

## REPORTS COVERING TORRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL 2018

Table 1 sets out the reports filed with Archaeological Data Services at York relating to 2018. The reports are then discussed in a little more detail, in alphabetical order of parish, as in Table 1. A brief synthesis of the findings of 2018 completes the document.

Table 1 Summary of reports for 2018

Parish	Site	Grid reference	Report Producer	Type of report	Nature of development
Ashreigney	Methodist chapel	SS618 137	S W Archaeology	Historic Building Record	Conversion to residential use
Bideford	Cadds Down	SS244 125	Substrata	Magnetometry survey	Industrial & commercial development
Clovelly	Clovelly Dykes	SS231 123	Substrata	Geophysics	None
Great Torrington	122 Mill Street	SS488 189	S W Archaeology	Archaeological monitoring & recording	Residential development
Halwill	Foxhole Farm	SX418 970	S W Archaeology	Desk-based assessment & Historic Building Recording	Further modernisation
Halwill	Otterburn Farm	SS431 001	Thames Valley Archaeology	Archaeological evaluation	Equestrian Centre
Halwill	SS Peter and James church	SX427 943	S W Archaeology	Desk-based assessment & Historic Building Appraisal	Renovation
High Bickington	Devonia	SS599 204	S W Archaeology	Historic Building Record and Archaeological Monitoring & Recording	Demolition of barn and construction of dwelling house
Holsworthy Hamlets	Great Lakes Farm barns	SS362 048	S W Archaeology	Desk-based assessment & Historic Building Record	Conversion of barns to residential use
Merton	Eastbeare	SS514 129	A C Archaeology	Archaeological monitoring & recording	Groundworks for extension to Grade II listed building
Merton	Great Potheridge	SS514 147	S W Archaeology	Heritage Impact Assessment	Farm buildings
Merton	Speccott	SS503 140	S W Archaeology	Desk-based assessment & historic building appraisal	Barn conversion
Milton Damarel	Old Stables	SS380 109	S W Archaeology	Archaeological monitoring	Agricultural buildings

Parish	Site	Grid reference	Report Producer	Type of report	Nature of development
Northam	20 Market Street Appledore	SS465 305	A C Archaeology	Archaeological monitoring	Building alterations
Northam	Durrant Lane	SS450 284	S W Archaeology	Archaeological monitoring	Residential development
Northam	Westward Ho! tennis courts	SS434 293	S W Archaeology	Archaeological monitoring	Housing development
Petrockstow	Heanton Barton	SS489 102	S W Archaeology	Heritage Impact Assessment	Telephone mast
Tetcott	Methodist Chapel	SX405 965	Laing-Trengrove	Historic Building Record	Conversion to residential use

Thus some 16 sites were examined in 12 parishes. A total of 5 commercial organisations were involved. South West Archaeology produced 10 reports, A C Archaeology and Substrata each produced two reports and Laing-Trengrove and Thames Valley Archaeology each produced a single report. The most common forms of development generating reports in 2018 were residential development and redevelopment or conversion of existing buildings.

## Reports

### 1. *Ashreigny: Methodist chapel*

The report was a Historic Building Record of the Methodist church at Churchwater, in Ashreigny parish but about 1 kilometre west of the village nucleus on the road to Riddlecombe and Dolton Beacon. Such peripheral sites, often mid-way between settlements, were favoured by non-conformist denominations in the nineteenth century although this one was opened in 1906. It is of slatestone rubble construction with Marland ceramic brick and Beer stone dressings and has a slate roof. Stained glass and memorial tablets survive and are recommended to be preserved when the building is converted to residential use.

### 2. *Bideford: Cadds Down*

This is a report of a magnetometry survey on land next to the Cadds Down Business Park on the western edge of Bideford, about 3 kilometres south-west of the historic urban core. The site is a planned extension to the existing Business Park. On the wetter parts of the site there were few magnetic anomalies but the drier parts yielded a number. Some of these could reasonably be interpreted as former field boundaries one cluster corresponding closely to fields as shown on the Tithe Map and another strongly suggestive of field boundaries already removed by the time of the Tithe Survey.

### **3. Clovelly: Clovelly Dykes**

The report focuses on a magnetometry survey of the site and re-interprets an earlier earth resistance survey. The Iron Age complex of Clovelly Dykes is perhaps the major archaeological feature in Torridge District and has seen very little investigation. LiDAR survey had suggested that beyond the boundaries of the scheduled monument and to the south of the still impressive earthworks, there were further ramparts and ditches. North Devon Archaeological Society, in conjunction with the North Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and with the permission of Clovelly Estates, commissioned geophysical surveys of the site with a view to possible future excavation of areas outside the scheduled monument. The earth resistance survey had suggested the presence of curvilinear features consistent with further ring-dykes. Not all of these features could be so interpreted in the magnetometry survey but one almost certainly was a ring-dyke, conforming with the alignments shown by those to the north of the A39. The other anomalies were better understood as being geological and not archaeological features.

