

English Heritage Extensive Urban Survey

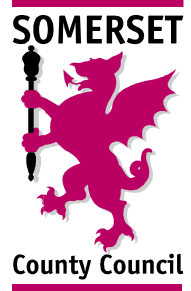
An archaeological assessment of

Crewkerne

Miranda Richardson

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

2003



SOMERSET EXTENSIVE URBAN SURVEY

CREWKERNE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

by Miranda Richardson

CONTENTS

I. INTRODUCTION	3
II. MAJOR SOURCES	3
1. <i>Primary documents</i>	3
2. <i>Local histories</i>	3
3. <i>Maps</i>	3
III. A BRIEF HISTORY OF CREWKERNE	3
IV. THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF CREWKERNE	4
GENERAL COMMENTS	4
1. <i>PREHISTORIC AND ROMAN</i>	4
2. <i>SAXON</i>	5
3. <i>MEDIEVAL</i>	6
4. <i>POST-MEDIEVAL</i>	8
5. <i>INDUSTRIAL (LATE 18TH AND 19TH CENTURY)</i>	10
6. <i>20TH CENTURY</i>	12
V. THE POTENTIAL OF CREWKERNE	13
1. <i>Research interests</i>	13
2. <i>Areas of potentially exceptional preservation</i>	13
3. <i>Limitations</i>	13
4. <i>Extent of current protection</i>	13
5. <i>Management Proposals</i>	13
VI. SOURCES	13
1. <i>General documentary (Somerset/ Wessex)</i>	13
2. <i>Crewkerne</i>	15
3. <i>Maps</i>	15
VII. COMPONENT INDEXES	15
1. <i>Component to map</i>	15
2. <i>Component to page</i>	16

Appendix: *Maps*

SOMERSET EXTENSIVE URBAN SURVEY

CREWKERNE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

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

I. INTRODUCTION

This report forms one of a series commissioned by English Heritage and prepared by Somerset County Council with the aim of assessing urban archaeology as part of the Monuments Protection Programme. The work was carried out from 1994 to 1998 by Clare Gathercole and Miranda Richardson (from 1996), managed by Chris Webster. The reports are essentially as completed during that period but have been updated by Chris Webster with new archaeological information in early 2003.

English Heritage has funded two programmes assess the urban archaeological resource - intensive and extensive. The former is restricted to the major historic cities, characterised by a great depth of archaeological remains, a wealth of historical documentation and in many cases, by a great deal of archaeological investigation. The extensive urban surveys cover the smaller towns and are based on information in the local Sites and Monuments Record with limited amounts of new information collected during the project. Once the information has been collected and mapped, attention is focused on the analysis of the town plan and defining topographic units within the town. This will lead to the preparation of guidance for planners, developers and others involved in the management of the town.

II. MAJOR SOURCES

1. Primary documents

No primary documents have been consulted for this report. The VCH history of Crewkerne hundred is a good source for the available documents concerning the town.

2. Local histories

There is VCH coverage of the hundred of Crewkerne (Dunning and Bush 1978:1-38).

3. Maps

No pre-18th century maps have been located, the earliest used here being the 1772 rectory map of the parish. The tithe map dating to 1844 and the OS maps including the 1807 Surveyor's Drawings have also been used.

III. A BRIEF HISTORY OF CREWKERNE

Crewkerne is situated on the southern boundary of the modern county of Somerset on the complex geology of the Windwhistle Ridge. Its position gives it access to trade routes heading south to the coast as well as lying on the London-Exeter route way.

Little is known of the prehistory of the area and there are few indications of Roman presence in the parish. However, the Saxon history of the hundred is better known. Crewkerne was the centre of a large Saxon royal estate. The manor of Crewkerne is first documented when it was left in the will of King Alfred to his younger son Ethelweard in 899. The town is the site of a minster church of Saxon origin, for which a late 13th-century document exists describing its various relationships with its daughter chapels. It also had a mint in the later 10th and early 11th centuries. Bond has suggested that the lack of evidence for the town being a borough in Domesday may reflect its decline through the 11th century (c1990:1). Despite this Domesday does record a market being held at Crewkerne. In 1066 the manor of Crewkerne was held by *Eddeva* (Edith) mistress of King Harold. After the conquest it was held by William I and the church estate was given to the Abbey of St. Stephen in Caen, Normandy. Between 1272 and 1282 the benefice of Crewkerne was divided into three parts with portions given to the rector, the deacon and the subdeacon, perhaps as a remnant of the minster church's former collegiate status.

