

Blacklands, Upper Row Farm – 2003 Excavation

The excavation dates for this years training dig are from Monday 18th August – Friday 26th September 2003

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Pitt Rivers Award 2002



The Society was a finalist in the 2002 British Archaeological Awards for the Pitt Rivers Prize. The Society was Highly Commended by the judges, and received a cheque for £1,250, a commemorative plate and a certificate. This was the first time the Society had entered the competition, and it is a great achievement to be one of the four finalists.

The top award went to the Fast Castle Project; the Graham Webster Laurels (for education in an archaeological project) went to the Sedgeford Project; and the Botel Castle Project and our own Upper Row Project were highly commended.

We look forward to entering for the next award in 2004.

Jayne Lawes receiving the certificate & plate

Geophysics Equipment update

The Bath & Camerton Archaeological Society has bought its own Magnetometer and is in process of buying a Resistivity Meter with a device on loan at present.

The two detectors are complementary: the Resistivity Meter detects buried masonry while the magnetometer is particularly good at locating pits and ditches. However, soil conditions can make a big difference. Some sites are opaque to geophysics, but this site has given spectacular results, as our plans show.

Both devices store data which can be downloaded to computer. Both devices can be operated over the same grid layout, but not simultaneously.

The **Resistivity Meter** measures the electrical resistance of the ground between its two spikes as they are thrust into the ground at regular intervals. It is tolerant, but it is quite hard, slow work to use.

The **Magnetometer** (sometimes called a gradiometer) measures minute changes in the Earth's magnetic field which result from soil disturbances. It has three sensors, which measure east-west; north-south and up-down.

It is measuring the Earth's field typically to 1 part in 50,000 – it is much more sensitive than the more well-known 'metal detectors' – but the operator has to entirely non – magnetic: no zips, no watches, no shoe eyelets and no underwired bras! However, it is carried just above the ground surface, allowing the operator continuous walking, so it is faster and easier to use than the Resistivity Meter