English Heritage Extensive Urban Survey

An archaeological assessment of

# Wellington

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County Council

# SOMERSET EXTENSIVE URBAN SURVEY

# WELLINGTON

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

by Clare Gathercole

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**SOMERSET EXTENSIVE URBAN SURVEY**

# WELLINGTON

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT**

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

## I. INTRODUCTION

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

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

## II. MAJOR SOURCES

### 1. Primary documents
Three pre-Conquest charters are mentioned in the sources for Wellington. Though two of these may be spurious, a copy of the 909 AD charter by which the new Bishopric of Wells was endowed survives is accepted as authentic: this contains a perambulation of the estate. Wellington's connection with the Bishops of Wells led to its referencing in ecclesiastical documents of the later middle ages, though the earlier mediaeval period is not well served.

### 2. Local histories
Wellington has not yet been covered by the Victoria County History. However, a local history of the town was produced in the late 19th and early 20th century by A.L. Humphreys (1889, 1908-13), who also made many of the historical sources available. More recently, his work has been revised and updated by G. Allen and R. Bush (Bush & Allen, 1981; Allen, 1987). This report leans heavily on their work.

### 3. Maps
No detailed early maps of Wellington were available for this report.

## III. A BRIEF HISTORY OF WELLINGTON
Wellington lies in the broad agricultural vale of the Tone, on a natural communication line to the South-West. However, at this point, there is not one obvious route, but several alternatives, which have fluctuated in importance over the centuries. There is no clear evidence that the specific site occupied by Wellington was of particular importance in the prehistoric periods, though archaeological knowledge of the surrounding area is admittedly limited, consisting of a few cropmark sites and spot finds. Archaeology is increasingly showing, however, that there was Roman settlement in the vicinity of the knoll site now occupied by the mediaeval church. Since one suggested etymology - given fairly wide credence - of the name Wellington is "the settlement in the temple clearing", it is at least possible that this site was a centre of veneration before it enters into recorded history.

Wellington is first mentioned by name in early 10th century charters recording its initial grant to Bishop Asser of Sherborne and its subsequent part in the endowment of the new Bishopric of Wells, though the earlier of these charters is generally regarded with suspicion as a document. The estate was granted out of royal lands and may well have contained a royal vill at Wellington itself, close to the church site. Whether a church existed before the Bishops acquired the estate at present unclear, but there would certainly have been one from shortly after that date. The subsequent history of the church, which had at least one dependent chapel and was richly furnished in the Mediaeval period, suggests a well-established and quite richly endowed foundation. There are few historical clues to the nature and extent of accompanying settlement, but Wellington is recorded in the Domesday Survey as a settlement belonging to Bishop Giso of Wells, linked to West Buckland. The land holding described is relatively populous, but there is no sign that it was anything other than an agricultural village and hamlets.

It was probably not until the late 12th or early 13th century that the town was established as a commercial venture by the Bishops of Wells, for a charter of 1215 records a royal grant of urban status to Wellington (amongst other places). The creation of the borough was accompanied by other reorganisations, including the establishment of a vicarage for Wellington (though the Vicar was to reside at the linked centre of West Buckland for most of themedieval period) and the splitting off of a fraction of the estate to form part of the endowment of the new office of Provost of Wells: this small sub-manor retained a separate existence until the 19th century. Moreover, the medieval town was deliberately laid out afresh to encourage trade, arranged along the (diverted) Bristol to Exeter road with the old church at the east end of the new town, in a manner typical of other contemporary new towns. Occasional references to the borough and burgesses occur during the 13th and 14th centuries and it seems that the town was moderately successful as a centre of local markets and fairs, though its principal subsidiary occupation - the cloth industry - was small in scale.

Until the mid 16th century the town continued moderately prosperous. But in 1548 the main manor and borough was sold - under duress - to the Duke of Somerset. Though the borough was temporarily restored to the Bishops, it was seized along with the main manor - now known as Wellington Landside - by the Crown following the Duke's execution. The loss of the Bishops' protection appears to have exacerbated the difficult effects of national economic trends in the 16th century, for the town went through a period of some decline. By the end of the century, however, the town had found another powerful protector - Sir John Popham, Lord Chief Justice of England.

At first leaseholders, the Pophams acquired the estates and became Lords of the manor in the early 17th century. By this time the town appears to have recovered its fortunes somewhat, for Gerard (1633) describes it as a good market town. Unfortunately, the new Popham mansion - held for Parliament -was destroyed by Royalist troops during the Civil War, though this brief action was more or less the only direct engagement the town saw (except for a possible skirmish on the outskirts). Bypassed by Monmouth, Wellington settled back in the second half of the 17th century into low key economic activity. But it was about to enter into a period of boom, benefitting from fires, and political and labour unrest, afflicting its cloth manufacturing neighbours, Taunton and Tiverton. The town became a desirable base for established clothiers (who were already controlling much of the cottage industry), such as the Weres of Devon, from whom Wellington's Fox dynasty descended.

The growth of manufacturing was still delayed, however, and it is apparent from early 18th century accounts that there was still much poverty amongst the lower classes. Defoe (1724) was beset by beggars on his way into town, and this may have been at Rockwell Green (or Rowe Green, colloquially known as Rogue Green in the 18th century). The problems of this small settlement were relieved during the later 18th and 19th centuries by the growth of the Westford Mills. The establishment of other large mills north of the town at Tonedale led to increasing prosperity, at a time when the cloth industries of other towns were foundering, and Collinson (1791) was able to describe a fine, thriving town.

In the second half of the 18th century and in the 19th century Wellington's communications improved, first through the turnpikes, and then through the building of first the Grand Western Canal and subsequently the Bristol and Exeter Railway to the north of the town. The last two also affected the topography, encouraging the town to spread north towards its mills, which expanded greatly during the 19th century. By this time, both the borough and the manor had been sold on several times, separately, but in 1812 both had become part of the Duke of Wellington's estates. The borough had been leased back to the townsmen until 1876, though this proved a financial strain on the town. In 1883 the newly formed Wellington Market and Town Hall Company purchased the borough outright and in 1894

Wellington's status was confirmed by the establishment of both Urban and Rural District Councils based on the town.

Wellington's independence has been somewhat lost in the 20th century as it has increasingly become a dormitory settlement of Taunton. Indeed, it was joined to Taunton in the 1970s round of local government reorganisation, though it reacquired its own town council in 1977. This strengthening of links has been partly due to the most recent alteration to the town's communications, the construction of the M5; and the presence of the motorway (combined with the closure of the railway station) is once more shaping the town, drawing it southward and eastward.

## IV. THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF WELLINGTON

### *GENERAL COMMENTS*

#### *0.1 Archaeological work in the town*
A relatively small amount of archaeological work has taken place in and around Wellington, but some of that which has taken place has been of considerable interest, and suggestive of the area's potential. This is particularly true of the excavation north of the church, which produced evidence of Saxon activity on the site (see p8), and of the sites east and south of the town which have produced evidence of Roman settlement (see p7). Since this report was written there have been several small evaluations in the centre of the town but these have been largely negative.

#### *0.2 Standing structures and visible remains*
Though Wellington's medieval plan survives in part, little remains of earlier periods. The town's Listed Buildings are mostly of 18th and 19th century origin, though a few of earlier origin survive: these are mentioned as appropriate.

### *1. PREHISTORIC*
*(Map A)*

#### *1.1 Archaeological work in the town/ Archaeological knowledge*
There is limited archaeological knowledge of the prehistoric period in and around Wellington. The SMR contains details of some cropmark sites and find spots, but it is extremely unlikely that the known sites truly represent the settlement pattern in a vale which elsewhere contains evidence of considerable activity over a long time span.

#### *1.2 Context*
Wellington is one of 37 of the 45 historic towns covered by this project at which there is as yet no strong evidence of prehistoric settlement on the site of the later town - though there was certainly widespread activity in the vale of Taunton Deane, and it should be remembered that it is notoriously difficult for archaeologists to demonstrate a prehistoric presence in modern urban areas. Whilst 'towns' were not, generally speaking, a feature of prehistoric landscapes, many of the same factors which made the site desirable in later periods would already have been operative.

#### *1.3 Standing structures and visible remains*
There are no visible remains of the prehistoric period in Wellington.

#### *1.4 Archaeological features*, shown on *Map A*

*1.4.a Communications: Routeways*
Not mapped     It is possible that the "Oldway" (mapped as a medieval or earlier road on Map D) represents an early South-West route (Bush & Allen, 1981).

*1.4.b Settlement*
WEG/102     Enclosures
           The SMR records a trapezoidal enclosure of probable prehistoric date (SMR 44166) north of

Lower Westford Farm, and a rectangular double ditched enclosure at Crosslands (SMR 44167).

*The sites marked are from the SMR.*

There may also be iron age occupation at Cades Farm (see below, p7).

*1.4.c  Artefact scatters*

WEG/101        <u>Bronze finds</u>
                Well provenanced finds in the SMR include a bronze palstave from Olands Meadow (SMR 43728).

Not mapped      Unprovenanced finds in the SMR include two bronze artefacts (SMR 43727), and a flint scraper found near Wellesley Park School (Burrow, Minnitt & Murless, 1982).

## 2. ROMAN
*(Map A)*

### 2.1  Archaeological work in the town/ Archaeological knowledge
Archaeological knowledge of Roman activity around Wellington is limited, though excavations in advance of the M5 construction in the 1970s and, more recently, at Cade's Farm have revealed settlement sites east and south of the later focus, both close to the sites of later farms. Much remains to be learnt about how the Roman settlement and road pattern relates to that of later periods.

### 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.

Wellington is one of seven of the 45 historic towns covered by this project at which there is some evidence for a Roman site at the core of the later settlement. In this case, the site in question, a possible temple, perhaps on the site later occupied by the churchyard, is rather conjectural; if confirmed, it would be the only such site in the study, though four other towns have villas with religious associations at their hearts. There was in any case clearly farming activity in the surrounding vale.

### 2.3  Standing structures and visible remains
There are no visible remains of the Roman period at Wellington.

### 2.4  Archaeological features, *shown on* **Map A**
*2.4.a  Communications:  Roads*

Not mapped      It is possible that some of the axial routes at Wellington may be of Roman (or earlier?) origin. Elworthy (1892) links the Oldway, for example, with the supposed Roman road past the site of Taunton. The settlement name Ford Street (itself beyond the study area) also suggests the possible presence of a Roman road. And the locations of the known Roman sites (see below) suggest that some of the other pre-1800 lanes *may* be of early origin. However, in all cases archaeological evidence for the road is lacking.

