

Local Government  
Boundary Commission  
For England  
Report No.631

Parish Review

DISTRICT OF  
FOREST OF DEAN

LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
BOUNDARY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND  
REPORT NO 631

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

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THE RT HON MICHAEL HESELTINE MP  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

PARISH REVIEW OF THE DISTRICT OF FOREST OF DEAN

COMMISSION'S FINAL REPORT AND PROPOSALS

INTRODUCTION

1. On 3 September 1990, we wrote to your predecessor endorsing, with modifications, the recommendations made by Forest of Dean District Council in its report of the parish review it had conducted under Section 48(8) of the Local Government Act 1972. A copy of the letter is attached at Annex A to this report.

2. Our letter noted that there were a number of areas where we had reservations about the existing parish boundaries, or the extent of change recommended by the District Council, and indicated that we had decided to address these issues ourselves by means of a partial parish review under Section 48(9) of the Act. The boundaries concerned were those between the following parishes: (a) Coleford and West Dean; (b) Hewelsfield and St Briavels; (c) Awre and West Dean; (d) Littledean and Ruspidge; and (e) Ruardean and Drybrook.

3. Your decision on our recommendations was reported to us on 26 March 1991. We accordingly wrote to Forest of Dean District Council on 19 July 1991, announcing our intention to undertake a review of the specified areas, at the same time publishing our draft proposals. Copies of the letter were sent to Gloucestershire County Council, and to the Parish Councils of Coleford, West Dean, Hewelsfield, St Briavels, Awre, Littledean, Ruspidge, Drybrook and Ruardean. The District Council was asked to place a copy of the letter and the accompanying maps on deposit for inspection at its main office for a period of six weeks. The Commission placed notices for two successive weeks in the local press, and asked the District Council to assist in giving wider publicity to its proposals by placing copies of the notice, suitably displayed, at places where public notices are customarily displayed. Comments to the Commission were invited by 13 September 1991. A copy of our letter is at Annex B.

8. We do not agree with Coleford Town Council that it would be appropriate if Mile End Cemetery, which adjoins our proposed new boundary to the north of Mile End village, was also transferred to the Parish of Coleford. There is no evidence that existing arrangements are not satisfactory. We have therefore decided to confirm our draft proposal as final, without modification.

B. Hewelsfield/St Briavels (Map 5 )

9. We proposed the transfer of a small area to the north and north-west of the village of Brockweir (along the bank of the River Wye) from the Parish of St Briavels to the Parish of Hewelsfield. In our view, the residents of this area (which is at present in the Parish of St Briavels) appear to have strong affinities with the village of Brockweir, which is almost entirely in the Parish of Hewelsfield. Moreover, we understand that residents have to pass through Brockweir to reach the village of St Briavels (to the north-east) by road. However, we noted the concern that had been expressed in connection with the exercise of Commoners' Rights in this area.

10. Forest of Dean District Council supported our draft proposal, as did Hewelsfield Parish Council and a member of the public who forwarded a letter and a petition in favour of the proposal, with 18 signatures. The only objection was from the Secretary of the Hudnalls Wood Commoners' Association, which fears that the proposal would in some way damage the exercise of Commoners' Rights by the parishioners of St Briavels. We have been aware of this concern since an early stage of our consideration of the District Council's review, but in our view this should not outweigh the reasons for change which we identify in paragraph 9 above. We have therefore decided to confirm our draft proposal as final, but, in doing so, we formally draw your attention to the belief of the Commoners' Association that, if residents are transferred out of the Parish of St Briavels, they will lose their Commoners' Rights. We have agreed to forward to you all the information which the Association has sent us.

C. Awre/West Dean (Map 6)

11. We proposed that the settlement of Viney Hill should be united in the Parish of West Dean. The present boundary, which follows a minor road, divides the village, and access to Viney Hill from other parts of Awre is not easy, due to the steepness of the hill.

## CONCLUSION

17. In our view, our final proposals as set out in paragraphs 5-15 above are in the interests of effective and convenient local government in the areas concerned and we commend them to you.

## PUBLICATION

18. A separate letter is being sent to Forest of Dean District Council asking it to deposit copies of this report at its main offices for inspection for a period of six months and to put notices to that effect on public notice boards. The Commission will itself insert a similar notice in the local press. The text of the notice will explain that the Commission has fulfilled its statutory role in this matter and that it now falls to you to make an Order implementing the proposals, if you think fit, though not earlier than a period of six weeks from the date on which they are submitted to you. Copies of this report, with the attached maps illustrating the proposed changes, are being sent to all those who received our draft proposals letter of 19 July 1991.

Signed: G J ELLERTON (Chairman)

K F J ENNALS

G R PRENTICE

HELEN SARKANY

C W SMITH

K YOUNG

R D COMPTON  
Commission Secretary

(Date) 106 FEB 1992



**Local Government Boundary Commission  
for England**

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The Permanent Secretary  
Department of the Environment  
2 Marsham Street  
London SW1P 3EB

3 September 1990

Dear Sir

**PARISH REVIEW: DISTRICT OF FOREST OF DEAN**

1. The Forest of Dean District Council has conducted a review, under Section 48(8) of the Local Government Act 1972, of the parish pattern of its district and has reported to the Commission. The District Council recommended 25 boundary changes, affecting the boundaries of 23 parishes.

2. The Commission has considered the District Council's report and the representations made to the District Council in accordance with Section 48(9) of the Local Government Act 1972, and it is satisfied that the review was carried out in accordance with the requirements of Section 60 of the Act; it has also taken into account the representations made directly to it after publication of the Council's report.

3. Having considered the Report in detail, the Commission was disposed to adopt the recommendations made by the District Council, subject to the modifications set out below.

