English Heritage Extensive Urban Survey

An archaeological assessment of

Yeovil

Clare Gathercole

Jane Murray
Corporate Director
Culture and Heritage
Directorate
Somerset County Council
County Hall
TAUNTON
Somerset
TA1 4DY

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SOMERSET
County Council

SOMERSET EXTENSIVE URBAN SURVEY

YEOVIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

by Clare Gathercole

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SOMERSET EXTENSIVE URBAN SURVEY

YEOVIL

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

There is a moderate amount of documentation relating to the manors and the borough of Yeovil. This is supplemented by an abundance of private deeds and leases, particularly from the later periods. For the many buildings which have been demolished in the 20th century, photographic records are held in the Yeovil Museum.

2. Local histories

Yeovil has not been covered by the Victoria County History. However, there is an accessible local history by Brooke (1978). Additionally, much material relating to the archaeology of the Yeovil area has been produced by, amongst others, Hayward, B & M Gittos and Barker.

3. Maps

The earliest map showing detail of Yeovil town centre is dated to 1806. There are, however, earlier maps covering parts of the outlying manors, notably Lyde (c1653), Preston, Brimpton and Vagg (1760s).

Part of the area to the south-east of Yeovil lies in Dorset and this could not be examined in detail. Digital map cover was also unavailable.

III. A BRIEF HISTORY OF YEOVIL

Yeovil lies on the Yeovil Sands ridge, separated from the clay vales to the north by a band of silt and marl, and from the chalk hills to the south (in Dorset) by more claylands. The situation affords access to the lowland zones whilst offering a somewhat drier (and in the early prehistoric periods, less heavily wooded) environment with good soils, and abundant springs. The ridge has therefore attracted habitation from a very early period.

There are signs of activity around Yeovil from the palaeolithic period onwards, though most of the archaeological evidence is in the form of scattered finds. From the bronze age and iron age, however, we have a number of both burial and occupation sites, mainly concentrated in the south of the modern town. The known distribution of later prehistoric material in Yeovil serves to emphasise the importance of the east-west ridgeways which lay south of the town. In the iron age (and perhaps the neolithic period) these linked the hillforts at Ham Hill and South Cadbury, which may have marked a tribal frontier zone. The site of later Yeovil lay both at an important river crossing on the route and at the approximate half way point between them.

In the Roman period this situation retained its significance, whilst the Ilchester axis grew in importance. The Yeovil area lay a few miles south-east of the Fosse Way, probably just beyond the limit of Ilchester's territorium and Barker (1986) has suggested that a band of land allotments straddled the Ilchester-Dorchester road just beyond the territorium, with large villa estates lying beyond this to the south. This suggests a pattern of small Roman settlements in the modern urban area of Yeovil, rather than one single urbanised focus. Archaeological evidence is as yet insufficient to confirm or refute in detail Barker's suggestions, but the general pattern is plausible. Villas are certainly known at East and West Coker to the south, as well as Lufton to the north-west. Roman occupation debris has been found in suburbs both to east and west of the modern urban focus, but not yet within it.

Not surprisingly, the most elaborate and "urban" settlement yet known at Yeovil lies to the west of the later centre, adjacent to the main Roman road at Westland. There has been some debate over the years as to the nature of this settlement, which was initially interpreted as a villa but is now more often described as a "small town", though it is as yet unclear how great a role it could have played, given the proximity of Ilchester.

In the sub-Roman period, the situation remained crucial, with settlement around Yeovil now commanding not only the high routes to the revivified hillforts but also the southern border of the old urban territory. Hence, the suggestion that the Battle *aet Peonnum* in which the British were routed by Cenwalh of Wessex took place at the river crossing of Pen Mill, below the three hills of Yeovil (Barker, 1986), makes sense (though there are other candidates for this battlefield).

It seems possible then that the Saxons took control of a landscape the structure of which had already been long-established; reminders of the Roman past, in the shape of the ruins of the old Roman settlement - which lay on a neighbouring promontory to that occupied by the Saxon and later the medieval town - may have long remained visible to and respected by the later inhabitants.

In a position of such strategic importance, it is not difficult to see why the remnants of the pre-English estates or land allotments would have been commandeered by the incoming royalty. The estate was probably in royal hands by the late 9th century, as there is a written bequest of *Givelea* by Alfred to his son (c899), and it seems reasonable to suppose that it was ancient royal demesne. There remains an element of uncertainty, because the names of Yeovil and Ilchester come from the same root and their early English forms can be confused. For the same reason, it is uncertain whether there was a mint at Yeovil: coins marked *Gifle* have been found, but this may be a form of the mint stamp of the known mint at Ilchester (Batten, 1886). There is also the fact that Ilchester was still crown land at Domesday, whilst much of Yeovil was in the hands of private landowners. Nevertheless, a provisional account of Saxon developments can be given which makes sense of this.

The focus of the royal estate seems to have been at Kingston, with a royal manor established there by the 9th century. Around this were the *hiwisces* (Huish, recalled in field names around Yeovil), the family landholdings which often predate managed estates, and which may have grown from the farmsteads of the pre-English landscape. The subordinate estate settlements, the *tuns* - recalled in the names of Preston, Lufton, Houndstone, Brympton and Alvington - developed to the west of the town (possibly on earlier Roman settlement sites). To the south of the manor of Kingston, it seems probable that a minster was established, possibly in the 8th century (Gittos & Gittos, 1979), with attendant small settlement: another will, of one Wynflaed of Chinnock (c950), provides for her soul by buying prayers at Yeovil, the mother church where she was to be buried (the local chapelry of Chinnock having no burial rights). Whether this was on the site of an earlier sacred site is not known. Medieval sources refer to the Great Church of Yeovil and several dependent chapelries existed, including Kingston-iuxta-Yeovil - presumably in origin the royal chapel - Chinnock, Preston, Barwick and Sock Dennis. The dead of both Kingston and Yeovil Marsh were still being buried in the Yeovil yard as late as the 18th century (Collinson, 1791).

To the south of the royal manor and the minster establishment, the manor which became Hendford developed, again probably from the pre-English landholdings. It was in this area that the old urban focus had been, and it was in this area again that the borough of Yeovil seems to have begun. Domesday refers to the rationalisation of 22 *mansurae* (usually meaning houses attached to borough plots), of pre-Conquest origin, held *in paragio*. This latter term has been variously interpreted, shrouding the borough's origins in a certain amount of mystery. It implies some kind of partnership, and may mean a commercial venture off demesne land but jointly funded by the Saxon monarch and the local landowner, in this case the lord of Hendford (Barker, 1986).

Clearly, the main aim of such ventures was to make money for the landlords. However, at some point - probably after the forfeiture of control of the Hendford estate by its overlord (who was involved in rebellion) in 1095 - the revenues of the Free Yeovil Tenement (as it was known by the medieval period) were attached to the church by "the daughter of a certain king". The latter phrase occurs in a document of Henry III's reign and may refer to the Empress Maud (Brooke, 1978). It was this sequence of events that led to the peculiar situation in Yeovil whereby the rector of the church was entitled to collect the town rents and tolls, whilst the lord of Hendford retained the right of appointment (at least until the 14th century, after which it changed hands several times).

The period of the rectors' control of the borough was marked by repeated disputes and negotiations relating to the granting of urban priveleges. The town gained a market charter in 1205 and a charter in 1305-6 which granted the burgesses a *portmote* and the right to elect reeves, but it never became a free borough: this meant that many of the benefits of its commerce continued to be creamed off by the current lord. Moreover, the rectors rashly attempted to alter the traditional Tenement market day from Sunday to Friday as part of a general curtailment of the Tenement's liberties. This dispute (and others) culminated in the 14th century in a bloody assault on the visiting bishop), swiftly followed by the excommunication of the town: it is possible that the symbolic act of rebuilding the church (which may still have been the old minster building) in the late 14th century was an attempt to close this sorry chapter. The rectors' control of the borough ceased in 1420, when the revenues were transferred to the Convent of Syon in Middlesex: shortly afterwards, the new lords had the town's two fairs confirmed by the king, presumably still with the revenues in mind.

Despite the tensions in the town and a major fire in 1449, Yeovil flourished commercially through most of the medieval and post-medieval periods. Its prosperity was based on the markets and flourishing woollen and linen industries. By the 16th century, it had overshadowed other nearby towns, including Stoford and Murifield (failed boroughs), Montacute and Ilchester (which complained that its own market had been damaged by the consolidation of Yeovil's). In the early post-medieval period there are references to extensive new building and Gerard in 1633 described it as "an ancient borough and market", "one of the greatest I have seene" in a "little town" and one "... much increased ... by the decay of Stoford". By 1614 in fact there were 4 markets a week (three of them of meat and livestock) and there had been complaints that the livestock market in Hendford was overflowing the Borough limit.

In the 17th century, however, the town encountered some problems (and suffered further fires and plague brought by soldiers during the Civil War). Wool and linen both faltered through competition, though the introduction of silk working partially compensated. The cheese market, however, remained famous.

Yeovil had recovered by the late 18th century, due in part to the improvement in communications with the coming of the turnpikes. By this time it was also a centre of glove-making. Collinson in 1791 describes a "large and populous town ... [with] upwards of twenty streets and lanes". He continues: "... some of the streets are wide and contain many good stone and brick sashed houses ... The market ... is very large for corn, cattle and pigs; for bacon, cheese, butter, flax and hemp". The contemporary (1794) Universal British Directory also says "an extensive glove manufactory flourishes here, which has considerably increased of late years ... Here and in the neighbouring parishes ... is manufactured beyond all doubt the best sail cloth in England".

Yeovil continued to be a glove and market town, but also became an important industrial town in the 19th century, with light engineering developing by the end of the century. The town expanded dramatically during the century and communications improved commensurately, with three railways serving the town by the 1860s. The Borough was at last granted municipal status in 1854, with boundary extensions in 1830, 1854, 1904 and 1928.

Yeovil's population has soared in the 20th century, leading to an enormous expansion of the urban area and considerable redevelopment of both the infrastructure and the town centre.

IV. THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF YEOVIL

GENERAL COMMENTS

0.1 Archaeological work in the town

Until comparatively recently, there had been no excavation at all in Yeovil, despite the extent of redevelopment, though the local society performed watching briefs where possible. Yeovil Archaeological Unit was formed in 1988 and there have been several small excavations in the last few years. However, irreparable damage to the town's archaeological resource has been done.

0.2 Standing structures and visible remains

Relatively few early buildings survive in Yeovil, and there are few listed buildings. Many have been demolished in the 20th century without detailed recording (the exceptions to this being Recleford House and the George Hotel), though photographs of most exist.

1. PREHISTORIC
(Map A)

1.1 Archaeological knowledge

Much of our knowledge of the prehistoric archaeology of the Yeovil area depends in part on a limited number of stray finds, not all of which can be exactly located. These finds are of all the prehistoric periods, including palaeolithic axes, arrowheads and tools (SMR 54745, 55163), a mesolithic blade (SMR 54330), a neolithic axe and flints (SMR 54786), bronze age torc (SMR 54782) and iron ag e pot (SMR 54779). There are, however, a few known sites, including both uninvestigated cropmarks (SMR 55121, 53922) and excavated bronze age and iron age sites (such as SMR 54656, the barrow cemetery, and SMR 54752, the Westland Iron Age settlement, precursor of the Roman town). Whilst there is a geographical as well as a chronological spread of material, the area on the south and south-west side of Yeovil appears to exhibit a concentration, particularly of bronze age and iron age archaeology.

The SMR should be consulted for a complete listing of the available prehistoric evidence from around Yeovil.

1.2 Context

The Yeovil area was on the periphery of the spheres of influence of the centres at Ham Hill and South Cadbury hillforts (and the Ilchester oppidum in the later Iron Age). Yeovil 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 (in this case, on the site of the Roman town at Westland) - 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 the site desirable in later periods would already have been operative.

*1.3 Archaeological features, shown on **Map A***

Map A shows the known burial and occupation sites around the modern town. No other attempt has been made to define an area of particular interest, since it is thought unlikely that the current distribution of archaeological finds is a true reflection of the situation.

1.3.a Communications

Not mapped — Whilst it seems likely that the lines of some prehistoric trackways survive in the roads around Yeovil, both to the north (parts of Combe Street Lane - Hayward, 1992) and south (around Hendford Hill - Brooke, 1993), these are not well enough defined to be reliably mapped for this report.

1.3.b Burial sites

YEO/103 — Feebarrow Barrow Cemetery

The Feebarrow (= three barrows?) bronze age barrow cemetery (SMR 54656) lies to the south-west of the town. Little remains visible on this site: the barrow cemetery was discovered through observations of soil colouration changes made during ploughing in 1860. The area was excavated but only fragmentary remains of bones and charcoal were found. It is possible that slight rises in the ground in the area represent further barrows.

YEO/106 — Barwick beaker burial

A further bronze age burial (SMR 53549) was discovered east of Barwick, so some way south of Yeovil. This was a cist burial with a horse burial adjacent, the human's vault containing both skeleton and beaker. Found during quarrying in the 19th century.

YEO/104 — Ring ditch west of Barwick

A ring ditch (SMR 53922) located as a cropmark by aerial photography.

The above areas are mapped from the SMR.

Not mapped — The SMR contains a record of bronze age/iron age burials (SMR 54743) near Hendford hill, south of the centre of Yeovil, and to the south-east of the later Roman town at Westland. Unfortunately, the precise location of these is unknown. There are also references in some works (eg Brooke, 1993) to a round barrow in Barwick Park.

1.3.c Settlement

YEO/105 — Westland iron age settlement

The Roman settlement at Westland has been shown to overlie iron age occupation: under the Roman foundations were found a hearth, iron arrowheads and flint flakes (SMR 54752).

The general location of the occupation is mapped from the SMR, though the extent is somewhat conjectural.

YEO/101 — Enclosure site near Mudford Sock

A cropmark enclosure (SMR 55121) near Mudford Sock may represent a prehistoric settlement site.

From the SMR.

1.3.d Artefact scatters

YEO/102 — Artefact scatters (various)

Two artefact scatters are recorded in the SMR, one consisting chiefly of neolithic flints (SMR 54786) and the other of iron age pottery (SMR 54779).

From the SMR.

