

Brian Murless



Brian Murless has been involved with archaeology and local history in Somerset for over forty years. Early work involved voluntary rescue and recording projects on the Somerset Moors and Levels, the M5 Motorway and urban redevelopment sites. Activities have increasingly focused on Somerset's industrial heritage. He has researched material for numerous articles and has provided detailed responses to local authority planning applications involving threatened sites and structures.

Co-author of two national award-winning volumes of fieldwork and historical research of Somerset's turnpike roads (1985 & 1987), Brian is author of *Bridgwater Docks* (reprinted 1989) and a chapter on the industrial age in the *Archaeology of Somerset* (2007). A major focus has been the study of the post-1600 clay industry which contributed to the establishment of the Somerset Brick & Tile Museum at Bridgwater. This has led on to production of specialist papers for archaeological investigations such as the Shapwick Project.

Joining SANHS in 1967, he has served as Chairman and Secretary of the Archaeological Committee, as Chairman of the Parish Survey Working Party and as a member of the Taunton Castle Working Group. The Society's representative on the Taunton Deane Archaeological & Research Committee, Brian was also its Chairman during his ten-year stint. Elected to the former governing Council in 1978, he has an almost unbroken service record, becoming a trustee in 2006. A sub-editor and contributor to *Proceedings*, he presented a paper at the Society's 150th anniversary conference in 1999.

Brian has taught aspects of the county's heritage across the age spectrum and continues this educational work as Archivist for the Somerset Industrial Archaeological Society. An advocate for the dissemination of information through the internet he is a regular contributor to the County Council's online Somerset Historic Environment Record. Although stepping down from the Society's Board this year, he has agreed to become a Custodian Trustee.