

English Heritage Extensive Urban Survey

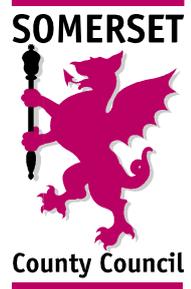
An archaeological assessment of

# Castle Cary

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# CASTLE CARY

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

by Miranda Richardson

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## SOMERSET EXTENSIVE URBAN SURVEY

### CASTLE CARY

#### 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 early 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 scant documentary evidence for early Castle Cary.

##### 2. *Local histories*

There is no VCH coverage of Castle Cary although elements of its history are included in volumes I and II. There is a series of short articles written in the 19th century and published in PSANHS which cover some aspects of the history of the manor and church (Meade 1856, 1870, Gregory 1890, Buckle 1890). The most useful volume is undoubtedly the local history written by M. McGarvie (*Castle Cary: a Sketch of its Industrial and Social History with Special Reference to Boyd's Hair Factory*: 1980), although this obviously concentrates on the industrial period.

##### 3. *Maps*

There is a map of good quality and detail dating to c.1670. This map is catalogued at the British Library (AD. MS. 9050) as dating to 1650, however McGarvie has been able to identify some of the land owners listed on it, and thus suggests this slightly later date.

#### III. A BRIEF HISTORY OF CASTLE CARY

Castle Cary is situated on the west side of an elevated tract of land. The orange-tinted '*ginger bread*' stone was quarried for building stone above the town to the east.

Extremely little is known of Castle Cary in prehistory; the SMR records three sets of fortuitous finds dating to the prehistoric period. Excavations took place from 1975-8 in Ansford which recorded both prehistoric material and a Roman material (SMR 53498) Samian recovered from the site included Claudian and Neronian suggesting a possible military site and wall-plaster may indicate a later villa. Otherwise the evidence for the Roman period is slight consisting of a single coin (Antonius Pius) found in 1862 in South Cary Lane (SMR 53646)

The Listed Building description mentions that the church of All Saints has Saxon origins, although it is not clear upon which evidence this suggestion is made; no Saxon structural elements remain in the present building and no

mention of the church is made in the Domesday book. Cary (or Kary) is recorded in the *Taxatio* of Pope Nicholas (c.1291) as providing the name for the *decanatus* which may however, suggest that the church had early origins. It has been suggested that the raised mound on which the church is situated is reminiscent of a Saxon burh or defensible area. The Domesday Book describes a small settlement owned in 1086 by Walter of Douai and prior to the conquest by the Saxon thegn Elsi, which included three mills and 100 acres of pasture. McGarvie suggests that the Domesday description implies a population of c. 250-300.

It is unclear whether Walter of Douai or the following owners, the Perceval family, built the castle which was to give the town the first part of its name. It is known to have been besieged by King Stephen in 1138, and again in 1153. Little documentary evidence exists for the Medieval town either. By 1468 the castle had been abandoned in favour of a manor house, built beside it. At this time the estate was in the hands of John de Zouche who was granted a charter for a weekly market and two annual fairs by Edward IV in that year (Grafton 1898).

Court rolls dating to 1650 and 1687 give some information about the size and make-up of the population, in 1687 listing 129 heads of family (McGarvie 1980:7). The 1687 Court Roll also adds colour to the picture of Castle Cary, listing the presence of three inns, eleven brewers, 7 butchers, mills and a quarry, the different standings at the local fairs and markets and local disputes over roads and thoroughfares (F.W.W. 1916).

Cary-cloth is known from the middle ages and by the early 18th century its production was the major industry of the town, whose affluence was therefore, directly tied to fluctuations in the cloth trade. In 1773 the well-known local diarist Parson Woodforde describes a visit to Mr. Neil's "grand machinery," an industrial woolen manufacturer, in South Cary but wool cloth production was gradually replaced by linen through the 18th century, with flax being grown locally. The cloth industry collapsed under the pressures of imported linen in the late 18th century and was replaced by sailcloth and twine manufacture. Charles Donne started production in Ansford in 1796, the hamlet to the north of Castle Cary and a second girth and twine producer, Thomas Mathews, opened works in Castle Cary in 1815. Mathews later extended production to include horse hair seating which was to become a major industry. A third entrepreneur, Boyd, set up in Castle Cary in 1837, taking Chapel Yard House opposite Mathews' factory in South Street. Horse hair weaving and twine expanded rapidly from cottage to industrial production for example in 1851 Boyd built the Ansford factory behind Ochiltree House, and in 1864 expanded into a new industrial complex by Beechfield House. In the 1890s the Donnes followed suit building Higher Flax Mills. The 19th century saw much construction within the town and improvements which reflect the prosperity of these industries. Although both industries prospered during the first world war, providing cloth and materials for the army, the post-war period was one of general decline. The second world war was to further damage trade in horse-cloth although the twine industry benefitted. In 1957 both Donne's and Boyd's much reduced enterprises were to be found sharing space in Higher Flax Mills with Clarks leather board production and the latter industry moved to the Ansford Factory in 1960.