Leland visited the town in about 1540 writing “*There I saw nothing very notable,..*” although he did pause to describe the market cross. The economy of the town was essentially that of a rural market until the nineteenth century with some additional income generated by trade with the south coast, the town’s position as a staging post on the London-Exeter road and the local cloth industry.

IV. THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF CREWKERNE

GENERAL COMMENTS

0.1 Archaeological work in the town

There have been no known recorded archaeological excavations in the town. During the 1990s three developments were monitored (SMR 12253, 44886, 90093) but failed to produce anything of archaeological interest.

1. PREHISTORIC AND ROMAN (Map A)

1.1 Archaeological work in the town/ Archaeological knowledge

No Prehistoric or Roman features have been located in Crewkerne but the occasional finds referred to below attest a Roman presence in the vicinity of the town.

1.2 Context

Crewkerne 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.

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. Crewkerne is one of 26 of the 45 historic towns covered by this project at which there is as yet no evidence of Roman settlement.

1.3 Archaeological features shown on Map A

1.3.a Artefact scatters

not mapped Flint Axe (SMR 53812)
A neolithic polished stone axe was found at Crewkerne in 1958, its precise provenance is unknown. It is the only prehistoric entry in the SMR for Crewkerne parish.

not mapped Bronze Dog Statuette (SMR 53810)
A Roman bronze statuette of a tailless dog was found at an unknown site in Crewkerne.

CRE/201 Roman Coins (SMR 53792)
A series of Roman coins were found during excavations for sewerage works to the east of Crewkerne in c.1900.

Mapped from the SMR map

CRE/202 Roman Coins (SMR 53811)
Two Roman coins were found in 1824 and 1869 between South Road and Hermitage Street

Mapped from the SMR map

2. SAXON (Map B)

2.1 Archaeological work in the town/ Archaeological knowledge None.

2.2 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.

Crewkerne 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 eleven places which may have had a mint in the 10th or 11th centuries. All of the mints were associated either with royal estate centres or with their linked burhs (fortified sites); in this case, it was the former. Crewkerne is also one 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), one of nine in which possible signs of pre-Conquest planning have been noted in the Assessments, and one of 22 associated with a known or probable pre-Conquest minster.

2.3 Archaeological features [or components] (centre), shown on Map B

2.3.a Communications

(a) Roads, streets and routeways

CRE/301 Lyme Street, Hermitage Street, Market Street, North Street, East Street

It is likely that the main roads leading north-south and east were in position from the establishment of the Saxon town, evidenced by the position of the church and market area.

Mapped from the 1995 Digital OS

2.3.b Manors and estates

not mapped The position of any Saxon manorial buildings is not known, although they are most likely to have been situated near to the church or the market area.

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

CRE/303 St. Bartholomew's Church (SMR 53794)

The church has its origins as a Saxon minster at the centre of the royal estate of Crewkerne. The earliest visible structural elements date to the 13th century.

Taken from the 1995 Digital OS

2.3.d Settlement (Urban)

(a) Commercial core

(i) Market place(s)

CRE/304 Market Square

To the east of the church the rectangular area bounded by Church Street, Abbey Street and the modern market place was probably an open green or market square in the Saxon period (Dunning and Bush 1978:7, Bond c1990:2).

Taken from the 1995 Digital OS

(ii) Other town plots

CRE/305

Settlement

The Saxon settlement probably surrounded the church and open market square. The extent of the built area has not been tested archaeologically.

*2.3.e Industrial sites**not mapped*Mint

Coins were minted at Crewkerne during the reigns of Ethelred II (978-1014) and Cnut (1016-35) (Dunning and Bush 1978:20). The exact position of the mint is unknown.

