

English Heritage Extensive Urban Survey

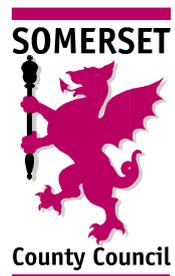
An archaeological assessment of

Milborne Port

Miranda Richardson

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

2003



SOMERSET EXTENSIVE URBAN SURVEY

MILBORNE PORT

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

by Miranda Richardson

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SOMERSET EXTENSIVE URBAN SURVEY
MILBORNE PORT
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

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

I. MAJOR SOURCES

1. Primary documents

Surviving documents concerning the parish are largely kept by Winchester College who took over the church estate from Cirencester Abbey at the dissolution. Parish registers exist from 1538.

2. Local histories

Dr. R. Dunning kindly made the forthcoming (now published, 1999) VCH chapter about Milborne Port available for this report.

3. Maps

Two pre-19th century maps have been particularly useful in the production of this report. The 1689 Toomer Estate map, which includes a rather sketchy rendition of Milborne Port town centre, has been used here to provide an image of the town at the end of the medieval period, despite some reservations concerning its accuracy. The 1781-2 map which includes a detailed depiction of the town centre including property boundaries has been used to map the town at the end of the post-medieval period. Other maps used are listed in section V.

II. A BRIEF HISTORY OF MILBORNE PORT

Milborne Port is situated in the far south-east of the county, it lies in a bend of the stream variously named the Gascoigne, Ivel or Yeo. To the east and west of the town the land rises forming Vartenham Hill and East Hill. The town is in the south of a long rectangular parish, the northern half of which is known as Milborne or Horethorne downs.

Little is known of the prehistory of the area, although some prehistoric features and finds have been located in the north of the parish, most notably the promontory fort on Barrow Hill, above the village of Milborne Wick is thought to date to the Iron Age. Roman occupation of Milborne Port has been suggested by Aston and Leech (1977:92) following Leech's suggestion (1977:141) that burials described by Collinson (1791: 352) are of Roman date.

The Saxon settlement was part of a large royal estate with a minster church, a market and, in the reigns of Aethelraed II and Cnut, a mint. In the latter part of Aethelraed's troubled reign the mint was moved to Cadbury which suggests the town had inadequate defences. By Domesday it was a well established town with 56 burgesses and the market paying 66 shillings and the church held a small estate worth 30 shillings separate from that of the King. This is the fourth largest number of burgesses and the most profitable market recorded in Somerset suggesting that the town was an important place in the late Saxon landscape.

The town had gained the suffix '*Port*' by 1249 suggesting it was a successful trading centre but declined in importance during the medieval period, losing trade to its neighbours Sherborne, Yeovil and Wincanton. By 1327 the Lay Subsidy recorded only thirty taxable inhabitants and rated the borough at £3, a sum which puts it in the bottom half of towns in Somerset. As with many of the small towns of South Somerset, cloth industry augmented a rural, agricultural economy during the medieval and post-medieval period. Again the 1327 Lay Subsidy records fullers, dyers and tailors amongst the thirty taxpayers. By 1781 there were four weaving sheds producing flax- and sail-cloth. During the industrial period the cloth industry was replaced with tanning and glove production with as

many as seven glove-making businesses recorded in the town in the first half of the 19th century. However, the town gained notoriety not for the success of its gloving industry but for losing its franchise under the 1832 Reform bill, due to the gerrymandering activities of both parties in the preceding decades.

III. THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF MILBORNE PORT

GENERAL COMMENTS

0.1 Archaeological work in the town

The town centre, particularly the area surrounding the church, has in recent years been the subject of evaluations and watching briefs. These have confirmed the historical evidence of Saxon and medieval occupation of the town and shown that areas of the town have well preserved stratigraphy dating to these periods.

0.2 Standing structures and visible remains

Milborne Port has several important standing buildings, notably the Saxo-Norman minster church and 18th-century country house at Venn.

1. PREHISTORIC

1.1 Archaeological work in the town/ Archaeological knowledge

None.

1.2 Context

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

1.3 Archaeological features (centre), shown on Map A.

1.3.a Settlement

MIB/101 Promontory Fort (SMR 54262, SOM 174)

To the east of Milborne Wick lies an iron age promontory fort. Dunning (1996) notes that in the 17th century the site was thought to have been the site of the manor house or castle of Kingsbury Regis. The place-name Kingsbury Regis implies a fortified royal residence (Bond c1990:1) and suggests that the site may have been reused from the Saxon period. The medieval tithing of Kingsbury covered several dispersed blocks of land (Dunning, 1996) which may explain the place-name also being used for the settlement immediately north of Milborne Port. However, there is no good dating evidence for either site, the only excavation on Barrow Hill took place during the II World War when a trench was dug across the entrance; material retrieved dated to the late medieval period (SMR).

Earthworks taken from the 1982 1:10 000 OS maps

1.3.b Other not mapped

Bronze Palstave Find (SMR 54273)

A bronze palstave was found near Milborne Port; its precise find-spot is unknown.

2. ROMAN (Map A)

2.1 Archaeological work in the town/ Archaeological knowledge

There has been no excavation of Roman features in Milborne Port.

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.

Milborne Port is one of 26 of the 45 historic towns covered by this project at which there is as yet no secure evidence of Roman settlement on the site of the later town. However, it lies on the fringe of a well-populated area surrounding the main Roman town of Ilchester, and may yet produce evidence of settlement.

2.3 Archaeological features shown on Map A

2.3.a Burial sites, religious houses and places of worship

MIB/201 Burials (SMR 54265)

In 1791 Collinson wrote, "*In the garden of Mr Noake, adjoining the churchyard, on opening the ground some years since for the foundation of a building, near sixty bodies were found, lying twenty in a row with their heads to the north. In one of the rows were men women and children. No remains of any coffins were found and it is supposed they were buried here in the time of the great plague when (as tradition says) 1500 died here within one year.*"

Leech (1977:141) offers a different interpretation as N-S orientated burials have been shown at other sites in Somerset to be, generally, of Roman date. Aston and Leech (1977:92) have gone further suggesting that the burials are indicative of Roman settlement in the town. A watching brief carried out in 1993 on the site of 1 Canon's Court Mews (SMR 55421) failed to reveal any burials, locating only one undated pit.

Taken from the SMR map.

3. SAXON (Maps A and B)

3.1 Archaeological work in the town/ Archaeological knowledge

Watching briefs carried out in 1996, during the repair of flooring below the tower and in the west end of the nave, showed partial survival of undated archaeological deposits within the church. In 1992 a watching brief during the excavation of a gas pipe trench around the exterior of the church revealed structural remains to the north and south of the building which may date to the Saxon period (SMR 54257).

