



Rotherwas Industrial Estate Heritage Assessment and Conservation Management Plan

Herefordshire Archaeology Report No. 312

Version 2.1

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of this document

This document presents an assessment of the heritage within the Rotherwas Industrial Estate, assesses the significance and value of that heritage, and suggests management actions to protect and enhance the identified heritage significance as a key part of the future of Rotherwas.

This heritage principally includes the surviving buildings and associated remains of the Rotherwas Royal Ordnance Factory (built 1916, decommissioned 1950s), and buried archaeological deposits which are known to consist of the remains of Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman, and Early Medieval settlement activity interspersed with the alluvium (river deposited silts) left by thousands of years of river flooding across the site. Since the Industrial Estate directly borders and impacts on the heritage setting of the site of the medieval and later Rotherwas House and associated landscape, contextual consideration is also given to this important heritage asset and the additional potential for buried medieval archaeology associated with the Rotherwas House site.

The document has been prepared by Herefordshire Archaeology (the archaeology service of Herefordshire Council, and the council's internal archaeological advisers). It is intended to inform the positive management and development of heritage assets linked to the future development of the Industrial Estate, and to provide an accessible heritage information resource for the Herefordshire Council owned elements of the site.

1.2 The Rotherwas Industrial Estate

The Rotherwas Industrial Estate essentially incorporates the area of the former Rotherwas Royal Ordnance Factory. As the factory was decommissioned in the immediate post second world war period, the land passed back into the ownership of Herefordshire Council (the factory had been built in 1916 on requisitioned agricultural land purchased by the council in 1912), and, where appropriate, the former munitions factory buildings were given over to light industrial use. Through the 1960s, 1970s, 1980s and 1990s piecemeal development of the site in line with commercial need saw demolition and replacement of former factory buildings, although some were refurbished.

The Rotherwas Industrial Estate (including some adjoining areas of land) is identified in the Unitary Development Plan and the pending Local Development Framework Core Strategy as employment land. Linked to this, the estate has been the focus over the last decade of Herefordshire Council's Rotherwas Futures programme (now incorporated within the Hereford Futures programme) aiming at promoting ongoing economic development on the site. To this end, the Futures project undertook significant site clearance, flood relief works and planning preparation, as well as archaeological and natural environment mitigation, and infrastructure improvement work (including the construction of the Rotherwas Access Road).

Further to the Futures programme, land at Rotherwas was granted government 'Enterprise Zone' status in August 2011, conferring preferential planning, business rate and super-fast broadband provisions in order to encourage new commercial development in the area. The Enterprise Zone, the extent of which may be subject to change beyond

the time of writing, is focused on areas within and adjoining the existing industrial estate/Futures project area and also incorporates adjoining privately owned land to the north of the industrial estate (northern part of EZ area 2). A further privately owned block of land to the south of the industrial estate (EZ area 6) has been identified as a possible additional EZ extension (the latter not identified as employment land in the UPD).

A Development Order to facilitate the formal implementation of the Enterprise Zone is currently being prepared, and a Master Plan has been commissioned to guide the development process.

1.3 Context for the Conservation Management Plan

The Rotherwas Industrial Estate developed in the post war period from the decommissioned Rotherwas Royal Ordnance Factory, and the factory itself was built on land adjoining the historic Rotherwas House and its associated designed landscape. In addition to this known heritage interest, recent archaeological work (in part linked to the Rotherwas Futures programme) has demonstrated the existence of very significant buried prehistoric, Roman and Early Medieval remains in the vicinity and within the area of the industrial estate. The remains of this complex past represents an important yet fragile heritage legacy with significant potential value for people living today.

English Heritage's 2008 'Conservation Principles: Policies and Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment' provides a full statement of agreed best practice for developing the management of heritage assets. A key identified tool for the delivery of the 'Conservation Principles' approach is the preparation of a Conservation Management Plan (CMP). Not only is a CMP considered a 'best practice' tool by English Heritage, but CMPs are required by funders including the HLF to facilitate potential grant aid applications, and are identified as relevant documents within the planning process (as linked to the National Planning Policy Framework).

In order to facilitate the development agenda for the Rotherwas Industrial Estate, it is therefore important that an up to date Conservation Management Plan is in place which incorporates proper description of Rotherwas's heritage assets, a grounded understanding of the significance of those assets (following the 'Conservation Principles' approach), and a measured approach to management which properly reflects that identified significance. It should also be stressed from the outset that this CMP is not about conserving and protecting the heritage 'fabric' of the Rotherwas industrial Estate in a static sense – it is about fully unlocking the dynamic potential of Rotherwas' heritage as a powerful asset which can complement and underpin future commercial development, employment and community life in the locality.

This Conservation Management Plan has been supported and partly funded by English Heritage through English Heritage's West Midlands Regional Office. In addition, the component of the document which involves the initial assessment of the current Rotherwas Heritage asset was funded by the Herefordshire Council's Economic Regeneration section.

1.4 Relationship to Existing Rotherwas Heritage Management Documents

The Conservation Management Plan complements and sits alongside the existing ‘Rotherwas Royal Ordnance Factory Management Study’ prepared by Gifford for Herefordshire Council in 2000. The Gifford study included a detailed description/gazetteer of the munitions factory and Rotherwas House heritage assets, a full significance assessment of those assets as then understood, and a core management approach which has informed subsequent heritage advice relating to the area (and which remains the basis of the proposed heritage management recommendations for the site).

The present document updates the description and significance assessment of heritage assets at Rotherwas. In particular, it revises the record of the surviving Royal Ordnance Factory buildings on the site to reflect changes over the last decade (including the demolition of some buildings), offers a much enhanced assessment of the known and potential buried/prehistoric archaeology in the locality on the basis of discoveries which have been made since the Gifford report was written, and offers an overall revised significance assessment based on the ‘Conservation Principles’ format. However, it does not repeat or reproduce core elements of the Gifford report (including the detailed Royal Ordnance Factory Building Gazetteer/Record descriptions, and the detailed description of the history and operation of the munitions factory), and the two documents should be used in conjunction with one another.

The present document also links with and mutually informs the ‘Rotherwas Enterprise Zone Heritage Management Strategy’ which was prepared by Herefordshire Archaeology in March 2012. The EZ Heritage Management Strategy was intended to specifically inform the development of the Rotherwas Enterprise Zone (including the preparation of the Local Development Order and the Master Plan for the EZ), and did not consider those parts of the Industrial Estate beyond the EZ. The EZ Heritage Management Strategy incorporated the work which was then in progress on the present document, and the treatment of the EZ areas and the management proposals dovetail with the overall treatment and recommendations which are presented in the completed Conservation Management Plan.

1.5 Evidence Base

In addition to the Gifford study (see above), other key evidence base sources underpinning the present document are the ‘Report on Archaeological Evaluations at Rotherwas Futures’ (2009 Archaeological Investigations Limited), the ‘Rotherwas Futures Further Archaeological Evaluation Assessment Report’ (2010 Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Service), the ‘Rotherwas Access Road Archaeological Evaluation Assessment Report’ (2010 Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Service) and the ‘Rotherwas Ribbon Further Investigation Draft Assessment Report’ (2011 Herefordshire Archaeology).

1.6 Structure of the Document

Excluding the present introduction (Section 1), the document is organised into seven parts:

- Section 2 summarises the known historical development of the Rotherwas Area (including the Industrial Estate) and establishes the context for assessing the heritage of the Industrial Estate specifically.
- Section 3 presents a summary description of the known heritage assets in the industrial estate, and assesses the nature of those assets, and indicates the overall significance/value of the heritage assets the Rotherwas Industrial Estate (using the evidential, historical, aesthetic and communal terms of reference set out in the ‘Conservation Principles document).
- Section 4 summarise the core heritage themes which future heritage management in the Rotherwas Industrial Estate should reflect.
- Section 5 offers a management framework which reflect the significant significance and thematic values outlined in Sections 3 and 4, and which collectively aim to enable the conservation of heritage within the industrial estate as a key component of change, economic development and future daily life across the site.
- Section 6 provides detailed area by area heritage management recommendations.
- Section 7 provides a detailed updated list of the surviving ROF factory buildings at Rotherwas (which supports the description offered in Section 3 and the Section 4 significance assessment).
- Section 8 provides maps indicting the known heritage of the site and providing an overview of the management proposals.

1.7 Descriptive Conventions

For ease of reference, the industrial estate is divided into four areas (North Section, South Section, East Section and Central Section, see map 8.2), and the parts of the site are referred/referenced accordingly throughout the document. This division derives from the original organisation of the Royal Ordnance Factory (see Section 2), and has also been used for descriptive reference within all of the previous documents which have been produced concerning the site (including the 2000 Gifford report).

As with the previous Gifford report, and for ease of reference, Royal Ordnance Factory buildings are referred to by the MOD numbering system, supplemented by the Gifford additional numbering system where necessary.

2. ROTHERWAS AREA HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

2.1 Landscape and Settlement Context

The geographical setting of Rotherwas – located in the Wye Valley close to the confluence of the Wye, Frome and Lugg Rivers within a broad and fertile river basin area – makes this a naturally significant location offering a range of hilltop, river terrace, flood plain and riverside environmental niches. Rotherwas itself specifically combines the distinctive ridge location of Dinedor Hill (with prominent opposed summits at either end of the ridge), the fertile land and resource rich riparian habitats of the River Wye and its floodplain, and the mid-slope gravel terrace areas between (which typically offer ideal locations for settlement).

It should be no surprise therefore that people have always lived in this area (albeit making very different use of this natural location at different times), and that extensive evidence of that remarkable story of past settlement survives in today's landscape.

2.2 Prehistory

Palaeolithic and Mesolithic

There is currently no direct evidence from Rotherwas itself for either early human Palaeolithic settlement (predating the last Ice Age) or of immediately post Ice Age Mesolithic settlement. However, people certainly were living in this resource rich river basin locality from the time when human settlement began (at least when warmer interglacial conditions made human settlement possible), and that is confirmed by discoveries such as a Palaeolithic hand axe found in gravel deposits at nearby Tupsley and finds of Mesolithic flint tools from the Hereford vicinity (including tools discovered during archaeological investigations at Wellington Quarry to the north of Hereford).

Neolithic and Bronze Age

Neolithic settlement commences in Britain around 6500 years ago and is associated with the use of new kinds of stone tools, pottery, new cultural traditions and the onset of farming. By about 4000 years ago significant further cultural change, including the development of new kinds of ceremonial sites and activities, is associated with the first use of bronze tools, and the Bronze Age sees the continuing re-modelling of the landscape through human management and farming.

Recent archaeological discoveries in the Rotherwas/South Hereford vicinity indicate that the area was part of a regionally significant Neolithic/Bronze Age settlement and ceremonial landscape. These discoveries began in 2002 during archaeological evaluation in advance of residential development at Bradbury Lines (1.5 Km west of Rotherwas Industrial Estate). The excavations revealed a charcoal rich deposit filling a large circular hollow. On further investigation, the hollow was found to contain the charred remains of a wooden platform which produced Middle Bronze Age radiocarbon dates. In addition, earlier pottery was also found re-deposited within the hollow suggesting a complex site history perhaps stretching back into the Neolithic. The structure most closely resembles an unusual group of Bronze Age monuments referred to as 'pond barrows'. Pond barrows

appear to be associated with cremation and burial, and have only previously been found in 'special status' Bronze Age ceremonial landscapes.

Further discoveries were made in 2006/7 during the Rotherwas Access Road archaeological evaluation and recording programme (undertaken by the Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Service on behalf of Herefordshire Council). The 3 km long access road was built to provide improved access to the Rotherwas Industrial Estate. Running north from its junction with the A49, the road occupies a topographically distinct 'shelf' context between the slopes of Dinedor Hill and the valley floor. Finds along the road corridor included an ancient silted up river channel running off Dinedor Hill (which has produced Bronze Age radiocarbon dates from the base of the channel), burnt stone filled pits with Early Bronze Age radiocarbon dates, and other pits and irregular 'tree throw' hollows associated with Neolithic and Bronze Age plain bowl, grooved ware and beaker pottery. In addition, a circular group of post holes with a porch like arrangement of four post holes on one side has produced mid-Bronze Age radiocarbon dates, and has been interpreted as a house.

The most unusual Access Road discovery was the enigmatic 'Rotherwas Ribbon', which was found 500 metres south of the Rotherwas Industrial Estate. The portion of the Ribbon excavated within the road corridor consisted of a 67 metre long surface made of burnt/heat shattered stone. The undulating surface was set within a downslope hollow, and had a serpentine plan. One section appeared to be embanked with a second layer of stone. An assemblage of pottery, flint (55 pieces) including unusual forms such as tools specifically for fire lighting)) and bone (275 pieces) was recovered from the surface, and five pits on the margins of the Ribbon contained burnt stone. Two fragments of human bone were also recovered from associated contexts. Radiocarbon dating suggests a late 3rd/early 2nd millennium date for the last use of the Ribbon.

Further research in early 2010 (funded by English Heritage) attempted to trace extensions of the Ribbon to the north and south, and to better understand the formation of the feature (particularly to what extent natural processes may have been partly involved in its creation). At the time of writing (September 2012) the results from the five evaluation trenches are still in the process of analysis, but additional (although varied) stone surfaces associated with hollows were found along the supposed Ribbon alignment (as defined by prior geophysics survey) together with a palaeochannel deposit (Trench 4). Two of the stone surfaces (Trenches 2 and 3) have been demonstrated by OSL dating to be of probable Early Bronze Age date in line with the radiocarbon dates for the 2007 Ribbon excavation. The precise nature, extent and associations of the Ribbon remains a matter for discussion, and one possibility is that feature was created by deliberate alteration and reconstruction of stone deposits which originally formed along a local watercourse. The function of the Rotherwas Ribbon is not yet understood, but the nature of the associated artifacts and evidence from the 2007 excavation in particular implies that it may have been linked to ceremonial activities.

Finds made within the Southern Magazines area of the Industrial Estate itself during 2008/9 archaeological evaluation work as part of the Rotherwas Futures programme provide an interesting contrast to the Rotherwas Access Road investigations. Dispersed Neolithic/Bronze Age pits and deposits were observed across the South Magazines area, with a concentration of activity at the eastern end. Here, three spreads of burnt stone were interleaved with the alluvial/river silt deposits which had buried the site. The more

northerly burnt stone spread was distinctly crescent shaped and associated with a square enclosure. Radiocarbon dating has demonstrated that these features date from the Middle Bronze Age to the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age, and they appear to be representative of the ‘burnt mounds’ that are widely known from this general period.

