English Heritage Extensive Urban Survey

An archaeological assessment of

Bruton

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SOMERSET
County Council

SOMERSET EXTENSIVE URBAN SURVEY

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

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 early 2001.

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
In the 12th century William of Malmesbury wrote a hagiography of the 7th-century saint Aldhelm which included mention of a church at Bruton. There is a body of documents relating to the medieval priory, including charters of land grants, letters and wills. Bruton School has a foundation document dating to the 16th century. Parish registers exist for Bruton from the 16th century. In addition the 1757 Bruton Questionnaire provides a description of the town, its population and industries. None of these primary sources were consulted for this report.

2.   Local histories
A local history of the town was written by P. Couzens in 1968. The VCH volume covering Bruton is in preparation, part of it was consulted for this report. In addition articles on different aspects of the town's history have been found in the PSANHS and NQSD.

3.   Maps
The earliest available maps date to the 19th century. Couzens refers to a map dating to 1740 which has not been located. Only the northern half and the town centre inset of the 1838 parish map held at the SRO were available for consultation.

III.   A BRIEF HISTORY OF BRUTON
The town lies at a crossing of the Brue river, on both sides of the narrow valley. Little is known of the prehistory of the valley, although many of the surrounding hill tops have produced flint scatters and other stone tools, showing a clear prehistoric presence in this landscape. There are two landscape

features (a barrow and enclosures) which are likely to date to the prehistoric period.

Roman settlement of this area is clearly attested by a series of fortuitous finds recorded in the SMR as well as two probable occupation sites and a temple in the locality. There is as yet no evidence for Roman settlement in the centre of the town itself.

Documentary evidence suggests that there were two 7th-century churches established at Bruton. William of Malmesbury included in his hagiography of St Aldhelm mention of the church the saint built in Bruton dedicated to St. Peter which lay alongside a church dedicated to St. Mary which had been founded by King Ine of Wessex. The location of the second church and which of the churches was more closely linked with the abbey have remained points of contention. Couzens argues that the churches stood side by side and that, at the foundation of the priory, both were used to create a single large building on the site of the present church for use both by the parish and the canons. Eeles (1933:2) by contrast suggests that two churches are referred to in wills at least until the early 16th century and that the second church stood somewhere in the south-east of the parish. Leland's account of Bruton, written in 1540, suggests that a Benedictine monastery was founded in the early 11th century. However, no mention of a monastery was made in Domesday which casts doubt on this.

The churches probably formed the core of a Saxon borough. Domesday lists five burgesses of the town and a further eleven for Pitcombe who were also likely to have been resident in Bruton. Coins have been found which were minted in the town in the 10th century. To the south of the town a series of field names and place names (Godminster, Holywell etc.) suggest that there was an Saxon religious centre in this area.

A priory was founded at Bruton in 1142 by William de Mohun who had been granted the estate following the conquest. The priory was raised to abbey status in 1510 (Hayward 1904:33). At the dissolution the abbey was first leased and then sold to the Berkeley family who converted the abbey buildings into a manor house. The manor was damaged by fire in 1763 and eventually demolished in 1786. King's School at Bruton, which was re-founded in 1550, has been built partially on the site of the abbey.

In 1280 the rights of the priory to hold the market and the hundred court were questioned at the county town of Somerton. These rights were described as being "*by ancient possession from a time of which memory runneth not*" (Couzens 1968:42) suggesting that the town had long been a market centre. Aston and Leech (1977:21) suggest that the area along the High Street and the probable market place between Patwell Street and Quaperlake Street were planned by the abbey as an attempt to move the focus of habitation to the north side of the river, distancing it from the priory.

As with many small towns in this area the main industry was woolen cloth production. Around the town were several fulling mills serving this industry. Earliest mention of a cloth mill is in the 13th century, when Lord Lovel of Castle Cary gave land to the de Ghent family who constructed a mill upon it. This is still known as Gant's mill. Leland referred to the town being "much occupied with cloth making"in 1540. Two documents cast some light on the post-medieval period of Bruton. The Parliamentary Survey of 1650 describes the ecclesiastical situation in each area and was devised by juries in the hundred court. Two hundred families are recorded in Bruton (although this may only be those attending the church), and the church still held chapelries at Wyke and Redlynch.

In 1757 an unknown person (but probably Lord Berkeley or his estate steward) replied to a questionnaire made by the Society of Antiquaries. The writer estimates a population of about 2000 and describes the main industries as producing broad cloth, serges and knitted stockings. Three mills belonging to the manor for grinding wheat and malt are described as well as a bunting-mill and a mill which had been converted to grinding blades (McGarvie 1993:229). The document also refers to three bridges and the market cross which was constructed by the last abbott of Bruton.

With the decline of the wool trade in the late 18th century Bruton changed over to silk production.

However, by the 1830s this industry was also in decline, for example Ward (a silk manufacturer) employed up to 900 people in 1823 but by 1831 this had fallen to 230.

IV. THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF BRUTON

GENERAL COMMENTS

1 Archaeological work in the town
A series of excavations has been conducted in the area by the pupils of King's school from the 1950s onwards on the site of the Abbey, at Holywater Copse, Pitcombe and on the site of a post-medieval cottage west of packhorse bridge and somewhere along Grove Alley between Patwell and Quaperlake Street. None of these have been published and the whereabouts of the excavation records is unknown, only a brief finds list exists for the last two. A watching brief was conducted in 1994 on the site of the Bruton Primary School extension, situated on Higher Backway which was archaeologically negative (SMR 11682). An evaluation (Hollinrake 1997) at the western end of the abbey precinct suggested that this area had remained undeveloped and a watching brief (Leach 2000) at Mill Lane located post medieval deposits.

2 Standing structures and visible remains
There are no visible physical remains of the early churches and the abbey buildings were demolished in 1786. Earthwork features are still visible within the abbey grounds which may show the pattern of the Abbey buildings and garden features such as fish ponds.

2. PREHISTORIC
(Map A)

1 Archaeological work in the town/ Archaeological knowledge
No work has been carried out on the prehistory of the area around Bruton. The SMR records fortuitous finds of flint scatters.

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

3 Archaeological features, *shown on* **Map A**
a Artefact scatters

BRU/102   Flint Scatters
             Three areas where scatters of flint artefacts have been found have been shown on map A.
             (SMR 53629) (SMR 23724) (SMR 23725)

             Areas defined from the SMR.

b Other

BRU/103   Hill View Farm Enclosures
             Two enclosures have been noted on aerial photographs to the north west of Hill View Farm (SMR 53616). Although these are undated they are included here.

             Area defined from the SMR.

