English Heritage Extensive Urban Survey

An archaeological assessment of

Dunster

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SOMERSET

County Council

SOMERSET EXTENSIVE URBAN SURVEY

DUNSTER

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 aimof 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 2002.

English Heritage has funded two programmes assess the urban archaeological resourse - 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 Recordwith limited amounts of new information collected durng the project. Once the information has been collected and mapped, attention is focussed 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
The town of Dunster is moderately well documented and there are many more papers belonging to the manor. Many of the more important borough charters, grants and leases are noted or reproduced in Lyte's history (1909). None of this material has been studied for this report.

2. Local histories
Dunster has not been covered by the Victoria County History, though there are several alternatives. Early histories by Savage (1830) and Lyte (1909) cover the borough as well as the story of the Mohuns and Luttrells. The more recent work of Binding (1990) gives much useful information on various aspects of the town.

3. Maps
The earliest maps showing any detail of the town of Dunster date from around 1775, though there is a slightly earlier map of the Marsh area (1768). There are in addition plans giving limited details of the Castle, Castle gardens and churchyard: these date from between 1763 and 1775.

III. A BRIEF HISTORY OF DUNSTER

The town of Dunster sits between the Brendon Hills and the coastal plain, at the mouth of the Avill Valley. The settlement is at a minor nodal point, with access to upland, lowland and coastal resources. However, much of the surrounding land is of poor quality, flooding has in the past been frequent and the valley mouth has gradually been isolated from the sea through a process of silting. Nevertheless, the strategic and defensive potential of the tor has outweighed these local difficulties to some extent, enabling the settlement to command the early inland and raised coastal routes at a river crossing (though the focus of communications has subsequently shifted).

There is ample evidence of prehistoric activity in the shape of earthworks (including Bat's Castle, Black Ball Camp and

the Giants Chair) on the uplands around Dunster; evidence from the lower ground is confined to flint scatters, largely neolithic. The tor would appear to be a suitable site for a defended settlement but there is at present no evidence.

There are hints of a Roman presence in the area. Along the old Carhampton road (which has been suggested to be of Roman origin, or even older) several Roman coins were found in the 19th century. More recently, aerial photographs of the land at the foot of the Castle have shown what may be a Roman fort. Tradition also links Bat's Castle with the Romans, and in 1983 a small hoard of coins dating from 102BC to 350AD was discovered in the ramparts there.

Tradition also suggests both Post-Roman and Saxon fortified residences on Dunster tor. Again, the site seems eminently suitable but there is no evidence. What is certain is that a small agricultural settlement, called Torre, existed by the time of the Domesday Survey. The statistics in Domesday are surprising, showing a manor poor in agricultural land (having fewer ploughlands and a lower hidation than most of its near neighbours) but heavily populated and served, exceptionally, by two manor mills. Domesday also records that the value of the manor had risen by 200% between 1066 and 1086. The most likely explanation for these figures is that in the late 11th century Dunster was undergoing an early boom fuelled by the construction of the motte and bailey on the tor.

The first medieval castle was therefore established by the Mohuns soon after the Conquest, as was the Priory, which formed the other major institution in the medieval town. Before urban development really began, the Castle had been partially rebuilt in stone and had seen action in the civil wars of Stephen and Maud. The Castle saw further engagements in the medieval period - for example, in the barons' wars c1265, and in the Wars of the Roses. However, the relative continuity of overlordship, with the Mohuns selling the manor to the Luttrells in the 14th century, formed a stabilising influence.

The first mention of the borough is in 1197 and there are several further references to it in the 13th century. It had its own jury at the eyre in 1225, a charter of 1254-7 gave the burgesses certain privileges, and it was taxed as a borough in 1327. In 1266 there were 176.5 burgages in the town (Lyte, 1909). The market was flourishing by 1222.

However, the medieval economy of Dunster also depended on both its port and its cloth industry. The cloth industry, supplied by the upland sheep and the fast flowing streams of the surrounding area, was well established by the 13th century. Several fulling mills are referred to at this date, and *Dunsters* is recorded as a type of cloth. The industry flourished throughout the medieval period. In the mid 15th century the parishioners were able to fund the grandiose addition of the central tower to their church, though the construction of this tower became entwined in the culmination of disputes between church and Priory which resulted in the division and wholesale alteration of the church.

Despite this grand gesture, Dunster was already passing its apogee, partly due to problems with the harbour. There are many documentary references to the harbour from the 12th century onwards, and it was clearly important: 13th- and 14th- century State documents sent to "ports of the realm" were sent only to Bridgwater and Dunster in Somerset. Other documents show that silting became a problem from the 14th century onwards. A port was established at Minehead in the 15th century and gradually usurped Dunster's role.

The Yarn Market, built in the late 16th or early 17th century may represent a response to the troubles of the town. Indeed, despite the problems of the port, and competition from Watchet and Minehead, Dunster clung on as a centre of commerce and textiles through much of the post-medieval period. Leland in the 16th century noted that "there is a very celebrate market at Dunster once a week", though by the 17th century Gerard had little to say except that the town had a weekly market and a pretty harbour. The mid 17th century, in fact, was a troubled time for the town, with the coincidence of Civil War and plague. Initially held for Parliament, the Castle was subsequently ceded to the king's governor when the resident Luttrell changed sides and promptly died. In 1645 a long siege of the Castle began and though the fortress itself was well protected by virtue of its position, the town is said to have suffered badly from cannon shot and fire.

Nevertheless, it was not until the second half of the 18th century that a severe decline in Dunster's mainstay, the textile industry, began, under pressure of competition from the increasingly mechanised industry of the north. Rack rents collapsed in the middle of the century, mills failed and the population fell. The creation of the turnpikes from 1765 onwards, and (eventually) a new road from Minehead, came too late to reverse this process. By 1791, Collinson could note a considerable decline in the occupation of properties in Dunster and say that "the town of Dunster itself is

inconsiderable, consisting chiefly of two streets ... the principal street is ... blocked up in the middle by an old market cross, and a long range of old, ruinous shambles".

Collinson's comments reflect a state of depression and dilapidation which continued into the early decades of the 19th century. However, after 1801 the population slowly began to rise again, a small recovery based not on wool and textiles but on a general market function. The gradual return of prosperity enabled a major facelift of the market area, which swept away the medieval shambles and market crosses, to take place. Braggs Directory of 1840 says that "a considerable wool trade was formerly carried on here, but it is now wholly lost, and the population are dependent on the retail business of the neighbourhood". By this time, too, the borough of Dunster had been disenfranchised (following the Reform Act).

The population continued to rise slowly until 1911, since which time the general trend has been downward. But, ironically, Dunster's lack of dramatic growth in the 19th century - with the consequent preservation of the historic fabric of the town - has fuelled its success in the later part of the 20th as a "tourist honeypot".

IV. THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF DUNSTER

GENERAL COMMENTS

0.1. Archaeological knowledge
There is remarkably little specific archaeological information on Dunster town. With the exception of a little work on the Castle driveway, there has been no archaeological work in the town.

0.2. Standing structures
The lack of archaeological work is due in part to the heavy constraints (in the form of listing or scheduling) on development in and around Dunster. Apart from monuments such as the Castle and Priory ruins, many post-medieval (and some medieval) domestic buildings survive in the urban core. Beyond the urban area, earthworks stand as relics not only of prehistoric activity but also of medieval and post-medieval park definition and landscaping.

1. PREHISTORIC
(Map A)

1.1. Archaeological knowledge
The SMR contains details of several late prehistoric monuments on the hills to the south and west of Dunster: the closest of these are shown on Map A. There have also been several flint finds, largely of neolithic material, in the surrounding lowland areas: some of these are marked on Map A, but others in the Dunster area include tools from a field near Ellicombe (SMR 33570).

1.2. Context
Dunster 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 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. Indeed, Dunster is also one of three at which the suggestion has been made that the medieval castle directly overlies a prehistoric earthwork, with the resultant implication of continuity. This is unproven, and though the Tor would certainly have been a suitable site from which to control the same routes, river crossing and range of resources which the later town exploited, a number of other known earthworks in the area could have performed the same function.

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

1.3.a. Settlement/ Military sites

DUN/301   Dunster Tor
                 Dunster tor is shown because it is an obvious site for possible prehistoric occupation. The site has
                 been extensively remodelled since the prehistoric period, however, and there is no visible evidence
                 of early occupation.

                 Main entry under *medieval*.

                 The tor area is defined from the contours of the modern map.

DUN/102   Bat's Castle
                 Bat's Castle (SMR 33442, 33443; SM 24002) on Gallox Hill is a small multivallate iron age hillfort
                 with associated outwork. It forms one of a pattern of small, intervisible enclosures on the hills, and
                 may be associated with the Withycombe Hill settlement and field system further to the south-east
                 (SMR 34264). The SMR contains a full description of the form of the earthwork, which has not been
                 archaeologically excavated and has suffered from early 20th century ploughing and later 20th century
                 visitor erosion.

                 A hoard of Roman coins (dating between 102BC and 350AD) was discovered in the ramparts of
                 Bat's Castle in 1983. This may imply that the site was abandoned in the Roman period.

DUN/101   Black Ball Camp
                 Black Ball Camp (SMR 33565, SM 24003) on Gallox Hill is a univallate iron age enclosure,
                 possibly an outwork of Bat's Castle. The camp has been somewhat disturbed, but remains of a hut
                 circle are still visible in the interior. To the north of the enclosure are the remains of a field system
                 (SMR 35329). The SMR contains full descriptions of the form of the earthworks.

DUN/104   The Giant's Chair
                 The Giant's Chair (SMR 33567) on Grabbist Hill may be the remains of an iron age hillfort, though
                 if so the defences appear unfinished. The remaining earthworks have also been interpreted as post-
                 medieval lynchets: this may represent a reuse of the site. Outworks extending to the north, visible
                 on aerial photographs, have subsequently been ploughed out. The SMR contains further details.

                 The above are all defined from the SMR.

1.3.b. Artefact scatters

DUN/103   Flint scatters
                 Flint finds close to Dunster include a scatter south-east of Bat's Castle (a neolithic arrowhead and
                 scrapers, SMR 35237), and neolithic adzes and a macehead from near Dunster station, reportedly
                 in a ballast pit (SMR 33793, 35238).

                 From the SMR.