2. ROMAN
(Map A)

2.1 Archaeological knowledge
Much Roman material has been found in and around Yeovil. Whilst some of this has been in the form of groups or scatters of potsherds (eg SMR 54747, 54759, 54780), there have also been sites showing clear if limited evidence of occupation (eg SMR 53557, 53910, 54788). Whilst particular concentrations of Roman material appear to occur around Wyndham Hill (SMR 54744, 54783) and Preston Plucknett (SMR 54747, 54749), these may be misleading. As with all periods of Yeovil's archaeology, Roman material has suffered through insufficient attention during modern development, despite the efforts of Yeovil Archaeological Society and Unit. Ironically, Yeovil's archaeology also suffered from being discovered and insufficiently recorded by 18th and 19th century antiquarians: Collinson refers to the discovery of mosaics and coins at Yeovil, though he may be referring to the villa at East Coker. However, there have been excavations in the 20th century at both West Coker and Lufton. In the urban area, the major site at Westland has been partly protected and partly excavated, though a full understanding of it has not yet been achieved.

The SMR should be consulted for details of the many finds of Roman material in Yeovil.

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.

Yeovil is one of three of the 45 historic towns covered by this project at which a Roman town has been identified (though the town was west of the later centre, at Westland). It lay on the Roman road to Dorchester, but was just beyond the territory of Ilchester, the main Roman town in the county. It was therefore probably only a minor service town, surrounded by a network of farmsteads and the outlying villas of Ilchester. Like Shepton, the town was abandoned by the pre-Conquest period, as the main focus of settlement moved east, but it has not been as well-preserved.

*2.3 **Archaeological features**, shown on **Map A***
2.3.a Communications
(a) Roads
There must have been many other Roman roads and tracks in use, given the spread of activity around Yeovil. Very few of these have yet been identified.

YEO/208 The Ilchester-Dorchester road (SMR 55102)
Whilst the approximate line of the Ilchester-Dorchester main road is known, there are still questions to be answered about its exact route through the built up area.

The course of the Roman road north and south of the built up area is quite well known, visible both on the ground and from aerial photographs (eg SMR 53556).

These lengths have been plotted from the SMR maps.

A digression from the straight course of the road would have been necessary to climb the hill. Brooke (1993) suggests an approximate route, based on local tradition regarding Lovers' Lane (SMR 55257) and the proximity of finds of the Rustywell spring and Roman material (eg SMR 54781) to the projected road line. However, there is as yet no direct archaeological evidence of Roman metalling on this route.

The course of the Roman road up Hendford Hill shown here is that suggested by Brooke (1993). The probable diversion up the hill renders the course of the road within the urban area, where it cannot be seen, uncertain. An approximate course has been mapped. At the southern end of this

segment, evaluations to east and west of this proposed line have produced no evidence of the road (RPS Clouston, 1992; Adkins, 1992). However, that to the west suggested large scale earthmoving had already taken place and therefore the negative evidence may be misleading. Considerable leeway remains in the route of the road at this point because of the suggested diversion to climb the hill. Further archaeological investigation will be necessary to pin it down.

The projected line is conjectural.

YEO/209 The Ilchester boundary trackway

A possible metalled track around the Ilchester marches is suggested by Barker (1986). If the interpretation of these lanes as a relic of the territorium boundary is correct, they represent a remarkable example of boundary continuity.

From Barker, 1986.

YEO/205 The road at Lufton

A possible road (SMR 53635) running from the Lufton villa, *mapped from the SMR.*

(b) Quays

Not mapped Whilst no evidence of quays has yet been found at Yeovil, it has been suggested that the river may have been navigable this far in the late Roman period, due to a rise in sea level (Barker, 1986).

2.3.b Water

Not mapped The town was supplied from springs at Rustywell (SMR 54772) and to the north-west of Aldon.

2.3.c Burial sites

YEO/204 Larkhill Roman burials

Roman burials have been discovered in theearly 20th century during the operations at Larkhill Quarry (SMR 54749), together with evidence suggesting a small adjacent settlement. Few of the discoveries can be precisely located, nor is the exact line of the road at this point, or the relation of the cemetery to it, known.

Mapped from the SMR.

2.3.d Settlement (Urban)

YEO/201 The small Roman town at Westland

The Westland site (SMR 54751, SM 35302) lies on a low promontory, well supplied by streams, with its focus to the east of the Ilchester-Dorchester road (though the exact line of the road at this point is uncertain). Excavations have shown that this site was already occupied in the iron age (SMR 54752).

The Roman occupation was originally interpreted as a large villa but Leech (1977) has suggested that it resembles more a small town. The site was first excavated in 1925, following the discovery of a coin hoard and tessellated pavement during drainage work for the Westland factory. Further limited excavations followed in 1927-8 and in 1980, and there have been recent evaluations in the vicinity of the proposed settlement area designed to test its extent.

From the excavations which have taken place, dating evidence for 1st, 3rd and 4th century occupation has been recovered, and it therefore seems plausible that the site was in continuous occupation throughout the Roman period (though there is no evidence of any rebuilding). It appears too that Westland may have had a grid street layout, perhaps forming typical Roman insulae. Two roads, one running parallel to the main road and one at 90 degrees to it have been traced for part of their length. One of these insulae was trenched in 1928, revealing at least four town house type buildings in a layout now considered more typical of small Roman towns than of villa complexes.

The 1980 excavations showed the archaeological potential of the courtyard area and this has since been scheduled. However, the extent of the site may be considerably greater, though other areas of occupation may be of dissimilar character. Scatters of Roman material in the vicinity indicate a site of between 5 and 20 hectares. Though the archaeological deposits are sealed by a mantle of loamy soil (giving rise to the Blacklands fieldnames here as elsewhere), this varies in depth. In some places, deposits lie at only 15cm or so below the modern surface. Even in areas left open, there has consequently been some disturbance by field drains. Moreover, much of the area of possible Roman settlement has not been protected or investigated.

2.3.e Settlement (Rural)

(a) Villas

YEO/207 East Coker Roman villa

The East Coker villa (SMR 53911, SM Som 279) was discovered in the mid 18th century but poorly recorded. Subsequent excavations (early 19th century) and field survey (early 20th century) have yielded further Roman material, including mosaics, painted wall plaster and coins. However, though parch marks are occasionally visible from the air, the full plan of the villa is not known.

YEO/206 West Coker Roman villa

West Coker villa (SMR 54658, SM Som 280) was first excavated in the 19th century, when it produced some striking finds (including a statuette of Mars and an inscribed plaque). Pottery and a circular hearth were found in 1914-15. However, it was not until excavations in 1958 that substantial foundations were discovered; there were further excavations in 1974 and 1988 (the latter a small evaluation trench, which also produced limited evidence of ealier, iron age, settlement on the site). It is considered that excavations which have been carried out are insufficient to fully understand the site.

YEO/205 Lufton Roman villa

Lufton villa (SMR 53634, SM Som 348) was discovered and excavated in the 1940s, with further excavations in the 1960s. The complex, which has been dated to the 4th century (probably continuing in occupation in the sub-Roman period), is therefore relatively well understood, being an example of a corridor villa, with living rooms opening off a verandah. The villa is remarkable chiefly for its unusually elaborate bath complex and the number of mosaics recovered.

The villas have been mapped from the SMR.

(b) Other settlement

The pattern of settlement around Yeovil is far from established. However, current evidence and hypotheses suggest widespread small scale occupation. Whilst it is beyond the scope of this report to follow through in any detail the implications of any one model, Barker's work suggests that we might expect Roman occupation not only in areas which have already produced evidence but also in other areas, such as to the west around Lufton and Houndstone (see below). Some conjectural areas have been mapped on the GIS from her suggestions, though these are not reproduced in this report. It would be helpful to fieldwalk areas remaining open, though much of the land in question has been swallowed by urban development.

YEO/202 Known occupation sites (various)

These sites are noted in the SMR as known occupation sites, producing evidence of building materials or hearths. Very little is known about these sites and indeed one, near Barwick, has been identified mainly from field name evidence. See SMR 53557, 53910, 54744, 54753, 54788.

2.3.f Artefact scatters

YEO/203 Artefact scatters (various)

These sites are noted in the SMR as marked concentrations of Roman finds and there are other finds which cannot be precisely located. See SMR 53550, 53920, 54747, 54750.

The above are mapped from the SMR.

3. SAXON
(Maps B and D)

3.1 Archaeological knowledge
Whilst there are many theories about pre-Conquest Yeovil, based on documentary and placename evidence, there is actually very little archaeological evidence to confirm or refute any of them. There are occasional finds of Saxon pottery recorded in the SMR (eg SMR 54759). However, watching briefs and excavations have recovered little or no material of this date. There are therefore severe problems in attempting to define archaeological zones and most of those presented here are highly conjectural.

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.

Yeovil 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, though Yeovil is not one of the six towns at which burgesses are recorded in the Domesday Survey, there are signs - particularly the existence of a form of plot usually associated with boroughs - that it was a de facto borough by the end of the Saxon period, established from the adjacent royal estate centre. It is one of nine towns in which possible signs of pre-Conquest planning have been noted in the Assessments, and one of 22 out of the 45 towns associated with a known or probable pre-Conquest minster.

3.3 Standing structures and visible remains
No Saxon structures survive in Yeovil itself, though possible masonry fragments have been found near Frogg Mill and in a building near Church House.

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

(a) Roads

Whilst many of the lanes shown on Map D (representing the late post-medieval network) may have either originated or been in use in the Saxon period, little is known for certain.

YEO/308 — The "Westland bypass"

This road, referred to by Barker (1986) as the "Westland bypass" may have originated in the Saxon period as a major diversion of the old road to skirt the royal manor and minster site.

The possible roadline is based on the modern alignments.

(b) Quays

Not mapped — It has been suggested that the river may *still* have been navigable as far as Yeovil in the 7th century (Barker, 1986), in which case evidence should be sought in the area east and south-east of the town centre.

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

YEO/301 — The Saxon minster

Evidence for the existence of a minster at Yeovil is largely indirect, hinging on the will of Wynflaed of Chinnock (mentioned above), and medieval references to the Great Church of Yeovil and its dependent chapelries. The analysis by Gittos & Gittos (1989) of areas under the authority of known minsters in the surrounding area also shows how a minster in Yeovil might fill a gap in the pattern. Moreover, they draw attention to the total rebuilding of the church in the 14th century

following its desecration by the enraged burgesses, suggesting that the opportunity was taken to replace a building which was by then ancient if venerable.

There is a little archaeological evidence for the above. Whilst there are *no* finds of Romanesque stonework in Yeovil (one might expect there to be if the 14th century rebuild had replaced a Norman building), fragments of possibly Saxon masonry, akin to material known to belong to Saxon churches, have been found. One of these was found during culverting near Frogg Mill and another fragment was spotted during the demolition of a building in the grounds of Church House.

This pattern of evidence is consistent with the dismantling of a major Saxon church in the medieval period. The Gittos in fact suggest that much of the old building remained standing until the new was complete, a situation with parallels elsewhere (such as Wells), which explains the somewhat cramped situation of the medieval church (SMR 54735) in relation to the promontory. They suggest the minster stood to the west of the medieval church, with the chantry house (described by Leland in the 16th century as "a great and fayre olde chapel, the whiche semithe to be a thing more ancient than the paroche") perhaps being a surviving element of the old chancel (until it was taken down and re-erected on Church Path in the 19th century).

If these arguments are correct, then the minster precinct must have extended further to the west than does the current churchyard. For the southern boundary, there is some limited archaeological evidence in the form of a clear boundary associated with a marked change of level, detected during a watching brief at Lloyd's Bank (Gittos & Gittos, 1989).

The marked area contains the medieval church (SMR LB 50108) and churchyard, which has been protected from modern development (though not from centuries of burials), and areas to the south and west which have not. If the Gittos' plan is correct, then parts of the Saxon chancel and associated buildings may lie beneath Church Path and the western half of the churchyard. The extent of damage in the developed areas is uncertain, but they have the potential to contain the remains of Saxon buildings and burials, as well as medieval and later urban development: it is necessary to test the hypotheses regarding the minster by attempting to date the medieval deposits in this area if they survive.

The mapped area is taken from Gittos & Gittos, 1989.

3.4.c Manors and estates

YEO/302 <u>The royal manor(?) at Kingston</u>

Despite documentary evidence of its existence, there is no local tradition of a Saxon manor site at Kingston, and no archaeological evidence to indicate its location. The marked area probably represents the area in which the Saxon establishment is most likely to have been, forming as it does the focus of modern Kingston and lying to the south of the area supposed to have lain within the open fields (Brooke, 1978). The 19th century maps show a much later manor house in this area, adjacent to Court Ash, though further research would be necessary to establish continuity with earlier manor locations.

This area has been very badly damaged by the construction of the Yeovil District Hospital and the ring road. Any remaining deposits are therefore all the more important for understanding the area.

The marked area is conjectural.

YEO/410 *(shown on Map C)*

<u>Kingston Pitney Chapel site</u>

Information regarding the medieval Kingston Pitney Chapel site (see below, p16) suggests a possible alternative location for early manor buildings.

The marked site is from the SMR.

3.4.d Settlement (Urban)

YEO/305 The Saxon settlement

There is insufficient evidence to map the early Saxon settlement and borough with any confidence. The marked zone covers the area around the springs to the north-east of the ecclesiastical focus (suggested as a possible early settlement focus by Aston & Leech, 1977), the area around the crossroads to the south-west (a possible early focus according to Barker, 1986), and the area around the suggested early markets. Within this area a few sherds of Saxon pottery have been found, but nothing else.

Whilst the probable early origins of urban activity in this area make it a subject of interest, it must be borne in mind that for the last thousand years the area has been repeatedly redeveloped. This was also the centre of medieval and later activity and is likely to have contained the most intensely developed burgage plots; the original site of Woburns Almshouses of 1476 (SMR 54778) also lies within this area. By the 19th century this part of town contained light industry (eg SMR 54762, the glove factory) as well as commercial developments. In the 20th century, frontage development has continued, but in addition the northern part of the area has seen major alterations. This area is therefore one in which islands of important archaeological sequences and deposits possibly going back as far as the fragile structures of the Saxon period, are likely to co-exist with areas of severe damage.

The limits of the marked area are conjectural.

YEO/303, YEO/304

Market places

The existence of large market and fair areas in the medieval period is documented and the southern one may have been the market area involved in the 14th century dispute - the Tenement market (see above, p5) - suggesting that this area at least was of pre-Conquest origin (Gittos & Gittos, 1989). Both areas have subsequently been encroached upon: the medieval markets are described below (YEO/420).

The areas are marked from the suggestions of Gittos & Gittos, 1989.

3.4.e Industrial sites

Both Pen Mill and Frogg Mill may have existed before Domesday (Brooke, 1978), but are considered with the medieval archaeology.