4. In the case of the boundary between the Parishes of Churcham and Tibberton, the Commission concluded that the existing boundary should be retained. The Commission was not persuaded by Churcham Parish Council's case for transferring the property east of Lake End to the Parish of Tibberton. It noted the lack of enthusiasm for the change on the part of the receiving parish and the arguments from a member of the public (whose own property had originally been included in the transfer) that the area's links were with Churcham. The Commission therefore decided to issue a draft modification to retain the existing boundary.

5. The District Council had recommended a change to the boundary between the Parishes of Ruardean and Drybrook in the area of the The Morse/Morse Lane and the Commission accepted that some change was necessary. However, the Commission felt that the change, as recommended, was too extensive, biting too deeply into the Parish of Ruardean. Several alternative lines had also been suggested, one by a local councillor and one by a member of the public; the Commission decided to issue a draft modification to adopt the latter as its recommendation, as it followed a readily identifiable feature (a road for the most part) and provided a more appropriate division of the two parishes.

12. Copies of this letter have been sent to the District Council, Gloucestershire County Council, the parish councils in the district, the Member of Parliament for the constituency concerned and the headquarters of the main political parties. Copies have also been sent to local newspapers circulating in the area, to the local government press and to local radio and television stations serving the area.

13. A separate letter is being sent to the District Council asking it to place a copy of this letter on deposit at its main offices, together with copies of its review report, and to display notices to this effect on public notice boards, and in the local press. The text of the notices will explain that the Commission has fulfilled its statutory role in the current review and that it now falls to the Secretary of State to make an Order giving effect to the proposals, if he thinks fit, not earlier than six weeks from the date of their submission to him.

Yours faithfully



PP S T GARRISH  
Secretary

Annexes Attached: A - Maps illustrating boundary changes  
B - Schedule of consequential electoral changes

to the areas mentioned in paragraph 10 of its letter of 3 September 1990 and set out in paragraph 5 of this letter. Issues relating to the other parish boundaries within the District, on which the Secretary of State has announced his decisions, will not be reopened in the course of the current partial review; any representations received in respect of these other boundaries will not be considered.

5. This letter is therefore a formal notification to your Council that the Commission has launched its partial review and that it is simultaneously publishing its draft proposals for changes to the following parish boundaries: (a) Coleford/West Dean; (b) Hewelsfield/St Briavels; (c) Awre/West Dean; (d) Littledean/Ruspidge and (e) Ruardean/Drybrook (in the Woodside area). The Commission has concluded that these proposals would be in the interests of effective and convenient local government at parish level in the areas concerned.

#### THE COMMISSION'S DRAFT PROPOSALS

##### A. Coleford/West Dean (Maps 1, 2, 3, 4)

6. The Commission proposes that the ribbon of development round the east of the town of Coleford, between Milkwall and Five Acres, should transfer from the Parish of West Dean to the Parish of Coleford. The new boundary would follow a line suggested at an earlier stage by Coleford Town Council, with minor technical adjustments suggested by Ordnance Survey.

7. The Commission notes that the area appears to have considerable affinities with the expanding community of Coleford, which appears to be the major local centre of employment and the main provider of shopping, education, social and recreational facilities. By contrast, West Dean is a very large parish, comprising several dispersed communities and its centre lies some way from Coleford. Its viability would not be affected by the transfer as it would retain a substantial centre of population, Bream.

##### B. Hewelsfield/St Briavels (Map 5)

8. The Commission considers that the present boundary is unsatisfactory. It notes that properties in an area stretching some distance to the north of the village of Brockweir (along the bank of the River Wye), at present in the Parish of St Briavels, appear to have strong affinities with the village, which is almost entirely in the Parish of Hewelsfield. Moreover, it understands that residents of this area can only reach the village of St Briavels (to the north-east) by road by passing through Brockweir. The Commission therefore proposes that the area shown on Map 5 should be transferred from the Parish of St Briavels to the Parish of Hewelsfield, in recognition of its community of interest with Brockweir.

9. The Commission is aware of local concern about the exercise of Commoners' Rights, at present exercised by the parishioners

CONSULTATION AND PUBLICITY

15. The assistance of your Council is sought in giving publicity to the Commission's draft proposals. Annex B sets out the requirements placed on the Commission by Section 60 of the 1972 Act and the steps your Council is asked to take in this respect.

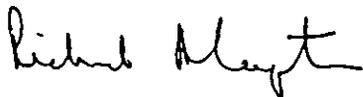
16. Comments on these proposals are invited from any persons or bodies interested. Annex C gives further information about the form and timings of comments and about the Commission's subsequent procedure.

17. Copies of this letter without display mapping are being sent to Gloucester County Council and to the Parish Councils of Coleford, West Dean, Hewelsfield, St Briavels, Awre, Littledean, Ruspidge, Ruardean and Drybrook.

Enquiries

18. Any enquiries about this letter should be addressed to Ms J McLauchlan at the above address or on the following telephone number: 071-238 5028.