*not mapped*Domesday Mills

Six mills were mentioned in Crewkerne hundred in the Domesday survey. Only the one on Eastham manor can be positively identified, although it is likely that some of the mills with known histories from the 13th century had origins in the Saxon period (Dunning and Bush 1978:23-26).

3. MEDIEVAL*(Map C and D)***3.1 Archaeological work in the town/ Archaeological knowledge**

None.

3.2 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.

Crewkerne is one of the fifteen places out of the 45 historic towns covered by this project which either were boroughs or at least had some urban functions before the Conquest; but it is one of four in the latter category which appears not to have achieved borough status in the medieval period. However, Crewkerne was one of nine of the towns at which signs of planning may date to the pre-Conquest period.

3.3 Standing structures and visible remains

Six listed buildings (including the church) in the centre of Crewkerne date to the medieval period.

3.4 Archaeological components (centre), shown on Map C**3.4.a Redevelopment in earlier settlement components**

CRE/406

Market Infilling

The large rectangular market area, immediately to the west of the church was infilled from the late 13th century when clergy houses for the deacon and sub-deacon were built upon it. Until

the 19th century all the properties in this area (bar one) belonged to the rectory estate (Dunning and Bush 1978:8).

3.4.b Communications

(a) Roads, streets and routeways

CRE/401 The roads likely to have existed as part of the medieval town are shown on map C.

3.4.c Manors and estates

CRE/402 Crewkerne Manor

Manorial buildings including a dovecot, hall, great chamber and grange were recorded as being in a dilapidated state or in need of repair between 1294-97 suggesting that they were of some age by this time. The manor-house and garden were valued at 40d in 1341. The main house had disappeared by the 16th century (Dunning and Bush 1978:8). The precise position of these buildings is not known. The area shown on map C corresponds to 'Court Orchard' recorded in the 16th century and the pound marked on the west side of Court Barton road on the 1772 rectory estate map. The east part of this area may have been built upon with the land descending into the gardens in the narrow valley to the west.

1772 Rectory Map

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

CRE/403 St. Bartholomew's Church

The church now standing was built in the 15th and early 16th centuries. The cell in the west end of the church building, inhabited by Anchoresses between the 12th and 16th centuries, still stood in the 1700s. A hermit also lived in a house on the west side of the church in 1402 and in 1539 a cottage called The Hermitage was let by the lord of the manor which was still standing in 1633. A chapel was built in the churchyard under licence of 1309 and endowed with property in Crewkerne. (Dunning and Bush 1978:28)

3.4.e Settlement (Urban)

(a) Commercial core

(i) Market place(s)

CRE/404 Market Place

A smaller market place was established, probably during the medieval period, to the east of the original green or market square.

Taken from the 1772 Rectory Map

(ii) Extent of the Town

CRE/405 There is no documentary evidence for burgage plots in Crewkerne, however Aston and Leech (1977:35) and Bond (c1990: 3) suggest that the regularity of the street pattern is indicative of planned elements. Bond suggests that in particular the rectilinear nature of the roads to the south of the church comprising Market Street and West Street marks a planned extension to the original centre.

The 1772 rectory map of Crewkerne does not show property boundaries within the town and so the pattern of plots has been taken from the 19th century maps. These show no clear pattern of property boundaries.

Taken from the 1772 Rectory Map

3.4.f Settlement (Rural)

CRE/408 Tithe Barn

A tithe barn is known to have stood on this site since the medieval period (Aston and Leech 1977:36). A long narrow strip of land along Barn Street and the barn building are shown as belonging to the rectory estate on the 1772 map.

Taken from the 1772 Rectory Map

3.4.g Industrial sites

CRE/407 Bery/Bury Mill (SMR 53796)

Berry Mill was first documented in 1274, when it was probably a new construction (Dunning and Bush 1978:24). From 1677 it has been known as Whitford mill, which is the name given shown on modern maps.

Taken from the 1886 OS 1st Edition

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

3.5.a Military sites

CRE/412 Crow Castle (SMR 53803)

To the west of North Road is a field marked on the 1st Edition map as Crow Castle. The discovery of 12th-century pottery on the site combined with its name makes it a contender for the site of Crofts Castle, a medieval manor documented from the 13th century. However, Castle Hill in West Crewkerne parish has also been suggested as the centre of the Croft estate (Dunning 1977).