The South Magazine burnt mounds can be directly compared with another example found in Trench 5 of the 2010 Rotherwas Ribbon Further Investigation project (within 200 metres of the South Magazine examples), and one found during the 2007 excavations at Bullinghope (1.5 km west of the Industrial Estate). The function of burnt mounds is uncertain, but some such sites may be connected with processes such as tanning and cereal preparation. The association of all the South Hereford examples with water courses or areas of ancient river flooding (as within the South Magazines) may suggest that access to a plentiful supply of water was a necessary part of the activity involved. Although less immediately unusual than nearby finds such as the Rotherwas Ribbon, these various burnt stone deposits nevertheless serve to emphasise the density and complexity of Neolithic and Bronze Age activity across the South Hereford valley floor zone (and within the immediate vicinity of the Rotherwas Industrial Estate).

The overall picture that is now emerging is that South Hereford, and the area of the industrial estate and its immediate locality in particular, was the focus of a complex pattern of Neolithic and Bronze Age settlement and change, and the suggestion from the Bradbury Lines Pond Barrow and the Rotherwas Ribbon in particular is that these patterns included significant and unusual ceremonial activities.

Iron Age

The introduction of iron technology into Britain in the early first millennium BC connects with ongoing patterns of social and cultural change. One key phenomenon is the increasing emergence of enclosed settlement sites (most obviously represented by hillforts), and this may connect with new patterns of social organisation and the increasing importance of activities including inter-tribal trade and warfare.

Excepting the well preserved remains of Dinedor hillfort and possible Iron Age ditches noted in the 2007 Rotherwas Access Road investigations (including one on the same alignment as the earlier Rotherwas Ribbon), little direct evidence of Iron Age activity has been found in the vicinity. Nevertheless, it can be assumed that the Rotherwas area/Wye flood plain zone (including the fertile alluvial land now occupied the Industrial Estate) formed a key part of the agriculturally rich hinterland of Dinedor Iron Age hillfort for much of this period, and that intensive settlement continued in the locality through-out the Iron Age.

2.2 Roman and Early Medieval (2000 to 950 years ago)

Roman

The Roman conquest and rule of Britain from the mid first to the early fifth century BC did not necessarily involve significant change to daily life. In many areas patterns of subsistence, agriculture and exchange probably continued much as before (albeit with access to new goods, styles of building and the potential status benefits of adopting the trappings of Roman society and religion).

As one might expect in the fertile river valley context of Rotherwas, there is widespread evidence for Roman period settlement and farming activity in the vicinity, although this is not yet fully characterised. The partial remains of a stone-built Roman building were discovered at the eastern end of the South Magazines site during the 2009 archaeological evaluation, although it was not possible to determine the full plan or function of the structure. Trenches 1 and 2 of the 2010 Rotherwas Ribbon Further Investigation project (located 500 metres south of the Industrial Estate) revealed Roman features which included probable stone-surfaced trackways (occupying the infilled hollow which may be linked to the much earlier Ribbon), and a deposit including a large amount of 2nd to 4th century Roman pottery and stone rubble (which perhaps represents demolition of a nearby building). A Roman period ditch had also been cut along the alignment of the section of the Rotherwas Ribbon excavated in 2007 during the Access Road evaluation, and similar ditches were observed in trenches 3, 4 and 5 of the Rotherwas Ribbon Further Investigation project, and elsewhere along the Access Road.

Collectively this evidence points to a settled Roman landscape with buildings/settlements and surrounding fields defined by ditched boundaries. However, it is not possible at this stage to add more detail to this generalised picture, or to isolate more precise chronological sequences of development.

Early Medieval

Romanised life probably continued after the end of formal Roman government in the early fifth century, but the arrival in Herefordshire of incoming Anglo-Saxon settlers from the 7th century onwards is associated with significant changes in life, culture and patterns of settlement. By the later 7th century, the area was within the Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Mercia, and Rotherwas' location near to both the emergent town of Hereford and the Mercian Royal Estate centred on Sutton (to the north of Hereford) may well have given this fertile and agriculturally rich area additional significance.

The name 'Rotherwas' is of Anglo-Saxon origin, and perhaps reveals something of the early medieval character and use of the landscape. The 'Rother' part of the name means 'cattle', and may point to the importance of cattle rearing, gathering and trading at this time on the fertile pasture of the Wye flood-plain. Equally interestingly, the 'was' element derives from the Old English suffix 'waese' which specifically refers to a very occasional but dramatic pattern of river flooding where the water rises and then disappears unusually rapidly (other 'waese' place-name examples are Buildwas in Shropshire and Alrewas in Staffordshire). This pattern may also have been important in defining the agricultural usage of the river margin.

The place-name may directly offer a clue to the purpose of a large ditched enclosure which was found at the eastern of the South Magazines site during the Rotherwas Futures archaeological evaluation in 2009. Only a segment of the curving 'v' shaped ditch was found in the evaluation, and the enclosure it defined evidently extends under the adjoining part of the Industrial Estate South Section. Originally thought to be prehistoric (and appearing to enclose the prehistoric burnt mounds discussed above), this ditch has been radiocarbon dated to the 7th or 8th centuries, and as such is very rare direct archaeological evidence of early-medieval settlement in Herefordshire. Bearing in mind

the Rotherwas place-name, it is tempting to interpret this enclosure as a large stock/cattle corral, although that remains a speculative suggestion.

2.3 Medieval and Post Medieval

Medieval to 17th century

Patterns of tenure and land ownership in the late early medieval landscape of Rotherwas are not known in detail, but following the Norman conquest the Manor of Rotherwas was held by one Gilbert, son of Thorold, and subsequently passed to the Walsh family in the 14th century and then to the Bodenham family from the 15th century. The Bodenham family made Rotherwas their principal seat, and developed the estate accordingly.

The manorial complex was focused on Rotherwas House, and it seems likely that a building existed from the earlier part of the medieval period, and certainly by the 14th century (which is the date of the earliest surviving fabric in the nearby Rotherwas Chapel). The precise location of the medieval house is not known, although the buildings as they existed when described by Thomas Blount in 1675 included a timber-framed hall with a separate gate house (which was probably a Tudor addition). The adjoining chapel (which is extant) is of 14th century date with extensive 16th century and later remodelling. Like the medieval house, the location of the former Rotherwas village is also uncertain, although a position south of the house close to the former road from Hereford seems likely. The ‘lawn pool’ pond, located to the south of the chapel/house probably originated as a medieval fish pond associated with the manorial complex, and survived to three times its present length before being partly in-filled in the 1950s.

By the 16th century, the environs of the manor included a fashionable deer park enclosing the western summit of Dinedor Hill, and much of the park boundary still survives. The combination of the park, house, and fertile agricultural land all located close to the Wye in what was seen by the 17th century as a quintessential rural idyll led Thomas Blount to enviously observe that ‘Not everyone can live at Rotherwas’.

18th and 19th centuries

The medieval/Tudor manor house was replaced in the 1732 by a Palladian mansion designed by the leading architect James Gibbs, and this building survived until demolition in the 1920s. The 18th century house was also associated with the creation of new gardens and parkland leading down to the Wye and the remodelling of the fish pond as the Lawn Pool, and elements of this 18th and 19th century designed landscape still survive today. In addition, outbuildings including the stable block (which survives in residential use) were built to complement the new house.

Beyond the house, the evidence from 18th and 19th century map evidence is that the wider environs and landscape of Rotherwas (including the area of what is now the industrial estate) changed little over this period, and field boundaries from the 18th century are still recognisable on early 20th century maps. Improvements to local transport networks included the closure in the mid 19th century of the old medieval road from Hereford/Lower Bullingham (which ran close to Rotherwas House) following the construction of the new road to the south (which now forms the spinal road of the

Industrial Estate), and the closely contemporary construction of the railway across the estate (running between the house and the new road).

2.4 20th century

On the death of Count Louis Bodenham-Lubienski in September 1912, the Trustees of the Rotherwas House estate (acting for his three sons who were all minors) placed the entire estate up for sale, and it was sold at auction in March 1913 as a series of different lots. The majority of the agricultural land surrounding the house was purchased by Herefordshire County Council.

In 1916 the First World War made a somewhat unexpected but dramatic impact on Rotherwas when the area around the house was selected by the Ministry of Munitions for development as a munitions factory. The bitter British military experiences of 1915 had too clearly impressed on the government the need for major improvements in munitions production (both in terms of quality and quantity), and David Lloyd-George (the Minister of Munitions) was charged with the task of organising a rapid expansion of armaments manufacture. Rotherwas offered a large, flat site with existing rail access, and was considered free from flood risk. Its proximity to Hereford also provided a potential labour force, while its essentially rural and sparsely populated location was nevertheless seen as minimising the ‘collateral risk’ (to use a modern euphemism) posed by accidents at such a potentially dangerous facility. Another perceived advantage of Rotherwas was that a plentiful supply of gravel could be quarried on site for construction purposes. In addition, the majority of the land was also easily available via Herefordshire County Council. The land was duly purchased in June 1916, and construction was commissioned immediately.

ROF Rotherwas was a shell filling factory, and as such undertook the last stage of the munitions manufacture process. Explosive chemicals and shell cases made at other plants were brought to Rotherwas and stored there, and the on site production process then involved combining the chemicals into the explosive mixtures, and placing them in the shell cases. Finished shells were then stored before being dispatched by rail. Two principal types of explosives were made at Rotherwas in the First World War – Lyddite (based on a chemical called Picric Acid), and Amatol (made by combining Trinitrotoluene/TNT and Ammonium Nitrate). Shells also contained other chemical agents to facilitate detonation, and to ensure the shell released a small amount of smoke on impact (and were therefore visible for gunnery targeting purposes). By the end of the First World War, Lyddite had been technologically superseded, and that part of the plant was converted to production of shells filled with the deadly new chemical weapon known as ‘Mustard Gas’ (in fact a liquid whose main chemical component is Dichloridethysulphide).

The design and construction of the factory was overseen by the architect Sir Frank Baines, who had made his name before the war as a fashionable designer of the neo-classical and ‘Arts and Crafts’ type houses which dominated Edwardian ‘garden-city’ style suburban developments. He nevertheless patriotically applied himself to the very different architectural discipline of industrial factory design. In only fourteen days, Baines’ team prepared the drawings for some 370 buildings, and a site infrastructure including 27 miles of railway line, 10 miles of footpaths, 9 miles of military fence, and 3 miles of road. Construction then began immediately, and despite the logistical problems of sourcing an adequate workforce (both for construction and site operation), the Lyddite

section was in production by November 1916, while the Amatol unit went on line in June 1917. Further construction took place in 1918 during the conversion of the Lyddite section for manufacture of Mustard Gas munitions, and this facility was in production only for a short while before the end of the war in November 1918.

Following the war, ROF Rotherwas ceased munitions production, but was retained to carry out the decommissioning and recycling of surplus shells. Such work was commercially lucrative as well as practically necessary, and recovery of Ammonium Nitrate at Rotherwas was generating the government an income of £20,000 per month in the early 1920s. Although this work had ceased by 1924 and Rotherwas was principally used as an army storage depot for the next decade, the deteriorating international political situation in the 1930s meant that the facility was nevertheless retained by the Government in this mothballed state.

In 1937 the site was duly reactivated as a major munitions production facility, not least because its location put it beyond the reach of the presumed German aerial bombing capability of the pre-war period (unlike older munitions factories such as that at Woolwich). Rotherwas underwent a full modernisation programme, and in common with all ordnance factories of the period, was now set up for the manufacture of a wide range of munitions including bombs, shells, naval mines, depth charges and torpedoes. Some parts of the site were substantially re-built (notably the former Lyddite/Mustard Gas production area), but the majority of the existing buildings were adapted and refurbished. Additional structures added as the war progressed included air-raid shelters; these were certainly potentially necessary since the best record of the site at this period is now provided by surviving Luftwaffe reconnaissance photographs, and a single German bomber did attack the site in July 1942.

Following the Second World War, Rotherwas was again re-used for decommissioning and recycling of munitions which this time included armoured vehicles. At the same time, redundant parts of the site were made available for commercial use. Although some of the private businesses were also conducting munitions related work (such as grenade dismantling and refurbishment carried out by G Cohen and Sons), a wide range of other light industrial and office based companies became established in former munitions factory buildings. By 1962 part of the site was formally designated as an Industrial Estate, and the remaining government operated parts of ROF Rotherwas were finally closed in 1967.

Much of the redundant site was purchased by Herefordshire Council in 1973 (in effect recovering the land that had been purchased from the Council back in 1916). Under the auspices of Herefordshire County Council, the 1970s, 80s and 90s saw continuing piecemeal development of the site as an Industrial Estate. The economic development process was focused through Herefordshire Council's Rotherwas Futures project from 2007 (now incorporated into the wider Hereford Futures project), and is additionally being taken forward by the 2011 designation of parts of the site as a government designated Enterprise Zone

The combined post-war re-development of the site has inevitably involved the demolition and replacement of many First and Second World War buildings.

Site Layout and operation (Map 8.2)

The spatial layout of the factory logically sprang from the different elements of the munitions storage and production process, and high risk functions were as far as possible deliberately organised in different areas of the site, and within different buildings even in a given manufacturing process. This minimised the risk of potential chain-reaction explosive accidents causing widespread damage, catastrophic loss of life among workers, and perhaps most importantly from the military point of view, resultant interruption of production at the facility.

As built, the **North Section** contained the Lyddite shell factory, and was divided into a series of independent units where the processes of chemical preparation and shell filling took place. Manufacture commenced at the Picric Acid and Empty Shell stores at the north end of the section, and then proceeded southwards through a series of buildings where the shells were filled and made ready for transhipment. By the end of the First World War, the North Section had been re-modelled for Mustard Gas shell production, but the essential plan of the area remained the same, and many of the buildings were re-used. During the Second World War, this part of the site continued to operate on the same basic spatial arrangement, but was supplied with new buildings purpose designed for mixed production of conventional weapons.

Amatol shell production likewise took place within a series of functionally independent units in the **South Section**. In this case, the production process flowed from south to north. The 7 Magazines to the south provided storage for TNT (5 magazines) and Ammonium Nitrate (2 magazines). These magazines supplied the Amatol production facility which was set between the empty shell stores and the shell preparation units. Shell cases and the prepared Amatol were brought together in the filling or ‘pressing’ houses. The filled shells emerged at the north end following a final stage of preparation for safe storage and transit (for detailed description, see the Giffords report). In essence this arrangement was retained during the Second World War, and although the principal buildings and magazines underwent some modification, the main elements of the First World War complex remained in use.