The relationship of the town to the settlement of Ansford, which lies immediately to the north, is confusing. Ansford had its own church probably from the 13th century and thus its own parish, however, Ward's 17th-century map which describes itself as map of the manor of Castle Cary includes Ansford, and shows it as a minor settlement compared to its neighbour. Aston and Leech (1977:30) comment on the position of Castle Cary in the north-east corner of its parish, suggesting that there may be a more centrally located vanished settlement to be discovered. Alternatively, the original parish of Castle Cary may have included the village of Ansford, thus the settlement of Cary would be fairly centrally located in this larger area. The limit between Ansford and Castle Cary has often been blurred evidenced by Boyd's Ansford factory being built within the parish of Castle Cary.

#### IV. THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF CASTLE CARY

##### *GENERAL COMMENTS*

###### *0.1 Archaeological work in the town*

Little archaeological work has been carried out in the town. Two excavations were carried out on the site of the castle in 1856 and 1890 (Buckle 1890, Gregory 1890) and watching briefs were completed during the construction of a new barn at manor farm in 1977 and 1978 (Aston and Murlless 1978:128, Minnitt and Murlless 1979:90). The excavations at Churchfields, Ansford are better described as a watching brief and permission to continue was withdrawn by the developers in 1976 (Keynes 1985). More recently, work during the development of Manor Farm

has identified the outer defences of the castle, the Manor House and a Roman limekiln with suggestions of a possible ritual site in the area (Leach and Ellis 1999). Other small scale evaluations and watching briefs have not added greatly to our knowledge of the town.

## **1. PREHISTORIC**

*(No map)*

### **1.1 Archaeological work in the town/ Archaeological knowledge**

The SMR records three fortuitous finds of prehistoric date (SMR 53647, 53648, 53652, 53498). No particular area can be defined which has particular relevance in this period. This may reflect the lack of excavation within the town.

### **1.2 Context**

Castle Cary 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 should be remembered that it is notoriously difficult for archaeologists to demonstrate a prehistoric presence in modern urban areas. Whilst 'towns' were not, generally speaking, a feature of prehistoric landscapes, many of the same factors which made the site desirable in later periods would already have been operative.

### **1.3 Standing structures and visible remains**

There are no standing or visible prehistoric structures in Castle Cary area. The earthworks to the south of the castle keep were shown to post-date its construction during the 1890 excavations rather than representing an earlier fort as suggested by Meade (1856:85).

### **1.4 Archaeological features**

#### **1.4.a Artefact scatters**

Three prehistoric finds are recorded in the SMR. The first (SMR 53647), is a late bronze age penannular gold ornament which was found on the west side of the Ilchester Road. The second (SMR 53648), describes a hand axe and flint chips which were found at Manor Farm in 1876. Iron-age sherds are recorded from an area to the north west of the church (SMR 53652) and neolithic flintwork and a polished axe were recovered during the watching brief at Ansford (SMR 53498).

## **2. ROMAN**

*(No Map)*

### **2.1 Archaeological work in the town/ Archaeological knowledge**

There is a single SMR reference (53646) to a coin found in South Cary Lane for the Roman period. The watching brief at Ansford recovered quantities of Roman pottery and building materials suggesting settlement nearby from the first to the fourth century AD. Some of the Samian pottery was of early Roman date (Claudian and Neronian) known most commonly from military sites of the conquest period. The presence of painted plaster may suggest a villa in the area (Keynes 1985). The discovery of a limekiln during excavations at Manor Farm and the presence within it of a statuette indicates a mortared stone building nearby. This may well be a temple associated with the nearby springs (Leach and Ellis 1999).

### **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.

Castle Cary is one of 26 of the 45 historic towns covered by this project at which there is as yet no evidence of Roman settlement. There was, however, certainly activity in the area at Ansford and the finds from Manor Farm may suggest a temple or villa there as well.

### 3. SAXON (Map A)

#### 3.1 *Archaeological work in the town/ Archaeological knowledge*

No archaeological evidence has, as yet, been recovered for Saxon Cary.

#### 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 8th or 9th century onwards) saw the beginnings of a resurgence of first trading places and then towns, under the control of the Saxon royal families, in the context of a network of royal estate administration centres and subordinate settlements which was already established (in some cases long-established). Though only a relatively small number of places with any claim to be towns existed by the time of the Domesday Survey, many of the subordinate settlements recorded at that point were to become towns in the Medieval period. Castle Cary is one of ten of the 45 historic towns covered by this project which had no urban pretensions before the Conquest but were nevertheless in existence as agricultural settlements.

#### 3.3 *Standing structures and visible remains*

The Listed Buildings description suggests that the church may have Saxon origins (SMR LB 52099).

#### 3.4 *Archaeological components, shown on Map A*

##### 3.4.a *Communications*

###### CAS/301 South Street

Aston and Leech (1977:30) suggest that the main road within the Saxon settlement was a continuation of South Street linking it with the road to Ansford (now called Victoria Road), and on towards Shepton Mallet.

*Aston and Leech 1977:30*

###### CAS/302 Cary Moor Drove

Domesday mentions one hundred acres of meadow belonging to the Castle Cary estate. This probably refers to Cary Moor situated to the south-west of the settlement (between the river Cary and Back Brook). It is linked to the settlement by Cary Moor Drove. The position of this drove way between Cockhill and Cary itself is unclear. The most likely course is joining with Cockhill Elm Lane to the west of South Road (as shown by a footpath on the 1904 OS second edition 6" map), although this route is not shown on John Ward's c. 1650-70 map of the parish.

*1904 6" second edition OS*

##### 3.4.b *Manors and estates*

*not mapped* Meade (1856:85)) states that the pre-conquest manor of Cary was given to the Abbot of Glastonbury by Kentwine (c.680).