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

WEG/204        <u>The possible temple site</u>
                The existence of a temple on the slight rise later occupied by the churchyard is an intriguing possibility based on a particular etymology of the name Wellington ('settlement in the temple clearing'). Until archaeological confirmation has been obtained, however, the site remains conjectural.

                *The area shown is conjectural.*

*2.4.c  Settlement*

WEG/202          Cades Farm (SMR 44600)
                 Recent evaluation work at Cades Farm has revealed traces of a previously unsuspected Roman (or possibly late iron age) occupation site.  The first phase of evaluation work (Oxford Archaeological Unit, 1997) consisted of a series of trial trenches, which produced evidence of both occupation and industrial activity in the vicinity, though few well-defined features (except ditches) were encountered in the evaluation trenches.  Evidence for industrial activity came from the northern end of the area investigated, and consisted of a quantity of Romano-British pottery considered by the excavators to be indicative of a possible nearby production site.  The evidence for nearby occupation came mostly from the east side of the investigated site, in the form of ditches in association with artefacts indicative of Roman (and/or iron age) habitation.

                 The evaluation trenches were followed up by a magnetometer and magnetic susceptibility survey of the whole area (Bartlett, 1997).  Since this failed to pick up the ditches, parts of which had already been excavated in the first phase of evaluation, its results are considered inconclusive.

                 The area shown can only be conjectural at the moment.  It contains the whole of the investigated area, together with further areas to north and east, which the excavators have implied are the most likely to contain remains of industrial activity and occupation.  This includes the site of Cades Farm itself.

                 *The area shown is conjectural but is based on the evaluation reports for Cade's Farm (Oxford Archaeological Unit, 1997; Bartlett, 1997).*

WEG/203          Settlement south of Gillard's Farm (SMR 43722) *(shown on Map D)*
                 Work in advance of construction of the M5 in the 1970s revealed a Romano-British homestead defined by a sub-circular perimeter ditch of about 100 metres diameter, enclosing a complex of paddocks and a possible corn drier.  Domestic debris indicated a fairly substantial building.

                 *From the SMR.*

*2.4.d   Artefact scatters*

WEG/201          Roman finds
                 The SMR includes references to finds of Roman pottery at Courtland School (SMR 43723). The SMR files also contain material suggesting that remains of walls may survive under the school playing field:  however, this is as yet completely unsubstantiated.

                 *From the SMR.*

Not mapped       Unprovenanced finds include a coin (SMR 43726).

*3.  SAXON*
*(Map B)*

*3.1  Archaeological work in the town/ Archaeological knowledge*
Though there is little archaeological information on Saxon Wellington, some evidence of an enclosure predating the medieval churchyard has been obtained from a site north of the church (Horton, Davies &  Barber, 1993).  The evidence so far suggests that considerable interest may attach to the churchyard and to the adjacent land (some of which have been relatively little disturbed by later development), but is ambiguous with regard to the settlement layout.

*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, adminstrative 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.  However, there are also a number which can claim to have been 'central places' performing more limited, and non-commercial, functions:  not all such places developed into towns, but many towns originated in such specialised settlements.

Wellington is one of seven of the 45 historic towns covered by this project which, whilst it had not developed any really urban functions by the end of the Saxon period, had both ecclesiastical and administrative functions.  It is one of 22 towns associated with a known or probable pre-Conquest minster, and one of 22 associated with a royal manor centre (though the estate was transferred to the church before the Conquest).

### 3.3  Standing structures and visible remains
There are no visible remains of Saxon Wellington.

### 3.4  Archaeological components, *shown on* Map B
#### 3.4.a  Communications: Roads

Not mapped        It is clear that in the medieval period the road layout in the vicinity of the church was altered, but the earlier layout has not been established.  It seems very likely that what became in the medieval period the main road passed somewhere to the north of the church.  There are signs that a north-south route also passed through the settlement close to the medieval church site before the establishment of the Medieval High Street; only fragments of diverted lanes remained in the post-medieval period.

Some *medieval and post-medieval* roads are shown on Map B to demonstrate the complexity of the situation around the church (see below).

#### 3.4.b  Burial sites, religious houses and places of worship
The churchyard is not mapped separately for this period:  see below.

#### 3.4.c  Settlement

WEG/301        Saxon Wellington
The generalised nature of the area of possible Saxon occupation in Wellington marked on Map B reflects our limited knowledge of a settlement which may have included in the pre-Conquest period not only a fairly important church but also, perhaps, an earlier Saxon royal site.

The church site (possibly a minster site in the later Saxon period, and possibly overlying an earlier sacred place) may have formed the early focus of settlement.  But though observations made during work in the nave of the church in 1987 appeared to show late Saxon (*or* Norman) foundations directly underlying the medieval building (Croft, 1987), it is not clear in what relation the Saxon church would have stood to the rest of the settlement, which may have been completely replanned in the medieval period (see WEG/401, p12).

An excavation which took place just north of the church in the early 1990s (Horton, Davies & Barber, 1993) revealed two parallel late Saxon ditches running north-west to south-east under the medieval churchyard.  These were at exact right angles to the medieval church, implying that the latter respects the orientation of earlier features:  it was clear from the structural history of the northern graveyard wall that one at least of the ditches remained partially open and visible into the post-medieval period.  However, the ditches appeared to be heading directly underneath the church, and without further excavation, their relationship to the pre-Conquest church (which would almost certainly have been smaller than its medieval successor) cannot be confidently

assessed.

The excavators suggested on the basis of parallels with other known Saxon sites, including that at Cheddar, that the two ditches *might* represent the boundary of a royal manor site. There was no archaeological proof of which boundary they represented, as any bank which there may have once been between or to one side of the ditches had been wholly truncated. The excavators believed it would have been the eastern boundary, with a manor site therefore lying to the west of the church, and underneath the later medieval town. However, the alternative possibility should also be born in mind, particularly given the relatively little disturbed condition of areas east of the churchyard.

The church site and the areas immediately to its east and its west may, then, be of great potential importance. The size of the remaining area shown is a result of uncertainty over the road layout and orientation before the creation of the medieval town: only a proportion of this area is likely to have been occupied, but the relevant part has not yet been identified.

The state of archaeological survival in areas underlying the medieval and post-medieval towns has not been properly assessed. It is likely to be inferior to that within the churchyard and - perhaps - the area east of the churchyard. Because of the potential interest of the archaeological remains in the pre-Conquest core of Wellington it is extremely important that archaeological observations continue to be made wherever possible.

*The area shown is conjectural, based on the limited excavation evidence and the post-medieval maps.*

WEG/302    Other Saxon settlement *(not shown on Map B)*
Chelston, on the edge of the study area, is also mentioned in a (probably forged) early 10th century charter (as *Ceolfeston*).

Not mapped    Amongst the other hamlets mentioned in the above charter - *Bocland* (Buckland), *Hamme* (Ham), *Herpothford* (Harpford), *Pinnocesmor* (Pinksmoor) - is one, *Huntanapoth*, of which the site is not known.

*3.4.d Mills*
Not mapped    Two mills are recorded at Domesday: the estate at this time included West Buckland, but it is possible that both mills were in the Wellington part of the estate. It has been suggested that the pre-Conquest sites were those later occupied by the Tonedale Mills and Westford Mills (Elworthy, 1892) but this need not necessarily be the case.

## 4. PRE-1800
## (Maps C & D)
There is insufficient information to distinguish medieval and post-medieval development in most parts of Wellington and these two periods are therefore considered together.

### 4.1 Archaeological work in the town/ Archaeological knowledge
Archaeological work relating to medieval and post-medieval Wellington has been very limited.

### 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.

Wellington is one of 20 of the 45 historic towns covered by this project which first acquired urban status in the medieval period, and one of the ten of these 20 which acquired full borough status.  It was one of 19 of the 45 towns at which a planned area was laid out in the medieval period partially across or - more commonly - immediately adjacent to an established settlement.

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.  Wellington 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, became a fairly important cloth town.

### *4.3  Standing structures and visible remains*

Relatively few buildings of known medieval or post-medieval origin survive in Wellington.  There are only three Listed Buildings of known medieval origin within the study area:  the Grade I Listed Church (SMR LB 46306); the Grade II* Listed Old Court (SMR LB 46313); and Jurston Farmhouse (SMR LB 46309).  RCHM has reports, plans and photographs of the Old Court.

More survive from the 16th to early 18th centuries, particularly the 18th century.  These include a number of properties in High Street and Fore Street, amongst which are the earlier surviving buildings, the two inns (the Squirrel - SMR LB 44616; and the Three Cups - SMR LB 46274) and Popham's Almshouses (SMR LB 46320 - actually a 19th century rebuild).  Other early houses and cottages are peppered around the town.

Listed Buildings of known medieval or  post-medieval origin in the centre of Wellington are shown on Map C.

### *4.4  Archaeological components (centre), shown on* **Map C**

#### *4.4.a  Redevelopment in earlier settlement components*

Though there may have been some continuity of usage between the Saxon period and both the earlier and later medieval periods, particularly on the site of the church, all components have been redefined.  This is because we can be far more confident of the layout of the medieval town than of the preceding settlement.

#### *4.4.b  Communications: Roads*

WEG/403          Laid out or diverted Medieval streets

The street plan of Wellington as it was in the early 19th century, before the creation of the turnpike route south of Drake's Place, strongly suggests that an existing lane was diverted and widened in the medieval period (probably the late 12th or 13th century) in order to allow the laying out of burgages along High Street (formerly known as East Street: Allen, 1987) and Fore Street.  Back lanes were also laid out and survive in part.

The High Street-Fore Street axis was not necessarily the main route to Exeter, which  may have followed the lane known in parts as Oldway (which now forms part of the relief road).  Linking the town street to the cross-country route was South Street, which also bears the appearance of

having been laid out, diverted or straightened during the setting out of the town in the medieval period (possibly during a second phase of development).  It is possible that several other of the cross routes were adapted to fit the Medieval plan.

Changes of alignment in Wellington's lanes and streets from the pre-Conquest period to the 18th century have not in most cases been archaeologically traced; considerable interest will attach to information which increases our understanding of the relationship of the medieval street plan to earlier routes, particularly in the vicinity of the Church (see above, p8).

*The streets alignments shown as of medieval origin are actually from the 1802 and 1839 maps, and their date of origin is based on historical information and conjecture.*

WEG/501        Other pre-1800 roads
               Other pre-1800 roads, some of which may be of very early origin, are shown on Map C.