Evaluation trenches excavated in 1989 on the plot immediately west of the church showed significant survival of Saxon deposits (SMR 55396). The quality of the archaeological stratigraphy led the site to be scheduled (SM 10388).

3.2 Context

Though the Post-Roman and early Saxon periods were characterised by a return to non-urban lifestyles, the later Saxon period (from the 9th century onwards) saw the beginnings of a resurgence of trading places and towns. This was controlled, in England, by the Saxon royal families (though it was part of a wider trend), and took place in the context of a network of royal estate administration centres which was already established (in some cases long-established). The reasons for the changes were many and complex, combining defensive, administrative and ecclesiastical considerations with, increasingly, purely commercial aspirations. As one of the heartlands of the kings of Wessex, Somerset played an important part in the early re-urbanisation of the south, and there are a number of places amongst those studied for this project which can claim to have been towns before the Norman Conquest.

Milborne Port is one of fifteen out of the 45 historic towns covered by this project which already had some urban functions or features before the Conquest. In fact, it is one of six boroughs recorded in the Domesday Survey, all of which were established as commercial annexes from adjacent royal estate centres. Milborne Port was the third largest borough, with the second most valuable pre-Conquest market of the seven towns at which the probable or possible existence of a pre-Conquest market has been noted (though this figure may be misleadingly low). It is one of eleven towns which may have had a mint in the 10th or 11th centuries, and one of nine in which possible signs of pre-Conquest planning have been noted in the Assessments. Milborne Port is also one of 22 of the towns in the survey to have been associated with a known or probable pre-Conquest minster.

3.3 *Standing structures and visible remains*

The church of St. John the Evangelist has substantial Saxo-Norman architectural features .

3.4 *Archaeological components, shown on Maps A and B*

3.4.a *Communications: roads*

MIB/301 Crackmore, High Street, East Street, North Street, South Street, Brook Street, Bathwell Street, Cold Harbour, Pope's Lane, Higher Gunville (map b)

The main streets in Milborne Port have a regular north-south, east-west alignment which Aston (1984:183) is tempted to see as evidence of a planned urban unit which may date to the Saxon period.

After Aston's description 1984:183.

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

MIB/302 Minster Enclosure (map a)

Dunning (1996) has suggested the original minster enclosure can be determined within the present street pattern. A roughly rectangular area is defined on the south side of High Street by South Street, Brook Street and Bathwell Lane. The date of the first church on the site is unknown, the earliest document dating to c.950 (Dunning 1996).

Area plotted taken from Dunning's description (1996).

3.4.c *Settlement (Urban)*

(a) *Market place(s)*

MIB/303 Market Triangle (map b)

The town is recorded as having a market in 1086. The market triangle is at the conjunction of North Street (previously Pig Street), East Street, South Street and High Street.

The area shown is taken from the modern market triangle shown on the 1995 digital OS.

(b) *Burgage plots*

MIB/304 Town Core (map b)

56 burgesses were recorded on the king's estate in 1086, however, no clear pattern of burgage plots can be ascertained from the available maps (Bond c1990:4). The earliest available town map (1689) does not provide a reliable source for the shape of property boundaries. The 1781 map, which is considered to be more reliable, does show plots with regular forms along High Street, the north end of South Street, and the south end of North Street, but it is not known whether this is a reflection of the earliest town layout or a more recent plan. In addition the town might reasonably be expected to have shrunk between the Domesday record of an important market centre and the drawing of each of these maps. The street system might, therefore, provide the best indication of the extent of the Saxon town (see above). The plots on the south side of High Street and the west side of South Street are built within the minster enclosure described above and may reflect the church having control over at least this part of the town.

The area shown is the more regular property plots taken from the 1781 map.

3.4.d Industrial sites

(a) Mills

MIB/305 Six mills on the king's estate were recorded in Domesday. Three of these can be identified as Wick mill (not mapped), Canon Court/Mearing's mill and Kingsbury mill (Dunning 1996).

The two areas are taken from the 1689 and 1781 maps respectively.

4. medieval

(Map C)

4.1 Archaeological work in the town/ Archaeological knowledge

In 1990 Yeovil Archaeological Society carried out a watching brief during the lowering of garden levels at Blythe Cottage, 61 South Street. A stone floor was found which covered layers containing medieval sherds (SMR 55423). A second series of evaluation trenches on the plot to the east of the church were carried out in 1991; these also showed a high level of deposit survival but in this case most of the features revealed dated to the 13th and 14th centuries (SMR 55396). In 1992 a watching brief of foundation excavation for two buildings behind 216 and 217 High Street revealed a ditch running approximately NW-SE which contained 12th-14th century sherds (SMR 55422). In 1995 an evaluation trench excavated on the plot behind 218 High Street and Upper Gunville Gate revealed a ditch aligned W-E which contained medieval material and cut an occupation layer dating to the 12th- 13th centuries (SMR 55397). Property divisions in approximately the same position as the ditch are shown on both the 1689 and 1781 maps.

In general these excavations have shown that there is good survival of medieval material in several different areas of the town.

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.

Milborne Port is one of the fifteen places out of the 45 historic towns covered by this project which either were boroughs or at least had some urban functions before the Conquest. It was one of five out of the six pre-Domesday boroughs which retained their status in the medieval period, and was one of nine of the towns at which signs of planning may date to the pre-Conquest period.

4.3 Standing structures and visible remains

There are four medieval listed buildings at Milborne Port.

4.4 Archaeological components, shown on Map C

4.4.a Burial sites, religious houses and places of worship

MIB/402 Church and Cemetery

The 1689 map shows that the minster enclosure was increasingly built over, reducing the area around the church which might have been used as a cemetery. The church building itself has architectural elements from the 12th, 14th and 15th centuries.

Taken from the 1689 Toomer Estate Map

4.4.b Settlement (Urban)

(a) Market place(s)

MIB/405 Bathwell Road

Dunning (1996) notes that the market was run by the townsmen in the thirteenth but that in 1397 a new licence was granted to the bailiff and burgesses which he interprets as evidence that the market had lapsed by this date. Alternatively, the 1689 map shows that Bathwell Road widened at its junction with Sherborne Road and High Street making a triangular area, which by this date had been built over forming a central island which could have served as a second market place.

Taken from the 1689 Toomer Estate Map

(b) Town plots

MIB/403

The 1689 map shows irregular building along the main roads and around the market triangle. Although the accuracy of this map is questionable, this may reflect the decline in importance of the town at the end of the medieval period.

Taken from the 1689 Toomer Estate Map

4.4.c Settlement (Rural)

MIB/404

The 1689 map shows a large farm house and farm buildings at Venn. Dunning describes Venn as a secondary settlement of Milborne Port in existence by the 13th century (1996).

Taken from the 1689 Toomer Estate Map

5. POST-medieval

(Maps D and E)

5.1 Archaeological work in the town/ Archaeological knowledge

None.

