

English Heritage Extensive Urban Survey

An archaeological assessment of

Montacute

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SOMERSET EXTENSIVE URBAN SURVEY

MONTACUTE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

by Miranda Richardson

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SOMERSET EXTENSIVE URBAN SURVEY

MONTACUTE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Somerset County Council would like to thank all the people who assisted in the compiling or editing of this report.

I. INTRODUCTION

This report forms one of a series commissioned by English Heritage and prepared by Somerset County Council with the aim of assessing urban archaeology as part of the Monuments Protection Programme. The work was carried out from 1994 to 1998 by Clare Gathercole and Miranda Richardson (from 1996), managed by Chris Webster. The reports are essentially as completed during that period but have been updated by Chris Webster with new archaeological information in 2003.

English Heritage has funded two programmes assess the urban archaeological resource - intensive and extensive. The former is restricted to the major historic cities, characterised by a great depth of archaeological remains, a wealth of historical documentation and in many cases, by a great deal of archaeological investigation. The extensive urban surveys cover the smaller towns and are based on information in the local Sites and Monuments Record with limited amounts of new information collected during the project. Once the information has been collected and mapped, attention is focused on the analysis of the town plan and defining topographic units within the town. This will lead to the preparation of guidance for planners, developers and others involved in the management of the town.

II. MAJOR SOURCES

1. Primary documents

The Montacute Cartulary (published by the Somerset Records Society) is the major source of documentary evidence concerning the mediaeval settlement. The post-mediaeval history of Montacute house and estate is contained in the Phelps Papers deposited at the Somerset Record Office.

2. Local histories

The VCH chapters on Montacute (Dunning 1974) and the Cluniac priory (Scott 1911) provide the best local history of the town.

3. Maps

The 1782 Montacute estate map and the parish map dating to 1825 and the 1838 tithe map are useful additions to the OS series.

III. A BRIEF HISTORY OF MONTACUTE

The town of Montacute lies to the east of Ham Hill iron age hill fort in the uneven landscape of the Yeovil sands. The hill fort dominates the prehistory of the region having produced evidence of neolithic and bronze age use of the site as well as the iron age defences and Roman fort and occupation. The settlement at Montacute was in evidence from the 7th century when a charter records that Baldred gave 16 hides at *Logworesbeorh* to Glastonbury abbey. In the 9th century the name of the settlement changed to Bishopston possibly in reference to Tunbeorht who was both abbot of Glastonbury and bishop of Winchester. During the reign of Cnut (1016-1035) the manor was apparently in the hands of Tofig and by tradition it was at this time that a Holy Cross was found on St. Michael's Hill. The cross was cause for the founding of an abbey at Waltham and "Holy Cross" became the English battle cry at Hastings in 1066.

At Domesday the estate was owned by Athelney priory who exchanged it with Robert of Mortain for land at Purse Caundle, Dorset. He constructed a motte and bailey castle on the hill as a final slight to the defeated English. The castle became the focus of the new settlement which took the name Mons Acutus from the shape of the steep conical

hill on which the castle was built. The castle held out when besieged in 1068 during a revolt against Norman rule, but lacked military importance in the mediaeval period and was let to ruin by the time of Leland's visit in *c.* 1540. Little is known of the history of the castle in the intervening period except that a chapel dedicated to St. Michael was apparently built as part of the castle complex. Robert of Mortain also established a borough and in *c.* 1102 he, or his son established a Cluniac priory. The foundation charter lists the church, castle, borough, market, mill, manor, vineyard and hundred of Montacute amongst a long list of property granted to the priory. The prosperity of the town created by the Mortains was thenceforth linked to the priory; in the early 13th century a second area of burgages was laid out by Prior Mark in order to create more revenue to fund the convent kitchen. The fourteenth century was probably the period of greatest prosperity in the town, in 1340 Montacute paid the ninth highest tax in the county.

Decline in the market and fair in the sixteenth century are general reflections of the failing town economy following the dissolution of the monastery in 1539. From the fragmentation of the priory estate the Phelips family was to emerge over the following decades as the most important landholder in the town. Edward Phelips built Montacute house after 1595 when he purchased the land known as 'Whettles' on which it stands (R. More *pers comm*). The town's position on the London-Exeter coach road maintained an income in the town and a number of hostleries sprung up to service the route. Other post-mediaeval and industrial period trades in the town included Wiseman's bell foundry and several forms of cloth and leather industry. However, by the nineteenth century the settlement was predominantly agricultural.

Montacute house and estate are now owned and managed by the National Trust and since the construction of the new Yeovil road bypassing the village, Montacute has become a quiet village reliant on tourism and the proximity of Yeovil.

IV. THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF MONTACUTE

GENERAL COMMENTS

0.1 *Archaeological work in the town*

There has been no archaeological excavation in the town of Montacute. A small trench opened on St. Michael's hill in 1989 showed the presence of masonry walls possibly belonging to the mediaeval chapel.

0.2 *Standing structures and visible remains*

The Norman motte and bailey castle, Cluniac priory precinct and gatehouse, 16-17th-century manor house and later gardens and many post-mediaeval houses survive in Montacute, there having been very little subsequent rebuilding of the town centre.

1. *PREHISTORIC and ROMAN* (Map A)

1.1 *Archaeological work in the town/ Archaeological knowledge*

There are no prehistoric sites in the area of the modern settlement, however the close proximity of the iron age hill fort on Ham hill immediately to the west may have been of influence in the original choice of location.

1.2 *Context*

Montacute is one of 37 of the 45 historic towns covered by this project at which there is as yet no strong evidence of prehistoric settlement on the site of the later town itself. But it is also one of five at which there is evidence of a major prehistoric defended enclosure or hillfort functioning as a central place, either within or close to the later town and representing some form of predecessor to it. In this case, the dominant hillfort is the iron age (and earlier) Ham Hill (one of the most important hillforts in Somerset), and the physical relationship is close (though the historical relationship between the sites may not be so close).

The Roman period was one of deliberate, strategic urbanisation. The area which is now Somerset appears to have been less affected than some other areas by this, in that few really urban sites are known, and this probably reflects

its marginal position. However, the widespread distribution of Roman or Romanised settlements shows that the county - particularly east of the Parrett - was heavily populated and exploited in this period.

Montacute is one of 26 of the 45 historic towns covered by this project at which there is as yet no evidence of Roman settlement on the site of the later town, though the adjacent hillfort was reoccupied and fortified in the Roman period (Montacute is one of five towns associated with Roman fort sites), and there was certainly activity in the surrounding area, which was on the fringe of the well-settled belt around the main Roman town of Ilchester.