               *The alignments are from the 1802 and 1839 maps.*

*4.4.c  Water*
Not mapped     The upkeep of the town stream, known as the 'Bolybrook' in the medieval period, was the responsibility of the manor and subsequently the borough.  It has been artificially channelled, perhaps as late as the 16th century (Bush & Allen, 1981), but no detailed information was obtained for this report.

*4.4.d  Military sites*
Not mapped     There is a 1277 reference to a north gate, but this probably suggests tollbars rather than any defensive installation (Bond, c1990).

Not mapped     Elworthy (1892) refers to the site of a Civil War skirmish in a field near Drake's Place, supposedly formerly known as Battlefield.  This site has not been identified.

*4.4.e  Manors and estates*
WEG/402        The Old Court (SMR 43715)
               The Old Court was the Bishops' residence and manor house during the medieval period until the construction of Popham's new house in the late 16th century (see below).  It is therefore a site of potential importance and though the building itself has received attention, little else is known. It now appears to sit neatly within a block of burgages (WEG/407, p15) however, these may have been laid out around it and its original extent is unknown.

               The Grade II* Listed Old Court building (SMR LB 46313) has a 19th century appearance, and is accompanied by other Listed structures of known 19th century origin (SMR LB 46314, 46315, 46316).  Yet elements of the medieval plan and structure have survived subsequent renovations: Williams & Flower-Smith (1987) mention, for example, traces of a medieval hall and solar over a service cross wing.  However, the main house would have been accompanied by a suite of other buildings, which no longer stand, as well as gardens.  The buildings may have included a chapel (Bush & Allen, 1981), though the documentation is confusing.  Parchmarks on the lawn indicate that archaeological remains still survive (Bond, c1990), for parts of the Old Court site have fortunately escaped damaging modern development.

               *The area marked is based on the 1839 map.*

WEG/503        The Court (SMR 43716)
               In the 16th century, the Bishops' old residence (see above) was renovated by its then owner, Sir John Popham (Lord Chief Justice of England), and transferred to his son.  Popham himself is recorded as having constructed a new house for himself sometime between 1592 and 1604.  Held for Parliament during the Civil War, this was besieged and destroyed by King's men in  1645.

Popham's mansion has almost certainly been identified by excavations to the north-west of the Old Court, which took place in 1952 in advance of levelling of a mound for the construction of a football field (Seaby, 1952). The excavations revealed (much robbed out) walls and cellars. From the plan form and from the accompanying artefactual evidence (which included quantities of local and imported pottery, as well as glass), these were identified as part of the hall and buttery of a typical late Tudor mansion. Many artefacts of later 17th to 19th century date were also found, but these were associated with an ashy dump across the robbed out ruins of the house.

The site is now under a playing field and the outline of the house can still be seen as a parchmark in dry weather. However, it is probable that the known remains represent only part of a large and extensive site, including outbuildings, courtyards and gardens. It has been observed that the 19th century Court (SMR LB 46251) to the north-west of the Popham house site echoes its orientation closely, and that it may have been built on the base of surviving ranges of outbuildings not wholly destroyed in the Civil War. Not all of these may directly underlie the Court, for various observations of blocks of masonry have been made by the Fox family there over the years.

So it is quite possible that 16th century archaeological remains of importance still survive at the Court. But this may not be the whole story. Whilst it was a frequent practice in the 16th century to choose a fresh site, with room for gardens, when constructing a new house, this may in Wellington's case have meant reusing and extending the old demesne farm site. The location of the Court, in fields to the rear of the medieval Bishops' residence, fits such a context. Moreover, there are 17th century documentary references to a large tithe barn which Aston & Leech (1977) associate with the Court site. Though this hypothesis has not been archaeologically confirmed, it may mean that a much longer sequence of buildings can be expected on the site.

*Map C shows the main house (and farm?) site, as deduced from the 1839 map and from the excavation report (Seaby, 1952). It also shows the area of gardens shown on the 1839 map, which may have also been garden in the Tudor period.*

### 4.4.f Burial sites, religious houses and places of worship

WEG/401          The medieval churchyard (SMR 43714)
There was probably a church, perhaps a minster, in Wellington from at least the early 10th century onwards, and there may have been an earlier sacred site (see above, p8). The antiquity of the church is suggested, though not stated, by medieval documents, for though it is not directly referred to in documents until 1178 (when it occurs in a Papal Bull), it is described in the early 14th century as "the great mother or parish church" (Bush & Allen, 1981). Foundations possibly belonging to the church of 1178 were observed during work in the nave in 1987 (Croft, 1987): they directly underlay the later building, which has echoed the early orientation (some way off true east-west). However, the extent of the churchyard at this time is not clear, for the laying out of the medieval new town in the late 12th/ early 13th century may have radically affected it. However, a clear limit to burials north of the church was located during excavations north of the church in 1993; this boundary, which was still in use until relatively recently, almost certainly represented the high medieval churchyard limit (though the actual wall remains encountered were post-medieval) and may have been of earlier origin.

By the 14th century, the church had been largely rebuilt: elements of the 14th century fabric survive in the present Grade I Listed church building (SMR LB 46306), which is otherwise largely 15th century and later. Confirmation of the status of the church in the late 14th century came from the discovery in 1848 of fragments of a high quality reredos, defaced, presumably at the Reformation, and re-used, apparently as late as the early 18th century, for paving stones in the chancel (Radford, 1985). The alteration of the church's dedication from St Mary to St John also occurred at the Reformation, for reasons which are not wholly clear. The use of the churchyard to graze pigs is recorded in the 16th century, appearing to suggest a general loss of status perhaps associated with the loss of the Bishop's overlordship.

The southern part of what is now the churchyard was cleared of cottages in 1827; these may have represented either encroachment on the diminished churchyard or the dwellings of the two or three chaplains or priests which served Wellington on behalf of the absentee vicar in the medieval period.

Elworthy (1892) mentions a well at the corner of the churchyard, but the site of this has not been located.

*The area shown is from the 1839 map and the results of the 1993 excavations.  The cottages by the road are also shown from the 1802 map.*

WEG/410    Church Green
The position of Church Green - so called in the 19th century - is shown.  This was just a field, but is shown because it is referred to in other sections.

*From the 1839 and 1890 maps.*

WEG/505    Post-medieval chapels with burial grounds
There were several Dissenters' chapels with burial grounds from the 17th century onwards in Wellington.  From 1689 until 1730, when their first chapel in Fore Street was opened, the Presbyterians (later the Independents and then the Congregationalists) met behind the Three Cups Inn where they are recorded as conducting funerals.  Whether burials were carried out on the site of the later chapel in the 17th century is not clear, but they were from the early 18th century onwards.  The Fore Street chapel was enlarged in 1748, rebuilt and extended in the mid to late 19th century; burials were restricted in 1873  The Baptists had a chapel in South Street by 1700, the site of which was also used for  burials.  The Quakers met in High Street from the late 17th century onwards.  Their meeting house was rebuilt in 1729 and 1842-5, and was accompanied by a burial ground.

*The actual sites of the burial grounds are from the 1890 map.*

*4.4.g  Settlement (Urban)*
*(a)  Market place*

WEG/404    The market place
References to the market place occur from 1305 onwards, and the core area is shown. Though the markets and fairs were focussed on a roughly triangular area defined approximately by Cornhill and the south end of North Street, they actually spread along the wide main streets, High Street and Fore Street, and the beginnings of these areas are shown; shambles (visible on the 1802 map) stood at the east end of Fore Street until the early 19th century, when they were cleared by the Turnpike Trustees.

The development of the central market area is not well understood.  By the time of the earliest available maps it had long been built up, though it probably originally stood open.  With the exception of the shambles, recorded market structures in this area are all relatively late.  Fiennes (1695) mentions a brick built market cross.  This may be a reference to the old market house, which  stood in the middle of the street at the junction of South Street and Fore Street in the late 17th and 18th centuries, and contained court rooms and a gaol.  However, it may have been a separate structure, as yet unlocated.  The market house was converted into a bank in the late 18th century but, like the shambles, was cleared away as an obstruction in the early 19th century.

The early 19th century clearances were the result of the formation of the Wellington Town Hall and Market Company in 1831.  The earliest detailed map available for this report - the Tithe Map - postdates their alterations, which included the construction of a new Town Hall, opened in

1832/3 (SMR LB 46253).  Later in the 19th century, a new range of municipal buildings was erected in the Cornhill.

*The central area is shown from the 1802 and 1839 maps and from information in Bush & Allen (1981); the street market areas are not drawn in separately.*

*(b)  Burgage plots*

WEG/409          The Church area
The area around the Church was probably an early settlement focus (see above, p8).  The plot arrangement south and west of the church which is shown on the Tithe Map is consequently complex, and is less easy to interpret than that of the large tenement blocks of the western part of High Street and of Fore Street (see below).  There is clearly a block of short tenements, enclosed by a lane, just west of the church on the Tithe Map: it is *possible* that they may be earlier in date than their neighbours to the west, though it is also possible that they are part of the medieval development, their extent constrained by the presence of church land to the north (Church Green). Nevertheless, there are faint traces of a similar block of plots south of the street and, on the 1802 map which predates the road alterations at the east end of town, of further small blocks clustered about the church.  Archaeological investigation will be necessary if the details and dates of developments in these areas are to be elucidated.  Whilst it is tempting to suggest that they may represent the remains of pre-Conquest occupation, the Saxon ditches located by excavation to the north of the church (see above, p8) do not appear to fit such a pattern.

*From the 1802 and 1839 maps.*

WEG/405          High Street burgages
The medieval burgages of High Street were probably laid out in the late 12th or early 13th century.  They are still clearly visible on the Tithe Map, which shows long, narrow plots running back from the street, with cramped frontage development, and yards to the rear.  Behind the main plots are attached paddocks and orchards, with back lanes beyond these in places.   The open land is included in the areas marked on the map, though it is probably of less archaeological interest than the built up areas.  No archaeological work has taken place in the area, however, and the quality of archaeological deposits cannot be adequately assessed.

Part of the medieval plot pattern still survives, though it has been disrupted by later 19th century and 20th century developments.  Only one building of known post-medieval origin survives in Listable condition (SMR LB 46283), though a much altered medieval barn exists to the rear of 24 High Street.