2. ROMAN
(Map A)

2.1. Archaeological knowledge
There is some evidence of Roman presence around Dunster, with scattered finds of coins along the old Carhampton road
(SMR 34826, not exactly located) and at Bat's Castle (see p6). Recently, aerial photographs have produced evidence
of possible occupation.

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.

Dunster is one of 26 of the 45 historic towns covered by this project at which there is no evidence of Roman settlement, except for the possible fort site. There was, however, certainly activity in the surrounding uplands, and evidence so far suggests that the site of Dunster, from which to routeways, river crossing and a range of resources could be controlled, may have been on one of the Roman lines of penetration into West Somerset. If the suspected Roman fort site at the foot of the Tor is confirmed, it will be one of only five such associations between fort and later town amongst the towns studied.

2.3. *Archaeological features, shown on Map A*
Until recently it seemed there had been no Roman occupation at Dunster itself. However, the possible identification of a Roman fort below the tor and close to the ford means this may have to be reconsidered.

2.3.a. Communications
(a) Roads

DUN/202	<u>A possible Roman road</u>

The old Carhampton road (SMR 33453) may be of Roman origin - or earlier (Binding, in litt.) - although there is little evidence for this. This road was blocked in the mid 18th century when the deer park was created.

The line of the road is from the SMR.

(b) Military sites

DUN/201	<u>The Roman fort (?)</u>

A rectangular enclosure appears on aerial photographs of the land at the foot of the Castle. This has been tentatively interpreted as a possible Roman fort (SMR 35240).

From the SMR.

3. SAXON
(Map B)

3.1. *Archaeological knowledge*
There is little archaeological knowledge of the early Saxon settlement.

3.2. *Context*
The Post-Roman and early Saxon periods were characterised by a return to non-urban lifestyles - and, indeed, Dunster may have been one of two towns associated with fortifications in this period. But 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. Dunster 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. *Archaeological components, shown on Map B*
3.3.a. Communications
(a) Roads
It is probable that some of the roads which survive in the largely medieval street plan of Dunster are of Saxon or earlier origin, though there may have been earlier road lines which were diverted in the laying out of the medieval town.

DUN/304   Roads of possible Saxon origin
                 These roads formed part of the medieval street plan and may be of Saxon or earlier origin. However, it is possible that the original alignments have been altered somewhat to accommodate medieval tenement blocks - at the junction of St George's St and West St, for example, or along West St itself.

                 The mapped streets are from the 1775 maps, and their origin is conjectural.

DUN/303   A possible early road line
                 The market place laid out in the medieval period has a dogleg access at each end, suggesting the diversion of an earlier more direct route. There is no evidence for the precise course of this conjectured early lane.

                 Conjectural, plotted from the suggestions of Aston & Leech, 1977.

3.3.b. Military sites
DUN/301   Dunster Tor
                 Tradition associates the tor with a pre-Conquest fortification. As with the possible prehistoric occupation, however, there is no archaeological evidence and limited potential for the recovery of any.

                 Main entry under *medieval*.

3.3.c. Settlement
DUN/302   The Saxon settlement
                 Though a pre-Domesday settlement is known to have existed at Dunster, its location is uncertain. The marked area is conjectural, its position based on the location of the church (though there is as yet no direct evidence for a pre-Conquest church) adjacent to a convergence of routes. Potentially, it may contain the site of a pre-Conquest church and churchyard (on approximately the same site as the medieval ones), and remains of early dwellings.

                 Although this area lies west of the main medieval borough focus, much of it will have been affected by the conjectured reorientation of routes, and by the laying out of later tenements along West St. The west side of St George's St may have been least affected in the medieval and post-medieval periods, but has subsequently been available for modern development. Since the archaeology associated with Saxon settlement is seldom robust, being the remains of ephemeral timber buildings, the potential of the marked area remains uncertain.

                 The marked area is conjectural.

4. MEDIEVAL
(Map C)

4.1. Archaeological knowledge
There has been little or no archaeological investigation of Dunster. Therefore, though some of the components of the medieval town (SMR 33566) survive relatively well, many details of the archaeology remain obscure. Moreover, there remain major questions to be answered - such as the location and migration of the medieval harbour, the boundary of the Priory precinct, the maximum extent of the medieval settlement, and the extent to which the construction of the Norman motte and bailey has destroyed or utilised the remains of earlier occupation. So despite the apparent transparency of Dunster's town plan, some of the zone definitions in fact rely on supposition.

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.

Dunster is one of 20 of the 45 historic towns covered by this project which first acquired urban status in the medieval period, and one of the ten of these 20 which acquired full borough status. Indeed, it had in the 14th century the 5th largest population of all the towns covered in the survey. Dunster 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 also one of the two castle towns (the other was Bridgwater) associated with Somerset's only two medieval 'ports of the realm' (though nine more of the 45 towns, including two further castle towns, also had a harbour or quays). Dunster was one of eight of the towns which had at least one large or important religious establishment affecting the town's development in the medieval period, though the castle was in this case a more important influence. 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.

Dunster is particularly well-preserved and is one of the three classic castle/priory/ borough survivals in Somerset (the others are Montacute and Stogursey).

4.3. Standing structures and visible remains
A limited number of structures of medieval origin survive in Dunster. These include the Castle gatehouse (SMR LB 34919); St George's Church (SMR LB 34928), the churchyard cross (SMR LB 34929), and the priest's house (SMR LB 34927); parts of the Priory buildings (SMR 34978); and the packhorse bridge (SMR LB 34973). There are few surviving domestic buildings (though post-medieval facades may conceal earlier frames): only the cottages in Church St (SMR LB 34923) really fall into this category, though the Luttrell Arms (SMR LB 34949) is also of medieval origin. Just beyond the town stands the relocated Butter Cross (SMR LB 34987) and further out at Lower Marsh much of the old house survives (SMR LB 34991). The listed buildings of medieval origin in the urban core are shown on Map C, whilst those in the outlying area are shown on Map D.

4.4. Archaeological components (centre), shown on **Map C**
4.4.a. Redevelopment in earlier settlement components
The medieval town superseded the earlier settlement. The Castle obscured any earlier earthworks on the Tor and has been described as a medieval castle.

4.4.b. Communications
(a) Roads
DUN/423   The medieval street plan
             The street plan of the established medieval town survives well in the centre: it appears to represent a new market street appended to and perhaps laid out partially across an older, more irregular route network. The expansion of the town and the laying out of further tenement blocks down West Street, Park Street (Water Street) and Gallox St may have led to changes in alignment and frontage line which are no longer obvious. The junction of St George's Street and West St, for example, now appears quite natural: on the 1775(a) map, however, the change of angle is much sharper, suggesting a diversion to allow the laying out of the West Street burgages. The history of the modern street lines

cannot, therefore, be regarded as fully established.

The roads are mostly defined from the 1775 maps.

To the north and south of Dunster, there have been several re-alignments and abandonments of roads, mostly associated with the creation of the post-medieval deer park (SMR 33441) and the new Minehead road.

DUN/418   St Thomas' St
St Thomas' Street, along which there was probably medieval suburban growth, represented the early alignment of the road to the Dunster Marsh commons and estates, and (perhaps in the post-medi eval period) the sea haven. It also formed the link to the main Carhampton to Minehead route (which bypassed Dunster from at least the post-medieval period, possibly the late medieval, onward). The alignment was altered in the 19th century with the creation of Dunster steep.

From the 1775(a) map.

DUN/421   Frackford Bridge
The alignment of the road over Frackford Bridge was only altered this century with the building of the new bridge.

From the 1775(a) map.

DUN/420   The Prior's Road
Another road (SMR 33461), for the upkeep of which the Prior was responsible in the medieval period, and which led along the foot of Henstey Shibbercliff, towards Saltry Lane and the coast, has been completely obliterated.

From the SMR.

DUN/422   Gallox Lane
Gallox Lane continued westwards until the 19th century. It was open in 1775, but had been partly blocked by the time of the tithe map (1842).

From the 1775 map.

(b) Bridges
DUN/416   Gallox Bridge
Gallox Bridge (SMR 34621, SMR LB 34973, SM 22093) is a medieval packhorse bridge, which carried the Dunster to Carhampton traffic before the creation of the post-medi eval deer park.

The listed building outline is shown.

(c) Harbour and quays
DUN/409   The medieval harbour
There is considerable uncertainty over the location of the medieval harbour. References in the Gesta Stephani suggest that the river was tidal and navigable at least as far as the Castle. If this was so, then the first quays are likely to have been at the foot of the Castle. The river course in this area is a product of 18th and 19th century landscaping schemes, and these may have damaged - or preserved - the remains of the early harbour.

After the river began to silt up in the 14th century, the quays may have crept north and they are supposed to have been still usable by small vessels in the 16th century. Dunster possessed ocean-going ships in the medieval period, however, and it is possible that the sea haven at Dunster Marsh which eventually became Dunster's only usable harbour in the post-medieval period (see below, *post-medieval*) was already in use in the medieval period. It may in any case have been the centre of sea

fishing and shipbuilding activities (Binding, 1990).

The marked area is conjectural.

4.4.c. Water
Not mapped The course and character of the River Avill has altered considerably since the medieval period, with the silting up and reclamation of the estuary from the 14th century onwards. Gallox Bridge *may* mark the medieval tidal limit, for there are 12th century references to the tide lapping at the foot of the Castle. Perhaps this description is fanciful (Gibb, 1981): but we know little enough about the river, which has several times been diverted and channelled since the demise of Dunster's harbour, to keep an open mind. There is insufficient information to map the early course of the river: the earliest map giving any detail dates from 1775(a), postdating the 18th century landscaping.

DUN/414 **St Leonard's Well**
St Leonard's Well (SMR 34814) fed a conduit supplying the Priory and two public water troughs. One of the troughs can still be seen in the churchyard wall, and the other was at the south end of the High Street; few other details of the water supply and drainage systems of the medieval town are known. The wellhead dates from the 16th century (SMR LB 34934), and probably represents a rebuilding of a medieval structure. There is an underground reservoir.

DUN/424 **Gallox Well**
Gallox Well (SMR 33573) may have supplied the Gallox Street suburb in the Medieval period.

The well sites are marked from the SMR.

DUN/417 **The mill leat**
The lord of the manor's mill leat branched off the River Avill west of Frackford and ran parallel with the road through the south-west fringe of medieval Dunster (the area known as Tucker Street?) before turning to run round the foot of the Castle and feed the lower mills. By the late medieval period, this leat was supplying a number of fulling mills and dye houses before it reached the manor mills (see below).

