

English Heritage Extensive Urban Survey

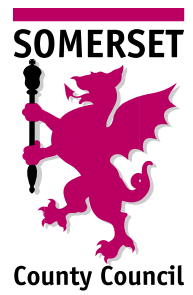
An archaeological assessment of

Taunton

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SOMERSET EXTENSIVE URBAN SURVEY

TAUNTON

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

by Clare Gathercole

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SOMERSET EXTENSIVE URBAN SURVEY

TAUNTON

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 partially updated by Chris Webster with new archaeological information during 2002.

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*

Primary documentary sources for Taunton and its hinterland are of variable quality and quantity. A number of early charters of the 8th, 9th, and 10th century are known, though some of these may be spurious. The association of the manor with the Bishopric of Winchester from the Saxon period onwards has resulted in detailed documentation of certain aspects of the town's history. The Winchester Pipe Rolls, for example, provide much information on the state of the Castle from the early 13th to the mid 16th centuries. On the other hand, many of the Borough papers have been lost.

2. *Local histories*

Though there is no Victoria County History coverage yet, Taunton has been the subject of local historians' interest for at least two centuries. This report leans on the work of Robin Bush in particular, though it is also heavily influenced by previous archaeological assessments, more numerous and detailed for Taunton than for other towns in Somerset. The latter include those by the Taunton Research and Excavation Committee (1975) and by Leach (1984).

Coverage of the surrounding settlements is limited. Whilst Trull has been the subject of detailed study by both Hallam (1953) and C W Green (1993), there is hardly any easily available material on other parishes

All these sources contain more historical and archaeological detail than can be reproduced in this report.

3. *Maps*

A number of early 19th century maps, and a very few 18th century, are available for Taunton and the surrounding area. The earliest detailed map of Taunton town centre located for this report is dated 1791; But though most of the maps are not particularly early, they do include some very high quality examples. The maps used are listed at the end of the report.

III. A BRIEF HISTORY OF TAUNTON

Taunton and the settlements of its immediate hinterland lie within the broad, sheltered vale of the River Tone, which contains rich agricultural land on which the economic importance of the area has been based. Converging in the vale are important communications lines from the uplands and the Levels, including the River Tone itself (though the river's navigable limit has varied over the centuries). Taunton lies at a crossing point of the river, but other historically important settlements in the hinterland (including Norton and Bishop's Hull) instead overlook the vale.

The hillfort of Norton Fitzwarren represents the first known 'central place' in the vale, and was in many respects the predecessor of modern Taunton. The site was used in various forms from the Neolithic period onwards, and is believed to have been during the later prehistoric period an important interchange point on the boundary between two tribes. The surrounding settlement and landscape pattern is still not fully understood, but it seems clear that Norton dominated a densely settled and farmed area. A number of settlement sites have already been revealed by excavation (including one in the town centre) and aerial photographic survey, and it is probable that many more existed.

The partial abandonment of Norton in the 1st and 2nd centuries AD is the clearest indication in the Taunton area of the impact of the Romans. However, it appears that eventually (in the 3rd and 4th centuries) the site was reoccupied, perhaps representing a resurgence of native British traditions. Elsewhere, continuity of settlement seems likely and, indeed, has been shown on some excavated sites. Ample evidence of Roman activity in the vale has been recovered in the form of coin and pottery finds, though this can not always be linked to specific sites. Whether there was settlement on the site of Taunton itself is not yet known: no structural evidence has yet been recovered, except for the remains of a small number of agricultural drainage ditches.

The first historical reference to Taunton is in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle for 722. The entry records the destruction (or demolition) of Taunton, built by Ine, by his wife, Queen Aethelburh. This probably refers to a fortified centre associated with the expansion of Wessex under Ine, which was in 722 slighted by Aethelburh to prevent its use by rebels against her husband. The omission of Taunton from the later Burghal Hidage (c900 AD) appears to indicate that the first site was not refortified. Indeed, it is possible that it was not reoccupied, and that it was not the same site as later Saxon or medieval Taunton occupied. The Tone Vale estates were extensive and it has been suggested that Ine may have had his fort at Norton Fitzwarren, in the hillfort, or at Bishop's Hull (Dunning & Pearson, 1975). Local traditions also associate the Dragon of Wessex with Norton, though archaeological evidence is lacking.

The foundation of a minster at Taunton, probably by the wife of Ine's successor in the mid 8th century, may mark the beginning of the town of Taunton. The minster, with a limited estate, was granted to the See of Winchester at a very early stage in its history, and lands were subsequently added to the minster estates in the 8th and 9th centuries. However, most of the manor was retained by the kings of Wessex, and it was they who first developed it as an important administrative, judicial and commercial centre for the extensive Tone Vale estate which stretched from the Quantocks to the Blackdowns. It was not until the early 10th century that the Bishops of Winchester acquired rights to the profits of the developing commercial centre. The earliest of the 10th century charters (of 904 AD) refers not only to market tolls and tax exemptions, but also to burgage rents, showing that Taunton was by this date already a town, and from the mid 10th century onwards, it had its own mint.

Though the minster site has almost certainly now been located under part of the medieval castle, the location of the town founded by the kings of Wessex and taken over by the Bishops of Winchester remains an enigma. The "obvious" site - that later occupied by the medieval borough - has produced worryingly little archaeological evidence despite relatively frequent interventions. The peculiar relationship of the ancient parish of Bishop's Hull (which included the Saxon minster/ medieval castle site) to the medieval borough has been much discussed, though its significance remains unclear. Indeed, an alternative site for the Saxon settlement west of the minster in the St Paul's area is a possibility (one supported by archaeological evidence of at least some Saxon activity there).

By Domesday there were 64 burgesses in Taunton, making it the third largest in the county after Bath and Ilchester. It was the centre of a vast estate held by the Bishops of Winchester, either directly (the Infaring) or indirectly (the Liberty or Outfaring). Of the parishes covered (or partly covered) by this report, some were Infaring (Taunton St James, Ruishton, Stoke St Mary, Wilton, Trull, Bishop's Hull, Pitminster, and Staplegrove), others Outfaring (Cheddon Fitzpaine, Norton Fitzwarren). Much of the Outfaring was granted away during the course of the medieval

period and became lay property. Cheddon Fitzpaine was one of the separate medieval manors; another was West Monkton, which was part of the Glastonbury Abbey estates. The histories of the individual settlements eventually absorbed by Taunton could not be studied in detail for this report. The essential settlement pattern of networks of farmsteads, hamlets and small villages served by dependent chapels or parish churches can still be described on the late 18th century and early 19th century maps. But the results of a number of excavations show a complex picture of shifting occupation sites within a general framework of continuity.

As the estate's town, the jewel in the crown, Taunton was tightly controlled by the Bishops of Winchester. Their influence on the development of Taunton was important throughout the medieval period, but this was perhaps especially the case in the first half of the 12th century. It was almost certainly at this time, under Bishops William Gyffard and then Henry of Blois, that the medieval town plan was established. Gyffard (who was also King William II's Chancellor) was responsible for the conversion of the Saxon minster into an Augustinian Priory. His successor, Henry of Blois (who was also Abbot of Glastonbury), built the Great Keep and the town defences, thus ensuring the town's military importance. He also moved the Priory beyond the town defences, primarily in order to relieve pressure of space on the castle, which was gradually enlarged under his successors.

Henry of Blois was also the brother of King Stephen, who granted Taunton's first borough charter in 1136. This represents not the creation of a new town - since Taunton was already a borough before the Conquest - but a formalisation of the existing situation. The changes to the Castle and Priory represent aspects of this process of formalisation. However, the implications for the town itself are unclear. Only a little archaeological evidence of occupation on the site before the 12th century has been recovered, and it is possible that the focus of the town was deliberately shifted at this time, perhaps because of a fire recorded in the Annals of Winchester for 1111. However, Taunton does not have the regular appearance of the archetypal early medieval planned town, and no entirely satisfactory interpretation of the transition from pre-Conquest borough to medieval town can yet be given.

The influence of the Bishops, and subsequently of the Priory, remained strong throughout the medieval period. The Priory controlled all the churches and chapels, but the Bishops continued to shape and foster the economy of the town. The Castle, occupied mainly by the Constable and occasionally by the Bishops or the King, was expanded in the 13th century, and the scheme also involved the construction of a fulling mill. This, the earliest documented fulling mill in the west country, was the first of several as the cloth trade was deliberately fostered by the town's masters. The town defences were also improved in the 13th century, though the town was already expanding beyond them. The value of the borough rose steeply between the 11th and 13th centuries, and maintained a high average despite occasional slumps. By the 14th century Taunton was one of the largest and wealthiest towns in the county after Bath and Bristol, and two fairs, one in the Borough and one in North Town, had been established.

Taunton returned Members of Parliament from the late 13th century onwards, and in 1360 a regional Parliament was held there. Both Castle and town were of strategic regional importance and, though the town defences were never seriously tested, the medieval period was not without incident. The first Keep of Henry of Blois is believed to have been destroyed during the wars of succession waged between Stephen and Matilda, for example. The later medieval period saw further unrest: in 1451 the Castle was besieged during the Wars of the Roses, and in 1497 Perkin Warbeck's rebellion against Henry VII came to an end in Taunton.

Severe disruption of the medieval status quo occurred in the 16th century, under Henry VIII. However, it can be argued that the Dissolution (and rapid demolition) of Taunton Priory had, in the end, a positive impact on Taunton. It freed for residential and commercial development a large amount of land adjacent to the town (subsequently included in the Parish of St James). However, the Priory had already begun this development, both north and south of the river, and subsequent expansion was not over-rapid. Much of the land was not built over until the 19th century, but in the meantime Taunton continued to thrive. The accounts of 16th and early 17th century travellers, such as Leland (1542) and Gerard (1633) describe a fair, extremely prosperous market and cloth town: indeed, Gerard describes it as the chief town in the county (barring Bath and Bristol).

The town remained under the influence of the Bishops of Winchester. But by the early 17th century, the Borough was trying for incorporation, and its first grant of incorporation was received in 1627 - whilst the Bishopric was vacant. This can be seen as an early manifestation of the anti-establishment currents which repeatedly swept the town into trouble in the mid to late 17th century, when it was described as "that insolent town, the sink of all

rebellion in the west" (Bush, 1977). During the Civil War it was a Parliamentary centre in a predominantly Royalist area, and was several times besieged between 1643 and 1645. Much of the east side of the medieval town was destroyed by siege and fire and the trauma of these events, together with the subsequent demolition of the Castle keep after the Restoration, led to festering resentment. This can only have been exacerbated by the quashing of the Grant of Incorporation when the Bishop's estates (temporarily seized by Parliament) were restored. Though a new, more extensive Charter of Incorporation was granted in 1677, the new Corporation was under the control of a loyalist, establishment minority. There followed a period of extreme persecution of the many dissenting congregations which had been established in Taunton, culminating in serious assaults on meetings in 1682-3. In response, the town welcomed the rebellious Monmouth in 1685, and was deeply scarred by the brutal reprisals which followed his defeat at Sedgemoor. More than 500 rebels were tried in Taunton Castle by Judge Jeffreys, and a total of 38 were executed in the market place (R. Bush, *in.litt.*, 1998), many more being sent for execution in surrounding towns and villages.

Despite the inevitable disruption caused by war, Taunton's economy remained fairly buoyant throughout the 17th and early 18th centuries. Textiles were still its main product and trading commodity, however, and by the second half of the 18th century the town was suffering the effects of the widespread failure of the Somerset cloth industry in the face of competition from the mechanised northern mills. The effects were mitigated in Taunton by the growth of the silk mills, but also by great improvements in communications. Between the turn of the 18th century and the end of the 19th the turnpikes, the Tone Navigation scheme, the two canals, and finally the railways, improved access to the town and allowed considerable industrial and trade development to take place. Meanwhile the administration of the town was revamped, with the establishment of Market Trustees in 1768 and the dissolution of the Corporation in 1792; and the Bishop's manor was sold off in 1822 and fragmented.

Though the Corporation was revived in the later 19th century, the borough was absorbed in 1974 into the borough of Taunton Deane. This change reflects the huge expansion of Taunton in the 20th century, which has led to the absorption or virtual absorption of a number of surrounding settlements. The development of the town has been heavily influenced since the early 1970s by the M5 motorway, and subsequent road developments and estate infill have obscured much of the historic settlement pattern.

IV. THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF TAUNTON

GENERAL COMMENTS

0.1 Coverage area

The area covered by this report includes the whole of the modern urban area of Taunton, and extends some way beyond it to include some villages very close to the current limits of suburban development. The limit of coverage has had to be defined somewhat arbitrarily, however, because of the density of settlement around Taunton. Covered are the entire civil parishes of Taunton and Comeytrowe. Large parts of Bishop's Hull, Cheddon Fitzpaine, Norton Fitzwarren, Staplegrove, Trull, and West Monkton are also covered, as are small areas of Bradford-on-Tone, Kingston St Mary, Pitminster and Stoke St Mary. Not all parts of the coverage area have been discussed in equal detail.

0.2 Archaeological work in the town

Taunton is one of the few towns in Somerset in which considerable archaeological work has taken place and continues to take place. The results of the earlier work at least are relatively accessible, being discussed in the volume by P. Leach (1974), which focuses very much on the main elements of the medieval town core. Subsequent work in the town centre has continued to investigate the origin and development of the medieval town. Far from producing redundant information, this represents a continuing search for the origins of the town in the as yet unlocated Saxon settlement.

Outside the town centre, early work focussed on the obvious monuments, notably the hillfort at Norton Fitzwarren. Work in advance of M5 construction considerably widened the scope of archaeological investigation of the landscape and settlement of the vale from the prehistoric period onwards. A number of major projects and smaller interventions have since carried this work forward.

Section VI contains details of excavations and interventions in the study area (p78).

0.3 Standing structures and visible remains

Visible remains in the area of Taunton Deane covered by this report are limited. In part this is because of a long history of intensive farming. The only major prehistoric monument, for example, is the hillfort at Norton Fitzwarren, which itself presided over an agricultural landscape of which little survives. However, destructive urban development has also played, and continues to play, a large part in the erosion of the historic landscape. So whilst the large area covered by this report contains a very high number of Listed Buildings, the greatest concentration of these is in Taunton town centre, with a disappointingly small number of isolated historic structures surviving in the absorbed settlements. Likewise, the medieval town plan survives at least in part in the centre, whilst some of the surrounding hamlets, such as Holway or Lyngford, have been engulfed by 20th-century sprawl.

The Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments and other surviving remains are, where appropriate, discussed in more detail in the text or shown on the maps.

1. PREHISTORIC (Map A)

1.1 Archaeological work in the town/ Archaeological knowledge

With the exception of the Norton Fitzwarren area, the pattern of known prehistoric sites shown on Map A represents not the actual settlement pattern but the pattern of sites encountered through aerial photographic survey of undeveloped land and through development work from the 1970s onwards. The line of the M5, for example, shows clearly. The number of sites already discovered in this manner suggests a densely settled and worked landscape. Finds of prehistoric artefacts in the urban area of Taunton itself support this picture, though the archaeological survival of structural remains of the prehistoric period may be compromised in the town core. It is therefore impossible to predict accurately the full potential of the overall area at the moment and, where possible, archaeological work is being directed towards establishing a more complete and detailed image of the landscape(s) dominated by Norton Fitzwarren from at least the Neolithic period onwards.

1.2 Context

Taunton is one of five out of the 45 historic towns covered by this project 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 site in question is that at Norton Fitzwarren, which may have been the first real centre in the vale of Taunton Deane, acting first as a Bronze Age distribution centre for a very influential local metalworking industry (after which a metalworking 'tradition' is named), and subsequently as an iron age hillfort controlling the vale, which was heavily occupied.

In fact, Taunton is one of eight out of the 45 historic towns covered by this project in the vicinity of which prehistoric activity and/or occupation has been shown, and at which there is also good evidence of settlement on or near the site of the later town - possibly, though not necessarily, implying continuity of settlement. It is probable that the figure is far too low, for it is notoriously difficult for archaeologists to demonstrate a prehistoric presence in modern urban areas. Though 'towns' were not, generally speaking, a feature of prehistoric landscapes, many of the same factors which made settlement sites desirable in later periods would already have been operative.

1.3 Standing structures and visible remains

The major visible monument of the prehistoric period is Norton Fitzwarren hillfort (SMR 43399, SM 24022), which was in use by at least the neolithic period and was several times remodelled. Traces of a possible ritual landscape around it are barely visible today.

1.4 Archaeological features, shown on Map A

1.4.a Roads and routeways

Not mapped There are several theories regarding prehistoric routes converging at Norton hillfort. These are not shown on Map A, though some possible routes have been recorded on the GIS. They include a route shown in Leach (1984, Fig 26) linking the line of Silver Street and Canon Street with Chip Lane via an earlier fording point. No archaeological evidence in support of this theory has been recovered, but nor has it been disproved.

Some possible old routes along the north side of the Tone valley are defined by the Cheddon Field Group in their 1992 field survey. These are mostly based on detailed observations of local topography, but in one instance the existence of a route in the Roman period has been proven by excavation (see below, p12). Other parts of the suggested routes either still function or are visible on historic maps: in these cases the antiquity of the route remains unproven.

1.4.b Military sites

TAU/107

Norton Fitzwarren hillfort (SMR 43399, SM 24022)

The large hillfort at Norton Fitzwarren occupies a low hill which commands the broad vale of the Tone. The site, which contains its own spring, is situated by a natural route junction, and current knowledge of later prehistoric territorial organisation suggests that it stood at a boundary between tribal territories at least in the iron age and possibly earlier. It can be seen as the direct predecessor of the central place of Taunton, and is an exceedingly complex archaeological site. Chance finds, fieldwalking and excavations, which took place on the hillfort in 1908 (Gray, 1908), and 1968-71 (Ellis, 1989), indicate use of the site from the Palaeolithic period to at least the Roman period (later Saxon occupation is also suspected, but remains unproven).

Prehistoric occupation

Unstratified earlier prehistoric material from the site includes Palaeolithic implements (SMR 44292) and scatters of Mesolithic and Neolithic flakes and tools (together with some Neolithic pottery. Though no structures have been found in association with the Neolithic material, the site must be seen in the context of the pit or post circle (SMR 44211) and possible barrows just to the north (see TAU/109, p7). It remains a matter of some importance to establish the role of the site in the Neolithic period.

Excavations have found structural and artefactual evidence of probable continuous use of the site from the early or middle Bronze Age at least to the later iron age and possibly into the Roman period. It has been shown that part of the surviving earthworks - the outer works on the west side - are of early or middle Bronze Age origin. They were part of a hilltop enclosure of about two hectares, smaller than the later prehistoric hillfort. The exact form and function of the site in this period remains enigmatic, however. Both the nature of the rampart, with the original bank apparently *outside* its accompanying ditch, and the discovery of an associated hoard of Bronze Age bracelets and axes, may imply a non-defensive ceremonial use of the site in this early phase (Ellis, 1989). Norton is one of a very small number of such sites, which are generally regarded as occurring at particularly sensitive points bordering several ecological and political zones.

Other finds, including important stratified sequences of both pottery and metalworking debris, indicate that the site remained in use in the later Bronze Age, when it is likely that modifications to the form and function of the original enclosure were made. A similar spread of material from the early iron age included pottery and ironworking debris in rubbish pits. By this time the site had already acquired substantial defences, revealed by excavation; it may have housed an élite group and its material resources (Ellis, 1989)

A remodelling of the defences in the later iron age created the ramparts which partly survive today. In this phase the site consisted of a univallate hilltop enclosure enclosing over five hectares. The surviving ramparts stand up to three metres high seen from the outside, though there are several breaks in their length, some of which certainly postdate the occupation of the site. But there exist three possible original entrances, through which holloways up to 150 metres in length and 6 metres in depth lead. These are very unusual features on a hillfort of this size and type, and have been interpreted as drove ways (though they could also be later quarry pits).

The remodelling of the defences was accompanied by the construction of large roundhouses, some of which have been partially excavated, though many more can be seen on aerial photographs of the hillfort interior. They mark a change to less exclusive or less specialised occupation at Norton, which was at this time a frontier interchange point for two tribal groups. Fine wheel

thrown pottery has been found in association with this latest prehistoric phase of occupation, and the number of known surrounding sites of the period suggest that it was a highly significant central place.

Later occupation

From the Roman period 3rd and 4th century pottery has been recovered. Though many of the associated features have been lost to ploughing, the evidence so far available suggests that occupation was similar in character to that of the later iron age and represents a resurgence of pre-Roman identities in the far west under the less stringent controls of the later Roman period (Ellis, 1989).

Tradition, in the form of the legend of the dragon (of Wessex) which ravaged the area from Norton and the folklore “When Taunton was a furzey down, Norton was a market town”, suggests Saxon reuse of the hillfort as a campaigning fort and/or as a settlement preceding that of Taunton. But Robin Bush (*in litt.*, 1998) points out that the Norton of the rhyme might refer to Taunton’s North Town, which was also known as ‘Nurton’, and no archaeological evidence to support this interpretation of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle entry for 722 has yet been obtained. Nevertheless, it can certainly not be ruled out at present.

Visible remains

The iron age ramparts and traces of the Bronze Age one can still be seen, though the site has been somewhat eroded by medieval and later agricultural use. Aerial photographic evidence suggests that archaeological remains of considerable importance survive both in the interior of the hillfort and beyond (where Ellis, 1989, notes a possible outer ditch). Most of this area is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SM 24022).

The area mapped is from the SMR, the Schedule and Ellis, 1989.

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

TAU/103 Creechbarrow Hill (SMR 44249)

Creechbarrow Hill is an isolated outcrop similar to Glastonbury Tor or Burrow Mump. There are earthworks of unknown form and period on the hill, which may represent scarping or terracing of the slope (Gray, 1944), but the “barrow” name may be more descriptive than indicative of prehistoric burials. Aston (n.d.) concludes that significant archaeological remains of fortification or barrows are unlikely on the hill, whilst Bush (1977) suggests that it may have been a beacon hill.

The archaeology on the hill should be treated with caution at least until it can be more closely dated and interpreted.

From the SMR.

TAU/109 Pit or post circle and possible barrows at Norton

A possible Neolithic or Bronze Age small pit or post circle (SMR 44211) to the north of Norton hillfort is suggested by aerial photographs showing three concentric circles.

Ellis (1989) mentions marks visible on aerial photographs which could represent the remains of ploughed out barrows, just to the east and south of the pit or post circle. One of these is included in the marked area, the other is marked separately.

From the SMR, and from Ellis (1989).

1.4.d Settlement

Work in advance of the M5 led to the discovery of several prehistoric settlement sites indicative of widespread farming activity in the vale. More recent work in the town and outlying parts of the study area has supported this

picture, whilst also suggesting a high degree of continuity with the Roman settlement pattern. It is expected that in the vicinity of known prehistoric or Roman sites, other related but slightly shifted sites may occur, though predicting their presence from the limited artefactual evidence available is at present difficult.

(a) *Excavated sites*

TAU/112

Iron age occupation in the town centre

Whilst the evidence of prehistoric occupation on the site of Taunton itself has inevitably been fragmentary, enough has been recovered to suggest the existence of a late iron age farmstead in the town centre. Gullies, postholes and artefactual evidence, including possible signs of smelting, were excavated on a site at the corner of Fore Street and High Street (SMR 44442; Bennett, 1974; Leach 1984, p91). Other evidence of activity including possible traces of an adjacent field system have also been revealed by excavation behind Fore Street (SMR 44450) and at Hawkes Yard (SMR 44464).

A conjectural area centred on the excavation recorded in the SMR (SMR 44442) has been mapped.

TAU/529

Hankridge

The Hankridge evaluations found some evidence of late iron age or Roman features in one of the trenches (Wessex Archaeology, 1992). Though the significance of these is not entirely clear, they could represent traces of a possible predecessor to the medieval farm (see p59). The site lies within an area of cropmarks (see below, TAU/106).

The area marked is the medieval farm site from the Wessex Archaeology report (1992).

The M5 work in the early 1970s revealed a number of settlement sites (Fowler & Bennett, 1972)

TAU/101

Iron age occupation at Bathpool (SMR 43079)

Linear ditches and pits were found in association with early iron age pottery on this site during excavations in the 1970s in advance of road development (M5 Committee, forthcoming). No iron age structures were recovered from the site, though they may have existed in the vicinity.

Considerable evidence of medieval and later occupation was also recovered (see p59).

From the SMR.

TAU/102

Iron age occupation near Holway (SMR 43671)

Excavations in 1972 which took place in connection with the construction of the M5 revealed iron age occupation underlying the Roman site (see p11).

From the SMR.

TAU/111

Occupation south of Staplehay

Several sites were encountered to the south of Staplehay. One (SMR 43493) was an extensive site which produced evidence of Bronze Age and iron age occupation - and, indeed, subsequent Romano-British and early medieval occupation (see p12). The Bronze Age evidence consisted of pits and ditches, flint and pottery. In the iron age there were at least two roundhouses on the site, and furnace pits were also found in association with iron-working slag and pottery.

Two further sites (SMR 43494, 43510) contained evidence of bronze age and iron age occupation. The Bronze Age was represented by an elliptical enclosure ditch (about 60m by 45m) containing pottery, whilst the iron age was represented by at least one, possibly two, roundhouses, pits and gullies, together with pottery, bones and slag. The sites were overlain by a Romano-British ditch.

From the SMR.

TAU/205 Nerrols Farm
 The Roman site at Nerrols Farm (see below, p12) also contained features and artefacts dated to the prehistoric period. These included a Neolithic ditch, pits, postholes, flints and pottery, indicative of settlement on the site (Hawkes, 1992). Bronze Age and iron age pottery were also found, indicating settlement nearby: and one late iron age hut gully was recorded (AC Archaeology, 1992b).

The mapped site is from the SMR.

(b) Sites identified from aerial photographs

TAU/106 Cropmark and earthwork sites classified as prehistoric
 Good aerial photographic coverage is available for the area around Taunton and a number of cropmark and earthwork sites have been provisionally identified by their forms as possible prehistoric enclosures and other features. These sites, which all need confirmatory archaeological work, are detailed on the SMR: see SMR 43042, 43046, 43077, 43387, 43394, 43407, 43408, 43702, 44183, 44192, 44218, 44224, 44225, 44229, 44235, 44237, 44238, 44239, 44359, 44365, 44366, 44451, 44519, 44542, 44546, 44576.

The sites marked are from the SMR.

1.4.e Agricultural sites

TAU/113 Agricultural sites
 An excavation to the rear of Fore Street in 1979 (SMR 44450; Burrow, 1979) encountered late iron age or Roman remains, including a field ditch and possible ard marks. These may represent remains of a field system belonging to the possible farmstead partially excavated on High Street (see above, TAU/112).

The mapped area represents the excavated site recorded in the SMR.

1.4.f Artefact scatters

TAU/104 Miscellaneous metal finds
 Well-provenanced finds of bronze artefacts (of Bronze Age date) include a hoard of bronze implements (SMR 44416), found in the 1870s in Trinity Road, and a Bronze Age sword from the river south of Bathpool (SMR 44228).

From the SMR; the Trinity Road hoard is from the 1888 1:500 OS map.

TAU/110 Mesolithic chipping floor, Fideoak Park, Bishop's Hull (SMR 43362)
 A Mesolithic tool manufacturing site was found at Fideoak Park in the 1950s during the construction of foundations for electricity pylons. The assemblage recovered included an axe, and over 40 tools and blades, including a small number of diagnostic microliths. It has been suggested that this may have been a specialised site, perhaps dedicated to the manufacture of fishing equipment (since tools characteristic of hunting and animal skin preparation are not well-represented) (Norman, 1975).

From the SMR.

TAU/105 Flint finds
 Many other flint scatters and isolated finds have been recorded in and around Taunton, demonstrating widespread activity throughout the prehistoric period in the vale. The SMR should be consulted for details of these finds. Palaeolithic handaxes have been found in the area. One well-provenanced handaxe came from Cotlake Hill (SMR 43525), one from Comeytrowe Lane (SMR 44295), one from Creech Castle (SMR 44293) and another from Cheddon (SMR 43163). Two others (not mapped) came from the area of Cotlake Hill.

In addition to the site at Fideoak (see above), a well-stratified Mesolithic (and later) flint scatter suggestive of hunter gatherer activity and subsequent occupation on the northern edge of the flood plain was found during excavations at Maidenbrook Farm in 1990 (SMR 43152; see TAU/202, p12). Individual flakes have also been found on Compass Hill (SMR 44417), and at Norton Fitzwarren (SMR 43411).

Neolithic stone axes have been found in north Taunton (SMR 44420) and beside the River Tone (SMR 44418). A Neolithic flint knife was found in North Town (SMR 44424), and another in Blackbrook Rd (SMR 44621)..

Flint finds not so far attributed to any particular period of the prehistoric include several along the line of the M5 (SMR 43500, 43513, 43676, 44214, 44215) and others in Staplegrove (SMR 44245, 44246).

The sites marked are from the SMR or from details in PSANHS.

Not mapped Unprovenanced finds in the SMR include the following: a chert tool (SMR 43374), three Palaeolithic implements (SMR 43385) a bronze dagger (SMR 43410), more handaxes (SMR 43508, 43525), bronze palstaves (SMR 43571), a Palaeolithic implement (SMR 43710), a flint knife (SMR 43713), two bronze axes (SMR 44421), a bronze torc (SMR 44425), a bronze fibula (SMR 44429), a bronze lance head (SMR 44430), and a Mesolithic blade or flake (SMR 44432).

1.4.g Other
TAU/108

Palaeo-environmental evidence

Preserved vegetation, trees and the bones of reindeer and woolly rhinoceros were found at a depth of about six metres on sites near Wilton Gaol (SMR 44412, 44413) and Tangier Gas Works (SMR 44414) in the 19th century. It is likely that similar deposits may survive in the area.

From the SMR.

2. ROMAN
(Map A)

2.1 Archaeological work in the town/ Archaeological knowledge

Archaeological knowledge of Roman activity in the centre of Taunton is fragmentary, based on occasional artefact finds. But whilst the only “structures” located so far have been field or drainage ditches, it remains possible that a Roman site of some description did exist in or near the town centre, since discoveries elsewhere appear to indicate - at least on some sites - continuity of iron age or earlier agricultural settlement into the Roman period. The M5 work and subsequent development work has uncovered a number of Roman farmsteads - south of Staplehay, at Holway, at Maidenbrook and Nerrols Farm - which demonstrate this. However, much remains to be learnt about the Roman settlement pattern in these and other areas of the vale.

2.2 Context

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.

Taunton is one 12 of the 45 historic towns covered by this project at which there is evidence for Roman settlement in the area of the later town, though not necessarily at its core. The area, which was still a rich agricultural area, continued to lie within the sphere of influence of Norton Fitzwarren, which was only briefly abandoned in the Roman period. Current evidence suggests that the Taunton area formed part of the most westerly cluster of Roman settlement in the county, with the upland areas to north and west producing far less evidence of occupation - or, at least, of Roman influence.

2.3 *Standing structures and visible remains*

There are no standing structures of Roman origin in the study area; and though part of the communication and settlement pattern is probably of Roman or earlier origin the details of this remain unproven.

2.4 *Archaeological features (centre), shown on Map A*

2.4.a *Roads*

Many of the roads and lanes around Taunton *may* be of very early origin, but in few cases is there any archaeological evidence. The Cheddon Field Group has been particularly active in studying the history of the roads in its area, and some of the early tracks suggested by its work (Cheddon Field Group, 1992) have been entered on the GIS though they are not shown in this report.

Not mapped Part of a minor Roman trackway was recovered during excavations at Nerrols Farm (see below, TAU/205: not mapped separately). The OS 1st edition marks the old roads to Bathpool and to Stonegallows from Galmington as being of Roman origin, possibly from the “tradition” of a road running parallel to the Foss Way cited by Savage (1822). There is no archaeological evidence for the antiquity of these roads in particular.

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

TAU/203 Cremation and coins, Holway (SMR 44244)

In 1871, 15 late Roman coins were found in association with a possible cremation on this site, and other isolated Roman coin finds were made in the vicinity in the 19th century.

From the SMR.

2.4.c *Settlement*

Work in advance of the M5 led to the discovery of several Roman settlement sites indicative of widespread farming activity in the vale. More recent work in the outlying parts of the study area has supported this picture, whilst also suggesting a high degree of continuity with iron age and even bronze age settlement patterns. It is expected that in the vicinity of known prehistoric or Roman sites, other related but slightly shifted sites may occur, though predicting their presence from the limited artefactual evidence available is at present difficult.

TAU/102 Roman occupation near Holway (SMR 43671)

In 1971-2 the M5 excavations revealed the existence of a Roman settlement, successor to a late prehistoric settlement (see p8) on this site. Several timber structures were excavated, together with a possible boundary ditch. Many artefacts were recovered, including pottery indicative of occupation over a long period (possibly between the 1st and the 4th centuries), a rotary quern animal bone and coins.

The area in which the settlement was excavated had been producing Roman material since the 19th century. A late Roman (mostly 4th century) coin hoard, now dispersed, was found there in 1821, and was said to have been in association with burials (Pring, 1879). Further coins have continued to turn up ever since: the 1971-2 work located 51 in the fields. Two funnel shaped pits were filled in in the later 19th century: they were interpreted at the time as possible storage pits, and, indeed, the existence of a complex settlement on the site was suggested.

From the SMR.

TAU/207 “Black Land” (SMR 44622)

The 1821 Wilton map shows a field called Black Land some way west of the Holway site. This field name sometimes indicates the presence of a Roman site. However, there is no archaeological verification of this as yet.

From the 1821 map.

- TAU/111 Sites south of Staplehay
 Two of the prehistoric sites located to the south of Staplehay (see p8) also contained evidence of continued Roman activity. One (SMR 43493) remained in occupation, at least in the second century AD, whilst another (SMR 43494) was cut by a Roman ditch of much the same date.
- From the SMR.*
- TAU/202 Roman settlement at Maidenbrook (SMR 43152)
 Maidenbrook, which is documented from the 11th century onwards, has been farmed at least from the Roman period, and possibly from the bronze age or iron age. Excavations in 1990 (McDonnell, 1990; Ferris, 1990; Ferris & Bevan, 1993) showed that cropmarks detected on aerial photos represented the remains of a Roman settlement to the south-east of the later site of Maidenbrook Farm. There were three main Roman phases of activity, though earlier flints without definite associations with structures were also recovered. The earliest Roman phase consisted of a 1st/2nd century rectangular ditched enclosure containing postholes and gullies. In subsequent phases of enclosures, interpreted as possible stock pens, appeared to replace the structures, which had perhaps been relocated to an adjacent site.
- The mapped area is from the SMR.*
- TAU/205 Roman settlement near Nerrols Farm (SMR 44496)
 Not far from Maidenbrook, and possibly related to it (Ferris & Bevan, 1993), another Roman occupation site also with prehistoric antecedents (see above, p9) was discovered after fieldwalking by the Cheddon Field Group had recovered a scatter of black-burnished ware at the highest point of a field west of Nerrols Farm. Trial excavation recovered more pottery and an apparent Roman road metalling aligned with surviving lanes. The subsequent discovery of further pottery and a stone spread some 50 metres to the north-west of the original site suggests a settlement adjacent to the road. Two phases of activity were noted during excavations in 1999 (SMR 11686). The first phase was indicated by a single undated, east west ditch which was cut by a later Phase 2 gully. The majority of the evidence related to the 3rd-4th centuries and comprised a ditch aligned NE/SW, a wall foundation, a cobbled area, and a rectangular arrangement of gullies, interpreted as a rectangular building, and courtyard with associated drainage. A pit with metalworking debris was recorded to the north of the wall foundation. Further features were identified during a subsequent watching brief (SMR15020) including a substantial ditch, a stone-built well and other features just to the W of the excavated areas.
- The mapped area is from the SMR.*
- TAU/204 Roman sites at Norton
 Fifteen sherds of Romano-British pottery (SMR 43397) were found in a field called Lower Blacklands in 1914 (The adjacent field is called Higher Blacklands; the name Blacklands is often indicative of Roman occupation). Part of the site has been built over, but part remains open. Just to the north of the find spot aerial photographs show cropmarks possibly representative of Roman buildings (SMR 44547).
- 3rd-4th century potsherds were found by Norton Bridge during the construction of the railway in 1861-2 (SMR 43398). No further finds have been recovered from the site, which is now flooded.
- Roman pottery has been recovered from a field west of the hillfort (SMR 43402), though aerial photographs of the field have not yet indicated any features there.
- From the SMR.*

Further slight evidence of Roman was recovered at Hillyfields to the south of Taunton in 1998 (SMR 57173) .