*From the 1802 and 1839 maps.*

WEG/406          Fore Street/ Mantle Street south burgages
The burgages to the south of Fore Street and Mantle Street may have been laid out in a second phase of development of the town, for they differ slightly in form from those of High Street (Bond, c1990).   Several are somewhat wider than the High Street tenements, though this may be a function of their greater distance from the market centre (resulting in less pressure to subdivide holdings).  The curve of field strips is also more marked than in High Street.  However, the plots are arranged similarly from street frontage to rear orchards and back lanes.

As with the High Street areas, no archaeological work has taken place and the quality of deposits cannot be assessed.  Above ground survival of plot patterns and buildings is at a similar level: there are three Listed buildings of known post-medieval origin, all pubs or hotels  (SMR LB 44616, 46271, 46274).

*From the 1802 and 1839 maps.*

WEG/407      <u>Fore Street/ Mantle Street north burgages</u>
The Tithe Map shows that the tenements on the north side of Mantle Street and Fore Street were either curtailed by the Court lands in the post-medieval period or, perhaps more likely, constrained from the outset. They lack for the most part the attached orchards and paddocks, and are squeezed in to the street at the west end. The gap shown on the Tithe Map (and shown differently shaded on Maps C and D) where the entrance to the post-medieval Court went through may originally have been built up, but archaeological confirmation of this would be required.

The plot pattern survives relatively well in these areas, and there are three Listed buildings of known Post-Medieval origin (SMR LB 46256, 46263 and 46320). Of these, the last is actually a 19th century rebuild of Popham's Almshouses, founded in the 17th century; these marked the limits of the post-medieval town.

*From the 1802 and 1839 maps.*

WEG/408      <u>Other marginal town areas</u>
The Wellington Tithe Map also shows several areas of more irregular plots as infill between tenement blocks and along the main north-south streets. These may have developed informally after the establishment of the medieval burgages, but their history is very unclear at present. They may contain archaeological information of some interest relating to the development of the town plan, although the only archaeological work which has taken place in these areas - behind the Cornhill in 1982 (SMR 44652) - produced rather negative results, showing evidence of artificial terracing, but no substantial activity before the 18th century (Burrow, 1988).

Some of these areas are likely to have been suburban in character, containing greater concentrations of small scale industrial activity. However, there is only limited evidence of this so far, from the one plot north of Millway (North Street) where a post-medieval windmill, or possibly horse mill, perhaps associated with tanning (SMR 43724) is known to have stood.

*From the 1802 and 1839 maps.*

*(c) Suburbs*
WEG/506      <u>Suburbs</u>
There is no good reason to suppose that extensive suburbs developed at Wellington in the medieval period only to be abandoned during the post-medieval - as occurred in other towns in the county - for its period of greatest prosperity came relatively late. The principal direction of suburban development was south along South Street, and even this was only partly built up by the early 19th century.

Nevertheless, some areas shown as undeveloped - or newly developed - on the Tithe Map are included as possible early suburban areas, on the basis of their position in relation to the medieval town (or to the earlier settlement focus), their appearance on the 1802 map and the nature of the field boundaries on the Tithe Map. These are: the site of the Workhouse on North Street, and several areas close to Church Green and Buckwell. These areas may be shown by future archaeological work to have been unoccupied until relatively late in the town's history.

*From the 1802 and 1839 maps.*

WEG/507      <u>Drake's Place</u>
Drake's Place (SMR LB 46364) was built at the very end of the post-medieval period, in the early to mid-18th century, on the then main road. A complex of outbuildings stood to its north. The grounds expanded significantly in the 19th century.

*From the 1802 map.*

*4.4.h Industrial sites*

Not mapped          The SMR contains references to a bell foundry operating between 1691 and 1748, the site of
                    which has not been located.

***4.5 Archaeological components (outlying area)**, shown **on Map D***

*4.5.a Communications: Roads*

WEG/501             <u>Pre-1800 roads</u>
                    Pre-1800 roads are shown, *from the 1802 and 1839 maps*.


*4.5.b Settlement (Rural)*

WEG/502             <u>Westford and Rockwell Green</u>
                    The main subsidiary settlements of Wellington were, by the end of the 18th century, Westford and
                    Rockwell Green. The latter at least may be of medieval origin, for three men "atte Rowe" (or
                    Rewe) mentioned in 14th century manor court rolls may represent early inhabitants of the
                    settlement, which was called Roo or Rowe Green in the 16th century. In the 18th century it was
                    also known colloquially as Rogue Green, because of the beggarliness of its inhabitants, many of
                    whom relied on piecework from the late-developing cloth industry. From the mid 18th century
                    onwards, the establishment and expansion of the Westford Mills, together with the campaigns of
                    one of Wellington's non-Conformist ministers, transformed the struggling hamlet into a
                    respectable industrial suburb of Wellington; the full name, Rockwell Green, was in use by 1782.

                    The earliest detailed map of Rockwell Green and Westford is the 1839 Tithe Map, which
                    postdates the changes of the 18th century. It shows two settlements of somewhat different
                    character, Westford being occupied by larger houses, farms and orchards, and Rockwell Green
                    by cramped cottages irregularly spaced throughout a large triangular area - perhaps the original
                    green, focussed on the well itself  - and along the main roads.

                    No archaeological work has taken place in these areas and the extent and quality of archaeological
                    survival has not been assessed. However, from the settlement's known histories, a relatively late
                    post-medieval date would be expected for remains on many sites.

                    *From the 1802 and 1839 maps.*


WEG/509             <u>Other hamlets and farms</u>
                    The 1802 and 1839 maps show several other hamlets and farms surrounding Wellington, which
                    have not been studied in any detail. Whilst it is likely that some are of medieval origin, evidence
                    is at present limited. The existence of 13th century tithings based on Ford, Payton and Perry
                    implies Medieval settlement on or close to the post-medieval sites; Jurston is probably mentioned
                    in a document of 1280 which refers to *Jurdaneston* (Bush & Allen, 1981) and a late medieval
                    jointed cruck house (SMR LB 46309) survives (Gilson, 1983).

                    Some of the post-medieval occupation sites shown on the maps - including one to the north of
                    Cade's Farm, and parts of Middle Green and adjacent Treaks Farm - have subsequently been
                    wholly or partially abandoned; archaeological remains may therefore survive relatively well.
                    Others have been remodelled or redeveloped; while archaeological deposits may still survive, few
                    buildings of known early origin do (though the farmhouse at Longforth  - SMR LB 46312 - is
                    probably 18th century).

                    *From the 1802 and 1839 maps.*


WEG/508             <u>General rural settlement</u>
                    Other unclassified sites, which may include cottages and agricultural buildings, are shown.

                    *From the 1802 and 1839 maps.*

*4.5.c Mills*

WEG/504        Early mills
               There are a very few early references to mills at Wellington, which imply that at least one very
               early mill site - perhaps two - may exist within the study area.  Two mills are referred to on the
               Wellington landholding in the Domesday Survey, and the Bishop's fulling mill on the Tone is
               mentioned in 1503.  The exact locations of these sites are uncertain, but there is a strong
               possibility that we should be looking at the sites of the three large late 18th and 19th century mills
               north and west of Wellington (seep19), each of which may have succeeded an earlier milling
               complex on the same site, or one nearby.

               The Tonedale woollen factory is documented as having succeeded the town flour mills in the early
               19th century.  This suggests a potentially very early core to the site, but though the unimproved
               mill site may be shown on the 1802 map, this is not sufficient to map very accurately the possible
               early mill site.  The same could be said of the Tone Bridge and Westford mill sites, of which the
               former may be the medieval fulling mill site and the latter  - perhaps - the second Domesday site
               (Elworthy, 1892).  The areas shown are therefore estimated from the 1802 map (and for the Tone
               Bridge mill another possible site is given, from the SMR map.  Whether archaeological deposits
               there have survived subsequent river and leat alterations and mill developments will need to be
               established by further archaeological research.

               *The areas shown are based on the 1802 map, with added information from the 1839 map.*

## 5. INDUSTRIAL (LATE 18TH AND 19TH CENTURY)
*(Map E)*

### 5.1 Archaeological work in the town/ Archaeological knowledge
There has been no archaeological work in the town relating to the 19th century developments.

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

Wellington 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.  Wellington 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 Wellington is one of
the towns noted for its 19th century industrial remains.  It was one of a number of places at which there was moderate
expansion (though it was not one of the seven towns at which there was large scale growth).

### 5.3 Standing structures and visible remains
There are many Listed Buildings of 19th century origin in Wellington.  Whilst these are concentrated along the
town's main market streets, subsidiary concentrations exist at Tonedale and Westford, and individual structures also
occur on surrounding farms.  The List should be consulted for details of the 19th century Listed Buildings, which
are too numerous to describe here.  For the sake of clarity, they are not shown on Map E; but those in the central area
are shown - together with Listed Buildings of other periods - on Map G.

### 5.4 Archaeological components, *shown on **Map E***
*5.4.a Redevelopment in earlier settlement components*
Areas described under earlier periods are shown more lightly shaded.  With the exception of the major mill sites,

few components have been defined in Wellington for this period.  The town retained its medieval form to a large extent, but expanded northwards to meet the railway.

*5.4.b  Communications*
*(a)  Roads, streets and routeways*
WEG/606          Turnpikes and new roads
                 From 1752 onwards some major routes in the Wellington area were turnpiked.  This led to some road realignments, most notably at the east end of town (Drake's Place).  A few suburban streets were also laid out in the late 19th century, though most had not been completed at the time of the 1905 map.

                 *From the 1839 to 1905 maps.*

*(b)  Railways*
WEG/609          Bristol & Exeter Railway
                 The Bristol & Exeter Railway opened to Wellington in 1843.  The station area, north of the medieval town, was accompanied by extensive yards, warehouses and a sawmill (SMR 43719).  The station was closed in 1964, although the railway is still in use.

                 *From the 1889-90 maps.*

*(c)  Canals*
WEG/601          The Grand Western Canal (SMR 44126)
                 The Grand Western Canal was conceived in the late 18th century as part of a scheme to connect Bristol and Exmouth.  However, because of financial and organisational difficulties, the scheme was not completed until much later; even then it was not in the form originally envisaged, but as a tub boat canal.  The section which passed to the north of Wellington was opened in 1836.  It was leased in 1853 to the railway, sold in 1867, and closed shortly thereafter.