BRU/101   Hill View Farm Mound

A mound to the south of Hill View Farm has been interpreted either as a bronze age round barrow or as a Windmill mound (SMR 53629).

Area defined from the SMR.

3. ROMAN
(Map A)

1 Archaeological work in the town/ Archaeological knowledge

Two excavations of Roman sites to the north-west of the town. There is as yet no evidence of Roman occupation on the site of the town centre itself.

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.

Bruton is one of 12 of the 45 historic towns covered by this project at which there is evidence of Roman settlment in the locality, though not necessarily at the core of the later town. The site lay only a few miles south of the Fosse Way, the major Roman artery into the south-west, with which it was linked   by   a   fairly   important   road   serving   the   nearby   temple.

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

a Burial sites, religious houses and places of worship

BRU/201   Lamyatt Roman Temple (SMR 23728)

The site on Lamyatt Beacon was discovered by pupils of Kings School Bruton and partially excavated in the late 1950s by Mrs C.M. Bennett. The 3rd- and 4th- century Roman temple revealed was fully excavated and recorded in 1973 by R. Leech .

Area defined from the SMR.

b Settlement

BRU/202   Poplar Farm Earthwork

Trial trenches excavated in 1971 through a circular earthwork to the north of Poplar Farm, produced Roman artefacts, including roof tiles and tesserae (SMR 23730).

Area defined from the SMR.

not mapped   Discove Farm

Tesserae were apparently found in the vicinity of Discove farm in the 18th century (SMR 53605).

4. SAXON
(Map B)

1 *Archaeological work in the town/ Archaeological knowledge*

A watching brief on the site of the new Kings School buildings in 1977 showed the presence of some stratigraphy and unmortared stone walls but no finds were retrieved (from SMR records 53601, 55991).

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.

Bruton is one of fifteen out of the 45 historic towns covered by this project which already had some urban functions or features before the Conquest. In fact, it is one of six boroughs recorded in the Domesday Survey, all of which were established as commercial annexes from adjacent royal estate centres. Bruton was the smallest borough, but it is one of eleven towns which may have had a mint in the 10th or 11th centuries. It is also one of 22 of the towns in the survey to have been associated with a known or probable pre-Conquest minster.

3 *Archaeological features shown on Map B*

a Burial sites, religious houses and places of worship

BRU/301   St. Mary's Church and Church Yard

The Church of St. Mary's in Bruton is believed to be on the site of at least one if not both of the early 7th-century churches for which there is documentary evidence although no structural remains from the earliest church are visible. The cemetery is also believed to have early origins.

Area defined from the 1984 1:10000 OS map.

not mapped

<u>Religious Site</u>
It has been suggested that the area around Godminster Farm may have been an early Saxon ritual site. No area has been mapped as the precise location and extent of such a site is unknown, however it is clearly suggested by the place and field names "*Godmanstow*" and "*Holywater*" (Aston and Leech 1977:20). This may be the site of the second early church (St. Peter's) suggested by Eeles (1933:2)

not mapped   <u>Benedictine Priory</u>
Leland writing after 1540 suggested that there was a Benedictine monastery established in the late Saxon period in the same location as the later Augustinian priory. This is the only reference to such an early monastery on the site and there has been no archaeological investigation to prove or disprove his proposal.

b Settlement
BRU/302   <u>Saxon Settlement</u>
Aston and Leech (1977:20) suggested that the main focus of the early Saxon settlement was immediately around the church, on the south bank of the river Brue. An area has been mapped as the possible Saxon settlement according to this theory. However, other than the siting of the present church there is as yet no archaeological evidence to confirm either the position or the extent of the Saxon settlement described in Domesday.

Area defined is conjectural after Aston and Leech (1977:20). It is surrounding the church and on the flatter ground at the foot of Lusty Hill.

(a) Mills
BRU/303   <u>Probable Mill Sites</u>
Domesday records the presence of six mills. Couzens (1968:16) and Aston and Leech (1977:20) have suggested possible sites however, the location of none of these has been verified archaeologically. These are shown on map B.

Areas defined after Aston and Leech (1977:20) and Couzens (1968:16).

5. MEDIEVAL
(Map C)

1 Archaeological work in the town/ Archaeological knowledge
There has been no recorded excavation of medieval remains in Bruton.

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

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

Bruton 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. But it was the only one of the six pre-Domesday boroughs which was not still described as a borough in the lay subsidy returns (1327). The town was unusually closely controlled by a religious house, being one of eight of the towns which had at least one large or important religious establishment, and one of three of this eight at which this was probably the major influence on the development of the town in the medieval period (the others were Glastonbury and Wells, of which only the latter had a borough). It was one of 19 of the 45 towns at which a planned area was laid out in the medieval period partially across or - more commonly - immediately adjacent to an established settlement.

3 Standing structures and visible remains

There are nine listed medieval buildings in the centre of Bruton including the church, the present fabric of which dates mainly to the 14th and 15th centuries (Pevsner 1958:103).

4 Archaeological components, *shown on* **Map C**

a Communications

(a) Roads, streets and routeways

BRU/401   Planned Streets

It is surmised from the shape of the town centre that tenements were laid out along High Street, with parallel backstreets along Higher and Lower Backway and a series of connecting lanes or bartons. Aston and Leech (1977:21) describe the morphology of the centre of Bruton as "typical of planned towns of the twelfth to fourteenth centuries" and suggest that the Abbey planned and laid out the core of the town on the south bank as a deliberate attempt to shift the settlement away from the Abbey.

Defined by Aston and Leech 1977:24

(b) Bridges

BRU/ 402   Church Bridge

Leland writing in 1540 noted two bridges each of three arches in Bruton. These were apparently still standing to be recorded in the 1757 questionnaire (McGarvie 1993:229). The first was in the position of Church bridge, (the present Church bridge is dated to the 18th century, LB 50835). The second which is described as being situated below the town linking the abbey to the "*pleasure grounds*" has not been located.

Location of bridge defined by McGarvie 1993:229.

Packhorse Bridge (SMR 53125, LB 50836)

The single arched narrow bridge which links Silver Street to High Street via one of the alleys or bartons dates to the 15th century. It is referred to by the 1757 Bruton questionnaire. It is a scheduled monument (SOM 176).

b Burial sites, religious houses and places of worship

BRU/403   Bruton Priory

The priory at Bruton was founded in 1142 by William de Mohun. The priory gained Abbey status in 1510. Parts of the abbey precinct wall survive and some earthwork features are visible within the precinct area which probably relate to the abbey buildings and garden features such as fish-ponds. Extensions to the school at the western end of the precinct located a buried soil associated with an unmortared stone wall (PRN 55991). The area to the west of this was evaluated in 1997 and shown to have remained undeveloped in the medieval period (Hollinrake 1997). The area also includes the scheduled "dovecot" building placed high above the town on Lusty hill. The building is dated to the late fifteenth or early 16th century (Somerset AM 258, SMR 53124).