Completed shells from both the North and South sections were then removed for storage in the **East Section** from where they were removed by rail as required. The East Section operated as a separate entity under the auspices of the Army Ordnance Department (AOD), and was divided from the rest of the complex by its own security fence. The East Section retained its primary storage function during the Second World War (though by then under the control of the Royal Ordnance Corp), and the principal buildings continued in use (together with additional structures).

The administrative and service buildings for the facility - including mess buildings, the main reception and administrative block and the boiler house – were located in the **Central Section**. In addition, stores for non-explosive materials were also located in this area. The Central Section survived the Second World War refurbishment in substantially unaltered form (although some further buildings were added at this time), and the buildings in this area were also favoured for commercial re-use as offices during the initial post-war re-use of the site.

3. IDENTIFIED HERITAGE ASSETS AND THEIR SIGNIFICANCE

3.1 Prehistoric, Roman and Early Medieval

Known Assets

Industrial Estate All archaeological features so far identified were found in the South Magazines area (the archaeological evaluation which has so far been undertaken in other areas have been negative, see Maps 8.2, 8.4). The South Magazine features consisted of three burnt stone spreads/burnt mounds (Bronze Age/Iron Age), one probable Iron Age enclosure (apparently enclosing one of the burnt mounds), one large Early Medieval sub circular enclosure which extends into the adjoining South Section of the Estate, one Roman building foundation, and a spread of pits and ditches across the adjoining area.

Adjoining the Industrial Estate Stone surfaces associated with linear hollows (including the Rotherwas Ribbon as investigated in 2007 under what is now the Rotherwas Access Road and as observed in trench 3 of the 2010 Further Investigation evaluation) appear to date from the Early Bronze Age, while other observed features include natural palaeochannels, Neolithic and Bronze Age pits, a probable Middle Bronze Age house, Iron Age and Roman ditches, and a rubble deposit and trackways which are probably associated with a Roman settlement at the base of Dinedor Hill.

Nature

Within the Industrial Estate/flood-plain, buried archaeological features are typically associated with and buried by the alluvial (river flood sediment) deposits of varying depth which overlie the gravels. This process of alluvial burial means that as well as negative ‘cut’ features (such as ditches and pits) some relatively fragile ‘positive’ structures (such as thin stone spreads and the partial remains of the Roman building) have survived. However, in the South Magazines area even the prehistoric structures were nevertheless very close to the surface probably representing the effects of medieval and later ploughing – and perhaps landscaping during the construction of the munitions factory - which had removed overlying deposits (and had, indeed, substantially destroyed the remains of the Roman building in particular). The alluvial sequences are also associated with localised waterlogging and offer strong potential for recovery of palaeoenvironmental evidence linked to the archaeological deposits.

It is apparent that the underlying gravels have marked undulations within them and this, combined with detailed patterns of alluviation in different parts of the Estate (which are not currently known) means there is potential for deeper burial of archaeological deposits in some places. It is likely that, as with other archaeologically observed distributions of human occupation in flood-plain areas (e.g. at Wellington Quarry to the north of Hereford), the higher gravel areas were probably differentially selected for settlement activity/occupation, and understanding of the underlying gravel topography may help to predict the likely presence of significant archaeological deposits.

On the terrace area between the South Magazines and Dinedor Hill (essentially the zone now crossed by the Rotherwas Access Road) archaeological deposits are associated with colluvial (hillwash) burial. Here again, it is evident that intensive past agriculture has substantially truncated many areas removing much archaeological evidence which may

once have existed. As a consequence surviving archaeological remains are either deeply cut negative features (such as pits and ditches whose bases remain, as with the Bronze Age house found during the Access Road archaeological work), or else exist within hollows (whether of natural or artificial origin) which have seen subsequent colluvial infill preserving archaeological remains within them (as with stone surfaces etc along the Rotherwas Ribbon corridor all of which sit within linear hollows). In these contexts archaeological survival is good, and there is significant potential for recovery of associated palaeoenvironmental evidence.

This interplay of site creation/survival factors is borne out in the fact that the combined archaeological evidence from the evaluations and investigations associated with the Rotherwas Access Road (2007), the Rotherwas Futures project (2008-9), and the Rotherwas Ribbon Further Investigation Project (2010) has shown that buried archaeological deposits at Rotherwas are both widespread yet localised in their occurrence. As noted above, of the four areas within the Industrial Estate subject to archaeological evaluation for the Futures project (Map 8.6) only the South Magazines area produced positive results (although here a multi-period sequence was revealed), and likewise significant areas of the Access Road corridor produced blank results.

Values

Evidential

Recent archaeological work within the Industrial Estate and the wider environs of Rotherwas has demonstrated the survival of well preserved multi-period archaeological deposits in specific contexts associated with colluvial and alluvial burial, albeit with variations in survival associated with later landscape change and truncation. These archaeological deposits are widespread, and have clear potential to contribute very significant new information about the Prehistoric, Roman and Early Medieval past in local, regional and national terms. The association with alluvial contexts in the valley floor is especially significant via the potential to link the Rotherwas finds to wider analysis of ancient environmental patterns, and to the complex valley floor sequences already known in the locality at Wellington Quarry.

The particular significance of the Rotherwas finds is further defined by comparison of the principal sites/features against the wider regional and national evidence base. With respect to the Neolithic and Bronze Age, the Rotherwas Ribbon (however understood) currently appears to represent a very unusual feature associated with deposition of stone (natural and cultural?) along a linear alignment/valley/hollow where associated cultural activities are also occurring. No precise parallel for the Ribbon has so far been recognized in the wider archaeological record. Other Bronze Age features in the vicinity - including the Grooved Ware associated pits and, a little further afield, the Bradbury Lines pond barrow are also demonstrably regionally and nationally rare. The presence of burnt mounds is more widely paralleled in the West Midland region, but is important in situating the wider sequence in local and regional terms.

The evidence for extensive local Roman settlement, although as yet undefined, does meaningfully link Rotherwas into emerging understanding of local and regional settlement sequences. The Early Medieval enclosure, by contrast, is an extremely uncommon feature without immediate parallel in the regional archaeological record, and

does strongly indicate the potential for further discovery of Early Medieval deposits of national importance in this locality.

Historical

The character of the combined group of Neolithic and Bronze Age sites in the Rotherwas locality suggests that they are part of a ‘special’ settlement area where significant ceremonial monuments were built, and where high status activity was linked to the use and deposition of important objects. As such, the group of sites are demonstrably of regional archaeological importance.

In more general terms, the Rotherwas area Neolithic/Bronze Age discoveries sit alongside other recent finds in the Hereford locality (including the important Neolithic/Bronze Age sequence from Wellington Quarry, the Hill Croft Field Neolithic enclosure, and the Stapleton Henge monument) to reveal the density, diversity and complexity of Neolithic/Bronze Age settlement throughout the principal river valleys of Herefordshire. Regional evidence for Neolithic/Bronze Age site clusters has recently been emphasised in the *West Midlands Archaeological Research Framework*.

The linkage through from earlier prehistory to later patterns of Iron Age, Roman and Early Medieval settlement – and particularly the presence of the rare Early Medieval enclosure – also establishes a strong historical trajectory pointing to the development of today’s inherited landscape, and gives the earlier combined archaeological deposits at Rotherwas a particular value in that sense. One theme that emerges in the flood-plain area is the interplay of human settlement and flooding, and that emerging story is increasingly constructing a meaningful associative link between the lives of past and present peoples in the locality.

Aesthetic

Given that Prehistoric, Roman and Early Medieval features in the Rotherwas Landscape are now entirely buried and invisible (with the exception of Dinedor Hillfort), then their apparent aesthetic value is low within the visible pattern of today’s landscape.

However, it is worth at least noting that the broad landscape context of Rotherwas - at the heart of a major river confluence zone and overlooked by a bowl of surrounding higher ground including Dinedor Hill immediately to the south - is still appreciable, and may have been similarly appreciated by ancient people and directly linked by them to the activities once undertaken there.

Communal

Although there is no long tradition of ascribing communal meaning to the earlier history of Rotherwas – that history was not all known until the recent archaeological discoveries – those recent discoveries have attracted strong public interest and an ongoing public concern that the ancient heritage of the area is protected, recognised and celebrated. Those values are particularly held with respect to the Rotherwas Ribbon, and a sense that this unusual and ancient feature constructs a meaningful (if little understood link) to the ancient past of Herefordshire.

Significance Summary: The Rotherwas Ribbon is of potential national importance, and is currently the subject of further investigation and assessment which is being undertaken by Herefordshire Archaeology (with English Heritage funding). The wider Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman and Early Medieval archaeology is of local and regional importance, but with the potential for more finds of national importance.

3.2 Medieval and Post Medieval (Rotherwas House and landscape), see map 7.2

Known Assets

Industrial Estate No defined assets (excepting those connected with the Munitions Factory, see below).

Adjoining the Industrial Estate The Rotherwas House landscape includes the Grade 2 scheduled medieval and later house site associated with a raised platform and buried archaeological remains, earthworks associated with the gardens and designed landscape of the house (partly included in the scheduled area), the extant Grade 2* listed medieval and later chapel, extant post-medieval outbuildings associated with the house, the presumed site of Rotherwas medieval village to the south of the house, and the ‘Lawn Pool’ (consisting of both the extant eastern end of the pool and the in-filled former western extension).

Nature

The Rotherwas house landscape consists of a combination of buried archaeological remains (Rotherwas medieval village, Rotherwas House), above ground ‘earthworks’ (Rotherwas House landscape), surviving landscape features (The Lawn Pool), and extant buildings (Rotherwas Chapel and Rotherwas House outbuildings). The house outbuildings are in continuing domestic/agricultural use, and the surviving 18th century stable block range has recently been subject to a high specification domestic renovation. The listed chapel is in English Heritage Guardianship.

Archaeological deposits certainly survive on the house site including substantial remains of foundations and walls (visible on aerial photographs), very probably with multi-period deep burial of deposits perhaps including remains of the medieval house (and this survival is reflected in the scheduling of the site). Garden features including earthworks to the north of the house (leading down to the Wye) and the Lawn Pool to the south remain as well defined extant landscape features. The context of the house landscape in a river flood-plain which was certainly subject to alluviation in the more distant past (compare with the South Magazines area) also means that there is potential for deep burial of earlier archaeological deposits beneath the medieval and post medieval horizons.

In areas where intensive agriculture has occurred (notably to the south of the house) the potential for good archaeological survival of medieval (or earlier?) deposits is undefined but perhaps poor for the later periods in particular (compare with the South Magazines area), so survival of deposits relating to the presumed village or the former detached Tudor gatehouse cannot be assumed, but should certainly not be ruled out.

Despite the early 20th century construction of the Royal Ordnance Factory (and the subsequent development of the Industrial Estate) the extant buildings and landscape survives within a substantially open/secluded setting consistent with the pre 20th century historic identity of the locality. That sense of historic context would obviously be vulnerable to development spread towards the house site, or indeed to particular patterns of development within adjoining areas of the Industrial Estate (especially the immediately adjacent east section).

Values

Evidential

The combination of above ground buildings and buried archaeological deposits collectively preserves important evidence of the development of the Rotherwas House landscape over a period of nearly 1000 years. Although such a sequence of development might be encountered in many places in Herefordshire and the West Midlands, the potential at Rotherwas to archaeologically link the medieval and post medieval phases, and to build detailed understanding of the evolution of a complete medieval and later settlement landscape with significant historical associations, makes this a particularly important survival (as indicated by the scheduled status of the house site in addition to the listing of the medieval and later chapel).

Historical

The medieval and later development of the Rotherwas landscape illustrates important processes of social and economic change. These include new patterns of social mobility in the medieval and post medieval periods (as illustrated by the rise of the Bodenham family and their reconstruction of the estate to display that wealth via remodelling the house, creating the deer park, endowing the chapel etc), and processes of settlement change and abandonment from at least the 14th century onwards (as indicated by the disappearance of Rotherwas village). The later medieval Rotherwas landscape also illustrates the increasing importance of specialised pastoral agriculture in Herefordshire, and indeed the express linkage of that landscape usage to new ideas of aesthetic landscape design (see below).

Aesthetic

The site of Rotherwas house and its environs embodies a complex designed medieval and later landscape which was, at different times and in different ways, specifically constructed to evoke fashionable ideas of landscape, aesthetic setting and wealth. Those aesthetic values are not always easy to appreciate today, not only because of the loss of the house itself as the centrepiece of the landscape, but also because the 20th century development of the Royal Ordnance Factory/Industrial Estate has significantly encroached on the intended setting of Rotherwas House and visually divorced it from associated landscape features such as Dinedor Hill with its late medieval deer park. Nevertheless, the Rotherwas landscape significantly preserves its design history, and currently remains within a distinctive setting in which the key elements of the house complex are visually and historically interconnected.

Communal

In some ways ironically, the communal value of the Rotherwas House landscape – for all that it was designed and intended to be seen as a fashionable statement of wealth and status which would impress itself on the lives of those living in the locality – is now less apparent than that of the adjacent munitions factory (see below). However, it should certainly be remembered that for much of the post medieval period at least, Rotherwas was celebrated as a rural idyll which combined a perfect situation close to the Wye, rich agricultural land, a fine and desirable house and gardens, and a grand setting beneath Dinedor Hill. Although the 17th century observer Thomas Blount found the estate in somewhat run-down condition, he nevertheless observed that people often said of this well - favoured place that ‘not everyone could live at Rotherwas’. If it seems hard to recapture that view today, it nevertheless gives the area added communal meaning and significance in historical terms.

Significance Summary: The Rotherwas house site is protected as a nationally important Scheduled Monument, and Rotherwas Chapel is protected as a nationally important Grade 2* listed building. Other features (buried, visible features and buildings) are of local and regional importance.

3.3 20th century (Royal Ordnance Factory), see map 7.2

Known Assets

A full gazetteer of surviving ROF buildings is provided for each factory area in Section 7 of this report. While the majority of structures are within the Industrial Estate, some of the outlying structures fall within areas of adjacent private ownership (see Section 7 and Maps 8.3 and 8.5).

In summary, surviving ROF buildings principally include 12 First World War steel framed ‘North Light’ buildings (north, south and east sections), 5 First World War explosive/magazine stores (north and south sections), the First World War Headquarters Building (central section), a Second World War bunker, transit bay and a group of 4 blast walls (north section), 19 Second World War corrugated iron ‘Romney’ huts (east section) and a wide range of mainly Second World War ancillary buildings (central section and throughout). Buildings are associated with other visible remains of the factory including railway alignments and ponds/gravel extraction pits created during the initial construction work.