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. Milborne Port 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.

5.3 Standing structures and visible remains

There are four post-medieval listed buildings in Milborne Port. Of particular interest is the Guildhall on the south side of High Street (LB 51389), which incorporates part of a Norman arch. This may have been salvaged from rebuilding of the church or may indicate that other high quality stone, Norman buildings once stood in the vicinity.

5.4 Archaeological components (centre), shown on Map D

5.4.a Communications: roads

MIB/501 Lower Gunville, Church Street, London Road

The first two of these appear to have been added between 1689 and 1781, the last is shown on the 1689 map but gradually gained in importance as the main route to London, eventually replacing East Street altogether.

Taken from the 1781-2 Parish Map

5.4.b Water

MIB/505 Tapp's Well (SMR 54268)

Taken from the 1781-2 Parish Map

5.4.c Burial sites, religious houses and places of worship

MIB/502 Cemetery

The 1781 map shows the open area around the church to have been further reduced. Some of the new building shown on this map may have covered Saxon and medieval burials.

Taken from the 1781-2 Parish Map

5.4.d Settlement (Urban)

(a) Market place(s)

MIB/507 Infilling in Market Area

The 1781 map shows some infilling of the market area.

Taken from the 1781-2 Parish Map

(b) Other town plots

MIB/503 The built up areas within the town on the 1781 map are shown on map D. Collinson described the High Street as "tolerably wide but irregularly built" in 1791.

Taken from the 1781-2 Parish Map

(c) Suburbs

MIB/504 The 1689 Toomer estate map does not show Kingsbury Regis or the area north of Cold Harbour. By 1781 the two settlements were practically joined with irregular buildings along the river, Higher Kingsbury/Lower Kingsbury and North Street.

Taken from the 1781-2 Parish Map

5.4.e Settlement (Rural)

MIB/508 Canon Court Farm

Canon Court Farm is first shown on the 1781 map on the plot immediately south of the church. The farm formed part of the church estate which was given to the abbey at Cirencester and then, following the dissolution, to Winchester College. In 1756 it comprised 387 acres (Dunning 1996).

Taken from the 1781-2 Parish Map

Lower Kingsbury Farm/Manor Farm

The farm is shown on the 1781 map. It is variously known as Lower Kingsbury and Manor Farm. The conjunction of the place-names "Manor Farm" and "Court Lane" (the E-W road linking Wick Road and Higher Kingsbury) may indicate that the farm is in the vicinity of the later medieval manor of Kingsbury.

Taken from the 1781-2 Parish Map

5.5 Archaeological components (outlying area), shown on Map E

5.5.a Settlement (Rural)

MIB/506 Venn house and Gardens (SMR 55173, LB 51398)

Venn house is a grade I listed building. Construction began in 1698 on the site of the farmhouse shown on the 1689 map and was completed in c. 1730 to designs by Nathaniel Ireson. The gardens which are graded II were laid out by Richard Grange from c.1739.

Area taken from the SMR map.

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

(Maps F)

6.1 Archaeological work in the town/ Archaeological knowledge

None.

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.

Milborne Port 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 is a moderate number of later 18th- and 19th-century listed buildings at Milborne Port, including the market house built within the market triangle.

6.4 Archaeological components (centre), shown on Map F

6.4.a Burial sites, religious houses and places of worship

MIB/603 Cemetery

Having been increasingly reduced through the medieval and post-medieval period, the cemetery was again expanded to the west (over the site of the vicarage which was moved to a new site on Sherborne Road) and north-east during in 1855.

Taken from the 1904 OS 2nd Edition

MIB/610 Cold Harbour Chapel

The first Methodist chapel was built on Cold Harbour in 1829 and was rebuilt to designs by Alexander Lauder in 1886. It was converted to dwellings and a community centre by 1993 (Dunning 1996).

Taken from the 1904 OS 2nd Edition

MIB/612 Chapel Lane Chapel

A licence was granted for the construction of a new meeting house was granted in 1751, was enlarged in the 1830s and again in the 1840s. In 1981 it was known as the United Reformed Church. A small cemetery was situated to the south of the church.

Taken from the 1904 OS 2nd Edition

6.4.b Settlement (Urban)

(a) Commercial core

MIB/604 Expansion and Rebuilding

The areas of housing expansion and major rebuilding shown on the 1904 OS map have been shown on map F. This includes workers' housing at Russell Place, Baunton's Orchard and along East Street and large, industrialists' houses including The Knapp, Sunnyside, Limerick House and Bazzleways (Dunning, 1996)

Taken from the 1904 OS 2nd Edition

MIB/607 New Town (SMR 54266)

The planned New Town housing development was built in 1818 by the earl of Darlington as an attempt to increase the number of Tory voters. A similar development was built by the Whig candidate in 1820 at Waterloo Crescent in the far north of the parish (*not mapped*). The result of this was that Milborne Port lost its franchise under the 1832 Reform Act as a "rotten borough" (Dunning, 1996).

Taken from the 1839 Tithe Map

(b) Unclassified

MIB/611 Fives Courts (SMR 54279)

A double-bay fives court was built in 1847 by Sir W.C. Medlycott "...for the health and amusement of the town..", as the inscription upon it reads.

Taken from the 1995 digital OS

6.4.c Industrial sites

MIB/608 Gasworks

Taken from the 1904 OS 2nd Edition

MIB/616 Weaving Sheds

Four sets of weaving sheds are recorded by Pearce (n.d. :21) and can be seen on the 1781 and 1817 maps. Those behind Cross House (North Street) were converted to glove manufacture. Those behind Sherborne House (Sherborne Road) were also converted to glove production under Mr. Minchinton but appear to have been demolished by 1886. Those on the corner of Rosemary Street and Paddock Walk were demolished by 1839 for the construction of Knapp House. The barns in Canon Court were also used for weaving.

Taken from the 1781 and 1817 Parish Maps

MIB/609 Ensor's Glove Factory and Tannery (SMR 54278)

The first gloving factory was established by J. Henning at West Hill in 1810. Ensor's tannery was established on the same site and these were joined in 1858 by Silas Dyke's glove factory (Pearce, *unpub.*:22). The 1904 OS Map shows that large-scale expansion of the industrial buildings on the site took place in the second half of the 19th century.

Taken from the 1904 OS 2nd Edition

MIB/613 Cross House Glove Factory

The weaving sheds behind Cross House were converted to glove production by Edward Ensor in 1820 (Pearce, n.d.:22).

Taken from the 1904 OS 2nd Edition

- MIB/614 Brook Street Factory
A Mr. Taylor started a glove business from premises on Brook Street in 1816 (Pearce n.d.:22).