1.3 Archaeological features (centre), shown on Map A

1.3.a Communications

(a) Roads, streets and routeways

MON/104 Ham Hill-Ilchester Roman Road (SMR 53730)

It has been suggested that the drove road linking the south-east gate of Ham Hill to the south of the Bishopston settlement may have been a Roman road leading to Ilchester (Aston and Leach 1977:106).

1.3.b Settlement

MON/101 Ham Hill (SMR 55103, 55112, SM Somerset 100)

The hill top site of Hamdon or Ham Hill has produced evidence of occupation from the mesolithic, neolithic, bronze age, iron age and Roman periods, including a Roman fort in the north-east corner of the iron age defences. The hill, including the surrounding earthworks, are a scheduled monument.

1.3.c Artefact scatters

MON/102 Prehistoric and Roman Features (SMR 55946)

Two pits and a recut ditch were discovered during the monitoring of the Ilchester to Odcombe water pipeline in 1992. The pits contained iron age pottery and the final fill of the ditch contained Roman pottery.

Taken from SMR record.

MON/103 Undated Ditch and Pit (SMR 55965)

An undated ditch and pit were found during monitoring of the same pipeline as above.

Taken from SMR record.

2. SAXON

(Map B)

2.1 Archaeological work in the town/ Archaeological knowledge

There has been no excavation in the areas of possible Saxon settlement.

2.2 Context

The Post-Roman and early Saxon periods were characterised by a return to non-urban lifestyles - and, indeed, Dunster may have been one of two towns associated with fortifications in this period. But the later Saxon period (from the 8th or 9th century onwards) saw the beginnings of a resurgence of first trading places and then towns, under the control of the Saxon royal families, in the context of a network of royal estate administration centres and subordinate settlements which was already established (in some cases long-established). Though only a relatively small number of places with any claim to be towns existed by the time of the Domesday Survey, many of the subordinate settlements recorded at that point were to become towns in the medieval period. Montacute is one of ten of the 45 historic towns covered by this project which had no urban pretensions before the Conquest but were nevertheless in existence as agricultural settlements.

2.3 Archaeological features, shown on Map B

2.3.a Communications

(a) Roads, streets and routeways

MON/301 Bishopston

The main north-south road of the village is still known as Bishopston and is likely to have formed the main route through the early settlement.

Taken from the 1782 estate map.

2.3.b Burial sites, religious houses and places of worship

not mapped St. Peter's Chapel

The Saxon settlement of Bishopston is likely to have had a church. Dunning (1974:220) suggests that the exemption from payment of secular dues on half an acre in 854 may indicate that the abbey of Glastonbury, the owners of the land (as indicated by the settlement's later name), had established a chapel by this date. This may have been the church dedicated to St. Peter that in c.1102 became the church of the Cluniac priory, founded by William of Mortain in that year. St. Peter's was almost certainly demolished shortly after the dissolution as no later mention of the monastic church survives (Dunning 1974:214). Its precise location is not known although its use as the priory church suggests that it was situated within the area which became the priory precinct to the south of the town.

2.3.c Settlement (Rural)

MON/302 Logworesbeorh/Lutgaesbury/Bishopston

The Saxon settlement is first mentioned in a seventh century Saxon charter, when Baldred gave 16 hides to Glastonbury abbey. In 1035 it was owned by Tofig, standard bearer to Cnut, who by legend found a 'miraculous cross' on the hilltop in his land, but by 1066 was owned by Athelney abbey who exchanged it for land at Purse Caundle (Dorset) when required by Robert of Mortain. The early settlement probably took the form of a nucleated village close to the early church and manor-house (Aston and Leech 1977:104). The location of none of these elements has been proven but the continued use of the name Bishopston for the north-south road linking Lower Town with the site of the Cluniac priory and the likely siting of St. Peter's to the south of this road are useful indicators.

Conjecture.

3. MEDIEVAL (Map C)

3.1 Archaeological work in the town/ Archaeological knowledge

There has been no excavation in the town centre. A narrow trench excavated in 1989 on St. Michael's Hill revealed masonry walls which are likely to be part of the mediaeval chapel dedicated to St. Michael (Adkins and Adkins 1989).

3.2 Context

Both in Britain and on the continent, the medieval period saw the growth of town foundation and, to an extent, urban living (though the bulk of the population continued to live in villages). The reasons for this growth were many and complex. In England they included both general factors - such as the growth of mercantile trade (especially the cloth trade) - and more specific ones - such as the post-Conquest establishment of a network of (theoretically) loyal magnates and prelates with large estates and commercial privileges. The latter led to the increasing relaxation of the royal stranglehold on the profits of towns and chartered boroughs (where tenants paid cash rents and were free of feudal ties), which in turn enabled the establishment of new purpose-built commercial areas (the majority of places classed as towns in the medieval period have at least some planned elements). Of course, some boroughs were already in existence by the Conquest, and the existing pattern of Saxon urban or semi-urban centres was an important influence on the medieval one. This is evident in Somerset which, like many parts of the south and west (where the

majority of the Saxon *burhs* and boroughs had been established), was peppered with small boroughs in the medieval period.

In archaeological terms, the medieval towns are characterised by evidence of partially planned, intensive occupation of restricted areas. Typical features which may occur include: regular, or semi-regular, street layouts; large market places (usually obscured by later encroachments); blocks of regular, long, narrow, plots end on to the commercial frontage; churchyards, either within the medieval layout or outside it - the latter often indicative of a deliberate shift of activity; regular or irregular suburbs or marginal areas occupied by quays, or industrial sites such as mills; and high status sites such as castles, manor sites and large religious precincts.

Montacute is one of 20 of the 45 historic towns covered by this project which first acquired urban status in the medieval period, and one of the ten of these 20 which acquired borough status: indeed, it was one of the earliest new boroughs, created in the mid 12th century. Montacute was one of eight of the 45 towns associated with a castle, and like three others of these eight was deliberately created out of an agricultural settlement to service and profit the castle. It was also one of eight of the towns which had at least one large or important religious establishment affecting the town's development in the medieval period. It was one of 19 of the 45 towns at which a planned area was laid out in the medieval period partially across or - more commonly - immediately adjacent to an established settlement.

Montacute is particularly well-preserved and is one of the three classic castle/priory/ borough survivals in Somerset (the others are Dunster and Stogursey).

3.3 *Standing structures and visible remains*

There are six listed mediaeval buildings including the grade I Priory Gatehouse and the grade II* church of St. Catherine's.