##### 3.4.c *Settlement*

CAS/303 It has been suggested by Aston and Leech (1977:30) that the earliest settlement was clustered around the church and the postulated road. A later shift in the foci of settlement explains the position of the church, isolated on a separate mound or low hill between the main settlement of Cary and South Cary. As the southern half of this area has not been built upon, and the northern half was not built upon until the twentieth century, there is high potential for finding archaeological evidence of the Saxon settlement.

*Aston and Leech 1977:30*

##### 3.4.d *Industrial sites*

###### CAS/304 Mills

The three mills referred to in Domesday have not been located but perhaps the most likely location is on the same site as the 19th-century mills, along Mill Lane. The river Cary rises at Park Pond,

to the south of the castle, and falls 30m in less than a kilometre down to the west, making an ideal location for water mills.

*Ward's c. 1650-70 map*

#### **4. Medieval and Post-medieval (Map B)**

The main source for these periods has John Ward's c.1650-70 map, which has been considered to show the form of the town at the end of the Medieval period. Little new development is recorded for the post-Medieval period, therefore these periods have been taken together.

##### **4.1 Archaeological work in the town/ Archaeological knowledge**

Excavations were carried out on the castle site by Rev. Canon Meade in 1856 and by Gregory in 1890. The first of these was not recorded. The second revealed the position of the rectangular keep and cut sections across some of the defences (Buckle 1890, Gregory 1890). Watching briefs were carried out at Manor Farm in 1977 and 1978 (Aston and Murless 1978:128, Minnitt and Murless 1979:90). Recent work has focussed on the area around Manor Farm during its redevelopment for housing (Leach and Ellis 1999).

##### **4.2 Context**

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

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

Castle Cary is one of 20 of the 45 historic towns covered by this project which acquired urban status (though not in this case borough status) in the Medieval period. Castle Cary was one of eight of the 45 towns associated with a castle, and like three others of these eight was deliberately created out of an agricultural settlement to service and profit the castle. It was one of 19 of the 45 towns at which a planned area was laid out in the Medieval period partially across or - more commonly - immediately adjacent to an established settlement.

The basic pattern of towns had been established by the end of the middle ages, and there were very few major changes in the Post-Medieval period, though the economic fortunes of particular towns rose and fell. Nearly all the Somerset towns depended on either cloth manufacture or cloth trade to some extent. Castle Cary 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 earthwork remains of the castle (SMR 53640) survive well on the hillside to the east of the town and include the motte. The earliest fabric of the church (SMR LB 52099) is late 15th century. The George Hotel on the market place (SMR LB 52133), may have later Medieval origins. In addition two 17th-century buildings recorded in the SMR (Belle Vue and Ferndale Villas SMR LB 52152 and Delaware House SMR LB 52177), are shown on John

Ward's map of c. 1650-70. Three buildings recorded as dating to the 17th century are not shown Ward's map, (Glebe Cottage SMR LB 52060, South Cottage SMR LB 52153 and the Old Parsonage SMR LB 52069) which dates them to the latter half of the century. In contrast, Ward shows a building in the same position as the Old Ansford Inn (SMR LB 52073) which suggests earlier origins than the early 18th-century date recorded in the listed buildings register.

Two early 18th-century buildings survive and are recorded as listed buildings; they are Laylocks (52076) and the Old House (SMR LB 52077).

*Information from the Listed Buildings Maps and Ward's c. 1650-70 map*

#### **4.4 Archaeological components, shown on Map B**

##### *4.4.a Communications*

###### *(a) Roads, streets and routeways*

CAS/401 The network of roads portrayed on Ward's c.1650-70 map has been shown on map B. The main north-south street postulated by Aston and Leech, deviates to the east of the church and leads to the market place. Many of the streets shown on Ward's map survived into the 20th century to be recorded on the 1904 6" OS second edition, only recent construction has altered the internal structure of the later Medieval settlement.

*Ward's c. 1650-70 map*

###### *4.4.b Military sites*

##### CAS/402 The Castle and Manor

The earliest visible remains at Castle Cary are those of the Castle and its constituent earthworks (SMR 53640), sited to the east of the town. Excavations in the area of Manor Farm (SMR 11632, 11639, 11640) located further baileys of the castle and showed that the inner and outer baileys were of one phase. Parts of the ditches appear to have been deliberately infilled as early as the 12th century but the line of one was redug to provide one side of a moat around the later Manor House (SMR 11641). The castle may have replaced earlier manorial buildings in the later 11th or early 12th century but there was little evidence for this. The moat later manor house was in turn replaced by a manor house on the site of the current Manor Farm. The modern building (SMR LB 52140) was constructed within the memory of one of Castle Cary's historians; Collinson, writing in 1791 describes the ruined manor and the new construction. Elements of the older building appear to have been used in its replacement.

*Ward's c. 1650-70 map*

##### CAS/403 Castle Park

Castle Park covers the high ground to the south-east of the town.

*Ward's c. 1650-70 map*

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

##### CAS/408 All Saints Church and Graveyard

The church standing today was built in c.1470 (SMR LB 52099), although it was heavily restored in the 19th century. McGarvie quotes the discovery of a font dating to the mid-12th century in a garden in Upper High Street as evidence of there having been an earlier church (McGarvie 1980:3). The Cosenes monument (SMR LB 52103) which dates to the 16th century indicates that the graveyard was in use from at least this period although it is likely to have earlier origins.