Taken from the 1904 OS 2nd Edition
- MIB/615 Flax Factory
A mill at Bathwell Bridge was pulled down in 1827 and replaced with a factory working flax (Pearce, n.d.:22). In 1839 it employed 14 people but any success was short lived; the factory had been demolished by 1886.

Taken from the 1839 Tithe Map
- not mapped Pitmans Factory
Brothers John and Joseph Pitman had businesses producing gloves and glove boxes in South Street, however, their premises have not been precisely located (Pearce, n.d.:22).
- MIB/617 Flour Mill (SMR 54269)

Taken from the 1886 OS 1st Edition 6"

6.5 Archaeological components (outlying area), not mapped.

6.5.a Communications

(a) Railways

- MIB/602 The Salisbury and Yeovil railway was completed in 1860, passing to the north and west of the town. A station for Milborne Port was opened 2 miles north of the town but this was closed in 1964. (Dunning, 1996)

Taken from the 1904 OS 2nd Edition

7. 20TH CENTURY

(Map G)

7.1 Archaeological work in the town/ Archaeological knowledge

None.

7.2 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. Milborne Port 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.

7.3 Settlement components, shown on Map G

7.3.a Burial sites, religious houses and places of worship

- MIB/706 Wheathill Lane Cemetery

1995 Digital OS

7.3.b Settlement (Urban)

(a) Suburbs

- MIB/702 Housing estates built to the west and east of the town and other 20th-century building have been shown on map H.

1995 Digital OS

7.3.c Settlement (Rural)

(a) Farms

MIB/703 Higher Combe Hill Farm, Wheathill Lane Farm, Venn Farm, Wynbrook Farm, Canon's Court Farm

These farms appear in the vicinity of Milborne Port on the 1982 1:10 000 OS map. Canon's Court Farm has been moved from its position within the town to a new site south of Brook Street.

1995 Digital OS

(b) Unclassified

MIB/705 Bowling Green

The Bowling Green and Bowling Green House were begun in 1914 to designs by E.G. Dawber.

1995 Digital OS

7.3.d Industrial sites

MIB/707 Factories

The industrial area of Dyke's and Ensor's factories and tanneries has further expanded during this period.

1995 Digital OS

IV. THE POTENTIAL OF MILBORNE PORT

1. Research interests

Milborne Port had the fourth highest number of burgesses (after Bath, Ilchester and Taunton only) and the richest market recorded at Domesday for any town in Somerset. This evidence combined with its Saxon mint, minster church and possible planned street system suggest that it was an important Saxon town which declined in the later medieval period. The decline of the town has meant that it has not been successively and extensively rebuilt or replanned which has enabled the preservation of early stratigraphy of high quality in several areas of the town. It therefore offers one of the best opportunities to study aspects of Saxon urban life in Somerset. Moreover, the possibility of continuity of settlement from the Roman period, hinted at by Collinson's description of burials found near to the church, make the archaeology of the town of even greater interest. The relationships between the minster church, the manor of Kingsbury Regis and the possible resettlement of Barrow Hill are questions which demand further research.

2. Areas of potentially exceptional preservation

There are no known waterlogged areas of the town or areas of exceptional preservation beyond the quality of stratigraphy shown by the evaluation projects described above.

3. Limitations

The archaeological potential of Milborne Port is limited only by more recent building which may have removed stratigraphy.

4. Extent of current protection

an AHAP has been designated based on the work in this report. There are two conservation areas covering the centre of the town and New Town (map H). There are two scheduled monuments in Milborne Port parish: SM 10388 covers the plot to the west of the church where high quality Saxon and early medieval stratigraphy has been shown to survive (although now built on), SM 32183 covers the promontory fort at Barrow Hill, Milborne Wick. The garden at Venn house is registered grade II (map H). The listed buildings are also shown on map H.

5. Management Proposals

See the Archaeological Guidance Document.

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3. Maps

1689	Toomer Estate Map	SRO
1781/2	Milborne Port Manor Map	SRO
1808	OS Surveyor's Drawings	SLHL
1817	Parish Map	SRO
1839	Tithe Map	SLHL
1886	OS 1st. Edition 6"	SLHL
1904	OS 2nd Edition	SRO
1982	OS 1:10000	
1995	Digital OS	

VI. COMPONENT INDEXES**1. Component to map**

<i>Component</i>	<i>Map</i>	<i>Component</i>	<i>Map</i>
MIB/101	A	MIB/506	E
MIB/201	A		
MIB/302	A	MIB/603	F
		MIB/604	F
MIB/301	B	MIB/607	F
MIB/303	B	MIB/608	F
MIB/304	B	MIB/609	F
MIB/305	B	MIB/610	F
		MIB/611	F
MIB/401	C	MIB/612	F
MIB/402	C	MIB/613	F
MIB/403	C	MIB/614	F
MIB/404	C	MIB/615	F
MIB/405	C	MIB/616	F
		MIB/617	F
MIB/501	D		
MIB/502	D	MIB/602	G
MIB/503	D		
MIB/504	D	MIB/702	H
MIB/505	D	MIB/703	H
MIB/507	D	MIB/705	H
MIB/508	D	MIB/706	H
		MIB/707	H

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Maps

Map A - prehistoric to early Saxon

Map B - late Saxon to early medieval

Earlier components in yellow.

Map C - medieval

Earlier components in yellow.

Map D - post-medieval core

Earlier components in yellow.

Map E - post-medieval core wider area

Earlier components in yellow.