Yours faithfully

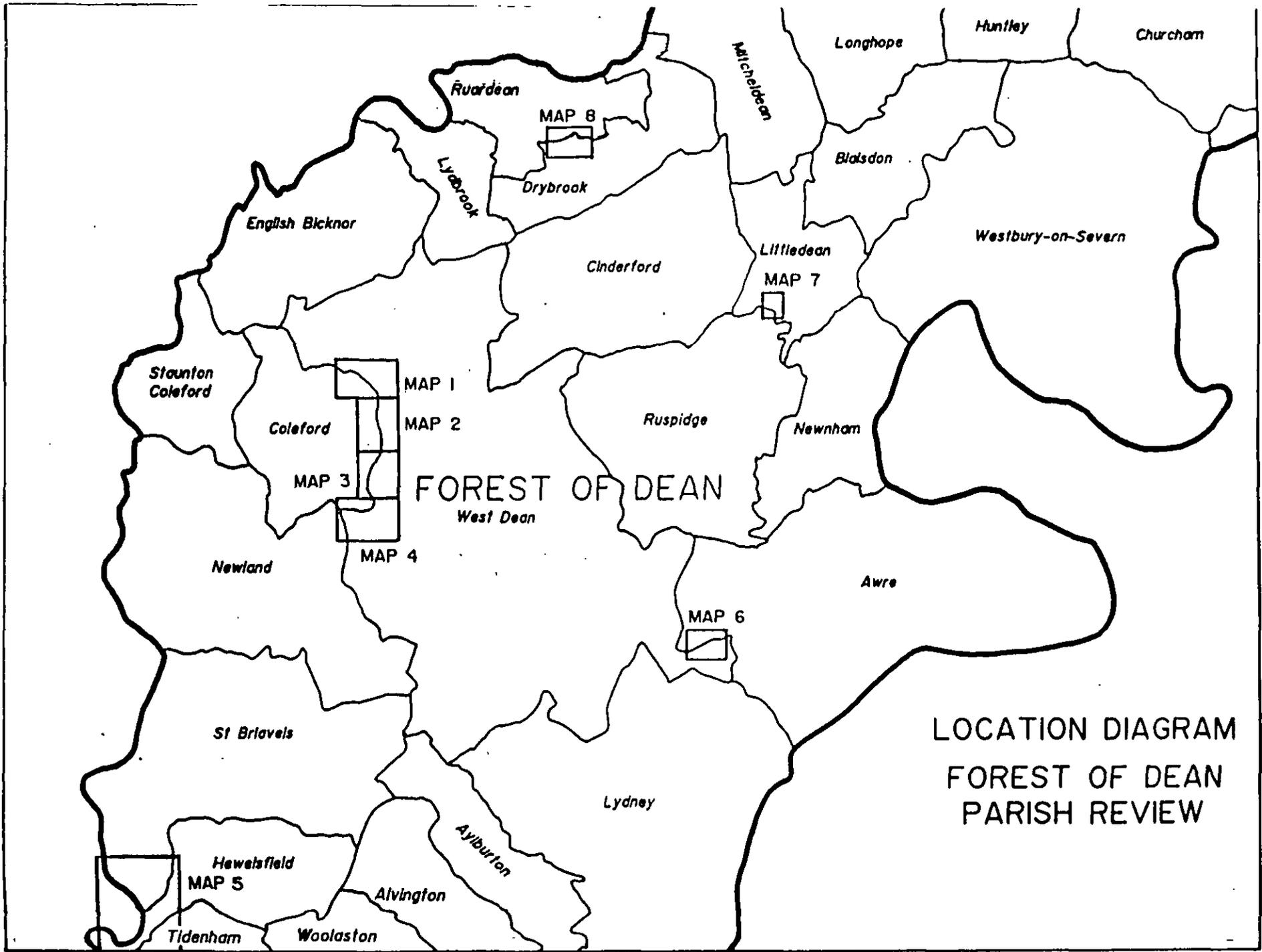


R D COMPTON  
Secretary

PARISH REVIEW  
FOREST OF DEAN  
FINAL PROPOSALS

Existing Parish Boundary	—————
Proposed Parish Boundary	- - - - -
Other boundary divisions	.....

Produced by Ordnance Survey for the  
Local Government Boundary Commission for England