2.4.d Agricultural sites

TAU/206

Field boundaries

Apart from ditches associated with settlement sites, Roman field boundaries have been found in the west end of town at the Benham's Garage site (SMR 44466). The ditches lay in a shallow valley, which later silted up: they represent field systems which existed before later flooding episodes.

A Roman ditch (SMR 43495) has also been located in Poundisford Park.

Not mapped

A possible Roman ditch was encountered at the Priory Barn (Hinchcliffe in Leach 84).

2.4.e Artefacts

TAU/201

Roman finds

Several finds of Roman artefacts unassociated with other evidence are recorded in the SMR. These consist of pottery finds (SMR 43572, 44226, 44422, 44433, 44483) and coins (SMR 43711, 43987, 44227, 44248, 44247, 44423).

The SMR should be consulted for details of these finds, some of which are also detailed in the work of Pring (1882).

From the SMR.

Not mapped

Unprovenanced finds include pottery from Fore Street, excavated during sewerage operations in the mid 19th century (Pring, 1879), and several Roman coins (SMR 43366, 43409, 43712, 44426, 44427, 44428, 44431). Dunning & Pearson (1975) also report the discovery of Romano-British material in the Wellington Road Cemetery. A "Roman" bronze figurine (SMR 43162) from the garden of Cheddon House is now thought to be a fake.

3. THE SAXON TOWN

(Map B)

Saxon remains in the outlying settlements are considered with the pre-1800 occupation in Section III.5, p42ff.

3.1 Archaeological work in the town/ Archaeological knowledge

The location, extent and character of the pre-Conquest town of Taunton remains enigmatic. Despite numerous archaeological interventions in possible settlement areas, only fragmentary evidence, in the form of occasional pottery or pits, has been recovered from most of the medieval town. Whilst it is possible that the focus of the settlement differed from that of the medieval town, the discovery of the Saxon cemetery under the medieval Castle (see TAU/303, p15) has provided a fixed point with which the Saxon town would be expected to have a close relationship. Given the oddity of the medieval town plan, and given both the topography of and the fragility of archaeological deposits in Taunton town centre, it remains quite possible that the Saxon town did underlie the medieval one, but that its remains have been severely damaged by later developments. It is therefore important that archaeological interventions in the centre, as well as those in other suggested settlement areas (such as St Pauls), continue to seek to accumulate fragments of evidence wherever possible.

Caution: *The nature of this report required that an attempt be made to map pre-Conquest Taunton. However, because of the uncertainty over the form and extent of Saxon Taunton, no area of the town, whether or not it is included in one of the conjectural areas shown on Map B, can be dismissed without investigation.*

3.2 Context

Though the Post-Roman and early Saxon periods were characterised by a return to non-urban lifestyles, the later Saxon period (from the 9th century onwards) saw the beginnings of a resurgence of trading places and towns. This was controlled, in England, by the Saxon royal families (though it was part of a wider trend), and took place in the context of a network of royal estate administration centres which was already established (in some cases long-established). The reasons for the changes were many and complex, combining defensive, administrative and

ecclesiastical considerations with, increasingly, purely commercial aspirations. As one of the heartlands of the kings of Wessex, Somerset played an important part in the early re-urbanisation of the south, and there are a number of places amongst those studied for this project which can claim to have been towns before the Norman Conquest.

Taunton is one of fifteen out of the 45 historic towns covered by this project which already had some urban functions or features before the Conquest. In fact, it is one of six boroughs recorded in the Domesday Survey, all of which were established as commercial annexes from adjacent royal estate centres (though in the 10th century, the borough at Taunton was transferred to the Bishops of Winchester). Taunton was the second largest borough in the area which is now Somerset, and is one of at least three places which appear to have been defended for at least part of the Saxon period, though it does not appear in the Burghal Hidage and the fortification may not, in any case, have been on the site of the later borough. It is one of eleven places which may have had a mint in the 10th or 11th centuries, and one of seven towns at which the probable or possible existence of a pre-Conquest market has been noted (though this figure may be misleadingly low). Taunton is also one of 22 of the towns in the survey to have been associated with a known or probable pre-Conquest minster.

3.3 *Standing structures and visible remains*

There are no visible Saxon remains in Taunton town centre. However, the church at Wilton (see p32), which is shown on Map D, contains possible remnants of pre-Conquest masonry.

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

3.4.a *Redevelopment in earlier settlement components*

The relationship of the Saxon settlement at Taunton to previous occupation in the general area has not been established, and all components have been redefined.

3.4.b *Communications*

(a) *Roads, streets and routeways*

TAU/301 Roads of possible Saxon origin

The Saxon road pattern may have been obscured by the medieval town, though it is possible that more elements of it than are shown on Map B in fact survive: we do not know. Topography suggests an east-west communication line running approximately along the alignment of East Reach. A westward extension (perhaps roughly on the line of present Bath Place) is also possible, though the early topography of the St Pauls area is uncertain. A north-south route may have followed approximately the line of North Street, though it has also been suggested (Bush & Aston in Leach, 1984) that an alternative north-south route via later Silver Street and Canon Street crossed by a ford further down river before it was deliberately blocked during the layout of the medieval town.

The lines of the roads shown are from the 1791 map, and their attribution to the Saxon period is conjectural.

(b) *Bridges and fords*

TAU/417 The bridge and ford

The medieval ford (later bridged) may have been in use long before the Conquest. There is therefore a slight possibility that some artefactual evidence may survive in its vicinity, though subsequent alterations to the river and bridging point have been extensive.

For main entry, see p20.

The marked area is from the SMR (PRN 44467).

Not mapped The postulated downstream ford cannot at present be mapped.

3.4.c *Water*

TAU/304 Watercourses

In the medieval period the mill stream, French Weir and two major water leats were constructed.

The water system in the pre-Conquest and early medieval period was therefore significantly different. In most cases details of river and stream courses remain to be established. However, the Benham's Garage excavations (SMR 44466; Leach & Pearson in Leach 1984 p37ff) and a 1985 watching brief in Tower Street (SMR 90014) have produced evidence of a stream flowing through a small valley just to the west of the main minster site: this appears to have been diverted in the medieval period into the Castle moat. As mentioned below (see p23ff), excavations have also produced evidence of a substantial bank within the area later occupied by the Castle, which may have been a pre-Conquest flood bank.

Further information on early watercourses in the town centre is likely to be of some value in establishing pre-Conquest topography and likely settlement sites.

The stream course marked is from the Benham's Garage excavation report (Leach & Pearson in Leach 1984 p37ff).

3.4.d Military sites

Not mapped

Town defences:

Whilst it has been suggested that Taunton should have been defended at least in the tenth century because of the presence of a mint (Dunning & Pearson, 1975), evidence is tenuous. On the one hand, a substantial bank has been found underlying part of the Castle site (Radford & Hallam, 1955; Clements in Leach 1984, p26, 31f; and see below, p23ff), though this could just as well be a flood bank (Bush & Meek in Leach 1984, p11) or a natural feature (AC Archaeology, 1992a). On the other, Taunton is conspicuous by its absence from the Burghal Hidage which recorded fortified centres; nor have any archaeological remains of pre-Conquest defences been located yet - all the excavations into the medieval defences have suggested a construction date of the 11th/12th century.

3.4.e Burial sites, religious houses and places of worship

TAU/303

The minster and Bishop's residence (SMR 44397, 44407)

Little is known about Taunton's Saxon minster and Bishop's residence for, though the minster, founded in the 8th century, was the mother church of an estate of some considerable size and importance, it was, even after Winchester's acquisition of the borough rights, but an outpost of the Bishops' power. Even the approximate site was uncertain before accumulating evidence of Saxon burials in the Castle bailey (see below) made it almost certain that the minster must be close by. Before this, many scholars believed that the medieval church of St Mary (see below, p32) was the more likely site. Until the minster church itself is discovered, this debate may not be entirely over, for it involves not only archaeological evidence, but also interpretation of historical documents and parochial boundaries (see, for example, Clements in Leach 1984 p26ff).

The minster was converted in the medieval period into an Augustinian Priory and moved out of town (see below, p29).

The precinct

The limits of the site of the Saxon minster and Bishop's residence are not known for certain, though they may have been similar to those of the medieval Castle precinct. To the north, the site is likely to have been bounded by the river, the exact course of which in this period is not known. The bank found underlying the 12th century and later Great Halls may represent the northern limit of the minster site, but this need not be the case.

The cemetery

A Saxon cemetery (SMR 44407) picked up by excavations and observations in the Castle bailey (see the excavations list in Section VI, p78) almost certainly represents the minster cemetery.

Burials within the Castle have been coming to light since the 19th century: a group of burials seen below Castle Green is marked on the OS 1:500 1st edition. However, these have only relatively

recently been identified with the minster cemetery (SMR 44407). A group of at least twelve individual burials, cut by early 13th century features, was discovered during excavations carried out when the Local History Library floor was replaced in 1972. Samples have subsequently been radio-carbon dated to the 9th century (AD 860 ± 70) (Clements in Leach 1984).

Since 1972 further burials have been encountered on the site (eg SMR 44602). However, much more information is needed in order to establish the scale of the cemetery. The situation is complicated: not only do medieval and post-medieval burials also occur within the Castle (at least one burial has been found in association with a bullet, for example), but groups of possible Saxon burials have been found beyond the Castle site (see below, TAU/310). It is conceivable that a very large cemetery built up between the mid 8th and the mid 12th centuries, given the number of surrounding dependent chapels without burial rights for most of this time.

The minster buildings

Whilst the site of the minster church is not known, it may have been commemorated by the medieval chapel of St Peter, which stood near the gate to the inner ward of the Castle (Bush & Meek, Clements, both in Leach 1984). A 1973 trench found traces of a building with a fine mortar floor being succeeded by a much poorer - though not necessarily much smaller - building; Clements (Leach, 1984, p36) tentatively suggests that this could represent the minster church - which could have remained in use as a chapel after the conversion into a Priory (R. Bush, *in litt.*, 1998) - and a later replacement, but more evidence is needed.

The Bishop's residence

Excavations in the 1920s on the site of the medieval Keep, which stood at the highest point of an otherwise low lying site, recovered fragments of high quality Saxo-Norman ware, indicative of a prestige residence, most probably that of the Bishops, on the site. But no elements of the plan appear to have survived later alterations.

Survival

The Taunton minster site should not be expected to be comparable with diocesan centres such as Wells. Nevertheless, given the history of the site, which, though affected by the construction of the Castle and its moats, has been partially preserved from other damaging developments, it is possible that important remains of minster buildings, including the as yet unlocated church, may survive.

The mapped area is based on the medieval castle area, and contains the known burials east of the stream. It is conjectural in detail.

TAU/310

Other possible Saxon burials

Two burial sites containing remains of possible Saxon date have been discovered independently. The possibility should be born in mind that they once formed part of a larger site, though the topography of the area suggests otherwise.

Burials encountered near St Paul's House in 1970 and 1989 (SMR 44473) are attributed in the SMR to the Saxon period, though the dating seems is less secure than that of the Castle burials. They are close both to the possible site of the medieval St Paul's chapel (see p31), though this may never have acquired burial rights, and to a 19th century convent. The site would have been separated from the main minster cemetery to the east by the marshy valley encountered in the Benham's Garage excavations (see below). But this is not inconceivable, if more exacting constraints on expansion were operating to north (the river), south and east (settlement) (Clements in Leach, 1984, p31).

The smaller marked site is from the SMR and represents the known burials. The extent of the burial site is not known, but a conjectural area of potential has also been marked.

During the construction of the gasworks at Tangier in 1868 a large number of human bones were found (SMR 44493). It is suggested in the SMR that they too may have been part of the Saxon minster cemetery, or may represent reinterments of Saxon burials from the minster on the construction of the Castle moats and other building ranges in the 13th century. Again, dating evidence is insecure.

The marked site is from the SMR.

3.4.f Settlement (Urban)

TAU/302

The Saxon town

Taunton was a town by the early 10th century, as shown by references to burgage rents in a charter of that date, and by Domesday it had 64 burgesses, making it one of the largest towns in Somerset. However, the location of the Saxon town (SMR 44389) remains surprisingly mysterious. The "obvious" assumption that it occupied the same site as the medieval town - at the western end of a ridge defended by marshy ground to west, south and north-east (Bush, 1977) has not been supported by 25 years of archaeological investigation, though nor has it been disproved. An alternative location for the Saxon town west of the Castle, in the St Pauls area, has been proposed (see below), but the evidence for this is just as sketchy.

Of the many archaeological interventions which have taken place in the town centre (see Section VI, p78), a few have produced late Saxon (or early Norman) pottery or other artefacts. The Hawke's Yard excavations (SMR 44464; Leach, 1984, p65), for example, produced a Scandinavian style buckle sealed by the medieval defences - but the context in which it was found suggested that it may have been thrown out with the rubbish beyond any settlement area. A few pits unassociated with other structural or boundary evidence but containing pottery have also been found, most recently during the Taunton town centre enhancement excavations (Exeter Archaeology, 1997). At 1 High Street (Bennett, 1974) medieval occupation appeared to directly overlie prehistoric occupation. The evidence of these sites appears to imply that the market area lay open - but probably close to settlement - in the Saxon period: it could mean either that the medieval market area was outside the Saxon town, or that it was already in use as the market place.

A possible site for the town within the area of the later medieval town is shown, though it is highly conjectural. Any discoveries of Saxon archaeological deposits within *or beyond* its limits will be of great importance.

The marked area is conjectural.

TAU/311

St Paul's

In the 1970s excavations took place at Benham's Garage (SMR 44466; Pearson, 1974; Leach & Pearson in Leach, 1984), between the minster and the St Paul's burial sites. Topographic evidence from the site showed that in the late Saxon and early medieval period this site was on a low spur, suitable for occupation, overlooking the west side of the stream valley (see above). Whilst no structural features earlier than the early 12th century were found, the excavations recovered pottery of probable 10th and 11th century date, together with a Saxon tin alloy brooch. The pottery appeared to consist mostly of broken pitchers, at least one of which was broken *in situ* (Pearson, 1974), the collection is therefore probably indicative of water being fetched for a nearby settlement, presumably to the west of the stream. However, the exact location, extent and character of such settlement is unknown at present. It may just as well have been a farm or small settlement perhaps connected with the minster properties, rather than the borough itself.

The area shown is highly conjectural.

Not mapped

There was a mint (SMR 44385) at Taunton by at least in the late 10th century (997-1003), but its location is unknown.

3.4.g Mills

TAU/306

Saxon mill (SMR 44491)

There were three mills on the Taunton estates at Domesday, one of which was probably at Taunton itself. However, the site of the mill which predated the cutting of the medieval mill stream is not known, nor is the early leat system understood. The SMR marks a possible site west of the minster, but it is also possible that a pre-Conquest mill may have stood downstream of this point, closer to the site of the later medieval mills. Both possible sites are marked on Map B. In neither case is the likely extent of archaeological survival known.

The marked sites are conjectural, though one is from the SMR.

3.5 Archaeological features (outlying area), shown on Map D and Maps E1-E9

For the outlying area, possible Saxon settlements and other features are considered together with other evidence for pre-1800 settlement: see Section III.5, p42.

4. THE MEDIEVAL AND POST-MEDIEVAL TOWN (Maps C and D)

Taunton's post-medieval form was more or less established during the medieval period and the two periods are therefore considered together. Two maps at different scales are provided for clarity.

4.1 Archaeological work in the town/ Archaeological knowledge

There is far more archaeological knowledge of medieval Taunton than of its Saxon predecessor, despite the fact that many opportunities have been lost. Archaeological observations began to be made in the 19th century: these mainly concentrated on the Castle area and culminated in the early 20th century excavations by Gray, which were unfortunately never properly recorded. From the mid 1960s onwards, archaeological interests have widened to include the town defences (knowledge of which has been substantially increased), the Priory, and, subsequently, the entire medieval urban area. However, only a limited proportion of the area destroyed by modern development has been archaeologically recorded. Much, therefore, remains to be learnt of the details of the development of the plan of the medieval town and this is also true of the extra-mural Priory, which remains largely unknown, though part of its cemetery has been found.

In general, less interest has been shown in the post-medieval town, with the possible exception of its Civil War features. Nevertheless, many of the excavations in the medieval town core have also produced evidence of post-medieval occupation and several documented inns, for example, have been archaeologically identified.

The archaeological excavations which have taken place in Taunton are listed in full in Section VI, p78.

4.2 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.

Taunton is one of the fifteen places out of the 45 historic towns covered by this project which either were boroughs or at least had some urban functions before the Conquest. It was one of five out of the six pre-Domesday boroughs which retained their status in the medieval period, and, indeed, had in the 14th century the third largest population of the 45 towns in the survey (after Wells and Bridgwater); it became one of two assize towns in the county in the later medieval period (the other was Chard). Taunton was one of eight of the 45 towns associated with a castle, but it was the only pre-Conquest borough to have a castle imposed on it (in this case by the Bishops of Winchester on the old minster site). It was one of only three of the 45 towns with major town defences (though at least one other may have had some defences), and, as at Bridgwater, contained a rather peculiar street plan within that circuit. Taunton was one of eleven of the 45 towns (and one of four of the castle towns) which had known quays in the medieval period (though these were not particularly important ones at Taunton). The town was also one of eight which had at least one large or important religious establishment (in this case the Priory) affecting its development in the medieval period.

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. Taunton 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, and, indeed, was an important cloth town, although it was one of the few Somerset towns which suffered directly in the Civil War.

4.3 Standing structures and visible remains

Relatively few buildings of known medieval origin survive in Taunton, partly because of the destruction wrought during the Civil War. Those which do survive include elements of the Castle (SMR LB 45931, 45932, 45933), together with the old Grammar School (SMR LB 45950), the two churches (SMR LB 45942, 46133), St Mary's Vicarage (SMR LB 45938), the Priory Barn (SMR LB 46131). The only other building of known pre-16th century origin in Taunton town centre is the Tudor Tavern (SMR LB 46006).

Only a relatively small number of buildings of known post-medieval origin are identified on the List for Taunton, though others may survive. Of those which survive, some, such as the Fore Street buildings (eg SMR LB 46005, 46007, 46008), represent 16th and 17th rebuilding of existing houses by prosperous traders. See Taylor (1974) for discussion of the 16th and 17th century houses in Taunton town centre. Other buildings include Castle Lodge (SMR LB 45934), the Grade I Listed Gray's Almshouses (SMR LB 45981), the Unitarian Chapel (SMR LB 46067, Grade II*), Wilton House (SMR LB 46035) and a possible mill on Tower Lane (SMR LB 46194).

Listed Buildings of known medieval or post-medieval origin in the central area are shown on Maps C and D.

4.4 Archaeological components (centre), shown on Maps C and D

4.4.a Redevelopment in earlier settlement components

The extent of continuity between the Saxon and the medieval town is not known, though it is known that the minster site had been completely redeveloped by the 13th century. All archaeological components have been redefined for the medieval period.

4.4.b Communications

(a) Roads, streets and routeways

TAU/427

Medieval roads

Many of the streets in Taunton town centre (with notable exceptions, such as Corporation Street and Hammet Street) are of medieval or earlier origin. Some details of their development are known either from documentary studies or from archaeological excavations, but understanding of the town plan development is far from complete. In many parts of the town centre, the medieval road surfaces have been shown to lie relatively close to the surface: they have now been lost in the area covered by the recent town centre enhancement. However, in the vicinity of the

river, there have been changes of level which have partially protected the earlier road surfaces: trenching (SMR 44490) in 1974 in Bridge Street, for example, found the old road level and ditches which flanked the old road, more than a metre down from the current road surface.

Some of the main streets *may* have been deliberately laid out in the 12th century, though Taunton does not have the appearance of a typical planned town. The main northward and eastward routes may well have predated the 12th century (see above, p14), with their junction therefore forming a natural focus for the medieval market area (R. Bush, *in litt.*, 1998). Details of their lines and widths remain to be archaeologically established, as do the details of the intrusive development which is known to have obstructed both North Street and East Street at times. It is known from the Benham's Garage excavations that a new road west from the Castle was constructed in the 12th or early 13th century, obliterating some earlier 12th century buildings; this, however, was replaced in the 13th century by a road on the line of modern Tower Street.

High Street and Upper High Street are thought to have been slightly later developments, but were probably in existence by the 14th century. High Street, which sits oddly with North Street and East Street, served a double purpose, providing an extra market area and leading to the south-west exist from town via the Vivarium dam (see p22) and Upper High Street: the latter route partially superseded the westward roads via the Castle and St Paul's, which had been affected by repeated flooding in the 13th and 14th century. The change of preferred route is referred to in 1362 (Bush, 1977).

Some details of the minor streets and lanes, some of which had disappeared by the time of the earliest detailed maps (late 18th century), are known. Great Magdalene Lane, on which Huish's almshouses stood, is, however, referred to in sources postdating the construction of Hammet Street, and its stub is shown on the 1791 town centre map. The history of Bath Place is of particular interest as its relationship to early westward routes and to the medieval Castle moat remains unclear.

Most of the roads shown are from the 1791 map. Tower Street's predecessor is from the Benham's Garage report (SMR 44466; Pearson, 1974; Leach & Pearson in Leach, 1984); the line of Great Magdalene Lane is partly conjectural, based on the evidence of the 1791 map.

TAU/510

Post-medieval roads

Other roads are marked from the post-medieval maps which may have been later developments.

From the 1718 and later maps.

TAU/432

Cross sites

Apart from the market place crosses (see below), St John's Cross (SMR 44488) stood at the junction of Mary Street and Mount Street.

From the SMR.

(b) Bridges

TAU/417

Tone Bridge (SMR 44467)

A ford probably preceded the medieval bridge, a ford on the route to Norton. This utilised an island in the river, known as Sealy's island in the post-medieval period, which was large enough to have buildings on it at that time. The bridge, first mentioned in 1362, lay on the site of or just to the west of the ford and was narrow - just over three metres in width (Bush, 1977) - though it had a six arch span.

An island of properties divided the lanes approaching the ford and the bridge until the 19th century, when the bridge was rebuilt several times. Archaeological trenches in Bridge Street and more recently in North Street (Dunning & Pearson, 1975; Exeter Archaeology, 1997) have shown

that the 19th century operations raised levels and sealed the medieval deposits rather than destroying them. The recent town centre work found the top of a possible southern bridge abutment (and/or gate foundation), at a depth which made it unnecessary to disturb it.

From the SMR.

TAU/430

Polebridge (SMR 44486), *shown on Map D*

The Polebridge is referred to in 1362 as the main westward exit from the town, being in need of repair. This reference seems to place it at Shuttern Bridge, close to the Vivarium dam or Poolwall if the supposition that the main westward route had shifted south following flooding around St Paul's is correct. This identification is supported by an early 15th century lease, which refers to the bridge in connection with a burgage in Shuttern (R. Bush, *in litt.*, 1998). However, the bridge is identified by some sources (including the SMR) with the more northerly crossing carrying the old road from St Paul's. Both sites are therefore marked. Very little is known of the structure of the bridge, which may have been of timber or stone.

The marked sites are from the SMR (44486) and from the OS 1890 1:2500 first edition (Shuttern Bridge).

(c) *Harbour and quays*

TAU/434

Quay at Castle (SMR 44494), *shown on Map D*

There is a reference in the Winchester pipe rolls of 1232/33 to a quay in the moat outside the western gate of the Castle. This is rather puzzling since we know from other documents that heavy goods - including stone for the Castle - were being landed at Bathpool, and since it was also about this time that the millstream was cut between the Castle and the river. Pearson (1974) suggests that the quay, which is also referred to slightly earlier in 1210/11, really belonged to the early medieval period, before the western leg of the moat was formalised (see below) - at this time there was probably a riverine/ marsh defence controlled by weirs, possible evidence of which was recovered from the Benham's Garage site (SMR 44466).

A possible area within which the quay might have lain is shown, though it is highly conjectural. Though the quay may not have been particularly substantial, since it may have handled only light goods, it is possible that remains of timber structures may have survived in the silts of the marshy area to the west of the Castle - if they were not destroyed by the cutting of the western moat.

The area shown is conjectural.

4.4.c *Water*

During the medieval period considerable alterations were made to the existing watercourses in Taunton, and these may have contributed to the serious flooding episodes of the 14th century which were referred to in the Pipe Rolls, and which may have been detected in the silt horizons of the Benham's Garage excavations (SMR 44466; Pearson, 1974; Leach & Pearson in Leach, 1984). Large parts of the manmade watercourses, including the Castle millstream and the Sherford leat, still survive.

TAU/527

The river

Though the medieval river course is of importance to the understanding of the development of the medieval town, little definite information is available regarding it. By the time of the earliest maps, the Tone had already been altered in a number of places by the Tone Navigation Scheme, a programme of lock building and river improvements which was undertaken between the late 17th and the early 19th centuries. More detailed study of the documented river works in both the medieval and the post-medieval periods would be essential in understanding the relationships between the medieval and post-medieval rivers. However, it is possible that the Post-Medieval river course, shown on Map C, is close to the medieval one in the town centre.

The river line shown on the map is that of 1840 (from the Tithe Map).

- TAU/445 French Weir, shown on Map D
 French Weir was constructed in the early 13th century as part of the mill reorganisation when the new mill stream was cut (see below). There are references in the Winchester Pipe Rolls to its destruction by flooding in 1356 and further damage in 1362/63.
- The marked site is from the 1791 map.*
- TAU/407 The millstream
 The Castle millstream was constructed in the early 13th century, replacing an earlier leat which ran to the east of the Castle (not shown on the maps: see Burrow, in Leach (1984).
- The marked course is from the 1791 and 1840 maps.*
- TAU/433 The Sherford Leat or Potwater (SMR 44492)
 Until 1332 the Sherford stream supplied water to Castle, town and Priory, but in that year two major leats were begun. One was the Sherford Leat (or Potwater), which was cut straight through the Vivarium to the Poolwall (see below). Here the water drove the Poolwall mill (see p41) and was subsequently channelled via sluice gates into the south-west corner of the Castle moat or at need, into the market place conduits. At least to the north of the Poolwall the Sherford Leat appears to have roughly followed an existing stream line, which may have been acting as the western limit of the borough and was probably part of the stream encountered at Benham's Garage (see p14). This stretch of the leat also forms part of the medieval defences (see p26) and is marked as such on the map. The northern part of the leat has been culverted under modern car parks, though remains of the earlier leat may survive: the southern part can still be seen running through Vivary Park as far as the duck pond.
- The course of the leat south of the Poolwall is from the SMR.*
- TAU/408 The Blackbrook Leat or "Stockwell" (SMR 44394), shown on Map D
 The other early 14th century leat was the Blackbrook Leat, also known as the "Stockwell". This specifically supplied the Priory in the medieval period and was partially undergrounded at least by 1387 to carry it through the suburbs surrounding the Priory. The Stockwell became an important water source for tanneries and other industry in the area in the post-medieval periods, and was therefore re-culverted at least once. The Tancred Street evaluation (SMR 44445; Collard, 1987a,b; Collard, Wait & Croft, 1988) located the post-medieval culvert, but the medieval culvert has not been confidently identified in this area. South of the town, much of the course of the Blackbrook Leat still survives.
- The line of the Leat shown on the map is from various sources. The southern course is still visible and is taken from the late 19th century maps; an outfall of the leat into the river Tone is also taken from these maps. Where the leat passed underground the course is uncertain: a partial reconstruction is shown from the SMR.*
- TAU/431 The Poolwall dam (SMR 44487)
 Upper High Street originated as a dam or causeway north of the fishponds of the Vivarium (see p41). This was a routeway out of town but it was also a water control feature, and possibly held back a mill pond for the Poolwall Mill (see p41).
- From the SMR.*
- TAU/533 Other water features
 These include the Horse Pool, by Tone Bridge.
- The horse pool is from the 1840 Woods' map.*

4.4.d Military sites

TAU/401

Taunton Castle (SMR 44204)

Taunton Castle is unusually well-documented during the medieval period due to its association with Winchester, the Pipe Rolls of which contain many details of construction projects and repairs there. Moreover, many archaeological excavations and observations have provided details of some of its structures. In fact too many have taken place for them to be mentioned individually in the text: see Section VI, p78.

The following description considers first the history of the Castle, then the structural elements - the Keep and inner ward, the outer bailey, the perimeter defences gates - and finally the potential of the site.

History

The first Castle was built in the early 12th century, with Henry of Blois probably responsible for the construction of the first Keep, which was completed in the 1130s. This was apparently demolished by Henry II in the 1150s, whilst Henry of Blois was in temporary exile (Bush, 1988), but subsequently rebuilt. The Castle was refortified and enlarged from 1207 onwards, work including the construction (or renovation) of a moat and palisade (the latter suggested by the purchase of hundreds of oaken boards). There was also considerable rebuilding of the inner ranges of buildings in the 1240s, under Bishop William Raleigh, but this was the last major alteration in the medieval period.

The Castle functioned mainly as an administrative and judicial centre for most of the medieval period. It was usually occupied by the Constable, and only occasionally by the Bishop or the King (depending on national politics). It saw little direct military action between the mid 12th and the mid 15th century, though it was besieged in 1451, during the Wars of the Roses.

In the post-medieval period, the Castle continued to be used for military purposes. The fortifications were improved in 1578 against the possibility of a Spanish invasion, and again by General Blake for the Parliamentary forces during the Civil War (see also p28). The history of the Castle in the Civil War has been much studied, but cannot be detailed here: see, for example, Green (1880). The Siege of Taunton resulted in heavy damage to the Castle both from bombardment at the time and from subsequent slighting after the Restoration (at which time the Keep was partly demolished). The inner ward continued house prisoners, scholars and public meetings and was partially refurbished in the 18th century. In the 19th century, many of the buildings, which were in a derelict state, were demolished instead of being restored, this process continuing even after part of the Castle was purchased by Somerset Archaeology and Natural History Society (SANHS). However, some of the main buildings (SMR LB 45932) of the inner ward survived and were restored in the early 20th century.

The Keep and Inner Ward

The Castle's inner ward, which extended for over a hundred metres east-west and nearly seventy north-south, contained the Keep and the prestige buildings - the Bishop's Great Hall, his private chambers and gardens, the chapel of St Nicholas, and associated service buildings. The Bishop had already had a residence on the site before the Conquest (see p15), but it is possible that the inner ward was extended in the medieval period across reclaimed land (Dunning & Pearson, 1974). More elaborate buildings were erected in the early medieval period and altered, refurbished or substantially rebuilt in the 13th century and later. The inner ward was separated from the outer bailey by a moat and gatehouse, which partially survive.

The 12th century Keep (SMR LB 45932), the approximate area of which is indicated on the map, was constructed on a slight mound to the east of the successive Bishop's residences. Historical documents describe it in the 13th century as having five towers, a hall and soldiers' chamber. The Great Tower was partially excavated in the 1920s by Gray (Vivian-Neal & Gray, 1941; Pearson in Leach 1984 p17ff). The excavations were not properly recorded or written up, but uncovered

foundations surviving to a height of nearly three metres, which were left *in situ*, and revealed that the Keep was about 20 metres by 30 metres in size. It was possible to resurvey the ruins in 1977 (Rodwell, 1978; Rodwell in Leach 1984, p20), though the information contained in archaeological deposits removed by Gray is entirely lost.

The resurvey of the Keep, together with limited further excavations on the site, has enabled some details of structural alterations which took place over several centuries (including major changes of access to the Castle during the 13th century alterations) to be identified, but many questions remain unresolved. For example, the relationship of the Keep to features possibly associated with the Saxon minster or earlier medieval activity on the site is largely unclear. Nor is the history and structural development of the Keep itself fully understood. It appears to have been demolished and rebuilt at least once (Bush, 1988), and *may* at one stage have had its own moat. The Keep was partially demolished in the 17th century, after the Civil War, and was not rebuilt; the ruins uncovered by Gray survive in a garden owned by SANHS and leased to the Castle Hotel.

Details of some of the residential and ancillary buildings in the inner ward referred to in the Winchester Pipe Rolls have been revealed by excavations. For example, the stone vaulted cellars or undercroft of the 12th century Great Hall (the upper storeys of which may have been of timber) were discovered in the 1950s (Radford & Hallam, 1955). The Hall was rebuilt in the 13th century as a longer, narrower building and a new kitchen range constructed, but the Pipe Rolls show that for some time after this date the old kitchen range also continued in use, paralleling developments at Winchester itself. It was also at this time that the Bishop's private chamber (the *camera*) was constructed in the mid 13th century to the south of the main hall and at right angles to it (Bush, 1988).

The 13th century buildings of the inner ward, which also accommodated a prison and courtrooms until, respectively, 1754 (when Wilton Gaol was opened) and 1857 (when Shire Hall was built), remain largely intact, and are occupied by the County Museum and by SANHS. Redundant parts of the complex were made into gardens in the 18th century and excavations have demonstrated that at this time the inner ward area was levelled up: this means that remains of the medieval buildings have been protected beneath a sealing deposit. They have shown to survive well, making the inner ward an area of high archaeological potential.

The Outer Bailey

The outer bailey of the Castle is far less obvious than the inner ward today, having been repeatedly built across since the post-medieval period. It was laid out across the old minster cemetery (see p15) in the 12th/13th century, extending for about 140 metres east-west and 120 metres north-south, as far as Corporation Street to the south, the bus station to the west and Castle Bow to the east. Historical documents show that it contained storage facilities and auxiliary buildings, including the constable's apartments, the Chapel of St Peter, offices, guard chambers, barns, a cowshed and dairy, a granary, stables, dovecote, and press.

It also contained the Old Grammar School (SMR LB 45950), which is referred to from at least the early 16th century onwards. Bishop Fox's "scolehouse" was built in 1522-23, at which time older buildings on the site, referred to as the hall and master's house, were also refurbished and repaired. Whether these represented the earlier medieval school buildings is debatable: Robin Bush (*in litt*, 1998) argues that the school was elsewhere in the town prior to Bishop Fox's work. The buildings - now the Municipal Buildings (SMR 44203) - were in use until 1874 and were purchased by the Corporation in 1886, at which point a number of domestic buildings to the west were demolished. The main building was much altered in the early 20th century: it is no longer Scheduled (though the ground beneath it forms part of SM 22851), but is Grade II* Listed (SMR LB 45950).

In the later post-medieval period, many other changes took place in the outer bailey. During the Civil War, houses which had been constructed against the ramparts were cleared away, and there

was widespread damage during the sieges. In the 17th and 18th century most of the Bailey lay open, and became known as Castle Green. It was surrounded by those Castle buildings which had survived. Many of these were converted into inns, for Castle Green was used for cattle and sheep markets from the late 18th to the early 20th centuries, and others, such as Castle Lodge (SMR LB 45934) built. From the early 19th century onwards, the construction of new buildings - including the Castle Hotel (SMR LB 45930) and Winchester Arms (SMR LB 45935), and later the Odeon (the Bingo hall: SMR LB 44629) - and new roads (Corporation Street) obscured the bailey.

The information so far obtained from archaeological work about the medieval bailey has been limited, and survival of deposits is likely to be patchier than in the inner ward. But the Benham's Garage site produced evidence of stables and leather working just outside the Castle curtilage to the west, where evidence was preserved by silting.

The perimeter defences

Parts of the Castle moat and ramparts are still visible either as obvious features or as changes of level. Documentary studies and archaeological excavations have shown that their history defences is complex. The Pipe Rolls contain references from the early 13th century onwards to ditches being cut, either for defensive or for drainage purposes, though it is not absolutely certain that these represent the earliest moats. At its maximum extent the medieval Castle had two main artificial defensive lines - the outer moat and rampart, crowned by a curtain wall, and the inner moat, which separated the outer bailey from the inner ward. Continuing references show that the outer moat was maintained throughout the 13th and 14th centuries, when extra flood barriers had to be installed.