Map F - industrial

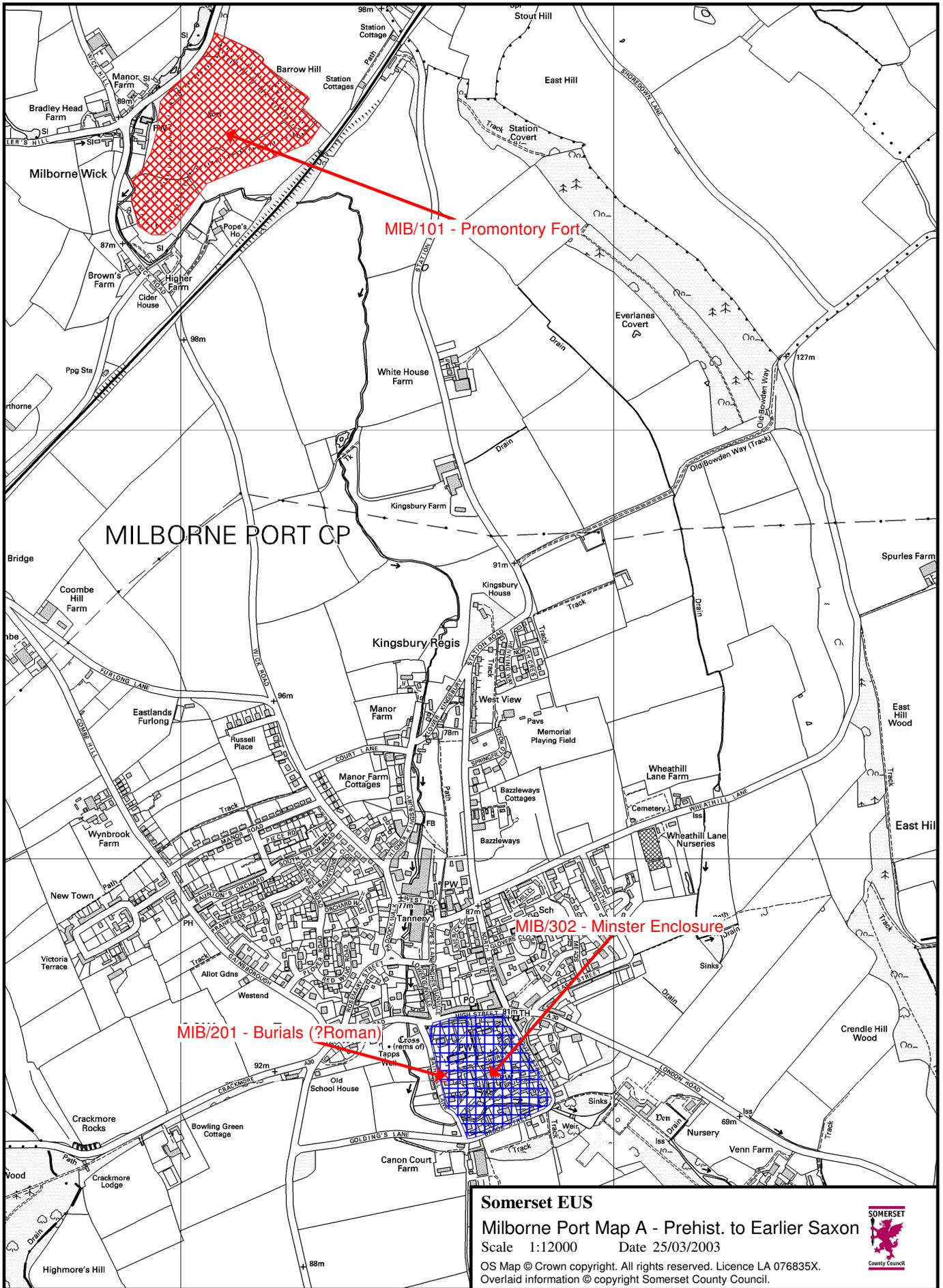
Earlier components in yellow.

Map G - 20th century

Earlier components in yellow.

Map E - Existing constraints

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



MILBORNE PORT CP

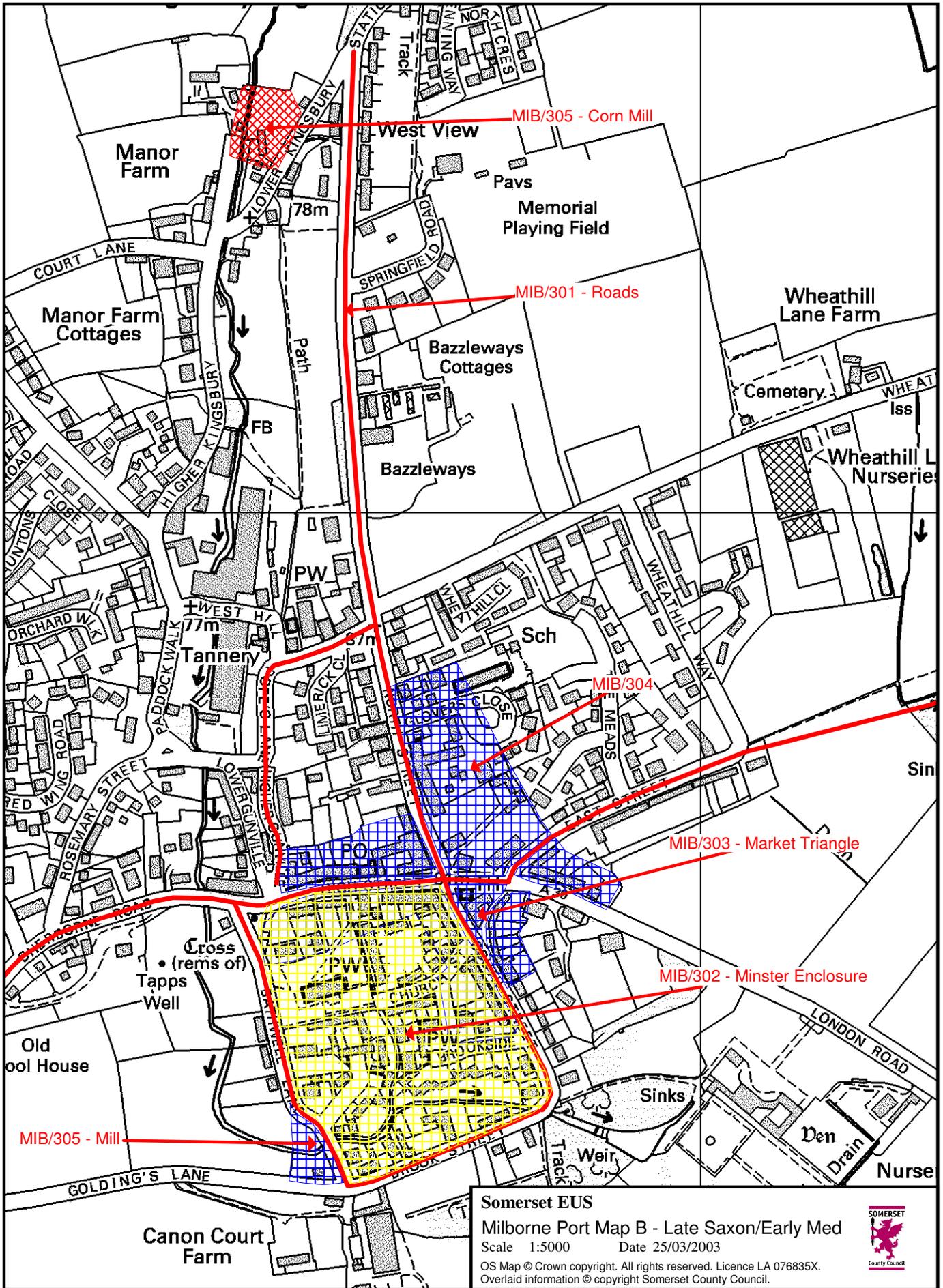
MIB/101 - Promontory Fort

MIB/302 - Minster Enclosure

MIB/201 - Burials (?Roman)

Somerset EUS
 Milborne Port Map A - Prehist. to Earlier Saxon
 Scale 1:12000 Date 25/03/2003
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MIB/305 - Corn Mill