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

For the areas surrounding the early urban core of Yeovil it has not proved possible to define satisfactorily the process of development through the Saxon, medieval and post-medieval periods. These outlying areas are therefore described together, under post-medieval.

4. MEDIEVAL AND POST-MEDIEVAL
(Map C, Map D)

Too little is known of the archaeology of these periods for them to be separated.

4.1 Archaeological knowledge

Very little is known of the medieval and post-medieval archaeology of Yeovil. Watching briefs within and on the fringes of the medieval borough have so far not been particularly productive. Those at Petters House and Lloyds Bank both revealed little more than pits and some interesting artefacts (Dennison, 1988; Bradbury & Croft, 1989). In 1986, the redevelopment of the old 19th century market area, which was then a car park, for the new South St library, also led to a watching brief, which noted several post-medieval and 19th century features.

All the areas in the centre of Yeovil have suffered considerably from modern developments and cannot be regarded as of high overall potential. However, remaining pockets of archaeology are correspondingly more important.

There has been very little archaeological intervention in the area around Yeovil, though informal earthwork surveys and aerial photographic campaigns have produced evidence of abandoned settlements.

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 priveleges. 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.

Yeovil 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, and was one of nine of the towns at which signs of planning may date to the pre-Conquest period.. Though not described as a borough before the Conquest, it was one of five of the places with some pre-Conquest urban functions which acquired borough status during 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. Yeovil 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. It was one of a group of important cloth towns in the south and east of the county.

4.3 Standing structures and visible remains

The only medieval building surviving in situ is the church (SMR LB 50108), though the Chantry (SMR LB 50058) is also of Medieval origin, and part of the street plan survives. The last medieval house was demolished in 1962, though it was recorded in advance. A building in the grounds of Church House, of unspecified date but containing numerous fragments of medieval masonry, was demolished in 1988 and the masonry was the subject of a study by Yeovil Archaeological Unit (Dennison, 1988).

A few more buildings survive from the post-medieval period, including properties in Princes St (SMR LB 50040, 50066, 50072, 50073) and three of the central pubs and hotels (SMR LB 50091, 50107, 50120). Additionally, elements of the post-medieval manor complex of Hendford survive, including the house (SMR LB 50029) and the stables, now Wyndham Museum (SMR LB 50023).

The few listed buildings of these periods in the urban core are shown on Map C, with only the church being a medieval structure.

The listed buildings have not been considered in detail, or mapped on the GIS, for the outlying area, though the more important of them are noted where appropriate.

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

4.4.a Redevelopment in earlier settlement components

Whilst the plan of the medieval town may have been based on that of the earlier settlement, the components of the medieval core have been separately defined and described.

4.4.b Communications: roads

Whilst elements of the medieval street plan in Yeovil, Kingston and Hendford survive, there have been some relatively recent major changes to the road structure.

YEO/527 Pre-1806 roads

The roads marked on Map C are all those (except for some tiny back alleys) which appear on the 1806 town map. Despite 19th and 20th century alterations, which have particularly affected the Kingston and Penn Hill areas, and the area north of Middle Street, vestiges at least of most of these remain.

The development of the street plan is not clear, though Brooke (1978) gives some information on first references (not earlier than the 14th century) and old names. Streets to the east, south and west of the church may have developed as part of the borough, which does not appear to have been planned (Bond, c1990). These include High Street (formerly The Borough), Middle Street, Silver Street, Vicarage Street, South Street (formerly Back St), and Wine St (Grope Lane). Middle Street was known as Pyt Lane in the medieval period. Excavations in 1986 during the redevelopment of nos 56-58 unexpectedly revealed only clean soil at a depth of 6m from the modern surface. This has led to the suggestion that the road may have changed its course (Dennison, 1986): the alternatives are that the archaeology had already been destroyed, or that there has been an open space there for most of the town's history.

The streets are mostly from the 1806 map with additional information from the 1807/8 OS surveyors' drawings. Both of these sources post-date the turnpike improvements.

4.4.c Water

Several of the old stream courses in Yeovil are now no longer in evidence. To obtain a comprehensive map of the old watercourses running from the numerous springs would require a more detailed study of the early maps than was possible for this report, and only the most obvious have been mapped. The old (and present-day) streams are of archaeological importance in that they represent areas of potentially superior archaeological preservation in an essentially dry area.

YEO/428 The Rackle Stream

The Rackle Stream, which led from a horsepool below Nuns Well in the medieval period and marked the early northern borough limit. This was still partly in evidence in the mid-19th century.

Mapped from Brooke, 1978.

YEO/528 The mill race

The mill race for Frogg Mill is mapped as it appeared in the early 19th century. The course subsequently changed more than once, and it is possible that there were also earlier courses. In 1988, a watching brief for the relief road construction at Belmont Street noted an original water course associated with the possible fragment of Saxon church masonry (Dennison, 1988).

Mapped from the 1806 map.

YEO/430 Stream
This stream still waters allotments north of the centre, though it is no longer evident in the urban core.

Mapped from the 1806 map and the 1807/8 OS surveyors' drawings.

YEO/432 Wells
Two wells, Nuns Well and Millers Well, were located on the northern edge of the Borough.

From Brooke (1978).

4.4.d Burial sites and places of worship

YEO/419 The medieval churchyard
The medieval churchyard (SMR 54735), containing the medieval church buildings (SMR LB 50108) and burials, may represent only a part of the Saxon area (YEO/301), which is described above (see p11).

The extent shown is from the 1806 map.

YEO/410 Kingston Pitney Chapel
The supposed site of Kingston Pitney Chapel (SMR 54739) lies not within the marked area, but on the opposite side of Higher Kingston. Whilst there is as yet little evidence to confirm or refute this location, it may be of importance to do so: the medieval chapel is supposed to have lain within the manorial buildings of Kingston, which might suggest an alternative location for previous manor buildings.

From the SMR.

Not mapped There are also references to a late medieval hospital foundation (SMR 54765), but the location of this is not known.

4.4.e Settlement (Urban)

(a) The commercial core

YEO/429 The Medieval Borough
The original medieval borough limits are described by Brooke (1978). Further research would indicate later changes to these limits, which should have archaeological correlates in the extent of urban plot development.

The mapped area is taken from Brooke, 1978.

YEO/420 Markets
Parts of the old market areas (YEO/303, YEO/304: see above, p13) still lay open in 1806. The northern area was by then known as the Sheep Fair and the southern as the Borough. The Borough was subjected to extensive remodelling in the 19th century, when the old Market House and shambles (SMR 54736) were swept away, but watercolours - and the town map - predating these changes exist.

The extent shown is from the 1806 map.

Not mapped Whilst the Borough remained a major market area, the livestock markets were also held in the street. There are early 17th century records registering complaints about the overspill of the market in Hendford, only one side of which was in the borough at that time. These street market areas have not been mapped.

YEO/404 Burgage plots

These are the areas within the suggested Borough outline which, from the 1806 map, appear to have contained long, narrow plots most like burgage development - though there are no obvious regularly laid out blocks. The areas fall partly within the areas of Saxon settlement described above (YEO/305, p13). It is possible that the plot boundaries may be pre-Domesday, and that complex sequences of occupation and activity may remain: however, details of the areas' archaeological survival and potential remain to be ascertained.

YEO/401 Tenements (Clarence St)

Other apparently similar areas lie beyond Brooke's suggested Borough outline and may represent later tenements.

YEO/421 Encroachments (Princes St)

On land perhaps once forming part of the Saxon minster precinct and market a series of encroachments and deliberate conversions to commercial property had occurred by 1806. The 1806 map shows property orientated towards the Cattle Market, which was also by this date a turnpike road: the pattern of earlier occupation has not been established.

YEO/402 Urban development (Middle St)

On the 1806 map, these areas show continuous development along Middle Street and (to a lesser degree) Vicarage Street and South Street, with open ground to the rear of the plots. The southern area also contains the site of the Portreeve's Almshouses (SMR 54777), which were built in the late Middle Ages and survived until 1910.

YEO/403 Urban fringe developments (various)

On the 1806 map, these areas show considerably less intensive development with gaps in the street frontage, more generous plots and wider buildings. It is probable that this represents relatively late medieval or post-medieval development on the fringes of the borough.

Marked areas are mapped from the 1806 map except where otherwise stated.

(b) Suburbs

YEO/411 Kingston

The "suburb" of Kingston may have had pre-Conquest origins, but little evidence for the character of early occupation has yet been recovered. In 1806, the western settlement nucleus displayed a relatively open pattern of development (both within and without the "island" created by the roads). Broad plots and frontages with orchards and closes to the rear may represent a mixture of residential and industrial medieval and post-medieval occupation. Kingston has largely been redeveloped in the 20th century and the extent of survival is unknown.

YEO/422 Court Ash

The area abutting Court Ash was mostly orchard and paddock in 1806, with a few large houses. Further research would help in ascertaining the precise significance of this pattern, which may derive from early manorial landholdings.

YEO/409 Reckleford

The easternmost nucleus of Kingston was in 1806 around the junction of Reckleford (now Market Street) and Reckleford Hill (now Reckleford), at which junction there was a cross, suggesting a possible subsidiary market focus. Again, these areas have the appearance of mixed occupation, though they contain small blocks of plots which may have been regularly laid out.

In 1987 the St Gildas' Convent site, in the more northerly block, was the subject of a watching brief in which no sign of medieval occupation was noted (Dennison, 1988).

YEO/518 Hendford

Development along Hendford in 1806 was limited away from the northernmost end, with widely spaced buildings, possibly representing farm or industrial complexes. The proximity to water makes the west of Hendford a particularly likely area to have been involved in the medieval woollen and linen industries. Development on the eastern side of the road seems to have been constrained, even as late as 1806, by the hill.

This area has been much altered to the south by modern changes in the road layout, which are likely to have severely damaged the archaeology.

YEO/519 Huish

There was very little development to the west of the town centre, along this minor route into the old open fields. The 1806 map shows, above all, enclosed orchards, fields and gardens.

YEO/516 Penn Hill and London Rd

Other scattered plots close to the streams and on the sides of Penn Hill developed by at least the end of the post-medieval period. Those on Penn Hill will have been severely affected by realignment of the road and redevelopment from the mid-19th century onwards.

YEO/501 Three large residences

Three large residences appear on the 1806 map: Hendford House to the west, Hendford Manor in the centre and Penn House to the east. The latter two, particularly, stand in sizable grounds. The date of these developments is not entirely clear, but they are probably relatively late.

Hendford House (SMR LB 50092), as it appears on the 1806 map, was built in 1776: however, the stable block (SMR LB 50131) is dated in the List to the early 18th century, suggesting an earlier origin to the property. Hendford Manor (SMR LB 50029) is also dated to the early 18th century and it is unclear whether it actually represents the traditional manor site or not. Penn House (SMR LB 50102) is dated in the List to the mid-19th century, though it clearly appears on the 1806 map. Further documentary research would clarify the situation with regard to these three properties.

Both the buildings and parts of their grounds have survived. There may be potential in the grounds for remains of earlier buildings or of post-medieval landscaping.

All the above marked areas are mapped from the 1806 map, with additional information from the 1807/8 OS surveyors' drawings.

4.4.f Industrial sites

(a) Mills

There were two mills at Domesday, one probably being the Hendford manor mill, and the other the Kingston manor mill. It is most likely that Frogg Mill and Pen Mill represent the successors of these. Pen Mill, lying without the urban core, is discussed in the next section.

YEO/405 Frogg Mill

The first recorded conveyance of the property of Frogg Mill (SMR 54755) was in 1733, but it is likely that the mill has early origins, perhaps as the manor mill of Hendford (Brooke, 1978). By the 19th century it was being used as a textile mill and was subsequently reused in the leather and glove industry. Damaged by fire in 1909, it has been demolished, though the leat and sluices survive.

Frogg Mill is mapped from the 1806 map and information in the SMR.

(b) Other industrial sites

YEO/517 Penny's Yard

Penny's Yard, marked on the 1806 map may be of post-medieval origin, though further research would be necessary to confirm this.

Mapped from the 1806 map.

4.4.g Agricultural sites

YEO/431 Open fields

The southern boundaries of Kingston's original open fields, already partly enclosed, *as suggested by Brooke (1978).*

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

The area under consideration extends into the present-day civil parishes of Mudford, Brympton, both East and West Coker, and (just) Chilthorne Domer. However, only the areas of these parishes swallowed by or adjacent to the modern urban area are included.

4.5.a Communications: roads

YEO/309, YEO/527

Pre-1808 roads

Despite some major modern road developments, many of the roads which form the skeleton of Yeovil's urban area are at least as old as the medieval period, probably even older: the Meadway (YEO/309), for example, probably represents the pre-Conquest lane to the watermeadows. However, not all the medieval and post-medieval lanes have survived. The road network shown on Map D is taken largely from the 1807/8 OS surveyors' drawings and therefore represents a relatively late situation, postdating the turnpike improvements. By this time there was a marked imbalance in the density of lanes around Yeovil. Some of the relatively blank areas, such as those north of Kingston and west of Hendford, represent the old open field areas. However, there is archaeological evidence of deserted medieval settlements around Brympton, and documentary evidence of early enclosure at Newton (see below). It is therefore likely that in these areas at least medieval lanes had fallen out of use long before the maps on which the marked network is based were drawn.

From the 1807/8 OS surveyors' drawings.

4.5.b Water

Some of the streams which have been at least partially concealed by modern urban development have been mapped, but as was stated above, no thorough research into this subject has been done.

YEO/433 Lyde stream

The stream through Little Lyde has disappeared.

Mapped from the 1807/8 OS surveyors' drawings.

4.5.c Settlement (Rural)

A number of small settlement foci surrounded Yeovil in the medieval and post-medieval period. Some of these remain (just) beyond the present urban area, but are too close to ignore; others have already been swallowed. Map D shows the settlement pattern as it existed at the beginning of the 19th century, with additional information on abandoned medieval and post-medieval settlements from the SMR . The following information is arranged alphabetically by settlement nucleus and includes some information on churchyards, farms and industrial sites where available.

Several of these settlement foci are probably of Saxon origin (from place name evidence). Some may have originated earlier (Barker, 1986), and there may have been other, undiscovered, early settlements. Evidence is insufficient to map the early settlement pattern with confidence, though some conjectural areas of interest are indicated on the GIS and have been used in the definition of Policy Areas. For the sake of clarity, these are not shown on the maps accompanying this report.

Except where otherwise stated, all plots are mapped from the OS surveyors' drawings of 1807/8, with some detail supplied from the tithe maps of 1837-49 (the apportionments were not consulted), and the 1880s 1:2500.

