Barrow, SW of Townsend Pool, Priddy	No finds
23982	Bowl Barrow, SW of Townsend Pool, Priddy	Cremated bones and charcoal
23983	Barrow, SW of Townsend Pool, Priddy	Primary cremation in a cist with charcoal
23984	Bowl Barrow, SW of Townsend Pool, Priddy	Primary cremation with sherds of a thick unbaked clay vessel in a cist. Two secondary deposits may also have been found
23986	Bowl Barrow, SW of Townsend Pool, Priddy	Primary or secondary cremation without a cist or grave goods
23990	Bowl Barrow, SE of Bristol Plain Farm, Priddy	No finds



23991	Bowl Barrow, SE of Bristol Plain Farm, Priddy	A few ashes and some charcoal, no cist
23992	Bowl Barrow, SE of Bristol Plain Farm, Priddy	A few ashes and some charcoal, no cist
23993	Bowl Barrow, SE of Bristol Plain Farm, Priddy	Primary cremation in an oval cist covered with a flat slab
23997	Bowl Barrow, E of Bristol Plain Farm	Primary cremation probably not found. Possible secondary cremation to the east of the centre on a flat stone with a two riveted bronze knife and a crutch headed bone pin with three holes in the crutch. Bone pin possibly in Bristol Museum
24848	Westbury Beacon (barrow), Westbury	Reported by Skinner but probably not opened by him a hoard of twelve to twenty bronze implements were found in a stone cist. Subsequently sold to a local farmer.

Members of the Bristol University Spelaeological Society also excavated twelve barrows within the Mendip character area. The results their investigations are listed in Table22 below, all these investigations were published in the society's proceedings and the material recovered is held in their museum. However the museum suffered bomb damage during the Second World War and some of the finds and archives were lost.

**Table22 Barrows and Cairns Excavated by the University of Bristol Spelaeological Society**

PRN	Name and Location	Result
10768	Tumulus with cremation, Rowberrow Warren, Shipham	Primary cremation beneath a collapsed inverted biconical collared urn. With a pygmy cup either inside or nearby. Encircled by vertical slabs and covered by an internal cairn
10770	Cairn, Rowberrow Warren, Shipham	Primary cremation consisting only of teeth on the original ground surface covered with a central cairn
11428	Bowl Barrow, SW of Tynings Farm, Cheddar	Possible primary cremation founding a central stone cist which showed signs of charring. There was an inner limestone slab retaining kerb and a causewayed ditch. Barrow may also have produced a beaker during later UBSS excavations
11429	Bowl Barrow, S of Tynings Farm, Cheddar	Primary cremation in an upright bipartite urn, two secondary cremations in biconical urns. Three pygmy cups in a secondary position, possibly with a cremation. Secondaries followed by a turf clad stone cap to the barrow
11430	Bowl Barrow, S of Tynings Farm, Cheddar	Primary double cremation in and around an inverted collared urn that had four imperforate lugs, on a limestone slab. Remains of charred oak logs or boards found in the centre. Secondary cremation in an inverted biconical urn in a pit with an unburned horse skull. Barrow was causewayed with a ditch and the secondary cremation was within an additional layer placed over the original barrow. Flint implements including five arrowheads of later Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date were also found and saddle querns, pottery and spindle whorls were recovered from the ditch

11431	Bowl Barrow, S of Tynings Farm, Cheddar	Barrow had a causewayed ditch and in centre there was a spread of cremated bone including some in small pit. Flint arrowheads of an later Neolithic or Early Bronze Age were also recovered
11432	Bowl Barrow, SE of Tynings Farm, Cheddar	Primary cremation with a perforated slate whetstone found in a central pit, surrounded by a circle of stone and covered by a small cairn. A secondary cremation of an adult female and child was found beneath an inverted collared urn with jet beads, segmented faience beads and a lozenge shaped bronze awl
11434	Bowl Barrow, SW of Ashridge Farm, Cheddar	Excavated in response to severe plough damage. Three areas of disturbed cremation were found and one contained the remains of an urn. Barrow possibly had an inner retaining kerb.
11437	Bowl Barrow, S of Piney Sleight Farm, Cheddar	No trace of a burial found although there were traces of charcoal. Unstratified pot sherds were recovered including green glazed ware.
24040	Barrow, N of Harptree Lodge, Priddy	Possible primary cremation mixed with ashes in a central cist lined with unburnt clay. A burnt bead may also have been found and the barrow appeared to have an outer retaining wall and it was constructed of alternate layers of soil and possibly turfs
24088	Bowl Barrow, SW of Fernhill Farm, Priddy	A "control" Pit was dug, produced earlier Bronze Age potsherds and two antler pick tips
24135	Cairn and burial SE of Mendip Lodge Wood, Priddy	Cremation with a crude flint knife discovered near the centre. Later UBSS excavations found nothing

There are nine other known explorations of the Mendip barrows, at Wellington Farm, Cheddar (PRN 11401) excavations are thought to have been carried out in 1904 and whilst there was no evidence of a burial two amber beads and a flint arrowhead were found and are recorded as being in Bristol Museum, an account of the activities was published in Notes and Queries for Somerset and Dorset. One of the barrows at Beacon Hill, Doultong (PRN 17729) was reportedly opened by M. Unwin in 1953 and a central burnt area was found surrounded by a ditch, flint scrapers, knives and flakes were found in the mound. This excavation was reported by Leslie Grinsell. Unwin was also responsible for opening other barrows on Beacon Hill including PRN 23397 which had already been investigated by Skinner. Unwin found Late Bronze Age potsherds which are now in Shepton Mallet Museum as is a model of this barrow. At PRN 23401 on Beacon Hill, again opened by Unwin in 1953, potsherds and fragments of unburnt human bone were recovered and are also now in Shepton Mallet Museum.

Priddy Glebe barrow, North Hill (PRN 23949) was opened by the Vicar of Priddy, Reverend T. Palmer, in 1894 and a contracted primary inhumation was found, and a secondary cremation, bronze knife, awl and several flints. Three possible post holes in a straight line were also found in one of the cuttings. An account was published in the annual report for the Wells Natural History and Archaeology Society. A barrow north-west of Hill View, Priddy (PRN ) was reportedly opened about 1900 by a B. C. Bird without result, there are no records except a reference by Tratman. At Hunters Lodge Inn (PRN 24137) there are reports of treasure hunters having opening the barrow in 1926, however nothing was found. A cairn on Penn Hill, St Cuthbert Out

(PRN 24358) was possibly opened by G. Chester between 1894 and 1895 contained a deposit of charred wood and ashes, over which was a layer of fine earth topped by a cairn made from sandstone.

One of the Ashen Hill barrows (PRN 23816) which was initially opened by Skinner was re-investigated by Balch in the 1890s when the cremated remains of at least four individuals were found along with scrapers, flakes and arrowheads. At Carscliff Farm a barrow (PRN 10352) was excavated in 1999 (PRN 18800) as part of PhD research by Jodie Lewis and students from Bristol University. Evidence of a soil or turf mound with a limestone kerb was recorded and one sherd of late Bronze Age pottery was recovered, seventy-three pieces of undiagnostic flint were also found. In front of the barrow thirty stakeholes were recorded, the excavations have been published in the PUBSS.

There have been archaeological excavations carried out on numerous other monuments within the Mendip character area, details of which follow. At Brean Down erosion of the sand cliff led to numerous discoveries; the periods represented include the Upper Palaeolithic, the Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman, Early Medieval and Post Medieval. The University of Bristol Spelaeological Society carried out a number of investigations including the Roman Temple (PRN 10117) and beaker finds (PRN 11345) and accounts have been published in the Society's proceedings. The Hillfort (PRN 10115) was excavated in the 1970s under the direction Ian Burrow and the results were also published in the PUBSS. Rescue excavations took place in the 1980s by Martin Bell and included the discovery the early prehistoric occupation site (PRN 10133) and the Early Medieval cemetery (PRN 10131), an English Heritage report was produced in 1990 and included details of the earlier finds, scientific and environmental analysis.

At Lower Pits Farm, Priddy (PRN 23965) excavations (PRNs 18293 – 18297) were carried out in the 1970s and revealed evidence of shelters of Mesolithic origin and flint material of Mesolithic and Neolithic origin. Reports on the excavations appeared in the annual reports for the Committee for Rescue Archaeology in Avon, Gloucestershire and Somerset and a description of the site was published in 2001. A full excavation report has yet to be published. The long barrow near Brimble Pit Pool, Priddy (PRN 23971) was excavated by the UBSS and previously it had been opened, though unsatisfactorily, by the Reverend Skinner in 1816. The result of the excavations including illustrations were published in Society's proceedings as was a re-interpretation by Lewis in 2002.

Gorsey Bigbury henge (PRN 11439) was likewise excavated by the UBSS, the occupation evidence and burial were Early Bronze Age, the original excavations and a re-interpretation were both published in the PUBSS and include illustrations, artefact analysis, radiocarbon dating results and a photographic record. Members of the UBSS also discovered a Bronze Age cremation cemetery (PRN 23134) while excavating a nearby barrow (PRN 23133, not within the core character area). A note of the discovery was published in the PUBSS although it does not clearly indicate how far the remains were excavated.

At Cannington the Iron Age enclosed settlement (PRN 10302) and hillfort (PRN 10439) were excavated by Philip Rahtz in the 1960s as a direct result of the threat posed by aggregate quarrying. Details of both sites and the hillfort excavations (PRN 12270) were published in the PSANHS. Earlier excavations in 1905 and 1913 took place at the hillfort however there are no published records of these activities. At Carscliff Farm (PRN 10347) Balch reported the excavation of a series of hut circles, this site has been assigned both to be the Iron Age and Roman periods and Wells

Museum has an archive report pertaining to this site. A trial section and three test pits were dug at Dinies Camp, Downhead (PRN 23428) in 1961, and the results were published in PSANHS. At Pitchers Enclosure, Garrow (PRN 24081) the OSAD reported that a trial trench had been dug in one of the hut circles in the interior of the enclosure but there are no further records for this investigation.

The Roman and post Roman cemetery at Cannington (PRN 10503) was also excavated (PRN 44860) by Rahtz in the 1960s as a direct result of the destruction of the site due to aggregate quarrying. A Britannia monograph including detailed illustrations, artefact analyses was published in 2000. At Charterhouse the Medieval enclosure (PRN 23020), Roman Fort (PRN 23024) and a series of mining rakes (PRN 25720) were excavated in 1993 and 1994 by the University of Exeter (PRNs 15798 and 15799), interim reports were published in the PSANHS. The Roman settlement at Town Field, Charterhouse (PRN 23021) was initially investigated by Skinner between 1818 and 1824. In the winter of 1948 and 1949 members of the UBSS carried out another investigation (PRN 16163) the results were published in the Society's proceedings. Between 1960 and 1964 the UBSS opened a series of trenches (PRNs 15827, 15828 and 15830) at the site and the results along with illustrations and finds analysis were also published in the PUBSS.

The Roman amphitheatre at Charterhouse (PRN 23025) was also subject to excavation (PRN 16164), this was carried out by Harold St George Gray and account of the investigation with plans and sectional drawing was published in the PSANHS in 1910. The UBSS members who investigated the Town Field settlement at Charterhouse (PRN 23021) also opened a trench (PRN 15829) at Rains Batch, Charterhouse in 1967 (PRN 23029) the results were published in the PUBSS. Between 1956 and 1966 trial excavations were carried out on a Roman occupation site at Rookery Farm, Chewton Mendip (PRN 23210), interim reports were published in PSANHS and the Wells Natural History and Archaeology Society annual report.

The Roman Villa at Whatley Combe, Nunney (PRN 23900) was initially excavated in 1848 following its discovery in 1837. Cambridge University carried out further work in 1958 and published the result in the Journal of Roman Studies. A further small scale excavation was carried by students from Newton Park College in 1962 but there are no details of exactly what was found. In 1964 Messrs Barlow and Millar carried out excavations of a Roman building east of Priddy Church (PRN 23946). Finds remained with Mr Barlow and there are no further details concerning this work. At St Cuthbert's Lead Works a Roman building (PRN 23963) was discovered during turf cutting. An excavation was carried out in 1951 but there is no record of who carried out this investigation. Three sections (PRN 16126) across the Roman Road at Chewton Mendip (PRN 25857) in 1906, an account was published in the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society journal.

The deserted Medieval village at Carscliff Farm (PRN 11586) has been subjects to various seasons of excavation by the University of Bristol, the HER has copies of photographs taken in 1998 but there is yet to be a published report on the site. At Poole House near Chantry (PRN 25374) an archaeological evaluation was carried out in response to the threat posed by Whatley Quarry, none of the finds were earlier than the Post Medieval period, the unpublished report held in the HER files.

#### **5.1.13.3 Environmental Assessments**

Considering the large numbers of known important archaeological sites, especially of the early prehistoric periods, there is an extremely low number of palaeoenvironmental studies. The only detailed environmental analysis carried out in

the Mendip character area relate to the sampling included in the Brean Down rescue excavation in the 1980s (PRN 10133 and 10131) and the earlier work on the sandcliff (ApSimon *et al* 1961, Spenser 1974, 24 and ApSimon 2000). Midden deposits of shellfish have been studied from middens associated with the Iron Age hillfort (Burrow 1976) and the Roman temple (ApSimon 1965). The numerous cave mouth deposits have often been found to have a sedimentary sequence disturbed by mining, collapse and faunal activity but occasionally evidence of undisturbed stratigraphy survived (eg. Everton and Everton 1972).

Several of the cave deposits have produced important bone assemblage reports (eg. Everton and Everton 1972 and Everton 1975b) including Devensian Stage faunas from Rhino Hole and the Hyaena Den at Wookey (Wymer 1999, 191, Jacobi 2000, 45-46), and also (to the west of this area) the Devensian Stage fauna from Uphill Quarry. Mesolithic animal bones are rare, although Aveline's Hole in the Mendips has yielded the human remains of over 70 individuals, perhaps suggesting that the cave was a cemetery of some sort. Many of the faunal assemblages from cave sites have not been reinterpreted or dated.

Very few animal bone assemblages have been studied from non-cave, a significant exception being Gorsey Bigbury henge (van Wijngaarden-Bakker 1976). Charcoal and grain impressions on pottery were also studied at the same site (Sheldon 1976 and ApSimon *et al* 1976).

In the wider Mendip area palaeoenvironmental analysis is still remarkably limited compared to other areas such as the Wessex chalklands. Only published pollen diagram is available from the immediate vicinity of the character area from Priddy henges (Dimbleby 1967). Recent work has shown that localised tufa deposits also hold important information, especially for the Mesolithic period (Davies *et al*. 2001).

#### **5.1.13.4 Artefact Examination**

There have been no large scale artefact studies carried out within the Mendip character area, however during research for a PhD Jodie Lewis re-assessed the lithic material in the Everton Collection at Axbridge Museum, collected near Ebbor (PRN 16117). Lewis also re-considered the lithics from Middledown Drove, Cheddar (PRN 10424) before embarking on additional work at the site.

#### **5.1.14 Comparison of the Archaeological Resource of the Core Character Area and the Buffer Zone**

##### **5.1.14.1 The Palaeolithic Period**

Nine of the entries for the Mendip Hills buffer zone relate to Palaeolithic sites. Eight of these entries represent cave sites, three of which produced material specifically assigned to the Upper Palaeolithic and one produced Middle Palaeolithic artefacts. The remaining record relates to surface lithic finds from Rodney Stoke (PRN 24303).

The Palaeolithic evidence from the buffer zone and the core character area compare both in terms of type of site and material recovered. However the core character area contains more records, both in terms of cave sites and the recovery of Palaeolithic artefacts by independent collectors. As the core is approximately double the size of the buffer zone this is to be expected, the difference between the two areas may also be connected to the varying geological areas, with the creation of caves taking place on the central limestone areas and less so in the peripheral geological formations.

The reduction in the number of surface finds may also be reflective of the areas in which independent artefact collectors operate.

#### **5.1.14.2 The Mesolithic Period**

There are only four records relating to the Mesolithic within the buffer zone. Two the sites relate to material recovered from cave sites at Rowberrow Warren (PRN 10767) and Badger's Hole, Wookey (PRN 24354) and the two remaining records relate to the discovery of Star Roman Villa (PRN 17855) which produced some Mesolithic material and to the alleged discovery of lithics from near Cannington (PRN 10296).

There is a sharp contrast in the number of entries from the buffer zone and those within the core, where there are approximately six times as many records. This may reflect the difference in the way in which the general area was exploited during the Mesolithic period, if the lithic collections from the core truly relate to hunting activities then one would expect a higher concentration over the crest of the Mendip Hills where communities could follow animal herds. It may also however be reflective of the areas in which independent collectors operate. The use of cave sites within the buffer correlates with what is already known from both the core and wider area as a whole throughout the prehistoric period.

#### **5.1.14.3 The Neolithic Period**

There are twenty-six Neolithic records for the buffer zone. Nine of the records relate to artefact remains, including two axe heads; seven are long barrows or long mounds, four are cave sites which have produced Neolithic material, four are known as the Priddy Circles (PRNs 24042-24026) and are probably henges and there is one standing stone at Star (PRN 10758).

The records for the core Mendip character area and the buffer zone broadly compare with lithic collections, cave sites and monuments appearing in both areas. The size difference between the two areas is also approximately reflected by the core character area containing roughly twice as many entries as the buffer zone. The most noticeable difference between the two areas is the increase in number of long barrows within the buffer zone, this may be as a result of the buffer zone impinging on the Cotswold chalklands where these monuments are more common.

#### **5.1.14.4 The Bronze Age**

There are seventy-five Bronze Age records for the buffer zone. Sixty-one of these records relate to barrows and cairns, four to lithic discoveries, three to aerial photographic features, three to cave sites, three to standing stones and there is one record relating to a stone setting at Star (PRN 12789). The records for the buffer zone compare favourably in terms of monument type to those within the core character area. However one would expect the number of Bronze Age records in the core to equate to approximately half of those within the core but there are over four times as many Bronze Age records in the core as there are in the buffer zone.

Despite the smaller number of barrows and cairns in the buffer zone they dominate what is known of the Bronze Age record as they do in the core. In similarity to the material from the core the barrows and cairns of the buffer zone also appear in cemeteries for example at Barrow House Farm, Chewton Mendip (PRNs 23257-23260), in pairs such as Newlands Farm, Green Ore (PRN 23215 and 23216) and

singly like at Ingsdons Hill, Doultong (PRN 11102). It is unsurprising that there are a smaller number of barrows and cairns within the buffer zone given the relative size to the core and the geological make up of the buffer which largely covers the fringes of the uplands rather than the core range itself. Cave sites are also common to both areas but the reduction in number may also be a reflection of the geological differences between the two areas with the formation of caves largely taking place in the central carboniferous limestone areas.

#### **5.1.14.5 The Iron Age**

There are twelve records relating to the Iron Age within the buffer zone. Six of these records represent material recovered from cave sites, four of which are in Cheddar, one is at Rowberrow Warren and one is in Wookey Hole. There are three occupation sites, one linear earthwork and one promontory fort. The final record represents a Gold Torc found at Cross in Compton Bishop (PRN 11406).

There are approximately twice as many Iron Age records in the core as there are in the buffer and this equates to the size difference between the two areas. Cave activity is prominent in both groups but there seem to be a greater number of occupation related records for the core character area than there are for the buffer zone, in particular hillforts and hilltop settlements. This may be a reflection of the geological differences between the two areas.

#### **5.1.14.6 General Prehistoric Entries**

There are thirty general Prehistoric records in the buffer zone. Fifteen of these entries relate to lithic finds five of which are centred in the Cranmore Parish (PRNs 11107, 11110, 11111, 11112 and 11279). Seven of the records relate to field systems and enclosures, five of which are visible on aerial photographs and two are extant earthworks. There are two cave sites both within Wookey Hole (PRNs 24330 and 24354) and the final record is Newbury Camp, Mells (PRN 23851) which is likely to be an Iron Age enclosure.

The core character area is approximately twice as large as the buffer zone and yet the total number of general Prehistoric entries for the buffer zone only makes up a third of those within the core. In similarity to the records for the core character area the largest group of records within the buffer zone relate to lithic discoveries, demonstrating the difficulties when dealing with artefacts that do not represent specific tool types but also highlighting the need for professional advice in identification. The remaining records for the two areas broadly compare with both cave and cropmark features appearing in both groups.

#### **5.1.14.7 The Roman Period**

There are fifty-one Roman entries in the buffer zone. Twenty-seven of the records relate to artefact discoveries including pottery and coins; there are eight cave sites that have produced Roman material, eight occupation sites, two mining areas and single incidences of a burial, a canal, a road and a salt working site.

Despite the size difference between the core character area and the buffer zone there are almost as many Roman records for the buffer zone as there are for the

core. A further contrast is displayed by the types of records in each area. Within the core the Roman records are dominated by the activities in areas such as Charterhouse which include settlement, military and industrial sites. In the buffer zone there are an increased number of artefact recoveries. These some of these may represent occupation sites but there are several coin hoards recorded for example Garston Farm, Cheddar, Horseleaze Lane, Star and Frances Plantation (PRNs 10339, 15266 and 24236), and numerous single finds. Whether these discoveries represent a significant pattern is difficult to assess. However from the HER it seems that there was perhaps more organised occupation of the central Mendips to take advantage of resources such as lead.

#### **5.1.14.8 *The Early Medieval Period***

There are seven Early Medieval records within the buffer zone. They all represent single incidences and comprise of a Church, a cross fragment, Axbridge burh (PRN 11408), a port south-west of Axbridge (PRN 10065), mine workings, a burial ground and a ring find (PRN 24888).

In similarity to the core character area there are few records dating to the Early Medieval period and they do not represent any discernable groups. However there are almost as many Early Medieval records within the buffer zone as there are within the core despite the core being approximately twice the size. This perhaps suggests there was less activity on the central Mendips during the period, but the numbers of records are so small and disparate it is difficult to make any real assertions about this.

#### **5.1.14.9 *The Medieval Period***

There are one hundred and forty-nine Medieval records in the buffer zone and eighty-five of the records relate to rural settlements. Forty-three of the records represent field systems, lynchets and field clearance remains. Forty-two of the entries relate to specific settlements; of which there are seventeen deserted villages and hamlets, eight deserted farms and six holloways and trackways. There are twenty-six ecclesiastical buildings including parish churches, priors and chapels. Eleven of the records represent mining activities relating to both lead and coal. There are three boundary stones and three secular crosses. There are two ponds, two parks, two manors, two carved stone fragments, two bridges, two ports and the Medieval Towns of Axbridge and Rackley are also within the buffer zone. There are single incidences of a well, mill, earthworks, a building stone works, a quarry, almshouses and a pottery find.

The Medieval records for the core and buffer zones compare favourable in terms of monument types with rural settlements representing the dominant entries for both areas. However there are almost as many Medieval records within the buffer zone as there are in the core despite the size bias in favour of the core. This seems to suggest that in similarity to the Early Medieval period there was limited activity within the central area of the Mendips compared to the periphery.

#### **5.1.14.10 *The Post Medieval Period***

Within the Mendip Hills buffer zone there are four hundred and eight entries relating to the Post Medieval period, thirty-seven of these records represent Second World



War remains; Twenty-one are pillboxes, ten are anti-tank obstacles and the remaining six entries relate to single incidences including a road block (PRN 25580) and an ROC observation post (PRN 25747).

There three hundred and seventy-one additional Post Medieval records; Fifty-three of the entries relate to agricultural activities including stock ponds, field systems, cattle pounds and barns. Thirty-two of which relate to mining activity including three calamine workings, three lead mines and one ochre mine. Thirty-one of the records represent mills, including four paper mills, four corn mills, two woollen mills, one dye mill and one water mill. Twenty-eight of the entries relate to limekilns, there are also twenty-eight remains related to settlement comprising of nine farmsteads, eight villages or hamlets, six single dwellings, four trackways and holloways and one set of almshouses.

There are twenty-five secular building remains, most of which represent ruined structures but also include three pumping stations. There are twenty-one ecclesiastical buildings, eighteen collieries, fourteen milestone or posts, ten stone stiles, eight war memorials, eight railway structures, and there are also eight quarry sites. Seven of the records relate to ponds including two fishponds and there are also seven parks. There are six records relating to burial grounds and cemeteries, four hospitals, four manorial houses, and four records representing artefact discoveries three of which concern pottery and one is a coin hoard (PRN 23285).

Three of the Post Medieval records for the buffer zone relate to road structures and there are three each of the following monuments; wells, iron works, workhouses, mounds, brickworks, smithies and cropmarks identified from aerial photographs. Two of these records relate to follies, two to cave sites, a further two to duck decoys and there are also two rifle ranges within the buffer zone. The remaining thirteen records relate to single incidences of monuments such as a police station (PRN 17035), a School (PRN 18134) and a bridge (PRN 25776).

In similarity to the core character area the Post Medieval records for the buffer zone are dominated by agricultural and industrial activities. Whilst the types of agricultural remains are the same reflecting the dominance of livestock farming the industrial processes reflect the difference in the geological make up of each area. For example within the buffer zone mining activity is dominated by collieries this is due to the coal seams available to the eastern edges of the Mendip Hills. The same can also be said for the quarries which largely represent buildings stone extraction sites as a posed to aggregates as illustrated by the Douling stone works (PRNs 23391, 23392 and 23393). Limekilns appear in both zones because of the incidence of limestone in both the core and buffer zones but the greater percentage lie within the core as do the larger percentage of quarries which demonstrates the impact of the aggregate industry on the Post Medieval landscape.

#### **5.1.14.11      *Uncertain Entries***

There are ninety-six records assigned to the Uncertain category. Seventeen of the records represent cropmarks including four circular, two rectilinear and one rectangular feature. Fourteen of the records relate to mounds or barrows, eleven are field systems including five identified from aerial photographs, five earthworks and one noted from documentary evidence. There are also fourteen records associated with settlement including three trackways, three holloways, three single dwellings and two deserted farmsteads. Nine of the records represent enclosures, four are cropmarks, four are earthworks and one was identified from a documentary source.

There are five records relating to mining remains visible on aerial photographs and there are four each of the following monument types; alleged standing stones, earthworks and burials. Three of the entries represent linear features, two are boundary markers and there are single incidences of a quarry (PRN 25932), a pillow mound (PRN 15177), a milestone (PRN 17159), a possible Roman site (PRN 16167) and Newbury Camp is also assigned to the Uncertain group (PRN 23851).

The Uncertain records for both the buffer and core character areas broadly compare, cropmarks both relating to unknown features and more identifiable forms are prevalent in both groups. The types and number of records in both areas demonstrate the need for further research into these hitherto unidentified monuments.

#### **5.1.15 Summary of the Known Archaeological Resource**

The archaeological resource of the Mendip character area represents a diverse picture of activity from the Palaeolithic onwards with examples of excavations have taken place in every major period. However many of these excavations were carried by antiquarians and there are few examples of good quality modern investigations of the main monument types. While the activities of amateur groups and research such as the Mendip AONB survey have significantly increased our knowledge of this resource this area has not benefited from either a major professional groundwork or an aerial photographic survey and the number of monuments either discovered or destroyed as a result of the aggregate industry suggests these types of research are sorely needed.

The prehistoric records (Palaeolithic – Iron Age and general Prehistoric) account for 41% of the total number of chronologically searched entries within the character area, when compared to the same percentage for the buffer zone (17%) and the County as a whole (28%) it is clear that this area contains a significant amount of Somerset's prehistoric archaeology. Approximately 47% of these records relate to barrows and cairns of which approximately 17% are known to have been subject to some form of excavation and only one of which has been carried out post-1960 (PRN 18800). Lithic collections account for 18% of the prehistoric records at least 50% of which have been recovered by independent collectors, few of which have been deposited in local museums. Cave sites account for 5% of the prehistoric records, 70% of which have been subject to some form of excavation and there is only one example of a truly professional excavation at Westbury Cave (PRN 24849).

The number Palaeolithic entries for both the core and buffer zone indicate that there was significant activity on and around Mendip during this period. Whether the finds recovered from cave sites represent habitation sites is difficult to assess from the types of material and the way in which these sites were investigated. However they may have represented temporary shelters with perhaps the number of surface finds from the crest of the hills demonstrating the following and exploitation of herd animals.

While there are few Mesolithic entries for the buffer zone, those within the core demonstrate that there was both activity on the hill ranges themselves and within the cave systems. There are definite concentrations around Priddy including PRNs 18249, 23965, 24224, 25699, 25795 and 25796. Which seem to suggest episodes relating to hunting activities the discovery of possible structures at Lower Pits Farm (PRN 23965) confirms that there may have been a series of temporary camps across

the area. The Mesolithic activity associated with Totty Pot Cave (PRN 10349) seems to suggest that these monuments were used specifically for the disposal of the dead during the Mesolithic period whether through active burial or not and other such examples are known from the core character area environs.

The pattern of Neolithic activity within the core and buffer zone is broadly similar to that of the Mesolithic and Palaeolithic periods. The dominant remains are lithic scatters suggesting hunting activities whilst the discovery of a number of axes for example PRNs 11405 and 11417 suggest management of the environment was taking place. There are Neolithic remains within caves and some of these may include burial as a Chelmscombe (PRN 10384) but further scientific dating is required in order to confirm this is the case. The emergence of burial monuments as demonstrated by PRN 23971 at Brimble Pit Pool and henges such as Gorsey Bigbury and Priddy (PRNs 11439 and 24154) within the character. However there are few true long barrows and they appear non-megalithic in structure. These two monuments also appear in the buffer zone which contains at least one chambered long barrow at Buckland Dinham (PRN 23163) and the impressive Priddy Circles (PRNs 24042-24046).

The Bronze Age on Mendip is largely represented by barrows and cairns and they make up 87% of the chronologically searched records for the period. While compared to the Exmoor and Quantock character area there are a number of excavations of these monuments approximately 65% of them were carried out at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and there is only one recent investigation (PRN 18800). Subsequently our knowledge of the structure contents of these monuments varies drastically and there are few examples of the excavated materials remaining for future study. It would appear that burial was taking place in other forms during this period as evidenced by the deposition of cinerary material at Hope Wood Rock Shelter (PRN 24335). The remains of an earlier Bronze Age burial were also found in the ditch at Gorsey Bigbury (PRN 11439) and in Mendip Lodge Wood there may have been a Middle Bronze Age cremation cemetery (PRN 24134).

Settlement evidence for the Bronze Age is less predictable with the best example from Brean Down (PRN 10133). This site suggests sophisticated occupation and land management including cultivation evidence from the earlier Bronze Age. Also from the early Bronze Age is the settlement activity associated with Gorsey Bigbury, where daub fragments were found along side evidence of animal husbandry. There are a number of arrowheads amongst the lithic collections for the period suggesting hunting still formed an integral part of subsistence during this period and there is continued activity within the cave sites, although there is little suggest it was anything more than temporary and in some cases may have been associated with hunting expeditions.

The Iron Age records for the Mendip character area suggest both defended and undefended settlements were prevalent. In areas such as Cannington (PRNs 10302, 10308 and 10439) and Brean (PRNs 10133 and 10115) there is evidence of what may be communities. At Cannington it has been suggested that the enclosed settlements may have acted as extra mural farmsteads for the hillforts and the use of the local limestone has played a key role in the construction of many of these sites. Iron Age material has also been recovered from cave sites although it is difficult to assess what this represents, there may be some incidences of burial (PRN 24097) and there appears to have been evidence of smelting taking place at Chelmscombe Cave (PRN 10384) suggesting that these sites represented convenient shelters for a myriad of activities.

The Mendips during the Roman period appear to have been a hive of activity. In some cases such as at Charterhouse where a small town developed (PRN 23021) with associated buildings such as a possible temple or shrine (PRN 23029) these activities were associated with the exploitation of mineral resources. Even the fort (PRN 23024) may have played a role in the administration of lead extraction from the area. On Brean Down the hillfort (PRN 10115) was in use during this period and the temple (PRN 10117) may have formed part of a complex associated with a settlement on the Down.

In similarity to the earlier period there is evidence for the use of caves during this period including two known sites of counterfeiting operations one within the core at White Woman's Hole (PRN 24776) and in the buffer zone Rowberrow Warren (PRN 10757). This suggests that the somewhat inaccessible nature of the cave were recognised and utilized fully for nefarious activities during this period. Human remains which may date to the Roman period have also been found within caves including Charterhouse Farm Swallet (PRN 24097).

When compared to the percentages of Roman entries for both the buffer zone and Somerset as a whole which both have approximately 5% the core character area demonstrates less than 5% suggesting that despite the varied and important entries the period is not as well represented in the core as even its immediate surroundings.

The Early Medieval records relating to the Mendip area represent a somewhat disparate group, the only settlement related activity comes from the core character area and represents two entries for field systems, one on Brean Down (PRN 10116) and one at Pelting Drove Westbury (PRN 25093). At neither site have the dates of these monuments been confirmed. There is certainly material to suggest that activity was taking place on Brean Down during the Early Medieval period and this evidenced by a post-Roman phase at the Temple (PRN 10117) that consisted of the construction of a further building after the original one had fallen into disuse. Brean also produced evidence of a cemetery (PRN 10131) that radiocarbon dates have shown was in use during the 7<sup>th</sup> Century AD. Further cemetery evidence was found at Cannington (PRN 10503) in total the site is thought to have over 1000 burials representing a reasonable population.

However on Mendip proper there is little to suggest how the landscape was impacted on during this period and despite the difference in size between the two areas in favour of the core character area there are nearly as many Early Medieval sites in the buffer zone as there are in the core. Despite this the buffer zone does not provide any more of a cohesive picture and when both areas are compared to the records for the Somerset as a whole it is possible to see that records of the Mendip area are reflective of a County wide phenomena.

Medieval records for the Mendip area largely reflect rural settlements consisting of both farmsteads and hamlets, many of which have subsequently been deserted. There are numerous field systems of this date and it is an advantage that some of the settlement sites of this period have been the subject of amateur earthwork surveys such as Bradley Cross (PRN 12806) and in the parish of Ashwick (PRNs 15036 and 15037). Where excavations have taken place as at Carscliff Farm (PRN 11586) these sites have proven to be organised and sophisticated in nature.

Industrial activity is also evident during this period with the continued exploitation of lead at Chewton Mendip (PRNs 23249 and 25116) and St Cuthbert's (PRN 23962). Early exploitation of limestone is also evidence by a limekiln at Halfway Farm, Cheddar (PRN 16173). When compared to the Medieval records for the buffer zone

and the County is it possible to see that the core character area appears unrepresented, with just 8% of the total number of chronologically searched records, as opposed to 17% for the buffer zone and 16% for the County as a whole.

The records relating to Post Medieval period are dominant for the core Mendip character area, the buffer zone and the County as a whole. The Second World War activity within the core demonstrates not only the defensive line played by areas such as Brean Down but the use of places like Blackdown for military training exercises. The remaining Post Medieval records are largely reflective of the drastic changes impacted on the landscape of Mendip as a result of industrialisation. Hence the appearance of multiple limekilns and numerous examples of aggregate quarries some of which are still in operation today.

The Somerset HER records that monuments and artefacts relating to every major period have been impacted on by aggregate quarrying. Some these features are of national and international importance such as Cannington (PRNs 10301, 10302, 10308, 10503, 10439 and 44861) and Westbury Cave (PRN 24849). Discoveries of this nature and complexity are still being recorded as recent activities have demonstrated at Cloford Quarry (PRN 17752) and will continue as long as the carboniferous limestone of the Mendip Hills character continued to be extracted. As a result it is vital that a systematic approach to recording all known archaeological monuments in the area is undertaken and continued consultation with development control officers takes place.

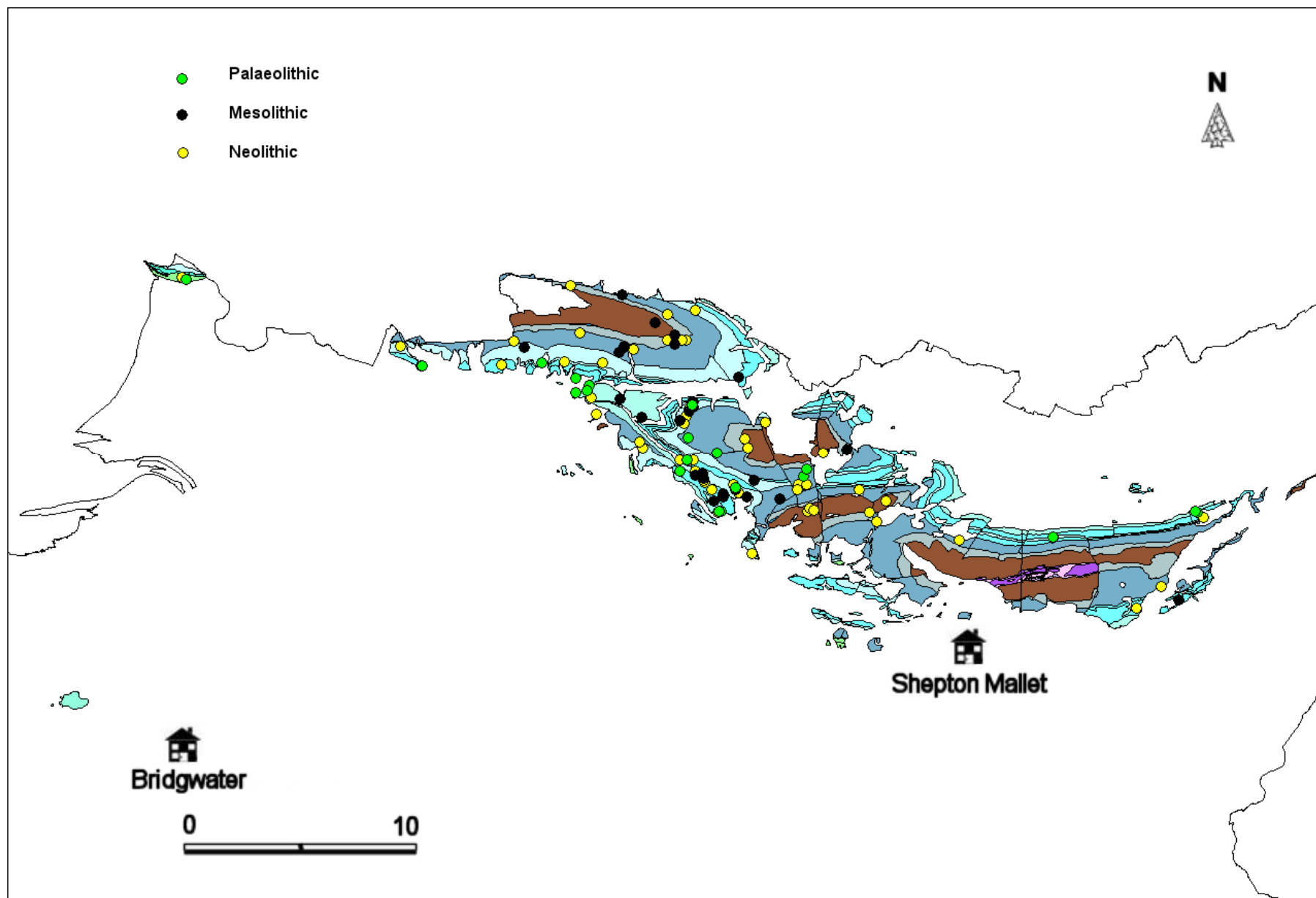


Fig. 1 The Mendip Hills Character Area Early Prehistoric Records

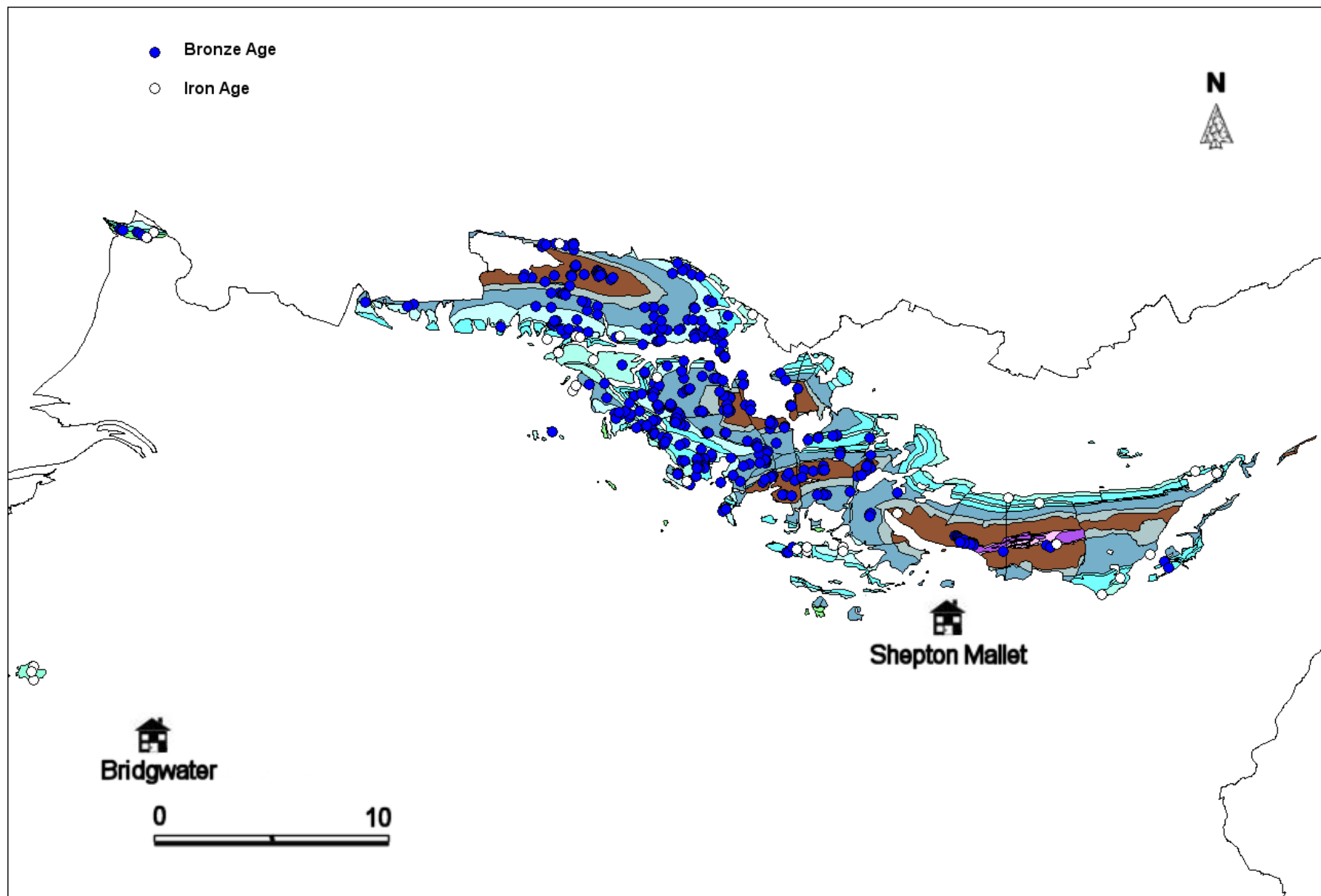


Fig. 2 The Mendip Hills Charater Area Later Prehistoric Records

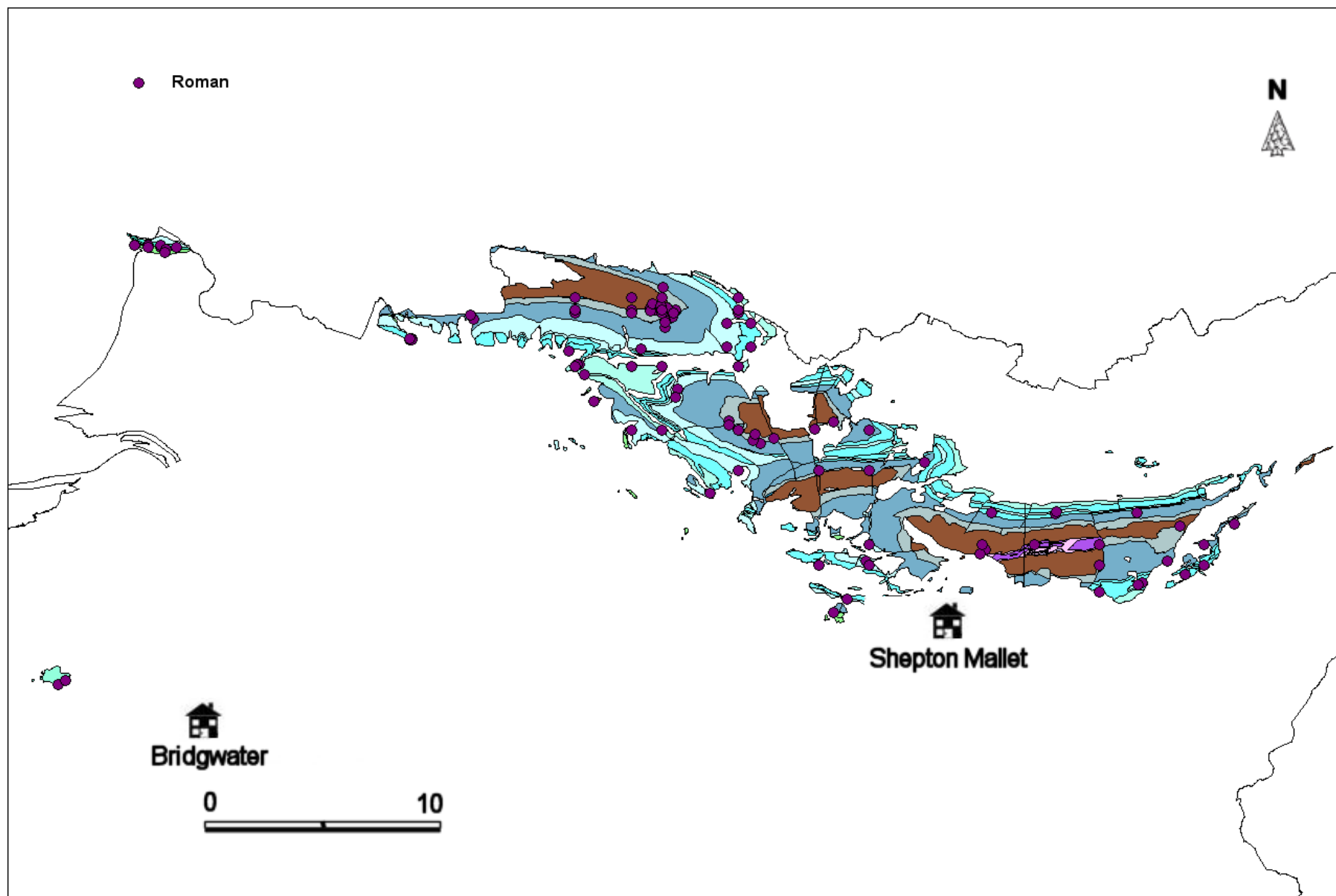


Fig. 3 The Mendip Hills Character Area Roman Records



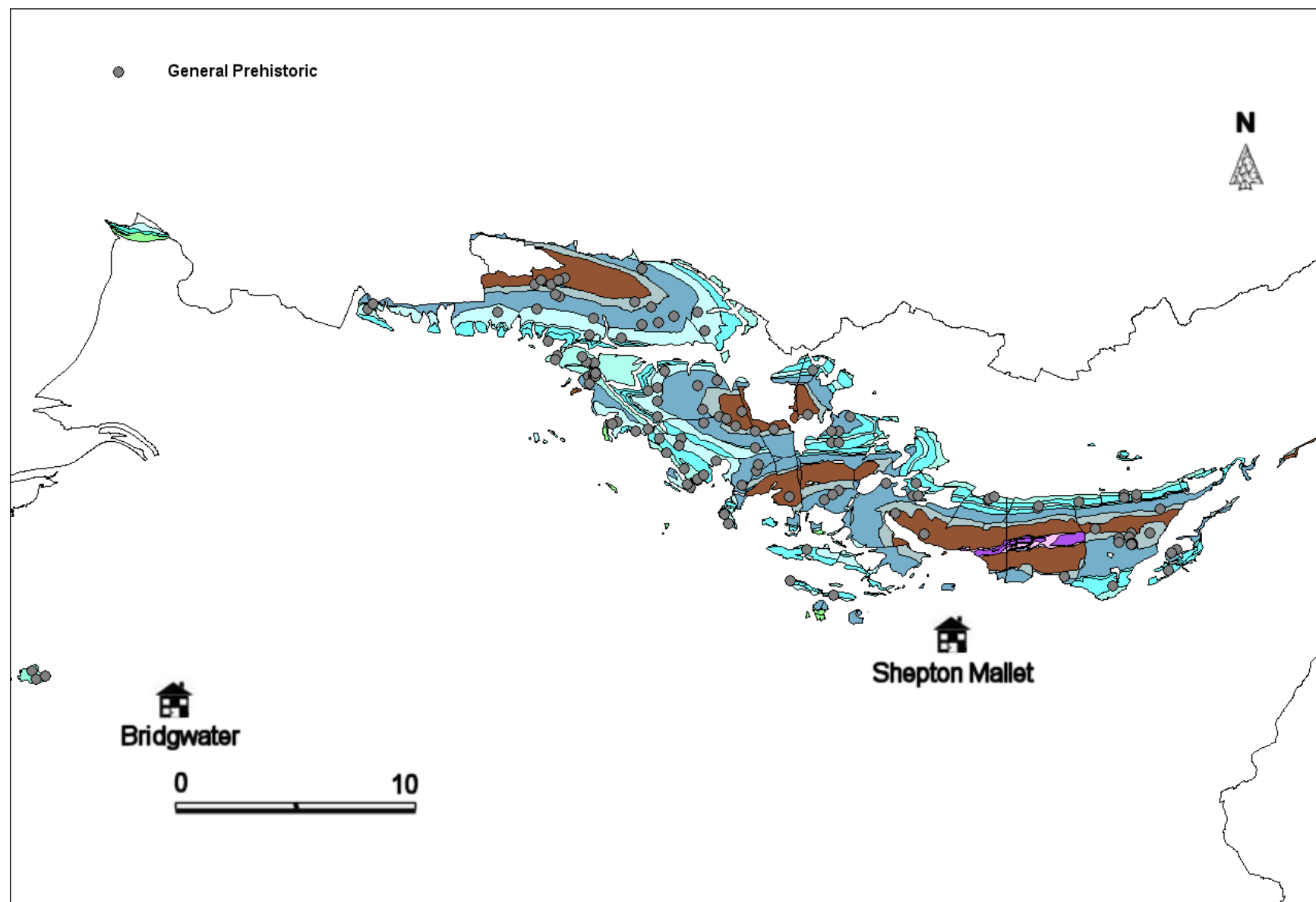
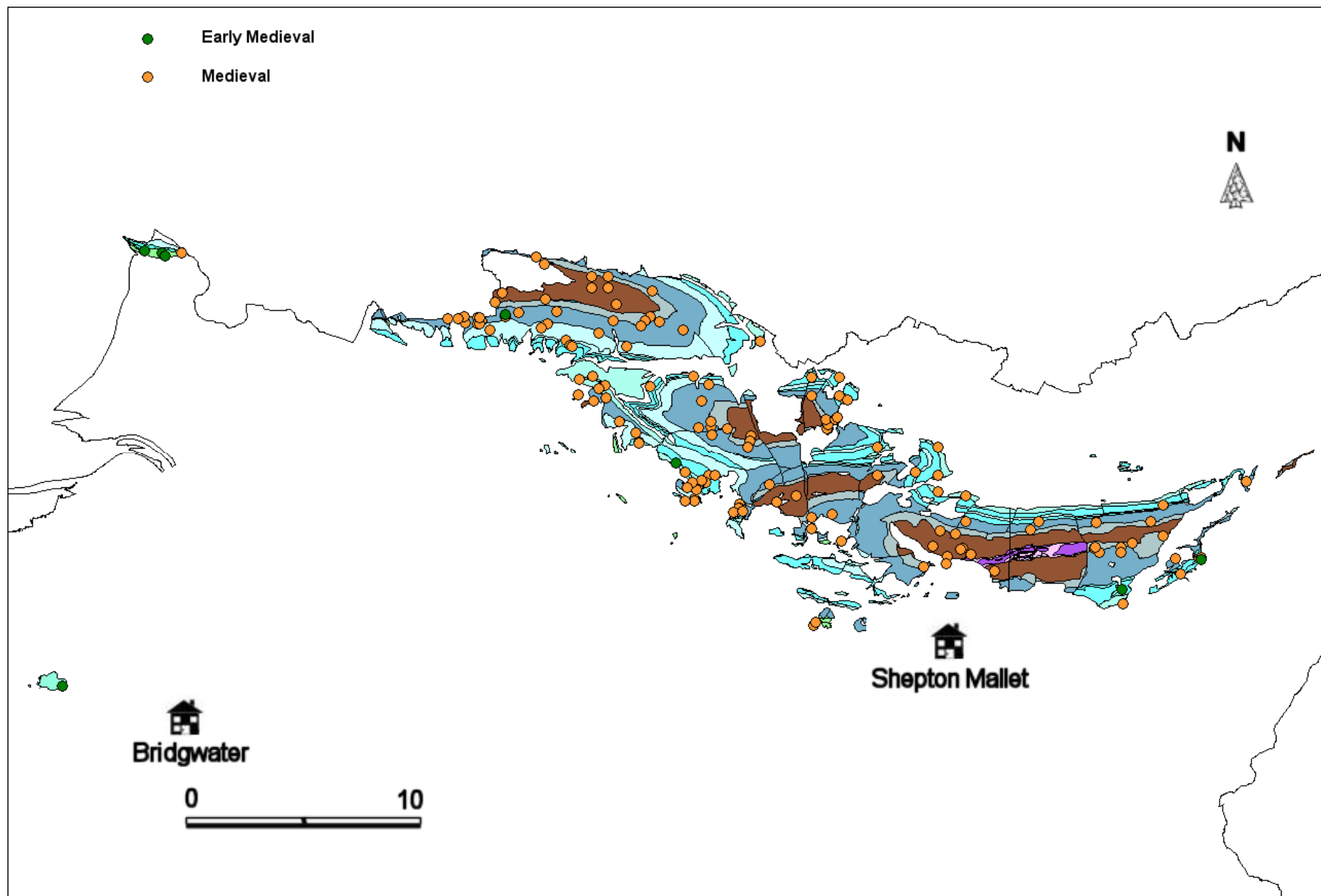


Fig. 4 The Mendip Hills Character Area Roman Records



5 The Mendip Hills Character Area Early Medieval and Medieval records

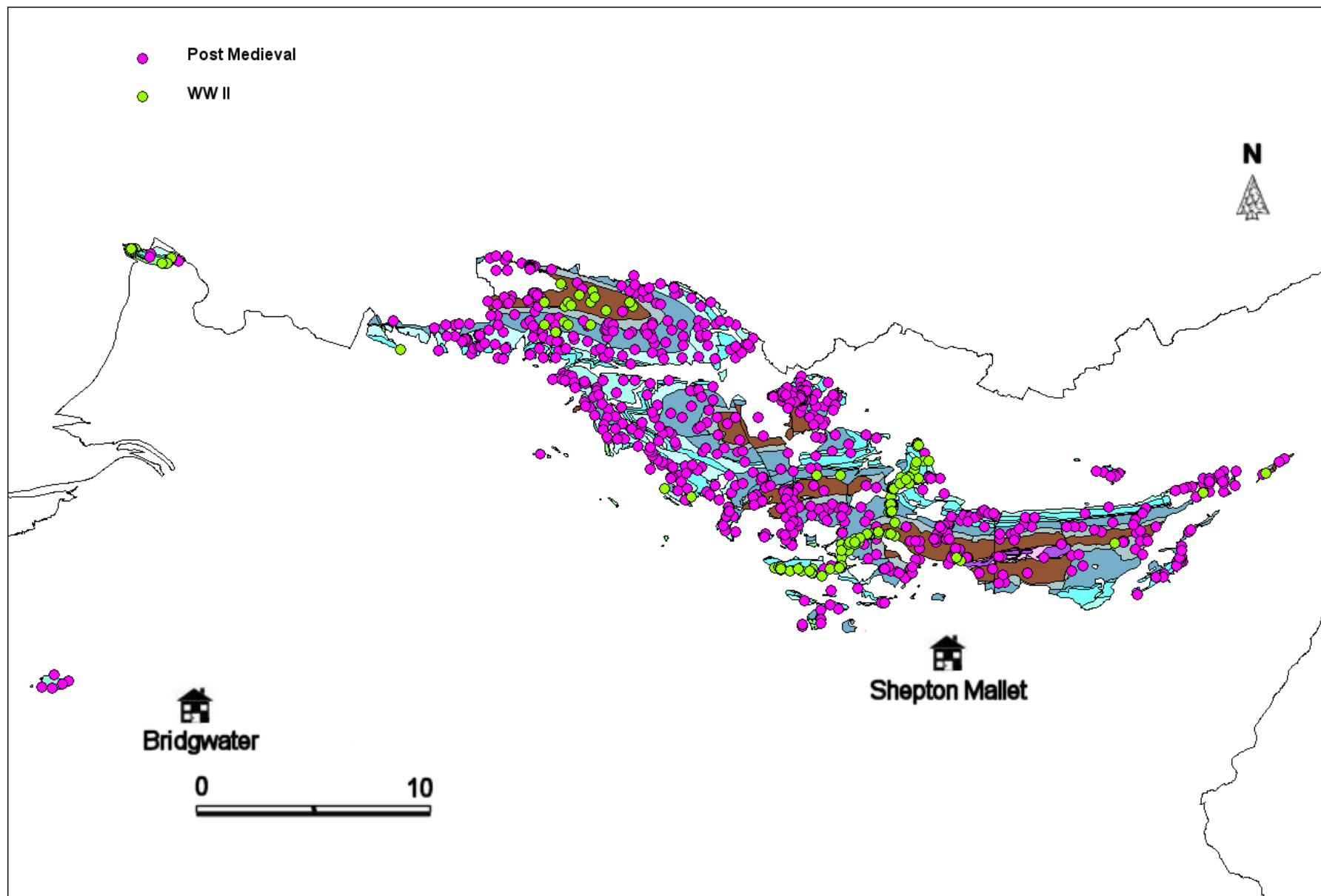


Fig. 6 The Mendip Hills Character Area Post Medieval and WW II Records

## 5.2 Exmoor and Quantock Resource Assessment

### 5.2.1 Introduction

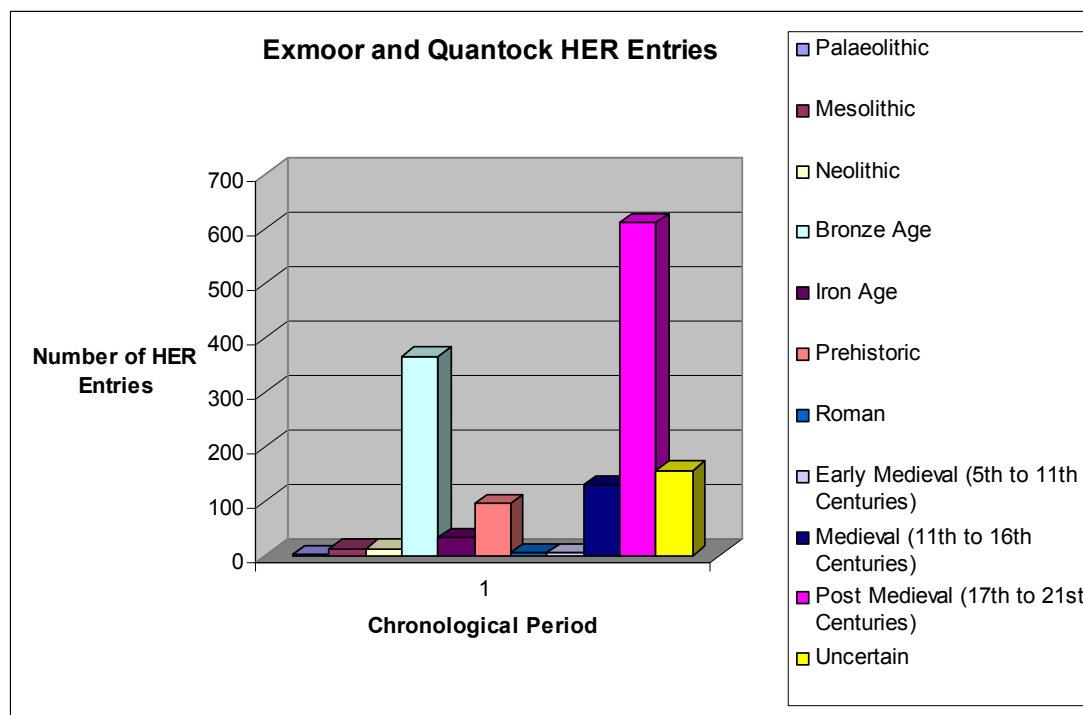
The Exmoor and Quantock character area covers 316.2 square kilometres and covers part of the Exmoor National Park, the Quantock Hills, the Brendon Hills and the area around Wiveliscombe. A search of the Somerset HER identified one thousand three hundred and twenty-four entries for the area including sites which overlapped within the surrounding geology but which lay substantially within the core. These records were then searched chronologically and produced one thousand four hundred and twenty-eight separately dated archaeological entries.

In addition to the search performed for the core of the Exmoor and Quantock character area a further chronological search was made of a 1 kilometre buffer zone around the core, covering an area of approximately 264.8 square kilometres, this was carried out in order to assess whether the types of archaeology sites recorded on the HER varied according to the underlying geology. The two datasets were then compared to results for the County as a whole, which has a total area of 3,504 square kilometres and the results of the searches are illustrated in Table23.

**Table23 Table of Chronological HER Search Results for the Exmoor and Quantock Character Area**

<b>Period</b>	<b>Exmoor &amp; Quantock</b>	<b>Buffer Zone</b>	<b>Somerset number &amp; %</b>	
Palaeolithic	1	1	80	<1%
Mesolithic	13	4	124	<1%
Neolithic	13	3	323	<2%
Bronze Age	366	39	1242	1%
Iron Age	33	3	230	<2%
General Prehistoric	95	28	2731	16%
<b>Total number of Prehistoric Entries</b>	<b>(521)</b>	<b>(78)</b>	<b>(4730)</b>	<b>(29%)</b>
Roman	5	1	1032	6%
Early Medieval (5th to 11th Centuries)	5	2	169	1%
Medieval (11th to 16th Centuries)	130	128	2723	16%
Post Medieval (17th to 21st Centuries)	611	437	5850	35%
Uncertain	156	60	1870	11%
				<1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1428</b>	<b>706</b>	<b>16374</b>	

**Table24 Graph of Chronological HER Search Results for the Exmoor and Quantock Character Area**



## 5.2.2 Known Archaeological Resource

### 5.2.3 The Palaeolithic Period

There is one Palaeolithic record within the Exmoor and Quantock character area and it relates to two scrapers recovered by an independent collector at Hopcott Hill, Minehead (PRN 35241), and the artefacts were part of a larger assemblage that also contained Mesolithic and Neolithic material and is held in the Cornish Collection at the County, Taunton. Little can be inferred from this type of discovery particularly as the tool types are fairly undiagnostic and they were surface finds recovered as part of a larger collection.

### 5.2.4 The Mesolithic Period

There are thirteen Mesolithic records for the Exmoor and Quantock character area and all relate to lithic material, recovered by independent collectors. One of the assemblages from Hopcott Hill, Minehead (PRN 35241) also contained Palaeolithic and Neolithic artefacts. There are five other collections that contain Neolithic material these are Larkbarrow Farm, Exmoor (PRN 33053), Weacombe Combe, West Quantoxhead (PRN 33339), North Hill, Selworthy (PRN 33798), Selworthy Combe, Exmoor (PRN 33989) and Minehead (PRN 35243). At Weacombe Combe (PRN 33339), North Hill (PRN 33798) and Ash Farm, Porlock (PRN 33930) Bronze Age lithics were also found. One of the entries at Hawcombe Head (PRN 33928) is considered to relate to a flint working site and has produced a large quantity of material. At Weirwood Common, Porlock (PRN 34573) a perforated macehead made of Devonian sandstone was recovered by chance and included in Wymer's study of Mesolithic sites in Britain. All of the Mesolithic material from the character area has been donated to the County Museum, Taunton, PRNs 33798 and 33989 are within

the Cornish Collection and PRNs 33339 and 33928 are part of the A.L. Wedlake collection.

The distribution of the Mesolithic entries shows considerable bias to the Exmoor National Park with ten of the records relating to this area. With the exception of one collection at Larkbarrow Farm, Exmoor (PRN 33053) they are all concentrated between Porlock and Minehead, the remaining Mesolithic entries (PRNs 10670, 33339 and 35457) relate to the Quantock Hills. The discovery of artefacts from the parts of Exmoor that have easier access to the coast might be an indication that the Mesolithic groups of the area were exploiting the marine resources. At Hawkcombe Head (PRN 33928) there is strong evidence to suggest a flint working site and the area has produced hundreds of lithics including a large number of cores, microliths and waste flakes. A further lithic production site may be located at Hopcott Hill, Minehead (PRN 35241) which has also produced large quantities of material that include both finished tools and waste.

### **5.2.5 *The Neolithic Period***

There are thirteen Neolithic entries for the Exmoor and Quantock character area. Twelve of the entries relate to lithic discoveries all of which were independently collected; six of the collections from Larkbarrow Farm, Exmoor (PRN 33053), Weacombe Combe, West Quantoxhead (PRN 33339), North Hill, Exmoor (PRN 33798), Selworthy Combe, Exmoor (PRN 33989) and Minehead (PRNs 35241 and 35243) also contained Mesolithic material and PRN 35241 from Hopcott Hill produced Palaeolithic implements also. At Weacombe Combe, West Quantoxhead (PRN 33339) and North Hill, Exmoor (PRN 33798) Bronze Age lithics were also recovered. The final entry for the Neolithic period represents a lynchet, at Wilmersham Common, Luccombe (PRN 35324) the dating of which is at best tentative. This earthwork is also in the Bronze Age and Uncertain categories and it has even been suggested that it is a natural feature.

