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ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT FOR A PROPOSED CAR PARK AT PLOUGH LANE, HEREFORD

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PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET

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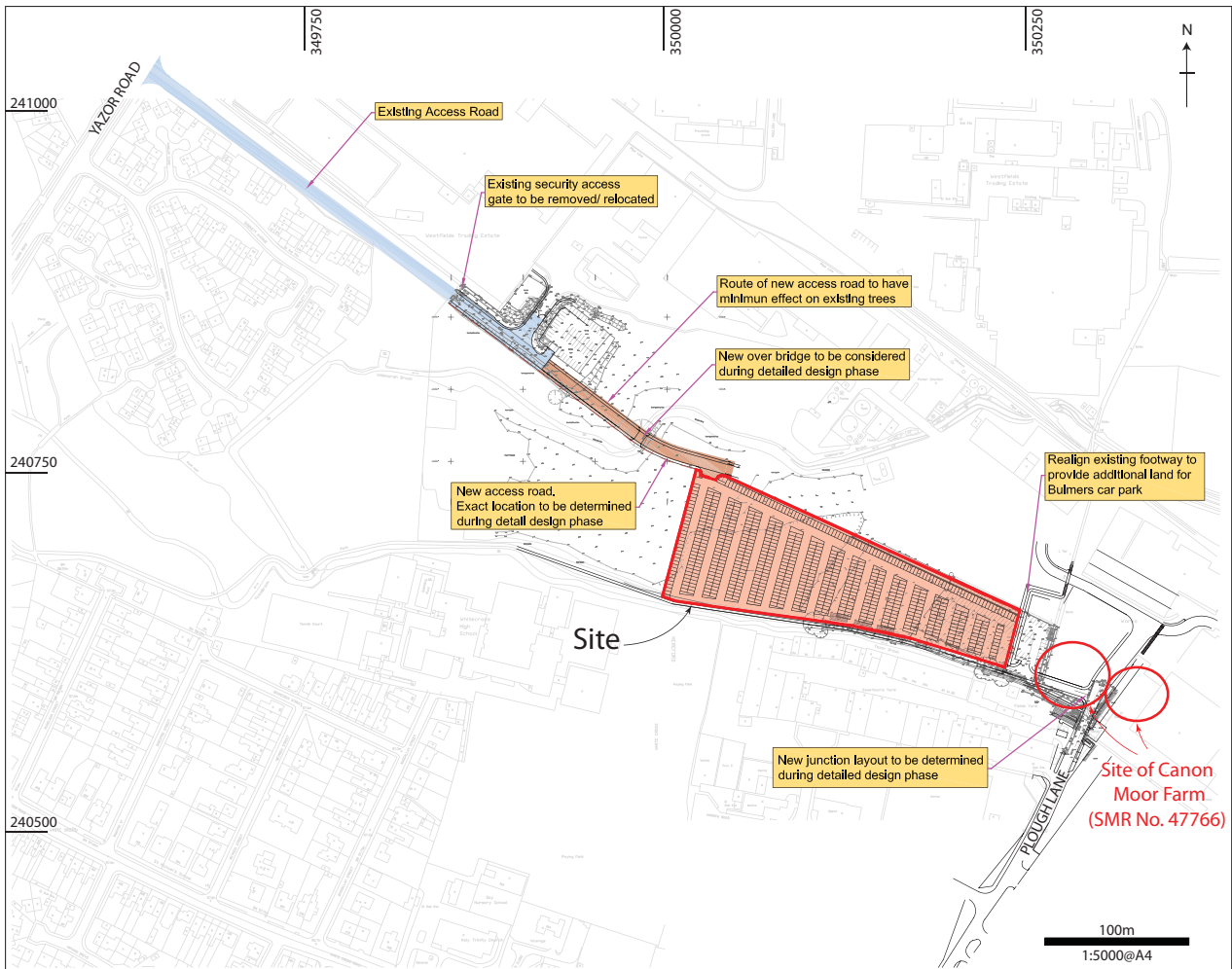
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Illus 1
 Plough Lane – Location of proposed car park

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT FOR A PROPOSED CAR PARK AT PLOUGH LANE, HEREFORD

by David Doyle

This document contains the results of an archaeological desk based assessment that was undertaken at the site of a proposed development at Plough Lane, Hereford. It is proposed to develop the land to create a new car park and access road. The assessment indicated that the presence of a post-medieval farmstead with possible medieval origins within the development area. The land has always been in agricultural use with little urbanized disturbance, therefore there is also potential for previously unknown historical assets to occur.

1. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of an archaeological desk-based assessment undertaken by Headland Archaeology UK on the land at the north west of Plough Lane, Hereford. It has been prepared at the request of Amey on behalf of the developer, Herefordshire County Council, who are proposing to construct a car park and a new access road, in response to a request from Hereford County Archaeological Unit, archaeological advisors to the Local Planning Authority.

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

The site is located north west of Plough Lane, Hereford and lies outside the Saxon and medieval limits of the city. It lies within a relatively flat area which is currently an industrial wasteland with some evidence of land clearance at the west of the site. Widemarsh brook runs through the site and Yazor Brook runs along its southern edge. The site is surrounded by industrial developments.

According to the British Geological Survey Drift map 1989 the underlying geology of the site area is a mixture of fluvio-glacial deposits and alluvium overlying Old Red Devonian Sandstone.

3. AIMS

The desk-based assessment has been undertaken in order to identify any known cultural heritage assets within and around the development area (300m radius) and to assess the potential for the occurrence and preservation of previously unknown cultural heritage assets within it, hence providing an indication of the area's overall archaeological potential. This work has been carried out in line with the IFA's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*.

4. METHODS

The following data sources have been used in the preparation of this report:

- Records held by the Site and Monuments Records (SMR),
- Records held by the Local Reference Library,
- Records held by Hereford County Archive Service and
- Other readily available published sources.

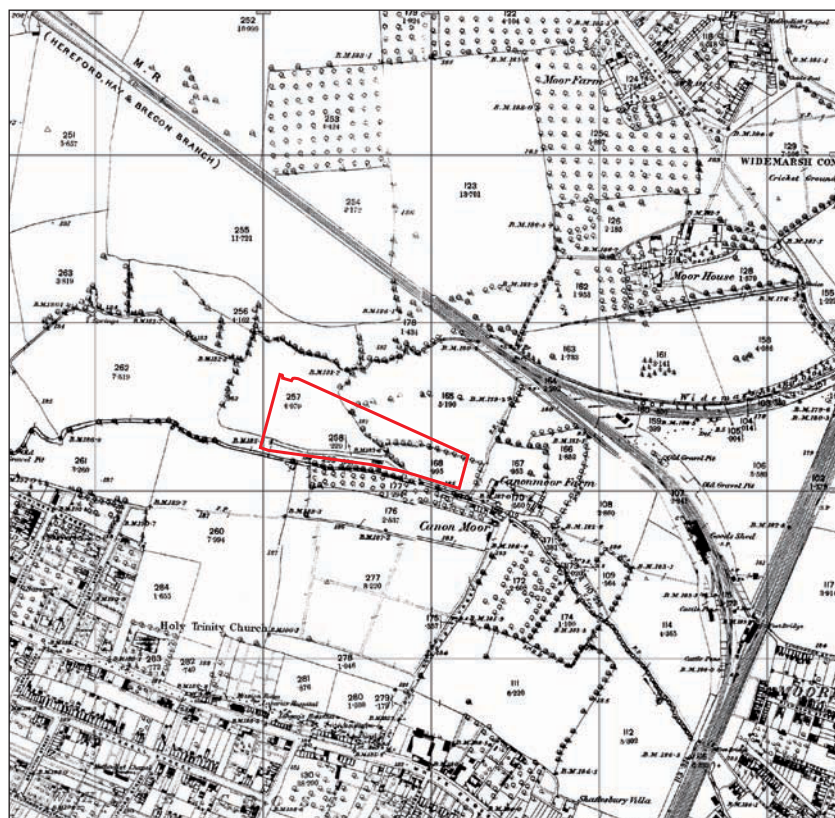
Data have been collected from the above sources for an area extending a radius of 300m from the application area. This is referred to as the study area.

The site was viewed on 05/05/2010, to verify the findings of the desk-based element of the study, gather information regarding current land use and identify any factors that might affect the archaeological potential of the development site. Access to the site was restricted so it was only possible to inspect the area from the site boundary.

5. RESULTS

Historical documents such as Lellands Itinerary, Grose's Antiquary and Dugdale's *Monasticon Anglicanum* have no mention of the site area or surrounding land.

