

Shirley Everden, died 20th January 2019 aged 85.

In 2004 I joined Vince Russett and Brian Bradbury at Claverham Court Farm to record the features of a large barn which, John Atwell, the owner wished to get help with its preservation. Later that year Vince called a meeting with CHERT, a local archaeological society of two years experience to get help with this project. By this stage we were also involved in the location of a lost chapel close to the farm house. Vince Russett, Brian Wills, Janet Burdge, Mary Campbell and Marianne Pitman were all involved in this investigation.

It was at the end of 2004 when working on this project that I first met Shirley who had recently joined us from CHERT. It was clear from the start that she was very knowledgeable and as I later found out, a highly qualified archaeologist who had gained a first class honours degree from Bristol University in her early sixties. She had a great deal of skill and practical experience, an example of which was her work with Mick Ashton at Shapwick. Shirley was very concerned with correct archaeological procedures and the accuracy of measurements on site. This I remember from the many other projects that I worked with her - Broadfield Down, Bickley and Cadbury iron age hill fort. At Claverham Court, on the land beyond the railway, she worked with us at the Ox House, locating the site of the duck decoy and possible site of some house platforms. She was a leading figure in the measuring of the slope at the Cadbury hill fort and of the clearance and interpretation of the site.

Her contribution was invaluable and we are indebted to her.

Thank you Shirley.

Shirley was an excellent archaeologist. A founder member of YCCCART she ensured that professional standards were met. She was a delightful lady who knew what she wanted and how it was to be done. She could be quite forceful as we found to our expense when she didn't think we had done something properly.

It was Shirley who taught us the art of manual surveying and ensured we didn't just stick to geophysics. Shirley supervised several of our excavations.

Her publications for YCCCART (listed below) are a lasting legacy and can be found on the YCCCART web site.

Manual Survey of Duck Decoy at Claverham Court Farm. YCCCART 2010 /Y19
Enclosure at Chelvey Batch, Broadfield Down. YCCCART 2010/Y21
Manual survey of north east ramparts of Cadbury Congresbury Hill Fort, 2008-2011.
YCCCART 2012 / Y2
Manual Survey of Bickley Industrial Area, Bickley Wood, Cleve. YCCCART 2012/Y9.
Manual Survey of Thomas Cox's Cottage, Goblin Combe. YCCCART 2012/ Y10

She also surveyed and drew up an earthwork survey for: Enclosure at Bickley, known as Bickley 3. YCCART 2010/28

Ox-house and associated features at Whitegates Common, Claverham Court Farm: Earthwork and building survey and excavation 2005. YCCART 2016/Y11

On several occasions she also submitted items for the annual round up of archaeology in Somerset in Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society.

Although no longer active within the group Shirley used to call in for coffee after our surveys on a Thursday. We will miss her.

Chris Short