Taken from the SMR map

3.5.b Industrial sites

(a) Mills

CRE/409 Haymore Mill (SMR 53801)

Haymore mill may have been the Whites mill, first referred to in 1530-41 (Dunning and Bush 1978:25).

Taken from the 1886 OS 1st Edition

CRE/410 Windmill (SMR 53797)

The two fields shown here were called Windmill on the 1844 tithe award and may mark the position of the windmill held by one Thomas Trivet in c.1281 (Dunning and Bush 1978:24)

Taken from the 1886 OS 1st Edition

CRE/411 Vinney's Mill (SMR 53800)

'Cotemyllle' was one of two owned by Roger de Putford in 1272. In 1309 it was part of the endowment of the chantry in Crewkerne churchyard. By 1742 it had been given the name Vinney mill (Dunning and Bush 1978:24).

Taken from the 1886 OS 1st Edition

4. POST-MEDIEVAL (Map D)

4.1 Archaeological work in the town/ Archaeological knowledge

None.

4.2 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. Crewkerne 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.

4.3 Standing structures and visible remains

There are over twenty listed post-medieval buildings in the centre of Crewkerne.

4.4 Archaeological components (centre), shown on Map E

4.4.a Redevelopment in earlier settlement components

The surviving post-medieval listed buildings attest some rebuilding of the town centre around the market square and main arteries.

4.4.b Communications

(a) Roads, streets and routeways

CRE/501 The roads shown on the 1773 rectory map are marked on map E.

Taken from the 1772 Rectory Map

4.4.c Water

CRE/509 People's Well (SMR 53807)

The SMR records a post-medieval well to the west of the church.

Taken from the SMR Map

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

CRE/502 Hermitage Street Unitarian Chapel

The 1772 shows the chapel marked as a meeting house. It was built in 1733 and renewed in 1811 and 1900.

Taken from the 1772 Rectory Map

4.4.e Settlement (Urban)

(i) Market place(s)

CRE/504 Market Infilling

The market house was rebuilt in c.1742 probably replacing the 'praty toune house' described by Leland in 1540. The 1772 map also shows shambles to the south of the market house, Bond suggests that these had existed since 1511 and survived until they were demolished in 1836 (c1990:6). Little space would have been left in the market square itself and it is likely that part of the sheep market (established in 1753) was held in the wide road to the south, marked Sheep Market on the 1772 map, and now known as Market Street.

Taken from the 1772 Rectory Map

(ii) Other town plots

CRE/503 In general, the town expanded along the main roads, particularly to the east and south, during the post-medieval period. These areas of expansion, taken from the 1772 map, are shown on map E.

Taken from the 1772 Rectory Map

CRE/505

Alms Houses

Matthew Chubb left money in 1617 for the maintenance of the alms house in Crewkerne which stood somewhere along Court Barton. In 1707 new alms houses were founded on the south side of West Street under the will of Mary Davis. The 1772 map shows both the buildings and that the field between Middle Path and Barn Street was called Alms House Field. The buildings were demolished in 1961. (Dunning and Bush 1978:37)

Taken from the 1772 Rectory Map

4.5 Archaeological components (outlying area), shown on Map F

4.5.a Industrial sites

(a) Mills

CRE/506 Hemp Mill, North Street (SMR 53798)

A mill stood on the west side of North Street which was described as a paper mill in 1707. It

was called Hemp Mill in 1770 and in 1811 was the site of a 'balling' mill. It later became the site of the Coker Sailcloth factory. (Dunning and Bush 1978:25-26)

Taken from the 1886 OS 1st edition

CRE/507

Marshes Mill (SMR 53802)

There was a mill on the site of the Ashlands brewery by 1761, known in 1770 as Marshes Mill. (Dunning and Bush 1978:25-26)

Taken from the 1886 OS 1st edition

CRE/508

No Place Mill (SMR 54687)

Shutteroaks mill is mentioned in 1748. Its name had become No Place Mill by 1785. Some remains of the mill dam and leat survive. (Dunning and Bush 1978:25-26)

Taken from the 1886 OS 1st edition

5. INDUSTRIAL (LATE 18TH AND 19TH CENTURY) (Map G and H)

5.1 Archaeological work in the town/ Archaeological knowledge

None.