*Ward's c. 1650-70 map*

##### CAS/410 St. Andrew's Church, Ansford

Ansford's earliest standing structure is the church of St. Andrew (SMR LB 52078). The porch may date to the 13th century, the tower was constructed in the 15th century and the main body of the church rebuilt in 1861. The earliest monuments surviving in the Ansford church

graveyard date from the 17th (SMR LB 52080) and early 18th centuries (SMR LB 52080). The area around the church and along the north-south road suggested by Aston and Leech (1977:30), is likely to have been the centre of the original settlement at Ansford.

*Ward's c. 1650-70 map*

#### 4.4.d Settlement (Urban)

##### (a) Commercial core

##### (i) Market place

##### CAS/404 Market place

In 1468 the town was granted a charter to hold a weekly market and two annual fairs. The shift in the main locus of settlement to the north and the construction of the market place may date to this period.

*Ward's c. 1650-70 map*

##### (ii) Tenement plots

Three areas of apparently laid-out plots have been noted on the c.1650-1670 map, however there is no documentary evidence for the origins of these areas.

##### CAS/405 South Street

To the south of the manor and church, along the main road to Ilchester, lies the almost independent settlement of South Cary. The plots along this road are regular, and relatively wide and short in shape (in contrast to plots in the northern part of the town which are long and thin). McGarvie (1980:3), concurs with Aston and Leech (1977:27) that this may have been an attempt to lay out a new town in the 13th century.

*Ward's c. 1650-70 map*

##### CAS/406 Market Area

Three sets of apparently laid-out plots surround the market place. These are much longer than those of South Cary and it has been suggested that each is the width of a single strip from an open-field system (Aston and Leech 1977:27).

*Ward's c. 1650-70 map*

##### CAS/407 Newport

To the north-east of the settlement, the c.1650-70 map shows a series of fields to the east of Cumnock Road named Newport. This field name suggests an attempt to establish a new market area (Aston and Leech 1977:30). This had apparently failed by the time the map was drawn, there being no structures in this area. At what point the enterprise was abandoned and whether this area was occupied at all unclear. It does not seem to have been built upon between the 17th and the 20th century.

*Ward's c. 1650-70 map*

##### (iii) Other town plots

##### CAS/409 High Street

Expansion of the original area of plots laid out around the market took place along High Street, probably in a haphazard manner. This area is shown on Ward's map as being only thinly built-upon.

*Ward's c. 1650-70 map*

#### 4.4.e Settlement (Rural)

##### CAS/411 Ansford Hill

The plan of Ansford does not show any groups of laid out plots. In the later Medieval period

settlement appears to have increased along Ansford Hill road leading to Wincanton, reflecting the use of this road as a major thorough-fare.

*Ward's c. 1650-70 map*

#### 4.4.f Industrial sites

CAS/412

##### Mills

The area shown as Mill Close on Ward's map has been shown on map B. Only one mill-pond is clearly visible, although there are several buildings in this area which may be additional mills. Individual leats are not shown.

*Ward's c. 1650-70 map*

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

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

#### 5.2 Standing structures and visible remains

There are many listed buildings dating to this period and one scheduled monument in Castle Cary and Ansford. The history of Castle Cary during the industrial period is mainly linked to the production of cloth, rope and horse-hair items. The success of these businesses is reflected in the expansion and building within the town. Although the structure of the town centre remained unchanged through this period much of the centre was rebuilt. This is particularly true during the mid-19th century.

#### 5.3 Archaeological components, shown on Map C

##### 5.3.a Communications

###### (a) Roads, streets and routeways

Not mapped

##### The Langport Somerton and Castle Cary Turnpike Trust

The turnpike trust was established in 1753. A map of 1857, which just postdates the opening of the railway line, shows that the line of two of the turnpike routes to be diverted to the north of the railway line (Bentley and Murless 1985:40-46).

CAS/601

##### New Road/ Station Road

The New Road (now call Station Road) leading from Mill Lane north-west, was constructed to link with the new railway crossing.

*1886 OS 1st Edition*

###### (b) Railways

CAS/602

Castle Cary station on the Wiltshire, Somerset and Weymouth railway was opened in 1856. The station is located to the north of Ansford on the line of the Ansford-Shepton Mallet road.

*1886 OS 1st Edition*

### 5.3.b Settlement (Urban)

#### (i) Market place(s)

CAS/603

#### Market Infilling

The 1886 map shows that the process of building within the market place, which is shown to have commenced in the 17th century by Ward's map, was completed. The Market House was built (or rebuilt according to Pevsner (1958:116)) in 1855. The circular lock-up known as the Round House was built in 1779 in north-west corner of the market area and is a scheduled monument (SMR 53127, SM 10).

*1886 OS 1st Edition*

#### (ii) Other town plots

CAS/604

The industrial period saw the density of buildings in the town increase and some minor expansion along the main roads. This reflects the growth in population from 1281 to 1902 shown by the 19th century census returns.

*1904 OS 6" 2nd Ed.*

### 5.3.c Settlement (Rural)

CAS/605

New areas of rural settlement are shown on map C.