LOCATION DIAGRAM  
FOREST OF DEAN  
PARISH REVIEW

Map 1

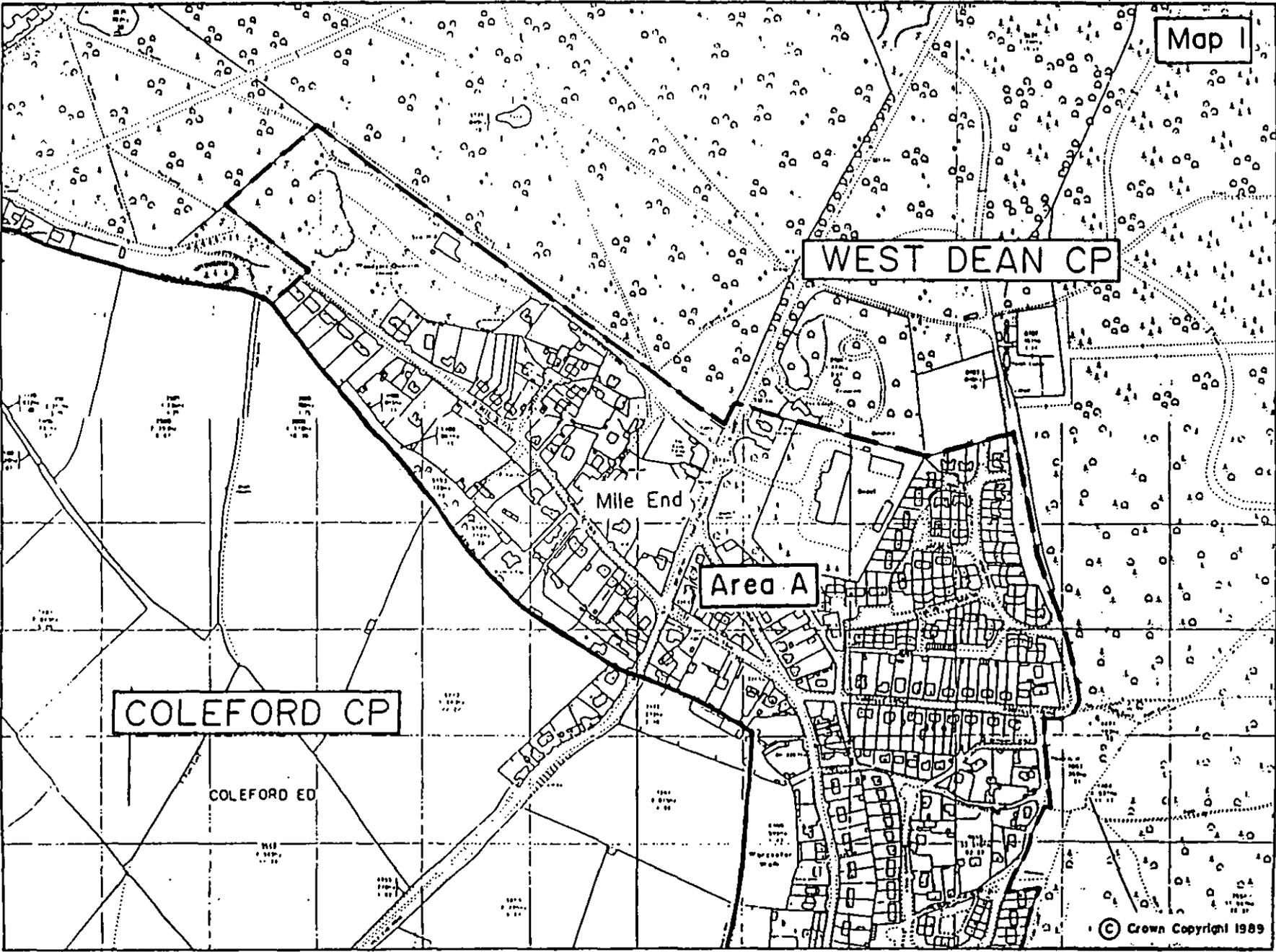
WEST DEAN CP

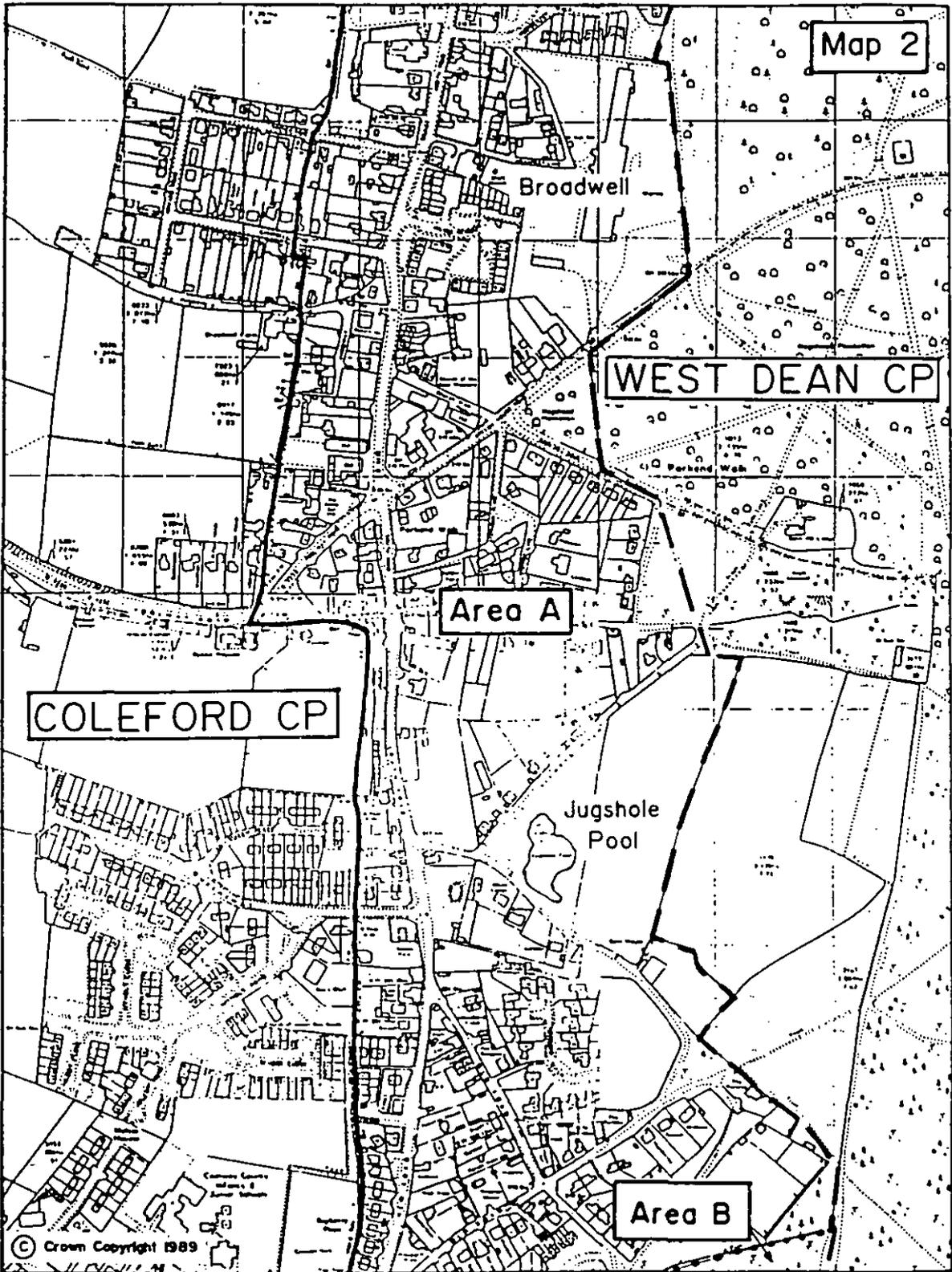
Mile End

Area A

COLEFORD CP