The outer moat was constructed in the early 13th century, when the Castle formally took in the outer bailey, and a rampart with curtain wall thrown up along its inner bank. The construction of Castle defences and access routes was evidently a major project. The Pipe Rolls mention the necessary demolition of houses (which later encroached again on the ramparts), and the Benham's Garage excavations may have picked up evidence of the same construction phase. But the scheme did not include most the northern side of the Castle, which was protected by the river Tone. Whether the western side of the Castle was included in this phase of development is not certain: it may have had a riverine/ marsh defence until somewhat later (see, for example, Pearson, 1974; Leach, 1984).

Excavations in Mill Lane in 1980 (SMR 44446; Burrow, in Leach 1984) picked up the eastern moat, where its constructional history is particularly complicated because of the proximity of the early Keep. The excavations found traces of a possible earlier, narrower, ditch phase, which may have represented a 12th or very early 13th century moat around the Keep: the situation was also complicated by the remains of an early mill leat. At this point the moat was twelve metres wide and over three metres deep. It abutted the medieval town properties behind North Street and would have been encroached upon in the later medieval period: there are documentary references to houses built over the ditch (and maintained by the Castle itself) by the mid 14th century, though it seems not to have been completely infilled. At the excavation site a post-medieval phase of refortification, widening and revetting the ditch, had obscured the medieval encroachment.

The inner moat was probably constructed at approximately the same time as the outer moat. Both were partially filled in in the 17th and 18th centuries, firstly on the orders of the restored Monarch and subsequently for use as gardens.

Gates

The Castle had two main exits, to east and west. The locations of both of these access points are known from archaeological observations to have changed over the Castle's history. An earlier eastern exit, to the north of Castle Bow, was detected from the Mill Lane excavations (Burrow in Leach 1984) and a timber barbican (aligned with the roadway discovered at Benham's Garages (Pearson, 1974; Leach & Pearson in Leach, 1984) was observed to the south of the Castle West

Gate during the construction of the Odeon. Castle Bow (SMR LB 45931) was the main entrance from town after the 13th century, and had a barbican and drawbridge: some 13th century masonry survives and illustrations of it before the construction of Castle Hotel exist (eg see PSANHS vol 4, 1853, p27).

The inner ward was reached from the outer bailey through the inner gatehouse, of which a 15th century version survives. This building housed the Treasury and Exchequer, and was defended by a drawbridge and portcullis. There was also a Watergate, the exact position of which is not known: it has been suggested that it lay on the site of the present Wyndham galleries (Ralegh-Radford, 1954)

Potential

Though there has been later urban development over parts of the medieval castle area, survey and excavation work has shown that much of the core survives, either as standing structures or as archaeological deposits. Archaeological remains of the outer areas are also expected to survive relatively well, their preservation enhanced in some areas by sealing deposits and in others by the waterlogging associated with the moat line.

Taunton Castle has recently been re-Scheduled as SM 22851 and a number of buildings within its area are Listed (SMR LB 45930, 45931, 45932, 45933, 45934, 45935, 45950, 45951).

The inner ward, outer bailey and moat are based on the map in Bush (1988), together with information in the SMR, including relevant excavation reports. Some aspects of the plan, including the north-west extent, should be regarded as slightly conjectural however.

TAU/404

The town defences (SMR 44207, 44459)

The first documentary reference to town defences occurs in 1158, in connection with Bishop Henry of Blois' re-establishment of the Priory beyond a pre-existing town ditch running from the Northgate to the Eastgate. Later records mention the remodelling of the castle and town defences in 1215-19, during which process a new bank between the Castle and Northgate was erected. But while the Castle was well-maintained throughout the medieval period, the town defences were apparently neglected - in 1267-8 the palisade was "blown down by the great wind" (Bush, 1977), in 1290-1 a plot "in the ancient ditch of the town" was let, and in 1320 the Vicar of St Mary's was granted the pasture of the ditch (Aston, n.d.). By the 15th century the bank was evidently unimportant, and though references to the Townditch (the north-eastern ditch) and the Hurdleditch (the southern ditch) marking the Borough limits still occur in the 17th century, there had been steady encroachment of houses onto the ditches. At the onset of the Civil War Taunton was regarded as an open town (but see p28).

Several excavations have located the town ditch at various points, and the SMR contains fuller details of their results than can be detailed here. The excavations are listed in Section VI, p78: particularly significant have been those at Hawke's Yard (SMR 44464), and Tancred Street (SMR 44445). Nevertheless, the exact line of the defences remains unclear in many places. The line between North Gate and East Gate mentioned in the 12th century document, and a continuation from the East Gate as far as the Vivarium can be approximated from 19th century maps, surviving plot (and parish) boundaries, building subsidence and breaks of slope, and has been established more precisely in some places by excavations. However, archaeologists have not yet been able to establish with complete confidence the marshy south-western and western stretches from the Vivarium to the Castle. The Poolwall mill stream is occasionally referred to as the Town Ditch, but it remains possible that the defences extended further to the west. The dam to the Great Pond of the Vivarium may also have formed part of the defences.

The excavations on the line of the town defences have encountered remains of the ditch more frequently than remains of the bank. The ditch has been shown in a number of places to be 10 metres or more in width, and several metres deep. From the lower fills have come artefacts

consistently dated to the 11th or early 12th centuries - nothing earlier - which strongly suggest an early medieval construction date. The middle fills have contained a variety of medieval artefacts, representing a period of partial silting. From the topmost fills have come late 17th and 18th century assemblages representative of the period in which the ditch finally went out of use: in some places there appears to have been deliberate backfilling with deposits of clean clay or of industrial or demolition debris (Bellamy, 1996). Evidence of recutting has been found at Hawke's Yard (Leach in Leach, 1984, p65) and possibly at Corfield Hall (SMR 44463), but whether this is to be associated with any of the documented remodellings of the defences is not clear. One site, at Tancred Street (SMR 44445; Collard, 1987a,b; Collard, Wait & Croft, 1988) revealed the existence of two smaller outer ditches running approximately parallel to the main ditch and containing 12th century pottery (suggestive of a short life span). However, since only a short stretch of each fell within the trench, which was at 90° to the main ditch, the exact alignment and relationship of the smaller ditches to the defences could not be established. They could have been part of a multivallate defence of the 12th century, but this cannot be confidently stated.

Remains of the inner town bank have proved elusive. Our chief source of knowledge is the surviving stretches of bank near St Mary's Church, which may have been reused and remodelled in the Civil War. A stretch of bank about 21 metres wide and 2.4 metres high is Scheduled (SM Som 338, SMR 44207). Archaeological remains of the rampart were also recovered from the Hawke's Yard excavations, though no archaeological evidence of the timber palisade has yet been recovered.

It is almost certain that further substantial remains of the town defences will survive, even if they are heavily truncated in places. Much remains to be learnt, including the detailed course, the date and relationship to any earlier (and later) defences, and the detailed structure and phasing of the bank and ditch(es).

The mapped defences are based on the map in Leach 1984 (Fig.26), supplemented from excavation evidence contained in the SMR.

TAU/425

The town gates

There were two major medieval town gates, the North Gate, and the East Gate. Documentary references to the renewal of timbers in the mid 13th century indicate that these were originally merely wooden bars across the road.

The North Gate (SMR 44462) was near the junction of North Street with St James' Street, and was first mentioned in 1158. The 1996/97 town centre work (Exeter Archaeology, 1997) found what may have been part of the gate foundation (and/or the top of a possible southern bridge abutment), at a depth which made it unnecessary to disturb it.

The East Gate (SMR 44461), first mentioned in 1158, was at the top of East Reach near the junction with Silver Street. It therefore served traffic both from the east and from the south, and was the most important entrance to the borough. Originally a timber bar, it may have acquired a gatehouse by 1555, when a "burgage over the way" is mentioned: this was probably destroyed during the Civil War. The street used to be very narrow at this point.

There is also a single late 17th century reference to the Great Gate in Bath Place, which may have stood at the point at which the modern pathway is spanned by a building (R. Bush, *in litt.* 1998). This gate *may* have recalled an early medieval exit to the town (SMR 44460), but the absence of references indicates that it was not a major gate in the medieval period. After the remodelling of the Castle in the 13th century, the main western access appears instead to have been through the West Gate of the Castle (known as Paul's Gate). There is no evidence that the later alternative route along Shuttern went through any gatehouse, though it could presumably be barred; and there is no evidence of any other South Gate in the medieval period.

The marked sites are from the SMR and from Leach (1984, Fig26).

Not mapped

Several minor gates, not large enough to admit any but pedestrians, are referred to in the historical documents. There was a gate across the ditch for the Vicar of St Marys by 1438-9, and another gate to which Whirligig Lane led in the post-medieval period. The name of the lane refers to a turnstile in the gate, which was in existence by 1588.

TAU/501

The Civil War defences (SMR 44378)

In the Civil War Taunton was several times besieged. For most of the war, Taunton was without substantial defences, but the several sieges in 1644-5, and in particular the final siege by Royalists, prompted a number of attempts to build defences. These consisted of defensive ditches and entrenchments, outworks and barricades, many of which were destroyed by order after the Restoration. The Civil War defences are of varying archaeological significance: some, such as the barricades, are unlikely to have left much trace. However, the greater earthworks will have had a more marked effect on the town. The approximate positions of some are known, from historical or archaeological evidence (see, for example, Ellison, n.d.), though many details remain to be resolved and only a few of the sites are therefore shown on Map C.

There are references to an outwork called the Vicars House on the east side of town, which may relate to the Borough Bank (SM Som 338), perhaps a refortified part of the medieval town defences (see TAU/404, p26). The "Maiden's fort", which was probably in the same area, has not been located. There was a major defensive work outside the East Gate (Bush, 1977), and a smaller one at the Bath Place gate, neither detected archaeologically. In 2002 the truncated remains of a substantial defensive ditch was located 80m to the east of East Gate under the former Whites Garage (SMR 15631). The material from within this suggests that this is probably Civil War in date. Other Civil War features have been discovered recently along the eastern side of the town including a possible outwork or fort at the junction of Canon Street and Magdalene Street (SMR 44688) and human burials in the medieval ditch near Corfield Hall (SMR 57136).

An additional line of defences to the east, enclosing parts of the Priory area, is also referred to in documents. This may have been encountered during the Canon Street excavations of 1977 and 1994 (Hinchcliffe in Leach, 1984, p106; Hollinrake, C & N, 1994), which revealed a substantial ditch, 5 metres wide and 1.5 metres deep, containing 17th century pottery in its lower fills, crossing the medieval cemetery. A map in the SMR apparently by Jeboult (under SMR 44440) identifies the course of the Stockwell Stream as a defensive line, but this may not be a reliable source.

A siege work was constructed on the north-eastern side of the Castle, partially overlying the medieval rampart. It consisted of a trapezoidal earthwork with banks up to three metres high. The earthwork has been built over, but was partially excavated in 1924 by St George Gray. Outside Castle Bow there is supposed to have been another earthwork, which may have been briefly observed during the 1996/7 work in the Market Place (C J Webster, pers. comm., 1997).

The marked sites are from the SMR; the map of the Civil War defences of Taunton is, however, incomplete and further study necessary.

TAU/532

Tangier, shown on Map D

Tradition states that Tangier is named after the Tangier Regiment, famously employed to round up Monmouth's rebels in 1685. They were billeted or encamped in this area, but it is unlikely that many archaeological traces remain of this episode (though both fortifications and burials are a possibility: see TAU/310, p16). However, Robin Bush (*in litt.*, 1998) has shown that the name Tangier also belonged to a late 17th century inn in the area, and that this *may* have predated the arrival of the Tangier Regiment.

The area shown is generalised.

- TAU/502 The Bridewell (SMR 44384)
 The Bridewell had been established by the end of the 16th century, either at the north end of North Street or - as shown on Map C - on the island in the river. There are records of several repairs, and of the use of the building as an additional workhouse. The Bridewell was replaced by Wilton Gaol in 1754.
- From the SMR.*
- Not mapped Archery butts are recorded on the Mount from the 15th century onwards (Bush, 1977; *in litt.*, 1998). The exact site has not been identified.

4.4.e Burial sites, religious houses and places of worship

- TAU/402 The Priory (SMR 44434)
 Taunton's medieval Priory is another of its major archaeological mysteries. Though the overall area in which the Priory must lie is known from land grants, though further clues from historic documents, maps and illustrations are available, and though parts of its lay cemetery and of its ancillary buildings have been archaeologically excavated, remarkably little has so far been found to pinpoint the position of the major buildings, including the Priory Church. This may be due to the high level of destruction in the 16th century, when most of the Priory was demolished, and in the 19th century, when the St Augustine Street residential area was laid out.

The following discusses first the history of the Priory, the general position and layout, then some excavated details and finally the potential of the area.

History

The Saxon minster (TAU/303, p15) was converted into an Augustinian Priory in the 1120s by Bishop William Gyffard. The site came under pressure from the Castle and town as the 12th century progressed. New lands, comprising that part of the later parish of St James which lay south of the river, were granted in 1158 under Bishop Henry of Blois, Gyffard's successor. The extent and position of the new lands allowed the Priory to build a little way beyond the town boundaries and to encourage the development of a suburb on its land (see p37).

The Priory had a number of dependent chapels, partly because of its origins as a minster, but it had a special relationship with its adjacent parish church of St Mary. The Vicar of St Mary's took over responsibility for some of the dependencies (Trull, Wilton and both the Taunton Castle chapels) in 1308. St Mary's was therefore referred to in some contexts as the mother church, though it is now considered highly unlikely that it was the minster site. The Priory retained direct control of other dependencies, including the Chapel of St James (p32), St Margaret's at the leper hospital (p31), St Paul's (p31), Staplegrove (p51), Stoke St Mary, Ruishton and St Leonard's at Pyrland.

Documentary evidence implies that the Priory was constructed gradually over a period of decades, with the accommodation buildings perhaps built first (as the Priory church is not mentioned until the 13th century). It was an extremely wealthy house and, though the number of Canons declined from 26 to 15 during the 14th century, and there were at times problems with debt, there is evidence of repeated building and rebuilding. The Priory was still very valuable in 1539, when it was dissolved. The buildings remained for a few years after that (when Leland visited the site in 1542, they were still standing), but were destroyed in 1552 and a grand house built on the site by Thomas More's family. By the 17th century the surrounding ruins were hardly visible except as earthworks, and the Mores' house had itself gone by 1796, when the site was a garden (R. Bush, *in litt.*, 1998). At the turn of the 19th century, Priory House was built: this too has since been demolished. The Priory earthworks were evidently still visible in the earlier 19th century, for accounts of the Priory area report that it was marked by uneven ground which had been much quarried for stone. The area was developed for housing in the 19th century, and this development obliterated the remaining traces of the Priory.

Position and layout

The land granted to the Priory in 1158 was extensive. South of the river it stretched from the borough boundary ditch (in the west) to East Reach (south), St Margaret's leper hospital (east), and West Monkton parish boundary, and the river (north) (Bush, 1977). The Prior also held substantial estates north of the river (see p52).

Most of this area would have been meadow and field, with the Priory buildings concentrated in a much smaller area. Documentary evidence, together with the limited evidence of historic maps and excavations, suggests that the focus of the buildings would have been at the north end of Canon Street, with the main gatehouse looking down what became St James' Street. But the extent of the Priory Precinct is uncertain. Excavations have shown that burials were taking place as far east as Augustine Street (SMR 44438). A possible eastern limit may be suggested by the results of a 1988 evaluation off Winchester Street (SMR 44452; Croft, 1988a,b): the land at this point appeared to have been field until the 19th century when it was used as a rubbish dump. The discovery of quantities of 14th century pottery during development in Priory Bridge Road suggests the northern extent (Dunning & Pearson, 1975). However, information is too limited to be certain: only repeated observations of the fragmentary remains which may survive in the St Augustine's area will enable the Precinct limits to be defined.

Few details of the layout within the Priory Precinct have been established. It is expected that such a valuable Priory would have consisted of an extensive complex of ecclesiastical, residential and ancillary buildings. In addition, extensive cemeteries serving the dependent chapels, as well as the canons, are known to have existed; and the Priory had an elaborate water supply system, with leats leading from the Sherford Stream, and later from the Blackbrook (see p22).

Parts of a guesthouse complex or an official's quarters perhaps located on the north-western fringe of the Priory, and parts of the surrounding cemeteries, have been located by excavation:

The Priory Barn

Few remains of the Priory are evident, and the "Priory Barn" (SMR 44205, SMR LB 46131, SM Som 195) is the principal survival. The standing structure is a two-storeyed stone building of probable late 15th or early 16th century date (though it may incorporate earlier material). Excavations and surveys in 1977-8 and 1988 (Leach in Leach 1984 p111) showed that it was in fact not a barn in the medieval period.

The first phase of medieval activity on the site was represented by the remains of fishponds and water channels. The fragment of fishpond which was excavated produced 12th and 13th century pottery, building rubble and abundant waterlogged organic material, including shoes, preserved wood and straw, as well as two medieval scabbards. Some of the organic material was subsequently carbon dated to the 11th-13th century (Hollinrake, C & N, 1994b). The debris has been interpreted as being associated with the construction of the Priory. By the late 13th century, with the ponds filled in, there may have been a courtyard, on the fringe of the Priory, flanked by a stone building, the predecessor of the "Priory Barn". The "Barn" itself replaced this structure in the late 15th or early 16th century and formed part of a range of buildings flanking a gatehouse apparently opening onto the meadows between the medieval town and the river. It appears to have been originally a building of some quality and may have been a guesthouse or quarters for a Priory official. However, the reason why this particular building was retained after the Dissolution (and subsequently used as a chapel by French refugees) when so many other Priory buildings were "quarried" is not immediately clear; survey and restoration work revealed that it had suffered structurally from being built across filled in ponds.

Though it was suggested by the excavators that the gatehouse represented the western limit of the Priory, a further evaluation and watching brief (SMR 44437), which took place in 1994-1995 on construction work at the Cricket Ground near the Priory Barn (Hollinrake, C & N, 1994b, 1995), uncovered further medieval building foundations - again associated with waterlogged features -

to its west (and north). A 1982 excavation (SMR 44435) in the grounds of the Vicarage, a little way south of the Priory Barn, had already revealed the remains of another medieval building which incorporated ashlar footings and a stone conduit, and was associated with medieval floor tiles and both medieval and Post-medieval pottery.

The cemetery

The lay cemetery of the Priory was located by excavations in 1977 in Canon Street (SMR 44436; Hinchcliffe in Leach, 1984, p106), during which the remains of more than 100 individuals were excavated. The burials excavated in 1977 were of late medieval date (mid 14th century and later); the remains of a bell pit predated them. The cemetery clearly extended further to the north than the area excavated. Further reports of burials have come from the area to the east (as far to the east as St Augustine Street: SMR 44438), suggesting either that the cemetery was extensive or that more than one cemetery existed (or both).

Not mapped

Reused masonry and other artefacts from the Priory

Stonework from the Priory has been tentatively identified in a number of town buildings and local churches (for example, some of the window tracery at Oake is supposed to have come from the Priory church).

Several artefacts probably associated with the Priory have been recovered from the vicinity. These include medieval floor tiles, an early 12th century bronze bowl.

Potential

Excavations have shown that stratified waterlogged deposits and surviving foundations exist on at least part of the Priory site (the Priory Barn area). The bulk of the site lies beneath the St Augustine's residential area, however, and the state of preservation of the main buildings cannot be assessed. Since the Somerset Archaeological Society noted massive foundations and masonry during the 19th century housing developments, it must be assumed that there has been extensive disturbance, if not destruction, of much of the Priory area. This makes the recovery of surviving fragments all the more important.

The Priory area shown on the map is conjectural, based on the 1791 and 1840 (Woods) maps of the town centre, together with excavation evidence contained in the SMR and the Scheduling Papers for the Priory Barn.

TAU/405

Leper Hospital of Holy Ghost & St Margaret (SMR 44379), shown on Map D

St Margaret's was founded as a leper hospital, possibly in the early 12th century (R. Bush, *in litt.*, 1998). Glastonbury Abbey acquired the patronage of the hospital in the late 13th century and it was rebuilt as almshouses in the early 16th century by Abbot Bere (they still housed lepers in the early 16th century. The associated chapel is referred to in a grant of 1545 as being to the south of the hospital (R. Bush, *in litt.*, 1998). It may have been on the same site as a building shown on the 1791 map of Taunton, although the chapel itself was demolished when the almshouses were sold after the Dissolution. They functioned as a poor house for West Monkton from 1612 to 1938, and were used by the Rural Community Council from 1938 until the early 1990s when the roof was destroyed by fire. The building was restored in 2001-2 and reopened as sheltered housing.

From the 1791 and 1890 maps.

TAU/412

Chapel of St Paul (SMR 44408), shown on Map D

The Chapel of St Paul may have been founded in the late 12th or early 13th century. It is referred to as standing outside the west gate of the town and is presumed to have stood on the site of the building which used to be known as St Paul's House. This is marked on Jeboult's 19th century map of Taunton, but is archaeologically unproven. Burials found to the east may be Saxon (see p16), since there is no evidence that the medieval chapel had burial rights, but this is too is unproven. Many questions remain to be answered, including that of its exact location and form,

and that of its relationship with the known burial site and with possible medieval settlement in the St Paul's area (see p38).

The marked site is from the SMR.

TAU/414

St James' Church (SMR 44481)

The Chapel of St James is referred to by 1186. It was presumably established to serve the suburb of St James, the growth of which was deliberately encouraged by the Priory, on whose land it lay. St James only became a parish church and acquired burial rights after the Dissolution, when the parish of St James was created, partly out of Priory lands. The church building (SMR LB 46133) is of medieval origin. Though it was extensively restored in the 19th century, some 15th century fabric survives. Examination of the floor void during 2001 located parts of the medieval structure and allowed a more detailed structural history to be written (SMR 15200).

The post-medieval churchyard is shown on the map, for the sake of clarity. But archaeological excavations and observations have shown that some at least of this area was occupied by other suburban development in the medieval period. A 1974 excavation at the west end of the church produced 13th and 14th century occupation deposits. To the east of the church in the 19th century grave diggers reported stacks of medieval inlaid tiles, suggestive of a nearby tile kiln (SMR 44485). After the Dissolution, suburban occupation was cleared away and the churchyard established across it, perhaps using material from the Priory itself: it is thought that a cross head (SMR 44415) of probable 12th century date found in the 1870s may have originated there.

The marked area is from the 1791 map. The site actually occupied by the medieval chapel would not have been this extensive.

TAU/418

St Mary's Church (SMR 44456)

It used to be assumed that St Mary's, the borough church, was the minster site (eg Hunt, 1958a), but it is now more commonly held that it was established during Henry of Blois' 12th century reorganisation as a dependent of the Priory. It is certainly referred to by 1186, and continues to occur in medieval documents, most notably the 1308 "Ordination", in which responsibility for a number of dependent chapels of the Priory (including Trull, Wilton, and Taunton Castle) was formally transferred to the Vicar of St Mary's. This may have been an acknowledgement of an informal situation, but after this date the Vicar acquired a number of assistant priests. The church became a centre of some importance and was appropriately embellished by the successful merchants of Taunton. The present grand building (SMR LB 45942) is mainly 15th and 16th century work, but contains some 13th century fabric. Its fine tower is a 19th century copy of the tower put up by the townspeople in the late 15th and early 16th century.

St Mary's acquired burial rights in the late medieval period: the churchyard was consecrated in 1446 (Bush, 1977). The original - indeed, the post-medieval - extent of the churchyard has been obscured by late 18th century developments (chiefly, the creation of Hammet Street). But it is probable that there was a large open area to the west of the church: the construction of Henley's Almshouses (SMR 44383) in Church Square is documented in the 17th century. The lanes in the area may also have been little more than pathways: roadworks in both Hammet Street and Magdalene Street have disturbed deposits of human bones (Hollinrake, C & N, 1993; SMR 44463), suggesting widespread burial in the post-medieval periods.

The marked area is from the SMR.

TAU/305

Wilton St George (SMR 44482), shown on Map D

The parish church of Wilton originated as a dependent chapel of the minster and subsequently the Priory. Whilst it would have served the area to the south-west of the pre-Conquest borough, it may have primarily functioned as the chapel of the holy well, the *Fons Sancti Georgii* or Fons George.

The church building (SMR LB 45992) contains fragments of Saxon stonework in the nave, implying that the medieval church directly overlies the foundations of its predecessors. The church was reconstructed in the 13th and 15th centuries and enlarged in the 19th century, at which time the tower was also rebuilt. The chapel only acquired burial rights after the Dissolution and the extent of its early enclosure is unknown.

The area marked is the 19th century churchyard from the 1802 to 1840 maps.

TAU/504

Post-medieval chapels with burial grounds

Taunton was a centre of Dissent. There were twelve dissenting congregations by 1669 (Bush, 1977) and several chapels were built in the post-medieval period. These have not been studied in detail: only those which acquired burial grounds are shown.

A breakaway group of Baptists established their New Meeting on Magdalene Street in 1732. It had its own burial ground, which was in use until 1815 when the chapel was demolished. The New Meeting appears on the 1791 map, but the exact location of the burial ground has not been established, despite archaeological work in the Tancred Street area.

The United Reformed Church, formerly Paul's Meeting House (SMR 44472), was built in the late 17th century, on the site of a bowling green behind the building which became the County Hotel (Bush, 1977). It was attacked and badly damaged shortly after opening but reopened in 1689. The burial ground to the rear was in use at least between 1785 and 1860, perhaps earlier. The present building (SMR LB 46128) dates from the late 18th century.

The Unitarian Chapel in Mary Street was built in 1691, though the present building (SMR LB 46067) dates from 1721. The burial ground to the rear was in use at least by the early 19th century, for it is mentioned by Savage (1822) as being particularly commodious, but it is likely to have been earlier.

The Friends' Meeting House in Bath Place (*shown on Map D*) was built in 1693 and rebuilt in 1814. Until the 19th century, however, the Quakers were still using an older out of town burial ground (see p58).

The approximate site of the Magdalene Street meeting is shown from the 1791 map. The sites of the URC and the Friends' Meeting House are from the 1791 map together with Woods' 1840 map; and the Unitarian Chapel is from the 1791 and 1890 maps.

Not mapped

The "Carmelite Friary" (TAU/446)

In the 14th century a grant to establish a Carmelite house at Taunton was made. This was not carried through, and though it is possible that some building work was begun (Bond, c1990), there is no evidence of this. The grant was for nine acres of meadow, at 'Cokesmead'. The site was identified by 19th century scholars (eg Savage, 1822) with Paul's Field, now the site of County Hall; but Bush (1977; *in litt.*, 1998) convincingly disputes this identification and places the site somewhere in North Town. There is only a small chance that archaeological remains associated with this house - which may, after all, never have been begun - would survive.

4.4.f Settlement (Urban)

General material on the medieval town is held in the SMR under PRN 44440.

(a) Commercial core

(i) Market place(s)

TAU/413

The market place (SMR 44479)

A market at Taunton is first referred to in the 904 charter, though the site on which it was held has not been certainly identified. In the 12th century town the Market Place was a large open triangle before the Castle. It became considerably built up during the medieval period: the roofing over

of previously temporary stalls is referred to as early as 1266. Further grants to allow fixed stalls and shop buildings are documented throughout the 13th and 14th century, and there are early 14th century references to the “Bredcage” (probably a lock up) in the early 14th century. The medieval Guildhall was built in 1467 (it stood just to the north-west of the present market house site), though there may have been an earlier market hall on the southern edge of the Market Place before the development of High Street: remains of such a structure were recovered by excavations at 1 High Street (Bennett, 1974; and Bennett in Leach 1984 p91). The “central island” became further defined by the provision of water conduits around its edges during the 13th to 15th centuries. Excavations in 1996/97 during the town centre enhancement revealed late medieval street levels and large postholes of timber buildings, overlying cess pits and rubbish pits of 11th to 14th century date (Exeter Archaeology, 1997).

In the Market Place stood several crosses (the sites are not shown on Map C but are marked on the GIS). A market cross is first mentioned in 1321. The early 16th century version (SMR 44380) was destroyed in 1769, but an illustration exists. A copy (SMR 44489) was put up at the north end of the market by Kinglake in 1867, but removed in 1934. The Chuse (Cheese?) Cross (SMR 44381), recorded in 1415, probably stood in the centre of the market place (the site of the later market house), and the Rix or Ruish Cross (SMR 44382) stood at the south-eastern exit until the early 17th century.

Further building occurred in the post-medieval period, and during the 17th century an assembly room was built on the site of the present market house. By the 18th century, there were eleven public houses on the central island, as well as the Guildhall, the Assembly rooms and a hundred fixed stalls. These are shown on a plan of c1770, which also marks the Shambles Lane and sundry features including bull rings. The 1996/97 excavations found well-preserved remains of some of the medieval and post-medieval structures and channels, though they showed that post-medieval cellaring had destroyed some evidence.

The Market Trustees were founded in the mid 18th century, and from 1768 onwards embarked on a process of remodelling the Market Place, clearing away many of the early features, and piping the water supplies. By 1772 they had created the Parade and a new market house and assembly room flanked by arcades: the central block of this survives (SMR LB 46115). The market continued to be held on the site until 1929 and for the period between 1769 and 1926 it is well documented in the papers of the Trustees. New building and demolitions continued: the New Market was built along the west of Fore street in 1822 (and demolished in the 1960s) and a corn exchange later added (demolished 1937).

The limited excavations which took place in connection with the 1996/97 town enhancement scheme may have been the last opportunity to study the archaeological remains of the Market Place, because of the unanticipated destructiveness of the works.

The area marked as the medieval Market Place is somewhat conjectural in detail, though its core is well defined by the post-medieval maps. The area shown is taken from the SMR.

TAU/411

The fair site (SMR 44398), shown on Map D

In 1256 a grant for a manor fair, St Thomas' fair (as distinct from the borough fair, St Botolph's, which was probably held in the Market Place: see above) was made. The exact location of the fair site referred to in the grant is unclear, but it is usually identified with the Mill Land (or Mill Lane) tithing - the area of North Town to the west of Bridge Street and south of Staplegrove Road. The triangular area at the southern end of Staplegrove Road may mark the focus of the fair (Bush, 1977), but there are references to it extending as far as the Bridge (Gerrard, 1984), either on the streets or the surrounding open land. Both fairs continued until the early 20th century.

The site shown is the area which still lay open in 1791. It is unlikely to represent the full extent of the fair.

(ii) Burgages and tenements

Numerous archaeological excavations and observations in the medieval tenement areas have provided some details of the development of the medieval town, though they have tended to raise as many questions as they have answered.

TAU/403

The south-west quarter

The south-west quarter of the medieval town, including High Street, Paul Street and part of Fore Street, was a prime commercial area. Excavations have shown that its burgages were developed from the late 12th or 13th century onwards, that it occupied a site settled in the iron age (see p8), but unlikely to have been inhabited in the intervening period (Bennett, 1974), and that it contained industrial as well as commercial activity. The establishment of tenement boundaries across irregular pit patterns occurred to the south of Fore Street at the end of the 12th century (Burrow, 1979), whilst Paul Street may have been laid out slightly later (SMR 44447; Clements in Leach 1984, p79). It is often suggested that High Street may have been established - or perhaps enlarged - as an overflow market area in the 14th century (see, for example, Burrow, 1982; cp Burrow & Dennison, 1988), though this remains archaeologically unproven and is really based on the "ad hoc" nature of the resulting town plan.

On specific sites, archaeological - and documentary - studies have shown complex patterns of development. At 1 High Street (SMR 44442; Bennett, 1974; Dunning & Pearson, 1975), for example, a 12th (or early 13th) century substantial stone building was cleared away and the area - which was right on the Market Place - used as a dump during the 13th century, before a large timber structure (possibly a Market hall) was erected on it at the turn of the 14th century. This probably functioned until the mid 15th century and was replaced in the 16th by the White Hart, which survived until the 20th century. Other excavations or watching briefs on burgage tenements have taken place at 5-8 Fore Street (Burrow, 1979; SMR 44450), at Boots (SMR 44448) and at 18 Fore Street (SMR 44474). Those further away from the Market Place have found evidence of small scale industrial activity taking place to the rear of the plots. In Paul Street, for example, it was leather and horn working (SMR 44447), and at the corner of High Street and Mary Street it was tanning and cloth working (SMR 44449; Burrow, 1982; Burrow & Dennison, 1988).

In the post-medieval period, the tenements of this area continued to be valuable commercial properties and activity may indeed have intensified. For example, the early 17th century establishment of the Pig Market between High Street and Paul Street was necessary because of overcrowding in the Market Place (which was by then heavily encroached upon, it is true). The Grade I Listed Tudor Tavern (SMR 44206; SMR LB 46006) was one of a number of houses taken on and embellished by rich clothiers, and is one of the very few buildings of known medieval origin to survive in Taunton (see Bush 1975, 1977). Other adjacent properties were probably rebuilt in the 16th or 17th centuries (eg SMR LB 46004, 46005, 46007). Excavations have shed a little light on the kind of commercial activity which was being undertaken here. A coin hoard (SMR 44409) from Fore Street (the rear of 16/17 Fore Street) contained a number of bronze forgeries of mid to late 15th century French coins, together with the blanks for producing more. The find was not in context, but appears to indicate that forging was taking place on the site!

As already noted, few medieval structures survive above ground in this area, and the historic plan of the tenement boundaries has been much obscured by large scale commercial developments behind Fore Street and Paul Street. Excavations have produced varying levels of evidence and have shown the variability of archaeological survival in the area, caused by the fact that archaeological deposits do not lie very deep beneath the modern levels in Taunton. However, it is variable, not negligible, and information of considerable interest and importance to the question of the origins, of High Street, for example, may still be obtained.

The tenement areas are drawn from the 1791-1840 maps.

TAU/426

The south-east quarter (incl Mary St S)

The south-east quarter of town included the southern frontages along the main London road, but

also more marginal areas on the rising ground included within the town defences, use of which may have increased in the post-medieval period. A number of excavations have taken place in the area. As in the south-west quarter, these have shown mixed use of the area and variable archaeological survival. Work in Kennedy's Yard and Billet Street in 1974 (SMR 44441; Bennett, 1974), for example, produced abundant high quality post-medieval artefacts (including Venetian glass and Spanish pottery) but few structures unrelated to garden activity. Nearer the Market Place and nearer the frontages, limited work at the County Hotel (Wessex Archaeology, 1995b) revealed heavily truncated building sequences, with open ground and possible small scale quarrying to the rear, though it was not able to answer one of the questions raised by the area's street plan - the significance of the irregular junction between East Street and Fore Street.

The eastern extremity of East Street would have abutted the East Gatehouse and is known to have been constricted. Much of the area around the gate - and, indeed, much of the rest of the area - was destroyed during the Civil War. Some must have survived, for the Grade I Listed Gray's Almshouses (SMR 44386, SMR LB 45981) were founded in 1635, and form one of the earliest brick buildings in the county. Only to the south of Mary Street do any other buildings of even post-medieval date still stand (SMR LB 46083, 46067), though there are several of 19th century date. Little is known about the latter block, which may have been only partially developed in the medieval period. Another area - the mount, behind East Street and within the town ditch (more lightly shaded) - may well have remained undeveloped until relatively late, but most work in this area has focussed on the ditch line rather than the surrounding area.

The areas shown are from the 1791-1840 maps.

TAU/419

The north-east quarter

The north-east quarter of the town, between the Castle and Market Place and St Mary's church, was intensively occupied in the medieval period. It contained a number of narrow lanes leading to the church, some of which, such as Whirlygig Lane and Magdalene Lane still survive. At least one other - Great Magdalene Lane - has been obscured by the later developments of Hammet Street.

Some archaeological information has been obtained from developments at the western end of East Street in recent years. A 1994 watching brief during excavation of foundations at 5-6 East Street, for example, found limited evidence of continuous occupation from the 11th-12th century to the present day, including iron slag possibly indicative of small-scale smithing in the 12th to 13th centuries (Hollinrake, C & N, 1994). There were Post-medieval cellars, which had destroyed many of the earlier archaeological deposits, but beyond their limits survival was good for a site so near the frontage. A further watching brief took place in 1997 at 1 East Street, and this produced mainly post-medieval material (C Hollinrake, pers. comm., 1997).