West View

Manor Farm

Pavs Memorial Playing Field

Manor Farm Cottages

MIB/301 - Roads

Wheathill Lane Farm

Bazzleways Cottages

Cemetery

Wheathill L Nurseries

Tannery

MIB/304

Sch

MIB/303 - Market Triangle

• Cross (rems of)
Tapps Well

MIB/302 - Minster Enclosure

MIB/305 - Mill

Canon Court Farm

Somerset EUS

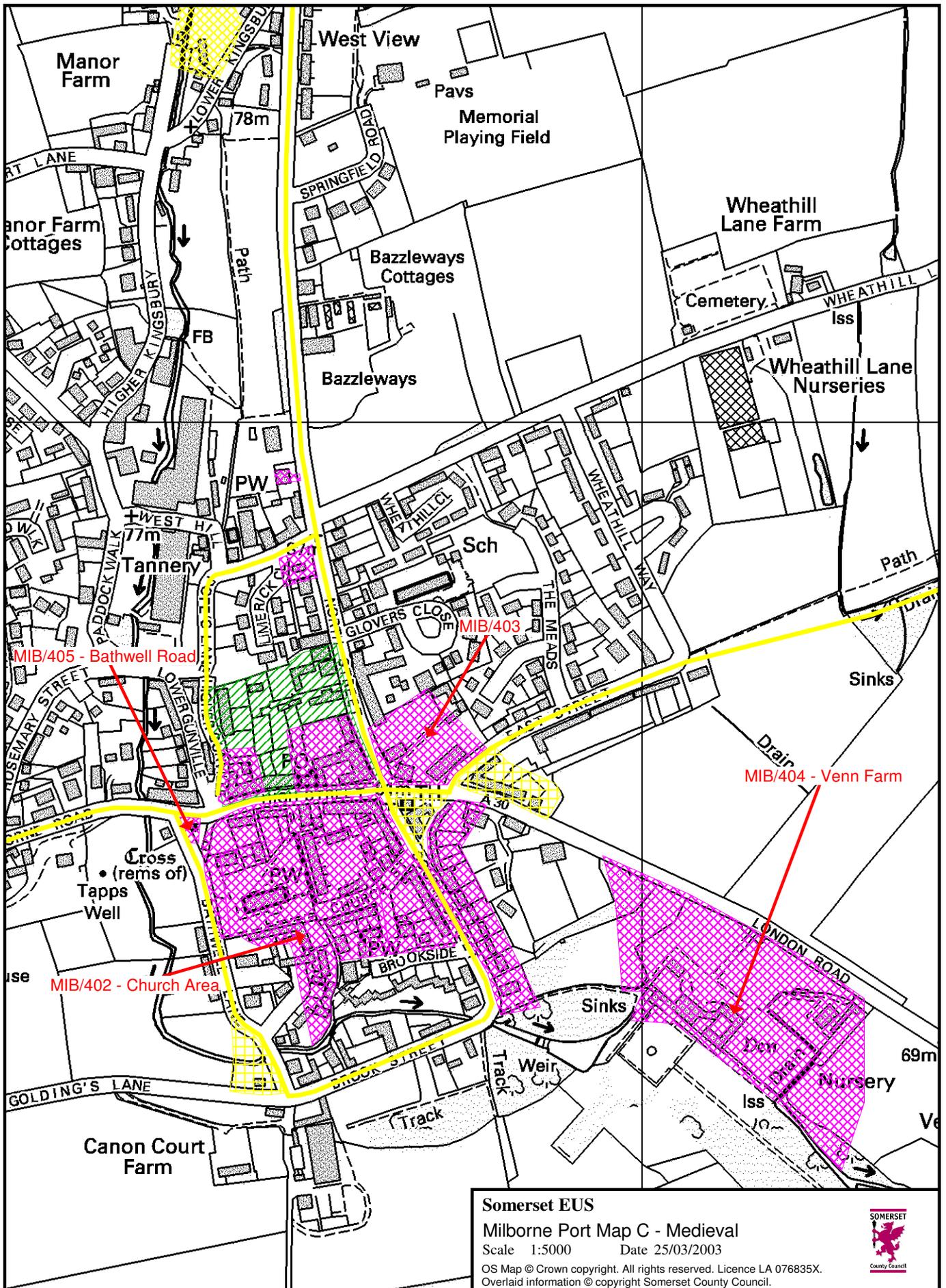
Milborne Port Map B - Late Saxon/Early Med

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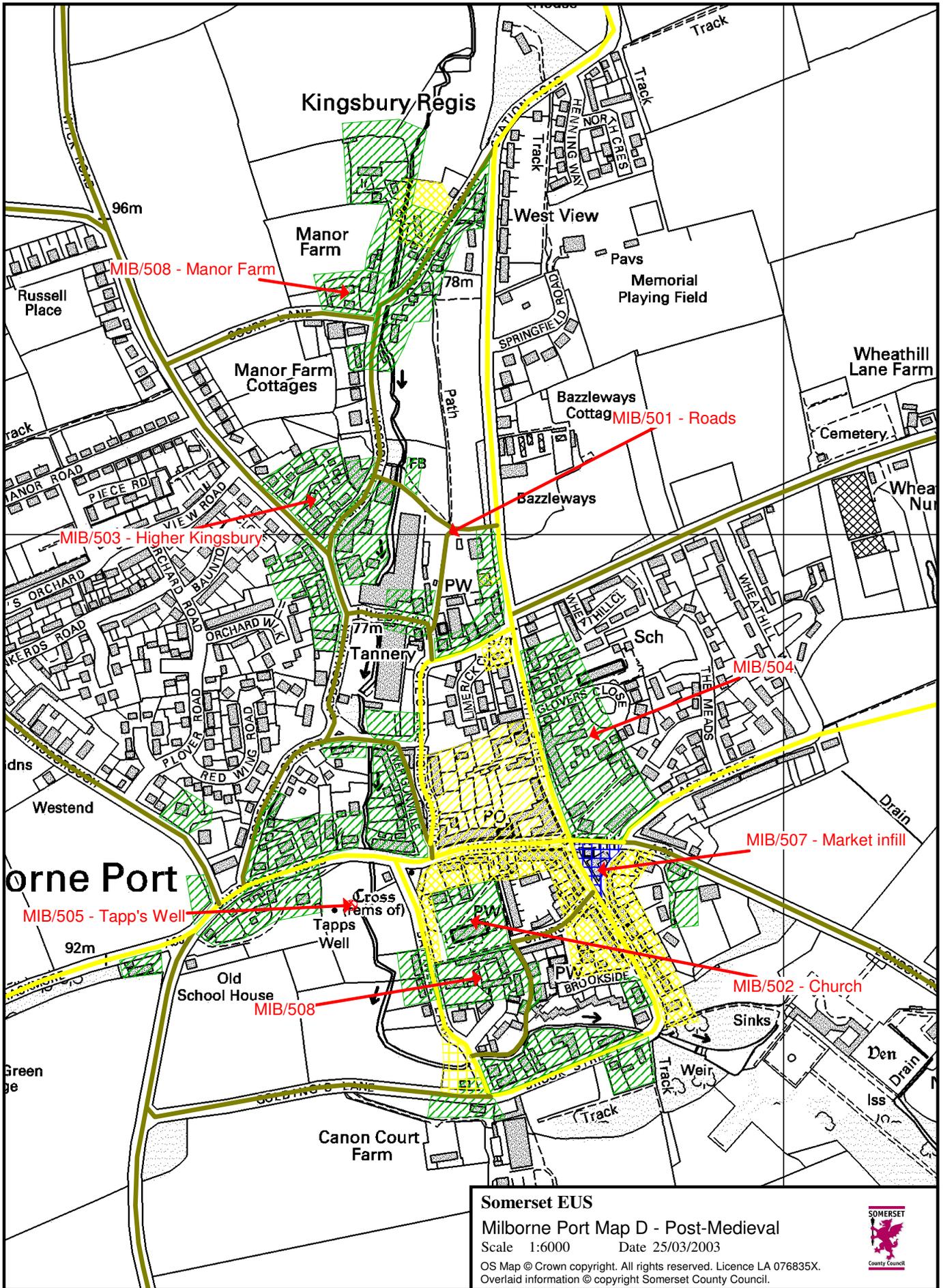
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Milborne Port Map C - Medieval