COLEFORD ED





Map 2

Broadwell

WEST DEAN CP

Area A

COLEFORD CP

Jugshole Pool

Area B

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Map 3

COLEFORD CP

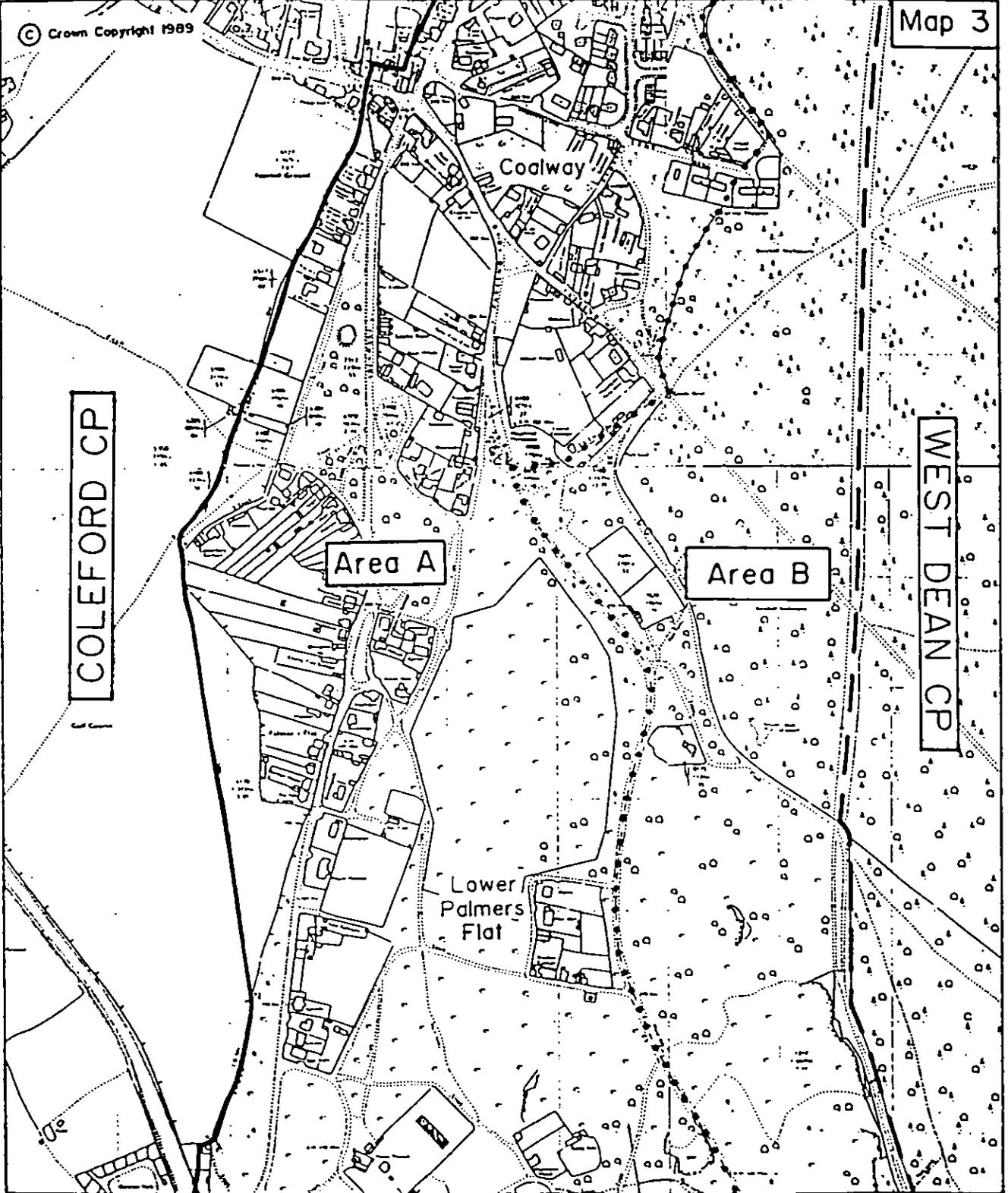
WEST DEAN CP

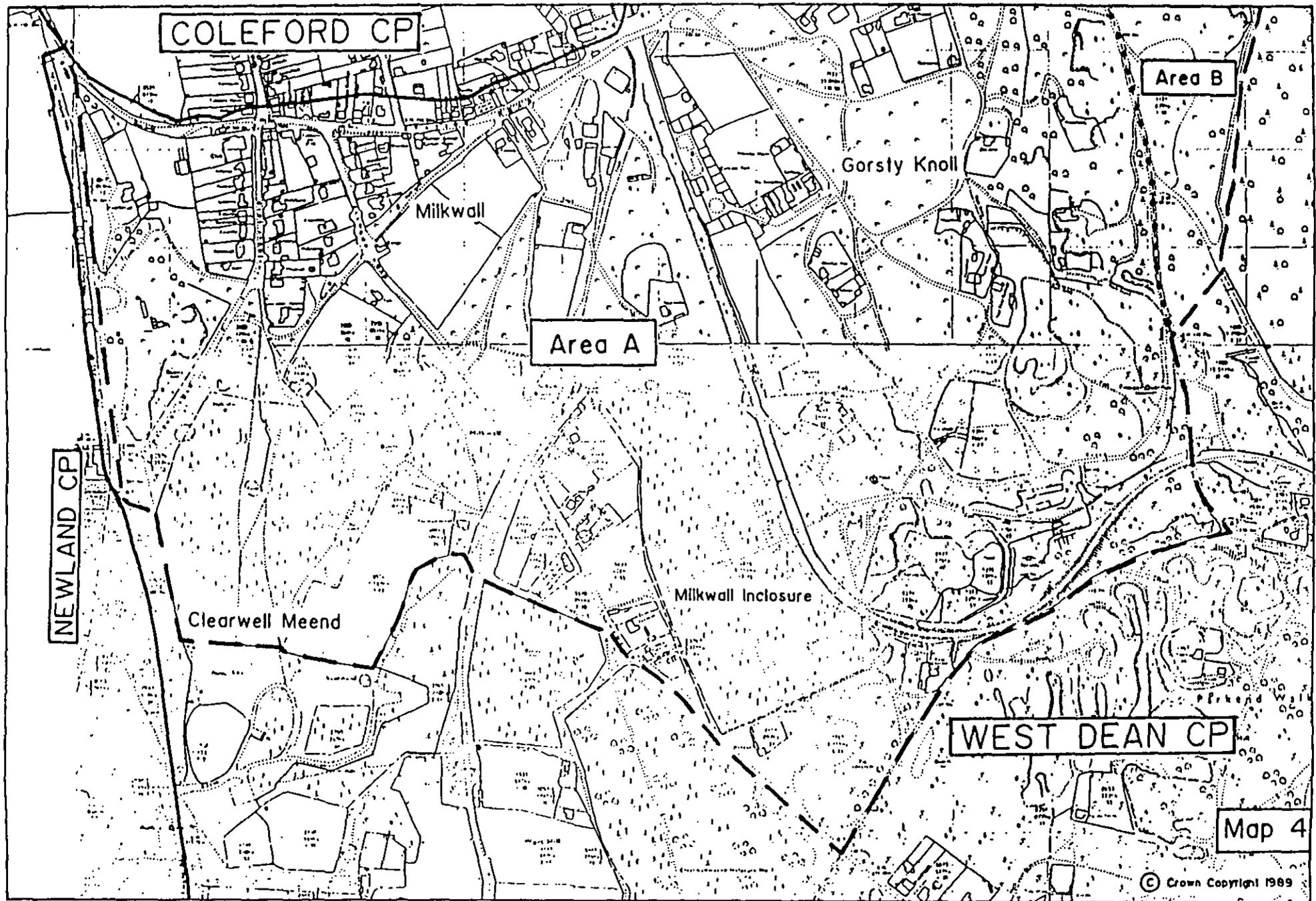
Coalway

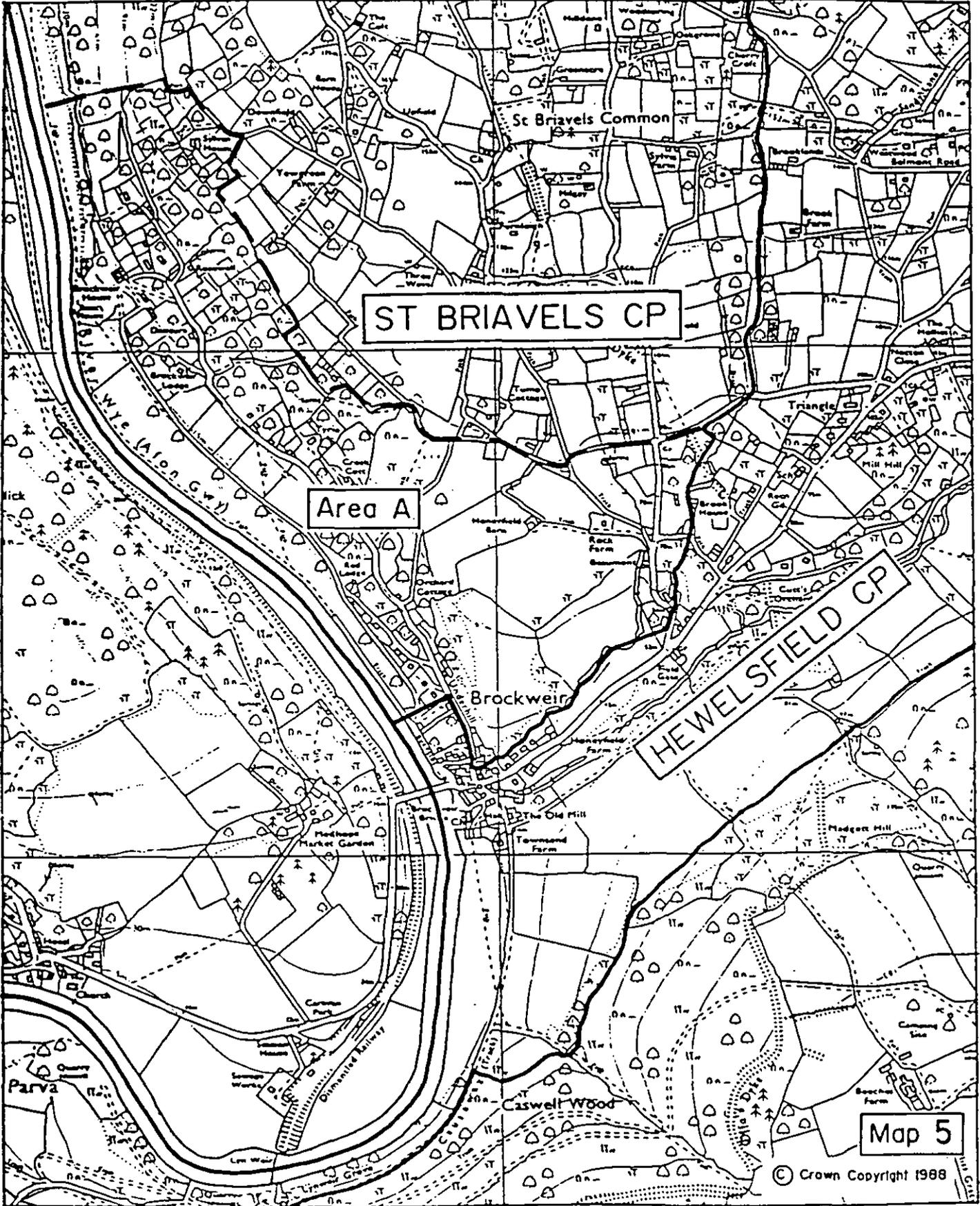
Area A

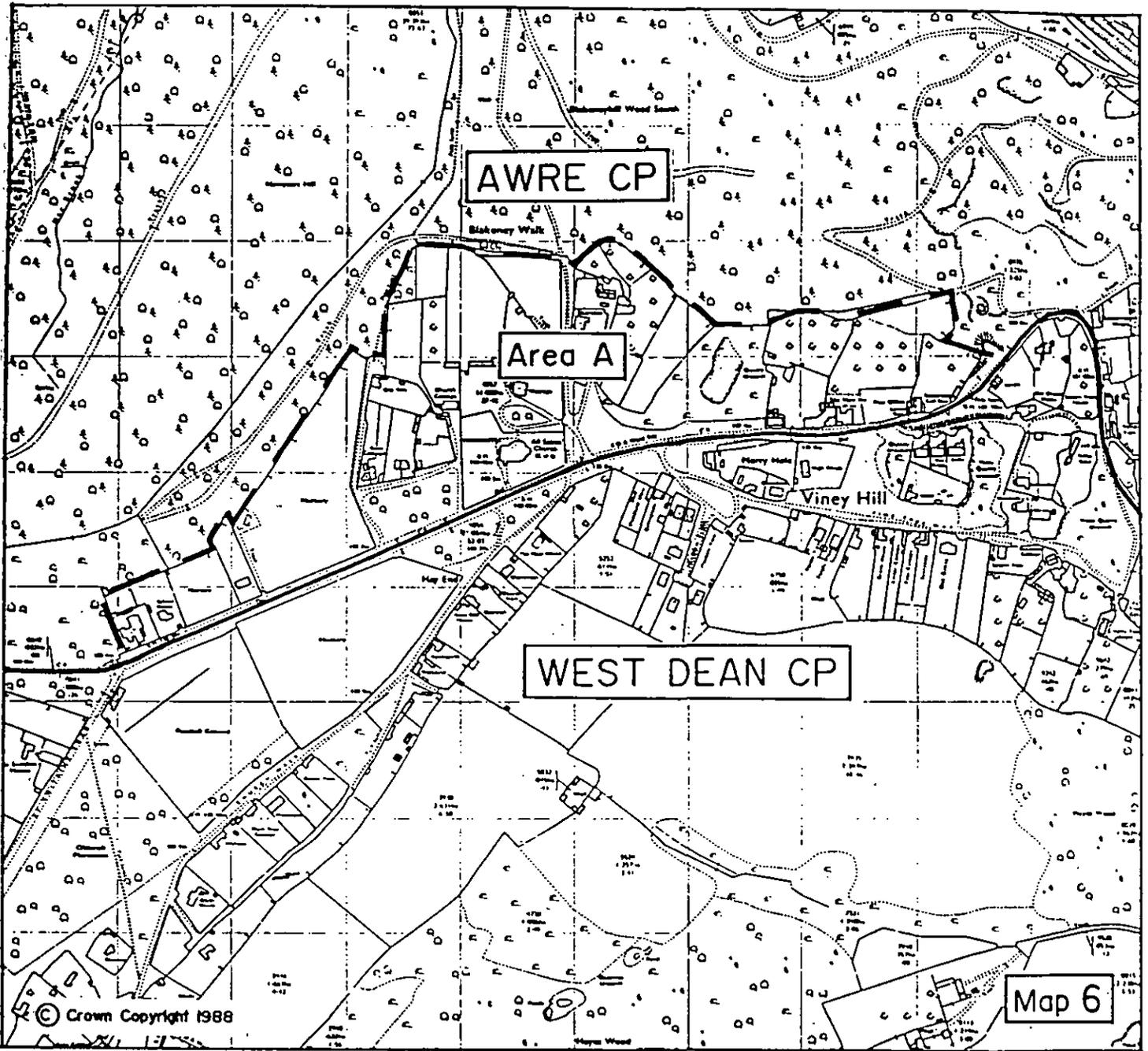