The site is part of the parish of Holmer. Ownership of this parish lay with the Crown until the 17th century, when it was purchased by a number of different individuals (Robinson 2001: 154). The cartographic evidence suggests that it has always been agricultural land. One of the earliest maps depicting this area is Price's 1802 Map of Hereford. It shows Canon Moor farm house at the east of the site surrounded by open land. Yazor brook and Widemarsh brook both run through the area. The tithe map of 1843 and accompanying apportionment also indicates that the area is open pasture land. However on the tithe map it now appears that Widemarsh brook has been connected



Illus 2

Historical map 1888

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and two small buildings within the development area, probably agricultural structures. Progressive maps show that the land use did not change, although the small agricultural buildings disappear in the later 20th century (Illus 3-6). The presence of Canon Moor farm is shown until the OS 1967 map but does not appear on modern OS maps.

5.1 Limitations of data

The site has been assessed using the above mentioned sources and the scope of information they contained was limited although they suggest that the development area was pasture or arable land throughout the post-medieval period.

5.2 Cultural heritage assets within the development boundary

There are a number of assets within the study area. These are all related to post-medieval or later activity and are summarized in the table below.

There may be one cultural heritage asset, Canon Moor Farm (SMR 47766)

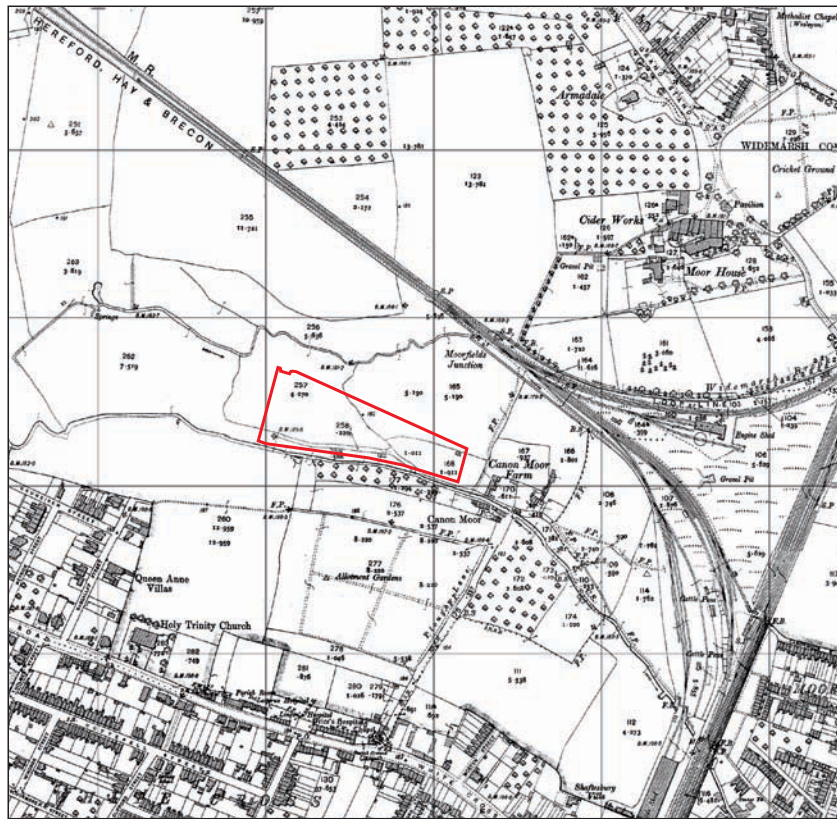
to Yazor brook by a man-made culvert or spillway. It is possible that these brooks were connected in the early 19th century in order to alleviate flooding or to supply more water to Widemarsh Brook, which fed Widemarsh Mill, Monkmoor Mill, Scutt Mill and Eign Mill. The 1885 OS first edition (Illus 2) again shows the land as open fields,

within or immediately adjacent to the site boundary (Illus 1). However no physical remains of this farmstead are known. The name Canon Moor suggests an ecclesiastical association, one confirmed by the 1843 Tithes and Apportionment, which lists Canon Moor house and fold, and some of the surrounding fields as part of the Rectorial