3.4 *Archaeological components (centre), shown on Map C*

3.4.a *Military sites*

MON/401 Mons Acutus Castle (SMR 54297, SM 24014)

After the conquest the manor of Bishopston was given to Robert of Mortain, half-brother of William the Conqueror, as the hill to the west of the settlement presented a fine site for a castle. The gift might also have had the intent of a final snub to the English as this was the site where the holy cross had been found which had become the English battle cry at Hastings. The castle stood by 1068 when it was besieged during a revolt against the conqueror. The hill was scarped to form an oval motte with an upper bailey on the south-east and a lower bailey on a plateau encircling the hill. In c.1102 Robert of Mortain gave the castle as part of the foundation grant to the Cluniac priory. In 1540 Leland described the castle as '*partly fell to ruin*' and early 16th-century accounts show that the site was still being used as a stone quarry. The castle earthworks are still visible and the whole site is a scheduled monument.

Taken from the 1782 estate map.

3.4.b *Burial sites, religious houses and places of worship*

MON/402 St Michaels Chapel (SMR 54297, SM 24014)

The castle included a chapel dedicated to St. Michael, which was still in use in 1315. The church is thought to have been rebuilt at the demolition of the castle and thus it was probably the second chapel that was described by Gerard in 1633 from local memory as "*a fine piece of work built with arched work and an embowed roof*" (quoted by Karn 1994:65). Recent excavations for the addition of a lightning conductor to the tower that now stands on the hill revealed wide stone walls, in part used as the foundation for the tower, which are thought to belong to the mediaeval chapel (Adkins and Adkins 1989).

After Adkins and Adkins 1989.

MON/403 Cluniac Priory (SMR 54837, SM 33723)

The priory was founded by Robert's son William, a charter dated between 1091 and 1104 lists gifts of the castle, mill, manor, market, hundred and the newly formed borough amongst a long list of other properties. The priory took over the church of St. Peter and a precinct was constructed to the south of the town. In 1404 the new prior renounced allegiance to Cluny and was henceforth recognised as an English house and continued as such until the dissolution. The 1782 estate map shows a large fish pond, the gate house, a large building with a tower to the west of the pond and an 'L'-plan building in the north-east of the remaining precinct area. The dovecote which now stands in this area is not shown. The precinct is separated from the park to the south by a linear earthwork. A recent study has attempted to establish the form and precise position of monastic buildings through the non-destructive approach of earthwork survey with limited results (Clark 1997).

Taken from the 1782 estate map.

3.4.c Settlement (Urban)

(a) Market place(s)

MON/404 Market Place

It is not clear where the market referred to in the foundation charter of c.1102 was held. Several sites can be postulated; on the 1782 map Bishopston Road is shown as widening to the south and the market could have been held within this street; Aston and Leech propose an area immediately beyond the priory gate (1977:106); a third possibility is the old junction of Montacute and Bishopston Road.

Taken from the 1782 estate map.

(b) Burgage plots

MON/405 The Original Borough of Montacute

Robert of Mortain or his son William founded the borough of Montacute between 1086 and c.1102, when the latter gave it as part of the foundation grant to the priory. Burgage plots were probably laid out over or adjacent to the Domesday village of Bishopston. Regular plots are portrayed on both sides of Bishopston Road on the 1782 map right up to Horn Hay Orchard and possibly also along the north side of Montacute Road. No plots are shown at the northern end of the west side of the road but this may be due to later changes.

Taken from the 1782 estate map.

3.4.d Industrial sites

(a) Mills

Not mapped Park Mill (SMR 54366)

One mill belonging to the Montacute estate was recorded at Domesday, which is likely to have been the same mill which formed part of the priory foundation grant. Dunning (1974:219), has identified this as Park Mill located to the south of Ham Hill, land which was previously part of the priory demesne.

3.4.e Agricultural sites

MON/411 Deer park (SMR 54295, 54296)

A deer park was created between the south end of the village and Park Lane by the Mortains in the 11th century. It was granted to the priory in 1192. In addition the priory was granted warrens on the eastern defences of Ham Hill in 1252.

Taken from Aston and Leech and SMR records.

3.5 Archaeological components, shown on Map D

3.5.a Communications

(a) Roads, streets and routeways

MON/406 Middle Street and South Street
The laying out of the new borough required these roads.

Taken from the 1782 estate map.

3.5.b Burial sites, religious houses and places of worship

MON/407 St Catherine's Chapel/Parish Church (SMR 54291)
A chapel dedicated to St Catherine was built between 1174 and 1180 in the monks burial ground and confirmed to the priory. It later became the parish church for the town (Dunning 1974:220).

Taken from the 1782 estate map.

3.5.c Settlement (Urban)

(a) Market place(s)

MON/408 Market Square
A new square market place was created as part of the new borough described below.

Taken from the 1782 estate map.

(b) Burgage plots

MON/409 Novo Burgo/ The Borough (SMR 54308)
In the late twelfth or early thirteenth century a new borough was laid out by Prior Mark to increase revenue paid to the monastery. By 1302 the monastery was receiving 16d from each of 51 burgages. By 1540 there were 55 ³/₄ burgages each paying 6s. 8d. This area of new burgage plots probably extended to the north of the market place over land now brought within Montacute House garden. The individual burgages of the New Borough, as they appear recorded in a 1566 survey, have been made by R.S. More (1992).

Taken from the 1782 estate map and after Aston and Leach 1977:106.

MON/410 Montacute Mill
A mill stood on the brook to the north-west of the Montacute House stable block until expansion of the park removed it in 1785-6. It may have been in the same situation as a grist mill known as Clare's mill which dated from at least 1350 and which by 1631 was attached to the manor of Hide.

Taken from the 1782 estate map.

4. POST-MEDIEVAL

(Map E)

4.1 Archaeological work in the town/ Archaeological knowledge

None.

4.2 Context

The basic pattern of towns had been established by the end of the middle ages, and there were very few major changes in the post-medieval period, though the economic fortunes of particular towns rose and fell. Nearly all the Somerset towns depended on either cloth manufacture or cloth trade to some extent. Montacute was no exception, and was one of many of the 45 historic towns covered by this project which held its own economically for much of this period, although it was one of several towns which suffered badly as a result of the Dissolution.

4.3 Standing structures and visible remains

There are fifteen listed post mediaeval buildings in Montacute including Montacute house itself and several elements of the formal gardens.

4.4 Archaeological components (centre), shown on Map E

The 1782 map has been used to map post-mediaeval elements in the town. The map gives a detailed rendition of the layout of the town property divisions and the form of the buildings. Ownership of each plot is also noted.

4.4.a Communications

MON/506 Lanes

Two lanes joining Bishopston to Middle Street are shown on the 1782 map.

Taken from the 1782 estate map.