(a) Alvington

YEO/315, YEO/506

Alvington: post-medieval settlement area

Alvington is a Saxon *tun* settlement, and possibly of Roman origin (Barker, 1986). Though the location of the Saxon occupation has not been archaeologically established, a focus at the medieval crossroads seems plausible. Map D shows the actual post-medieval occupation area. A cross base exists within these areas, partly incorporated into a garden wall (SMR 55152, SMR LB 56105).

There has been some non-intensive development of the original settlement area, which was respected by the 19th century railway and subsequent road. However, it is likely that the settlement is of archaeological potential. There are "humps and bumps" in surrounding fields which suggest that a survey is needed to establish the limit of medieval occupation (Gittos & Gittos, 1991).

From the 1807 map.

(b) Barwick

YEO/313, YEO/520

Barwick

Barwick has been mapped only in part for this report: the report for *Stoford* should also be consulted. The marked areas cover the settlement and house as they appeared at the very end of the post-medieval period.

From the 1808 map.

YEO/427 Barwick churchyard (SMR 53548)

The church of St Mary Magdalene (SMR LB 50350), Barwick, is of medieval origin and the churchyard has probably been in use since this period.

From the 1808 map.

YEO/532 Barwick House

The present buildings at Barwick contain late 18th and 19th century listed elements (the house being SMR LB 50354) and the Registered Park (SMR 55165) is probably also late 18th century. There is little information on the medieval history of the park area, though there is evidence of earlier (Roman) settlement (see above, p10) and in areas towards Newton (see below) there is documentary evidence of unlocated deserted settlement; a post-medieval fishpond (SMR 53558) also survives.

From the 1808 map.

(c) Brympton

The area around Brympton has been protected from most modern development and is therefore perhaps of considerable archaeological potential.

YEO/417 Brympton DMV

Brympton is another *tun* settlement, with possible Roman origins (Barker, 1986). There was certainly a medieval settlement here: Domesday and medieval documents record a number of free and unfree tenants working the site. However, from the 17th century onwards, a series of land enclosures and landscape alterations associated with the laying out of the park resulted in the depopulation of the settlement. According to Collinson, there was still a village of about 14 houses around the manor house and church in 1791, but this is not obviously present on the OS surveyors' drawings of 1807/8. Map D shows both the house complex as it was a the end of the post-medieval period and the surrounding areas of deserted settlement marked in the SMR.

The SMR contains notes on the surviving earthworks of holloways, building platforms and a possible moat (SMR 53637) around the house complex, though the exact location and extent of early settlement is uncertain. Excavations in 1980 failed to locate medieval material on a site south of the church (Barnett, 1980).

The possible areas of deserted settlement, to north and west, are mapped from the SMR.

YEO/406, YEO/529

Brympton D'Evercy House and Park

The house and park area (SMR 55166, included on the Parks and Gardens Register) still contain many surviving elements of medieval and later origin, including the 13th century church (SMR 53632, SMR LB 56106), and a medieval fishpond (SMR 53638). The house itself (SMR LB 56106) is mostly 15th to 18th century, with some surviving earlier fabric, and there are several other listed buildings in the complex (SMR LB 56107-16).

The isolated plot on the northern edge of the park represents High Leaze, of which the surviving buildings date from the 17th century and later (SMR LB 56132), though an earlier origin is possible.

The house complex is mapped from the 1807/8 drawings.

(d) Burton, North Coker and Nash

YEO/316, YEO/513

Burton and North Coker

Burton (another *tun* settlement), North Coker and Nash have produced Roman material (see Map A) and contain many surviving elements of archaeological interest. A detailed study of the village is, however, beyond the scope of this report, and both the List and the SMR should be consulted. The mapped elements are taken from the 1807/8 OS surveyors' drawings in combination with an 1819 map of East Coker parish: they therefore represent the settlement as it was at the very end of the post-medieval period. The medieval manor house may have lain within the marked area, at Hymerford House (SMR LB 50511) (Ellison, 1983).

From the 1808 and 1819 maps.

YEO/407 Nash Priory

There is reason to think that the earlier settlement of North Coker and Nash would have differed somewhat from the post-medieval. Both a chapel (SMR 53918) and a large residence (of which Nash Priory, SMR LB 50487, SMR 53912, formed part) existed in the medieval period, but were later superceded. Tradition has it that much of the stone from the hall was reused at West Coker.

The extent shown is that on the 1808 and 1819 maps.

YEO/531 North Coker House

North Coker House and park (SMR 53927) may have had post-medieval origins, but were altered and extended in the 19th century.

From the 1808 and 1819 maps.

YEO/514 North Coker mills

There may have been two mills at North Coker in the post-medieval period. One (SMR 53913), south of the village, is marked on the maps. Another (SMR 53923), to the east, is recorded in the SMR.

From the 1808 and 1819 maps and the SMR.

YEO/515 Pavyotts Mill

Pavyotts Mill (SMR 53917) was a large mill east of North Coker. It was in existence by at least 1819.

From the 1819 map.

(e) "Elleston"

YEO/202, YEO/418

Two sites possibly representing part of the early settlement of Elleston

According to Barker (1986), there was another *tun* settlement west of Hendford, which survived only as Yew Tree Close Farm, the more northerly of the two marked sites. The SMR also contains notes on a nearby deserted settlement (SMR 54759), which now lies partially under the modern estate. A watching brief during development produced Roman, Saxon and medieval pottery, as well as possible evidence of building platforms. The SMR also mentions the supposed site of a medieval chapel at Elston Combe (SMR 54767), though this is not located.

Mapped from the SMR and the 1842 map: the area is obscured on the 1807/8 surveyors' drawings, though the road pattern supports the existence of the farm at this date.

(f) Hendford

Hendford was very closely linked to the early town of Yeovil, and is described above as a suburb of the town (see above, p5, 18).

Not mapped The open fields of Hendford lay to the west of the town and included Northover, of which some strips survived into the 19th century. More detailed research would be needed to map the extent of the field. The area included the Blacklands fields, under which the Roman town of Westland was preserved.

YEO/408 "Bragg Church"

Hendford remained an important manor even after it lost the lordship of the town and there is a tradition that a separate chapel existed at Bragg Church (SMR 54766). Brooke (1993) considers this site is more likely to have been merely a field in ecclesiastical hands, but the possibility of an early building on the site should not be ruled out.

The site is marked from Brooke, 1993.

(g) Hescombe

YEO/416 The deserted settlements of East and West Hescombe

There are a number of deserted settlements along these slopes, including the remains of the medieval manors of both West and East Hescombe (SMR 54660, 54654) and a further deserted farmstead (SMR 54666). The SMR contains some details of the earthworks which have been observed in these locations, which include remains of holloways, building platforms and ridge and

furrow. There is apparently a local tradition of a Roman villa at West Hescombe, which is associated with Roman water pipes in the Brympton museum. There is as yet no archaeological confirmation of this: though building debris has been recovered from Harsleaze field, this is thought to be medieval. However, the tradition accords with the suggestions of Barker (1986).

The marked sites are from the SMR.

(h) Houndstone

YEO/311, YEO/530

Houndstone

Houndstone may have very ancient origins: Barker suggests that there may have been a Roman farmstead here, possibly to the north-east of the Cross (Barker, 1986). It is one of the Saxon *tun* settlements and, according to Collinson (1791), Houndstone Cross was the centre of Hundesbere hundred in the pre-Conquest period. Houndstone became depopulated at the end of the post-medieval period. The 1763 map and, less clearly, the 1807/8 OS surveyors' drawings, both show plots and buildings. However, the village had been described as "altogether depopulated" in 1791 (Collinson) and had mostly reverted to field later in the 19th century.

There has been no thorough study of the area around Houndstone Cross. Parts of this area have remained open land throughout the 19th and 20th centuries (including land to the south of the lane which, though not occupied in the post-medieval period, may contain remains of occupation of earlier periods - SMR 55153). The railway (and subsequent main road) respected the site, though a realignment of the lane north-west to Lufton may have caused some damage to the archaeology. The main post-medieval occupation area has been partially redeveloped: earthworks representing the remains of the deserted medieval and post-medieval settlement, including those of pond, trackway and building platforms, were noted in the southwest corner of the army camp (Gittos & Gittos, 1988).

Though the presence of Houndstone on the 1763 map was noted, a copy of this part of the map was not taken during research, and the extent of Houndstone has been mapped from the 1807/8 surveyors' drawings. The site to the north-east is conjectural, based on the suggestions of Barker (1986).

(i) Kingston

Kingston was very closely linked to the early Borough (see above, p4, 12, 17).

YEO/431 Kingston open fields

The open fields of Kingston were Westfield, Middle Field and Eastfield.

Extent mapped from the suggestions of Brooke, 1978.

YEO/522 Early enclosures in Kingston fields

The process of enclosure had begun by the 16th century. These few farms present by 1808 include March Close Farm, Hollands and Hollands Farm as well as some untitled plots. These sites have been swallowed by Yeovil's northern estates and Yeovil College.

From the 1808 map.

YEO/523, YEO/524

Early industrial sites in the open fields

A quarry and a brickworks shown on the 1808 map may have begun in the post-medieval period.

From the 1808 map.

(j) Lufton

YEO/310, YEO/507

Lufton

Lufton is one of the *tun* settlements, of at least Saxon origin, possibly Roman (Barker, 1986). However, the location of any Saxon or earlier occupation is not yet known. By the medieval and post-medieval periods, Lufton existed as a cluster of farmsteads. The areas marked on Map D do not include "Lufton manor" (SMR LB 56129), which is of 19th century origin. Because the road alignment has since changed through Lufton, the positioning of the eastern areas of occupation is approximate.

Lufton remains beyond the main urban area and has not been particularly badly affected by modern developments. Because the Saxon occupation is unlocated, not only the old farmsteads but also the surrounding area should be considered as having archaeological potential.

From the 1807 map.

YEO/423 Lufton churchyard

Lufton church and churchyard (SMR 53636, SMR LB 56127) are of medieval origin.

From the SMR.

(k) Lyde

Lyde was referred to as Eslide at Domesday. It formed part of Kingston manor and lay within the great East Field. The land was largely meadow and the road to Lyde used to be known as the Meadway.

YEO/508 Little Lyde

The farm marked as Lyde Farm in the SMR (SMR 54758) appears as Little Lyde on the 19th century maps and may have been of medieval origin. However, it lies beyond the confines of Lyde as it appears on Byles' 1653 map. There is still a field where this farm stood, though the periphery of the site has been swallowed by the modern estate. There may therefore be surviving archaeology.

Mapped from the 1808 drawings and the SMR entry.

YEO/414 Great Lyde

Great Lyde is shown on Byles' map of 1653, which shows the field pattern, lanes, streams and manor boundary, as well as depicting a large house and a barn. The site of Great Lyde is now entirely covered by modern estate development, though the Great Lyde pub stands on the site.

Mapped from the 1653 map and the 19th century maps.

(l) Merton

Not mapped Another conjectured *tun* settlement with earlier origins is postulated by Barker (1986) south of Preston and north of Elleston in connection with her model of the Roman landscape west of Yeovil. The only evidence quoted is place name evidence from the 19th century maps (Merton Close).

(m) Mudford Sock

YEO/526 Mudford Sock

Mudford Sock (= Old-Stock) was described by Collinson as a hamlet of about seven houses and "a large ancient Gothick pile". The marked plots represent farms and cottages present in 1808 (including Sock Farm, and Furzy Leaze and Waindle to the south), together with the (possible) site of the old house (SMR 54337): called "the House Ground" on the tithe map, and "House Field" today, the site has produced evidence of foundations and wall plaster, though the remains have not been satisfactorily dated.

Mudford Sock remains relatively undeveloped and, therefore, of archaeological potential.

Mapped from the 1808 drawings and the SMR.

(n) Newton

YEO/413 Newton: the post-medieval house

Newton was probably part of Kingston manor until the 12th century, but was subsequently a separate manor. In the early medieval period, records of free tenants and cotters appear; these have vanished by the late medieval period, suggesting enclosures for sheep. This suggests the possibility of deserted settlements in the vicinity, but the locations of these are not known.

Newton Surmaville park (SMR 55170), now included on the Parks and Gardens Register, was probably laid out and landscaped from the mid 18th century onwards, but the house complex (with several listed elements including the house itself, SMR LB 50371, and the farm, SMR LB 50374) has surviving 17th century fabric. The old manor house (SMR 54811) is known to have been demolished and replaced between 1608 and 1612. Two out of five medieval fishponds remain (SMR 54812) and the positions of the three other ones are recorded in the SMR.

From the 1808 map and the SMR.

(o) Pen Mill

YEO/412 Pen Mill

Pen Mill (SMR 54756, cf SMR 54764) may have existed before Domesday, possibly as Kingston's manor mill (Brooke, 1978). There are ample remains of the substantial post-medieval buildings and outworks, but little sign above ground of any earlier structure.

From the 1808 map.

(p) Preston

Not mapped Preston is one of the *tun* settlements (possibly associated with the minster?) and possibly of Roman origin (Barker, 1986), but there is a possibility that one site of earlier occupation lies to the north of the medieval settlement. This suggestion is made largely on the basis of the article by Barker (1986). There is some support in the odd road pattern north of Preston on the early maps, but no archaeological confirmation. The northern area concerned now lies under a modern estate development.

The medieval manor of Preston became separated into Preston Bermondsey and Preston Plucknett (Hendford) in 1088. Ansger, the then landholder, bestowed land on Bermondsey Abbey, because his ex-patron, Mortain, had been forced to retire there following a failed rebellion against William Rufus. There seems to have been no religious house at Preston, but the Abbey held the land, which formed the eastern part of the manor, until the Dissolution. The western part changed hands several times, but the name of the family which arrived in the late 13th century - the Plugenets - stuck. The manors remained separate until 1928.

YEO/314, YEO/502

Preston Plucknett: post-medieval extent

The western part of Preston represents the Preston Plucknett holdings. Though the precise dividing line has not been ascertained from the current research, there is a 1763 map of Preston manor which covers this western part but does not show land to the east. It covers a settlement which was of some vitality in the medieval and post-medieval periods (Collinson described a village with about 40 houses in Plucknett by 1791). Remains of open fields survived to north-west and south-west in the 18th century. Though it is well within the urban area and has been subject to suburban redevelopment, this area therefore remains one of archaeological potential.

Mapped from the 1763 map.

YEO/425 Preston churchyard
The church and churchyard (SMR 54746) are of medieval origin. Parts of a medieval crosshead (SMR 54748) were recovered from the churchyard.

