

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK BASED ASSESSMENT

LAND AT OVERROSS STREET

ROSS-ON-WYE

HEREFORDSHIRE

NGR: SO 60325 24489

JOB N^o: BA1328OSRW



border
archaeology



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Frontispiece: View looking NNE along Overross Street showing the Overross Garage Showrooms & pair of 19th century cottages immediately north (in background to right of picture)

Report specification

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1. Executive Summary

*This archaeological desk-based assessment of a site on the east side of Overross Street on the northern outskirts of the historic town of Ross on Wye (Herefs.) has determined that the potential for revealing significant archaeological remains is generally **Moderate to High**, specifically with regard to the site of a water mill, Millpond and other associated water-management features of medieval and post-medieval date which formerly lay within the boundaries of the study area.*

- *The potential for identifying archaeological features and deposits of prehistoric and Roman date has been assessed as **Low to Moderate**, reflecting the fact that, while there is a marked lack of archaeological records for prehistoric and Roman activity in the immediate vicinity of the study area, significant evidence of prehistoric and Roman occupation has nevertheless been identified in the wider locality.*
- *The potential for encountering archaeological features and deposits of medieval and post-medieval date in the vicinity of the study area has been assessed as **Moderate to High**. The site of the medieval/post-medieval mill complex known as the Town Mill probably lies in close proximity to the southwest corner of the study area.*
- *Evidence of water-management features of medieval/post-medieval date associated with the mills is likely to be encountered, including the remains of a substantial Millpond to the east of the mill (in-filled in 1928) and various watercourses extending to the east of the Millpond.*
- *It is possible that ground works might reveal evidence of waterlogged deposits in the locality of the mill and adjacent Millpond, which would be regarded as being of significant palaeoenvironmental potential.*
- *Previous archaeological fieldwork has indicated that there is potential for revealing evidence for industrial activity (e.g. tanning or ironworking) which would undoubtedly have utilised the several streams present in this locality.*
- *Archaeological evidence of post-medieval settlement along the E side of Overross Street may also be encountered, specifically relating to the 18th-19th century cottages flanking the Plough Inn, which now lie under the site of the Overross Garage and the existing Overross Street car park.*
- *However, the results of a recent watching brief on the Ross-on-Wye flood alleviation scheme suggest that substantial deposits of made ground will be encountered within certain parts of the study area (particularly in the vicinity of the Chatterley Brook, a watercourse which extends across the centre of the site). These extensive landscaping/levelling deposits were probably associated with the construction of the railway in the mid-19th century and later infilling of the Millpond and associated water-management features in the early 20th century.*
- *It is likely that this extensive late post-medieval/modern landscaping activity will have resulted in the partial removal/truncation of earlier archaeological features within the study area, although the extent of any truncation or removal is difficult to determine.*

2. Introduction

Border Archaeology was instructed by Michelle Owen DPP One UK Ltd on behalf of Tesco Stores Ltd, to undertake an archaeological desk-based assessment with regard to a proposed retail food store development on land adjacent to Overross Street Ross on Wye Herefordshire. The grid reference for the site is NGR SO 60325 24489 (*fig. 1*). The planning application reference for this development is 132028/F.

Copies of this assessment will be supplied to DPP, Mr J. Cotton (Archaeological Adviser Herefordshire Council) and the Herefordshire Archaeology Historic Environment Record (HER).

2.1 Soils and Geology

The predominant soil type in the vicinity of the study area comprises typical brown earths of the EARDISTON 1 series (541c) consisting of well-drained reddish coarse loamy soils over sandstone, shallow in places, especially on brows, with some reddish fine silty soils over shale and siltstone. The underlying geology is Devonian and Permo-Triassic reddish sandstone, silty shale and siltstone (SSEW, 1983).

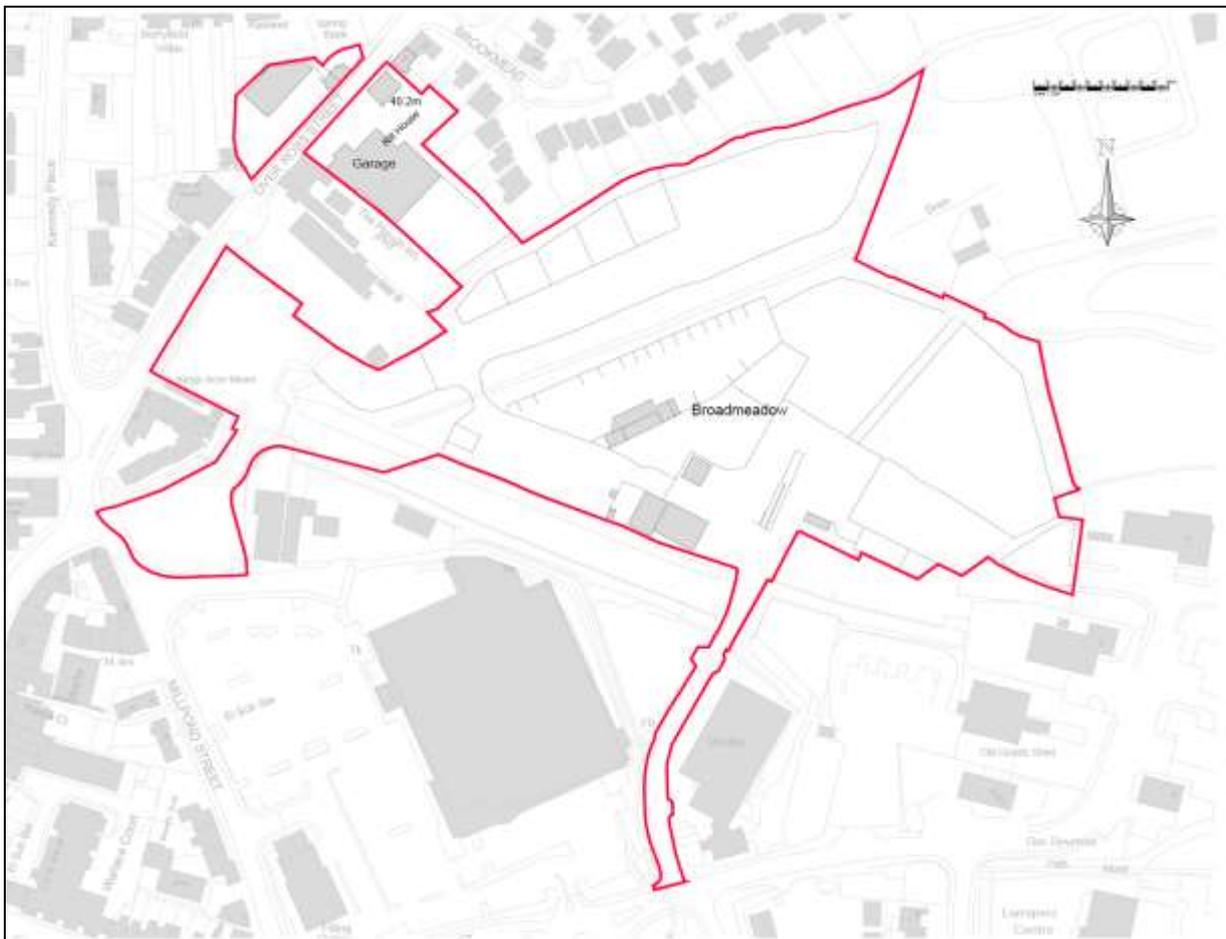


Fig 1: Site location plan

3. Methodology

3.1 Archaeological Assessment

3.1.1 Research Aims

This archaeological desk-based assessment seeks to identify any known or potential archaeological resource within the study area and to establish its character, extent, quality and importance, within a local, regional and national context.