5.2 Context

The late 18th and 19th centuries saw some changes to the urban pattern, with the beginning of the emergence of larger centres (often at the expense of smaller ones), linked by vastly improved communication lines (turnpikes, railways and canals). Somerset was not characterised by the kind of large scale industrialisation and urbanisation seen in other counties - indeed, the virtual collapse of its most important industry, which was cloth, affected nearly all of the medieval and most-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.

Crewkerne was one of the thirteen existing boroughs and towns which were either Municipal Boroughs or Urban Districts at the end of the 19th century. These varied in character. Crewkerne was one of only two of the Boroughs and Urban Districts which was principally a market town in this period.

5.3 Standing structures and visible remains

There are over one hundred late 18th- and 19th- century listed buildings in Crewkerne.

5.4 Archaeological components (centre), shown on Map G

5.4.a Redevelopment in earlier settlement components

The large number of listed buildings for this period in the town centre indicate that there was much rebuilding within the existing form of the town.

5.4.b Communications

(a) Roads, streets and routeways

CRE/601

Gouldsbrook Terrace

On the west side of the town the road system was altered with Gouldsbrook Terrace being built across the area of the pound shown on the 1772 map and possibly the position of the medieval manor buildings.

Taken from the 1886 OS 1st Edition

Chard Road and Hewish Lane

Both of these roads were constructed, replacing Lye Water as the main road leading to the west.

Taken from the 1886 OS 1st Edition

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

CRE/602 Baptist Chapel

The Baptist chapel on the west side of North Street was built in 1880 (Dunning and Bush 1978:35).

Taken from the 1886 OS 1st Edition

CRE/603 West Street Chapel

This Bible Christians' chapel was built 1872 and closed in 1962 (Dunning and Bush 1978:35).

Taken from the 1886 OS 1st Edition

CRE/604 South Street Chapel

The South Street chapel was built in 1828. A schoolroom was added in 1864. (Dunning and Bush 1978:35)

Taken from the 1886 OS 1st Edition

CRE/605 East Street Cemetery

A new cemetery is shown on the 1886 OS map.

Taken from the 1886 OS 1st Edition

5.4.d Settlement (Urban)

CRE/606 General building

Several areas of fairly small scale expansion, largely within the form of the existing town are shown on map G.

Taken from the 1886 OS 1st Edition

5.4.e Industrial sites

CRE/608 Webbing Factory

The factory in South Street was established by 1850 (Dunning and Bush 1978:21).

Taken from the 1886 OS 1st Edition

CRE/609 Gas Works

Taken from the 1886 OS 1st Edition

CRE/610 Quarry

Taken from the 1886 OS 1st Edition

CRE/611 Brick Works/Lime kiln (SMR 55489 and 53794)

The brick works are mentioned in the 1844 tithe survey and probably gave Brick Yard Lane its name.

Taken from the 1886 OS 1st Edition

- CRE/612 Lime kiln (SMR 55488)
The 1886 map shows an 'old limekiln' in a field to the north of Brick Yard Lane.

Taken from the 1886 OS 1st Edition
- CRE/613 Hair Seating Factory
A hair seating factory was established to the north of Rose Lane.

Taken from the 1886 OS 1st Edition
- CRE/614 Shirt Factory
A shirt factory was established in Abbey Street by 1875 (Dunning and Bush 1978:21).

Taken from the 1886 OS 1st Edition
- CRE/615 Lime Kiln (SMR 53793)
A lime kiln is shown to the west of Butts Quarry Lane on the 1886 OS map.

Taken from the 1886 OS 1st Edition
- CRE/616 Brewery
The 1886 OS map shows a brewery between North Street and Brick Yard Lane.

Taken from the 1886 OS 1st Edition

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

(a) Railways

- CRE/617 London and South Western Railway
The railway was built to the south of the town in 1860. The Crewkerne station is situated to the north of Misterton (Dunning and Bush 1978:7).