4.4.b Manors and estates

MON/501 Montacute House (SMR 54836, 54305)

Edward Phelips purchased land at 'Whettles' in 1595, to the north of the market square, where he built Montacute House (*pers comm* RS More). It is a grade I listed building (LB 56223).

The gardens around the house was started in the same period with some of the formal features of the early garden surviving. Surveys exist of the courts and gardens from 1667 and 1774.

Taken from the 1782 estate map.

4.4.c Settlement (Urban)

(i) Other town plots/suburbs

MON/502 Lower Town/Townsend

The 1782 map shows irregular building around Montacute Road, Lower Town Road and to the south of the town along Townsend.

Taken from the 1782 estate map.

4.4.d Industrial sites

(a) Mills

MON/503 Brook Mill (SMR 54313)

In 1638 this mill, along with Park Mill and the mill in Montacute itself formed part of the Montacute estate (Dunning 1974:220).

Taken from 1886 OS.

(b) Other industrial sites

MON/504 Bell Founders

Two generations of bell founders worked from Montacute from about 1592 until the mid 17th century. Forty-six Wiseman bells could still be found in Somerset in 1974 (Dunning 1974:218). Aston and Leech (1977:106) have suggested the location of this industry in the town.

Taken from Aston and Leach 1977:106.

4.4.e Other

MON/505 St. Michael's Hill Tower (SMR 54299)

The tower was constructed in 1760 as a folly on St. Michael's Hill, apparently using part of the walls of the mediaeval chapel as foundations (Adkins and Adkins 1989).

Taken from the 1782 estate map.

5. INDUSTRIAL (LATE 18TH AND 19TH CENTURY) (Map F)

5.1 Archaeological work in the town/ Archaeological knowledge

None.

5.2 Context

The late 18th and 19th centuries saw some changes to the urban pattern, with the beginning of the emergence of larger centres (often at the expense of smaller ones), linked by vastly improved communication lines (turnpikes, railways and canals). Somerset was not characterised by the kind of large scale industrialisation and urbanisation seen in other counties - indeed, the virtual collapse of its most important industry, which was cloth, affected nearly all of the medieval and post-medieval towns - but some did take place. The changes were reflected in a series of alterations to town governance, which left the county with a total of only fifteen Municipal Boroughs and Urban Districts by the end of the 19th century.

Montacute is one of the 22 or so places which though they did not merit Borough or Urban District status at the end of the 19th century, remained market centres and can probably still be regarded as towns (though several of them had sunk towards village status during the course of the century).

5.3 Standing structures and visible remains

There are over sixty listed industrial period buildings in Montacute.

5.4 Archaeological components (centre), shown on Map F

5.4.a Communications

(a) Roads, streets and routeways

MON/601 Road Changes at Lower Town

The alignment of roads at the north end of the town was considerably altered by the expansion and emparkment of the Montacute estate. A new entrance to Montacute House was created leading from the Montacute Road. The expansion of the park later ran over the line of Bishopston road which was realigned to the west.

Taken From 1886 OS.

MON/602 Yeovil Road

The 1886 map shows the road from the end of South Street, crossing Townsend and leading on to Yeovil.

Taken From 1886 OS.

(b) Railways

MON/603 Durston and Yeovil Branch

The Durston and Yeovil branch of the Bristol and Exeter Railway was completed in 1853 and was taken over by the Great Western Railway in 1876. The line and station remained open until 1964.

Taken From 1886 OS.

5.4.b Manors and estates

MON/604 Montacute House and Gardens (SMR 54836, 54305)

The extent of the Montacute park and garden in 1904 is shown on map F. Expansion up to this date removed housing on the road north of the market square which was probably part of the new borough. Montacute is a grade 1 registered garden with formal elements dating from the late 16th century to the mid-19th and laid out park land.

Taken from the 1904 OS.

5.4.c Burial sites, religious houses and places of worship

MON/607 St. Catherine's Churchyard

The churchyard around St. Catherine's church has expanded to the south and east.

Taken from the 1904 OS.

MON/608 South Street Chapel

The Baptist chapel on the east side of South Street was built in 1879.

Taken from the 1904 OS.

Not mapped Methodist Chapel

A Methodist chapel is thought to have been built in 1817 on the west side of South Street and possibly rebuilt in 1843 when a new licence was granted. Its precise location is not known. It was abandoned before 1883 (Dunning 1974:223).

5.4.d Settlement (Urban)

MON/609 New Building

Some new building occurred to the south of the town during this period but in general 19th-century building has been slight and largely on the edges of the town. A new vicarage was built in the Lower Town area.

Taken from the 1904 OS.

5.4.e Settlement (Rural)

MON/610 Brook Farm/Gaundle Farm

Both of these farms are shown on the 19th century maps, although they may have earlier origins.

Taken from the 1904 OS.

6. 20TH CENTURY (MapG)

6.1 Archaeological work in the town/ Archaeological knowledge None.

6.2 Context

The 20th century has seen a vast physical expansion of some existing towns, and some expansion in most of the 45 historic towns covered by the project. However, there have only been limited alterations to the overall pattern of urban settlement. The County Structure Plan still contains fifteen settlements defined as Towns: this is almost identical to the late 19th century list of Municipal Boroughs and Urban Districts.

Montacute is one of 30 of the 45 historic towns covered by this project which is not classed as a town in the County Structure Plan.

6.3 Settlement components, shown on Map G

6.3.a Communications

(a) Roads, streets and routeways

MON/701 A3088

The abandoned railway line has been used as the route for the new road bypassing Montacute to Yeovil, constructed in 1984.

1995 Digital OS

6.3.b Settlement (Suburban)

MON/702 Fullfitt Terrace Council Houses

The row of 12 houses on the east side of Townsend were constructed in 1912 following the 1906 Liberal Housing Act to provide cheap housing for workers employed at the Ham hill quarries. They are some of the earliest council houses to have been built, and the first in a relatively rural setting.

1995 Digital OS

MON 703 Other 20th Century building

Other 20th century building, on the outskirts of the town are shown on map G.

1995 Digital OS

V. THE POTENTIAL OF MONTACUTE

1. *Research interests*

The form of the mediaeval town at Montacute including boroughs castle and priory is extremely well preserved which, linked with a good range of documentary records relating to the Cluniac priory and later to the Phelips estate make it an important subject of research.

For the Roman period the character and precise route of the proposed Roman road are still to be established.