From the 1775(a) map.

4.4.d. Military sites
DUN/301 **The Castle**
The Castle (SMR 34622, SM Som 469) was already in existence (or in the process of construction) by the time of the Domesday Survey, though the site may have been fortified before the Conquest (see above, *prehistoric* and *Saxon*). The Domesday castle was a motte and bailey, the motte being constructed by major reshaping of the existing tor, and the bailey being formed on a (perhaps) natural ledge some 80 feet below the levelled summit. It has proved difficult to distinguish the Norman structure from the natural hillside, largely because of the extent of post-medi eval landscaping, but also because of a lack of archaeological work on the site: archaeological investigation has been confined to a little work on the Castle driveway (in 1984), which showed the drive to run on an artificial terrace, probably of post-medieval date.

There was a stone castle by 1138: a description in the mid 12th century Gesta Stephani tells of "impregnable defences ... inaccessible on the one side where it was washed by the tide and very strongly fortified on the other by towers and walls, by a rampart and outworks". No masonry of this date survives. The Castle was besieged in the mid 12th century for King Stephen and siege works are known to have been erected: no trace of these has yet been found. The Castle continued to become more elaborate in the medieval period, with buildings proliferating in the wards and at the foot of the tor. A 1266 extent lists the following: in the upper ward - a hall with buttery, pantry, kitchen and bakehouse, a chapel, a knights' hall, three towers and a prison; in the lower ward, three towers and a granary; and below, near the river and town - a cowhouse, stables, dovecote, and dairy.

Most of the medieval ancillary structures were lost in the post-medi eval period (after the Civil War) and 18th century. Remaining medieval fabric includes some 13th century work and the early 15th century gatehouse (SMR LB 34919, extended in the 18th century).

Extensive restoration and rebuilding had taken place in the early 15th century. However, during the Wars of the Roses, the Castle estates were attaindered by the Yorkists. They were recovered as fortunes fluctuated, but by now the Castle had ceased to be the main Luttrell residence, with the East Quantoxhead house superseding it. This situation continued until the 16th century when George Luttrell (who also built the Minehead harbour, and the Yarn Market amongst other things) built the mansion in the lower ward.

The Castle resumed its military role in the Civil War, being held first for Parliament, then for the King. It was besieged in 1645, the King's garrison surrendering in 1646. The walls were partially undermined during the siege; it is not clear whether any additional fortifications or siege works were erected. An order was given to dismantle the Castle in 1650. Much of the medieval fabric (particularly in the upper ward) was indeed removed. However, the 16th century residence was spared and the Castle remained a private residence for the remainder of the post-medieval period, with extensive reconstruction of the mansion in the 17th century. It is to this period of the Castle's history that the surviving stables (SMR LB 34918) belong. A 1733 prospect by the Bucks shows the extent of survival of medieval features at that time.

In the early - mid 18th century, about the same time as the laying out of the deer park, there was much landscaping around the Castle. So much earth-shifting took place, with the creation of terraces and the re-levelling and scarping of the top, that much of the early archaeology may have been damaged or lost. On the other hand, the level of the lower ward was *raised*, burying rather than removing earlier deposits.

In the mid 19th century the house itself was subject to major alterations, being extended and "medievalised" by Salvin; there was further landscaping of the gardens.

See also under *prehistoric* and *Saxon*.

The Castle area is defined from the contours of the modern map, and to include the stable area at the foot of the slope.

4.4.e. Manors and estates

DUN/419   The Hanger
The medieval deer park (SMR 33568) lay to the north of the later park. Known as the Small Park (as opposed to the Marshwood park east of Carhampton) or the Hanger in the medieval period, it was much closer to the town. The pale ran close to the backs of properties on the east side of the High Street: originally a wooden pale, it was eventually walled and parts close to the town still remain. While the limits appear to have changed during the medieval period (with the recorded acreage in 1428 being 100 acres, but in the 16th century only 72 acres) and have not been precisely mapped (in the SMR at least), documentary references to lengths of pale imply that the park covered the area between the town and part of the lawns. The park contained a one-acre fishpond, the site of which is unknown.

The area of the old park, particularly that closest to the Castle, was considerably remodelled and landscaped in the post-medieval period and the 19th century.

The lengths of pale are mapped from grid references and textual descriptions given in the SMR.

DUN/415   Conygar
Conygar Wood was originally the warren (SMR 33578) belonging to the Castle estates. Being too close to the town, the rabbits became a nuisance and the warren was moved to part of the marsh east

of Minehead. Conygar Hill reverted to pasture land and later became part of the landscape scheme. It now houses the folly built in 1760-70. Parts of the hill have also been quarried.

4.4.f. Burials sites, religious houses and places of worship

DUN/404

The Priory and the medieval church

The church (SMR LB 34928) and churchyard (SMR 33569) are first referred to in 1090, when the church was given to Bath Abbey; though it is not certain that there was an earlier church on the site, it is possible. By 1177 a distinct Benedictine Priory complex (SMR 34816, a daughter house of Bath) was in operation and from 1262 the Priory had its own manor (with increased endowment from the Mohuns).

The medieval church therefore functioned as both parish church and Priory church. The burial area was to the west and south-west: the churchyard cross (SMR 34818) dates from the 13th century. There is some remaining Norman fabric in the church, though much is 15th and 16th century work. Extensive alterations and additions were undertaken in the 15th century, due in part due to a series of disputes between the townsmen and the Priory which culminated in a decision to divide the church physically. The central tower dates from the mid 15th century (perhaps predating the division of the church): unusually contract documents for the work have survived. The interior of the church was divided by the rood screen and a separate choir was constructed for the parishioners. The church was restored in the 19th century.

A little is known of the Priory complex, which lay to the north of the church, but few buildings survive, except for the 16th century Tithe Barn (SMR 34819), Dovecote (SMR 34618, SM Som 33) and a few other late buildings, possibly including the refectory or the Prior's lodging. The Priory was dissolved at the Dissolution and Priory Farm became a private residence, whereas Leland says "the hole chirche of the late Priory servith now for the paroche chirch...". Parts of the Priory buildings are incorporated into largely Post-medieval dwellings on Priory Green (SMR LB 34978). It is not known how extensive the original Priory buildings were, and so a wide area should be regarded as of potential significance: moreover, survival of archaeological deposits is likely to be very good, due to the lack of intensive later development in much of the area.

The limits of the precinct are not entirely clear. It was probably bounded by Church Street, St George's Street and the backs of the High Street properties (Aston & Leech, 1977). It is however possible that there was encroachment during the medieval period in the churchyard itself. The northern limit is not clear: the marked limit is conjecture, based on the continuity of this field line on 18th and 19th century maps.

See below, *post-medi eval*, for the post-Dissolution churchyard.

The churchyard and precinct outline is marked from the suggestions in the SMR and Aston & Leech (1977), and from the 1775(a) map.

DUN/426

The chapel of St Thomas

A chapel of St Thomas is recorded north-east of the market place, at the exit from the original borough and in the conjectured medieval suburb of St Thomas. Whether anything remains of this is not known.

The approximate site is marked from the SMR, though the actual site is not known.

DUN/425

The gallows

This is the probable site of the gallows, which may have been surrounded by felons' burials (Binding, 1990). The site was much altered out when the area was emparked.

Marked from the suggestions of Binding (1990).

4.4.g. Settlement (Urban)
(a) Commercial core
DUN/401   The market
               The cigar-shaped market street, High Street, was probably laid out in the late 12th century. Stalls
               and a shambles (SMR 34815) existed down the middle by 1423. These appear on the 1775 maps
               and an artist's impression dated c1800 exists. The Yarn Market (SMR 34619, SM 22092) was built
               in the late 16th/ early 17th century (dates given in different sources vary somewhat).

               The shambles, old market hall, tub cross, corn cross, stocks and butter cross were all pulled down
               c1825. One of the crosses, the 15th century Butter Cross (SMR 34620, SM 22091), was relocated
               on the road to Ellicombe.

               The southern part of the market does not seem to have suffered significantly from encroachment,
               though there may have been some movement of frontages. The 1775(a) map, however, shows that
               the shape of the open northern area has altered somewhat, particularly on its western side.

               The market has been defined from the 1775(a) map.

Not mapped   West Street formed a secondary market place by the late medieval period.

DUN/402   High Street burgages
               The regular plots along the High Street probably represent the original burgage areas laid out with
               the market place in the 12th century (possibly across an old road line). These are short burgages,
               constrained to the rear by the eastern boundary of the Priory precinct and the western boundary of
               the Hanger. Given the success of the borough in the high medieval period, activity in these burgages
               can be expected to have been quite intense, with, perhaps, a high number of outbuildings to the rear
               of the post-medieval and 19th century frontages (most of which are listed). The absence of damaging
               deep modern development in central Dunster means that the survival of remains of medieval
               residential/ commercial properties may be particularly good.

               Defined from the 1775(a) map.

DUN/403   Other urban plots
               These areas, adjacent to the obvious burgage plots, are slightly more complex in nature: more
               detailed research might elucidate their character. Those nearest to the Castle appear to contain
               associated open areas and courtyards on the 1775 maps: the area was occupied in part by the Castle
               home farm in the 19th century, and this may be the explanation. Since this map was drawn in the
               middle of Dunster's economic trough, however, it may not reflect accurately the medieval situation.

               The plots on the east and west sides of the northern part of the market may have been part of the
               burgage area: they share the uniform back boundary. The east-side block is the site of the Luttrell
               Arms (SMR LB 34949, the former residence of the Abbots of Cleeve), the building of which
               originated in the late 15th or early 16th century. The west-side block is angled slightly differently
               to the main burgage area, and may represent an addition: part of this area was clipped by the 19th
               century access road to the vicarage.

               The block on the north side of the market apparently consisted of cottages by 1775, and possibly
               represents the westernmost extent of the St Thomas Street suburb (see below).

               Defined from the 1775 maps.

DUN/405   West Street burgages
               These are areas of probable later burgage plots, planted as part of the expansion of the successful
               medieval town. The true extent of the medieval town has not been ascertained, with a widespread
               abandonment of properties in the late post-medieval period documented. Of the areas marked here,

those which spread across land which is now open are partly conjectural: they have not been tested. These areas may contain well preserved archaeological deposits, if they were truly within the medieval town. Other parts of the marked areas have continued in more or less intensive use according to distance from the town centre, with West St (which had its own market) particularly resilient. Work at No 21 has revealed, in a small area, bread ovens, a culvert, a partly filled in well and the foundations of a possible pigsty. The communicating doors in the West St tenements are said to date from the plague time of 1645, when people were afraid to go out. They came in useful in the 19th century, when several tenants occupied more than one property.