Though evidence of small scale industrial activity has been detected in the area it also contained some more substantial medieval houses and municipal buildings (Dunning & Pearson, 1975), as well as almshouses. Osborne's Almshouses, in Magdalene Lane, were founded in the 15th century (part of their 19th century rebuild still stands: SMR LB 46057). Other almshouses were founded in the area in the post-medieval period. Henley's Almshouses (SMR 44383), founded in 1637, were in Church Square but were pulled down (and moved to East Reach) when Hammet Street was built. Huish's Almshouses, which stood on Great Magdalene Lane, survived the new street but were pulled down in the mid 19th century. The poor house also stood on Magdalene Street until the 19th century.

Many details remain to be learnt of the complex history of this relatively large area, which abutted both the East Gate (close to which was found a Civil War coin hoard in 1980: SMR 44477) and the North Gate. Those archaeological interventions which have occurred have been limited in scale, and the overall coverage is patchy. The watching briefs appear to show variable archaeological survival below ground, not surprising given the intensive later development. Few

buildings of known medieval origin survive (the County Stores building is one possible exception) and only one building of known post-medieval origin is included on the List (45-46 Fore Street: SMR LB 46014).

The areas shown are from the 1791-1840 maps.

TAU/424

The north-west quarter

There is relatively little archaeological information on this area, squeezed between Castle and Market Place. Much of the development here may have begun as encroachment on the Castle perimeter, including the moat. Because of the presence of the moat it is possible that archaeological survival may be better than in other parts of the medieval town, but as elsewhere the surviving buildings are relatively late. This is especially true of the southern part of the area, cut by the 19th century Corporation Street.

The area shown is from the 1791-1840 maps.

(b) Suburbs

TAU/415

St James Street suburb

The Priory encouraged suburban development on its land, the area which is now St James Street and Canon Street, from the late 12th century onwards, though parts of the land were liable to flooding. The details of the development, particularly north and east of Canon Street, where the suburb may have directly abutted the Priory, have not been ascertained for this report. Further documentary study might be productive, as Post-Dissolution land grants recorded the late medieval state of some at least of the plots.

The area contains the site of a set of almshouses which, though not referred to directly as almshouses until the 19th century, may have been in existence at least by the early 17th century (R. Bush, *in litt.*, 1998). In the late 19th century the site was sold and two of the timber-framed buildings preserved: subsequent study of the timberwork and building construction suggests a date of 1500 or earlier. The best surviving parts of these have been combined and restored in the late 20th century and the resulting reconstruction stands in the Castle courtyard (McDowall & Jeffries, 1962).

Other archaeological interventions in the area have been limited. A site at 18 St James Street, just west of St James' Church, produced 13th and 14th century pits and Post-medieval walls, succeeded by a late 18th century house (Bennett, 1974; and Bennett in Leach 1984, p98). A watching brief on the Octagon Chapel site in Middle Street (SMR 44444), which was in the backs of the medieval plots, also revealed 12th to 19th century rubbish pits, and finds included a carved stone head which had probably from the Priory. These finds show relatively early medieval occupation in the area, but have provided only limited information of the kind of activities expected to have been going on there. We know, for example, from the finds of medieval tiles by grave diggers in St James' churchyard that a kiln existed somewhere in the area - perhaps close to the Priory site, which it was presumably supplying - but this has not yet been located.

The suburb of St James was badly damaged during the Civil War and, apart from St James' Church, no buildings of known medieval origin survive in the area, though two of 17th and 18th century origin are recorded in the List (SMR LB 46077, 46081).

The marked areas are from the 1791-1840 maps.

TAU/447

The Vicarage

Adjoining the St James Street suburb, but separated from it by the town ditch, was the medieval Vicarage. The building itself (SMR LB 45938, 45939) appears largely 16th and 17th century but may contain elements of the medieval structure, and it is possible that remains of other medieval structures, and gardens, may also survive within the grounds.

From the 1791-1840 maps.

TAU/423

East Reach, shown on Map D

Development along East Reach was also encouraged by the Priory, which owned the land on the north side of the road, and it was continuously built up in the medieval period. Medieval property boundaries still partly survive at the western end of the street, though the eastern end has been more radically affected by later 19th and 20th century road and residential developments. The actual limits of medieval suburban development remain to be established, though it is possible that the suburb extended nearly as far as St Margaret's Hospital (see p31).

The area became one of the more industrialised of Taunton's suburbs in the post-medieval period. It contained many poor quality clothworkers' dwellings (Bush, 1977) and there was a workhouse on the north side of the road by 1735; the area did, however, acquire two theatres by the end of the 18th century. The Tancred Street evaluation (SMR 44445; Collard, 1987a,b; Collard, Wait & Croft, 1988) put small trenches into the western end of the East Reach suburb, immediately east of the town defences and close to the Stockwell Stream. Results did not indicate intensive activity beside the ditches until the late 18th and 19th century, when this area contained a tannery (Murless, 1985). Closer to the street frontage, the western end of East Reach, is likely to be archaeologically complex. Here the intersection of the medieval East Gate itself (p27), and of the 'islands' of property which stood in the street (R. Bush, *in litt.*, 1998) with the Hureditch (p26), the Civil War defences (p28) and Silver Street, remain to be sorted out. Like the St James Street suburb, East Reach suffered during the Civil War and no buildings of Listable quality of known medieval or post-medieval origin survive on East Reach.

The areas shown represent the extent of development on the 1791-1840 maps. It is possible that the entire area was already occupied in the medieval period, though this remains to be established.

TAU/428

St Paul's, shown on Map D

In the earlier medieval period, and possibly before that (see p17), some settlement in the St Paul's area, west of the stream, is recorded in the Pipe Rolls, which refer to a chapel (see p31), a barton and a pound. There was certainly some form of occupation in the 12th century, for the excavations at Benham's Garages in the 1970s (SMR 44466; Leach & Pearson in Leach 1984, p37) located structures of that date. However, on this particular site occupation was soon abandoned, or deliberately cleared, and the area used as a rubbish dump and for stock watering and flood overflow. The Castle stables are documented as having been in that area, and the excavations found evidence of trackways down to the stream. But even these activities were interrupted by the flooding of the late 13th and 14th centuries, which appears to have turned the area into a pool for a while. It was not fully reclaimed until the 18th and 19th centuries, though some remains of 17th century occupation (erroneously interpreted as the remains of a medieval friary) were recovered in the 19th century from an area just outside the 'Great Gate' (R. Bush, *in litt.*, 1998).

Further from the Castle and borough perimeters, and from the stream valley, there is little information on the extent of settlement in the medieval period. It may have remained a barton (Bush, 1977) - perhaps relocated to the west because of the wholesale reorganisation of the town in the early medieval period. Or it may have developed into a small suburb, as yet unlocated but probably centring around the chapel and possibly extending south of the road (Leach, 1984: Fig 26). If so, it was abandoned as the area grew wetter. By the early 18th century much of the land

was in the hands of the Gale family, who had a house in the area: by 1706 they had erected a locked gate across the road, claiming it was a private route. The road did not become public again until the 19th century (Bush, 1977).

Because of the waterlogging of deposits in part at least of the St Paul's area, important archaeological information relating to the medieval or earlier periods may survive. So, though there have been some very destructive modern developments, St Paul's remains an area of great potential interest.

The areas shown as part of St Paul's are of two types. The first includes post-medieval plots shown on the 1791-1840 maps. The second includes conjectural areas possibly occupied in the medieval period: these are based in part on Fig 26 in Leach, 1984.

TAU/312

Wilton, shown on Map D

A possible early settlement area close to the chapel is shown on Map D, but this is extremely conjectural. The later suburb of Wilton is discussed below.

The area shown is highly conjectural.

TAU/420

Shuttern and Wilton, shown on Map D

Shuttern became the western suburb in the later medieval period. Documentary references show that it was developing by the mid 13th century, but in the next century it was about the limit of dry land. The extent of later medieval occupation is unclear, for Savage (1822) states that it was once more populous than it appeared in the early 19th century. It may have been a poorer suburb than those patronised by the Priory, and probably contained informal cottage and mean housing developments. The area changed as the Gaol was established (see p63) and the Grove was built on the north side of the road, both probably replacing medieval cottages. To the north of the house, a weir was built across the stream and this, together with poor sewerage at the expanding Gaol caused problems in the early 19th century. The area underwent considerable further changes in the 19th century, when Shire Hall was built.

Very few details of the suburban development at Wilton, adjacent to Shuttern, have been obtained for this report. It is likely that the area contained larger, more desirable properties - as it did in the 19th century - such as Wilton House (SMR LB 46035), built in 1705.

The areas shown as part of Shuttern are of two types. The first includes post-medieval plots shown on the 1791-1840 maps. The second includes conjectural areas possibly occupied in the medieval period: these are based in part on Fig 26 in Leach, 1984. Most of the plots in Wilton are from the 1840 map.

TAU/422

North Town, shown on Map D

Little is known about the development of North Town, which lay on Priory land, though suburban occupation is referred to by the late 13th century. This probably stretched up to the Staplegrove Road junction, where St Thomas' Fair (see p34) may have been centred (Dunning & Pearson, 1975). The pattern of post-medieval development (which may, however, be misleading), suggests that suburban development was concentrated on the east side of Bridge Street, and around the junction, with land to the west and north remaining largely open. Bush (1977) implies that both Flook House (named after a family recorded in North Town tithing in the 13th century) and Yarde House (named as early as the mid 17th century according to Savage), which dominated the area in the 18th century, originated as medieval farms before being rebuilt as gentlemen's residences in the post-medieval period. Flook House survives, though its extensive gardens have been obliterated. The area was electing its own mayor in the 18th century (R. Bush, *in litt.*, 1998), but was noted only as a hamlet by Savage in the early 19th century: it subsequently became much developed, largely due to the construction of the canal and railways.

No buildings of known medieval or post-medieval origin in this area are included on the List, and the state of archaeological survival is largely unknown. Exceptions occur at the south end of Bridge Street where good preservation of deposits sealed at depth during the construction of Tone Bridge has been demonstrated (Dunning & Pearson, 1975). An evaluation in 1992 (SMR 44453) showed that no medieval occupation underlay the 19th century buildings along the east side of Black Horse Lane (near the present Safeways) and that this area (to the east of the possible occupation areas marked on the map) was a rubbish dump - albeit one producing valuable assemblages of ceramics - in the 18th century (Woods, 1992).

The areas shown are from the 1791-1840 maps. They include both Yard and Flook House, together with isolated developments to the west along Staplegrove Road: some of these areas are likely to be of post-medieval rather than medieval origin. Also shown (differently shaded) are other roadside areas which may have been occupied but - if so - were unoccupied at the time the post-medieval maps were made.

TAU/505

Post-Medieval suburban development

The distinctions between medieval and post-medieval suburbs are not clear in Taunton. Documents show that medieval suburban activity was extensive and even areas marked on Maps C and D as being of possibly post-medieval origin - where they overlie major medieval features, such as the Vivarium, the Priory or the town ditch - may in fact have already been occupied in the later medieval period. Some - including the areas of the Priory which became a farm and a private house - certainly were. But others, such as the site of Wilton House (SMR LB 46035), built in 1705, are unlikely to have been.

The areas shown are from the 1791-1840 maps.

4.4.g Industrial sites

(a) Mills

TAU/409

The Castle mills (SMR 44491, 44395)

There are a number of documentary references to at least two phases of medieval castle mills at Taunton. It is recorded that the original corn mill (SMR 44491) was moved in the early 13th century to allow the construction in 1218-19 of a fulling mill (SMR 44395) and, indeed, a new leat system. This fulling mill is of some importance, for it may have been one of the earliest of the new water-powered fulling mills in the West country. Later medieval references occur to the moved corn mill, which was housed in the same building as a malt mill.

None of the medieval mills has been definitely located, though in the documents they are consistently referred to as being by, below or against, the Castle. The "obvious" site for at least one of them is therefore that occupied in the 19th century by the Town Mills (see p65). Excavation of the Town Mills site in the 1960s (P A Langmaid, 1968) failed to identify a mill site. The excavator in fact suggested that the site had only been reclaimed from the river in the second half of the 19th century. Since the historic maps clearly refute this, it appears more likely that the construction of the 19th century mill was particularly destructive. Excavations in Mill Lane in 1980 found an early leat, predating the establishment of Mill Lane and possibly contemporary with an early phase of the Keep. The course and direction implied it was running off a feature to its west and heading round towards the Town Mills site (Burrow, 1980). It therefore still seems that the area directly to the north of the Castle is the most likely site both for the early corn mill and for the fulling mill which replaced it. Whether any remains of the mill survive will need to be reassessed, should any further work take place between the Town Mills site and the Castle.

It is not clear how far the corn mill was moved in the early 13th century. It may have been very close to the fulling mill, given the apparent references to it being below the Castle. However, this remains uncertain. Hunt & Pearson (1973) suggest the mill was almost due north of the Castle Westgate, but there appears to be no evidence for this.

The marked area is based on the 1791-1840 maps together with excavation evidence, but remains conjectural.

- TAU/410 Poolwall Mill (SMR 44396)
There are medieval references to New Mill, later known as Poolwall Mill, which stood close to the Vivarium on what is now Upper High Street. It may have been in existence as early as the 13th century. It was converted to a silk factory in the late 18th century.

From the SMR.

- TAU/503 Other early mills, shown on Map D
Another potential mill site is suggested by the Buildings List, which indicates a building of possible 17th century origin on Tower Lane (SMR LB 46194) as having perhaps originated as a mill.

The area is conjectural, based on the analysis contained in the Buildings List.

- Not mapped There are documentary references to a fulling mill and mill house built “at Firepool” (SMR 44393), between Obridge and the Town Mills, in the medieval period (Bush, 1977; *in litt.*, 1998). This was purchased by the Tone River Conservators in 1763 and demolished in order to improve navigation. The exact site is unknown.

(b) Other industrial sites

- TAU/421 Racks
According to Bush (1977), drying racks were widespread along the Tone. The only site identified for this report - Coal Orchard (which used to be called Rack Hay) is shown on the map. Other sites could probably be identified through more detailed research, but their archaeological importance is limited.

The area is approximately that of Coal Orchard.

- Not mapped Grave diggers in St James churchyard in the 19th century reported stacks of inlaid tiles suggestive of a nearby tile kiln (Dunning & Pearson, 1975). These may have been associated with the Priory construction, like the bell pit discovered beneath the cemetery levels of the Priory (see p31). A later bell foundry was in operation from 1584 to 1832 (Bond, c1990).

The County Hotel evaluation (Piggott, 1995; Wessex Archaeology 1995b) suggested that small scale quarrying was taking place in the 12th or 13th century within the town core in the area to the back of East Street and Fore Street.

4.4.h Agricultural sites

- TAU/406 The Vivarium (Fishponds, Vivary Park) (SMR 44388), *shown on Map D*
There are many references in the medieval documents (including the Winchester Pipe Rolls) to two fishponds, in existence by 1207-8, which lay just beyond the medieval Town in what is now Vivary Park. These were large enough not only to supply the Castle but also to provide large quantities of fish for the Bishops’ feasts in Winchester, or on occasion for royal banquets. The documents show that at least by the 14th century the Vivarium covered at least 70 acres; and there are frequent references in the later medieval period to repairs of dams, walls, sluices and fishtraps and to dredging activities. The Great Pond was controlled by a dam and causeway (SMR 44487) which ran between the Poolwall mill stream and the Gaol Stream. The ponds eventually silted up but their presence is commemorated in the name of Vivary Park.

The exact plans of the ponds are not known, but a sewer trench cut through the area in 1982 may have established their approximate locations (Clements, 1982). This revealed two hollows filled with black, organic deposits which may have been pond silts. The larger was traced for nearly 75

metres across the area which is now the golf course and the smaller was near the fountain in Vivary park itself. Clements (1982) records that previous work in the park and on the golf course had encountered similar deposits which were not recorded archaeologically.

The area marked includes the sites of the two main fishponds as detected by trenching through the area. It has been extended to include an area of approximately 70 acres through which the Sherford Leat runs straight. However, the southern part of the area should be regarded as highly conjectural.

4.5 Archaeological components (outlying area), shown on Maps E1-E9

For the outlying area, medieval and post-medieval settlements and other features are considered together with other evidence for pre-1800 settlement: see below.

5. PRE-1800 SETTLEMENT (OUTLYING AREAS) (Maps E and E1 - E9)

Within the confines of the Assessment project only limited research could be carried out for the outlying areas of Taunton. The following should not, therefore, be regarded as a complete archaeological assessment.

Most of the material within this section is arranged by historic (Tithe Map) parish (ignoring the small detached parts). The maps also follow this pattern, though an overall map has also been produced..

5.1 Archaeological work

Archaeological coverage over such a wide area has of course been variable. The whole area has been overflown for aerial photographs, and many sites, some of possible medieval or post-medieval date, thereby identified (these are detailed in the SMR). A major programme of survey and excavation took place in the early 1970s in advance of the construction of the M5 and this too produced much information along the course of the motorway, which passes to the south and east of the town. Apart from these projects, archaeological study has been much more localised and quite limited. Local groups and individuals have produced studies of aspects of Priorswood (Cheddon Field Group, 1992) and Trull (Gree, 1993), based on field survey. Actual excavation of Saxon to medieval sites, however, has been restricted to a relatively small number of sites. These include the area's most notable monument - Norton Fitzwarren hillfort (see pp6, 48) - and a few of the sites under threat (chiefly Maidenbrook, Nerrols and Hankridge farms, east of the town).

Archaeological understanding of the development of the area around Taunton therefore remains exceedingly fragmentary, though its potential has been demonstrated by the aerial photographic and M5 survey programmes. There is very little evidence of the relationship between the Saxon and the later settlement patterns, for example, nor of the role of Norton Fitzwarren - which later accounts suggest was itself a place of some importance - in the medieval period and afterwards. Many other questions of local and wider interest could easily be listed.

5.2 Archaeological context

(to be completed later)

5.3 Standing structures and visible remains

Many of the historic settlements around Taunton retain their street plans, together with some Listed Buildings of medieval or post-medieval origin: the latter are mentioned where appropriate in the text. Others, such as the hamlets of Holway or Galmington, or the farms at Musgrove and Hankridge, have been swallowed and obscured (or destroyed) by the growth of 20th century suburbs.

The Listed Buildings of known medieval or post-medieval origin are shown on the appropriate maps.

5.4 Archaeological features (by parish)

5.4.a Bishop's Hull

(Map E1)

Bishop's Hull was part of the infaring (the direct holdings) of the Bishop of Winchester, a connection commemorated in its name. The inner part of the parish, which lies within the town centre, has been considered in previous sections.

(a) Roads

TAU/510

Pre-1800 roads

Most of the pre-1800 road network in the parish of Bishop's Hull survives, with the exception of the old road from Taunton to Wellington via Galmington, which was replaced in the 19th century by the new turnpike road to Wellington. The new turnpike also resulted in the downgrading of the other main route from Taunton (itself an early turnpike), which ran through Bishop's Hull village; this still survives as a local road.

Most of the roads shown are taken from the 1791 map for Toulmin's history and the 1802 OS drawings, with others from the local maps for Barr (1790) and Roughmoor (1718).

(b) Military sites

TAU/532

Gibraltar

Spencer (1911b) suggests that a defensive position associated with the presence of the Tangier Regiment in town existed here to guard the ford and bridge near Long Run Farm and Mill. He suggests that buildings other than the mill existed on the site, and that traces of earthworks were once visible.

From a sketch map in Spencer (1911b).

(c) Burial sites and places of worship

TAU/437

Bishop's Hull Church (SMR 43820)

The earliest references to a church at Bishop's Hull are from the early 12th century, when the Great Tithes were granted to Taunton Priory. Fabric of the early 13th century and later survives in the Grade I Listed church (SMR LB 40444): the chancel and tower are largely 16th century, but the building was restored and enlarged in the 19th century.

Some archaeological observations have been made within the church in the last 20 years (Ellis & Levitan, 1980; McCrone, 1993a). A small watching brief inside the church in 1989 found evidence of a layer of make up under the chancel, which had been cut through by medieval and later graves. This may mean that underlying structures - if any - will have been protected.

The marked churchyard is from the 1843 Tithe map.

TAU/506

Stonegallows (SMR 43361)

A 1615 petition refers to the execution of convicted murderers at this site at least by the late 16th century, and the site was probably in use from the medieval period until 1810, when the last execution took place there (Bush, 1988b; *in litt.*, 1998). Though the gallows were taken down in the 19th century, it is possible that burials may have been made on the site.

From the SMR.

(d) Manor houses and estates

TAU/438

Bishop's Hull Manor House (SMR 44057)

The Grade II* Listed manor house at Bishop's Hull (SMR LB 40441) is 16th century or earlier. Whilst it may stand on the site of an earlier - perhaps even a pre-Conquest - Bishop's residence, Bush argues that the documentary evidence for the landholding suggests otherwise and that it was an ordinary tenement remodelled in the 16th century (R. Bush, *in litt.*, 1998). The standing

building has been the subject of architectural study (the Buildings List refers to an unpublished Vernacular Architecture Group report held in the SRO), but little attention has been paid to the below ground archaeological potential of the site (which has already been reduced by modern development close to the house). Remains might include those of earlier stone and timber structures of variable quality, together with their associated gardens and outbuildings.

The area shown includes the house itself and land which was orchard in the 19th century to its east. It seems possible that considerably more land may once have been attached to the rear of the house, but no early maps were available: further documentary research might clarify the extent of the manor house grounds.

The area shown is from the 1802 and 1843 maps.

(e) Settlement

As well as the village of Bishop's Hull, the parish contained by the late post-medieval period a number of other hamlets and farms.

TAU/518

Bishop's Hull

Settlement at Bishop's Hull may date from before the Conquest, and it was the head of one of the Taunton Deane hundreds by 1207. By the time of the earliest maps (the earliest available detailed map is the Tithe Map of 1843) it consisted of a number of rather spread out farms and houses. Three of known 17th century date survive on the fringe of the village (SMR LB 40443, 40448, 40449), and others may also do so. Whether the late 18th/ early 19th century settlement pattern reflects the earlier ones is entirely unknown at present, but it is known that quite extensive developments have taken place within the village in the later 19th and the 20th centuries. Whilst some of these have been of interest in their own right - the settlement contains a number of Listed 19th century buildings (not shown on Map E1), they may have damaged the archaeology. Given the potential importance of the settlement - there is even an outside chance that the "first Taunton" (the fortified site demolished by Ine's wife in the 8th century) may have been located here - it is a matter of some interest to establish the character and quality of archaeological deposits wherever possible.

The settlement areas shown are from the 1802 and 1843 maps.

TAU/509

Roughmoor

Roughmoor House is of at least 17th century origin. It is depicted on a map of 1718, on which are named the owners from the early 17th century onwards. The map shows the early 18th century house, gardens, and outbuildings to the south, as well as surrounding closes, and it appears to show a watercourse, since disappeared, running to the south of the enclosure. However, the details and the exact extent of the farmyard to the south are hard to determine because of later changes in the landscape. Because the area, now Roughmoor House, has been little disturbed it is possible that significant archaeological remains of the post-medieval farmyard will survive.

From the 1718 map.

TAU/516

Barr, Frethey, Upcott & Fideoak

The prosperous post-medieval farm and house complexes at Barr and Frethey are depicted on a map of 1790, which also shows gardens (subsequently orchard) to the west and ponds to the south at Barr. The surviving 17th century farmhouse at Barr (SMR LB 40437) lies east of the lane, with an early 18th century cottage west of the road (SMR LB 40438). But the 1790 map also marks the site of the "old barton" well to the north, adjacent to the river: this site has probably been affected by later river works, though it is possible that some archaeological remains may survive.

Upcott is not shown on the 1790 map, but here too Listed 17th century farmhouses (SMR LB 40467, 40470) are accompanied by an early 18th century dwelling, in this case a more substantial

country house, Upcott Hall (SMR LB 40469).

The areas shown are from the 1790, the 1802 and the 1843 maps. The site of the old barton is approximate.

TAU/517

Rumwell

Rumwell was an agricultural hamlet on the Bishop's estates. It probably existed as a settlement by the early 13th century, when it was the head of a tithing (R. Bush, *in litt.*, 1998). One farmhouse of known medieval origin survives (SMR LB 40458), together with two others of at least 17th century origin (SMR LB 40459, 40463). An 18th century or earlier inn (SMR LB 40457) was built on the turnpiked road rather than the lane winding past the earlier farms.

Though Rumwell Hall itself is a 19th century building (SMR LB 40462), it may have replaced an earlier structure: the grounds are already visible on the 1802 map.

The areas shown are from the 1802 and 1843 maps.

TAU/534

Other settlement

Other pre-1800 farms and occupied plots included Long Run Farm, east of Roughmoor. Two small plots actually in the parish of Bradford are also included.

(f) Mills

One mill at Bishop's Hull is mentioned in the Domesday Survey (1086). By the post-medieval period there was a string of them along the river.

TAU/531

Mills

The site of the mill referred to at Domesday is not known. Nor are the sites of the Bishop's mills (SMR 43370) referred to in medieval documents, which record both the construction of a second (fulling) mill at Bishop's Hull in the mid 13th century, and the destruction of the mill(s) during the 14th century floods. It was not repaired for some years.

The closest of the Post-Medieval sites to Bishop's Hull village is that containing Bridge House (SMR 43371, SMR LB 40454), itself an old mill building. Two mills existed here in the Post-Medieval period and it may, therefore, be that the site does indeed represent the earlier medieval (and, *perhaps*, the pre-Conquest) milling site. The area between the known mills is therefore marked on Map E1 as an area of potential interest.

Other mills (from west to east) include the following:

Fideoak Mill (SMR 43369), which was in existence by the turn of the 19th century, but may have been much earlier. The site is in continued industrial use; some remains of the earlier milling activity survive, though the leat off the Tone is partly filled in.

Longaller Mills (SMR 43363), which were in existence by 1719. They had a complex history, functioning at times as flour mills, at other times as a clothing factory or flax processing plant (R. Bush, *in litt.*, 1998). Part of the 19th century mill building (SMR LB 44638) survives with the machinery.

Greenbrook Mill, near Roughmoor, which is shown on the late 18th/ early 19th century map but may be earlier.

Long Run Mill (SMR 43365), which is shown on the 1718 map of Roughmoor. This portrays a mill, house and stables straddling a leat off the river, the early 18th century course of which is also shown at this point. The mill leat formed an island in the river, which was occupied by a nursery belonging to Roughmoor.

The mill and leat sites are from the 1718 and the 1802/1843 maps.

(g) Other industrial sites

TAU/535

Other industrial sites

Other industrial sites noted in Bishop's Hull include a possible old brick making and/or clay digging site at Barr (marked as Brick Orchard on the 1790 map: SMR 44623), and a smithy at Upcott.

Both sites are from the 1790 map of Barr.

*5.4.b Bradford**(Map E1)*

Only the very easternmost corner of Bradford on Tone is included in the study area and this is considered with Bishop's Hull (above).

*5.4.c Cheddon Fitzpaine**(Map E2)*

Cheddon Fitzpaine, which occurs in the Domesday Survey as *Opecedne* (Upper Cheddon) and *Cedne* (Cheddon) was part of the Taunton Deane estates before the Conquest, but was granted away after the Conquest. It was held so long by knight's service that in the end it became lay property and not subject to the Bishop in the way other parts of the estate were (Savage, 1822). The area included in the study, which is only the southern part of the parish, also includes Maidenbrook, which is mentioned as a separate landholding (*Maidenbroche*) in the Domesday Book.

Some of the area of modern Cheddon Fitzpaine was previously included in Taunton St James (see p52).

(a) Roads

TAU/510

Pre-1800 roads

The pre-1800 network of roads in Cheddon remains much as it was, except for a realignment at Maidenbrook. The Cheddon Field Group has studied the trackways of the area, not all of which are shown on Map E2 (Cheddon Field Group, 1992).

The roads shown are from the 1791 and 1802 maps.

(b) Burial sites and places of worship

TAU/443

St Mary's Church, Cheddon Fitzpaine (SMR 43384)

Cheddon was not a dependent of the Priory and it is likely, therefore, that burials have been taking place in the churchyard since the medieval or the pre-Conquest period. The Grade I Listed church (SMR LB 40477) contains 13th to 16th century fabric, but was heavily restored in the 19th century. The restored remains of a 14th century cross stand in the churchyard (SMR LB 40478).

From the 1802 OS drawings and the 1837 Tithe Map.

(c) Manors and estates

Hestercombe is excluded from the study. For information on Priors Wood (TAU/416), see p52.

(d) Settlement

The area covered by the report includes Cheddon Fitzpaine, Rowford, Maidenbrook and Nerrols Farm.

TAU/520

Cheddon Fitzpaine

The history of Cheddon village has not been studied for this report, but further historical research would be of value in understanding its development. Its appearance on the early 19th century maps is that of a partially depopulated row village. For that reason some areas are shown which were not occupied at that date but may previously have been. This hypothesis requires to be archaeologically - or otherwise - tested, however, since the Rectory glebe land may have constrained building east of the road and south of the Church .

The north end of the village is dominated by the Old Rectory. The present building (SMR LB

40483) is of 19th century date, but it had at least one predecessor, shown on a 1783 map of Warre's estates. This map shows a complex of buildings with fishponds (SMR 43160) to the west and orchards to the east. Whether any medieval remains can be expected on the site is not clear without further research, but until proven otherwise it should be regarded as a possibility.

Elsewhere in the village there survive three or four 16th century or earlier buildings, including Glebe Farm (SMR LB 40482) and Glebe Cottage (SMR LB 40481), which may be of medieval origin, together with another farm and barn (SMR LB 40474).

From the 1802 and 1837 maps, except for the Rectory, which is from the 1783 map, and for the more lightly shaded areas east of the road and south of the church, which are partly conjectural.

TAU/444 Possible SMV at Cheddon Corner (SMR 43394)

Cropmarks visible in fields south of Cheddon Corner may represent house platforms of a shrunken settlement.

From the SMR.

TAU/307 Maidenbrook

There may have been continuous occupation at Maidenbrook from the Roman period onwards, as excavations in 1990 (McDonnell, 1990; Ferris, 1990; Ferris & Bevan, 1993) showed the existence of a Roman farmstead or settlement to the south-east of the present farm (see p12). There was certainly a separate landholding called Maidenbrook (or *Maidenbroche*) by 1086, for it is recorded in the Domesday survey, and this remained a separate manor - a sub manor of Cheddon - in the medieval period.

The post-Roman site has not been archaeologically identified, but may have been either on the site of the present farm or immediately to the south, where traces of a moat system, reused as fishponds (SMR 44012; McDonnell, 1990), are visible. Unfortunately work in progress at the time of writing has revealed that archaeological deposits may have been destroyed in this area by past stripping (R A Croft, pers. comm., October 1997). The present farmhouse (SMR LB 44636) is mostly 17th century and later, though it contains a late 15th century fireplace. In the late post-medieval period and 19th century there was a waterwheel on site (SMR 43393) fed by a leat and header pond; it is possible that this may have replaced an earlier mill.

The farm area is mapped from the work of McDonnell (1990).

TAU/521 Other settlement in Cheddon

The southern part of Cheddon Fitzpaine also includes the hamlet of Rowford and Nerrols Farm, together with a few other plots probably occupied before 1800. Rowford, one of the old ford settlements of the area, contains a 17th century farmhouse (SMR LB 44637), but may also contain the archaeological remains of much older occupation.

Nerrols Farm may have been associated with the manor of Maidenbrook. Bush (*in litt.*, 1998) suggests, on the basis of 17th century documentary evidence, that it may formerly have been called Norrals, or Northwalls, a name of potential significance, given the farm's position in relation to both Maidenbrook and Priorswood. The farmhouse also dates from the 17th century, but may be an adaptation of an earlier house (Williams, 1992). The possible site of another building was discovered by fieldwalking to the west of the present farm (Cheddon Field Group, 1992).

From the 1802 and 1837 maps.

(e) Mills

TAU/536

Mills in Cheddon

The southern part of Cheddon Fitzpaine was not a major milling area. However, the SMR records an overshot waterwheel (SMR 43156) fed by a leat and culvert at Nerrol's Farm.

From the SMR.

Not mapped

The SMR also records the existence of a waterwheel (SMR 43393) at Maidenbrook Farm, within the area indicated above.

(f) Other industrial sites

TAU/537

Other industrial sites

Also noted in Cheddon is the site of a smithy at Rowford.

From the 1882-1889 maps.

5.4.d Kingston St Mary**(Map E5)**

Only the very southernmost tip of Kingston St Mary is included in the study area and this is considered with Taunton St James (p52).

5.4.e Norton Fitzwarren**(Map E3)**

The area which became the parish of Norton Fitzwarren, that around the prehistoric hillfort and centre, was of importance from an early period. The hillfort has been suggested as a possible location for the early Saxon fortified site, the first Taunton referred to in Anglo-Saxon documents. In the medieval period, Norton was part of the Bishop's Outfaring, the estates not under his direct control, and was split into two manors; during the medieval and post-medieval periods Norton itself became (or remained) an important settlement in its own right. Early 19th century accounts state that it was "formerly populous but now greatly reduced in the number of houses and inhabitants" (Savage, 1822). The part of the parish under consideration (the eastern part) also includes the large hamlets of Langford and Fitzroy and the smaller ones of Ford, Fenhampton (or Venhampton) and Norton Rectory.

(a) Roads

TAU/510

Pre-1800 roads

There have been few changes to the pre-1800 network of roads in Norton Fitzwarren, with the exception of the realignment of the Milverton road to bridge the railway.

From the 1791 and 1802 maps.

(b) Military sites

TAU/107

Norton hillfort

It is possible that the hillfort at Norton Fitzwarren was reused by the Saxons under Ine during the expansion of Wessex in the 8th century. Evidence for this consists mainly of folklore, in the form of the legend of the dragon (the emblem of Wessex) which ravaged the area from Norton. No archaeological evidence of Saxon occupation of the site has yet been forthcoming, but the possibility can certainly not be ruled out.

For main entry, see p6, 48.

From the SMR.

(c) Burial sites and places of worship

TAU/308

Norton Fitzwarren Church (SMR 43396)

Norton Fitzwarren church was certainly in existence by 1219, but it may be of pre-Conquest origin. Saxon masonry has been recorded in the church building, though it is not absolutely

certain that these fragments are original to the site. The Grade I Listed church (SMR LBM 40587) also contains 13th century fabric, but parts of the church were virtually rebuilt in the 19th century.

Norton was not a dependent of the Priory and burials will therefore have been taking place in the churchyard from at least the medieval period. The churchyard and the church interior may also contain the remains of previous ecclesiastical structures.

The churchyard is mapped from the 1839 Tithe Map.

(d) Manors and estates

Collinson records that two manors existed in the medieval period, the larger (Norton Fitzwarren) eventually swallowing the smaller (Norton-Veel). However, insufficient information was obtained during the writing of this report to sort out the locations and relationships of the possible manor sites (see also below, p68).

TAU/436 Norton Court (SMR 44084)
The present Norton Court House (SMR LB 40594) is a late 16th or early 17th century house in grounds reduced by the establishment of a brewery in the 19th century. The earlier history of the Court site was not researched for this report, but from maps as late as 1839 it appears to have lain within a much wider associated area which may have contained gardens and outbuildings, as well as - potentially - the site(s) of an earlier house(s) in the medieval and post-medieval periods. Much more historical - and archaeological - research will be needed for a reliable assessment of this site's archaeological potential.

The areas shown are from the 1839 map and the SMR.

Not mapped Norton deer park:
A document of 1317 refers to a deer park at Norton Fitzwarren belonging to the Bishop of Exeter. The location of this park is unknown: no signs of a park pale have been found.

(e) Settlement

TAU/522 Norton Fitzwarren
As mentioned above, Norton Fitzwarren, which is mentioned in Domesday (as *Nortone*), is reputed once to have been a more populous settlement than it had become in the early 19th century. Though the earliest available detailed map is from 1839 (the Tithe Map), this still shows the traces of the more vigorous medieval and post-medieval market settlement, which was as large as some of the smaller market towns of Somerset. Blocks of plots are set out north and south of the road both east and west of the Court. In 1839 some were vacant and others fragmenting, but it is likely that all were once occupied, perhaps intensively.