Nature

The rapid construction of ROF Rotherwas in 1916/17 was achieved by use of proven ‘off the peg’ industrial building designs employing pre-fabricated steel frame construction. In particular, the distinctive North-Light building design was adapted for all the principal munitions storage and factory areas across the site. The asymmetrical ‘saw toothed’ roof section apexes are glazed on the more steeply angled northern side (hence ‘North-Light’ buildings), and are longitudinally interlinked by steel bracing ties. As well as enabling good lighting provision, this arrangement also offered a structurally strong roof facilitating wide spans which could support internal gantries and lifting gear without the need for potentially obstructive internal supports. The outer walls of the North Light

buildings are infilled with rendered brick, and variations on the design were built in anything from 5 to 14 bays in length according to the size of building required.

Another architecturally distinctive group of structures are those for storage of explosive chemicals. In the North (Lyddite) Section, the brick and concrete built Picric Acid stores were constructed as a linear range of small cell like rooms in which the acid was stored in cardboard boxes. In the South Section, the TNT and Ammonium Nitrate magazines are large rendered brick rectangular structures with large sliding doors and a railway platform on their western side. As built, the structures had lightweight pitched asbestos roofs intended to blow away with minimum damage to the surrounding area in the event of accidental detonation, but these were replaced in the Second World War with much more substantial blast resistant concrete roofs (perhaps reflecting the use of the magazine for storage of completed munitions at this time). The surrounding earthen blast banks on the factory side of the structures may also be later additions, although the TNT Magazines certainly had their blast banks in place by the end of the First World War.

The many ancillary buildings across the site – housing diverse functions such as a hospitals, mess facilities, lavatories, changing rooms, guard rooms, and non-explosive stores – were, as with the North Light buildings, flexible adaptations of a single basic design consisting of a rectangular brick built structure with a shallow pitched roof covered either by asbestos or slate. Multiples of this design were used to create larger blocks, and the design was readily adapted or added to as requirements changed through the 50 year active life of the facility. The main administration and reception block in the Central Section is a somewhat more grand brick building with a central block, flanking wings and a pitched slate roof. This too was essentially a standard early 20th century military headquarters building design.

The Second World War re-commissioning and use of Rotherwas was associated with construction of many new buildings as well as the refurbishment and alteration of existing structures. Partially buried brick and concrete air raid shelters of standard ‘Z’ and ‘Y’ shaped design were constructed at marginal locations across the site. New ancillary buildings were of similar basic design to their First World War predecessors, but now with flat concrete roofs as standard. Additional storage facilities (most notably in the East Section) were provided by rapidly erected ‘Romney’ corrugated iron sheds, consisting of a concrete base enclosed by a semi-circular steel framework with a corrugated iron covering and sliding access doors at one or both ends.

The extant ROF buildings are now dispersed among modern commercial buildings, and many are no longer separated from their setting and original context. Some are in small scale industrial/office use, and many of these have been substantially re-modelled for this purpose (see Section 8 for detailed building by building descriptions). The condition of the surviving buildings varies considerably, and the smaller ancillary structures (which have little re-use potential) are generally now in entirely abandoned or derelict condition.

Values

Evidential

The surviving structures, fabric and spatial layout of ROF Rotherwas preserves important evidence of the story and operation of the factory (see Section 7 Gazetteer). Individual

structures still retain significant detail relating to construction, operation and remodelling which goes well beyond the evidence contained solely in the documentary sources for the factory (as outlined in detail in the Gifford Report Gazetteer).

The value of the surviving buildings has been diminished in setting and contextual terms by demolition since the 1960s. Remaining structures are typically isolated by modern development, and the relationship to the original production line processes with which the buildings were once associated has been substantially lost. Nevertheless, at the western end of the Amatol section, and in the East Section in particular, coherent groups of buildings do survive and this significantly enhances the value of the individual structures in those areas (even where these structures have individually been subject to significant alteration and remodelling)

Historical

Although Rotherwas was not in itself innovative either in terms of the design of the buildings (which, notably with the North Lights, were ‘off the shelf’ industrial designs of the period) or the manufacturing processes which were undertaken there (none of which were developed at Rotherwas), the factory was nevertheless one of only a limited number of facilities of this kind.

Of the 12 First World War filling factories in the UK, Rotherwas was one of only two factories where Lyddite shells were produced (the other was Banbury, Northhamptonshire), while six factories undertook Amatol production. Of these Banbury still partially survives, but only as earthworks (making the Rotherwas North section First World War buildings unique survivals), while three other Amatol factories are partially extant, with that at Chilwell the best preserved with a complete sequences of buildings relating to the whole production process (and is significantly better preserved than Rotherwas in that respect).

Rotherwas does, however, also have the additional significance of being re-used and redeveloped in the Second World War period. In that sense the factory complex uniquely preserves evidence of the transition from First to Second War operation, including significant remodelling of earlier buildings which did not happen at other surviving filling factory sites. Moreover, it must be stressed that any survival of a Great War facility of this kind is extremely rare, and is otherwise unparalleled in the West Midlands area.

It should also be emphasised that Rotherwas directly illuminates critical historical developments in 20th century history. The employment of women at this and other factories was a key driver for mid and later 20th century social change.

Aesthetic

Rotherwas made no particular contribution to 20th century industrial design, and neither the buildings or the wider facility have particular design or architectural merit. However, the very functional nature of the surviving buildings, and the sheer scale of the North Light buildings in particular, powerfully evokes the marriage between 20th industrial output and warfare, and all the terrible consequences that flowed from that: Rotherwas is no less a testament to the cataclysm of the Great War than the battlefields themselves.

That aesthetic quality, if such it should be called, is now perhaps most clear in the East Section (where North Lights and other buildings still survive in close proximity to one another), and, on the scale of an individual surviving building, in the vast and evocative space of the little altered North Section Empty Shell store.

Communal

Rotherwas's early to mid 20th century development as a munitions facility is associated with a critical phrase of British history when the majority of the British population became involved in the defence of the realm. That involvement was as significant and life-changing for those on the home front as it was for those who served in the armed services in the principal theatres of war. The net effect in the late 1940s was not only the political survival of the UK as an independent state – it was a massive social and economic shift which underpins modern British society. The decaying munitions factory buildings may at one level directly embody an uncomfortable past which cost millions of lives, but they are also a powerful local reminder of an extraordinary watershed in British history. That sense of historical value is powerfully held by local people, many of whose parents or grandparents worked at Rotherwas, and there is a strong community desire that Rotherwas' remarkable 20th century past is not forgotten (see the local response to development proposals over the last decade which have seemed to threaten parts of the site).

Significance Summary: Later 20th century demolition has differentially removed many of the less substantial structures (such as all the former First and Second World War filling huts/press houses within the north and south sections). This means that key elements of the complex associated with the complete production process are now missing, and surviving buildings are typically divorced from their original setting and context. Nevertheless, the Great War structures are nationally rare survivals without parallel in the local and regional context, and one First World War Picric Acid Bond (explosive) Store is formally protected as a nationally important Grade 2 listed building. The Second World War buildings and site elements are of local and regional importance.

4. KEY ROTHERWAS HERITAGE THEMES

4.1 Great War

The Rotherwas First World War buildings provide a powerful (and now nationally rare) physical connection with the ‘Great War’. It is not just that the purpose of ROF Rotherwas – large scale production of artillery shells – is a direct link to the grim reality of that war. In addition, as anyone who has experienced the ‘wow’ factor of entering the vast internal space of the surviving north section ‘north light’ empty shell store will know, the character of the buildings themselves epitomises the first ever application of industrialised ‘total war’ and gives a direct sense of why the First World War became such a seminal and shocking event forever engrained in British cultural memory. This is uncomfortable history, but it is history that has touched all our lives to a degree that is probably true of no other historic site in Herefordshire. The coming 100 year anniversary of the Great War will only further emphasise the value of the 1916 elements of the site.

4.2 Local Communities

The munitions factory was a major part of the lives of many thousands of local people from the early to the mid 20th century, and, with immigrant workers and the need for new housing, marked a significant watershed in patterns of community life and employment in the Hereford locality. The employment of women at factories including Rotherwas during both world wars was one key national development which is bound up with the major social changes of the last century. Personal experiences of working at the Rotherwas munitions factory are still within the memory of local people, and provide a powerful living community legacy which sits alongside the surviving buildings and modern commercial activity/employment at the site.

4.3 Industry and Technology

The Rotherwas munitions factory involved the application of the most advanced industrial technologies of the time in a context of continuous technological change. Cutting edge technology such as the use of modular prefabricated steel framed buildings allowed the rapid construction of the factory in the first place, and in both the first and second world wars, production at the factory continually evolved to absorb new requirements and technological developments. The past of Rotherwas as a state of the art industrial facility links directly with the proposed future of the site as a focus for commercial development with a high technology emphasis (although hopefully with more peaceful purposes in mind).

4.4 Forgotten Lives and Landscapes

The remarkable ‘pre factory’ history of Rotherwas - stretching from the Neolithic period to the 19th century - is a window to an entirely unexpected lost world which includes Bronze Age ceremonial activities, Roman and medieval settlement, and the rural idyll of Rotherwas house and its environs. That emerging story, spread over several thousand years, offers an intriguing counterpoint to the lives of present day communities in the area. As such, this nationally and regionally important history can be a powerful tool to build present day community ‘sense of place’, and to engender support for patterns of modern change which turn out to be but one element in a much longer historical process.

5. MANAGING HERITAGE WITHIN THE ROTHERWAS INDUSTRIAL ESTATE/ ENTERPRISE ZONE

5.1 Principles

- Take a measured approach to the management of heritage assets at Rotherwas (including mitigation of development affecting those assets) reflecting formal designations, where present, alongside identified significance.
- Reflect detailed understanding of the nature, pattern and full chronological range of the known heritage assets at Rotherwas.
- Ensure that management of individual Industrial Estate/Enterprise Zone heritage assets is part of an integrated heritage management strategy for the wider Rotherwas locality.
- Engage realistically with the modern employment context of the site and its status as a key commercial development area/Enterprise Zone.
- Engage positively with the heritage values, significance and themes attached to the site, and use those to support the contemporary and future industrial use of the area for the benefit of local people, communities and potential commercial users of the site.

5.2 Managing the Royal Ordnance Factory Asset

Management Opportunities

- Innovatively conserve and celebrate emotive and challenging heritage which links to the remarkable role Herefordshire people played in a highly influential period of national and international history.
- Use the Royal Ordnance Factory heritage values/surviving structures to make Rotherwas a distinctive and attractive environment for people to live and work, and so underpin the commercial attractiveness of Rotherwas as a location for new business (especially linked to high technology).
- Specifically capitalise on the 100 year anniversary of the Great War as it unfolds over the 2014-18 period to support and facilitate the ongoing commercial development of the site.
- Place Herefordshire and Rotherwas at the forefront of innovative ‘best practice’ heritage led regeneration linked to this type of 20th century military heritage asset.

Practical Considerations

- The surviving munitions factory buildings are now between 70 and 95 years old, have gone well beyond their original anticipated life, and are entirely obsolete in terms of their intended function. Many surviving buildings are in poor condition (although the steel framed ‘north lights’ in particular are structurally sound), none meet current building standards (with significant issues such as the widespread use of asbestos), and

all are generally deemed unsuitable for straightforward modern commercial re-use (notwithstanding the continuing light commercial use of some buildings). Re-conditioning and retention of structures will require commitment, major investment, accessing of external funds, and creative thinking to find suitable uses which unlock their modern heritage led regeneration potential.

- Retention of historic structures may compromise straightforward commercial development opportunities in some parts of the site, and larger structures occupy significant space which is therefore removed from potential commercial occupation.
- There is considerable local and public interest in the Rotherwas munitions factory. Recent (2010) demolition in the north and south sections (associated with the Rotherwas Futures programme) prompted local concern about the future of the surviving factory buildings, and led to English Heritage assessment of structures in this area for listing (one adjacent Picric Acid Bond store was Grade 2 listed, see map 4). Retention of the buildings which now remain in the north section (as had been agreed by the Futures Team and the Herefordshire Council Archaeology Service in line with the Gifford report recommendations) was discussed with local people at that time.
- The two surviving South Section TNT Magazines have additional environmental value as established bat roosts.

Suggested Management Approach

- Taking into account current survival and identified significance, retain limited sample groups of buildings which reflect the original range of building types, the operation of the different functions across the factory complex, and (as far as possible) the historic ‘feel’ of the factory.
- Pro-actively develop suitable alternative uses for buildings to be retained, and seek funds to support heritage sensitive re-development in this way, working with partners including English Heritage to this end.
- Undertake appropriate recording of all other ROF structures in advance of removal for redevelopment.
- Develop public information and site interpretation presenting the history, operation and significance of the factory.
- Positively engage with local communities to support and facilitate management work.

5.3 Managing the Rotherwas House Landscape Asset

Management Opportunities

- Develop and present new understanding of the lost ‘rural idyll’ landscape of Rotherwas House as an integral part of positively engaging present day communities with the ongoing redevelopment of the area.

- Recognise the Rotherwas House landscape as a key heritage asset which significantly contributes to the physical and environmental setting of the Industrial Estate/Enterprise Zone, helping to make Rotherwas a desirable place for people to work, and an attractive place for commercial investment.
- Directly link the management of the Lawn Pool and its immediate environs to the creation of ‘green’ public realm for the proposed Enterprise Zone in this area (connecting with natural environment management objectives to this end).

Practical Considerations

- Although only the Lawn Pool is directly within the Enterprise Zone, the potential for the development of the Enterprise Zone to impact on the *setting* of the whole Rotherwas House Landscape is significant (including the nationally important scheduled house site and the Grade 2* listed Chapel). This issue is especially relevant to EZ area 2 which has never previously been developed and is currently an open field area forming part of the unobstructed southern visual envelope of the house landscape.
- Possible alignments for an additional northerly spur of the Rotherwas Access Road (forming part of the wider planning for a Hereford bypass route) have been identified through this area/the Rotherwas House landscape within the current draft Herefordshire LDF Core Strategy. Route options are currently under separate consultation, and while this issue is beyond the specific scope of this document, the potential for a road extension in this area is clearly directly relevant to the wider heritage management process for the Rotherwas House landscape (and raises significant additional heritage management issues).
- With the exception of public access to the chapel (in EH Guardianship), the Rotherwas House landscape is on private land and is not currently open to general public access.

Suggested Management Approach

- Ensure the new Enterprise Zone does not physically encroach on the area of the Rotherwas House landscape (relevant to the Lawn Pool and the strip of land to the north of the pool which falls within the area of proposed commercial development in this area).
- Retain and, as far as possible, enhance surviving Rotherwas House landscape features (the Lawn Pool) linked to the ongoing development of the Industrial Estate/Enterprise Zone.
- In order to restrict the visual impact of the Industrial Estate/Enterprise Zone on the setting of the Rotherwas House landscape/protected assets, establish and maintain undeveloped green space buffer zones along the northern boundaries of EZ area 2 (Lawn Pool corridor) and the western boundary of EZ area 3 (existing woodland boundary).