Area defined by SMR.

c Settlement (Urban)
(a) Commercial core

BRU/404   Market Place

There is evidence of there having been a market at Bruton, granted by Alexander de Cantelou to the canons of Bruton in the 12th century (VCH). A market place may have been laid out between Quaperlake and Patwell Streets as part of the planned area. Its location directly opposite Church Bridge and the Abbey buildings is indicative of the Abbey's control over, and interest in, the markets and fairs.

Market Cross

A market cross was erected at the junction of Quaperlake and High Street by the last Prior at Bruton but was dismantled in 1790.

Area defined from Aston and Leech (1977:24).

BRU/405   Tenement Plots

Regular shaped plots can be seen along both sides of High Street and around the market area along Quaperlake Street. These have been interpreted as the planned tenement plots of the medieval town core.

Area defined by Aston and Leech (1977:24).

BRU/408   Other Town Plots
Area defined by Aston and Leech (1977:24).

(b) Unclassified

not mapped   Bruton Hospital

The Lincoln Taxation of 1291 mentions a hospital at Bruton. Wills dating to the fifteenth and 16th century exist which refer to monies left to a hospital there. Although the exact location of the hospital is unknown, it has been suggested that it was situated near to Lusty, to the south-west of Bruton centre. (SMR 53604)

d Industrial sites
(a) Mills

BRU/406   Abbey Mills (SMR 53612)

To the east of Patwell road on the site of the modern saw mills was apparently the location of a medieval mill which belonged to the abbey.

Area defined by Aston and Leech 1977:24

Gants mill (SMR 54397)

Gants mill was constructed in late 13th century when the land was conferred on John de Ghent by Hugh Lovel of Castle Cary (Couzens 1968:51).

Area defined from 1984 1:10 000 OS.

Quaperlake Street (SMR 53611)

Aston and Leech (1977:24) suggest that there was a mill to the south of Quaperlake Street, apparently fed by a leat (marked as a drain on the 1984 1:10 000 OS) coming off the Brue to the east.

Area defined by Aston and Leech 1977:24

Pippets Mill
Situated on Combe Brook to the west of Coombe Farm is documented as a fulling mill from the later 13th century and continued in use until the first half of the 19th century. (VCH)

Area defined by 1805 map of the Turnpike Road S.R.O. DD/S/HA

Lower Backway (SMR 53613)
Aston and Leech (1977:24) suggest a medieval mill was situated between Lower Backway and the Brue.

Area defined by Aston and Leech 1977:24

West End (SMR 53614)
The mill at West End is also believed to have at least medieval origins.

Area defined by Aston and Leech 1977:24

e Wells
BRU/407   Two medieval wells are shown on map C, the first known as Holywell along Coombe Street (SMR 53622), the second, the Patwell Pump is situated on the north-east corner of Church Bridge (SMR 54142) .

> *Area defined by SMR.*

f Other
not mapped   <u>Tithe Barn</u>
A 'barn of the Prior', mentioned in the Bruton cartulary, is thought to have been situated in Hyde field which Couzens identifies as the field lying to the east of the Abbey which prior to the railway would have run up to the river and mill (Couzens 1968:40).

6. POST-MEDIEVAL
(Map D)

1 Archaeological work in the town/ Archaeological knowledge
The Kings School apparently carried out an excavation on the site of a post-medieval cottage to the west of Packhorse Bridge; no report or archive material is available.

2 Context
The basic pattern of towns had been established by the end of the middle ages, and there were very few major changes in thepost-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. Bruton was no exception, and was one of many of the 45 historic towns covered by this project which held its own economically for much of this period, although it was one of several towns which suffered badly as a result of the Dissolution. It was one of a group of important cloth towns in the south and east of the county.

3 Standing structures and visible remains
There are sixteen listed post-medieval buildings in Bruton, the majority along the High Street.

4 Archaeological components *shown on* Map D
a Redevelopment in earlier settlement components
Many of the tenements along the High Street were rebuilt upon in this period, evidenced by the number of surviving post-medieval buildings. The form of the long thin tenement plots appears to have been retained in most instances despite this redevelopment.

b Settlement (Urban)
BRU/501   Sexey's Almshouses were built in 1638, on the South side of High Street (SMR 55481, LB 50812, LB 50811 and LB 50813).

> *Defined from 1984 1:10000 OS.*

BRU/502   Further tenements were built along High Street to the west, probably in the mid-17th century (Aston and Leech 1977:21). Two distinct building phases can be distinguished through different plot shapes on the north side of High Street.

> *Defined by Aston and Leech 1977:24*

c Settlement (Rural)
BRU/503   <u>Durslade Farm</u>
It is difficult to assess the age of some of the outlying farms around Burton as no maps clearly show buildings outside of the town centre prior to the first edition OS in

1886. At Durslade Farm, however, a post-medieval listed building survives indicating the site was occupied at least since the 17th century.

Area defined from listed building map.

d Industrial sites

BRU/504   <u>Lime Kiln</u> (SMR 53628)
               A post-medieval lime kiln and associated quarry have been located to the south-west
               of the town.

               Area defined from SMR.

7. INDUSTRIAL (LATE 18TH AND 19TH CENTURY)
(Map D)

1 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.

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

2 Archaeological components, *shown on* **Map D**
a Redevelopment in earlier settlement components

Much of the High Street was rebuilt in this period evidenced by the large number of surviving eighteenth and 19th-century listed buildings. The market place between Patwell and Quaperlake Street has been in-filled, it is not known at which date this process started but there are several 18th- or 19th- century listed buildings now in this area.

b Communications
(a) Railways
BRU/601   The Wiltshire, Somerset and Weymouth railway was opened in 1856. The Somerset and Dorset Joint Railway, to the south west of the town opened in 1862. This line is no longer in use.

c Settlement (Urban)
(a) Commercial core
BRU/602   Several areas of new building are shown on map D as the town spread along some of the main roads particularly Cuckoo Hill, Quaperlake Street, Coombe Hill, Higher Backway, at West End along Wyke road and Cole Road towards Pitcombe. A watching brief (Leach 2000) in Mill Lane supported the suggestion that this area is post medieval expansion.

               Area defined by 1886 1st Edition O.S.