The position of the early church of St. Peters and the character of the Saxon settlement of Bishopston has yet to be shown. The effects of conquest were dramatic in Montacute, shown in the physical structures of the Norman castle and the laying out of the borough by Robert of Mortain. How these changes effected the inhabitants of Bishopston, might be reflected in changes in the form of settlement and property division in the 11th century. The extent to the north of Mortain's borough is also still to be established. The site of the priory is likely to have good archaeological preservation having been little built upon but still, little is known of the character of the monastic buildings. Following the foundation of the priory until its dissolution the history and economy of the town was tightly tied to that of the monastery. The power of the monastery was replaced by that of the Phelips family who built Montacute house at the end of the 16th century. Further detailed study of the phases of expansion, decline and rebuilding within the town might be shown to reflect the prosperity of these institutions.

2. *Areas of potentially exceptional preservation*

There are no obvious areas where water logged deposits might be expected however good preservation is likely over much of the town due to the slight later building.

3. *Limitations*

The northern end of the Borough and the north end of Bishopston have been slighted by the expansion and emparkment of the grounds at Montacute House. Although this has altered the layout of the town its effect on buried archaeological remains is still to be established.

4. *Extent of current protection*

There are two scheduled areas covering the Norman castle earthworks and that part of the priory precinct which is currently not built on. A conservation area covers the centre of the town and part of the Montacute House grounds. The Montacute house park and gardens are registered grade I. There are over 60 listed buildings at Montacute including three grade I structures. An AHAP has been designated as a result of this report.

5. *Management Proposals*

See the Archaeological Guidance Document.

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3. Maps

- 1782 Copy of extract from the Manor of Montacute Estate Map
 1808 OSSD
 1825 Parish Map

1836	Tithe Map
1886	1st edition OS
1904	2nd edition 6" OS
1982	1:10 000 OS
1995	Digital OS

VII. COMPONENT INDEXES

1. Component to map

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MON/102	A	MON/501	E
MON/103	A	MON/502	E
MON/104	A	MON/503	E
		MON/504	E
MON/301	B	MON/505	E
MON/302	B		
		MON/601	F
MON/401	C	MON/602	F
MON/402	C	MON/603	F
MON/403	C	MON/604	F
MON/404	C	MON/607	F
MON/405	C	MON/608	F
MON/406	C	MON/609	F
MON/411	C	MON/610	F
MON/407	D	MON/701	G
MON/408	D	MON/702	G
MON/409	D	MON/703	G
MON/410	D		

2. Component to page

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MON/703	16

Maps

Map A - Prehistoric and Roman

Map B - Saxon

Map C - Medieval

Map D - Medieval (centre)

Earlier components in yellow.

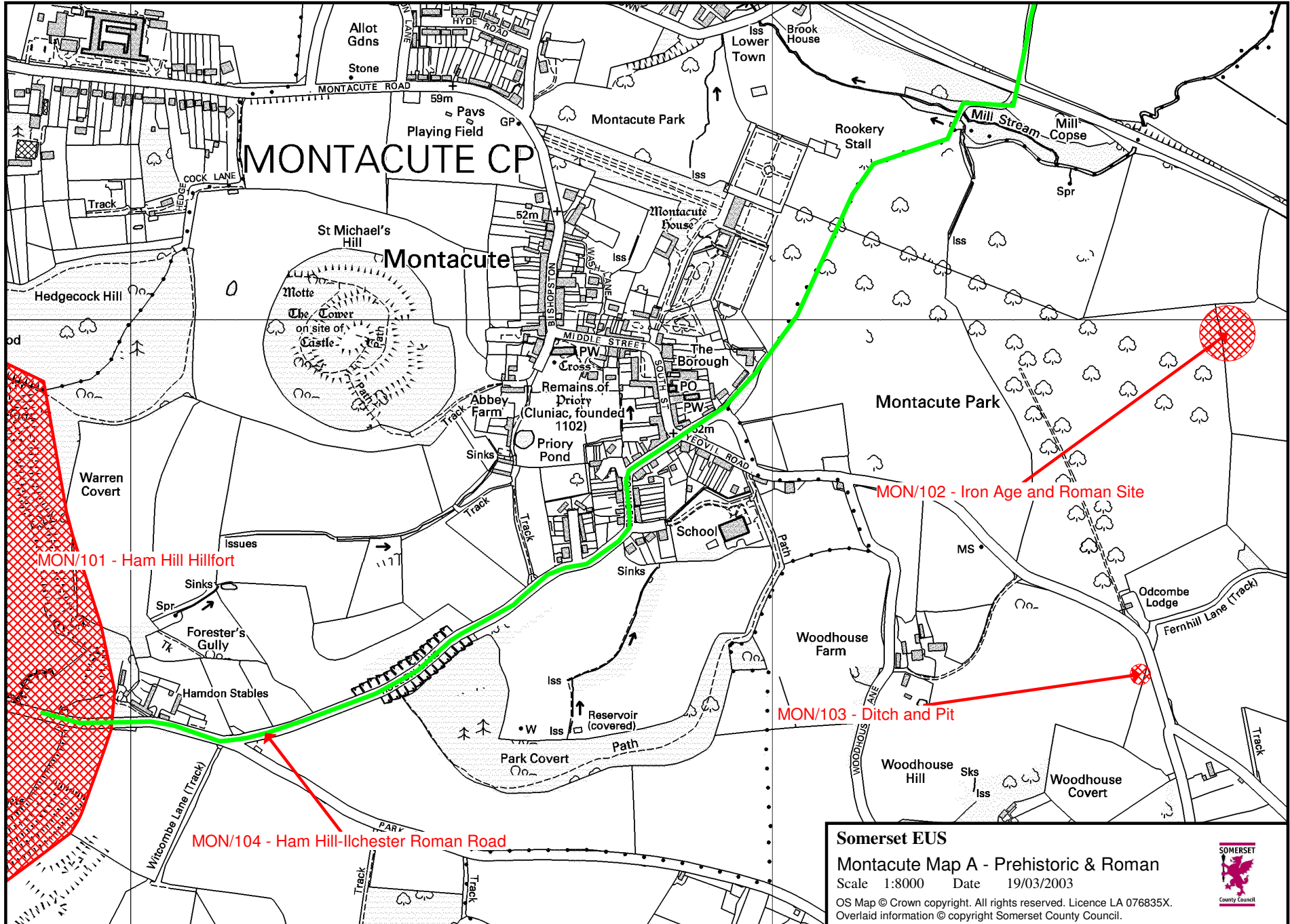
Map E - Post-medieval

Map F - Industrial

Map G - 20th century

Map E - Existing designations

Key: Scheduled Monuments (dark blue),
Listed Buildings Grade I (light blue)
Grade II* (light green)
Grade II (green)
Registered Park (brown)
Conservation Area (green)
Area of High Archaeological Potential (pink)