Taken from the 1886 OS 1st Edition

5.5.a Settlement (Rural)

- CRE/607 Curriot Hill Farm
This farm, situated to the south-west of the town is shown on the 1886 OS and the farmhouse building is listed, dating to this period.

Taken from the 1886 OS 1st Edition

6. 20TH CENTURY **(Maps I)**

6.1 Archaeological work in the town/ Archaeological knowledge None.

6.2 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.

Crewkerne is one of 15 of the 45 historic towns covered by this project which is classed as a Town in the County Structure Plan.

6.3 Settlement components, shown on Map I

6.3.a Settlement (Urban)

CRE/701 Areas of 20th-century rebuilding and expansion in and around Crewkerne have been shown on map I.

Taken from the 1995 Digital OS

V. THE POTENTIAL OF CREWKERNE

1. Research interests

Crewkerne is of particular interest as it was an established Saxon town with a minster church, manorial buildings, mint and market. Although there is documentary, town plan and some artefactual evidence for Saxon Crewkerne, buried remains of the town have not been seen as yet. The extent of the Saxon town is unclear, as is the location of Saxon manorial buildings. These may have been to the south of the church in the same position as the medieval manor in which case the Saxon town may have extended further to the south than the area suggested above (map B) or alternatively they may have lain nearer to the rectangular market area to the east of the church. Why the town should have been in decline by the 11th century and failed to gain borough status, as suggested by Bond (c1990:1), are also matters for further research.

The exact date of the planned elements and the sequence of building in the medieval period within the town is still to be established. The precise positions of the documented manorial buildings need to be confirmed.

By the industrial period Crewkerne was home to a wide range of cloth industries, several elements of which survive providing a useful resource for research into the town's industrial archaeology.

2. Areas of potentially exceptional preservation

There are no obvious areas of potentially exceptional preservation.

3. Limitations

The level of archaeological preservation in the town may be limited by the widespread rebuilding which took place in the industrial period.

4. Extent of current protection

There is no AHAP designated for the town of Crewkerne nor are there any scheduled monuments. Listed buildings and the conservation area are shown on map J.

5. Management Proposals

See the Archaeological Guidance Document.

VI. SOURCES

1. General documentary (Somerset/ Wessex)

Aston, M (ed), 1988	<i>Aspects of the Medieval Landscape of Somerset</i>
Aston, M (ed), 1976	Somerset Archaeology 1974-75, <i>PSANHS</i> vol 120, 72-76
Aston, M, 1977a	Deserted settlements, <i>PSANHS</i> vol 121, 41-53
Aston, M (ed), 1977b	Somerset Archaeology 1976, <i>PSANHS</i> vol 121, 107-128
Aston, M, 1983	Deserted farmsteads on Exmoor and the lay subsidy of 1327, <i>PSANHS</i> vol 127, 90-93
Aston, M, 1986	Post-Roman central places in Somerset, in Grant (ed)
Aston, M, 1994	Medieval settlement studies in Somerset in: Aston, M & C Lewis (eds)
Aston, M & Burrow, I, 1982	<i>The Archaeology of Somerset</i>
Aston, M & Leech, R, 1977	<i>Historic Towns in Somerset (CRAAGS)</i>
Aston, M & C Lewis (eds), 1994	<i>The Medieval Landscape of Wessex</i>
Aston, M & Murless, B, 1978	Somerset Archaeology 1978, <i>PSANHS</i> vol 122, 124-134