3.1.2 Research Methods

The research carried out for this archaeological desk-based assessment consisted of the following elements:

3.1.3 Evaluation and study of archaeological databases

The National Monuments Record Centre at Swindon and the Herefordshire Archaeology Historic Environment Record (HER) were both consulted and lists obtained of all known archaeological sites, listed buildings and scheduled ancient monuments in the study area (the search radius was defined as 350m from the approximate centre of the site at NGR SO 60325 24489).

3.1.4 Evaluation and study of primary sources

Primary documentary sources (including property deeds and land tax assessments) relating to the study area were consulted at the Herefordshire Record Office.

3.1.5 Evaluation and study of secondary sources

All published and unpublished works relating to sites and structures of archaeological and historical interest within the study area were examined utilising collections held at the Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record and Herefordshire Record Office, including relevant volumes of the *Transactions of the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club*.

3.1.6 Evaluation and study of cartographic evidence

Historic maps and illustrations (including engravings, paintings and photographs) dating back to the late 18th century were consulted at Herefordshire Record Office. Collections of aerial photographs relating to the study area dating back to 1946 were consulted at the Herefordshire Archaeology HER and the National Monuments Record, Swindon.

4. Site Specific Analysis

The specific study area (centred on NGR SO 60325 24489) comprises the Overross Street car park and adjacent Broadmeadow Industrial Estate which extends to the E and SE of Overross Street. The development area also comprises the site of the Overross Garage and former showrooms which extend across both sides of Overross Street, and a pair of 19th century cottages immediately adjacent to the showrooms.

4.1 Consultation of Archaeological Records

This section analyses the information available from records of archaeological work carried out in the vicinity of the specific study area and discusses its implications for the nature of the archaeological resource within the study area and the likely depth and survival of significant archaeological deposits and features.

4.1.1 Conservation areas

The site lies immediately outside the NE boundary of the Ross-on-Wye Conservation Area designated by Herefordshire Council.

4.1.2 Scheduled Ancient Monuments

No Scheduled Ancient Monuments are recorded in the immediate vicinity of the study area, the nearest being the Market Hall (HE 27) located approximately 400m SW of the study area.

4.1.3 Archaeological Sites

The Herefordshire Archaeology Historic Environment Record and the National Monuments Record were both consulted to determine the nature and extent of the archaeological resource within the specific study area. For the purposes of this assessment, a search radius of 350m was defined, centred on NGR SO 60325 24489. A total of 21 sites and five archaeological events were identified within the search radius; however, a small number of additional sites and archaeological events in the wider locality of the study area were also considered for contextual purposes.

4.1.4 Site Visit

A site visit was carried out on 14 October 2013 to determine the potential for surviving archaeological remains on the site.

- **Prehistoric and Roman**

PRN	NGR	Monument Description
11793	SO 590 240	St Mary's Church Ross on Wye: Residual sherds found during evaluation in churchyard (1991)
52331	SO 596 240	Prospect Gardens: Excavations revealed evidence of late prehistoric and Roman settlement (2008-9)

Table 1: List of archaeological sites of prehistoric and Roman date in the wider vicinity of the study area

No recorded evidence of prehistoric or Roman activity has been identified in the immediate vicinity of the study area (based on a search radius of 350m centred on NGR SO 60325 24489).

Programmes of archaeological fieldwork undertaken in the vicinity of the site have yielded little evidence of prehistoric or Roman activity. The nearest record of fieldwork to the site was a watching brief undertaken in 2007 on ground works for a flood alleviation scheme on the Chatterley and Rudhall Brooks (EHE 1757), which encompassed various locations along the Rudhall and Chatterley Brooks, including channel enlargement at Rudhall Brook, the construction of the Marsh Farm Floodwall bund, and the excavation of new culverts at Chatterley Brook, the course of which runs NE-SW directly through the centre of the study area. The excavations at Chatterley Brook revealed a deep made-ground deposit comprising heavily disturbed mid-brown sandy silt with frequent root action, containing metal, glass and drain fragments and extending to a depth of 4m. No significant archaeological deposits, features or finds were identified in any of these locations (Plane, 2007).

Another evaluation undertaken in November 2007 at Tanyard Lane, approximately 350m NE of the study area, prior to a proposed development revealed no archaeological features, although a series of soil profiles were recorded within 10 boreholes excavated across the site (EHE 1809). The cores were sub-sampled for pollen analysis, which produced evidence of arable and pastoral farming; there was no reliable chronology associated with the material, but, based on analogies of pollen spectra, the oldest organic sequences may postdate the Late Bronze Age (Meadows & Patenhall, 2008).

In spite of the fact that there is a marked lack of evidence for prehistoric and Roman occupation in the immediate vicinity of the site, significant evidence of late prehistoric and Roman occupation has been found elsewhere in Ross and in the wider surrounding area. Of particular importance is a focus of Roman occupation identified in the vicinity of St Mary's Church, located approximately 640m SW of the study area, where quantities of unstratified Roman pottery were found during an evaluation in the churchyard in 1991 (SMR 11793).

More recently, the excavations undertaken by Border Archaeology at the Prospect Gardens, immediately to the W of St Mary's Church in 2008-9 (SMR 52331) revealed a dense concentration of deposits and features indicative of intensive early Roman occupation, possibly evidence of a high status villa or a *vicus* settlement attached to a nearby fort, dated to the late 1st-early 2nd century.

This phase of early Roman settlement was followed by a lengthy period of decline and abandonment from the mid-2nd to the late 3rd century, after which there appears to have been a renewal of occupation in the late Roman period. Of particular interest was the discovery of the remains of a square masonry structure with a circular inner chamber and a posthole in the centre, possibly of late Roman or post-Roman date, the function of which remains unclear (Border Archaeology, 2011).

In conclusion, the potential for identifying evidence of Roman occupation has been assessed as **Low to Moderate**. This assessment is primarily based on the fact that, while there is a marked lack of archaeological records for prehistoric and Roman activity in the immediate vicinity of the study area, significant evidence of prehistoric and Roman occupation has nevertheless been identified in the wider locality.

- **Medieval**

PRN	NGR	Monument Description
12049	SO 6000 2440	Brookend or Town Mill, Ross-on-Wye: Site of mill complex of medieval origin, first recorded in 1086
EHE 1675	SO 6005 2439	Trial trenching at Nos. 7-11 Brookend Street: Iron slag and 13 th century pottery identified in NE part of site

Table 2: List of archaeological sites of medieval date recorded in the vicinity of the study area

The study area lies on the northern edge of the centre of the historic medieval town of Ross-on-Wye. The early history of the settlement is somewhat fragmentary although it was evidently in existence by the late Saxon period. The Domesday Survey of 1086 records Ross as a substantial manor belonging to the Bishop of Hereford, assessed at seven hides and comprising 18 villagers (rendering 18s in dues), six smallholders and a priest, together with 16 acres of meadow and a mill valued at 6s 8d (Thorn & Thorn, 1983).

Ross appears to have emerged as an important local market town under the patronage of the Bishops of Hereford during the early to mid-12th century, obtaining a grant of a market from King Stephen in 1138, which was confirmed in 1241, along with the right to a three-day fair. However, Ross does not appear to have been particularly large when compared to other Herefordshire market-towns, such as Ledbury and Bromyard, having an estimated population of approximately half to a third of the aforementioned towns (Hillaby 1970, 28). The declining status of Ross in the 14th century may be indicated by its failure to send a representative to Parliament in 1305 on account of its inability to pay the daily fees (Wills 1982). However, whereas in 1349 there were 37 recorded market-towns in Herefordshire, there were only nine by 1500, including Ross (O'Donnell 1971).