                 Canal features in this stretch includes a lift at Winsbeer (SMR 44506) and at Payton, both a wharf (SMR 44508) and a cattle watering spot, the latter created because the canal had blocked the stream supply (SMR 44507).  There was a further wharf at Tonedale, later built over.  Traces of the canal itself and of the above-mentioned features are visible for much of this stretch, though it has been levelled out in places.

                 For more details on the Canal's history and features see Harris (1973).

                 *From the 1839 map and the SMR.*

*5.4.c  Water*
WEG/610          Waterworks
                 Waterworks existed at Westford, and the pumping station survives (SMR LB 46340).  There is also a Listed 19th century water tower at Rockwell Green (SMR LB 46368), which was photographed by SIAS prior to alteration (Murless, 1996).

                 *From the 1889-1890 maps.*

*5.4.d  Burial sites, religious houses and places of worship*
WEG/602          19th century churches and chapels
                 Two parish churches were established in the 19th century.  Holy Trinity, in Wellington itself, was opened in 1831, but closed in 1936 and demolished in 1966.  All Saints at Rockwell Green was opened in 1890.

                 *From the 1889-1905 maps.*

Not mapped     Several independent chapels were also established in the town in the late 18th and 19th centuries. Details of non-Conformist histories are given in Humphreys (1889, 1908-1923), Bush & Allen (1981) and Allen (1987).

WEG/611     Cemetery
The Hilly Head cemetery was opened in 1875. It contained mortuary chapels which have since been demolished.

*From the 1890 map.*

WEG/612     Webber's Grave
The crossroads name Webber's Grave *may* indicate a possible burial site.

*From the 1890 map.*

*5.4.e Settlement (Suburban)*
WEG/604     19th century suburbs
Map E shows the pattern of 19th century suburban development, most of which was relatively late in date and was very much focussed on the roads connecting town, railway and mills. It took the form of several large estates, some directly connected with the Foxes' mills, of which the first, the Springfield estate, was constructed from the 1870s onwards. Details of the estate developments are given in Isaac (1993).

Several large, gracious houses were also built in the 19th century - mostly for the Fox family. These included Tonedale (1807; SMR LB 46329), Swallowfield (1839; SMR LB 46362); Cleve (c1860) and Foxdown (c1780, rebuilt in 1875). Emparked areas are shown on the 1905 map around Cleve and Foxdown as well as around Drake's Place. Other open areas shown (more lightly shaded) include gardens and sports grounds, some of which were provided at the mill sites. More details of 19th century developments are given in Bush & Allen (1981) than can be given here.

*From the 1839-1905 maps.*

WEG/603     Union Workhouse, *from the 1839 map.*
The Union Workhouse, the first of its kind to be completed in Somerset, opened in 1837. It later became a residential home, but was demolished in 1973.

*From the 1839-1905 maps.*

*5.4.f Settlement (Rural)*
WEG/605     General rural
a few unclassified sites - agricultural buildings or cottages - are shown on Map E.

*From the 1839-1905 maps.*

*5.4.g Industrial sites*
*(a) Mills*
Three major milling complexes existed north and west of Wellington in the 19th century. They have not been studied in great detail for this report, but are of considerable local interest.

WEG/608     Tone Mills
The most northerly complex, Tone Mills (SMR 43721), was built by the Were family in 1754, though there may have been an earlier fulling mill on or close to the site (see p17). Horse powered machinery was established here in 1791, but in the 19th century the site became a subsidiary of the Tonedale Mills, housing the dyeing section as well as the mill, with an associated

grease refinery on the eastern side of Milverton Road.  One Listed mill building survives (SMR LB 46333).

*From the 1802-1905 maps.*

WEG/613          Tonedale Mills
                 The Tonedale woollen mill complex (SMR 43720) was established by the Fox family, at the turn of the 19th century, on the site of the old town flour mills.  Alterations were also made to the old leat system - thus obscuring the previous site - and these included the excavation of the basins some way south of the mill.  The timber-built mill burnt down in 1821 but was immediately rebuilt in stone.  Steam power was introduced in 1840, and the proximity of first the canal and subsequently the railway also increased the mill's viability.  The complex continued to expand throughout the 19th century, becoming an unusually complete factory which was able to process cloth from raw wool to its finished state.  It included not only mill buildings but also houses, landscaped gardens and a recreation ground.  Several Listed Buildings survive from various phases of the 19th century, including both mill buildings (SMR LB 44619, 46330) and associated mill and farm houses (SMR LB 46329, 46331, 46332).  The factory still operates, though on a scale much reduced from its 19th century height.

                 *From the 1802-1905 maps.*

WEG/614          Westford Mills
                 Westford Mills (SMR 43722) existed as a worsted mill by 1780, again possibly on or close to an earlier site:  Elworthy (1892) states that it was formerly a corn mill.  It too burnt down and was rebuilt in the early 19th century, at which point the site may have moved, and afterwards consisted of a number of mill buildings and houses, a sizeable leat and an adjacent rack field and bleaching ground.  This mill, operated by the Elworthy family, closed in 1934.

                 *From the 1802-1905 maps.*

WEG/615          Other mills
                 Other mills shown include Prowse's Mill (SMR 43753), which was part of the Westford Mills system, and Station Mills (SMR 43718).

                 *Prowse's Mill is from the 1839 map, and Station Mills from the 1890 map.*

*(b)  Other industrial sites*
WEG/607          Quarries
                 Several old quarries are marked on the 19th century maps, particularly around Winsbeer, where there was also a lime kiln.

                 *From the 1802-1905 maps.*

Not mapped       Smaller industrial sites within the medieval area of Wellington have not been separately mapped, though they may individually be of interest.


## 6.  20TH CENTURY
*(Map F)*

### 6.1  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.

Wellington is one of 15 of the 45 historic towns covered by this project which is classed as a Town in the County Structure Plan.

### 6.2 Standing structures and visible remains
There is one Listed Building of 20th century origin in Wellington, the water tower at Rockwell Green (SMR LB 46369).

### 6.3 Settlement components, *shown on* Map F
*6.3.a Redevelopment in earlier settlement components*
Settlement components described under earlier periods are shown more lightly shaded.  Some suburban development has taken place across earlier settlement components:  where this has been quite large scale - on the old workhouse site for example - a new settlement component has been mapped.

*All mapped components are from the 1997 OS digital maps unless otherwise stated.*
*6.3.b Communications: Roads*
WEG/706          Roads
                 Several realignments of the routes out of Wellington have taken place this century.  Many of these were associated with the making of the southern relief road and the motorway access, though the realignment of Hilly Head took place in 1931.  The major new alignments are shown on Map F.

Not mapped       The M5, constructed in the early 1970s, lies just to the south of the area under consideration and is not shown.

*6.3.c Military sites*
Not mapped       The SMR records civil defence installations including an air raid siren in North Street (SMR 44278).

*6.3.d Settlement (Suburban)*
WEG/703          20th century suburbs
                 The pattern of 20th century suburban development, which has continued to infill areas first laid out in the 19th century, and is now expanding south and east towards the relief roads, is shown.

WEG/701          Wellington Park (SMR 44593)
                 Wellington Park was laid out on behalf of the Fox family as a gift to the town and was opened in 1903.  The park is included on the Parks and Gardens Register (Grade II) and the SMR includes full details.

*6.3.e Settlement (Rural)*
WEG/704          Farms
                 Several farm extensions have taken place in the 20th century; large nurseries at Rockwell Green are also shown.

WEG/707          General rural
                 Scattered development beyond the suburbs of Wellington and the farm sites has also taken place.  These sites have not been classified.

*6.3.f Industrial sites*
WEG/705          Industry
                 The larger industrial sites are still at present at the north end of town on or close to the old mill sites, some of which continue to function.  They have not been studied in detail.

## V. THE POTENTIAL OF WELLINGTON

### 1. Research interests

One matter of archaeological interest in Wellington is the relationship between the Saxon settlement, church and (possibly) manor sites and the medieval town laid out in the late 12th or early 13th century: this directs attention to the area around the church at the east end of town. Another question, however, is the process of development of the whole of the medieval town itself, the plan of which suggests phased growth. Beyond the town, recent signs of Roman occupation have focussed attention on the development of the settlement pattern and the relationships between sites of different periods; a particular aspect of interest, given the industrial history of the area, is the development of milling.

### 2. Areas of potentially exceptional preservation

There are no large areas of potentially exceptional environmental preservation in Wellington. However, it is possible that early archaeological remains, if any, east of the church, may be well-preserved as this area has been somewhat protected from development.

### 3. Limitations

Since the medieval period, most commercial development in Wellington has taken place within a restricted area, and some damage to medieval deposits can therefore be expected. Nevertheless, there has not been excessive modern development along themedieval frontages, though the backs of the plots have been more affected.

### 4. Extent of current protection

*(Shown on Map G)*

There are well over 100 Listed Buildings in Wellington and the surrounding area, but no Scheduled Monuments. Wellington Park is included on the Parks and Gardens Register (SMR 44593), and both an AHAP (Area of High Archaeological Potential) and a Conservation Area have been defined.

The designations in the central area are shown on Map G.

### 5. Management Proposals

See the accompanying Archaeological Guidance.