From the 1763 map.

YEO/426 Abbey Farm
Abbey Farm is mistitled, representing as it does the Preston Plucknett manor centre. The 15th century tithe barn (SMR 54839, SMR LB 50010) survives, as does the 15th century house (SMR LB 50011). Aerial photographs show possible ridge and furrow and a bank and ditch running parallel with the road within the marked area.

From the SMR.

YEO/504 Preston Bermondsey
The Abbey holdings may be marked by the curious alignments of the parish boundaries. The use which the Abbey made of the land is not clear, but it is unlikely that there was ever a religious house at Preston. It is possible that development along the street frontage of Preston Bermondsey did not take place until after the Dissolution. Collinson describes only about 14 houses in this part of the settlement. Nevertheless, despite partial redevelopment of the area, it remains of archaeological interest.

From the 1807 map.

YEO/503 Watercombe Farm
Watercombe Farm, *from the 1808 map.*

(q) Stone

YEO/306 The hundredstone
This was the meeting point of Stone Hundred, at least in the post-Conquest period. The *hundred stone* (SMR 54327, SMR LB 50258), which is made of a non-local limestone, is thought to be at least medieval, possibly older. The stump of the stone still stands.

Mapped from the SMR.

YEO/525 Stone Farm
Stone was a separate manor at Domesday. Stone Farm therefore represents a site of archaeological potential, though the existing buildings (which are listed, SMR LB 50260) are of the 19th century.

From the 1808 map.

(r) Thorne-Coffin

YEO/312, YEO/509
Thorne-Coffin
The marked area represents the extent of Thorne in 1807 and includes Thorne Manor Farmhouse (with 18th century listed building SMR LB 56142). No more detailed information was available regarding the potential of Thorne.

From the 1807 map.

YEO/424 Thorne churchyard
The church and churchyard (SMR 53633, SMR LB 56137) are of medieval origin.

From the SMR.

(s) Up Mudford

YEO/415 Up Mudford shrunken settlement (SMR 54336)

Mudford Parish contains several deserted settlements, including Nether Adber, one of the more important DMVs in the county. Up Mudford (SMR 54336) appears to be a less dramatic example of this phenomenon, having shrunk rather than failed altogether. Aerial photographs show earthworks, probably indicative of areas of medieval occupation, together with surrounding ridge and furrow.

The area also includes Manor Farm (SMR LB 50257). According to the List, this building was erected c1630 on the site of a cell used by the monks of Montacute Abbey.

Mapped from the SMR.

(t) Vagg

YEO/511 Vagg

There is a 1766 map of Vagg manor, which clearly shows a complex of buildings, including a probable manor house and a possible chapel, to the east of what is now Lower Vagg Farmhouse (SMR LB 56167, with the 18th century building surviving). Hillside Farm, across the road, appears as Dain(?) House, and a barn complex is shown to the west, on the south side of the lane. The whole of the triangle enclosed by the old holloway (representing the unimproved course of the Roman road) and lanes is marked as park.

Parts of the manor house site, which had previously lain almost deserted, have recently been built over, but there may still be archaeological deposits of interest remaining. The barn site lies open now and the pond marked on the 1766 map still survives.

Mapped from the 1766 map.

YEO/510 Vagg Farm

Vagg Farm lies to the south of the park enclosures.

Mapped from the 1807 drawings.

(u) Yeovil Marsh

YEO/521 Yeovil Marsh

Yeovil Marsh, which here includes both the scattered settlement along the lanes and the farms to the south (on Marsh or Marches Hill) was a hamlet on a divided estate. The east was affiliated to Kingston and the west to the predecessors of the Huntleys and Carents, after whom Carents Farm is named (Brooke, 1978).

Mapped from the 1808 map.

Not mapped Collinson refers to a chapel site here (SMR 54790), but the location is not now known.

(v) Other

YEO/505 Farms (various)

Several other farmsteads inbetween the above settlements are shown on the early 19th century maps. Some of these may be of post-medieval or earlier origin.

From the 1807/8 maps.

YEO/512 Unclassified plots (various)

Further research might clarify the character and date of these plots, shown on the 1807/8 maps.

From the 1807/8 maps.

5. INDUSTRIAL (LATE 18TH/ 19TH CENTURY) (Map E, Map F)

5.1 Archaeological knowledge

There is little archaeological knowledge directly relating to the 19th century town. In 1991 a watching brief was carried out at the clearing of a site which had been the football ground and before that the burial ground of the Calvinist Tabernacle (the cemetery was closed in the late 19th century). About 70 skeletons were recovered by undertakers and archaeological recording was not possible. The market area was the subject of a watching brief in 1986, when a cobbled roadway, market buildings (including the Corn Exchange, built 1857) and four wells were noted (Dennison, 1986).

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.

Yeovil 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. Yeovil was one of seven of the 45 towns at which there was large-scale expansion in the 19th century. It was one of the larger industrial centres.

5.3 Standing structures and visible remains

There are a number of 19th century listed buildings, for details of which the List should be consulted. The listed buildings in the town centre of 19th century origin are shown on Map F.

*5.4 Archaeological components (centre), shown on **Map E***

5.4.a Redevelopment in earlier settlement components

Those components described under earlier periods are shown more lightly shaded. There was considerable redevelopment in the centre of Yeovil, as shown by the respectable number of 19th century listed buildings there. This principally affected the Saxon and medieval borough areas, which still formed the commercial core. However, the north-east corner of the town (beyond the early Borough limit) was remodelled, as was the Penn Hill suburb, and new components have been defined in these areas.

5.4.b Communications

(a) Roads

Many of the major routes had been turnpiked in the 18th century, and in the 19th century there were further road improvements and route changes (see also below, p31).

YEO/633 <u>19th century roads (central)</u>

Several new roads and realignments were associated with urban and suburban redevelopment. These included roads serving the Preston Groves suburbs, which did not impinge on earlier development. The realignment of roads at Penn Hill, however, affected the grounds of Penn House and necessitated the removal of some properties along the old lane (stretches of which survived alongside the new road). The 19th century roads have been further altered at the west end in the 20th century.

New roads between Reckleford and Middle Street developed gradually during the 19th century, as this corner of town was developed. These cut through areas of earlier development to south and west. They in turn have been modified and replaced as the area has been redeveloped in the 20th century.

From the 1842 tithe map, and the 1889 and 1904 OS maps.

(b) Railways

By the 1860s Yeovil was served by three lines, two of which entered the town itself (the Bristol & Exeter, later the GWR, 1853; and the Wilts, Somerset and Weymouth, 1856), whilst the other (the Salisbury and Yeovil, later the LSWR, 1860, shown on Map F) served Yeovil Junction to the south.

YEO/601 The BER to Hendford
The Bristol and Exeter originally ran to Hendford Halt station and yard. The line shaved the edges of Lufton, Houndstone and Alvington to reach Hendford. Parts of the route to the west of the Westland works have been reused for the A3088. Little trace remains of the Halt, which is now mostly works and the here line has also been reused in the modern road network.

YEO/625 The BER to Pen Mill
The Bristol and Exeter was extended to Pen Mill station by 1854, with sheds by the lineside. This line is now disused, though the course can still be traced.

YEO/626 Pen Mill Station
Pen Mill station served both the BER and the WSWR. The station still survives.

YEO/621 The WSWR to Pen Mill
The Wilts, Somerset and Weymouth reached Pen Mill in 1856 and extended southwards in 1857. The line is still in use.

YEO/602 Yeovil Town Station
Yeovil Town station was finally opened in 1861. The station was flanked by industrial yards containing a coal yard, wool store and glove factory, as well as the gasworks. The station, which was beyond the limits of the earlier town, has been demolished and is currently a car park. The yards area has been redeveloped for commercial use.

YEO/632 The SYR
The Salisbury and Yeovil Railway was swiftly linked to the existing lines after it reached Yeovil Junction in 1860. This line into the town has gone out of use, though the path is still visible.

Railways and station areas mapped from the 1889 and 1904 maps together with information from Gilks, 1961.

5.4.c Water

YEO/612 Newton Reservoir
The reservoir at Newton, *from the 1889 map.*

5.4.d Burial sites and places of worship

Not mapped Chapels and churches built during this period include the Baptist Chapel (1827; SMR LB 50049-50), United Reformed and Methodist Chapels (SMR LB 50074, 50076) and Holy Trinity (1843-6), both in South St. These have not been separately mapped since they lie within areas previously developed.

YEO/604 Preston Road Cemetery
The new town cemetery, with its listed lodge (SMR LB 50042), gates (SMR 50079) and chapels (SMR LB 50077-78).

From the 1889 and 1904 maps.

YEO/630 Churchyard
Extension of the churchyard from its medieval extent.

From the 1887 map.

5.4.e Settlement (Urban)

(a) Commercial core

YEO/605 Reckleford commercial development

The north-east corner of the town developed as a mixed commercial, light industrial and residential zone. This area has since been redeveloped in a similar style.

From the 1889 and 1904 maps.

(b) Suburbs

The main areas of suburban development in the 19th century were:

YEO/606 Preston Road suburbs

Along Preston Road and linking it with Hendford. The biggest block formed a spacious suburb with much open ground. Though much of this suburb survives, it has been cut by the ring road, which also caused some commercial redevelopment along its course.

YEO/607 Hendford suburbs

Along Hendford Hill (resulting in a crop of archaeological discoveries).

YEO/608 Penn Hill suburbs

Around the lower slopes of Penn Hill. Some of these plots have been affected by subsequent changes in the road layout.

YEO/609 New Town

New Town, to the north-east of the centre.

YEO/610 Pen Mill suburbs

At Pen Mill, near the station.

Mapped from the 1889 and 1904 maps.

YEO/611 The Workhouse

The Union Workhouse. Summerlands Hospital still preserves part of the old buildings (SMR LB 50016).

From the 1889 map.

5.4.f Industrial sites

YEO/613 Extensions of the old mills

Both Frogg Mill and Pen Mill attracted extensions. Frogg Mill was in use for textiles and then leather goods at this time (see below, YEO/614).

From the 1889 and 1904 maps.

YEO/614 Leather and rope industries

Yeovil was renowned for the leather and glove industry in the 19th century. The SMR contains details of glove factories in the area of earlier occupation (SMR 54762, SMR LB 50018). Gloveworks set up on previously undeveloped land include Newis Mills (SMR 54763: on Preston Road, this was also a tannery) and the factory south of New Town (SMR 54769). Both of these have been removed in the development of new suburbs.

The mapped areas also include a ropewalk to the south of New Town.

From the 1889 map.

YEO/615 Larkhill Quarry
Larkhill Quarry, from which the 20th century discoveries of Roman burials came, has now been absorbed into the suburbs.

From the 1889 and 1904 maps.

YEO/616 Hendford Stone Works
Hendford Stone Works, now part of the spread of works at Westland.

From the 1889 map.

YEO/617 Brickworks
Two small brick works (SMR 54770) existed south of New Town. The western one has been reused for works and depots, whilst the eastern is now the site of a school. A further works (SMR 54776) was located on Preston Road, near the Workhouse.

Information from the 1889 and 1904 maps and the SMR..

5.5 Archaeological components (outlying area)**, shown on **Map F
The outlying areas have not been studied in detail for this period.

5.5.a Redevelopment in earlier settlement components
Components of earlier origin, described in the preceding section, are shown more lightly shaded. There was some limited 19th century development, mostly of individual residential plots, in the outlying area.

5.5.b Communications: roads
YEO/634 The turnpikes
Yeovil's turnpikes were established from the 1750s onwards. Details of remains associated with the turnpikes are to be found in the work of Bentley & Murless (1985).

From Bentley & Murless, 1985.

YEO/635 Other 19th century roads
Other stretches of new or realigned 19th century roads are shown on the map.

From the 19th century maps.

5.5.c Settlement (Rural)
YEO/622 19th century farms (various)
A number of farms, constructed or extended in the 19th century, have been mapped but not studied in detail.

From the 19th century maps.

YEO/603 19th century occupation (unclassified)
From the 19th century maps.

5.5.d Industrial sites
YEO/628 North and East Coker Mills
Further mills and mill extensions (SMR 53913, 53914, 53915) operatedin the 19th century at North Coker.

From the SMR and the 19th century maps.

YEO/629 Other mills
Other outlying mill sites include a possible windmill site (SMR 54787) at Vagg.

From the SMR.

YEO/623 Quarries
A number of small quarries operated to the north of the town.

From the 1888 map.

YEO/624 Brickworks near Hollands and Lyde
Brick and dye works (SMR 54773, 54774, 54775) operated in the old open fields north of the town.

From the SMR and the 1888/9 maps.

YEO/631 Limekiln near Lyde
A possible limekiln site is recorded in the SMR (SMR 54785).

From the SMR.

5.5.e Estates

YEO/618 Barwick Park
Barwick Park (SMR 55165), a Registered Park, was probably established in this form in the late 18th century. The house itself was remodelled in the 19th century, though this is not shown on the map.

Mapped from the SMR.

YEO/619 Newton Surmaville Park
Newton Surmaville Park (SMR 55170), a Registered Park, was remodelled in the 19th century, though it is of earlier origin.

Mapped from the SMR.

YEO/620 North Coker Park
North Coker House and Park (SMR 53927) may have had post-medieval origins, but were altered and extended in the 19th century.

From the SMR.

YEO/529, YEO/627
Brympton (see also above, p21)
The map shows 19th century extensions to the house complex at Brympton.

From the SMR and the 1888 map.

6. 20TH CENTURY
(Map G)

20th century development has not been analysed in any detail, with only the current (1995) OS maps being used for the mapping.

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.

Yeovil 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.

6.2 Listed buildings

There are a handful of listed buildings from the early 20th century in Yeovil, including the Nissen huts on Goldcroft Road (SMR LB 50017), the schoolrooms on South Street (SMR LB 50036), the War Memorial (SMR LB 50053) and an office block on Silver Street (SMR LB 50048).

*6.3 **Settlement components**, shown on **Map G***

6.3.a Redevelopment in earlier settlement components

Components described in preceding sections are shown more lightly shaded. Many earlier components, however, have been buried under large scale 20th century developments, both in the town centre and in the surrounding suburban, trading and industrial estate: these developments, especially in the centre, have severely compromised the historic fabric and the archaeology of Yeovil.

The shape of the town centre has been altered by the construction of the ring road, which has attracted some urban redevelopment: parts of the adjacent area have therefore been redefined for this period. The modern estates have been defined across a number of small earlier settlement components, though others, such as the nucleus of Preston, have been shown as surrounded rather than obliterated.