- Positively link these heritage management provisions with natural environment management objectives and enhancement work.
- Develop public and on site presentation of the forgotten story of Rotherwas House and its landscape.

5.4 Managing Buried Heritage Assets (principally Prehistoric to Medieval)

Management Opportunities

- Develop important new understanding of key parts of the local and regional settlement story, with particular potential for the Neolithic/Bronze Age, Roman, Early Medieval ('Dark Age') and Medieval periods.
- Rediscover the completely unexpected lost landscapes and community life of Rotherwas as a prime area of settlement, agriculture and high status living, and use that story to support the contemporary use of the site as a vibrant area of 21st century settlement and industrial activity.
- Use the presentation of Rotherwas' remarkable lost buried past as a key tool to enable the process of positively engaging present day communities with the ongoing redevelopment of the area.

Practical Considerations

- Excepting the area of Rotherwas House, none of the buried archaeological features and deposits at Rotherwas are now at all visible as surface features or structures.
- Future development within and in the environs of the Industrial Estate must take positive account of the possible presence of significant buried archaeological deposits, with particular potential for Prehistoric, Roman and Early Medieval deposits of regional and national significance.
- Within the Rotherwas Futures programme, full archaeological evaluation and recording has already been undertaken in four areas of the recent designated Enterprise Zone. Only the South Magazines produced significant archaeological finds, and on the basis of these results further detailed excavation was undertaken at the eastern end of the South Magazines (work undertaken by the Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeological Service).
- Additional archaeological evaluation is already planned/in hand linked to the ongoing flood relief works (carried over from the Rotherwas Futures programme, eastern part of the Enterprise Zone) and the Sustrans cycleway scheme (which essentially follows the former railway line).
- The Rotherwas Ribbon was the focus of massive public interest at the time of its discovery in 2007, and that interest, together with the potential national importance of the Ribbon, informed the decision to undertake in situ preservation of the then known

section of the monument beneath the Access Road. Preservation/protection of other Ribbon sections is a key heritage management consideration.

- The observed nature of the buried archaeology at Rotherwas means that, notwithstanding the potential high significance of some assets (e.g. the Rotherwas Ribbon), direct public display of excavated remains is not a practical proposition.
- It must be assumed that areas of early to mid 20th century development (including the building footprints of former munitions factory structures) do retain potential for underlying intact prehistoric archaeology.
- The relatively insubstantial remains characterising much of the prehistoric record probably would not be observed under standard ‘watching brief’ conditions. Likewise, geophysics will not be meaningful or effective in former built up areas (and is in any case problematic in deeply alluviated environments), and trench based sample evaluation is also likely to be of limited effectiveness in characterising the kinds of archaeological features present on this site.
- Extensive archaeological trenching causing significant ground disturbance can complicate future building development in trenched areas.

Suggested Management Approach

- Use preservation by record as the principal archaeological management/mitigation tool.
- Beyond those areas which have already been evaluated, consideration should be given to undertaking a programme of test pit sampling across the site. This would permit further modeling of the underlying alluvial sequence and the topographical pattern of the underlying gravels. This information will be used to allow more informed prediction of the likely areas where archaeological deposits may survive, and to assess the truncation of the alluvial sequence within which archaeological deposits may or may not be contained.
- In line with the National Planning Policy Framework, undertake appropriate archaeological evaluation of identified archaeological sensitivity areas in advance of development.
- As far as possible, evaluation should be based on archaeologically observed large area machine stripping.
- Where (and if) appropriate carry out detailed follow up excavation of significant areas of archaeological interest
- In the exceptional circumstance that archaeological deposits of national importance are identified (currently only the Rotherwas Ribbon may come into this category), development should be designed to respect those remains either by leaving them within undeveloped/low development impact zones (such as public open space) or by

adopting building design solutions to ensure that development does not disturb the identified archaeological deposits.

- Develop public and on site presentation of the early archaeology and history of Rotherwas.

6. SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 North Section (including Enterprise Zone Area 1)

Royal Ordnance Factory – North Section Filling Factory

- Retain the First World War North Light Empty Shell Store (MOD 35).
- Retain the three remaining Picric Acid Expense/Bond Stores (MOD 47, 48 and the listed Expense Store MOD 49)
- Retain the Blast Wall/Bunker building groups with the adjoining lengths of concrete ‘clean way’ (MOD 1,2,3,4, MOD 27, G5)
- Seek to develop and externally fund a re-use option for the shell store.
- Seek to undertake and fund consolidation, conservation and public presentation of the blast wall group, bunker and associated structures.
- Work with English Heritage to develop this project.
- Aim to present and interpret these structures as a key part of the new Rotherwas development, providing a distinctive and relevant heritage context for the Enterprise Zone initiatives in this area.
- The isolated detonator store (MOD 55) may be demolished (if necessary) as the EZ project develops. Appropriate building recording to take place in advance of demolition work.

Buried heritage assets

- No archaeological mitigation recommended in advance of or during development of the site.
- This area is outside the principal identified archaeological sensitivity zones, and there is no identified likelihood of buried archaeological assets on this part of the site. Distribution of spoil from adjacent flood relief scrapes will further raise the ground level giving additional protection to any buried features which may exist.

6.2 Rotherwas House Landscape (including part of Enterprise Zone Area 2)

- Work with the landowner to maintain positive management regime within the scheduled area (EH liaison);
- Work with owners to retain and sympathetically maintain surviving outbuildings etc. associated with the the Rotherwas House complex (EH and Herefordshire Council heritage advisers)

- Work with the landowner to encourage positive management of the garden earthworks/landscape beyond the Scheduled area (EH and Herefordshire Council heritage advisers)
- Retain the existing Lawn Pool complete with its unobstructed setting link to the Rotherwas House landscape to the north
- If possible, within the Enterprise Zone development process, re-excavate and recreate the former western extension of the Lawn Pool as part of this process (with appropriate archaeological supervision)
- Manage the complete re-inscribed Lawn Pool and the adjoining northern boundary area of EZ Area 2 as an undeveloped east-west green-space corridor (so creating a physical and visual buffer which protects the setting of this part of the Rotherwas House landscape).
- Retain the woodland boundary along the western edge of the East Section to protect the visual setting of the Rotherwas House landscape (EZ Area 3)
- Develop public interpretation of the history of Rotherwas House and its associated landscape.

Buried heritage assets

- Where appropriate in advance of development, carry out archaeological evaluation in the area south and west of the Lawn Pool.
- Other areas were evaluated as part of the Rotherwas Futures programme. No archaeologically significant deposits were identified, and no additional archaeological mitigation is recommended in advance of or during development of the site.

6.3 East Section (Enterprise Zone Area 3)

- Retain the well preserved North Light building (MOD 703) and associated Romney hut group in the south-east corner of the EZ Area 3. The objective is to retain a tangible link to the Royal Ordnance Depot function in this area, while at the same time minimising impact on the development context in this part of the site.
- Seek to develop appropriate commercial re-use and redevelopment of these buildings (see existing refurbishment of other Romney huts in this part of the site).
- Other North Section buildings (North Lights, Romney huts, late 1930s sheds south of the railway) may be demolished (if necessary) as the Enterprise Zone project develops. Appropriate building recording to take place in advance of any demolition work.
- Aim to present and interpret the retained North Light/Romney hut group within the new Enterprise Zone context.

Buried heritage assets

- Carry out archaeological evaluation in the previously undeveloped area in the south-east corner of the Enterprise Zone. Since this area has not been subject to known 20th century disturbance, its archaeological potential should be tested.
- No archaeological mitigation recommended in advance of or during development of the remaining part of the East Section/Enterprise Zone Area 3. The area has been significantly disturbed by the construction of the munitions factory and is outside the principal identified archaeological sensitivity zones.

6.4 Central Section

Royal Ordnance Factory

- Retain Headquarters Building MOD 201/217
- Retain building group consisting of Pump House MOD 231, Pill Box Giff 5, MOD 220 Decontamination Unit, MOD 205 Workshop, MOD 212 Joiner's Shop. The objective here is to leave in situ, together with the nearby HQ building, the best group of remaining structures in this part of the site indicating the combined operation and distinctive character of the Central Section. This group of Central Section buildings also connects with the principal groups of proposed retained structures in the North Section and the South Section to 'mass' proposed surviving structures on a common axis at the western end of the facility (which collectively is the best preserved 'slice' of the main factory areas as a whole)
- Retain Firemen's Houses GIFF 26.
- Work with the owners/occupiers of these buildings to support the continuing practical commercial use of these structures (where possible) or their stabilisation/conservation (where not) while, as far as possible, retaining surviving historic fabric.
- Other Central Section buildings may be demolished (if necessary) as the Industrial Estate develops. Appropriate building recording to take place in advance of any demolition or significant alteration work.
- Seek to develop public interpretation of the surviving buildings in this area and their relationship to the overall operation of the munitions factory.

Buried heritage assets

- Consider appropriate archaeological evaluation and excavation of undeveloped areas (where these exist), and within the footprints of former ROF building sites should they be demolished. While the presence of buried archaeological deposits in the Central Section has not been demonstrated by previous archaeological work, this potential cannot be ruled out.

6.5 South Section (including South Magazines Enterprise Zone Area 4)

Royal Ordnance Factory

- Retain the two surviving First World War magazines and their earth blast banks (MOD 456 and 457)
- Monitor the condition of these buildings and link management to their natural environment value as established bat roosts.
- Ideally retain the open/isolated setting of the magazines inclusive of the undeveloped area to the north. However, it is recognised that the resultant loss of development land within this part of the Enterprise Zone may not be practicable within the wider commercial/employment objectives for the site.
- Aim to present and interpret the retained magazine group within the new Enterprise Zone context.
- Retain Empty Shell Store MOD 415, Ammonium Nitrate Store MOD 447, Lavatory Block MOD 448, Hospital MOD 449, String Store MOD 433, Ammonium Nitrate Store MOD 447, Transit Store 4, Transit Store 401, Entrance complex buildings MOD 266, 521 and Giff 8. These buildings are recommended for retention because, with the two magazines, they represent the best group of structures surviving in the South Section, and also collectively embody a set of buildings which incorporate the most complete surviving Amatol Production line.
- Work with the owners/occupiers of these buildings to support the continuing practical commercial use of these structures while, as far as possible, retaining surviving historic fabric.
- Other South Section buildings (6 further North Light buildings) may be demolished (if necessary) as the Industrial Estate develops. Appropriate building recording to take place in advance of any demolition or significant alteration work.
- Seek to develop public interpretation of the surviving buildings in this area and their relationship to the munitions manufacturing process.

Buried heritage assets

- No additional archaeological mitigation recommended during development of the South Magazines area. (This area was fully evaluated and subject to additional detailed excavation as part of the Rotherwas Futures programme).
- Given the proximity to the South Magazines archaeological complex, undertake appropriate archaeological evaluation and excavation of former ROF building sites should they be demolished. This is especially relevant to Empty Shell Store MOD 420 while probably overlies the extension of the known Early Medieval enclosure and other archaeological deposits observed in the South Magazines area

- Develop public and on site presentation/information concerning the significant prehistoric, Roman and Early Medieval archaeological remains discovered in this area.

6.6 Enterprise Zone Area 5

Royal Ordnance Factory

- No recommendations – no structures present

Buried heritage assets

- No archaeological mitigation recommended in advance of or during development.
- The area was evaluated as part of the Rotherwas Futures programme. No archaeologically significant deposits were identified, and there is no reasonable basis for further archaeological mitigation.

6.7 Possible Enterprise Zone Area 6

Subject to formal designation of this potential extension of the Enterprise Zone:

Royal Ordnance Factory

- No recommendations – outside the area of the factory.

Buried heritage assets

- Carry out archaeological evaluation in the areas beyond the previously evaluated Rotherwas Ribbon corridor.
- Consider design of the development to leave the Rotherwas Ribbon corridor/high archaeological sensitivity area as an undeveloped zone.
- Develop creative public information/on site interpretation for the Ribbon and the associated buried prehistoric and later landscape in this vicinity.

7.1 Updated ROF Building Record North Section

Date	Building Number	ROF Function	Description	Condition/Current Use	Gifford Rank	Significance Statement
1916-1918	MOD 35	Empty Shell Store	North light steel framed building with glazed roof and brick infill walls with external roughcast render finish. Internal railway platform and roof gantry system for moving shells. Forms group with MOD 34.	Survives in substantially original condition with original walls and internal gantry system. Building is unused and derelict with losses to the roof and walls. The steel frame appears to be structurally sound.	2	Well preserved Great War North Light building, one of 12 such structures to survive at Rotherwas. This is the largest structure of its kind to survive at Rotherwas, the least altered building of its type on the site, and one of the largest industrial steel frame buildings with an internally unsupported roof remaining in the UK from the period. The building powerfully evokes the industrial mobilisation that was the defining characteristic of the First World War. Although of the same design as other North Lights on the site, associated with the specific North Section empty shell store function, and the only surviving North Light in this part of the site (originally two).
1938-1939	MOD 34	‘Boiler House’ – precise function uncertain	Two storey brick single room structure with pitched roof immediately adjacent to southern end of shell store. Plinth and fixing points for plant within. Forms Group with MOD 35.	Unused and semi-derelict but in sound and weather-tight condition.	3	Has group value with the Empty Shell store and connects with WW2 redevelopment of this part of the facility.
1938-1939	MOD 24	Pair of Filling Hut Blast Walls	Free standing concrete blast walls (2 walls stepped back) surrounding filling building (filling building demolished). Entrances to east and west. Forms Group with Additional Building 2,3,4, GIFF 1,2, 29a.	Survives in original condition. Recently cleared of vegetation (Rotherwas Futures). Abandoned since 1940s.	3	These evocative structures illustrate the Second World War redevelopment of this part of the facility. Together with the 4 other examples in this section, there is nothing similar elsewhere on the Rotherwas site. The filling hut which they once enclosed now demolished, although the concrete plinth remains.
1938-1939	Additional North Section	Lavatory/Washing Block	Building of standard brick construction with pitched roof and concrete	In derelict condition. Presumably not used since the 1940s. Recently cleared of vegetation (Rotherwas Futures).	N/A – suggested Rank 4	Standard lavatory building, forms a functional group with surrounding extant structures.