Most of the Neolithic entries have been recorded within the Exmoor National Park, there are three Neolithic entries on the Quantocks (PRNs 33339, 34546 and 43068) and one PRN 44692 is located at south-western tip of the character area near Bathealton and represents the chance discovery of an arrowhead and polished axe fragment at the Castles hillfort (PRN 43351). Within the Exmoor National Park there are two separate records for the area around Withycombe Hill (PRNs 34285 and 35237), one of which PRN 34264 relates to three scrapers found in the field next to PRN 34264 which is recorded on the HER as a prehistoric settlement and field system and is considered to be a multi-phase site. A large component of the Neolithic collections within the character area consist of scrapers and flakes, however seven of the HER entries include arrowheads amongst the other material suggesting that these assemblages may represent hunting camps or toolkits.

### **5.2.6 *The Bronze Age***

There are three hundred and sixty-six Bronze Age entries within the Exmoor and Quantock character area and two hundred and seventy-five of these records relate to barrows or cairns, one hundred and ninety-one of which are located within the Exmoor National Park, eighty-two on the Quantocks and two on the Brendon Hills.

Barrows and cairns are one of the most intensively studied groups of prehistoric monuments having attracted attention from the earliest antiquarians to archaeologists

of the present day, and those within the character area are no exception. Within south-west of England a number of individuals have taken an interest in barrows and cairns the most prolific of which within Somerset was Leslie Grinsell (LVG) who identified and quantified many of these monuments during the earlier part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Harold St George Gray who became curator at Taunton Castle Museum was also instrumental in the discovery of a number of sites and monuments including barrows and cairns within the County. The work of the RCHME Exmoor project has more recently located and surveyed many of the barrows and cairns as well as monuments of other dates. Table25 below illustrates the number of barrows and cairns within the character and the means by which they were identified.

Table25 Methods of identification used for the Exmoor and Quantock Barrows and Cairns

<b>Means of Identification</b>	<b>No. of Barrows and Cairns</b>
Leslie Grinsell (LVG)	141
RCHME/English Heritage Exmoor Surveys	33
Independent Research	18
Aerial Photographic Evidence	17
Ordinance Survey Archaeology Division (OSAD)	15
Harold St George Gray	11
Western Archaeological Trust Exmoor survey	11
Ordinance Survey Mapping Evidence	7
National Trust	5
Documentary Evidence	4
RCHME/English Heritage	5
Committee for Rescue Archaeology in Avon, Gloucestershire and Somerset (CRAAGS)	4
Western Archaeological Trust Quantock AONB survey	2
SCC Archaeological Officers	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>274</b>

Of the one hundred and ninety-one barrows and cairns within the Exmoor National Park the Somerset HER records that the RCHME/EH re-investigated and surveyed one hundred and ten including those which were identified as part of the RCHME/EH commissioned projects. One hundred and twenty-one of the barrows and cairns within the character area have been Scheduled, sixty-five of which are within the Exmoor National Park, fifty-four are on the Quantock Hills and two are on the Brendon Hills.

The HER records that one hundred and forty-one of the barrows and cairns within the character area have been subjected to disturbance this number includes those where stone robbing has taken place, where later features have truncated the monuments and where antiquarian investigations are thought to have taken place. There are only three records of barrows and cairns having been intrusively investigated and these all took place pre-1930 and were carried out at Heydon Hill on the Brendons (PRNs 33650 and 33651) and at Porlock Allotment (PRN 33936). More recently two cairns at East Pinford (PRNs 33042 and 33043) were included in a geophysical survey project (PRN 18258).

At Heydon Hill on the Brendons (PRNs 33650 and 33651) a trench was cut through each barrow by F Hancock in the 1890s, who reported that in PRN 33650 "British" pottery sherds were found within a central pit around which was an internal curb. PRN 33651 also had an internal curb and at the centre there were the remains of some cremated bone and a flint scraper. Two secondary burials were also revealed in this barrow, one within an inverted urn and the other apparently associated with

glazed pottery and glass, which suggests there may have been some disturbance at the site prior to Hancock's investigations. Hancock did acknowledge that barrow had already been opened and allegedly a sword and a number of flints removed, although there is no clear date for this intervention.

In 1927 Harold St George Gray was investigating the stone circle and standing stones at Porlock Allotment (PRNs 33935 and 33939), during this time a nearby cairn (PRN 33936) attracted the attention of his wife. The description of the opening of the cairn appears as a footnote to the account of St George Gray's own investigations published in PSANHS in 1928 and apparently nothing was found.

In 2005 as part of an academic research project two of the cairns at East Pinford on Exmoor (PRNs 33042 and 33043) were subjected to resistance and magnetometer (PRN 18258). The results suggested in both cases that the monuments were indeed stone cairns rather than earthen barrows and they exhibited central areas of high magnetic response which may indicate burning possibly from funeral pyres.

There are ninety-two Bronze Age entries for the Exmoor and Quantock character area that do not relate to barrows or cairns. There are twenty-one entries relating to stone settings all of which have been found within the Exmoor National Park; nine have been identified as a result of independent research, three by the OSAD, three by RCHME/EH, two by Harold St George Gray, two by SCC Archaeology Officers, one from Ordinance Survey mapping information and one by the WAT Exmoor Field Survey. Nineteen of the stone settings have been included in the RCHME/EH Exmoor survey, seven of these Monuments have also been Scheduled and an area around a stone setting above Orchard Bottom, Exford (PRN 33602) was excavated in the 1980s.

In 1982 an area around the Orchard Bottom stone setting (PRN 33602) was excavated by SCC Archaeology Officers in response to the landowners concern about conservation. The results from the investigations produced no dating evidence but a hole for one of the stones which had fallen was revealed and it was possible for the stone to be re-erected.

There are twenty-one records for standing stones within the character area which have been assigned a Bronze Age date, twenty of which are situated within the Exmoor National Park and one is on the Quantock Hills (PRN 33283). Eleven of these monuments have been identified through independent research, four by the RCHME/EH Exmoor project, three by the WAT Exmoor Field Survey, two by the OSAD and one by CRAAGS. Sixteen of these entries including those identified by the RCHME/English Heritage have been included in the Exmoor survey. Only two of the standing stone monuments have been Scheduled. A small archaeological excavation was also carried out during re-setting of one of these stones above Orchard Bottom, Exford (PRN 33601) in the 1980s.

In 1987 the standing stone at Orchard Bottom (PRN 33601) was re-erected with the help of the Exmoor National Park Authority after it had suffered damage from cattle. During this time the opportunity was taken by SCC Archaeology Officers to carry out a small excavation around the footing of the stone. Whilst no dating evidence was produced a number of small stones had clearly been used to wedge the larger stone into position.

There are twenty-four entries relating to Bronze Age settlement activity within the character area and they include sixteen hut circles, four enclosures and hut circles, three settlements and field systems and one defended enclosure at Furzebury Brake,



Exford (PRN 33797). All of this activity is located within the Exmoor National Park. Fieldwork carried out by CRAAGS identified nine of these features, the OSAD six, the WAT Exmoor field survey recorded four, three were located from aerial photographs, one by an independent researcher and one by Harold St George Gray. The RCHME/EH surveys re-investigated fifteen of these settlement features and one is a Scheduled monument (PRN 33797).

Twelve of the Bronze Age records relate to lithics and lithic collections, all of which were recovered by independent collectors. Nine of these entries were found on the Quantock Hills and three were found on Exmoor. At Weacombe Combe, Quantock (PRN 33339), North Hill, Exmoor (PRN 33798) and Ash Farm, Porlock (PRN 33930) Mesolithic artefacts were also found and PRNs 33339 and 33798 also produced Neolithic material. Seven of the collections contain arrowheads and these are from Selworthy Beacon, Exmoor (PRN 15520), Robin Uprights Hill, Quantock (PRN 15195), Vinny Combe Plantation (PRN 33340), North Hill, Exmoor (PRN 33798), Ash Farm, Porlock (PRN 33930), Beacon Hill, Quantock (PRN 34577) and Black Knapp, Quantock (PRN 43068). There are three entries which contain plano-convex knives from Weacombe Hill (PRN 33221), West Hill (PRN 33278) and Vinny Combe Plantation (PRN 33340) all on the Quantocks.

Eight of the Bronze Age records relate to stone rows, all of which are situated within the Exmoor National Park. Two were identified by individual researchers and two by the WAT Exmoor field survey. Single incidences were identified by the OSAD, CRAAGS, and a SCC Archaeology Officer and through documentary records. Five of these entries have been re-assessed and surveyed by the RCHME/English Heritage projects and three are Scheduled monuments. One of these stone rows at Tom's Hill, Manor Allotment, Exmoor (PRN 33858) was subject to geophysical survey (PRN 18258) in 2005. This was part of the same academic project that included East Pinford cairns (PRNs 33042 and 33043) and the stone row was also subjected to a resistance and magnetometer survey. The results highlighted the damage suffered by the area as a result of Second World War activity but also suggested that the row was aligned towards a natural stone feature and it was possible to distinguish between impact craters and erosion hollows which may have previously held stones.

There are three stone circles attributed to the Bronze Age in the character area, two were identified by independent researchers and the third by Harold St George Gray. They are all located within the Exmoor National Park, two of them are Scheduled monuments and two have been included in the RCHME/English Heritage Exmoor Surveys. In 1927 Harold St George Gray carried out a small investigation at the stone circle on Porlock Allotment (PRN 33935) at least ten of the stones were still standing, eleven were prostrate and Gray investigations reported finding several more through shallow excavations. He also opened up a small area in the centre of the circle but no artefacts or structures were recorded. There were suggested to be about forty stone originally in total.

There are two entries relating to earthworks in the Bronze Age category one is situated on Exmoor and the other on the Quantocks and they consist of a possible lynchet (PRN 35324) at Wilmersham Common, Exmoor and Dead Woman's Ditch, Robin Uprights Hill, Quantock (PRN 11127). The inclusion of the lynchet in this category is tenuous it has also been assigned to the Neolithic and Uncertain groups and has even been suggested to be a natural feature it was recorded by the OSAD.

Dead Woman's Ditch at Robin Uprights Hill (PRN 11127) is a large linear earthwork on the Quantocks and it has been assigned to both the Bronze and Iron Ages. In 2001 an excavation (PRN 15202) funded by English Heritage's monument

management scheme was carried out by SCC Archaeology Officers in order to attempt to establish the form and function of the ditch and the impact of erosion. Whilst no dating evidence was produced the form of the earthwork suggested that its function was defensive and its proximity to Dowsborough Hillfort (PRN 33306) may suggest that the ditch formed part of the hillfort's fortifications.

The Bronze Age records for the Exmoor and Quantock character area are dominated by barrows and cairns, which make up 75% of the total number of Bronze Age entries. Most of the barrows and cairns (69%) are situated on Exmoor. Throughout the character area these monuments appear both as earthen barrows and stone cairns and they can occur singly such as at Humbers Ball, Withypool (PRN 34302) and in cemeteries such as at Dunkery Hill on Exmoor (PRNs 33664-33667 and 33695-33698) and Black Hill, Quantock (PRNs 33301-33305). In some cases there are also barrows and cairns in close association with stone rows and stone settings for example at Porlock Allotment (PRNs 33936 and 33937) and East Pinford (PRN 33041-33043). At Porlock Allotment there is also a stone circle (PRN 33935).

Despite the dominance of funerary monuments within the Bronze Age group there are good example of settlements, exclusively located on Exmoor there are several complexes of hut circles, enclosures and field systems including Codsand and Hoar Moors (PRNs 33530-33532). None of the settlement sites have been excavated however in 1985 an academic palaeo-environmental and archaeological research programme began to take a series of pollen cores from Codsand and Hoar Moors, the results suggested cultivation within the Bronze Age within the area. The lithic monuments (stone settings, stone rows, stone circles and standing stones) are also almost exclusively located on Exmoor. Stone settings and stone rows do not appear together and while stone settings may have a settlement related function the purpose of stone rows is not altogether clear.

The HER records for the Bronze Age suggest widespread occupation and management of Exmoor during the period. While there are fewer records for the Quantocks there are examples both of lithic finds and barrows and cairns demonstrating activity there also, the number of arrowheads within the lithic collections for the Quantocks indicate that hunting was an importance part of subsistence in that area.

### **5.2.7 The Iron Age**

There are thirty-three Iron Age records for the Exmoor and Quantock character area in total. Twelve of which relate to Hillforts, eight of which were initially reported by the Somerset Victoria County History (VCH), two by the OSAD, one by the RCHME/EH and one from antiquarian documentary evidence. Nine of these monuments are situated within the Exmoor National Park, two on the Quantocks and one is in the vicinity of Bathealton. All of the hillforts within the character area are Scheduled monuments. The RCHME/EH surveyed five of those within the Exmoor National Park and the two on the Quantocks. Ten of the hillforts were included in Burrow's BAR report on hillforts and hilltop settlement in Somerset. A geophysical survey was carried out at Trendle Ring (PRN 33201).

In 2004 for the National Trust carried out a resistance and gradiometer survey (PRN 17203) in the interior of Trendle Ring Hillfort, Bicknoller Hill, the Quantocks (PRN 33201). The results suggested that there were two phases of agricultural activity within the hillfort, illustrated by linear banks and ditches. There also appeared to be a terraced occupation area.

There are seven defended settlements and hillslope enclosures within the character area assigned to the Iron Age. Three of which were identified from aerial photographs, three were reported by the OSAD and one by CRAAGS. Five of these monuments have been Scheduled and five were included in the RCHME/EH Exmoor survey. All of the hillslope and defended enclosures are located within the Exmoor National Park. Four of the defended or hillslope settlements were included in Burrow's BAR report on hillforts and hillslope settlement in Somerset.

There are five earthworks including ditches and cross-ridge dykes assigned to the Iron Age in the character area. The RCHME/EH identified two of them, the OSAD a further two and one was located through aerial photographs. Three of these earthworks are located within the Exmoor National Park and one has been examined by the RCHME/EH, one is also a Scheduled monument (PRN 33443). The remaining two earthworks are located on the Quantock Hills and both are Scheduled (PRNs 11127 and 34701). Dead Woman's Ditch (PRN 11127) has been excavated and the cross ridge dike at Bicknoller Hill (PRN 34701) was surveyed by the RCHME/EH is part of their Quantock Hills study.

The excavations (PRN 15202) in 2001 at Dead Woman's Ditch (PRN 11127) were carried out by SCC Archaeology Officers and funded by the English Heritage monuments protection programme. Although no dating evidence was produced for the ditch its form suggested that it represented a defensive feature, possibly associated with near by Dowsborough Hillfort (PRN 33306).

Of the remaining Iron Age entries in the character area there are five enclosures four of which have been identified through aerial photographs and one by the OSAD. Three of the enclosures are within the Exmoor National Park and two of them at Monkslade Common (PRNs 33742 and 34260) have been Scheduled. The remaining two enclosures are located on the Quantock Hills.

There have been two independent chance discoveries of coin collections containing Iron Age material at two of the Hillforts Bat's castle, Exmoor and The Castles, Bathealton (PRNs 33342 and 43351) and both of them also contained Roman material. The final entries relate to a field system on Codsend and Hoar Moors (PRN 33531) located during fieldwork by CRAAGS situated within the Exmoor National Park and the chance find of a whetstone from the Quantocks (PRN 33220) which may be Iron Age in date.

The Iron Age records for the Exmoor and Quantock character area largely consist of defended settlements, either hillforts or hillslope enclosures. At least five of the hillforts appear to have associated earthworks and the relationships are as follows; Dowsborough Hillfort and Dead Woman's Ditch on the Quantocks (PRNs 33306 and 11127), Bat's Castle and the cross-ridge outwork and field banks on Exmoor (PRN 33442 and 33443), Trendle Ring and the cross ridge dyke on the Quantocks (PRNs 33201 and 34701), Black Ball Camp and the Field banks on Exmoor (PRNs 33565 and 35329) and Bury Castle Outer and earthwork also on Exmoor (PRNs 33369 and 35796).

In some cases hillforts and hillslope enclosures appear in relative proximity to one another for example Bat's Castle and the later prehistoric defended enclosure at Carhampton (PRNs 33442 and 33446), however the relationship between these two types of monuments are not clear. Defended settlements are not the only occupation evidence for the character area, there are four non-defended enclosures or settlements, three on Exmoor at Codsend and Hoar Moors and Monkslade Common

(PRNs 33531, 33742 and 34260), and two on Quantock at Bicknoller (PRNs 34702 and 34703). As part of an academic palaeo-environmental and archaeological research project which began in 1985 pollen cores were taken from Codsand and Hoar Moors in the vicinity of the settlement (PRN 33531) and evidence to suggest agricultural practises dating to the Bronze and Iron Ages were taking place.

### **5.2.8 General Prehistoric Entries**

There are ninety-five general Prehistoric entries for the Exmoor and Quantock character area. Forty-one of these entries relate to settlement activity including sixteen field systems, eleven hut circles and eleven enclosures. There are three field systems with associated settlement earthworks at Codsand and Hoar Moors (PRN 33531), Withycombe Hill (PRN 34264) and Little Tom's Hill (PRN 33919) all on Exmoor. Ten of the settlement remains were identified from aerial photographs; ten by independent researchers, eight by the WAT Exmoor field survey, six by RCHME/EH field reconnaissance, three by SCC Archaeology Officers, three by CRAAGS and one by the OSAD. Thirty-two of these earthworks are located within the Exmoor National Park and sixteen of which have been re-examined by the surveys carried out by the RCHME/EH. One of which (PRN 35955) an outwork to Mounsey Castle (PRN 33538) and is also a Scheduled monument. Between Ashbrittle and Wiveliscombe there are six cropmark enclosures assigned to the general prehistoric period (PRNs 43173, 43577, 44146-44148 and 44151). Two of the hut circles are located on the Quantock Hills (PRNs 11359 and 11360).

Seventeen of the general prehistoric records relate to barrows and cairns, the RCHME/EH identified six during fieldwork, four were identified by independent research, two by SCC Archaeology Officers, two by the WAT Exmoor field survey, and single incidences were recorded by Grinsell, ordinance survey mapping and the OSAD. Fourteen of these monuments are situated on within the Exmoor National Park and eight have been included in the RCHME/English Heritage survey work. The remaining three are located on the Quantock Hills.

There are eight general prehistoric records relating to lithic material, six of these have been collected by independent researchers and two by the WAT during their Exmoor and Quantock field surveys. Six have been found within the Exmoor National Park and two come from the Quantock Hills.

Fourteen entries relating to standing stones within the character area have been assigned general prehistoric dates. Four were identified by the WAT Exmoor field survey; RCHME/EH fieldwork identified three, three were located by research carried out on behalf of the Exmoor National Park, two by independent researchers, one by CRAAGS, and one by an SCC Archaeology Officer. All the standing stones given a prehistoric date are located within the Exmoor National Park and eleven of them have been surveyed as part of the RCHME/EH project.

There are nine stone settings within the general prehistoric group for the character area. Three of which were identified as a result of independent research activity, three by Harold St George Gray, two by the OSAD and one by the RCHME/EH during field reconnaissance. All the stone settings within the general prehistoric group are located within the Exmoor National Park and the RCHME/EH have surveyed eight of them as part of the Exmoor project. One of these monuments at East Pinford (PRN 33041) was subject to geophysical survey by an independent academic project. The results of which suggested that this monument was more complex than was first thought and that it may have in fact been more akin to a short

stone row. Like the Tom's Hill stone row (PRN 33858) also included in the same study it would appear that the East Pinford stone setting was aligned to a natural outcrop

There are two stone rows which have been assigned general prehistoric dates, they are located within the Exmoor National Park and were initially identified during independent investigations and then were subsequently surveyed by the RCHME/EH project.

There are two records relating to stone heaps or clearance cairns which have been assigned a prehistoric date they were identified by the OSAD and through independent research respectively. Both are located on Exmoor and it is also likely that their initial identification was based on the belief that they represented burial cairns. This situation was highlighted by the RCHME/EH when they re-investigated PRN 35548 and decided it was indeed likely to represent a Medieval or Post-Medieval field clearance mound.

The remaining two general prehistoric entries relate to a pit (PRN 35345) on Exmoor suggested by CRAAGS to be of prehistoric origin and a place name, "Camps field" near Chipstable (PRN 43170).

The general Prehistoric entries for the Exmoor and Quantock character area reflect the types of features assigned to the other prehistoric periods. The large number of entries for this group is not surprising given the fact that very little intrusive archaeological investigation has been done in the character area and therefore many of the monuments assigned specific dates have been done so on the basis of parallel from elsewhere.

However there are still interesting components to this group for example on the Quantocks there are both lithic and funerary monuments dating to the Bronze Age but no evidence of settlement and yet within the general Prehistoric group there are two hut circles recorded in the parish of Over Stowey, Quantock (PRNs 11359 and 11360). They could equally be Iron Age in date and in which case they would provide further examples of non-defended occupation. Similarly there is an absence of settlement evidence for the Bronze Age between Exmoor and the Quantocks and within the general Prehistoric group there are six cropmark enclosures visible on the DAPs between Ashbrittle and Wiveliscombe (PRNs 43173, 43577, 44146-44148 and 44151). Overall this group only goes to demonstrate that the prehistoric archaeology of the character area is far more widespread that is perhaps initially obvious.

#### **5.2.9 *The Roman Period***

In comparison to the prehistoric periods there are only five Roman records in the Exmoor and Quantock character area. Three of these records relate to independent chance discoveries of Roman coin collections, two of which have been found on Exmoor near Rainsbury, Upton and at Bat's Castle Hillfort (PRNs 11315 and 33442), the third collection was found at the Castles Hillfort near Bathealton (PRN 43351). Bat's Castle (PRN 33442) initially identified by the VCH is also assigned to this period and is a Scheduled monument. The final Roman entry is a fort at Upton, Exmoor (PRN 35844) identified from aerial photography and subsequently surveyed by the RCHME/EH.

The discovery of Roman coin collections at two earlier Iron Age sites (PRNs 33442 and 43351) demonstrates the continued use of such monuments during the Roman

period. However just extensive this activity was is not possible to ascertain without further investigation. There was clearly a military presence near Upton as demonstrated both by the fort and the coins from Rainsbury (PRNs 35844 and 11315, the inclusion of those dating to Vespasian's reign indicate activity of just post-conquest date in the area. At Bat's Castle (PRN 33442) the coins range from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> Century AD, unfortunately the coins from the Castles Hillfort (PRN 43351) appear to have been found in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century and therefore there is no further detail available. However the artefacts seem to suggest activity throughout the Roman period all be it minimal.

#### ***5.2.10 The Early Medieval Period***

There are five records dating to the Early Medieval period within the Exmoor and Quantock character area. There are two churches considered to have Early Medieval origins and these are the Church of St Beuno at Culbone and the Church of All Saints or St John the Baptist, Selworthy (PRNs 34885 and 34889), both are still in use. Also at Culbone Leslie Grinsell noted an incised stone (PRN 33853) and suggested it portrayed early Christian symbolism. There is one deserted farm at East Myne, North Hill, Exmoor (PRN 33796) it was initially identified by the OSAD and subsequently surveyed as part of the RCHME/EH Exmoor project. It has been suggested that it was a pre-conquest farmstead. The final entry relates to a short dyke running along the Spaxton and West Bagborough parish boundary on the Quantocks (PRN 16282). The OSAD suggested that it corresponded with the dyke of the Taunton Charter AD 854.

The Early Medieval records for the Exmoor and Quantock character area all be them few reflect what is known in other parts of the County, with ecclesiastical buildings and associated structures being dominant. Further research into this area may illuminate the origins of these features and provide more information for this poorly recorded area.

#### ***5.2.11 The Medieval Period***

There are one hundred and thirty records relating to the Medieval period for the Exmoor and Quantock character area. Sixty-eight of these records relate to settlement evidence including thirty-six deserted farms, fourteen field systems and agricultural buildings, five deserted villages, three enclosures, two shrunken villages, two extant farms, two towns and two roads. Twenty-four of which have been identified from documentary sources such as tithe maps; fourteen through aerial photographic analysis, eleven through work carried out by SCC Archaeology Officers, seven by the OSAD, six by the RCHME/EH, five through independent fieldwork and one by CRAAGS. Fifty-seven of these settlements are located on Exmoor and the RCHME/EH survey teams have investigated sixteen of these sites, two of which are also Scheduled monuments (PRNs 33680 and 33703). Six of the remaining entries are situated on the Quantock Hills, one of which a field system was surveyed by English Heritage (PRN 15788). The last five are to be found to the south west of Wiveliscombe.

Nineteen of the Medieval records for the character area represent ecclesiastical buildings, including sites where the remains are in ruins and where the building no longer remain. Documentary evidence has been used to identify Medieval origins for thirteen of these buildings; the OSAD have recorded a further three, two were identified by SCC Archaeology Officers, and one through the VCH. Twelve of these

building are located within the Exmoor National Park, one of which (PRN 33365) is a Scheduled monument and one (PRN 34288) was surveyed by the RCHME/EH. Five of the remaining churches are situated to the southwest of Wiveliscombe and the final two are located on the Quantock Hills.

The only Medieval entry that has been subject to archaeological intervention is Burgundy Chapel on North Hill in the Exmoor National Park (PRN 34487). In 1940 the western branch of the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society carried out a series of excavations. During the 1980s a number of clearance operations took which revealed a greater extent to the Chapel and it was included within the RCHME/EH Exmoor Survey.

There are twelve boundary markers including standing stones and re-used barrows which have been assigned Medieval dates. Documentary evidence has been used to date seven of these monuments; the RCHME/EH have identified two of them, SCC Archaeology Officers a further two and the OSAD dated one. Eleven of the boundary markers are situated within the Exmoor National Park and the RCHME/EH included eight in their Exmoor surveys. Three of the barrows which were used as boundary markers are also Scheduled monuments. The remaining entry is located on the Quantock Hills.

There are six bridges within the character area which have been dated to the Medieval period. The OSAD identified two and the remaining bridges were dated by RCHME/EH, an SCC Archaeology Officer, documentary sources and the HBMC. All the bridges are located within the Exmoor National Park, five of them are also Scheduled monuments and two have been investigated as part of the RCHME/EH projects.

There are five churchyard crosses assigned to the Medieval period, documentary evidence has been used to date four of them and the OSAD identified the fifth. There are all within the Exmoor National Park and three of them are Scheduled monuments.

There are three Medieval wells within the character area, they are situated within the Exmoor National Park, on the Quantock Hills and on the outskirts of Wiveliscombe respectively. Documentary material has been used to date all three of them and St Leonard's Well in Dunster (PRN 34814) is a Scheduled monument.

Independent research identified two lead/silver mines on the outskirts of the Exmoor National Park near Dulverton which are considered to be Medieval in origin (PRNs 16276 and 16277). There are also three Medieval entries relating to parks and associated features, both of which are within the Exmoor National Park and were they were assigned dates through documentary evidence, research by an SCC Archaeology Officer and the OSAD, one of which is Dunster New Park (PRN 33568). There are two entries relating to rabbit warrens of Medieval date, these were identified from a documentary source and by an SCC Archaeology Officer, one is situated within the Exmoor National Park and the other is on the Quantock Hills. There are two Medieval mill sites, both within the Exmoor National Park and one was identified by an independent researcher the other by the OSAD. There are likewise two castles with Medieval origins, these were both dated by the OSAD and are the motte and bailey at Bury Castle (PRN 33369) and Dunster Castle (PRN 34622) both of which are Scheduled.

The remaining six Medieval entries are all on Exmoor and relate to a Scheduled Dovecote recorded by the HBMC within the Exmoor National Park; hutting butts

recorded by the WAT Exmoor field survey, documentary evidence relating to a Beacon, the site of the Medieval Quay at Minehead located by an SCC Archaeology Officer, pottery at Ash Farm near Porlock (PRN 33930) and peat cutting remains that may be of a Post Medieval date.

The Medieval records for the Exmoor and Quantock character suggest that small rural farmsteads were dominant in this part of Somerset during the period. The ecclesiastical records range from parish churches to monastic buildings such as Barlinch and Dunster Priors (PRNs 33365 and 34816) and the Royal Exmoor Forest is illustrated by the number of boundary markers around its edges including some examples where earlier barrows have been re-used such as Hangley Cleeve (PRN 33020) and Black Barrow (PRN 33051).

The settlements tend to be situated on Exmoor and here they are away from the prehistoric occupation areas. Examples are known from the Quantocks such as near West Quantoxhead (PRNs 33326, 34716 and 34717) and from near Appley (PRN 43008), Chipstable (PRN 43174) and Bathealton (PRN 43175). Most of the settlement evidence relates to deserted sites, although both Dulverton (PRN 33543) and Dunster (PRN 33566) are within the area, and there are likely to have been many contributing factors to such desertions including disease such as the plague, climate changes and at the end of the period migration due to industrialisation.

#### **5.2.12 The Post Medieval Period**

In total there are six hundred and eleven Post Medieval records in for the Exmoor and Quantock character area making it the best represented period. One hundred of these records relate directly to Second World War activities. Thirty of these are slit trenches, twenty-eight of which were identified by RCHME/EH, two of which by an SCC Archaeology Officer. Twenty-nine are located within the Exmoor National Park and one is located on the Quantocks, twenty-seven of the slit trenches have been included in the RCHME/EH Exmoor survey and the Quantock entry has also been surveyed by the English Heritage Quantock project.

There are twenty-three incidences of tank ranges and associated activities, these are all on Exmoor and ten were identified from RAF aerial photographs, six by an SCC Archaeology Officer, five by the RCHME/EH and two from civilian aerial photographs. The RCHME/EH have surveyed all of these sites. There are eleven generic military sites all of which are located within the Exmoor National Park, the RCHME/EH identified seven of these sites, an SCC Archaeology Officer three and one was identified as a result of independent research. Nine of these sites have been included in the RCHME/EH Exmoor project.

There are five pillboxes within the character area, all of which are within the Exmoor National Park, two of them were located through the Defence of Britain project and the remaining ones were identified from War Office documentation, Independent research, and aerial photographs. There are four military building remains, all of which were identified by the RCHME/EH, two of them are located within the Exmoor National Park, and the other two are on the Quantock Hills, all four military building remains have been surveyed by the RCHME/EH.

There are five hundred and eleven Post Medieval entries that do not relate to Second World War activities. One hundred and nine-seven entries relate to settlement evidence including thirty-four deserted farms, five cottages, one shrunken village and one enclosure. One hundred and seven-eight are situated on Exmoor, twenty are



located between Wiveliscombe and Bathealton and three are on the Quantocks. Also in this group are fifty-four field systems and clearance cairns, forty-five water meadows, forty-three agricultural structures and thirteen leats. Seventy-five of these entries have been identified from aerial photographs; thirty-five have been recorded by the RCHME/EH, twenty-four by independent researchers, twenty have been noted from Ordnance Survey maps, twelve were identified by the WAT Exmoor survey, the OSAD recorded ten and seven were identified by SCC Archaeology Officers.

There are seventy-seven secular structures of Post Medieval date. These include industrial buildings and recreational buildings but not agricultural structures or multiple dwellings. Fifty-four of these structures are situated within the Exmoor National Park two of which relate to market crosses and have been Scheduled (PRNs 34619 and 34620). Eighteen of the secular structures are within the south-eastern edge of the character area and four on the Quantock Hills. Ordnance survey maps were used to ascertain the existence of twenty-nine of these features and a further five were identified by other documentary sources. The OSAD reported fourteen; the RCHME/EH twelve, independent researchers eleven, SCC Archaeology Officers five and one was recorded by an HMBC Officer. Of the records situated within the Exmoor National Park the RCHME/EH have included sixteen within their Exmoor survey.

Forty-nine records relate to boundary markers, these include stones, post and mounds considered denoting boundaries. Thirty of these records are located within the Exmoor National Park, thirteen are located in the south-eastern quarter of the character area and six are situated on the Quantock Hills. The OSAD recorded twenty-two of these entries; fourteen were identified from ordinance survey maps and the RCHME/EH identified nine of them. Single incidences have been recorded by, CRAAGS, an independent researcher, a SCC Archaeology Officer and from a documentary source. Thirteen of the boundary markers were examined during the RCHME/EH surveys.

There are thirty-six entries relating to Post Medieval quarrying evidence within the Exmoor and Quantock character area. Thirty-five of which are situated within the Exmoor National Park, the remaining quarry entry is situated on the Quantocks. The RCHME/EH identified thirty one of the sites and five were located from ordinance survey maps. Thirty-two of the quarries were examined during the RCHME/EH survey.

Thirty of the Post Medieval records relate to mining activities, including iron lead and silver mines. Twenty-five of these sites are located within the Exmoor National Park, four are located within the south-eastern region and one is on the Quantock Hills. The RCHME/EH identified fourteen mines; the OSAD five, independent researchers four, four were recorded by the WAT Exmoor field survey, and single incidences were identified from documentary evidence, ordinance survey maps and aerial photographs. The RCHME/EH surveyed fifteen of them as part of the Exmoor survey.

There are twenty-one mounds considered to date to the Post Medieval period within the character area, their function is uncertain and may represent field clearance, mining activity or in the case of some of the Exmoor entries be related to peat excavation. Nineteen of these features are located on Exmoor and two on the Quantocks. One of the mounds on the Quantocks has been Scheduled as a barrow (PRN 33307). Seventeen of these mounds have been recorded by RCHME/EH, three by the WAT Exmoor field survey and one by the OSAD. The RCHME/EH examined sixteen mounds on Exmoor and one on the Quantocks during their field reconnaissance.

There are sixteen Post Medieval records which relate to tree ring enclosures, eleven are situated on the Quantock Hills, three on Exmoor and, two are located near Skilgate just outside the boundary of the Exmoor National Park. Aerial photographs have been used to identify ten of these structures; three were recorded by Lesley Grinsell during his study of barrows in Somerset, two by the OSAD and one by an SCC Archaeology Officer. Two of the tree ring enclosures were examined by the RCHME/EH Exmoor survey and it should be noted that PRN 34592 at Bradley Hams which was considered as a tree ring enclosure by both the OSAD and Grinsell was subsequently classified as a ring cairn during the RCHME/EH Exmoor project, another of these features also within the Exmoor National Park was Scheduled as a fort (PRN 33678).

There are nine Post Medieval parks within the character area five of these are situated within the Exmoor National Park, two are on the Quantock Hills and two are on the environs of Wiveliscombe. The OSAD identified four of these parks, a further four were located from ordinance survey maps and one from a tithe map.

Seven of the Post Medieval entries relate to ponds including those used for bathing and fishponds. There are six within the Exmoor National Park and one on the Quantocks. The OSAD recorded three, and single incidences were identified by the RCHME/EH, through independent research, aerial photography and ordinance survey mapping. Two of the ponds were examined by the RCHME/EH during the Exmoor project,

There are seven railway structures within the character area and these include railway lines themselves. One is located on Exmoor (PRN 33046) and is the Exmoor-Porlock railway, two are at Brushford, three at Chipstable and one is the Taunton-Barnstable railway (PRN 43351). Four have been identified from ordinance survey maps, and single incidences were recorded by the OSAD, independent research, and an SCC Archaeology Officer.

There are seven ecclesiastical buildings within the character area which are considered to be Post Medieval in date. Five are situated on Exmoor, one is on the Quantocks and one is at Waterrow. Two have been identified from ordinance survey maps, two from documentary sources, and single incidences by the OSAD, an SCC Archaeology Officer and an independent researcher.

Seven of the records relate to Post Medieval milestones four are located within the Exmoor National Park, two at Wiveliscombe and one at Skilgate. All of these features have been identified from ordinance survey maps. There also seven Post Medieval bridges within the character area, six of which are on Exmoor and two of these are Scheduled monuments (PRNs 34587 and 34593) and there is one bridge on the Quantock Hills. Four were identified by the WAT Exmoor field survey, two were recorded by the OSAD, and one each were identified by independent research and the RCHME/EH. Two of the bridges on Exmoor were examined by the RCHME/EH during the Exmoor project

There are six military buildings (not directly related to the Second World War) within the character area which date to the Post Medieval period. All are situated within the Exmoor National Park, three of these buildings were identified by an SCC Archaeology Officer, one by independent research and two by the RCHME/EH. Five of them were examined by the RCHME/EH Exmoor project. There are five Post Medieval limekilns within the character area and all are situated within the Exmoor National Park, three were recorded by the OSAD and two were identified from

ordination survey maps. Three of the limekilns were examined by the RCHME/EH Exmoor project

There are four incidences of roads and associated structures which date to the Post Medieval period with the character area. Three are located within the Exmoor National Park and one is at Brushford on the edge of the National Park. Two were recorded by SCC Archaeology Officers, one by an independent researcher and one by the RCHME/EH Exmoor survey.

Three of the Post Medieval records for the character area relate to war memorials, two are located within the Exmoor National Park and one is at Chipstable, they have all be recorded by the United Kingdom National Inventory of War Memorials. There are three Post Medieval wells, all situated within the Exmoor National park and all recorded by the OSAD. Three standing stone are also considered to be Post Medieval in date all three are located on Exmoor, two were initially identified by an SCC Archaeology Officer and the third by the RCHME/EH, one group is also a Scheduled monument (PRN 33962). The RCHME/EH examined two of these monuments during field reconnaissance.

There are three beacons or fire signals within the character area, one is located on Exmoor and is also Scheduled as a barrow (PRN 33801) the other two are on the Quantock Hills, one of which (PRN 43061) has also be Scheduled as a cairn. They were all initially recorded by the OSAD and the Exmoor beacon has been studied by the RCHME/EH Exmoor project. There are also three spoil heaps within the character which were initially considered to be barrows or cairns. They are all within the Exmoor National Park and the re-classification was carried out during the RCHME/EH surveys, who have suggested that they represent material from the antiquarian excavation of the barrows and cairns near which they are situated (PRNs 33810. 35720 and 35721).

There are two Post Medieval cemeteries within the character area they are both at Dunster within the Exmoor National Park. Both were identified from ordination survey maps. There are two castles within the character area and both are located within the Exmoor National Park and were recorded by the OSAD. One (PRN 34622), Dunster Castle is a Scheduled monument.

The remaining entries within the character area which have been assigned Post Medieval dates relate to single entries. These are; one pottery kiln (PRN 33572) on Exmoor identified by an SCC Archaeology Officer which is also a Scheduled monument, a churchyard cross (PRN 34840) at West Quantoxhead recorded as a result of independent research, a pit (PRN 35345) one Exmoor which may relate to either quarrying or mining activity and identified by CRAAGS, a peat cut (PRN 35898) recorded by the RCHME/EH Exmoor survey, and a bloom find (PRN 34568) which was found at Bridgetown and recorded by the OSAD and subsequently reconsidered by the RCHME/EH survey. The final entry relates to an earthwork of uncertain function (PRN 33567) within the Exmoor National Park which was recorded by the OSAD and was subsequently Scheduled as a hillfort by English Heritage.

The Post Medieval records of the Exmoor and Quantock character area largely demonstrate rural settlements dominated by farmsteads as were seen in the Medieval period. However the rapid industrialisation of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries are obvious from the appearance in the HER records for the first of large scale quarrying and mining activities. The use of primarily Exmoor during the Second World War as a training area is reflected in the types of monuments such as tank ranges and slit trenches that are spread across the Exmoor National Park.

### **5.2.13 Uncertain Entries**

There are one hundred and fifty-six entries which cannot be assigned a date within the character area. One hundred and twenty-nine of these sites and monuments are located within the Exmoor National Park, twenty-four are on the Quantock Hills and three are located at the south-west corner of the character area near Wiveliscombe. The largest group of monuments in this category relate to enclosures of which there are forty-six in total, of these twenty six are recognisable as cropmarks and twenty as extant earthworks. The second largest group of features without date are agricultural earthworks including clearance cairns, linear banks and field systems. There are forty-four in total forty-two of which remain as extant earthworks and two are visible as cropmarks.

There are twenty-eight undated monuments that are simply described as mounds within the character area (these could be barrows/cairns or may possibly relate to field clearance), twenty five of which are extant earthworks and three of which are visible from aerial photographs. There are eight extant standing stones without date, five boundary stones, five areas of building remains, four barrows and cairns, four collections of finds which consist of a spindle whorl and slag collections, two quarries and two stone settings. The remaining entries relate to single instances of the following; a stone row, an alleged cist burial, an excavation spoil heap (non-archaeological), an Iron mine, a peat exposure and a placename that alludes to a kiln.

The Uncertain entries on the HER for the Exmoor and Quantock character area can be broadly divided in to two main monument types, enclosures and mounds. Both of which may in fact represent prehistoric remains. The identification of many of these features has been as a result of aerial photographic analysis a value tool in the recognition of archaeological features. However without further investigation the origins on these monuments are likely to remain inconclusive.

### **5.2.14 Extent and Nature of Archaeological Investigations**

Despite the size and quantity of archaeological sites in the Exmoor and Quantock character area there has been very little intrusive archaeological investigation. Fortunately both the Exmoor National Park and the Quantock Hills have now undergone English Heritage surveys however there is still a broad range of monuments about which we know very little about.

#### **5.2.14.1 Extensive Surveys**

The most significant archaeological work within the Exmoor and Quantock character area has been the RCHME/EH Exmoor surveys, whilst non-intrusive, the examination, survey and location of many of the sites with differential GPS has made a significant impact on the interpretation of the Exmoor landscape from the early prehistoric to the present day. A similar project has now been completed on the Quantocks and this can only serve to enhance our knowledge of the historic environment. Of the Bronze Age entries for the character area the Somerset HER records 46% have been surveyed by the RCHME/EH, as have 48% of the Iron Age entries, 48% of the general Prehistoric entries, 20% of the Roman, 20% of the Early Medieval, 28% of the Medieval and 37% of the Post Medieval entries. Overall the

HER suggests that 35% of the entries for the character area have been included in the RCHME/EH surveys. However a note of caution should be added here as the results of the Quantock survey have not yet fully been integrated into the HER and so these results are largely reflective of the Exmoor project.

Prior to the English Heritage survey the Exmoor National Park authority commissioned the Western Archaeological Trust (WAT) to carry out an aerial photographic and ground survey, English Heritage also completed a survey on the lithic monuments of the Exmoor region. The area is also covered by the DAPs allowing for good quality aerial images to be used for archaeological interpretation. Unfortunately none of the archaeological monuments within the character area that fall into the south-eastern locale have been subject to wide scale surveys.

#### **5.2.14.2 Archaeological Excavations**

Despite the large area represented by the Exmoor and Quantock character area very few of the monuments have been subject to intrusive archaeological investigation. To our knowledge only three barrows and cairns have ever been excavated, however the barrow fever which gripped the 19<sup>th</sup> century elsewhere within the County of Somerset seems unlikely to have by-passed this particular area. Just over half of the total number of barrows and cairns show signs of disturbance and therefore even if we allow for other types of damage such as stone robbing it seems fair to suggest that there may have been many more barrow openings than we can comprehend.

The only record of an excavation of a cairn within the Exmoor region of the character area relates to PRN 33936 located on Porlock Allotment, opened without result by the wife of Harold St George Gray in 1927. A description of the act appears as a footnote in Gray's account of his investigations at the nearby stone circle and standing stone (PRNs 33935 and 33939), and it was published in the PSANHS in 1928. The account of Gray's own work on Porlock Allotment at the stone circle (PRN 33935) and standing stone (PRN 33939) consisted of a plan of all the stones locations and a detailed description of the stones that remained. On the Brendon Hills F Hancock excavated two barrows on Heydon Hill (PRNs 33650 and 33651) in the 1890s and his activities were published in 1896 in the PSANHS whilst the dimensions and orientation of the trenches are described there are no detailed descriptions or illustrations of the finds.

The only other investigations of barrows and cairns within the character area relate to the non-intrusive geophysical surveys (PRN 18258) carried out at the East Pinford cairns (PRNs 33042 and 33043) the results have been written up and copies are held within the HER files. Also included in this study were the stone setting at East Pinford (PRN 33041) and stone row at Tom's Hill (PRN 33858). The work remains unpublished however the researchers hope to carry out further work in the future. Somerset County Council Archaeology Officers have been involved in the small scale excavations of two Bronze Age monuments on Exmoor. These are a standing stone and stone setting both in the vicinity of Orchard Bottom, Exford (PRNs 33601 and 33602). Accounts of both investigations have been published in the PSANHS and detailed records are held by the HER.

Somerset Council Archaeology Officers also excavated (PRN 15202) a section across Dead Woman's Ditch (PRN 11127), a comprehensive report has been written up, a copy of which is in the HER files but it currently remains unpublished. A non-intrusive geophysical survey (PRN 17203) was carried out in the interior of Trendle

Ring Hillfort at Bicknoller Hill on the Quantocks (PRN 33201) in 2004, the survey results have been written up but currently remain unpublished.

The final record of archaeological excavation within the character area relates to Burgundy Chapel on North Hill in the Exmoor National Park (PRN 34487), the western branch of the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society carried out a series of excavations here in the, there is no published account of this work but photographs and contemporary newspaper accounts are held by the HER and the finds which included twelfth and sixteenth century pottery and glazed and slate tiles are in the County Museum Taunton.

#### **5.2.14.3 Environmental Assessments**

The only environmental sampling survey recorded on the Somerset HER refers to pollen cores taken from the vicinity of the field systems and settlement at Codsand Moors and Hoar Moors on Exmoor (Francis and Slater 1990 and 1992) as part of a palaeo-environmental and archaeological research project that began in 1985. The results were highly successful and suggested that cultivation had taken place in that area during the Bronze and Iron Ages and the field systems have been assigned to the Bronze, Iron Ages and the general Prehistoric period.

Outside the character area pollen analysis has been carried out nearby at The Chains (Merryfield and Moore 1974 and Straker and Crabtree 1995) and the River Axe (Fyfe *et al* 2003). Detailed palaeo-environmental analysis has also been carried out at Porlock (see 5.4.14.3).

#### **5.2.14.4 Artefact Examination**

There are no examples of wide scale artefact examination recorded on the HER for Exmoor and Quantock character area.

### **5.2.15 Comparison of the Archaeological Resource of the Core Character Area and the Buffer Zone**

#### **5.2.15.1 The Palaeolithic Period**

There is one Palaeolithic record within the buffer zone and it relates to a lithic finds from the Quantock area. In similarity to the core character area Palaeolithic evidence is scant however the buffer zone record comes from the Quantock area demonstrating possible activity in that locale also.

#### **5.2.15.2 The Mesolithic Period**

There are four Mesolithic entries within the buffer zone, all of which are lithics, three of which are from the Exmoor National Park and one is from the Quantock environs. In similarity to the core area the Mesolithic records are limited to the Exmoor and Quantock locales of the character area. The size difference in favour of the core character area is reflected in the records however the increase in Mesolithic records is disproportionate to the actual area differences between the two zones.

#### **5.2.15.3 The Neolithic Period**

There are three Neolithic entries within the buffer zone and these are all lithic finds from Exmoor. The Neolithic records for the buffer zone reflect the size difference between the two areas, within the core character area however despite the fact that most of the Neolithic records are concentrated on Exmoor there is evidence from the Quantocks and the south-eastern part of the character area.

#### **5.2.15.4 The Bronze Age**

Thirty-nine of the records for the buffer zone relate to Bronze Age entries. Thirty-one of these entries relate to barrows and cairns, twenty-three of which are on Exmoor, two within the Quantock buffer, five from the environs of Bishop's Lydeard and one from Ashbrittle. There are two Bronze Age stone settings and two bronze axe finds all from the Exmoor buffer. The remaining records relate to two settlements and one standing stone, all within the Exmoor National Park and one record of a burial from Wiveliscombe.

The types of monuments found within the buffer zone are extremely similar to those within the core, despite the difference in size between the two areas barrows and cairns are the dominant records in both areas. However it is obvious that these monuments are far more likely to be found within the core areas than on the periphery. While there is also settlement evidence within the buffer zone and like the core character area it is focussed on Exmoor it is evident that the central area of the Exmoor National Park has a far denser number of settlement remains from this period. The largest difference between the two areas in the period is the absence of lithic artefacts from the buffer zone and the appearance of bronze artefacts in this area.

#### **5.2.15.5 The Iron Age**

There are three Iron Age records within the buffer zone, all of the entries relate to earthworks which are probably associated with settlement, three of these are situated within the Exmoor National Park and one is from the Quantock buffer. The size difference between the core character area and the buffer zone is reflected by the numbers of monuments within each area. However when we compare the types of monuments there is a noticeable difference, both areas are dominated by settlement evidence but within the core this is largely demonstrated by hillforts and hillslope enclosures only one of the records from the buffer zone relates to such monuments and this is Plainsfield Camp, Over Stowey (PRN 11128).

#### **5.2.15.6 General Prehistoric Entries**

Twenty-eight of the buffer zone records relate to general Prehistoric monuments. Sixteen of these records relate to settlement activity of which there are sixteen records, eleven of these are enclosures, eight of which are situated within the Exmoor National Park, two near Bathealton and one near Ashbrittle. Nine of these records appear as cropmarks. Five of the settlement records comprise field systems and related features and they are all situated within the Exmoor National Park. There are nine records of lithic finds, five are from Exmoor, three are from the Quantock buffer and one is from Bathealton. The remaining entries relate to one stone setting, one record of prehistoric tree remains and one burial all on Exmoor.

The types of monuments assigned to the general Prehistoric group within the buffer are broadly similar to those within the core, with settlement activity the most common form of record. The size difference in favour of the core character area is also reflected by the buffer zone records.

#### **5.2.15.7 The Roman Period**

There is only one Roman entry within the buffer zone, it relates to a Fort near Wiveliscombe. There is no digression from the monument type or location, although it is perhaps significant that there are no records either from the core character area or the buffer zone for the Roman period on the Quantocks or their immediate environs.

#### **5.2.15.8 The Early Medieval Period**

There are two Early Medieval entries for the buffer zone, both are situated on Exmoor and one relates to a church and the other to a dedication stone. When compared to the records from the core character area both monument types appear in each of the zones. On the whole Early Medieval records within this part of Somerset are poorly represented a situation mirrored in the County as a whole.

#### **5.2.15.9 The Medieval Period**

There are one hundred and twenty-eight Medieval records within the buffer zone and the best represented Medieval records relate to settlement activity. There are forty-four settlement entries within the buffer zone; and they consist of twenty-nine deserted farms, eight deserted settlements, seven field systems and Wiveliscombe Town (PRN 43786). Twenty-five of these records are from Exmoor, sixteen from the Quantock area, two from Wiveliscombe and one from near Skilgate. Thirty-one records relate to ecclesiastical buildings; fourteen of which are within the Exmoor National Park, eleven from the Quantock buffer, two from near Wiveliscombe, one from Huish Champflower, one from Skilgate, one Ashbrittle and one from Bathealton. Fifteen of the Medieval records for the buffer zone relate to secular buildings; six each from the Exmoor National Park and the Quantocks buffer, one from Brushford, one from Stawley and one from Appley. There are Medieval churchyard crosses within the buffer zone; six from the Exmoor National Park, five from the Quantocks area and one from Huish Champflower.

There are eight Medieval bridges within the buffer zone and all are situated within the Exmoor National Park. There are four entries relating to fishweirs within the buffer zone, two of which came from the environs of Exmoor and two from the Quantock area. There have been three incidences of finds dating from the Medieval period and the represent pottery, coins and slag they have been found at Appley, Stawley and Screedy. There are two Medieval Dovecotes and two wells all of which are situated within the Exmoor National Park there are also two deer parks both within the Quantock buffer. The remaining entries for the Exmoor and Quantock buffer zone represent single incidences; there is one beacon from Exmoor, a standing stone on Exmoor, a shipwreck also from Exmoor and from the Quantock environs there is a fishpond and rabbit warren.

The most noticeable difference between the core character area and the buffer zone is that there are only two more records in the core despite the fact that the area is larger than the buffer zone. Largely the monument types are the same, with rural settlement dominating both areas. However the proximity of the coast in the west of buffer zone area has had an influence the records in a minor fashion with the appearance of monuments such as fishweirs and wrecks.

#### **5.2.15.10 The Post Medieval Period**



The Post Medieval period within the buffer zone is the best represented of all the periods and there are four hundred and thirty-seven entries in total. Twenty-one of these records relate to Second World War activities; seventeen of these are pillboxes, two are camps, one relates to Nissen huts and one is a general military building. With the exception of one of the camps all the entries are located within the Exmoor National Park.

Of the remaining four hundred and sixteen Post Medieval records within the buffer zone the best represented records are those which relate to settlement activity and there are one hundred and thirty-five in total. The settlement records comprise of twenty-six deserted farmsteads, six deserted villages, forty-seven agricultural buildings, forty-seven water meadows and nine field systems. One hundred and five of these remains are situated on Exmoor, twenty-one are in the Quantocks environs and nine are located within the south-eastern part of the area.

Ninety-eight of the Post Medieval records relate to secular structures, including industrial buildings and recreational structures, fifty one are located in the Exmoor National Park, twenty-six are in the Quantock buffer and twenty-one are from the south-eastern quarter of the character area including Bathealton and Wiveliscombe.

There are thirty-three limekilns within the buffer zone; twenty-one are situated within the Exmoor National Park, ten within the Quantock environs, one near Bathealton and one at Thorne St Margaret. There are thirty-two entries relating to settlement activities; twenty-eight of which are situated on Exmoor, the remaining records represent singular incidences from the Quantock environs, Huish Champflower, Wiveliscombe and Poleshill.

Nineteen of the Post Medieval buffer zone records represent ecclesiastical buildings, eleven are situated within the Exmoor National Park, four near Wiveliscombe and the remaining records are also within the south-eastern area. There are seventeen entries relating to mining activity, twelve on Exmoor and five from the Quantock environs. Fifteen of the records represent leats and canals, fourteen of which are on Exmoor and one is near Stawley. There are fourteen records relating to boundary stones and markers, four are on Exmoor, four at Ashbrittle, three near Tracebridge, two from Stawley and one at Venn Cross. Nine entries relate to warrens and pillow mounds with the exception of one record from the Quantock environs they are all located within the Exmoor National park. There are nine Post Medieval bridges and nine field systems all on Exmoor within the buffer zone. There also nine war memorials, five on Exmoor, three from the Quantock environs and one from Wiveliscombe.

Eight of the entries relate to fishweirs all situated within the Exmoor National Park, there are also eight parks, three of which are within the Quantock buffer, one is on Exmoor, the remaining four are situated within south-eastern part of the character area. There are seven ponds (including fishponds) five from the Exmoor National Park and two from the Quantock environs. There are also seven milestones; four from the Quantock environs, two from Exmoor and one from Langley Marsh.

There are six Post Medieval quarry sites within the buffer zone, four are within the Quantock buffer and two from the Brushford environs. There are four mounds within the buffer zone on Exmoor considered to be of Post Medieval date whether they are related field clearance, peat extraction or form some other function is uncertain. Three collections of finds considered to date to the Post Medieval period they represent pottery, slag and coins and have been found on Exmoor, at Screedy, and Stawley. There are three undefined earthworks all on Exmoor considered to be Post

Medieval and three Churchyard crosses two on Exmoor and one from the Quantock area of the same date.

Two standing stones are considered to date to the Post Medieval period within the buffer zone; one is from Exmoor and one is located near Huish Champflower, there are two shipwrecks of this date both within the Exmoor environs, two pottery kilns one on Exmoor and one from the Quantock area, two wells, one from Exmoor and one from Bathealton, two Post Medieval railway structures are located within the buffer zone, one from Exmoor and one from Wiveliscombe and there are also two tree ring enclosures, one on Exmoor and the other from the Quantock environs. The remaining Post Medieval entries for the buffer zone relate to single incidences of the following; one peat cutting, a roadway, a stone setting and a cemetery all on Exmoor.

On the whole the Post Medieval monument types within the buffer zone reflect those within the core character area, in both cases Post Medieval records represent the most prevalent period and are dominated by settlement remains which are largely situated on the periphery of Exmoor. The obvious difference between the Second World War records within the core character area and the buffer zone is the higher incidence of pillboxes within the buffer zone. This would appear to reflect the strategic position required for the pillboxes rather than the geological restraints. The pre-dominance of entries relating to military training within the core could be said to be affected by the geological make up of the area, remote areas were deemed suitable for military and infantry training. In similarity to the Medieval period the proximity of the coast to the western quarter of the buffer zone is reflected by the appearance of records relating to fishweirs and wrecks.

#### **5.2.15.11      *Uncertain Entries***

There are sixty entries for the buffer zone that have been assigned to the Uncertain category. Forty-three of these entries relate to the Exmoor National Park, ten are in the Quantock environs, three are near Brushford, two at Wiveliscombe and two at Ashbrittle. In similarity to the core area this group is dominated by enclosures of which there are eighteen, ten are visible as cropmarks and the others are extant earthworks. Fifteen of these entries are on Exmoor, and single incidences are found at Brushford, Wiveliscombe and in the Quantock area.

There are fifteen field systems and related features in the buffer Uncertain group, ten are on Exmoor, three are within the Quantock buffer, one is at Wiveliscombe and one is at Brushford. Eleven of these features are extant earthworks and four are cropmarks. There are five mounds all within the Exmoor National Park, three remain as earthworks and two are visible as cropmarks. Five of the Uncertain entries relate to settlement activity and two are situated in the Exmoor National Park, one is in the Quantock buffer, one at Ashbrittle and one at Brushford. Only one of these sites remains as an extant building, three of them are known through documentary sources and one is a cropmark. There are four undated secular buildings which include an extant building and sites of buildings, three are located on Exmoor and one is in the Quantock area.

There are three barrows or cairns in the Uncertain category of the buffer zone, two are located in the Exmoor National Park and one is at Ashbrittle, it should be noted that in the case of two of the entries it seems likely they are in the Uncertain category because they have been recorded as "alleged cairns". There are two milestones in the Quantock area of uncertain date and there are single incidences of a pond, quarry, pottery kiln, standing stone, fishweirs and boundary stone all from the

Exmoor National Park. There is one undated agricultural structure and one leat in the Quantock area.

The types of sites and monument with the Uncertain category are broadly the same for both the core and buffer areas, they represent sites which can and in some cases are assigned to other period but which require further investigation to confirm this. In similarity to the core character area many of these monuments have been recorded as a result of aerial photographic analysis.

#### **5.2.16 Summary of the Known Archaeological Resource**

The archaeological resource of the Exmoor and Quantock represents a diverse range of monument types and periods, the extensive survey carried out within the Exmoor National Park has greatly improved our understanding of this area, as will not doubt the forthcoming Quantocks report. However there is still very little in the way of intrusive archaeological intervention recorded in the character area and this means that some of the more famous and in some cases unique monuments remain poorly understood.

The prehistoric periods (Palaeolithic - Iron Age and general Prehistoric) account for 36% of the total number of chronologically searched records within the Exmoor and Quantock character area. Compared to the same results for the buffer zone which only is only 11% and the County as a whole which is 36% it is plain to see that this character area has a significant proportion of prehistoric archaeology within it.

Little can be ascertained about either the core or buffer zones during the Palaeolithic period as there are only two records in total. Compared to the County as a whole in which this period represents less than 1% of the chronologically searched records we can see that this situation is not unique to the character area. The concentration of the majority of the Mesolithic records around the coastal fringes of the Exmoor National Park may reflect the occupation of areas that would provide easier access to the marine resources, there are considerably fewer records in the buffer zone for this period but their locations broadly fit this pattern also. That at seven of these sites have produced Neolithic material also seems to suggest a continuity of activities over time.

The pollen analysis carried out on Cutcombe and Hoar Moors suggests that some form of agricultural landscape management was taking in place on Exmoor in the Neolithic, although the presence of artefact types such as leaf-shaped arrowheads both from Exmoor, Quantock and around Batheaston indicates the hunting was an integral part of this way of life. The archaeology of the buffer zone and the core correspond, but they do represent a smaller percentage of the total number of sites than are recorded for Somerset as a whole.

The distribution of Bronze Age barrows and cairns within the character area demonstrates a considerable bias towards the Exmoor National Park. However it is as likely that this reflects the difference in size between the areas as much as it does their true distribution. Typically these monuments are sited on higher ground (on the crests of hills and hilltop plateaus) and the locations of those within the character area are no exception. There are also numerous examples of multiple barrows and cairns in one place, for example the cemeteries on Dunkery Hill, Exmoor ( PRNs 33664-33667 and 33695-33698) and Black Hill, Quantock (PRNs 33301-33305), as well as apparently singular monuments (PRN 34302). Likewise both earthen barrows and stone cairns appear across the character area and in together in apparent cemeteries.

Whilst there are no good quality modern excavations of barrows and cairns within the character area they broadly seem to comply with what we know from examples elsewhere. The results from the recent geophysical surveys of the East Pinford cairns (PRNs 33042 and 33043) seem to indicate the presence of a funeral pyre before the construction of the monuments themselves and the 19<sup>th</sup> Century excavations of the Heydon Hill barrows (PRNs 33650 and 33651) confirm much of our existing knowledge about the ways in which barrows and cairns were constructed.

That one hundred and forty-one barrows and cairns within the character area that show signs of disturbance whether it be modern or ancient is an alarming testament to the vulnerability of these monuments. It is most likely that this damage is the result of unrecorded antiquarian excavations or episodes of stone robbing. However in some cases where a central depression is recorded it may also be representative of how the barrow or cairn has been constructed. For example if there was a central structure which has either decayed or collapsed over time. Without systematic intrusive explorations it would be difficult to prove this hypothesis but should not be discounted.

The stone settings and stone rows within the character area are unique to Exmoor and there does seem to be a relationship between barrows and cairns on Exmoor and the stone rows and stone settings, for example at Porlock Allotment (PRNs 33936 and 33937) and East Pinford (PRNs 33041, 33042 and 33043). The Porlock Allotment group also contains a stone circle (PRN 33935). Stone settings and rows do not, however appear together. Bronze Age settlement evidence is also exclusively centred within the Exmoor National Park, where there appear to several complexes of hut circles, enclosures and field systems, which include those at Great Hill and Honeycombe Hill (PRN 33685 and 33686) and Porlock Allotment (PRNs 33960, 33961 and 33693).

The recorded archaeology for the buffer zone in the Bronze Age is broadly similar in monument type and is dominated by barrows and cairns, but there are considerably fewer of these monuments suggesting that in this area at least they were sited in the centres of these areas.

The Iron Age within the Exmoor and Quantock character area is dominated by hillforts, of which most are within the Exmoor National Park and five of these monuments also have what appear to be associated outworks. The presence of Roman and Iron Age coin hoards at Bat's Castle (PRN 33442) and The Castles near Bathealton (PRN 43351) may suggest that these two hillforts were occupied into the Roman period, but without further confirmation it would be foolish to assume so.

The second highest represented Iron Age monuments are hillslope or defended enclosures/settlements, it is not clear what the relationship is between the hillforts and these sites and they do appear in relative proximity to one another. Unfortunately the only excavation record that we have for an Iron Age monument did not produce any material evidence. While it was confirmed that Dead Woman's Ditch (PRN 11127) was a defensive earthwork we are unable to establish any further details about this particular site or it's relationship to Dowsborough hillfort (PRN 33306).

As there is no further excavated material from the character area it is difficult to establish what the relationships between the hillforts, hillslope enclosures and other earthworks are and it remains an area which would benefit from further investigation in the future. Pollen analysis from the vicinity of the field systems and settlement on

Codsend Moors and Hoar Moors (PRN 33531) suggested that they were in use during the Iron Age and so it would seem that there was a continuity of agricultural activity from the Bronze Age to the Iron Age (and possibly even earlier from the Neolithic onwards) in that area of Exmoor at least and also enclosures like those at Monkslade Common on Exmoor (PRN 33742 and 34260) and Halsway Manor (PRN 34702 and 34703) on the Quantocks demonstrate that defended settlement was not the only evidence of the Iron Age landscape within the character area. Settlement evidence is also evident in the buffer zone for this period, but there are far fewer entries and only one example of a defended hilltop occupation.

The type of sites and monuments allocated to the general prehistoric group are similar to those of the early prehistoric periods and although there are more records in the core than the buffer there monument types are broadly similar in the two groups as well. The group contains lithic collections, settlement activity, barrows and cairns and stone monuments. It has to be acknowledged that the appearance of such entries within this group is a much a reflection of the structure of the Somerset HER as it is about the ability to assign more specific dates to certain monument types. Duplication between periods is in particular a problem faced when assessing the material from this category.

Within the general prehistoric group the most prolific type of entry relates to settlement activity. Most of these entries are located within the Exmoor National Park just as those which are dated to the Bronze Age are. While it would be inappropriate to suggest that these general prehistoric settlements should also be assigned to the Bronze Age on the basis of distribution, perhaps it is worth considering the ways in which such settlements are identified and whether there are any common indicators exhibited both groups.

The Roman period is poorly represented within the core character area and the buffer zone when compared to the search results for Somerset as a whole. That two of the finds collections have been found at earlier monuments (PRNs 33442 and 43351) may as previously suggested reflect a continuity of use of these sites into the Roman period. Whilst there is only one site that relates to military activity within the character area (PRN 11315), other examples are known from outside the character area and buffer zone within the Exmoor National Park.

Early Medieval evidence is scarce within Somerset and the sites and monuments assigned to this period within the character area reflect this trend. The type of sites, for example ecclesiastical buildings and early origins for otherwise later Medieval settlements reflect what is known from both the surrounding buffer zone and the County as a whole.

The Medieval period within the character area is dominated by settlement, specifically deserted farmsteads, settlements and agricultural activity. As is the case with the earlier settlements Exmoor is the most populated of the area, although a greater number of examples appear on the Quantocks (PRNs 33326, 34550, 34716 and 34717) than they did for the prehistoric periods. Medieval settlements tend not to be found within the same areas as those from the earlier sites, they seem to occupy the fringes of the Exmoor National Park for example the Myne farmsteads at North Hill (PRN 33795 and 33796). The Medieval town at Dunster also falls within the character area (PRN 33566). Ecclesiastical buildings which served the settlements are also numerous for this period and appear in proximity to settlement remains in places such as West Quantoxhead (PRN 33326 and 33337) and Hawkridge (PRN 34288 and 34334).

Unfortunately like the earlier settlements within the character area none of those which date to the Medieval period have been intrusively investigated, however it is beneficial that at least for this period we are able to compare what is known from documentary sources to what survives on the ground. To the west of the Exmoor National Park, evidence of the Exmoor Forest remains largely through existence of the boundary markers these include in some circumstances the re-use of earlier monuments for example the barrows at Hangley Cleeve and Black Barrow at Hoscombe (PRNs 33020 and 33051). Evidence for early industrial processing may also be found from the lead and silver mines near Dulverton on the edge of the Exmoor National Park.