*1886 OS 1st Edition*

### 5.3.d Industrial sites

CAS/606

#### Factories

The main change in the town of Castle Cary during this period was the move from small scale, cottage industries such as the cloth fabrication set up by Boyd at Chapel Yard House in 1837, to larger scale mechanised factories. Much of this innovation was retained within the traditional industrial core of the town around Mill Lane. This became the site of Donne's Higher Flax Mills, the rope walks, the Tow and Torbay factories. To the North of Mill Lane brickworks and gas works were built.

Outside of this area Boyd built his Ansford horse-hair cloth factory to the north of Castle Cary High Street in 1851, and Donne built the factory north of Florida house in 1887.

*1904 OS 6" 2nd Ed.*

## 6. 20TH CENTURY

### (Map D)

The development of the town in the 20th century has in the main been expansion in housing areas. Most of the modern estates have been constructed without change to the form of the town, by filling in open spaces, building over the back of some of the long tenement blocks and redeveloping some of the earlier industrial sites. Additional construction has largely been concerned with providing amenities for the expanded population.

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

### 6.2 Settlement components, shown on Map D

#### 6.2.a Communications

##### (a) Roads, streets and routeways

*not mapped*

No major roads have been added to the town's infrastructure. Minor roads serving the new housing estates have not been mapped individually.

### 6.2.b Burial sites, religious houses and places of worship

CAS/701

#### South Street Cemetery

A cemetery has been established on the west side of South Street.

*1995 Digital OS*

### 6.2.c Settlement (Suburban)

CAS/702

#### Estates

The areas of modern housing construction are shown on map D. Two areas are likely to have been built over earlier archaeological remains. The area between Ansford church and Ansford Hill has been completely filled; this is likely to have been the initial area settled in the village. The estate between Park Street and Mill Lane is likely to have been constructed over part of the remains of the original, probably Saxon settlement of Cary. Smaller estates built to the north of Woodcock Street and High Street have concealed the form of the tenement plots set out around the market place. The degree of destruction caused by each of these developments has not been established.

*1995 Digital OS*

CAS/703

#### Infilling

In addition to the main areas of estate construction further infilling and rebuilding on the plots along the main roads has also taken place.

*1995 Digital OS*

### 6.2.d Settlement (Rural)

CAS/704

#### Manor Farm

Manor Farm, to the east of South Street, is a 20th-century construction.

*1995 Digital OS*

CAS/705

Building has occurred along New Road/Station Road.

*1995 Digital OS*

### 6.2.e Industrial sites

CAS/706

Works and a warehouse were constructed at the west end of Torbay Road. The gasworks and brickworks described above have been redeveloped. New amenities built for the town include a reservoir, a pumping station, and sewerage works.

*1995 Digital OS*

## V. THE POTENTIAL OF CASTLE CARY

### 1. Research interests

The town of Castle Cary exhibits considerable research potential. The foundation of the settlement in the Saxon period is suggested by the documentary evidence but has yet to be shown archaeologically. Much of the area suggested for this early settlement has not been built upon and thus material remains may survive to a large degree intact. The extent of the early settlement, the location of the earliest, pre-castle manorial buildings and the state of preservation of surviving deposits are all subjects which require research. The origins of the settlement at Ansford are less clear; again further archaeological investigation in the vicinity of the church may clarify this.

In the same way the castle site, manor and manor park form another unit which to a very large extent has remained free of later construction. The minor excavations carried out in the 19th and 20th century increased understanding of the form of the castle and the stratigraphy of the earthworks, however, no clear dates were obtained for the construction and destruction of these buildings.

Two areas of the town (along south Street and around the market place) have the appearance of having been planned, although no documentary evidence exists for these. Research into the dates of origins of these two areas would enable the order of development within the town to be established and to test Aston and Leech's suggestion that plots such as those along South Street can be approximately dated by form.

Castle Cary provides examples of buildings related to the cloth and rope industries. Moreover the area south of Mill Lane/Torbay Road appears to have been continuously used for industrial purposes, probably since Domesday. Although occupation of this area has been continuous, it has been limited in scale, which may have allowed survival of archaeological evidence of the earliest structures.

## **2. Areas of potentially exceptional preservation**

There are no known areas of exceptional preservation.

## **3. Limitations**

Archaeological preservation in the town is limited only by later building episodes.

## **4. Extent of current protection (Map E)**

Three conservation areas are included in the 1994 draft Local Plan document for Castle Cary. An AHAP has been designated using the information in this report. There are two scheduled monuments (the Round House in the market place and the castle). Many buildings are listed (see map E), particularly along the High Street and South Street.

## **5. Management Proposals**

See the Archaeological Guidance Document.