MONTACUTE CP

Montacute

MON/101 - Ham Hill Hillfort

MON/102 - Iron Age and Roman Site

MON/103 - Ditch and Pit

MON/104 - Ham Hill-Ilchester Roman Road

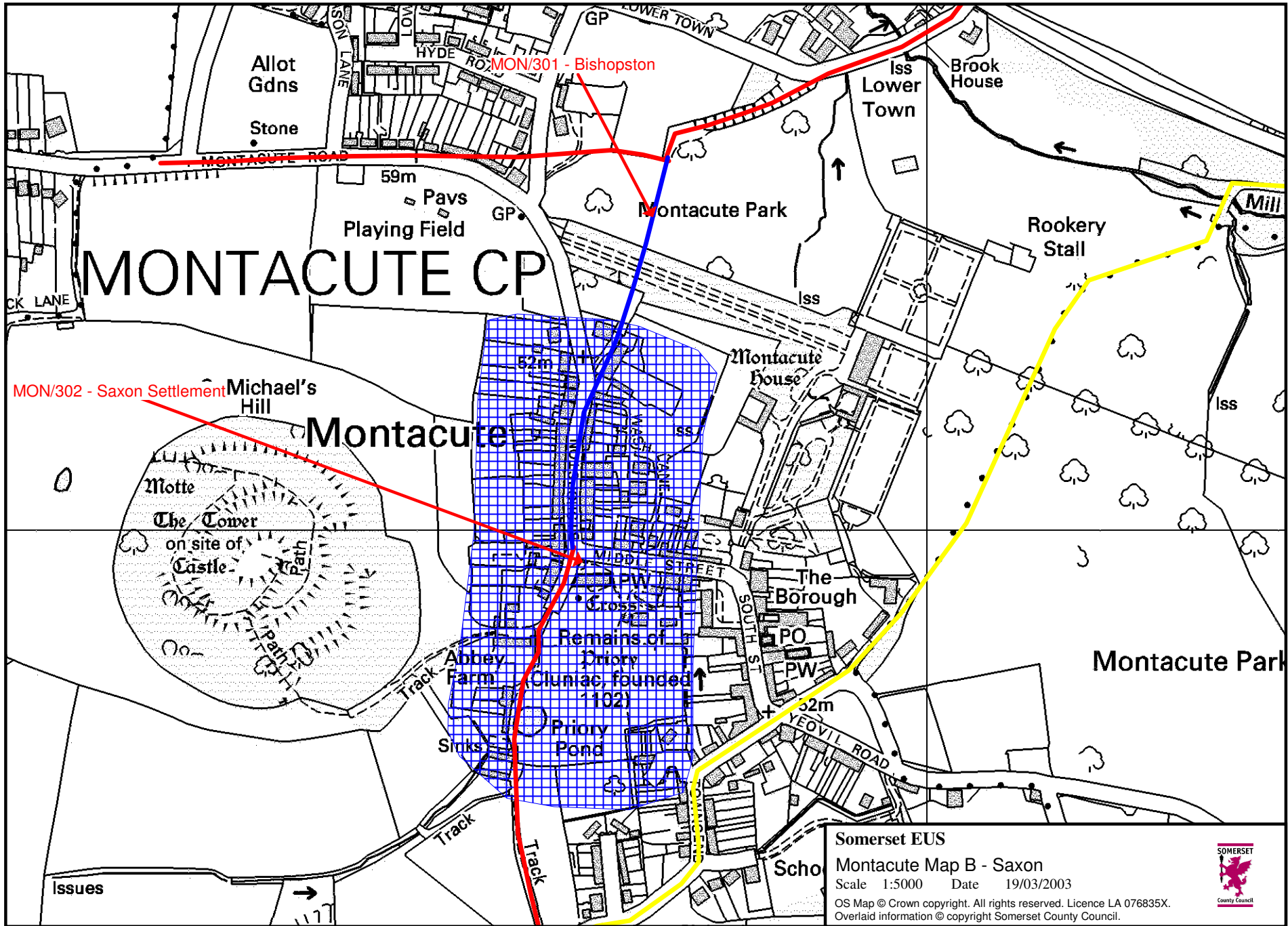
Somerset EUS

Montacute Map A - Prehistoric & Roman

Scale 1:8000 Date 19/03/2003

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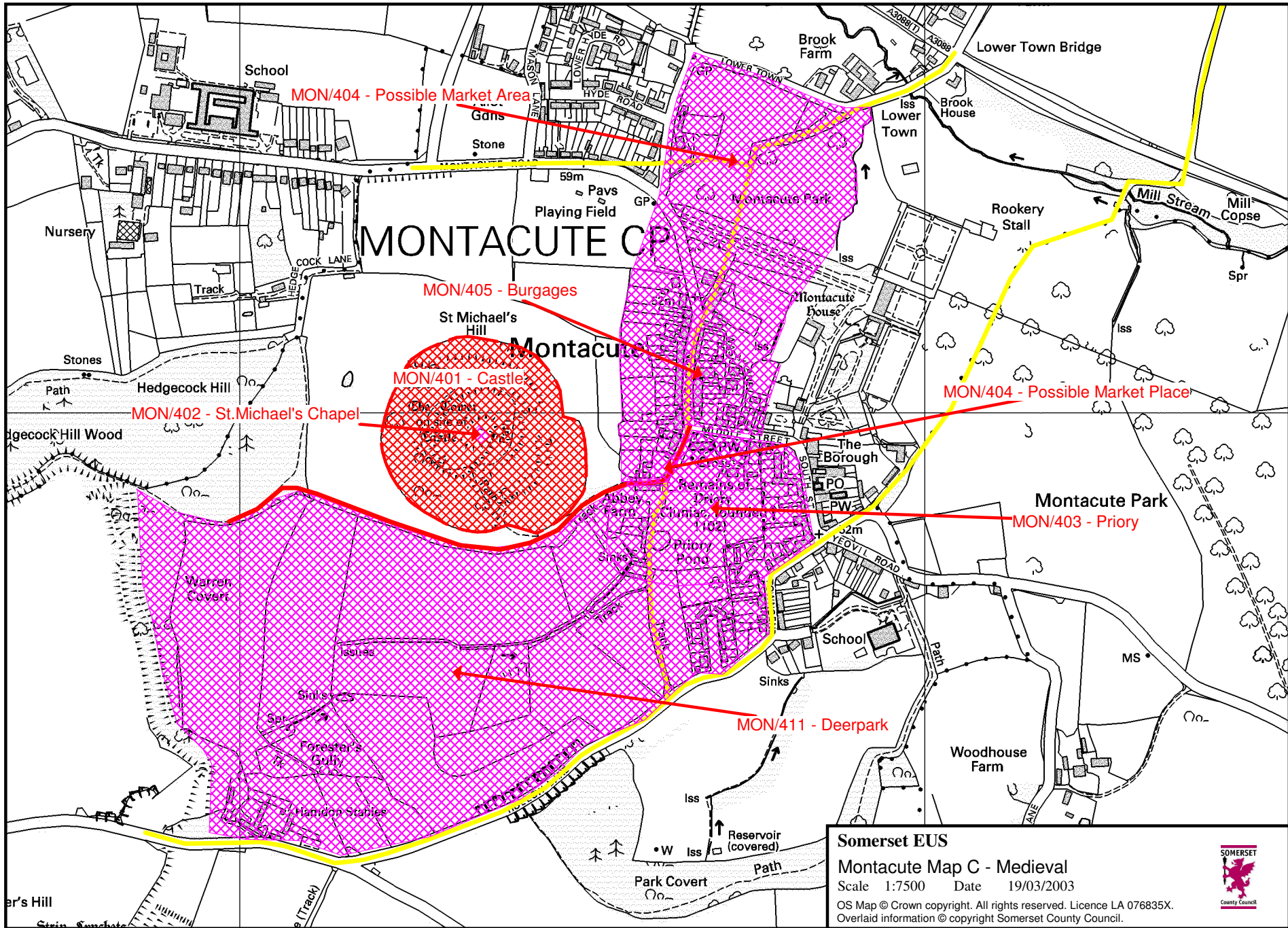
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Montacute Map B - Saxon