Documentary evidence, in particular a rental of Ross borough dated 1277-85, along with evidence of later maps of the borough dated 1822 and 1840, indicates that both sides of Brookend Street were heavily built-up with burgage properties from the market place as far as the Town Mill (Hughes & Hurley, 1999, 17).

Consultation of the Herefordshire Archaeology Historic Environment Record identified two sites of medieval date in the immediate vicinity of the study area. Occupying the western half of the study area is the site of the Town Mill (or Brookend Mill) and a substantial Millpond, situated immediately E of the point where Brampton Street, Brookend Street, Greytrees Street, Millpond Street and Overross Street converge (SMR 12049).

The Town Mill has been identified as the most likely site of the manorial mill which is first recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086 (Thorn & Thorn, 1980). Attached to the mill was a substantial millpond that was fed into by three streams: the Rudhall Brook, the Chatterley Brook and the Smallbrook. Historic maps of the area dated 1822 and 1840 (tithe map) show these three streams and other water channels extending to the E of the Millpond.

The Town Mill can probably be identified with the mill complex (consisting of two water-powered corn mills and a fulling mill) recorded in a rental of Ross borough contained in the 'Red Book', a survey of the Hereford bishopric estates dated c.1277-85, which was then valued at £20 6s per annum (Bannister, 1929, 9; Hughes & Hurley, 1999, 22). The same rental also refers to one Walter of the Mill ('Walterus de Molendino') holding three burgages in the manor, which have been plausibly identified with the site of the Town Mill.

The Town Mill remained the largest industrial complex in the town throughout the medieval and post-medieval periods, remaining in operation until as late as 1947. The precise location of the medieval mills remains uncertain, although they may well have been situated in close proximity to the surviving 18th-20th-century mill structures on the W edge of the former Millpond. During the medieval and early post-medieval periods the Millpond also appears to have doubled as a fishpond. In 1461 the Bishop granted the right to catch eels in the Millpond to one Thomas Martyn and Walter Seny, in return for which they agreed to maintain the dam and floodgates of the pond (Hughes & Hurley, 1999, 24).

The continuing importance of the mill during the early post-medieval period is underlined by the frequent references in 17th century records of Ross borough to the removal of encroachments on the channels to the mill, repairs to the mill buildings and machinery, as well as the Millpond and its retaining wall (Hughes & Hurley, 1999, 23). The mill site and the adjacent pond were heavily truncated by the construction of the Hereford to Gloucester railway in the mid-19th century; however, the western half of the Millpond remained intact and continued to provide power to the mill until the early 20th century, eventually being in-filled with rubble in 1928 (Ward, 2005, 10). The surviving components of the mill complex consist of the old mill building (now a furniture warehouse) and the miller's house (converted in the mid-19th century into a public house called the 'Railway Inn') situated immediately W of the study area, as well as the remains of the mill-race and several former mill buildings adjoining it, ranging in date from the early 18th to the early 20th century.

Archaeological fieldwork undertaken in the vicinity of the study area has produced limited evidence of medieval occupation, perhaps indicating a focus of industrial activity at the N end of the town, in close proximity to the Rudhall and Chatterley Brooks. Archaeological trial trenching undertaken in 2007 in advance of a proposed development at Nos. 7-11 Brookend Street revealed, in the NE part of the site, a layer comprising iron slag and charcoal and containing pottery of 13th century date (EHE 1675). It was suggested that the layer of ironworking debris may represent a levelling layer deposited in order to raise the area above flood levels, rather than evidence of *in-situ* ironworking (Crooks, 2007).

The potential for encountering archaeological features and deposits of medieval date in the vicinity of the study area has been assessed as **Moderate to High**. The site of the medieval mill complex known as the 'Town Mill' probably lies in close proximity to the SW corner of the study area and evidence of water-management features associated with the mills are likely to be encountered. These water-management features may include the parts of the Millpond and various watercourses extending to the E of the Millpond, which appear to extend within the boundaries of the study area. There is significant potential for identifying waterlogged deposits in the locality of the mill and adjacent Millpond and, if encountered, these would be of significant palaeoenvironmental potential (Buteux, 1996, 11). However, there is a strong possibility that post-medieval/modern landscaping activity in the vicinity of the study area, associated with the construction of the railway in the mid-19th century and later infilling of the Millpond and associated water management features in the

early 20th century, could have resulted in the removal/truncation of these waterlogged deposits. The results of the evaluation at Nos-7-11 Brookend Street also indicate the potential for evidence of industrial activity of medieval date to be encountered in the immediate surrounding area.

- **Post-Medieval (c.1540-1900)**

PRN	NGR	Monument Description
9623	SO 6011 2445	Railway Inn (17 th century miller's residence with later 18 th -19 th century additions)
11860	SO 602 243	Kell's Foundry: foundry and agricultural implement factory.(mid-19 th century)
12049	SO 600 244	Brookend or Town Mill: mill site of medieval and post-medieval date
17340	SO 601 244	Friends Meeting House, Brampton St (built 1804, on site of earlier meeting house of 1655)
17358	SO 6010 2438	23-24 Brookend St: three-bay, late 16 th century timber framed house
17419	SO 60211 24570	Plough Inn, Ross on Wye – Grade II listed 17 th century inn with later 19 th century additions
19904	SO 6001 2446	Brookend Tannery – 17 th century tannery and workhouse converted to an inn in the mid-19 th century
19907	SO 6040 2435	Ross Railway Station – Opened 1855, closed in 1964 and demolished in 1975
19908	SO 602 244	Coal slate and timber yard recorded on Ross tithe map 1840
19909	SO 6016 2426	Barn, stable, cider house recorded in Millpond Street (mid-19 th century)
19919	SO 6020 2433	Timberyard, Millpond Street recorded on OS 1 st edition map
19967	SO 6009 2455	Tenement plots to the W of Brampton Street, Ross-on-Wye (Post-medieval)
19968	SO 6014 2453	Tenement plots between Brampton St and Over Ross St, Ross-on-Wye (Post-medieval)
19969	SO 6020 2452	Tenement plots to the E of Over Ross St, Ross-on-Wye
21729	SO 610 240	Hereford and Gloucester Railway (opened in 1855)
21987	SO 6028 2467	Holloway at Overross Street (post-medieval)
26356	SO 6005 2435	Land fronting Brookend St., Kyrle St. and Broad St (Planning application site)
34175	SO 6012 2449	Turnpike Road, Town Brook to Perry Tump (1749)
34176	SO 6020 2440	Turnpike Road, Town Brook to Smiths Shop in Much Marcle (1749)
37138	SO 6020 2445	Agricultural Implement Works (19 th century)

Table 3: List of archaeological sites of post-medieval date recorded in the vicinity of the study area

The majority of the sites recorded in the vicinity of the study area in the Herefordshire Archaeology HER consist of built heritage assets of post-medieval date, reflecting the expansion of Ross-on-Wye as an important regional centre for the wool trade and its association with industrial activity (specifically metalworking and leather manufacture) from the 17th century onwards. The 18th and

early 19th century, in particular, heralded a phase of particularly rapid expansion of settlement in Ross-on-Wye, which was fuelled not only by industrial activity but by its location as an increasingly popular venue for visitors to the ‘Romantic’ and ‘Picturesque’ landscapes of the Wye Valley (Buteux, 1996, 3).