(i) Settlement (Rural)
(b) Farms
BRU/603   Many of the rural buildings around Bruton may have earlier origins but they are first mapped in the 19th century. Coombe Farm, Combe Hill House Markdanes and Brick Hill Farm are all shown on the 1834 parish map (only the northern half of this was available for study). Gants Hill Farm is shown on the 1886 1st Edition OS. Durslade Farm also has three late eighteenth or 19th-century buildings listed.

               Areas defined from the 1834 parish map and 1886 1st edition OS.

d Industrial sites
(a) Mills
BRU/605   In addition to the mills discussed above Couzens suggests two other probable mill sites. Coombe cottage is built over Combe Brook and is therefore considered likely to have been a mill. The same applies to Parklands Cottage at Parklands Farm (LB 50763) which is dated to the 18th century.

Areas defined from 1995 digitised maps.

(b) Other industrial sites
BRU/604   <u>Brick Kiln</u> (SMR 53626)
               A brick kiln was built on Chorley hill.

Area defined from SMR.

8. 20TH CENTURY
(Map E)

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

2 Settlement components, *shown on* *Map E*
a Redevelopment in earlier settlement components
The Abbey Mill to the east of Patwell Road was redeveloped in the 20th century as a saw mill, depot and warehouses.

b Settlement (Urban)
BRU/701   <u>20th Century</u>
               There have been several housing developments around Bruton, the largest being to
               the north west of the town. Other smaller areas of developments are shown on map E

c Settlement (Rural)
BRU/702   Coombe Hill Farm is first shown on the 1984 1:10 000 OS. This and other farm expansion and unclassified rural development is shown on map E.

V. THE POTENTIAL OF BRUTON

1. Research interests
The town of Bruton has high research potential. There is clear documentary evidence for an early Saxon settlement of high standing. Much of the likely area of this settlement has been to some extent protected by being enclosed in the later abbey precinct. However the state of preservation and extent of any Saxon remains has not been tested archaeologically. The precise location and form of the two documented 7th-century churches has still to be established archaeologically.
The history of the Augustinian Abbey itself is well documented but there has been no archaeological research into Leland's suggestion of an early 11th-century benedictine monastery on the same site.

The form of the early medieval planned town has remained largely intact, however the of the date of the original plan and the later phases along the west end of High Street are not known precisely.

Likewise the sequence of infilling on the market area is to be established.

Bruton has clearly had a rich industrial past based on the water-powered mills along the river Brue and the Combe Brook. In some places (Gants Mill for instances) there would appear to have been continuity in use of sites as mills from the Saxon period to the present. The large number of mills and the continuity of use make Bruton's industrial past of high research interest.

2. *Areas of potentially exceptional preservation*

Two areas may have particularly good archaeological preservation, although neither of these has been tested. As suggested above the area within the Abbey walls has to a large extent been protected from later construction and vestiges of the early Saxon settlement and abbey buildings may be preserved. Also the area along the River Brue is apparently damp and prone to flooding which may mean some early stratigraphy survives in waterlogged conditions.

3. *Limitations*

The largest areas of development have occurred on the edge of the town leaving the Saxon and medieval core much unchanged.

4. *Extent of current protection*

The 1994 South Somerset Local Plan Consultation Draft includes a Conservation Area (shown on map F) and an Area of High Archaeological Potential has been designated as part of this work. There were two Scheduled Ancient Monuments (the Packhorse Bridge and the Dovecote on Lusty Hill) when this assessment was prepared and an area of the Abbey has been scheduled subsequently. There are many listed buildings in Bruton, particularly along High Street, Patwell Street, Quaperlake Street and Silver Street (shown on map F).

5. *Management Proposals*

See the Archaeological Guidance Document.

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3. Maps

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1874   Tithe Map: fiche in SLHL
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1904   OS 2nd Edition 6": SRO
1984   OS 1:10 000
1995   OS Digital Maps for FastMap

VII. COMPONENT INDEXES

1. Component to map

Component	Map	Component	Map
BRU/101	A	BRU/406	C
BRU/102	A	BRU/407	C
BRU/103	A		
		BRU/501	D
BRU/201	A	BRU/502	D
BRU/202	A	BRU/503	D
		BRU/504	D
BRU/301	B		
BRU/302	B	BRU/601	D
BRU/303	B	BRU/602	D
		BRU/603	D
BRU/401	C	BRU/604	D
BRU/402	C	BRU/605	D
BRU/403	C		
BRU/404	C	BRU/701	E
BRU/405	C	BRU/702	E

2. Component to page

BRU/101   5, 15
BRU/102   5, 15

BRU/103   5, 15
BRU/201   6, 15
BRU/202   6, 15
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BRU/303   7, 15
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BRU/402   15
BRU/403   8, 15
BRU/404   8, 15
BRU/405   9, 15
BRU/406   9, 15
BRU/407   10, 15
BRU/501   10, 15
BRU/502   10, 15
BRU/503   10, 15
BRU/504   11, 15
BRU/601   11, 15
BRU/602   11, 15
BRU/603   11, 15
BRU/604   12, 15
BRU/605   11, 15
BRU/701   12, 15
BRU/702   12, 15

Maps

Map A – Prehistoric and Roman

Map B –Saxon
Key: Components shown on earlier maps are shown in yellow.

Map C – Medieval
Key: Components shown on earlier maps are shown in yellow.