Despite the size difference in favour of the core character area for the Medieval period for there are almost the same amount of records within the buffer as there are in the core. In fact when we compare the percentage of Medieval sites from the core to those from the buffer zone and the County as a whole, there is an approximately 10% difference between the areas in favour of the buffer and County. This perhaps supports the supposition that Medieval activity was largely taking place on the fringes of the higher ground.

Unsurprisingly the Post Medieval period is the best represented within the character area, buffer zone and County as a whole. The high number of Second World War sites on Exmoor demonstrates the extent to which it was considered a suitable military training area during that time. Unfortunately as is often the case with areas chosen by the military this was at the expense of the archaeological landscape. The results of the geophysical survey carried out in 2005 (PRN 18258) highlighted the extent of some of this damage to the prehistoric monuments within the Exmoor National Park.

The remaining Post-Medieval records are dominated by settlement and agricultural activity and in some cases there is continuity between the Medieval and Post Medieval occupation for example at Mousehanger near Lower Leigh (PRN 34238) but otherwise the Post Medieval settlements tend not to occupy the early sites. Approximately 7% of the Post Medieval entries relate to water meadows, 95% of which have been identified from aerial photographs this seems to be an area which would benefit from further investigation. The trend towards the industrial processes such as mining and quarrying is also reflected in the Post Medieval entries and these illustrate the ways in which the human activities in the character area have gradually moved away from agriculture since the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Approximately eleven percent of the records in the character area have not been assigned a date, although it should be noted that duplication with other periods no doubt takes place. Most of these entries relate to features seen on aerial photographs which have not been further investigated and there are a significant number of mounds which could be any number of archaeological monuments including Bronze Age barrows or field clearance cairns. It seems prudent to suggest that these two monument types at least would be candidates for further study.

There are no active aggregate quarries within the Exmoor National Park and it is highly unlikely that any future permissions will ever be granted and so the archaeology of the aggregate producing geology within the park can be considered safe from this type of destruction at least. There is however one aggregate quarry which still has an active permission on the Quantock Hills, although it is at present dormant. It is located at Vinnicombe, West Quantoxhead and the area of permission encompasses 9.4 hectares of the Quantock Hills AONB and the SSSI.

The quarry has at least thirty-five years left of its permission and within one kilometre of the centre of the present quarry lie sixteen archaeological sites, four lithic collections have been found in this area. The periods to which the sites and monuments date vary from the Mesolithic to the Post Medieval and include field systems, cairns, and a deserted settlement. The MPA have stipulated that a series of conditions have to be met before work can resume at Vinnicombe at it would seem appropriate that these should include a proviso for how the surrounding archaeological remains would be affected when and if this takes place.

### **5.3**

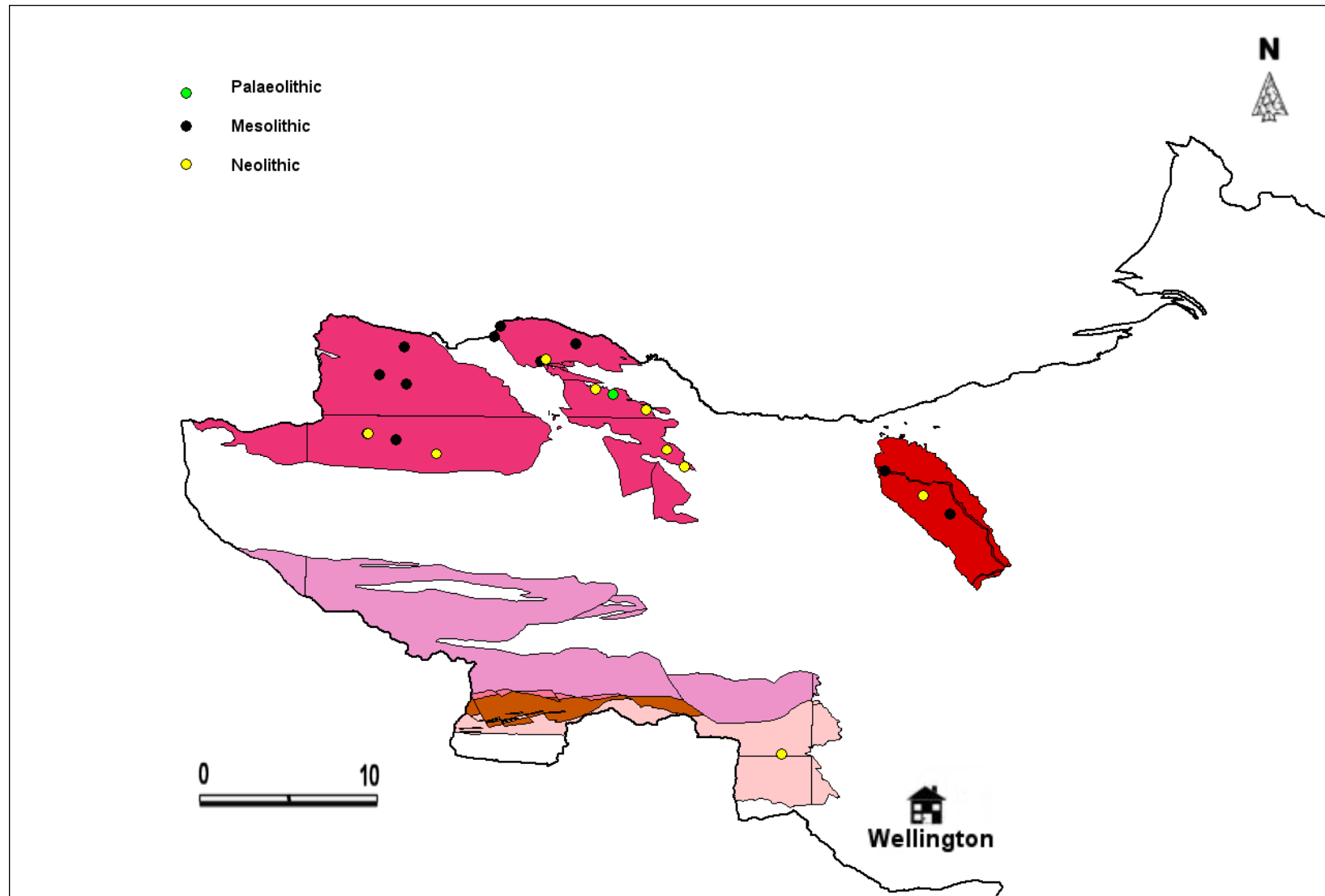


Fig. 7 Exmoor and Quantock Resource Assessment Early Prehistoric Records



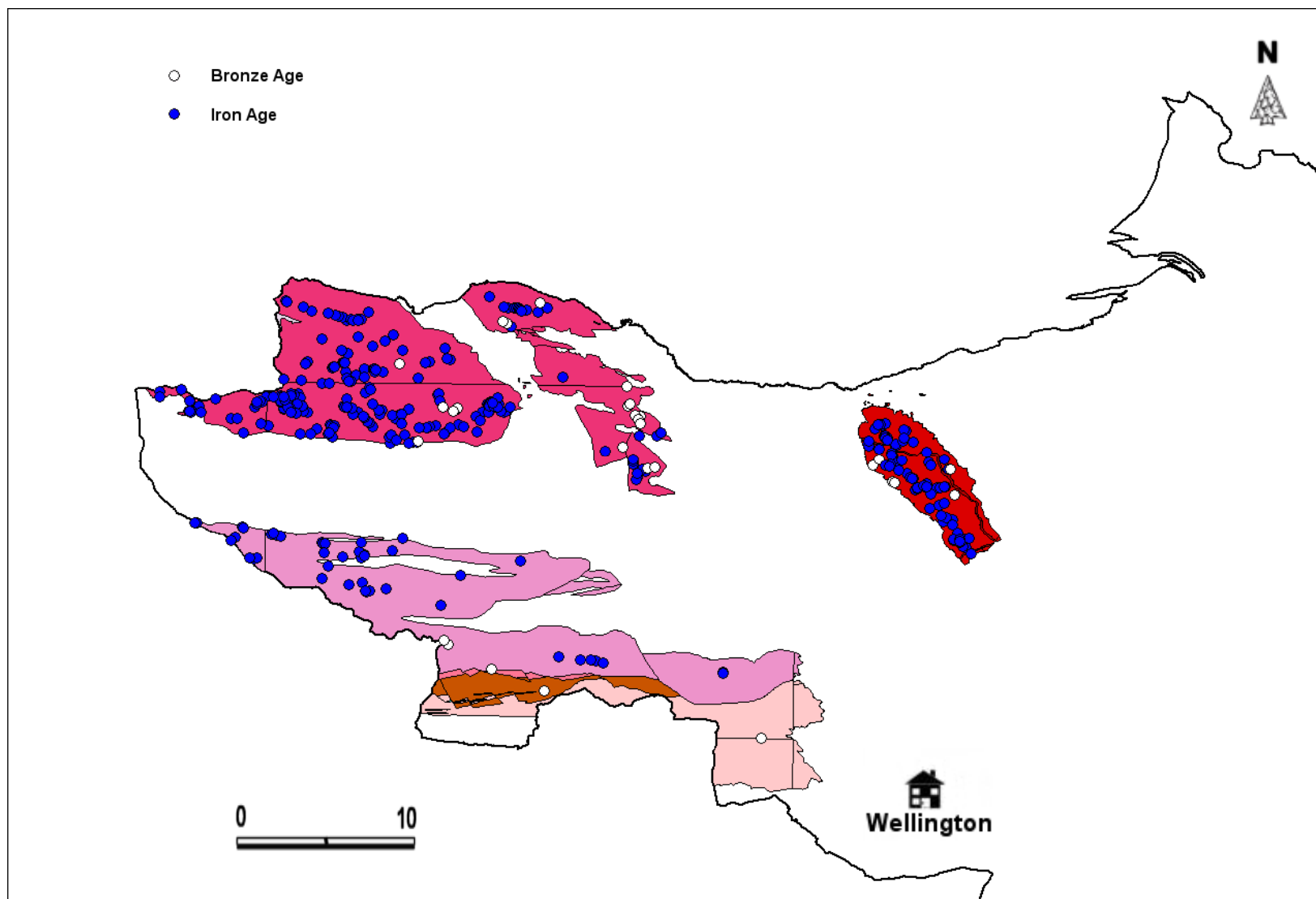


Fig. 8 Exmoor and Quantock Resource Assessment Later Prehistoric Records

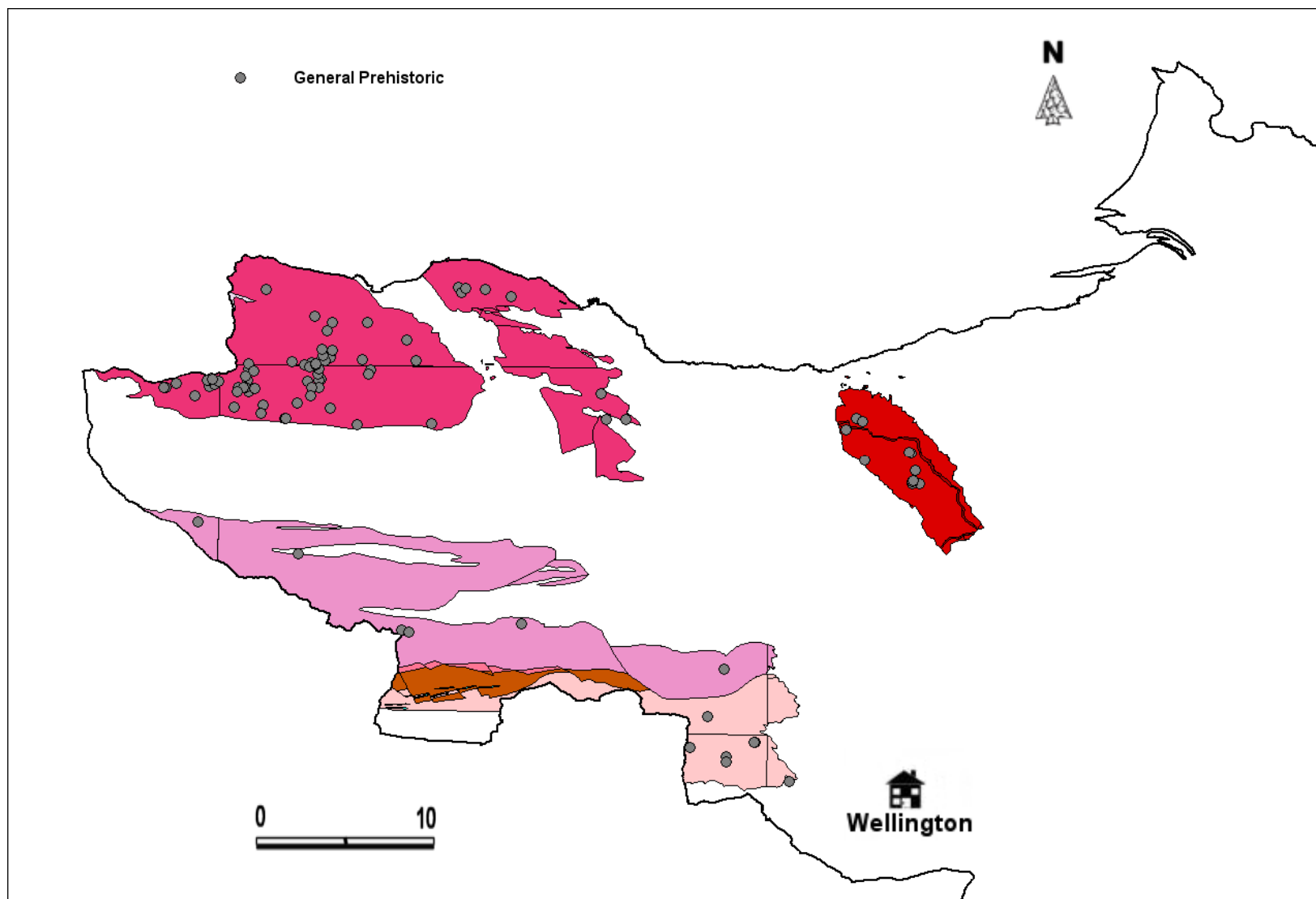


Fig. 9 Exmoor and Quantock Resource Assessment General Prehistoric Records

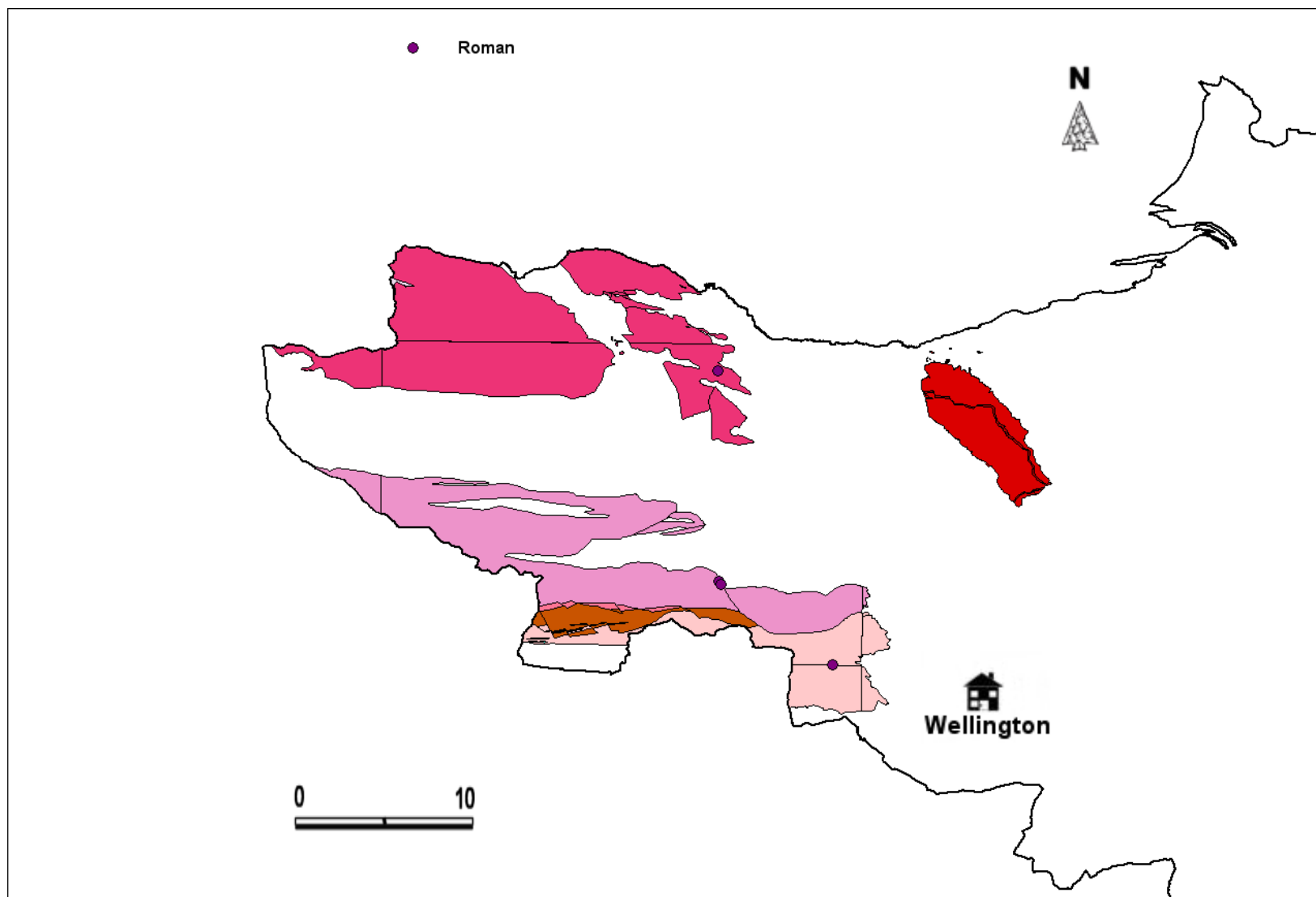


Fig. 10 Exmoor and Quantock Resource Assessment Roman Records

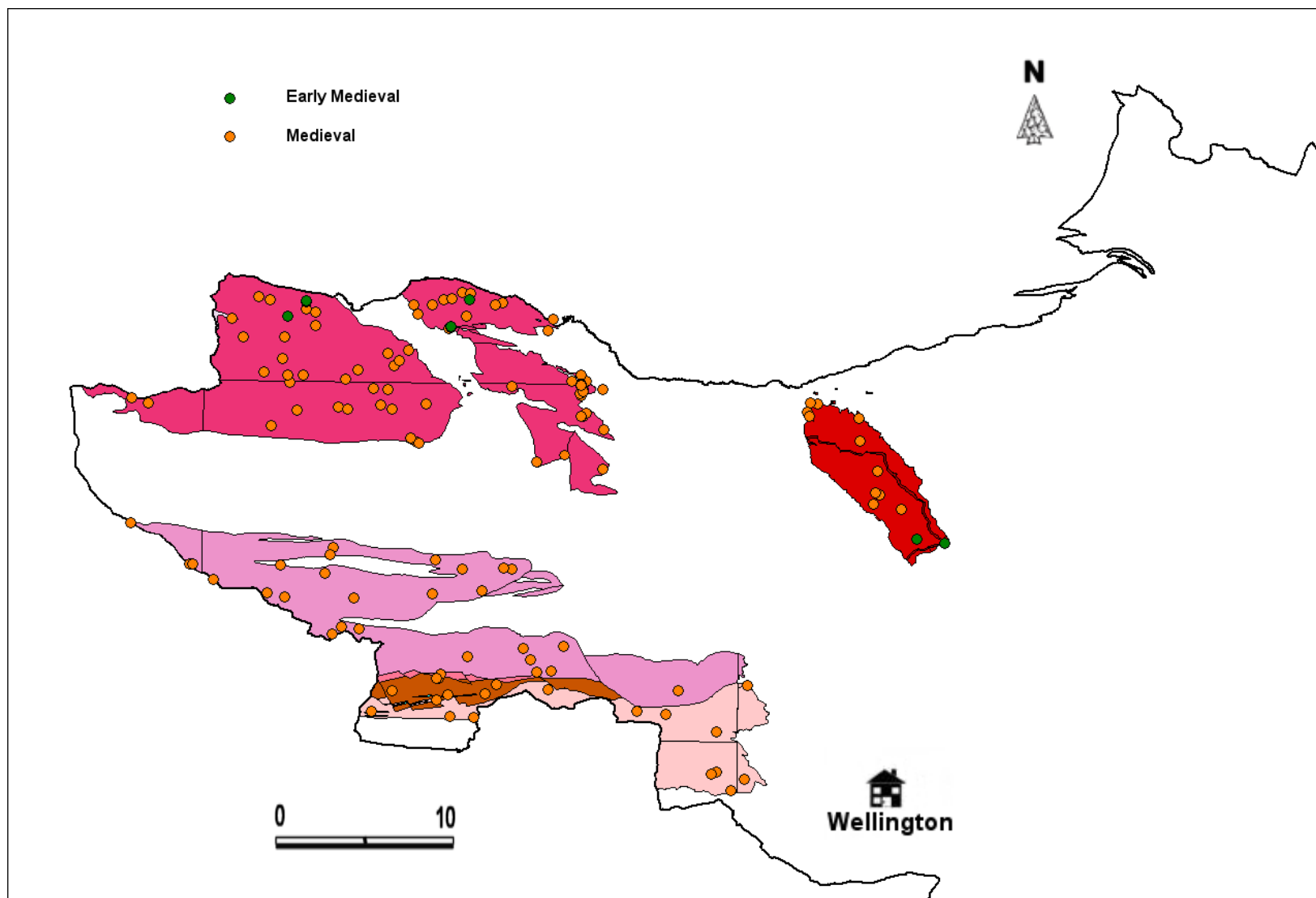


Fig. 11 Exmoor and Quantock Resource Assessment Early Medieval and Medieval records

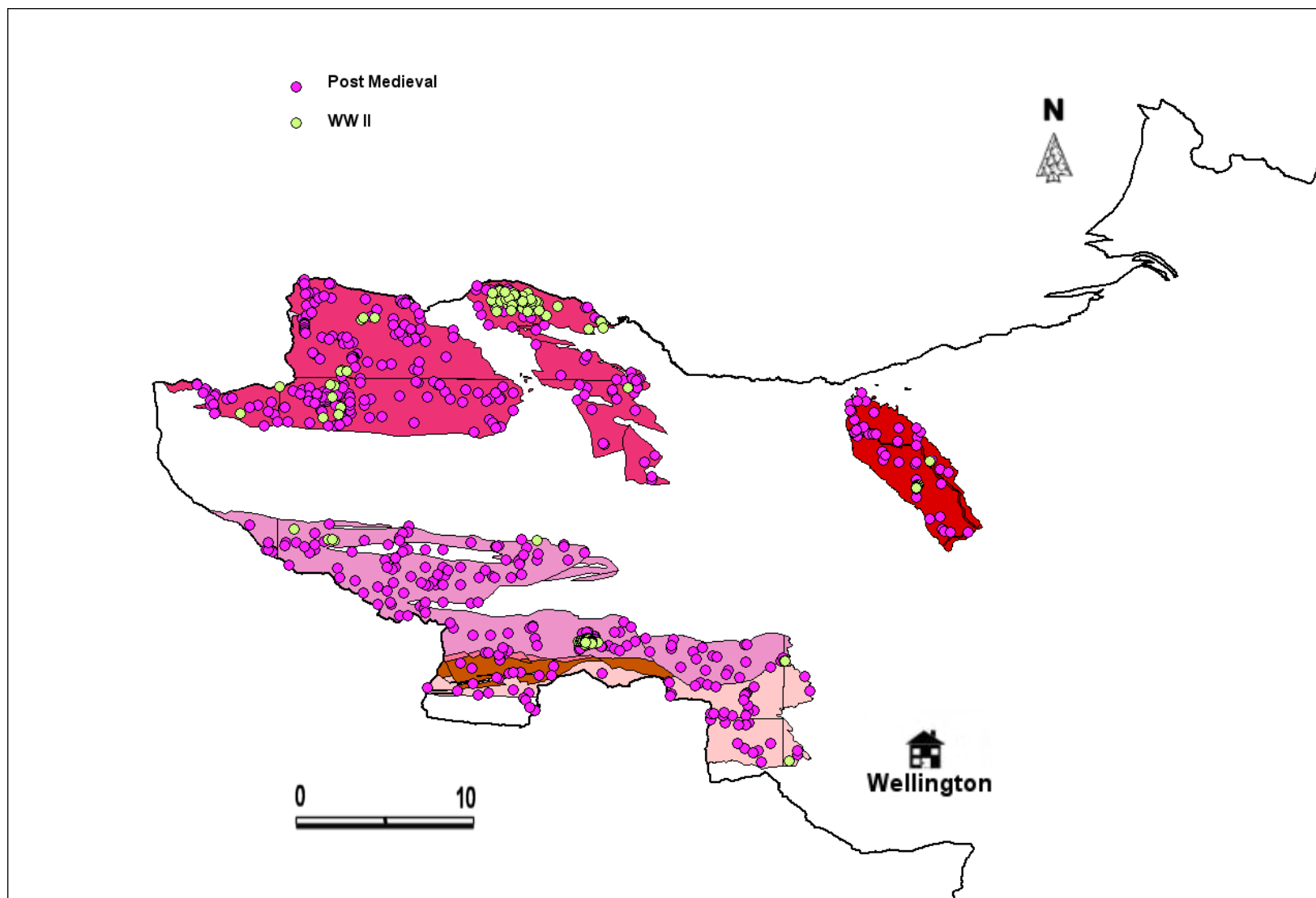


Fig. 12 Exmoor and Quantock Resource Assessment Post Medieval and WW II Records

## 5.4 Coastal Character Area Resource Assessment

### 5.4.1 Introduction

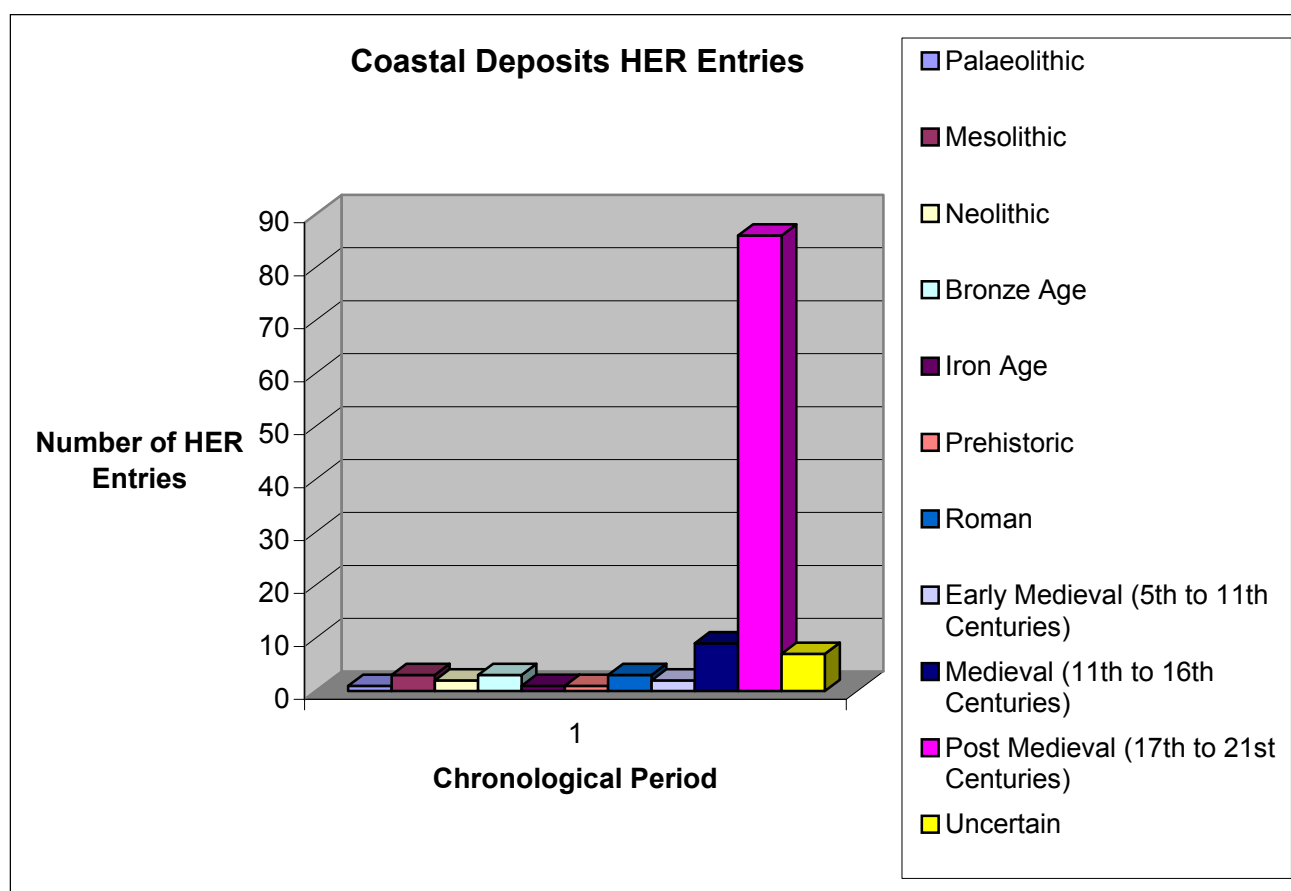
The coastal character area runs from the rugged coastline of Exmoor in West Somerset to the dunes system around Berrow and Brean in the north and it covers an area of approximately 15.4 square kilometres. A search of the HER for the area produced one hundred and nine archaeological records for the area including sites that overlapped with the surrounding geology but which lay substantially on the coastal deposits. These records were then searched chronologically and produced one hundred and eighteen separately recorded entries.

In addition to the search carried for the coastal deposits a further chronological search was made of a 1 kilometre buffer zone around the core covering an area of approximately 132 square kilometres, this was performed in order to assess whether the types of archaeological sites recorded on the HER varied according to the underlying geology. These two datasets were then compared to the results for the County as a whole, which has a total area of 3,504 square kilometres (as correct November 2005) and the results of the searches are illustrated in Table26.

**Table26 Table of Chronological HER Search Results for the Coastal Deposits Character Area.**

Period	Coastal	Buffer Zone	Somerset number & %	
Palaeolithic	1	1	80	<1%
Mesolithic	3	5	124	<1%
Neolithic	2	4	323	<2%
Bronze Age	3	8	1242	1%
Iron Age	1	3	230	<2%
Prehistoric	1	8	2731	16%
<b>Total number of Prehistoric Entries</b>	<b>(11)</b>	<b>(29)</b>	<b>(4730)</b>	<b>(29%)</b>
Roman	3	6	1032	6%
Early Medieval (5th to 11th Centuries)	2	5	169	1%
Medieval (11th to 16th Centuries)	9	35	2723	16%
Post Medieval (17th to 21st Centuries)	86	194	5850	35%
Uncertain	7	36	1870	11%
<b>Total</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>16374</b>	

**Table27 Graph of Chronological HER Search Results for the Coastal Deposits Character Area**



#### **5.4.2 Known Archaeological Resource**

#### **5.4.3 The Palaeolithic Period**

There is one entry for the Palaeolithic period within the coastal deposits character area and it relates to bone fragments, two of which may have been worked discovered at the early prehistoric occupation site on Brean Down (PRN 10133). The objects are thought to be Upper Palaeolithic and were recovered by members of the University of Bristol Spelaeological Society who had been observing and collecting material at the Down throughout the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. The occupation site is Scheduled and the objects remain at the Society's Museum in Bristol.

In 1961 a paper was published in the PUBSS summarising the objects and artefacts found eroded from the sand cliffs at Brean Down (ApSimon *et al.* 1961: 67-136), it included section drawings of the exposed faces and identified a layer of late glacial origin from which the bone implements came along with faunal remains. While it is difficult to assess whether there was any occupation during the Upper Palaeolithic at Brean Down from such a small sample the remains at least suggest human activity in the area during that time.

#### **5.4.4 The Mesolithic Period**

There are three Mesolithic records in the coastal deposits character area and they relate to artefact discoveries found between Porlock and Minehead. Two of the collections from Minehead Bay (PRN 33782) and Porlock Weir (PRN 33942) represent chance discoveries found in association with submerged forests. At Porlock Weir the material was recovered in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and this site also produced the remains of a late surviving aurochs. The collection of lithics from Minehead Bay (PRN 33782) also contained Neolithic and Bronze Age material. Both sites produced flakes and chips and John Wymer examined the Minehead material for his gazetteer of Mesolithic sites.

The third entry relates to the chance find of a pebble core, microlith and a core trimming flake from Hurlestone Point (PRN 33990). All the Mesolithic material from the character area is held by the County Museum, Taunton and the material from Minehead (PRN 33782) is in the Cornish Collection.

The Mesolithic entries for the coastal character area are centred in West Somerset. The submerged forests of this area are well known and they represent important relic landscapes, unfortunately they are at the mercy of the weather and in the case of Porlock Weir they are being rapidly eroded away. As a result English Heritage commissioned a survey of the Porlock remains and work took place 1998 and 2001, the results are held within the HER files. The types of material within the Mesolithic collections suggest lithic processing was taking place perhaps in hunting camps on the outskirts of the forested areas or the edge of the coastal plains, both of which would have provided rich resources.

#### **5.4.5 The Neolithic Period**

There are two Neolithic records for the coastal character area and they represent the chance discovery of lithics from the submerged forest at Minehead (PRN 33782) and the early prehistoric occupation at Brean Down (PRN 10133). The lithics were part of a collection that also contained Mesolithic and Bronze Age flints and are within the Cornish collection at the County Museum, Taunton. The material from Brean Down is held in the UBSS Museum, Bristol and County Museum, Taunton.

Neolithic material had been collected from Brean Down by members of the UBSS during the earlier half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century and was included in a summary paper published in 1961 in the Society's proceedings. In the 1980s erosion of the sand cliff at Brean Down led to the exposure of early prehistoric occupation activity (PRN 10133), rescue excavations (PRNs 11342, 15191, 11344 and 11343) were led by Martin Bell and a series of complex deposits were exposed and recorded. The Neolithic material included pottery and lithics including a leaf-shaped arrowhead from within a buried soil. The occupation site is Scheduled.

The lithics recovered from the submerged forest at Minehead (PRN 33782) seem likely to represent a temporary event, possibly a base camp for hunting or foraging, whereas the pottery and lithics from Brean Down (PRN 10133) may well signify an occupation area. The deposits at Brean show a complex of prehistoric activity including the best surviving examples of Bronze Age dwellings in the County and the Neolithic remains may demonstrate the beginnings of this settlement.



#### **5.4.6 The Bronze Age**

There are three Bronze Age records for the coastal character area and two of them relate activity at Brean Down (PRNs 11345 and 10133), while the third comprises of lithics recovered from the submerged forest at Minehead (PRN 33782). In 1936 the discovery of a small pit was made and excavated following its exposure during a storm. The pit contained the remains of a most of a beaker, charcoal, a piece of a different vessel and an unworked flint (PRN 11345). Although the finds that were held in the UBSS museum were lost during the Second World War charcoal survived and during the rescue excavations in the 1980s the site was examined again and the charcoal radiocarbon dated. The area was found to have completely eroded away but the radiocarbon date came back as 2020-1540 cal BC (2 sigma). This is indicative of an early date for the beaker.

Additional artefacts of Bronze Age date were being collected from the sand cliff at Brean Down during the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century and along with the beaker remains (PRN 11345) they were considered in the UBSS paper detailing the major discoveries and stratigraphy of the Down published in the Society's proceedings in 1961. In 1983 two late Bronze Age gold bracelets eroded from the cliff and as a direct response to such significant discoveries a programme of rescue excavations were begun partly funded by English Heritage and under the direction of Martin Bell (PRNs 11342, 15191, 11344 and 11343). The area in which the bracelets had been found was included in this assessment and a partial human pelvis was also recovered which may suggest the objects formed part of a burial (PRN 10133).

As a consequence of the rescue excavations various Bronze Age horizons were identified (PRN 10133) the primary ones consisted of pottery, lithics and possible cultivation marks dating to the early Bronze Age. This was followed by Middle Bronze Age activity that comprised of at least two circular stone walled buildings with clay and ash floors. There was also evidence of a Late Bronze Age occupation level consisting of stone faced banks and ditches that have been interpreted as representing land division. The area encompassing the early prehistoric occupation (PRN 10133) has been Scheduled and the Bronze Age artefacts from the Down are at the UBSS Museum, Bristol and the County Museum, Taunton.

The submerged forest at Minehead (PRN 33782) has produced lithics dating the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods and also produced Bronze Age material suggestive of a temporary camp either at the edge of the forest or coastal plain. The artefacts are within the Cornish collection at the County Museum, Taunton. The destruction of the sand cliff at Brean Down has led to the discovery of many artefacts and remains dating to the Bronze Age including settlement and probable burial evidence. It is rare to find sites that demonstrate a long sequence of occupation from the earlier to the later Bronze Age and the house remains are the best example of features of this date within the County as a whole.

#### **5.4.7 The Iron Age**

There is only one Iron Age record for the coastal character area and it relates to the early prehistoric settlement at Brean Down (PRN 10133). Members of the UBSS had been recovering Iron Age pottery from the site since the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century and when rescue excavations were initiated in response to erosion in 1985 (PRN 11342) Iron Age pottery was recovered from the northern end of the site. The artefacts are held at the UBSS Museum, Bristol and the County Museum, Taunton and the occupation site has been Scheduled.

The rescue excavations (PRN 11342) at the occupation site, Brean Down (PRN 10133) only found a small number of Iron Age pot sherds and objects. A major erosion context was also identified and it has been suggested that the activity may date to the Iron Age and could have taken place as a result of agricultural practises or the construction of the nearby hillfort (PRN 10115 not within the character area). Whilst there is no evidence for dwellings like those found in the earlier contexts for the Iron Age period at Brean Down the area was clearly exploited during that period and the proximity of the hillfort may account for the lack of settlement activity at the occupation site.

#### **5.4.8 General Prehistoric Entries**

The lithic finds from the submerged at Porlock Weir (PRN 33942) have been assigned a general Prehistoric date and this entry represents the only record for this category. It is likely that this record has been assigned a general prehistoric date as well as a Mesolithic one because the material recovered was largely collected during the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and the HER records suggest that it was not possible to assign a specific date to all of the material. It is not uncommon for material which cannot be assigned to a specific tool type or date to be included in the general Prehistoric category it is an occurrence which emphasises the need for modern re-assessments of lithic material in order to assess whether more accurate dates can be achieved. The material recovered from this site is in the County Museum, Taunton.

#### **5.4.9 The Roman Period**

There are three Roman records for the coastal character area and they come exclusively from the Berrow and Brean dune systems. The entries comprise of a ditch (PRN 11349) discovered during an archaeological monitoring project (PRN 11348) near Brean Down, pottery discovered by local amateur archaeologist near St Mary's Church, Berrow (PRN 10108) and a lead curse recovered by a metal detectorist below Brean Down (PRN 11350).

The ditch (PRN 11349) ran along the beach north-south, curving inland to the north. It contained late 1<sup>st</sup> Century or early 2<sup>nd</sup> Century AD pottery in the lower fills and 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Century AD in the upper fill, an account of the discovery was published in the PUBSS. Samuel Nash was an amateur archaeologist who observed many development sites around West Huntspill, Burnham and Berrow and he discovered the material from near St Mary's Church, Berrow (PRN 10108). The HER does not have any detailed information on the pottery recovered but Nash's archive is held by Burnham-on-Sea Library.

The lead curse (PRN 11350) was found around 1980 by a metal detectorist on the beach below the Roman Temple on Brean Down (PRN 10117 not within the character area). It has been identified as a curse on a thief, dating to the 4<sup>th</sup> Century AD. The curse was donated to Weston-super-Mare Museum and included in Hassall and Tomlin's Britannia monograph on Roman inscriptions in 1985.

Roman records for the character area are limited to the northern half of the character area. It seems fair to suppose that the lead curse (PRN 11350) may be connected to the Temple site (PRN 10117 not on the geology) above where it was found and it is possible that the ditch (PRN 11349) was also related to this activity, although the excavators acknowledged that it was not possible to identify any stratigraphic relationship between the two areas. The recovery of pottery in Berrow (PRN 10108)

#### **5.4.10 The Early Medieval Period**

The Early Medieval records are likewise centred in the in Brean and Berrow locality and they relate to two individual sites, the extant Church of St Bridget (PRN 10037) at Brean whose dedication is believed to suggest early origins and the cemetery at Brean Down (PRN 10131).

Human remains have been eroding from the sand cliff at Brean Down since the at least the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century and the presence of the cemetery (PRN 10131) was known to the members of the UBSS when they published their 1961 account of the stratigraphy and finds made at the Down. The HER also records that Weston-super-Mare Museum also has the remains of two individuals that were eroded out in 1959.

The rescue excavations carried out under the direction of Martin Bell beginning in 1984 (PRN 11342) discovered graves that had been cut into the earlier layers. A further season in 1989 (PRN 11344) revealed more remains including double graves and disarticulated material. The bodies were unaccompanied, but some had stone lining blocks or markers and they included both adults and children. Radiocarbon dates for the site suggest that the cemetery was in use between the 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Centuries AD and the site is a Scheduled monument.

The Early Medieval records within the character area are associated with religion and burial. Whether the Church of St Bridget (PRN 10037) truly dates back to the Early Medieval period is unknown, the building has been extensively re-modelled including work carried out as late as the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, however there is no reason to suppose an earlier Church was not located at the site. The discovery of the cemetery (PRN 10131) at Brean Down is extremely important, little is known about the Early Medieval period and well excavated sites can only serve to enhance our knowledge of the time.

#### **5.4.11 The Medieval Period**

There are nine Medieval records for the coastal character area and four of the records relate to St Mary's Church, Berrow and its immediate locale (PRNs 10453, 10104, 10105 and 10110). The Church of St Bridget, Brean (PRN 10037) is also assigned to this period. Documentary evidence has been used to assign Medieval dates to two collections of fishweirs within the character area at Minehead and along the West Somerset Coast (PRNs 33348 and 33776), the remaining records relate to a wreck (PRN 35544) in Minehead Bay discovered as a result of the Minehead Sea Defences environmental assessment and the harbour at Dunster identified through documentary research (PRN 16620).

St Mary's Church, Berrow (PRN 10453) is considered to be largely of 13<sup>th</sup> Century AD in origin. The HER records that been prior to a development six trenches were dug in the churchyard sometime in the 1970s (PRN 10104) building remains, pottery and glazed tile were found and they now reside in Bristol Museum. This site had also been observed by local amateur archaeologist Samuel Nash who recorded 14<sup>th</sup> Century pottery being recovered as well as Post Medieval material. Nash also found

Medieval and Post Medieval pottery from the path leading from St Mary's Church to the sea (PRN 10110). Nash's archive is held by Burnham-on-Sea Library.

Fragments of a churchyard cross (PRN 10105) dating to the late 14<sup>th</sup> or early 15<sup>th</sup> Century AD and belonging to St Mary's Church were recorded as having been buried under drifting sand in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The cross has subsequently been restored and is preserved in the church.

The Medieval fishweirs within the character area are centred in West Somerset, four of which are located within Minehead Bay (PRN 33348) and they have been planned and Scheduled. The second collection lie between Porlock and East Quantoxhead (PRN 33776) and were identified from aerial photographs. Documentary evidence suggests that all these features are Medieval in origin.

The Medieval records for the coastal deposits character area can be roughly divided into two categories, ecclesiastical remains and structures associated with coastal economy. The HER records that the investigations (PRN 10104) at St Mary's Church, Berrow were carried out in order to try and confirm the existence of ecclesiastical buildings noted on a 16<sup>th</sup> Century map and clearly there is more Medieval activity located in the locale of the Church than remains extant. However there do not appear to be any comprehensive records pertaining to the archaeological excavations and so it is difficult to carry out a true assessment.

The fishweirs (PRNs 33348 and 33376), wreck (PRN 35544) and harbour site (PRN 16620) all provide evidence maritime activities during the Medieval period, the coastal resources would have been vital to the economy of the communities who built worshipped at both St Mary's Church, Berrow (PRN 10453) and the Church of St Bridget at Brean (PRN 10037).

#### **5.4.12 The Post Medieval Period**

There are eighty-six Post Medieval entries for the coastal character area and they are dominated by entries associated with Second World War activity. The Second World War records number fifty-three in total, forty of which are pillboxes. Twenty-two of these features were identified by the Fortress Study Group; a further fourteen were identified from RAF aerial photographs, seven from Ordnance Survey maps and seven through information provided by independent researchers. The remaining twelve Second World War records include four Nissen huts (PRNs 12575, 18116-18118) identified by the SCC HER officer, anti-tank obstacles and trenches (PRNs 17768, 18301 and 35698) identified by independent researchers and an aircraft crash site (PRN 18076) recorded from historical sources.

Of the remaining thirty-three entries fishweirs account for a further eleven of the Post Medieval records, seven of these are located at near Gore Point, Porlock Weir and have been identified and surveyed using differential GPS as part of the English Heritage Exmoor project (PRNs 18088-18093 and 35926). English Heritage officers also identified and surveyed three of the remaining fishweirs at Culver Cliff Sand, Minehead (PRNs 57143-57145) and the final entry (PRN 11291) was located using Ordnance Survey information.

The remaining records relating to the Post Medieval period are composed largely of secular structures, mainly buildings. Ordnance Survey maps have been used to identify the locations of ten secular and two ecclesiastical buildings, including a tannery and warreners house at Minehead (PRN 35154 and 35156) and the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel at Brean (PRN 17063). There is one War Memorial

(PRN 17626) recorded by the United Kingdom National Inventory and other Post Medieval remains include two wrecks near Minehead (PRNs 35391 and 35544), one of which was recorded as part of the Minehead Sea Defences project and radiocarbon dated to approximately 19<sup>th</sup> Century (PRN 35544).

English Heritage investigated the remains of Porlock Dock (PRN 33024), recorded damaged by extant limekiln at Stags Head Wood (PRN 33879) and carried out a standing buildings survey at Minehead Hospital (PRN 57142). There is one entry relating to Post Medieval pottery recovered by Samuel Nash along with medieval material near St Mary's Church Berrow (PRN 10110), Nash's archive is held by Burnham-on-Sea Library.

At Brean Down a Post Medieval Warreners House (PRN 12610) was excavated during excavations initiated in 1984 at Brean Down following coastal erosion (PRNs 11342, 11343 and 11344). Although the investigations in the 1980s and 1990s did not reveal many structural remains they had been noted by members of the UBSS and were included in the account published in 1961. The pottery dated to the later 16<sup>th</sup> and early 17<sup>th</sup> Centuries and buildings were depicted on tithe maps. A re-examination of the UBSS archives in 2000 suggested the building had first been recorded in the late 1930s and it had been single ranged with a plaster floor. The remains have been Scheduled and the artefacts are held at the UBSS Museum, Bristol and the County Museum, Taunton.

The coastal defences implemented during the Second World War and demonstrated by the number of pillboxes in the character area dominate the Post Medieval records and they are a reminder of the threat posed to the Somerset coastline during the conflict. The other entries illustrate the importance of the coastal economy with the continued use and construction of fishweirs, the discovery of wrecked boats and the dock at Porlock Weir (PRN 33924). Industrial processes such as the production of lime and tanning are also evident, although not significant. There is little domestic evidence except for the building at Brean Down (PRN 12610) and even that appears to have had an occupational purpose, however the absence of settlements on the unstable sand deposits is not surprising.

#### **5.4.13 Uncertain Entries**

There are seven records that have been assigned to the Uncertain category and they represent a dispirit group that included the sea defences at Brean (PRN 10134) and Stert Point (PRN 11136). At Brean the sand dunes have now engulfed the sea wall and its antiquity has only been suggested by an SCC archaeology officer. The defence at Stert Point was identified from an aerial photograph. The Uncertain entries also includes fishweirs at Minehead Bay (PRN 35507) noted from an ordinance survey map and a building platform at Steart (PRN 11135) visible on an aerial photograph. The Church of St Andrew at Steart (PRN 18043) is also within this category it still remains and is visible the 1904 Ordinance Survey map but no details concerning its origins are known. The Uncertain group within the character area do not represent any uniform pattern and with the exception of St Andrews Church the records largely relate to secular structures.

#### **5.4.14 Extent and Nature of Archaeological Investigations**

The archaeological investigations within the coastal deposits character area are really limited to the activities carried out on and around Brean Down (PRNs 11342, 11343, 11344, 11345, 11348 and 15191). However in some of the archaeological remains lie within the Exmoor National Park and therefore were surveyed by RCHME/EH as part of the Exmoor project. The activities of individuals such as Samuel Nash can also not be ignored and his observations of development work in areas such as Berrow proved productive.

#### **5.4.14.1 Extensive Surveys**

An extensive survey of the coastal deposits of Somerset has not been carried out, but areas that run from Minehead to Porlock and therefore form part of the Exmoor National Park were included in the RCHME/EH survey which was published in 2001. The monuments within the character area that have been included in this work consist of seven of the fishweirs (PRNs 18088, 18089, 18090, 18091, 18092, 18093 and 35926) and Porlock Dock (PRN 33024). English Heritage surveys have also been carried out at on an extant limekiln at Stag's Head Wood, three fishweirs at Culver Cliff Sand (PRN 57143-57145) and Minehead Hospital (PRN 57142). The Somerset HER contains copies of the reports on many of the monuments included in this work.

The SCC funded Claylands aerial photography survey carried out between 1984 and 1985 also covers a small area (around Stert Point) of the coastal deposits character area. It should also be noted that the Second World War defences within the coastal character area have been fairly systematically recorded. This is largely due to the initiative and interest of independent researchers and in some cases their work has been integrated in the national Defence of Britain database.

#### **5.4.14.2 Archaeological Excavations**

The only excavated sites within the coastal deposits character area are situated in the north of the County and they largely focus on Brean Down. The Somerset HER does record the excavation of six trial trenches at St Mary's Church, Berrow (PRN 10104) and the artefacts recovered are apparently in Bristol Museum but there appear to be no written records concerning this site.

The excavated sites near and on Brean Down comprise of the early prehistoric occupation (PRN 10133), the beaker remains (PRN 11345), the Early Medieval cemetery (PRN 10131) and the warreners house (PRN 12610) and the Roman ditch beneath the Down (PRN 11349).

Archaeological investigation at Brean Down began with members of the University of Bristol Spelaeological Society during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Much of this activity consisted of the collection of material that had already eroded out of the archaeological contexts but in the case of the beaker remains (PRN 11345) found in 1936 limited excavation was undertaken when it was considered unavoidable. An account of the discovery of the beaker remains was published in the PUBSS in 1949 and it included sketch plans of the location of the artefacts, comments on the pottery and photographs of the reconstructed vessels.

In 1961 a summary of all the artefacts pertaining to Brean Down and all the observations made by members of the UBSS was published in the Society's proceedings. It is a comprehensive document encompassing detailed plans, sections and comments on the limited excavation of endangered materials. The article also contains artefact reports on all the pottery, lithics and small finds recovered from the

site. A further article on the Society's work was published in 2000 and it included a re-assessment of the site archives.

The excavations and monitoring work (PRNs 11342, 11343, 11344 and 15191) carried out under the direction of Martin Bell at Brean Down have been published in Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society, the Severn Estuary Research Committee Annual Reports and an English Heritage report was published in 1990. The English Heritage report represents a full catalogue of all the work completed between 1983 and 1987 and includes illustrations, artefact and palaeoenvironmental analysis. The an account of the results monitoring project (PRN 11348) that revealed the Roman ditch below Brean Down (PRN 11349) was published in the PUBSS in 2000.

The collection of fishweirs (PRN 33348) located in Minehead Bay has not been excavated but their locations and extent were published 1980s in the Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeology and Natural History Society. A wreck in Minehead (PRN 35544), was located during the Minehead Sea Defences environmental assessment. It was professionally planned and timber samples were sent for radiocarbon dating. The results are held within the HER records but the site remains unpublished.

#### **5.4.14.3 Environmental Assessments**

The first attempts to model sea level change within the study area were carried out by Heyworth and Kidson (1976 and 1982). These models have been significantly revised by later research (Haslett *et al* 1998 and 2001). Detailed early prehistoric environmental studies have taken place on submerged forests (Druce 1998) and in the inter-tidal area of Minehead Bay (Jones *et al* 2005). Another late Mesolithic to early Neolithic sequence has been analysed at Porlock Bay in advance of the shingle ridge breaching (Jones *et al* 2001 and Straker *et al* 2004).

Significant faunal remains from the prehistoric to medieval period are limited to the area around Brean Down (Bell 1990) and the adjoining foreshore (Allen *et al* 1996 and 2000) Despite these recent and detailed studies there are still many gaps in our knowledge of the coastal area. Very little work has been carried out on the evolution of the coast in the historic period and many questions still remain unanswered about the earlier periods especially the nature of the early prehistoric economy, the role of fishing and dairying and the relationship of human activity to stratigraphic change (eg. Bell 2001).

#### **5.4.14.4 Artefact Examination**

There have been no local level artefact studies carried out on any of the material recovered from the coastal deposits character area. However the Mesolithic material from Minehead (PRN 33782) was included in John Wymer's 1977 gazetteer of Mesolithic sites and the lead curse (PRN 11350) from Brean was discussed in Hassall and Tomlin's Britannia monograph on Roman inscriptions in 1985.

### **5.4.15 Comparison between the Archaeological Resource of the Core Character Area and the Buffer Zone**

#### **5.4.15.1 The Palaeolithic Period**

There is one record assigned to the Palaeolithic period within the buffer zone and it relates to Lower Palaeolithic flint from near Watchet (PRN 34161). The paucity of Palaeolithic remains in both the core character area and buffer zone is not surprising

even despite the size difference between each area. In the County as a whole Palaeolithic records make up less than 1% of the chronologically searched records.

#### **5.4.15.2 The Mesolithic Period**

There are five Mesolithic entries for the buffer zone all relate to lithics and in similarity to the core character area they are concentrated in West Somerset, however unlike the core they do appear to the east of Minehead in areas such as Blue Anchor (PRN 33892) and Chapel Cleeve (PRN 15515). Two of the collections do come from Minehead (PRNs 35243 and 35244) and the former also contained Neolithic material, this is comparable to the collection from the submerged forest at Minehead Bay (PRN 33782) in the core zone which also contained multi period lithics. At Ash Farm, Porlock (PRN 33930) Bronze Age lithics and Medieval pottery was also discovered. The buffer zone is approximately eight times larger than the core and yet it only contains two more Mesolithic records.

#### **5.4.15.3 The Neolithic Period**

There are four Neolithic records in the buffer zone and they include pottery recovered from beneath the Roman Temple on Brean Down (PRN 10117) and a collection of lithics from Minehead which also had Mesolithic components (PRN 35243). The final two records are concentrated around Dunster (PRN 33793 and 35238) and also relate to lithics.

The buffer zone contains two more Neolithic entries than the core despite representing the larger area however the distribution of the Neolithic entries for the buffer is the identical to the core, with material having been recovered from West Somerset and Brean Down in both cases.

#### **5.4.15.4 The Bronze Age**

There are eight Bronze Age records in the buffer zone representing four times as many entries than there are in the core character area. Six of the buffer zone records relate to features that are probably Bronze Age burial mounds. Three are situated on Brean Down (PRNs 10122, 10124 and 10126), two are at Bossington Hill (PRNs 33794 and 34001) and the final entry is at Crexy Combe, Minehead (PRN 35628). The other two Bronze Age records represent a defended enclosure at Furzebury Brake (PRN 33797) and a collection of material that also contained Mesolithic flint and Medieval pottery from Ash Farm, Porlock (PRN 33930).

The appearance of possible barrows or cairns within the buffer zone is in direct contrast to the settlement activity (PRN 10133) within the core character area. While the beaker remains (PRN 11345) on the beach at Brean and the deposit which contained the two gold bracelets (PRN 10133) may have once represented burials there are no burial mounds within the core. This is a situation that is not surprising as barrows and cairns tend to be situated on higher ground and so the appearance of such monuments in the buffer zone highlights the geological differences between the two areas. Additionally by considering both the coastal deposits and immediate area around them it is possible to see the Bronze Age settlement on Brean Down in its wider landscape context.

#### **5.4.15.5 The Iron Age**



There are three Iron Age records in the buffer zone and they comprise of the Hillfort at Brean Down (PRN 10115), the defended enclosure at Furzebury Brake (PRN 33797) and artefacts recovered from Steart Marsh (PRN 10657). Compared to the records for the core there are two more entries in the buffer zone but activity at Brean Down appears in both areas. The two records that are not related to Brean Down in the buffer zone demonstrate that Iron Age activity was taking place on the coastal fringes both in the west and central Somerset regions.

#### **5.4.15.6 General Prehistoric Entries**

There are eight records within the buffer zone that have been assigned a general Prehistoric date and these entries represent the only example in which the size difference (the buffer zone is approximately eight times larger than the core) between to two areas is reflected in the HER entries. The general prehistoric records include material recovered from two submerged forests at Stolford shore (PRN 34078) and Madbrain Sands, Minehead (PRN 35064) and two cropmarks consist of an enclosure and ring-ditch from Carhampton Knap (PRN 35245) and an enclosure at Blue Anchor (PRN 35274). The other material relates to two peat deposits (PRNs 12008 and 12653), lithics from Stolford beach (PRN 34893) and animal bone from Berrow (PRN 12634).

Artefacts recovered from submerged forests appear as general Prehistoric entries in both the core and buffer zone (PRNs 33942, 34078 and 35064) and in both areas the records reflect monuments often assigned general dates in the absence of clearer dating evidence. In contrast to the core character area the buffer zone contains two cropmark features (PRN 35245 and 35274) which further illustrates that the types of archaeological remains within the core are a reflection of the underlying geology.

#### **5.4.15.7 The Roman Period**

There are six Roman entries for the buffer zone, four of which relate to Brean Down and they consist of the Hillfort (PRN 10115), a field system (PRN 10116), the temple (PRN 10117) and multi-period site (PRN 12514). The final two entries represent artefacts found near Blue Anchor (PRN 33892) and Stogursey (PRN 34062).

In similarity to the core character area the Roman entries for the buffer zone are dominated by the activity on Brean Down illustrating the importance of the Down in the Roman period. In contrast to the core character Roman artefacts have been found in West and central Somerset and despite the difference in size in favour of the buffer zone between the two areas the number of HER entries for the core and buffer zones do not reflect this.

#### **5.4.15.8 The Early Medieval Period**

There are five Early Medieval records in the buffer zone and of two entries relate to Brean Down, these are a field system (PRN 10116) and the Roman Temple (PRN 10117) which appears to have been modified in the Early Medieval period. The remaining records represent the Church at Culbone (PRN 34885), East Myne deserted farm near Minehead (PRN 33796) and Daws Castle, Watchet (PRN 34164).

The Early Medieval period within the buffer zone provides a more reflective picture of the types of monuments assigned to the period in Somerset than is evident in the core. The entries from Brean Down present a wider context for the cemetery (PRN 10131) eroded from the sand cliff, while the deserted farmstead highlights the geological differences between both areas. The buffer zone records are also more

evenly distributed than those within the core with monuments of this dating in West Somerset as well as the north. While there are three more Early Medieval entries for the buffer zone than there are for the core this is minor when the sizes of the two areas are compared.

#### **5.4.15.9 The Medieval Period**

Thirty-five of the buffer zone records have been assigned to the Medieval period. Thirteen of the records represent settlement remains, eight are deserted farm sites, three are villages or hamlets, one is an extant farm near Porlock (PRN 33954) and the Town and port at Watchet (PRN 34163) are also within the buffer zone. There are six ecclesiastical records, four mills, three field systems, two deer parks and two artefacts discoveries within the buffer zone assigned to the Medieval period. The remaining records comprise of a well and possible forge and an enclosure on Brean Down (PRNs 10112 and 10114), fishweirs near Brean (PRN 12360), earthworks at Steart (PRN 11133) and a market cross at Minehead.

The Medieval period is comparatively well represented in the buffer zone and the records represent domestic and ecclesiastical remains. The geological differences between the buffer zone and core character area are highlighted by the dominance of agricultural settlement remains within the buffer zone. The proximity of the coast is reflected by Watchet Town (PRN 34163) and the fishweirs (PRN 12360). While there are appreciably more Medieval remains in the buffer zone than there are in the core the size differences between the two areas are not reflected in the HER records.

#### **5.4.15.10 The Post Medieval Period**

There are one hundred and ninety-four Post Medieval records in the buffer zone and sixty-seven relate directly to Second World War entries. Twenty-five of the Second World War entries relate to pillboxes, seventeen are tank ranges and obstacles, three are slit trenches and two are roads. The other remains include a Nissen huts near Dunster (PRN 17641) and four military structures including an observation post on Brean Down (PRNs 12363, 12364, 12365 and 12380).

The remaining one hundred and twenty-four entries can be broadly divided into industrial remains, domestic evidence, coastal activities and agricultural entries. The industrial records include nineteen limekilns, eight quarries, four brickworks and two charcoal burning sites. The domestic evidence includes eight building remains, two deserted farm, two ecclesiastical buildings, a cottage site and Watchet Town and Port (PRN 34163). Evidence of coastal activity comprises of eight fishweirs, two wrecks, a lighthouse near Burnham (PRN 12003) and oyster bank at Porlock Bay (PRN 18074). The agricultural entries include five water meadows, three field systems, three field clearance mounds, two farm waterwheels, a building on Bossington Hill (PRN 35887) and a sheep pen at Stogursey (PRN 18144).

The Post Medieval remains for the buffer zone reflect the extensive pattern of occupation that has taken place on the coastal fringes and includes activities which relate to the exploitation of coastal resources, industrialisation and agricultural practises. There are some similarities between the types of records found in the core and buffer zones particularly records which relate to the exploitation of marine resources. However the geological differences are highlighted by the existence of industrial processing such as the brick works and greater number of limekilns which

The Second World War records for the two areas are similar with pillboxes being the best represented monument within both groups. This is unsurprising, the Somerset coastline was considered to be under threat during the conflict and the Second World War remains for both areas reflect the defensive line.

#### **5.4.15.11 *Uncertain Entries***

There are thirty-six entries that have been assigned to the Uncertain category within the buffer zone and they can be broadly divided into dryland and coastal remains. The dryland remains consist of six mounds; six cropmarks and five earthworks. The cropmarks comprise of two field systems, two enclosures, one enclosure and possible ring-ditch and one circular feature. The earthworks consist of three enclosures, one linear feature and one field boundary. The coastal remains include five timber finds, three fish traps, one fishweir and a barrel. The timber finds are concentrated on the mud flats around Steart.

While entries relating to fishweirs appear in both the core and buffer zone the remaining types of monument within the buffer zone are reflective of its geological make up, hence the number of features visible as cropmarks and the artefacts recovered from the mud flats which lie inland behind the sand deposits.

#### **5.4.16 *Summary of the Known Archaeological Resource***

Prehistoric activity (Palaeolithic-Iron Age and general Prehistoric entries) in the core coastal character area is limited to two distinct locales. Mesolithic and Neolithic artefacts found often in association with the submerged forests around Porlock and Minehead suggest that these early prehistoric communities were taking advantage of the relatively easy access to the coastal resources provided by this low lying area. A similar situation can be found to the north of the County at Berrow and Brean, Brean Down itself would have provided shelter while the low lying nature of the coastline at Berrow may have seemed an attractive area from which to exploit the coastal bounty. The continuity of activity at Brean from the Palaeolithic through to the Early Medieval certainly suggests that the area's advantages were fully understood.

The apparent lack of prehistoric archaeology from the central part of the core character area between Minehead and Burnham-on-Sea is likely to be partly due the nature of the geology illustrated by the extensive mudflats. Prehistoric activity was obviously taking place further inland on these deposits as there as a number of artefacts have been discovered from around Stolford (PRN 34893) within the buffer zone.

The Prehistoric periods within the core character area are poorly represented making up only 8% of the chronologically searched records and 50% of the prehistoric entries are centred on Brean Down. When compared to the buffer zone the percentages of the total number of records are strikingly similar with only 9.5% of the buffer zone records relating to prehistoric activity and while prehistoric activity is also taking place on the parts of Brean Down in the buffer zone it only makes up 13% of the total number of prehistoric records. The similarity of the percentages of prehistoric entries for both the core and buffer zone is also significant because the buffer zone is eight times larger than the core. When both the prehistoric entries for the core and buffer zones are compared to the County as a whole there are

approximately 20% more prehistoric records in the County than there are in these two areas.

Roman entries within the coastal character area and buffer zones are also poorly represented and they account for less than 5% of the total number of chronologically searched records in both areas, despite the noticeable size difference between the two areas. However in the County as a whole only 6% of the HER entries relate to the Roman period. Little can be inferred from the Roman records within the core character area about settlement activity the entries from the buffer zone suggest a more extensive occupation at Brean Down and they illustrate a limited amount of activity further down the coast towards West Somerset.

The Early Medieval records in the core are centred upon the northern half of the character area and once suggesting continuity in activity around Berrow and Brean, a slightly different picture is provided by the buffer zone results with a broader distribution and settlement activity represented in West Somerset. The Early Medieval period is not well represented in Somerset as a whole and therefore the discovery of the cemetery at Brean Down (PRN 10131) within the core character area and the activity at the Roman Temple (PRN 10117) are of major importance to our understanding of the period.

From the prehistoric periods through to the Early Medieval Brean Down and its immediate environs dominate the records for both the core and buffer of the coastal area. There is little doubt that this locality provides some of the most significant archaeological remains within the County and it is to our advantage that some of these remains have been systematically and professionally studied. The dunes system at Berrow and Brean is excluded from the current Somerset MLP and the significance of the known archaeological remains of that area must be considered of high importance should any future plans come into consideration.