SMR No	Site name	Description	Period / Site Type
37085	Sun Valley Chicken Factory	recorded on the Ordnance Survey first edition 1:10560 map	Post Medieval / Factory
37087	Factory	n/a	Post Medieval / Factory
47765	Moor House (aka Prior's Court)	Historic Farm recorded as part of the Herefordshire Historic Farmsteads Characterisation Project. Present on the Ordnance Survey First Edition, Pre-WW2 and Modern maps	Post Medieval / Farm
30857	Moorfield Junction	OS 6" map 1973. OS 6" map 1st. Ed.33 SE. Loop to line S to Moorfields yard and station. Loop N to Worcester mile and on to Barton curve and Barrs Court junction	Post Medieval / Railway Junction
37086	Bulmers Cider Factory	n/a	Post Medieval / works
41226	Gravel Pit	Appears on OS First Edition	Post Medieval / gravel pit
41227	Gravel Pit	Appears on OS First Edition	Post Medieval / gravel pit
47766	Canonmoor Farm	Historic Farm recorded as part of the Herefordshire Historic Farmsteads Characterisation Project. Present on the Ordnance Survey First Edition and Pre-WW2 maps, but not on the Modern map	Post Medieval / Farm

Table 1

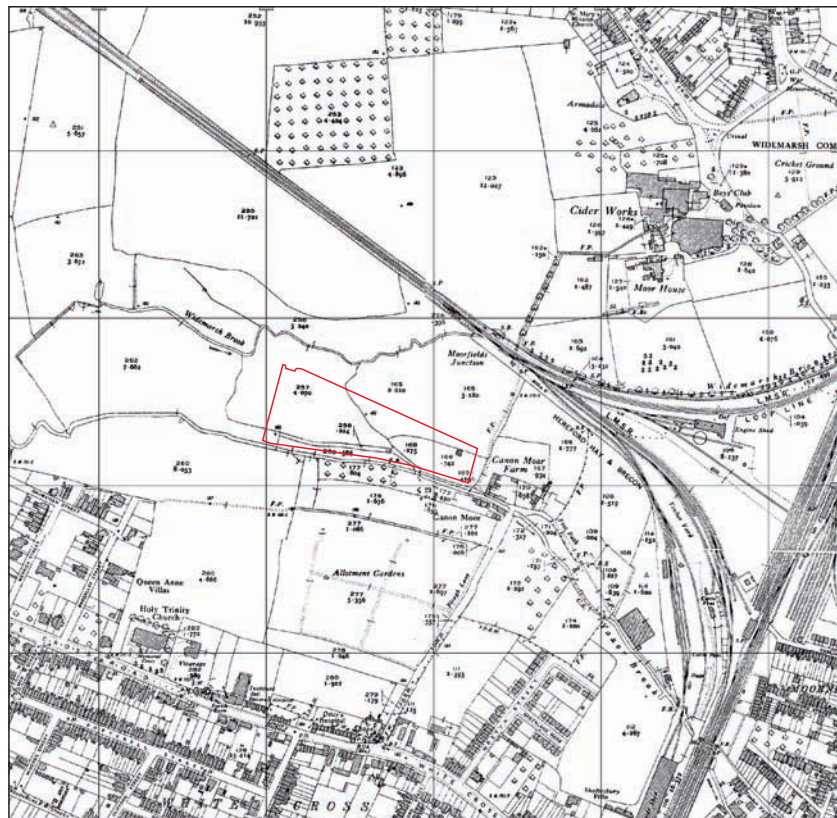
Known Historical Assets within the study area. Source: Herefordshire SMR