## VI. SOURCES

### 1. General documentary (Somerset/ Wessex)

Aston, M (ed), 1988          *Aspects of the Medieval Landscape of Somerset*
Aston, M (ed), 1976          Somerset Archaeology 1974-75, *PSANHS* vol 120, 72-76
Aston, M, 1977a          Deserted settlements, *PSANHS* vol 121, 41-53
Aston, M (ed), 1977b          Somerset Archaeology 1976, *PSANHS* vol 121, 107-128
Aston, M, 1983          Deserted farmsteads on Exmoor and the lay subsidy of 1327, *PSANHS* vol 127, 90-93
Aston, M, 1986          Post-Roman central places in Somerset, in Grant (ed)
Aston, M, 1994          Medieval settlement studies in Somerset in: Aston, M & C Lewis (eds)
Aston, M & Burrow, I, 1982          *The Archaeology of Somerset*
Aston, M & Leech, R, 1977          *Historic Towns in Somerset* (CRAAGS)
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## 3. Maps

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| 1802 | OS Surveyors' drawings at 3": fiche in SSL |
| 1839 | Wellington Tithe Map: fiche in SSL |
| 1839 | West Buckland Tithe Map: fiche in SSL |
| 1889-90 | OS 1:2500 1st edition: fiche in SSL |
| 1905 | OS 1:10560 |

## VII. COMPONENT INDEXES

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| WEG/102 | a | WEG/508 | D |
| WEG/201 | a | WEG/509 | D |
| WEG/202 | a | WEG/601 | E |
| WEG/203 | a | WEG/602 | E |
| WEG/204 | a | WEG/603 | E |
| WEG/301 | B | WEG/604 | E |
| WEG/302 | B | WEG/605 | E |
| WEG/401 | C | WEG/606 | E |
| WEG/402 | C | WEG/607 | E |
| WEG/403 | C,D | WEG/608 | E |
| WEG/404 | C | WEG/609 | E |
| WEG/405 | C | WEG/610 | E |
| WEG/406 | C | WEG/611 | E |
| WEG/407 | C | WEG/612 | E |
| WEG/408 | C | WEG/613 | E |
| WEG/409 | C | WEG/614 | E |
| WEG/410 | C | WEG/615 | E |
| WEG/501 | C,D | WEG/701 | F |
| WEG/502 | D | WEG/703 | F |
| WEG/503 | C | WEG/704 | F |
| WEG/504 | D | WEG/705 | F |
| WEG/505 | C | WEG/706 | F |
| WEG/506 | C,D | | |

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# Maps

**Map A – prehistoric and Roman**

**Map B – Saxon**

**Map C – medieval and post-medieval town**

**Map D – pre-1800 town**
Earlier components shown in yellow.

**Map E – 19<sup>th</sup> century**
Earlier components shown in yellow.

**Map F – 20<sup>th</sup> century**
Earlier components shown in yellow.

**Map G - existing designations**

Key:   Scheduled Monuments        (dark blue, none),
       Listed Buildings           Grade I (light blue)
                                   Grade II* (light green)
                                   Grade II (green)
       Registered Park (brown)
       Conservation Area (green)
       Area of High Archaeological Potential (pink)

WEG/102 - Cropmark Enclosure

WEG/202 - Cades Farm (Roman)

WEG/102 - Cropmark Enclosure

WEG/204 - Temple Site?

WEG/101 - Bronze Finds

WELLINGTON

WELLINGTON CP

WEG/201 - Roman Pottery Finds
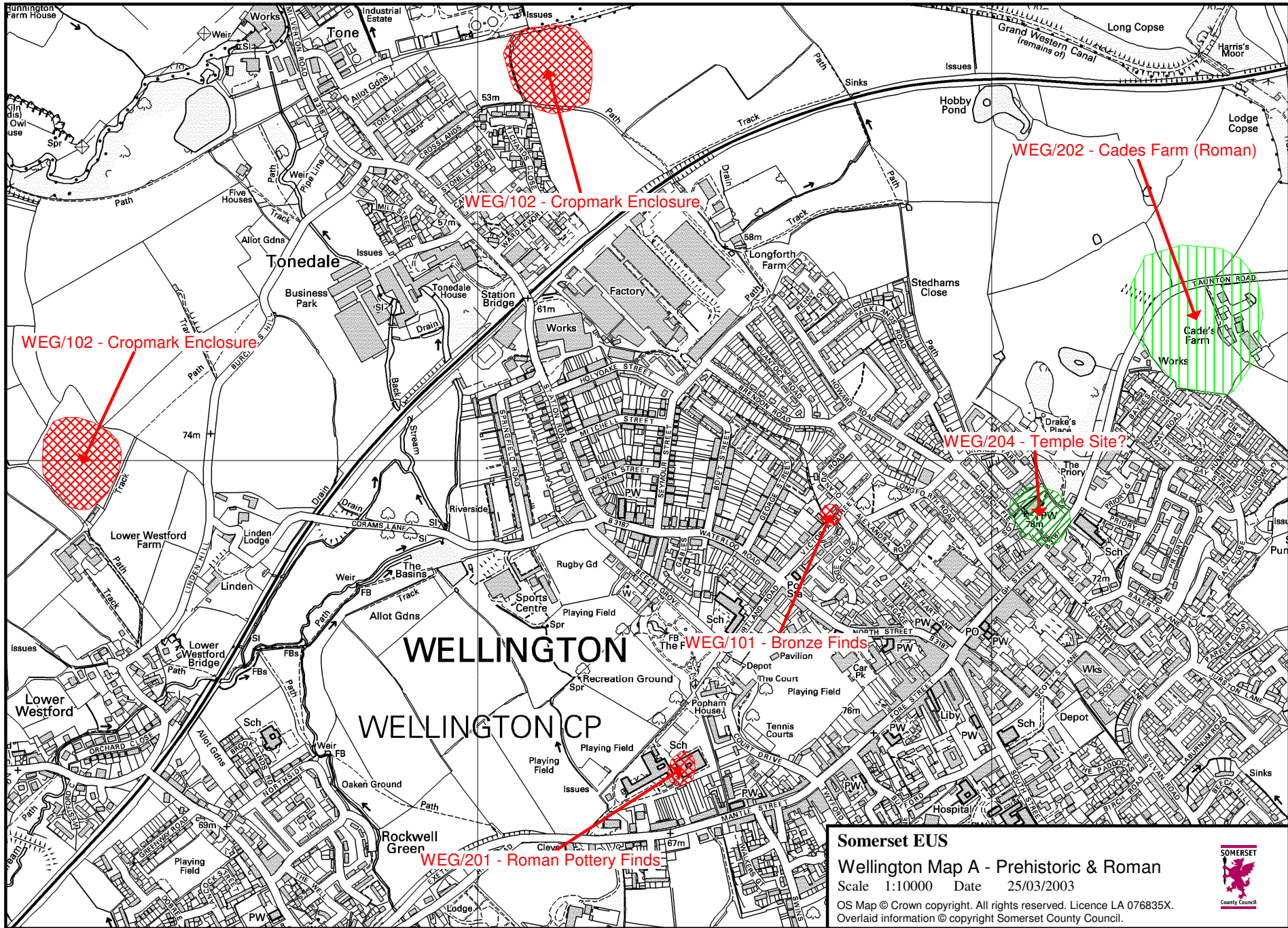
Somerset EUS

Wellington Map A - Prehistoric & Roman

Scale    1:10000    Date    25/03/2003

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SOMERSET
County Council

WEG/301 - Saxon Area

Drake's
Place

Priory
Court

BAYNES CLOSE

GAY ROAD

KELW

HUMPHREYS

The
Priory

GAY STREET

LONGFO RTH ROAD

ANDRA ROAD

PRIORY G

PRIORY

PW
'on

Sch

72m

GAY CLOSE

WHITE HART LANE

BURGAGE

PW

PO

PW

TH STREET

B 3187

PW
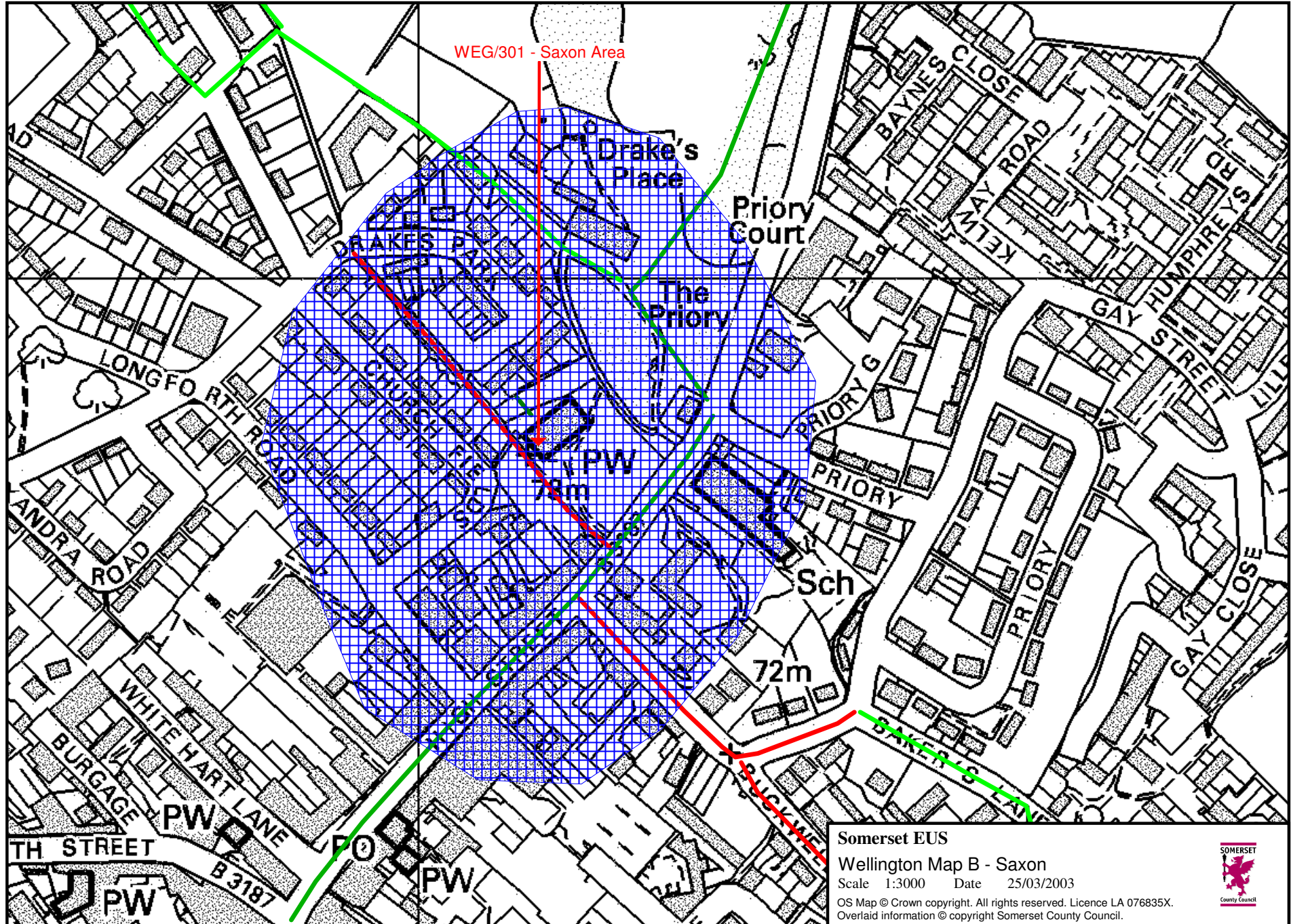
**Somerset EUS**

Wellington Map B - Saxon

Scale    1:3000        Date      25/03/2003

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SOMERSET
County Council

WEG/507 - Drakes Place

WEG/506

WEG/401 - Medieval Churchyard

WEG/410 - Church Green

WEG/506

WEG/409 - Church Area

WEG/503 - Court (Gardens)

WEG/408

WEG/505 - Meeting House & Burial Ground

WEG/503 - The Court

WEG/501 - Other Pre-1800 Roads

WEG/402 - Old Court

WEG/405 - High St Burgages

WEG/404 - Market Place

WEG/407 - Mantle St N Burgages

WEG/506

WEG/403 - Laid Out or Diverted Medieval Streets

WEG/505 - Burial Ground

WEG/406 - Fore St Burgages

**Somerset EUS**

Wellington Map C - Med/Post-Med Town

Scale    1:7000      Date       25/03/2003

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SOMERSET
County Council

WEG/501 - Pre-1800 Roads

WEG/504 - Mill and Dye Works

WEG/509 - Longforth

WEG/509 - Chelston

WEG/504 - Early Town Mills

WEG/509 - Henley's, Payton

WEG/502 - Westford

WEG/508

WEG/508 - Haywards

WEG/509 - Twoses

WEG/504 - Early Westford Mill?