Map D – Post medieval and industrial

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

Map E – 20th century

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

Map G – Existing constraints

Key: Scheduled Monuments (dark blue),
        Listed Buildings   Grade I (light blue)
                                        Grade II* (light green)
                                        Grade II (dark green)
        Conservation Area (light green)
        Area of High Archaeological Potential (pink)
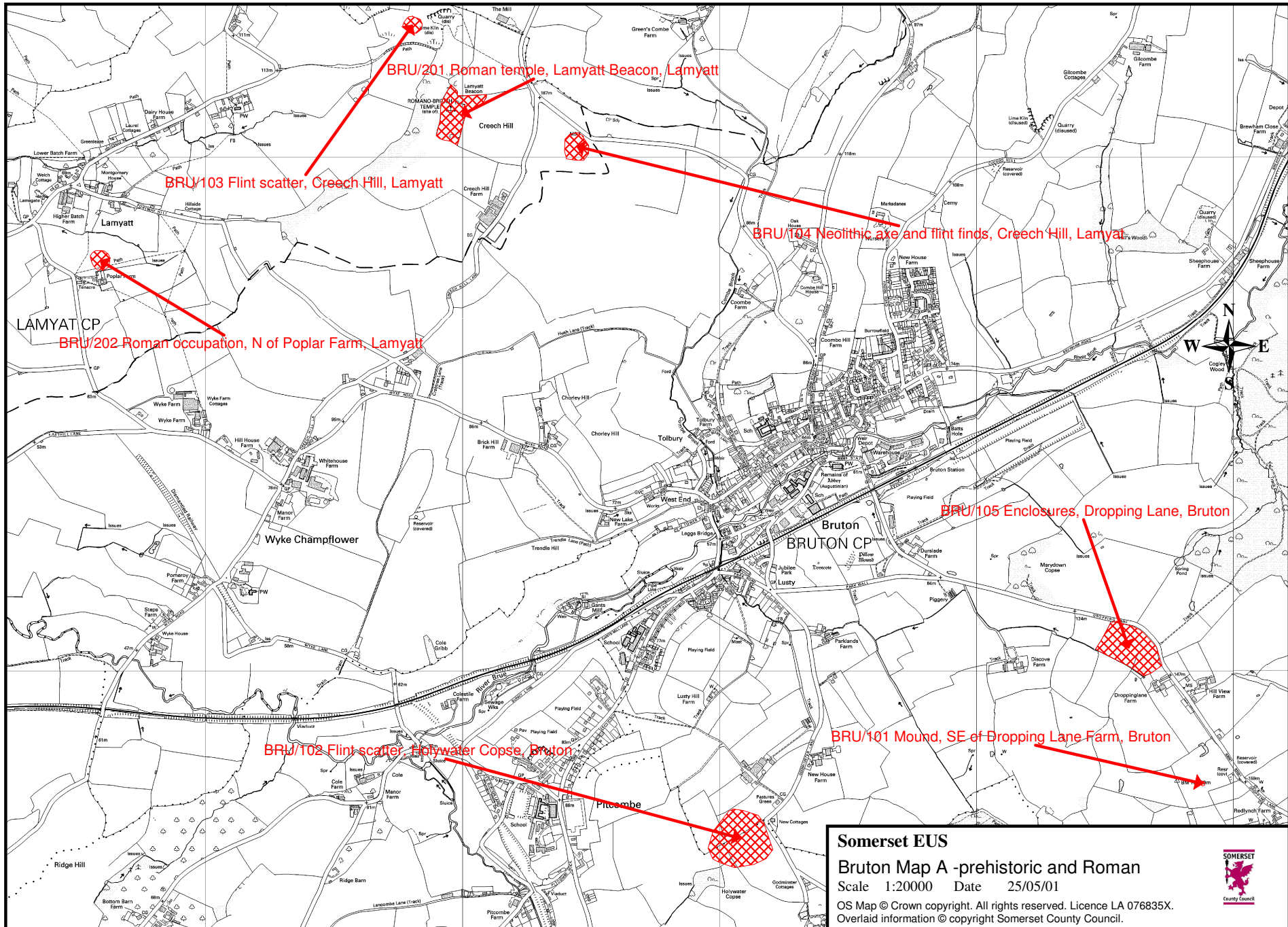
BRU/201 Roman temple, Lamyatt Beacon, Lamyatt