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**3. Maps**

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| c. 1650-70 | Map of the manor of Castle Cary showing the parishes of Castle Cary and Ansford drawn by J. Ward. (BM Add MS 9050): photograph in SRO |
| 1808       | OS Surveyors' Drawings at 3" for Castle Cary: fiche in SLHL   |
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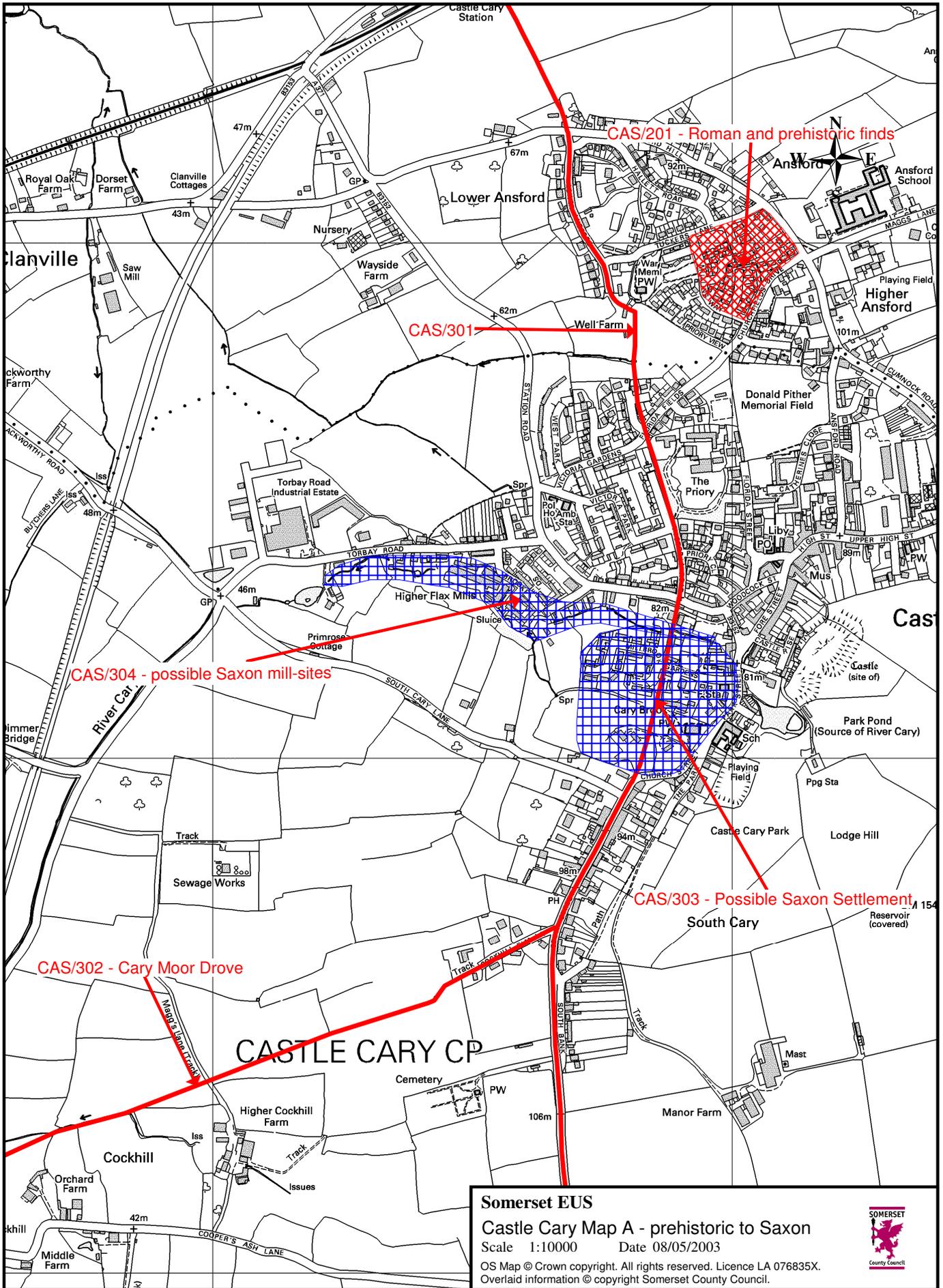
**VII. COMPONENT INDEXES****1. Component to map**

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| CAS/304          | A          | CAS/604          | C          |
| CAS/401          | B          | CAS/605          | C          |
| CAS/402          | B          | CAS/606          | C          |
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CAS/201 - Roman and prehistoric finds