Medieval records within the character area make up approximately 7% of the chronologically searched entries and there is an increase of around 4% in the buffer zone for these records although it doesn't account for the difference in size between the two areas. The buffer zone records are dominated by occupation activities such as deserted villages, farmsteads and agricultural landscapes. This is in contrast to the core of the character area and indicates that the geological differences be in part responsible. When compared to the Medieval records from the County as a whole there is only a 3% increase on the records within the buffer zone and a 9% increase on those in the core.

The most prevalent types of monument within the Coastal character area are Second World War defensive structures and they account for 45% of the chronological searched entries for the area on the HER. This is by far the largest group within the core area. The importance of the coastal resources in the Post-Medieval period is reflected by the prevalence of fishweirs the other records for this period also reflect the economy of the area a situation which is largely mirrored by the buffer zone but with a greater number of industrial processes being evident in the buffer zone. Post Medieval entries account for 73% of the core character area entries and this is an increase of 10% on the buffer zone and 38% on the County as a whole.

The number of Uncertain entries for the coastal character area is comparatively low at just 5% when compared to 11% in the buffer zone and the County as a whole respectively. However if we consider that Prehistoric entries only account for 9% , Roman and Early Medieval less 5% and Medieval 7% the need for advanced dating of these entries is apparent.

The archaeology of the coastal character area demonstrates a long history of exploitation of the marine resources dating back at least to the Mesolithic period. There are no current plans to allow further aggregate extraction for sand within these areas, however should that decision change it is likely significant archaeological deposits would be at risk.

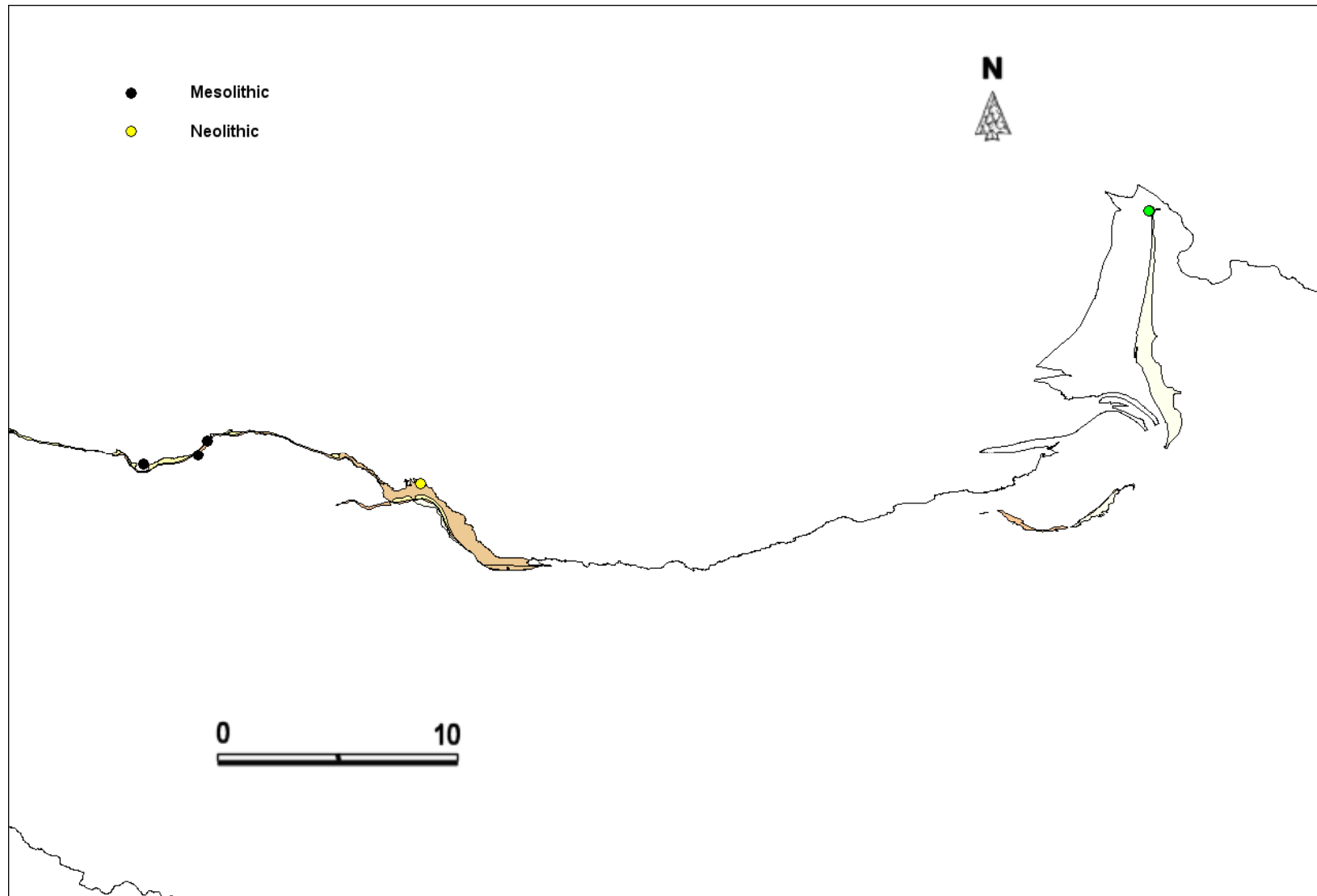


Fig. 13 Coastal Character Area Resource Assessment Early Prehistoric Records



Fig. 14 Coastal Character Area Resource Assessment Later Prehistoric Records

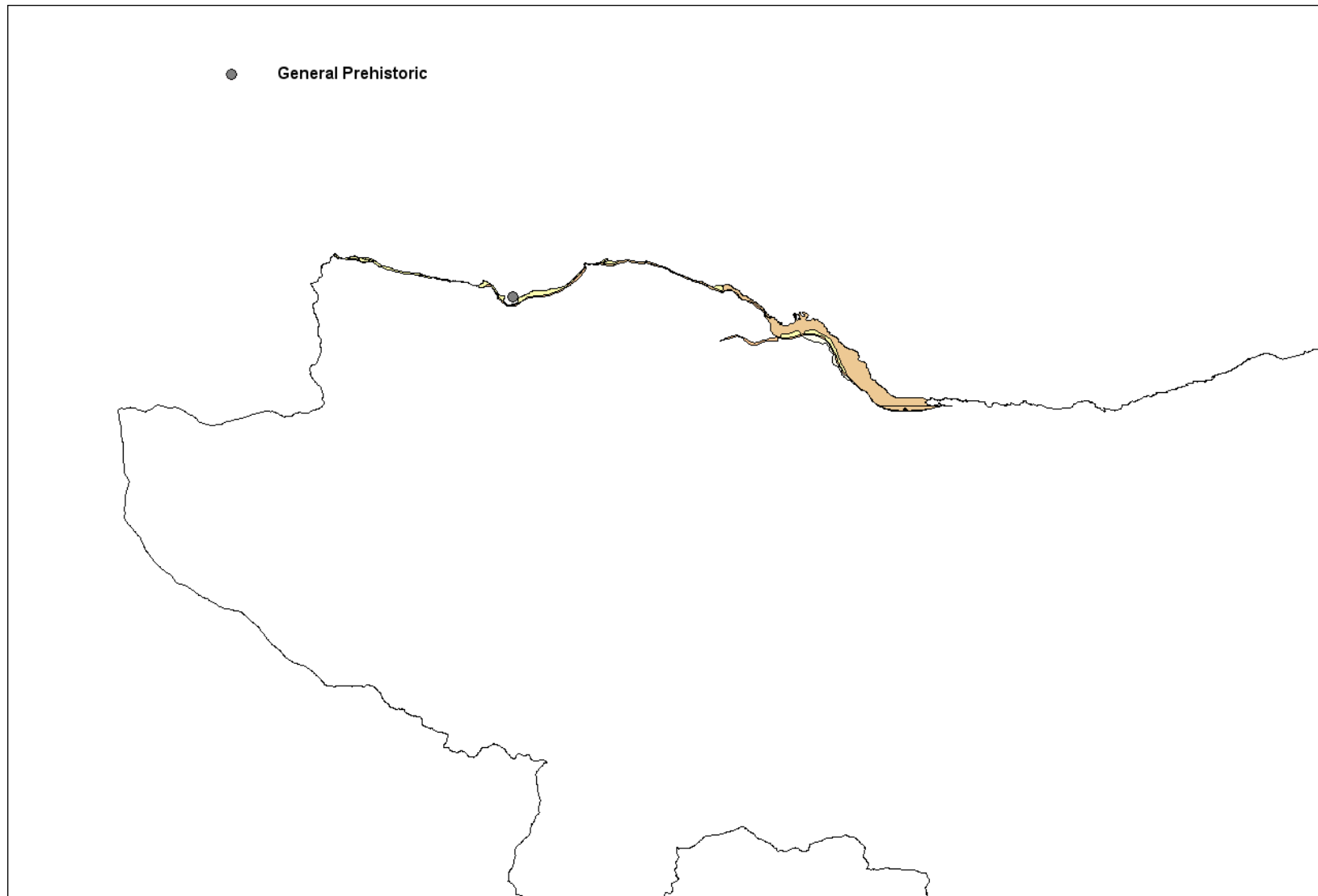


Fig. 15 Coastal Character Area Resource Assessment General Prehistoric Records





Fig. 16 Coastal Character Area Resource Assessment Roman Records

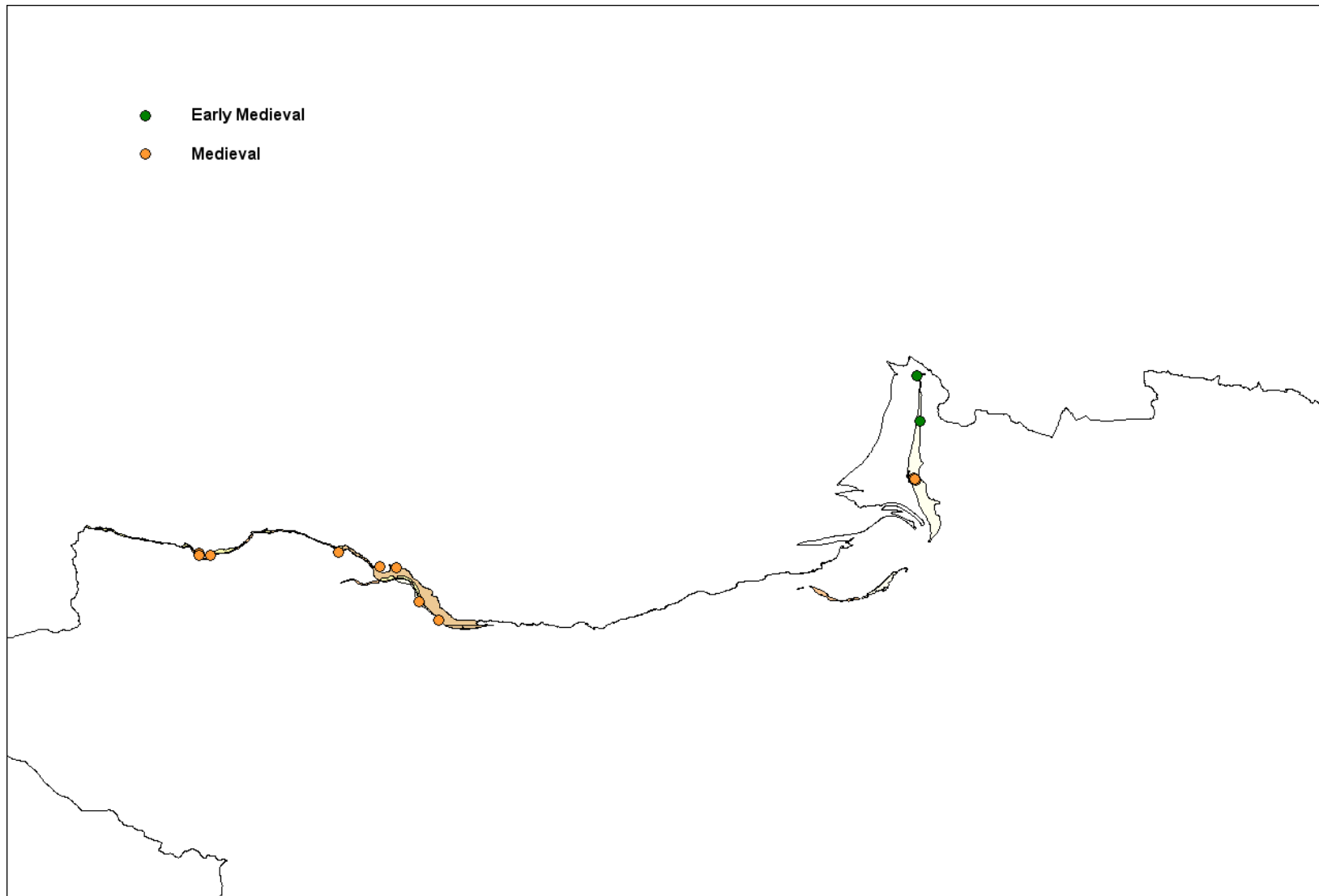


Fig. 17 Coastal Character Area Resource Assessment Early Med and Medieval Records

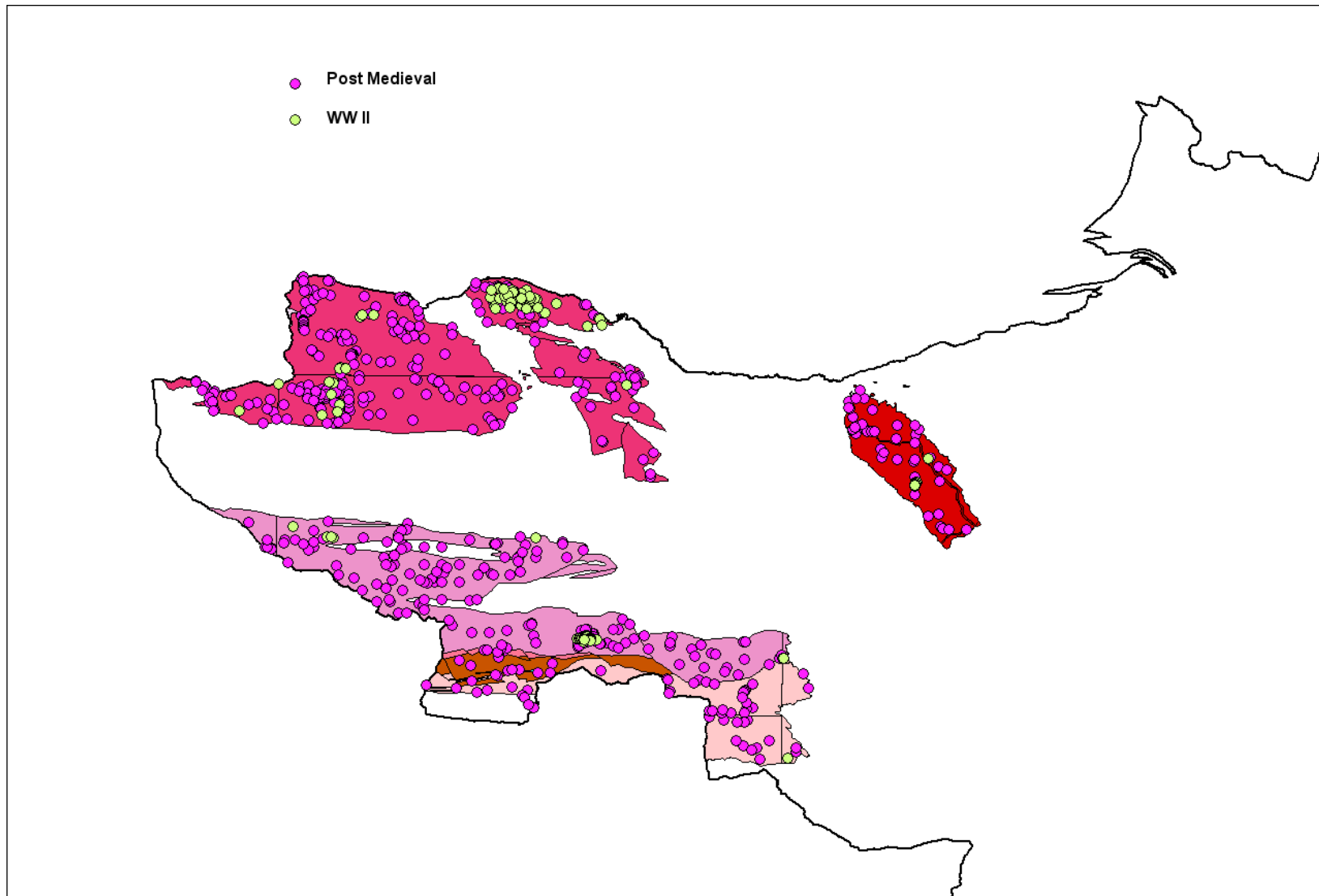


Fig. 18 Coastal Character Area Resource Assessment Post Medieval and WW II Records

## 5.5 River Terrace Deposits Resource Assessment

### 5.5.1 Introduction

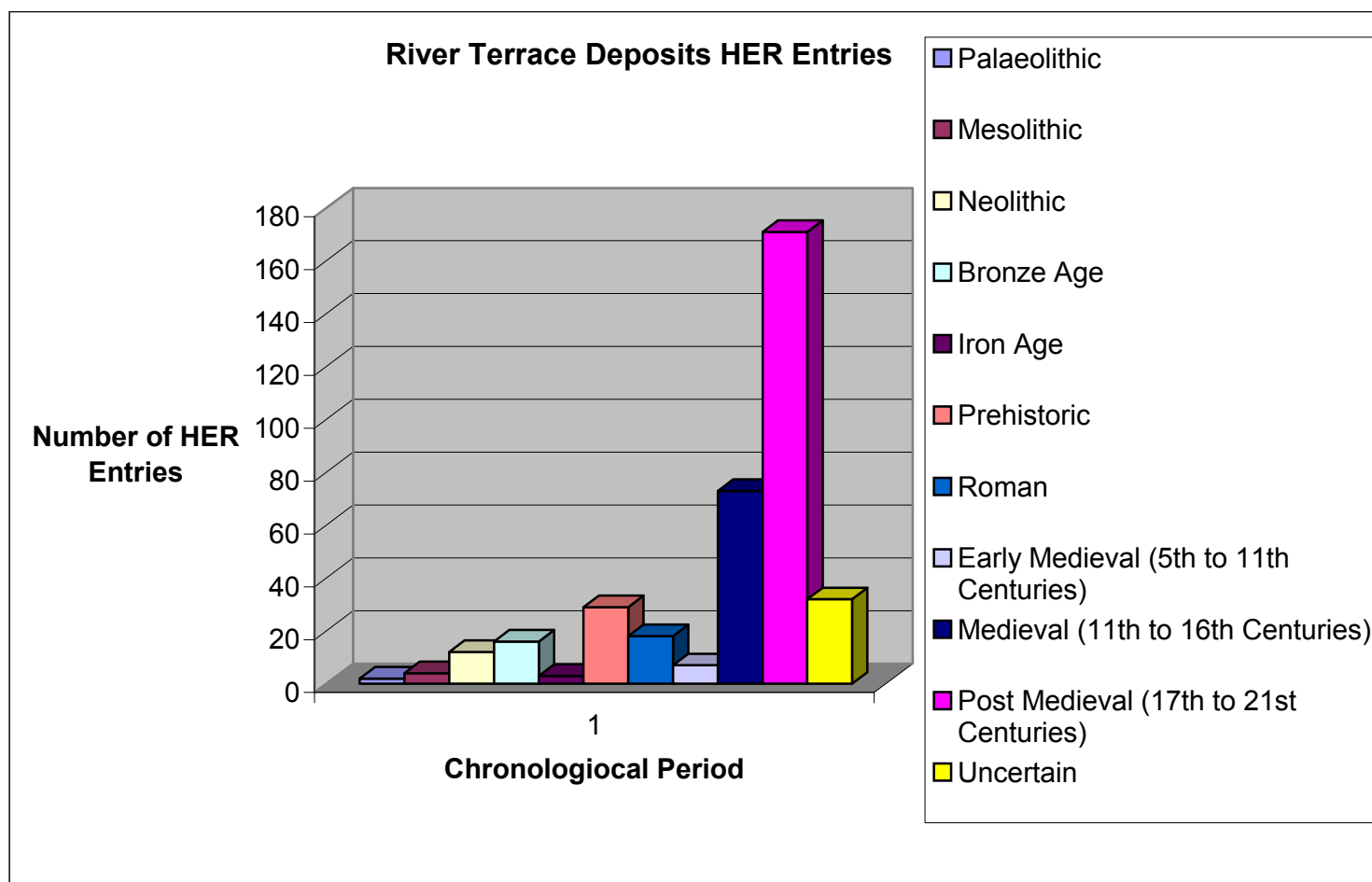
There are numerous small pockets of river terrace deposits within Somerset and within the Somerset County boundary they consist of a total area of 58.6 square kilometres, although none of them cover an area larger than 12 square kilometres individually. A search of the Somerset HER identified three hundred and twenty-six entries for the area including sites which overlapped within the surrounding geology but which lay substantially on the river terrace deposits. These records were then searched chronologically and produced three hundred and sixty-seven separately dated archaeological entries.

In addition to the search performed for the core river terrace deposits a further chronological search was made of a one kilometre buffer zone around the core covering an area of 666.2 square kilometres, this was in order to assess whether the types of archaeological sites recorded on the HER varied according to the underlying geology. These two datasets were compared to results for the County as a whole, which has a total area of 3,504 square kilometres and the results of the searches are illustrated in Table28.

**Table28 Table of Chronological HER Search Results for the River Terrace Deposits Character Area**

Period	River Terrace Deposits	Buffer Zone	Somerset number & %	
Palaeolithic	2	6	80	<1%
Mesolithic	4	8	124	<1%
Neolithic	12	14	323	<2%
Bronze Age	16	67	1242	1%
Iron Age	3	21	230	<2%
General Prehistoric	29	119	2731	16%
<b>Total number of Prehistoric Entries</b>	<b>(66)</b>	<b>(235)</b>	<b>(4730)</b>	<b>(29%)</b>
Roman	18	85	1032	6%
Early Medieval (5th to 11th Centuries)	7	15	169	1%
Medieval (11th to 16th Centuries)	73	331	2723	16%
Post Medieval (17th to 21st Centuries)	171	1061	5850	35%
Uncertain	32	177	1870	11%
<b>Total</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>1904</b>	<b>16374</b>	

**Table29 Graph of Chronological Search Results for the River Terrace Deposits Character Area.**



## 5.5.2 Known Archaeological Resource

### 5.5.3 The Palaeolithic Period

There are two Palaeolithic entries for the river terrace deposits character area. Both entries relate to chert handaxe finds, one of which (PRN 44292) was recovered during a fieldwalking project on the Norton Camp Hillfort (PRN 43399) and the other was a chance discovery found near Chard (PRN 55260).

It is difficult to ascertain much information from these two records as they both essentially represent isolated finds however the discovery of Palaeolithic material from this type of geology is not unexpected as elsewhere in the Country significant remains have been discovered from river terrace sites. The Southern Rivers Project, carried out in partnership between Wessex Archaeology and English Heritage has studied many of the Palaeolithic remains found in Britain an attempt to better understand these objects and their distribution. The handaxe from Norton Fitzwarren was also included in this study.

### 5.5.4 The Mesolithic Period

There are four entries relating to Mesolithic artefacts found within the character area. Two of the collections were recovered by A L Wedlake in the parish of Old Cleeve (PRNs 15515 and 33892) and are now within the County Museum, Taunton. PRN 33892 is reported to contain thousands of lithics and may relate to a flint working site, Neolithic and Bronze Age material was also found at this location. In the parish of Selworthy (PRN 35236) Mesolithic artefacts were recovered from within a sub-rectangular cropmark enclosure (same PRN), this collection also contained Neolithic material and it is held within the Cornish Collection at the County Museum, Taunton. A small Mesolithic flint assemblage was recovered during excavations carried out between 1968 and 1971 (PRN 44795) at Norton Camp Hillfort (PRN 43399) and is also within the County Museum, Taunton.

The material recovered from the parish of Old Cleeve presents an interesting collection, the entry for PRN 15515 is simply described as a flakes and cores and there is no indication of how many objects there are in total. It was however found just over a kilometre to the south-east of the material recovered from PRN 33892 to the east of Blue Anchor. There is much more information on this assemblage which came from at least three different find spots and is reported to include at least 650 blades or flakes, 65 scrapers, 7 graters, 29 microliths, 21 microburins and unspecified number of cores. It is also recorded that a significant proportion of the material was fabricated from the local chert, which ties in with other collections from the south and western Somerset areas. The quantity and typology of the material from PRN 33892 supports the suggestion that it represents a lithic production site, whether there is any connection between this material and that from PRN 15515 is not possible to state.

The entry for the material from the parish of Selworthy (PRN 35236) appears to have been recovered by an amateur collector following ploughing in the 1940s, the artefacts held within the County Museum are recorded on the HER as consisting of two blades or flakes, five scrapers and seven microliths and perhaps represents a hunting toolkit. The assemblages from Old Cleeve (PRN 33892) Selworthy (PRN 35236) were included in John Wymer's 1977 gazetteer of Mesolithic sites. The Mesolithic artefacts (PRN 43399) recovered during the excavation (PRN 44795) of Norton Camp Hillfort are described as being largely unstratified, consisting of both flint and chert implements with the most diagnostic pieces being bipolar bladelet cores, material dating to Neolithic and Bronze Age was also amongst this assemblage. The hillfort is a Scheduled monument.

While there are very few Mesolithic entries for the river terrace deposits character area, their distribution is limited south-western half of Somerset. Three of these entries (PRNs 15515, 33892, 35236) could be described as being locate near the coastal fringes and they may represent the remains of base camps from which hunter-gatherers could exploit either the marine or inland resources. There were only a small number of Mesolithic artefacts recovered from Norton Camp hillfort (PRN 43399) and they probably represent a transient episode in the life of the site.

#### **5.5.5 The Neolithic Period**

Twelve of the entries for the character area relate to the Neolithic period. Nine of the records consist of lithic finds including scrapers, arrowheads and perforated maceheads, four were recovered by independent collectors and two were reported by the OSAD. The Somerset Levels Project (SLP) recovered a number of lithics from

within an area of cropmarks at Aller Moor (PRN 55012), a further collection was recovered during an amateur fieldwalking exercise near Evercreech (PRN 25732) and a small assemblage of Neolithic artefacts was recovered from Norton Camp Hillfort (PRN 43399) during the excavations between 1968 and 1971 (PRN 44795). Two of the Neolithic records relate to cropmarks identified from aerial photographs and consist of a possible cursus or mortuary enclosure near High Ham (PRN 54823) and an enclosure at Aller Moor (PRN 55012). The final record relates to a possible long barrow or dolmen noted and investigated by Harold St George Gray at the Battlegore barrow cemetery near Williton (PRN 34188).

The distribution of the Neolithic artefacts within the character area shows a distinct bias towards West Somerset with five of the records relating to this area (PRNs 33452, 33793, 33892, 35236 and 35238). In the case of two of the entries this material has been found at sites which have contained Mesolithic artefacts (PRNs 33892 and 35236), the collection from Old Cleeve (PRN 33892) refers to leaf-shaped arrowheads amongst the Neolithic component which suggests hunting activity may have been taking place. The other collection from the West Somerset area specifically containing flint came from near Carhampton (PRN 33452) and refers to cores and flakes of an unspecified number indicating a certain amount of knapping activity at that site.

Two of the entries refer to material found near Dunster (PRNs 33973 and 35793). Three shaft-holed adzes and a macehead are recorded for PRN 33973 on the HER although their provenance is uncertain. A holed-axe hammer was recovered from a building pit along with other flint implements from near Dunster Station (PRN 35793). There is undoubtedly some significance to the discovery of holed implements in the same general geographical area, petrological examination was carried out on the four implements from PRN 33973 and they are considered to be of Devonian Sandstone (Minnitt 1978: 153-156) which is the underlying geology of the area immediate to Dunster, whether these represent the remains of some form of production site for the area is not possible to ascertain, two of the shaft-holed adzes were considered to be undamaged although the macehead and the third shaft-holed adze showed signs of what are possibly wear.

At Norton Camp Hillfort (PRN 43399) lithics of a late Neolithic or early Bronze Age were amongst a small largely unstratified collection recovered during excavations (PRN 44795) between 1968 and 1971, they were studied as part of the post-excavation process and included scrapers and flakes perhaps representing short phase of activity at the site. The remaining artefact collections are spread across the character area including North Petherton (PRN 10468) and Evercreech (PRN 25732). At Aller Moor (PRN 55012) at least one Neolithic scraper was recovered along with four other prehistoric flints by the Somerset Levels Project from area where subsequent aerial photographic analysis (DAPs) have identified an enclosure and possible field boundaries.

The two remaining Neolithic records represent something of a mixed selection each in isolation from one another. The possible cursus or mortuary enclosure near Decoy Farm, High Ham (PRN 54823) was also identified from the DAPs although no further work has been carried out to confirm or disprove this identification. Whilst Harold St George Gray was convinced of a long barrow or dolmen (PRN 34188) at the Battlegore Barrow Cemetery in Williton (PRN 35378), Gray carried out a small excavation in 1931 around an area of three large stones at the cemetery. He recovered an arrowhead and several other un-diagnostic pieces of flint and was able to ascertain that at least one stone was still standing in its socket hole but no further evidence to support his theory was discovered.

The Neolithic records for the river terrace deposits demonstrate a general bias towards the west and central parts of Somerset. Dominated by lithic remains there is evidence of both hunting and processing activities amongst these assemblages. The discovery of Neolithic artefacts at Norton Camp Hillfort (PRN 43399) may indicate an earlier phase to the site and the presence of a possible henge (PRN 44211) to the north of the site (not on the geology) has been used to suggest that there was a ritual significance to the site during the Neolithic, however no evidence to support this supposition were discovered during the excavations. There may be a ritual monument at Decoy Farm, High Ham (PRN 54823) as located by aerial photography and the lack of such monuments within Somerset would make it highly significant if it were proved to be so, unfortunately further fieldwork is required in order to confirm its true status. In similarity it is possible that there was a megalithic structure (PRN 34188) at the Battlegore Barrow Cemetery (PRN 35378) but the work by Harold St George Gray remains inconclusive.

### **5.5.6 The Bronze Age**

There are sixteen Bronze Age entries for the river terrace deposits character area. There are four collections of Bronze Age lithic finds one found during a fieldwalking exercise near Dodhill (PRN 44534), one from a larger collection of Mesolithic material found in the parish of Old Cleeve (PRN 33892), one discovered during an archaeological monitoring project (PRN 44646) near North Curry and a collection of material from the excavations (PRN 44795) at Norton Camp Hillfort (PRN 43399). A bronze hoard which contained axes and bracelets (PRN 44797) was also discovered during the Norton Camp Hillfort excavations. The Bronze Age artefacts from the character area are held at the County Museum, Taunton.

There are four barrows and one possible burial chamber within the character area dated to the Bronze Age, four of these features relate to the Battlegore Barrow Cemetery (PRN 35378) which was investigated by Harold St George Gray and the other relates to a barrow reported by the Reverend Skinner at Oldford (PRN 23142) but which is no longer extant. There are two cropmark ring ditches identified from aerial photographs also at the Battlegore Barrow Cemetery and it seems likely that they also represent round barrows (PRNs 35440 and 35441). The remaining three records relate to the Bronze Age occupation at Norton Camp Hillfort (PRN 43399), Middle to Late Bronze Age settlement evidence at Podimore (PRN 54793) found during an archaeological monitoring project and the discovery of timbers at Lyng, during the work on the Balt Moor Wall (an Early Medieval monument PRN 10545) which adze marks and radiocarbon dating methods suggest relate to the later Bronze Age (PRN 15623).

In 1931 Harold St George Gray carried out a small scale excavation at the Battlegore Barrow Cemetery in Williton (PRN 35278). He investigated two of the monuments, one of the three extant barrows (PRN 34185) and the burial chamber or dolmen (PRN 34188). Only a small amount of un-diagnostic flint and a Neolithic arrowhead were recovered from the burial chamber (PRN 34188) but the excavation of the barrow (PRN 34185) revealed a cist to the east of the centre in which was a secondary cremation of a female or young adult within an urn with an oak cover was found. A number of other flint implements, a sherd earlier Bronze Age pottery were found and posthole containing charcoal was also noted on the eastern edge of the mound. Gary found evidence of at least two other excavations and suggested the primary interment had been removed by the central shaft method some time previously. The artefacts recovered from the cemetery were deposited with the County Museum, Taunton and the monuments are Scheduled.



Harold St George Gray was also responsible for a trial trench (PRN 44796) dug into the defences on the western-north-western side Norton Camp Hillfort (PRN 43399) in 1908. His excavation produced evidence that the ditch had been initially dug in the Bronze Age with a later Iron Age and Roman activity cut into it. Between 1968 and 1971 further excavations (PRN 44795) were carried out under the direction of Philip Langmaid, assistant curator at the County Museum, Taunton. Numerous trenches were opened across the sites defences including to the south of Gray's original excavation and in the interior. The results of these excavations confirmed three phases of activity beginning in the Bronze Age and concluding in the Roman period.

It was during the excavation of one of the ditch segments that the discovery of an earlier Bronze Age metalwork hoard (PRN 44797) was made in a small pit within the ditch. It was badly corroded and consisted of nine bracelets and three axes one of which was socketed. The Langmaid excavations found no evidence of Bronze Age structures in the interior of the site but suggested that the ditch may have had a palisade during the later Bronze Age.

At Podimore (PRN 54793) an archaeological monitoring project that began with a geophysical survey (PRN 57053) in 1999 as a response to extension plans by RNAS Yeovilton confirmed the existence of a site already known as cropmarks. Trial trenching (PRN 57054) produced evidence for a Middle to Late Bronze Age enclosure, three ditches and two round houses. Later activity from the Iron Age and Roman periods were also found suggesting that this site represented a significant settlement.

The material recovered from the Battlegore Barrow Cemetery (PRN 35278), the monuments themselves and the cropmark ring ditches (PRNs 35440 and 35441) represent a cohesive group of Bronze Age monuments and the material complies with our existing knowledge of early Bronze Age funerary practises. Whether the collection of stones (PRN 34188) does indeed represent an earlier Neolithic monument is not possible to ascertain, whilst Gray's excavation produced some lithic material there was no remaining evidence of a burial. However some sherds of very early Bronze Age ware were removed from his excavation of the barrow (PRN 35378) suggesting these monuments date to the early period of barrow construction. The discovery of two ring ditches from analysis of the DAPs seem to indicate that this cemetery was larger than initially thought and indeed in 1931 Gray acknowledged that each of the extant barrows had suffered in some cases severe damage as a result of agricultural practises.

During strengthening works to the Balt Moor Wall (PRN 10545) three oak timbers (PRN 15623) were apparently recovered from a trench. They appeared to be structural and radiocarbon analysis produced a date of between 1370-1000 Cal BC which confirmed a late Bronze Age date suggested by adze marks on one of the pieces. Due to the somewhat inexact location of the discovery of the timber recovered from Lyng it is not possible to fully comment on its discovery however it does conform to evidence recovered from the neighbouring peat deposits within the area and further north in the County.

With the exception of the small amount of background lithic material from Norton Camp Hillfort (PRN 43399) the other three lithic collections dated to the Bronze Age period all contain barbed and tanged arrowheads. A blade and scraper were also recovered from near North Curry (PRN 44646). None of these collections contain more than six artefacts and it is not certain how many Bronze Age lithics were recovered from Old Cleeve (PRN 33892). Whilst these artefacts represent a very

The evidence recovered during the excavation of Norton Camp (PRN 43399) both by Harold St George Gray and the Langmaid's in the 1960s and 1970s provides important evidence of both an earlier origins for a site that appears to represent an Iron Age hillfort and the continuity of use of the site over a long period of time. Whilst there is no evidence of settlement within what became the hillfort it undoubtedly represents a significant Bronze Age monument. While the recent discovery of domestic activity at Podimore (PRN 54793) suggests an extensive settlement which was developed in the Bronze Age and continued in use or re-settled in the Iron Age and Roman periods. The discovery of round houses dating to this period is of particular importance because there is so little domestic structural evidence dating to the Bronze Age.

#### **5.5.7 The Iron Age**

There are three Iron Age entries for the river terrace deposits character area and they consist of Norton Camp Hillfort (PRN 43399), a settlement near Podimore (PRN 54793) and a series of cropmarks (PRN 54794) also at Podimore visible on aerial photographs which are likely to be part of the settlement at PRN 54793. Bronze Age and Roman occupation evidence has also been found at both sites

The development of Norton Camp (PRN 43399) into a defended hillfort from an earlier Bronze Age monument was discovered during the two phases of excavations in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, first by Harold St George Gray in 1908 (PRN 44796) who discovered the Iron Age defences were cut into the earlier one and between 1968 and 1971 by the Philip and Nancy Langmaid (PRN 44795). The Langmaid's excavations demonstrated that the later Bronze Age defences had been extended during the Iron Age and that there was evidence of activity in the centre of the hillfort which was interpreted as possible buildings.

At Podimore (PRN 54793) Iron Age and Roman pottery was recovered during an excavation that took place allegedly in 1911, while the pottery still remains there is no paper archive for the site but analysis of the DAPs during independent research by Roger Leech suggested an extensive settlement. In 1999 archaeological monitoring began at this site as a response to expansion plans at RNAS Yeovilton. The work included a geophysical survey (PRN 57053) and trial trenching (PRN 57054). The results confirmed that there was settlement activity in the area including pits, wells, postholes, round houses and rectangular stone buildings. The Iron Age evidence seemed to relate to the middle and end of the period.

The Iron Age records for this character area are limited to three sites located on river terrace deposits in the southern half of the County. In both cases settlement took place at sites already previously occupied in the Bronze Age and it continued into the Roman period. Although Norton Camp (PRN 43399) and the Podimore sites (PRN 54793 & 54794) represent very different monument types they demonstrate that these areas were considered to suitable for occupation over a long period of time.

#### **5.5.8 General Prehistoric Entries**

There are twenty-nine records that have been assigned to the general prehistoric group within the river terrace deposits character area. Twenty-four of these records relate to cropmark features identified from aerial photographs and they comprise of sixteen enclosures, four ring-ditches and four field systems. Multiple examples of these cropmarks appear around Aller Moor where there are four including an enclosure (PRN 55435) and ring-ditches (PRNs 55326 and 55327) and in the vicinity of North Petherton which are considered to be related and consist of enclosures and boundary features (PRNs 11923-11925). Near Creech St Michael there are also a series of enclosures and ring-ditches (PRNs 44193, 44231 and 44367).

The remaining five general prehistoric records relate to lithic finds which have not been assigned to a particular prehistoric period. Two of these collections were reported by the Somerset Levels Project from Aller Moor (PRNs 55012 and 55027), and a further two were chance finds recovered from near Porlock and Selworthy (PRNs 33968 and 33999). The remaining lithic finds were found during a monitoring project at North Curry (PRN 44646) one at least of which is a Bronze Age arrowhead. All the lithic material is held at the County Museum, Taunton.

All of the cropmark features within the general Prehistoric group were identified from the DAPs and their distribution demonstrates that there are several significant relic landscapes within the character areas. However based on our current knowledge little can be ascertained about the true nature and form of these features. For example the ring-ditches could easily represent either round barrows or round houses but without further investigation it is not possible to confirm either monument. The distribution of the lithic finds within the general Prehistoric group broadly conforms to the locations of the material assigned dates and in the case of Aller Moor (PRNs 55012 and 55027) they appear in areas where there are extensive cropmarks. Unfortunately it is the nature of lithics that in some cases it is not possible to ascertain a date for each piece however their use should not be underestimated as they still demonstrate areas of prehistoric activity.

#### **5.5.9 The Roman Period**

There are eighteen records assigned to the Roman Period within the character area. Settlement remains are the most dominant type of evidence within this group and twelve of these records relate directly such activity, there are four villa sites at Low Ham, Selwood, Lugshorn and Hurcot (PRNs 53980, 54407, 54483 and 54534) and one significantly sized occupation at Podimore (PRN 54793). Six of the Roman entries are Scheduled monuments and they consist of three settlement sites at Ditcheat, Lamyatt and Selwood (PRNs 23380, 23726 and 24463), two of the villas at Low Ham and Pitney (PRNs 53980 and 54407), and Norton Camp Hillfort (PRN 43399).

The settlement sites have been discovered in a variety of ways, intrusive archaeological investigations have taken place at eight of the sites. At Ditcheat (PRN 23380) agricultural activity had revealed evidence of a Roman building and the OSAD reported that amateur trial trenching had produced pottery and building material of a 2<sup>nd</sup> Century date. Further amateur investigation was carried out following the discovery of building material near Selwood (PRN 24463) and the removal of the topsoil over a 400 square metre area produced 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> Century pottery, tesserae and building materials.

Three of the villa sites have been subject to investigation, at Low Ham (PRN 53980) the villa site was discovered in 1938 and excavated from 1945 onwards. The site

represents a three-ranged dwelling with hypocausts, mosaic floors and a bath house. One of the mosaics representing scenes from the Aeneid is on display in the County Museum, Taunton. The site is believed to have been occupied between approximately AD200 and AD367 and further features are visible on aerial photographs. The villa at Pitney (PRN 54407) was excavated between 1828 and approximately 1832 by Samuel Hasell and is described as a courtyard type that may consist of two or three ranges, with a bathhouse, lead water pipes and painted wall plaster. The occupation is believed to have dated to between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Centuries AD.

Samuel Hasell also investigated two sites near Somerton in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, at Lugshorn (PRN 54483) he allegedly found building remains, metalwork and worked bone. The site was re-investigated in 1954 and no further remains were found, however in the 1960s the farmer reported discovering dressing stone and pottery during ploughing and the DAPs show a large sub-rectangular enclosure. At Hurcot (PRN 54534) Hasell reportedly found mosaics, a hypocaust and a bathhouse and between 1968 and 1971 further excavations took place on the site although the extent of this work is unknown. In 1993 a geophysical survey of the site was commissioned by RCHME/EH and the extent and plan of the buildings were recorded.

In 1908 Harold St George Gray carried out a small excavation (PRN 44796) across the defences at Norton Camp Hillfort (PRN 43399) and found quantities of Roman pottery in the upper fills. Between 1968 and 1971 further excavations were carried by the Langmaid's (PRN 44795) and they recovered quantities of local pottery dating to the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Centuries AD from across the site but no evidence for Roman style buildings were discovered. At Podimore (PRN 54793) an excavation is reported to have taken place in 1911 and Roman pottery was recovered along with material of an earlier date. In 1999 archaeological monitoring was initiated at Podimore in response to expansion plans by RNAS Yeovilton, a geophysical survey (PRN 57053) confirmed the features visible as cropmarks and trial trenching (PRN 57054) produced a series of late Roman features.

In the 1940s Roman material including pottery, tesserae, stone and coins were observed at Wearne (PRN 54039). In 1975 the excavation of trenches for sewage pipes and electricity cables revealed walls, ditches and further pottery. In addition aerial photographs held at the NMR show several rectangular enclosures on the site. In close proximity to this site at least four Roman burials (PRN 54038) have been discovered, initially the remains were found during building works in the 1930s, although further work in 1950 produced more remains. Non-intrusive archaeological investigation has taken place at the shrunken village site, Lamyatt (PRN 23726) which is Medieval in date is also thought to have Roman origins as it appears aligned to a Roman road and it was surveyed by the University of Bristol.

Four of the Roman records relate to artefacts; pottery was recovered during an archaeological monitoring project near Muchelney Abbey (PRN 15994), a fibula was recovered along with a large quantity of prehistoric lithics from near Blue Anchor (PRN 33892), a third century AD coin was found in garden at Mayfield Hillfarrance (PRN 43442) and a quantity of pottery was recovered during construction works at Hazelgrove House in Queen Camel (PRN 54431).

The Roman sites and monuments within the character area illustrate the development of the settlement sites on the fertile river plains, including a number of villas which in some cases appear to be in close proximity to one another for example at Lugshorn and Hurcot, Somerton (PRNs 54483 and 54534). The

settlement evidence also tends to be concentrated in southern Somerset where in fact there are the largest numbers of river terrace deposits. Whilst there has been a significant amount of excavation connected the villa sites it should be noted that these largely represent antiquarian investigations and therefore they do not represent comprehensive records or investigations as we would expect from more modern archaeological analysis.

#### **5.5.10 The Early Medieval Period**

The Early Medieval period within the character area is represented by seven records. Four of the records relate to ecclesiastical buildings with Early Medieval origins which have been identified through documentary sources, the OSAD and through archaeological investigation. Two of the Early Medieval records relate to Athelney and Lyng (PRNs 10545 and 44863) and there is one entry for pottery recovered during fieldwalking near Evercreech (PRN 25732).

At the Church of St Mary in North Petherton (PRN 10600) an excavation in 1975 (PRN 10999) to the north-west of the present church carried out by the Committee for Rescue Archaeology in Avon, Gloucestershire and Somerset (CRAAGS) produced evidence of 10<sup>th</sup> century activity including post holes, gullies, pits and beam slots which probably related to an early timber framed church.

Documentary evidence suggests Muchelney Abbey (PRN 54318) was founded in AD762 and re-established in the 10<sup>th</sup> Century AD. At least two phases of excavation have taken place at the site the first of which took place between 1872 and 1874. In the 1950s excavations revealed the plan of the church including the Early Medieval apsidal phase and several pieces of masonry dating to the period have been found at the site, it is in the care of English Heritage and is a Scheduled monument.

The Balt Moor Wall, also a Scheduled monument (PRN 10545) between East Lyng and Athelney is suggested to have existed in the 9<sup>th</sup> Century AD although the present structure is Medieval in date. A section through the wall in 1996 (PRN 12787) confirmed the Medieval phase but also revealed traces of an earlier bank. Documentary evidence for the causeway between Athelney and Lyng (PRN 44863) suggests that it was a precursor of the Balt Moor Wall. The final record relates to pottery recovered during a fieldwalking exercise at Evercreech that was found with a quantity of prehistoric lithics and has been suggested to be fifth or sixth century AD in date rather than earlier (PRN 25732).

The Early Medieval records for the character area broadly reflect what is known elsewhere within the County. There are three Churches with Early Medieval origins (PRNs 10600, 34887 and 53481) and Muchelney Abbey within this character area (PRN 54318). The causeway between Athelney and Lyng and the Balt Moot Wall (PRNs 10545 and 44863) seem to relate to the Saxon activities in both these areas although they are outside the bounds of this character area. Discoveries of Early Medieval pottery in Somerset are rare and the material recovered from the fieldwalking exercise near Evercreech (PRN 25732) may indeed be of this date but may equally as acknowledged by the survey be earlier in date, a common problem when assessing pottery of this period.

#### **5.5.11 The Medieval Period**

There are seventy-three entries within the character area that have been assigned a Medieval date. Nineteen of the records relate to settlement activity comprising of fifteen deserted villages, two deserted farmsteads, one extant farm and one cottage

site. Seven of these sites have been identified from aerial photographs, three have been recorded by SCC archaeology officers, two from documentary sources and two were reported by independent researchers. A further two settlement sites at Dulcote (PRN 25642) and Wincanton (PRN 57117) were discovered as a result of archaeological investigation. Single incidences of settlement activity have been recorded by a Local Government Officer, through a fieldwalking exercise and from an ordinance survey map. One of these sites at Lamyatt is a Scheduled monument (PRN 23726) and has also been surveyed by the University of Bristol.

During the Wells Relief Road Project (PRN 90080) a Post Medieval Cottage site was discovered near Dulcote (PRN 25642), Medieval pottery dating to the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Centuries was also produced from this site and thought to be associated with a field boundary. Settlement evidence (PRN 57117) was also found near Wincanton during a small excavation carried out by amateur archaeologists in advance of a pipeline (PRN 90143). Post holes, gullies and pits were revealed and the pottery recovered dated to between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Centuries AD.

Fourteen of the Medieval records relate to ecclesiastical buildings including Muchelney Abbey (PRN 54318), which is also a Scheduled monument. Twelve of the ecclesiastical buildings have been assigned a Medieval date as a result of documentary research, one by the OSAD and one by an SCC archaeology officer. One of the other ecclesiastical sites is a Chapel at Foddington (PRN 53519) is thought to be part of a larger settlement (PRN 53530). At St Mary's Church in North Petherton (PRN 10600) the current church dates to the 15<sup>th</sup> century, however archaeological excavations (PRN 10599) carried out by (CRAAGS) produced evidence of an Early Medieval church as well as suggesting a 13<sup>th</sup> century stone ecclesiastical building. Twenty-five 14<sup>th</sup> century burials were found to the north-west of the church, oriented east-west without coffins, a knife and potsherds were the only grave goods recovered. On the street front there was evidence for later domestic buildings.

Muchelney Abbey (PRN 54318) has been the subject of two phases of archaeological excavation and numerous monitoring projects. The first excavations were carried out between 1872 and 1874. Further work was carried out around 1950 and produced evidence of the Early Medieval apsidal church, the original Norman apse, a larger Norman apse and a square Gothic end. Between 1989 and 2003 a series of archaeological monitoring projects have taken place in and around the Abbey grounds (PRNs 12248, 15993, 16871, 35947, 57131 and 57132) these have provided more information of the extent of the Abbey including evidence of an earlier refectory, a later medieval culvert and post-dissolution remains. A geophysical survey (PRN 57061) was also carried in 1999 outside the area managed by English Heritage and it indicated the existence of further buildings to the east of the chapter house.

Dendrochronological work was carried out over a two year period at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the results which focussed on the reredorter and the abbots lodgings confirmed late 13<sup>th</sup> century to early 16<sup>th</sup> century dates for the timbers and in the case of the ceiling of the steward's room suggested that it may have originally been intended for a building elsewhere.

There are seven examples of Medieval cultivation activities including ridge and furrow within the character area, three have been identified from aerial photographs, two by an SCC archaeology officer, one was reported by the OSAD. The final field boundary is situated near Dulcote (PRN 25640) and was the subject of an earthwork survey (PRN 25638) in response to the Wells Relief Road Project, an evaluation

(PRN 90080) produced evidence of a bank and ditch in which was found 14<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> Century pottery.

There are six deer parks of Medieval date in the character area; four were identified from documentary sources, one through independent research and one was recorded by an SCC archaeology officer. One of the sites at Chewton Mendip was included in an independent fieldwork programme (PRN 25510). There are five manor houses, including two moated sites within the character area of Medieval date, three were identified from documentary sources, one was recorded by the OSAD and one by an SCC archaeology officer (PRN 53529) and is believed to be part of a larger settlement complex at Foddington (PRN 53530).

Five of the Medieval records relate to churchyard crosses, four of which have been dated using documentary sources and one by the OSAD, two of these crosses have been Scheduled (PRNs 11003 and 34631). There are also five examples of artefacts dating to the Medieval period within the character area, two collections represent pottery that was recovered as a result of archaeological monitoring projects at Alford and near Muchelney Abbey (PRN 15994 and 17078). There were two chance discoveries one of several coins and the other of paving glass slag (PRN 53964 and 53999). The final entry relates to pottery recovered during fieldwalking carried out by the Somerset Levels Project within a cropmark enclosure, which may be either prehistoric or Medieval in date.

Three of the Medieval records relate to buildings associated with Muchelney Abbey, they are the Almonry Farmhouse and Barn (PRN 54317 and 54840) which have been identified using documentary sources and the Abbey Barn (PRN 55450) whose origins were confirmed by a comprehensive buildings survey commissioned by English Heritage that suggested that although substantially re-built in the 18<sup>th</sup> century there were still monastic features visible within both structures. The Almonry and Abbey Barns are also Scheduled monuments. There are two fishponds dated to the Medieval period within the character area, one was initially recorded by the OSAD and subsequently surveyed by English Heritage (PRN 24893) and the other was identified from aerial photographs.

There are single incidences of the following types of monuments; one watermill identified from a documentary source, a potential harbour at Dunster noted by an independent researcher, one bridge which is also a Scheduled monument and identified as a result of documentary evidence, a wayside cross also identified from a documentary source, a dovecote recorded by the OSAD and a Leper Hospital initially identified from documentary material and confirmed due to remains found during the demolition of an adjacent property.

The Medieval material within the character area is dominated by two types of monuments those which relate to settlement activity and ecclesiastical buildings, both of which fit the patterns seen elsewhere in the County and the other character areas. Mostly the settlements represent deserted villages with some farmsteads, few of which have received any archaeological attention. An archaeological survey carried out at the shrunken village at Lamyatt (PRN 23726) by Bristol University produced evidence of a connection to the Roman road and this provides further evidence in support of the material from elsewhere in the County suggesting Medieval settlement often took place in areas previously occupied during the Roman period.

In some cases such as at Foddington (PRNs 53519, 53520 and 53530) there is evidence of the connection between the settlements and ecclesiastical buildings and in this case the Foddington manor, here the evidence represents the moated manor

house, village and the village chapel. Examples of ridge and furrow attest to the agricultural techniques of the Medieval period such as at Buckland Dinham (PRN 23169) and at Dulcote (PRN 25640 and 24642) archaeological investigation provided evidence of a cottage site and field systems. The emergence of deer parks are also well demonstrated with examples including Carhampton (PRN 33450) and Petherton (PRN 10607).

#### **5.5.12 The Post Medieval Period**

One hundred and seventy-one of the entries for the river terrace deposits character area relate to Post Medieval records. Of these entries forty-two relate directly to Second World War structures, thirty-two of which are pillboxes; thirteen have been recorded by the Fortress Study Group, ten by independent research, six have been identified from RAF aerial photographs, two from ordnance survey maps and one from War Office records.

There are two searchlight batteries one of which was identified from War Office records and the other (PRN 56914) by English Heritage who carried out a comprehensive survey of the site. There are two Light AA Batteries both were identified by independent researchers and are at Yeovilton. There are single incidences of a Heavy AA Battery site recorded through independent research; a Naval Air Station recorded on an ordnance survey map, a Prisoner of War Camp, a Nissen Hut, an anti-tank ditch and a trench system all visible of RAF aerial photographs.

The remaining Post Medieval records number one hundred and twenty-nine in total and the most prevalent type of entry relate to secular structures, these include pounds, brickworks, tanneries, a well and a saw mill. There are twenty-eight secular structures in total; ten have been located from ordnance survey maps, six from documentary sources including tithe maps, four from OSAD maps, and four by independent researchers, three by SCC archaeology officers and one by the Somerset Industrial Archaeology Society. There are twenty-five mills dated to the Post Medieval period; sixteen have been identified from ordnance survey maps, seven from OSAD maps, one was located by an independent researcher and one through a documentary source.

Ten of the Post Medieval records relate to ecclesiastical buildings; six of them have been recorded using documentary sources, two were located from ordnance survey maps and two from the RCHME Inventory of Nonconformist Chapels and Meeting Houses in South West England. There are nine parks including deer parks and landscaped parks given a Post Medieval date in the character area; five have been located from ordnance survey maps, two from documentary sources and one from the Register of Parks and Gardens. There are eight settlements; four identified from ordnance survey maps, two were recorded by the OSAD, one was located from English Heritage work. At Dulcote a cottage site (PRN 25642) was discovered as a result of an archaeological evaluation carried out as part of the Wells Relief Road Project (PRN 90080) and produced 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Century pottery. The dwelling was also visible on tithe maps for the area.

There are six records which represent railway activity including the Bristol and Exeter, Somerset and Dorset and the Frome to Yeovil railways (PRNs 12964, 25523 and 56985), three of these structures have been recorded as a result of independent research, two by SCC archaeology officers and one was located from an ordnance survey map. There are five milestones in the Post Medieval group all of which were



located from ordinance survey maps, there are also five records relating to the mansion houses of Hext and Stawell in Low Ham (PRN 53981 and 53983) and they include the houses themselves and the gardens, which have been recorded as a result of documentary evidence. A further area of earthworks in close proximity to the houses which was surveyed by English Heritage (PRN 56915) and it has been suggested that it either represented an extension of the gardens, quarrying remains from the construction of the buildings or possibly a 19<sup>th</sup> century golf course.

There are four bridges including two swing bridges and a packhorse bridge of Post Medieval date within the character area. Two these structures were recorded by the OSAD, one by an SCC archaeology officer and one from an ordinance survey map, one of them (PRN 53126) is also a Scheduled monument. There are also four records for field systems and associated earthworks; three are visible on aerial photographs. At Dulcote (PRN 25640) a Medieval field boundary was initially identified during an earthwork survey and an archaeological evaluation (PRN 90080) was carried out at the site as part of the Wells Relief Road Project it was in use during the Post Medieval period and the dwelling (PRN 25642) was thought to be associated with it.

Three of the Post Medieval records relate to duck decoys; two were recorded by the OSAD and the other was located from an ordinance survey map, one is also a Scheduled monument (PRN 54103). One of these features at Porlock (PRN 33923) was recorded by the English Heritage Exmoor survey project. There are three records relating to agricultural structures including a farm waterwheel, one was located from an ordinance survey map, one was recorded by the OSAD and the final entry was located by the West Somerset Industrial Archaeology Society. A further three of the Post Medieval entries represent artefact discoveries, two of which are collections of pottery reported by SCC archaeology officers (PRN 24490 and 33999). The final record represents the chance discovery of coin clippings in the 19<sup>th</sup> century recorded on an OSAD map.

There are two war memorials recorded by the National Inventory; two limekilns one located from an ordinance survey map and one from an OSAD map, there are two fishponds, one located from an ordinance survey map and the other by the OSAD which was subsequently surveyed by English Heritage (PRN 24893). There are also two water meadows visible on aerial photographs and two roads and associated structures one located from an ordinance survey map and one recorded by the OSAD.

The 19<sup>th</sup> century Tone Vale Asylum is also within the character area (PRN 44565) it was subject to an English Heritage report and an archaeological evaluation was carried out in the grounds when the hospital was re-developed, a cemetery located from an ordinance survey map was believed to be associated with the hospital (PRN 43881). There are single incidences a quarry identified by an SCC archaeology officer, a canal recorded by the OSAD and a Quaker burial ground recorded as a result of documentary evidence. A buildings survey commissioned by English Heritage identified substantial parts of the Abbey Barn (PRN 55450) at Muchelney which date to the 19<sup>th</sup> century it is also a Scheduled monument.

The Post Medieval sites and monuments reflect the developing landscape of Somerset. The numerous pillbox entries amongst the Second World War records on the HER for this character area attest to the strategic defence lines within Somerset. Whilst the remaining Post Medieval records are not dominated by rural settlements and ecclesiastical buildings as they were in the Medieval period but by the secular structures many associated with the rapid industrialisation of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>

centuries, for example brickworks like PRN 24832 and limekilns PRN 34042. The types of agriculture practised are however attested to by the quantity of corn mill sites both in rural locations such as near Spaxton (PRN 10798) and within towns like Wiveliscombe (PRN 43788).

Many of the Post Medieval sites that are no longer extant are listed to the HER as a result of documentary evidence including ordnance survey maps and as such little can be assigned about their exact nature or size.

#### **5.5.13 Uncertain Entries**

Thirty-two of the entries for the river terrace deposits character area have been assigned to the uncertain category. Twenty-three of these entries relate to cropmark features identified from aerial photographs, multiple examples of which are found in the North Petherton, Carhampton, Washford and Bridgemoor Parishes. Six of the uncertain records relate to earthworks. An archaeological monitoring project (PRN 11593) for the A303 Sparkford to Ilchester road improvements at Downhead produced evidence of a undated burnt layer (PRN 11596) and a wooden pile was discovered during an archaeological monitoring (PRN 12970) at Aller, it is also undated. The final HER entry relates to ruined structures on Dunster beach (PRN 16202) which may be a pillbox but it is unclear.

It is unsurprising that the Uncertain category should be dominated by records relating to cropmarks produced as a result of surveys of aerial photographs such as the DAPs. Such work is invaluable to the production of the HER however they quantities of cropmarks both tentatively assigned dates and left to the uncertain group highlights the need for improved archaeological knowledge of many of these sites.

#### **5.5.14 Extent and Nature of Archaeological Investigations**

It is perhaps somewhat surprising that there are numerous examples of archaeological investigations within the river terrace deposits character area. With the advent of PPG16 archaeological monitoring has become an integrated part of development control, in the river terrace deposits character area there are a number of monuments and artefacts that have been recovered as a result of such investigations. There are also more conventional excavations, however the bulk of this material was carried out in either the 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century and therefore only provide limited information about the sites they were conducted on.

##### **5.5.14.1 Extensive Surveys**

The sporadic nature of the river terrace deposits within Somerset means that in some cases they fall into areas that have been subject to more intensive archaeological surveys. For example the deposits that lie in around Dunster are within the Exmoor National Park and the most of the archaeological remains within the park have been surveyed as part of the RCHME/English Heritage Exmoor Project. Additionally the Somerset Levels Project carried out extensive studies on the Levels and Moors and there area a number of river terrace deposits within this area particularly around Aller Moor which have yielded archaeological remains that were recorded by the project.

Much of the County of Somerset has also been included in the Devon aerial photographic survey and therefore many of the cropmarks located in the river terrace

deposits character area have been identified as a result of this work. However the survey was not extensive across the whole of the County and therefore some of the areas where there are river terrace deposits to the north and north-east of the County were unfortunately not included in this survey. The SCC Claylands aerial photographic survey also included some of the areas within the character area.

#### **5.5.14.2 Archaeological Excavations**

There are a number of sites within the river terrace deposits character area that have been the subject of archaeological excavations the range from those carried out in the 19<sup>th</sup> century by antiquarians and more recent work by both amateur groups and professionals. They are listed below by period.

Two of the monuments in the Battlegore Barrow Cemetery near Williton (PRN 35378) were investigated by Harold St George Gray (former Curator of the County Museum in Taunton) in 1931. Gray carried out excavations on the alleged dolmen or long barrow (PRN 34188) and one of the round barrows (PRN 34185). Gray's investigations comprised of excavating an area round the dolmen/long barrow and a trench through the round barrow. While the work carried out on the dolmen/long barrow produced some lithics he was unable to truly establish whether the feature truly represented a Neolithic monument. The excavation of the round barrow was more forthcoming, while evidence was found for two previous centrally dug trenches which had apparently removed the primary cremation he did find a secondary interment.

While these investigations were carried out during the earlier half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century it has to be acknowledged that quality of this work exceeds what one might expect from the time. Photographs were taken of the site, the location and nature of the trenches were planned and sectional drawings were carried out and all of which were carefully measured. Gray also enlisted the assistance of academics to study the timber and cremated bone. A report of the work was then promptly published within the proceedings of the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society (PSANHS).

Harold St George Gray also carried out a small excavation at Norton Camp hillfort near Norton Fitzwarren (PRN 43399). In 1908 he oversaw the digging of a trench into the defences on the western-north-western side of the monument (PRN 44796). The excavation suggested that the ditch was begun in the Bronze Age whether later Iron Age and Roman activity. The account was published in the proceedings of the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society and was accompanied by plans and sectional drawings.

Further excavations were carried out at Norton Camp between 1968 and 1971 (PRN 44795) under the direction of Philip Langmaid who was the assistant Curator at the County Museum. Numerous trenches were placed across the defences of the hillfort including to the south of where Gray's 1908 trench had been and within the interior of the site. The results of these investigations confirmed that there were three phases of activity beginning in the Bronze Age which included the discovery within the ditch of a metalwork hoard (PRN 44797).

In 1971 Philip Langmaid published an account of the findings in *Current Archaeology* and interim reports were published in PSANHS in 1968 and 1970 however the excavations were not properly written up and published until 1989 (in PSANHS) and then not by the original excavators. While the published account of the excavation

included plans, sections, examinations and illustrations of the finds recovered from the site it was acknowledged by the author that some information was not present in particular there were many finds which could not be tied to a particular context and information on one of the trenches existed only as a section drawing this is a situation that only serves to highlight the importance of prompt publication of all archaeological work.

At least two phases of fieldwalking have also taken place at Norton Camp, one in 1981 which produced a Palaeolithic handaxe that was reported in PSANHS and the other, a community led project in which was also reported in PSANHS which produced Roman and Post Medieval material. No further information appears to be available about either venture.

An excavation of an Iron Age and Roman settlement site near Podimore (PRN 54793) is reported to have taken place in 1911, although there is no published account of this work the pottery was re-investigated by Roger Leech in the 1970s and an account of his finding were published in PSANHS in 1975. Leech examined aerial photographs of the site and suggested that there was activity at the site from the middle and late Iron Age to the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD, he also believed that it was connected with the neighbouring cropmarks of PRN 54794 and PRN 55111 (not on the river terrace deposit geology).

In 1999 archaeological monitoring was initiated at Podimore as a response to expansion plans by RNAS Yeovilton. A geophysical survey (PRN 57053) and trial trenching (PRN 57054) were completed and occupation evidence ranging from the Bronze Age to the Roman period was discovered. An assessment report has been submitted but full publication is awaited.

Significant amounts of Roman building material and pottery have been recovered from a field near Lower Sutton Farm, Ditchat (PRN 23380) and the HER records a small excavation in the 1970s. However there are no records detailing exactly what was found and the only indication of the types of some of the pottery appears to be illustrations in Roger Leech's PhD thesis titled Romano-British rural settlement in South Somerset and North Dorset.

A similar situation can be found in regards to the Roman settlement near St Algar's Farm, Selwood (PRN 24463), the initial discoveries are recorded as including pottery and building material and in 1971 a trial excavation was carried out. The HER records that this consisted of the removal of the topsoil of an area of 400 square metres to a depth of approximately 0.14 metres and that this produced 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> century pottery and lead objects and that the site is thought to comprise a villa or large settlement. No further records exist about the site although aerial photographs show a D-shaped enclosure.

The Roman villa at Low Ham was discovered in 1938 and excavations were carried out from 1945 (PRN 53980). It is perhaps one of Somerset's best known villas and one of the mosaics depicting the scenes from the Aeneid is currently on display in the County Museum in Taunton. The site represents a three-ranged dwelling that dates from approximately AD 200 to AD 367 some of the features are visible on aerial photographs. The excavations of the site have been published both in Notes and Queries for Somerset and Dorset and by the County Museum Service and they include photographs, plans and descriptions of the finds.