Extensive 19th and 20th century developments have taken place in Norton and, though the historic core is still discernible, no buildings of known pre-1750 origin have survived in Listable condition. It is possible that archaeological remains of medieval (or earlier?) settlement may survive, however, particularly in the area east of the Court and north of the road, which has seen less major development.

The areas marked are from the 1839 map.

TAU/523 Langford and Fitzroy
Langford is a large agricultural hamlet at a stream ford. It contains two Listed Buildings of known medieval origin (SMR LB 40583, 40584), together with another - the Grade II* Listed Gifford's Farmhouse (SMR LB 40585) - which is regarded as a particularly fine survival of a 16th century farmhouse. Langford has always been and remains slightly off the beaten track, and it is possible that archaeological remains of medieval or earlier occupation may be as well preserved as some of the standing buildings.

Few details of Fitzroy were obtained for this report. The 1839 map shows a complex of house, gardens and farm buildings. The only Listed element of the settlement is of 19th century date, however. (*Fitzroy is not shown on Map E3*)

The areas marked are from the 1839 map.

TAU/538

Other settlement in Norton

The several smaller settlements in the eastern part of Norton parish have not been studied in any detail for this report. Some may be of early (medieval or earlier) origin, whilst others will be relatively late. No Listed structures survive in any of the identified areas.

As well as roadside development on the major routes through the parish (at Cross Keys and Pen Elm, for example), the mapped areas include: the hamlet of Fenhampton, mentioned in medieval documents (Collinson, 1791), which now lies on the edge of Norton Camp and has virtually disappeared; the complex of buildings associated with Norton Parsonage to the north-west of the village itself; the hamlet of Ford, west of Norton village, mentioned as a separate landholding in Domesday (*Aeford*). The 1839 map shows that at the latter the road, which widened considerably at this point to accommodate the water, was flanked by farm buildings and possible mills (see below).

The marked areas are from the 1802 and 1839 maps.

(f) Mills

TAU/526

Mills in Norton

Two mills on the Norton estates are recorded in the Domesday Survey, but their locations are not known. One of the old mill sites in Norton may, however, be that directly to the south-west of the Norton Court complex. No details of this site, which was still in operation in the 19th century, have been obtained for this report. By 1839 there may also have been a mill on the farm north of the road at Ford, where the stream has clearly been artificially channelled. The SMR also records a post-medieval waterwheel (SMR 43404) at Ford Farm on the other side of the road (this has now been removed to Combe Sydenham).

The sites marked are from the 1839 map and the SMR.

5.4.f Pitminster

(Map E7)

Only the northernmost part of Pitminster parish, covering Staplehay, Kibbear and Canonsgrove, has been included in the survey. This area now lies largely within Trull parish, and parts of it did before the post-medieval period. The area has therefore been considered together with Trull (see p54).

5.4.g Ruishton

(Map E8)

Only the very westernmost corner of Ruishton is included in the study area, and this is considered with West Monkton (see p58).

5.4.h Staplegrove

(Map E4)

Staplegrove was one of the five hundreds of the manor of Taunton in the early 13th century, indicating a probable early (pre-Conquest?) origin to the settlement after which it was named (Shorrocks, 1992), and was one of the manors held directly by the Bishops in the medieval period. The southern part of the parish of Staplegrove is included in the coverage area of this report.

(a) Roads

TAU/510

Pre-1800 roads

The network of pre-1800 roads is still largely in place in Staplegrove, with the only major

alteration being the creation of Silk Mills road at the western parish boundary.

From the 1791 and 1802 maps.

(b) Burial sites and places of worship

TAU/435

Staplegrove Church (SMR 43567)

Staplegrove was a dependent chapel of the Priory, and the date at which it acquired burial rights was therefore relatively late. Burials may, however, have been taking place from the late medieval period and will have been doing so from the 16th century onwards. The Grade I Listed church (SMR LB 40606) contains 12th or 13th century fabric but has been much altered since. The churchyard contains a number of Listed Tombs, of which one (SMR LB 40607) is of 16th or 17th century date. It may also contain in its south-west corner the remains of a structure interpreted by Collinson as “a small cell or oratory”, associated with a “Priory Grange”, though Bush (*in litt.*, 1998) is sceptical about Collinson’s interpretation.

The churchyard is from the 1837 map.

(c) Settlement

TAU/524

Staplegrove

Settlement in the part of the parish covered by this report was somewhat dispersed and it is unlikely that a single site can be identified as a focus of early occupation. A mid 13th century survey lists only six tenants. The available maps (which are not particularly early) show no nucleated settlement around the church, but rather a small number of occupied plots

Some of the settlement shown may originally have been associated with the small Priory Grange which Collinson (1791) states existed at Staplegrove, and which was succeeded by the Rectory. In 1837 the new Rectory building (SMR LB 40605) lay directly to the north of the church but was associated with a largish area of land: it is possible that the remains of earlier buildings and garden features might lie within this area. Other plots, particularly that adjacent to the churchyard, may have been infill onto the wasteland (lightly shaded on the map) which was still evident on the early 19th century maps between the church and the road. Two Listed 17th century farmhouses survive in this area (SMR LB 40600, 40616). Another cluster of settlement was evident by the early 19th century at the turnpike junction, and this area contains a surviving 17th century house (SMR LB 46185).

A small hamlet, Whitmore, existed to the east of Staplegrove and there were several large farms, including Yallands, Fairwater and Staplegrove Farm. In the 18th or 19th century Fairwater, which was of medieval origin (Bush, 1977), was rebuilt as a house (SMR LB 46182) on the edge of town: it now forms part of Taunton School. Yallands too has been partly lost to development, though the 16th century farmhouse (SMR LB 40624) survives. The old Staplegrove Farm was a mill house (SMR LB 40622) by the early 19th century.

The areas shown are from the 1837 map.

(d) Mills

TAU/507

Staplegrove Mills

Staplegrove’s two streams lie at the western and eastern parish boundaries. The former drove two mills in the late post-medieval period, both of which may be of early origin. Staplegrove Mills (SMR 43568), was fed by a long leat from Kingston St Mary. Parts of the wheel bay were still visible when the SMR entry was written (1989), though the wheel pit was filled in. Bush (*in litt.*, 1998) has traced the history of the other mills (SMR 44006, 44470), recently known as Silk Mills, but formerly Backbridge Mills, back to the turn of the 16th century. At this date it was a fulling mill, but in 1780 a newly built grist mill and malt mill on the same site are documented. The mill was converted to a silk mill in 1802, but gutted by fire in 1833, and a factory was later built on the site, which is now bisected by Silk Mills Road.

The SMR also marks a channelled mill stream on the eastern edge of the parish.

From the 1837 map.

Not mapped Collinson (1791) implies that there was another mill on the east side of the parish. The site of this mill has not been located for this report.

5.4.i Taunton St James

(Map E5)

Part of the parish of Taunton St James, created out of Priory lands at the Dissolution, has already been covered with the town centre. The remaining area includes Priors Wood, Obridge, Rowbarton, Lyngford and Pyrland. Part of this area now lies within the modern parish of Cheddon Fitzpaine.

(a) Roads

TAU/510

Pre-1800 roads

Though some of the early routes survive, particularly in the western half of the area under the consideration, others have been obscured or destroyed by the suburban road developments which have taken place around Priorswood, Lyngford and Obridge. The Cheddon Field Group has studied the trackways of the Priors Wood area, not all of which are shown on Map E5 (Cheddon Field Group, 1992).

From the 1791 and 1802 maps.

(b) Water

TAU/527

The River Tone

From the 17th century onwards the River Tone was subjected to various alterations because of the Tone Navigation Scheme (which has not been studied in detail for this report: for historical details see Haskell, 1994). Some of these were relatively minor, such as the creation of locks - one near Obridge (SMR 44476) is mentioned as early as 1699. The intention in this area was to clear away the Obridge Mills (see p53). Whilst this did not occur within the lifetime of the scheme, the river channels and mill site shown on Map E5 at Obridge have since been significantly altered.

The river course is from the 1840 map.

(c) Military sites

Not mapped

Bush (1977; *in litt.*, 1998) mentions archery butts in Greenway Road in the mid 16th century, but the site is not known.

(d) Burial sites and places of worship

TAU/449

St Leonard's Chapel

There was a dependent chapel at Pyrland in the medieval period. Though the site has not been archaeologically established, Bush (*in litt.*, 1998) has identified a possible site on Cheddon Road from documentary evidence.

The site marked is from Bush (in litt., 1998).

(e) Manors and estates

TAU/416

Priorswood (SMR 44439)

The Priory held woodland north of the Tone as part of its estate. The Priorswood is referred to in a number of documents of both the medieval and the post-medieval period, which show that it was an important source of coppice and brushwood for the Priory.

The Cheddon Field Group has studied the extent of the wood (Cheddon Field Group, 1992), using documentary evidence (including survivals of field names such as Great Woods and Little Woods

on the Tithe Maps and Apportionments) backed up by field survey. Their work suggests that Priors Wood in one phase extended as far as the boundary of the Maidenbrook landholding to the east, which takes it into the current parish of Cheddon Fitzpaine, for which the documentary evidence of the woodland boundaries is less convincing than in Taunton St James (Cheddon Field Group, 1992). Nevertheless, here boundary banks may still survive in some places (near Nerrols Farm, for example: see also McDonnell, 1991a) now under threat from development: these banks could even represent pre-Conquest land boundaries. In other places (including the northern boundary of the wood), continuous lines of hedges may mark the boundary, whilst to the west the Kingston Stream is the suggested extent.

Within the area of the wood lies the site of Priorswood Farmhouse, now obliterated. Savage (1822) describes this as the Priory grange, and it probably served as a woodland management centre.

The area of the wood is taken from the work of the Cheddon Field Group (1992), whilst the site of Priorswood Farmhouse is from the 1802 and 1840 maps.

TAU/528

Pyrland Hall

The history of Pyrland has not been studied in any detail. Pyrland Hall (SMR LB 40495) is described in the List as being built c1760; whether the emparked area (SMR 43821) shown on Map E5 was established earlier than this has not been established for this report. If it was, then the archaeological remains of earlier houses and landscape features may survive. If not, then the remains of earlier occupation may still survive, closer to the site of Old Pyrland (see below). The area has seen little very damaging development, having been preserved as a private school, and features possibly of 18th and 19th century dates survive (SMR 43392, 43997).

The emparked area is from the SMR, whilst the site of the house is from the 1802 and 1840 maps. The old line of both an east-west drive and a north-south avenue are also shown, from the 1802 map.

(f) Settlement

TAU/515

Settlement in Taunton St James

The early settlement foci in the area which became Taunton St James were at Rowbarton, Obridge, Lyngford and Old Pyrland. Both Obridge and Pyrland were the heads of tithings by 1207 (R. Bush, *in litt.*, 1998), but very few details of these settlements, which have been badly affected by suburban developments have been obtained. Listed 17th century farmhouses survive at Lyngford (SMR LB 46232), Wellsprings (SMR LB 46054), Old Pyrland (SMR LB 40494) and Obridge (SMR 46113), the last two of which at least may be of medieval origin (Bush, 1977). Though much else has been lost, archaeological survival of possible medieval or earlier remains is a possibility on these and other sites in the parish. Further historical and archaeological research would be needed to clarify the situation.

The areas shown are from the 1802 and 1840 maps.

(g) Mills

TAU/429

Obridge (Lambrook) Mill (SMR 44478)

Mill weirs at Obridge (or *Tobrigge*) are referred to in medieval documents by at least the 15th century (Hugo, 1860; Bush, 1977). The early 19th century maps show a complex of mill buildings, ponds and leats, though the site had been purchased by the Tone Conservators in the mid 18th century with the intention of demolishing it. The mill has now been destroyed though it is possible that archaeological remains of the buildings and water system may still survive.

The marked site is from the 1802 and 1840 maps.

5.4.j Taunton St Mary

(Map E6)

Part of the parish of Taunton St Mary has already been covered as part of the town centre. The remaining part includes Holway (which was also the head of one of the five hundreds of the manor in the early medieval period) and Haydon.

(a) Roads

TAU/510

Pre-1800 roads

The pre-1800 road system in the south-east part of what was Taunton St Mary has been bisected by the M5, which has caused local realignments. West of the motorway, 20th century suburbs have obscured - but not destroyed - the old road lines.

From the 1802 map.

(b) Settlement

TAU/508

Holway and Haydon

Both Holway and Haydon consisted in the post-medieval period of a small core of one or two farms, probably originating in the medieval period (Bush, 1977), with a string of smaller farms and cottages strung out around a green to the north (shown more lightly shaded in each case). In the 20th century suburban sprawl of Holway, it is hard to locate the original settlement, which was probably in existence by the early 13th century (R. Bush, *in litt.*, 1998). Though fragments of its layout have survived, the surviving buildings are not of Listable quality.

Haydon has been much less damaged by later development and retains both its plan and several Listed structures, including the 16th century Haydon Farmhouse (SMR LB 40829) and the 17th century Haydon House and a contemporary brick outbuilding (SMR LB 40826, 40827). Important archaeological remains of earlier structures may survive on this site.

Other settlement in the area includes two farm sites in the vicinity of Haydon which were abandoned in the later 19th century (and may contain archaeological remains). Another abandoned barton site (SMR 43674) to the south of Dowsland Farm (now demolished) was identified during the M5 work.

The areas shown are mostly from the 1802 and 1840 maps, with the abandoned site south of Dowsland Farm being from the SMR.

5.4.k Trull (and Pitminster)

(Map E7)

The northernmost part of the 1839-42 parish of Pitminster, part of which was formerly within Trull, has been included in this section. The relatively large area under consideration contains a network of hamlets and farms, with a main settlement focus at Trull itself. Much of this area has been studied by C W Green (1993), whose work should be consulted for further details.

(a) Roads

TAU/510

Pre-1800 roads

Much of the pre-1800 road network shown on Map E7 survives, though parts of it have been realigned within the modern suburb of Comeytrowe and adjacent to the M5.

From the 1791 and 1802 maps, together with the 1805 parish map.

(b) Burial sites and places of worship

TAU/441

Trull Church and church properties (SMR 43696)

The recovery of evidence of pre-Conquest occupation in Trull village (see below) implies that an

early origin for the church is possible. Indeed it has been suggested that the roughly circular boundary of the churchyard as it appears on the 1842 Tithe Map is its original form (Hallam, 1953) - the implication being a possible association with an earlier enclosure. Since the 1842 plot between the church and the road was also church land, however, this may be a misleading impression.

There is no evidence that burials were being carried out before the late medieval period. Trull was a dependent of the Priory (and perhaps previously the minster) until the Dissolution. However, it acquired burial rights in 1476 and was a parish church by the 1530s. The churchyard contains a Listed 17th century tomb (SMR LB 40635) as well as a set of stocks. The Grade I Listed church itself (SMR LB 40633) contains 13th century and later fabric. Trull possesses a series of exceptional late medieval carved bench ends which are believed to be original to the building, though not necessarily in their original locations (McDermott, 1994). In addition an unusually early seating plan, dated 1569, forms part of a good collection of documentary sources for the church.

The church owned the field which lay between Mill Lane and Wildoak Lane, and this was known as Ladyland. On this land, adjacent to - or within - the churchyard, there also lay several other church properties. Chantry Cottage (SMR LB 40652), to the north of the churchyard, may have been a medieval priest's house (Green, 1993). To the south of this lay a row of buildings which may have included a tithe barn, church house and stables. This was converted into a school in the 18th century and subsequently demolished when the churchyard was enlarged and the new school built on the other side of the road. An almshouse was also established in 1623, to the east of the churchyard; this was removed in 1904.

Remains of not only early medieval (or Saxon) church buildings, but also the ancillary structures shown on historic maps, may survive in Trull churchyard. Together with the hints of an early origin to the site, they make it an area of great potential archaeological interest.

From the 1805 and 1842 maps.

(c) Manors and estates

TAU/439

Poundisford Park (SMR 43503)

Poundisford Park lies at the very edge of the area covered by this report and has not been studied in any detail. The SMR contains more information on the Park itself and on the house and other features (eg SMR 43506, 43507), including some possible evidence of pre-enclosure occupation found during the construction of the M5 through the park (eg SMR 43491, 43493, 43494; cf TAU/111, p8, p12).

The Park was part of the Bishop of Winchester's estate and may have been established by the 12th century, or even earlier: Vivian-Neal and Gray (1941) suggest that it had a Saxon predecessor. There are medieval references to both deer and wolves in the park (Bush, 1977). From the early 16th century onwards it was leased for agriculture. The pale (SMR 43502), which is probably from the first half of the 13th century, has a circuit of over three miles, and survives well in places.

Poundisford Park is included on the Parks and Gardens Register (Grade II), and most of the pale is Scheduled (SM Som 430).

From the SMR.

TAU/513

Batts

Batts probably existed by the mid 13th century (Green, 1993; Bush, 1977, *in litt.*, 1998), first as a farm and then as a substantial residence. In the 19th century the attached estate included Trull Mill and Haygrove Farm (see below) as well as the main house and park. Batts briefly became a school in the 19th century, but this closed late in that century. The house burnt down in 1937;

the site became a military camp, and has subsequently been redeveloped. However, it is possible that partial remains of the medieval and later farm and house complexes may still survive in places.

The areas shown are from the 1805 and 1842 maps.

(d) Settlement

(i) Trull

Trull has a dual settlement focus, one around the church and another around the green and Buces (later Trull) Farm.

TAU/309 Possible Pre-Conquest settlement at Trull

The eastern settlement nucleus, by Trull Church, is likely to have been early. 10th century and later potsherds have been recovered on a site not far west of the church (Newson, 1978: SMR 44624). No structural remains have yet been found, and the extent of the early settlement, which may have been very limited, has not been established.

The area shown is highly conjectural, based on the position of the church and the approximate position of the potsherds.

TAU/511 Trull and Eastbrook (pre-1800 settlement)

By the end of the post-medieval period Trull was a straggling settlement, stretching from Buces (Trull Green) Farm in the west down past the church and over the stream into Eastbrook. The Buces Farm focus consisted of the main farm together with further settlement around a green (shown more lightly shaded), which was already being infilled by 1805. Several Listed Buildings survive around the green, including part of a late medieval farmhouse (SMR LB 40649; Green, 1993), the 16th century (or earlier) Buces Farm and a later, 17th century, cider house (SMR LB 40646, 40647) and Kings Gatchell (SMR LB 40650), described in the List as 16th century and by Green as a converted medieval hall house (Green, 1993). These show that the settlement area was becoming established by the late medieval/ early post-medieval period and it may be that remains of earlier buildings survive on some of the sites, particularly Trull Green (Buces) Farm.

Farms and cottages also flanked Church Road. Of these, Haygrove Farm (SMR LB 41015), known as Batts Farm in the 19th century, when it formed part of the Batts estate) and Eastbrook House (previously also a farm) may be of medieval origin (Green, 1993). Other sites may also have been occupied in the medieval period.

Apart from the buildings studies by Green (1993), little archaeological information is available on Trull. However, there is enough to make it clear that some sites in the village may be of considerable interest and potential.

From the 1805, 1810 and 1842 maps.

(ii) Other areas

TAU/512 Dipford, Chilliswood and Comeytrowe

Dipford, Chilliswood and both Higher and Lower Comeytrowe may all contain elements of medieval origin. Most of the sites have not been heavily disturbed by later development, though Lower Comeytrowe is now part of the suburbs of Taunton. Several Listed farmhouses survive, attributed in the List to the 16th and 17th centuries but possibly earlier, and important archaeological remains of medieval - or possibly earlier - occupation may exist on some of the sites.

At Dipford, which was probably settled by the early 13th century since it was the centre of a tithing (R. Bush, *in litt.*, 1998), surviving buildings include Dipford Farm (SMR LB 40641). Here, ownership has been traced back to at least the 16th century and the farmhouse may be a converted medieval hall house (Green, 1993); Higher Dipford Farm (SMR LB 40643), also

possibly medieval; Boxenhedge (SMR LB 40640), at least 16th century (Green, 1993); and the 17th century Greenacres (SMR LB 40642).

Parts of the present Chilliswood Farmhouse (SMR LB 40631) date from the 16th and 17th centuries, but the history of the site has been in part traced back to the early 14th century (Green, 1993). An even earlier (mid 13th century) document notes the name of an inhabitant of "Chillewardeford", which is probably Chilliswood (R. Bush, *in litt.*, 1998).

Higher Comeytrowe Farmhouse (SMR LB 40630) is of at least 17th century origin and, though there are no Listed Buildings of known pre-1750 origin in Lower Comeytrowe it is likely that this too was a medieval farmstead or agricultural hamlet. The mid 13th century document referred to above also notes the name of one Randolph "de Comertroue" (R. Bush, *in litt.*, 1998).

The areas shown are mostly from the 1805 map.

TAU/514

Kibbear, Amberd, Staplehay, Sweethay and Canonsgrove

A document of the mid 13th century refers to inhabitants of Kibbear, Sweethay and Canonsgrove (R. Bush, *in litt.*, 1998) and this area also contains a large number of farm sites of possible medieval origin. At Kibbear, these include the site of Kibbear Cottages (SMR LB 41009), remnants of a late medieval or 16th century hall house (Green, 1993), whilst the surviving Kibbear Farmhouse (SMR LB 41010) is 17th century.

Amberd may have existed by the 13th century, though the name in its present form has not been recorded before 1735 (R. Bush, *in litt.*, 1998). The main house is 19th century, but the site contains 18th century landscape features and buildings including a haha and very unusual barn (SMR LB 40987). However, Amberd Farm (SMR LB 40986), across the road from the 18th century site, is of medieval origin; Green (1993) suggests that it may have been a longhouse, thus extending further to the west. Whether Amberd Farm was the original site or a supplementary site remains to be established archaeologically.

The group of farms constituting Staplehay includes sites of 16th/17th century - or earlier - origin, such as that of Spearcey Farm (SMR LB 41045). The SMR records a further abandoned barton (SMR 43522) to the south of Spearcey. Both Sweethay and Canonsgrove may include areas occupied in the medieval period. Green suggests that Lower Sweethay was the earliest site there, though Middle Sweethay Farmhouse (SMR LB 41047) is of 16th century or earlier origin. Higher Sweethay (Sweethay Court) may also be 16th century or earlier (Green, 1993); the SMR also notes the site of a post-medieval horse gin for pressing cider (SMR 43701). Excavations at Canonsgrove in 1971-72 in advance of motorway construction found medieval or post-medieval walls, metallings and a trackway in the south part of the farm (SMR 43511), as well as a heavy scatter of post-medieval rubbish to the south (SMR 43499).

Most of the marked areas are from the 1805 Trull map or the 1810 Pitminster map, with additional information from the SMR.

(e) Mills
TAU/539

Haygrove (Trull) Mill

A 1207 reference to Trendle Mill may refer to Trull Mill, though the boundaries later changed and the mill was in Pitminster for much of the post-medieval period. This mill belonged to the Batts estate in the 19th century, and operated until the mid 20th century, latterly as part of Haygrove Farm (Green, 1993).

From the 1810 map.

(f) Other industrial sites

Not mapped The SMR notes a field named Kiln Close near Canonsgrove. Though no sign of a kiln was found

in the M5 excavations, one may yet be found (SMR 43511).

5.4.1 *West Monkton and Ruishton*

(Map E8)

West Monkton, or *Monechetone* as it appears in the Domesday Survey, did not belong to the Bishop of Winchester, but was part of Glastonbury Abbey's estates. In fact, it was one of the Abbey's earliest endowments, being held from the 7th or 8th century, throughout the medieval period and until it was privately purchased in the 17th century.

Only the southern part of West Monkton parish (excluding the village of West Monkton itself) and the very westernmost corner of Ruishton are considered in this report. This area includes Bathpool, Monkton Heathfield and Sidbrook, as well as the farms around Hyde and Hankridge.

(a) Communications

(i) Roads

TAU/510

Pre-1800 roads

South of the river the pre-1800 road system has been greatly altered by 20th century suburban and motorway access routes, though this is not so on the north side of the river, where the pre-1800 road network largely survives.

From the 1791-1839 maps

(ii) Bridges

TAU/448

Bathpool Bridges

There were two bridging points at Bathpool, one across the mill run and one across the river meander to the north. The former was the narrower crossing until the making of the New Cut in the 19th century, at which time the bridge was rebuilt. Collinson refers to a stone bridge of two arches at Bathpool, though it is not absolutely clear which crossing is referred to.

From the 1791-1888 maps.

(iii) Harbour and quays

TAU/440

Medieval quays at Bathpool

There are 14th century records of trade goods - including raw materials, such as stone for Taunton Castle and food - being landed at Bathpool in the 14th century. There is no archaeological evidence of the location of the quays, and little enough is known about changes to the river in the area. However, it is possible that the landing area may have been either just east of Bathpool Bridge, or close to the other river crossing to the north-west, where an enclosure plan of c1830 shows a widening of the river. Archaeological survival is unknown.

The area shown is conjectural, based on the c1830 and 1837 maps.

(b) Water

TAU/527

The river

The course(s) of the River Tone at Bathpool were complex and the changes which took place in the medieval and post-medieval periods are not well understood. A better understanding of the history of the river - and the mill leats - in this area would be useful for distinguishing, for example, possible quay areas.

The river lines (and leats) shown on Map E8 are from the 1839 Tithe Map and the 1889 map.

(c) Burial sites and places of worship

TAU/504

Quaker burial ground

Before a burial ground was established behind the Meeting House in the town (p33), the Quakers had a burial site near Halcon Corner. This was in use by the mid 17th century and was still in use

in 1822 (according to Savage), though it later went out of use.

The burial ground is from the 1791 area map.

(d) Settlement

TAU/525

Bathpool

There were two foci of settlement at Bathpool, one around Bathpool Bridge and the mills, the other along the road to the north. Both consisted of a straggle of farms, cottages and inns. The mill settlement, which is marked on both the 1791 and the 1802 maps as the main hamlet, may once have been larger: evidence of occupation on sites not in use in the late post-medieval period was found during road developments (see below). There are no Listed buildings of earlier than 19th century date; the site has been badly affected by late 20th century developments, and much of the archaeological evidence may now have been destroyed.

The settlement which straggled along the road to the north was already in existence by 1802, though it subsequently became a canalside settlement and was the more important of the two foci by the later 19th century. There are no Listed Buildings, though archaeological survival may be better than to the south.

The areas shown are from the 1802 and 1839 maps.

TAU/101

Medieval occupation at Bathpool (SMR 43079)

On a site which also produced evidence of prehistoric occupation (see p8), an area of settlement enclosed by a bank and a ditch was excavated in advance of road developments in the 1970s (Bolton, 1972a). The ditch was up to 2 metres wide and 1.5 metres deep, and contained a number of interior structures. These included internal ditches and at least five phases of timber buildings. One of the latter, which was at least 20 metres by 25 metres in extent, was probably an aisled building, with internal partitions indicated by a series of stakeholes. The earliest of these features may have been 12th century or earlier.

A later (probably 14th century) medieval circular structure, interpreted as a limekiln, was also found on the site, as was late medieval pottery (15th and early 16th century). In the post-medieval period a series of large pits of uncertain significance was dug through earlier features.

From the SMR.

TAU/530

Monkton Heathfield and Sidbrook

By the end of the post-medieval period Monkton Heathfield and Sidbrook still consisted of a small number of farms concentrated around the Heath itself (shown more lightly shaded), which was enclosed in 1812 (R. Bush, *in litt.*, 1998), and the surrounding lanes. Archaeological remains may survive of some of these on the fringes of existing suburban development; one Listed Building of known post-medieval origin (SMR LB 40662) survives north of Sidbrook.

From the 1802 and 1839 maps.

TAU/529

Farms in the south part of West Monkton (and Ruishton)

Set back from the main roads through the south of the parish were a number of farms. South of the river, these have been badly affected by road and retail developments. It was the which latter prompted archaeological work at Hankridge in the early 1990s (Wessex Archaeology, 1995a). The surviving farm building (SMR LB 40656) may be 16th/17th century in origin, or perhaps late medieval. However, earlier (12th century) farm buildings were located in 1992 to the south-east of the existing farm. At Rexhill (Hyde), farm buildings of the 16th and early 18th century also survive (SMR LB 40665, 40666).

Most of the areas shown are from the 1802 and 1837 maps. The earlier Medieval farm at

Hankridge is from the Wessex Archaeology Report (1992).

(e) Mills

TAU/442

Bathpool Mills

Bathpool Mills (SMR 43084) were probably descendants of the medieval mills, owned by the Abbots of Glastonbury, which are referred to in several documents because of the obstruction to navigation they (and other mills downstream) caused (Bruce Watkin, in litt., 1993; Haskell, 1994; Hugo, 1860, p48f). The exact site of the medieval mills has not been located, but it may have been very close to the later, post-medieval, mills. The latter were burned down in 1812 and their replacements also burned in 1915 (see Haskell, 1994). The mills were not rebuilt. The site has subsequently been affected by the construction of the railway and of new river cuts, but it is still possible that archaeological remains of successive mill buildings or water systems may survive in places.

The area marked includes a complex of ponds, leats, together with known and possible mill sites. It is based on the 1839 Tithe Map.

5.4.m Wilton

(Map E9)

Part of the parish of Wilton has already been covered as part of the town centre. The remainder includes part of Wilton itself, Galmington, Musgrove and Sherford.

(a) Roads

TAU/510

Pre-1800 roads

Much of the pre-1800 road network of Wilton survives, obscured in 19th and 20th century suburbs. However, the old main route which passed to the north of Galmington, via a ford to the east (and is marked on the 19th century OS maps as a "Roman road"), is no longer in use and has virtually disappeared.

From the 1791 and 1802 maps.

(b) Water

For the Stockwell Stream (TAU/408), see p22.

(c) Burial sites and places of worship

For St George's Church (TAU/305), see p32.

(d) Settlement

For Wilton see TAU/312 (p39) and TAU/420 (p39).

TAU/519

Galmington

Galmington may have originated before the Conquest, and had a tithing named after it by 1207 (R. Bush, in litt., 1998). It remained a small nucleus of farms and cottages until it was swallowed by 20th century suburbs. At least one structure of medieval origin survives (SMR LB 46015), together with another of post-medieval origin (SMR LB 46016).

The areas shown are from the 1840 map.

TAU/540

Other settlement in Wilton

Wilton parish included no other settlement nuclei, but there were a number of substantial farms, some of which survive. Amongst those which do not is Musgrove Farm, though the 17th century (or earlier) farmhouse (SMR LB 45900) still stands. Other sites became more substantial residences in the post-medieval period. Sherford House (SMR LB 46136), for example, is dated 1679. At Fullands (see Bush, 1985), medieval documents refer only to the creation of fields,

though Bush suspects the existence of a house before the documented mid 17th century one. This was one of the largest near Taunton at the time, and had by the 18th century a range of outbuildings and gardens and an adjacent malthouse. The house was rebuilt in the early 19th century, was briefly an asylum in the 19th century and a school from 1839. It was renowned for its cricket pitch, which lay to the north of the house and housed Somerset County Cricket Club at first. The school closed in 1887.

From the 1802 and 1840 maps.

6. INDUSTRIAL (LATE 18TH AND 19TH CENTURY) **(Maps F and G)**

6.1 Archaeological work in the town/ Archaeological knowledge

Only certain aspects of Taunton's late 18th and 19th century heritage has been archaeologically investigated, and these have mainly been industrial in character. Individual studies have been carried out on, for example, the Taunton brickyards (Murless, 1977, 1981) or the Canals (Hadfield, 1967; Harris, 1973; Haskell, 1994) and these have in turn prompted excavations when such sites are threatened by development.

6.2 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.

Taunton was one of the thirteen existing boroughs and towns which were either Municipal Boroughs or Urban Districts at the end of the 19th century. These varied in character. Taunton was one of eight of the 45 towns (all eight of which were either Municipal Boroughs or Urban Districts) which were connected to both rail and canal networks during the 19th century. In all these cases, industrial activity was encouraged, and Taunton is one of the towns noted for its 19th century industrial remains. It is also one of seven of the 45 towns at which there was large-scale expansion in the 19th century.

6.3 Standing structures and visible remains

A great many Listed Building of late 18th or 19th century origin survive in and around Taunton - but particularly in the town centre, where there are particularly fine examples of Hammet's work. However, there are far too many buildings to mention individually here: for full details the List should be consulted.

The Listed Buildings of late 18th and 19th century origin in the central area are shown on Map F. The outlying buildings are not shown on Map G for the sake of clarity.

6.4 Archaeological components (centre), shown on Map F

6.4.a Redevelopment in earlier settlement components

Plan components discussed under earlier periods are shown more lightly shaded. Whilst much of Taunton town centre retained its medieval shape, encroachment onto the historic town plan began in the 19th century. This was particularly the case in the old Priory area, but it also occurred in the south-east corner of town (with the establishment of Billet Fields and Billet Street), and at (and to the west of) the Castle. A number of components have therefore been defined across areas formerly occupied.

6.4.b Communications

(a) Roads and streets

TAU/606 19th century roads and turnpikes

The Taunton turnpikes were amongst the earliest in Somerset. They mostly used existing roads, though obstructions in the town centre (particularly in the market place) had to be cleared away.

In the central area there were turnpike houses at the junction of Staplegrove Road and Station Road (earlier at Chip Lane: SMR 44377), Shuttern, Spittle (St Margaret's Hospital), and Silver Street (which had been earlier at Holway Lane). In 1851 the borough gates were moved further out to Wild Oak Lane, Halcon Corner, Stoke Lane and Cross Keys and a new gate was established at Wheatleigh Cross, Trull Road (the later gates are not shown). For more information on the turnpikes, see Bentley & Murless (1985) and Bush (1983).

As well as the turnpike programme, several important new roads were constructed in the 19th century. In the town centre these included Hammet Street (1788), the Crescent (1807), Billet Street and Billet Fields (1847), Park Street (1848) and Corporation Street (1894). In addition, networks of suburban streets began to be constructed in, for example, the St Augustine's area, and the Groves, or behind East Reach. The more important of these roads and streets are shown on Map F.

Turnpike information is from Bentley & Murless, 1985. The Holway Lane gate is from the 1802 map; the Silver Street gate is from the 1821 map; the Spittle and Shuttern gates are from the 1840 map; the Chip Lane gate is from the SMR.

Other 19th century roads are from the 1840 Tithe Maps and the 1888-90 OS maps.

(b) Railways

TAU/615

Railways

For main entry, see p67. The Bristol & Exeter main line station and railway yard area is shown on Map F.

(c) Canals

TAU/601

The Bridgwater and Taunton Canal (SMR 43826)

An Act authorising the construction of a canal between the Grand Western Canal (west of Taunton) and Bristol was passed in 1811. The construction of the Bridgwater and Taunton Canal began in 1822 and it was opened from Taunton to Huntworth (south of Bridgwater) in 1827. At Taunton the canal connected to the River Tone at Firepool, where there was a wharf (see TAU/605, below). The wharf also served traffic from the Chard Canal which connected with the Bridgwater Canal at Creech (outside the study area for this report).

The Canal Company acquired control of the River Tone in Taunton town centre from the Tone Conservators, and by 1834 constructed a short extension canal (SMR 44374) to bypass French Weir, where the Grand Western Canal was originally intended to terminate. This stretch of canal has been filled in, though its course can still be seen, as can part of a bridge which crossed it. In the event, the major junction of the two canals was built at Firepool by 1838.

The Canal was bought by the Great Western Railway in 1866, and fell into disuse by the early 20th century, though it has now been restored.

The SMR contains a number of records relating to Canal features in the Taunton area, including swing bridges (SMR 43085, 43154) and milestones (SMR 43834, 43993). However, for a full, detailed study of the Canal, the work of Haskell (1994) should be consulted.

The line of the Canal is from the several Tithe Maps of the late 1830s and early 1840s, with additional information from the SMR.