	Building 2		floor. Forms Group with MOD 24, Additional Building 3,4, GIFF 1,2, 29a.			
1938-1939	GIFF 29a	Clean Way (used to move trolleys between buildings)	Concrete roadway with a bitumen covering. Forms Group with MOD 24, Additional Building 2 3,4, GIFF 1,2.	Surviving length adjacent to remaining filling hut blast wall MOD 24	3	An integral part of the WW2 function of the North Section, and the only surviving lengths at Rotherwas forming a group with the adjoining structures served by the clean way.
1938-1939	GIFF 1	Air Raid Shelter	Standard design Z shaped shelter, brick built with a concrete roof. Remains of wooden benches within. Forms Group with MOD 24, Additional Building 2, 3,4, GIFF 2, 29a.	In derelict but intact condition. Not used or maintained since the 1940s. Surrounding vegetation recently cleared (Rotherwas Futures).	2	A standard air raid shelter associated with and signifying the WW2 redevelopment of Rotherwas and the new enemy hazards of that period. Forms a group with nearby shelters and adjoining surviving buildings.
1938-1939	GIFF 2	Air Raid Shelter	Standard design Z shaped shelter, brick built with a concrete roof. Remains of wooden benches within. Forms Group with MOD 24, Additional Building 2, 3,4, GIFF 1, 29a.	In derelict but intact condition. Not used or maintained since the 1940s. Surrounding vegetation recently cleared (Rotherwas Futures).	2	A standard air raid shelter associated with and signifying the WW2 redevelopment of Rotherwas and the new enemy hazards of that period. Forms a group with nearby shelters and adjoining surviving buildings.
1938-1939	Additional North Section Building 3	Air Raid Shelter	Standard design Z shaped shelter, brick built with a concrete roof. Remains of wooden benches within. Forms Group with MOD 24, Additional Building 2,4, GIFF 1,2, 29a.	In derelict but intact condition. Not used or maintained since the 1940s. Surrounding vegetation recently cleared (Rotherwas Futures).	N/A – suggested Rank 2	A standard air raid shelter associated with and signifying the WW2 redevelopment of Rotherwas and the new enemy hazards of that period. Forms a group with nearby shelters and adjoining surviving buildings.
1938-1939	Additional North Section Building 4	Air Raid Shelter	Standard design Z shaped shelter, brick built with a concrete roof. Remains of wooden benches within. Forms Group with MOD 24, Additional Building 2,3, GIFF 1, 2, 29a.	In derelict but intact condition. Not used or maintained since the 1940s. Surrounding vegetation recently cleared (Rotherwas Futures).	N/A – suggested Rank 2	A standard air raid shelter associated with and signifying the WW2 redevelopment of Rotherwas and the new enemy hazards of that period. Forms a group with nearby shelters and adjoining surviving buildings.
1938-1939	MOD 1	Pair of Filling Hut Blast Walls	Free standing concrete blast walls (1 wall	Survives in original condition. Recently cleared of vegetation (Rotherwas Futures).	3	These evocative structures illustrate the Second World War redevelopment of

			stepped back) surrounding filling building (filling building demolished). Entrances to east and west. Forms Group with MOD 2,3,4,27, GIFF 3, 29b, Additional Building 1.			this part of the facility. Together with the 4 other examples in this section, there is nothing similar elsewhere on the Rotherwas site. The filling hut which they once enclosed now demolished, although the concrete plinth remains. Additional value through their group association with adjoining extant structures in this part of the site.
1938-1939	MOD 2	Pair of Filling Hut Blast Walls	Free standing concrete blast walls (1 wall stepped back) surrounding filling building (filling building demolished). Entrances to east and west. . Forms Group with MOD 1,3,4,27, GIFF 3, 29b, Additional Building 1.	Survives in original condition. Recently cleared of vegetation (Rotherwas Futures).	3	These evocative structures illustrate the Second World War redevelopment of this part of the facility. Together with the 4 other examples in this section, there is nothing similar elsewhere on the Rotherwas site. The filling hut which they once enclosed now demolished, although the concrete plinth remains. Additional value through their group association with adjoining extant structures in this part of the site.
1938-1939	MOD 3	Pair of Filling Hut Blast Walls	Free standing concrete blast walls (1 wall stepped back) surrounding filling building (filling building demolished). Entrances to east and west. . Forms Group with MOD 1,2,4,27, GIFF 3, 29b, Additional Building 1.	Survives in original condition. Recently cleared of vegetation (Rotherwas Futures).	3	These evocative structures illustrate the Second World War redevelopment of this part of the facility. Together with the 4 other examples in this section, there is nothing similar elsewhere on the Rotherwas site. The filling hut which they once enclosed now demolished, although the concrete plinth remains. Additional value through their group association with adjoining extant structures in this part of the site.
1938-1939	MOD 4	Pair of Filling Hut Blast Walls	Free standing concrete blast walls (1 wall stepped back) surrounding filling building (filling building demolished). Entrances to east and west. . Forms Group with MOD 1,2,3,27, GIFF 3, 29b, Additional Building 1.	Survives in original condition. Recently cleared of vegetation (Rotherwas Futures).	3	These evocative structures illustrate the Second World War redevelopment of this part of the facility. Together with the 4 other examples in this section, there is nothing similar elsewhere on the Rotherwas site. The filling hut which they once enclosed now demolished, although the concrete plinth remains. Additional value through their group association with

						adjoining extant structures in this part of the site.
1938-1939	MOD 27	Explosives/munitions Storage/transit building (precise function uncertain)	Concrete blast walls enclosing a bunker-like space which may have had an additional building within it. Served by railway access to the north. . Forms Group with MOD 1,2,3,4, GIFF 3, 29b, Additional Building 1.	Concrete walls intact and in substantially original condition. Recently cleared of vegetation (Rotherwas Futures).	4	Apparently linked to transit function in this part of the site and associated with WW2 redevelopment. Not otherwise paralleled among other extant structures in the North Section.
1938-1939	Additional North Section Building 1	Lavatory/Washing Block	Building of standard brick construction with pitched roof and concrete floor. Forms Group with MOD 1,2,3,4,27, GIFF 3, 29b.	An empty shell in derelict condition. Presumably not used since the 1940s. Recently cleared of vegetation (Rotherwas Futures).	N/A – suggested Rank 4	Surviving standard lavatory building, forms group with other structures in this part of the North Section.
1938-1939	GIFF 3	Bunker. Internal arrangement includes railway access platform, and appears to have been used for shell storage.	Reinforced concrete partly covered by an earthen mound. Well preserved internal details including original plan and many original fittings and markings. . Forms Group with MOD 1,2,3,4,27, GIFF 29b, Additional Building 1.	A substantial building in sound, weather-tight condition and currently used as a firing range by a local gun club.	3	The only bunker of its kind to now survive at Rotherwas and indicating the WW2 redevelopment of the North Section. Well preserved internal detail. Forms a group with surrounding extant structures.
1938-1939	GIFF 29b	Clean Ways (used to move trolleys between buildings)	Concrete roadway with a bitumen covering. Forms Group with MOD 1,2,3,4,27, GIFF 3, Additional Building 1.	Lengths survive adjacent to remaining filling hut blast walls	3	An integral part of the WW2 function of the North Section, and the only surviving lengths at Rotherwas forming a group with the adjoining structures served by the clean way.
1916-1918	MOD 47	Picric Acid Expense Store	Linear brick and timber structure lined with asbestos and comprising 32 storage units with railway platform. In isolated position to the west of main north section complex (Privately owned beyond area of Council	Survives in substantially original condition, although the earthen blast bank has been removed. Building is unused and derelict, abandoned since the 1940s (?).	2	A nationally rare survival of this type of building which only now survive at Rotherwas. Grade 2.

			ownership).			
1916-1918	MOD 48	Picric Acid Bond Store	Linear brick and timber structure lined with asbestos and comprising 24 storage units with railway platform. In isolated position to the north of main north section complex/west of MOD 49 (Privately owned beyond area of Council ownership).	Survives in substantially original condition, although the earthen blast bank has been removed. Building is unused and derelict, abandoned since the 1940s (?).	2	A nationally rare survival of this type of building which only now survive at Rotherwas.
1916-1918	MOD 49	Picric Acid Bond Store	Linear brick and timber structure lined with asbestos and comprising 24 storage units with railway platform. In isolated position to the north of main north section complex/east of MOD 48 (Privately owned beyond area of Council ownership).	Survives in substantially original condition, although the earthen blast bank has been removed. Building is unused and derelict, abandoned since the 1940s (?).	2	A nationally rare survival of this type of building which only now survive at Rotherwas.
1938-1939	MOD 55	Detonator Store (?)	Square brick building with a concrete roof, northern doorway and two windows. In isolated position to the east of main north section complex (Privately owned beyond area of Council ownership).	Survives in substantially original condition, although the earthen blast bank which formerly surrounded the structure has been removed. Building is unused and derelict, abandoned since the 1940s (?).	3	A substantially original building whose function is not paralleled in other remaining examples at Rotherwas. Isolation from the rest of the site is evocative of its explosive storage purpose.

7.2 Updated ROF Building Record East Section

Date	Building Number	ROF Function	Description	Condition/Current Use	Gifford Rank	Significance Statement
1916	MOD 702	Army Ordnance Department Store	Full width 5 bay north light steel framed building with glazed/asbestos roof and brick infill walls with external roughcast render finish. Originally with internal railway platform and roof gantry system for moving shells. Forms a group with MOD 703, 704, 706 and GIFF 27 (Romney Hut Groups). Now visually separated from 706 by the presence of the modern recycling facility.	In current commercial use, the building remains in substantially original condition, and externally appears largely as built. The building superficially appears to be in poor condition, although essentially structurally sound. Privately owned outside of Herefordshire Council ownership, and fenced off from the rest of the East Section (together with Romney Hut Group GIFF 27i)	2	Well preserved Great War North Light building, one of 12 such structures to survive at Rotherwas. Combines with other surviving buildings of the East Section to make this the part of the Factory which best retains its historic 'feel'. Although of the same design as other North Lights on the site, associated with the specific ordnance storage function.
1916	MOD 703	Army Ordnance Department Store	Full width 5 bay north light steel framed building with glazed/asbestos roof and brick infill walls with external roughcast render finish. Originally with internal railway platform and roof gantry system for moving shells. Forms a group with MOD 702, 704, 706 and GIFF 27 (Romney Hut Groups). Now visually separated from 706 by the presence of the modern recycling facility.	In current commercial use, the building remains in substantially original condition (with surviving markings such as the original MOD building number), and externally appears largely as built. The building appears to be in sound condition, although its external appearance suggests a lack of recent maintenance and repair.	2	Well preserved Great War North Light building, one of 12 such structures to survive at Rotherwas. Combines with other surviving buildings of the East Section to make this the part of the Factory which best retains its historic 'feel'. Although of the same design as other North Lights on the site, associated with the specific ordnance storage function.
1916	MOD 704	Army Ordnance Department Store	Full width 5 bay north light steel framed building with glazed/asbestos roof and brick infill walls with	In current commercial use, the building remains in substantially original condition, and externally appears largely as built. . The building appears to be well maintained and in sound, water tight	2	Well preserved Great War North Light building, one of 12 such structures to survive at Rotherwas. Combines with other surviving buildings of the East Section to make this the part of the

			external roughcast render finish. Originally with internal railway platform and roof gantry system for moving shells. Forms a group with MOD 702, 703, 706 and GIFF 27 (Romney Hut Groups). Now visually separated from 706 by the presence of the modern recycling facility.	condition.		Factory which best retains its historic 'feel'. Although of the same design as other North Lights on the site, associated with the specific ordnance storage function.
1916	MOD 706	Army Ordnance Department Store	Full width 5 bay north light steel framed building with glazed/asbestos roof and brick infill walls with external roughcast render finish. Originally with internal railway platform and roof gantry system for moving shells. Forms a group with MOD 702, 703, 704 and GIFF 27 (Romney Hut Groups). Now visually separated from 702, 703 and 704 by the presence of the modern recycling facility.	In current commercial use, the building remains in largely original condition, and externally appears largely as built. The building appears to be well maintained and in sound, water tight condition.	2	Well preserved Great War North Light building, one of 12 such structures to survive at Rotherwas. Combines with other surviving buildings of the East Section to make this the part of the Factory which best retains its historic 'feel'. Although of the same design as other North Lights on the site, associated with the specific ordnance storage function.
1942-1945	GIFF 27a	Romney Storage Hut Group (3 remaining)	Semi circular linear sheds comprising a steel frame with corrugated iron cladding and end doors. Typically built in blocks of five to increase East Section storage capacity, and located adjacent to the First World War North Lights. Forms a group with MOD 702, 703, 704, 706 and GIFF 27 (Romney Hut Groups). Now	3 remaining of former block of 5 (Huts were thinned out in the later 20 th century for Health and Safety reasons). Refurbished for small commercial use in the 1990s/early 2000s with new corrugated iron cladding, but retain basic original appearance and setting. Good condition.	3	Although refurbished, the surviving buildings of the group retain their original frames, and substantially contribute to the surviving 'feel' of the East Section, and to the appearance of this part of the site as created by WW2 redevelopment.

			visually separated from 702, 703, 704 and Romney Hut groups GIFF 27g, h and i by the presence of the modern recycling facility.			
1942-1945	GIFF 27b	Romney Storage Hut Group (2 remaining)	Semi circular linear sheds comprising a steel frame with corrugated iron cladding and end doors. Typically built in blocks of five to increase East Section storage capacity, and located adjacent to the First World War North Lights. Forms a group with MOD 702, 703, 704, 706 and GIFF 27 (Romney Hut Groups). Now visually separated from 702, 703, 704 and Romney Hut groups GIFF 27g, h and i by the presence of the modern recycling facility.	2 remaining of former block of 5 (Huts were thinned out in the later 20 th century for Health and Safety reasons). Refurbished for small commercial use in the 1990s/early 2000s with new corrugated iron cladding, but retain basic original appearance and setting. Good condition.	3	Although refurbished, the surviving buildings of the group retain their original frames, and substantially contribute to the surviving 'feel' of the East Section, and to the appearance of this part of the site as created by WW2 redevelopment.
1942-1945	GIFF 27c	Romney Storage Hut Group (2 remaining)	Semi circular linear sheds comprising a steel frame with corrugated iron cladding and end doors. Typically built in blocks of five to increase East Section storage capacity, and located adjacent to the First World War North Lights. Forms a group with MOD 702, 703, 704, 706 and GIFF 27 (Romney Hut Groups). Now visually separated from 702, 703, 704 and Romney Hut groups GIFF 27g, h and i by the	2 remaining of former block of 5 (Huts were thinned out in the later 20 th century for Health and Safety reasons). Refurbished for small commercial use in the 1990s/early 2000s with new corrugated iron cladding, but retain basic original appearance and setting. Good condition.	3	Although refurbished, the surviving buildings of the group retain their original frames, and substantially contribute to the surviving 'feel' of the East Section, and to the appearance of this part of the site as created by WW2 redevelopment.