By the late 18th-early 19th century, there had been a marked expansion of settlement extending N and NE from the N end of Brookend Street along what is now Brampton Street (SMR 34175) and Overross Street (SMR 34176), respectively, which is visible on an OS surveyor’s drawing of Ross dated 1815 (*fig. 2*). Both of these roads were turnpiked by the Ross Turnpike Trust in 1748, although it is likely that both were in existence well before that date. In particular, evidence for a holloway has been noted along Overross Street where it runs in a NE direction out of the town (SMR 21987) and the survival of the 17th century Plough Inn (SMR 17419) on the E side of Overross Street provides further indication that this was a well-established route-way.



*Fig. 2: Extract from the OS surveyors drawing of 1815
(Reproduced by courtesy of Herefordshire Record Office)*

The OS map of 1815 and later parish maps of Ross dated 1822 and 1840 indicate that there had been a steady growth of settlement along both sides of Overross Street, with blocks of tenement plots extending NE along both sides of the street (SMR 19968, 19969) from the Town Mill roughly as far as Brookfield House, a Grade II listed building of 18th century date. Documentary and cartographic evidence and late 19th-early 20th-century photographs of the study area indicate that the housing along the E side of Overross Street largely consisted of stone-built artisan cottages or lodging houses, probably of 18th or early 19th century date, with yards and outhouses to the rear. The sites of the houses along the E side of Overross Street, flanking either side of the Plough Inn, are now occupied by Overross Garage (first built in the 1930s) and a 1970s car park.



Plate 1: View looking NW showing masonry abutments of railway bridge at Overross Street

The construction of the Hereford to Gloucester Railway in 1855 (SMR 21729) impacted significantly on the topography of the study area. The railway line and embankment directly traversed the central part of the study area and a station and railway sidings were also constructed immediately to the SE (SMR 19907). Surviving remnants of the railway line and station in the locality of the study area include the abutments of the railway bridge crossing Overross Street (*Plate 1*) and remains of stone revetting associated with the railway embankment adjacent to the Overross Street car park (*Plate 2*). The Engine Shed attached to the railway station is now used as an antiques market.



Plate 2: View looking SW along Overross Street from the car park showing remains of stone revetting associated with the former railway embankment (to left of picture) with the masonry bridge abutments in background

In addition to the Town Mill, significant evidence for post-medieval industrial activity has been recorded in the vicinity of the study area, represented by surviving built-heritage assets and sites of former industrial buildings. Located about 100m SW of the study area is the site of Brookend Tannery (SMR 19904), a tanyard and workhouse first recorded in the late 17th century and which remained in use until c.1850, when it was converted to an inn. The tithe map of 1840 records the site of a coal and timber yard immediately S of the Town Millpond (SMR 19908), which formed part of the site of a foundry and agricultural implement factory established at Brookend in the mid-19th century (SMR 11860).

Previous archaeological interventions in the immediate vicinity of the study area have revealed evidence of extensive landscaping deposits of post-medieval date. A watching brief on excavations for the Ross-on-Wye flood alleviation scheme identified substantial made-ground deposits at Chatterley Brook (within the study area), indicating that the ground level for nearest the brook had been raised by several metres, using building rubble and a mixture of original and imported topsoil, which probably relates to alterations made when the line of the Hereford and Gloucester Railway was built in 1855 (Plane, 2007). Significant evidence of late 19th-early 20th-century made-ground deposits were also identified during an evaluation at Nos. 7-11 Brookend Street (Crooks, 2007).

There is **Moderate to High** potential for identifying evidence of post-medieval activity within the study area. Archaeological evidence of post-medieval settlement along the E side of Overross Street may well be encountered, specifically relating to the 18th-19th century cottages flanking the Plough Inn, which now lie under the site of the Overross Garage and the existing Overross Street car park.

It is possible that evidence of post-medieval watercourses associated with the Town Mill and Millpond might be identified within the study area, as well as evidence for industrial activity (e.g. tanning or ironworking) which would undoubtedly have utilised the several streams present in this locality. However, there is reason to believe that archaeological deposits and features in this area will have been truncated or buried beneath deep made-ground layers associated with the construction of the Hereford and Gloucester Railway in the mid-19th century.

4.2 Documentary Study and Map Regression

This section will consider the evidence of historic documents, maps and pictorial evidence (including aerial photographs) relating to the specific study area. For reasons of clarity, the study area, due to its sizeable extent, has been divided into three distinct areas (1) Overross Street (on the W edge of the study area) (2) Broadmeadow (comprising the northern and central parts of the site) and (3) The Town Mill and Millpond (occupying the extreme S and SW edges of the study area).

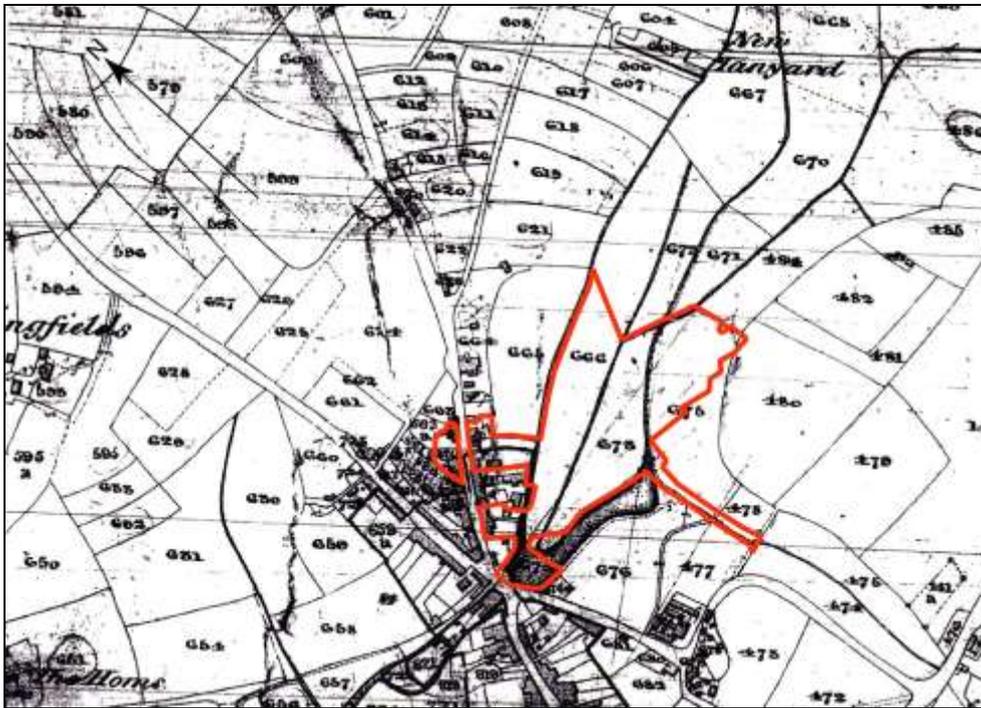
4.2.1 c. 1800 to 1850

1/ Overross Street

An Ordnance Survey drawing of Hereford and its environs (at a scale of 2 inches to the mile) surveyed by Thomas Budgen in 1815 (*Fig. 2*) depicts houses lining both sides of Overross Street, apparently extending NE as far as Brookfield House, a Grade II listed 18th century house. Both sides of the street are shown as densely lined with properties; several of those on the E side of the street had gardens and outbuildings extending SE down to the course of the Rudhall Brook. The largest property was The Plough Inn, a tavern of 17th century date with a substantial range of outbuildings (including stabling) extending to the rear. It is unclear precisely when the remainder of the houses

along the E side of Overross Street were built, although a late 18th or early 19th century date appears likely.

Evidence from the 1840 tithe map of Ross (*fig. 3*) shows that there had been further limited expansion of housing along the E side of Overross Street, extending NE as far as the junction with Tanyard Lane.