### **4. Great Torrington: 122 Mill Street**

The report was of archaeological monitoring and recording during the demolition of a stone shed and the associated groundworks for residential development. The site lies about 800 metres west-south-west of the historic core of Great Torrington. Structures on the site are recorded on nineteenth century maps. A shed constructed of stone rubble, with an external render, was noted but the groundworks exposed no archaeological features and deep top soil layers hinted that the gardens on the north side of Mill Street may have encroached upon Torrington Common at a late stage.

### **5. Halwill: Foxhole Farm**

The reports were a Desk-Based Assessment and Historic Building Record of the farm at Foxhole, situated about 3 kilometres south-south-west of Halwill parish church. The farmhouse was to be extended and partly reorganised. The core of the building, seemingly a passage hall, was of medieval origin, although the whole building could not be described as a long-house. It had been much altered, with a cross-wing constructed in the sixteenth century and further modified in the eighteenth century when the stair-case, which still survives, was built. A threshing-barn, bake-house, and out-buildings, all made of cob and stone, appear to date from this time. The entire set of buildings is Grade II Listed. Foxhole was a hamlet and, at the time of Tithe Survey, there were three tenements, with their holdings sharing strips of barton fields, some of which still survive.

### **6. Halwill: Otterburn Farm**

The report was an archaeological evaluation of the site for an equestrian centre. Otterburn Farm lies roughly half-way between Halwill church town and Halwill Junction.

Otterburn Farm is not a medieval farmstead. The fields are of post-medieval date and 8 machine dug trenches across the site yielded no finds.

### **7. Halwill: SS Peter and James Church**

The report was a Desk-Based Assessment and Historic Building Appraisal of the parish church of St Peter and St James at Halwill. Halwill's medieval village has been rather eclipsed by the nineteenth century settlement that grew up around Halwill Junction railway station. The church dates to at least 1161 and was extensively restored and extended in 1876-9. It was proposed to resolve damp, drainage and structural problems in the church. The building appraisal suggests that more of the earlier medieval church has survived than the Grade II Listing document includes and that there is the potential to encounter footings from the earlier structure in proposed drainage works. There is also a likelihood to find unmarked burials across the churchyard.

### **8. High Bickington: Devonia**

The report covered a Historic Building Record of a barn prior to its demolition and archaeological monitoring and recording as foundation trenches were excavated for a new house on the site. It is located in the heart of High Bickington village and just 50 metres south-east of the parish church. The barn was thought to be contemporaneous with the farm house, itself given a post-medieval construction date in the mid seventeenth century. The barn appeared on the Tithe Map and was re-modelled at about the turn of the nineteenth century. It was of rendered cob on stone footings. Nothing was found on demolition to add to this picture and the excavation of the foundation trenches for the new dwelling yielded a single sherd of medieval pottery and 750 grams of sherds of post-medieval pottery.

### **9. Holsworthy Hamlets: Great Lakes Farm barns**

The report comprises a Desk-Based Appraisal and Historic Building Record of two small barns at Great Lakes Farm, 2.5 kilometres east-north-east of Holsworthy. Great Lakes Farm itself was a late creation, occupying a zone of rush pasture and quite possibly established to take advantage of the opening of the Bude Canal to Blagdonmoor Wharf in 1823, when lime and sea sand could be more cheaply transported. Both barns date to the construction of the farm at the start of the nineteenth century. They are of stone rubble construction with brick facings for the doors and windows. One is two storied with a loft above the ground floor level. This had all the original features obliterated when refitted with concrete cattle pens, probably in the post-war period. Although externally attractive examples of their type, they are regarded as of only local importance. Their conversion to residential use is perfectly acceptable.

#### **10. Merton: Eastbeare**

The report concerns archaeological monitoring and recording at the farm, which overlooks the Merton Moors and lies 1.5 kilometres north-west of Merton village. The farm house itself is a Grade II Listed Building, probably of sixteenth century origin but with alterations and extensions of later date. It was proposed to build a further extension and the groundworks for this were monitored. A handful of sherds of nineteenth century pottery and a fragment of a glass bottle of a similar age were found.

#### **11. Merton: Great Potheridge**

The report was a Heritage Impact Assessment of proposals to construct modern farm buildings at the site. Great Potheridge was one of the Domesday manors of Merton and lies about 3 kilometres north-north-west of the village. Great Potheridge is acclaimed as the birth place of General George Monk, a key figure in the Restoration of Charles II in 1660. The house itself, a Listed Building, although no longer the 'grand house' of Monk's time, had been assessed by Exeter Archaeology in 1993 but the eighteenth and nineteenth century barns had been allowed to decay. The report concludes there is the potential for hidden archaeology to be uncovered during construction work but that the visual impact of the proposed new farm buildings would be limited.