All the following are mapped from the 1995 digital OS maps, except where stated.

6.3.b Communications: roads

YEO/713 Several major new roads have been constructed in the 20th century. Those on the outskirts have not significantly affected the known areas of historical settlement - except for Great Lyde, which has been bisected - although their effect on the archaeology of earlier periods is uncertain. The inner road developments, however, pass through areas of known importance, such as Kingston.

6.3.c Military sites

YEO/709 The army camps at Lufton and Houndstone.

YEO/710 Westland aerodrome. Much of the western part of this area is still open land.

6.3.d Burial sites and places of worship

There have been several new churches in the town, not all of which have been distinguished in the mapping process.

YEO/706 The extension to the town cemetery, and the crematorium.

6.3.e Settlement (Urban)

(a) Commercial core

YEO/711 <u>Commercial development</u>
Some areas of large scale commercial redevelopment in the centre.

YEO/707 <u>The Hospital</u>
The core of Kingston has been completely redeveloped, with the Hospital at its focus.

(b) Outlying commercial areas

YEO/704 <u>Trading estates</u>
Trading estates at Lyde and on Lysander Rd (the Lynx estates).

(c) Suburbs

YEO/701 Suburbs (various)
There has been massive suburban development in Yeovil since the end of the 19th century. This has obliterated the old open field areas of Kingston and Hendford, as well as swallowing the settlement of Preston and most of the manor of Lyde.

Several areas such as schools and sports complexes, or allotments, which are associated with fields still lying open, are marked in *yellow*.

6.3.f Settlement (Rural)

YEO/702 Farms (various)
New farms and extensions in the surrounding areas.

YEO/705 Unclassified 20th century occupation

6.3.g Industrial sites

YEO/712 Westland Works
Westland Engineering Works, south of the airfield.

YEO/703 Lyde
Industrial area, including electricity and sewage facilities.

YEO/708 Industry (various)
Various industrial sites and utilities.

V. THE POTENTIAL OF YEOVIL

1. Research interests

There are important questions to be answered regarding Yeovil's urban beginnings, which may lie in the Roman period. The relationship (including the physical links, if any) between the Roman and earlier Saxon settlements (with possible minster and adjacent royal manor), and between the later Saxon *mansurae* and the medieval borough, remain to be elucidated. Very little is known even about the appearance of the early medieval town.

Moreover, it is becoming clear that the surrounding landscape affected by Yeovil's urban growth is of considerable interest. Models referred to in the preceding report imply widespread early settlement, perhaps with a strong element of settlement continuity: it is important to test these ideas wherever possible, at least by field survey.

2. Areas of potentially exceptional preservation

There are no obvious areas of potentially exceptional preservation in the town of Yeovil.

3. Limitations

The archaeology of Yeovil's core has been badly damaged by extensive modern development and associated earth shifting: in the Lysander Road area south of Westland, for example, there appears to have been modern landscaping which has entirely removed the archaeological deposits (Adkins & Adkins, 1992). It is, however, possible that correspondingly important islands of archaeology remain. Rampant suburban growth has also affected the archaeology of the surrounding areas, though deposits may well survive in gardens and amenity areas. Some of the places considered in this report, such as Lufton, parts of Houndstone, Alvington, Brympton and Hescombe, still lie beyond the current limit of growth.

4. Extent of current protection

(shown on Map H)

There are Listed Buildings in all the parishes which have been considered in the report. Conservation Areas have been defined for the centre of Yeovil and at Thorne Coffin and North Coker. There are Scheduled Monuments at Westland (part of the Roman site, SM 35302) and Lufton and three Roman villas (SM Som 348, Som 279 and Som

280). The Parks at Brympton and Newton Surmaville are included in the English Heritage Register. An Area of High Archaeological Potential has been defined, based on this report, to cover the medieval urban centre.

Map H shows the constraints in the central area.

5. Management Proposals
See the Archaeological Guidance Document.

VI. SOURCES

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1653/4 Byles' map of Lyde: SRO DD/WHh (Unlisted 21)

c1763 Brimpton Farm and manor of Preston: SRO DD/BT 4/1/12

1766 Vagg manor: SRO DD/S/BG 1

1806 Yeovil town plan: SRO D/DC/S.som 38/10

1807/8 OS surveyors' drawings at 2"

1819 Parish of East Coker: SRO DD/SAS C/212

1837 Barwick Tithe Map: fiche in SSL

1838 Brimpton Tithe Map: fiche in SSL

1838 Mudford Tithe Map: fiche in SSL

1839 East Coker Tithe Map: fiche in SSL

1839 West Coker Tithe Map: fiche in SSL

1842	Yeovil Tithe Map: fiche in SSL
1849	Preston Plucknett Tithe Map: fiche in SSL
	Lufton Tithe Map: fiche in SSL
	Thorne Coffin Tithe Map: fiche in SSL
1887-9	OS 1:2500: fiche in SSL
1904	OS 1:10560
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VII. COMPONENT INDEXES

1. Component to map

Component	*Map*	*Component*	*Map*
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YEO/103	A	YEO/414	D
YEO/104	A	YEO/415	D
YEO/105	A	YEO/416	D
YEO/106	A	YEO/417	D
YEO/107	A	YEO/418	D
YEO/201	A	YEO/419	C
YEO/202	A,D	YEO/420	C
YEO/203	A	YEO/421	C
YEO/204	A	YEO/422	C
YEO/205	A	YEO/423	D
YEO/206	A	YEO/424	D
YEO/207	A	YEO/425	D
YEO/208	A	YEO/426	D
YEO/209	A	YEO/427	D
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YEO/303	B	YEO/430	C
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YEO/305	B	YEO/432	C
YEO/306	D	YEO/433	D
YEO/308	B	YEO/501	C
YEO/309	D	YEO/502	D
YEO/310	-	YEO/503	D
YEO/311	-	YEO/504	D
YEO/312	-	YEO/505	D
YEO/313	-	YEO/506	D
YEO/314	-	YEO/507	D
YEO/315	-	YEO/508	D
YEO/316	-	YEO/509	D
YEO/401	C	YEO/510	D
YEO/402	C	YEO/511	D
YEO/403	C	YEO/512	D
YEO/404	C	YEO/513	D
YEO/405	C	YEO/514	D
YEO/406	D	YEO/515	D
YEO/407	D	YEO/516	C
YEO/408	D	YEO/517	C
YEO/409	C	YEO/518	C
YEO/410	C	YEO/519	C
YEO/411	C	YEO/520	D

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Maps

Map A – prehistoric and Roman

Map B – Saxon core

Map C –medieval and post-medieval core

Map D – pre-1800 settlement in the outlying areas
Earlier components shown in yellow.

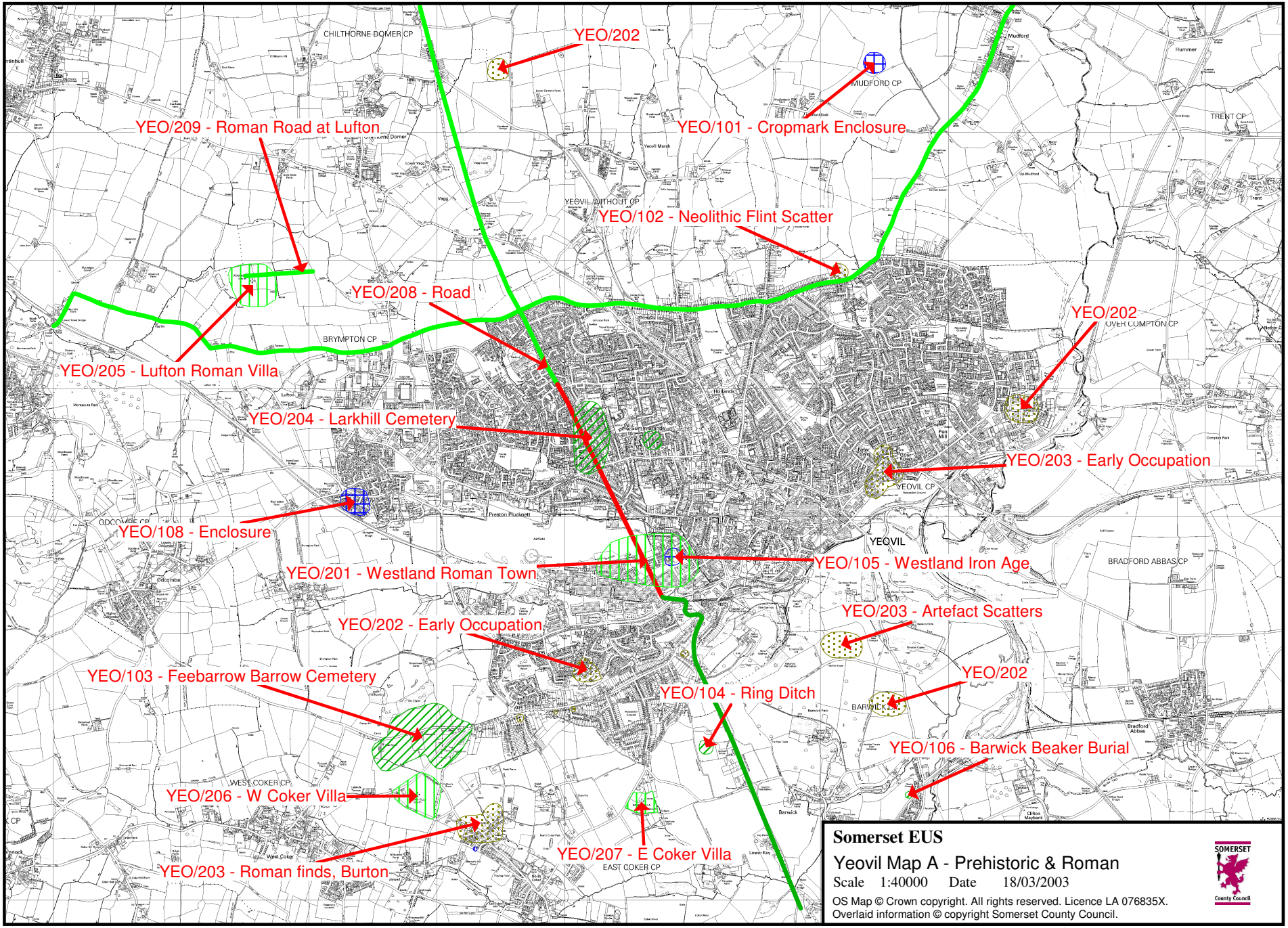
Map E – 19th-century core
Earlier components shown in yellow.

Map F – 19th-century wider area
Earlier components shown in yellow.

Map G – 20th century
Earlier components shown in yellow.