*Fig. 3: Extract from the Ross-on-Wye tithe map of 1840
(Reproduced by courtesy of Herefordshire Record Office)*

The accompanying tithe apportionment (1843) records that the properties on the E side of Overross Street, immediately N of the Plough Inn, lay within Plot No. 827, comprising three dwellings, yards, gardens and a barn (corresponding to Nos.24-27 Overross Street, subsequently occupied from c.1930 onwards by premises associated with Overross Garage). The portion of the study area lying on the (W) side of Overross Street (currently occupied by the former garage showrooms and two 19th century cottages) lay within plot No. 663a, described as a 'house, yard, garden and greenhouse'. The house referred to in this entry appears to have been a detached property which survived until the early 1970s, when it was demolished to make way for the existing Overross Garage showrooms.

2/Broadmeadow

The N half of the study area lies within what was formerly an extensive area of low-lying water meadow known as 'Broadmeadow', dissected by two streams running roughly E-W and discharging into the River Wye further westwards, with another stream lying further to the S on a N-S alignment. The northernmost stream, known as the 'Rudhall Brook', still defines a substantial portion of the N boundary of the study area while further to the S, the Chatterley Brook extends E-W directly across the central part of the site. To the S of the Chatterley Brook is another stream, the Smallbrook running roughly N-S; all three streams appear to have fed into the large Millpond attached to the Town Mill.

The OS map of 1815 does not show field boundaries in great detail but it appears to show the Broadmeadow as divided into several medium to large sized plots. The Ross-on-Wye tithe map of 1840 provides considerably more detail on the pattern of field enclosure in the Broadmeadow, which by that date appears to have been sub-divided into 14 separate enclosures of varying sizes extending E from the Millpond up to and beyond the newly-built Ross Tannery. Three of these enclosures - Plot Nos. 666, 673 and 675 - lay within the bounds of the study area; all three are recorded as belonging to John Cooke Esq of Chase House. Plot Nos 666 and 673 were occupied by James Watts while Plot No. 675 was tenanted by Thomas Hybert.

The N boundary of Plot No. 666 is shown as defined by the Rudhall Brook, while its S boundary was defined by the Chatterley Brook, running on a much straighter alignment compared to the Rudhall Brook, suggesting that the section nearest to the Millpond had almost certainly been canalised at some time before c.1840. To the S of the Chatterley Brook lay Plot No. 673, an irregular trapezoidal enclosure bounded to the N and E by the brook, to the W by the Millpond and to the S by another, slightly curvilinear watercourse leading roughly ENE from the Millpond towards the Tanyard. This watercourse marked the N boundary of a curvilinear meadow enclosure marked as Plot No. 675 on the tithe map.

3/ The Town Mill and Millpond

The extreme S and SW parts of the study area lie within the site of the former mill complex known as the Town Mill and its attached Millpond. A plan of Ross parish dated 1822, together with the tithe map of 1840, show the Millpond as a large, sinuous body of water oriented roughly E-W. The mill house and the adjoining miller's residence are depicted at the W extremity of the former Millpond site at the convergence of Overross Street, Brampton Street, Millpond Street, Greytree Road and Brookend Street; both of these buildings (which lie outside the development area) have survived intact.

The tithe map also depicts a group of three oblong buildings (almost certainly associated with the Town Mill) situated within a small, roughly triangular enclosure on the NW side of the pond. The accompanying tithe apportionment for Ross parish dated 1843 records that the Millpond was owned by Kingsmill Evans of Hill Court. The tithe map also depicts a small enclosure adjacent to the SE corner of the pond, which was apparently used as a coal, slate and timber yard (Plot 676a). This enclosure appears subsequently to have been converted into the site of an iron foundry.

4.2.2 c. 1850 to 1945

1/Overross Street

Comparison between the 1840 tithe map and the OS 1st edition 25-inch map of 1885 (*fig. 4*) indicates that, although the density of settlement along Overross Street had changed relatively little between 1840 and 1885, there had been one significant change, that being the construction of the Hereford to Gloucester Railway, opened in 1855, which necessitated the demolition of a number of properties at the S end of Overross Street for the construction of the railway line and embankment. The 1885 map shows an oblong range adjoining the house depicted on the 1840 tithe map which can probably be identified with the existing pair of heavily rendered cottages situated adjacent to the Overross Garage showrooms site.

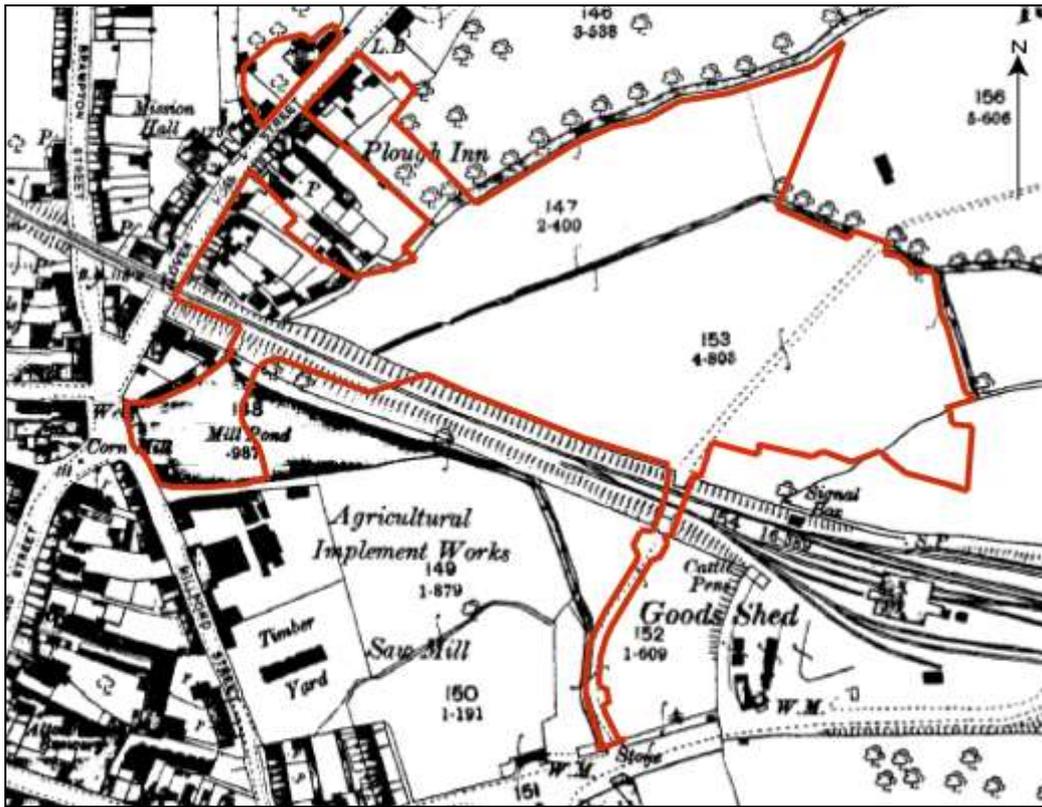


Fig. 4: Extract from the OS 1st edition 25 inch map of 1885
(Reproduced by courtesy of Herefordshire Record Office)

The OS 2nd and 3rd edition maps of 1904 and 1928 respectively indicate that the density and pattern of housing development along Overross Street changed little during this period (figs. 5 & 6). Late 19th-early 20th century photographs indicate that the housing extending along the E side of Overross Street (along the W extent of the study area) up to and beyond the Plough Inn consisted of a mixture of three-storey tenements and two-storey terraced cottages of rubble stone construction with pitched roofs and dormer windows and narrow gardens or courtyards extending to the rear.