TAU/603

The Grand Western Canal (SMR 44126)

The Grand Western Canal has been the subject of considerable study and a number of publications are available which give more detail than can be included here (see Hadfield, 1967; Harris, 1973). The Canal was intended to form part of a link between Bristol and Exmouth. Its construction was fraught with difficulties and though the route was first surveyed in 1794, it was not until 1838 that

the canal between Taunton and Tiverton was finally open: no more of the proposed route was built.

Specific Canal features of interest recorded in the SMR include the Silk Mills Canal Bridge (SMR 44131) and aqueduct (SMR 44132). The nearby lift at Norton (SMR 44133) was one of the two Canal lifts which fall within the study area, the other (SMR 44129) being in Taunton near the Canal junction. The regulating lock (SMR 44128), which regulated the water levels at the canal's junction (SMR 44127) with the Bridgwater and Taunton Canal, also lay on the Grand Western, about 65 metres west of the canal junction.

The arrival of the railways made the canal unviable and it was first leased and later sold to the Bristol and Exeter Railway. The Taunton to Lowdells section of the Canal, which carried tub boats only, was closed in 1867. Parts of the Canal route, including the aqueduct (SMR 44130) across Station Road were subsequently reused for the railway and very little now remains of the route in Taunton itself. However, in other places, significant earthworks survive.

The line of the Canal is from the Tithe Maps and the 1880s OS 1:2500, with additional information from the SMR.

TAU/605

Firepool Wharf

Firepool Wharf took traffic from three canals, the Bridgwater & Taunton (TAU/601), the Grand Western (TAU/603) and the Chard Canal (not covered by this report). The wharf was primarily for coal traffic.

The wharf north of the Canals contained two limekilns which were later integrated into a pumping station (SMR 44376; SMR LB 44628) to provide water to the railway station after the Canal's transfer of ownership to the Railway. The pumping station initially used a hot air engine but was rebuilt to include a steam engine in the late 19th century; the remains of the lime kilns survived to form the base of the structure. The building went out of use in the 1960s.

On the west side of Firepool Lock was a further complex of buildings including an inn.

From the 1840 Tithe Map, the 1888 OS 1:500 and the SMR.

6.4.c Military sites

TAU/609

Jellalabad Barracks (SMR 44458)

The barracks on the Mount is not shown on the 1791 town map, but was built shortly after that date, in 1796/5/6, to house a cavalry regiment (R. Bush, *in litt.*, 1998). Until the mid 19th century, there was one major block in the yard, though some of the accompanying buildings (such as the Listed house, SMR LB 46088) to west and south were already in existence. Work on the site in advance of redevelopment (SMR 44455; Wessex Archaeology, 1994/38257; Graham, 1995; Bellamy, 1996) appeared to show that this barracks complex represented the first building development on this site, although this cannot be stated with confidence since extensive terracing clearly took place in preparation for its construction.

Between 1879 and 1881 a more elaborate complex of buildings was created, and the newly named Jellalabad Barracks opened in 1881 (R. Bush, *in litt.*, 1998). Some of the late 19th century buildings were demolished in the 1990s; other elements, such as the gatehouse (SMR LB 46243), survive and some have been converted into apartments.

The area shown is from the 1890 map and the SMR.

TAU/614

Wilton Gaol

Wilton Gaol opened in 1754, and was enlarged in 1815 and then again in 1843, when it became the county gaol. When the prison at Shepton superseded it in 1884 Wilton Gaol closed. Felons'

(quicklime) burials are recorded as taking place within the prison as late as 1883 (R. Bush, *in litt.*, 1998).

From the 1802-1905 maps.

6.4.d Burial sites, religious houses and places of worship

TAU/612

Municipal cemeteries

The Staplegrove Road cemetery was established for Taunton St James in 1877.

From the 1888-90 maps.

TAU/619

Churches and Chapels

A number of churches and chapels were established in the town centre in the late 18th and 19th century. Those shown on the Maps include: Holy Trinity (SMR LB 46196), 1842; Victoria Methodist Chapel, 1843; St George's RC Church (SMR LB 45911, 45912), established in 1861; St John the Baptist (SMR LB 46125) in 1863

In addition, the churchyards of most of the existing churches were extended in the 19th century.

From the 19th century maps.

Not mapped

Other chapels not shown separately (falling within areas of medieval and post-medieval occupation) include the Methodists' Octagon Chapel, established 1776 (SMR LB 46072); the other Methodist Chapel on Upper High Street (SMR LB 46214), 1808 and later; Silver Street Baptists (SMR LB 46146), 1814; North Street Congregational (SMR LB 46107), 1844; and Albemarle Street Baptists, 1875. At least one of these (Upper High Street Methodists) had a small burial ground, which if located would be of archaeological interest. The Crescent contained the Catholic Church, established in 1821, which was superseded by St George's and is now the Masonic Hall (SMR LB 45955).

TAU/611

The South Road Convent

Part of the St Joseph's Convent was built as a hospital in 1772 (this was never completed due to lack of money). Franciscan nuns from Bruges acquired it in 1807 and the buildings were subsequently extended several times. The main building survives (SMR LB 46157).

From Woods' 1840 map.

Not mapped

Another convent occupied St Paul's House from 1867. Tower Street was narrower until 1929 and the site partly lay under what is now road.

6.4.e Settlement (Urban)

(a) Commercial core

TAU/617

Developments in the town centre

Most developments in the previously occupied areas of the town centre took place piecemeal and have not been individually recorded for this study, though the number of Listed late 18th and 19th century buildings in that area indicates the extent of such development. Some areas, however, saw wholesale redevelopment, or new development. Those shown on Map F include Hammet Street and the Crescent, Grade II* Listed terraces of, respectively, the late 18th century (SMR LB 46031, 46032, 46033) and the early 19th century (SMR LB 45953, 45954, 45955). There was also new building at Billet Fields and around St George's Church, across the Hurdleditch, just as commercial buildings spread across the Castle, moat and marsh to the west. In the 19th century Shuttern came to hold both the new Shire Hall (SMR LB 46137), opened in 1858 on the site of the Grove, and the expanded Wilton Gaol (see also above).

From the 1840-1905 maps.

(b) Suburbs

TAU/602

General suburban development

Map F shows the pattern of general suburban and other residential development in the town centre in the late 18th and 19th century. Some, as in the St Augustine's and Trinity areas and around the station, was workers' housing. Trinity also contained the Union Workhouse from 1837. Other areas, such as those off Staplegrave Road, contained more gracious housing. The suburbs were relatively late and were only partially completed by the time of the OS 2nd edition (c1904). Many buildings survive, of which a (relatively small) proportion is Listed (for details, see the Buildings List).

From the 1840-1904 maps.

TAU/604

Suburbs (open areas)

Taunton's suburbs still encompassed a number of large open areas at the beginning of the 19th century, though these were already becoming built over by the end of the century. Vivary Park, laid out in 1894, the County Cricket Ground and both Union Gate and French Weir Recreation Grounds have survived. However, the South Road racecourse later became the site of King's College; and the 18th/early 19th century landscaped gardens at Flook House, Yarde House, Belmont House (Wilton) and St Paul's have all been built over, as have a number of nurseries which existed around the margins of the early 19th century town.

From the 1840-1904 maps.

6.4.f Settlement (Rural): Farms

TAU/623

19th century farms

Close to the town centre, two farms - Lambrook Farm and Moor Farm - were established in the 19th century. Neither has survived 20th century development.

From the 1840 and 1890 maps.

*6.4.g Industrial sites**(a) Mills*

TAU/607

Town Mills (SMR 44392)

The Town Mills utilised the medieval mill stream and may have been on the site of earlier mills (see p40). However, excavations on the site in 1967 revealed that the 19th century Mills had been constructed on an extensive made up layer of industrial refuse representing either original reclamation from the river (Langmaid, 1968) or extensive remodelling of an existing site. No evidence of medieval or earlier mills was seen.

The 19th century mill site contained a complex of buildings including not only the mill itself but also a brewery. They remained in operation throughout the 19th century but were demolished in 1956.

From the 1840 and 1888 maps.

(b) Other industrial sites

TAU/610

Brickyards

The brickyards of Taunton have been studied by Murless (1977, 1981), whose work should be consulted for further details. Not all the sites mentioned by him could be positively identified on the map for this report.

Both documentary and cartographic evidence shows that there was a small brick yard in South Road by 1791 (SMR 44475; Murless, 1981). It was sold in 1812-3 and the papers describe a newly erected kiln, two tenements, a coal house and two linhays. The yard expanded in the 19th century and was noted for the quality of its output (Murless, 1977). Structures are shown on the

earlier 19th century maps: they had been demolished by the later 19th century (by which time the Convent had purchased the field to stop the industrial working), though the clay pit was still open in the early 20th century. In 1977 evidence of the kiln and brickyard waste was recorded in a survey and trial excavation (Murless, 1977, 1981) on South Road.

Another brickyard, which also included a rope walk, existed on South Street, backing onto the South Road site. This is documented in the mid to late 19th century and shown on the 1880s maps. It was closed in the late 19th century and subsequently used for landfill.

A disused brickyard north of the Canal at Frieze Hill is shown on the 1890 map.

From the SMR and from the 1880s maps.

Not mapped Murless (1981) refers to further brickyards at the Mount (at least by 1779, but possibly earlier), on an unknown site near the eventual site of the Convent; at the east end of East Reach; and at Frieze Hill, a second documented brickyard. These sites have not been identified for this report. There may also have been another brick yard in South Road adjacent to the one marked (in the field to the south), though this is not certain.

TAU/618 Other industry
There was a concentration of industrial sites along the river in Taunton town centre. Just downstream of Tone Bridge were the Coal Orchard and North Town Wharves. By the former was a brewery on the site of which the Brewhouse Theatre (which incorporates the brewer's house) now stands. On the opposite bank stood North Town Mill. Upstream of the bridge, on the north bank were the Wood Street saw mills, timber yards, stone works, and silk factory, as well as the Tone Bridge Foundry. On the south bank, at Tangier, was a complex of industrial installations including the Gas Works, malhouses and foundries.

There were further industrial areas on the northern and eastern margins of the 19th century town. In the Tancred Street area stood Cox's foundry, established in 1810 (and subsequently relocated to Tangier), and a silk factory, as well as a pottery (noted by Murless, 1981) and two tanneries not shown on Maps F and G (see Murless, 1985). The latter were within the previously occupied area (and in the area evaluated in 1987-8: see SMR 44445, and Collard, 1987a,b). In South Street were the shirt and collar works and South Street gas works. North of the river were the Augustine Street clothing factory, the Whitehall Iron Works, an engineering works by the railway and a malhouse.

None of these sites has been studied in any detail for this report - and the SIAS Gazetteer (Warren, 1996) includes details of small sites which could not be included at all - but all where standing or underground remains survive are of potential archaeological interest.

From the 19th century maps.

TAU/608 Sewage works
East of the town a large sewage works was established in the later 19th century, whilst to its west was a small manure works.

From the 1880s and 1905 maps.

TAU/620 Quarries
A few small quarries are marked around the fringes of the town on the 19th century maps.

From the 1880s and 1905 maps.

6.5 Archaeological components (outlying area), shown on Map G

6.5.a Redevelopment in earlier settlement components

Components described under earlier periods are shown more lightly shaded. In the outlying area few components have been redefined for the 19th century: most redevelopment was small scale and low key.

6.5.b Communications

(a) Roads, streets and routeways

TAU/606 19th century roads and turnpikes

The routes of the turnpikes are shown, but these mainly used existing roads. There were few new roads built in the 19th century in the area around Taunton, the major exception being Wellington New Road, opened in 1838, which bypassed both Galmington and Bishop's Hull. There were also a few realignments where roads met railway or canal - west of Norton Fitzwarren, for example.

From the Tithe Maps and the 1880s OS maps.

(b) Railways

TAU/615 Bristol & Exeter Railway

The Bristol & Exeter Railway, later the Great Western, from London reached Taunton in 1842, and a large station and yard area was established north of the town. This included not only the station itself, of which the southern range is Listed (SMR LB 46189), but also the Great Western Hotel (SMR LB 46188) and an inn (SMR LB 46187). After the Railway Company's purchase of the Grand Western Canal in 1866, this area expanded further.

Norton Fitzwarren railway station (SMR 44371) provided an interchange between the main line and the Barnstaple and Minehead branches (see below). It has now been demolished and the site incorporated into an industrial area.

The railway line and the station areas are from the 1889-1890 and the 1905 maps.

TAU/622 Taunton to Barnstaple Railway (SMR 43373)

The Barnstaple branch, opened in the early 1870s, left the main line at Norton Fitzwarren junction. It was closed in 1966.

From the 1889 map.

TAU/624 The Minehead branch

The West Somerset Railway was opened as far as Watchet in 1862 and Minehead in 1874. It was a broad gauge line, but was converted to standard gauge in 1882.

From the 1889-90 maps.

(c) Canals

TAU/601 The Bridgwater and Taunton Canal (SMR 43826)

For main entry, see p62. Map G shows the canal wharf at Bathpool.

TAU/603 Grand Western Canal

For main entry, see p62.

6.5.c Water

TAU/625 The river

Shown on Map G is the new cut at Bathpool, which took the river south of the railway line, as well as a number of other old stream courses.

From the 1889-90 maps.

6.5.d *Manors and estates*

TAU/613

Landscaped parks

A number of large landscaped parks were laid out in the 19th century. The largest of these was at Norton Manor (SMR 43413), which had two associated lodges (SMR 43383, 43384). The park was turned into army camp grounds in the 20th century, and though the older house site to the north has disappeared, other features (SMR LB 40572, 40573) survive. It is possible that Norton Manor may have had an earlier origin: further research is needed to clarify the position.

Rumwell Lodge (SMR 43871) and Rumwell Hall both had landscaped parks attached to them by the early 20th century (SMR 43869 and 43870 respectively), as did Staplegrove Manor (SMR 43573, 43574), and Lyngford House (SMR 43988; SMR LB 40491, 40492).

For Poundisford see p55 and for Pyrland see p53. Hestercombe (SMR 43395, 43396) is excluded from the study, though part of the park boundary in the 19th century is shown on Map G.

From the 19th century maps.

6.5.e *Burial sites, religious houses and places of worship*

TAU/619

Churches and chapels (*too small to show on Map G*)

Several of the parish churches extended their churchyards in the 19th century. New establishments included the Congregational Chapels at Bishop's Hull and Bathpool (SMR 43211), an independent chapel at Rumwell (SMR LB 40460) and St Andrew's at Rowbarton (1881).

From the 1880s maps.

TAU/612

Municipal cemeteries

Wellington Road cemetery was begun in 1854 after a cholera epidemic of 1849.

From the 1888-90 maps.

6.5.f *Settlement (Suburban)*

TAU/602

Suburbs

Suburbs extended north and south of the town up to Rowbarton and almost as far as Trull.

These areas included three of the major schools of Taunton, founded in the 19th century at a time when the old Grammar School was having problems. These were: Queen's, which began as a Wesleyan College in 1843, moving to the present site in 1847; King's, founded in 1880; and Taunton School, established as the West of England Dissenters School, which began in 1847 in Wellington Road and moved to the Fairwater site in 1870.

From the 19th century maps.

6.5.g *Settlement (Rural)*

TAU/616

Rural settlement

Considerable dispersed development took place around Taunton. That which was semi-suburban in character and that which was truly rural has not been distinguished on the map. Most information is from the historic maps, but some abandoned sites revealed by work along the course of the M5 are also shown (SMR 43521, 43989, 43492, 43677).

From the 19th century maps.

TAU/623

Farms

A number of farms were established in Taunton's hinterland in the 19th century, whilst other existing ones expanded.

From the 19th century maps.

6.5.h Industrial sites

(a) Mills

TAU/621 19th century mills
Most of the mills operating in the 19th century may have been of earlier origin, but a number of expansions took place.

From the 19th century maps and the SMR.

(b) Other industrial sites

TAU/610 Brickyards
The largest brickworks outside Taunton itself were at Bishop's Hull, where there were two adjacent yards (SMR 43364), one with a mechanised plant and tramway. Another site, near Sherford, is marked "Brick Meadow" on the 1821 map.

From the 1821 and later 19th century maps.

Not mapped Murless (1981) discusses the Taunton brickyards. He suggests several other outlying sites, including ones at Rowbarton and Haydon, which could not be positively identified on the map for this report.

TAU/618 Other industry, too small to show on Map G
Other industrial sites noted in the outlying area include: Breweries at Norton Fitzwarren (SMR 43403), Rowbarton, and Nerrols Farm; Smithies at Bishop's Hull, Rowbarton, Bathpool, Norton, Cross Keys and Rumwell; Tanneries at Tanpitts Farm, Bathpool (SMR 43090); a timber yard at Bathpool and a possible kiln in the far south-west of the area.

From the 19th century maps and the SMR.

TAU/620 Quarries, too small to show on Map G
Several small quarries and gravel pits existed in the 19th century around Taunton.

From the 19th century maps.

7. 20TH CENTURY (Map H)

7.1 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.

Taunton is one of 15 of the 45 historic towns covered by this project which is classed as a Town in the County Structure Plan. It is one of seven towns which has seen extremely high levels of expansion in the 20th century (the same seven as saw large scale expansion in the 19th century). It is also one of six Towns identified as having an important role in accommodating new development, which inevitably leaves its archaeological remains under increased threat.

7.2 Standing structures and visible remains

There are a few Listed Buildings of 20th century origin, which including the old Library (SMR LB 45946) and the Art College (SMR LB 45948) in Corporation Street, the old Odeon (SMR LB 44629) and both the fountain and the war memorial in Vivary Park (SMR LB 46217, 46218).

7.3 Settlement components, shown on Map H

7.3.a Redevelopment in earlier settlement components

Components still functioning in the 20th century but described under earlier periods are shown more lightly shaded. There has been large scale redevelopment in the 20th century, especially between the town centre and the motorway, which has resulted in the redefinition of a number of previously defined and described areas both in the town centre and in the suburbs.

All mapped components are from the 1997 OS digital maps, unless otherwise stated.

7.3.b Communications

(a) Roads, streets and routeways

TAU/702 Roads

Many new roads have been constructed in the 20th century, of which the more important are shown on Map H. They include the M5, Tone Way and Silk Mills Road, as well as some of the arterial suburban roads.

(b) Railways

Not mapped

Trams ran from 1901 to 1921 through the town centre and down East Reach, at the end of which was a tramshed. The trackways were taken up in the 1920s and the tramshed was demolished in the 1980s.

7.3.c Military sites

TAU/705 Norton Camp (SMR 43413)

TAU/701

Other military sites

A rifle range (SMR 44279) associated with Sherford Camp survives in very good condition.

From the SMR.

Not mapped

The SMR contains details of other military sites in the area, including several pillboxes (eg SMR 44280, 44307, 44308, 44309, 44310, 44312, 44313, 44314, 44315, 44316), a battery (SMR 43706) and depot (SMR 44543). The sites of the army camp at Sherford and the American Army Hospital at Musgrove are not separately shown.

7.3.d Burial sites, religious houses and places of worship

TAU/704 Churches

Several churchyard extensions have taken place in the 20th century. Also shown is the Crematorium, which opened in 1963 on Wellington Road.

Not mapped

New suburban churches have not been distinguished for this report.

7.3.e Settlement (Urban)

(a) Commercial

TAU/703 General urban development (centre)

A considerable amount of drastic redevelopment has occurred within the town centre. This has been concentrated in the old areas along the river. North-east of Tone Bridge are situated the new market and supermarket, as well as the Deane and Brewhouse office and leisure complexes. To its south-west are the Magistrates' Courts and County Hall, together with their car parks.

TAU/707

Outlying commercial areas

Large trading estates have been established along the railway and canal and at the motorway junction.

(b) Residential

TAU/710

Suburbs

The pattern of 20th century suburban sprawl is shown on Map H. Major hospital and school sites are included within these areas, and are not necessarily distinguished, though large areas of open space are more lightly shaded.

The map shows clearly how some historic centres have been engulfed by modern development, whilst others - such as Trull, Norton, Staplegrove and Monkton Heathfield - are in immediate danger of being so engulfed.

7.3.f Settlement (Rural)

TAU/706, TAU/708

Rural settlement and farms

A scatter of rural settlement and farms is shown on Map H.

7.3.g Industrial sites

TAU/709

General industry

Industrial sites and estates are shown on Map H.

V. THE POTENTIAL OF TAUNTON***1. Research interests***

Despite nearly twenty years of excavations, most of the issues identified in Leach's 1984 volume on the archaeology of Taunton's town centre remain unresolved. The locations of neither the Saxon settlements of Taunton nor the main medieval Priory buildings have been established; the development of the somewhat peculiar medieval street plan of Taunton is still not understood, partly because of lack of progress on earlier settlement patterns; and the relationships of specific features - for example, that between the early medieval Castle and the pre-Conquest minster, or that between the medieval St Paul's area and the Saxon town - have not been elucidated. These questions must continue to be addressed in town centre evaluations, with the hope that a process of elimination and attrition will yield cumulative results.

An examination of the list of archaeological work which has taken place will show that the greater proportion of it has been concentrated within the town centre. Knowledge of prehistoric, Roman, Saxon and medieval settlement and landscape patterns is therefore fragmentary. Excavations have shown that the pre-1800 settlement pattern as recorded on the historic maps - and, to a large extent, in this report - is not necessarily, in detail, that of even the medieval period; for sites not shown by map or field or aerial photographic survey have been located in the field (during the M5 work, for example). On the other hand, a certain continuity of settlement is suggested by the limited studies of other sites, such as Maidenbrook. The process of understanding of these patterns has (with certain notable exceptions) hardly begun.

2. Areas of potentially exceptional preservation

Localised waterlogged deposits exist throughout the Taunton area where rivers and streams either run now or used to run. This has been shown to be particularly the case in the area west of the Castle, which used to be a marshy valley and where alluvial flood deposits in some places seal earlier archaeology. The ditches, moats, leats and fishponds of the central area also provide good survival potential, as has been amply demonstrated.

3. Limitations

On the other hand, parts of Taunton town centre lie not only on dry ground, but in areas repeatedly terraced, and it has been shown that archaeological deposits are extremely close to the modern ground surface in places. This means that where cellaring has taken place (not assessed for this report), damage is substantial.

Moreover, the impact of modern development has already been substantial, not only in the core of Taunton but in the immediately adjacent areas, including important riverside areas such as Bathpool and Obridge, and historic settlement centres, such as Galmington and Holway.

4. *Extent of current protection*

(The constraints in the central area are shown on Map 1)

There are well over four hundred Listed Buildings in the area covered by this report, many of which are in the central area. There are only four Scheduled Monuments, however: SM 24022 (Norton Fitzwarren hillfort); SM Som 430 (Poundisford Park Pale); SM 22851 (Taunton Castle) and SM Som 33703 (the Borough Bank).

An AHAP has been defined for Taunton town centre, though not for the surrounding settlements. But Bishop's Hull and Cheddon Fitzpaine have Conservation Areas, in addition to the nine Conservation Areas in Taunton itself (centred on: the Castle; Bath Place; the Crescent; Mount Street and Vivary Park; South Road; Haines Hill; Park Street; Middle Street and Hammet Street; and Staplegrove Road). Two registered Parks and Gardens - Hestercombe (PRN 43395) and Poundisford (PRN 43503) impinge on the study area, but are not shown on the map.

5. *Management Proposals*

See the Archaeological Guidance Document.

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3. Maps

- 1718
c1775
1783
c1790
1791
1791
1802
1802
1805
- Map of Roughmoor Farm, Bishop's Hull: SRO DD/CH C/1941
- Map of several estates in West Monkton: SRO DD/GC
- Map of Mr Warre's land in Cheddon Fitzpaine: SRO D/P/che.f. 3/1/1
- Map of "Frethey and Barr", Bishop's Hull: SRO DD/AY 66
- Map of Taunton area: SRO DD/SAS C/212
- Enlargement of Taunton centre: SRO DD/SAS C/2631/1
- OS surveyors' drawings at 3": fiche in SSL
- Map of Bradford parish: SRO DD/DP
- Map of Trull parish: SRO D/P/tru 26/1 or DD/CT 22

1809	OS 1"
1810	Map of Pitminster parish: SRO DD/DP
1821	Sketch of the town of Taunton: SRO A/AQD 1
1821	Map of Wilton parish: SRO D/P/wilt. 13/1/48 C/2560
1825	Canal proposals map, Taunton St James: SRO Q/RUp 82
1826	Map of West Monkton parish: SRO DD/SAS C/212
1827	Map of Taunton St Mary parish: SRO DD/SP 313
1837	Cheddon Fitzpaine Tithe Map: fiche in SSL
1837	Staplegrove Tithe Map: fiche in SSL
1838	Kingston St Mary Tithe Map: fiche in SSL
1839	Norton Fitzwarren Tithe Map: fiche in SSL
1839	Pitminster Tithe Map: fiche in SSL
1839	West Monkton Tithe Map: fiche in SSL
1840	Taunton, St James Tithe Map: fiche in SSL
1840	Taunton, St Mary Tithe Map: fiche in SSL
1840	Wilton Tithe Map: fiche in SSL
1840	Wood's Map of Taunton
1842	Bradford Tithe Map: fiche in SSL
1842	Ruishton Tithe Map: fiche in SSL
1842	Trull Tithe Map: fiche in SSL
1843	Bishop's Hull Tithe Map: fiche in SSL
1849	Ham & Leversedge's Map of Taunton
1888-9	OS 1:2500 1st ed: fiche in SSL
1901-4	OS 1:10560

VII. EXCAVATIONS IN AND AROUND TAUNTON to 1997

Please note that this list is not guaranteed complete.

THE CASTLE AREA

1838	Castle Green, observation (Clements in Leach 1984 p30) <i>Burials</i>
1867-8	Castle Green, observations (Clements in Leach 1984 p30-31) <i>Burials + stone coffin</i>
1882	Castle Green, observation (Clements in Leach 1984 p30) <i>Burials</i>
1893	Castle Green, observation (Clements in Leach 1984 p30) <i>Burials + bullet</i>
c1900	Castle Green, observation (Clements in Leach 1984 p30) <i>Burials</i>
1904	Corporation Street, Library, observations (Vivian-Neal & Gray, 1941) <i>Moat fills</i>
1907	Corporation Street, School of Art, observations (Vivian-Neal & Gray, 1941) <i>Moat fills</i>
1916	Castle Keep by St George Gray (not properly recorded)
1924-9	Castle Keep by St George Gray (not properly recorded) (Vivian-Neal & Gray, 1941; see also Dunning & Pearson, 1975; Rodwell, 1978; T Pearson in Leach, 1984, p17; AC Archaeology, 1992a)
1930	Castle Green, observation (Clements in Leach 1984 p30) <i>Burials, with weapon cuts</i>
1932	Corporation Street (near cinema), observation (Clements in Leach 1984 p26, 31) <i>Burials</i>
1933	Odeon construction, observations (Vivian-Neal & Gray, 1941; cf Dunning & Pearson, 1975) <i>Moat, wooden barbican and bridge</i>
1937	Castle Bow, excavation (Vivian-Neal & Gray, 1941) <i>Moat</i>
1940	Castle, Great Hall test pits (Vivian-Neal & Gray, 1941)
1952	Castle, Great Hall, floor works (Radford & Hallam, 1955) <i>Undercroft and the Pre-Conquest bank</i>
1958	Castle garden nr Wyndham Hall, observation (Clements in Leach 1984 p30) <i>Burials</i>
1964	Castle, Bishop's Camera, excavation (Clements in Leach 1984 p26, 31) <i>Burials, early bank</i>
1972	LHL floor replacement (Clements in Leach 1984 p26, 30) <i>Saxon burials</i>
1972	Castle entrance, west side, observation (Clements in Leach 1984 p26, 30) <i>Burials</i>
1972	Castle entrance, east side, observation (Clements in Leach 1984 p26, 31) <i>Burials</i>
1972	Huish's Grammar School, excavation (SMR 44465) (Clements in Leach 1984 p63) <i>Med town defences; earlier material (dispersed)</i>

- 1973 Castle Green landscaping, excavation and observations (Clements, 1973; and in Leach 1984 p35f) *Med structures in outer bailey; burials in adj areas*
- 1976 Castle, Jubilee Gardens work, observations (ment in SomArch 1976 p121) *P-Med backfill*
- 1977 Resurvey of Castle remains (Rodwell, 1978; Rodwell in Leach 1984 p20) *Med Castle ruins*
- 1978 Castle inner ward, excavation (Clements in Leach 1984 p26, 31, 32) *Castle features & the early bank with associated burial*
- 1979 Castle Green, observation (Clements in Leach 1984 p34) *possible early bank*
- 1982 Castle Green, watching brief (Clements in Leach 1984 p30) *Burials*
- 1985 Corporation Street, watching brief (SMR 44601) (Burrow & Dennison, 1988) *Castle bank*
- 1985 Castle Bow, watching brief (SMR 44602) (Burrow & Dennison, 1988) *Burial (Saxon?)*
- 1985 Castle Green, watching brief (SMR 44603) *negative*
- 1988 Castle, western round tower, watching brief (Croft, 1988c) *Med foundations*
- 1989-90 Castle moat watching brief (McCrone, 1990b)
- 1991 Castle, small excavation (statue base) by P McCrone (McCrone, 1991b) *Undated courtyard deposits (archive in SMR backlog files, no PRN)*
- 1992 Castle, evaluations and watching briefs (AC Archaeology, 1992a; Hollinrake, C & N, 1992b; Hawkes, Hollinrakes & Dadson, 1992) *Med walls, surfaces; bank (no dating)*

THE REST OF THE TOWN CENTRE

- 1849 Gas works, Tangier, observation (SMR 44414) *Pleistocene material*
- 1856 Wilton Gaol, observation (SMR 44412) *Pleistocene material*
- c1861 Fore Street sewer works, observations (Pring, 1879) *Roman pottery (supposedly)*
- 1868 Gas works, Tangier, observation (SMR 44493) *Burials*
- 1926 North Street, observations (Vivian-Neal & Gray, 1941) *Moat fills*
- 1961-2 Melville Hotel, excavation (SMR 44471) (F Hawtin in Leach 1984 p73) *Med defences*
- 1966 Lipton's Supermarket, excavation (SMR 44468) *Med defences*
- 1967 Town Mills (P Langmaid, 1968)
- 1970 St Pauls, observation (SMR 44473) (Clements in Leach 1984 p26, 31) *Saxon burials*
- 1972 Paul Street, watching brief (SMR 44447) (Clements in Leach 1984 p79) *Med occ*
- 1972 St Margarets's leper hospital, watching brief (Clements in Leach 1984 p124) *Med? boundary wall*
- 1972-3 Coal orchard, watching brief (marked on old SMR map for 44440) *Wells*
- 1972-3 18-23 High Street, watching brief (marked on old SMR map in file under 44440: no further information)
- 1973-4 Benham's Garage, Corporation Street, trial excavation (SMR 44466) (Pearson, 1974; Leach & Pearson in Leach 1984 p37) *Ancient stream; Saxon artefacts; Med roads etc*
- 1973 Paul St West, watching brief, *C14 & earlier*
- 1973 James Street/ North Street, watching brief (SMR 90003) *negative*
- 1974 Kennedy's Yard, East Street, and Billet Street, excavations (SMR 44441) (Bennett, 1974; and Bennett & Pearson in Leach 1984 p82, 90) *Med & Post-Med backs*
- 1974 No. 1 High Street, excavation (SMR 44442) (Bennett, 1974; and Bennett in Leach 1984 p91) *Iron Age occ; Med & Post-Med central occ*
- 1974 18 St James Street, excavation (SMR 44443) (Bennett, 1974; and Bennett in Leach 1984 p98) *Med & Post-Med occ*
- 1974 Trenching across Bridge Street (SMR 44490) (Dunning & Pearson, 1975)
- c1975 Marks & Spencer site *C11/12 pottery* (Dunning & Pearson, 1975)
- 1975 Tancred Street, preliminary evaluation (ment. in Aston, 1976, p79)
- 1977 High Street (Boots), watching brief (SMR 44448)
- 1977 Hawke's Yard (SMR 44464) (Leach in Leach, 1984 p65) *Saxon occ/ Med defences*
- 1977 Canon Street, excavation (Hinchcliffe in Leach 1984 p106) *Priory lay cemetery*
- 1977 South Road brickyard, trial excavation and watching brief (SMR 44475) (Murless, 1977, 1981) *C19 brickyard*
- 1977-8 Priory Barn, excavations (Leach in Leach 1984 p111) *Med & Pmed watercourses and structures*
- 1978 Benham's Garage, excavation (SMR 44466) (Leach & Pearson in Leach 1984 p37) *Stream valley, Roman ditches, C12 buildings, C13 west road and later C13/C14 drains, C14 flood deposits, Pmed drainage*

- features & well*
- 1978 Gyffarde Street, observations (PSANHS v123 p93) *Med burials (lay cemetery)*
- 1979 5-8 Fore Street, excavations (SMR 44450) (Burrow, 1979; Markuson, 1980) *Iron Age or Roman occ/ Med & Pmed pits (V productive)*
- 1979 Sewer trenches, Holway Avenue, observation (Murless, 1981) *negative*
- 1980 Mill Lane, excavation (SMR 44446) (Burrow, 1980; and Burrow in Leach 1984 p53) *Med Castle moat*
- 1980 East Street, observation (SMR 44477) *Civil War coin hoard*
- 1982 Vicarage grounds, excavation (SMR 44435) (PSANHS v127, p24) *Priory building, conduit*
- 1982 High Street/ Mary Street, excavations (SMR 44449) (Burrow, 1982; Burrow & Dennison, 1988) *Med pits, Pmed industry*
- 1982 Vivarium, sewer trench observations (SMR 44388) (Clements, 1982) *Med fishponds*
- 1983 18 Fore Street, building recording and excavation (SMR 44474)
- 1983-4 Silver Street, excavations (SMR 44465) (Burrow, 1984; Burrow & Dennison, 1988) *Med town defences*
- 1985 Tancred Street, photographic survey (Murless, 1985) *C19 tannery*
- 1985 Tower Street, watching brief (SMR 90004) *Stream valley*
- 1985 Tower Street (County Gazette Offices), watching brief (SMR 44469) (Burrow & Dennison, 1988) *Med water deposits*
- 1986 Firepool pumping station, building survey (SMR 44376) (Murless, 1986) *C19 limekilns etc*
- 1987 Octagon Chapel, Middle Street, watching brief (SMR 44444) (Croft, 1987a)
- 1987 Tancred Street, evaluation (SMR 44445) (Collard, 1987a,b) *Med town defences and suburb to east*
- 1987-8 Tancred Street, further evaluation and watching briefs (SMR 44445) (Wait, 1988)
- 1988 Winchester Street, evaluation (SMR 44452) (Croft, 1988a,b) *Near Priory - negative; C19 rubbish*
- 1988 Priory Barn restoration & archaeological investigations
- 1989 St Paul's House, observation (SMR 44473) (Croft, 1989) *Saxon? burials*
- 1989 Gyffarde Street, evaluation (SMR 44457) (Adkins, 1989) *C19*
- 1990 Mill Lane, watching brief (McCrone, 1990b) *P-Med revetments, moat fills*
- 1991 St James Almshouses, building recording (Bond & Longman, 1991) *Med almshouses*
- 1992 North Town, evaluation (SMR 44453) (Woods, 1992) *Negative*
- 1992 St Mary Magdalene, excavation and watching briefs (SMR 44456) (Adkins, 1992; Hollinrakes, 1992a) *P-Med? vaults*
- 1993 Canon Street, watching brief (SMR 44563) (McCrone, 1993b) *Post-Med stream culvert*
- 1993 Corefield Hall and Co-op Garage, evaluation (SMR 44463) (Hollinrakes, 1993; Jones, 1993) *Med town ditch*
- 1994 Canon Street, evaluation (Hollinrakes, 1994a) *Civil War defences*
- 1994 Jellalabad Barracks, evaluation (SMR 44455) (Wessex Archaeology, 1994/38257)
- 1994 5-6 East Street, watching brief (SMR 44454) (Hollinrakes, 1994) *Med truncated by P-Med cellars*
- 1994-5 Cricket Ground, evaluation and watching brief (Hollinrake, C & N, 1994b, 1995) *Waterlogged Med features - preserved*
- 1994-6 Jellalabad Barracks, watching briefs (SMR 44455) (Graham, 1995; Bellamy, 1996) *Med defences/ C19 terracing*
- 1995 County Hotel, evaluation (Hutcheson & Andrews, 1996; Piggott, 1995; Wessex Archaeology 1995/39685)
- 1996 Town Centre Enhancement, excavations and watching briefs (Borthwick, 1995; Exeter Archaeology, 1997)
- 1997 South Street, observation (SMR 44599) *C19 cistern*
- 1997 1 - 1a East Street (Hollinrakes, 1997)