Map H - Existing designations

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


YEO/202
YEO/209 - Roman Road at Lufton
YEO/101 - Cropmark Enclosure
YEO/102 - Neolithic Flint Scatter
YEO/208 - Road
YEO/202
YEO/205 - Lufton Roman Villa
YEO/204 - Larkhill Cemetery
YEO/203 - Early Occupation
YEO/108 - Enclosure
YEO/105 - Westland Iron Age
YEO/201 - Westland Roman Town
YEO/203 - Artefact Scatters
YEO/202 - Early Occupation
YEO/202
YEO/103 - Feebarrow Barrow Cemetery
YEO/104 - Ring Ditch
YEO/106 - Barwick Beaker Burial
YEO/206 - W Coker Villa
YEO/207 - E Coker Villa
YEO/203 - Roman finds, Burton
CHILTHORNE DOMER CP
MUDFORD CP
YEOVIL WITHOUT CP
BRYMPTON CP
YEOVIL
BARWICK CP
WEST COKER CP
EAST COKER CP
Somerset EUS
Yeovil Map A - Prehistoric & Roman
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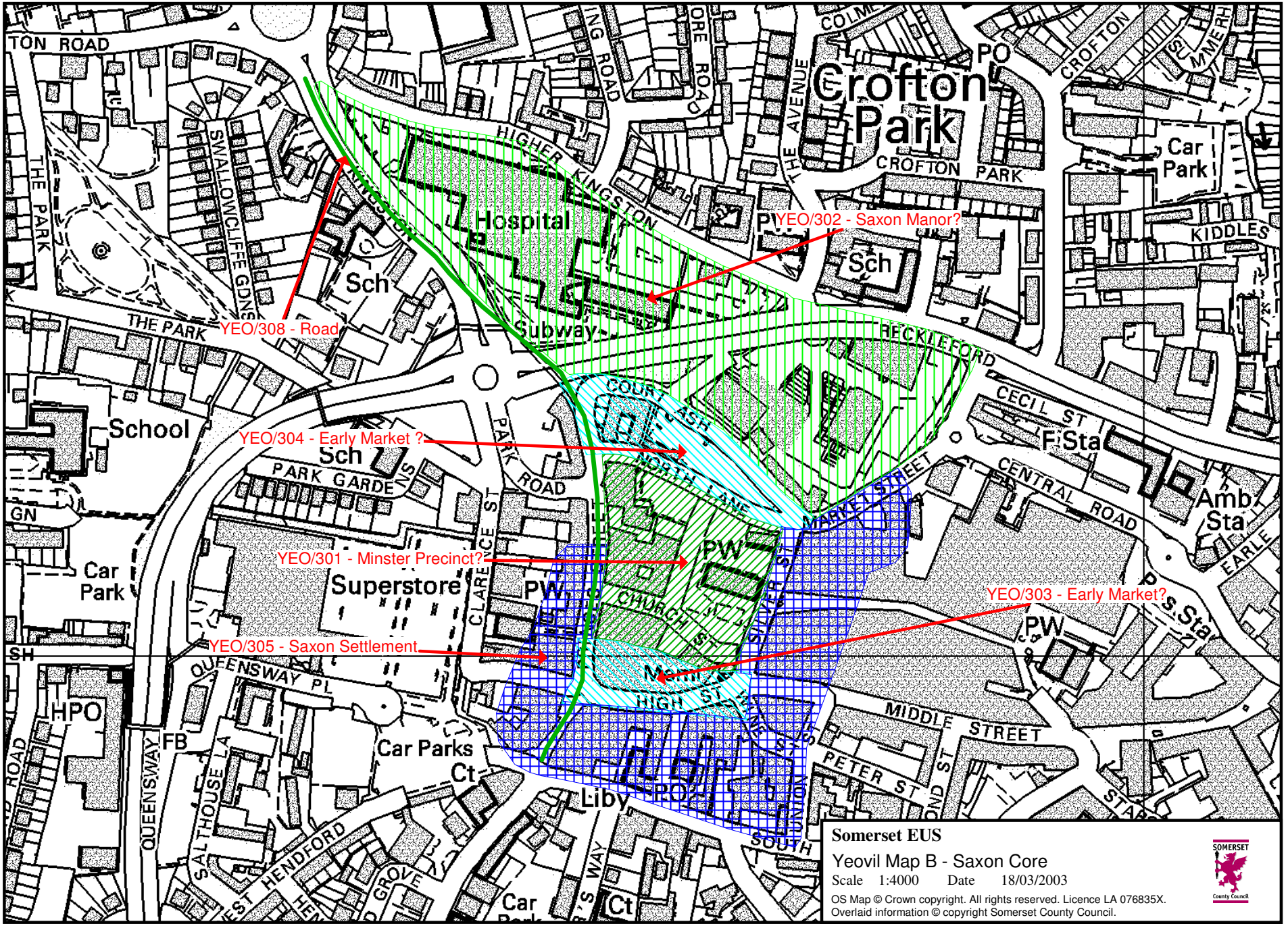
YEO/302 - Saxon Manor?
YEO/308 - Road
YEO/304 - Early Market ?
YEO/301 - Minster Precinct?
YEO/303 - Early Market?
YEO/305 - Saxon Settlement
Crofton Park
Hospital
Subway
School
Superstore
Car Park
Car Parks
Liby
Mami
HIGHER KINGSTON
CROFTON PARK
RECKLEFORD
CECIL ST
CENTRAL ROAD
MARKET STREET
NORTH LANE
COURT ASH
PARK ROAD
PARK GARDE
CLARENCE ST
CHURCH ST
HIGH ST
MIDDLE STREET
PETER ST
QUEENSWAY PL
QUEENSWAY
SALTHOUSE LA
HENDFORD
THE PARK
SWALLOWCLIFFE GDNS
KIDDLES
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Yeovil Map B - Saxon Core
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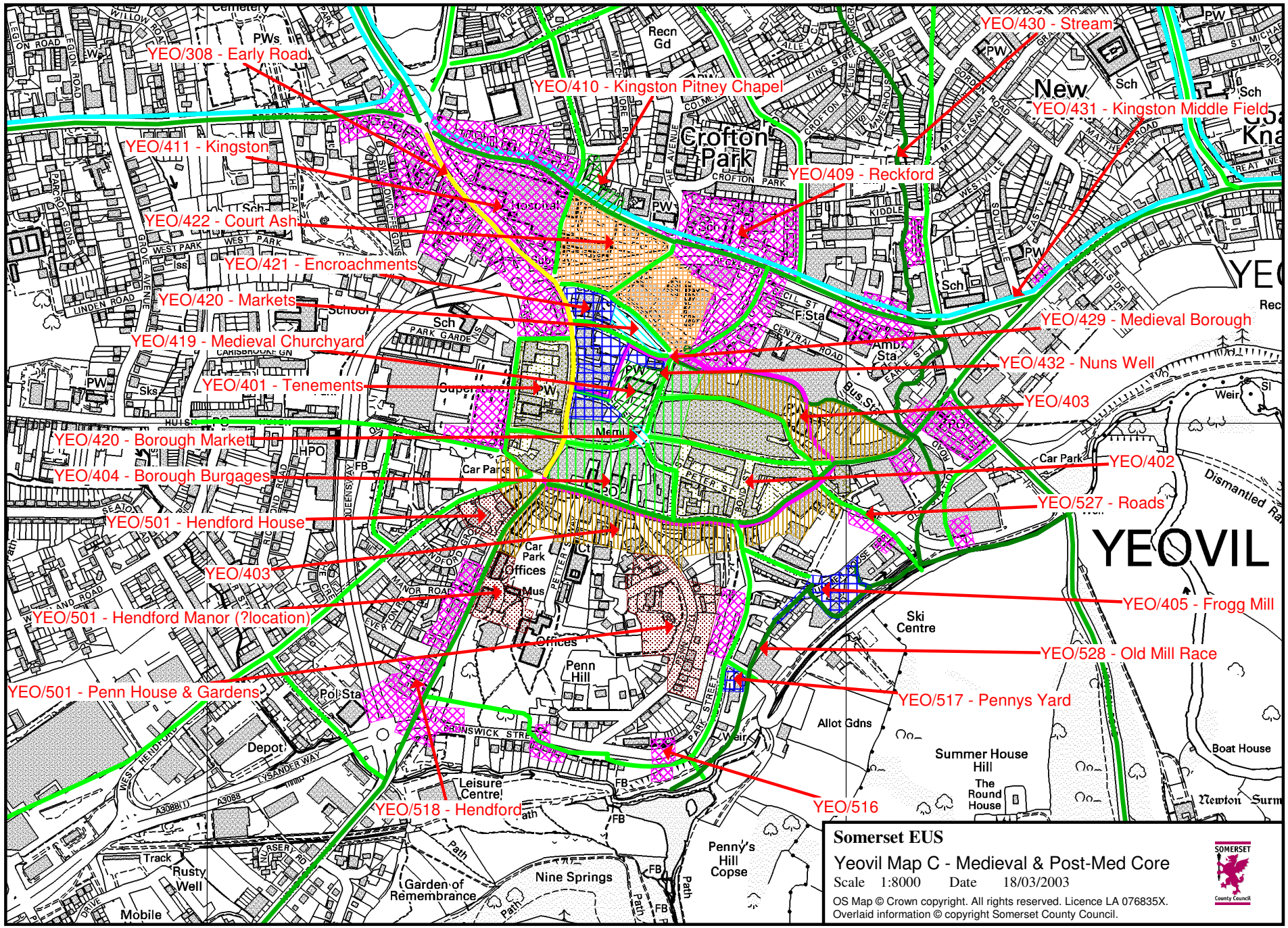
YEO/308 - Early Road
YEO/410 - Kingston Pitney Chapel
YEO/430 - Stream
YEO/431 - Kingston Middle Field
YEO/411 - Kingston
YEO/409 - Reckford
YEO/422 - Court Ash
YEO/421 - Encroachments
YEO/420 - Markets
YEO/429 - Medieval Borough
YEO/419 - Medieval Churchyard
YEO/432 - Nuns Well
YEO/401 - Tenements
YEO/403
YEO/420 - Borough Market
YEO/402
YEO/404 - Borough Burgages
YEO/527 - Roads
YEO/501 - Hendford House
YEO/403
YEO/405 - Frogg Mill
YEO/501 - Hendford Manor (?location)
YEO/528 - Old Mill Race
YEO/501 - Penn House & Gardens
YEO/517 - Pennys Yard
YEO/516
YEO/518 - Hendford
Crofton Park
New
YEOVIL
Somerset EUS
Yeovil Map C - Medieval & Post-Med Core
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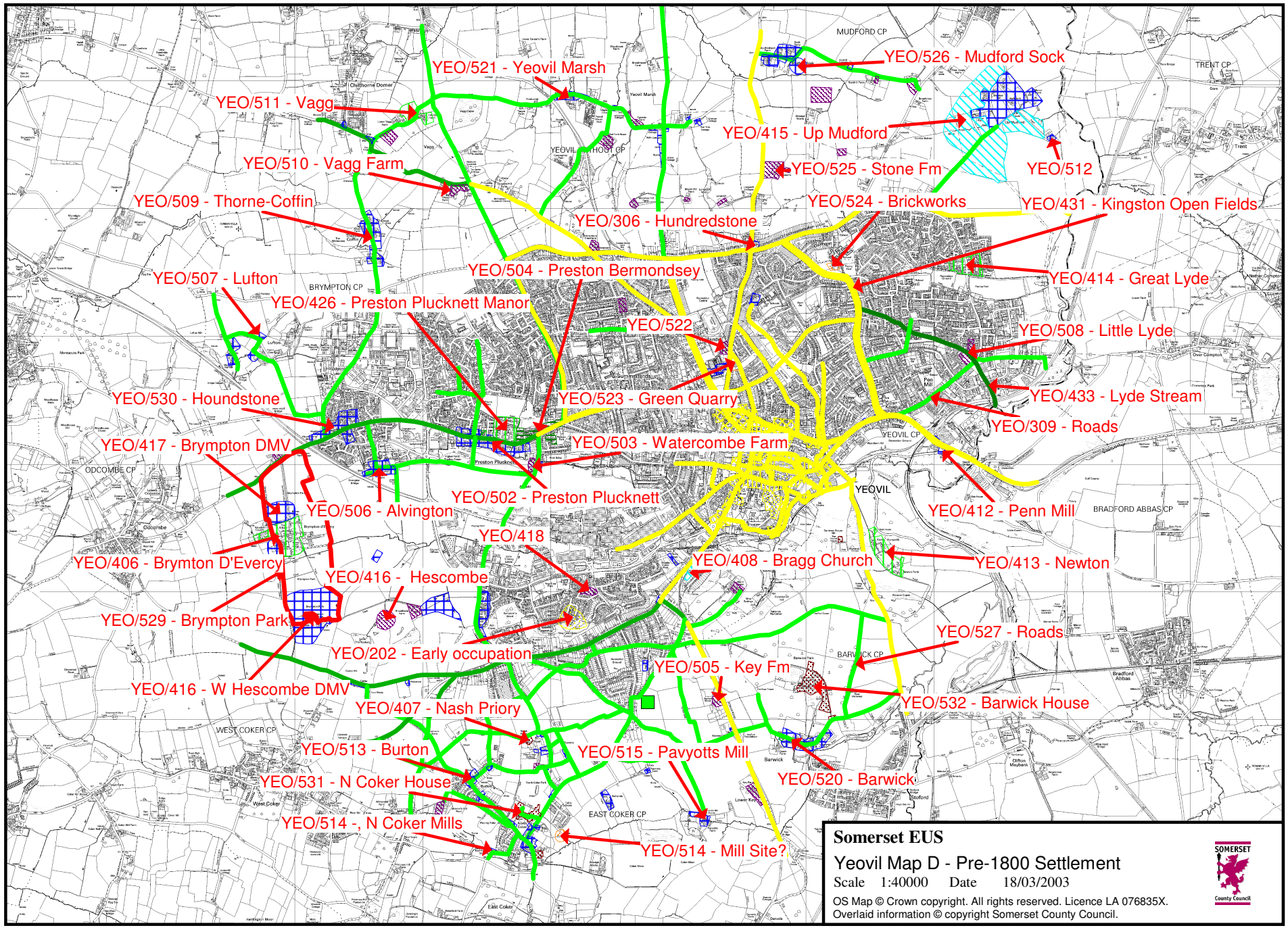

