

# YCCART

The future of the past

## Annual Review 2018

The year for YCCART (Yatton Congresbury Cleeve and Claverham Archaeological Research Team) was a busy one.

Initially, the team carried out large scale geophysical surveys at Ham Farm, Yatton, where extensive Roman activity was recorded, which may be related to the Roman burials found at Yatton the year before. It included examining the site of the known Roman corn drier and burials in the area. The report is in preparation and will include some details of work carried out by Grey Usher and Derek Lilly in 1959/60. This work is continuing. The team is also continuing to produce reports on Lilly and Usher's previously unreported work, which will appear on the YCCART web site ([www.yccart.co.uk](http://www.yccart.co.uk)).

A number of small evaluations and watching briefs have been carried out at Iwood, in Congresbury, where substantial amounts of early medieval (10th century) pottery and prehistoric flintwork have been recovered.

Geophysical survey at Kingston Seymour has revealed traces of a potential Roman site where small quantities of pottery were found. This work is continuing.

Work on geophysical and terrain modelling of Roman roads in Priddy, Shipham and Cheddar on Mendip, and at Banwell, Congresbury and Winscombe has been useful in identifying the course of the Roman road west out of the large mining settlement at Charterhouse. Identification of economically important Roman roads at Banwell and Nempnett Thrubwell / Winford has led to increased understanding of how Roman industry and transport was organised.

Geophysical survey and trial evaluation at Goblin Coombe Farm, Cleeve, failed to identify the exact site of Roman buildings, but added greatly to the knowledge of Roman activity on the hill.

Work on a photographic and historic survey of Kingston Seymour parish church (to accompany the earlier published study of Congresbury church) is continuing.

A miscellany of short articles concerning Woodspring Priory (Kewstoke) was published this year.

In terms of documentary work, historic surveys of Congresbury for 1567, 1596 and 1598 have been transcribed and published. A history of the watermills (West and Iwood Mills) in Congresbury has been published, establishing their likely origins in the early 11th century AD, and continuing up to the present. This included the history of an iron slitting mill (one of the precursors of the Industrial Revolution) at West Mill in the early 18th century.



Work on the medieval stone crosses of Yatton, Congresbury, Kingston Seymour and Wick St Lawrence has been published, the Yatton material including what appear to be unique accounts for the erection of a stone cross in 1525-6, including its partial construction from freestone quarries at Felton in Winford.

A study of the origins and development of the road bridge at Congresbury (the lowest crossing point on the Yeo until the construction of the M5) has been published.

A photographic and historical survey of the ruined windmill at Cleeve Hill was published, including a snapshot of a criminal investigation into theft at the mill in 1630, which casts much light on everyday life at the time.

Recent geophysical survey at Banwell has been aimed (successfully) at finding the site of the known Elizabethan house at Towerhead.

We continue to provide input into the management and monitoring of Cadbury hill fort at Congresbury, where tree clearance and maintenance has protected the archaeology and hugely improved the biodiversity of the hill. Quarterly photographic recording of the site has been continued since 2010.

A long-term study into the use and history of the pre-enclosure moors in Clevedon, Tickenham, Nailsea, Kenn, Kingston Seymour, Yatton and Congresbury has been initiated. This is potentially a five year project, but individual publications from its work have begun.

There are currently 153 fully published and freely available reports on the YCCCART web site ([www.ycccart.co.uk](http://www.ycccart.co.uk)), with 8 more in preparation, as well as newsletters from 2010 to date, and the group's established Health and Safety, Procedural, Data Protection and tool use manuals.

Vince Russett February 2019