THE OUTLYING AREA

- 1908 Norton Fitzwarren hillfort, excavation (no separate PRN) (Gray, 1908) *Prehist hillfort (SMR 43399)*
- 1940-1 Creechbarrow Hill, observations by Gray (Aston, note in SMR files) *negative*
- 1950 Fideoak Park, Bishop's Hull, observations (SMR 43362) (Norman, 1975) *Mesolithic tool industry*
- 1968-71 Norton Fitzwarren hillfort, excavations (no sep PRN) (Langmaid, 1968, 1970, 1971a,b; Ellis, 1989) *Prehist hillfort (SMR 43399)*
- 1971-2 M5 excavations and watching briefs, as below (M5 Committee, forthcoming; CBA Arch Rev 1972, no 7, p6)

- *Bathpool, excavations (SMR 43079) (Bolton, 1972a,b) *Iron Age and Med occ, and later stuff*
- *New Barn Farm, watching brief (SMR 44495) *Undated bank*
- *Broughton Brook, watching brief (SMR 43675) *C18/19 bridge*
- *Holway, excavations (SMR 43671) *Roman settlement*
- *Dowslands Farm, watching brief (SMR 43676) *Flint scatter*
- *The Gore, watching brief (SMR 43674) *P-Med barton*
- *Haygrass, watching brief (SMR 43677) *C18/19 cottages*
- *Amberd Lane, watching brief (SMR 43521) *C19 cottage*
- *Kibbear Farm, watching brief (SMR 43508) *Hand axe find*
- *Stone House, survey (SMR 43702) *Undated enclosure*
- *Poundisford Park Pale, watching brief (SMR 43502) *Med park pale*
- *Poundisford Park, watching brief (SMR 43491, 43493) *Med to mod pot*
- *Poundisford Park, watching brief (SMR 43492) *C19 bldgs and other remains*
- *Poundisford Park, watching brief (SMR 43493) *Med settlement*
- *Poundisford Park, excavations (SMR 43494) *Prehist settlement, RB ditch*
- *Poundisford Park, watching brief (SMR 43495) *RB and Med ditches*
- *Fulwood, watching brief (SMR 43499) *Early Med to modern pot*
- *Fulwood, watching brief (SMR 43500) *Flints*
- 1975 Trull, building survey by Jean Storey (ment in SomArch 1974-75 p79)
- 1979 Bishop's Hull church, watching brief (Ellis & Levitan, 1980)
- 1987 Bishop's Hull, Rectory observations (Croft, 1987b) *C19*
- 1988 Maidenbrook Farm, Cheddon Fitzpaine, building survey (Williams, 1988)
- 1989 Blackbrook Park, evaluation (McDonnell, 1989)
- 1990 Maidenbrook Farm, Cheddon Fitzpaine, evaluation and excavation (SMR 43152) (McDonnell, 1990; Ferris, 1990; Ferris & Bevan, 1993) *Mesolithic scatter; RB farmstead; Saxon/ Med field bdys*
- 1990 Mountfield Farm, evaluation (McCrone, 1990a) *negative*
- 1990-92 Prior's Wood, field survey (Clements, 1992; Cheddon Field Group, 1992) *Boundaries of wood*
- 1991 Norton Fitzwarren hillfort, fieldwalking (McCrone, 1991a) *P-Med, Roman, Palaeo*
- 1990-3 Cheddon Fitzpaine, Nerrols Farm, fieldwalking, evaluation, geophysical (Clements, 1991; Hawkes, 1992; Lockett, 1993 - PSANHS notes; McDonnell, 1991a,b; AC Archaeology 1992b; Cheddon Field Group, 1992) *Roman*
- 1991-2 Hankridge Farm, evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 1992) *Iron Age/ Roman?, C12 farm site*
- 1993 Bishop's Hull Church, observations (McCrone, 1993a) *C19 Floor/vaults*
- 1993 Hankridge Farm, watching brief (Wessex Archaeology 1993)
- 1994 Norton Fitzwarren Hillfort, watching brief (McCrone, 1994) *C19 rubbish*
- 1995 Hankridge Farmhouse, watching brief (Wessex Archaeology 1995/38244)
- 1997 Maidenbrook Farm, evaluation by BUFAU, ongoing, *appears negative, 2 ditches SW of farm*

VIII. COMPONENT INDEXES

1. Component to map

<i>Component</i>	<i>Map</i>	<i>Component</i>	<i>Map</i>
TAU/101	A	TAU/420	D,E9
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TAU/103	A	TAU/422	D
TAU/104	A	TAU/423	C,D
TAU/105	A	TAU/424	C,D
TAU/106	A	TAU/425	C
TAU/107	A	TAU/426	C
TAU/108	A	TAU/427	C,D
TAU/109	A	TAU/428	D
TAU/110	A	TAU/429	E5
TAU/111	A	TAU/430	D
TAU/112	A	TAU/431	C
TAU/113	A	TAU/432	C
TAU/201	A	TAU/433	C
TAU/202	A	TAU/434	D
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TAU/535	E1	TAU/623	F,G
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Maps

Map A - Prehistoric and Roman

Map B - Saxon town

Map C - Medieval core

Map D - pre-1800 town centre

Key: Components shown on earlier maps are shown in yellow.

Map E - pre-1800 settlement (key map)

- E1 Bishop's Hull
- E2 Cheddon Fitzpaine
- E3 Norton Fitzwarren
- E4 Staplegrove
- E5 Taunton St James
- E6 Taunton St Mary
- E7 Trull
- E8 West Monkton
- E9 Wilton

Map F - 19th century town centre

Key: Components shown on earlier maps are shown in yellow.

Map G - 19th century outer areas

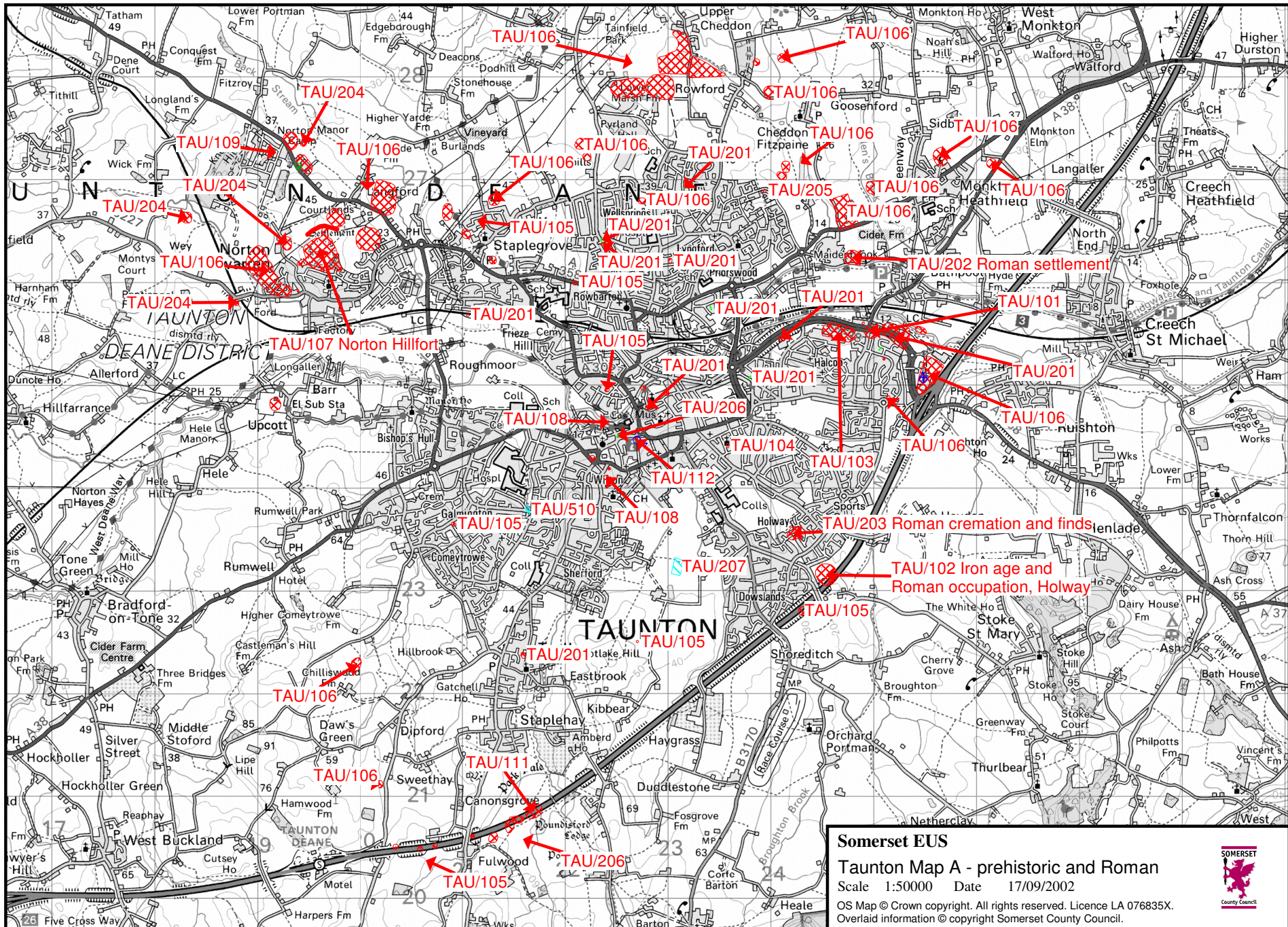
Key: Components shown on earlier maps are shown in yellow.

Map H - 20th century

Key: Components shown on earlier maps are shown in yellow.

Map I - Existing constraints (central area)

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



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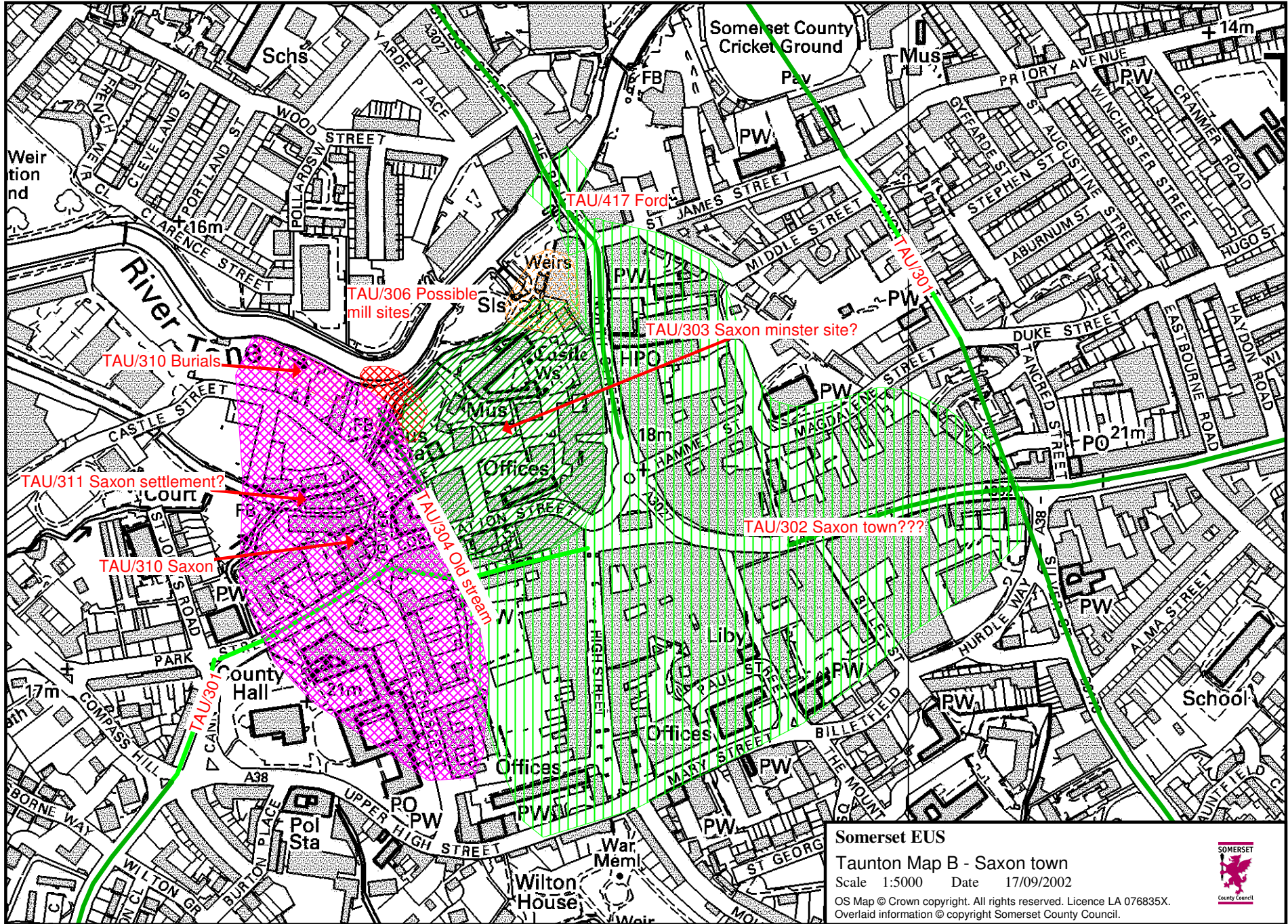
Taunton Map A - prehistoric and Roman

Scale 1:50000 Date 17/09/2002

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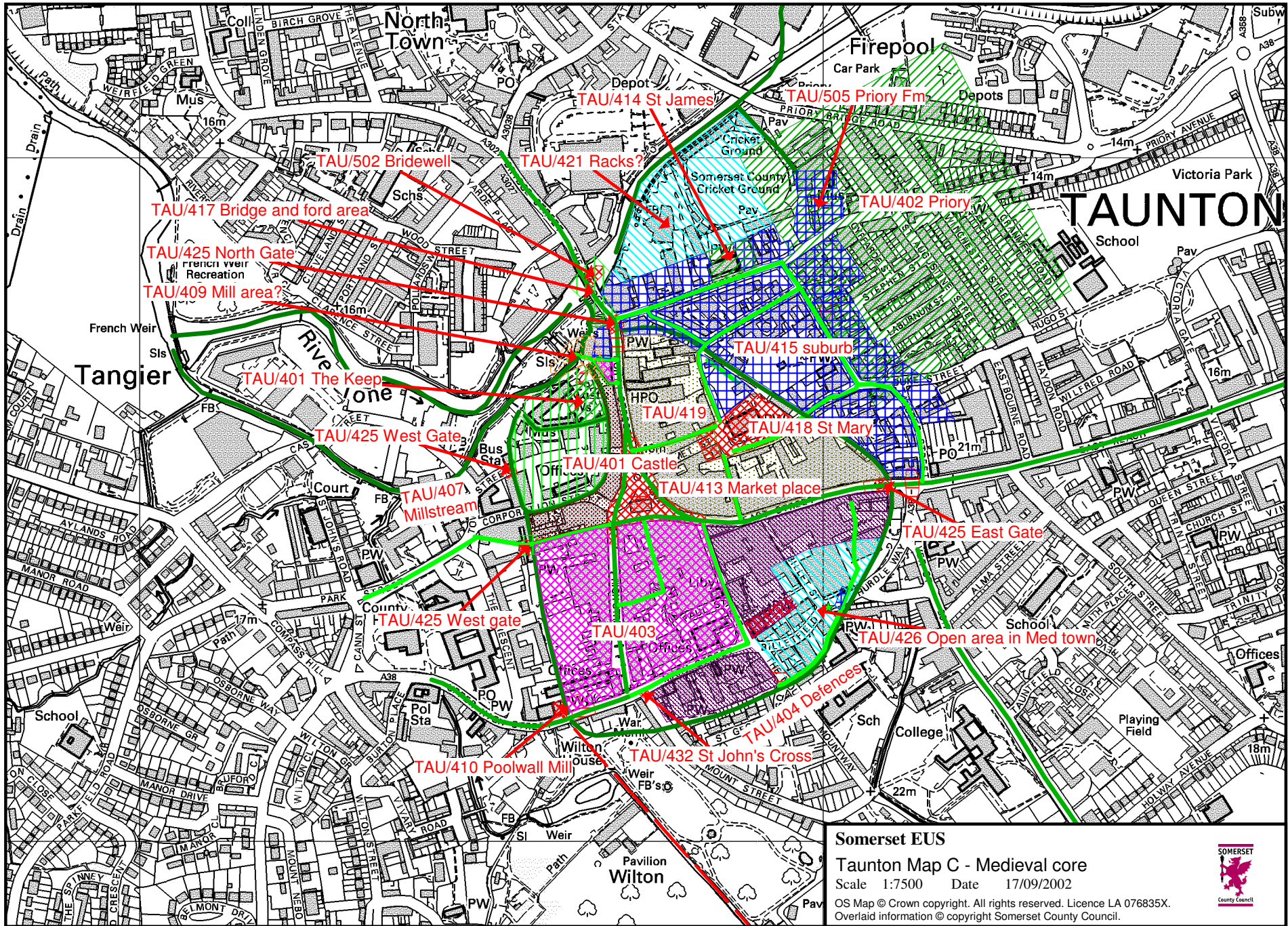
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Taunton Map B - Saxon town

Scale 1:5000 Date 17/09/2002

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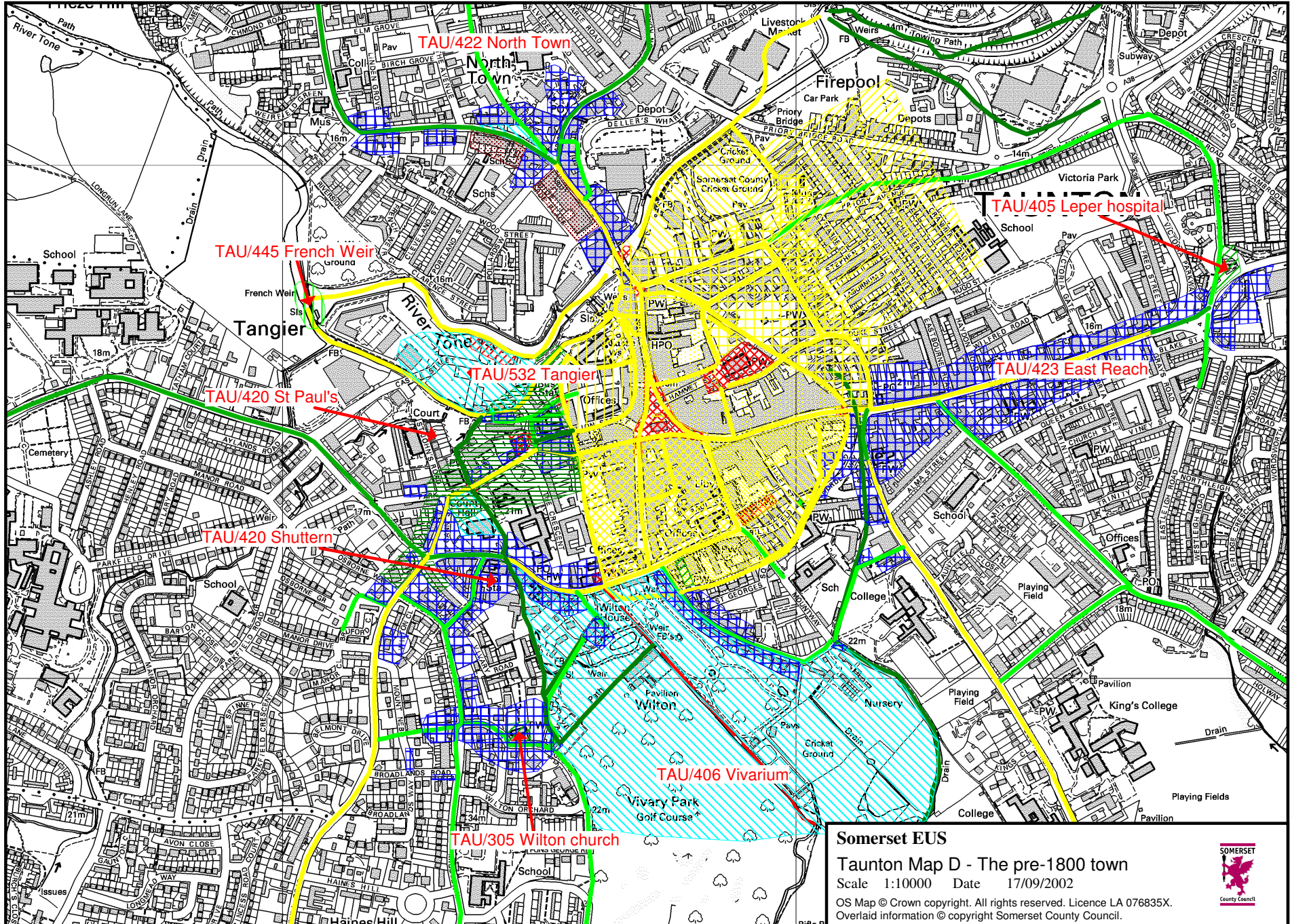
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Taunton Map C - Medieval core

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TAU/422 North Town

TAU/445 French Weir

TAU/405 Leper hospital

TAU/532 Tangier

TAU/423 East Reach

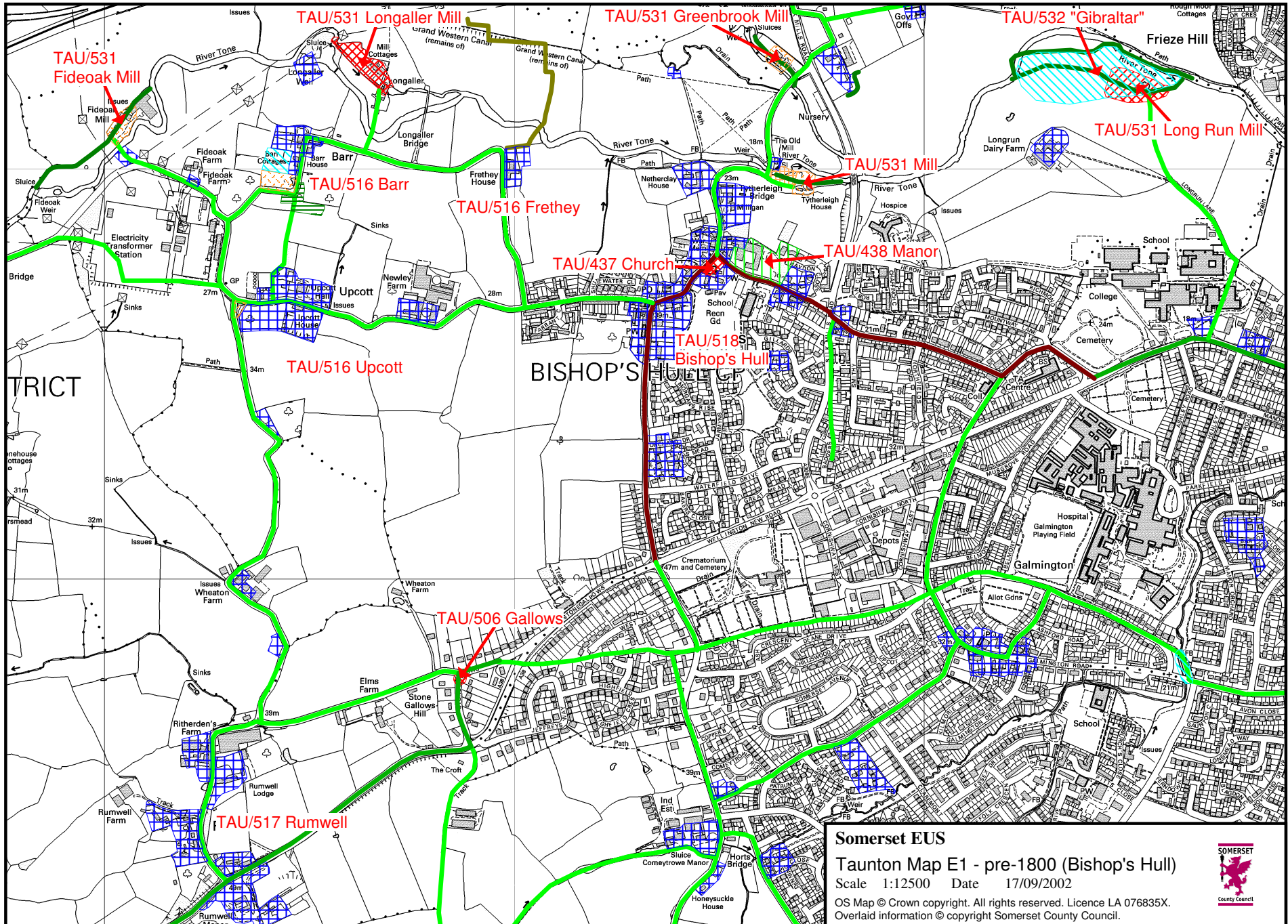
TAU/420 St Paul's

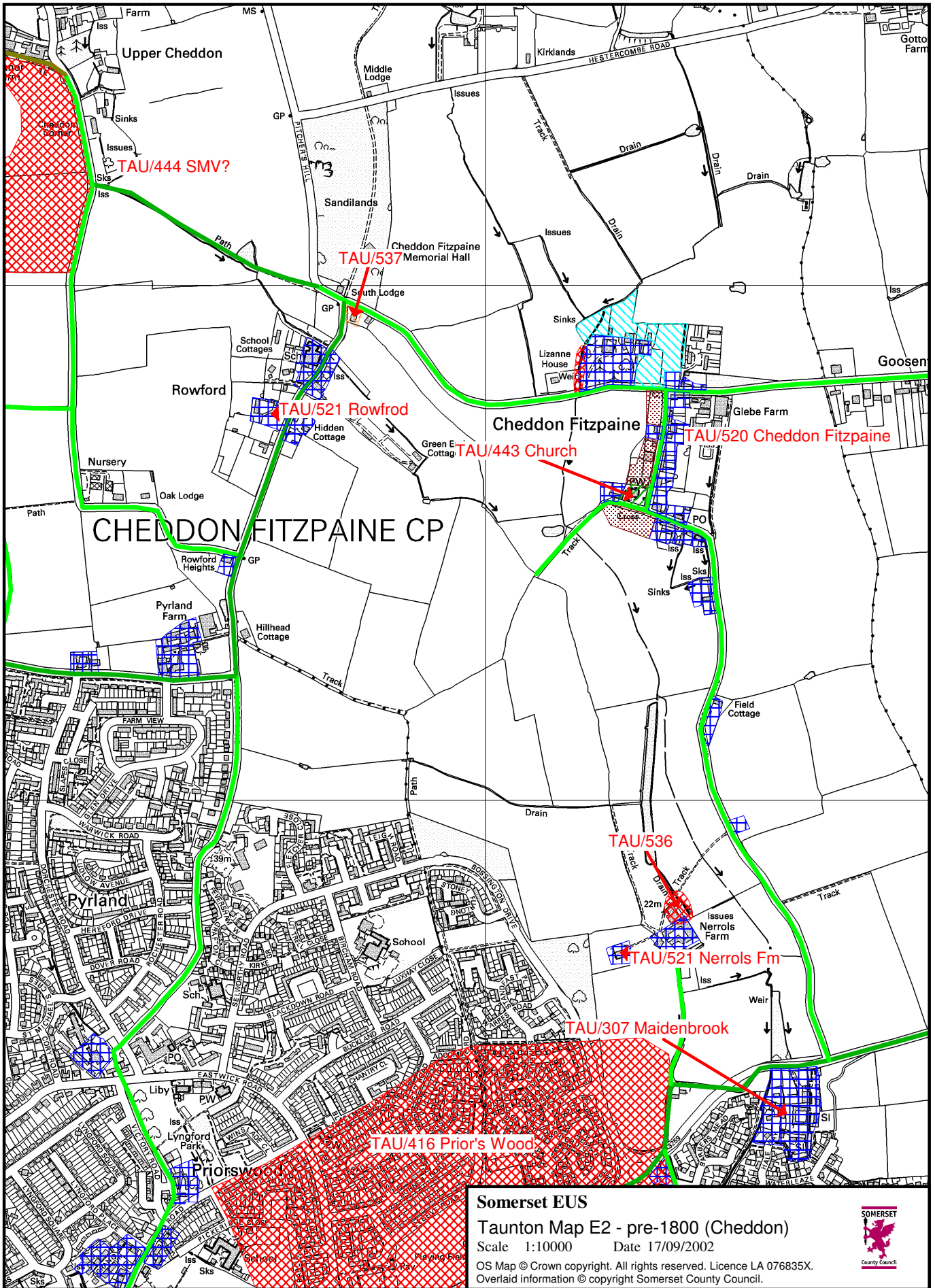
TAU/420 Shuttern

TAU/406 Vivarium

TAU/305 Wilton church





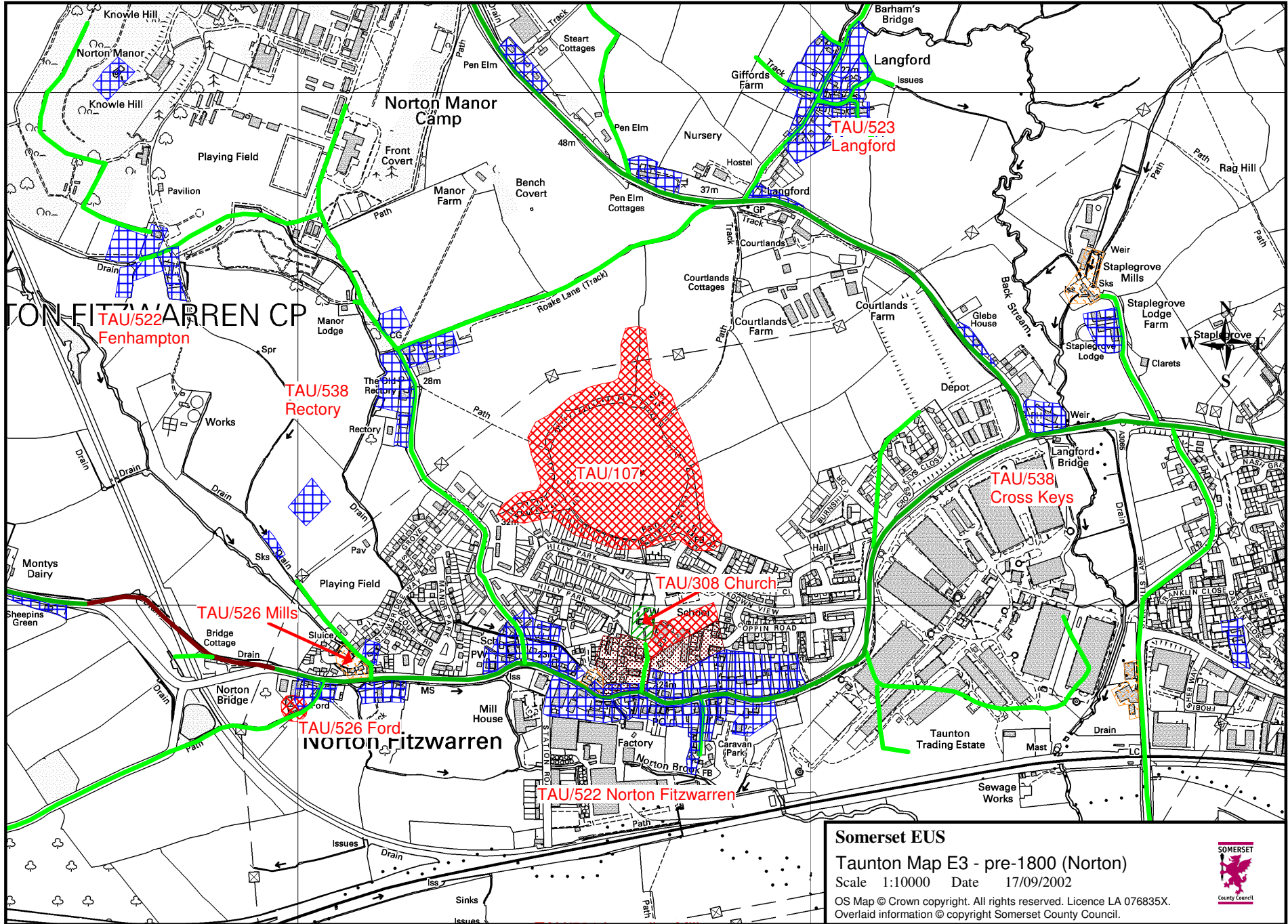


CHEDDON FITZPAINE CP

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 Taunton Map E2 - pre-1800 (Cheddon)
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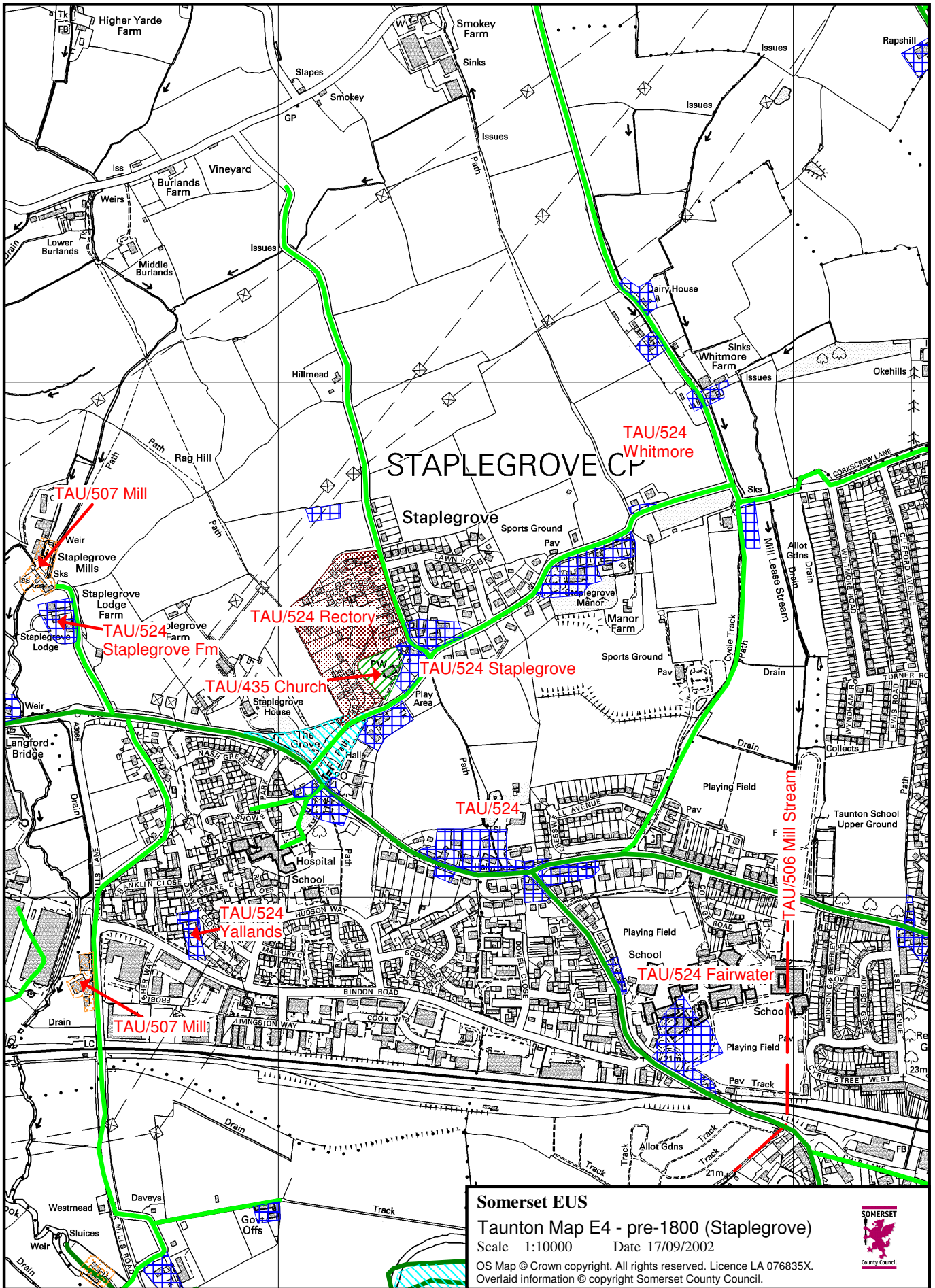
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Taunton Map E3 - pre-1800 (Norton)