CAS/301

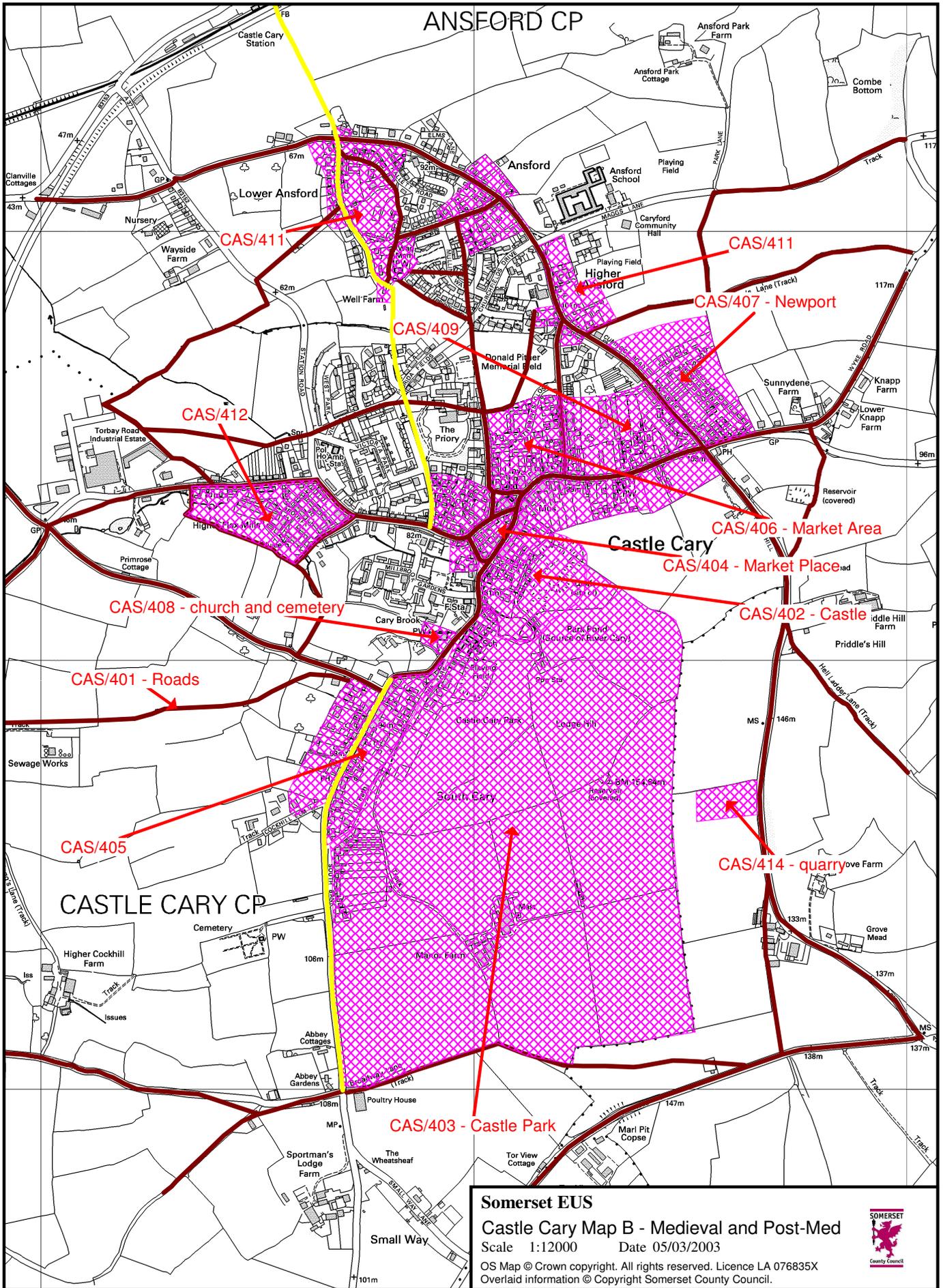
CAS/304 - possible Saxon mill-sites

CAS/302 - Cary Moor Drove

CAS/303 - Possible Saxon Settlement

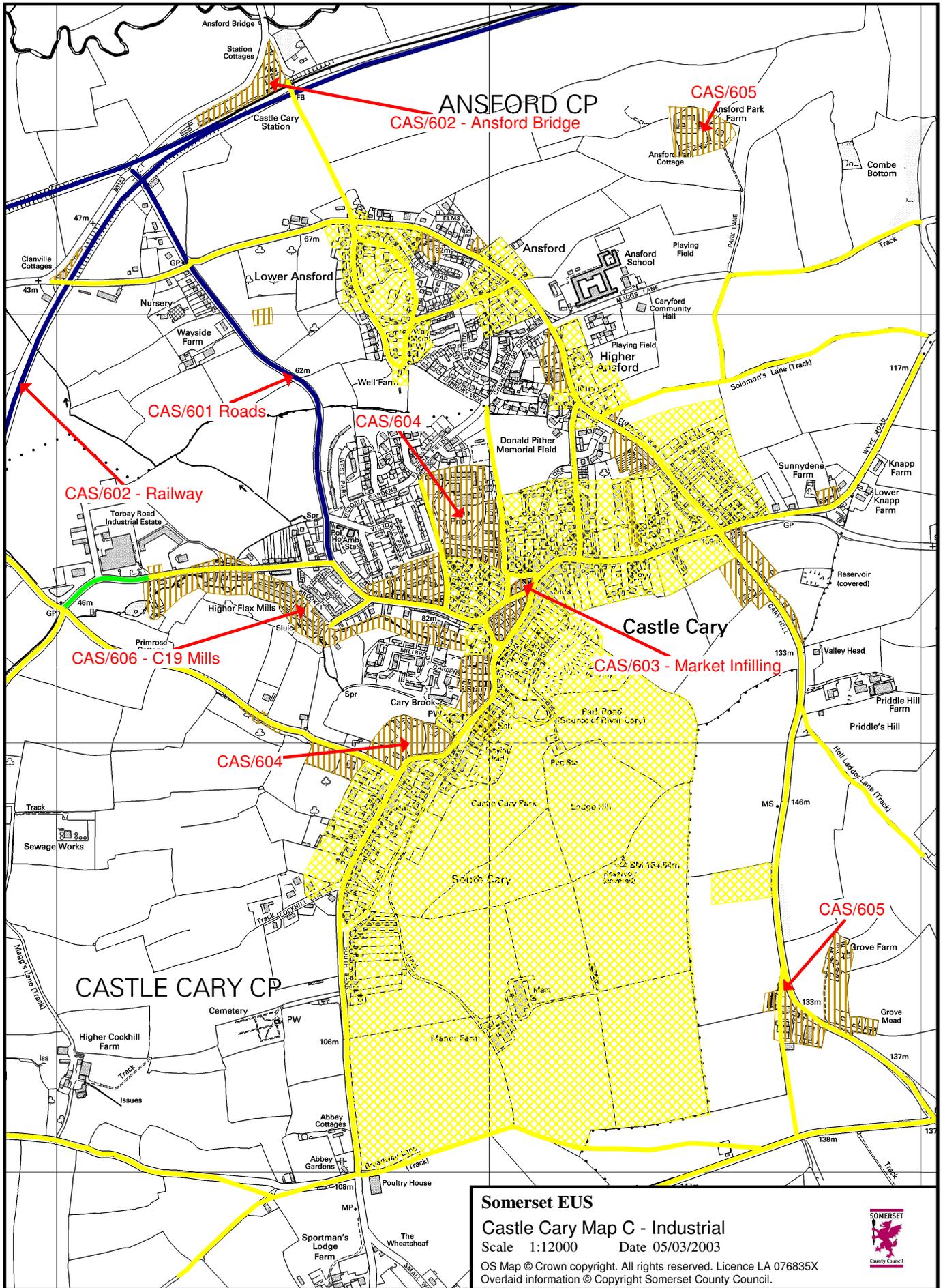
**Somerset EUS**  
**Castle Cary Map A - prehistoric to Saxon**  
 Scale 1:10000 Date 08/05/2003  
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**Castle Cary Map B - Medieval and Post-Med**  