Census returns for 1841-1901 indicate that the properties were either occupied by artisans (masons, carpenters etc.) or used as lodging houses. By the early 20th century, these houses were regarded as poorly constructed, cramped and insanitary slum housing. The cottages to the NE of the Plough Inn (Nos.24-27 Overross Street) were demolished in 1935 to make way for Overross Garage, while the houses to the SW (Nos. 32-37 Overross Street) were demolished in the early 1970s to make way for the existing car park.



Plate 3: Extract from a photograph of c.1900 showing the cottages located along the E side of Overross Street, to the SW of the Plough Inn (at far left of picture)
(Reproduced by courtesy of Herefordshire Record Office)

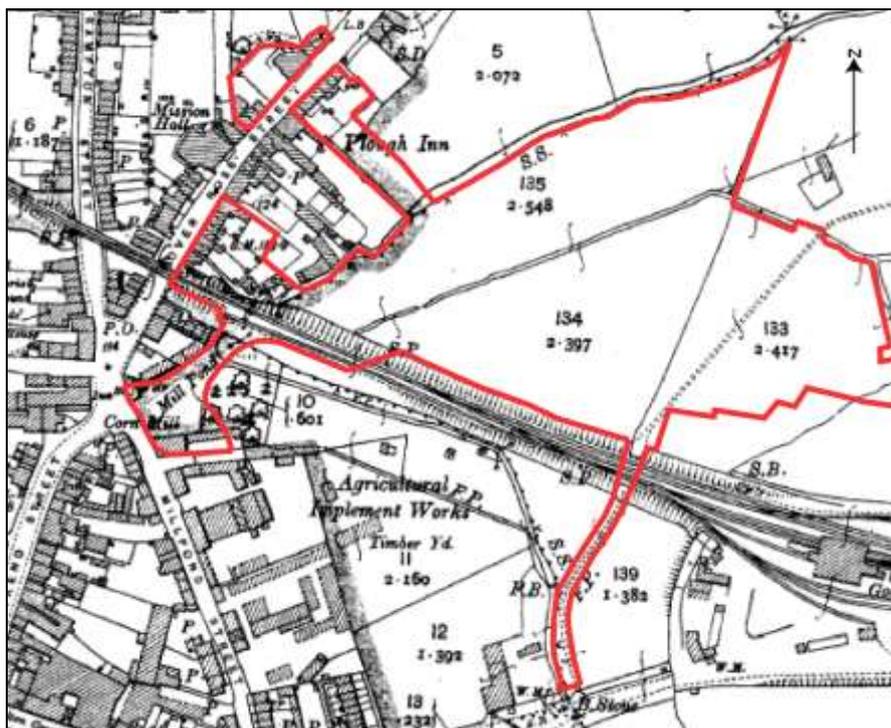


Fig. 5: Extract from the OS 2nd edition 25 inch map of 1904
(Reproduced by courtesy of Herefordshire Record Office)

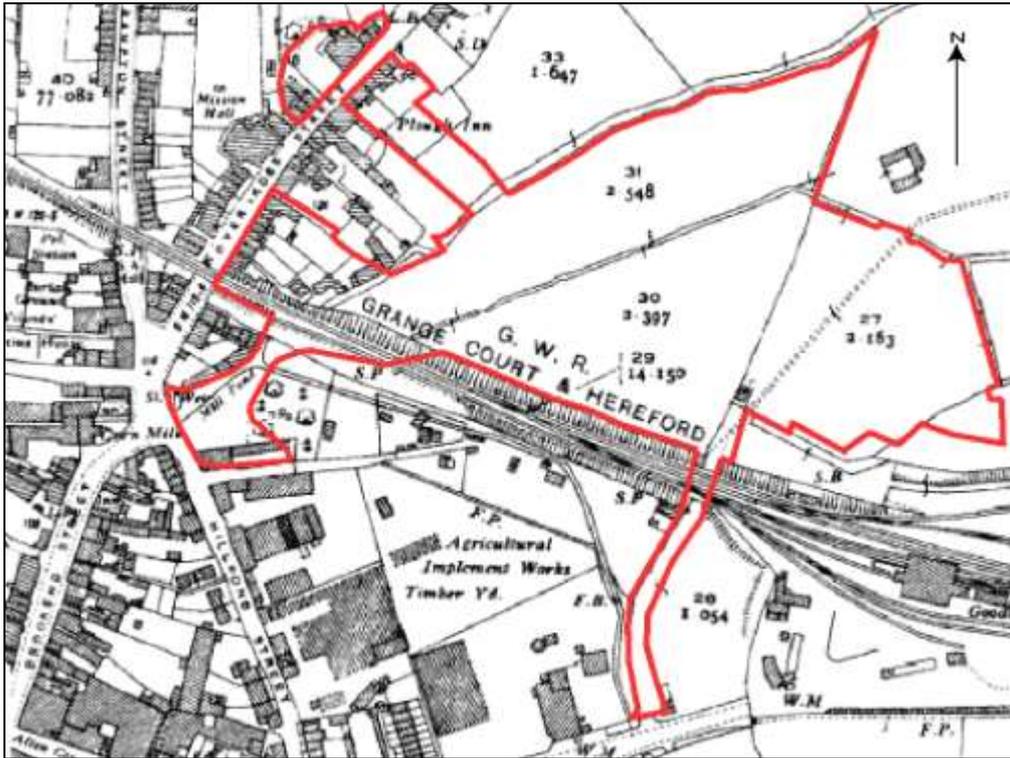


Fig. 6: Extract from the OS 3rd edition 25 inch map of 1928
 (Reproduced by courtesy of Herefordshire Record Office)

2/Broadmeadow

The construction of the line and embankment of the Hereford and Gloucester Railway (together with Ross-on-Wye station) in 1855 impacted upon the southern part of Broadmeadow, the Millpond and the several watercourses feeding into the pond. Comparison between the 1840 tithe map and the later OS 1st edition map of 1885 demonstrates the significant impact of the railway in this area; the eastern half of the Millpond had been filled in to make way for the railway embankment, while the curvilinear watercourse running roughly E towards the Ross Tannery appears to have been almost wholly removed or covered over, its course being roughly indicated by a footpath.

To the N of the railway line, comparison between the tithe map and the OS 1st edition map of 1885 demonstrates that components of the earlier landscape recorded in the tithe map had survived intact in spite of truncation by the railway. The boundaries of Plot 666 appear to have survived relatively intact apart from some truncation at the far W end of the field, while the boundaries of the field to the S (marked as Plot no. 673 in the tithe apportionment) had been heavily truncated to the S and W by the construction of the railway. The eastern boundary of the field also appears to have been realigned (its original course indicated by a footpath) while an oblong structure is marked adjacent to the NE corner of the field.

The course of the Rudhall Brook and the Chatterley Brook to the S appear to have survived relatively unaltered, although both streams appear to have been culverted from the point they crossed the railway. Comparison between the 1885 map and later maps dated 1904 and 1928 show relatively little change to the pattern of field enclosure in this part of the study area, although at some point between 1904 and 1928 the railway sidings to the N of Ross-on-Wye station (just outside the SE

corner of the study area) were expanded northwards, partially encroaching upon the field marked as Plot No. 675 on the tithe map.



*Plate 4: Extract from a photograph of 1906 looking NE across the remaining part of the Millpond towards the railway embankment, with mill buildings to the left
(Reproduced by courtesy of Herefordshire Record Office)*

3/ The Town Mill and Millpond

As mentioned above, the construction of the railway line and embankment in 1855 resulted in the infilling of the eastern half of the pond, greatly reducing its extent, as indicated by comparison between the tithe map and the OS 1st edition map of 1885. The corn mill remained operational throughout the second half of the 19th century; however, by the late 19th century, the flow of water from the Rudhall Brook and other watercourses feeding into the Millpond was insufficient to power the mill machinery, which led to the construction of steam boilers in 1895 to provide a new source of power for the mill complex, which subsequently became known as the Ross Steam Flour Mills. Comparison between the OS maps of 1885 and 1904 shows that additional buildings, probably associated with the mill, had been constructed within the small enclosure located adjoining the Millpond immediately to the NW.