Defined partly from the 1775 maps and partly from the suggestions of Aston & Leech (1977) and Bond (c1990).

(b) Suburbs

DUN/407   <u>Medieval suburbs</u>
                 Possible suburbs south of Gallox Bridge and north-east of the market along St Thomas Street are suggested in several sources. Parts of these areas were still in occupation in 1775, notably the south side of St Thomas Street and the west side of Gallox Street (the east side lay within the park in the 18th century and may also have done so in the medieval period). The extent and quality of archaeological deposits in these areas is unknown.

                 Conjectural, partly based on Aston & Leech (1977).

4.4.h. Industrial sites

(a) Mills

The history of milling at Dunster is complex and incompletely understood, but the story of the interplay between the privately run fulling mills and the manorial corn mills, which were all supplied by the manor leat (DUN/417) is of great interest. There were already two corn mills by Domesday, and by the late 15th century another corn mill and at least four fulling and tucking mills were in existence (Binding, 1990). Since all the fulling mills (and dye houses) were upstream of the main manor mills, there were constant problems with blockages and pollution. In 1492, regulations were introduced prohibiting the textile houses from flushing out their effluent, except during certain evening hours. However, the lord of the manor had effective methods of sanction available to him: when one of the fulling mills, Colle's mill, was converted to a corn mill in the 16th century, thus competing directly with the manor mill, the water supply was promptly diverted around it.

Many of the mills continued until the second half of the 18th century.

DUN/408   <u>Castle Mill</u>
                 This mill (SMR 34817, SMR LB 34968) is on the site of the lower of the two original mills, which was referred to as Nethermylle in 1329. In 1427, another mill, the Newmylle, was built next door to Nethermylle, and by 1620 the two were combined and known as Lower Mill. There are also references to a *fulling* mill being added to the Castle mill in the 16th century. The mill buildings were heavily restored in 1779-82 and most of the surviving early features date from this period. It is not known how much, if anything survives of the early mill buildings, though with the proximity of water on both sides of the mill, preservation of archaeological remains can be expected to be good. However, by the early 19th century, the mill had fallen into a state of dilapidation (not helped by the fact that occupants of one of the upstream houses used to divert the leat to irrigate their land). In its picturesque state, the mill was already a tourist attraction by the early 20th century. It was repaired and put to work during World War Two, though it closed again in 1962. The mill has now been again restored and is a working mill with two overshot wheels. It was surveyed in 1970: there is material relating to it in the NMR.

                 Mill Bridge, mentioned in medieval documents was associated with this mill: the precise site is not known: the river/ leat junction has altered somewhat since the medieval period.

                 The area is defined from the 1775 maps.

DUN/411   Overmylle
               The other early corn mill, referred to as Overmylle in 1329, must have been upstream of the
               surviving mill. References to it cease in 1779. Since this date is later than the existing town map,
               the mill ought to appear on it. There is indeed a small building overhanging the mill leat at the
               junction of the leat and what is now Mill Lane. This has been tentatively identified as a possible site
               for the mill, though further research would be necessary to confirm or deny this. It could also be one
               of the fulling mills which decayed in the same period. Mill Lane did not exist as a proper roadway
               at this time, but was a track crossing an open area through which the leat ran. This area has been
               altered by the construction of the metalled roadway in the 19th century, but it is possible that remains
               of the building may survive.

               From the 1775 maps.

DUN/406   Tucker Street milling area
               The sites of the fulling mills have not all been identified for certain: many of the documentary
               references to them confusingly locate them in relation to vanished or renamed features of the town,
               such as Le Colverhay and Barlebienshey, which have not been identified either. However, this part
               of West Street, with the mill leat channelled under the backs of the buildings, can probably be
               identified with the Tucker Street referred to in the medieval period, and may contain the sites of at
               least two mills. More detailed research could clarify the situation. One mill is said to have been near
               the pound, at the west end of this area (Gould, M). Another belonged to the Abbot of Cleeve in the
               medieval period: it was this one which was later converted to a grist mill, the old fulling mill being
               demolished (Lyte, 1909).

               As well as fulling mills, this marked area contained poorhouses (and, later, the workhouse). Since
               the medieval period, with the failure of the mills, there has been more general urban development in
               the area, less restricted than along the High Street, but still not particularly intensive.

               This area has been defined from the 1775 maps.

DUN/410   Frackford Mill
               Frackford fulling mill is clearly marked on the 1775(a) map. It was in ruins by 1820. The site may
               have been affected by the realignment of the road, though the waterside should not have been. Since
               it seems to have been abandoned on the demise of the mill, it is possible that remains of the complex
               might survive (depending on the extent of the demolition).

               From the 1775(a) map.

(b) Other industrial sites
The woollen industry was the main medieval industry and the fulling mills (see above) the main installations.

Not mapped   There are references to racks on the south facing slopes of Grabbist Hill, and on the slopes of the
               Castle tor. The exact locations are not known. An area at the lower end of West St was cleared (it
               had been waste ground) in the 16th century for tenting racks. Terraces for the racks were built on
               Grabbist Hill in the 18th century, abandoned by the end of the century: these terraces are likely to
               have removed all traces of the earlier use.

(c) Agricultural sites
Not mapped   No details of the town's fields have been ascertained, although it is possible that the later tenement
               blocks may have been laid out in the old strip pattern. The burgesses commons were on Dunster
               saltmarsh.

               There are reputed to have been vineyards on the south-facing slopes of Grabbist Hill in the 13th
               century (Binding, 1990).

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

Dunster town has not swallowed any separate settlements, but is historically associated with the Marsh settlements. In the medieval period, Higher and Lower Marsh were estates belonging to the lord of the manor, and there was an associated hamlet. They were close to the fowling marsh, the later medieval warren, the burgesses' commons, the shore fishweirs (SMR 33776) and, probably, to fishing and shipbuilding areas. As the harbour migrated north, the link between the marsh and the town would have become more important. The marsh area is therefore mapped under the heading of *post-medieval* Dunster, though elements of it other than those below were certainly of medieval origin.

4.5.a. Manors and estates

DUN/412   Lower Marsh
The old medieval house at Lower Marsh, a building of 15th century origin, still survives in part (SMR LB 34991). The 1768 map shows the house, together with gardens to the north. An orchard to the south is not included in the marked area.

From the 1768 map.

DUN/413   Higher Marsh
The 1768 map shows another large residence at the north end of Marsh St, with a court and garden court mapped. The house, the site of which is now partially covered by the new road alignment (though archaeological deposits may survive), and by a 19th century farm, may be in origin the Higher Marsh house.

From the 1768 map.

5. POST-MEDI EVAL
(Map D)

5.1. Archaeological knowledge
There is little archaeological knowledge of post-medieval Dunster.

5.2. Context
The basic pattern of towns had been established by the end of the middle ages, and there were very few major changes in 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. Dunster was no exception, and was one of many of the 45 historic towns covered by this project which held its own economically for much of this period and, although it was one of the few Somerset towns which suffered directly in the Civil War, it remained an important cloth town.

5.3. Standing structures
There are many 17th and 18th century buildings in the town, and possibly more early structures hidden behind later facades. A number of these are domestic buildings, which are concentrated along High Street and (to a lesser extent) West Street. Major structures of this period include the yarn market (SMR LB 34962, SM 22092), the Castle mansion (SMR LB 34919, partly 19th century) and the dovecote (SMR LB 34982, SM Som 33). The listed buildings originating in thep post-medieval period are shown on Map D (which also shows listed buildings of medieval origin in the marsh).

5.4. Archaeological components, *shown on* **Map D**
5.4.a. Redevelopment in earlier settlement components
The areas shown more lightly shaded on Map D represent earlier settlement components which continued into this period, and are described above, under *medieval*. Most of the medieval urban core falls into this category, as does the Castle. The number of post-medieval listed buildings in the commercial areas indicates that much rebuilding took place, though some of the fringe areas fell out of use. The Priory area has been redefined, as after the Dissolution, the church continued to be the parish church, whilst much of the associated land passed into private hands.

5.4.b. Communications

(a) Roads

DUN/510	<u>Post-medi eval roads (centre)</u>

Roads marked in *grey* are discussed above, under *medieval*. The remaining roads in and around Dunster town may also be of medieval origin, but were definitely in existence by the end of the Post-Mediaeval period.

From the 1775 maps.

DUN/511   <u>Post-medieval roads (Marsh Street)</u>

Maps in existence by the end of the post-medieval period in the marsh are shown. The map shows how the road through Marsh Street was differently aligned before the 19th century.

From the 1768 map.

(b) Harbour and quays

DUN/512   <u>The Hawn</u>

The Hawn is the remainder of Dunster Haven, a sea haven marked along this stretch of coast on the 1768 map. No associated structures are marked in 1768 (except for the limekiln, for which see below), and neither is the north-eastern bank (possibly off the edge of the map).

From the 1768 map.

5.4.c. Water

DUN/509   <u>An old river course</u>

This represents the course of the river as it appears on the 1775(a) map. Although this *may* represent a post-medi eval (pre-1750) course, it is perhaps more likely to postdate the mid 18th century landscaping schemes.

From the 1775(a) map.

5.4.d. Burial sites and places of worship

DUN/504   <u>The post-Dissolution churchyard</u>

The church and churchyard remained in parish hands in the post-medieval period, and are clearly distinct from the old Priory complex on the 1775(a) map. For notes on this area, see above, p13.

From the 1775(a) map.

DUN/508   <u>The Priory ruins</u>

This area is drawn around the Priory buildings that remained standing in 1775. The area also includes the 16th century dovecote (SMR LB 34982, SM Som 33) and tithe barn (SMR 34975, much altered in later periods). See also above, p13.

From the 1775(a) map.

5.4.e. Settlement (Urban)

(a) Commercial core

DUN/503   <u>Encroachments on Priory land</u>

Parts of the old Priory area had been built over by the end of the post-medieval period, perhaps much earlier. The more easterly of these areas did not persist: the land lay open by the time of the tithe map and is now a garden.