Scale 1:5000 Date 19/03/2003

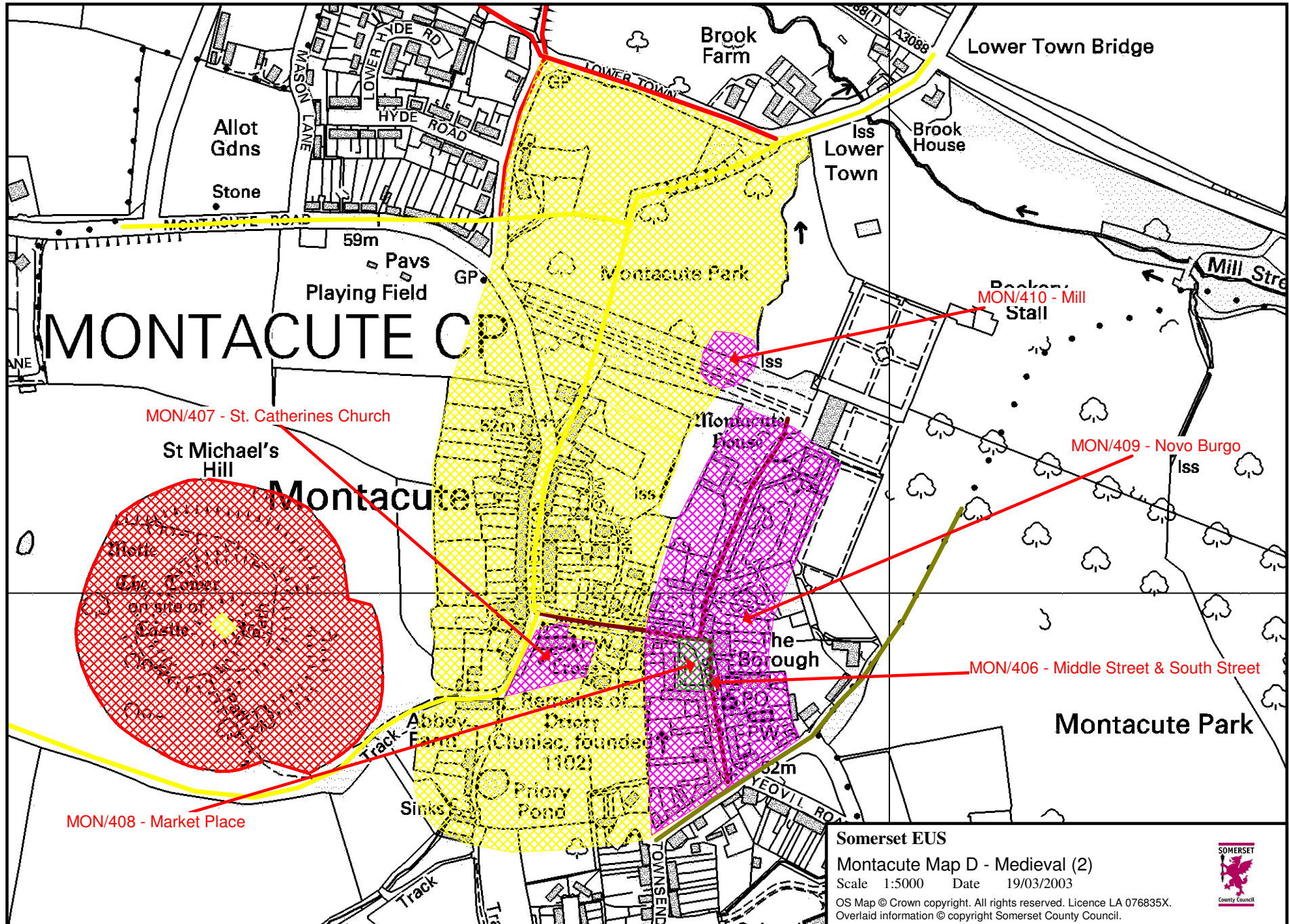
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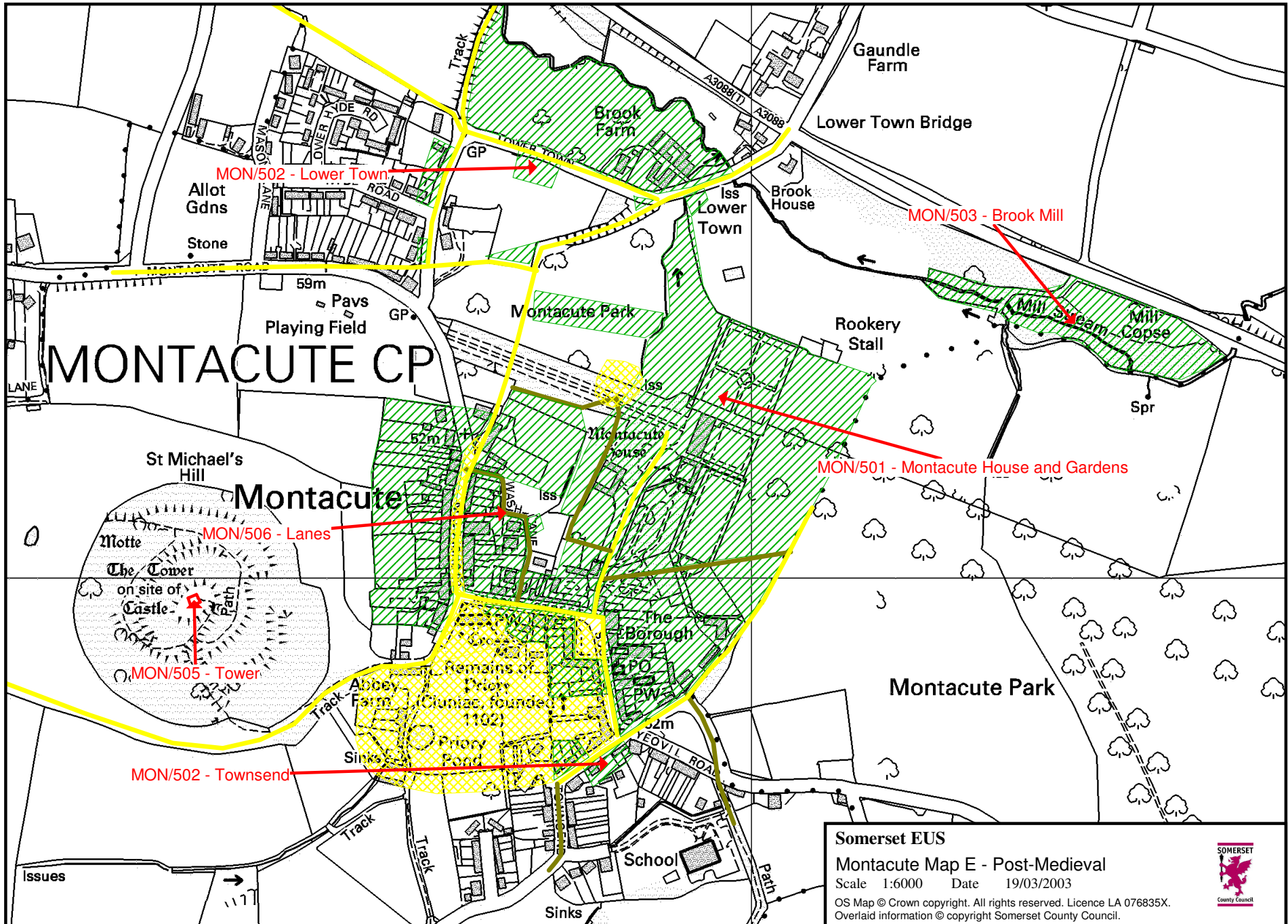