Scale 1:10000 Date 17/09/2002

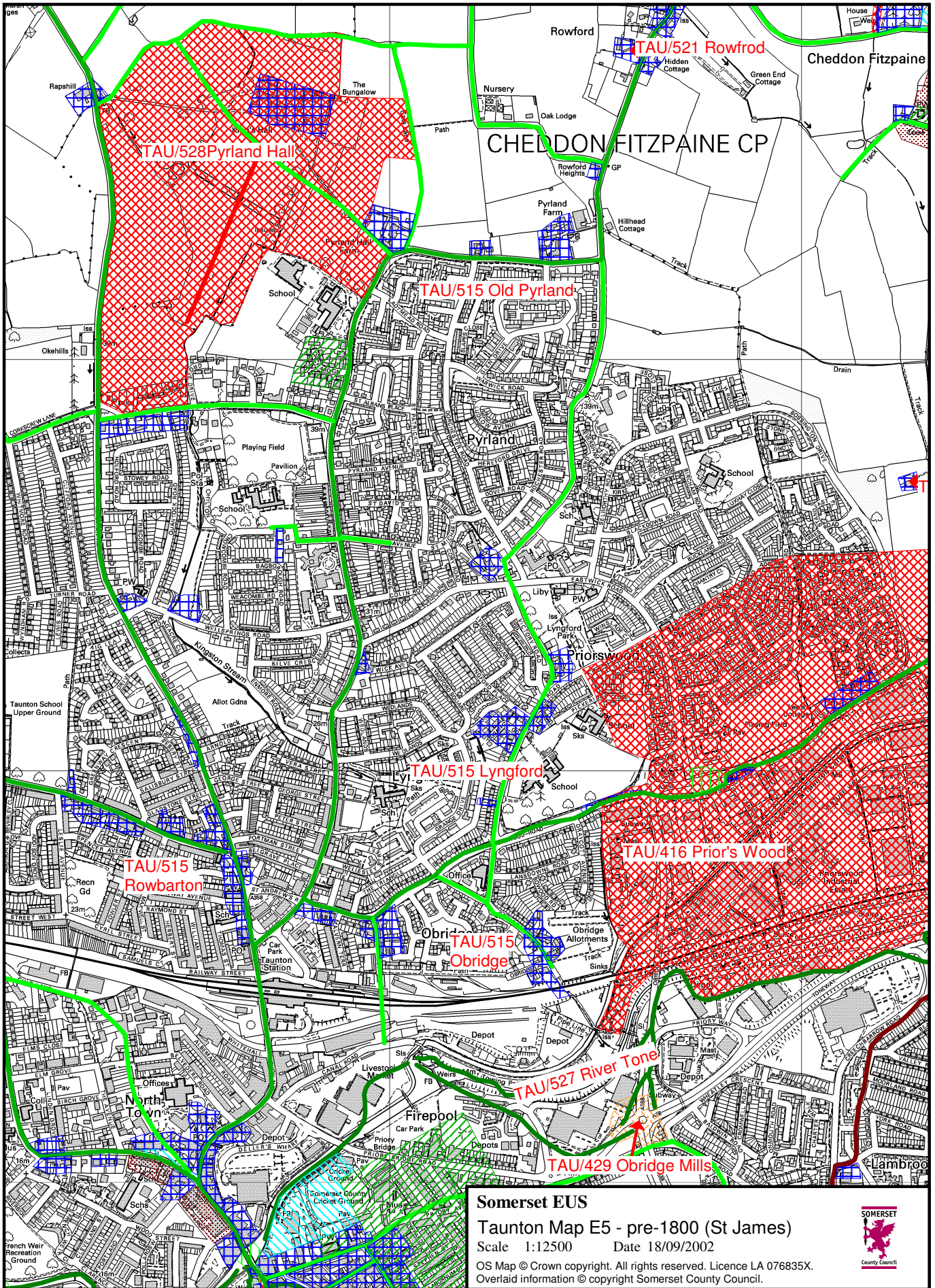
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 Taunton Map E4 - pre-1800 (Staplegrove)
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TAU/528 Pyrland Hall

TAU/521 Rowford

CHEDDON FITZPAINE CP

TAU/515 Old Pyrland

TAU/515 Rowbarton

TAU/515 Lyngford

TAU/416 Prior's Wood

TAU/515 Obridge

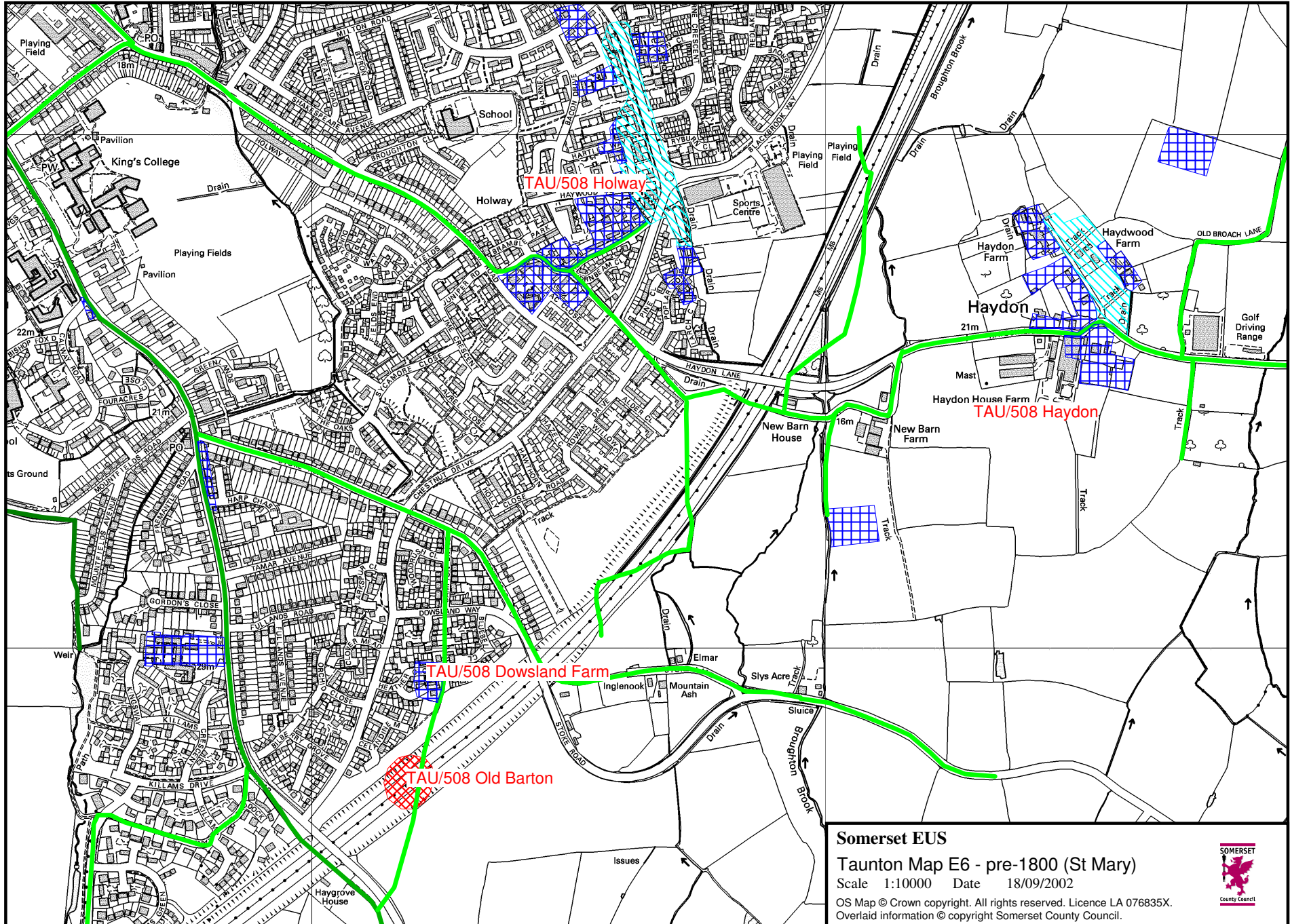
TAU/527 River Tone

TAU/429 Obridge Mills

Somerset EUS
 Taunton Map E5 - pre-1800 (St James)
 Scale 1:12500 Date 18/09/2002

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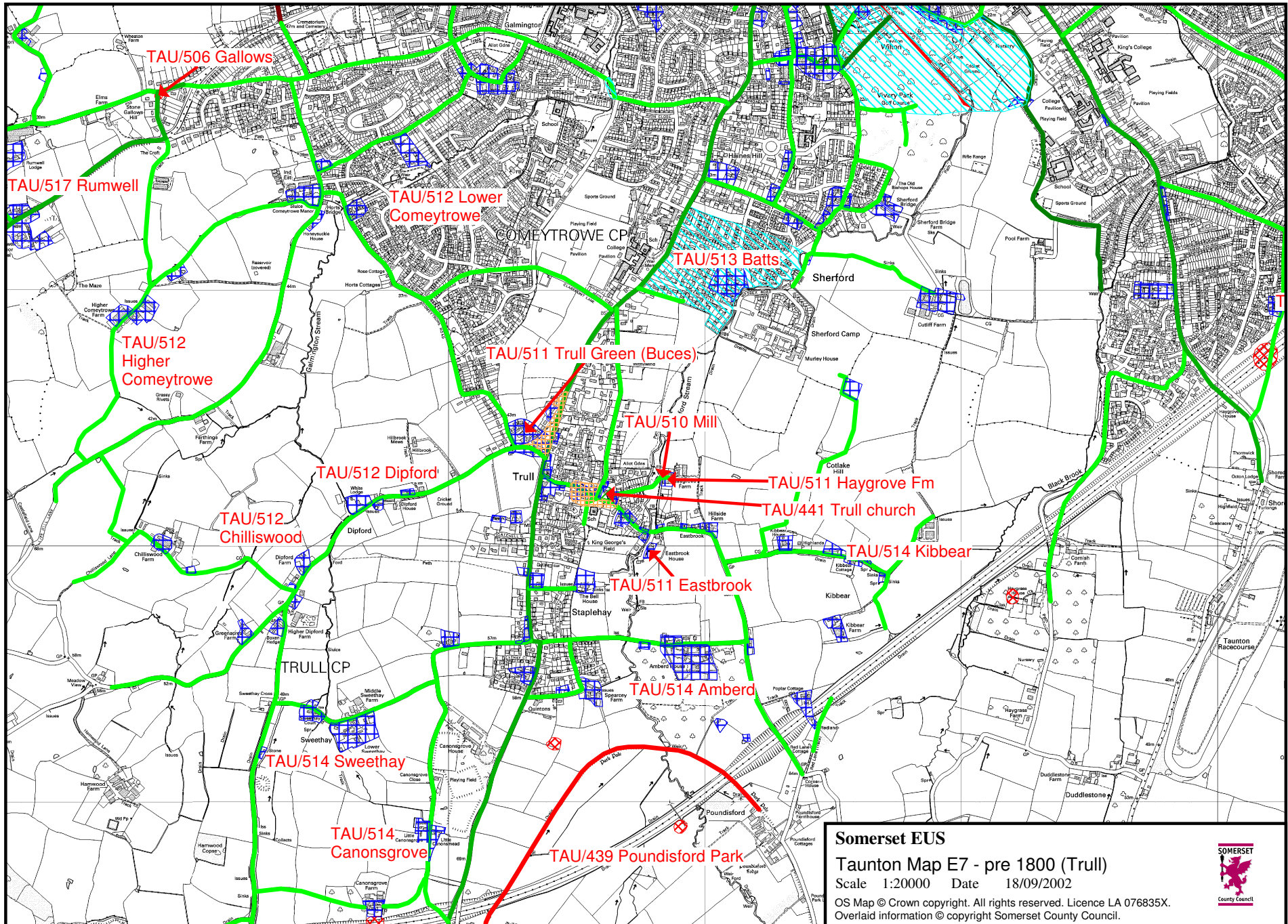
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Taunton Map E6 - pre-1800 (St Mary)

Scale 1:10000 Date 18/09/2002

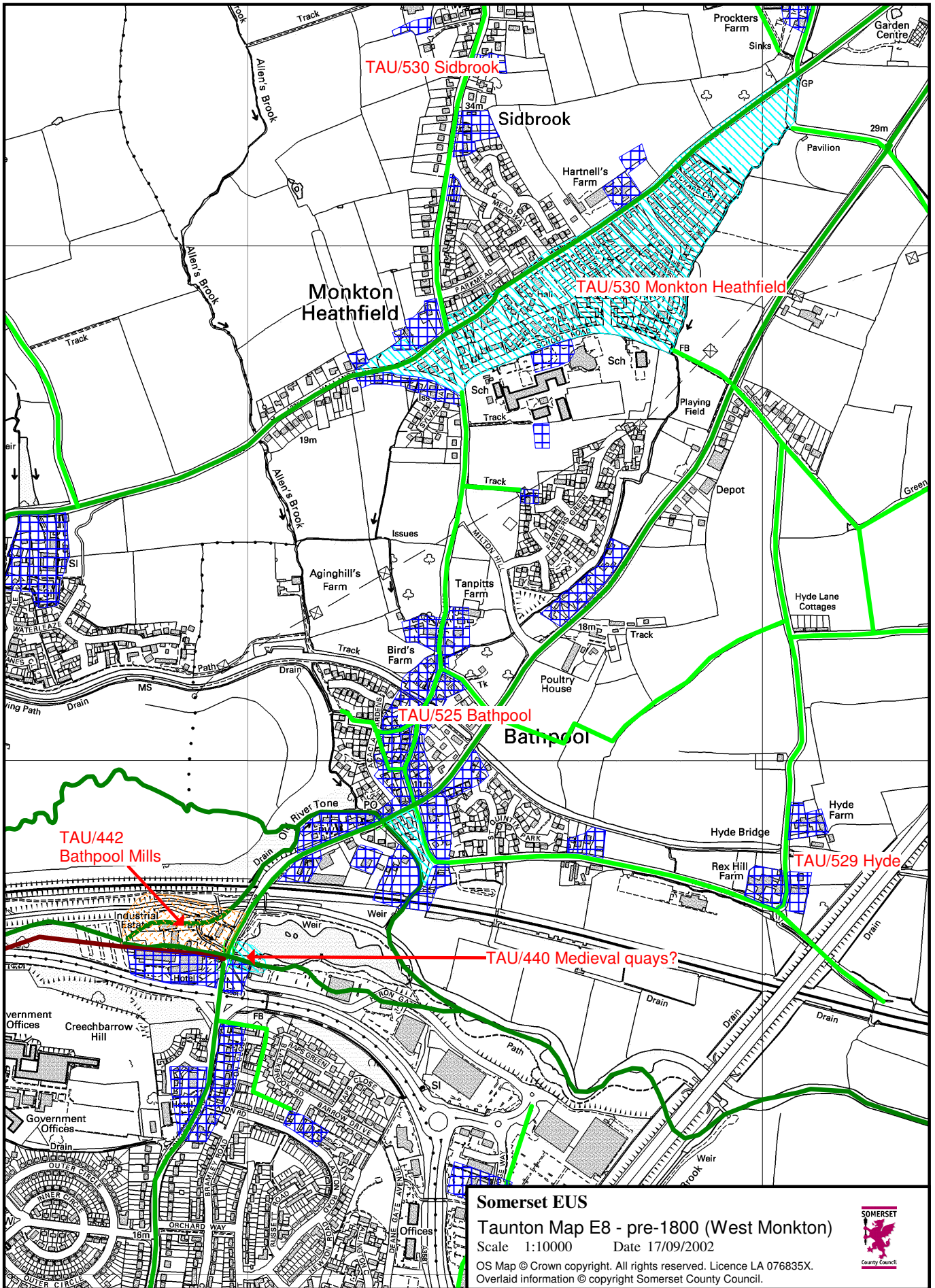
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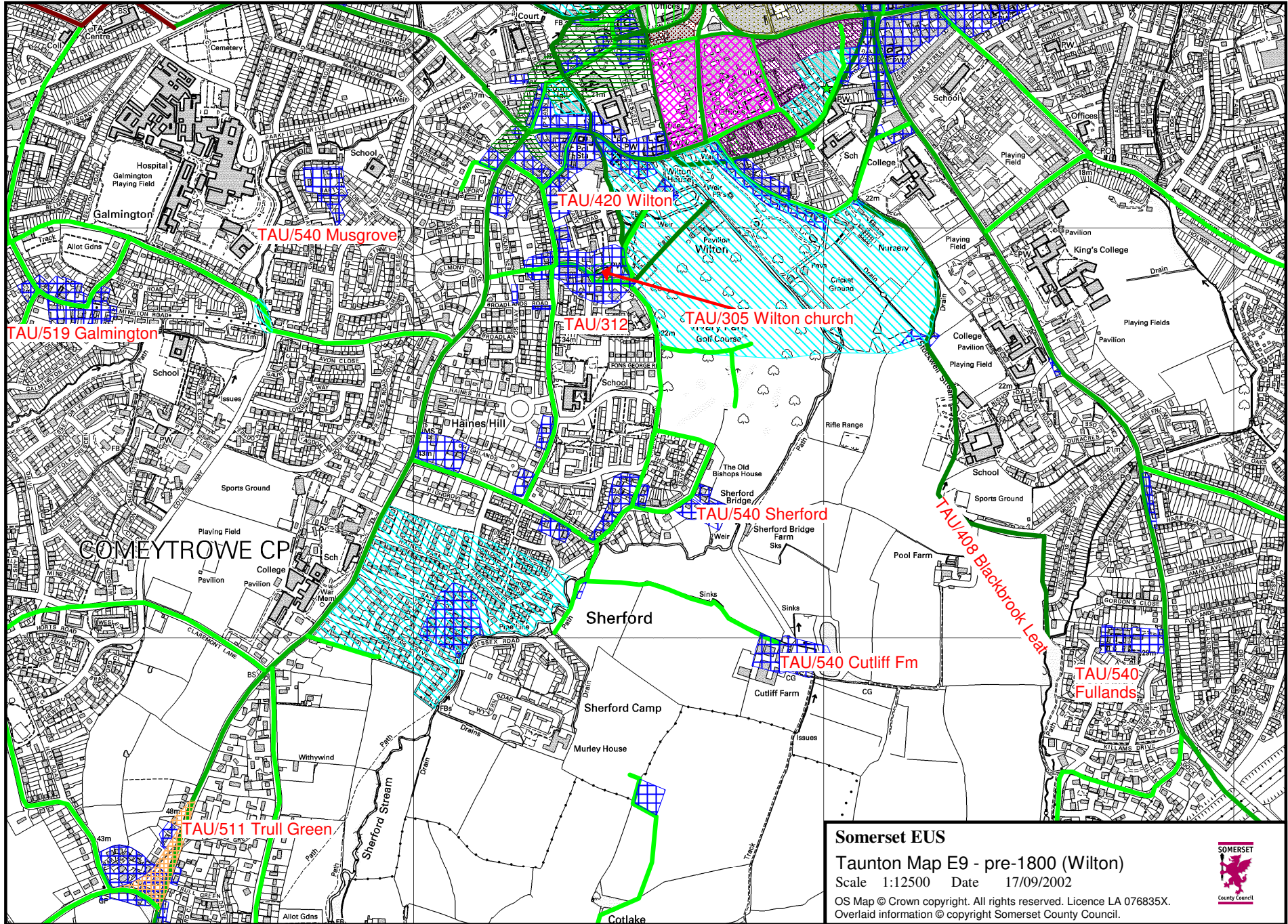




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 Taunton Map E7 - pre 1800 (Trull)
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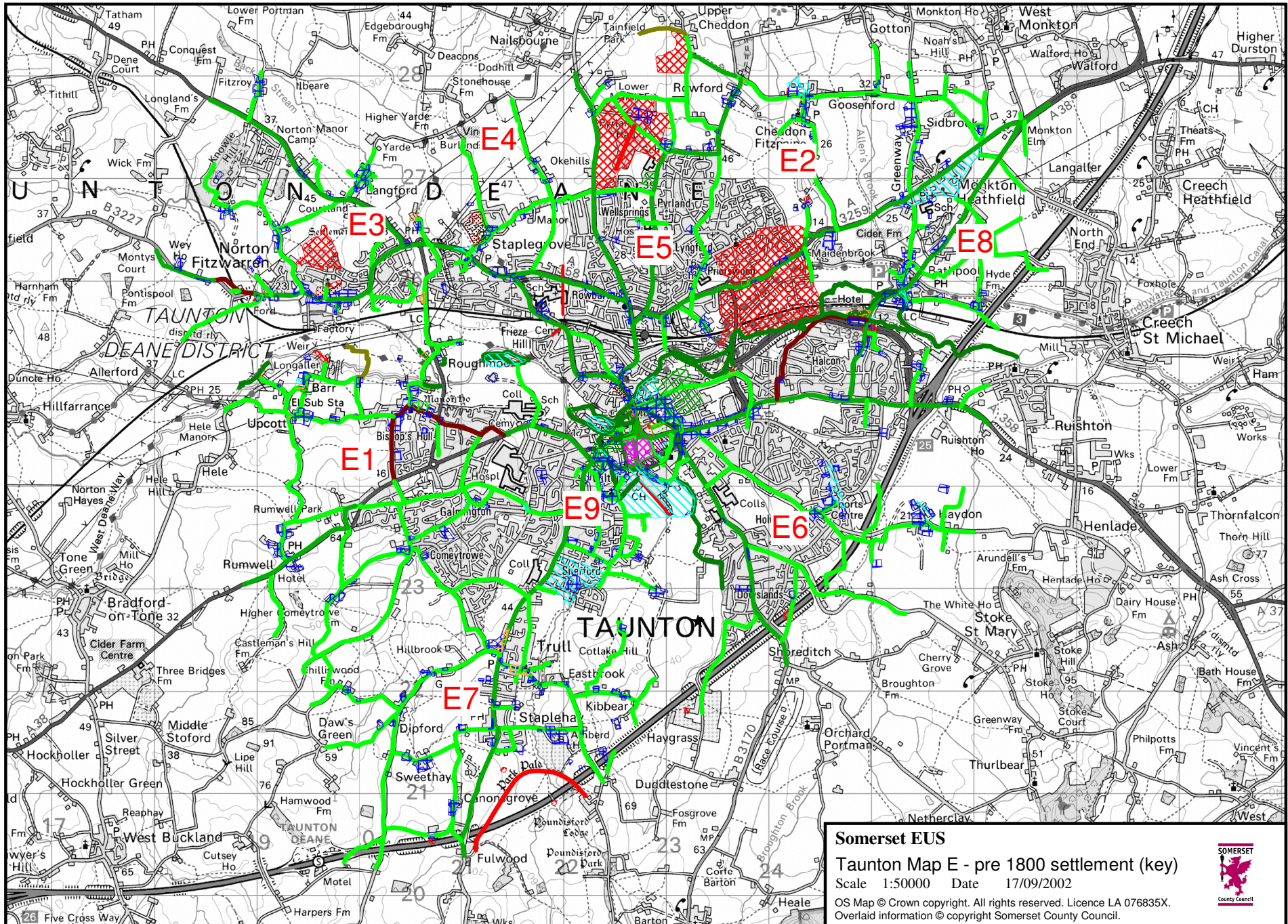


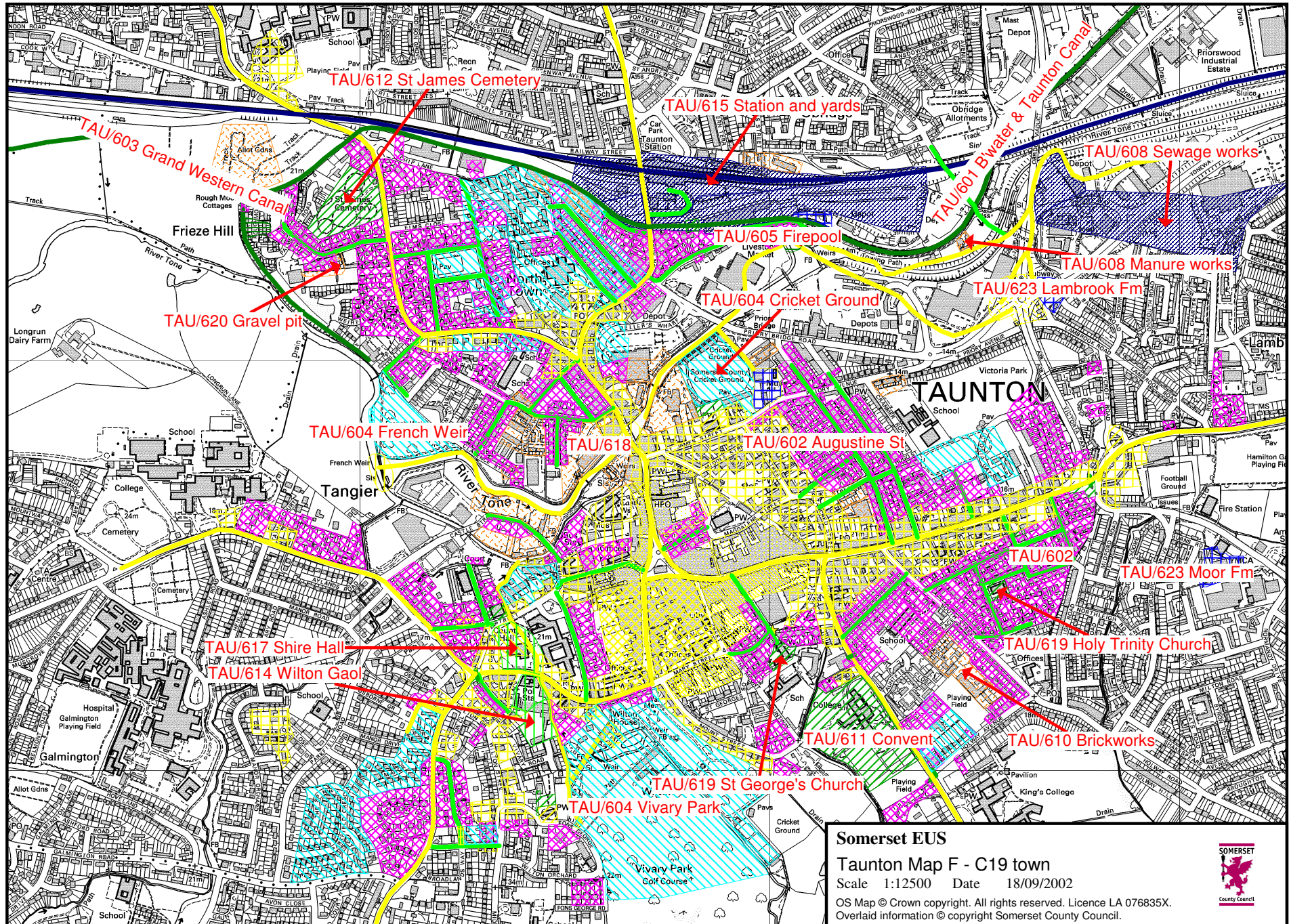


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 Taunton Map E9 - pre-1800 (Wilton)
 Scale 1:12500 Date 17/09/2002

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TAU/612 St James Cemetery

TAU/615 Station and yards

TAU/603 Grand Western Canal

TAU/601 Bwater & Taunton Canal

TAU/608 Sewage works

TAU/620 Gravel pit

TAU/605 Firepool

TAU/608 Manure works

TAU/604 Cricket Ground

TAU/623 Lambrook Fm

TAU/604 French Weir

TAU/618

TAU/602 Augustine St

TAU/617 Shire Hall

TAU/602

TAU/623 Moor Fm

TAU/614 Wilton Gaol

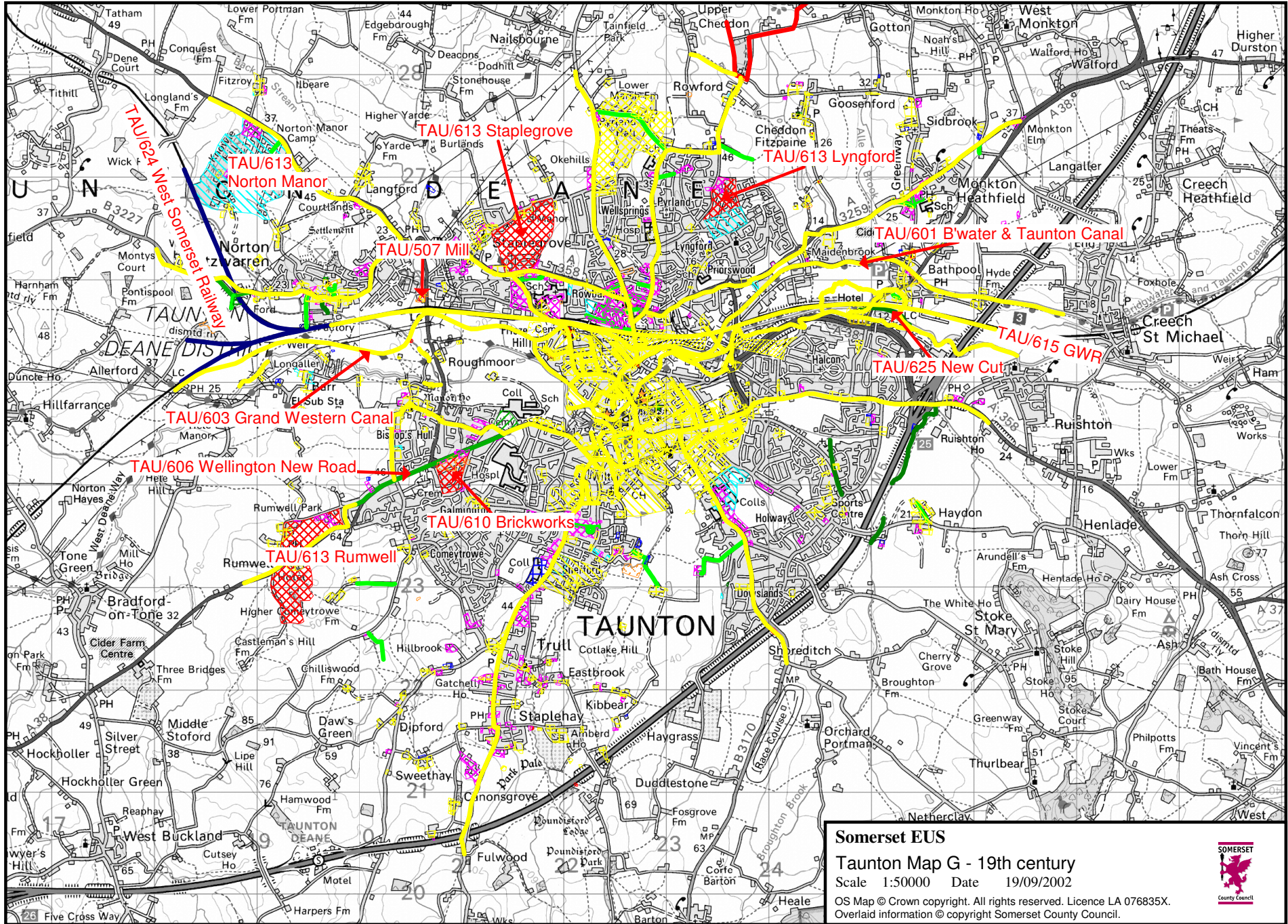
TAU/619 Holy Trinity Church

TAU/611 Convent

TAU/610 Brickworks

TAU/619 St George's Church

TAU/604 Vivary Park



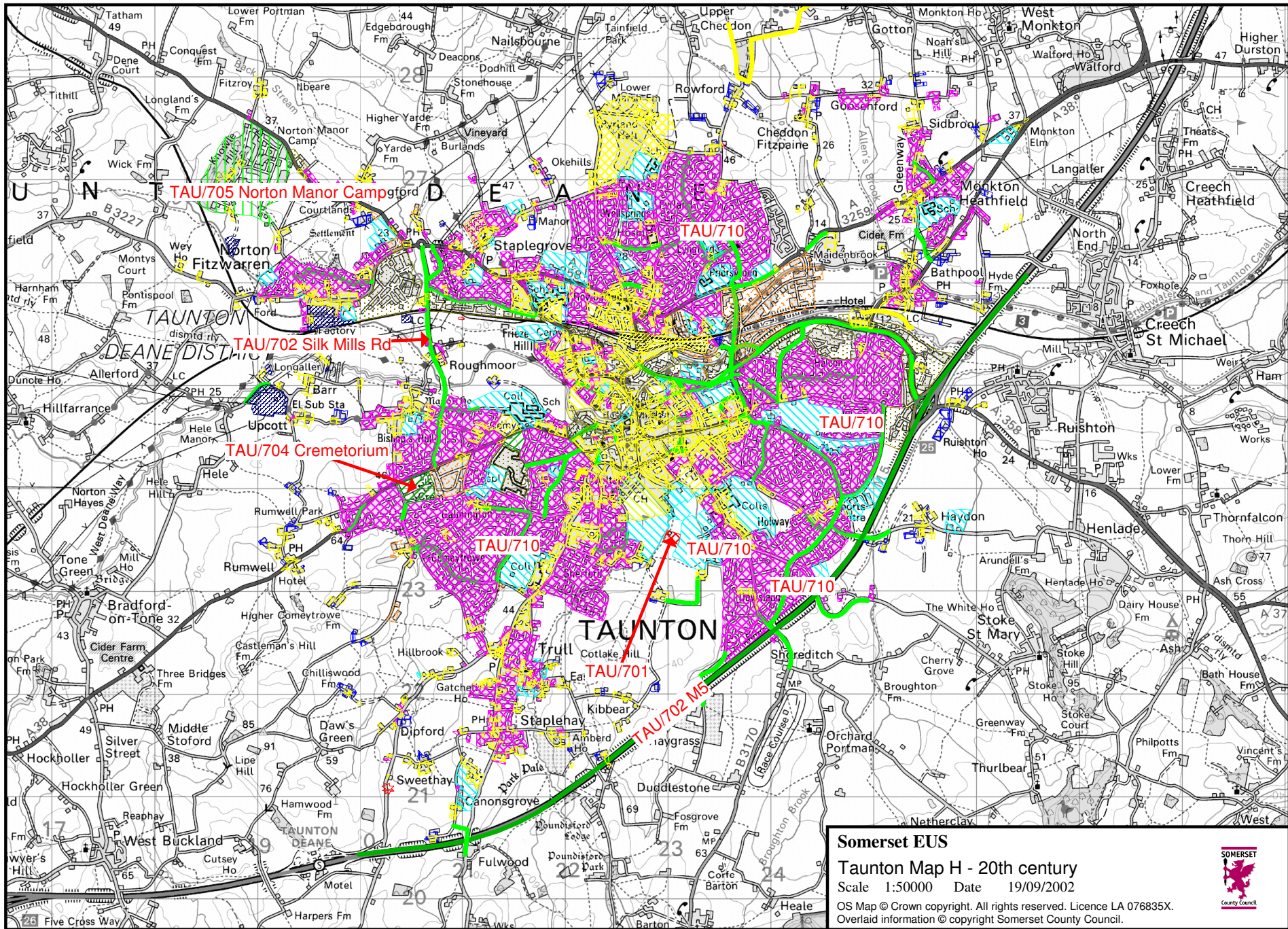
Somerset EUS

Taunton Map G - 19th century

Scale 1:50000 Date 19/09/2002

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Somerset EUS
 Taunton Map H - 20th century
 Scale 1:50000 Date 19/09/2002

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