Area B

Lower  
Palmer's  
Flat









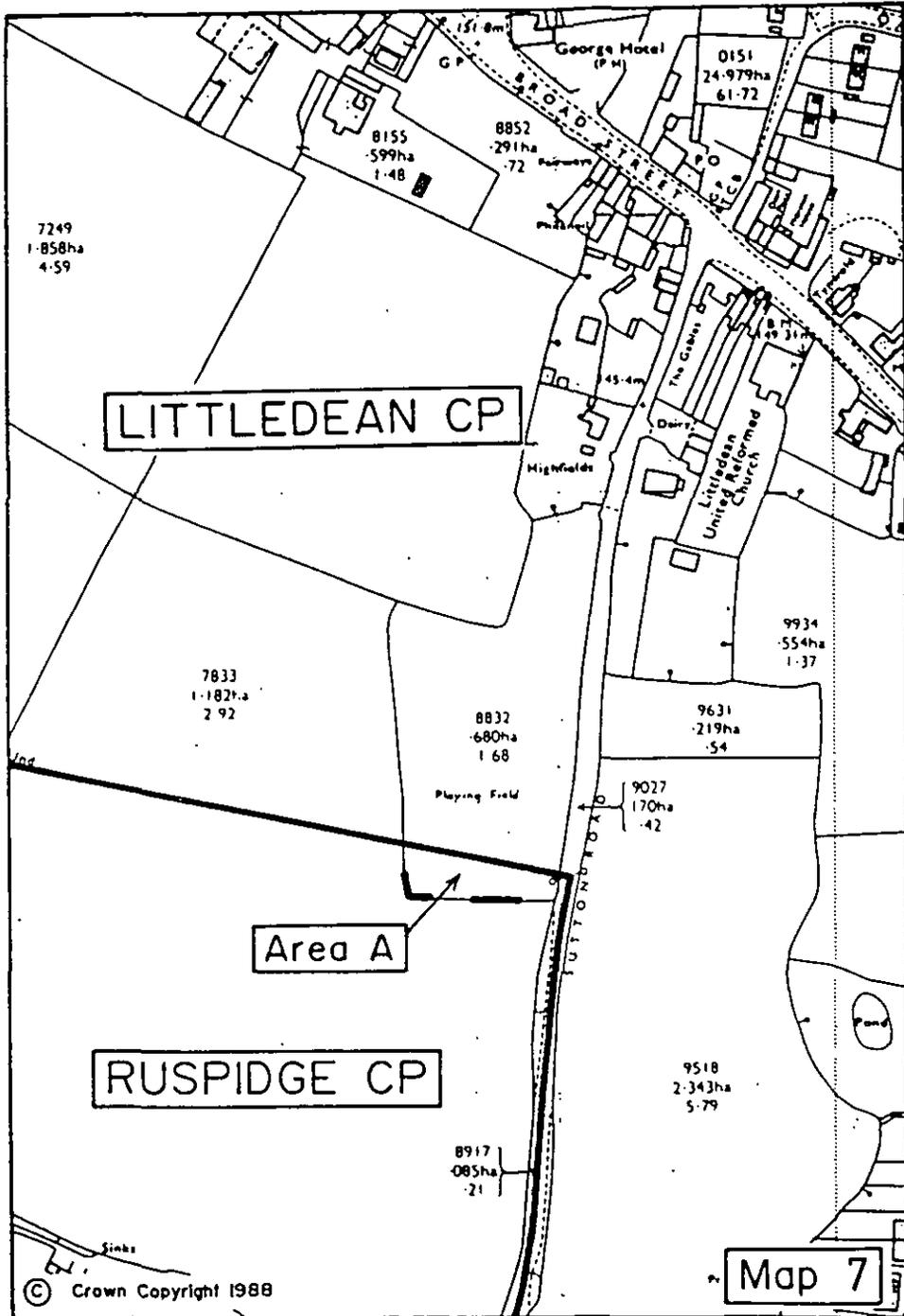
AWRE CP

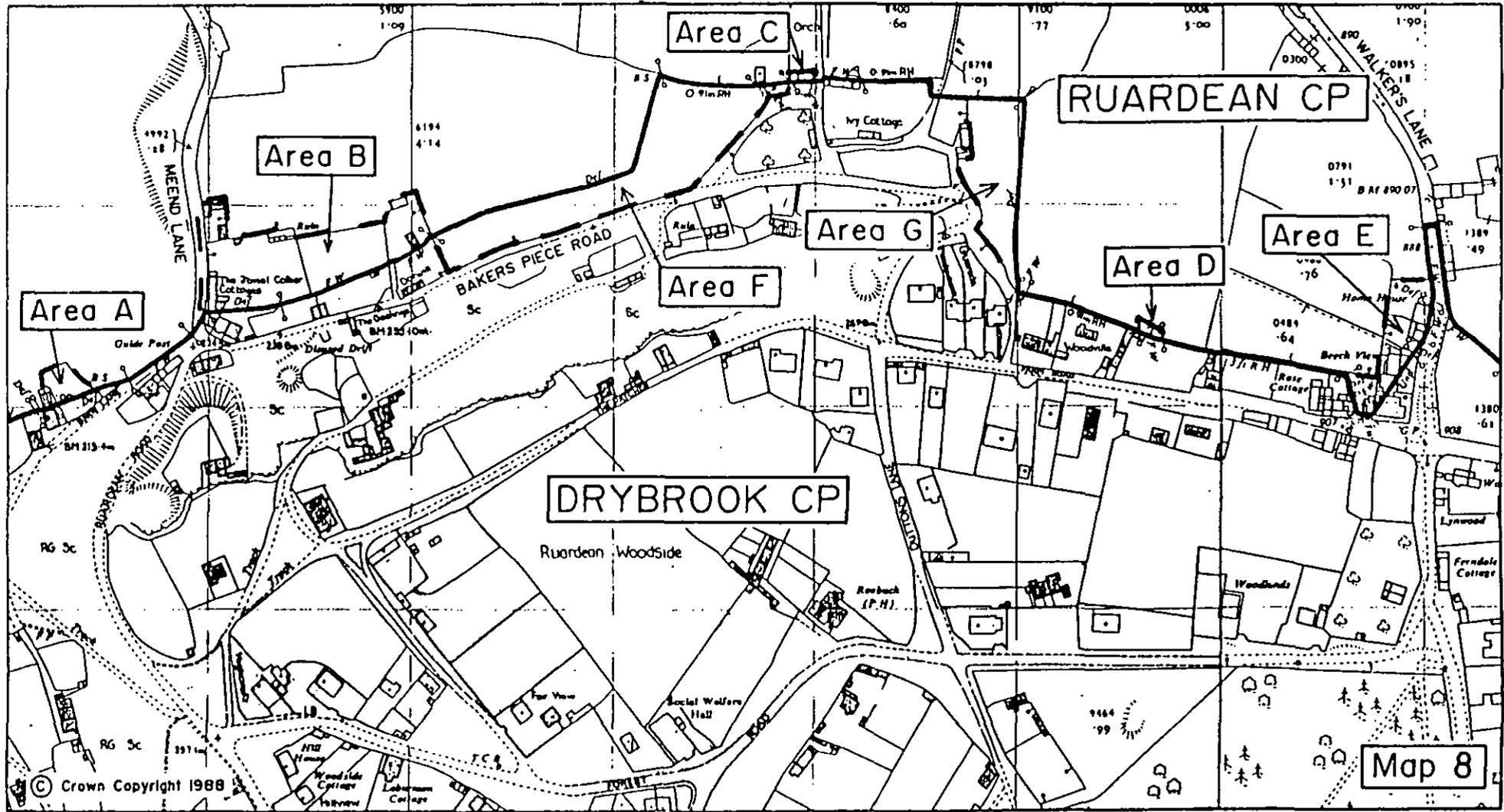
Area A

WEST DEAN CP

Map 6

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Area A

Area B

Area C

Area F

Area G

Area D

Area E

RUARDEAN CP

DRYBROOK CP

Map 8

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