Illus 3

Historical map 1904

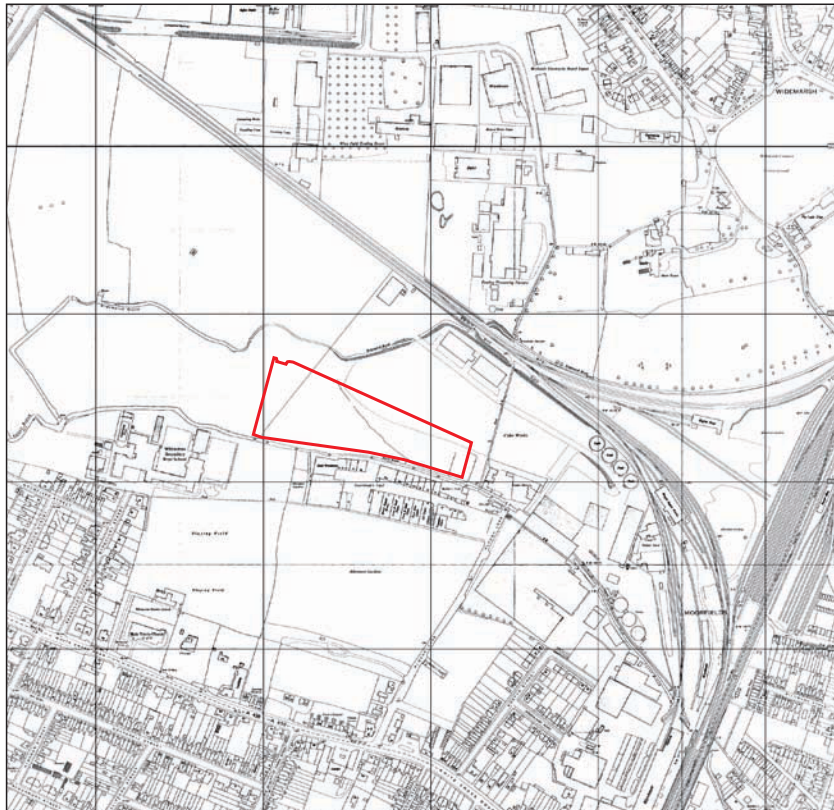
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Illus 4

Historical map 1929

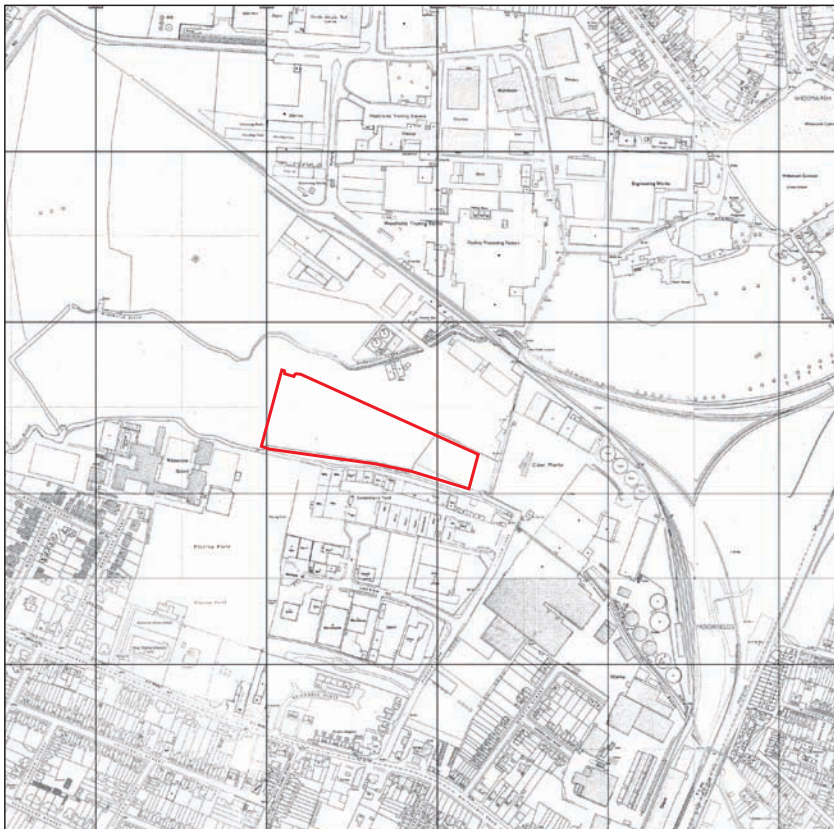
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Illus 5

Historical map 1967-1971

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Illus 6

Historical map 1977-1985

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Glebe, although the development area itself was owned by Charles Bulmer. Canon Moor lies just south of the Moor estate, which was apparently also known as Prior's Court (Robinson 2001: 154). The place name evidence suggests that the post-medieval farmstead may have had previous association with the medieval Church.

5.3 Previous work

There has been no previous archaeological work within the site boundary. According to the Herefordshire SMR no excavation work has been undertaken at the site of Canon Moor Farm. It has only been recorded through documentary evidence as part of the Herefordshire Historic Farmsteads Characterisation Project. It is present on the Ordnance Survey First Edition and successive maps until 1967 but not on the modern OS map. It is possible that archaeological remains associated with Canon Moor Farm may remain at the east end of the site situated close to the proposed new junction layout.