By the early 20th century, the Millpond had fallen into decay and rapidly silted up as it was no longer flushed out by the water driving the mill-wheel. Sewage was also accumulating in the pond from nearby cottages and a urinal and residents were complaining of the smell. In 1902, the Council undertook the maintenance of the pond and planted an ornamental garden there with shrubbery and flower beds which are visible in a photo of 1906 (*Plate 4*). Comparison between the 1885 OS map and the 2nd edition map of 1904 indicates the much-reduced extent of the Millpond by the early 1900s. In response to continued complaints about the state of the pond, the local Sanitary Inspector reported it as 'a distinct danger to the health of the town' in 1925-6 and the pond was filled with rubble by 1927. The OS 3rd edition map of 1928 shows the pond site shortly before it was finally infilled; much of the land extending to the E of the ornamental garden as far as the railway embankment was already utilised as allotments, with several small sheds having been erected within this area.

4.2.3 c. 1945 to present

Consultation of modern OS mapping and aerial photographic records of the study area from 1946 to the present indicate that the study area has undergone a significant degree of change during the post-WWII period.

1/Overross Street

A RAF vertical photograph of 11 July 1946 (RAF/106G/UK/1652 Lib. No. 427 Frame No. 2034) shows that the cottages immediately NE of the Plough Inn, on the E side of Overross Street had been demolished by that date to make way for the Overross Garage (built between c.1928 and 1933), although the houses immediately SW of the Plough Inn were still intact at that date, with gardens and yards extending to the rear as far as the Rudhall Brook. A detached house of 19th century date is shown opposite the garage premises (on the site of the existing garage showrooms), immediately adjacent to which is a pair of cottages. The line of the Hereford and Gloucester Railway crossing Overross Street is still shown as intact.

A later RAF photograph taken on 17 October 1962 (58/RAF/5516 Frame No. 0084) shows that little change had taken place. By the late 1970s, however, significant changes had occurred along both sides of Overross Street, as shown on an OS vertical photo taken on 26 June 1979 (OS/79056 -Lib No. 12370 - Frame No. 27). The 19th century detached house on the W side of the street opposite the Overross Garage had been demolished (apparently in the late 1960s or early 1970s) and the existing garage showrooms erected. Meanwhile, the cottages immediately to the SW of the Plough Inn had been demolished (in the early 1970s), while further to the SW, the railway line had been dismantled and the bridge crossing Overross Street had been taken down to make way for the existing car-park site.

2/Broadmeadow

The RAF vertical photograph of 11 July 1946 indicates that this portion of the study area, essentially comprising the fields lying between the Rudhall Brook (to the N) and the railway line (to the S), was still largely under pasture, although some building activity is visible within a field enclosure immediately N of the railway station. By the 1960s, as shown on another RAF vertical photo of October 1962 and an OS 1:2500 map of 1968, more development had taken place within the Broadmeadow area, with the establishment of a coal and timber yard situated within a large trapezoidal enclosure extending N of the railway line towards the Rudhall Brook. This substantial coal and timber yard is visible on a later aerial photograph of 1979 and on an OS 1:2500 map of 1986; by the mid-late 1990s, the timber yard had been converted into a car park and industrial estate and the line of the former railway had been converted into an access road.

3/The Town Mill and Millpond

By the late 1940s, the remaining part of the Millpond (in the SW corner of the study area) had been filled in and is shown on the RAF vertical photograph of July 1946 as an area of partially overgrown waste grassland adjacent to the railway line and embankment. The millrace and the group of former mill buildings immediately to the N are still visible. A later vertical photograph of 1962 shows that little change had taken place; however, an OS 1:2500 map of 1968 shows that this remaining vestige of the Millpond site was then occupied by a car park.

5. Site Visit

A site visit was undertaken by Border Archaeology staff on 14th October 2013 to determine the potential for extant archaeology within the site. The site is currently occupied by a substantial car park and industrial estate, with warehousing extending to the E and SE of Overross Street (*Plate 5*), while extending to the E of the car park is an area of waste ground and scrub, which it was not possible to access due to its being fenced off. A number of gabled masonry buildings associated with the Mill and the former mill race were also noted just outside the SW corner of the study area (*Plate 6*).

The development also comprises the site of the Overross Garage and showrooms, which extend across both sides of Overross Street. A pair of heavily-rendered cottages of probable 19th century date are situated on the W side of Overross Street, immediately N of the showrooms (*Plate 7*). Evidence of an embankment and revetted wall was noted along the W boundary of the car park fronting onto Overross Street, which may be associated with the mid-19th century railway; otherwise, no features of archaeological interest were noted within the development area.



Plate 5: View looking SE across modern car park on E side of Overross Street



Plate 6: View looking NE showing mill race and heavily-altered former mill building just outside the SW perimeter of the study area



Plate 7: View looking W showing pair of cottages of probable 19th century date to N of garage showrooms on W side of Overross Street

6. Copyright

Border Archaeology shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documents, under the Copyright, Designs & Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of the report by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.

7. Bibliography

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Ross-on-Wye parish tithe apportionment - 1843

Secondary Sources

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8. Cartography & Aerial Photography

(All maps were obtained from the Herefordshire Record Office unless otherwise stated)

Isaac Taylor's Map of Herefordshire – 1786

Ordnance Survey drawing of Ross-on-Wye and environs (scale 2 inches to the mile) - 1815

Ross-on-Wye parish map – 1823 (in private collection)

Ross-on-Wye parish tithe map - 1840

OS 1st edition 25 inch map – 1888

OS 1st edition 6 inch map - 1889

OS 2nd edition 25 inch map – 1904

OS 2nd edition 6 inch map - 1905

OS 3rd edition 25 inch map – 1928

OS provisional edition 6-inch map – 1952

OS 1:2500 map – 1968

OS 1:2500 map - 1987

Aerial Photography

(The following references are to photos held at the National Monuments Record Swindon)