			presence of the modern recycling facility.			
1942-1945	GIFF 27d	Romney Storage Hut Group (1 remaining)	Semi circular linear shed comprising a steel frame with corrugated iron cladding and end doors. Typically built in blocks of five to increase East Section storage capacity, and located adjacent to the First World War North Lights. Forms a group with MOD 702, 703, 704, 706 and GIFF 27 (Romney Hut Groups). Now visually separated from 702, 703, 704 and Romney Hut groups GIFF 27g, h and i by the presence of the modern recycling facility.	1 remaining of former block of 5 (Huts were thinned out in the later 20 th century for Health and Safety reasons). Refurbished for small commercial use in the 1990s/early 2000s with new corrugated iron cladding, but retain basic original appearance and setting. Good condition.	3	Although refurbished, the surviving building retain its original frame, and contributes to the surviving 'feel' of the East Section, and to the appearance of this part of the site as created by WW2 redevelopment.
1942-1945	GIFF 27e	Romney Storage Hut Group (3 remaining)	Semi circular linear sheds comprising a steel frame with corrugated iron cladding and end doors. Typically built in blocks of five to increase East Section storage capacity, and located adjacent to the First World War North Lights. Forms a group with MOD 702, 703, 704, 706 and GIFF 27 (Romney Hut Groups). Now visually separated from 702, 703, 704 and Romney Hut groups GIFF 27g, h and i by the presence of the modern recycling facility.	3 remaining of former block of 5 (Huts were thinned out in the later 20 th century for Health and Safety reasons). Refurbished for small commercial use in the 1990s/early 2000s with new corrugated iron cladding, but retain basic original appearance and setting. Good condition.	3	Although refurbished, the surviving buildings of the group retain their original frames, and substantially contribute to the surviving 'feel' of the East Section, and to the appearance of this part of the site as created by WW2 redevelopment.
1942-1945	GIFF 27f	Romney Storage Hut Group (3 remaining)	Semi circular linear sheds comprising a steel	3 remaining of former block of 5 (Huts were thinned out in the later 20 th century	3	Although refurbished, the surviving buildings of the group retain their

			frame with corrugated iron cladding and end doors. Typically built in blocks of five to increase East Section storage capacity, and located adjacent to the First World War North Lights. Forms a group with MOD 702, 703, 704, 706 and GIFF 27 (Romney Hut Groups). Now visually separated from 702, 703, 704 and Romney Hut groups GIFF 27g, h and i by the presence of the modern recycling facility.	for Health and Safety reasons). Refurbished for small commercial use in the 1990s/early 2000s with new corrugated iron cladding, but retain basic original appearance and setting. Good condition.		original frames, and substantially contribute to the surviving 'feel' of the East Section, and to the appearance of this part of the site as created by WW2 redevelopment.
1942-1945	GIFF 27g	Romney Storage Hut Group (all 5 remaining)	Semi circular linear sheds comprising a steel frame with corrugated iron cladding and end doors. Typically built in blocks of five to increase East Section storage capacity, and located adjacent to the First World War North Lights. Forms a group with MOD 702, 703, 704, 706 and GIFF 27 (Romney Hut Groups). Now visually separated from 706 and Romney Hut groups GIFF 27a-f by the presence of the modern recycling facility.	Complete remaining block of 5 contiguous huts in original setting with adjacent North Lights and in essentially as built condition including original corrugated iron cladding. Apparently in commercial/storage use, but in poor condition with little sign of recent maintenance.	3	Together with Giff 2i, The best surviving Romney hut group in poor but original condition and with all huts surviving in the 'as built' closely packed configuration. Strongly contributes to the surviving 'feel' of the East Section, and an evocative indicator of the appearance of this part of the site as created by WW2 redevelopment.
1942-1945	GIFF 27h	Romney Storage Hut Group (4 remaining)	Semi circular linear sheds comprising a steel frame with corrugated iron cladding and end doors. Typically built in blocks of five to increase East Section storage	Largely intact block of contiguous huts (4 out of 5 remaining). Survive in original setting with adjacent North Lights and in essentially as built condition including original corrugated iron cladding. Apparently in commercial/storage use, but in poor condition with little sign of recent	3	A well preserved Romney hut group in poor but original condition and with 4 of the 5 huts surviving in the 'as built' closely packed configuration. Strongly contributes to the surviving 'feel' of the East Section, and an evocative indicator of the appearance of this part

			capacity, and located adjacent to the First World War North Lights. Forms a group with MOD 702, 703, 704, 706 and GIFF 27 (Romney Hut Groups). Now visually separated from 706 and Romney Hut groups GIFF 27a-f by the presence of the modern recycling facility.	maintenance.		of the site as created by WW2 redevelopment.
1942-1945	GIFF 27i	Romney Storage Hut Group (all 5 remaining)	Semi circular linear sheds comprising a steel frame with corrugated iron cladding and end doors. Typically built in blocks of five to increase East Section storage capacity, and located adjacent to the First World War North Lights. Forms a group with MOD 702, 703, 704, 706 and GIFF 27 (Romney Hut Groups). Now visually separated from 706 and Romney Hut groups GIFF 27a-f by the presence of the modern recycling facility.	Complete remaining block of 5 contiguous huts in original setting with adjacent North Lights and in essentially as built condition including original corrugated iron cladding. Apparently in commercial/storage use, but in poor condition with little sign of recent maintenance. Together with MOD 702 in private ownership and fenced off from main adjoining council owned East Section area/buildings.	3	Together with Giff 2g, The best surviving Romney hut group in poor but original condition and with all huts surviving in the 'as built' closely packed configuration. Strongly contributes to the surviving 'feel' of the East Section, and an evocative indicator of the appearance of this part of the site as created by WW2 redevelopment.

7.3 Updated ROF Building Record Central Section

Date	Building Number	ROF Function	Description	Condition/Current Use	Gifford Rank	Significance Statement
1916	MOD 201	Headquarters/ Administrative building	Brick built with slate pitched roof. Symmetrically arranged central range with projecting wings and flanking pavilions (sentry huts) surrounding a central courtyard all facing the road. Restrained neo-classical architectural details include central entrance portico with triangular pediment surmounted by circular cupola, stepped quoins and hooded doorways. A standard military/munitions facility headquarters building design of the period. Joined to MOD 217.	Survives in substantially as built condition with many original external and internal features, and essentially within its original setting adjacent to the Lower Bullingham road (which runs through the middle of the factory site). Used as office accommodation by Herefordshire Council agencies, and maintained in good condition.	2	A well preserved HQ building of standard design for the late 19 th /early 20 th century, and paralleled by a number of surviving examples at current/former military facilities. In Rotherwas site terms, an integral part of the functioning of the whole ROF complex, and perhaps the most distinctive and instantly recognisable building on the site. Of group value in association with the original HQ and other extant ROF buildings in the Central Section.
1938-1939	MOD 217	Headquarters/ Administrative building extension.	Brick built pitched roofed rear extension to the headquarters building central range which more than doubled the size of the First World War Building and included an air raid shelter to the rear and a kitchen block to the east. Joined to MOD 201.	Together with MOD 201, survives in substantially as built condition, and used as office accommodation by Herefordshire Council linked agencies. Maintained in good condition.	3	An integral part of the WW1 HQ building associated with the WW2 extension of the site. Of group value in association with the original HQ and other extant ROF buildings in the Central Section.
1938-1939	MOD 204	Store/office	Rectangular brick built building with flat concrete roof additionally supported by concrete encased steel columns. Well lit by closely grouped windows on the	Apparently substantially as built and in fair condition. Currently used as commercial office accommodation.	3	A standard WW2 ancillary building which generically illustrates a category of structure of which few examples now survive at Rotherwas. Group value with HQ complex, although now largely visually divorced from the HQ.

			front elevation.			
1938-1939	MOD 231	Pump House	Oblong brick built building with a flat concrete roof and main access door with a concrete lintel. Housed the pump which powered the factory fire hose system. Water was drawn from the adjacent pool which was dug as part of the 1930s refurbishment of the site (probably principally to generate aggregate for the new construction work of this period in the nearby north section). Adjacent to GIFF 5.	An empty shell in derelict condition. Presumably not used since the 1940s, but appears essentially structurally sound. The adjacent pond has recently been refurbished as a wildlife/seating area.	3	A building with an important function in the operation of the site, and not otherwise paralleled by surviving structures at Rotherwas. Remains in visual association with the pool, and has group value with surrounding ROF buildings which still collectively indicated something of the WW2 'feel' of this part of the site.
1938-1939	GIFF 5	Pill Box	Thick brick built walls with a concrete slab roof and offset entrance. A standard second world war pill box design. Adjacent to MOD 231.	In derelict overgrown condition. Presumably not used since the 1940s, but appears structurally sound.	3	One of only two surviving pill boxes at Rotherwas, and has group value with surrounding ROF buildings which still collectively indicated something of the WW2 'feel' of this part of the site.
1938-1939	MOD 220	Decontamination unit (?)	Rectangular brick built building with flat slab concrete roof, 8 windowed roof vents and a raised support for a water tank. Additional entrance porch and lean to with asbestos roof. Original internal features and signs recorded by Giffords. Appears to have been used for isolation treatment of factory workers in the event of chemical contamination. Forms a group with MOD 205 and 212.	In derelict overgrown condition. Presumably not used since the 1940s, but appears to be structurally sound, and survives in untouched original condition.	3	A building with an important function in the operation of the site, and not otherwise paralleled by surviving structures at Rotherwas. Has group value with surrounding ROF buildings which still collectively indicated something of the WW2 'feel' of this part of the site.

1938-1939	MOD 205	Workshop?	Large rectangular brick built building with a flat concrete roof supported on steel columns, metal windows and a raised two storey central section above the main entrance. Formerly served by the site railway. Nature of the building suggests a manufacturing/industrial function. Forms a group with MOD 220 and 212.	In use as commercial office/workshop accommodation and has been extended in the post war period. Survives in substantially original external condition, although removal of surrounding second world war buildings in the 2000s has impacted on its historic setting. Appears well maintained and in sound condition.	3	A standard WW2 ancillary building, which together with MOD 212 reflects through its former function the role of the Central Section in the overall operation of the facility. Has wider group value with surrounding ROF buildings which still collectively indicated something of the WW2 'feel' of this part of the site, although it must be said that that setting value has diminished since the time of the Gifford report by removal of adjacent ROF buildings.
1916	MOD 212	Joiners Shop	Rectangular brick built rendered building with a slate pitched roof, and a sliding door at its southern end. . Forms a group with MOD 220 and 205	Substantially refurbished for modern small commercial workshop use with replacement windows, roof etc, and re-renderedIn well maintained condition	3	A rare surviving WW1 ancillary building, which together with MOD 205 reflects through its former function the role of the Central Section in the overall operation of the facility. Has wider group value with surrounding ROF buildings which still collectively indicated something of the WW2 'feel' of this part of the site, although it must be said that that setting value has diminished since the time of the Gifford report by removal of adjacent ROF buildings.
1938-1939	GIFF 31	Man hole cover building	Small square brick building with sloping roof which covers a man-hole access to the mains supply.	Still in use for its original purpose and in good condition	4	Function ROF structure still serving its original purpose.
1938-1939	GIFF 26	Firemen's houses	Row of 1 detached and 6 brick built semi-detached dwellings of standard 1930s design for domestic dwellings of this kind. Narrow gardens to rear backing on to former railway alignment. Located to the west of MOD 225.	In private ownership/domestic occupancy with a range of modifications for modern use including replaced windows, doors and other alterations. Generally appear in good condition.	3	These standard suburban houses of the period reflect the WW2 development of the facility, and have group value with the adjacent boiler house.
1938-1939	MOD 225	Boiler House	Large rectangular brick building with pitched	In commercial/light industrial use, the building survives in substantially original	3	Building with an important function in the original operation of the site, and

			roof. Housed boilers which provided steam to the pipe system around the site. Located to the east of GIFF 26.	condition and appears to be well maintained.		has group value with the adjacent firemen's cottages.
1938-1939	MOD 226	Storage shed (completed munitions)?	Large steel framed shed with pitched asbestos/clear plastic roof and bitumen coated corrugated iron walls, and served by railway access at one end (as with the AOD WW1 Shell Stores). Has a sentry post/machine gun nest in one corner. Forms a group with identical shed MOD 227 which is located immediately to the east.	In commercial use, the shed survives in largely original form and appears in good condition.	3	Although of standard design for the period and unremarkable in that respect, this shed reflects the WW2 redevelopment and extension of the facility, and contrasts with the earlier WW1 North Light shed design. Has group value with the adjoining shed of similar construction.
1938-1939	MOD 227	Storage shed (completed munitions)?	Large steel framed shed with pitched asbestos/clear plastic roof and bitumen coated corrugated iron walls, and served by railway access at one end (as with the AOD WW1 Shell Stores). Has a sentry post/machine gun nest in one corner. Forms a group with identical shed MOD 226 which is located immediately to the west.	In commercial use, the shed survives in largely original form and appears in good condition.	3	Although of standard design for the period and unremarkable in that respect, this shed reflects the WW2 redevelopment and extension of the facility, and contrasts with the earlier WW1 North Light shed design. Has group value with the adjoining shed of similar construction.
1938-1939	MOD 290	Storage building?	Large rectangular brick built single storey building with a flat roof and roof vents. The roof is supported by an internal steel frame.	In current commercial use and in good condition largely as built. However, the precise origin/date of this building is uncertain. The structure certainly occupies the footprint of a building shown on Second World War plans, but it is possible the present building is a more modern commercial building on that site.	3	Given uncertain origin, the building is of limited heritage value in the context of the remaining elements of the ROF facility.