From the 1775(a) map.

(b) Suburbs

DUN/505   Post-medieval suburbs: St George's St
            There was small scale building along St George's St, of which the character is uncertain, but its
            successor has been residential development.

            From the 1775(a) map.

DUN/501   Grabbist House
            Grabbist House, which in the 19th century became the hospital, stood in an area which may originally
            have been part of the medieval town.

            From the 1775 maps.

DUN/506   Post-medi eval occupation (Marsh Street)
            These areas represent the 1768 occupation at Marsh Street, which is probably similar to the medieval
            area of occupation, perhaps somewhat larger. The character of this occupation has not been assessed.
            There has been suburban redevelopment in Marsh Street, though a few buildings of the post-
            medieval period survive along the main street.

            From the 1768 map.

DUN/502   Post-medi eval occupation (various)
            Other unclassified sites, *from the 18th century maps.*

5.4.f. Industrial sites
DUN/507   Limekiln site
            A limekiln is marked in this position on the 1768 map. The site was abandoned in the 19th century.

            From the 1768 map.

6. INDUSTRIAL (LATE 18TH AND 19TH CENTURY)
(Map E)

6.1. Archaeological knowledge
There is little archaeological knowledge of 19th century Dunster, much of which still survives.

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

Dunster 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).

6.3. Standing structures and visible remains
There are many listed buildings of late 18th and 19th century origin in Dunster, most of which are domestic in character
and are concentrated along High Street and West Street. Other buildings include Conygar Tower (SMR LB 35019),
Old Frackford Bridge (SMR LB 35020) and Old Marsh Bridge (SMR LB 34988). These are shown on **Map E**. An
additional structure of interest is the old pottery kiln (SMR 33572), which is situated to the rear of the Luttrell Arms.

6.4. *Archaeological components*, shown on **Map E**
6.4.a. Redevelopment in earlier settlement components
Areas shown more lightly shaded on Map E represent earlier settlement components which continued into the 19th century: these are described under medieval and post-medieval. These include most of the medieval core: the number of listed buildings in this area shows the degree of frontage redevelopment which occurred in the 19th century commercial areas. Parts of the medieval and post-medieval suburbs were restructured in the 19th century and have been redefined.

In Marsh Street, the north end of the settlement, where the earlier (manor?) house was replaced by a new road line and Higher Marsh Farm, has been redefined. There were also some changes at the south end of the settlement, adjacent to the Minehead road.

6.4.b. Communications
(a) Roads
DUN/612   19th century roads and turnpikes
                Roads shaded in *grey* were described under *medieval* and *post-medieval*. At the beginning of this
                period (from 1765 onwards), several of the existing roads were, however, turnpiked, and these are
                shown in *blue*. St Thomas' Street (not shown) was superseded in the 19th century by Dunster Steep,
                which formed a new access to the Minehead road.

                Some new suburban roads were constructed in the 19th century, notably across the Priory precinct.

                Turnpikes from Bentley & Murless (1985). Dunster Steep and other roads from the 1889 and 1904
                maps.

DUN/614   A road realignment in Marsh Street
                The road through Marsh Street was realigned in the 19th century.

                From the 1889 map.

(b) Railways
DUN/607   The West Somerset Railway
                The Taunton to Minehead Railway (SMR 33462) reached Dunster in 1874. The line amalgamated
                with GWR in 1897. It closed in 1971, but has now been reopened.

                The station (SMR 35416) contains two listed elements: the booking office, platform and railings
                (SMR LB 34989) and the train shed (SMR LB 34990).

                From the 1889 map.

6.4.c. Water
DUN/616   Mill leat, Marsh Street
                A leat supplied a mill which existed in Marsh Street in the 19th century. The run off channel is not
                clear, but it may have cut through Higher Marsh farmyard and the site of the old house (see *post-medi*
                eval).

6.4.d. Manors and estates
DUN/613   The 1755 deer park
                This represents the outline of the deer park (SMR 33441) which was established in 1755, to the
                south of the Hanger and mostly on higher ground. In the park area are incompletely understood
                earthworks (such as SMR 35330), which may be connected with 18th and 19th century hunting, and
                remains of medieval holloways (SMR 33444). A section of the park pale also survives.

                From the SMR.

DUN/615   <u>The new park</u>
This represents the full extent of the new park (SMR 33568), which includes most of the medieval Hanger (see above and Map C) and the post-medieval and 19th century landscaping around the Castle. The park is included on the Parks and Gardens Register.

From the SMR.

DUN/606   <u>Park Gate</u>
There had been medi eval and post-medieval occupation here, but in the 19th century it was emparked and known as Park Gate, with a large land allotment at the rear.

From the 1889 map.

6.4.e. Burial sites and places of worship
Not mapped   Non-conformist chapels included the Methodist Chapels opened in 1811 (in Mill Lane) and 1832 (at the junction of West Street and St George's Street).

DUN/603   <u>The cemetery</u>
A small cemetery was opened west of St George's Street.

From the 1889 map.

6.4.f. Settlement (Urban)
(a) Suburbs
DUN/601   <u>19th century suburbs (general)</u>
There was a very little suburban development around Dunster. Areas marked in *magenta* represent built up areas, those in *yellow* open areas and public gardens.

From the 1889 and 1904 maps.

DUN/604   <u>The school</u>
The school, including SMR LB 34983, 34984.

From the 1889 map.

DUN/602   <u>The Rectory and Priory Green</u>
The Rectory was built north of the Priory ruins. In the 19th century this was surrounded by the open area of Priory Green (in *yellow*). Priory Green has been partly built up in the 20th century.

From the 1889 map.

DUN/608   <u>19th century developments at Marsh Street (various)</u>
There was a very little growth at Marsh St and along Sea Lane, part of which was accounted for by the building of a police station and court close to the Minehead road.

From the 1889 and 1904 maps.

6.4.g. Settlement (Rural)
(a) Farms
DUN/610   <u>Higher Marsh Farm</u>, *from the 1889 map.*

(b) Other
DUN/617   <u>Other unclassified 19th century occupation</u>, *from the 1889 and 1904 maps.*

6.4.h. Industrial sites
(a) Mills
DUN/605   Castle Mill extension
                 The Castle mill (SMR LB 34968) was extended to the west in the 19th century.

                 From the 1889 map.

(b) Other industrial sites
DUN/611   The Luttrell Arms brickworks
                 The Luttrell Arms brickworks was established c1750, supposedly on Civil War battery earthworks
                 (Binding, 1990). The works continued in operation until 1919. A pottery kiln formed part of the
                 works (though it is probable that production was not as long-lived). The kiln (SMR 33572) survives
                 at the rear of the hotel. It is possible that the pottery area may once have extended further to the north
                 where Dunster Steep runs, though map evidence is inconclusive.

                 From the 1842 and 1889 maps and the SMR.

DUN/609   Limekiln
                 A limekiln (SMR 33447) was situated on Sea Lane in the 19th century.

                 From the SMR and the 1889 map.

7. 20TH CENTURY
(Map F)
All 20th century areas are defined from the 1995 OS digital maps.

7.1. Context
The 20th century has seen a vast physical expansion of some existing towns, and some expansion in most of the 45
historic towns covered by the project. However, there have only been limited alterations to the overall pattern of urban
settlement. The County Structure Plan still contains fifteen settlements defined as Towns: this is almost identical to the
late 19th century list of Municipal Boroughs and Urban Districts. Dunster 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.

7.2. Listed Buildings
There are two listed telephone kiosks from the first half of the 20th century in Dunster (SMR LB 35429, 35430). These
are too small to show on **Map F**.

7.3. Settlement components, *shown on Map F*
7.3.a. Redevelopment in earlier settlement components
Areas shown more lightly shaded represent earlier settlement components continuing into this period. These have
already been described. Modern development within these areas has been limited in Dunster, though part of Priory
Green has been built over.

7.3.b. Communications
(a) Roads
DUN/711   Frackford
                 The road at Frackford has been realigned, and a new bridge built.

DUN/712   The Minehead road
                 The new Minehead road (the A39) runs on a different line from the old turnpike road for part of its
                 length at Dunster.

7.3.c. Water

DUN/713   The new cut
                 This enlarged cut dates from the second half of the 20th century.

DUN/702   The coastline
                 The bank north of the Hawn is now a nature reserve and beach leisure development.

7.3.d. Burial sites and places of worship
DUN/708   The 20th century cemetery
                 Another cemetery has been opened.

7.3.e. Settlement (Suburban)
DUN/707   20th century suburbs (Dunster, various)
                 A limited amount of suburban development has occurred around Dunster, partly on the old Priory
                 land, partly to the north-west of the medi eval town. Areas marked in red are housing areas; those
                 marked in yellow are the larger open areas (allotments and a car park).

DUN/703   20th century suburbs (Marsh Street)
                 There has been a small estate development in Marsh Street and a few isolated small plots have also
                 been built up.

7.3.f. Settlement (Rural)
(a) Farms
DUN/706   Home Farm
                 Home Farm, which lies outside the park limit as defined in the SMR.

DUN/704   Higher Marsh Farm
                 Extension to Higher Marsh Farm.

DUN/701   Lower Marsh.

(b) Other
DUN/710   20th century occupation (various)
                 Various unclassified sites.

7.3.g. Industrial areas and sites
DUN/709   Conygar Quarry
                 Conygar Quarry was the largest and most recent quarry on Conygar Hill.

DUN/705   Loxhole Sawmill.

V. THE POTENTIAL OF DUNSTER

1. Research interests
Dunster is of obvious interest to archaeologists as a well-preserved typical small medi eval town. The definition of the
town's elements is therefore important. But, as was mentioned above, under the description of the *medieval* town,
information is insufficient at the moment to allow a complete definition in Dunster: neither the maximum extent of the
town, nor the boundary of the Priory precinct, nor the location(s) of the harbour can be accurately plotted. Other specific
areas of interest include the early history of Castle tor and its relation to the pre-Conquest settlement (which has not been
located), and the sequence of mills along the leat.

2. Areas of potentially exceptional preservation
Though much of the town is dry, areas close to the Avill and, perhaps, the mill leat may contain wet deposits. This
includes both the possible Gallox St suburb and the harbour area.