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Montacute Map C - Medieval
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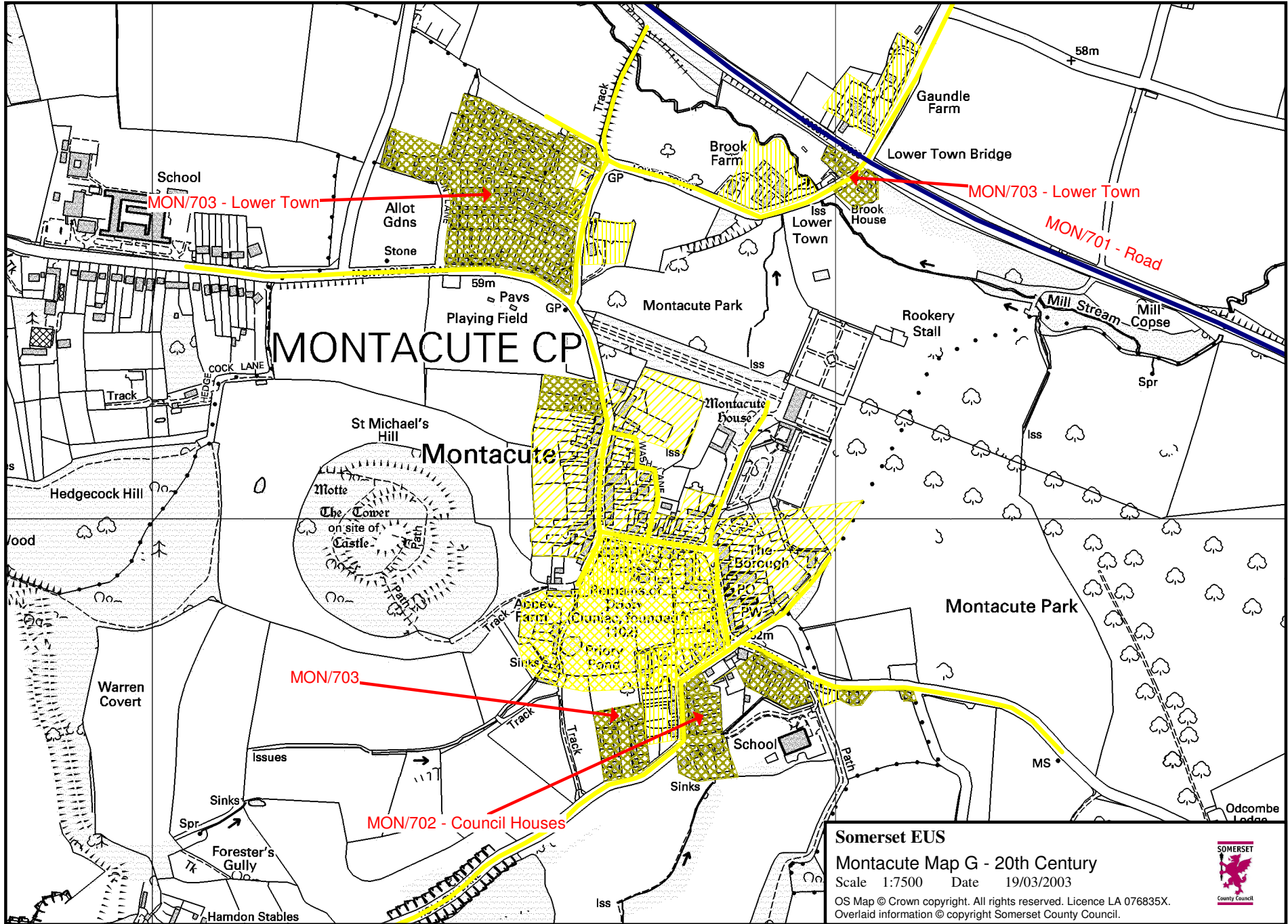




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 Montacute Map E - Post-Medieval

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Montacute Map G - 20th Century

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