The Roman villa at Roman Farm, Pitney (PRN 54407) was excavated between 1828 and approximately 1832 by Samuel Hasell and is described as a courtyard type and

may consist of two or three ranges and it is believed to date to between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> centuries AD. The site was described by Colt-Hoare in 1831 and there is a measured plan but it is uncertain as to exactly what form the excavations took.

Samuel Hasell also investigated two other Roman buildings or villas in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century one at Lugshorn near Somerton (PRN 54483) where he allegedly found building remains. This site was re-investigated in 1954 and no remains were found an account of which was published in PSANHS and the DAPs show a large sub-rectangular enclosure on the site. The second site was also near Somerton at Hurcot (PRN 54534) and Hasell was reported to have found mosaics amongst other building remains, an illustration of one which is alleged to exist. Between 1968 and 1971 further excavations are thought to have taken place however the extents and nature of these investigations are unknown. The most recent work at the site was a geophysical survey, commissioned by the RCHME and carried out by Bradford which was able to both locate and describe the plan of the site and the results were published in PSANHS in 1994.

The Church of St Mary in North Petherton (PRN 10600) was excavated (PRN 10599) in 1975, the investigation produced evidence that was interpreted as relating to a timber building possibly a church. Building material dated to the 13<sup>th</sup> Century AD suggested that there was also stone building on the site prior to the present church.

In the 14<sup>th</sup> century the excavated area appeared to have been used almost exclusively for burial and twenty-five bodies were recovered. The excavators suggested that the cemetery had a short life span and that they may have related to plague victims. Later evidence of dating from the 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> centuries were found on the site including domestic material from the street front. The excavations were carried out by the Committee for Rescue Archaeology in Avon, Gloucestershire and Somerset (CRAAGS) in response to threat posed to the site by future development and the initial report and remains unpublished in the HER files. A second report, which includes detailed descriptions of the site, plans, sections and analysis of the ceramic and human remains was published in PSANHS in 1977.

Muchelney Abbey (PRN 54318) has been the subject of several archaeological investigations the first of which were carried out between 1872 and 1874 and whilst the results were published in PSANHS they cannot be considered to be particularly extensive. Further work was completed around 1950 and it was published in the Archaeological Journal in 1950.

A series of archaeological monitoring projects have taken place in and around the Abbey grounds (PRNs 12248, 15993, 16871, 35947, 57131 and 57132) between 1989 and 2003. A geophysical survey (PRN 57061) was also carried in 1999 and it suggested the existence of more buildings than had previously been known of. A series of dendrochronology samples have also been taken from some of the extant buildings. The curators of the site are English Heritage and they have recently commissioned buildings surveys of the Abbey Barn (PRN 55450) and the Almonry Barn (PRN 54840). Copies of the results of all the recent work at Muchelney are held within the Somerset HER files.

#### **5.5.14.3 Environmental Assessments**

The only record of environmental sampling within the character area comes from the 2000 trial trenching (PRN 57054) at the settlement site in Podimore (PRN 54793), however the results of this work have yet to be confirmed.

#### **5.5.14.4 Artefact Examination**

Within the river terrace deposits character area there are two examples of comprehensive artefact studies. The first is the Southern Rivers Palaeolithic carried out in partnership between Wessex Archaeology and English Heritage in 1994, the purpose of the study was to record artefacts and sites found within river terrace deposits. One of the handaxe finds (PRN 44292) from Norton Camp (PRN 43399) was included in this work.

The second study was published in 1977 and is a gazetteer of Mesolithic sites by John Wymer, the intention of which was to access, assess and quantify known Mesolithic collections within local and County Museums. Two of the collections of Mesolithic material (PRNs 33892 and 35236) were included in this study.

The systematic analysis of artefact collections is a vital part of archaeological investigation, particularly with reference to material, which may have been collected before the advent of modern archaeological techniques. The Southern Rivers Palaeolithic Project and Wymer's Gazetteer represent positive examples of such studies however both works are now over ten years old and it is important that these types of projects are routinely updated.

#### **5.5.14.5 Archaeological Monitoring Projects**

As previously acknowledged there are a number of sites, monuments and artefacts recovered as a result of archaeological monitoring projects. It is the nature of such investigations that they can only provide a snapshot of the archaeological remains. The earliest period represented by this type of work relates to early Bronze Age flint (PRN 44646) recovered during a water pipeline operation in North Curry (PRN 90089). Bronze Age timber (PRN 15623) was also recovered during strengthening works (PRN 15622) to the Balt Moor Wall (PRN 10545) radiocarbon dating and adze marks suggested it dated to that later Bronze Age although it was not possible to ascertain what the timber represented.

Roman material including material, pottery and coins was produced during the excavation of sewer and electricity trenches at Wearne (PRN 54039), the proximity of this site to the earlier discovery of three skeletons (PRN 54038) and the type of material found has been interpreted as a settlement site. An account of this site was published in PSANHS

There are several examples of Medieval remains found during monitoring projects including works carried out in proximity to Muchelney Abbey (PRN 54318) which has already been referred to. Further evidence has been found near Wincanton where limited investigations (PRN 57117) were carried out in advance of a pipeline (PRN 90143) and post holes, gullies and pits sealed by midden material suggested the existence of a farmstead probably substantially laying outside the area of the pipeline excavations. The pottery recovered from the site dates to between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries. An account of the discovery was published in PSANHS. Several sherds of a single 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century vessel (PRN 17078) were recovered from ploughsoil during a monitoring project prior to the construction of new reed beds near Alford Church (PRN 16958).

Prior to the construction of the Wells Relief Road near Dulcote, several archaeological monitoring projects took place including an earthwork survey and an

evaluation (PRN 90080) the results produced evidence of Medieval field boundaries (PRN 25640) and a cottage site (PRN 25642) that continued to be used during the Post Medieval period.

Some of the discoveries made during monitoring work in the river terrace deposits character area have been published the other incidences are recorded as unpublished reports held within the Somerset HER files.

#### ***5.5.15 Comparison between the Archaeological Resource of the Core Character Area and the Buffer Zone***

The most noticeable difference between the core and buffer zones are size the buffer zone is eleven times larger than the core area therefore an increase in the number of sites within the buffer is expected. Whilst this is the case it is clear that the difference between the areas is not significant for the prehistoric periods which are not well represented in either area.

##### ***5.5.15.1 The Palaeolithic Period***

There are six Palaeolithic entries for the river terrace deposits buffer zone, three of the records relate to handaxe finds and three relate to other lithics of assigned a Palaeolithic date. Handaxes and other lithics have been found in the locales of both Williton and Foddington. Whilst there are more Palaeolithic records in the buffer zone and this is expected when the size of the two areas is compared the records indicate the same types of material being recovered although the find spots are in different locales.

##### ***5.5.15.2 The Mesolithic Period***

There are eight Mesolithic entries in the buffer all relate to lithics and are concentrated in the West Somerset region of the character. Compared to the entries for the core character the buffer zone has produced more Mesolithic material however it also illustrates that there appears to have been a broad activity zone within West Somerset, which was reflected by the core records.

##### ***5.5.15.3 The Neolithic Period***

Fourteen of the buffer zone records have been assigned Neolithic dates. Eleven of these records relate to lithics, two to long barrows both near Buckland Dinham (PRNs 23161 and 23163), one entry relates to an enclosure on Murtry Hill, Buckland Dinham (PRN 12040) visible from aerial photographs. The numbers of Neolithic records within the buffer zone are similar to those within the core, despite the large difference in size between each area. The types of records are also broadly similar; both areas contain lithic collections which include axes, maceheads and polished axe fragments which have a tendency to be found within the southern and western halves of the County.

##### ***5.5.15.4 The Bronze Age***

There are sixty-seven Bronze Age records in the river terrace deposits buffer zone, forty-three of these entries relate to barrows and cairns and five are ring ditches

visible on aerial photographs, there are also two mounds near West Quantoxhead which may also be barrows or cairns (PRNs 33328 and 33329). There are four collections of Bronze Age flints, three discoveries of metalwork and two collections of pottery. There are two burials assigned to the Bronze Age and two settlements, and single examples of a stone setting, a stone (standing), a pile alignment, and one cropmark enclosure also dated to this period.

There are significantly more Bronze Age records within the buffer zone than there are within the core character area and this difference can be largely attributed to the larger number of barrows and cairns within the buffer zone. This is unsurprising as the buffer zone contains the higher ground often overlooking the river valleys and these monuments have a tendency to be situated within such landscapes. The inclusion of the Exmoor National Park within part of the buffer zone should also be acknowledged both with reference to the barrows and cairns such as those situated in the parish of Oare (PRNs 33857, 33860, 33861, 33862, 33865, 33866 and 33872) and to the stone setting at Kittuck (PRN 33115). The artefacts records for both areas do however tend to compare, with flint metalwork and pottery appearing in both the buffer and core.

#### **5.5.15.5 The Iron Age**

Twenty-one of the buffer zone records relate to sites and monuments assigned to the Iron Age. Eight of the entries represent defended enclosures and hillforts, seven of the records relate to settlement sites, two of which are located near Alford (PRN 11298 and 11299) and two near Abbas Combe (PRNs 55106 and 57115). There are two entries for Iron Age pottery finds within the buffer zone and there are three earthworks one of which may be associated with Cannington Camp (PRB 10439). There is one cropmark enclosure at Durston (PRN 44566) in the buffer zone suggested to be Iron Age in date.

The Iron Age records within the buffer zone also reflect the geological differences between the buffer and the core, the increase in numbers of hillforts demonstrates the geographical requirements for such monuments there is also more settlement evidence within the buffer zone.

#### **5.5.15.6 General Prehistoric Entries**

There are one hundred and nineteen records which have been assigned a general prehistoric date. Eighty-two of these records relate directly to cropmark features comprising of sixty-four enclosures and eighteen ring-ditches. Twenty-one of the entries relate to artefact discoveries mainly comprising of lithics; there are four prehistoric settlements, four earthwork features, three standing stones and single examples of a possible barrows and a burial.

Whilst there is a significant increase in the number of general prehistoric sites within the buffer zone to those within the core character area cropmark features dominate both areas. This is further indication that projects such as the DAPs are extremely successful but highlighting the difficulties in assigning more concrete periods to such remains without further archaeological investigation.



#### **5.5.15.7 The Roman Period**

There are eighty-five records within the river terrace deposits buffer zone that have been assigned Roman dates. Thirty-five of these records represent settlements including nine villas; thirty-one of the records consist of artefact discoveries including pottery, coins, brooches and lead material. There are four earthworks considered to be Roman on origin, three possible temple sites, three records relating to burials and three discoveries of building remains. There are also two enclosures, one fort and one bridge assigned to the Roman period.

The Roman records within the buffer zone largely compare to those within the core character area in that settlement sites are the most dominant form of entry and there are a number of villas. Some of the villa sites in the buffer zone are also in general proximity to those within the core for example near Pitney, Somerton and High Ham (PRNs 54410, 54534 and 53902). Roman artefact discoveries are more common within the buffer zone and these predominantly represent pottery. In general the Roman period within the buffer zone shows a more widespread distribution across the County and is more reflective of our knowledge of Roman Somerset as a whole.

#### **5.5.15.8 The Early Medieval Period**

Fifteen of the buffer zone records relate to the Early Medieval period. Four of these entries represent settlement evidence, three are ecclesiastical buildings, three are cemeteries and two relate to the burhs at East Lyng and Langport (PRNs 11836 and 54140). There are single examples of a boundary earthwork, a slate structures and finds and the Town defences of Langport are also considered to have Early Medieval origins.

The Early Medieval period in the buffer zone is not well represented a situation that mirrors that within the core. The buffer zone contains more evidence of settlements in some cases on Roman sites such as at Comwich (PRN 10306) and in other cases at sites that become later Medieval sites (PRN 54804). As in the core area the buffer contains ecclesiastical buildings with Early Medieval origins and the importance of Athelney and Lyng are illustrated in this area.

#### **5.5.15.9 The Medieval Period**

There are three hundred and thirty-one Medieval entries. Eighty-eight of the Medieval records relate to ecclesiastical buildings including Abbey and Chapel sites. Sixty of the entries comprise of settlement activity; including forty-one deserted villages and eleven deserted farmstead. Thirty-five of the buffer zone entries relate to field systems and agricultural features, thirty-four are Manor houses, moated houses and Castles, sixteen represent parks including landscaped and deer parks, fourteen consist of artefact discoveries including pottery, metalwork and coins, and there are also fourteen churchyard crosses.

There are eight bridges assigned a Medieval date, six Medieval Towns, six mill sites, five mills, five fishponds, five windmills and five secular crosses including market and wayside crosses. There are four tithe barns; three dovecotes, three harbours, two earthworks, two beacons, two fishweirs, two road structures and two rabbit warrens. Single examples exist of standing stones, civil war earthworks, a quarry, a slate structure, an alleged barrow, defensive earthworks, floodbanks, a boundary marker, an iron works, a buried soil and a burial ground.

The Medieval records for the buffer zone and core character area demonstrate broad similarities with ecclesiastical buildings and settlement activity constituting most of the records. There is however town and harbour evidence within the buffer zone neither of which appear in the core character area, for example Wiveliscombe town (PRN 43786) and Combwich harbour (PRN 10111). The presence of the coastal regions within the buffer zone is also attested to by records for fishweirs (PRN 33348).

#### **5.5.15.10      *The Post Medieval Period***

The largest group of entries within the buffer zone relate to the Post Medieval period and they number thousand and sixty-one in total. Two hundred and fifty-nine of the Post Medieval records relate to the Second World War. One hundred and fifty-four entries consist of pillboxes; thirty represent anti-tank obstacles, twelve comprise of road block features, seven are sentry posts, six are railway features and there are also six general military buildings. There are five searchlight sites; three slit trenches, three supply depots, three auxiliary base units, three war memorials and also three tank ranges. Two of the Second World War entries relate to observation posts, two are light AA batteries, two relate to camps, two are anti-aircraft gun sites, two are impact craters and a further two records relate to bridge demolitions. Single incidences exist of a bridge, a buffer depot, a coastguard station, a nissen hut, a Prisoner of War camp, an aircraft site, a weapons pit, a coastal artillery battery, a strong point, a heavy AA battery, a gun emplacement, an ammunitions site and a Naval air station.

There are eight hundred and two Post Medieval records that do not relate to the Second World War. Two hundred and two of these entries relate to secular buildings including brickworks, iron works, lodges, almshouses, pounds and sewage works. There are eighty-nine mills including textile and corn mills; seventy-one limekilns, fifty-five milestones, fifty ecclesiastical buildings, forty-two agricultural structures including sheep pens, barns and farm waterwheels, thirty-two incidences of settlement activity, twenty-nine war memorials, twenty-seven parks including landscaped areas and deerparks, twenty-six railway structures and twenty-five bridges.

Twenty of the buffer zone Post Medieval records relate to canal structures; there are nineteen fishponds, fourteen boundary markers, thirteen water meadows visible on aerial photographs, ten quarries, nine structures associated with withy growing and processing, eight finds collections including ceramic building materials, pottery and metalwork, seven Manor houses and there are six cemeteries and burial grounds. Five of the records relate to rabbit warrens, five are military structures, five are duck decoys, five represent mining activity and there are also five field systems and associated features.

There are four wells and four cropmark features, three of the records represent secular crosses and there are three possible examples of standing stones. There are two churchyard crosses, two fishweirs, two towns, two earthworks and the final record represents a beacon.

In common with the core character area the Second World War records are dominated by pillboxes and the remaining records by secular structures largely those for industrial processes.

#### **5.5.15.11      *Uncertain Entries***

One hundred and seventy-seven of the buffer zone records have been assigned to the uncertain group. Cropmarks including enclosures and linear features account for ninety-seven of these entries and there are thirty-three earthworks including banks and enclosures in this group. There are ten finds collections which comprise of many objects including multiple wood finds. The remaining records relate to a miscellaneous collection of sites and monuments such as building remains, burials, mounds and some place names.

The uncertain records within the buffer zone and the character area illustrate the paucity of knowledge about cropmarks initially identified from aerial photographs, there are however more earthworks including those which appear to relate to agricultural activities within the buffer zone.

#### **5.5.16 *Summary of the Known Archaeological Resource***

All the major archaeological periods are represented in the river terrace deposits character area and perhaps somewhat uncommonly there are numerous examples of archaeological remains found as a result of monitoring projects and there have been a number of excavations particularly of Roman sites.

The prehistoric periods (Palaeolithic – Iron Age and general Prehistoric) represent 17% of the total number of chronologically searched records for the core character area and while this is an increase of 5% on those of the same period in the buffer zone it demonstrates how limited our knowledge of the prehistoric periods in the character area is. Especially when we consider that 44% of the total number of prehistoric sites are un-investigated cropmarks

The Palaeolithic period in the core character area and the buffer zone is represented by single artefacts none of which have been found in any context. The Mesolithic period is also similarly represented in both the core and buffer zone although two incidences in the core character area centred in the parish of Old Cleeve one of which contains a large number of lithics (PRN 33892) seems to suggest activities centring in this area likely to be associated with tool production. However despite the buffer zone being significantly larger in size this not reflected in the number of Palaeolithic or Mesolithic entries for the buffer zone.

The Neolithic entries for both the core and buffer zones also represent similar monument types. There may be evidence of holed implement production near Dunster in the Neolithic (PRNs 33793 and 35238) but both the other artefact material and monuments are somewhat sporadic and spread across the river terrace deposits. Although excavation has taken place at one of the possible funerary monuments (PRN 34188) it was not forthcoming in producing definitive date for this structure. The existence of a possible mortuary enclosure or cursus near High Ham (PRN 54823) provides a tantalising proposition especially as they are a monument type no well known in Somerset but as it has not been investigated it is not possible to infer anything about its true nature.

The Bronze Age entries for the character area represent the best picture of prehistoric activity in the character area containing examples of early Bronze Age burial monuments (PRN 35378) and the importance of the discovery of Bronze Age origins for Norton Camp (PRN 43399) and the enclosure and houses at Podimore (PRN 54793) demonstrate two different types of settlement activity within the

character area during this period. The recent evidence from Podimore is particularly important as it represents some of the only examples of dwellings within the County. Hunting activities seem to be suggested by the presence of arrowheads amongst the lithic collections although like the rest of the Bronze Age material they are limited to the river terrace deposits in the southern half of the county. The Bronze Age in the buffer zone is also well represented however there is a striking difference between the types of monuments recorded in buffer zone and those in the core. In the core character area funerary monuments make up 30% of the number of Bronze Age entries as opposed to 64% in the buffer zone. Round barrows and cairns tend to be situated on higher ground and the difference represented between the two areas can only be as a result of the varying geological formation between the core and buffer zones.

The Iron Age is poorly represented within the character area, with all the entries relating to two sites, Norton Camp (PRN 43399) and the settlement at Podimore (PRN 54793 and 54794). However the excavations of Norton Camp have provided a useful chronology of the site and placed the Iron Age defences within a broader context of occupation. The Podimore sites also represent continuity in use of a particular area over time and like the earlier prehistoric evidence are limited to the deposits in southern Somerset.

The quantity of cropmarks assigned to the general prehistoric period for both the core and buffer zones suggests widespread activity and the number of enclosures within this group hint a possible settlement sites. The identification of such features is a direct response of the systematic DAP survey however the river terrace deposits in the north-east of the County were not included in this survey and so they may only represent a proportion of such features within the character area. The prolific nature of these sites indicates a very real need for further investigation to better understand and enhance our knowledge of the prehistoric periods as a whole.

The Roman entries for the character area reflect the settlement of the river valleys, while this is a period for which we have the most excavated material it also reflects how little good quality archaeological information we have about these sites. The activities of the 19<sup>th</sup> century antiquarians such as Samuel Hasell suggest a number of villa sites but their investigations have provided little solid evidence of the true form and extent of these sites and so this remains an area that would benefit from further more scientific research. Despite the difference in size between the core character area and the buffer zone Roman records make up the same percentage of the chronologically searched records for both areas (less than 5%) and compare in types of monuments as well. The County HER records as a whole present a more balanced view of Roman Somerset; including towns, military and religious sites and there are also approximately 2% more entries than there are within the character area and buffer zone.

In common with the County as a whole the Early Medieval period is poorly represented within the river terrace deposits character area. There is no evidence for settlement and while activity around Athelney and Lyng confirm some of our knowledge of the importance of those areas during the Saxon period we can ascertain little from the limited archaeological investigations carried out at the Balt Moor Wall (PRN 10545). The excavations (PRN 10599) at St Mary's Church in North Petherton (PRN 10600) seemed to confirm what is known from documentary sources about the existence of an Early Medieval church at the site but most of the evidence related to the later Medieval period, a common problem on ecclesiastical sites. The archaeological activities at Muchelney Abbey provide the best information for this period.

Medieval activity within the character area largely represents rural settlements but few have been intensively studied and those that have received attention such as Lamyatt (PRN 23726) suggest settlement was taking place in proximity to earlier Roman activity. Ecclesiastical buildings also take prominence within this period, many of which have remain in use and in some cases such as at St Mary's at North Petherton (PRN 10600) archaeological investigation has produced evidence of the earlier phases of activity at the site. The systematic investigations and monitoring projects at Muchelney Abbey (PRN 54318) have allowed for the history of this nationally important site to be uncovered and better increase our understanding of the site. It is perhaps interesting to note that despite the similarity in the types of monument in both the core and buffer zone during this period it is better represented at 19% in the core than in the larger buffer zone.

The Post Medieval period dominates the river terrace deposits character area and the buffer zone. The Second World War remains feature heavily although many of these have not been fully investigated. The most prevalent method of recording Post Medieval remains seems to relate to sites located on ordinance survey maps which are no longer extant and this is particularly noticeable with reference to structures such as mills. Whilst the benefit of recording such indicators cannot be denied in terms of development control we have to acknowledge that in this character area the possible existence of such sites has not been archaeologically tested and this may be worth considering for the future.

Currently there are no aggregate excavations taking place within any of the river terrace deposits. However the sporadic nature across the County places them at threat from borrow pits for future developments. The number of positive archaeological monitoring projects within the river terrace deposits character area suggests this is an archaeologically rich resource, one that is already being damaged by development and is at great risk from aggregate extraction should it take place in the future.

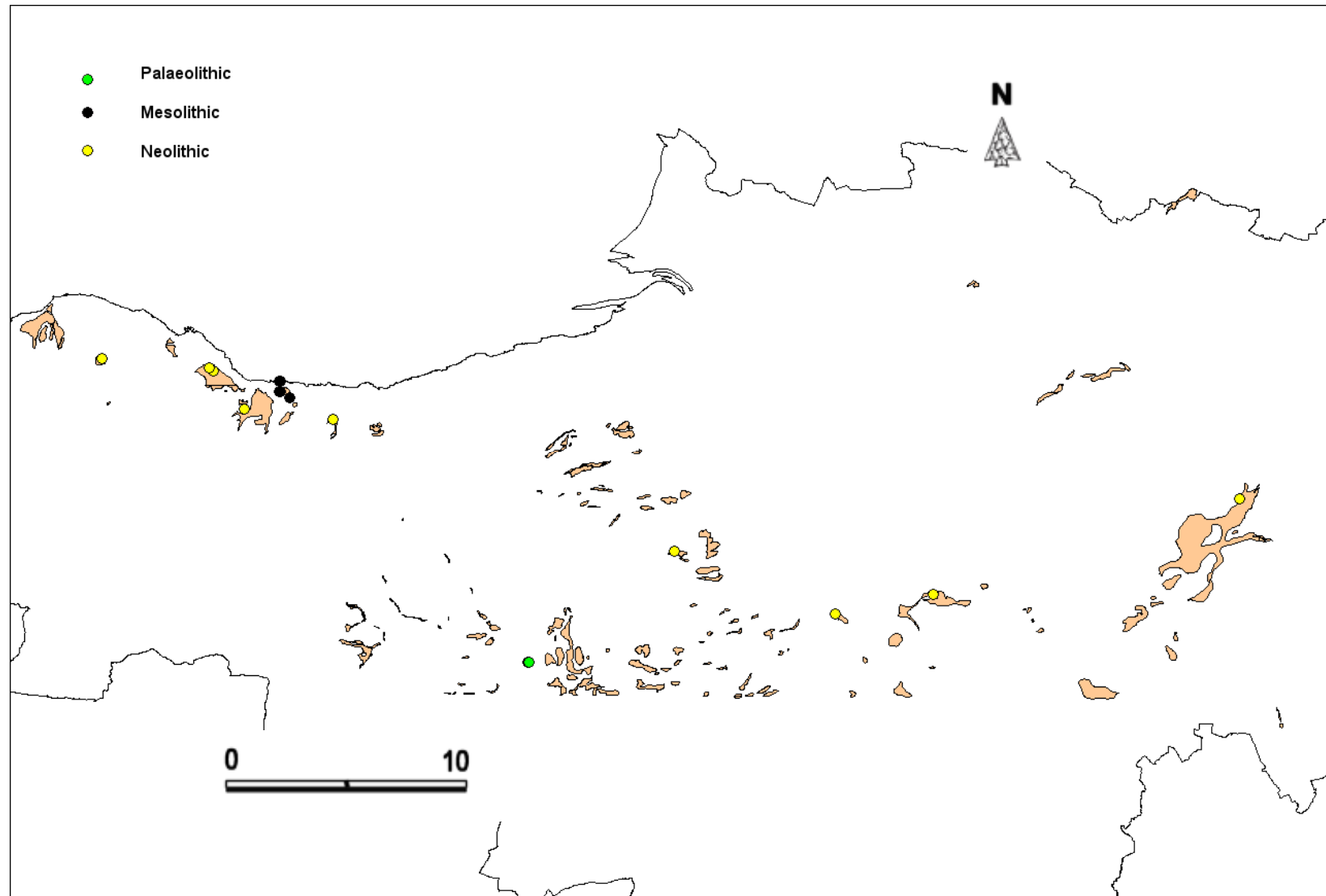


Fig. 19 River Terrace Deposits Resource Assessment Early Prehistoric Records

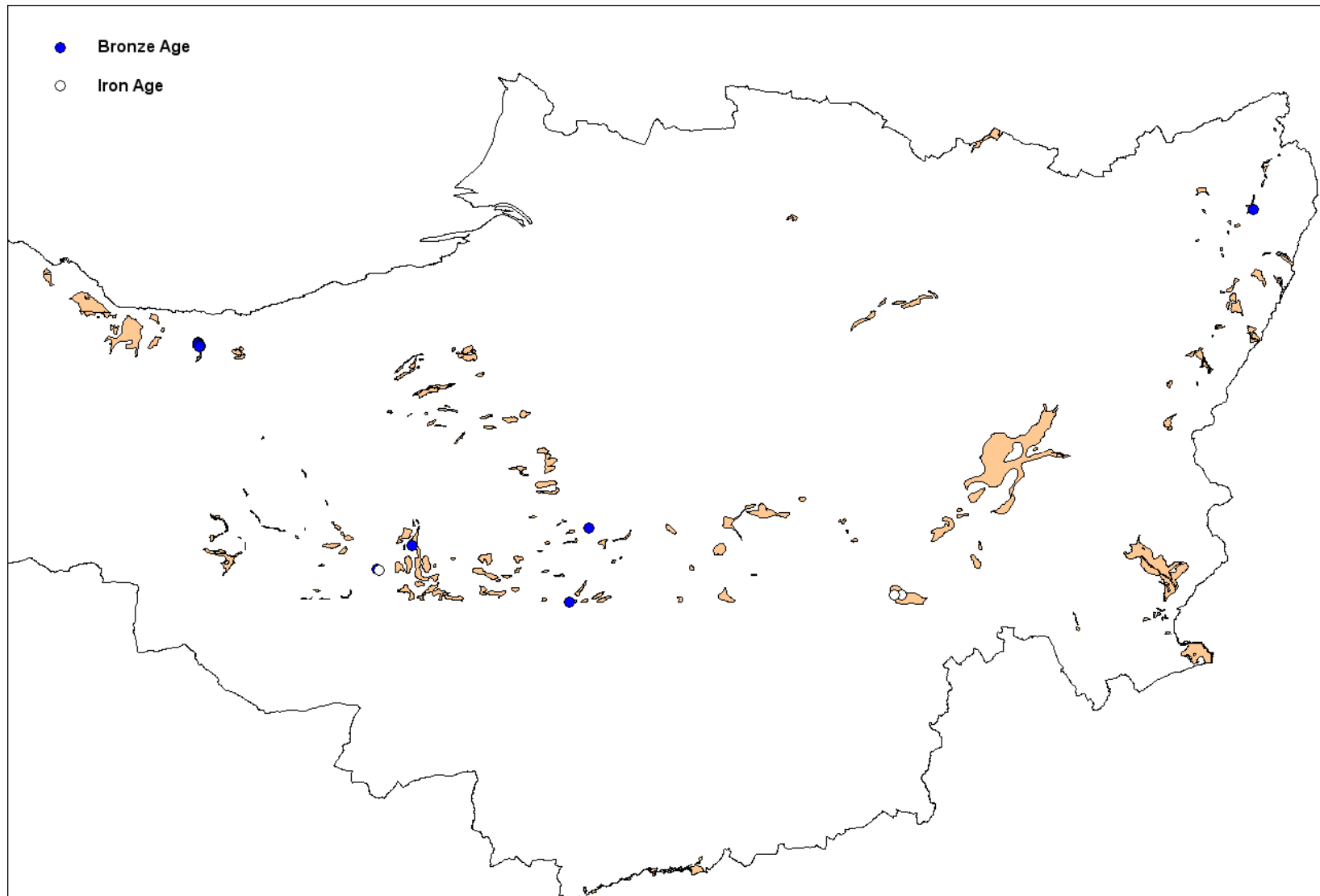


Fig. 20 River Terrace Deposits Resource Assessment Later Prehistoric Records

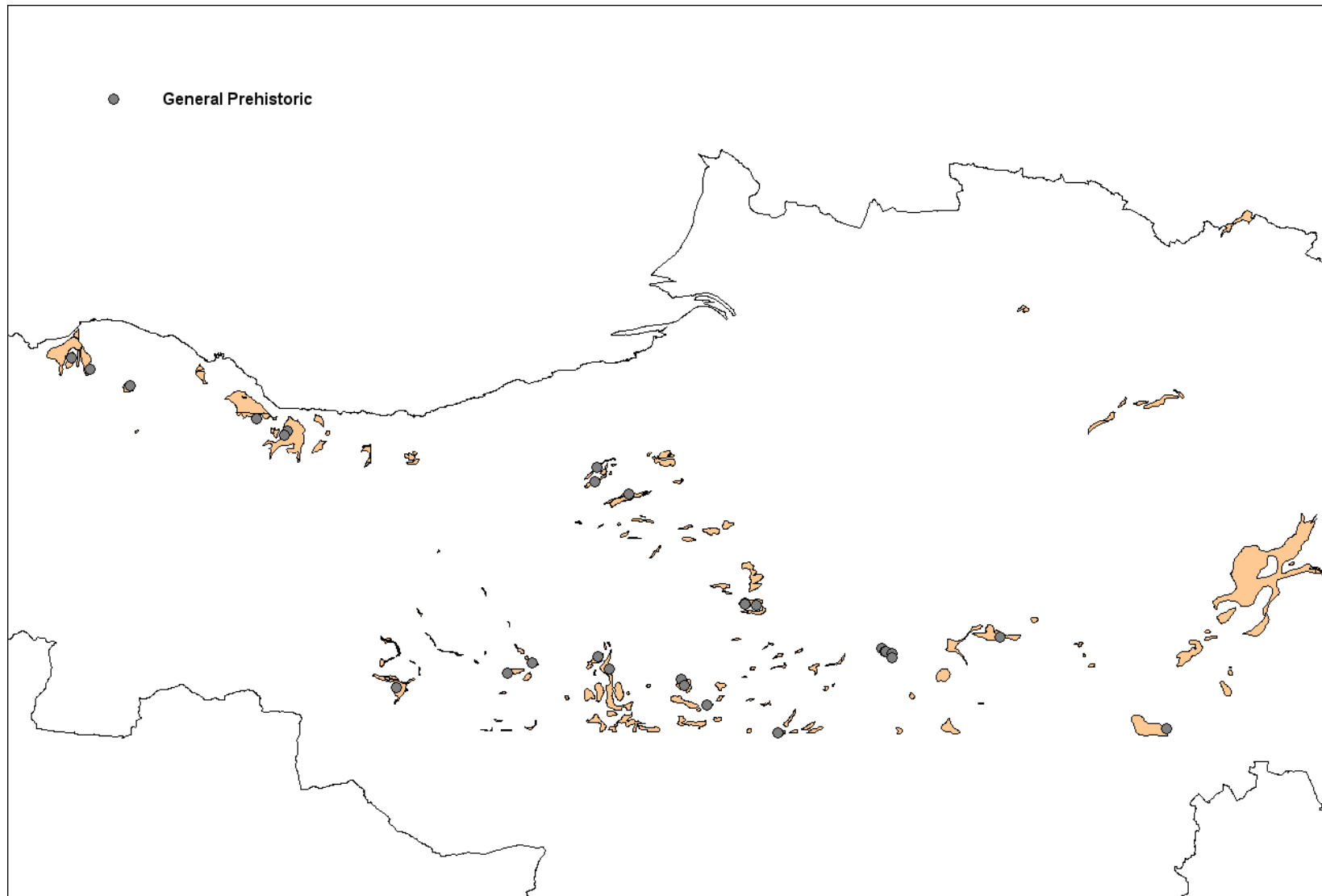


Fig. 21 River Terrace Deposits Resource Assessment General Prehistoric Records



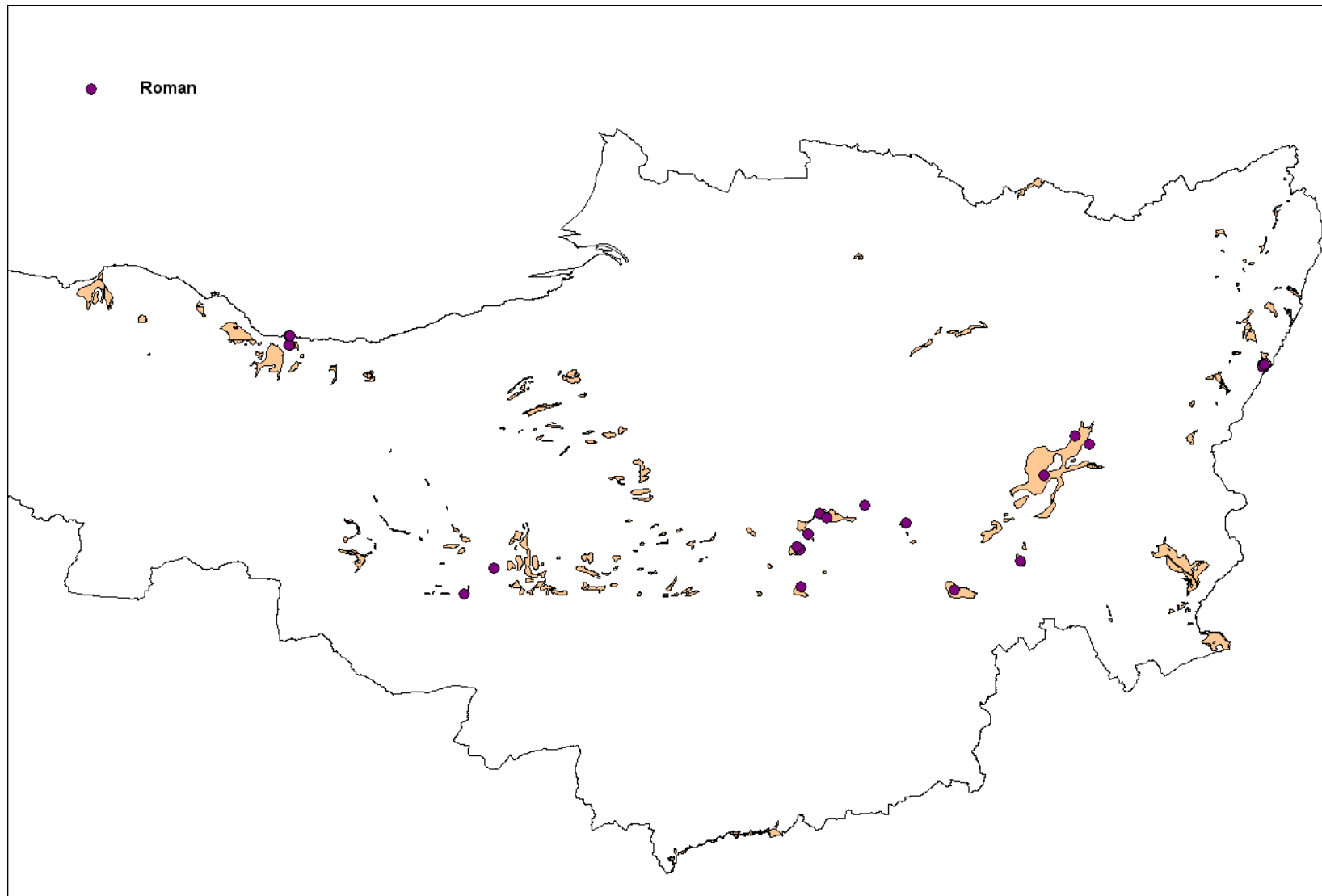


Fig. 22 River Terrace Deposits Resource Assessment Roman Records

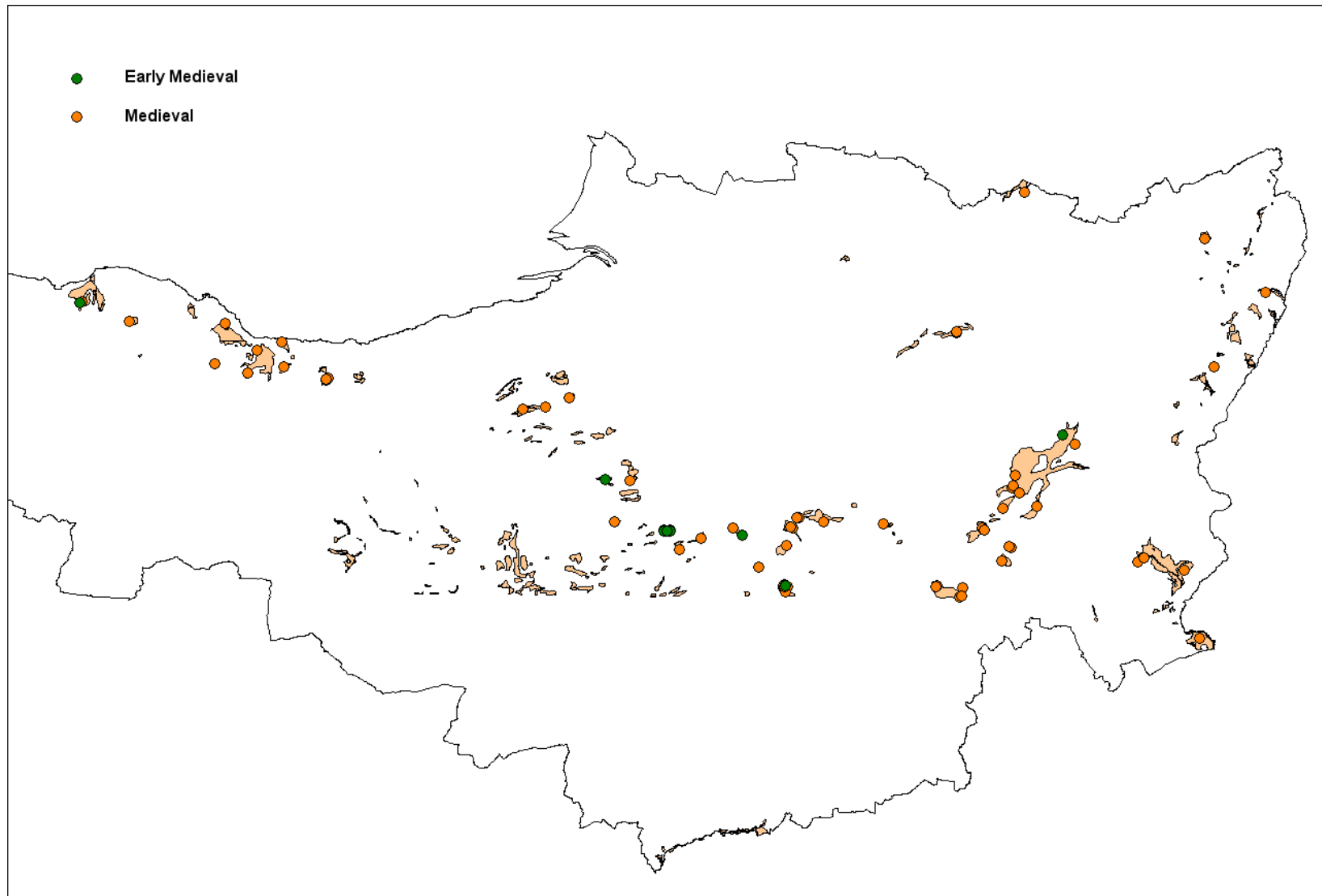


Fig. 23 River Terrace Deposits Resource Assessment Early Medieval and Medieval Records

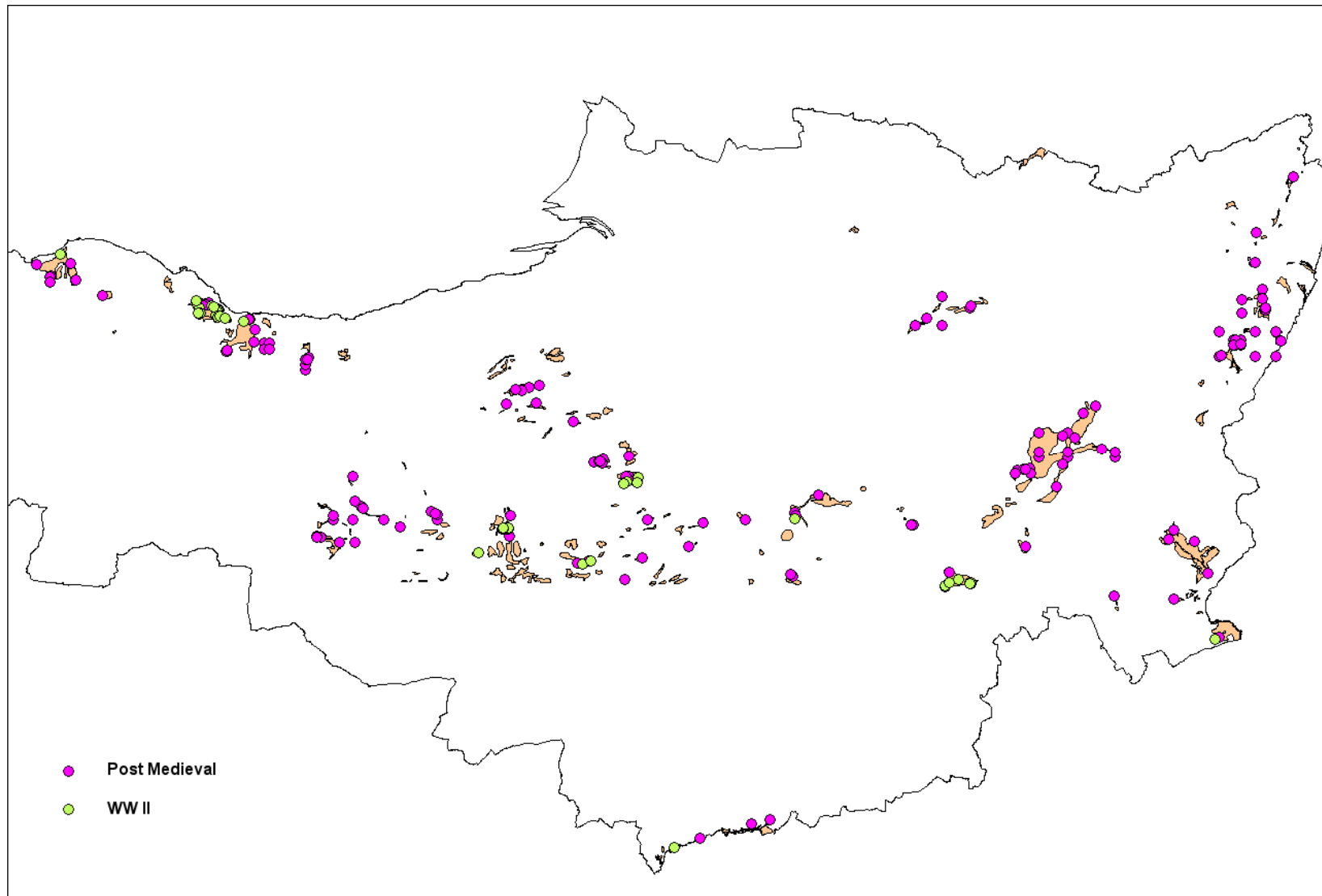


Fig. 24 River Terrace Deposits Resource Assessment Post Medieval and WW II Records

## 5.6 Burtle Beds Character Area Resource Assessment

### 5.6.1 Introduction

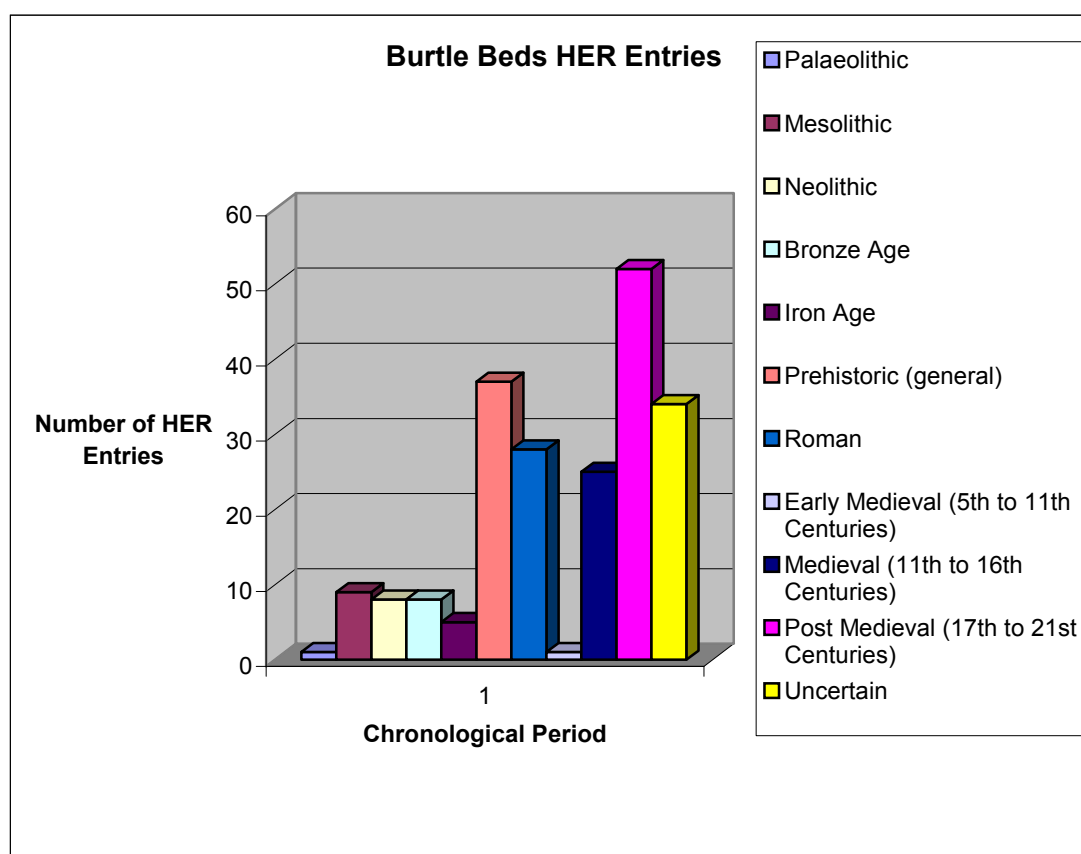
The BGS have identified 14 individual burtle beds on the Somerset Levels and Moors covering an area of approximately 14.2 square kilometres. A search of the Somerset HER identified one hundred and forty three entries for the area including sites which overlapped with the surrounding geology but which lay substantially on the burtle beds. These records were then searched chronologically and produced two hundred and eight separately dated archaeological entries.

In addition to the search performed for the burtle beds a further chronological search was made of a one kilometre buffer zone around the core covering an area of 90 square kilometres, this was performed in order to assess whether the types of archaeological sites recorded on the HER varied according to the underlying geology. These two datasets were then compared to results for the County as a whole, which has a total area of 3,504 square kilometres (as correct November 2005) and the results of the searches are illustrated in Table30.

**Table30 Table of Chronological HER Search Results for the Burtle Bed Character Area**

Period	Burtle Beds	Buffer Zone	Somerset number & %	
Palaeolithic	1	0	80	<1%
Mesolithic	9	6	124	<1%
Neolithic	8	17	323	<2%
Bronze Age	8	5	1242	1%
Iron Age	5	5	230	<2%
General Prehistoric	37	42	2731	16%
<b>Total number of Prehistoric Entries</b>	<b>(68)</b>	<b>(75)</b>	<b>(4730)</b>	<b>(29%)</b>
Roman	28	64	1032	6%
Early Medieval (5 <sup>th</sup> to 11 <sup>th</sup> Centuries)	1	2	169	1%
Medieval (11 <sup>th</sup> to 16 <sup>th</sup> Centuries)	25	52	2723	16%
Post Medieval (17 <sup>th</sup> to 21 <sup>st</sup> Centuries)	52	127	5850	35%
Uncertain	34	75	1870	11%
<b>Total</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>16374</b>	

**Table31 Graph of Chronological HER Search Results for the Burtle Beds Character Area**



## 5.6.2 Known Archaeological Resource

### 5.6.3 The Palaeolithic Period

There is only one Palaeolithic entry for the burtle beds character area and it relates to a chance find of a Lower Palaeolithic chert handaxe recovered from the vicinity of the now defunct Greylake sand quarry number 1 (PRN 10568). It was located close to material imported to the area for road improvements and therefore may not have originated at its point of discovery. The handaxe was included in the Southern Rivers Palaeolithic Project and it was donated to the County Museum, Taunton.

On the strength of one object that may or may not have originated where it was found there is little that can be inferred about the burtle beds character area during the Palaeolithic period. The absence of Palaeolithic material is perhaps not surprising, within the County as a whole they account of less than 1% of the total number of HER entries.

### 5.6.4 The Mesolithic Period

There are nine Mesolithic entries for the burtle beds character area and they relate solely to lithic remains. With two exceptions their discovery has been as a result of fieldwalking; the Somerset Levels Project (SLP) recovered six of the collections, and a local amateur archaeologist retrieved the other from Parchey sand batch (PRN 15025). One of the collections from Westonzoyland Airfield (PRN 12107) also contained Neolithic artefacts and one from west of Greylake (PRN 11763) also contained Bronze Age lithics. Three of the assemblages contained Neolithic and

Bronze Age material and these were from Edington Burtle (PRN 11711), the south-west side of Chedzoy Island (PRN 11728) and Parchey sand batch (PRN 15025).

At Edington Burtle (PRN 11711) over one hundred and fifty implements were collected by the SLP and a further sixty objects including scrapers, blades and microburins were recovered during an archaeological monitoring project (PRN 15487) undertaken in 1988 in the vicinity of the original discoveries. All the material found by the SLP is held by the County Museum, Taunton.

At Parchey sand batch (PRN 15025) fieldwalking on a ploughed surface was undertaken between 1976 and 1984, a substantial collection of Mesolithic material was recorded from three distinct areas within the field. The densest concentration of lithics was recovered from the south-eastern corner of the field and in 1980 a grid survey was carried out. Analysis of the artefacts has led the investigators to suggest that there may be more than one phase of activity represented at the site, with the south-western and central concentrations possibly dating to before 7000 BC. The material from the south-eastern corner of the field contains a significant amount of hollow-based points which are generally considered to be of a later date. Thus it has been concluded that the Mesolithic phase of the site probably dates to between 7000 and 5000 BC. The Parchey sand batch material has been donated to the County Museum, Taunton and a report on the results of the fieldwork was published in PSANHS in 2003.

The remaining two entries for the Mesolithic period relate to a number of lithics and human remains found during sand extraction for aggregate use at the Greylake Quarries numbers 1 and 2 (PRNs 10568 and 10570) in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Little is known of the precise location of the artefacts or human bones but it would appear that over one hundred flint and chert implements and waste flakes, mostly from Greylake Quarry number 1, were recovered between the 1920s and 1950s. Much this collection was undertaken by a local amateur archaeologist, H.S.L Dewar and the remains were donated to the County Museum and the Blake Museum. John Wymer assessed some of the material held at the County Museum during work on his gazetteer of Mesolithic sites (Wymer 1977, 246) and concluded that the collection contained blades, flakes, scrapers, graters, microliths and one tranchet axe. The artefacts are broadly supposed to correspond with an earlier Mesolithic date and presence of such a wide range of artefacts and debris seems to suggest a processing or knapping site within the locality of the quarries.

It would appear that the human remains represented at least five individuals however they were not accompanied by any artefacts and due to the haphazard nature of their discovery it is not possible without the use of scientific dating techniques to ascertain which period the remains date to. Bronze Age, Iron Age, Medieval and Post Medieval material was also recovered from the Greylake quarries (PRNS 10568 and 10570) and while the human remains could conceivably date to the Mesolithic period it is equally likely that they are later or even earlier in date. The quarry sites lie close to the Sedgemoor Battle site (PRN 10926) and therefore they may represent interments connected with that site.

The distribution Mesolithic assemblages demonstrate a bias towards the eastern burtle beds around the villages of, Westonzoyland, Greylake, Chedzoy and Burtle. However this broadly corresponds with the areas included by the SLP in their study of the archaeology of the Lower Brue Valley and therefore it is difficult to judge whether the bias is real or enforced.

The quantity of Mesolithic material recovered from Edington Burtle (PRN 11711), the Greylake Quarries (PRN 10568 and 10570), Parchey (PRN 15025) and Westonzoyland Airfield (PRN 12107) suggests that there may have been an activity sites in these areas, each of these collections contain finished artefacts, cores and waste demonstrating lithic production. These sites may represent hunting or seasonal camps. Where limited excavation has place during the monitoring project (PRN 15487) at Edington no evidence was found for structural remains but this is not uncommon. Whatever each of these areas represent, the presence of material of a later date from five of the collections confirms that the eastern burtle beds at least were populated in some fashion throughout the early prehistoric periods.

### **5.6.5 The Neolithic Period**

There are eight Neolithic records for the burtle beds character area, six of the entries represent lithic remains, five of which were recovered by the Somerset Levels Project whilst undertaking fieldwalking and one was recovered by an amateur archaeologist also during fieldwalking. Three of the collections from Edington Burtle (PRN 11711), the south-west side of Chedzoy Island (PRN 11728) and Parchey sand batch (PRN 15025) also contained Mesolithic and Bronze Age material. One of the collections from Westonzoyland Airfield (PRN 12107) comprised of Neolithic and Mesolithic material. All of the lithics recovered for this period are held by the County Museum, Taunton. The remaining two Neolithic entries were identified from the DAPs and comprise of two possible Cursuses.

The two possible Cursuses are located to the south-west of Westfield Farm in the parish of Chedzoy (PRN 11852) and at Westonzoyland Airfield (PRN 12793). Neither of these monuments has been investigated and it is possible that the feature at Westonzoyland Airfield (PRN 12793) may in fact represent a Medieval orchard. The feature at Westfield Farm (PRN 11852) is situated in an area in which many cropmarks have been recorded, including a ring-ditch (PRN 11851) and it is crossed by what appears to be a later field system (PRN 11861).

The Neolithic artefacts largely represent flakes and scrapers and four of the collections have been found in conjunction with material of other dates. The two records which relate solely to Neolithic material are represented by a chert flake found near Greylake (PRN 11761) and scrapers and flakes recovered from Liney near Westonzoyland (PRN 12112). At Parchey sand batch (PRN 15025) a large quantity of Neolithic material recovered during fieldwalking carried out on a ploughed surface between 1976 and 1984. There did not appear to be any specific concentrations of material and most of the collection appeared to be of later Neolithic or early Bronze Age date, although some leaf shaped arrowheads and laurel leaves were recovered suggesting there may have been an earlier Neolithic component.

With the exception of the small number of earlier Neolithic artefacts associated with hunting from Parchey (PRN 15025) all the lithics recovered from the burtle beds character area are suggestive of processing tools possibly used in the management of the dryland or wetland resources. In similarity to the Mesolithic material the Neolithic artefacts are limited to the eastern burtles, the SLP were responsible for recovering five of the six lithic collections and therefore this apparent bias may be as a result of the limited area of their activity.

The presence of one and possibly two Cursus monuments within the character area is a rare occurrence in Somerset. Cursuses are believed to represent ritual monuments and have been found across southern Britain in various guises they are often found in proximity to long and round barrows and while there are no extant

features of this type at either location cropmark ring-ditches do appear (PRNs 11851, 11904 and 11906) at both sites. Only further investigation would clarify the true nature of these possible cursus monuments.

#### **5.6.6 The Bronze Age**

There are eight Bronze Age entries on the HER for the burtle beds character area. Five of the entries represent lithic collections recovered during fieldwalking, three of them from Edington Burtle (PRN 11711), the south-west side of Chedzoy Island (PRN 11728) and Parchey sand batch (PRN 15025) also contained Mesolithic and Neolithic material. Additionally one of the collections from the west of Greylake produced Bronze Age and Mesolithic material. The Somerset Levels Project recovered four of the collections and the fifth was discovered by an amateur archaeologist during fieldwalking exercises. All the Bronze Age lithics are held at the County Museum, Taunton.

At Parchey sand batch (PRN 15025) fieldwalking took place between 1976 and 1984 and produced lithics of late Neolithic or early Bronze Age character and small amount of pottery including later Bronze Age Trevisker ware. The lithics were scattered across the field but the pottery was concentrated in the south-eastern corner. It may be significant that there are a series cropmark enclosures and field systems (PRN 11846) in the vicinity of the Parchey finds.

Two of the Bronze Age records relate to metal work objects one of which was recovered using a metal detector near Westonzoyland (PRN 44934), the exact circumstances of the other discovery is not known, but it was found a few inches below the ground surface on Burtle Hill (PRN 10149). The axe from Westonzoyland is considered to be of Middle Bronze Age date, the one from Burtle Hill is Welsh, socketed, dates to the later Bronze Age and was donated to County Museum.

The final entry for the Bronze Age forms part of the material discovered at Greylake Quarry number 1 (PRN 10568) and comprises of a fragmentary female inhumation accompanied by a flint scraper and four sherds of early Bronze Age beaker. The finds are reported to have been found approximately a metre below the ground surface and were donated to the County Museum by a local amateur archaeologist in 1933. It should also be noted here that the other human remains disinterred in the 1920s could also be of Bronze Age date but for the time being their dates remain uncertain.

In similarity to the evidence for the Mesolithic and Neolithic the Bronze Age remains in the character area are limited to the eastern burtle beds. The lithic collections undoubtedly represent activity areas and it is possible that there is some form of occupation site at Parchey (PRN 15025) perhaps related to the cropmarks (PRN 11846). Further investigation of the possible association between the cropmarks and the artefacts seems to be the only method in which its true nature will be understood. There is an absence of hunting related tools amongst the Bronze Age lithics and they are more suggestive of processing activities.

Chance finds of metal objects dating to the Bronze Age are relatively common within Somerset many of which have come from the peat bogs surrounding the burtle beds. Neither of the artefacts recovered in the character area have any contextual evidence to accompany them, therefore it is difficult to assess whether they represent part of a wider pattern. Whilst elsewhere in the County the Bronze Age entries are dominated by burial mounds, the HER searches did not produce any direct evidence for the burtle beds. This is perhaps unsurprising given the tendency for round barrows and



cairns to be situated on higher ground, however in their immediate landscape the burtle beds do represent raised ground compared to the low lying Levels and Moors and so perhaps the apparent absence of such monuments should be considered further. The circumstances surrounding the burial at Greylake (PRN 10568) are impossible to ascertain due to the damage caused by the ad hoc nature of the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century aggregate quarry. However the use of inhumation and the type of pottery suggest an Early Bronze Age date and provide the only evidence for burial within this period in the character area.

The distribution of the early prehistoric (Palaeolithic to Bronze Age) entries for the character area is fairly evenly spread across the eastern burtle beds, only the burtles on which lie the villages of Stretcholt, Wembdon, West Huntspill and Northmoor Green produced no records for these four periods. While the bias may have been caused by the concentration of the Somerset Levels Project on the burtles to the east of the region as has already been noted, the western ones comparatively lie in relative isolation from the rest of the group and in the case of West Huntspill from surrounding areas of solid geology. The lack of known early prehistoric archaeology on the western burtles could be because of the greater depth of the deposits in this area, equally it is also conceivable the seclusion of these burtles rendered them unattractive during the prehistoric period. Certainly in later times there is little differentiation between these and the other burtle beds.

#### **5.6.7 The Iron Age**

There are five Iron Age entries for the burtle beds, one of which also represents the only Scheduled monument with the character area and this is the Alstone settlement (PRN 10918). All of the Iron Age records appear to relate to occupation activity. Two of the sites, Alstone (PRN 10918) and the Iron Age and Roman settlement at Westonzoyland (PRN 10928) were investigated using trial trenching by an amateur archaeological group (Burnham on Sea Archaeological Society). Fieldwalking within an enclosure near Bradney Farm, Bawdrip (PRN 10055) identified by aerial photography led to the discovery of a further collection of Iron Age material, an Iron Age bead-rimmed pot sherd was found at one of the Greylake Quarries (PRNs 10568 and 10570) and the final site at West Huntspill was discovered as a result of archaeological monitoring (PRN 17076).

The occupation site at Alstone (PRN 10918) was initially discovered in the late 1950s when an evaluation was carried out prior to a housing development. Pits and ditches were located and pottery dating to the later Iron Age and Roman periods was recovered along with animal bone. An area of Medieval activity was also uncovered. In 1993 a further small scale excavation (PRN 12258) was carried out by students from Exeter University and the Bridgwater and District Archaeological Society prior to the construction of a fishpond, further Iron Age, Roman, Medieval and Post Medieval pottery was recovered and a ditch containing Iron Age pottery, animal bones, burnt clay and charcoal was discovered.

In 1994 an archaeological monitoring project (PRN 16245) in the vicinity of the Alstone settlement produced Post Medieval material but no evidence of Iron Age remains. This was followed by a further negative evaluation in 1995 (PRN 44936). In 2003 a geophysical survey (PRN 16500) was undertaken in advance of further development in the area of the settlement. Whilst badly affected by modern interference the survey produced evidence of pits, ditches and an enclosure only partially found in the area of investigation. The geophysical survey was followed in 2004 by an evaluation (PRN 18720), thirteen trial trenches were opened and evidence for Iron Age, Medieval and Later Medieval phases of activity were noted.

Clearly there was an extensive Iron Age settlement at Alstone (PRN 10918), including enclosed areas and possibly a field system.

Prior to a housing development in 1966 and 1968 the Burnham on Sea Archaeological Society were also responsible for the series of trial trenches at Westonzoyland and they uncovered evidence of an Iron Age and Roman settlement (PRN 10928). A series of pits containing both Iron Age and Roman material were found as were several undated postholes. At least five skeletons including an infant without grave goods were also discovered. The pottery suggested a later Iron Age date for much of the occupation with activity also taking place in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Centuries AD.

To the south-west of Bradney Farm, Bawdrip (PRN 10055) a series of cropmark enclosures, ditches and rectangles are visible on the DAPs. Following ploughing the SLP fieldwalked the area and animal bone, prehistoric flint, later Iron Age and Roman pottery was recovered. The collection resides in the County Museum, Taunton. A small amount of Iron Age pottery was amongst a larger Roman assemblage recovered during an archaeological monitoring project at the Sundowner Hotel, West Huntspill between 2003 and 2004 (PRN 17076). The Blake Museum, Bridgwater also has at least one rim sherd of Iron Age pottery donated by H.S.L Dewar, it is labelled as having come from the Greylake sand quarries (PRNs 10568 and 10570) but unfortunately it is unclear as to which site it actually came from.

The Iron Age activity within the burtle beds character area demonstrates at least three sizable settlement sites, which either continued in use or were re-occupied during the Roman period and the case of the Alstone Settlement (PRN 10918) the Medieval period. The cropmarks near Bradney Farm (PRN 10055) may benefit further investigation to confirm whether the material recovered from their vicinity does indeed relate to the features visible from the air. Iron Age activity within the character area does not appear to be limited to one specific area and the distribution of occupation activity across the burtle beds suggests they were actively settled during the period.

### **5.6.8 General Prehistoric Entries**

Thirty-seven sites and monuments have been assigned a general Prehistoric date, twenty-two of these entries have been identified as a result of aerial photography from the DAPs. Twelve of the remaining entries relate to either single lithic finds or scatters discovered by the Somerset Levels project or independent researchers as a result of fieldwalking. The final three records relate the recovery of prehistoric wood also noted by the SLP. All the artefacts recovered by the SLP are held at the County Museum, Taunton.

The cropmarks of the general prehistoric period can be broadly divided into three groups; enclosures, ring ditches and linear features or field systems. There are eleven incidences of enclosures and five of them at Bawdrip (PRN 10055), Parchey (PRNs 11845 and 11846), Middlezoy (PRN 11911) and Chedzoy (PRN 12618) also appear to have field systems associated with them. There are nine ring ditches concentrated at Chedzoy and Westonzoyland Airfield. Also at Westonzoyland Airfield (PRN 10932) there are a series of features including a ring ditch, double-ditched driveway, rectangular enclosures and a large double-ditched circular enclosure which may have a central pit. There are two incidences of field systems one at Chedzoy (PRN 11861) and one at Westonzoyland Airfield (PRN 11908). There are some additional linear features (PRN 11907) at Westonzoyland Airfield which may be a prehistoric field system but equally could relate to the pre-war airstrip.

The lithics within artefactual remains assigned to the general prehistoric group relate to objects which cannot be assigned to a specific tool type of a particular period. It is a common occurrence and like the lithics found in the Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age categories these finds are limited to the eastern burtle beds. The prehistoric wood remains represent two pieces of cut timber (PRNs 12125 and 12134) from Chedzoy and Greylake and a bog oak (PRN 44901) from near Chilton Moor.