3. Limitations
Dunster has not been badly affected by modern development.

4. Extent of current protection
(shown on Map G)
The exceptional state of preservation of the historic fabric is reflected in a high number of listed buildings. There are also several scheduled monuments: the Priory Dovecote (SM Som 33); the Yarn Market (SM 22092); Gallox Bridge (SM 22093); the Butter Cross (SM 22091); the Motte and Bailey of Dunster Castle (SM Som 469); Black Ball Camp (SM 24003); and Bat's Castle (in Carhampton, SM 24002). The pottery kiln (SMR 33572) is also in the process of being scheduled. A Conservation Area has been defined, and the park is on the Register of Parks and Gardens. An Area of High Archaeological Potential has been designated for the part outside the Exmoor National Park.

The existing designations around Dunster town are shown on Map G. Outlying listed buildings and scheduled monuments mentioned are not shown.

5. Management Proposals
See the Archaeological Guidance Document.

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3. Maps

Only the more general maps for Dunster town were used: maps also exist of the Castle gardens, and the old churchyard (consult SRO).

1763   Castle: SRO DD/L 1/22/7
1768   Higher and Lower Marsh estates: SRO DD/L 1/10/35A
c1775a   Rough sketch map of Dunster (main 1775 map): SRO DD/L 1/10/35A
c1775b   Outline plan of part of Dunster: SRO DD/L 1/33/49
1802   OS surveyors' drawings at 3": fiche in SSL
1841   Carhampton tithe map
1842   Dunster tithe map: fiche in SSL
1889   OS 1st Ed 1:2500: fiche in SSL
1904   OS 1:10560
1995   OS digital data

VII. COMPONENT INDEXES

1. Component to map

Component	Map	Component	Map
DUN/101	A	DUN/403	C
DUN/102	A	DUN/404	C
DUN/103	A	DUN/405	C
DUN/104	A	DUN/406	C
DUN/201	A	DUN/407	C
DUN/202	A	DUN/408	C
DUN/301	A,B,C	DUN/409	C
DUN/302	B	DUN/410	C
DUN/303	B	DUN/411	C
DUN/304	B	DUN/412	D
DUN/401	C	DUN/413	D
DUN/402	C	DUN/414	C

DUN/415	C		DUN/604	E
DUN/416	C		DUN/605	E
DUN/417	C		DUN/606	E
DUN/418	C		DUN/607	E
DUN/419	C		DUN/608	E
DUN/420	C		DUN/609	E
DUN/421	C		DUN/610	E
DUN/422	C		DUN/611	E
DUN/423	C		DUN/612	E
DUN/424	C		DUN/613	E
DUN/425	C		DUN/614	E
DUN/426	C		DUN/615	E
DUN/501	D		DUN/616	E
DUN/502	D		DUN/617	E
DUN/503	D		DUN/701	F
DUN/504	D		DUN/702	F
DUN/505	D		DUN/703	F
DUN/506	D		DUN/704	F
DUN/507	D		DUN/705	F
DUN/508	D		DUN/706	F
DUN/509	D		DUN/707	F
DUN/510	D		DUN/708	F
DUN/511	D		DUN/709	F
DUN/512	D		DUN/710	F
DUN/601	E		DUN/711	F
DUN/602	E		DUN/712	F
DUN/603	E		DUN/713	F

2. Component to page

Maps

Map A – Prehistoric and Roman

Map B – Saxon

Map C – Medieval

Map D – Late/post-medieval

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

Map E – 19th century

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

Map F – 20th century

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

Map G – Existing designations

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

DUN/103 - Flint scatter

DUN/104 - Giants Chair

DUN/301 - Dunster Tor

DUNSTER CP

Dunster

DUN/201 - ?Roman fort

DUN/101 - Black Ball Camp

DUN/202 -? Roman road

DUN/102 - Bat's Castle

DUN/103 - Flint scatter

DUN/102 - Bat's Castle outwork

Somerset EUS

Dunster Map A - prehistoric and Roman

Scale 1:15000   Date 18/02/2002

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SOMERSET
County Council

Butter Cross

Kiln (dis)

Old Park

Sch

PW

Dunster

DUN/303

Allot Gdns

WEST CLOSE

STREET

HIGH STREET

PRIORY GREEN

POT

DUN/302 - Settlement area?

Weir

Castle

DUN/301 - Dunster Castle

Path

Path

Path

DUN/304

34m

Playing Field

FB

Ford

Gallox Bridge

SOMERSET
County Council

DUN/415 - Conygar

DUN/426 - Chapel site

DUN/407 - Suburb

DUN/404 - Priory

DUN/401 - Market Place

DUN/414 - St Leonards Well

DUN/402 - High St E burgages

DUN/405 -Burgages

DUN/403

DUN/411 - Upper Mill?

DUN/406 - ?Tucker St mill area

DUN/301 - Dunster Castle

DUN/409 - ?Harbour area

DUN/410 - Frackford Mill

DUN/405 - Burgages

DUN/408 - Castle Mills

DUN/416 - Gallox Bridge

DUN/420 - Old road

DUN/202 - Carhampton Coach Rd

DUN/407 - Suburb

DUN/424 - Gallox Well

DUN/425 - Gallows site

DUN/511 - Minehead Rd

DUNSTER CP

Dunster

Somerset EUS

Dunster Map C - Medieval

Scale   1:7000   Date   31/01/2002

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DUN/412 - Lower Marsh Manor

DUN/512 - Dunster Haven

The Old Manor

Lower Marsh Farm

Issues

Tweedsmuir

DUN/507 - Limekiln

Dunster Station

DUN/413 - Higher Marsh House

Station House

The Hawn

DUN/511 - Sea Lane

Lime Kiln (disused)

Higher Marsh Farm

Marsh Bridge

Marsh Street

DUN/506 - Marsh St

Issues

Water Treatment Works

Drain

Drain

Drain

Issues

Issues

Ellicombe Farm

ombe

7m

Nursery

Penny Wood

Pennywood

Ellenborough Quarry (disused)

Dean Lane (Track)

DUN/508

Loxhole Bridge

CG Sluice

Weir

Loxhole Saw Mill

Path

The Archers

DUN/505

Butter Cross
Well

STER CP

DUN/504 - Churchyard

DUN/503

Ducky Path Plantation

Allot Gdns

Sch

Kiln (dis)

PO

PW

Old Park

Sluice
19m

Home Farm

DUN/509 - Old river course

Polo Bungalow

Dunster

Weir

DUN/501

34m

Playing Field

The Lawns

Skewer Cliff Wood

Dunster Park (Deer Park)

Keep Cotta

Bridge

33m

Ford
Gallox Bridge

FB

Henstey Wood

May Hill

Gre
Fi

negar Hill

Gallox Wood

Gallox Well

Track

niton New Road

Issues

Hollow Wood

Dunster Park (Deer Park)

Somerset EUS

Dunster Map D - Late/post-medieval

Scale   1:10000   Date 20/02/2002

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SOMERSET
County Council

DUN/607 - Dunster Station

DUN/609 - Limekiln

DUN/610 - Higher Marsh Farm

DUN/614

DUN/616

DUN/607 - Railway

DUN/608 - Marsh St

DUN/602 - Rectory

DUN/601

DUN/611 - Luttrell Pottery & Bkwks

DUN/603 - Cemetery

DUN/615 - New Park

DUN/605

DUN/613 - 1755 Deer Park

DUN/606

Water Treatment Works

The Old Manor

Lower Marsh Farm

Issues

Tweedsmuir

Dunster Station

Station House

West Somerset Railway

9m

Weir

Sluice

The Hawn

8m

Dunst

Lime Kiln (disused)

Ellicombe Farm

Issues

Drain

Drain

Drain

Drain

Weir

Sluice

Higher Marsh Farm

Marsh Bridge

Marsh Street

Weir

Issues

River Avill

CONYGAR

7m

Nursery

Penny Wood

Ellenborough Quarry (disused)

Quarry (disused)

Conygar Wood

Pennywood

Conygar Quarry (disused)

Conygar Tower

Path

Path

Path

Path

Path

Path

The Archers

Loxhole Bridge

CG Sluice

Loxhole Saw Mill

Path

Path

Old Park

Sluice 19m

Butter Cross

St Leonard's Well

STER CP

Track

Kiln (dis)

PO

PW

Sch

Allot Gdns

OSE

Castle

Home Farm

Polo Bungalow

Dunster

vns

Skewer Clift Wood

Dunster Park (Deer Park)