Scale 1:5000 Date 25/03/2003

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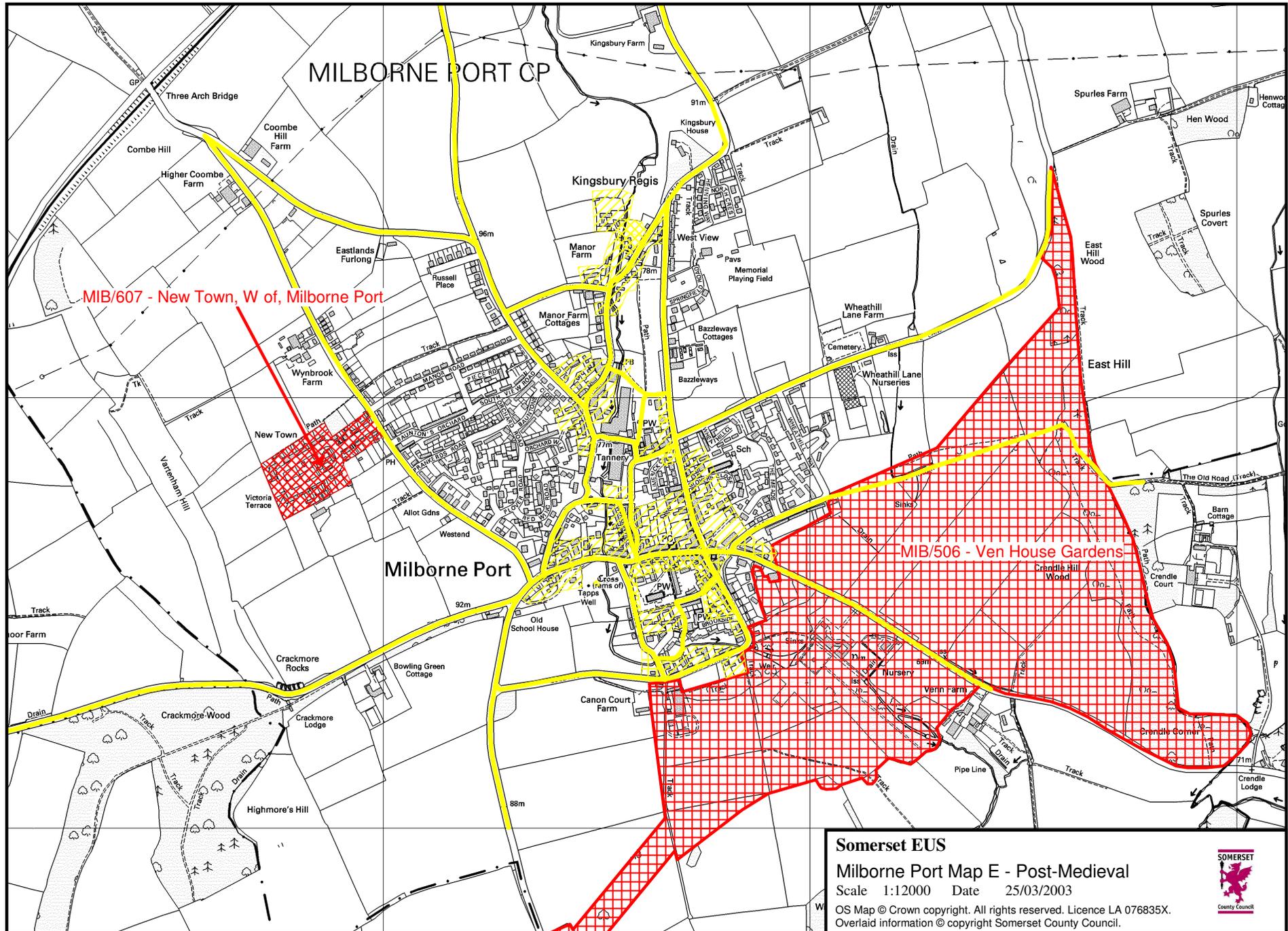
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Milborne Port Map D - Post-Medieval