WEG/509 - Jurstons

WEG/502 - Rockwell Green

WEG/509 - Higherr Nowers

WEG/509 - Perry Elm

WEG/509 - Middle Green Farm

WEG/203 - RB settlement, Wellington Without

WELLINGTON

WELLINGTON CP

**Somerset EUS**

Wellington Map D - Pre-1800 Settlement
Scale   1:20000   Date   25/03/2003

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County Council

LANGFORD BUDVILLE CP

WEG/608 - Tone Bridge Mills

WEG/601 - Grand Western Canal

WEG/604 - Drake's Place Emparked Area

WEG/601 - Tonedale Wharf

WEG/604

WEG/607 - Old Quarry

WEG/615 - Station Mills

WEG/606 - Turnpikes & New Roads

WEG/613 - Tonedale Mills

WEG/601 - Payton Wharf

WEG/609 - Station & Yard

WEG/603 - Union Workhouse

WEG/604

WEG/607 - Quarry

WEG/701 - Wellington Park

WEG/610 - Waterworks

WELLINGTON

WEG/602 - Holy Trinity Church

WELLINGTON CP

WEG/605 - Troaks

WEG/611 - Hilly Head Cemetery

WEG/614 - Westford Mills (later C19)

WEG/604 - Foxdown Emparked Area

WEG/604

WEG/615 - Prowse's Mill

WEG/609 - Railway

WEG/602 - All Saints Church

WEG/612 - Webbers Grave

Somerset EUS

Wellington Map E - 19th Century

Scale    1:21000    Date    25/03/2003

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SOMERSET
County Council

WEG/705 - Lowmoor Industrial Estate

WEG/705 - Station Mills Industrial Area

WEG/703

WEG/706 - Roads

WEG/703

WEG/704 - Cade's Farm

WEG/701 - Wellington Park

WEG/702 - County Council Depot

WEG/703

WEG/704 - Foxmoor Nurseries

WEG/703

WEG/703

**Somerset EUS**

**Wellington Map F - 20th Century**

Scale   1:18000   Date   25/03/2003

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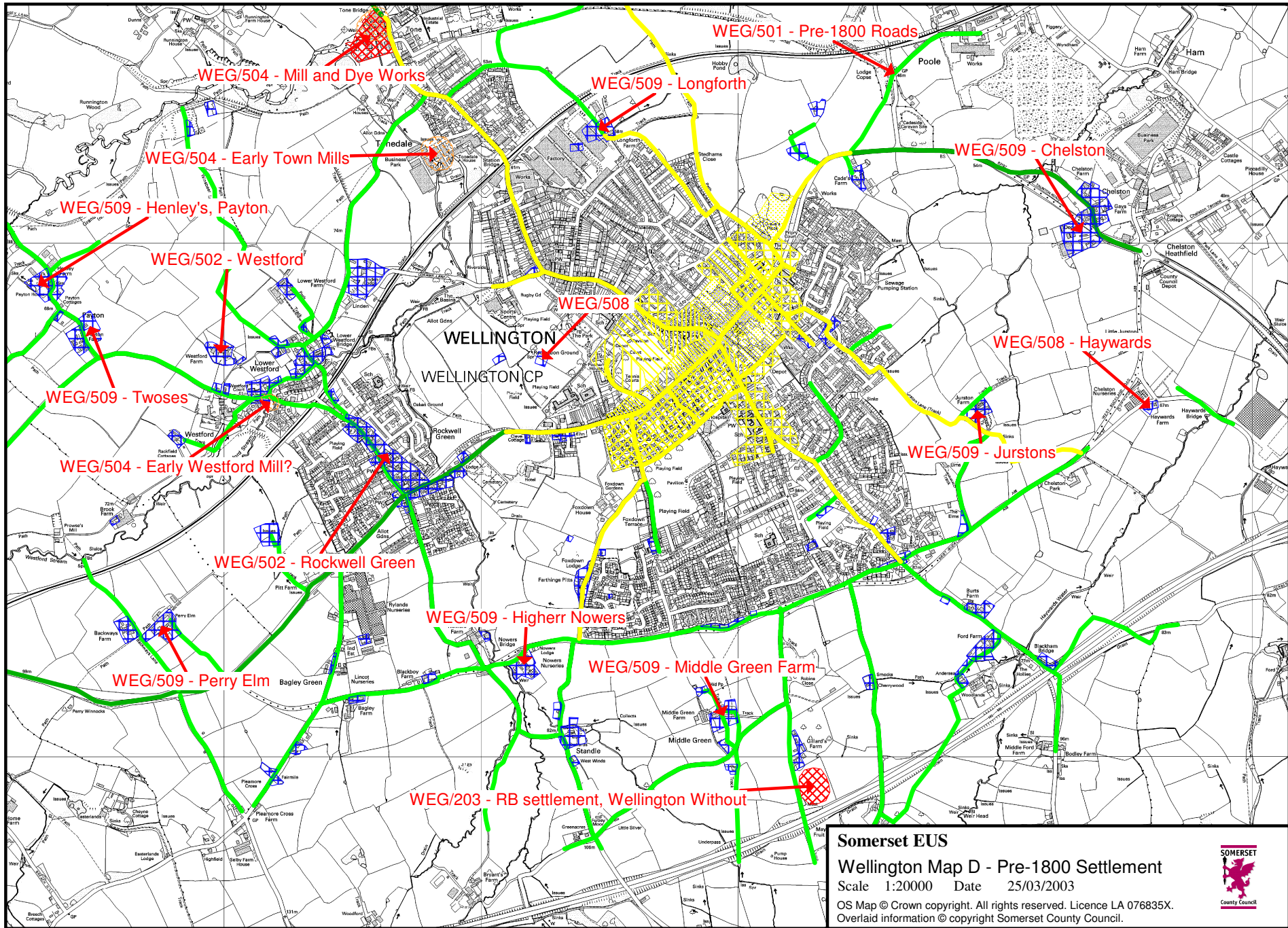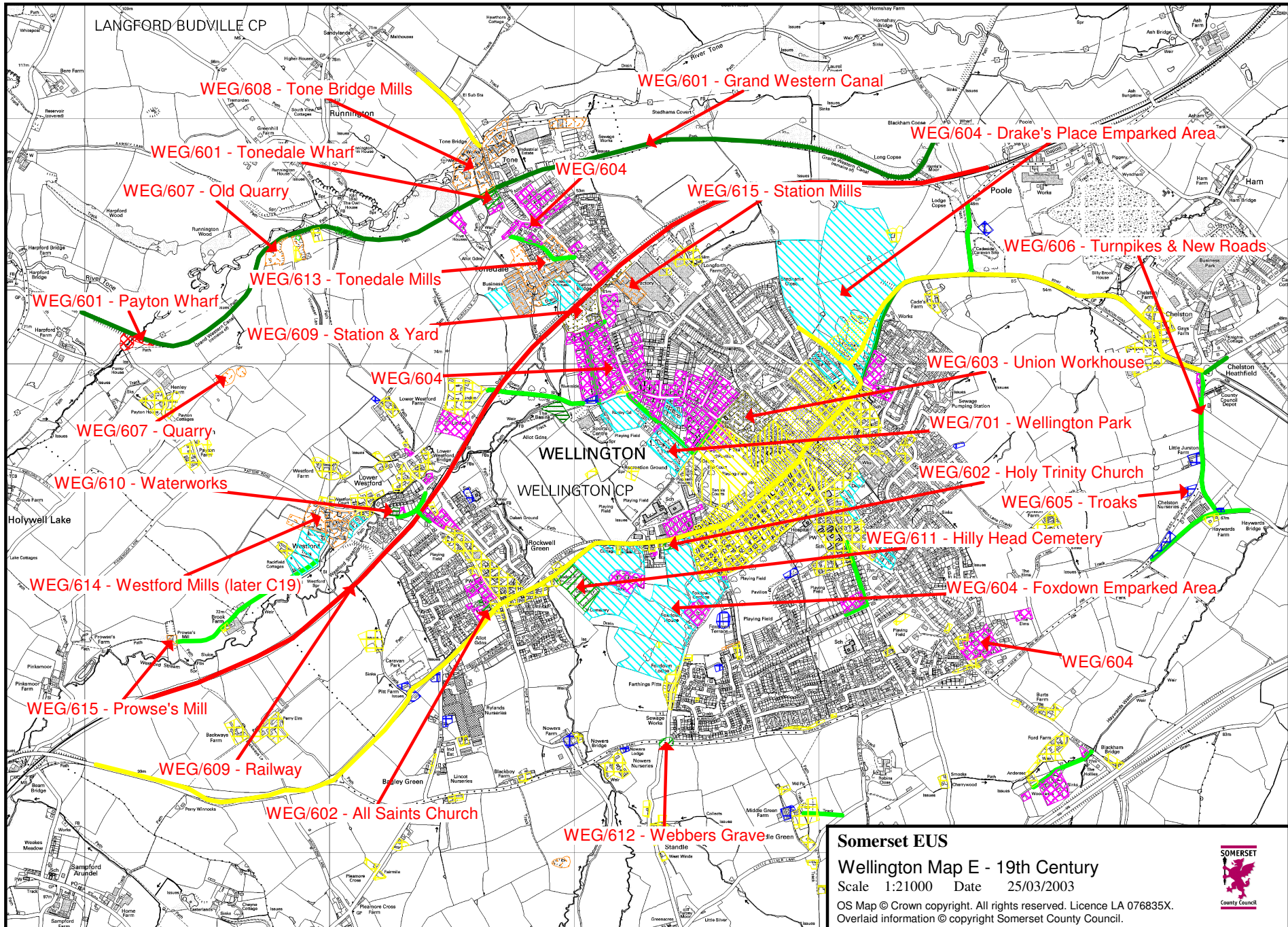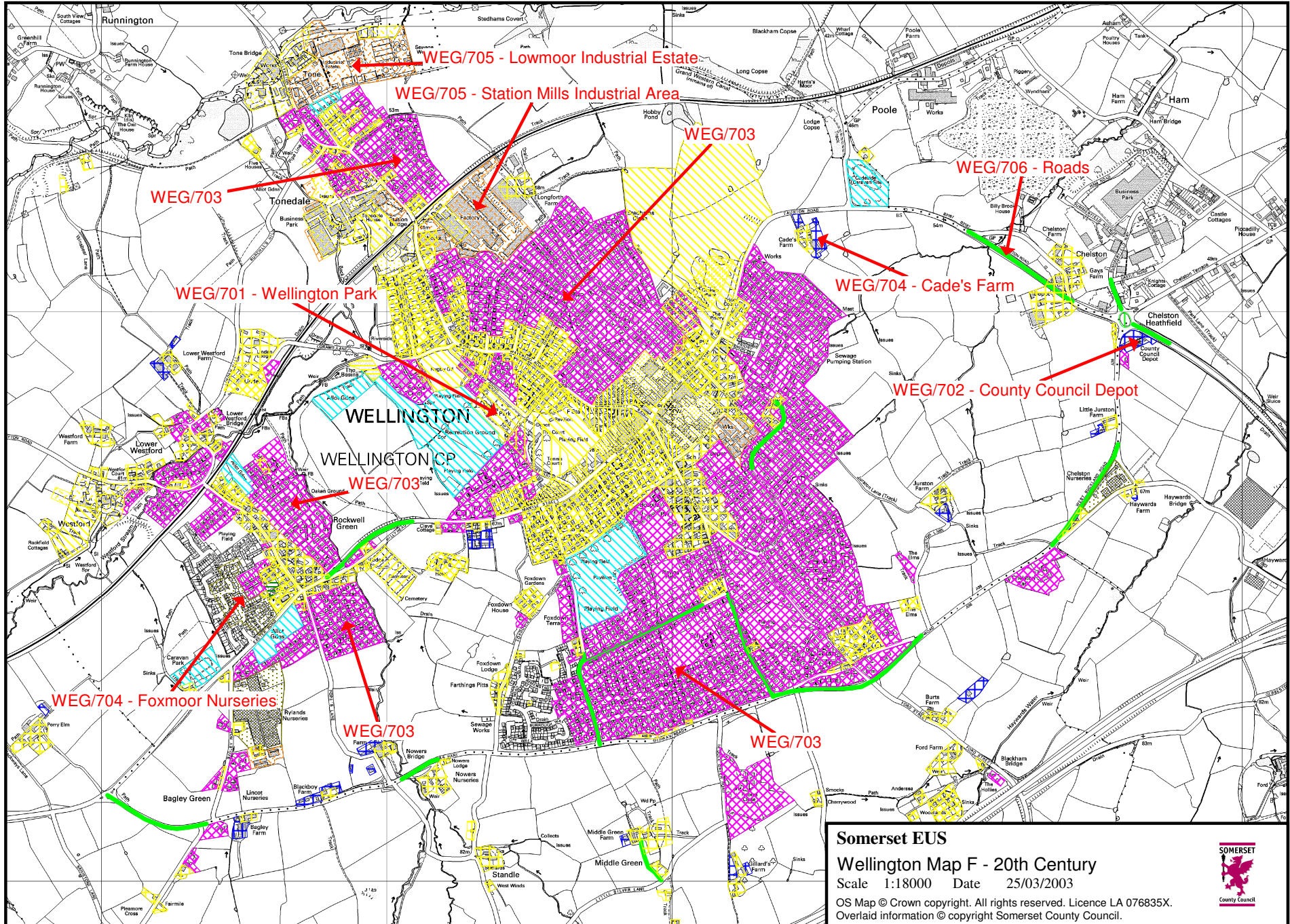Overlaid information © copyright Somerset County Council.