Keep Cott

Gr

Playing Field

Path

34m

FB

Ford Gallox Bridge

Henstey Wood

May Hill

Bridge

33m

Gallox Well

Gallox Wood

inegar Hill

nniton New Road

Track
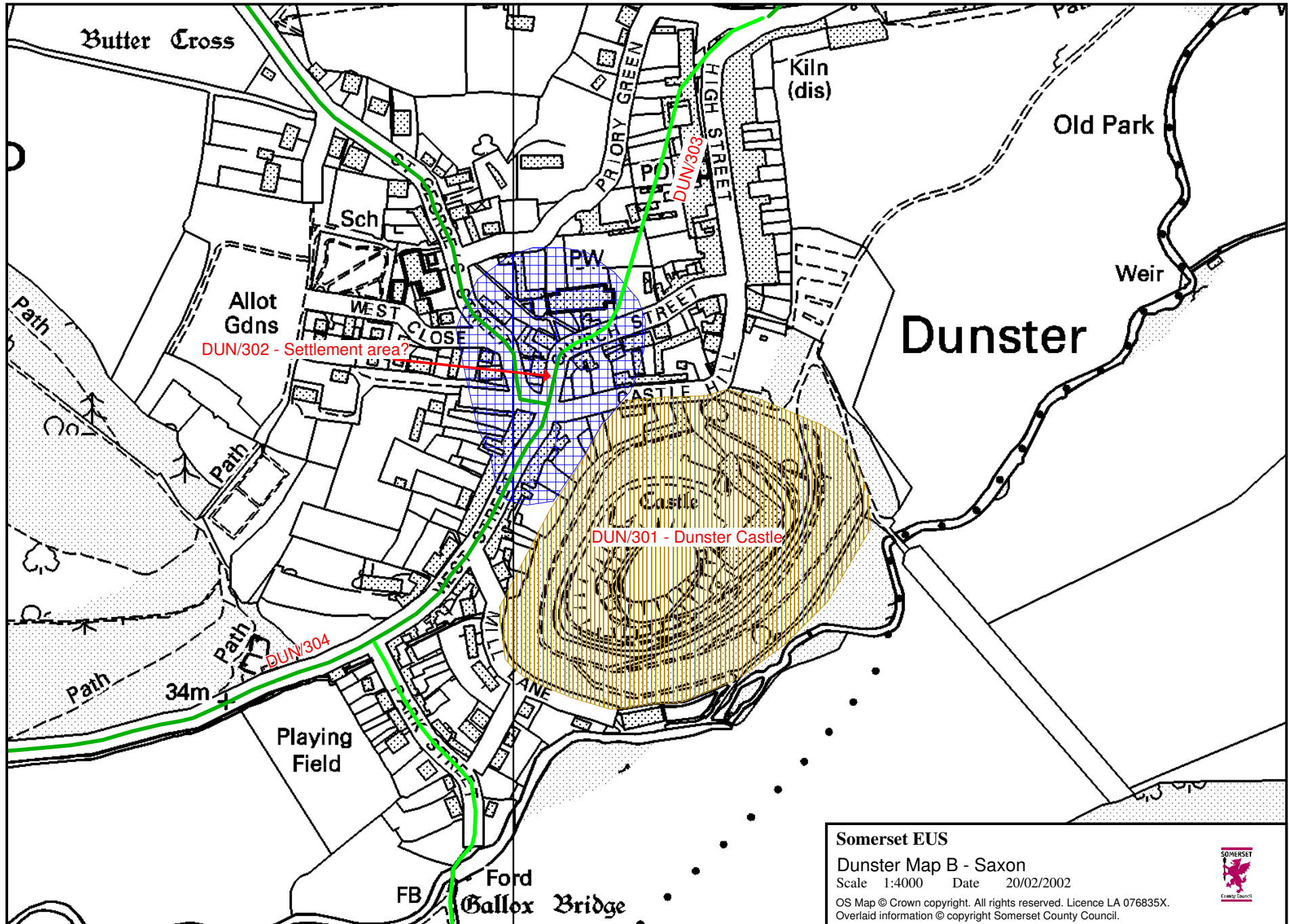
Hollow Wood

Issues

Dunster Park (Deer Park)

Somerset EUS

Dunster Map E - 19th century

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SOMERSET County Council

DUN/701 - Lower Marsh Fm

DUN/711

DUN/702 - Beach development

DUN/704 - Higer Marsh Fm

Marsh Street

DUN/703 - Marsh St

DUN/709 - Conygar Quarry

DUN/713 - Channel to sea

DUN/705 - Loxhole Saw Mill

DUN/707

DUN/707

STER CP

DUN/708 - Cemetery

Dunster

DUN/712 - New Minehead rd

DUN/706 - Home Fm

Water Treatment Works

Drain
Drain
Drain

Issues
Issues

Ellicombe Farm

7m

Nursery

ve Farm

Penny Wood

Ellenborough Quarry (disused)

Pennywood

Dean Lane (Track)

Conygar Wood

Conygar Quarry (disused)

Conygar Tower

Path

The Archers

Butter Cross

St Leonard's Well

Ducky Path Plantation

Allot Gdns

Sch

PW

PO

Kiln (dis)

Old Park

Weir

Home Farm

Polo Bungalow

Sluice 19m

Loxhole Bridge

CG Sluice

Weir

Loxhole Saw Mill

Path

Issues

The Old Manor

Lower Marsh Farm

Issues

Tweedsmuir

Dunster Station

Station House

9m

West Somerset Railway

The Hawn

The Hawn

Lime Kiln (disused)

8m

Dunst N

Sluice

Higher Marsh

Weir

Sluice

Weir

Weir

PO sta

Weir

Skewer Clift Wood

May Hill

Dunster Park (Deer Park)

Keep Cott

Henstey Wood

34m

Playing Field

Bridge

33m

FB
Ford
Gallox Bridge

Gallox Wood

Gallox Well

inegar Hill

osey Path

oppice

miton New Road

Track

Issues

Hollow Wood

Dunster Park (Deer Park)

Somerset EUS

Dunster Map F - 20th century

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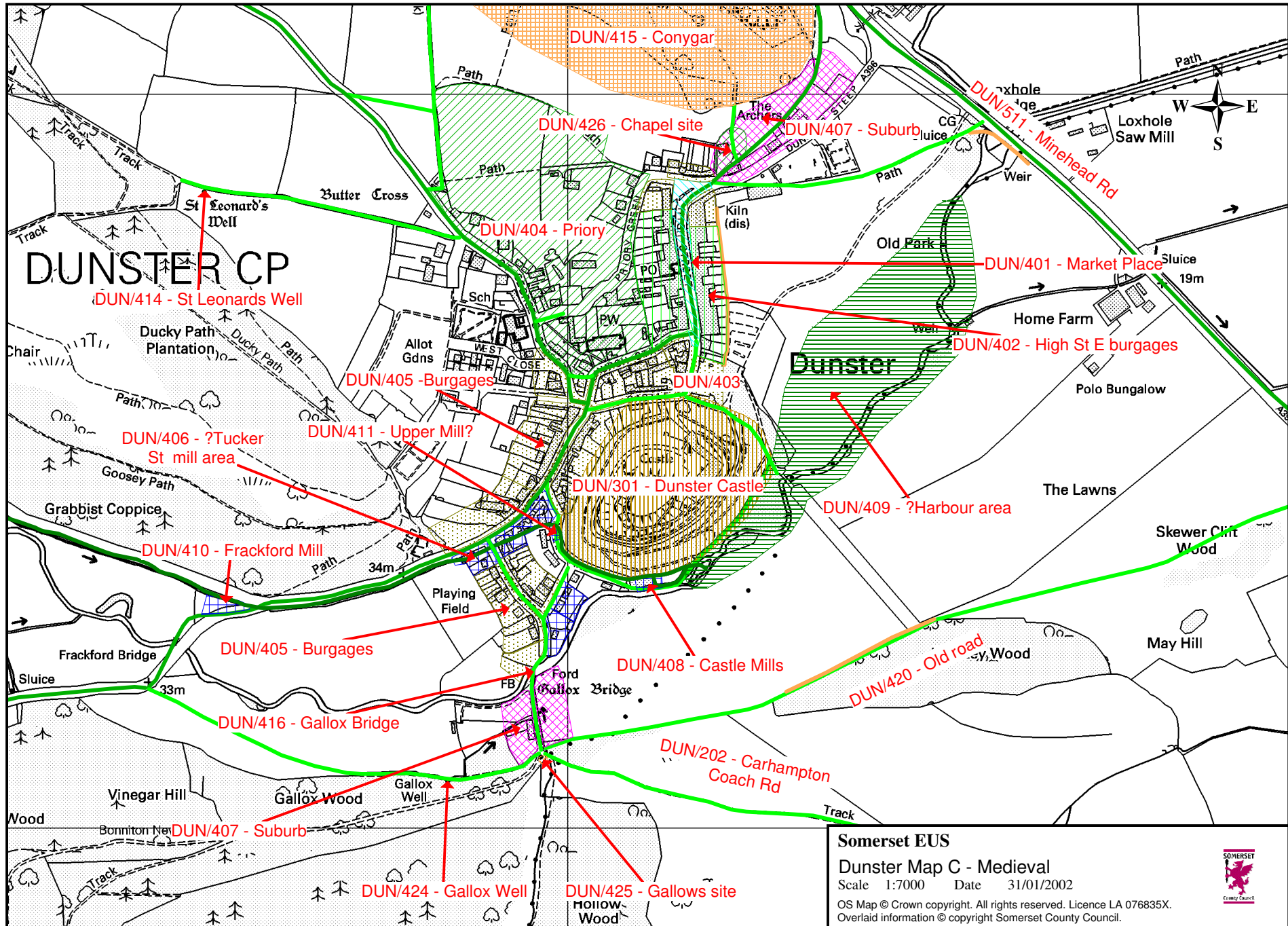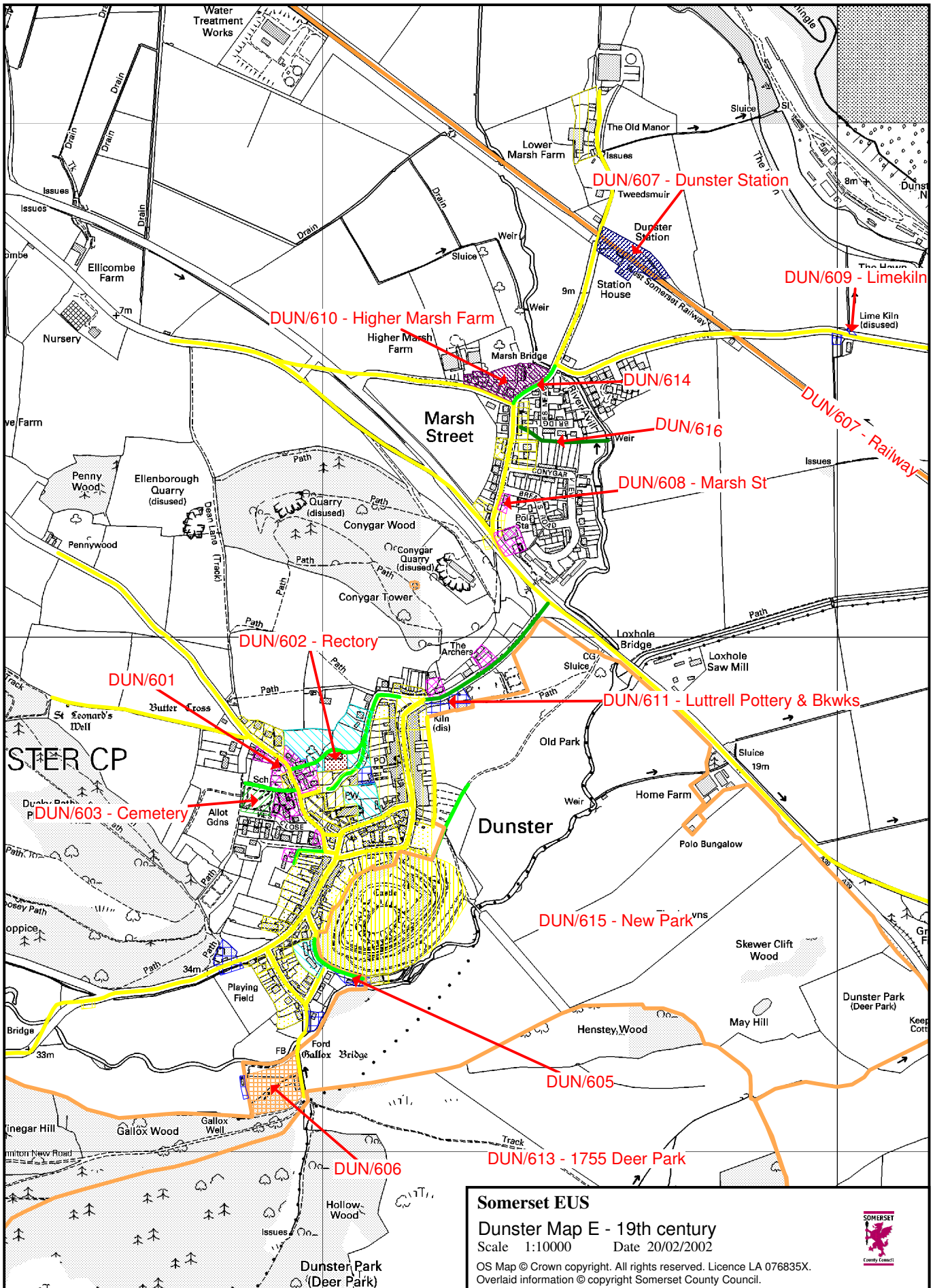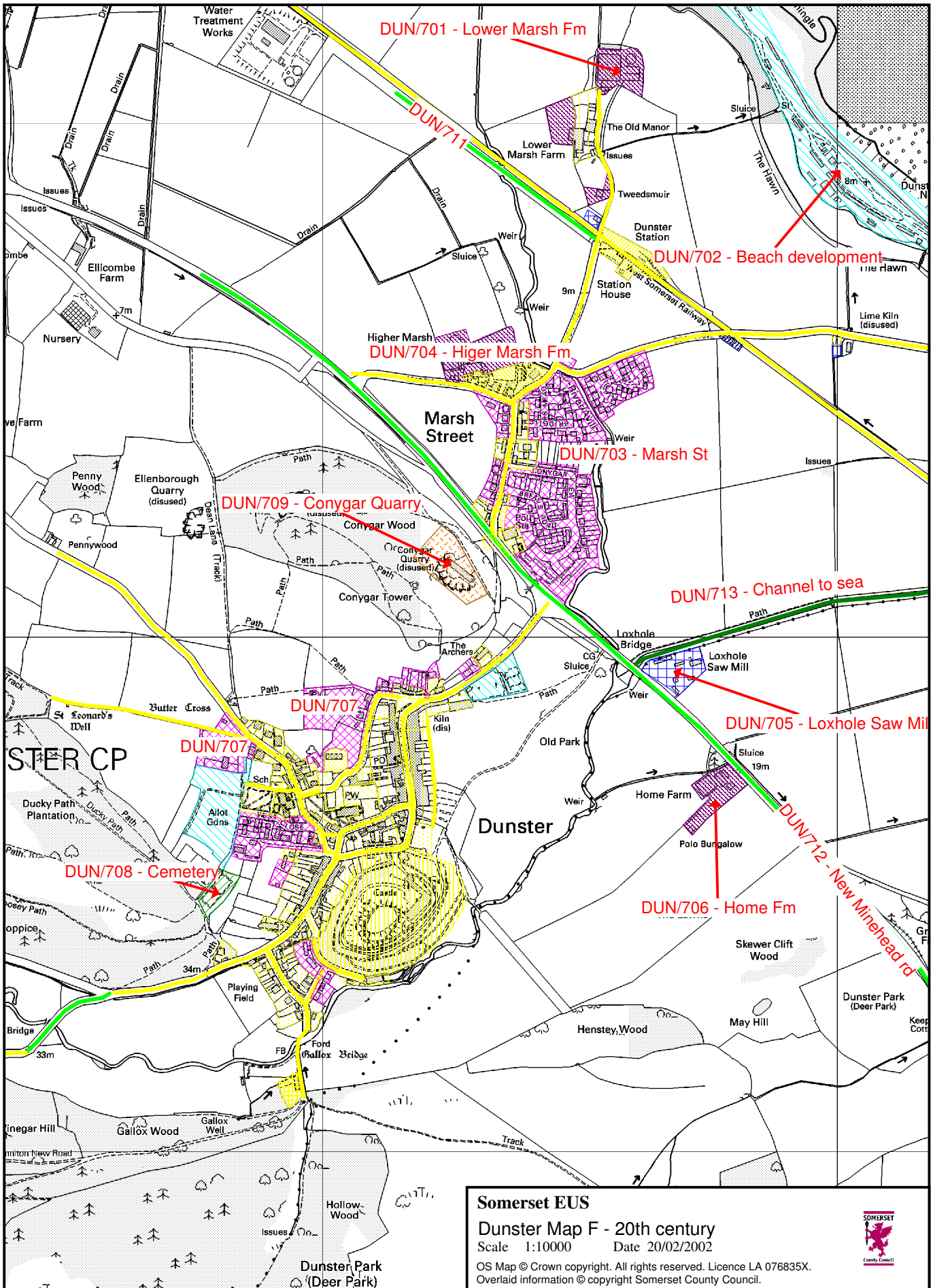Overlaid information © copyright Somerset County Council.