Archaeological work undertaken at the site of the Victoria Eye Hospital on Eign Street (Crooks 2002) uncovered medieval and post-medieval remains that may be fairly typical for extra-mural settlement around Hereford. These remains comprised pits, ditches, stakeholes and possible wall footings. Where natural soil profiles survived these features were buried to a depth of around 0.7m. If any medieval or post-medieval remains relating to Canon Moor farm survive, then they are likely to be similar in character.

5.4 Potential for unrecorded archaeological features

There is potential for archaeological remains to occur within the site boundary. As the site appears to have only

ever been disturbed by agricultural activity the level of disturbance of underlying deposits is likely to have been low. The development area appears to form part of the flood plain of the Yazor Brook, and this kind of location can be associated with features such as burnt mounds and palaeochannels, which if present may survive relatively undisturbed. Burnt mounds generally take the form of spreads or mounds of charcoal and fire-cracked stone, often associated with a pit or trough which is sometimes lined with wood. They are thought to relate to methods of heating water with hot stones. Palaeochannels are usually natural features, however they have the potential to contain well preserved palaeoenvironmental evidence (such as pollen sequences) that can provide information about past human activity in the surrounding area. When waterlogged they have also been known to preserve man-made artefacts such as fish traps.

6. CONCLUSIONS

The lack of archaeological information from the immediate vicinity of the site means that this assessment can provide only a general overview of the archaeological potential of the development area. The immediate surrounding area contains no sites that date to earlier than the post-medieval. However, place-name evidence suggests that the mapped farmstead of Canon Moor within the development area may have medieval associations. From early mapping through to the construction of the surrounding industrial buildings most of the development area appears to have been exclusively used for agricultural purposes. This means that there is likely to have been a low level of disturbance of the ground within it. Therefore there is potential for the survival of remains pre-dating the historic period.

7. DOCUMENTARY SOURCES

7.1 Hereford Records Office

AG9/30-AG9/36-*Land Valuation Registers 1910*

BG53/6- Moor estate

BG53/Tony Bram Collection- Plough Lane

HE1- Estate of the Bishop of Hereford

Q/R1/19 Enclosure Awards 1855

L77/iii/1-2- *Moor Estate Plans*

7.2 Bibliography and references

British Geological Survey 1989 *Hereford: England and Wales Sheet 198*. Solid and Drift Edition 1:50000

Crooks, K 2002 *Victoria Eye Hospital, Hereford: Geophysical Survey and Trial Trenching*. Hereford Archaeology Series, 546

Dugdale, W Sir 1693 *Monasticon Anglicanum*.

Directory of the City of Hereford with Ross and the District 1886 *London*.

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Kelly's Directory of Herefordshire 1917 *London*.

Kelly's Directory of Herefordshire and Shropshire 1895 *London*.

Pevsner, N 1952 *The Buildings of England, London*

Leland, J 1535-1543 *John Leyland's Itinerary, Travels in Tudor England*. Alan Sutton Publishing Limited: London, Pp213-230

Robinson, C 2001 *A History of the Mansions & Manors of Herefordshire*. Logaston Press: Herefordshire

7.3 Cartographic Sources

The following maps were examined (listed in chronological order):

Taylor, I 1757 *Map of Hereford*

Price, H 1802 *Plan of Hereford*

Tithe 1843 *Tithe Map of Holmer with accompanying apportionment 6*

Ordnance Survey 1885 *Hereford Sheets XXXIII.II.11, XXXIII.II.12, 1:2500*

Finance maps of Hereford 1910 *Ordnance Survey Hereford Sheets XXXIII.12, XXXIII.12. Scale 1:2500*

Ordnance Survey 1928 *Hereford*. Scale 1:2500

Ordnance Survey 1931 *Hereford 6in to 1 mile*

Ordnance Survey 1937 *Hereford*. Scale 1:2500

Ordnance Survey 1964 *Hereford Sheets SO54SW, SO44SE 1:2500*

Ordnance Survey 1967 *Hereford Sheets SO4840-4940, SO5040-5140*. Scale 1:2500

Ordnance Survey 1991 *Hereford*. Scale 1:2500