A History of Boston in 50 Artifacts
By Joseph M. Bagley

History is right under our feet; we just need to dig a little to find it. Though not the most popular construction project, Boston's Big Dig has contributed more to our understanding and appreciation of the city's archaeological history than any other recent event. Joseph M. Bagley, city archaeologist of Boston, uncovers a fascinating hodgepodge of history—from ancient fishing grounds to Jazz Age red-light districts—that will surprise and delight even longtime residents. Each artifact is shown in full color and accompanied by description of the item's significance to its site location and the larger history of the city. From cannonballs to drinking cups and from ancient spears to chinaware, A History of Boston in 50 Artifacts offers a unique and accessible introduction to Boston's history and physical culture while revealing the ways objects can offer a tantalizing entrée into our past.

Packed with vivid descriptions and art, this lively history of Boston will appeal to all manner of readers, locals and visitors alike.

About the Author:
Joseph M. Bagley is the city archaeologist of Boston and a popular lecturer and walking tour leader.
A Medieval Manor House at Longforth Farm, Wellington, Somerset

By Simon Flaherty, Phil Andrews and Matt Leivers

Key Features:
- previously unknown high status medieval building complex; artefact assemblage includes medieval floor tiles and roof furniture

Excavations in advance of housing development at Longforth Farm, Wellington revealed limited evidence for late prehistoric settlement, but the principal discovery was the remains of a previously unknown high status medieval building complex. This is thought to have been a manor house and though heavily robbed, key elements identified include a hall, solar with garderobe and service wing. A forecourt lay to the north and a service yard with at least one ancillary building and a possible detached kitchen to the south. To the east was a complex of pits, enclosure and field ditches and a pond. There was a restricted range and number of medieval finds, but together these suggest that occupation spanned the late 11th or 12th century to probably the 14th century. There was a notable group of medieval floor tiles and roof furniture, but documentary research has failed to identify the owners and any records relating specifically to this important building. One possibility is that it belonged to the Provost of Wells cathedral, and was perhaps abandoned in the 14th century when the Bishops may have established their court within the nearby and then relatively new market town of Wellington.