BRU/103 Flint scatter, Creech Hill, Lamyatt

BRU/104 Neolithic axe and flint finds, Creech Hill, Lamyat

BRU/202 Roman occupation, N of Poplar Farm, Lamyatt

LAMYAT CP

BRU/105 Enclosures, Dropping Lane, Bruton

Bruton

BRUTON CP

BRU/101 Mound, SE of Dropping Lane Farm, Bruton

BRU/102 Flint scatter, Holywater Copse, Bruton

Pitcombe

Somerset EUS

Bruton Map A -prehistoric and Roman

Scale   1:20000   Date   25/05/01

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SOMERSET
County Council

BRU/303 possible mill site

BRU/406 Mill

BRU/301 Church

BRU/303 possible mill site

BRU/303 possible mill site

BRU/301 possible mill site

BRU/302 possible earlier Saxon settlement

BRU/303 possible mill site

BRU/303 mill

Tolbury

BRUTON

BRUTON CP

West End

Lusty
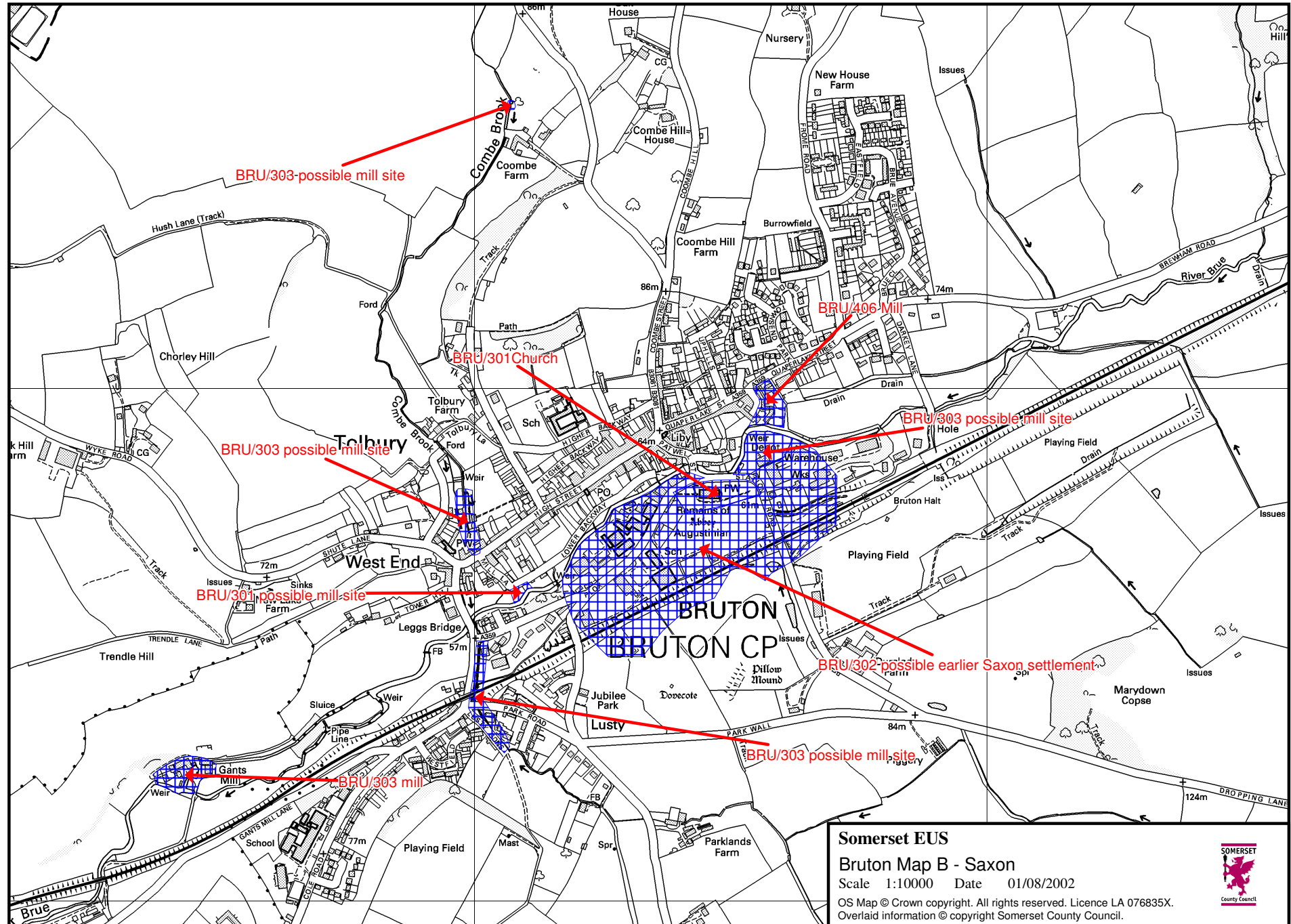
Somerset EUS

Bruton Map B - Saxon

Scale   1:10000   Date   01/08/2002

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BRU/404 Market Cross

BRU/405 tenements

BRU/405 Tenements

BRU/404 market place

BRU/403 Abbey Precinct

BRU/408 Plox -north

BRU/303 mill

Combe Brook

House

Nursery

New House Farm

Issues

CG

Combe Hill House

Coombe Farm

Burrowfield

Coombe Hill Farm

86m

74m

River Brue

Drain

Hush Lane (Track)

Ford

Path

Drain

Batts Hole

Chorley Hill

Sch

Weir Depot

Playing Field

Drain

Tolbury Farm

Warehouse

Iss

Tolbury La

Ford

Wks

Bruton Hall

Issues

Tolbury

CG

Weir

Remains of Able Augustinian

Issues

Playing Field

West End

Weir

BRUTON

Durslade Farm

Spr

Marydown Copse

72m

Issues

Sinks

BRUTON CP

New Lake Farm

Track

TRENDLE LANE

Leggs Bridge

Lusty

Jubilee Park

Trendle Hill

Path

FB

84m

Piggery

Sluice

Weir

Pipe Line

Mast

Spr

Parklands Farm

FB

DROPPING LANE

124m

Gants Mill

Weir

GANTS MILL LANE

School

77m

Playing Field

Brue

Somerset EUS

Bruton Map C - Medieval

Scale   1:10000   Date   01/08/2002

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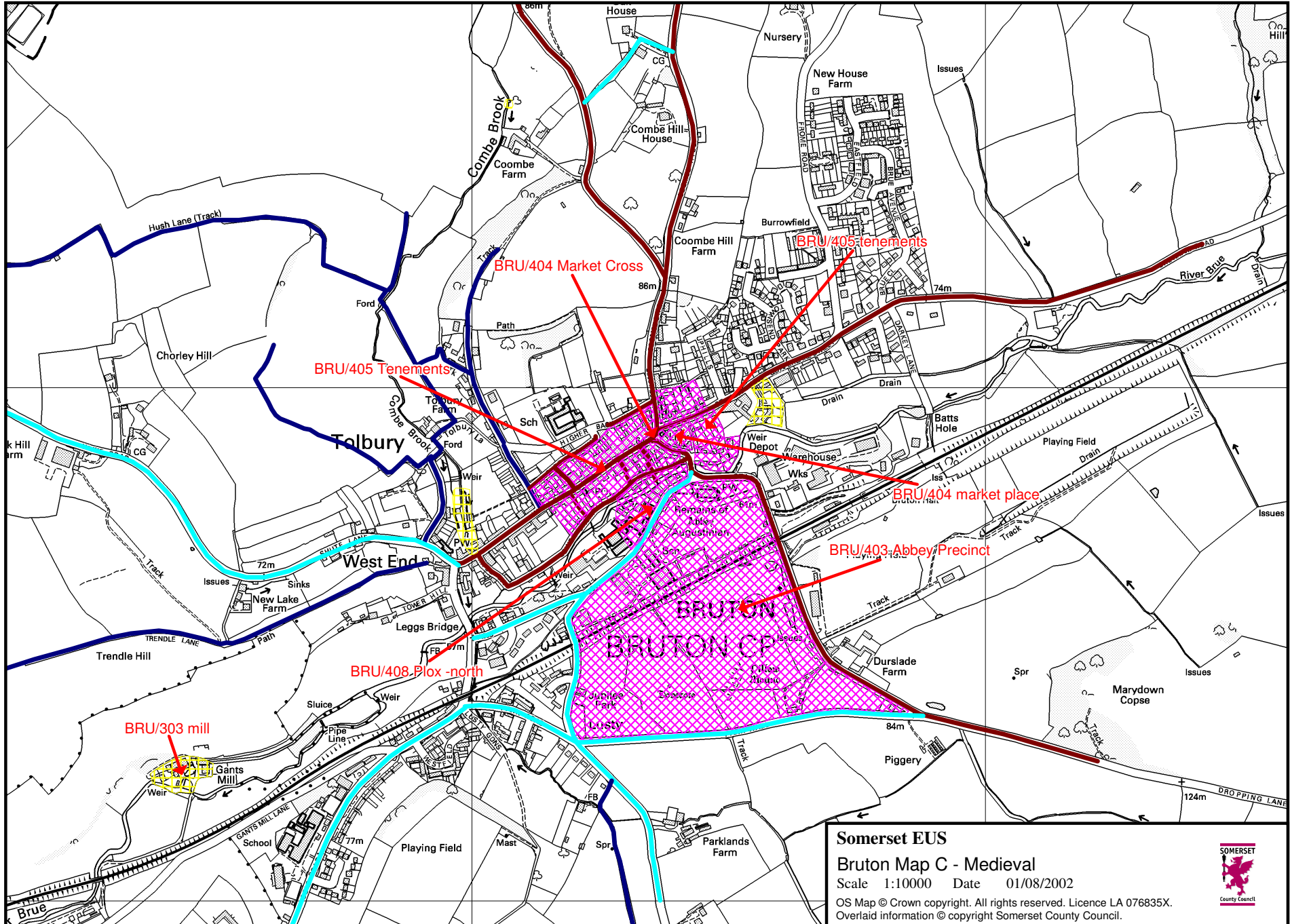Overlaid information © copyright Somerset County Council.