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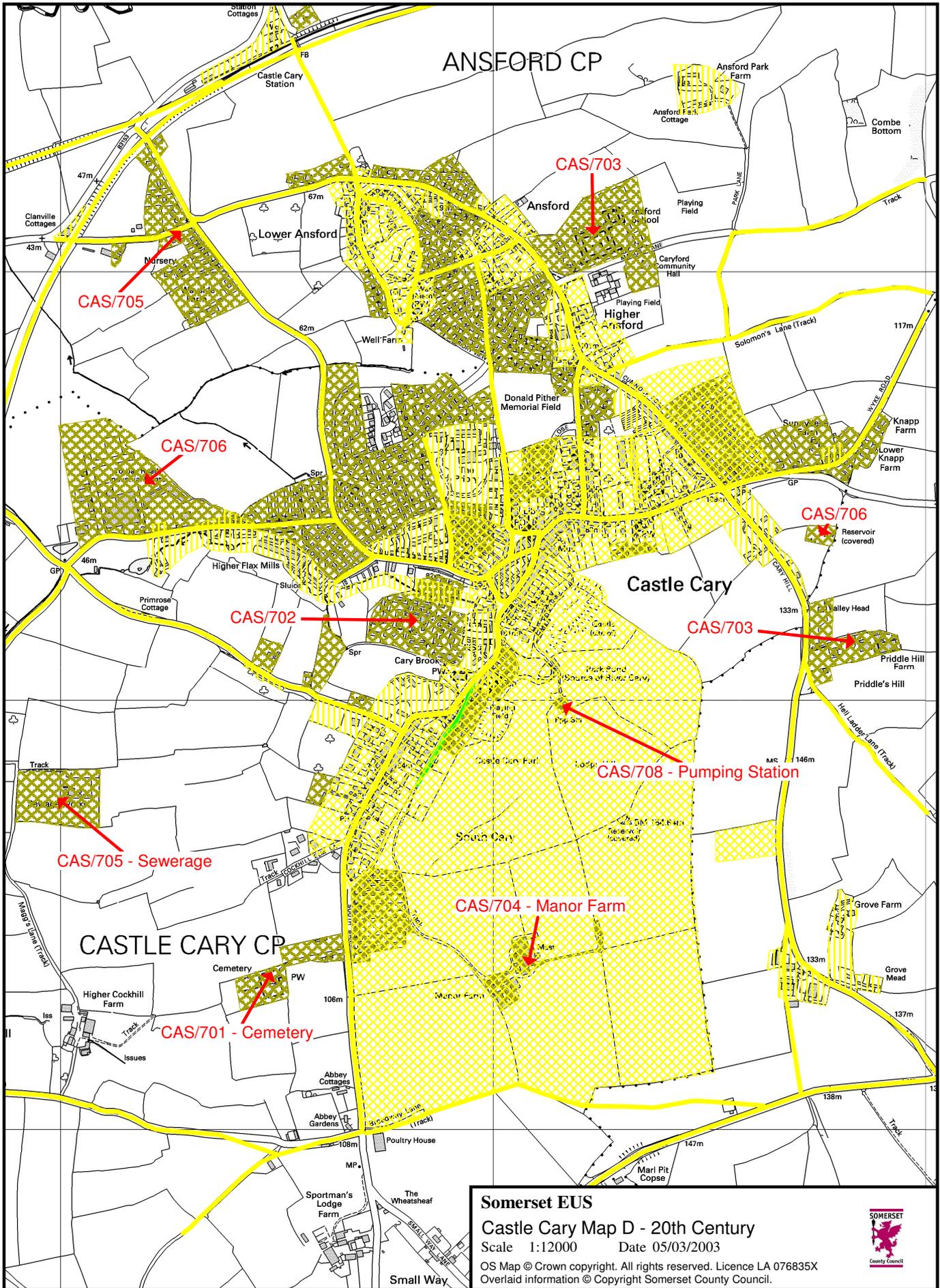




**Somerset EUS**  
**Castle Cary Map C - Industrial**  
 Scale 1:12000 Date 05/03/2003

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ANSEFORD CP

CASTLE CARY CP

**Somerset EUS**  
**Castle Cary Map D - 20th Century**  
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