The HER entries assigned to the general prehistoric period are dominated by cropmarks which have not been investigated and therefore cannot be assigned a more accurate date with any certainty. However it is possible from some of these features to shed more light on the early prehistoric periods. For example the Bronze Age entries for the character area are short on burials, particularly round barrows and cairns, monuments which tend to dominate other areas of Somerset, and yet on the islands of Chedzoy and Westonzoyland there are evidence for at least ten ring-ditches, which probably represent ploughed-out barrows or cairns.

Most of the cropmarks are located on the eastern burtles with one exception of an enclosure at Wembdon (PRN 10913) and the most densely packed areas are to be found at Chedzoy and Westonzoyland Airfield where there are clearly a complicated series of features of which we have very little knowledge at all.

#### **5.6.9 *The Roman Period***

Twenty-eight of the records for the burtle beds character relate to the Roman period, of these twenty-one of the entries represent artefacts, largely pottery. Nine of the pottery collections were recovered by local amateur archaeologist Samuel Nash during the 1960s, Nash observed numerous development projects particularly in the West Huntspill area and made notes on what he saw as well as collecting the material he found. Nash's archive and collections are held by the Burnham-on-Sea museum. The SLP recovered five of the pottery collections during their fieldwalking exercises in the eastern part of the character area, two of which were found within cropmark enclosures near Bradney Farm, Bawdrip (PRNs 10055 and 11722) which appear to be connected.

Two of the collections of pottery were reported by the OSAD, and a further two were collected from during fieldwalking exercises organised by local amateur archaeologists, in both of these cases the material came from within cropmark enclosures visible on the DAPs. To the north-west of Three Oaks Farm, Chedzoy (PRN 11858) over 100 hundred Roman pottery sherds (now in the County Museum) were recovered from the interior of a trapezoidal enclosure and material including storage jars, cooking pots and jars were collected from a conjoined rectangular enclosure to the north of Grabhams Farm, Wembdon (PRN 12803). The remaining finds collections were recovered by members of the Bridgwater and District Archaeological Society, during an archaeological monitoring project and by a metal detectorist. Nine of the pottery collections also included Medieval material these were Nash's sites from West Huntspill (PRNs 10158, 10159, 10160, 10164, 10917, 10919, 11823 and 11824) and one of the SLP sites from Bradney (PRN 11723). All of the West Huntspill sites excluding one at Greenwood Farm (PRN 11823) also produced Post Medieval material.

The remaining Roman entries for the character area include the settlement sites at Alstone (PRN 10918) and Westonzoyland (PRN 10928) which initially occupied during the Iron Age and were discovered during trial trenching by local amateur

archaeologists carried out in anticipation of development. At Alstone, which is also a Scheduled monument there have been a series of additional developments before which various archaeological investigations were carried out. The only Roman material recovered from any of these projects came from a small scale excavation in 1993 carried out by students from Exeter University and the Bridgwater and District Archaeological Society (PRN 12258) and it consisted of 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> Century AD pottery was recovered from a ditch and general layer above it.

There are two cropmarks assigned Roman dates within the character area that have not been subject to serious investigation and these are a series of features including ditches and enclosures at Westonzoyland Airfield (PRN 10579) and complex of field systems and features at Chedzoy (PRN 11861). It is reported in the HER that a metal detectorist walked the area at Westonzoyland Airfield but only recovered modern debris thought to be connected to the military activity at the site. A Roman burial consisting of a skull accompanied by a Trajan brass and a few small sherds of pottery was also discovered at Westonzoyland Airfield in 1938 during the construction of a sewage pit, the remains are held at the Blake and County Museums.

The Claylands aerial photographic survey carried out between 1984 and 1985 produced evidence of Roman salt making mounds at Edington Burtle (PRN 11833) the final record relates to a possible Roman Villa at Slapeland, Chedzoy (PRN 10426). The villa apparently occupied the same site as a Medieval chapel and was excavated by W Stradling in the 1830s. Stradling reported that pottery, iron scoria and parts of a stone hypocaust were discovered. The site was fieldwalked by a local amateur archaeologist, H.S.L. Dewar following ploughing in 1949 but nothing was recovered.

The Roman entries for the character area are generally indicative of settlement evidence and where investigations have taken place this has been confirmed. The distribution of the sites is fairly evenly spread across the character area although thirteen of the entries are situated on the West Huntspill burtle this may indicate an area of intensive activity, however the actions of Samuel Nash have to be acknowledged in the recovery of Roman artefacts from this burtle may represent in an unnatural bias.

#### ***5.6.10 The Early Medieval Period***

There is only one entry for the Early Medieval period in the burtle beds character area and it relates to ten possible grubenhauser identified from aerial photographs (PRN 10575) at the Westonzoyland Airfield. However without further investigation this cannot be confirmed and it has to be acknowledged that these features may relate to the Second World War activity at the airbase.

#### ***5.6.11 The Medieval Period***

There are twenty-five Medieval records for the burtle beds character area, thirteen of which relate to pottery. Samuel Nash recovered eleven pottery collections from the West Huntspill area and the SLP found two during fieldwalking at Bradney (PRN 11723) and Westonzoyland Airfield (PRN 12108). Six of the Medieval entries relate to ecclesiastical buildings, three of which are extant churches at Westonzoyland (PRN 10169), West Huntspill (PRN 10170) and Chedzoy (PRN 10429), also at Chedzoy Stradling uncovered the remains of a chapel including window remains and carved stones subsequently re-used in secular buildings (PRN 10426). Documentary evidence suggests a further chapel at Bradney (PRN 17052) and at Burtle the site of

an Augustinian Priory is believed to lie at Burtle Farm (PRN 10942). A geophysical survey in 1998 revealed three possibly pits in the grounds of the farm, one of which was trenched and consisted of a rubbish pit filled with animal bone. A standing buildings survey commissioned by Somerset County Council did not find any certain features of Medieval date however a quadrilateral ditch surrounding the farm and outbuildings was considered to possibly correspond with the priory ditch referred to in documentary material.

There are two possible Medieval field systems within the character area, both were identified from aerial photographs and are at Westonzoyland Airfield (PRNs 10932 and 11908). The remains of an orchard feature (PRN 12793) is also situated at the Airfield however this monument has also been interpreted as a Neolithic cursus. At West Huntspill there are the remains of a possible holloway and enclosures (PRN 15659) and a rectangular ditch (PRN 16177) that are thought to relate to the Medieval village. The wayside cross in Chedzoy is also believed to be Medieval in origin.

The Medieval records within the character area demonstrate a similar distribution to those of Roman date and in the case of nine of the areas identified by Nash at West Huntspill and the material recovered by the SLP Medieval and Roman material appear together. The large quantity of pottery, the earthworks and Church at West Huntspill indicate the current settlement has Medieval origins. The appearance of Medieval settlements in areas of earlier Roman occupation is a common occurrence in Somerset and the evidence from the burtle beds character area corresponds with this.

#### **5.6.12 The Post Medieval Period**

Post Medieval entries account for fifty-two of the chronologically searched records for the burtle beds character area. Nineteen of the entries represent Second World War activity, and eighteen of these directly relate to Westonzoyland Airfield. They include pillboxes (PRNs 11069-11072), domestic sites (PRNs 11617, 12584, 12585, 12587 and 16511) and sewage works (PRN 15882). Additionally there are possible grubenhauser identified from aerial photographs which may in fact be sewage pits connected to the airfield (PRN 10575). The remaining Second World War entry is for a searchlight battery site at Dods Farm, Pawlett (PRN 16260). With the exception of PRN 10575 All of the Second World War entries have been identified from Air Ministry records.

There are thirty-three remaining Post Medieval records, eleven of which relate to pottery recovered by Samuel Nash at West Huntspill, all of the sites also produced Medieval pottery and eight produced Roman pottery. Nash's archive and collections are held at Burnham on Sea Museum. The SLP also collected Post Medieval artefacts during their fieldwalking exercises and these consisted of a fishspear from Catcott Burtle (PRN 11701), a possible gun flint from Chedzoy (PRN 11725) and clay pipe fragments from Greylake (PRN 11764). All the material recovered by the SLP is held at the County Museum, Taunton.

A selection of objects were also found at Greylake sand quarry number 1 (PRN 10568) and it is possible that the undated human remains from this site were Sedgemoor Battle victims. The Battle of Sedgemoor site is also within the character area (PRN 10926), the site is on the Historic Landscape Register and while there have never been any excavations human bone has been reportedly found in the area. A hoard of between sixty and seventy coins dating from Elizabeth I, James I

and James II was recovered from the site in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, some of which are in the County Museum.

There are six ecclesiastical buildings including those that no longer remain but have been identified from historical ordinance survey maps and there are also two war memorials within the character area. Five of the Post Medieval records relate to secular buildings and markers including a milestone (PRN 18175), windmills and a smithy at Catcott (PRN 18180), these features were largely identified from documentary sources. There is one field system between Othery and Middlezoy visible on aerial photographs of a Post Medieval date and the Medieval earthworks at West Huntspill (PRN 16177) and the Hamlet of Langacre (PRN 44994) are also assigned to this period.

The most significant Post Medieval records for the character area relate to the Second World War activity at Westonzoyland Airfield (PRN 11275). The other material reflects Post Medieval occupation activity in areas populated in the Roman and Medieval periods. There is little evidence of industry within the character area and this perhaps reflects the largely rural nature of the surrounding localities.

#### ***5.6.13 Uncertain Entries***

There are thirty-four records assigned to the Uncertain category, eighteen of which relate to cropmarks visible from aerial photographs and these include eight enclosures and four incidences of field systems. There are six collections of lithics, recovered as a result of fieldwalking and one pottery discovery that cannot be identified. There is one record relating to a possible sand quarry at Westonzoyland (PRN 11317) noted during an archaeological monitoring project and there was bone found at Greylake Sand Quarry number 2 (PRN 10570), but it is not certain whether it is human or animal. The remaining material relates to extant earthworks whose form and function are unknown.

The quantity of features visible as cropmarks assigned to the Uncertain category is unsurprising, without further investigations of such features it is unlikely that any of these cropmarks will be assigned a more realistic date and this highlights the difficulties posed for development control when this type of feature is placed under threat by development.

#### ***5.6.14 Extent and Nature of Archaeological Investigations***

There are very few examples of archaeological investigations within the burtle beds character area. However the fieldwalking exercises carried out by the Somerset Levels Project on the eastern burtle beds and the observations of Samuel Nash have contributed greatly to our understanding of the archaeology of the area.

##### ***5.6.14.1 Extensive Surveys***

There have been no extensive archaeological surveys carried out within the burtle beds character area. However the area is covered by the DAPs and was partially included in the County Council Claylands aerial photographic survey carried out in between 1984 and 1985 and as a result there are a significant number of cropmark features have been entered on the HER.

##### ***5.6.14.2 Archaeological Excavations***

Archaeological excavations have taken place at two of the monuments recorded in the burtle beds character area and these are the Alstone and Westonzoyland settlement sites (PRNs 10918 and 10928). Publication of the work carried out at both sites by the Burnham on Sea Archaeological Society took place in PSANHS in 1969 and they accounts included plans and section drawings, artefact reports and illustrations . The more recent work at Alstone (PRNs 12258, 16245, 16500, 18720 and 44936) is currently unpublished and copies are held in the HER files. Stradling's investigations at the chapel and possible villa site at Chedzoy (PRN 10426) could be considered to amount to an excavation and he did publish an account in 1839, however it only comprises of a description of what was found and symptomatic of other antiquarian investigations of that period.

With the exception of the Alstone settlement site there are only two other incidences of positive archaeological monitoring projects within the character area and these are at Edington Burtle (PRN 15487) and the Sundowner Hotel in West Huntspill (PRN 17076). The reports are held within the HER files and they include full descriptions of the material found. The results of the geophysical and standing buildings surveys at the Priory site, Burtle Farm (PRN 10942) are also held within the HER files.

Samuel Nash's observations in the West Huntspill area could be considered to represent amateur archaeological monitoring and he did keep numbered records of the sites he visited. All Nash's material is held by the Burnham-on-Sea Museum.

#### **5.6.14.3 Environmental Assessments**

Surprisingly little work has been carried out on the Burtle Bed deposits themselves. After the initial records made by Bulleid and Jackson (1937 and 1941) the sand deposits have been examined by more recent researchers looking at the wider Quaternary landscape in the region (eg. Kidson 1970, Kidson *et al* 1978, Andrews *et al* 1979, Hunt and Clark 1983 and Bowen *et al* 1985). The most recent of these studies suggest deposition taking place in estuarine shoals and sand flats although there are still significant questions over the variety of depositional processes and their chronology.

Practically nothing is known of the Mesolithic to late medieval landscape and economy of the Burtle Bed areas, apart from historical information. Aside from some limited analysis of faunal remains from the Iron Age settlements at Alstone and Westonzoyland (Miles and Miles 1969) there have been no significant studies at all.

The wider Holocene environment surrounding the islands is more comprehensively studied although the evidence is patchy with some very significant gaps. Most of the evidence has been derived from the central Brue valley in the peat cutting areas where there have been numerous studies of pollen, plant macrofossils, beetles and snails. The basic environmental sequence from the late Mesolithic to the Iron Age has been outlined by several researchers (eg. Caseldine 1984 and 1988, Beckett and Hibbert 1978 and 1979, Beckett 1979 and Hibbert 1979). The earlier Mesolithic peat and clay has been examined beside the Shapwick Burtle Bed (Wilkinson 1998). The picture further towards the coast in the Brue valley has been examined by as yet unpublished work from Walpole landfill site and the Huntspill Cut and some recently published works (eg. Haslett *et al* 2001 and Vickery 1999).

In contrast there are no detailed published studies of Holocene sequences south of the Polden Hills and the environmental setting for human activity on the Burtle Beds is virtually non-existent.

#### **5.6.14.4 Artefact Examination**

Two of the sites within the character area, the Greylake sand quarries (PRNs 10568 and 10570) have produced material that have been included in artefact studies. These are a Palaeolithic handaxe from Greylake Quarry number 1 (PRN 10568) included in the Southern Rivers Palaeolithic project and the Mesolithic material from both quarries, which were assessed by John Wymer for his gazetteer of Mesolithic sites. However these two surveys have been regional in their focus and there have been no local level artefact studies carried out within the character area.

#### **5.6.15 Comparison of the Archaeological Resource of the Core Character Area and Buffer Zones.**

##### **5.6.15.1 The Palaeolithic Period**

There are no additional Palaeolithic entries for the 1 kilometre buffer zone around the burtle beds. While there is one Palaeolithic entry for the core zone (PRN 10568) it can be said that the dearth of entries for this period both in the core and buffer zones suggests little activity in the general locale during the period.

##### **5.6.15.2 The Mesolithic Period**

There are six entries for the Mesolithic period within the buffer zone, all of which relate to lithics found within the parish of Meare. Three of the collections came from the vicinity of the Honeygar burtle (PRNs 25528, 26015 and 26071) and two from the Westhay area (PRNs 25235 and 26040).

Despite the fact that the buffer zone is six times as large as the core character area there are fewer Mesolithic entries for the zone. In addition the Mesolithic records for the buffer zone are clearly concentrated in the areas around Honeygar and Westhay and while the records for the core zone are also focussed on the eastern burtles it would appear that the Mesolithic entries for the buffer are much more localised.

##### **5.6.15.3 The Neolithic Period**

Seventeen of the chronologically searched entries for the buffer zone relate to the Neolithic period. Twelve of the entries represent timber trackways, and the remaining five relate to artefact discoveries. The locations of timber vary with collections around burtle such as Honeygar (PRNs 23790-23792) and Burtle (PRNs 16178 and 23045).

There are approximately twice as many Neolithic entries for the buffer zone as there are for the core character area and the difference is due to the construction in the buffer zone of timber trackways during the Neolithic. The survival of such remains is a direct result of the surrounding wetland geology and therefore illustrates the way in which the superficial geological formations in the general area have played a role in the types of archaeological entries recorded.

##### **5.6.15.4 The Bronze Age**

There are five Bronze Age entries for the burtle beds buffer zone, three of the records relate to artefacts and consist of flint from Tadham Moor (PRN 12090), a socketed axe from Westonzoyland (PRN 10933) and amber beads from Westhay



Moor (PRN 23806). The remaining two records relate to timber trackways, recorded at Greylake (PRN 10580) and near Meare (PRN 23788)

The in similarity to the Mesolithic period there are fewer Bronze Age records for the buffer zone than there are for the core character area despite the obvious size difference in favour of the buffer zone. Whilst artefacts Tablein both the buffer and core areas the difference between the geological make up of each area is highlighted by the appearance if timber trackways within the buffer zone.

#### **5.6.15.5 The Iron Age**

There are five Iron Age entries recorded on the HER for the burtle beds buffer zone. Three of these entries relate to artefact discoveries including pottery, bone and timber from Greylake, Chilton Trinity and Meare (PRNs 12834, 12972 and 25229). One of the Iron Age Settlements (PRN 23784) at Meare (Meare West) and a stone scatter possibly associated with this site (PRN 25201) are also within the buffer zone.

There are exactly the same numbers of Iron Age records in the buffer zone as there are in the core character area, despite the buffer being six times the size of the core. However occupation evidence including obvious settlement sites appears in both areas for example Alstone (PRN 10918) and Westonzoyland (PRN 10928) in the core area and Meare West (PRN 23784) in buffer zone.

#### **5.6.15.6 General Prehistoric Entries**

Forty two of the entries for the buffer zone relate to sites assigned a general Prehistoric date. Eighteen of these entries relate to cropmarks visible on aerial photographs; twelve have been identified as enclosures and two are ring-ditches. There are single incidences of a field system at Langacre Rhyne, Middlezoy (PRN 11278), a possible cursus at Chedzoy (PRN 10700) and tracks at Lang Moor, Westonzoyland (PRN 12105).

Fourteen of the general Prehistoric records relate to artefact discoveries including twelve flint collections, a stone wedge from Westhay Level (PRN 25246) and fossilized bone from near Meare (PRN 25202). There are five timber structures and also five isolated wood discoveries. The locations of the timber finds include Chedzoy (PRN 10435, 11319 and 12125), Greylake (PRN 11760 and 12132) and Burtle (PRN 10936).

Despite the difference in size between the two areas there are only five more general Prehistoric entries in the buffer zone than there are in the core. In similarity to the core character area the records for the buffer zone are dominated by cropmark features that have yet to be investigated. In common with the entries in the buffer zone that have been assigned more specific prehistoric dates there are ten entries for organic remains preserved as a direct result of the action of the surrounding peat deposits.

#### **5.6.15.7 The Roman Period**

Within the buffer zone there are sixty-four entries that relate to the Roman period. Twenty-seven represent activity associated with salt making including mounds and briquetage finds from Guy's Farm, West Huntspill (PRN 12876). Twenty-two of the Roman records relate to artefacts including nineteen pottery discoveries and three coins from Sutton Mallet (PRN 10030), West Huntspill (PRN 10166) and Chilton

Trinity (PRN 10224). Six of the pottery entries also contained Medieval material and six contained Post Medieval material. Nine of the records relate to cropmarks and comprise of six enclosures, two field systems and some tracks from Lang Moor (PRN 12105). The remaining six entries relate to settlement activity.

There are more than twice many Roman records in the buffer zone as there are in the core character area and most striking difference between the two areas is the number of features associated with salt production within the buffer zone. There is one probable salt making mound within the character area at Burtle (PRN 11833) but the appearance of large numbers of salterns within the buffer zone is no doubt as a result of their deliberate placement at the margins of the peatlands. Otherwise the material from the core character area and buffer zone compare favourably demonstrating the general area was widely populated during the Roman period.

#### **5.6.15.8 The Early Medieval Period**

There are two Early Medieval records in the buffer zone they represent the cemetery at Wembdon Hill (PRN 12470) and the Burrow Wall Causeway at Burrow Bridge (PRN 44201). The paucity of Early Medieval remains in both the core character area and the buffer zone is not surprising this is a period which is under-represented within Somerset as a whole.

#### **5.6.15.9 The Medieval Period**

Fifty-two of the records for the buffer zone represent monuments of Medieval date. There are seventeen entries for artefacts all of which relate to pottery, six of these collections also contained Roman material and nine also contained Post Medieval material. There are nine cropmark features assigned a Medieval date including three enclosures and three field systems. Seven of the Medieval records relate to occupation evidence, four of which are deserted farms and three are deserted settlements. Six of the Medieval records represent extant ecclesiastical buildings, two represent burials and there is one churchyard cross at Wembdon (PRN 10904).

There are two windmills of Medieval date in the buffer zone and the remaining eight records relate to single incidences of monuments such as the bridge at Westhay (PRN 23798), Chilton Trivett Park (PRN 10320) and Greylake Fosse (PRN 10567).

There are just over twice as many Medieval records within the buffer zone as there are in the core character area, however in both areas the entries are dominated by pottery and it often appear in conjunction with Roman and Post Medieval material. Ecclesiastical buildings and field systems are also noted in both areas, but there are no deserted farms within the core area. The appearance of farmsteads in the buffer zone during the Medieval period seems to be as a direct result of the management of the wetlands that had begun in the Roman period. The reasons for their desertion are likely to be numerous from disease or industrialisation to the fragility of life within a reclaimed but essentially wetland environment.

#### **5.6.15.10 The Post Medieval Period**

There are one hundred and twenty-seven Post Medieval records in the buffer zone, fifty of which relate directly to features associated with the Second World War, thirty-

five of which are pillboxes and six are associated with Westonzoyland Airfield (PRN 11275).

There seventy-eight remaining Post Medieval records and they consist of nineteen artefact collections; mainly pottery but including Sedgemoor battle finds from Westonzoyland (PRN 15580), thirteen secular structures including the Glastonbury Canal (PRN 11841), and the Bacon factory just outside Bridgwater (PRN 12886). There are eleven milestones and ten of the records relate to ecclesiastical buildings, a cemetery and war memorials. There are seven mills including flour mills and windmills, four settlement sites including a deserted farmstead near Wedmore (PRN 18170) and there are three pounds. There are also three smithies, two railway structures, two sheep pens, two cropmarks and two duck decoys.

When compared to the core character area there are appreciably more Post Medieval records in the buffer zone, pottery collections and Second World War features appear in both areas, although in the buffer zone there are more pillboxes than there are in the core. This is as a result of the plan of the defence line.

#### **5.6.15.11      *Uncertain Entries***

There are seventy-five records assigned to the Uncertain category and these include twenty-two earthworks comprising of thirteen mounds, six enclosures, two causeways, a house platform at Burtle (PRN 11712) and generic features near Mark (PRN 12317). There are also sixteen cropmarks visible on aerial photographs and they include nine enclosures and four field systems. Other entries for this group include thirteen artefacts most of which were flint finds, twelve timber structures and finds and five floodbanks.

The appearance of both extant earthworks and cropmark features within the Uncertain category for the buffer zone is unsurprising and it demonstrates that it is not only features which have been noted on aerial photographs that are difficult to assign dates to but also those which remain on the ground.

#### **5.6.16 *Summary of Known Archaeological Resource***

The best represented entries within the burtle beds character area are those which date to the prehistoric periods (Palaeolithic – Iron Age and general prehistoric) and they make up 32% of the chronologically searched records. There are 13% more prehistoric records in the core than the buffer zone and 4% more than in Somerset County as a whole. Roman monuments are also well represented in the core character area making up 13% of the chronologically searched records, and while the buffer zone has 3% more of these sites in both the core and buffer zone there are over 10% more Roman monuments than in the County as a whole.

The Early Medieval period is poorly represented in the core character area, the buffer zone and in the County as a whole, demonstrating that this is a period we have little knowledge about. While Medieval records account for 11% of the core entries, 13% of the buffer zone and 16% of the entries for the County as a whole. In the core character area the Post Medieval period accounts for 24% while they make up approximately 30% of the records for both the buffer zone and the County as a whole. The percentages of records of Uncertain date are striking similar in both the core and buffer zone representing 17% and 18% respectively. In contrast the County as a whole only has 11% of its records assigned to this period.

Despite the fact that the prehistoric periods account for over a third of the chronologically searched records for the burtle beds character area 32% of these entries relate to cropmarks identified solely as a result of aerial photographs. While there are examples of material collected from within cropmark areas like Parchey (PRN 15025) there have been no attempts made either using non-intrusive techniques such as geophysical survey or archaeological excavation to clarify the true identity of these sites. While there are also a number of prehistoric cropmark features within the buffer they only represent 24% of the prehistoric entries.

Clearly there is a wealth of prehistoric archaeology within the core character area and the buffer zone about which we know very little about. The greatest concentrations in the core character area are found around the villages of Chedzoy and Westonzoyland and in both cases the features appear to form part of much larger landscapes. Should permission for aggregate extraction in any form be granted in either area there is a great risk that significant and poorly understood archaeological remains would be destroyed.

Such destruction is highlighted by the historical extraction activities at the Greylake sand quarries (PRNs 10568 and 10570). At least five of the prehistoric periods (Mesolithic - Iron Age) are represented within the area, including significant Mesolithic activity and a Bronze Age burial and possibly five undated interments and yet it is impossible for us to understand the true significance of the site as all the deposits have been destroyed and no true archaeological investigations were carried out at the time. A re-assessment of this site including attempts to date the human remains would give a better understanding of the area but it will never be possible to gain a true perspective.

The burtle beds character area also displays a marked absence of archaeological investigations with less than 1% of the entries having been subject to excavation and while publication took place in the case of both sites excavated (Alstone PRN 10918 and Westonzoyland PRN 10928) more recent work at Alstone has yet to reach the public domain. There is a marked absence of non-intrusive techniques with geophysical surveys only having been carried out at two sites (Alstone PRN 10918 and Burtle Priory PRN 10942).

While the prehistoric records in the core character area are dominated by lithics there are an appreciable number of timber remains in the buffer zone demonstrating that the underlying geology of the general area has indeed been a factor in the types of archaeological sites recorded. The position and relative height of the burtles within an otherwise low-lying landscape provides an attractive dry base for settlement. The appearance of artefact scatters on the burtles from the Mesolithic period to the more substantial occupation evidence of the Iron Age and the number of cropmarks indicate these dry land areas were extensively occupied during the prehistoric period.

The prehistoric archaeology of the buffer zone is largely affected by the survival of organic remains within the superficial deposits of peat surrounding the burtles. Preserved timber structures and associated remains are prevalent and they demonstrate that the peatland resources were being exploited during the period and in areas such as Chedzoy and Greylake and Burtle timber remains have been found near to where artefact collections have been located within the core. What is however less clear, is the relationship between the archaeological remains from the core and buffer zones.

The Roman and Medieval periods are comparatively well represented on the burtle beds and in areas such as Chedzoy, West Huntspill and Westonzoyland there

appears to be a certain amount of continuity in the settlement patterns between the two periods. There is however a difference in the type of remains for the Roman period between the core and the buffer zones. Evidence of salt production dominates the Roman records within the buffer zone, whilst occupation evidence is more prevalent on the burtle beds themselves.

The Medieval records are more comparable between the burtle beds and the buffer zone. Settlement records dominate both the core burtle and the buffer zones. The buffer zone demonstrates the extent of the occupation around burtle beds such as West Huntspill is more evident as the records expand into the surrounding geology. This apparent expansion into the wetland landscape relates directly to our historical knowledge of the gradual management of the Levels and Moors to allow for more extensive occupations and exploitation.

The Post Medieval records for both the burtle beds themselves and the buffer zone truly reflect the extent of the management and manipulation of the Levels and Moors. The number of records relating directly to Second World War activity is dominant for both areas. This in itself relates to the strategic position of the county of Somerset within the defensive plans should invasion from the coastal areas in Devon and Cornwall become a reality during that time. Other records demonstrate the ways in which the central area of the Levels and Moors became more habitable as more sophisticated methods were developed to control the natural tendency towards flooding.

The archaeological remains on the burtle beds in central Somerset reflect widespread occupation of the area from the prehistoric onwards; however good quality knowledge of individual sites is poor. Should permission be granted to extract sand for use as aggregates in the future there is significant danger that little understood remains would be at risk.

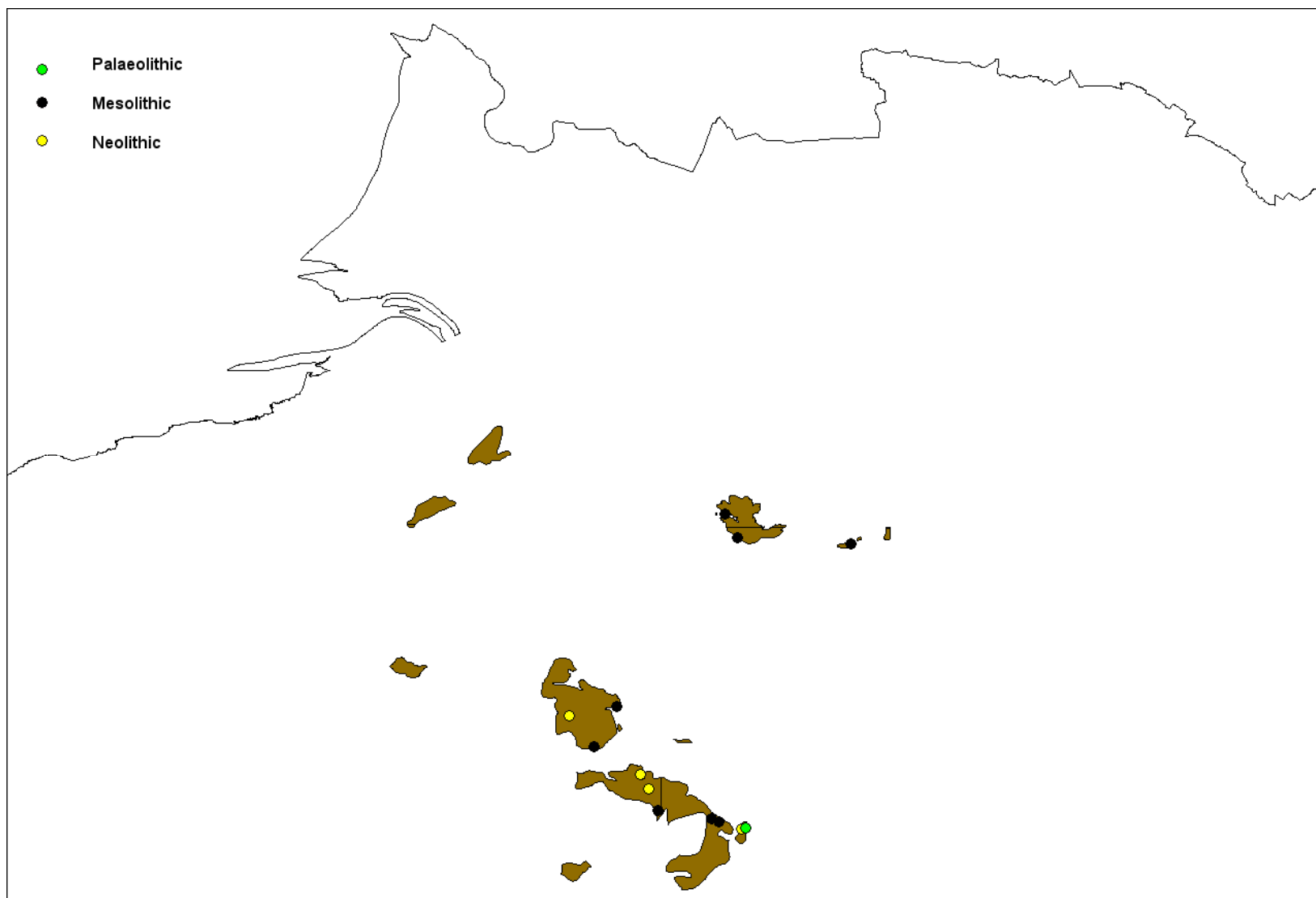


Fig. 25 Burtle Beds Resource Assessment Early Prehistoric Records

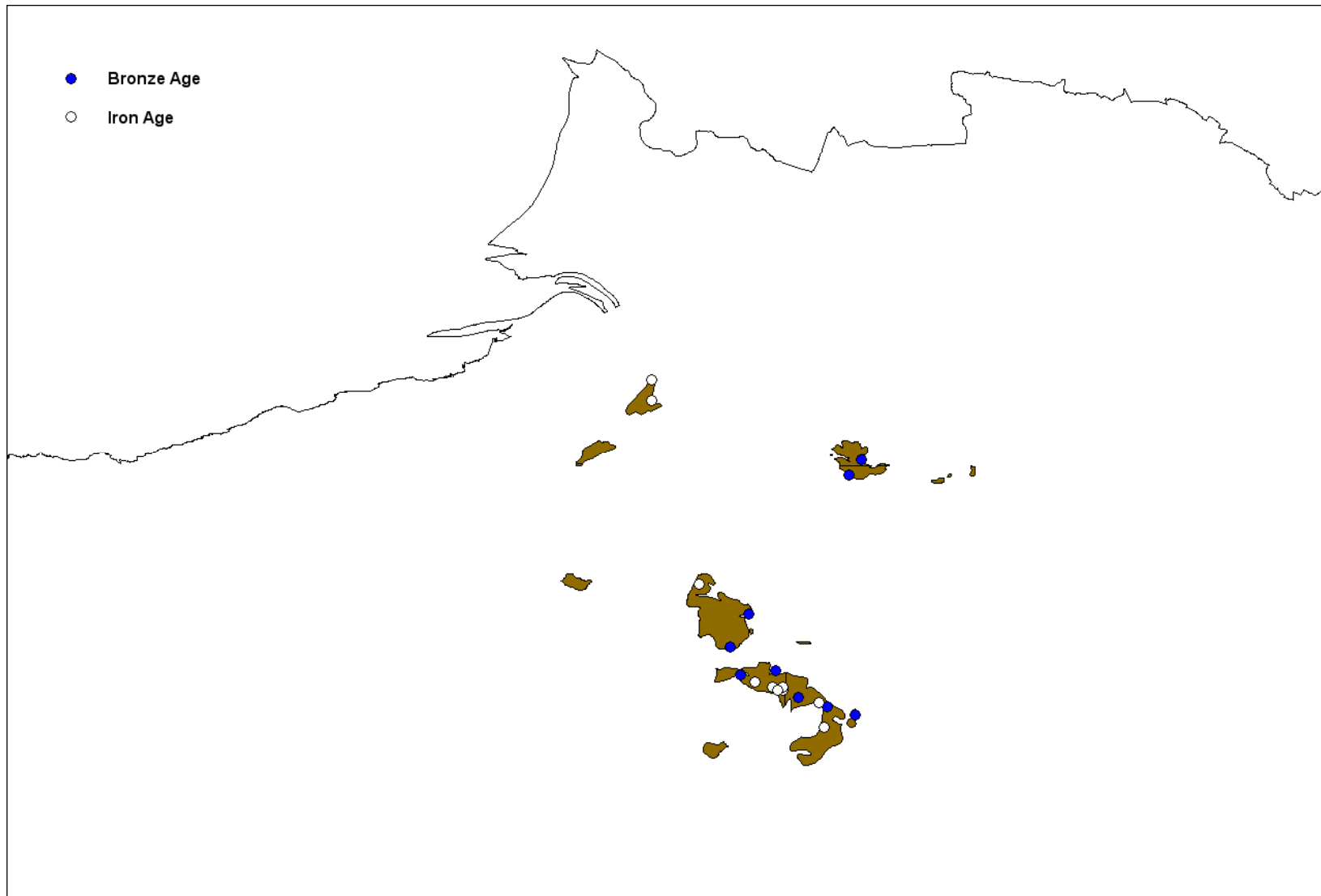


Fig. 26 Burtle Beds Resource Assessment Late Prehistoric Records

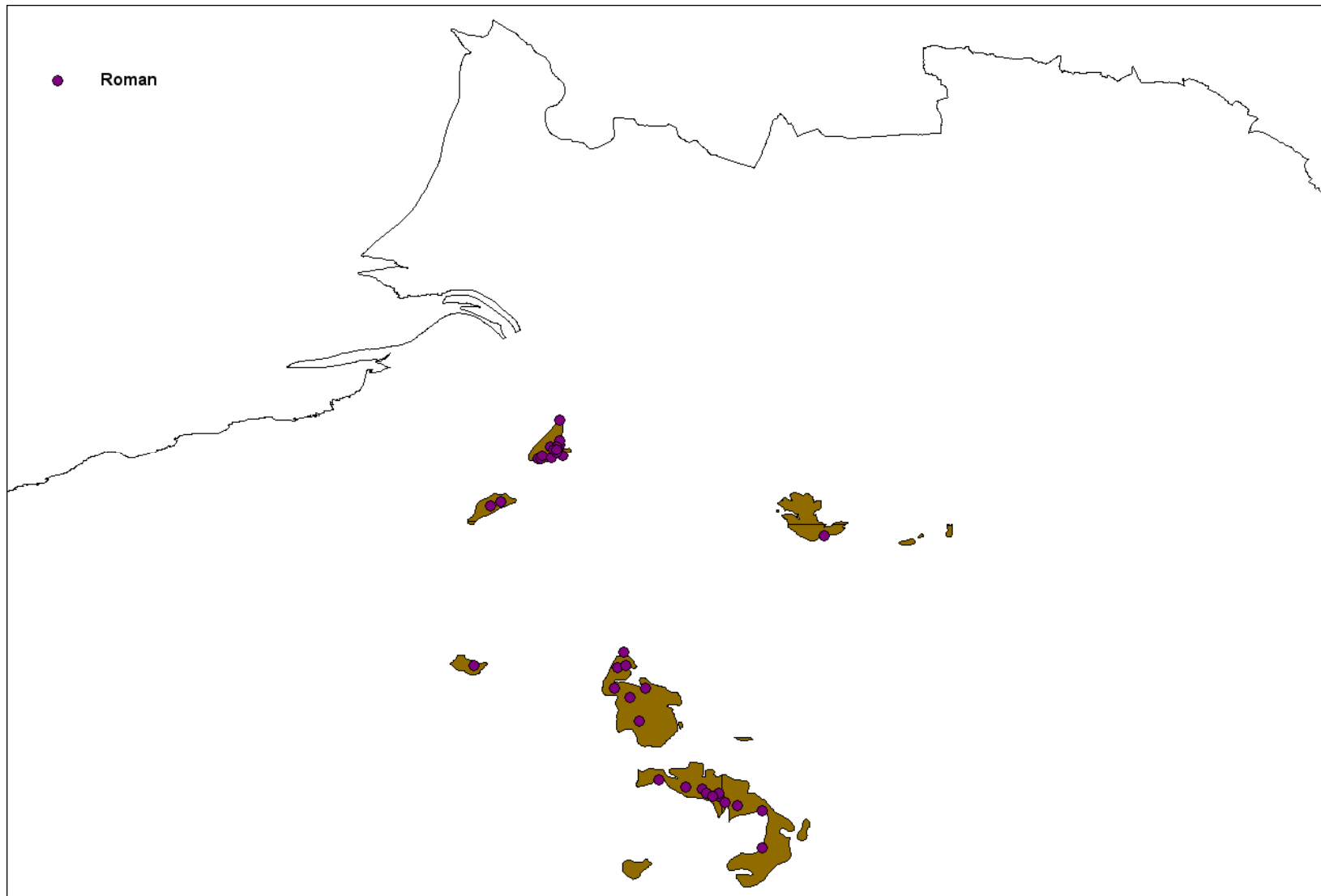


Fig. 27 Burtle Beds Resource Assessment Roman Records



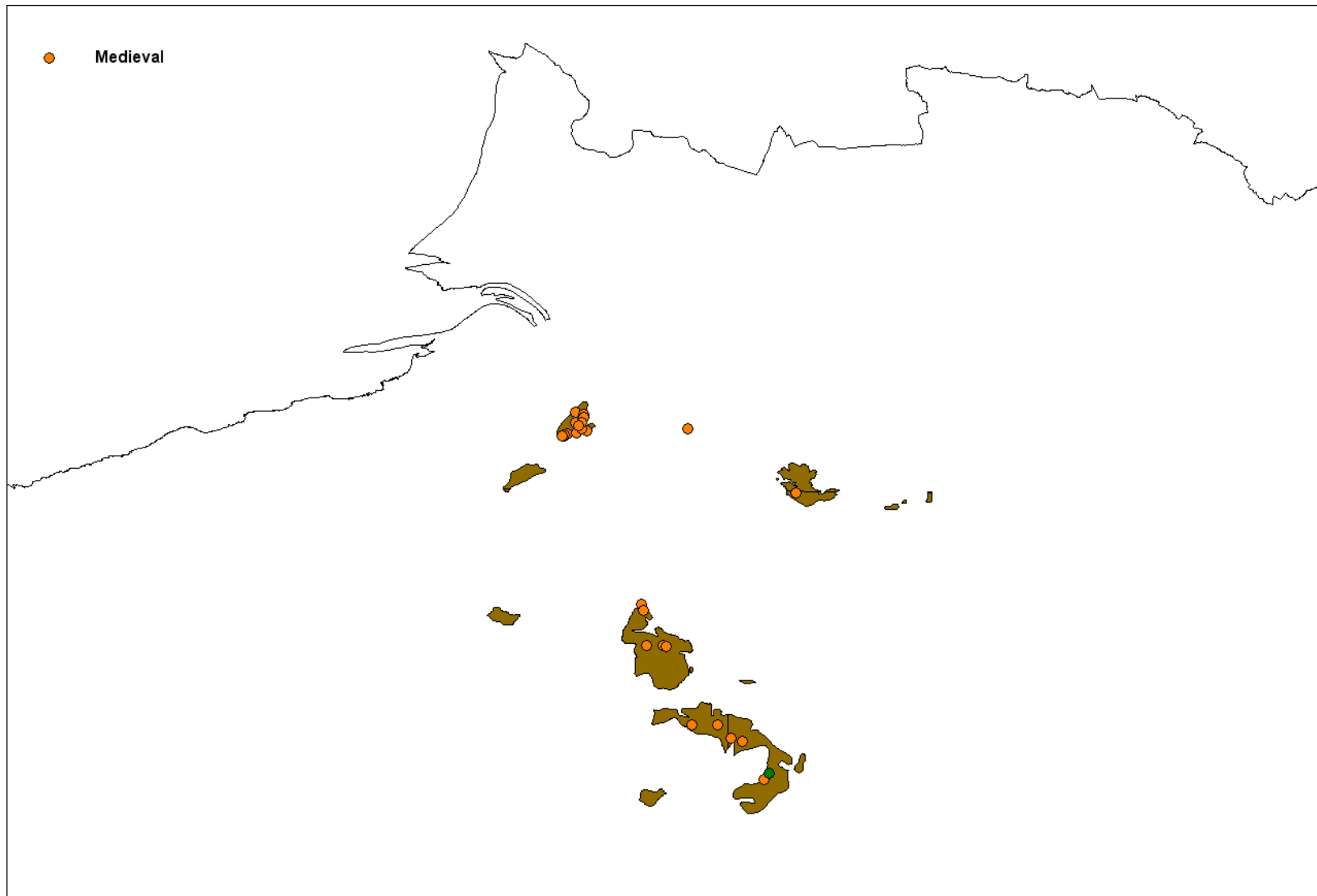


Fig. 28 Burtle Beds Resource Assessment Early Medieval and Medieval Records

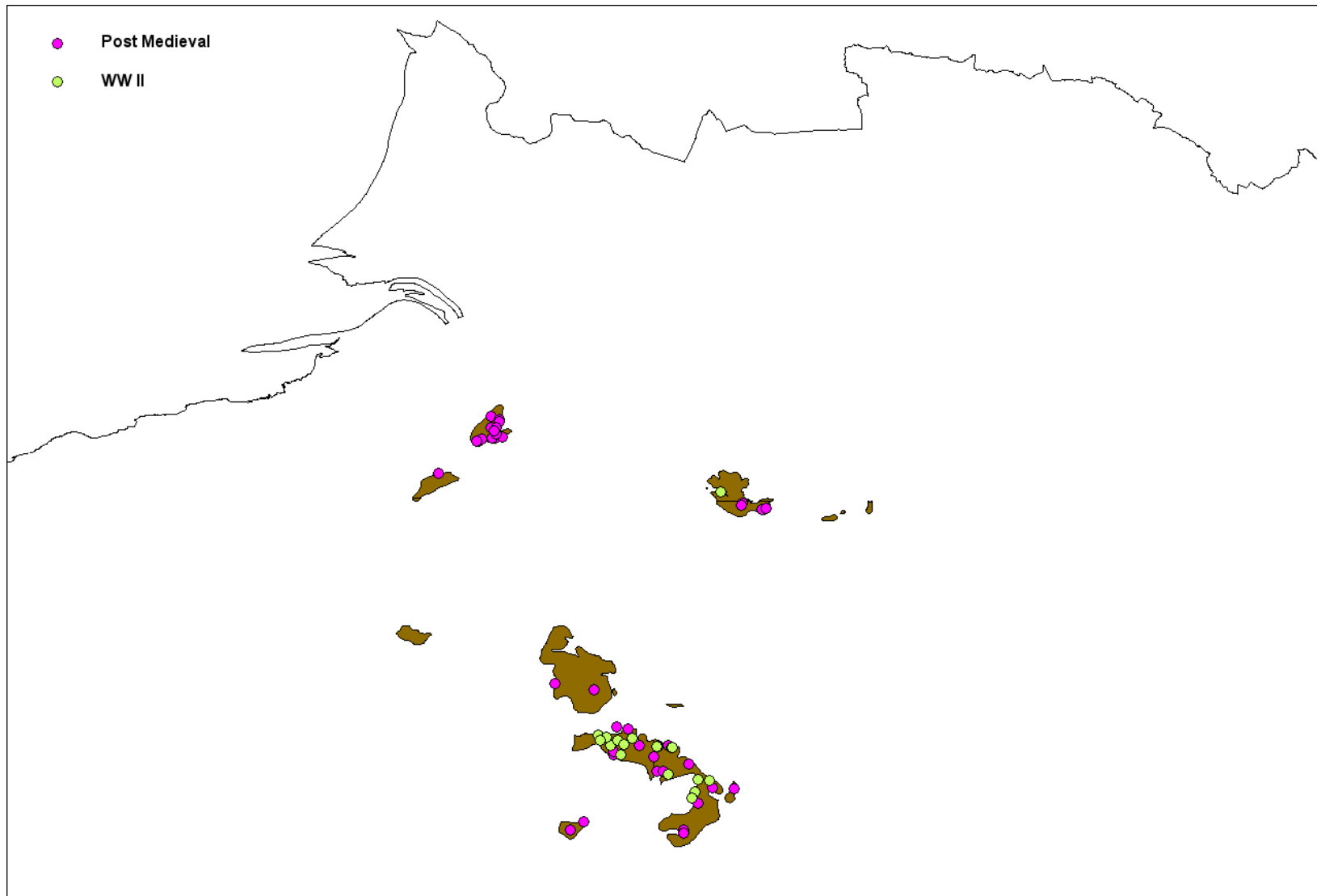


Fig. 29 Burtle Beds Resource Assessment Post Medieval and WW II Records

## 5.7 Budleigh Salterton Pebble Beds Resource Assessment

### 5.7.1 Introduction

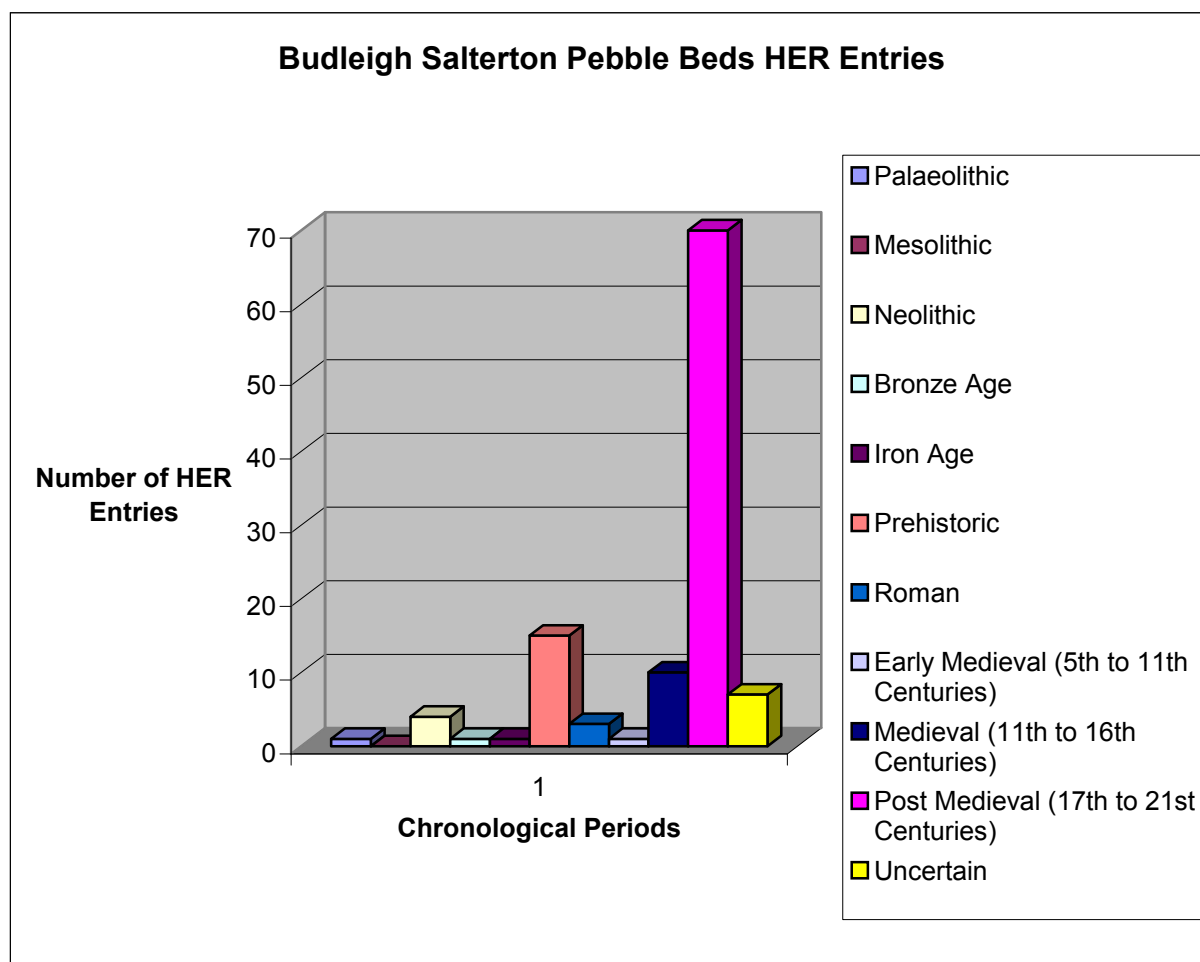
The Budleigh Salterton Pebble Beds stretch from the area just south of Williton down the Vale of Taunton Deane into Devon, the pebble beds within the Somerset County boundary consist of a total area of 25.568 square kilometres. A search of the Somerset HER identified one hundred and three entries for the area including sites which overlapped within the surrounding geology but which lay substantially on the pebble beds. These records were then searched chronologically and produced one hundred and thirteen separately dated archaeological entries.

In addition to the search performed for the core pebble beds a further chronological search was made of a one kilometre buffer zone around the core covering an area of 135 square kilometres, this was carried out in order to assess whether the types of archaeological sites varied according to the underlying geology. These two datasets were compared to chronological search results for the County as a whole, which has a total area of 3,504 square kilometres and the results of the searches are illustrated in Table32 \*.

**Table32 Table of Chronological Search Results for the Budleigh Salterton Pebble Beds Character Area**

Period	Pebble Beds	Buffer Zone	Somerset number & %	
Palaeolithic	1	1	80	<1%
Mesolithic	0	1	124	<1%
Neolithic	4	4	323	<2%
Bronze Age	1	7	1242	1%
Iron Age	1	3	230	<2%
Prehistoric	15	2	2731	16%
<b>Total number of Prehistoric Entries</b>	<b>(22)</b>	<b>(18)</b>	<b>(4730)</b>	<b>(29%)</b>
Roman	3	2	1032	6%
Early Medieval (5th to 11th Centuries)	1	0	169	1%
Medieval (11th to 16th Centuries)	10	61	2723	16%
Post Medieval (17th to 21st Centuries)	70	239	5850	35%
Uncertain	7	30	1870	11%
<b>Total</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>16374</b>	

**Table33 Graph of Chronological Search Results for the Budleigh Salterton Pebble Beds Character Area**



## **5.7.2 Known Archaeological Resource**

### **5.7.3 The Palaeolithic Period**

There is one Palaeolithic entry for the Pebble Bed character area and it represents the chance find of a fragment of a chert handaxe (PRN 33238) from near Crowcombe Station. The artefact was donated to the County Museum, Taunton and was analysed as part of the joint Wessex Archaeology and English Heritage Southern Rivers Palaeolithic Project and it was considered highly likely that the proximity of the find to the railway meant that it had been transported to the area amongst the ballast for the railway construction. As a result it is difficult to infer anything about the Palaeolithic period in the character from this record.

### **5.7.4 The Mesolithic Period**

There are no Mesolithic records for the pebble beds character area.

### **5.7.5 The Neolithic Period.**

There are four Neolithic entries in the pebble beds character area, three of which relate to lithic material recovered from Bindon Farm, Langford Budville (PRN 43265,

44611, 44612) this assemblage includes leaf shaped arrowheads, knives, scrapers and a saw and was retrieved by an independent collector and whereabouts are unknown. The fourth collection was found near the Quaking House, Milverton (PRN 43299) and contains material that includes arrowheads, flakes, cores and blades and was collected between 1915 and 1980. Some of the assemblage, including a large quantity of arrowheads was donated to the County Museum, Taunton.

While there are only two Neolithic sites represented on the Somerset HER for the character area both have produced a large quantity of material which include objects that are likely to have formed part of hunting kits. From the variety of tool types represented it is also possible that these sites represent preparation areas from which hunting parties would descend.

#### **5.7.6 *The Bronze Age***

There is one Bronze Age record for the Pebble Bed character area, it relates to a collection of lithics recovered from Quaking House, Milverton (PRN 43299) recovered by independent collectors between 1915 and 1980. Amongst the assemblage that also contained Neolithic artefacts were a large number of barbed and tanged arrowheads some of which have been donated to the County Museum, Taunton. The length of time over which the assemblage was collected and the quantity of material suggests there was intensive activity at this site possibly associated with hunting.

#### **5.7.7 *The Iron Age***

There is one Iron Age entry within the character area and it relates to Curdon Wood Camp, Stogumber (PRN 34023) it was initially reported by the VCH and is a Scheduled monument. It was included in Burrow's BAR report on Hillforts and Hilltop settlement and it is considered to represent a hillslope enclosure. Only part of the monument remains as the defences to the north-west, south and east have been destroyed by quarrying. No archaeological investigation is known to have been carried out at this site and coupled with the damage caused by the quarrying it is difficult to assess the true nature of the site.

#### **5.7.8 *General Prehistoric Entries***

There are fifteen general prehistoric records within the character area all of them relate to enclosures, although there is also a possible ring-ditch near Holywell Lakes (PRN 44579). While there are multiple incidences at Roadwater (PRNs 35450, 35451 and 35454), Fitzhead (PRN 44162, 44163 and 44521) and Milverton (PRN 44273 and 44535) they are generally fairly evenly spread across the character area. With the exception of PRN 44273 described as a possible enclosure near Milverton, which was noted by a SCC Archaeology Officer, all of the enclosures have been identified from the DAPs.

Clearly there are extensive relic landscapes within the pebble beds character area however without further investigation it is not possible to conclusively date any of these features a situation that is highlighted by the appearance of PRN 35452 at Vellow which has been interpreted as both a late prehistoric defended enclosure and a Roman signal station.

#### **5.7.9 *The Roman Period***

There are three Roman entries within the character area. Two of these relate to the possible Roman signal station near Vellow (PRN 35452) the earthwork itself was noted on aerial photographs Devon Archaeology Officer and a small quantity of

Roman pottery was also recovered from the site in 1990 during fieldwalking (same PRN). The pottery recovered dates from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> Centuries AD. The third entry also relates to an artefact and it was a chance find of a coin at Langford Budville (PRN 43281) discovered whilst a field was being ploughed, it remains in the possession of the finder.

It is difficult to ascertain much about Roman activity within the character area from such a small sample. The recovery of pottery from inside the bounds of the feature at Yellow suggests it may indeed have been used during the Roman period if not Roman in origin, however further investigation is required in order to fully understand what is represented at that site.

#### ***5.7.10 The Early Medieval Period***

There is only one entry relating to the Early Medieval period within the character area and it relates to the discovery of an inhumation cemetery (PRN 44689) to the south of St Peters Church, Langford Budville during the construction of a new house. At least ten individuals were represented although the graves had been severely disturbed, and they were unaccompanied. The burials were assumed to have been east-west oriented and the site was recorded by SCC Archaeology officers.

The Early Medieval period in Somerset is not well represented and therefore the paucity of entries for the pebble beds character area is not surprising. It is difficult without associated artefactual remains or scientific dating techniques to assess whether the burials at Langford Budville do date to the Early Medieval period however there are other examples of cemeteries of this period within the County and therefore it is a viable option.

#### ***5.7.11 The Medieval Period***

There are ten Medieval records within the character area. Three of these entries relate to ecclesiastical buildings which documentary evidence has suggested are Medieval in origin, two represent settlement sites recorded as a result of independent research and documentary evidence respectively. They are a shrunken village at Combe Florey (PRN 43196) and a possible settlement site (PRN 44373) near Milverton. There are two Manor houses and two parks within of a Medieval date and they were recorded from documentary sources and the OSAD. The final entry relates to a collection of pottery and building material ranging from the 14<sup>th</sup> century onwards recovered by independent researchers from a ploughed field near Holwell Lakes (PRN 44657).

The Medieval entries for the character area are limited to domestic and ecclesiastical activity, largely recorded as a result of documentary sources. Areas such as Combe Florey appear to have the greatest range and number of sites (PRNs 43187, 43188 and 43196) including a church, manor house and shrunken settlement, suggesting the existence of a Medieval community in that area. The other records are a little more disparate identifying a small number of activity areas across the character area.

#### ***5.7.12 The Post Medieval Period***

Post Medieval records are the best represented entries within the character area and they number seventy in total. Twenty-seven of the entries relate to limekilns, twenty-three of which have been located from ordinance survey maps and four from OSAD maps. There are eleven secular buildings within the character area most of which are

mills, although this group includes lodges and a canal structure. Seven of these buildings have been located from ordnance survey maps, three through the work of independent researchers and one from an OSAS map.

Eight of the Post Medieval entries relate to agricultural structures most of which are farm waterwheels and one is a leat. Five have been identified through the work of independent researchers, one by a SCC Officer, one was located from an ordnance survey map and reference to one survives in the HER records. There are five parks within the character area, four have been identified from ordnance survey maps and two from OSAD maps. There are three quarries of Post Medieval date and all have been located from ordnance survey maps. Two the Post Medieval records relate to war memorials and they have been described by the United Kingdom National Inventory of War Memorials. There are also two wells, one was recorded by the OSAD and the other was identified from a documentary source and two railway structures one identified as a result of independent research and the other from a documentary source.

The remaining Post Medieval entries for the character area relate to single entries for; a milestone, a dovecote, pottery kiln, and a boundary post all recorded on ordnance survey maps, a copper mine and a church identified from a documentary source, a settlement and an enclosure identified by SCC Archaeology Officers, a Quaker burial ground reported by the OSAD and a collection of pottery recovered as a result of independent research.

The Post Medieval records are spread across the character area and unlike the previous periods are no longer dominated by domestic entries. The mark of industrialisation is obvious by the number of limekilns, quarries and mills within the area.

#### **5.7.13 *Uncertain Entries***

Seven of the entries for the pebble bed character area have been classified as uncertain in date. Five of these entries relate to enclosures identified from aerial photographs and the remaining two are a polished stone from Thorne St Margaret (PRN 43684) and a slag find from near Langford Budville (PRN 44666). As cropmarks account for 17% of the total number of entries for the pebble beds character area and none have been intrusively investigated it is not surprising that a number should appear within the Uncertain group. It is not always possible to date monuments and therefore this category serves a useful purpose until or if further investigations take place.

#### **5.7.14 *Extent and Nature of Archaeological Investigations within the character area.***

Despite the fact that the Somerset HER records over one hundred sites for the pebble beds character area there has only been one intrusive investigation and the non-intrusive work is limited to artefact studies and aerial photographic surveys.

##### **5.7.14.1 *Extensive Surveys***

There have been no archaeological surveys carried out in the pebble beds character area, however the Devon aerial photographs do cover the area and without which none of the cropmark features would have been identified. Similarly the SCC Claylands survey also covered part of the pebble beds character area.

#### ***5.7.14.2 Archaeological Excavations***

There is only one example of an intrusive archaeological investigation within the character area and it relates to the discovery of an inhumation cemetery (PRN 44689) to the south of St Peters Church, Langford Budville. Unfortunately the burials were discovered as a result of a development and very disturbed, however it was recorded by SCC Archaeology Officers and an account of the site was published in the PSANHS.

#### ***5.7.14.3 Environmental Assessments***

There are no records on the HER relating to environmental assessments carried out within the pebble beds character area.

#### ***5.7.14.4 Artefact Examination***

There have been no local level artefact studies carried out within the pebble beds character area. However the chert handaxe fragment from Crowcombe (PRN 33238) was analysed as part of the Southern Rivers Palaeolithic Project.

### ***5.7.15 Comparison between the Archaeological Resource of the Core Character Area and Buffer Zone.***

There are a total of three hundred and fifty sites and monuments within the pebble beds buffer zone, representing just over three times as many sites as there are in core character area. Despite the increase in number of sites in the buffer zone it is in fact five times the size of the core character area and so the increase in archaeological entries is disproportionate to the area.

#### ***5.7.15.1 The Palaeolithic Period***

There is one Palaeolithic entry in the buffer zone and it relates to a handaxe find from Williton (PRN 34208). Despite the increase in size in favour of the buffer zone there is no increase in the number of the Palaeolithic entries. In both areas the Palaeolithic records represent handaxes and both are from the northern half of the area covered by the core and buffer zone, which may be significant, however a cautionary note should be added as it is likely that the entry (PRN 33238) for the core character area was imported from elsewhere.

#### ***5.7.15.2 The Mesolithic Period***

There is one record relating to the Mesolithic period and relates to a lithic scatter recovered from near Milverton (PRN 43328). This is a direct contrast to the core character area in which there are no Mesolithic entries recorded on the HER. It is unlikely that this is a result of the geological differences between the two areas it is more likely that it is a reflection of the poor nature of the prehistoric record for the area.

#### ***5.7.15.3 The Neolithic Period***

There are four entries for the Neolithic within the buffer zone three of these records relate to lithic remains and the fourth is a possible long barrow or dolmen at Williton (PRN 34188). Despite the fact that the buffer zone is five times as large as the core character area there are exactly the same number of entries on the Somerset HER



#### **5.7.15.4 The Bronze Age**

Seven of the entries for the buffer zone have been assigned Bronze Age dates and these records relate to four barrows, two cropmark ring ditches and one bronze axe find from the vicinity of Milverton (PRN 43327). This is in direct contrast to the records for the core character area as the only Bronze Age record for the core character area represents lithic finds and the Bronze Age records for the buffer zone also represent the first example of size difference between the two areas being reflected in the HER entries. The dominance of the funerary monuments within the buffer zone may be a result of the differing geological make up of the two areas, with the round barrows being situated on the higher ground overlooking the core.

#### **5.7.15.5 The Iron Age**

There are three Iron Age entries and they consist of one hillfort, Trendle Ring (PRN 33201) and two cropmark enclosures. While there are more Iron Age records the buffer zone than the core character area increase is not proportionate to the size difference in favour of the buffer zone. However there is a similarity between Trendle Ring (PRN 33201) and Curdon Camp (PRN 34023) both of which are considered to be defended enclosures.

#### **5.7.15.6 General Prehistoric Entries**

There are only two general prehistoric entries for the buffer zone and relate to cropmark enclosures at Rich's Holford and Torweston (PRN 15851 and 18554). The entries for the general Prehistoric group in the core character area also represent cropmark features and they largely consist of enclosures. However despite the core character area being five times smaller than the buffer zone there are more entries in the core than the buffer.

#### **5.7.15.7 The Roman Period**

There are two Roman entries for the buffer zone both records have been found in the vicinity of Wiveliscombe and they represent the discovery of a coin and a lead coffin (PRNs 43796 and 44499). Despite the difference in size between the core character area and the buffer zone in favour of the buffer zone there are more entries on the HER for the core. In both the buffer and the core there have been coin discoveries, whilst the presence of the military is indicated by the signal station found within the core (PRN 35452). However in both cases little can be ascertained about the area during the Roman period.

#### **5.7.15.8 The Early Medieval Period**

There are no Early Medieval entries in the buffer zone despite the size difference between the two areas. The Early Medieval period within Somerset as a whole is

#### **5.7.15.9 The Medieval Period**

The Medieval period is well represented within the buffer zone with sixty-one entries. There are twenty ecclesiastical buildings; fourteen secular structures including manor houses, building remains, wayside and village crosses, eleven settlements, seven churchyard crosses, two parks and two Medieval artefact discoveries. Single incidences of a well, tithe barn, water meadow, lynchet and a buried soil have also been assigned to the Medieval period within the buffer zone. The Medieval period is better represented within the buffer zone than it is within the core the buffer contains five times as many entries assigned to this period than the core, which directly corresponds with the size differences between the two areas. However the types of sites and monuments remain the same and ecclesiastical buildings are the most prevalent of structures in both areas.

#### **5.7.15.10 The Post Medieval Period**

There are two hundred and thirty-nine Post Medieval entries for the buffer zone including three that relate directly to Second World War activity. There are eighty-six secular structures; thirty limekilns, twenty-one agricultural structures, sixteen milestones, thirteen settlements, thirteen parks, twelve ecclesiastical buildings, seven boundary markers, six war memorials, six ponds, five railway structures, four bridges, three artefact collections, two wells, two water meadows and two leats. There are also single incidences of a dovecote, a warren, a rifle range, pottery kiln, prisoner of war camp, tree ring enclosure, standing stone and a churchyard. The Second World War structures relate to one pillbox, one military camp and one auxiliary base unit.