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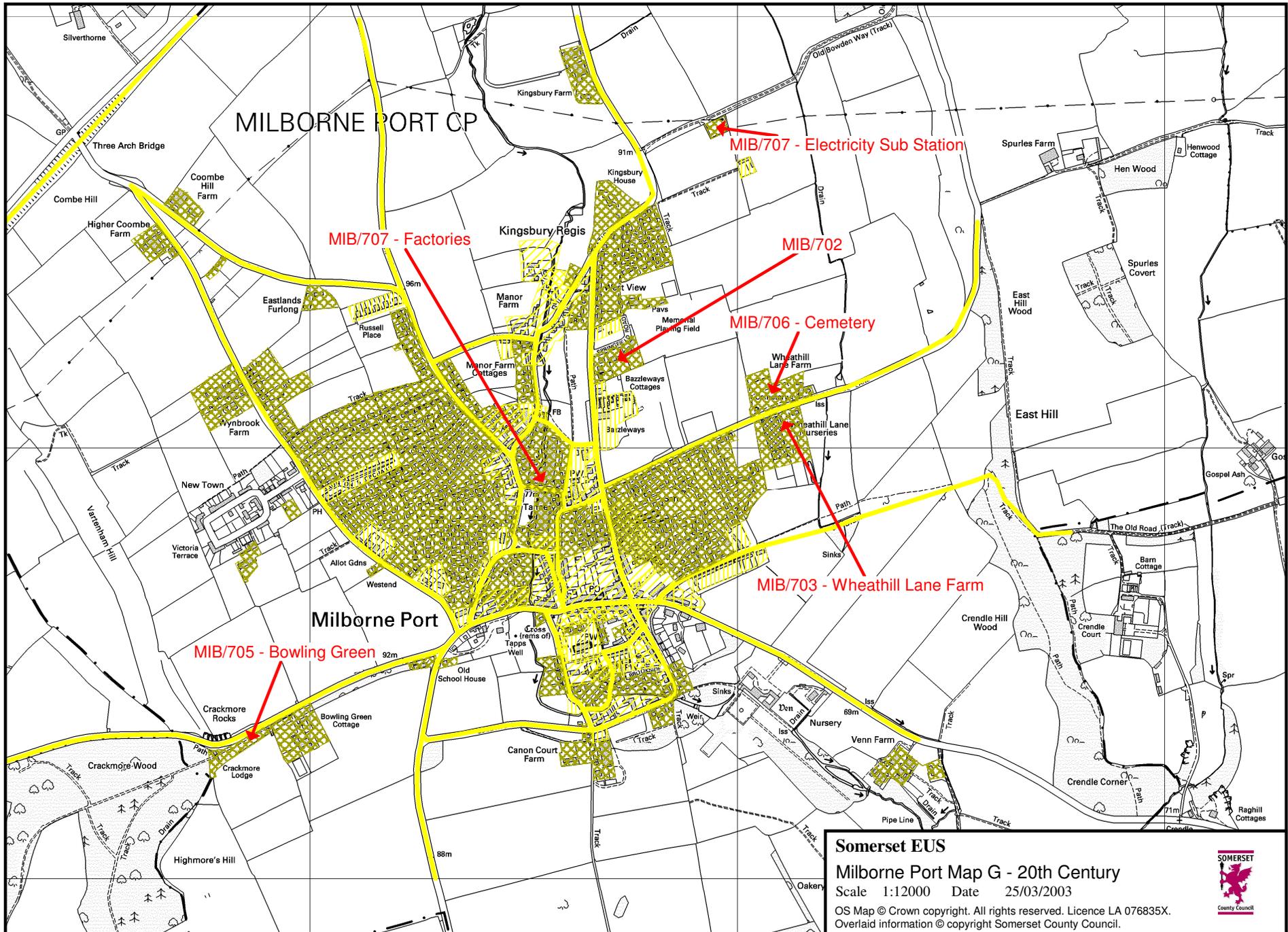


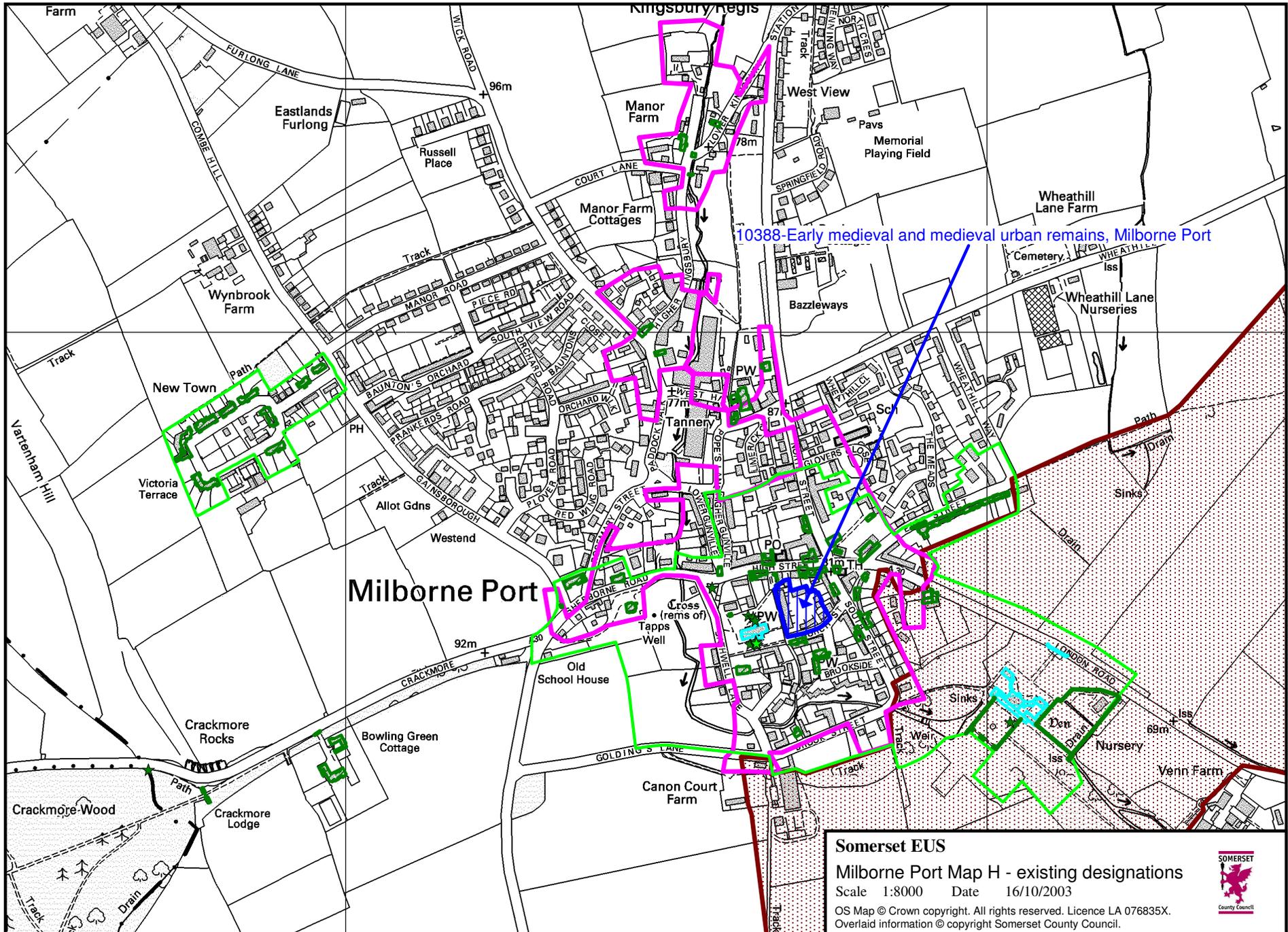


Somerset EUS
Milborne Port Map F - Industrial

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10388-Early medieval and medieval urban remains, Milborne Port

Milborne Port