- Bentley, J B & Murless, B J, 1985 & 1987
Somerset Roads - The Legacy of the Turnpikes Parts 1 and 2
- Betty, J H, 1986
Wessex from AD 1000
- Bradbury, J & Croft, R A (eds), 1990
Somerset Archaeology 1989, *PSANHS* vol 133, 154-185
- Braggs, 1840
Directory of Somerset
- Burrow, I, Minnitt, S & Murless, B (eds), 1981a
Somerset Archaeology, 1979, *PSANHS* vol 124, 111-140
- Burrow, I, Minnitt, S & Murless, B (eds), 1981b
Somerset Archaeology, 1980, *PSANHS* vol 125, 93-97
- Burrow, I, Minnitt, S & Murless, B (eds), 1983
Somerset Archaeology, 1981, *PSANHS* vol 126, 61-91
- Burrow, I, Minnitt, S & Murless, B (eds), 1984
Somerset Archaeology, 1982, *PSANHS* vol 127, 13-31
- Burrow, I, Minnitt, S & Murless, B (eds), 1985
Somerset Archaeology, 1983, *PSANHS* vol 128, 1-23
- Coleman-Smith, R & Pearson, T, 1988
Excavations in the Donyatt potteries
- Collinson, J, 1791
The History and Antiquities of the County of Somerset
- Coulthard, A J & Watts, M, 1978
Windmills of Somerset
- Costen, M, 1992
The origins of Somerset
- Dennison, E (ed), 1987a
Somerset Archaeology 1985, *PSANHS* vol 129, 1-35
- Dennison, E (ed), 1987b
Somerset Archaeology 1986, *PSANHS* vol 130, 141-161
- Dennison, E (ed), 1988
Somerset Archaeology 1987, *PSANHS* vol 131, 215-228
- Dennison, E (ed), 1989
Somerset Archaeology 1988, *PSANHS* vol 132, 209-243
- Dunning, R W (ed), 1974
Victoria History of the County of Somerset vol 3
- Dunning, R W, 1975
Christianity in Somerset
- Dunning, R W (ed), 1978
Victoria History of the County of Somerset vol 4
- Dunning, R W, 1985
Victoria History of the County of Somerset vol 5
- Dunning, R W, 1987
A history of Somerset
- Dunning, R W, 1991
Some Somerset country houses
- Dunning, R W (ed), 1992
Victoria History of the County of Somerset vol 6
- Dunning, R W, 1995
Somerset Castles
- Ellison, A, 1983
Medieval villages in south-east Somerset
- English Heritage, 1994
County list of scheduled monuments: Somerset
- Fowler, P J, 1971
"M5 and archaeology", *Arch Rev* 6, p10
- Grinsell, L V, 1970
The Archaeology of Exmoor
- Grundy, G B, 1935
The Saxon charters of Somerset
- Haskell, T, 1994
By Waterway to Taunton
- Hulbert, N F, 1936
A Survey of the Somerset Fairs, *PSANHS* vol 82, p83
- Kelly, 1861
Directory of Somerset
- Kelly, 1866
Directory of Somerset
- Lawrence, B, 1952
Quantock Country
- Leech, R, 1981
"The Somerset Levels in the Romano-British period" in *The Evolution of Marshland Landscapes*
- Leech, R & Leach, P, 1982
"Roman town and countryside" in Aston & Burrow, 1982, 63-81
- Minnitt, S & Murless, B J (eds), 1980
Somerset Archaeology 1978, *PSANHS* vol 123, 94-95
- Morris, 1872
Directory of Somerset and Bristol
- Page, W, 1911
Victoria County History, vol 2
- Pearce, S M, 1978
The Kingdom of Dumnonia
- Pevsner, N, 1958
South and West Somerset (the Buildings of England)
- Pigot & Co
Pigot & Co's Directory, 1830
- Pigot & Co
Pigot & Co's Directory, 1842
- Robinson, W J, 1914
West Country Churches
- Rogers, 1976
Wiltshire and Somerset Woollen Mills

- Rutter, J, 1829 *Delineations of north-west Somerset*
 Savage, W, 1954 Somerset Towns, *PSANHS* vol 99, 49-74
 Warren, D (ed), 1996 *Somerset's industrial heritage*
 Webster, C J & Croft, R A (eds), 1991 Somerset Archaeology 1990, *PSANHS* vol 134, 207-229
 Webster, C J & Croft, R A (eds), 1992 Somerset Archaeology 1991, *PSANHS* vol 135, 135-164
 Webster, C J & Croft, R A (eds), 1993 Somerset Archaeology 1992, *PSANHS* vol 136, 161-182
 Webster, C J & Croft, R A (eds), 1994 Somerset Archaeology 1993, *PSANHS* vol 137, 129-156
 Webster, C J & Croft, R A (eds), 1995 Somerset Archaeology 1994, *PSANHS* vol 138, 165-185
 Webster, C J & Croft, R A (eds), 1996 Somerset Archaeology 1995, *PSANHS* vol 139, 151-177
 Williams, M, 1970 *The draining of the Somerset Levels*
 York, B, 1995 *Wessex in the Early Middle Ages*