In both the core and buffer zones of the pebble beds character area the Post Medieval entries represent over 60% of the records. Broadly the sites and monument types are similar in both areas, limekilns Tablehighly in both the core and buffer and the secular structures relate both to industrial processing such as foundries and dye works and mills. Quarrying and mining activities are however limited to the core character area.

#### **5.7.15.11 Uncertain Entries**

Thirty of the buffer zone entries have been classified as Uncertain in date, nineteen of these are cropmark enclosures; three are earthworks, two are artefacts (pottery and wood) and there are single incidences of features such as a leat, bull ring and decorated plasterwork. In similarity to the core character area cropmark features dominate the Uncertain entries which highlights the difficulties in assigning accurate dates whether the use of archaeological investigations.

#### **5.7.16 Summary of the Known Archaeological Resource**

The prehistoric periods (Palaeolithic-Iron Age and general Prehistoric) may appear to be reasonably well represented within the pebble beds character area accounting for approximately 19% of the chronologically searched records. However 68% of these records relate to cropmark features assigned to the general Prehistoric group that have not been further investigated, indicating that there is a valuable archaeological resource that is not well understood within this group. When compared to the same records for the buffer zone it is possible to see that despite the difference in size (in

favour of the buffer zone) between each area the prehistoric periods are far better represented in the core character area, where there are 15% more records than in the buffer zone. Only 28% of the HER records for the County as a whole represent prehistoric entries demonstrating that although not all the major periods are represented within the character area prehistoric sites are a prominent part of the archaeological resource for the core character area.

The only Palaeolithic evidence relates to a fragment of a handaxe that may or may not originate at the place it was found and therefore provides little information. While there are more Palaeolithic entries in the buffer zone they represent the same artefact types. There are no Mesolithic entries for the pebble beds character area and only one example from within the buffer zone from near Milverton (PRN 43328). The artefacts assigned to the Neolithic period have all been found in the southern half of the character area between Langford Budville and Milverton and they relate to two sites and both collections also appear to contain hunting and processing tool types. There are also a number of cropmark enclosures to the north-west and south-east of the sites where these lithics were recovered from (PRNs 44581, 44582 and 44583). These features were all identified from aerial photographs and none of them have been assigned a date (they are currently within the Uncertain category). Whilst the proximity of these features does not necessitate a relationship between the sites and the Neolithic material recovered from the vicinity it is worth noting. In buffer zone there are exactly the same number of entries for this period although there is one incidence of the type of monument varying at that is the possible long barrow/dolmen at Williton (PRN 34188).

In similarity to the Palaeolithic period there is only one entry on the HER for the Bronze Age in the core character area and it forms part of a mixed Neolithic and Bronze Age flint assemblage from Milverton (PRN 43299). The Bronze Age in the buffer zone is however better represented and the records are largely made up of burial monuments a factor that may be a result of the differences between the two geological areas. Iron Age evidence is limited to the Curdon Wood Camp near Stogumber (PRN 34023) and despite being a Scheduled monument the Somerset HER records significant damage caused by quarrying. There is a similarity between the monuments types for the core and buffer zone for this period.

The features assigned to the general Prehistoric group in the core character area all relate to cropmark enclosures with the exception of one at Milverton (PRN 44273) which remains as an extant earthwork. These features appear across the character area with a slight bias towards the upper half from Vellow to Williton where seven out of the fifteen enclosures are located. Despite the fact that there are only two entries for the general Prehistoric group within the buffer zone both also relate to cropmark enclosures demonstrating the consistency of such features across the wider area and highlighting the paucity of our knowledge regarding them.

Roman evidence is limited within the character area, two of the three entries relate to artefacts and the other the alleged Signal Station at Vellow has not been confirmed (PRN 35452), leaving little comment about the area during this period. Both the core pebble beds character area and the buffer zone are poorly represented during this period and in neither area do the Roman entries represent over 5%. Perhaps somewhat interestingly records relating to the Roman period within the County as a whole only make up a little over 5%. Little can be inferred about Early Medieval activity within the character area either, whilst it seems likely that the burials at Langford Budville (PRN 44689) do date to this period nothing else is known of the character area in this period, a situation mirrored by the County as a whole.

When compared to the buffer zone and Somerset as a whole the Medieval period is under represented within the pebble beds character area, in fact the percentage of Medieval records for the buffer zone and County are exceptionally similar at 17% and 16% respectively, whereas they only represent 9% in the core character area. The records for the core suggest rural communities particularly in the areas around Combe Florey. The buffer zone records indicate similar monument types, with Ecclesiastical buildings and crosses dominating the records and settlement evidence is also more widespread.

The Post Medieval entries for both the core character area and buffer zone reflect the development of industrial processes within this part of Somerset. Whilst agricultural practises are still present limekilns and quarries now accompany them. Within the buffer zone the number of textile mills, particularly around Wellington, reflects the move towards industrialisation. It perhaps should be noted that there are no HER records for the Second World War within the character area but there are for the buffer zone, this may be as a direct result of the defensive plans for Britain and the proximity of a number of towns and large settlements precluding the use of the area for training purposes.

In both the core pebble beds character area and the buffer zone Post Medieval entries account for approximately two thirds of the total number of chronologically searched records which is actually a percentile increase of approximately 30% on the County as a whole. Clearly there has been an intensive amount of activity in and around this area in from the end of the Medieval period onwards.

The Uncertain records for both the core pebble beds area and buffer zone account for approximately the percentage in each area at 7% and 8% respectively and in both cases cropmark features dominate them. In the County as a whole the percentage of Uncertain records is slightly more at 11%. Only investigation could reduce the number of entries for this group, particularly with reference to the cropmark feature and should be considered in the future.

Currently aggregate extraction takes place on both sides of the Somerset and Devon border at Whiteball. While extraction is set continue at this site the Somerset MLP acknowledges that should it become necessary other areas within the Budleigh Salterton pebble bed formation may be sought as an alternative site. This means that despite the relatively small number of recorded archaeological sites there is a very real threat in the future to the archaeological resource of this character area.



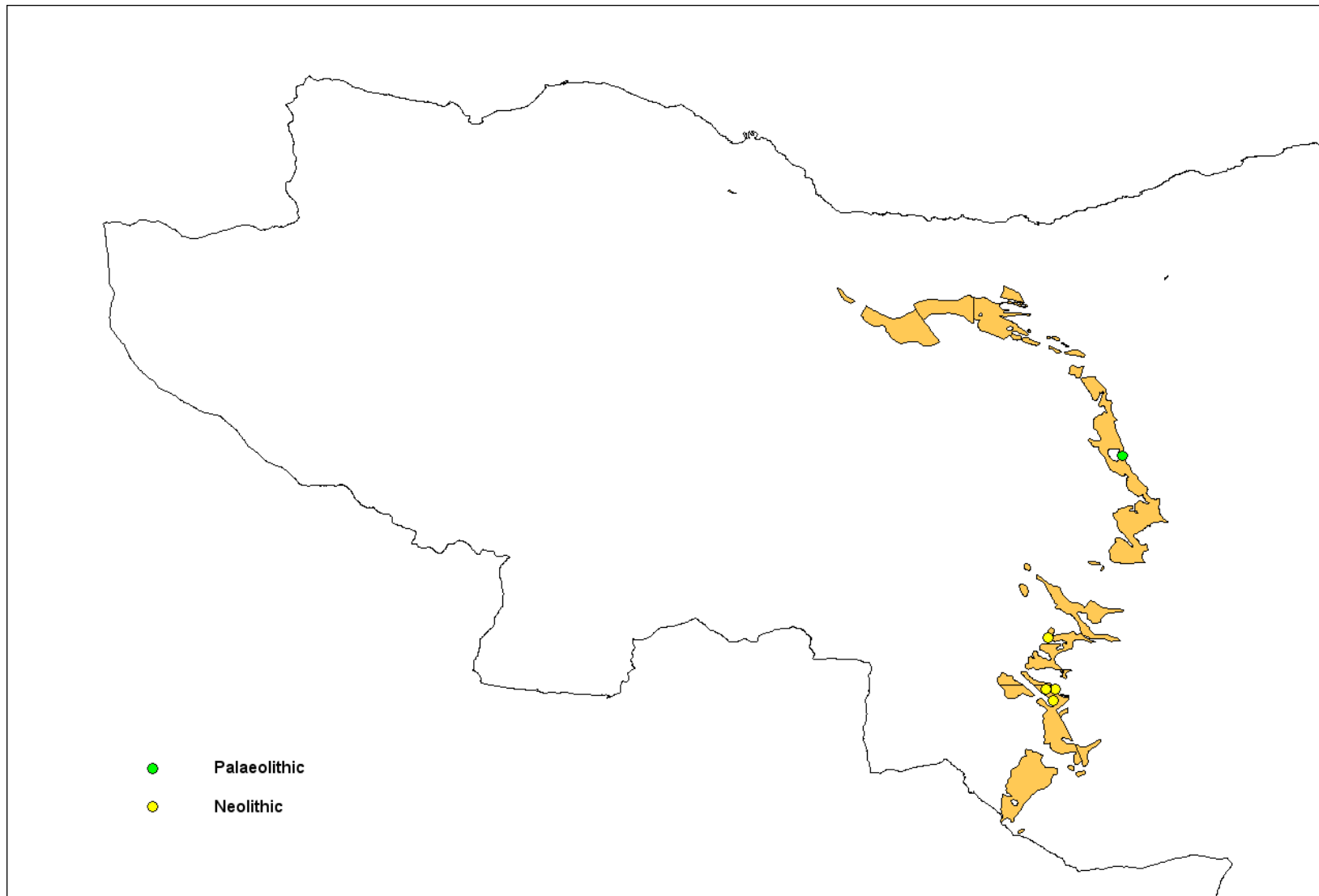
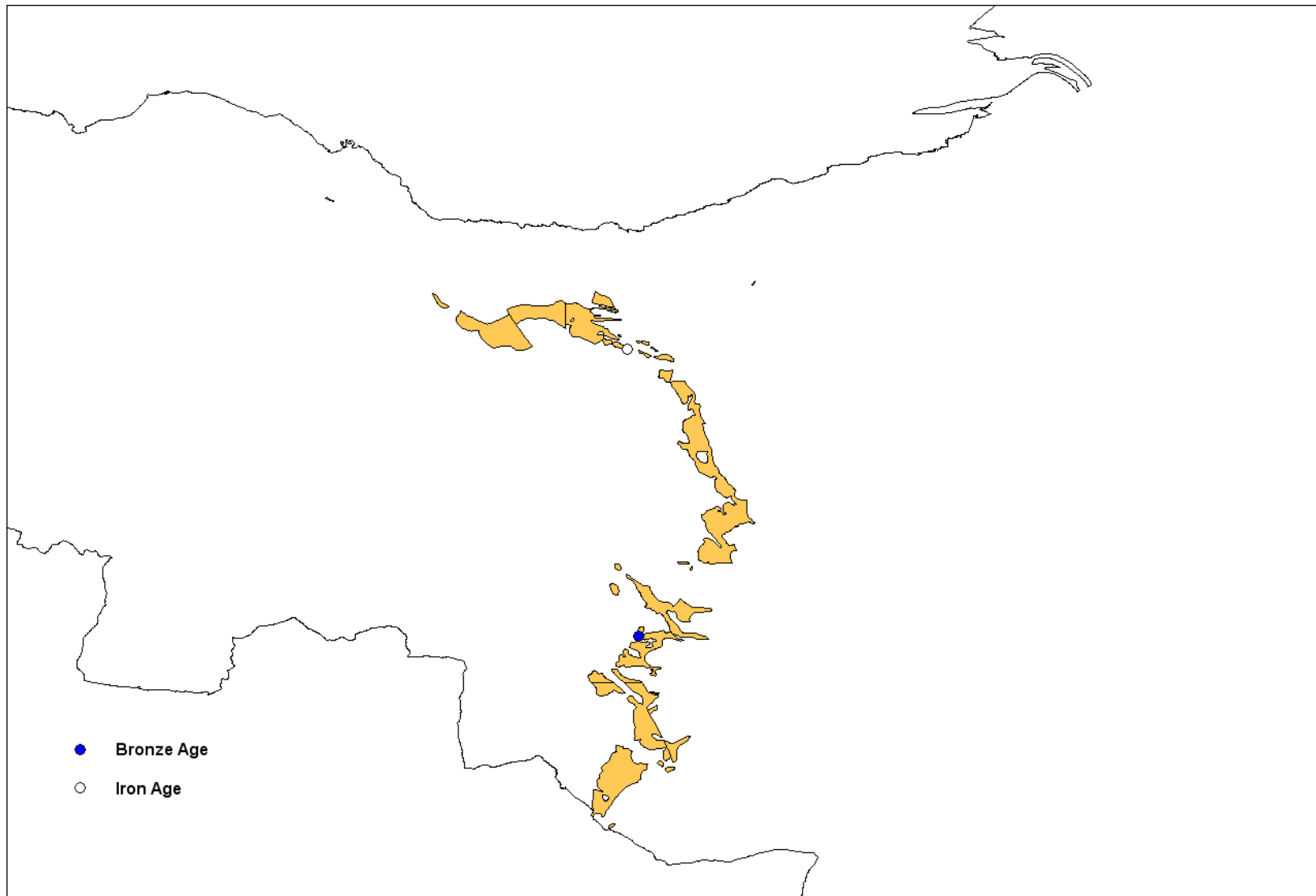
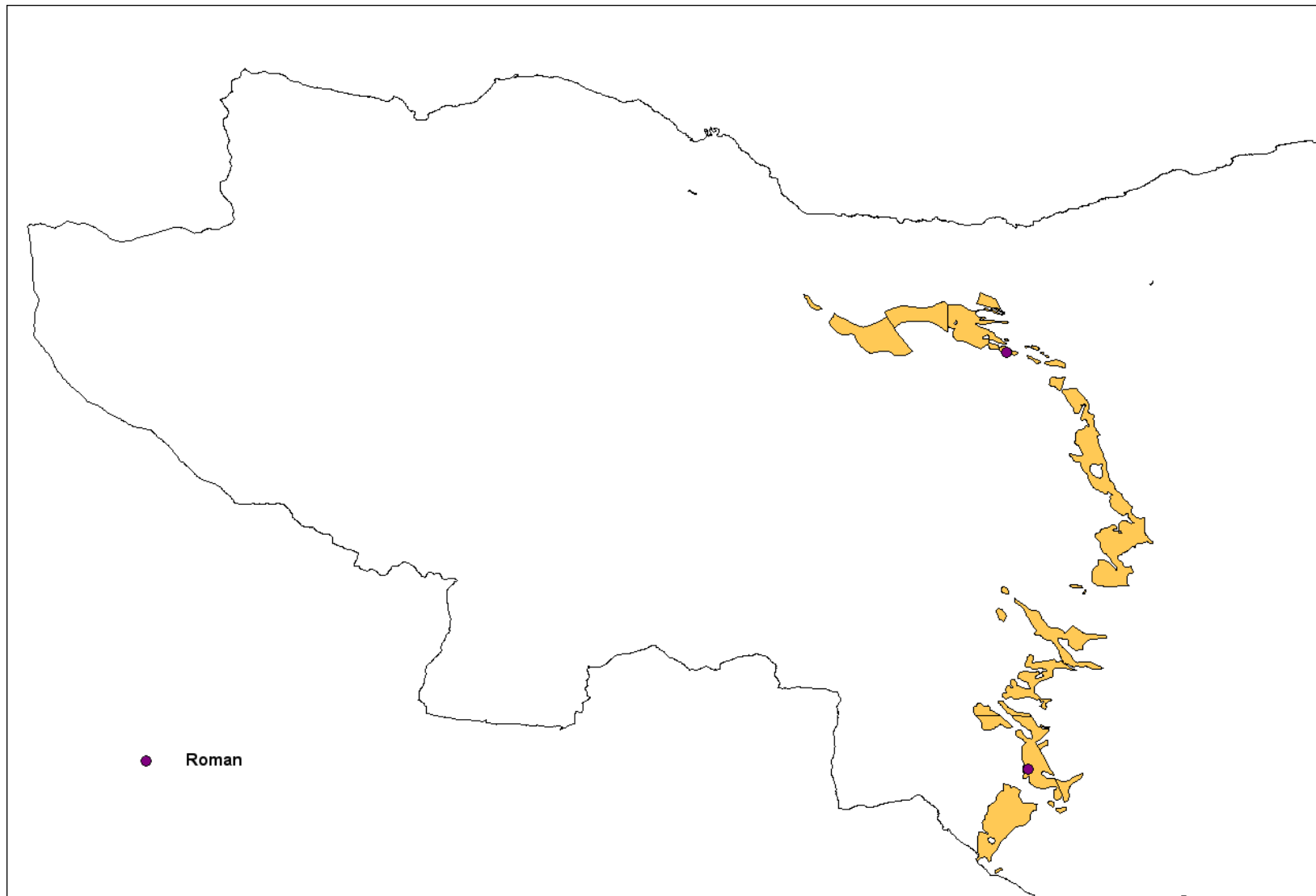


Fig 30 Budliegh Salterton Resource Assessment Early Prehistoric Records

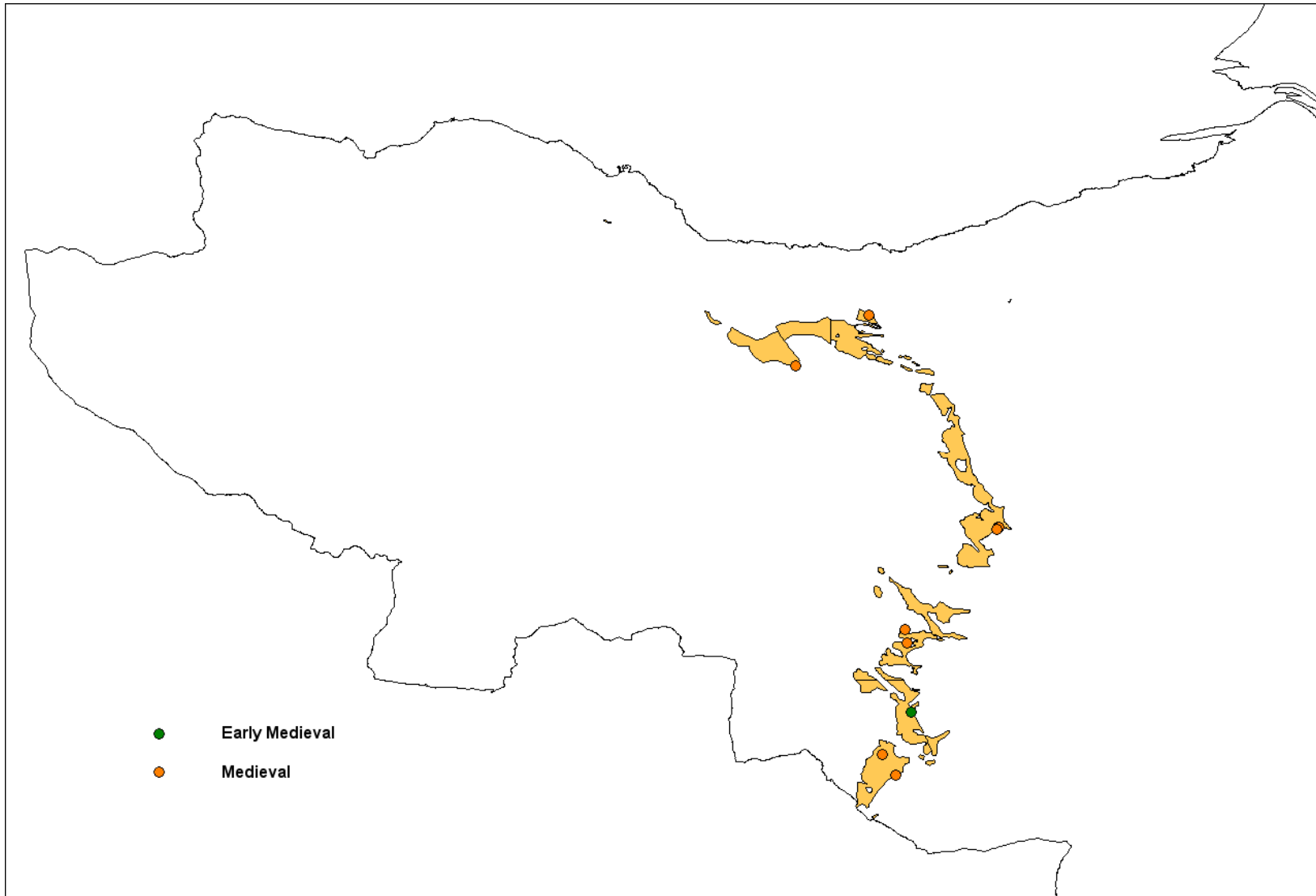


Budliegh Salterton Resource Assessment Late Prehistoric Records

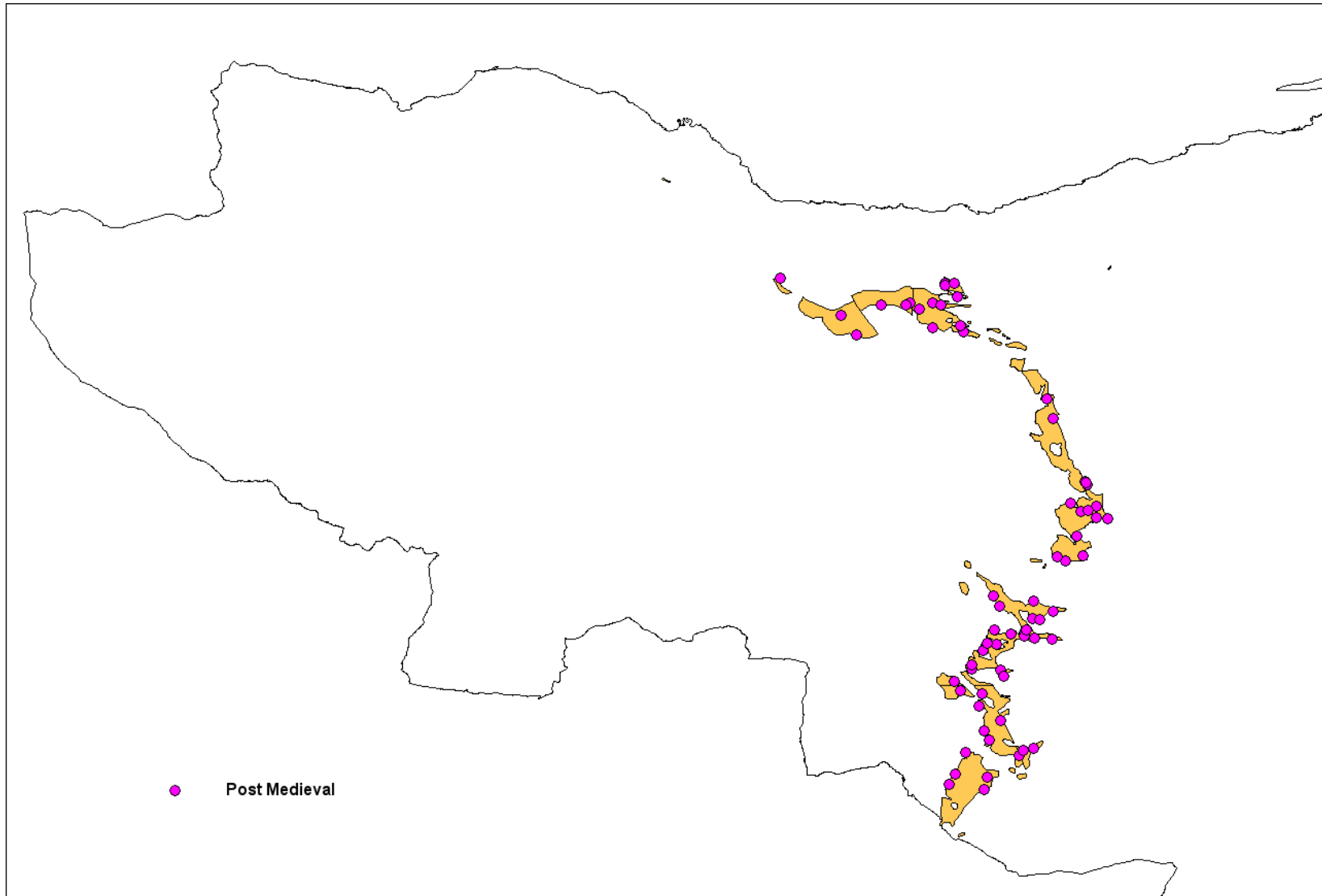


Budliegh Salterton Resource Assessment Roman Records





Budliegh Salterton Resource Assessment Early Medieval and Medieval Records



Budliegh Salterton Resource Assessment Post Medieval Records

## **5.8 Miscellaneous Sand and Gravel Extraction Sites**

### **5.8.1 Moon Lane ST 287 304**

Information provided by the Somerset County Council Mineral Planning Officers indicated that the small scale extraction of sand and gravel had taken place at Moon Lane, near Thurloxtton prior to the construction of the M5 Motorway. A spherical 1 kilometre search of the HER around the quarry site produced a total of seven records which when broken down chronologically produced the following seven entries:

- 1 Mesolithic
- 1 General Prehistoric
- 2 Medieval
- 3 Post Medieval

The Mesolithic entry (PRN 10617) represents an assemblage of over 2500 pieces of flint and chert that were discovered during the construction of the M5 Motorway at Greenway Farm, North Newton. The site occupies approximately two acres and the lithic types include; cores, microliths, microburins, small scrapers, truncated blades, knives and burins. In 1975 a paper concerning the discoveries was published in PSANHS and while there were a small number of artefacts that displayed Neolithic and Bronze Age facets it is considered to represent a predominantly Mesolithic assemblage and the site seems suggestive of a lithic production area.

The General Prehistoric entry represents a series of cropmark enclosures at Bullenshay Farm, Thurloxtton (PRN 11913) consisting of one rectilinear and one subcircular with an inner enclosure. The site was identified from the DAPs and remains uninvestigated.

19<sup>th</sup> Century documentary evidence reported the existence of a moated area around a farm at Shearston (PRN 11002) within which was believed to be a Medieval Chapel. The site is a Scheduled Monument and it's thought to represent a free Chapel in existence in the 14<sup>th</sup> Century. The English Heritage Field Warden reported that the moated area was still extant in 2000 but much of it had been infilled. No further investigation has taken place at this site. A Medieval field system was reported near Moonlane Barn, North Newton (PRN 12509) during the construction of the M5 Motorway, however the HER records that although a report was prepared it can no longer be located.

Two of the Post Medieval records for Moon Lane relate to milestones (PRN 10190 and 17163), both were recorded on the HER from Ordinance Survey maps and the Somerset Industrial Archaeology Society noted that one (PRN 17163) formerly on the A38 at Thurloxtton is now located at Durston following an alteration to the road. The final site represents a Second World War Searchlight site at North Newton (PRN 18576) identified from War Office records.

The results of the 1 kilometre HER search around the Moon Lane sand and gravel quarry site demonstrate a range of archaeological records from the Prehistoric to the Post Medieval periods. At Greenway Farm (PRN 10617) it seems likely there was a large area of flint production while one of the Medieval records (PRN 11002) suggests a monastic sites which may benefit from further investigation. There is little evidence of systematic research at these sites and with exception of the lithics collected from Greenway Farm (PRN 10617) and the Medieval field system (PRN 12509) which were recorded as a result of the construction of the M5 Motorway the is no evidence for any archaeological investigation.

### **5.8.2 Knighton ST 193 445**

It is recorded in the Somerset Mineral Planning archives that a small scale sand and gravel extraction operation took place at Knighton, near Stogursey. A spherical 1 kilometre search of the HER around the quarry site produced a total of nine records which when broken down chronologically produced the following ten entries:

- 1 Neolithic
- 1 Bronze Age
- 1 General Prehistoric
- 6 Post Medieval
- 1 Uncertain

The Neolithic entry (PRN 35252) also represents the General Prehistoric record and it consists of an elliptical cropmark enclosure which may be a long barrow at Culver St Farm, Burton. It was identified from the DAPs and no investigations have taken place at the site to confirm or disprove the identification.

The Bronze Age entry relates to the chance find of a single barbed and tanged flint arrowhead from Bullen Farm, Stogursey (PRN 34096), it was recovered in the 1890s and was presented to the County Museum, Taunton.

Of the six Post Medieval entries four have been located from Ordinance Survey maps and they relate to two limekilns (PRNs 34091 and 34092) and two field barns (PRNs 35084 and 35085). One of the limekilns (PRN 34091) located on the coast to the north of Knighton was still partially extant in the 1970s. The final two Post Medieval entries represent a barn (PRN 34087) and a house (PRN 34088) noted from aerial photographs and identified from the 1841 Tithe maps for the area.

The entry assigned to the Uncertain category represents a cropmark enclosure and field boundaries identified from the DAPs to the north of Shurton (PRN 35504). Although the enclosure is described as trapezoidal in shape no further investigation have taken place to attempt to establish a date for these features.

The results of the 1 kilometre HER search around the Knighton quarry has produced evidence of activity centring on the Prehistoric and Post Medieval periods. Both agricultural and industrial processes are indicated by the Post Medieval records. Ordinance Survey maps and aerial photographs represent the dominant mediums through which these sites have been identified. None of the records for this area have been subject to archaeological investigation and while the usefulness of aerial photographic analysis for HER enhancement is demonstrated further research for at least two of the sites PRNs 35252 and 35504 may provide important dating evidence.

### **5.8.3 King's Cliff ST 276 325**

The extraction of sand and gravel from the King's Cliff sand pit to the south-west of North Petherton is recorded in the archives of the Somerset Minerals Planning Department. A spherical 1 kilometre search of the HER around the quarry site produced a total of seven records which when broken down chronologically produced the following seven entries:

- 1 General Prehistoric
- 4 Post Medieval
- 2 Uncertain

The General Prehistoric entry relates to a cropmark enclosure north of Hill Barn Cottages, North Petherton (PRN 10614) initially seen during the dry summer of 1976 and visible on the DAPs. It consists of an irregular oval enclosure with internal subcircular features and there are double-ditched features approaching it from at least two directions, no further investigations have taken place at the site.

Two of the Post Medieval records relate to house sites known as Crossways near North Petherton and Ashfield, Farringdon (PRNs 10181 and 10185) both were initially identified from Ordinance Survey maps and at Crossways (PRN 10181) some of the buildings are reported to remain in a derelict state and at Ashfield (PRN 10185) a number of garden earthworks are still in evidence. The final two Post Medieval records were also identified from Ordinance Survey maps and represent a Watermill at Melcombe (PRN 10602) and a Sheepwash in Boomer Wood (PRN 18022). None of the Post Medieval sites have been subject to archaeological investigation.

Both of the Uncertain entries represent cropmarks located in the vicinity of Hill Barn (PRNs 10615 and 11885) and they are visible on the DAPs. PRN 10615 was initially located during the summer of 1976 and consists of linear and rectangular features of at least three phases, while PRN 11885 consists of linear features. Neither of the sites has been further investigated.

The results of the 1 kilometre search around the King's Cliff sand pit demonstrate that there is activity possibly of a prehistoric date around the Hill Barn area to the west of North Petherton and the Post Medieval records demonstrate both secular and agricultural activities. The assignment of cropmark enclosures to the Uncertain category is somewhat typical and without further investigation the nature of the activity centring around Hill Barn (PRNs 10614, 10615 and 11885) will not be fully understood.

#### **5.8.4 Blagdon Hill ST 196 167**

The archives of the Somerset Mineral Planning Department record that the extraction of sand and gravel from Blagdon Hill on the Blackdowns has taken place in the past. A spherical 1 kilometre search of the HER around the quarry site produced a total of five records which when broken down chronologically produced the following six entries:

- 1 General Prehistoric
- 1 Medieval
- 3 Post Medieval
- 1 Uncertain

The General Prehistoric and Uncertain record relate to a barrow field name, east of Burnworthy (PRN 45600) recorded from a Tithe map on which it is noted as "Burrow Close". The Medieval entry represents a field system also to the east of Burnworthy (PRN 45693) identified by the Blackdown Hills Survey and which consist of the remains of a series of strip fields approximately 20 metres wide.

The Post Medieval entries were all identified from Ordinance Survey maps and consist of a stone pillar boundary marker at Leigh Hill (PRN 43893), a water tunnel associated with the Taunton Corporation Water Works also at Leigh Hill (PRN 43643) and a 19<sup>th</sup> Century Military Training area at Forches Corner (PRN 16527).

The 1 kilometre HER search around Blagdon Hill produced a small number of records largely representing a mix of Post Medieval secular activities. No archaeological investigations have taken place at any of the sites within this area.

#### **5.8.5 *The Downs and Gallows Close ST 125 206***

A small scale sand and gravel extraction operation is recorded as having taken place at The Downs and Gallows Close on the outskirts of Wellington. A spherical 1 kilometre search of the HER around the quarry site produced a total of 14 records because of the position of the quarry a number of the entries relate to sites within the urban area of Wellington, despite their location they have been left in the search. When broken down chronologically the search produced the following fourteen entries:

1 General Prehistoric  
1 Roman  
12 Post Medieval

The General Prehistoric entry relates to a trapezoidal enclosure identified from the DAPs north of Lower Westford Farm, Lower Westford (PRN 44166). It remains uninvestigated. The Roman entry relates to four sherds of what are probably 2<sup>nd</sup> Century AD grey ware from the site of Courtland School, Wellington (PRN 43723), they were donated to the County Museum, Taunton in 1959.

Three of the Post Medieval entries have been identified from Ordinance Survey maps and they relate to two woollen mills at Wellington and Westford (PRNs 43718 and 43722) and a saw mill at Tonedale (PRN 43719). Also within this search area is the Tonedale Mills (PRN 43720) parts of which are still extant and were subject to a standing buildings survey in 1993. There are two ecclesiastical buildings one at Rockwell Green (PRN 15083) is still extant and the other the Church of the Holy Trinity in Wellington (PRN 44667) was demolished in 1966 and its location noted as a result of an urban archaeological assessment of Wellington carried out in 2003.

The War Memorial and recreation ground to the south of Wellington Park (PRN 18051) and the Park itself (PRN 44593) are also located within the search area. Both are still extant and are within the Register of Parks and Gardens. The water towers and pumping station at Rockwell Green (PRNs 15552 and 15553) were recorded by the Somerset Industrial Archaeology Society and a note was published in PSANHS in 1988. The final two records relate to the Bristol and Exeter Railway (PRN 12964) and the Grand Western Canal (PRN 44126) where they pass through the search area. The Grand Western Canal is no longer in use but parts remain extant.

The results of the 1 kilometre search for The Downs and Gallows Close extraction demonstrate the effect of urban areas on this type of assessment. Archaeological investigation is more common in these areas because of the very nature and this is reflected within the results of the search.

### **5.8.6 Blindwell Lane ST 186 390**

The Somerset Minerals Planning Department archives demonstrate that sand and gravel were extracted from a small site known as Blindwell Lane on the outskirts of Nether Stowey. A spherical 1 kilometre search of the HER around the quarry site produced a total of nineteen records because of the proximity of the site to Nether Stowey these results include entries from within the urban area, no attempt has been made to remove them. When broken down chronologically the search produced the following twenty-one entries:

8 Medieval  
13 Post Medieval

The eight Medieval entries for the search area include three entries which relate to the Medieval origins of the Town of Nether Stowey and they consist of the Town itself (PRN 10588), the site of the Church of St Michael identified from documentary evidence (PRN 10589) and the market cross and stocks site (PRN 10590) also identified from documentary sources and also one of the Post Medieval records. Also within this search area is Stowey Castle (PRN 11402), a motte and bailey that remains as a earthwork, it is reported on the HER that excavation may have taken place here but there are no records. The site is Scheduled along with the Church of St Michael and an earthwork survey (PRN 17900) was carried out in 2004.

The remaining four Medieval records relate to the Castle Mound (PRN 10673) at Over Stowey recorded initially by an SCC Archaeology Officer and surveyed in 2003 (PRN 16104), the extant Church of St Peter and St Paul (PRN 11023), also one of the Post Medieval records, a Park and Warren identified from documentary sources (PRN 17901) and the pottery kilns (PRN 11126) south-west of Stowey Castle.

The Medieval kiln site (PRN 11126) was discovered as a result of the construction of a pipe trench in 1969. Two small excavations took place and revealed a building and large amounts of pottery it is dated to the 1290s. Limited details of the excavation were published in 1970 and 1971 in Medieval Archaeology.

Six of the Post Medieval records have been identified from Ordnance Survey maps and they consist of a warren, near Bincombe (PRN 11026), Marsh Silk Mills, Over Stowey (PRN 11029), a Smithy, Nether Stowey (PRN 18021) and two quarry sites near Over Stowey (PRNs 18102 and 18119). There are two copper mines within the search area at Bincombe (PRNs 10678 and 13971) identified by independent researchers and a possible Second World War building at Friarn visible on RAF aerial photographs (PRN 16697). At Parsonage Farm (PRN 15762) garden earthworks were identified in the orchard by a survey carried out prior to the Farm being incorporated in to the Countryside Stewardship Scheme. The results of the survey were published in PSANHS and the report is held within the HER files.

The results of the 1 kilometre search around the Blindwell Lane extraction site demonstrate the long history of activity within the area associated with the formation of the Medieval Town at Nether Stowey. The industrialisation of the area during the Post Medieval period is also illustrated by a number of records indicating mining and quarrying. Archaeological investigations have taken place at several of the sites although the only intrusive methods noted at Stowey Castle (PRN 11402) and the pottery kilns (PRN 11126) do not appear to have been very well recorded.

## **6 RESEARCH AGENDA**

### **6.1 Mendip Hills Character Area Research Agenda**

#### **6.1.1 Introduction**

The archaeological resource of the Mendip Hills character area contains some of the County's most important sites, a number of which have been impacted on by aggregate quarrying. The Mendip Hills represent the most extensively quarried area within Somerset and every major archaeological period has been affected by this activity. Unlike other areas within Somerset such as the Exmoor National Park and the Quantock Hills the Mendip Hills have not benefited from a comprehensive survey, although English Heritage are due to start work within the next year. While archaeological investigations of both an intrusive and non-intrusive nature have taken place at many sites, a large number of the excavations were carried by antiquaries or amateurs and are not well recorded or published. In such cases these finds and archives need to be re-assessed and where possible would benefit from scientific analysis. The archives of a number of individuals and groups are significant in the Mendip character area and these are:

The Reverend John Skinner  
E. K. Tratman  
L.V. Grinsell  
Harold St George Gray  
The University of Bristol Spelaeological Society

#### **6.1.2 The Prehistoric Period**

Prehistoric records account for 41% of the chronologically searched records for the Mendip character area. Of these records 47% represent Bronze Age funerary monuments, 18% are lithic discoveries, 6% relate to settlement activities and 4% represent cave sites.

The Palaeolithic period is well represented in the Mendip character area, largely as a result of the numerous caves located within the carboniferous limestone formations. There are examples of caves which have produced Lower, Middle and Upper Palaeolithic artefacts from aggregate quarry sites such as Westbury Cave (PRN 24849), Limekiln Hill Quarry Cave (PRN 25394) and Chelmscombe Cave (PRN 10397). The HER also records that a number of pre-dominantly Middle Palaeolithic artefacts have been recovered as a result of surface collection in particular from within the parish of Priddy (for example PRNs 18244, 24231 and 25444).

The bulk of the Mesolithic record represents lithics recovered during surface collection in the parishes of Priddy and Cheddar (for example PRNs 10424, 11412, 25940 and 44953) and at Lower Pitts Farm (PRN 23965) excavations have suggested that there may be evidence of a temporary camp dating to this period. Mesolithic artefacts were also amongst material recovered during a commercial fieldwalking exercise at Cloford Quarry (PRN 17752). There is one example of Mesolithic activity from a cave (PRN 10349) in the character area and it almost certainly represents body deposition or possibly burial but the nature of the original excavations makes this difficult to ascertain.



In similarity to the Mesolithic period the Neolithic entries for the Mendips relate largely to surface collections of lithics from the parishes of Cheddar and Priddy (PRNs 11421, 11578 17249 and 24092) and Neolithic artefacts were also recovered from Cloford Quarry (PRN 17752) and Colemans or Holwell Quarries (PRN 23904). There are several examples of cave contexts that have produced Neolithic material including pottery for example Chelmscombe Cave (PRN 10397) which subsequently destroyed by aggregate quarrying and amongst the material recovered were several partial inhumations thought to date to this period.

The Bronze Age period on Mendip is largely reflected by the funerary monuments, which account for 87% of the Bronze Age entries within the Mendip Hills character area. Only a few of these sites have been excavated and none have been carried out by professional bodies.

There are numerous lithic collections within the character area which also contain Bronze Age material including that recovered from Cloford Quarry (PRN 17752) and several cave sites have produced Bronze Age material some of which such as Chelmscombe Cave (PRN 10384), Charterhouse Farm Swallet (PRN 24097) and Bracelet Cave (PRN 24334) may contain burial evidence. Temporary settlement activity may also be indicated by pottery and lithics recovered from Bos Swallet (PRN 24128). The only excavated example of settlement evidence for this date it represents one the most significant sites within the County and relates to Brean Down (PRN 10133).

The Iron Age records for the character area are largely made up of defended and non-defended occupations sites including enclosures and hillforts. There are good examples of excavated sites in the group including Brean Down (PRNs 10133 and 10115) and Cannington (PRNs 10302, 10308, 10439). However the investigations of the Cannington sites was in response to the destruction caused by aggregate quarrying and only the Hillfort (PRN 10439) remains, all be it in a damaged condition. At Merehead (PRN 24775) similar destruction has taken place at what may represent an un-investigated promontory fort.

There are also several examples of cave contexts that have produced Iron Age evidence including a possible smelting furnace from Chelmscombe Cave (PRN 10384) and multiple human remains from Charterhouse Farm Swallet (PRN 24097). In the 19<sup>th</sup> Century a hoard of approximately 250 later Iron Age and Roman coins were discovered near Nunney (PRN 23907), the location of the discovery is now within the boundaries of an aggregate quarry.

Lithic remains constitute the greatest number of records for the general Prehistoric group within the character area representing 35% of the total number of these entries, of which several collections have been recovered from aggregate quarry sites including the areas near Nunney (PRN 12152), Mells (PRN 23846) and Holywell (PRN 23904). Approximately 23% of the general Prehistoric entries relate to occupation evidence including field systems and enclosures of varying form, most of these features have been recognised as a result of aerial photography. There are also several examples of cave sites within this group including two from Cannington Park Quarry (PRN 10301 and 10413), one of which produced human remains.

#### **6.1.2.1 Research Potential**

The Somerset HER records that approximately 17% of the Bronze Age funerary monuments within the Mendip character area have been subject to some form of intrusive archaeological investigation. However only one of these excavations took

place post-1960 and this was at the Carscliff Farm barrow (PRN 18800) and at least 65% of the investigations took place prior to 1900. The available information regarding the construction and use of these monuments varies widely, unfortunately so too do the excavation records. Geophysical survey has been used successfully at two sites in Cheddar (PRNs 10352 and 11440) and one Priddy (PRN 24156). Therefore it seems that geophysical survey possibly followed by intrusive investigation may clarify the form, function and date of these monuments. A re-assessment of the antiquarian archives, particularly those of the Reverend John Skinner who was responsible for approximately 56% of the excavations may also assist in a greater understanding of the nature of the early discoveries.

The prehistoric lithic assemblages from the character area have been largely recovered by amateur collectors and few have been subject to professional assessment. As there are significant numbers of lithic artefacts for the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Ages within the collections and not all of this material has been deposited within Museums it is crucial that this material is properly quantified and analysed. Furthermore there are a considerable number of assemblages that have not been assigned to a specific period and a re-assessment may help to identify these artefacts. In addition where collections have been recovered from within the boundaries of aggregate quarries an evaluation of the material may provide information that could be useful for future development control decisions.

Archaeological artefacts dating to every major prehistoric period have been removed from cave contexts within the Mendip character area, however many of these excavations have been carried out by antiquaries and amateurs with insufficient experience to contend within the complex stratigraphical nature of such deposits. In many cases the human remains have been assigned to particular periods as a result of spurious associations with artefactual remains. Where possible a re-assessment of the archives, analysis of the artefacts and scientific dating methods should be used to try and provided a more comprehensive picture of these deposits. In particular it is recommended that the focus of this analysis should be those sites which have either been discovered or destroyed as a result of aggregate extraction, for example Chelmscombe Cave (PRN 10384) which has produced material dating from the Palaeolithic to the Iron Age.

There are a few examples of excavated Iron Age occupation sites within the character area however most of these sites have not been subject to even basic non-intrusive archaeological recording techniques such as earthwork surveys. The destruction waged on the Cannington sites (PRNs 10302, 10308 and 10439) demonstrates that there is a real danger of whole landscapes being eradicated by aggregate quarrying without the relationships between these monuments being fully understood. Of particular concern is status of the possible defended settlement at Merehead (PRN 24775) which has been impacted on by aggregate extraction and has not be subject to any form of archaeological investigation. A survey of the remains including geophysical prospection followed by controlled trial trenching of the significant features would help to clarify the status and form of the monument before it is subject to further damage.

Despite the lack of a national mapping project for the Mendip Hills a number of cropmark features assigned prehistoric dates have been identified by ventures such as the Mendip AONB survey for example the circular and sub-rectangular features at North Hill, Priddy (PRNs 25828 and 25834). In order to assess the true nature of these sites a programme of geophysical survey and limited trial trenching is recommended.

### **6.1.2.2 Research Agenda**

- Geophysical survey of funerary and settlement monuments with specific attention to sites such as Merehead (PRN 24775) which are under immediate threat from aggregate extraction.
- Limited intrusive investigation of funerary and settlement monuments with specific attention to sites such as Merehead (PRN 24775) which are under immediate threat from aggregate extraction.
- A re-assessment of antiquarian archives relating to funerary monuments, specifically those of the Reverend John Skinner.
- Quantification and analysis of all lithic collections, including those held by private individuals assigned to the Palaeolithic - Bronze Age periods and those within the general prehistoric group. In particular assemblages such as Nunney (PRN 12152), Mells (PRN 23846) and Holywell (PRN 23904) that have been collected from within the boundaries of aggregate quarries.
- A re-assessment of the archives and artefacts relating to cave contexts within the character area and where possible scientific dating of animal and human remains, specifically those which relate to sites which have been impacted on by aggregate quarrying such as Chelmscombe Cave (PRN 10384), Limekiln Hill Quarry Cave (PRN 25394) and Cannington (PRNs 10301 and 44861).
- Systematic analysis of aerial photographic records to NMR standards.

### **6.1.3 The Roman Period**

The Roman Period within the character area is demonstrated both by surface artefact discoveries including pottery and coins, material recovered from cave contexts and the complex settlement and industrial sites at Charterhouse. There are also a number of other occupation sites including villas and several features relating to possible roads.

There are several examples of Roman artefacts recovered during amateur fieldwalking exercises within the character area and these include both pottery and coins and constitute 23% of the Roman entries. In some cases Roman material has also been recovered from within the boundaries of aggregate quarries for example at Cloford (PRN 17752) and Nunney (PRN 23907). It is not clear whether all of this material has been professionally assessed or quantified and it would appear that the many of the numismatics are no longer within the public domain.

Approximately 18% of the Roman entries relate to material recovered from cave contexts these include pottery, coins, brooches and human remains such as those found at Long Hole Cave and Slitter (PRN 10400) and Charterhouse Farm Swallet (PRN 24097). However the HER records that none of the human remains recovered from the cave contexts have been scientifically dated, therefore their true age currently remains uncertain. At Chelmscombe Cave (PRN 10384), subsequently destroyed by quarrying Roman activity was indicated by pottery, 25 coins and a brooch. Evidence of a counterfeiters den was also recovered from White Woman's Hole (PRN 24776).

At Charterhouse numerous investigations have taken place into the town (PRN 23021) and associated structures such as the amphitheatre (PRN 23025) and fort (PRN 23024) and it is likely the settlement was associated with the exploitation of

lead and silver. Antiquarian, amateur and academic individuals have been involved in both intrusive and non-intrusive investigations of these sites. Amongst the settlement evidence are three villa sites, Whatley (PRN 23900) excavated in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries, Priddy (PRN 23946) also subject to excavation in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century and Mells Park (PRN 16143) identified from aerial photographic records. Additionally there are a number of records for possible roads and only two of these at Beacon Wood (PRN 15879) and Chewton Mendip (PRN 25357) have been subject to any form of investigation.

#### **6.1.3.1 Research Potential**

The recovery of surface collections of pottery and coins has largely been carried out by amateurs and thus little of this material has been subject to professional assessment. The benefit of such study would help to establish the nature of this material for example whether the concentrations represent activities such as manuring or whether they constitute evidence of settlement remains.

The discovery of a wide range of remains from cave contexts within the character area dating to the Roman period suggests that these sites were used for a multitude of purposes during the period. The nature and early date of many of the excavations means that in some cases it is difficult to assess what each site represents. A re-assessment of the archives and artefact collections and scientific dating where possible of human and animal bones may help to elucidate matters. Particular attention should be paid to sites such as Chelmscombe Cave (PRN 10384) which was subsequently destroyed by quarrying.

The Charterhouse sites represent a cohesive group of monuments associated with Roman activity on the Mendip Hills and while excavation and geophysical survey have been undertaken in a number of places there still remain several records on the HER which relate to occupation in the vicinity of the main Charterhouse activity which have yet to be fully investigated. These include two possible settlement sites PRNs 23024 and 23023 and the Roman amphitheatre (PRN 23025) which was subject to a small excavation by Harold St George Gray.

The excavations at Whatley Villa (PRN 23900) in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century produced some spectacular remains including an Orpheus mosaic, however these investigations were limited. Following the discovery and partial excavation of Roman building remains (PRN 23946) to the east of Priddy Church a geophysical survey (PRN 18298) was carried out and the results suggested the site represented a small villa. The success of such non-intrusive investigation at defining the limits and form of the buildings cannot be denied and would be recommended at both Whatley villa and Mells Park (PRN 16143) which has hitherto not been investigated.

There are five entries on the HER pertaining to evidence of Roman roads two of which (PRN 15879) at Beacon Wood and (PRN 25357) have been subject to investigation. The other sites were largely reported at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century and the form and function of these features have not been proven, one of them at Oakhill (PRN 25542) is thought to be part of the Fosse Way but is only visible on aerial photographs. Geophysical survey followed by limited intrusive investigation would greatly benefit our understanding of these features.

#### **6.1.3.2 Research Agenda**

- Assessment and quantification of artefact assemblages collected by amateurs in order to address their function.

- A re-assessment of the archives and artefacts relating to cave contexts within the character area and where possible scientific dating of animal and human remains, specifically those which relate to sites which have been impacted on by aggregate quarrying such as Chelmscombe Cave (PRN 10384).
- A re-assessment of Harold St George Gray's archive and artefacts relating to Charterhouse Amphitheatre (PRN 23025) followed by geophysical survey and limited archaeological excavation.
- Geophysical survey followed by limited archaeological excavation of the settlement sites PRNs 23022 and 23023 at Charterhouse in order to assess form, function and if possible the relationship between these sites and the main complex.
- A re-assessment of the archive and artefacts from Whatley Villa (PRN 23900) followed by geophysical survey and limited excavation to test the condition of the monument.
- A geophysical survey of Mells Park Villa (PRN 16143) in order to assess form possibly followed by limited archaeological excavation.
- Geophysical survey and limited excavation of possible road features including the Fosse Way earthworks near Oakhill (PRN 25542)
- Systematic analysis of aerial photographic records to NMR standards.

#### **6.1.4 The Early Medieval and Medieval Periods**

The HER records for the Early Medieval period within the character area are limited, there are two cemeteries within this group at Brean Down and Cannington (PRNs 10131 and 10503) the latter was destroyed by quarrying. The remaining records are a somewhat disparate group and have not been well recorded, they include Shute Shelve boundary bank (PRN 10061) and an iron pin from White Woman's Hole (PRN 24776).

On the whole the Medieval records relate to settlement activity accounting for approximately 67% of the entries on the HER and these include deserted farms, villages and field systems. Documentary, cartographic and aerial photographic evidence form the bulk of the methods used to identify these features. There have been a number of amateur earthwork surveys designed to map the Medieval landscape of Mendip including a farm near Battscombe Quarry (PRN 11460), Bradley Cross field system (PRN 12806) and a farm at Rodney Stoke (PRN 24268). Excavations have also taken place at the village at Carscliff Farm (PRN 11586), an enclosure at Charterhouse (PRN 23020) and at the site of a hamlet at Poole House Farm, Chantry (PRN 25374), this was carried out as part of an assessment for extension plans to Whatley Quarry.

There are several extant ecclesiastical buildings within the character area, mostly parish churches and largely assigned Medieval dates through documentary and architectural features. At least three records (PRNs 17778, 25116 and 25392) possible remains of a Cartusian priory, although this has not been confirmed.

##### **6.1.4.1 Research Potential**

The only well documented Early Medieval monuments within the character area are the two cemeteries at Cannington (PRN 10503) and Brean Down (PRN 10131). Although only one object (an iron pin) dating to this period has been recovered from White Woman's Hole a professional re-assessment of the archive and artefacts from the site may provide further evidence dating to this period. There are two field

Despite the fact that there have been a number of amateur earthwork surveys carried out at Medieval settlement sites there are few examples of archaeological excavation. The academic work at Carscliff Farm (PRN 11586) has demonstrated that these sites were often more complex and organised than is supposed, therefore a systematic programme of mapping settlement and field systems sites using earthwork, geophysical and limited excavation methods may provide further information on their forms and functions. This is particularly relevant where our knowledge of the monuments is limited to aerial photographic records.

The extant ecclesiastical sites within the character area need to be systematically recorded using standing building surveys, fabric analysis and where possible dendrochronological techniques. The existence of a possible Cartusian priory should also be further explored both from documentary sources, geophysical survey and limited excavation where possible.

#### **6.1.4.2 Research Agenda**

- A re-assessment of the archive and artefacts relating to White Woman's Hole (PRN 24776) in order to ascertain whether there is any further evidence of Early Medieval activity within the cave.
- Survey and limited excavation of the field systems on Brean Down and Pelting Drove (PRNs 10116 and 25093) and Shute Shelve boundary bank in an attempt to establish whether the monuments were in use during the Early Medieval period.
- Geophysical and earthwork survey of settlement monuments to confirm development and extent.
- Controlled intrusive investigation to confirm form and date of settlement monuments
- Dendrochronological dating of ecclesiastical buildings which purport to have Medieval origins.
- Standing buildings surveys and fabric analysis of extant ecclesiastical buildings.
- A survey of all known documentary sources relating to the existence of a Cartusian priory on Mendip and geophysical prospection and excavation at the three sites (PRNs 17778, 25116 and 25392) that are considered to have monastic connections.

#### **6.1.5 The Post Medieval Period**

HER entries that date to the Post Medieval period are the best represented records within the Mendip Hills character area. The most prolific records relate to industrial processes such as quarrying and mining, Second World War features, agricultural structures and settlement activity in particular deserted farms.

##### **6.1.5.1 Research Potential**

The industrial processes reflected within the Mendip character area largely relate to the extraction of limestone, creation of lime, lead extraction and mining. The

The Second World War monuments of the character area have been largely well documented as a result of both national campaigns and local individuals such as the Fortress Study Group and the Defence of Britain initiative. A systematic survey of agricultural structures including barns and stock ponds should be carried out including standing building recording and map regression. Earthwork and geophysical surveys should be carried out at settlement sites to assess the nature and extent of each occupation, followed by limited excavation to confirm date.

#### **6.1.5.2 Research Agenda**

- Standing building surveys of any extant industrial monuments.
- Collection and curation of industry archives.
- Standing building survey of extant agricultural structures
- Map regression of rural landscape.
- Geophysical and earthwork survey of settlement monuments to confirm their development and extent.
- Controlled intrusive investigation to confirm form and date of settlement monuments.

## **6.2 Exmoor and Quantock Character Area Research Agenda**

### **6.2.1 Introduction**

The nature of the archaeological resource in the Exmoor and Quantock character area is largely affected by its location. The character area can be broadly divided into three locales, the Exmoor National Park, the Quantock Hills and the area between Wiveliscombe and Bathealton including the Brendon Hills. Both the Exmoor National Park and the Quantocks have recently been the subjects of English Heritage surveys, the Quantock survey has not yet been imputed into the Somerset HER but the results of the Exmoor survey has meant that the locations and forms of many of the monuments within the National Park are better understood. However there is a lack of archaeological investigation in all three of these locales within the character area.

### **6.2.2 The Prehistoric Periods**

Prehistoric records account for 36% of the total number of chronologically searched records within the Exmoor and Quantock character area, 55% of which relate to Bronze Age funerary monuments, 18% to settlement activity, 14% to lithic monuments and 9% to lithic collections. Archaeological excavation has taken place at three of the funerary monuments (PRNs 33650, 33651 and 33936) all of which were carried out pre-1930. One of the settlement monuments has been subject to excavation (PRN 11127), as have one stone setting (PRN 33602), one stone circle (PRN 33965) and one standing stone (PRN 33601). Geophysical surveys have been carried out at two funerary monuments (PRNs 33042 and 33043), one stone setting (PRN 33041), one stone row (PRN 33858) and one settlement monument (PRN 33201). The artefacts (pottery and lithics) removed from the excavation of the funerary monuments and the lithic assemblages represent the only prehistoric material cultural evidence for the character area.

#### **6.2.2.1 Research Potential**

The funerary monuments of the Exmoor and Quantock character area are broadly thought to date to the Early Bronze Age, however there have been no modern or professional archaeological excavations of any of these monuments and thus the assignment of dates and form to these monuments are largely based on a small resource of information and parallels from elsewhere. Without further investigation into the funerary monuments within the Exmoor and Quantock character area their dating and form will remain based on limited antiquarian investigation and assumption. Recent non-intrusive archaeological research at two monuments at East Pinford (PRN 33042 and 33043) has successfully proved that they are largely stone built cairns as opposed to earthen barrows and suggested that funeral pyres may have been constructed in situ prior to the erection of the cairns. Therefore geophysical survey possibly followed by intrusive investigation may clarify the form, function and date of these monuments.

The only two settlement monuments within the character that have been subject to archaeological investigation relate to hilltop occupation activity broadly dating to the Iron Age. However this only represents 25% of the settlements activity within the character area.

While these surveys were systematic allowing better understanding of the extent of these sites there is no dating evidence for these monuments. Where geophysical survey has taken been in the interior of Trendle Ring (PRN 33201) it successfully



identified areas of agricultural and settlement activity. Further geophysical surveys would elucidate whether the pattern of activity seen at Trendle Ring was common across hilltop settlements while limited intrusive excavation may provide dating evidence for many of the larger settlement sites within the character area.

The lithic monuments situated within the Exmoor National Park have benefited from systematic English Heritage surveys, however little work has been carried out to try and establish firmer dating evidence for these monuments. Recent geophysical surveys at two of the lithic monuments within the character area (PRNs 33041 and 33858) have demonstrated that both monuments may be more complex than is immediately visible on the ground surface, and while the excavations (PRNs 33935, 33601, 33602) have not provided any dating evidence they have produced greater information on the form of these monuments. Thus a programme of geophysical survey followed by limited intrusive investigation is likely to provide information on form, function and date of these monuments.

The lithic collections within the character vary widely in size and function however there has been no systematic specialist analysis of these assemblages and therefore the current assignment of period to this material could be considered tenuous. The lithic assemblages of the character area offer a hitherto untapped potential and specialist analysis of the collections within the character area could define the nature and date of such resources and provide invaluable information both on a local and County wide scale.

#### **6.2.2.2 Research Agenda**

- Geophysical survey of a funerary, settlement and lithic monuments
- Limited intrusive investigation of funerary, settlement and lithic monuments
- Systematic specialist analysis of lithic collections

#### **6.2.3 The Roman Period**

The Roman period within the Exmoor and Quantock character area is poorly represented and limited to Exmoor and Bathealton. The HER entries represent three artefact discoveries (coins), a military monument (PRN 35844) and a hillfort (PRN 33442).

##### **6.2.3.1 Research Potential**

The coins recovered from the character area all represent chance finds, two of which (PRN 33442 and 43351) came from hillfort sites. It would appear the numismatic collections are not longer within the public domain and the Somerset HER does not hold complete records regarding their exact dates and forms. The assignment of Bat's Castle to the Roman period is clearly as a result of the discovery of coins from the monument, intrusive archaeological investigation may confirm whether there had indeed been any occupation at this site or whether the deposition of the coins was more transient in nature. As Roman coins were also found at the Castles, Surridge (PRN 43351) a similar programme of work is recommended there also.

While a survey has been performed at the fort at Upton (PRN 35844) there is potential for further information to be gained from geophysical survey and limited excavation. This would undoubtedly provide information on date and exact form of the monument.

#### **6.2.3.2 Research Agenda**

- Geophysical survey followed by intrusive archaeological investigation at the Roman Fort, Upton.
- Limited intrusive investigation at Bat's Castle and the Castles Hillforts in order to assess whether there was Roman occupation at this sites or that the deposition of coins were simply episodic.

#### **6.2.4 The Early Medieval and Medieval Periods**

The HER records for the Exmoor and Quantock character area are dominated by settlement and ecclesiastical monuments which account for 71% of the total number of chronologically searched records. The settlement remains largely comprise of deserted farmsteads while the ecclesiastical records reflect extant buildings, monastic sites and ruined or removed buildings. The predominant methods of recognition of these monuments are documentary and cartographic evidence and aerial photographic analysis. Those within the Exmoor National Park have largely been included in the RCHME/EH survey.

##### **6.2.4.1 Research Potential**

Despite the fact that over two thirds of the Early Medieval and Medieval records for the character area represent settlement the only monuments that have received any form of archaeological investigation are those which have been included in the RCHME/EH Exmoor survey, and most of the information regarding these sites comes from documentary sources. Therefore there is a great potential for understanding the development, extent and demise of these monuments. Geophysical survey followed by controlled intrusive excavation would help identify these areas. There are many extant ecclesiastical buildings, which purport to have Early Medieval or Medieval origins standing buildings surveys, and dendrochronological dating could help to confirm or disprove these assertions as well as recording the remains for the future.

##### **6.2.4.2 Research Agenda**

- Geophysical survey of settlement monuments to confirm development and extent
- Controlled intrusive investigation to confirm form and date of settlement monuments
- Dendrochronological dating of ecclesiastical buildings which purport to have Early Medieval or Medieval origins
- Standing buildings surveys of extant ecclesiastical buildings

#### **6.2.5 The Post Medieval Period**

HER entries that date to the Post Medieval period are the best represented records within the Exmoor and Quantock character area. The most prolific records relate to settlement activity and in particular abandoned farms, Second World War remains, and non-domestic monuments including industrial processes.

##### **6.2.5.1 Research Potential**

The Second World War monuments of the character area have been largely well documented as a result of both national campaigns and local individuals and the inclusion of the monuments from the Exmoor and Quantock character in the Defence of Britain Project has taken place. There have been no intrusive archaeological investigations of any of the settlement or non-domestic remains within the character area. Many of these monuments have been identified as a result of documentary searches, cartographic evidence and aerial photographic analysis. Thus both these categories hold potential for understanding the development and use of both domestic and industrial processes and whether there is any relationship between the abandonment of farmsteads and the development of industry.

#### **6.2.5.2 Research Agenda**

- Geophysical survey of settlement monuments to confirm development and extent
- Controlled intrusive investigation to confirm form and date of settlement monuments
- Standing building surveys of any extant industrial monuments
- Collection and curation of industry archives.

### **6.3 Coastal Character Area Research Agenda**

### **6.3.1 Introduction**

This character area is unlike all the others in Somerset because of its geographical location. Human activity in the area has been dominated to a large extent by the shifting coastline and sea level caused by natural and anthropogenic forces. An understanding of coastal dynamics over time is therefore fundamental to archaeological interpretation and research. The presence of maritime archaeological features also stands this area apart. Landscape information and inter-tidal structures will be considered before the main periods because most of the structures are undated and landscape research is important for all periods.

### **6.3.2 Landscape, coast and sea level**

Relatively recent detailed palaeo-environmental studies have been carried out in Porlock and Minehead Bays and in the sand cliff at Brean Down. These are augmented by less intensive but more extensive work by Heyworth and Kidson and smaller studies such as that on Brean foreshore and on the submerged forest deposits off Burnham. Relevant information is also derived from palaeo-environmental studies in the surrounding area most notably recent work at Walpole landfill site. Analysis of the stratigraphy inland from the coast has also recently been undertaken in two areas, between Wedmore and the sea and from Burtle to the coast along the Huntspill Cut, the latter associated with the identification of a relic marsh system using LIDAR data. Analysis of the sediments in the Axe valley also informs changes in the coast and sea level over time and is therefore also pertinent to interpreting activity in this character area.

Despite this wealth of information there are many poorly understood areas and periods. The following is a list of some of the main research questions that are not dealt with under the period sections below. To some extent the questions can be prioritised by the imminent threat to some of the information. All the archaeological sites in the inter-tidal area are threatened by the expected effect of sea level change. Because of the long artificially defended coastline, inter-tidal deposits in the outer estuary are likely to erode while sub tidal deposits accumulate. Bathymetry and LIDAR evidence suggests that this process has already begun. In addition it is likely that a breach will soon occur in the coastal deposits between Stert and Hinkley and significant destruction of Holocene deposits and archaeological remains may occur as happened at Porlock Bay.