SOMERSET
County Council

Nursery

7m

Penny Wood

Ellenborough Quarry (disused)

Pennywood

Dean Lane (Track)

Quarry (disused)

Conygar Wood

Conygar Quarry (disused)

Conygar Tower

Path

Higher Marsh Farm

Weir

Marsh Bridge

MARSH LANE

MARSH STREET

Marsh Street

STATION ROAD

SEA LANE

River Avill

BRIDGE

Weir

CONYGAR VIEW

REAMS ROAD

SM 33 The Dovecot

SM 22091 Butter Cross at Dunster

Butter Cross

St Leonard's Well

ER CP

Ducky Path

ntation

Path

Path

Sch

Allot Gdns

PW

PO

The Archers

DUNSTER STEEP A396

Kiln (dis)

SM 22092 The Yam Market

Old Park

Loxhole Bridge

Loxho Saw M

CG Sluice

Weir

Home Farm

Polo Bungalo

The Lawns

Dunster

Castle

SM 469 Motte and bailey at Dunster Castle

34m

Playing Field

PARK STREET

SM 22093 Gallox Bridge

FB

Ford

Gallox Bridge

Gallox Well

Gallox Wood

Henstey Wood

w Road

3m

Track

Hollow Wood

Issues

Somerset EUS

Dunster Map G - existing designations

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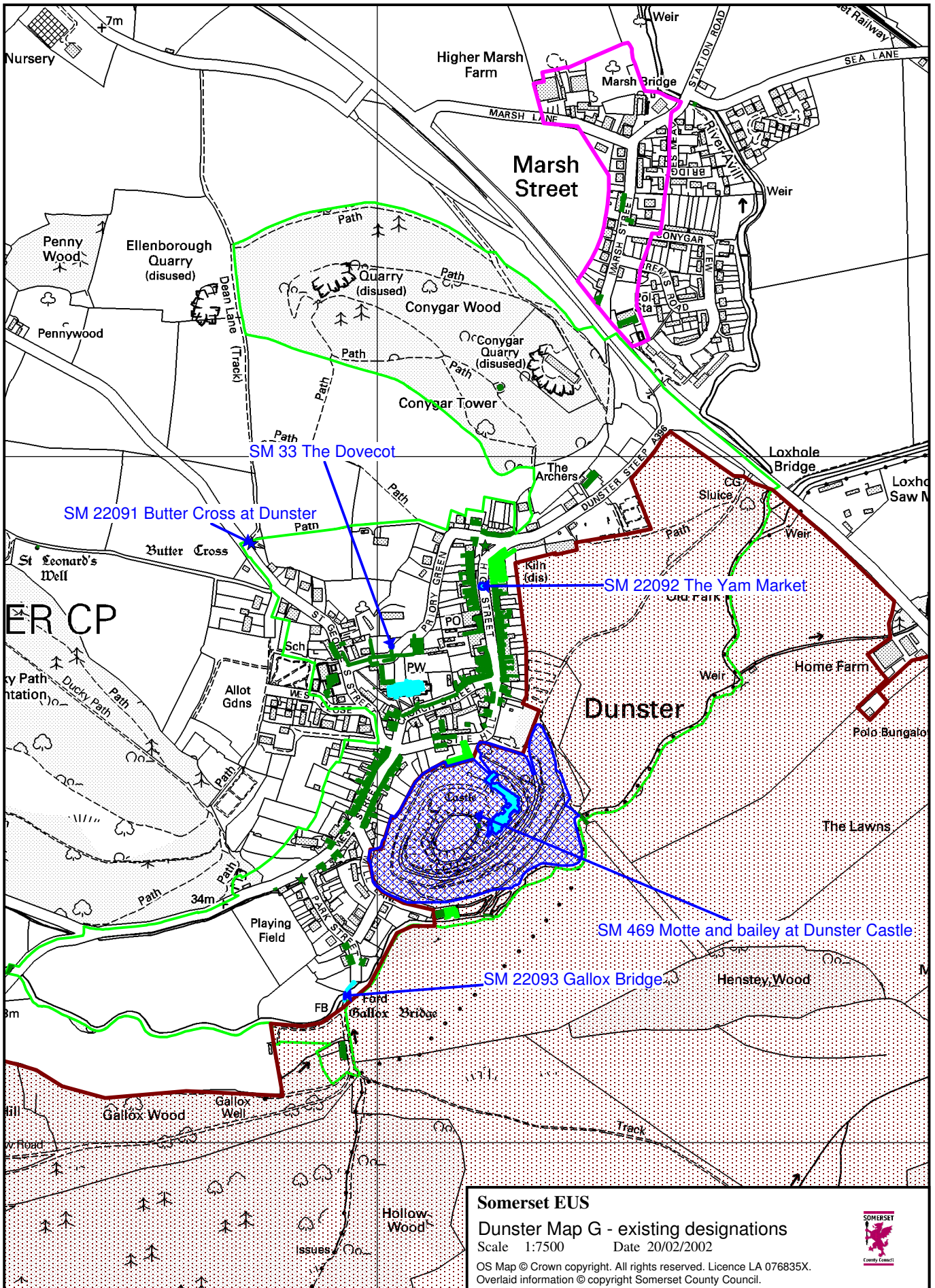Overlaid information © copyright Somerset County Council.

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