2. Crewkerne

- Betty J.H. 1969 'Places of religious Worship in Crewkerne, 1951' *NQSD* **29/289** p.58-62
 Bond C.J. c1990 *Crewkerne (Unpublished report for MPP)*
 Buchanan S. 1991 'Tanning and Tanneries in Somerset' *SIASB* **58** p.17
 Dunning R.W. 1976 'The Minster at Crewkerne' *PSANHS* **120** p. 63-67
 Dunning R.W. 1977 'Croft Castle' *PSANHS* **121** p.129-130
 Dunning R.W. and Bush R.J.E. 1978 'Crewkerne' in *VCCHS IV* Oxford University Press:Oxford p. 4-38
 Eeles F.C. and Slade C.E.W. 1939 'Church of St. Bartholomew, Crewkerne' *PSANHS* **85** p. 1-12
 Minnit S. and Murless B.J. 1979 'Somerset Archaeology in 1978' *PSANHS* **123** p. 89-94
 Trask C. 1903 'Gaul and Hospital Money' *NQSD* **8/63** p.321-322

3. Maps

- 1772 Rectory Map
 1807 OS Surveyors' Drawings at 3": fiche in SLHL
 1844 Tithe Map: fiche in SLHL
 1886 OS 1st Edition: fiche in SLHL
 1982 OS 1:10000
 1995 OS digital Maps

VII. COMPONENT INDEXES

1. Component to map

CRE/201	A	CRE/409	D
CRE/202	A	CRE/410	D
CRE/301	B	CRE/411	D
CRE/303	B	CRE/412	D
CRE/304	B	CRE/501	E
CRE/305	B	CRE/502	E
CRE/401	C	CRE/503	E
CRE/402	C	CRE/504	E
CRE/403	C	CRE/505	E
CRE/404	C	CRE/509	E
CRE/405	C	CRE/506	F
CRE/406	C	CRE/507	F
CRE/407	C	CRE/508	F
CRE/408	C	CRE/601	G

CRE/602	G	CRE/613	G
CRE/603	G	CRE/614	G
CRE/604	G	CRE/615	G
CRE/606	G	CRE/607	H
CRE/608	G	CRE/616	H
CRE/609	G	CRE/701	I
CRE/610	G		
CRE/611	G		
CRE/612	G		

2. Component to page

CRE/201	4, 15
CRE/202	4, 15
CRE/301	5, 15
CRE/303	5, 15
CRE/304	5, 15
CRE/305	6, 15
CRE/401	7, 15
CRE/402	7, 15
CRE/403	7, 15
CRE/404	7, 15
CRE/405	7, 15
CRE/406	6, 15
CRE/407	8, 15
CRE/408	7, 15
CRE/409	8, 15
CRE/410	8, 15
CRE/411	8, 15
CRE/412	8, 15
CRE/501	9, 15
CRE/502	9, 15
CRE/503	9, 15
CRE/504	9, 15
CRE/505	9, 15
CRE/506	9, 15
CRE/507	10, 15
CRE/508	10, 15
CRE/509	9, 15
CRE/601	10, 15
CRE/602	11, 16
CRE/603	11, 16
CRE/604	11, 16
CRE/606	11, 16
CRE/607	12, 16
CRE/608	11, 16
CRE/609	11, 16
CRE/610	11, 16
CRE/611	11, 16
CRE/612	12, 16
CRE/613	12, 16
CRE/614	12, 16
CRE/615	12, 16
CRE/616	12, 16
CRE/701	13, 16

Maps

Map A - Roman

Map B - Saxon

Map C - Medieval

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

Map D - Medieval

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

Map E - Post-medieval

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

Map F - Post-medieval

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

Map G - Industrial

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

Map H - Industrial

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

Map I - 20th century

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

Map J - Existing designations

Key: Scheduled Monuments (none)

Listed Buildings Grade I (light blue)
 Grade II* (light green)
 Grade II (dark green)

Conservation Area (light green)

Area of High Archaeological Potential (pink)