#### **6.3.2.1 Research Agenda**

- More Holocene sea level data gathered from points whose altitude have not been severely distorted by compression of overlying sediments
- Stratigraphic analysis and dating of the Holocene deposits between Stert and Hinkley Point
- Stratigraphic analysis and dating of relic river channels that cross under the coastal dunes in Bridgwater Bay
- Stratigraphic analysis and dating of the Holocene stratigraphy between the Huntspill Cut and Brean Down sand cliff

### **6.3.3 Inter-tidal structures**

Numerous wooden and stone structures are known from the inter-tidal area. The majority consist of coastal fishing traps of various designs. The vast majority of these have never been dated. Scientific dating (dendrochronology and radio carbon) has been carried out on a collection of wooden fishing structures in Stert Flats

#### **6.3.3.1 Research Agenda**

- Plan, analyse and date the wood and stone fish traps and wrecks
- Regular coastal field survey to identify significant features/sites

#### **6.3.4 The Prehistoric periods**

Further research could be justified on the upper Palaeolithic sequence from Brean sand cliff to clarify the nature, date and significance of the worked bone. The submerged forests at Stolford and Minehead deserved re-examination in their own right and because of their association with early prehistoric lithics. Excavation of potentially similar deposits in the Gwent Levels has shown the high potential of such areas for important prehistoric waterlogged remains.

Palaeo-environmental analysis and dating is required to set the early prehistoric activity at Stolford in to its landscape context and dendrochronological dating of the submerged forests should be attempted wherever suitable species are found.

##### **6.3.4.1 Research Agenda**

- Reinvestigation of upper Palaeolithic sequence at Brean Down sand cliff
- Environmental analysis and dating at Stolford
- Dendrochronological dating of submerged forest material at Stolford
- Field survey of the submerged forest deposits to provide plan and species identification and presence of lithics
- Excavation of submerged forests where in situ lithics encountered

#### **6.3.5 The Roman Period**

The character of Romano-British settlement along the coastal fringes requires further investigation. The ditch running along the inter-tidal area south of Brean Down shows that the coast lay further seaward at this time. However, further south between Brent Knoll and the Huntspill Cut there appears to have been a large saltmarsh extending far inland. The main channel of this marsh system disappears under the southern end of the dune system at Berrow. The deposits in this channel should be analysed and dated. Field survey of the inter-tidal zone and dune edge at Berrow should be conducted to identify deposits that may provide information about the Roman coastline, especially where Roman pottery has previously been discovered.

##### **6.3.5.1 Research Agenda**

- Environmental analysis and dating of coastal stratigraphy between Brean Down
- Environmental analysis and dating of relic channel under Berrow dunes
- Field survey of the inter-tidal zone and dune edge at Berrow

#### **6.3.6 Early Medieval and Medieval periods**

The potentially early origins of the Church of St Bridget at Brean should be investigated. Initially this may take the form of geophysical survey to try and detect earlier buildings. Work is also needed to detect the settlement(s) that provided the bodies for the Dark Age cemetery at Brean Down.

The discovery of timbers dated to the Anglo-Saxon period from the breach in the shingle ridge at Porlock Bay shows the potential for waterlogged deposits in the coastal area, although predicting their presence would be very problematical. Regular coastal field survey is probably the best way of identifying significant deposits that may be uncovered by erosion or shifts in the upper mobile sediment.

The process of reclamation of saltmarsh deposits along the coast should be studied on a landscape scale augmented by site specific investigations at key sites such as St Mary's Church, Berrow. The previous 'excavations' at this site require reinvestigation. The effect of natural changes on the coast need to be distinguished from anthropogenic factors.

#### **6.3.6.1 Research Agenda**

- Investigation of the Medieval occupation at St Bridget's, Brean
- Search for settlement contemporary with the Dark Age cemetery at Brean
- Investigation of the reclamation process on the coastal saltmarsh
- Regular coastal field survey to identify significant features/sites

#### **6.3.7 The Post Medieval Period**

Several wrecks are known from the study area but few have been investigated and only one has been dated. All the known wrecks should be dated and as much information gathered about them as is possible from a short monitoring visit. The resulting information should then be used to assess their significance and importance and what further work may be required.

The post-medieval fish weirs should be accurately planned and analysed to determine their dates of construction and use and analyse the materials used. More information is required on the development of the various small ports and harbours in the character areas. A first stage in the process could be an assessment of all the available cartographic, illustrative and documentary evidence.

The coastal area is very significant for 20<sup>th</sup> century defensive structures but these have been quite well studied. Earlier defensive installations are less known. The earliest depictions occur on 16<sup>th</sup> century representations of the Somerset coast. This includes what appear to be substantial defences for cannon at Porlock Bay. Possible location of this Tudor fort should be examined by field survey, geophysical survey and excavation.

#### **6.3.7.1 Research Agenda**

- Plan, analyse and date the wood and stone fish traps and wrecks
- Collate the available evidence for the development of small ports and harbours in the area

Locate the possible Tudor fort at Porlock

## **6.4 River Terrace Deposits Character Area Research Agenda**

### **6.4.1 Introduction**

The river terrace deposits character area does not represent one distinct geological area and therefore the archaeological resource of this area is distributed across the County, the river terrace deposits are largely found in central southern Somerset. Archaeological investigation within this area has been limited, although this character area has the highest number of positive archaeological monitoring projects of all the aggregate producing deposits.

### **6.4.2 The Prehistoric Periods**

The main sources of information relating to the Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age periods are surface collected lithic assemblages and aerial photography. Most of the cropmark sites such as the possible cursus monument (PRN 54823) have received no systematic survey and so interpretation of these features remains tentative. A small number of excavations have taken place at the barrow cemetery in Williton, at Podimore and Norton Camp.

#### **6.4.2.1 Research Potential**

The lithic collections offers potential as systematic re-analysis would further elucidate the nature and date of these assemblages and fit them within a wider county/regional context. The fact that a majority of sites have been identified through aerial photography indicates further analysis of all aerial photographic records could produce a number of new sites to the HER. Further fieldwalking on sites identified through aerial photography would produce further lithic evidence providing better chronological indicators. Geophysical survey followed by intrusive investigation of the cropmark sites would clarify their date and function and test the appropriateness of non-intrusive survey methods on this geology. In particular the investigation of the possible cursus monument offers the opportunity to test the extant interpretation and to examine different investigative techniques.

#### **6.4.2.2 Research Agenda**

- Systematic analysis of aerial photographic records to NMR standards.
- Full analysis of existing lithic collections by specialist.
- Geophysical/fieldwalking surveys of cropmark site PRN 54623 followed by targeted intrusive investigations.

### **6.4.3 The Roman Period**

Most of the evidence from this period is indicative of rural settlement remains including villas, farmsteads and villages as well as associated cemeteries. As well as some antiquarian investigations, modern geophysical survey has taken place on two of the sites. Apart from these all other sites are represented by chance finds of artefacts.

#### **6.4.3.1 Research Potential**

The rural settlements have not been subject to the levels of disturbance associated with urban sites, which have received higher levels of modern investigation but have

suffered from re-development. Therefore, these rural sites offer better preservation of remains including evidence of transition periods. The impact of Romanisation on the Iron Age population and the subsequent social changes within the sub-Roman period are not well understood in Somerset. Thus further intrusive investigations could elucidate these significant transition phases.

#### **6.4.3.2 Research Agenda**

- Geophysical/fieldwalking surveys of selected rural settlement which offers high level of preservation followed by targeted intrusive investigations.

#### **6.4.4 The Early Medieval and Medieval Periods**

The Early Medieval evidence within the character area includes some of the most significant sites within the county associated with this period including Athelney, North Petherton and Muchelney Abbey. The nature of these sites mean a range of evidence classes exist including standing buildings, excavation records and chance finds. The main types of records associated with the Medieval period are settlement and ecclesiastical including DMVs, churches/abbey as well as associated features such as crosses. Apart from the standing buildings these have been recorded through field survey and/or aerial photographic study. Also present are deer parks and structures such as the dovecot and watermill discovered through cartographic sources.

##### **6.4.4.1 Research Potential**

Investigations at Athelney have raised the question of the origins of this site as an Iron Age defended settlement and its re-fortification in the Early Medieval period leading to its occupation by Alfred in the 9<sup>th</sup> century and the subsequent founding of the Abbey. The associated burgh of East Lyng shows that these sites are a unique combination possibly encompassing evidence for the whole of this period and reflecting the changes in society at this time. There has been no modern systematic study of medieval rural settlement within the character area so little is understood concerning the origins, development and abandonment of the DMVs. Aerial photographic survey offers the opportunity to gather further information on the extent and basic layout of these sites. Some of the DMVs appear to be very well preserved indicating that comprehensive field survey, geophysical survey and intrusive investigations can yield high quality evidence pertaining to settlement history.

##### **6.4.4.2 Research Agenda**

- Systematic analysis of aerial photographic records to NMR standards.
- Detailed survey of Athelney and East Lyng and its environs including field survey, full documentary survey, geophysical and fieldwalking survey followed by targeted intrusive investigation.
- Scientific analysis of recovered material from Athelney and East Lyng to clarify dating and environmental factors.
- Systematic metric survey followed by non-intrusive and intrusive investigation of DMV sites and their associated landscapes.



#### **6.4.5 *The Post-Medieval Period***

This evidence for this period is mainly representative of Second World War and industrial sites, recognised through a combination of documentary and cartographic sources and field observations. Other types of feature include duck decoys, bridges, railways and war memorials.

##### **6.4.5.1 *Research Potential***

Intensive study, both documentary and field survey of the WWII sites could provide further evidence of their construction and usage as these monuments are at risk from development and/or agricultural practices as well as natural erosion. Other site types represent reasonably large landscape features (such as the railways) and are often incorporated into landscape plans through the planning process. Further documentary research on these sites would provide useful information concerning these monuments.

##### **6.4.5.2 *Research Agenda***

- Systematic documentary and metric survey of WWII structures and any associated landscaping.
- Systematic metric survey followed by non-intrusive and intrusive investigation of industrial sites and their associated landscapes.
- Community/Parish projects to record and manage individual structures.

## **6.5 Burtle Beds Character Area Research Agenda**

### **6.5.1 Introduction**

Our knowledge of the Burtle Beds is significantly restricted by the lack of intrusive investigations. It is dominated by evidence derived from fieldwalking and aerial photography, identifying sites that have not been further investigated by excavation and are therefore poorly understood and hard to interpret.

Many of the most important sites were investigated by antiquaries or amateur archaeologists in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The finds and archives produced by these individuals need modern reassessment and scientific analysis and dating. The archives of four individuals are the most significant for this study area;

- Rev. W. Stradling
- Arthur Bulleid
- Harold St George Gray
- H.S.L. Dewar

The extent of the Burtle Beds is also not completely understood. Several small burtle bed deposits are known to exist, most notably in the central Brue valley, but have not been identified on BGS data. As the location and extent of these dry islands was crucial to prehistoric settlement in the Somerset Moors identification of the limits of the deposits is crucial to our understanding of the early prehistoric landscape.

#### **6.5.1.1 Research Agenda**

- Assessment of antiquarian/amateur or early archaeologists' archives
- Identification of the true extent of the Burtle Beds

### **6.5.2 The Prehistoric periods**

The sand deposits could potentially contain palaeolithic material but this is far from certain and the single handaxe from Greylake 1 quarry was not from a secure context. There is a lack of scientific dating for the deposits and a poor understanding of the potential for the survival of palaeolithic material. Further dating and analysis of the environmental information from the sand quarries is required. Animal bone and snail shells are known to exist in the Greylake deposits.

There is obviously a very strong correlation between Mesolithic activity and the Burtle Beds. This picture is accentuated by Mesolithic finds from smaller burtles such as Shapwick Burtle, Honeygar Burtle (Meare) and Brickyard farm burtle (Shapwick) that have not been included in the study area because they had not been identified by the BGS digital data.

The importance of the Mesolithic activity on the Burtle Beds is accentuated by the probability that waterlogged archaeological remains exist at the edges of the islands, possibly including fish traps, dug out canoes and settlement debris. If such deposits do exist they would be of great national importance because our knowledge of organic material culture of this period is incredibly slight. Excavation along the edges of the burtle islands where significant quantities of Mesolithic lithics are known to exist should therefore be a priority.

The presence of human activity on the Burtle Beds in the prehistoric period is mainly demonstrated by lithic assemblages. To understand the date, character, extent and

significance of these sites open area excavation is required. Priority sites for investigation should include the larger, multi-period sites such as Parchey and Edington Burtle. Lithic collections from potentially significant sites should also be subject to modern reassessment where this has not already been carried out.

Human remains of probably prehistoric date have been found at Greylake 1 sand quarry and Westonzoyland. These need to be scientifically dated and subjected to isotope analysis to determine the dietary contribution of the wetlands to the island dwellers.

There are numerous cropmark sites that may represent prehistoric roundhouses, barrows, enclosures, field systems and a cursus monument. None of these have been subject to excavation so their date, character and significance are all uncertain. Evaluation excavation is required at a number of sites to provide further information and provide secure dating and interpretation. The late Iron Age settlement at Westonzoyland deserves re-investigation, possibly as a community project as it partially lies under a housing estate. The extent and character of the Alstone Iron Age settlement deserves reinvestigation by similar methods as it also partially underlies a housing estate.

Although the landscape setting of the Burtle Beds in the central Brue valley is quite well known the environmental settings of the Beds south of the Poldens and along the coast are poorly understood. Priority should be given to palaeoenvironmental analysis and dating of deposits near the most significant sites at Alstone, Parchey, Greylake, Chedzoy and Westonzoyland including dating and environmental analysis of relic river channels

#### **6.5.2.1 Research Agenda**

- Scientific dating of Burtle Bed deposits
- Environmental analysis of Burtle bed deposits (animal bone, snails etc)
- Investigation of potentially waterlogged early prehistoric deposits at the wet/dry interface
- Excavation of the most significant sites identified by lithic scatters, especially Parchey, and Edington Burtle
- Reassessment of the most important lithic collections in archive
- Dating and isotope analysis of human bones from Greylake and Westonzoyland
- Evaluation excavation of a representative sample of cropmark sites on Chedzoy and Westonzoyland
- Re-investigation of the Iron Age sites at Alstone and Westonzoyland
- Environmental analysis and dating to provide the landscape setting of the most important sites for sites on Chedzoy, Parchey, Greylake, Westonzoyland and Alstone

#### **6.5.3 The Roman period**

Settlement sites of this period are suggested by pottery assemblages at Chedzoy, Wembdon, Bawdrip, and West Huntspill but they have not been investigated by geophysical survey or excavation. Several of these finds are associated with enclosures identified from air photos. The extent, character, date and significance of these sites should be ascertained by geophysical survey and limited excavation. The same applies to the supposed villa at Slapeland, which is only known from a Stradling excavation 'report' from 1830. The settlement sites at Alstone and

The character of Roman activity on Edington Burtle requires clarification of its relationship to the surrounding late Roman salt-making industry and the local coin forging enterprise. Further environmental investigation, analysis and dating is required to provide the landscape setting of that industry and of the Roman occupation at Bawdrip, Chedzoy, Bradney, Westonzoyland and Wembdon, with especial reference to sea level and coastal change through the period.

#### **6.5.3.1 Research Agenda**

- Evaluation excavation and geophysical survey of enclosures and associated settlement sites and field systems, especially Slapeland, Bradney Farm (Bawdrip), Three Oak's Farm (Chedzoy), and Grabham's Farm (Wembdon).
- Environmental analysis and dating to provide the landscape setting of the most important sites for sites on Chedzoy, Parchey, Greylake, Westonzoyland and Alstone with especial reference to coastal and sea level change
- Re-investigation of the settlement sites at Alstone and Westonzoyland
- Fieldwalking, geophysical survey and excavation to clarify the extent, date, character and significance of the occupation on Edington Burtle and the nature of its association with the salt-making industry and coin forging.

#### **6.5.4 Early Medieval and Medieval Periods**

The islands in the levels and moors are known to have been favoured by early medieval hermits and some locations developed into chapels and even monasteries. The Burtle Beds contain several locations for such early medieval activity, most notably at the known early chapel sites at Chedzoy and Bradney and Burtle priory. All these sites require further survey and limited excavation to clarify the date, character and significance of the early occupation.

The development of the existing village sites on the Burtle Beds is very poorly understood, as is the transformation of the field system. Archaeological surveys involving fieldwalking, geophysical survey, test pitting and limited excavation will be required to provide more information on this topic as shown by the success of the Shapwick Project.

The built Medieval heritage on the Burtle Beds has never been systematically studied. Many Medieval buildings have never been properly recorded and/or dated. Building survey, fabric analysis and dendrochronological dating are required to overcome this lack of information. This should be associated with map regression and documentary studies.

#### **6.5.4.1 Research Agenda**

- Survey and limited excavation of early hermitage/chapel/priory sites
- Fieldwalking, geophysical survey, test pitting and limited excavation to clarify the development of medieval villages in the area
- Map regression, documentary analysis and evaluation of field boundaries to inform the development of the Medieval landscape and agricultural regimes

- Building surveys and scientific dating of the Medieval built heritage coupled with map regression and documentary analysis

### **6.5.5 The Post Medieval Period**

The Post Medieval development of the villages in the Burtle Beds area has never been studied in detail. Building survey, fabric analysis and dendrochronological dating are required to overcome this lack of information. This should be associated with map regression and documentary studies.

The Burtle Bed character area adjoins the registered Battle Of Sedgemoor battlefield. The Royalist army was encamped on the Burtle Beds (Chedzoy and Westonzoyland) at the time of the battle and some of the mass graves created after the battle may be located on the Burtle Beds in this area. Metal detecting in the area of the Royalist camp may help to clarify the early stages of the battle and on Chedzoy to identify the areas of rout and pursuit. Geophysical survey and coring should be used to test the possible sites of the mass graves, followed by limited excavation to test the findings.

#### **6.5.5.1 Research Agenda**

- Building surveys and scientific dating of the Medieval built heritage coupled with map regression and documentary analysis
- Geophysical survey, coring and limited excavation to identify the locations of mass graves from the Battle of Sedgemoor and clarify particular periods of the battle

## **6.6 Budleigh Salterton Pebble Beds Character Area Research Agenda**

### **6.6.1 Introduction**

The pebble beds character area encompasses a large proportion of the area known as the Vale of Taunton. Knowledge of the archaeological resource of the area is limited with only one example of the archaeological entries on the HER recorded as having been subject to intrusive archaeological investigation.

### **6.6.2 The Prehistoric Period**

In general the prehistoric period within the core zone is characterised by un-investigated cropmark sites ascribed a prehistoric date based on their morphology. The only material cultural evidence is in the form of lithic assemblages recovered through fieldwalking, which have no proved association with sub-surface archaeological features. The Scheduled Monument dated to the Iron Age shares this characterisation despite being impacted by quarrying.

In the wider context, recent excavations at Whiteball Aggregates Quarry (located on the Somerset/Devon border) have recorded an exceptionally well-preserved Bronze Age site. The Minerals Local Plan shows that this quarry has the potential to enlarge and similar archaeological remains are likely to be impacted by aggregates removal. Thus the sites within the Budleigh Salterton character area are potentially at threat.

#### **6.6.2.1 Research Potential**

The lithic collections offers potential as systematic re-analysis would further elucidate the nature and date of these assemblages and fit them within a wider county/regional context. The fact that a majority of sites have been identified through aerial photography indicates further analysis of all aerial photographic records could

produce a number of new sites to the HER. Further fieldwalking on sites identified through aerial photography would produce further lithic evidence providing further chronological indicators. Geophysical survey followed by intrusive investigation of the cropmark sites would clarify their date and function and test the appropriateness of non-intrusive survey methods on this geology. A detailed earthwork and geophysical survey of the Scheduled Monument with limited intrusive investigation (in conjunction with AP survey) would test the ascribed date and ensure better understanding of the monument within its landscape context.

#### **6.6.2.2 Research Agenda**

- Systematic analysis of aerial photographic records to NMR standards.
- Full analysis of existing lithic collections by specialist.
- Geophysical/fieldwalking survey of cropmark and earthwork sites followed by intrusive investigations.

#### **6.6.3 The Roman period**

This period is poorly represented in the character area with a signal station identified by aerial photography and a single coin from Langford Budville. Aerial photography is the prime source of information on this period although limited surface collection of chronologically diagnostic material has taken place.

##### **6.6.3.1 Research Potential**

The potential signal station offers an opportunity for investigation of this rare monument type. Although pottery has been recovered from the site through surface collection no systematic controlled excavation has taken place to confirm its monument designation. The single coin find could indicate activity within the Langford Budville area and it is possible other chance finds have been found but not reported. Collection and identification of these finds could provide baseline information for the extent and character of any activity.

##### **6.6.3.2 Research Agenda**

- Systematic analysis of aerial photographic records to NMR standards.
- Geophysical /fieldwalking survey followed by intrusive investigation.
- Community project to identify chance finds within Langford Budville Parish.

#### **6.6.4 The Early Medieval and Medieval Periods**

Although few records exist dating to these periods the recording of Early Medieval burials within a later (Medieval) settlement represent significant potential for the identification of early settlement within the character zone. The Medieval records relate to churches, manors, deserted/shrunken settlement sites and parks. The manorial landscapes and D/SMVs have been recognised through documentary/cartographic evidence and surface collection of artefacts. No systematic intrusive investigations or geophysical surveys have been carried out.

##### **6.6.4.1 Research Potential**

The records indicate that Combe Florey was a locally significant settlement in the Medieval Period and detailed survey of this village could identify early occupation as well as elucidating the nature of the rural depopulation in the later medieval period. Further survey of the potential settlement at Holwell Lakes could provide information on the nature of this site.

#### **6.6.4.2 Research Agenda**

- Systematic analysis of aerial photographic records to NMR standards.
- Detailed survey of Combe Florey and its environs including limited building recording, field survey, full documentary survey, geophysical and fieldwalking survey followed by targeted intrusive investigation.
- Geophysical /fieldwalking survey followed by intrusive investigation of Holwell Lakes site.

#### **6.6.5 The Post Medieval Period**

Most of the records relate to industrial or agricultural sites and represent identifiable structures or associated landscapes or are individual small-scale structures. Cartographic sources represent the main evidence for this period although data has also been gleaned from documentary records.

##### **6.6.5.1 Research Potential**

The dominance of limekilns within the records indicates an extensive use of the area as a source of building/industrial material, which potentially relates to the construction of many of the extant settlements. The occurrence of mill sites in the area also shows the utilisation of the landscape and no survey or field investigations have taken place to identify any surviving remains. The systematic surveying of both types of site could provide evidence of the date and period of use as well as producing a comprehensive record of their preservation. Survey of the limekilns could also record current state of repair to enable better management of surviving examples. The survey could also record any associated features such as quarrying and spoil heaps as well as other evidence of landscaping connected with the use of the kilns. Community projects offer an opportunity to fully record any individual features (such as War Memorials, milestones etc) and to provide details useful for management/repair issues.

##### **6.6.5.2 Research Agenda**

- Systematic metric survey of recorded limekilns and their associated landscapes.
- Systematic metric survey followed by non-intrusive and intrusive investigation of mill sites and their associated landscapes.
- Community/Parish projects to record and manage individual structures.

## 7 OUTREACH AGENDA

### 7.1 Introduction

There are several popular publications whose subject matter focuses on the archaeological resource of the County of Somerset. However there are only a limited number that deal with specific areas and even fewer that centre on any of the aggregate producing character areas. A further issue is reflected by the dearth of readily available and current publications which is a County wide problem.

The main popular Somerset publications include:

Aston, M. and Burrow, I. (1982) *The Archaeology of Somerset: A review to 1500 AD* Bridgwater: Somerset County Council.

Dobson, D. P. (1931) *The Archaeology of Somerset*. London: Methuen and Company Ltd.

Dunning, R. (1978) *A History of Somerset*. Tiverton: Somerset County Council.

Havinden, M. (1981) *The Somerset Landscape*. London. Hodder and Stoughton

*Victoria County History* first published 1906

### 7.2 The Mendip Hills Character Area

There is only one popular publication that encompasses the known archaeological resource of the Mendip Hills and it was published in 1999 by Mendip District Council (see below), it represents a historical overview with little detail pertaining to either specific archaeological sites or periods. Additionally there are also several sources which cover specific monuments for example, caves and mines, however most of these publications are no longer in print and are in serious need of updating.

Of the excavated archaeological sites there are two publications regarding specific sites at Brean Down and Westbury Quarry, however while these texts are available to the general public they were intended as research reports and no popular publications of these two nationally important sites exist. The publications for the Mendip character area include.

During the autumn of 2006 English Heritage plan to begin a survey of the archaeological resource and built heritage of the Mendip Hills, currently it is not clear in what form the final results will be made available although it has been suggested that a certain amount of public information will be available via the web.

Stokes, P. (1999) *Mendip's Past: A Shared Inheritance*. Tiverton. Mendip District Council.

Andrews, P., Cook, J., Currant, A. and Stringer, C. (1999) *Westbury Cave: The Natural History Museum Excavations 1976-1984*. Bristol. Western Academic and Specialist Press Limited.

Barrington, N. and Stanton, W (1970) *The Complete Caves of Mendip*. Cheddar: Barton Production in conjunction with the Cheddar Valley Press.



Bell, M. (1990) *Brean Down Excavations 1983-1987*. English Heritage Report Number 15. London: English Heritage.

Gough, J. W. (1930) *The mines of Mendip*. Oxford: The Clarendon Press.

### **7.3 The Exmoor and Quantock Character Area**

The Exmoor and Quantock character area has the benefit of representing the only two regions within Somerset that have been systematically surveyed by English Heritage. The results of the Exmoor National Park are currently available in book form and details are also held on their website. The survey of the Quantock Hill is now complete and a book is currently in production. These two areas were also the subject of publications produced by Leslie Grinsell and are included below.

Grinsell, L. V. (1970) *The Archaeology of Exmoor: Bideford Bay to Bridgwater*. Newton Abbot: David and Charles Publishers Ltd.

Grinsell, L. V. (1991) *Prehistoric sites in the Quantock Country*. Aspects of Somerset Archaeology Series No.1. Taunton: Somerset Archaeology and Natural History Society

Riley, H. and Wilson-North, R. (2001) *The Field Archaeology of Exmoor* Swindon: English Heritage.

### **7.4 The Coastal Deposits Character Area**

There are no publications which consider the archaeology of the coastal deposits of Somerset at a distinct group. However the major rescue excavations at Brean Down have been published and are currently still available. Additionally the archaeology of the coastal deposits that lie within the Exmoor National Park were considered during the English Heritage survey and information available on a number of the key sites is available both from the field survey book and the Exmoor National Park website. Publications which include the archaeology of the coastal deposits character area are listed below.

Bell, M. (1990), *Brean Down Excavations 1983-1987*. English Heritage Report Number 15. London: English Heritage.

Riley, H. and Wilson-North, R. (2001) *The Field Archaeology of Exmoor* Swindon: English Heritage.

### **7.5 The River Terrace Deposits Character Area**

There are no publications that cover the archaeology of the river terrace deposits within Somerset however due to the nature of these deposits this character area represents a more disparate group than any of the other areas and therefore it is not unsurprising.

### **7.6 The Burtle Beds Character Area**

Due to the formation of the Somerset Levels Project in 1973 the archaeology of the Lower Brue Valley has been well documented. However the focus of this project was largely based on the organic archaeological remains exposed during peat extraction. Therefore while publications exist for this area they tend to largely relate to the

wetland discoveries, it should also be noted that these publications are currently out of print. Publications which include some details of the archaeology of the Burtle Beds character area include:

Coles, J. M. and Coles, B. J. (1990) *The Prehistory of the Somerset Levels*. Hertford: The Somerset Levels Project.

Coles, J. M. and Coles, B. J. (1986) *Sweet Track to Glastonbury: The Somerset Levels in Prehistory*. London: Thames and Hudson.

## **7.7 The Budleigh Salterton Pebble Beds Character Area**

There are no known publications which consider the archaeology situated on the Budleigh Salterton Pebble Beds Formation.

## **7.8 Archaeological Outreach Potential**

Clearly there is a shortage in modern publications concerning the archaeology of Somerset and of particular concern is that the main area of aggregate extraction (the Mendip Hills) currently has no current or collective outreach resource. The implementation of the English Heritage surveys within the Exmoor National Park and the Quantock Hills have improved and increased our knowledge of the archaeology and historic landscapes of both areas and it is of great importance that the survey of the Mendip Hills is to be undertaken shortly.

The absence of general archaeological outreach products specifically popular publications for the Coastal, River Terrace deposits, Burtle Beds and the Budleigh Salterton Pebble Beds character area is concerning. While these character areas are relatively small in comparison to the two upland regions they still contain some of the County's most significant archaeological sites.

The HER records that the archaeology of the Coastal deposits face the on-going threat from coastal erosion and some of the most nationally important sites have been discovered as a result of this action. Similarly the other character areas face the unpredictable threat of "borrow pits". Of grave concern is that the true extent of the Burtle Beds within Somerset are not known and archaeological remains have been found during the extraction of sand in this area which have not been fully published or assessed.

Both in the Mendip Hills and the Burtle Beds character area there are a number of sites such as Chelmscombe Cave (PRN 10384) and the artefacts recovered from the Greylake sites (PRNs 10568 and 10570) which were found during historical aggregate quarrying. A re-assessment of these sites provides the opportunity for community involvement, in particular at Greylake where it is known local individuals were involved in the discovery of many of the artefacts and the local community may be able to provide further information about the sites and initial discoveries.

Many of the monument types highlighted in the Research Agenda could also benefit from community involvement in projects such as fieldwalking, earthwork surveys and neighbourhood based trial excavations. It is key that in areas such as the Mendip Hills where aggregate extraction has such an impact on the daily lives of those who live within the locality that they be involved in the research and preservation of their historic environment.

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## 9 APPENDICES

### 9.1 Appendix A: Gazetteer of Archaeologically Investigated Sites

#### **Mendip Hills Character Area**

##### **PRN 10060 Triple H Cave Axbridge Hill, Axbridge**

Investigator(s): Axbridge Caving Group and Archaeological Society  
Publication Date(s): 1954

##### **PRN 10115 Hillfort, Brean Down**

##### **PRN 17220 Excavation Hillfort Brean Down**

Investigator(s): Ian Burrow  
Publication Date(s): 1976

##### **PRN 10117 Roman Temple, Brean Down**

Investigator(s): University of Bristol Spelaeological Society  
Publication Date(s): 1958 and 1965

##### **PRN 10126 Barrow, Brean Down**

Investigator(s): Reverend John Skinner  
Excavation Date(s): 1819 Details within Journals held at BM

##### **PRN 10131 Cemetery, Sand Cliff, Brean Down**

##### **PRN 11342 Excavation Brean Down Sand Cliff**

Investigator(s): Martin Bell  
Publication Date(s): 1985, 1986, 1987, 1990

##### **PRN 15191 Watching Brief Brean Down Sand Cliff**

Investigator(s): Martin Bell  
Publication Date(s): 1987

##### **PRN 11344 Excavation Brean Down Sand Cliff**

Investigator(s): **Martin Bell**  
Publication Date(s): **1989**

##### **PRN 11343 Evaluation Brean Down Chalets**

Investigator(s): **Martin Bell**  
Publication Date(s): **1991**

**PRN 10133 Early Prehistoric Occupation, Sand Cliff, Brean Down**

Investigator(s): University of Bristol Spelaeological Society  
Publication Date(s): 1921, 1935, 1960, 1984 and 2000

**PRN 11342 Excavation Brean Down Sand Cliff**

Investigator(s): Martin Bell  
Publication Date(s): 1985, 1986, 1987, 1990.

**PRN 15191 Watching Brief Brean Down Sand Cliff**

Investigator(s): Martin Bell  
Publication Date(s): 1987

**PRN 11344 Excavation Brean Down Sand Cliff**

Investigator(s): Martin Bell  
Publication Date(s): 1989

**PRN 11343 Evaluation Brean Down Chalets**

Investigator(s): Martin Bell  
Publication Date(s): 1991

**PRN 10301 Cave (Jackdaw) Cannington Park, Cannington**

Investigator(s): University of Cambridge Department of Archaeology  
Excavation Date(s): 1964 Unpublished

**PRN 10302 Iron Age Enclosed Settlement, Cannington**

Investigator(s): Philip Rahtz  
Publication Date(s): 1969

**PRN 10347 Roman Settlement, W of Carscliff Farm, Cheddar**

Investigator(s): H. E. Balch  
Publication Date(s): 1924

**PRN 10349 Totty Pot Cave, Cheddar**

Investigator(s): Wessex Caving Club and Paula Gardiner  
Excavation Date(s): 1960s and 1998 unpublished

**PRN 10352 Bowl Barrow, E of Carscliff Farm, Cheddar**

**PRN 18880 Excavation**

Investigator(s): Jodie Lewis  
Publication Date(s): 2000

**PRN 18806 Geophysical Survey**

Investigator(s): Jodie Lewis  
Publication Date(s): 2000 and 2003

**PRN 10384 Chelmscombe Cave, Cheddar Gorge, Cheddar**

Investigator: H. E. Balch  
Publication Date: 1926, 1976 and 1986

**PRN 10387 Flint Jack's Cave, Cheddar Gorge, Cheddar**

Investigator(s): R Pavey and University of Bristol Spelaeological Society  
Publication Date(s): 1958

**PRN 10389 Bone Hole, Cheddar Gorge, Cheddar**

Investigator(s): Unknown and Mendip Caving Group  
Excavation Date(s): 19<sup>th</sup> Century and 1967-1976 later works published in MCG Journal

**PRN 10390 Sow's Hole Rock Shelter, Cheddar Gorge, Cheddar**

Investigator(s): R.F. Parry  
Excavation Date(s): 1930 Unpublished

**PRN 10391 Pig's Hole Rock Shelter, Cheddar Gorge, Cheddar**

Investigator(s): R.F. Parry  
Excavation Date(s): 1930 Unpublished

**PRN 10394 Sugar Loaf Slitter, Cheddar Gorge, Cheddar**

Investigator(s): R.C. Gough  
Excavation Date(s): c. 1890 Unpublished

**PRN 10397 Great Oone's Hole, Cheddar Gorge, Cheddar**

Investigator(s): Unknown and University of Bristol Spelaeological Society  
Publication Date(s): 1928

**PRN 10399 Gough's Old Cave, Cheddar Gorge, Cheddar**

Investigator(s): University of Bristol Spelaeological Society  
Publication Date(s): 1957, 1960, 1986, 1989 and 1991

**PRN 10400 Long Hole Cave and Slitter, Cheddar Gorge, Cheddar**

Investigator(s): R. C. Gough and University of Bristol Spelaeological Society  
Publication Dates(s): 1954, 1957, 1966, and 1991

**PRN 10439 Cynwit Castle (Cannington Camp), Cannington Park, Cannington**

Investigator(s): Unknown and C. Bazell  
Excavation Date(s): 1905 and 1913 Unpublished

**PRN 12270 Excavation**

Investigator(s): Philip Rahtz  
Publication Date(s): 1969

**PRN 10459 Picken's Hole (Scragg's Hole) near White Rock, Compton Bishop**

Investigator(s): W. Stanton and University of Bristol Spelaeological Society.  
Publication Date(s): 1964 and 1986

**PRN 10503 Roman and Post Roman Cemetery, Cannington Park Quarry**

**PRN 44860 Excavation**

Investigator(s): Philip Rahtz  
Publication Date(s): 2000

**PRN 10768 Tumulus with Cremation, Rowberrow Warren, Shipham**

Investigator(s): University of Bristol Spelaeological Society  
Publication Date(s): 1923

**PRN 10770 Cairn, Rowberrow Warren, Shipham**

Investigator(s): University of Bristol Spelaeological Society  
Publication Date(s): 1924

**PRN 11345 Beaker finds, Brean Down beach, Brean**

Investigator(s): H. Taylor and E. E. Taylor  
Publication Date(s): 1949, 1990 and 2001

**PRN 11401 Bowl Barrow, SE of Wellington Farm, Cheddar**

Investigator(s): ? A. Selley  
Publication Date(s): 1904 Unpublished

**PRN 11428 Bowl Barrow, SW of Tynings Farm, Cheddar**

Investigator(s): University of Bristol Spelaeological Society  
Publication Date(s): 1924, 1926, 1933 and 1951

**PRN 11429 Bowl Barrow, S of Tynings Farm, Cheddar**

Investigator(s): University of Bristol Spelaeological Society  
Publication Date(s): 1924, 1926, 1933 and 1951



**PRN 11430 Barrow, S of Tynings Farm, Cheddar**

Investigator(s): University of Bristol Spelaeological Society  
Publication Date(s): 1924, 1926, 1933 and 1951

**PRN 11431 Bowl Barrow, S of Tynings Farm, Cheddar**

Investigator(s): University of Bristol Spelaeological Society  
Publication Date(s): 1924, 1926, 1933 and 1951

**PRN 11432 Bowl Barrow, SE of Tynings Farm, Cheddar**

Investigator(s): University of Bristol Spelaeological Society  
Publication Date(s): 1924, 1926, 1933 and 1951

**PRN 11434 Bowl Barrow, SW of Ashridge Farm, Cheddar**

Investigator(s): University of Bristol Spelaeological Society  
Publication Date(s): 1968

**PRN 11437 Bowl Barrow, S of Piney Sleight Farm, Cheddar**

Investigator(s): University of Bristol Spelaeological Society  
Publication Date(s): 1924

**PRN 11439 Gorsey Bigbury Henge, SW of Lower Farm, Cheddar**

Investigator(s): University of Bristol Spelaeological Society  
Publication Date(s): 1935, 1938, 1951, 1966, 1976, and 1998

**PRN 11586 Deserted Medieval Village, Carscliff**

Investigator(s): University of Bristol Archaeology Department  
Excavation Date(s): c. 1990s Unpublished

**PRN 17729 Barrow, Beacon Hill, Doultong**

Investigator(s): M Unwin  
Excavation Date(s): 1953 Unpublished

**PRN 23020 Medieval Enclosure, E side of Blackmoor, Charterhouse**

**PRN 15798 Excavation**

Investigator(s): Malcolm Todd (University of Exeter)  
Publication Date(s): 1993

**PRN 15799 Excavation**

Investigator(s): Malcolm Todd (University of Exeter)  
Publication Date(s): 1994

### **PRN 23021 Roman Settlement at Town Field, Charterhouse**

Investigator(s): Reverend John Skinner  
Excavation Date(s): 1818-1824

#### **PRN 16163 Excavation**

Investigator(s): University of Bristol Spelaeological Society  
Publication Date(s): 1948 and 1950

#### **PRN 15287 Excavation**

Investigator(s): University of Bristol Spelaeological Society  
Publication Date(s): 1974

#### **PRN 15828 Excavation**

Investigator(s): University of Bristol Spelaeological Society  
Publication Date(s): 1974

#### **PRN 15830 Excavation**

Investigator(s): University of Bristol Spelaeological Society  
Publication Date(s): 1974

#### **PRN 18678 Geophysical Survey**

Investigator(s): GSB Prospection  
Investigation Date(s): 2005 Report produced unpublished

### **PRN 23024 Roman Fort, E of Charterhouse**

#### **PRN 15798 Excavation**

Investigator(s): Malcolm Todd (University of Exeter)  
Publication Date(s): 1993

#### **PRN 15799 Excavation**

Investigator(s): Malcolm Todd (University of Exeter)  
Publication Date(s): 1994

### **PRN 23025 Roman Amphitheatre, Charterhouse**

#### **PRN 16164 Excavation**

Investigator(s): Harold St George Gray  
Publication Date(s): 1910

### **PRN 23029 Rain's Batch Earthwork, Charterhouse**

#### **PRN 12164 Geophysical Survey**

Investigator(s): D. Faulkner  
Investigation Date(s): 1998 Report produced unpublished

**PRN 12165 Earthwork Survey**

Investigator(s): D. Faulkner  
Investigation Date(s): 1998 Report produced unpublished

**PRN 15829 Excavation**

Investigator(s): University of Bristol Spelaeological Society  
Publication Date(s): 1974

**PRN 23134 Bronze Age Cremation Cemetery, SE of Mendip Lodge Wood, Priddy.**

Investigator(s): University of Bristol Spelaeological Society  
Publication Date(s): 1923 and 1924

**PRN 23210 Roman Occupation, N of Rookery Farm, Chewton Mendip**

Investigator(s): H. Ashworth and L. Palmer  
Publication Date(s): 1958, 1962 and 1970

**PRN 23826 Lime Kiln Hill Quarry Cave, Mells**

Investigator(s): ?University of Bristol Spelaeological Society.  
Excavation Date(s): 1971-1974 unpublished

**PRN 23394 Barrow, Beacon Hill, Doultong**

Investigator(s): Reverend John Skinner  
Excavation Date(s): 1820 Details within Journals held at BM

**PRN 23395 Barrow, Beacon Hill, Doultong**

Investigator(s): Reverend John Skinner  
Excavation Date(s): 1820 Details within Journals held at BM

**PRN 23397 Barrow, Beacon Hill, Doultong**

Investigator(s): Reverend John Skinner and M. Unwin  
Excavation Date(s): 1820 Details within Journals held at BM and c. 1950s Unpublished

**PRN 23398 Barrow, Beacon Hill, Doultong**

Investigator(s): Reverend John Skinner  
Excavation Date(s): 1820 Details within Journals held at BM

**PRN 23400 Barrow Site, Beacon Hill, Doultong**

Investigator(s): Reverend John Skinner  
Excavation Date(s): c.1820 Details within Journals held at BM

**PRN 23401 Barrow site, Beacon Hill, Doultong**

Investigator(s): M. Unwin  
Excavation Date(s): 1953 Unpublished

**PRN 23403 Barrow, Beacon Hill, Doultong**

Investigator(s): Reverend John Skinner  
Excavation Date(s): c.1820 Details within Journals held at BM

**PRN 23404 Barrow Site, Beacon Hill, Doultong**

Investigator(s): Reverend John Skinner  
Excavation Date(s): c.1820 Details within Journals held at BM

**PRN 23428 Dinies Camp, Downhead**

Investigator(s): E. Overend  
Publication Date(s): 1962

**PRN 23813 Barrow Ashen Hill, Chewton Mendip**

Investigator(s): Reverend John Skinner  
Excavation Date(s): c.1815 Details within Journals held at BM

**PRN 23814 Barrow, Ashen Hill, Chewton Mendip**

Investigator(s): Reverend John Skinner  
Excavation Date(s): c.1815 Details within Journals held at BM

**PRN 23815 Barrow, Ashen Hill, Chewton Mendip**

Investigator(s): Reverend John Skinner  
Excavation Date(s): c.1815 Details within Journals held at BM

**PRN 23816 Barrow, Ashen Hill, Chewton Mendip**

Investigator(s): Reverend John Skinner and H. E. Balch  
Excavation Date(s): c.1815 Details within Journals held at BM. 1894-95.

**PRN 23817 Barrow, Ashen Hill, Chewton Mendip**

Investigator(s): Reverend John Skinner  
Excavation Date(s): c.1815 Details within Journals held at BM

**PRN 23818 Barrow, Ashen Hill, Chewton Mendip**

Investigator(s): Reverend John Skinner  
Excavation Date(s): c.1815 Details within Journals held at BM

**PRN 23819 Barrow, Ashen Hill, Chewton Mendip**

Investigator(s): Reverend John Skinner

Excavation Date(s): c.1815 Details within Journals held at BM

**PRN 23820 Barrow, Ashen Hill, Chewton Mendip**

Investigator(s): Reverend John Skinner

Excavation Date(s): c.1815 Details within Journals held at BM

**PRN 23900 Roman Villa, Whatley Combe, Whatley**

Investigator(s): Unknown, Cambridge University and Newton Park College

Excavation Date(s): 1848 Unpublished, 1958 and 1962 Unpublished

Publication Date(s): 1958 and 1970

**PRN 23946 Roman Building, E of Priddy Church, Priddy**

Investigator(s): P. Barlow and I. B. Millar

Excavation Date(s): 1964 Unpublished

**PRN 23949 Priddy Glebe Barrow, bowl barrow, N of Church, Priddy**

Investigator(s): Reverend T Palmer

Publication Date(s): 1896

**PRN 23952 Round Barrow, North Hill, Priddy**

Investigator(s): Reverend John Skinner

Excavation Date(s): c.1815 Details within Journals held at BM

**PRN 23963 Roman Building and Finds, St Cuthbert's Lead Works, Priddy**

Investigator(s): Unknown

Excavation Date(s): 1951

**PRN 23965 Mesolithic site, Lower Pitts Farm, Priddy**

**PRN 18293 Excavation**

Investigator(s): Joan Taylor

Publication Date(s): 1976, 1977, 1978 and 2001

**PRN 18294 Excavation**

Investigator(s): Joan Taylor

Publication Date(s): 1983

**PRN 18295 Excavation**

Investigator(s): Joan Taylor

Publication Date(s): 1983

**PRN 18296 Excavation**

Investigator(s): Joan Taylor  
Publication Date(s): 1983

**PRN 18297 Excavation**

Investigator(s): Joan Taylor  
Publication Date(s): 1980

**PRN 23966 Bowl Barrow, SE of Eastwater Farm, East Water**

Investigator(s): Reverend John Skinner  
Excavation Date(s): c.1816 Details within Journals held at BM

**PRN 23967 Barrow, NE of Lower Pits Farm, Priddy**

Investigator(s): Reverend John Skinner  
Excavation Date(s): c.1816 Details within Journals held at BM

**PRN 23968 Barrows, W of Lower Pits Farm, Priddy**

Investigator(s): Reverend John Skinner  
Excavation Date(s): c.1818

**PRN 23969 Barrow, W of Lower Pits Farm, Priddy**

Investigator(s): Reverend John Skinner  
Excavation Date(s): c.1818

**PRN 23971 Long Barrow, ENE of Brimble Pit Pool, Priddy**

Investigator(s): Reverend John Skinner and the University of Bristol Spelaeological Society  
Excavation Date(s): 1816 Details within Journals held at BM and 1928  
Publication Dates(s): 1972 and 2002

**PRN 23975 Bowl Barrow, SW of Townsend Farm, Priddy**

Investigator(s): Reverend John Skinner  
Excavation Date(s): c.1816 Details within Journals held at BM

**PRN 23976 Bowl Barrow, SW of Townsend Farm, Priddy**

Investigator(s): Reverend John Skinner  
Excavation Date(s): c.1816 Details within Journals held at BM

**PRN 23977 Bowl Barrows, SW of Townsend Farm, Priddy**

Investigator(s): Reverend John Skinner  
Excavation Date(s): c.1816 Details within Journals held at BM

**PRN 23978 Barrow site, S of Townsend Pool, Priddy**

Investigator(s): Reverend John Skinner

Excavation Date(s): c.1816 Details within Journals held at BM

**PRN 23979 Barrow site, S of Townsend Pool, Priddy**

Investigator(s): Reverend John Skinner

Excavation Date(s): c.1816

**PRN 23981 Bowl Barrow, SW Townsend Pool, Priddy**

Investigator(s): Reverend John Skinner

Excavation Date(s): c.1816 Details within Journals held at BM

**PRN 23982 Bowl Barrow, SW Townsend Pool, Priddy**

Investigator(s): Reverend John Skinner

Excavation Date(s): c.1816 Details within Journals held at BM

**PRN 23983 Barrow, SW Townsend Pool, Priddy**

Investigator(s): Reverend John Skinner

Excavation Date(s): c.1816 Details within Journals held at BM

**PRN 23984 Bowl Barrow, SW Townsend Pool, Priddy**

Investigator(s): Reverend John Skinner

Excavation Date(s): c.1816 Details within Journals held at BM

**PRN 23986 Bowl Barrow, SW Townsend Pool, Priddy**

Investigator(s): Reverend John Skinner

Excavation Date(s): c.1816 Details within Journals held at BM

**PRN 23990 Bowl Barrow, SE of Bristol Plain Farm, Priddy**

Investigator(s): Reverend John Skinner

Excavation Date(s): c.1816 Details within Journals held at BM

**PRN 23991 Bowl Barrow, SE of Bristol Plain Farm, Priddy**

Investigator(s): Reverend John Skinner

Excavation Date(s): c.1816 Details within Journals held at BM

**PRN 23992 Bowl Barrow, SE of Bristol Plain Farm, Priddy**

Investigator(s): Reverend John Skinner

Excavation Date(s): c.1816 Details within Journals held at BM

**PRN 23993 Bowl Barrow, SE of Bristol Plain Farm, Priddy**

Investigator(s): Reverend John Skinner  
Excavation Date(s): c.1816 Details within Journals held at BM

**PRN 23997 Bowl Barrow E of Bristol Plain Farm, Priddy**

Investigator(s): Reverend John Skinner  
Excavation Date(s): c.1816 Details within Journals held at BM

**PRN 24004 Bowl Barrow, NW of Hill View, Priddy**

Investigator(s): B. C. Bird  
Excavation Date(s): c.1900 Unpublished

**PRN 24040 Barrow, N of Harptree Lodge, Priddy**

Investigator(s): University of Bristol Spelaeological Society  
Publication Date(s): 1926

**PRN 24081 Pitches Enclosure, Garrow, Priddy**

Investigator(s): Unknown  
Excavation Date(s): c. 1968 Unpublished

**PRN 24088 Bowl Barrow, SW Fernhill Farm, Priddy**

Investigator(s): University of Bristol Spelaeological Society  
Publication Date(s): 1926

**PRN 24097 Cave deposits, SW of Charterhouse Warren Farm, Priddy**

Investigator(s): Wessex Caving Club and University of Bristol Spelaeological Society  
Publication Date(s): 1975, 1976, 1977, 1988 and 1989

**PRN 24135 Cairn and burial, SE of Mendip Lodge Wood, Priddy**

Investigator(s): University of Bristol Spelaeological Society  
Excavation Date(s): 1926 Unpublished

**PRN 24137 Barrow, SE of Hunter's Lodge Inn, Priddy**

Investigator(s): Unknown  
Excavation Date(s): c.1926 Unpublished

**PRN 24358 Cairn, Penn Hill, St Cuthbert Out**

Investigator(s): ? Greville Chester  
Excavation Date(s): c.1854-1855 Unpublished



**PRN 24848 Westbury Beacon (Barrow), Westbury**

Investigator(s): Unknown  
Excavation Date(s): Early 19<sup>th</sup> Century

**PRN 24127 Occupation Site Read's (Keltic) Cavern, Priddy**

Investigator(s): University of Bristol Spelaeological Society  
Publication Date(s): 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1931, 1946 and 1954

**PRN 24128 Beaker Occupation and Bronze Age Boiling Site, Bos Swallet, Black Down S of Burrington**

Investigator(s): University of Bristol Spelaeological Society  
Publication Date(s): 1964 1989, 1997 and 1998

**PRN 24331 Outlook Cave, Ebbor Gorge**

Investigator(s): Unknown  
Excavation Date(s): ? early 20<sup>th</sup> Century

**PRN 24332 Bridged Pot Hole, Ebbor Gorge**

Investigator(s): H. E. Balch  
Publication Date(s): 1928

**PRN 24334 Bracelet Cave, Ebbor Gorge**

Investigator(s): Unknown  
Publication Date(s): 1969 (this publication consists of a description of the bracelet only)

**PRN 24335 Hope Wood Rock Shelter, Ebbor Gorge, St Cuthbert Out**

Investigator(s): Westminster Spelaeological Society  
Publication Date(s): 1951 (this publication only consists of a description of the human remains)

**PRN 24774 Tom Tivey's Hole, Leighton Hanging, Wanstrow**

Investigator(s): University of Bristol Spelaeological Society  
Publication Date(s): 1966

**PRN 24776 White Woman's Hole, Leighton Hanging, Wanstrow**

Investigator(s): University of Bristol Spelaeological Society  
Publication Date(s): 1972

**PRN 24849 Westbury Cave, Westbury Quarry, Westbury**

Investigator(s): Natural History Museum  
Publication Date(s): 1974 and 1999

**PRN 24956 Browne's Cave, S of Cook's Wood, Stoke St Michael**

Investigator(s): L. M. Browne  
Publication Date(s): 1947-1950 unpublished

**PRN 25357 Roman Road from Mendips to Old Sarum**

**PRN 16126 Excavation**

Investigator(s): J. McMurtrie  
Publication Date(s): 1906

**PRN 25360 Savory's Hole, Ebbor Gorge**

Investigator(s): Mendip nature Reserve Committee and the Prehistoric Society  
Publication Date(s): 1959 (only PPS work published)

**PRN 25374 Deserted Hamlet, Poole House, NW of Chantry**

Investigator(s): L. Adkins and R. Adkins  
Excavation Date(s): 1991 Report produced Unpublished

**PRN 25394 Lime Kiln Hill Quarry Cave, Mells**

Investigator(s): R Vranck and University of Bristol Spelaeological Society  
Publication Date(s): 1981

**PRN 25720 Roman and earlier mining evidence, Charterhouse**

**PRN 15799 Excavation**

Investigator(s): Malcolm Todd (University of Exeter)  
Publication Date(s): 1994

**PRN 44861 Canington Park Quarry Cave (Boulder Cave), Cannington Park**

Investigator(s): R. J. Lampert  
Publication Date(s): 2000 (mention in Cannington Monograph)

## **Exmoor and Quantock Character Area**

### **PRN 11127 Dead Woman's Ditch, Robin Uprights Hill, Over Stowey**

#### **PRN 15202 Excavation**

Investigator(s): Jan Grove (SCC Archaeology Officer)  
Excavation Date(s): 2001 Report produced Unpublished

### **PRN 33041 Stone Setting, East Pinford, Exmoor**

#### **PRN 18258 Geophysical Survey**

Investigator(s): M. Gillings, J Pollard and J. Taylor  
Investigation Date(s): 2002 Report produced Unpublished

### **PRN 33042 Cairn, East Pinford, Exmoor**

#### **PRN 18258 Geophysical Survey**

Investigator(s): M. Gillings, J Pollard and J. Taylor  
Investigation Date(s): 2002 Report produced Unpublished

### **PRN 33043 Cairn, East Pinford, Exmoor**

#### **PRN 18258 Geophysical Survey**

Investigator(s): M. Gillings, J Pollard and J. Taylor  
Investigation Date(s): 2002 Report produced Unpublished

### **PRN 33201 Trendle Ring Hillfort, Bicknoller Hill, Bicknoller**

#### **PRN 17203 Geophysical Survey**

Investigator(s): National Trust  
Investigation Date(s): 2004 Report produced Unpublished

### **PRN 33601 Standing Stone, above Orchard Bottom, Exford**

Investigator(s): SCC Archaeology Officers  
Publication Date(s): 1987

### **PRN 33602 Stone Setting, Westermill, above Orchard Bottom, Exford**

Investigator(s): SCC Archaeology Officers  
Publication Date(s): 1982

### **PRN 33650 Bowl Barrow, Heydon Hill, Huish Champflower**

Investigator(s): F. Hancock  
Publication Date(s): 1896

**PRN 33651 Bowl Barrow, Heydon Hill, Huish Champflower**

Investigator(s): F. Hancock  
Publication Date(s): 1896

**PRN 33858 Stone Row, Tom's Hill, Manor Allotment, Oare**

**PRN 18258 Geophysical Survey**

Investigator(s): M. Gillings, J Pollard and J. Taylor  
Investigation Date(s): 2002 Report produced Unpublished

**PRN 33935 Stone Circle, Porlock Allotment, Porlock**

Investigator(s): Harold. St George Gray  
Publication Date(s): 1928 and 1952

**PRN 33936 Cairn, NE of Stone Circle, Porlock Allotment, Porlock**

Investigator(s): Mrs H. St George Gray  
Publication Date(s): 1928

**PRN 33939 Standing Stones, Porlock Allotment, Porlock**

Investigator(s): Harold. St George Gray  
Publication Date(s): 1928

**PRN 34487 Burgundy Chapel, North Hill, Minehead**

Investigator(s): West Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society  
Excavation Date(s): 1940 Unpublished

## **Coastal Deposits Character Area**

### **PRN 10104 Medieval Occupation, St Mary's Churchyard, Brean**

Investigator(s): ?M. Pondsford  
Excavation Date(s): 1971 Unpublished

### **PRN 10131 Cemetery, Sand Cliff, Brean Down**

#### **PRN 11342 Excavation Brean Down Sand Cliff**

Investigator(s): Martin Bell  
Publication Date(s): 1985, 1986, 1987, 1990

#### **PRN 15191 Watching Brief Brean Down Sand Cliff**

Investigator(s): Martin Bell  
Publication Date(s): 1987

#### **PRN 11344 Excavation Brean Down Sand Cliff**

Investigator(s): Martin Bell  
Publication Date(s): 1989

#### **PRN 11343 Evaluation Brean Down Chalets**

Investigator(s): Martin Bell  
Publication Date(s): 1991

### **PRN 10133 Early Prehistoric Occupation, Sand Cliff, Brean Down**

Investigator(s): University of Bristol Spelaeological Society  
Publication Date(s): 1921, 1935, 1960, 1984 and 2000

#### **PRN 11342 Excavation Brean Down Sand Cliff**

Investigator(s): Martin Bell  
Publication Date(s): 1985, 1986, 1987, 1990.

#### **PRN 15191 Watching Brief Brean Down Sand Cliff**

Investigator(s): Martin Bell  
Publication Date(s): 1987

#### **PRN 11344 Excavation Brean Down Sand Cliff**

Investigator(s): Martin Bell  
Publication Date(s): 1989

**PRN 11343 Evaluation Brean Down Chalets**

Investigator(s): Martin Bell  
Publication Date(s): 1991

**PRN 11345 Beaker finds, Brean Down beach, Brean**

Investigator(s): H. Taylor and E. E. Taylor  
Publication Date(s): 1949, 1990 and 2001

**PRN 11349 Roman Ditch, S of Brean Down**

**PRN 11348 Watching Brief**

Investigator(s): M. Allen and K. Ritchie  
Publication Date(s): 2000

**PRN 33348 Fishweirs, Minehead Bay**

Investigator(s): E. Dennison  
Publication Date(s): 1985

**PRN 35544 Wreck, Minehead Bay**

Investigator(s): R. McDonnell  
Publication Date(s): 2001

## **River Terrace Deposits Character Area**

### **PRN 10545 – Balt Moor Wall Between East Lyng and Athelney, Lyng**

#### **PRN 11672 Watching Brief Baltmoor Wall**

Investigator(s): Cotswold Archaeological Trust  
Excavation Date(s): 2001 Report produced unpublished

#### **PRN 12787 Evaluation Baltmoor Wall**

Investigator(s): Exeter Archaeology  
Excavation Date(s): 1996 Report produced unpublished

#### **PRN 15622 Watching Brief Baltmoor Wall**

Investigator(s): Cotswold Archaeological Trust  
Excavation Date(s): 2001 Report produced unpublished

#### **PRN 16105 Watching Brief Baltmoor Wall**

Investigator(s): Cotswold Archaeological Trust  
Excavation Date(s): 2002 Report produced unpublished

#### **PRN 44798 Watching Brief Baltmoor Wall**

Investigator(s): Cotswolds Archaeological Trust  
Excavation Date(s): 1999 Report produced unpublished

### **PRN 10600 – Church of St Mary and Churchyard, North Petherton**

#### **PRN 10599 – Excavation**

Investigator(s): Committee for Rescue Archaeology in Avon, Gloucestershire and Somerset  
Publication Date(s): 1975

### **PRN 15623 – Bronze Age Timber Finds, Baltmoor Wall, Lyng**

Investigator(s): R. Brunning (SCC Levels and Moors Archaeologist)  
Excavation Date(s): 2002 Report produced unpublished

### **PRN 17078 Medieval Pottery Vessel, 185m SW of Alford Church, Alford**

#### **PRN 16958 Watching Brief Alford Reed Beds**

Investigator(s): AC Archaeology  
Excavation Date(s): 2004 Report produced unpublished

**PRN 23380 – Roman Building, SW of Lower Sutton Farm, Ditcheat**

Investigator(s): Unknown  
Excavation Date(s): 1970s unpublished

**PRN 24463 – Roman Settlement, SW of Algar's Farm, Selwood**

Investigator(s): ? Frome Society for Local History  
Excavation Date(s): 1971 Unpublished

**PRN 25640 Medieval field Boundary, S of Coxley road, Dulcote.**

**PRN 90080 Watching brief Wells Relief Road**

Investigator(s): Exeter Archaeology  
Excavation Date(s): 1996 Report produced unpublished

**PRN 25642 Post Medieval Cottage, Dulcote**

**PRN 90080 Watching brief Wells Relief Road**

Investigator(s): Exeter Archaeology  
Excavation Date(s): 1996 Report produced unpublished

**PRN 34188 – Long Barrow/Dolmen/Burial Chamber (part of Battlegore Barrow Cemetery PRN 35378)**

Investigator(s): Harold St George Gray  
Publication Date(s): 1932

**PRN 34185 – Round Barrow (part of Battlegore Barrow Cemetery PRN 35378)**

Investigator(s): Harold St George Gray  
Publication Date(s): 1932

**PRN 43399 - Norton Camp**

**PRN 44796 - Excavation Norton Camp**

Investigator(s): Harold St George Gray  
Publication Date(s): 1908

**PRN 44795 – Excavation Norton Camp**

Investigator(s): Philip and Nancy Langmaid  
Publication Date(s): 1968 and 1971

**PRN 44646 - Flint Flints, S of North Curry**

**PRN 90089 – Watching Brief Somerset Spine Main**



Investigator(s): D Broomhead  
Excavation Date(s): 1997 Report produced unpublished

**PRN 53980 Roman Villa, Hext Hill, Low Ham**

Investigator(s): H Cook and C.A Raleigh Radford  
Publication Date(s): 1950 and 1954

**PRN 54039 Roman Settlement, Wearne**

Investigator(s): Various including R Leech  
Publication Date(s): 1976

**PRN 54318 Muchelney Abbey**

Investigator(s): Walter J. Long and Unknow  
Publication Date(s): 1874, 1879 and 1950

**PRN 57131 Watching Brief Muchelney Abbey Complex**

Investigator(s): L and R Adkins  
Excavation Date(s): 1989 Report produced unpublished

**PRN 57132 Watching Brief Muchelney Abbey Complex**

Investigator(s): L and R Adkins  
Excavation Date(s): 1989 Report produced unpublished

**PRN 12248 Watching Brief Muchelney Abbey Complex**

Investigator(s): P McCrone  
Excavation Date(s): 1991 Unpublished

**PRN 35947 Desk Top Assessment and Watching Brief Muchelney Abbey Complex**

Investigator(s): C and N Hollinrake  
Excavation Date(s): 1999 Report produced unpublished

**PRN 15993 Watching Brief Muchelney Abbey Complex**

Investigator(s): C and N Hollinrake  
Excavation Date(s): 2003 Report produced unpublished

**PRN 16871 Watching brief Muchelney Abbey Complex**

Investigator(s): K A Rodwell  
Excavation Date(s): 2003

**PRN 57061 Geophysical Survey Muchelney Abbey Complex**

Investigator(s): A Bartlett

Investigation Date(s): 1999 Report produced unpublished

**PRN 54407 Roman Villa, Roman Farm, Pitney**

Investigator(s): Samuel Hasell and others

Excavation Date(s): 1828 and c. 1932 Unpublished

**PRN 54483 Roman Villa, Lugshorn, Somerton**

Investigator(s): Samuel Hasell and H.S.L Dewar

Excavation Date(s): Early 19<sup>th</sup> Century and 1954 Unpublished

**PRN 54534 Roman Villa, E of Hurcot, Somerton**

Investigator(s): Samuel Hasell and Unknown Geophysical Surveys of Bradford

Publication Date(s): 1827, 1968-71, and 1994.

**PRN 54793 - Iron Age and Roman Occupation SE of Podimore**

Investigator(s): Unknown

Excavation Date(s): 1911

**PRN 57053 –Geophysical Survey Iron Age and Roman Complex, Podimore**

Investigator(s): Stratascan

Investigation Date(s): 1999 Report produced unpublished

**PRN 57054 – Evaluation Iron Age and Roman Complex, Podimore**

Investigator(s): Wessex Archaeology

Excavation Date(s): 2000 Report produced unpublished

**PRN 54840 The Almonry Barn, Muchelney**

Investigator(s): C. J. Bond

Investigation Date(s): 1992 Report produced unpublished

**PRN 55450 The Abbey Barn, Muchelney**

Investigator(s): C. J. Bond

Investigation Date(s): 1992 Report produced unpublished

**PRN 57117 Medieval farmstead, W of Meadow Vale Farm, SE of Wincanton**

**PRN 90143 Watching Brief Bowden Reservoir Link Pipeline**

Investigator(s): Wessex Archaeology

Excavation Date(s): 1991 Report produced unpublished

## **Burtle Beds Character Area**

### **PRN 10246 Medieval Chapel Site and possible Roman Villa, Slapeland, Chedzoy**

Investigator(s): William Stradling  
Publication Date(s): 1839

### **PRN 10918 Lake Settlement Site, Alstone**

Investigator(s): Burnham on Sea Archaeological Society  
Publication Date(s): 1969

### **PRN 12253 Excavation**

Investigator(s): M. Langdon  
Excavation Date(s): 1993 Report produced Unpublished

### **PRN 16245 Watching Brief**

Investigator(s): P. McCrone  
Excavation Date(s): 1994 Report produced Unpublished

### **PRN 44936 Evaluation**

Investigator(s): Unknown  
Excavation Date(s): 1995 No further details recorded

### **PRN 16500 Geophysical Survey**

Investigator(s): J. Adcock  
Investigation Date(s): 2003 Report produced Unpublished

### **PRN 18720 Evaluation**

Investigator(s): AC Archaeology  
Investigation Date(s): 2004 Report produced Unpublished

### **PRN 10928 Iron Age and Romano-British Settlement, Westzoyland**

Investigator(s): Burnham on Sea Archaeological Society  
Publication Date(s): 1969

### **PRN 10942 Priory Site, Burtle Farm, Burtle**

Investigator(s): P. Ellison, C. J. Bond and B. Horner  
Investigation Date(s): 1990 and 1998  
Publication Date(s): 1991

**PRN 15487 Watching Brief, Tom Mogg Inn, Edington**

Investigator(s): V. Russett  
Excavation Date(s): 1988

**PRN 17076 Iron Age and Romano-British Potsherds, Sundowner Hotel, Shepard Lane, West Huntspill**

Investigator(s): R. McDonnell  
Excavation Date(s): 2003-2004 Report produced Unpublished

**Budleigh Salterton Pebble Beds Character Area**

**PRN 44689 Inhumation Cemetery, S of Church, Langford Budville**

Investigator(s): SCC Archaeology Officers

Publication Date(s): 1989

## **9.2 Appendix B Aerial Survey – East Mendip Block**

### **9.3 Appendix C Aerial Survey – Somerset Levels Block**