Somerset EUS

Yeovil Map D - Pre-1800 Settlement

Scale 1:40000 Date 18/03/2003

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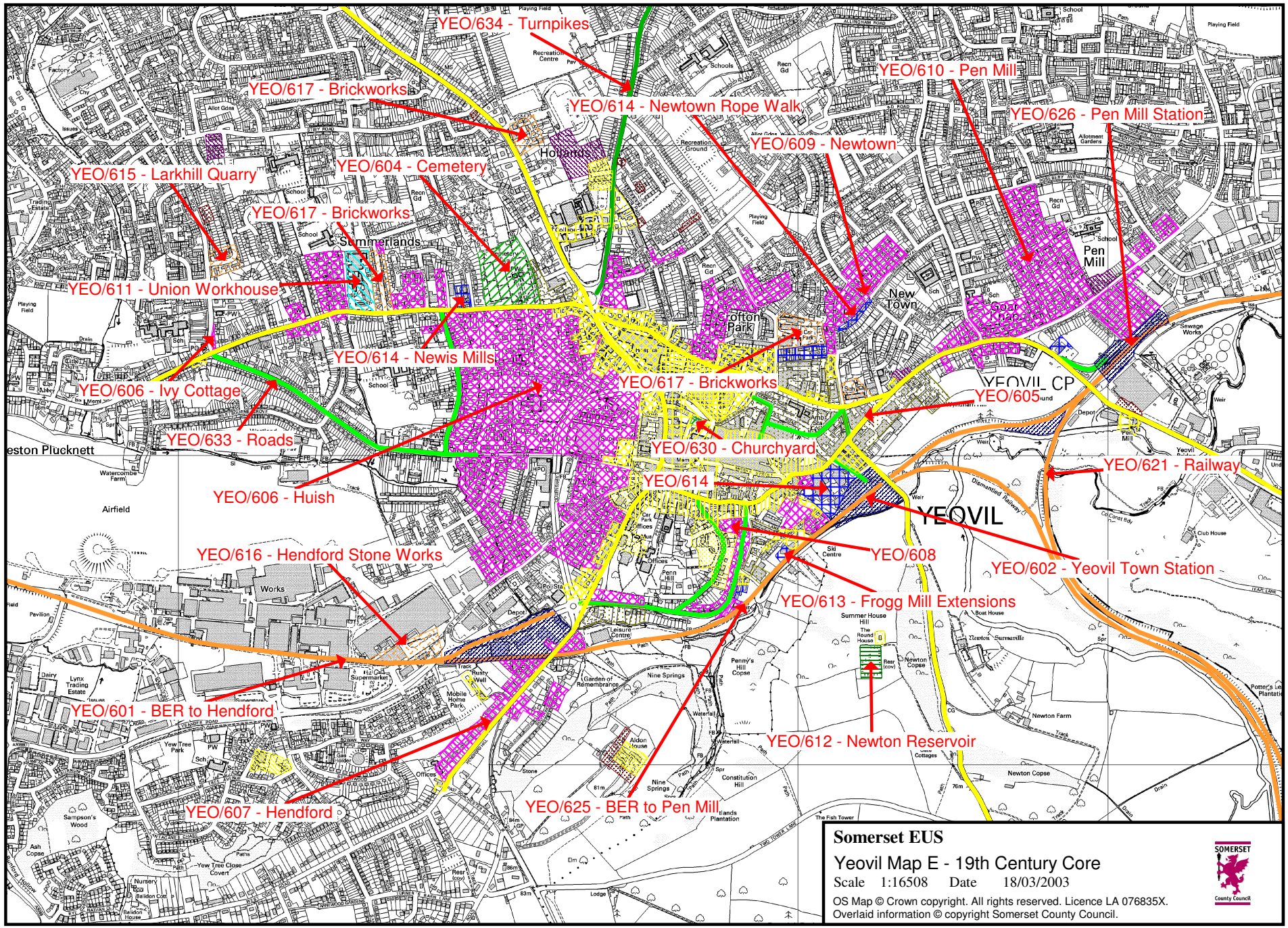
YEO/634 - Turnpikes
YEO/617 - Brickworks
YEO/614 - Newtown Rope Walk
YEO/610 - Pen Mill
YEO/626 - Pen Mill Station
YEO/609 - Newtown
YEO/615 - Larkhill Quarry
YEO/604 - Cemetery
YEO/617 - Brickworks
YEO/611 - Union Workhouse
YEO/614 - Newis Mills
YEO/617 - Brickworks
YEO/606 - Ivy Cottage
YEO/605
YEO/633 - Roads
YEO/630 - Churchyard
YEO/621 - Railway
YEO/614
YEO/606 - Huish
YEOVIL
YEO/608
YEO/602 - Yeovil Town Station
YEO/616 - Hendford Stone Works
YEO/613 - Frogg Mill Extensions
YEO/601 - BER to Hendford
YEO/612 - Newton Reservoir
YEO/607 - Hendford
YEO/625 - BER to Pen Mill
Holdens
Summerlands
Crofton Park
New Town
Pen Mill
YEOVIL CP
eston Plucknett
Airfield
Somerset EUS
Yeovil Map E - 19th Century Core
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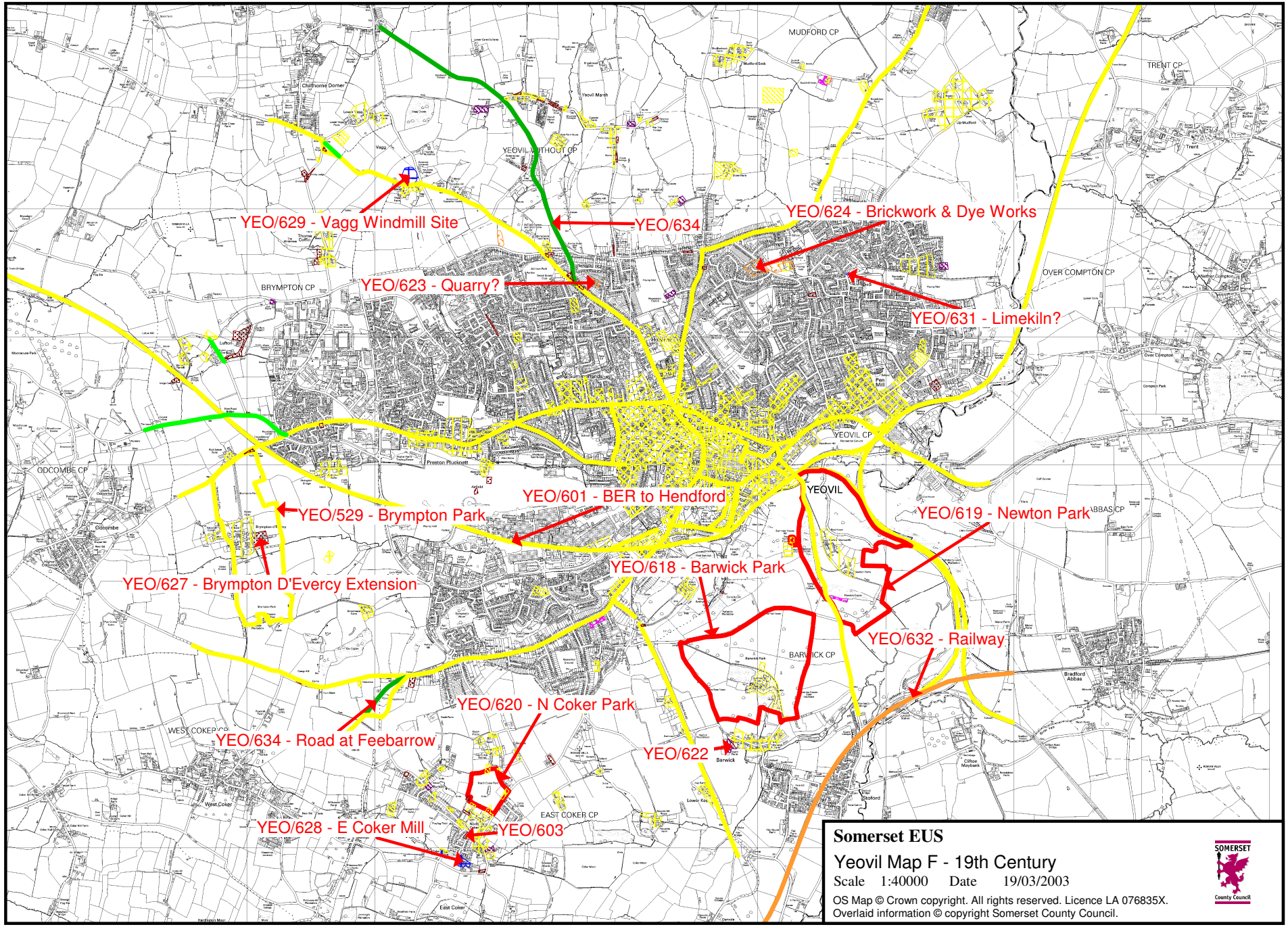
YEO/629 - Vagg Windmill Site
YEO/634
YEO/624 - Brickwork & Dye Works
YEO/623 - Quarry?
YEO/631 - Limekiln?
YEO/601 - BER to Hendford
YEO/529 - Brympton Park
YEO/619 - Newton Park
YEO/627 - Brympton D'Evercy Extension
YEO/618 - Barwick Park
YEO/632 - Railway
YEO/620 - N Coker Park
YEO/634 - Road at Feebarrow
YEO/622
YEO/628 - E Coker Mill
YEO/603
MUDFORD CP
TRENT CP
YEOVIL WITHOUT CP
BRYMPTON CP
OVER COMPTON CP
YEOVIL CP
YEOVIL
ODCOMBE CP
BARWICK CP
EAST COKER CP
Somerset EUS
Yeovil Map F - 19th Century
Scale 1:40000 Date 19/03/2003
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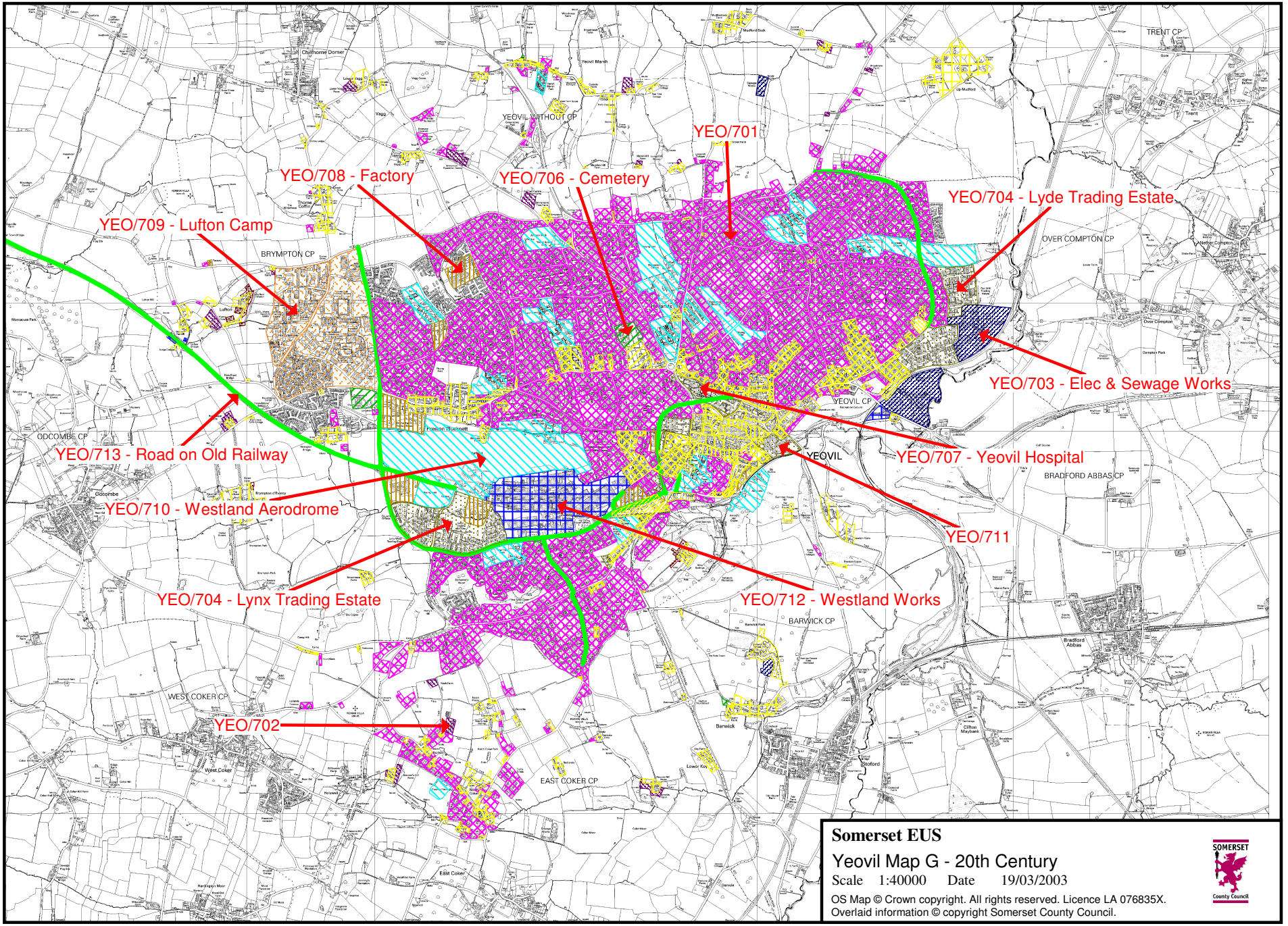
YEO/701
YEO/708 - Factory
YEO/706 - Cemetery
YEO/709 - Lufton Camp
YEO/704 - Lyde Trading Estate
YEO/703 - Elec & Sewage Works
YEO/713 - Road on Old Railway
YEO/707 - Yeovil Hospital
YEO/710 - Westland Aerodrome
YEO/711
YEO/704 - Lynx Trading Estate
YEO/712 - Westland Works
YEO/702
BRYMPTON CP
YEOVIL WITHOUT CP
TRENT CP
OVER COMPTON CP
YEOVIL CP
YEOVIL
ODCOMBE CP
BRADFORD ABBAS CP
BARWICK CP
WEST COKER CP
EAST COKER CP
Somerset EUS
Yeovil Map G - 20th Century
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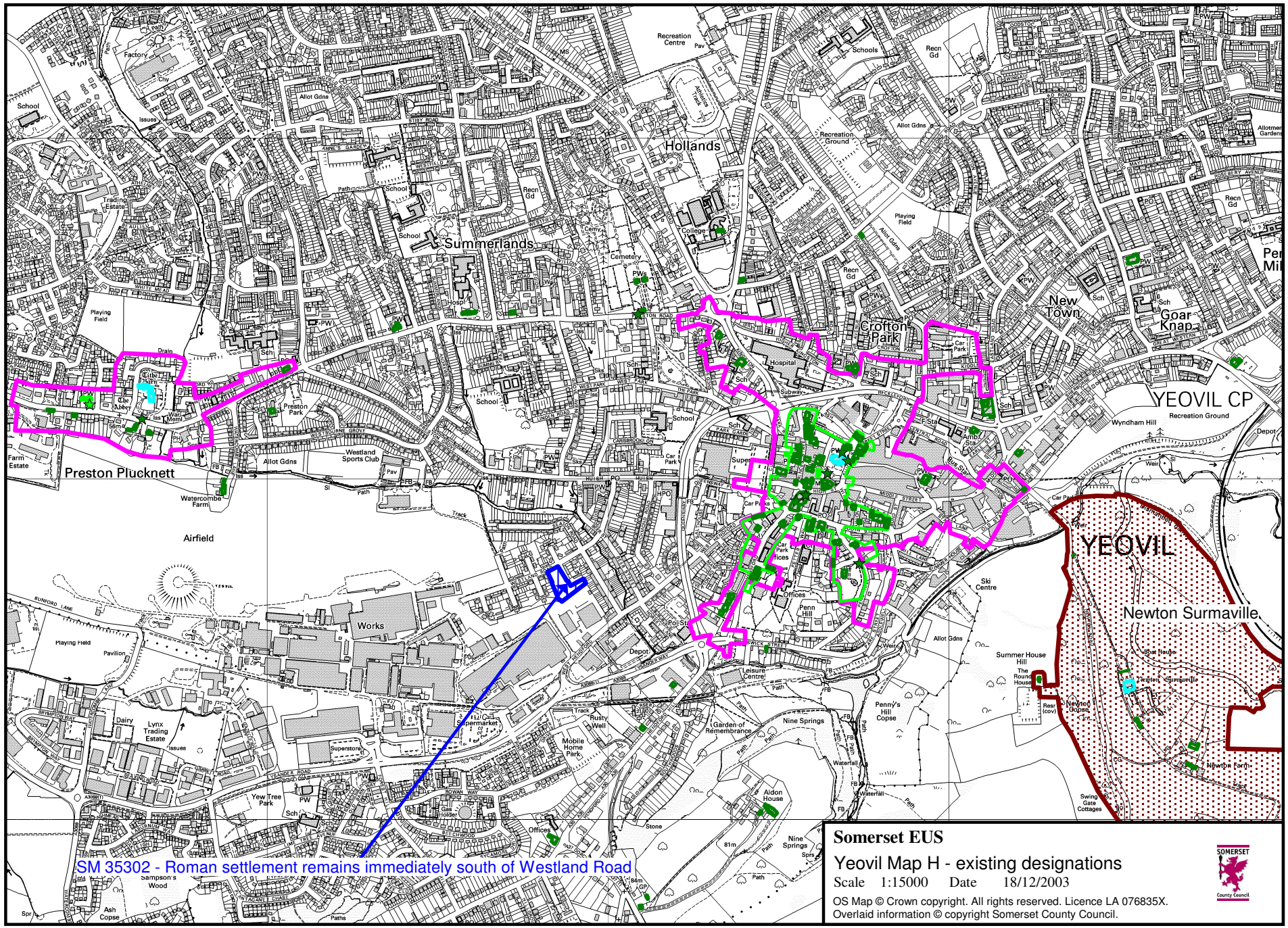
Hollands
Summerlands
Crofton Park
New Town
Goar Knap
YEOVIL CP
YEOVIL
Newton Surmaville
Preston Plucknett
Airfield
Works
SM 35302 - Roman settlement remains immediately south of Westland Road
Somerset EUS
Yeovil Map H - existing designations
Scale 1:15000 Date 18/12/2003
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