SOMERSET
County Council

Farm

Works

Drake's Place

Priory Court

The Priory

Mast

Issues

Sewage Pumping Station

Sinks

HOLYOAKE STREET

BRENDON ROAD

HOWARD ROAD

MITCHELL STREET

SEYMOUR STREET

BOVET STREET

GEORGE STREET

QUANTOCK ROAD

Path

OWEN STREET

PW

B 3187

WATERLOO ROAD

VICTORIA ROAD

ALEXANDRA ROAD

LONGFORTH ROAD

CHURCH FIELDS

DRAKES PARK

PRIORY

BAYNES CLOSE

KELLY ROAD

HUMPHREYS STREET

GAY STREET

LILLEROWE C

PW
78m

PW

72m

Sch

Rugby Gd

Sports Centre

Playing Field

Spr

W

The Gables

BEECH ROAD

Pol Sta

Sch

WHITE HART

BURGAGE

HIGH STREET

Sch

BAKER'S LANE

BUCKWELL

CARTER CLOSE

CAY CLOSE

NGTON

FB
The Park

Recreation Ground

Spr

Depot

The Court

Playing Field

Car Pk

NORTH STREET

PW

PO

PW

FORE STREET

Wks

SCOTT'S LANE

JURSTON LANE

Issues

F Sta

Pavilion

76m

PW

Lib

PW

Depot

Sch

THE PADDOCKS

SYLVAN ROAD

LABURNUM ROAD

ON CP

Playing Field

Sch

Tennis Courts

COURT DRIVE

MANTLE STREET

WYFORD

BULFORD

SOUTH STREET

Hospital

PW

Sch

BIRCH ROAD

BEECH HILL

Sinks

Playing Field

Issues

67m

WALKERS GATE

MOWLAND

Playing Field

Cleve Cottage

Cemetery

Hotel

Foxdown Gardens

FOXDOWN HILL

ASHFORD RD

Pavilion

Playing Field

EIGHT ACRE LANE

WELLESLEY

GRANGE CLOSE

77m

PYLES

PYLES THORNE CLOSE

CHESTNUT CLOSE

HAWTHORNE RD

Issues

Jurston Lane (Track)

Popham House

**Somerset EUS**

Wellington Map G - existing designations

Scale   1:7000      Date     12/12/2003

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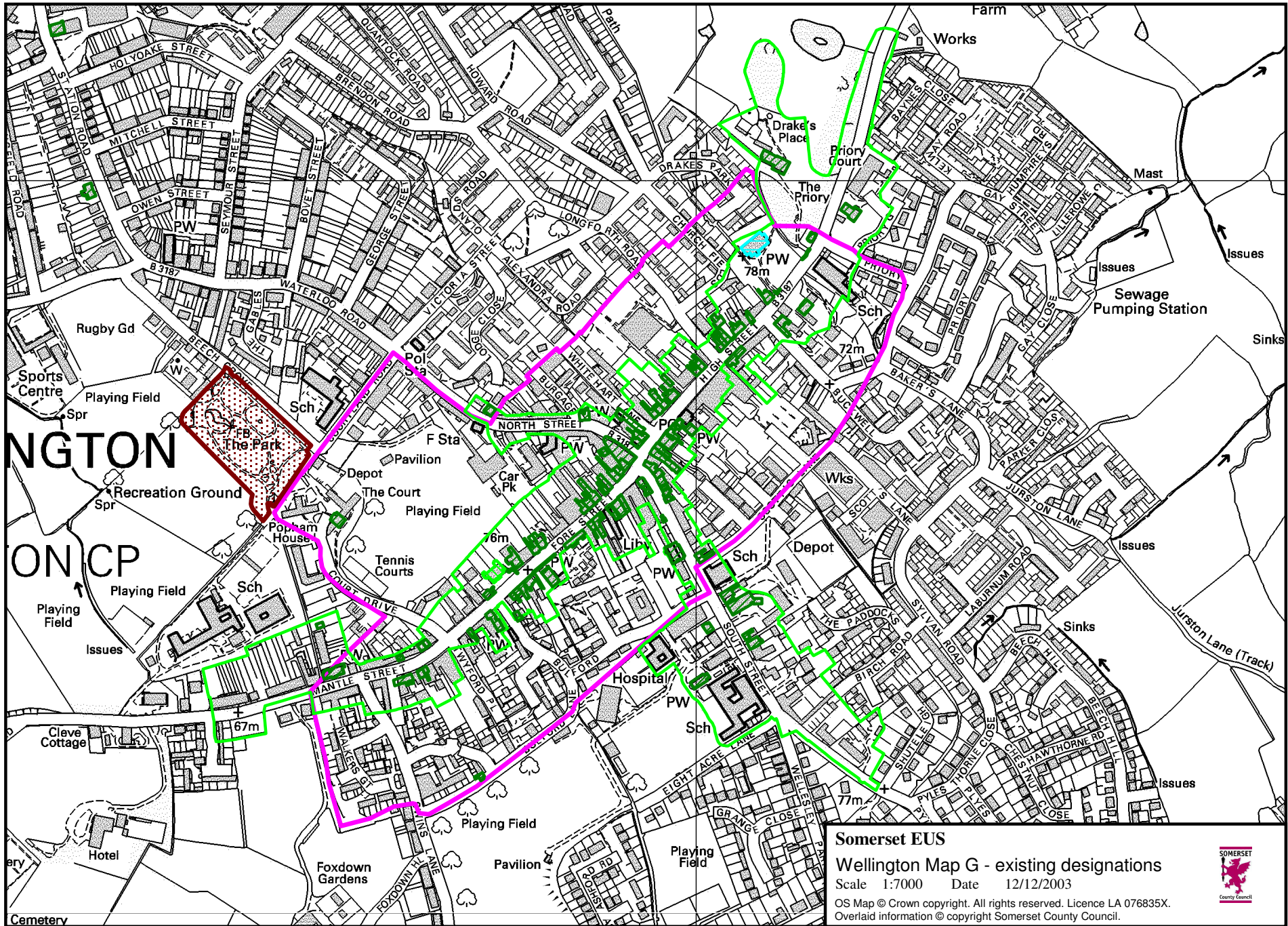Overlaid information © copyright Somerset County Council.

SOMERSET
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