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BRU/603 Coombe Hill House

BRU/603 Marksdanes

BRU/602 Burrowfield

BRU/ Brick kiln, Chorley Hill, Bruton

BRU/602 Cheeks Lane

BRU/601 railway

BRU/604 saw mill/timber yard

BRU/603 Brick Hill Farm

BRU/605 Station

BRU/602 West End

BRU/503 Sexey's Hospital

BRU/602 Wellesly House

BRU/701

BRU/701

BRU/701 Kings School

BRU/703

BRU/701

Tolbury

West End

BRUTON
BRUTON CP

Somerset EUS

Bruton Map E - 20th century

Scale   1:10000   Date   25/05/01

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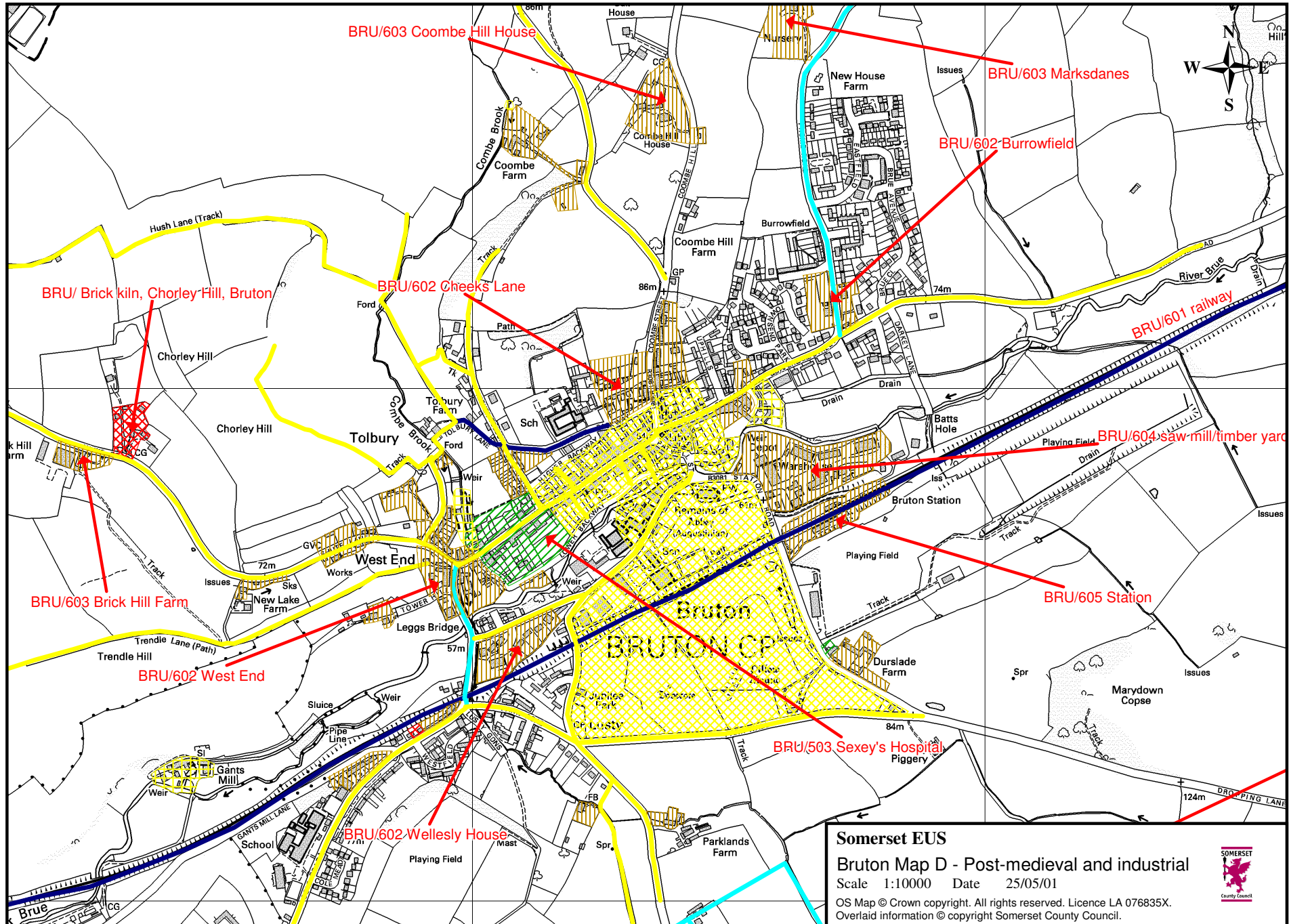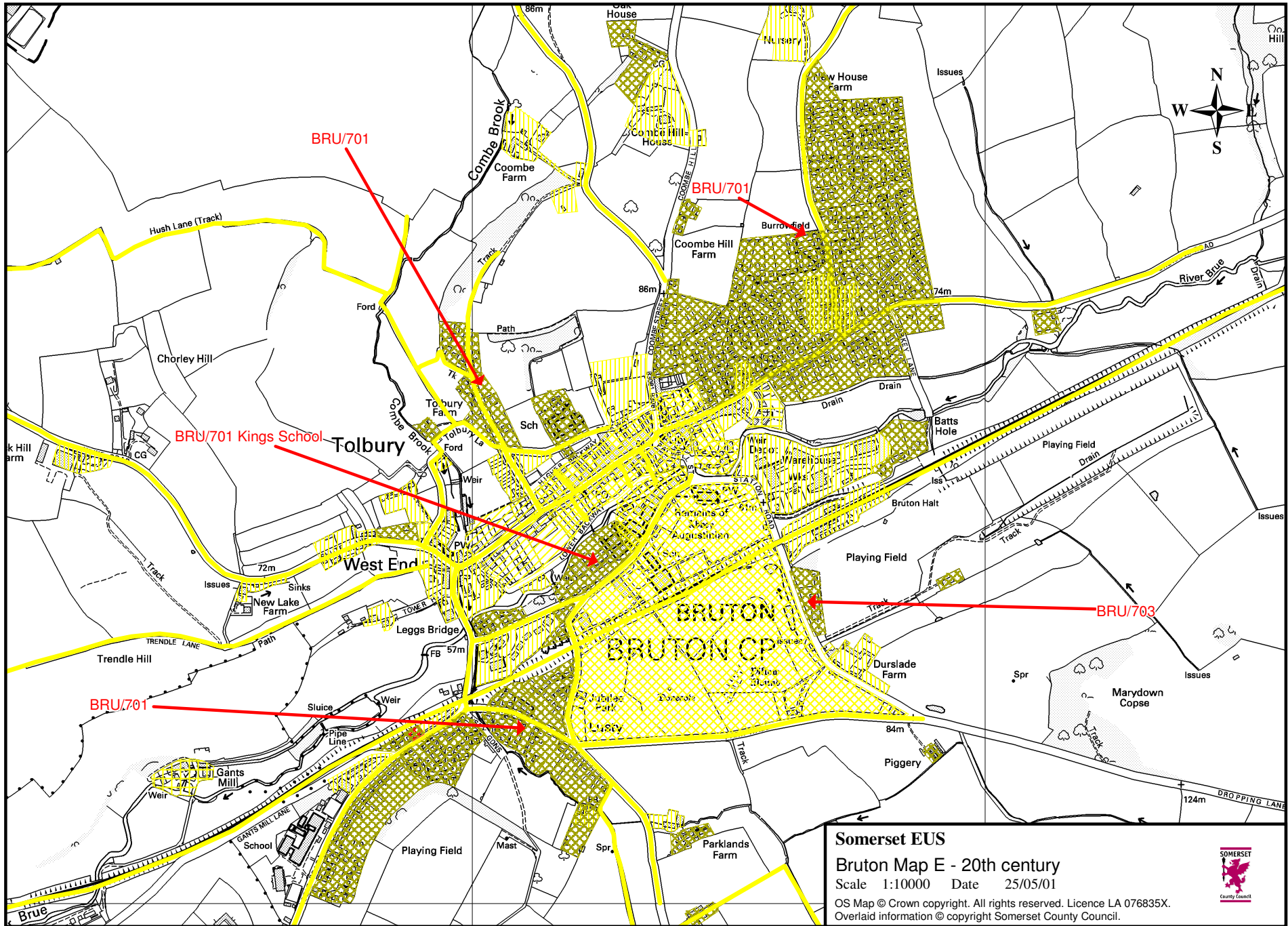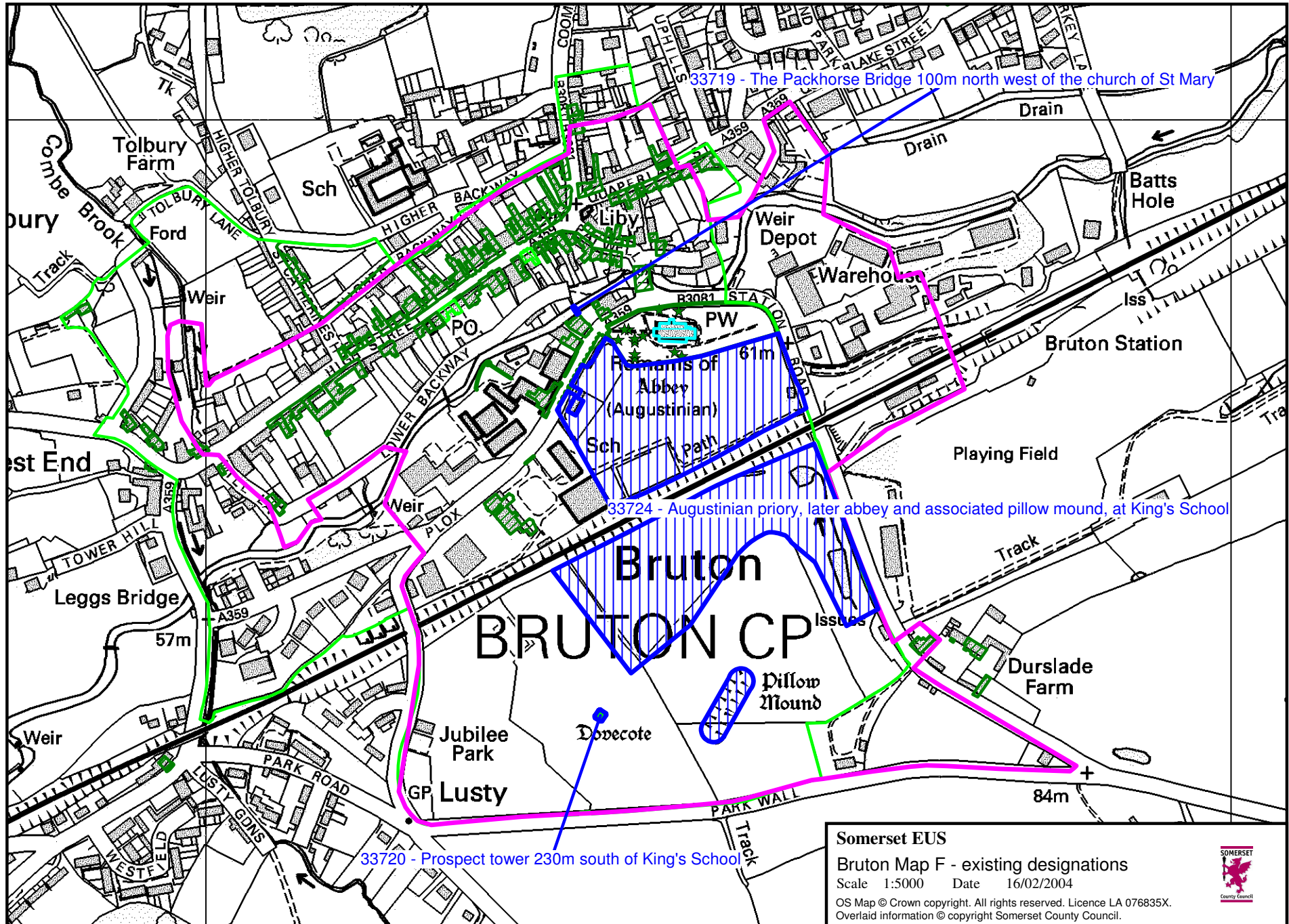Overlaid information © copyright Somerset County Council.

SOMERSET
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33719 - The Packhorse Bridge 100m north west of the church of St Mary

Drain

Drain

Tolbury
Farm

Sch

Batts
Hole

Combe Brook

bury

Tolbury Farm

Ford

Liby

Weir
Depot

Warehouse

Iss

Track

Ford

Weir

HIGHER TOLBURY

TOLBURY LANE

HIGHER BACKWAY

QUAPERITON

PO

B3081 STATION

A359

PW

Bruton Station

Remains of
Abbey
(Augustinian)

61m

LOWER BACKWAY

Weir

Sch

Path

33724 - Augustinian priory, later abbey and associated pillow mound, at King's School

Playing Field

est End

A359

PLOX

Bruton

Track

TOWER HILL

Leggs Bridge

57m

A359

BRUTON CP

Issues

Durslade
Farm

Pillow
Mound

Jubilee
Park

Dovecote

Weir

PARK ROAD

GP

Lusty

LUSTY GDNS

WESTFIELD

PARK WALL

Track

84m

33720 - Prospect tower 230m south of King's School

Somerset EUS

Bruton Map F - existing designations

Scale   1:5000   Date   16/02/2004

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