#### **12. Merton: Speccott**

The report is a Desk-Based Assessment and Historic Building Appraisal of a barn at Speccott, prior to its conversion to residential use. Speccott lies about 3 kilometres north-west of Merton village and was a Domesday manor. The barn was of rough stone and extended with a lean-to in Marland brick later in the nineteenth century. It was probable that it had a cobbled floor although little or nothing of this survives.

#### **13. Milton Damerel: Old Stables**

The report concerned archaeological monitoring at a site close to the now shrunken core of the church town at Milton Damerel and just north-west of the parish church. The site for the new farm buildings was stripped by machine and three gullies and two possible pits so exposed were then excavated by hand. One of the pits yielded two sherds of medieval pottery, North Devon gravel-tempered coarse-ware. Rather more might have been expected to have been found at the site, given its location.

#### **14. Northam: 20 Market Street, Appledore**

The report concerned monitoring and recording during ground-works as part of alterations to the property at the heart of Appledore. The properties on this east side of Market Street originally backed onto the foreshore and in their gardens the first Appledore quay was constructed in the 1830s. The property is a Grade II Listed

building of early nineteenth century date. The work involved removing twentieth century partitions, a general lowering of floor levels and the construction of new partition walls on footing trenches. Buried soils were found and various artefacts were recovered although impossible to set precisely in any context. A fragment of a post-medieval clay pipe and a few oyster and cockle shells were found. In places small areas of cobbled floor, presumed to be original, were found.

#### **15. Northam: Durrant Lane**

The report concerned archaeological monitoring at a site about 1 kilometre south-south-east of Northam church preparatory to housing development. The site was stripped by machine and three ditches exposed by this were then dug by hand. The ditches were of earlier field boundaries, as was then confirmed by finds in the in-fill. Three sherds of medieval pottery were recovered, two of coarse-ware and one a fragment of Saintonge ware from France dating to the thirteenth to the fifteenth centuries. In excess of 140 sherds were of post-medieval pottery, with much North Devon gravel-tempered ware, a little North Devon gravel-free ware and a few sherds of North Devon sgraffito ware.

#### **16. Northam: Westward Ho! Tennis Club site, off Avon Lane**

The report concerned archaeological monitoring at the former Westward Ho! Tennis Club site. Westward Ho! has a great deal of important archaeology, with the midden site and submerged forest, now on the beach, about 600 metres north-west. Nothing was found during this phase of the building work on the site, but the potential remains for archaeology to be found, as unlike the rest of Westward Ho! it had not seen nineteenth and twentieth century residential development.

#### **17. Petrockstow: Heanton Barton**

The report concerns a Heritage Assessment of the site for a proposed telecommunications mast. The site lies within a block of enclosed medieval strip fields and the specific field for the mast also contained the Heanton windmill. Heanton lies about 2.5 kilometres west-north-west of Petrockstow and was the original site of Heanton Satchville, the seat of the Clinton family, who subsequently abandoned it for the more recently constructed house of the same name in Huish. The report concludes that the mast would have a medium visual impact and calls for extensive test pitting ahead of actual work, citing the paucity of records for the surrounding area as evidence of lack of investigation rather than proof of absence of archaeology.

#### **18. Tetcott: Methodist chapel**

The report is a Historic Building Record of the Methodist (formerly Bible Christian) chapel at Tetcott. It is about 250 metres north of Higher Lana which is the settlement core of the parish and some 800 metres east of the parish church and

Tetcott Manor House. The original chapel dates from the 1840s, relatively early in the history of the Bible Christian denomination, and was constructed on land leased from the Molesworths, then the owners of virtually the whole parish. The present structure, named Zion Chapel, dates from 1899, a few years before the Bible Christians merged with some other Methodist denominations to form a United Methodist Church. It is a classic Bible Christian chapel, constructed of rough stone and with cream Marland brick facings and inlaid plaques giving the name Zion and of prominent contributors to its construction. There is an attached school room in similar style. The interior had been gutted of its fittings prior to sale and in any case, such nineteenth century chapels tended to be austere, and so conversion to a dwelling would be practicable without a great deal of impact upon the exterior.

### ***Discussion***

The highlight of 2018 was work confirming that Clovelly Dykes extended south of the A39, making this probable Iron Age enclosure yet larger and more extensive than visible above ground. Most of the other reports focused on building conversions and extensions or the erection of agricultural buildings. A few of these sites were near or within historic settlement cores and might have been expected to have yielded more findings attesting to long occupancy. In the end little was found and the most impressive collection of medieval and pre-eighteenth century pottery sherds came from Durrant Lane in Northam, and were not associated with any specific settlement, although not too distant from the heart of Northam village.