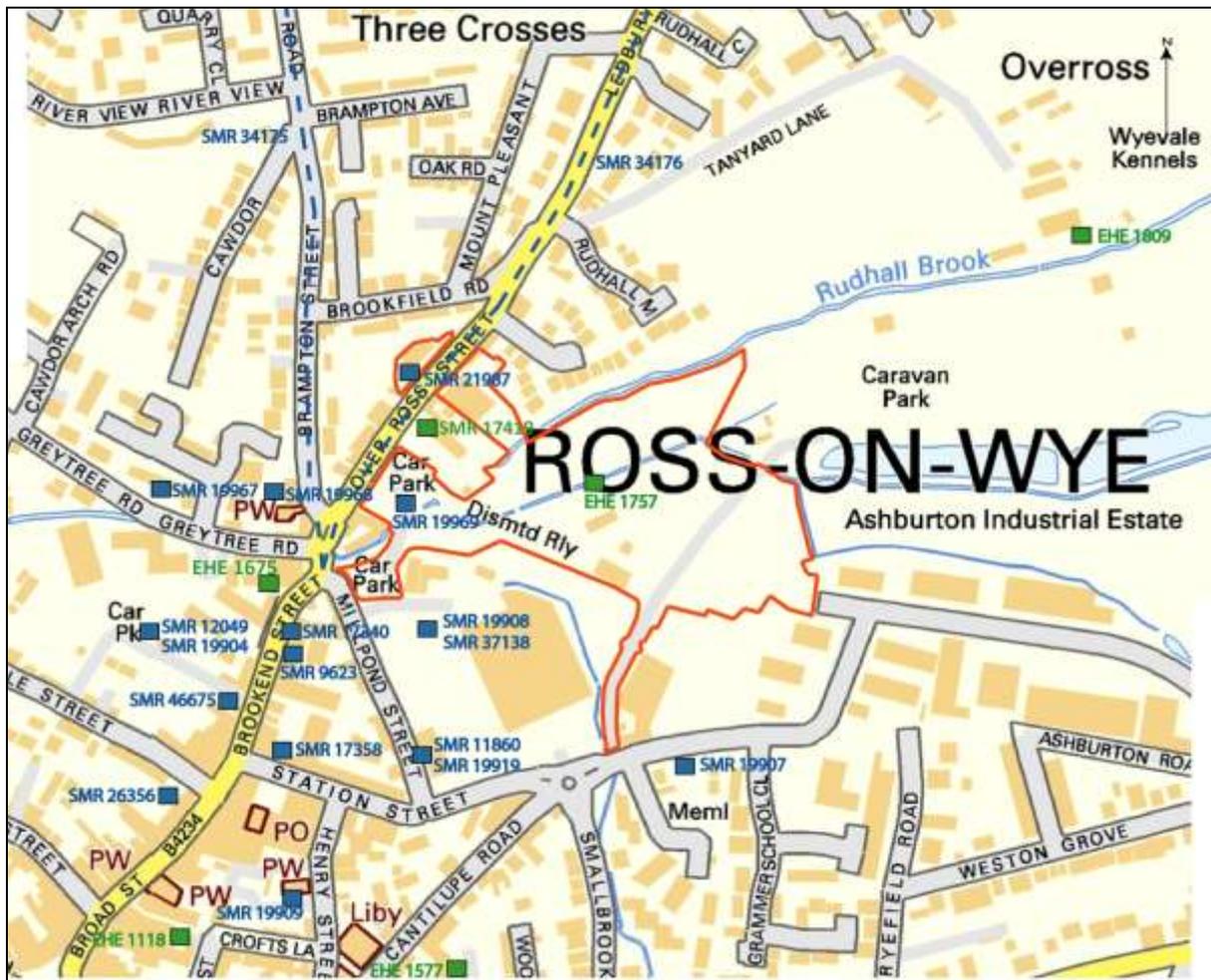
RAF/106G/UK/1652 Lib. No. 427 Frame No. 2034 - 11 July 1946

58/RAF/5516 Frame No. 0084 – 17 October 1962

OS/79056 -Lib No. 12370 - Frame No. 27 - 26 June 1979

In addition, aerial photographs of the study area dated 1996, 1999, 2001 and 2009 were consulted at www.ukaerialphotos.com

9. Plan & Gazetteer of Monuments and Events recorded in the Herefordshire Archaeology HER in the vicinity of the study area (centred on NGR SO 60325 24489)



Gazetteer of Sites in the vicinity of the proposed development site (within a 350m radius of SO 60325 24489)

<u>Monument / Event No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
SMR 11860	Kell's Foundry: Foundry and agricultural implement factory	19 th century
SMR 12049	Brookend or Town Mill: Medieval site of manorial mill. The pond is now a car park but the mill race and weir survive, as does a complex of mill buildings from various dates (18 th century onwards).	Medieval (surviving buildings from 18 th century onwards)
SMR 17340	Friends Meeting House, Brampton St: Site first given to the friends in 1675, although meetings had commenced c. 1655. The first meeting house was built in 1676, but was replaced by the present meeting house in 1804. The area includes a burial ground.	17 th century – 19 th century
SMR 17358	23-24 Brookend St: Three-bay, post-medieval house.	16 th century
SMR 17419	Plough Inn: Grade II Listed Building	17 th century
SMR 19904	Brookend Tannery: House with tanyard and workhouse, recorded from late 17 th century and in use until mid-19 th century when most of the property converted into an inn.	17 th century onwards
SMR 19907	Railway Station: on Gloucester Branch of Great Western Railway, terminus of Ross and Monmouth railway. Demolished in 1975 after lying derelict for 10 years. The engine shed is now an antiques mart.	19 th century
SMR 19908	Coal, slate and timber yard, Mill Pond Street: Shown on 1840 tithe map, on same site as later foundry (SMR 11860).	Post-medieval
SMR 19909	Barn, stable, cider house and mill, Mill Pond Street: Marked on 1840 tithe map, built up by 1888.	Barn: Post medieval. Cider mill and stable: 19 th century.
SMR 19919	Timberyard, Mill Pond Street: Shown as timber yard and saw mill on 1880 map.	19 th century
SMR 19967	Tenement plots to W of Brampton Street: Post-medieval extension of Ross built up by 1823. Standing buildings suggest that the area was being developed by at least the 17 th century.	Post-medieval
SMR 19968	Tenement plots between Brampton St and Over Ross St: Post-medieval extension of town (no listed buildings).	Post-medieval (certainly built up by 1823)
SMR 19969	Tenement plots to the E of Over Ross St: Part of post-medieval town expansion (now largely destroyed).	Post-medieval
SMR 21987	Holloway, Over Ross St: Holloway observed during fieldwork (1994) where road runs out of the town to N.	17 th century

SMR 26356	Land fronting Brookend St, Kyrle St, and Broad St: Planning application site within medieval town	Medieval.
SMR 34175	Turnpike Road, Town Brook to Perry Tump	18 th century
SMR 34176	Turnpike Road, Town Brook to Smiths Shop in Much Marcle	18 th century
SMR 37138	Factory: Agricultural implement works	Post-medieval
SMR 46675	Possible Iron-working site, Brookend Street: Trial trenching on the site revealed a layer of iron slag and charcoal, containing 13 th century pottery	Medieval.
SMR 9623	Railway Inn: Early 18 th century brick house, with 17 th century timber-framed building to rear	17 th century.
EHE 1577	Former Cottage Hospital, Cantilupe Street: Watching brief and excavation of foundation trenches prior to construction of retirement flats on former site of cottage hospital (September – October 1998). 18 th and 19 th century dumped material and cottage hospital demolition rubble revealed	Post-medieval
EHE 1118	The Crofts, Ross on Wye: Desk based assessment followed by trial excavation of three trenches by Archaeological Investigations Ltd prior to proposed redevelopment (January 1997). Reasonable amount of 20 th century build-up found, with presence of bone and 18 th -19 th -century finds suggesting disturbance of underlying subsoil. The most significant features were the remains of two stone walls	Post-medieval
EHE 1675	Nos. 7-11 Brookend Street: Six trial trenches were excavated by Archaeological Investigations Ltd prior to supermarket development (April 2007). One trench contained iron slag and 13 th century pottery. Other trenches showed evidence of the land having been raised in the post-medieval period	Post-medieval
EHE 1757	Rudhall and Chatterley Brooks: Watching brief undertaken by Worcestershire Archaeological Service (September 2007 – May 2008) during ground works for flood alleviation scheme. No significant archaeological features, layers, horizons, structures or archaeological artefacts were identified	-
EHE 1809	Land at Tanyard Lane Ross-on-Wye: Trial trenching (2008) prior to proposed development. No archaeological features or artefacts were present. Core samples taken from the site identified buried soils possibly post-dating the Bronze Age	

Document Control

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Report written by	<i>Stephen Priestley MA</i>		
Report edited by	<i>George Children MA MIFA</i>		
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1	Final	October 2013	<i>Neil Shurety Dip M.GM Inst. M</i>