7.4 Updated ROF Building Record South Section

Date	Building Number	ROF Function	Description	Condition/Current Use	Gifford Rank	Significance Statement
1916	MOD 421	Empty Shell Store	Large north light steel framed building with glazed roof and brick infill walls with external roughcast render finish. Originally with Internal railway platform and roof gantry system for moving shells. Forms a group with MOD 420 from which it is separated by a modern commercial building.	In light industrial use throughout the later 20 th century, the building has been variously altered and reconditioned in the context of this re-use, and has modern additions. Nevertheless, it is substantially intact with the original steel frame, and having been in use, is maintained and in sound, water tight condition.	2	Remodelled North Light building, one of 12 such structures to survive at Rotherwas. Together with MOD 420, the only extant part of the WW1 Amatol production line of which it was a part.
1916	MOD 420	Empty Shell Store	Large north light steel framed building with glazed roof and brick infill walls with external roughcast render finish. Originally with Internal railway platform and roof gantry system for moving shells. Forms a group with MOD 421 from which it is separated by a modern commercial building.	In light industrial use throughout the later 20 th century, the building has been variously altered and reconditioned in the context of this re-use, and has modern additions. Nevertheless, it is substantially intact with 7 bays of the original steel framed structure remaining, and much of the original brick infill and roughcast external finish. The building is well maintained and in sound, water tight condition.	2	Remodelled Great War North Light building, one of 12 such structures to survive at Rotherwas. Together with MOD 421 the only extant part of the WW1 Amatol production line of which it was a part.
1916	MOD 418	Empty Shell Store	Large north light steel framed building with glazed roof and brick infill walls with external roughcast render finish. Originally with Internal railway platform and roof gantry system for moving shells. Forms a group with MOD 417 (from which it is separated by a modern commercial building) and MOD 430.	In current commercial use, the building has been variously altered and reconditioned in the context of this re-use, and has modern additions. Nevertheless, it is substantially intact with much of the original brick infill and roughcast external finish. The building is well maintained and in sound, water tight condition.	2	Remodelled Great War North Light building, one of 12 such structures to survive at Rotherwas. Part of an original Amatol production line of which few other buildings now survive.

1916	MOD 417	Empty Shell Store	Large north light steel framed building with glazed roof and brick infill walls with external roughcast render finish. Originally with Internal railway platform and roof gantry system for moving shells. Forms a group with MOD 418 (from which it is separated by a modern commercial building) and MOD 430.	In current commercial use, the building has been extensively remodelled and reconditioned in the context of this re-use; much of the wall infill has been replaced with modern windows, entrances etc. At the time of the Gifford Report, internal details and gantry systems survived, but it is not known how many of these features now remain. The building is well maintained and in sound, water tight condition.	2	Remodelled Great War North Light building, one of 12 such structures to survive at Rotherwas. Part of an original Amatol production line of which few other buildings now survive.
1916	MOD 430	Ammonium Nitrate Store	Small and narrow 3 bay north light steel framed building with glazed roof and brick infill walls with external roughcast render finish. Reduced to 3 bays as a result of an accidental detonation in 1944 which destroyed the rest of the building. Forms a group with MOD 417 and 418.	In current light industrial use, the remaining part of the building is in substantially original condition with original brick infill and roughcast external render. The building now has a corrugated unlit roof, and appears in basically sound condition.	2	Reduced Great War North Light building, one of 12 such structures to survive at Rotherwas. Part of an original Amatol production line of which few other buildings now survive, although one of only two former Ammonium Nitrate stores to survive at Rotherwas.
1916	MOD 416	Empty Shell Store	North light steel framed building with asbestos roof and brick infill walls with external roughcast render finish. Originally with internal railway platform and roof gantry system for moving shells. Forms a group with MOD 415, 427, 448, 449, 456, 457 (and part of the production line to which MOD 401 and 433 also belong).	In current commercial use, the building has been extensively remodelled with a replacement roof and modern windows, entrances etc. The building is well maintained and in sound, water tight condition.	2	Remodelled Great War North Light building, one of 12 such structures to survive at Rotherwas. Part of an original Amatol production line of which a sequence of other buildings survive giving this structure additional South Section group importance.

1916	MOD 427	Ammonium Nitrate Store	Narrow 6 bay north light steel framed building with corrugated asbestos roof and brick infill walls with external roughcast render finish. Forms a group with MOD 415, 416, 448, 449, 456, 457 (and part of the production line to which MOD 401 and 433 also belong).	In current commercial use, the building is in essentially original condition with brick infill and roughcast external render, although windows and roof are probably replaced. The building appears in basically sound condition.	2	Remodelled Great War North Light building, one of 12 such structures to survive at Rotherwas. One of only 2 surviving Ammonium Nitrate Stores at Rotherwas, and the best preserved example. Part of an original Amatol production line of which a sequence of other buildings survive giving this structure additional South Section group importance.
1916	MOD 415	Empty Shell Store	Large north light steel framed building with glazed roof and brick infill walls with external roughcast render finish. Originally with internal railway platform and roof gantry system for moving shells. Forms a group with MOD 416, 427, 448, 449, 456, 457 (and part of the production line to which MOD 401 and 433 also belong).	In current commercial use, the building has been extensively remodelled with a replacement roof, wall infill and modern windows, entrances etc, and major internal alteration. The building is well maintained and in sound, water tight condition.	2	Remodelled Great War North Light building, one of 12 such structures to survive at Rotherwas. Part of an original Amatol production line of which a sequence of other buildings survive giving this structure additional South Section group importance.
1916-1918	MOD 448	Laundry/Lavatory block	Rectangular brick (rough cast rendered) building with a pitched slate roof and a regular sequence of windows and roof vents and of generally similar construction to the adjacent (slightly smaller) MOD 449. Forms a group with MOD 415, 416, 427, 449, 456, 457.	Remodelled and extensively renovated for modern office use. Recent changes have included window replacement (UPVC) and general refurbishment but the original fabric and general external appearance of the building substantially survives. The building is well maintained and in good condition.	4	Standard lavatory building. Despite remodelling, has value as part of a group of ROF structures which survive in this part of the site preserving something of the original feel of this area of the factory/South Section.
1916-	MOD 449	Hospital (as	Rectangular brick (rough	Remodelled and extensively renovated for	4	A building of standard construction,

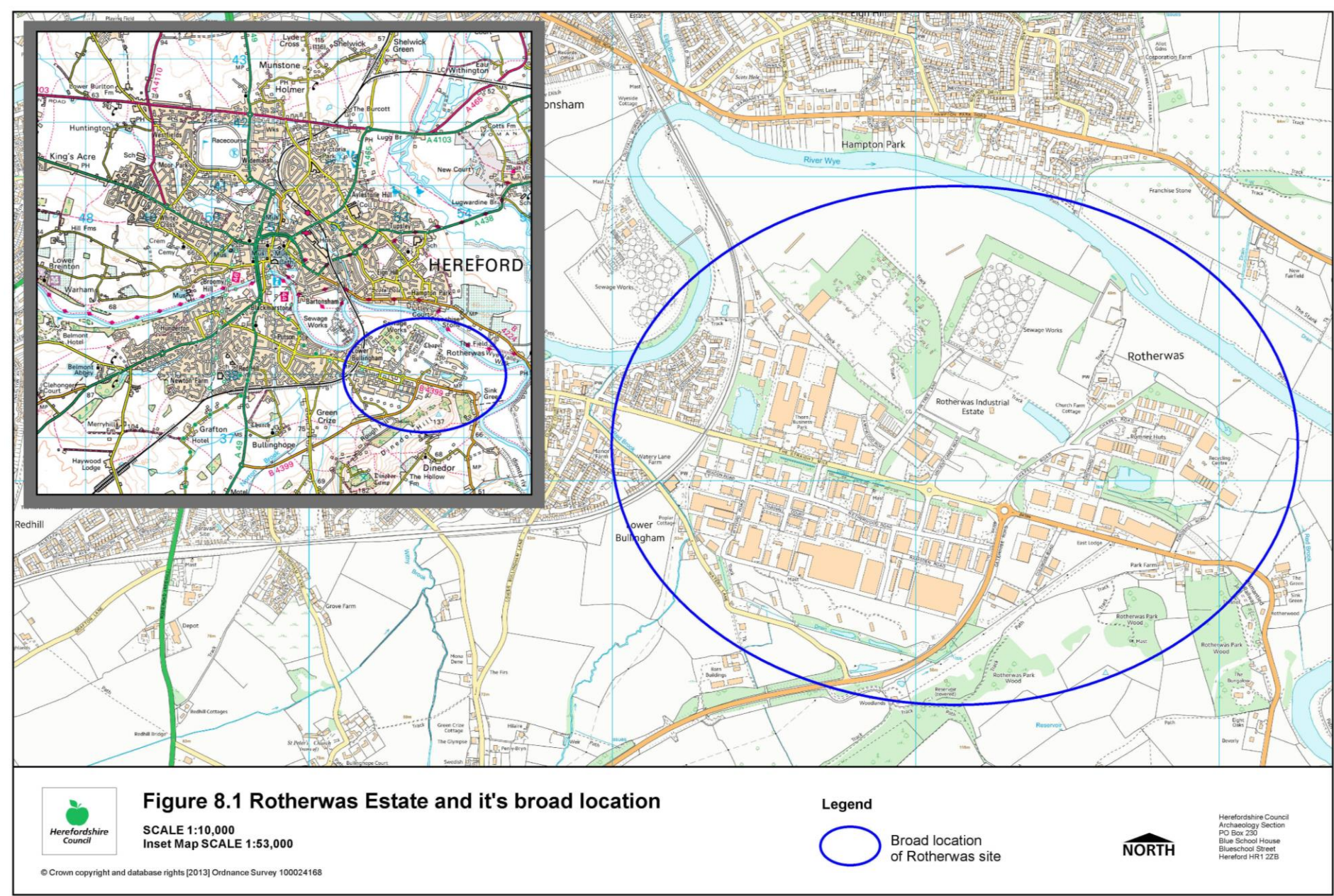
1918		indicated on 1919 site map)	cast rendered) building with a pitched slate roof and a regular sequence of windows with side and end doors. Of generally similar construction to the adjacent (slightly larger) MOD 448. Forms a group with MOD 415, 416, 427, 448, 456, 457.	modern office use. Recent changes have included window replacement (UPVC) and general refurbishment, but the original fabric and general external appearance of the building substantially survives. The building is well maintained and in good condition.		but functionally important (hospital) as an integral part of the original operation of this part of the facility. , The building has additional value as part of a group of ROF structures which survive in this part of the site preserving something of the original feel of this area of the factory/South Section.
1916	MOD 456	TNT Magazine	Rectangular brick and concrete magazine with pitched asbestos roof, roof vents and covered railway platform on the eastern side. Surrounded by an earthen blast bank on the northern and western sides (which face the main south section factory complex to the north). Forms a group with MOD 415, 416, 427, 448, 449, 457 (and part of the production line to which MOD 401 and 433 also belong).	Commercially used until recently for storage of fireworks, the building is essentially in original and unaltered condition as decommissioned in the post war period (and apparently unused since that time). It is largely as built in 1916, although now in semi-derelict condition. Survives in its original open setting with clear space to the north (so located to minimise collateral damage caused by accidental detonation). Traces of the railway alignments serving the magazine also survive as earthworks. The building is identified as having additional environmental value as a bat roost.	3	One of only two Section Magazines to survive. Part of an original Amatol production line of which a sequence of other buildings survive giving this structure additional South Section group importance.
1916	MOD 456	TNT Magazine	Rectangular brick and concrete magazine with pitched asbestos roof, roof vents and covered railway platform on the eastern side. Surrounded by an earthen blast bank on the northern and western sides (which face the main south section factory complex to the north). Forms a group with MOD 415, 416, 427, 448, 449, 456 (and part of the production line to which MOD 401 and 433 also belong).	The building is essentially in original and unaltered condition as decommissioned in the post war period (and apparently unused since that time). It is largely as built in 1916, although now in semi-derelict condition. Survives in its original open setting with clear space to the north (so located to minimise collateral damage caused by accidental detonation). Traces of the railway alignments serving the magazine also survive as earthworks. The building is identified as having additional environmental value as a bat roost.	3	One of only two Section Magazines to survive. Part of an original Amatol production line of which a sequence of other buildings survive giving this structure additional South Section group importance.

1916	MOD 433	String Store	Narrow 6 bay north light steel framed building with corrugated asbestos roof and brick infill walls with external roughcast render finish. Forms a group with MOD 401, 266, 521 and GIFF 8 (and part of the production line to which MOD 415, 416, 427, 456 and 457 also belong).	In current commercial use, the building is in essentially original condition with surviving brick infill and roughcast external render, and the original railway access door at the northern end. Externally appears to be in sound condition.	2	Remodelled Great War North Light building, one of 12 such structures to survive at Rotherwas. The only String Store to survive, and the end an original Amatol production line of which a sequence of other buildings survive giving this structure additional South Section group importance.
1916	MOD 401	Amatol Transit Store	5 bay full width north light steel framed building with strengthened roof (corrugated asbestos covered) and brick infill walls with external roughcast render finish. Forms a group with MOD 433, 266, 521 and GIFF 8 (and part of the production line to which MOD 415, 416, 427, 456 and 457 also belong).	In current commercial use, the building is essentially original and externally appears to be in sound condition.	2	Remodelled Great War North Light building, one of 12 such structures to survive at Rotherwas. One of only two South Section Transit stores to survive, and the end an original Amatol production line of which a sequence of other buildings survive giving this structure additional South Section group importance.
1938-1939	GIFF 8	Pill Box	Brick built with concrete roof. Forms a group with MOD 401, 433, 266 and 521 (and is joined to the latter).	Abandoned (since the closure of the factory?) but in essentially sound condition	3	An integral part of the South Section Entrance complex, and combines with other extant buildings at this end of the the South Section to preserve something of the original feel of this area of the factory/South Section.
1916	MOD 521	Searchers building	Small brick built building with a pitched slated roof and windows on three sides. Part of the entrance/Guard House complex to the Amatol Factory and formerly had the South Section entrance gate attached to it. Forms a group with MOD 401, 433, 266 and GIFF 8 (and is joined to	Current use uncertain, but appears to be in essentially originally condition, and to be well maintained.	2	An integral part of the South Section Entrance complex, and combines with other extant buildings at this end of the the South Section to preserve something of the original feel of this area of the factory/South Section.

			the latter).			
1916-1918	MOD 266	Entrance block	Rectangular brick built building with a pitched slate roof and regularly spaced windows to the north and south (corresponding to the building's five bays/units). Forms a group with MOD 401, 433, 521 and GIFF 8.	Survives in substantially original condition, although fenestration and doors have been altered (presumably relating to later reorganisation of the interior of the building), and the eastern bay appears to be a later (second world war?) addition. The building appears to be in sound condition.	2	An integral part of the South Section Entrance complex, and combines with other extant buildings at this end of the the South Section to preserve something of the original feel of this area of the factory/South Section.
1916-1918	MOD 403	Transit Store	5 bay full width north light steel framed building with strengthened roof (corrugated asbestos covered) and brick infill walls with external roughcast render finish. Forms part of the production line which includes MOD 417 (Empty Shell Store).	In current commercial use, the building is essentially original and externally appears to be in sound condition.	2	Remodelled Great War North Light building, one of 12 such structures to survive at Rotherwas. One of only two South Section Transit stores to survive, although now isolated from other extant ROF structures and any trace of the original Amatol production line of which it was a part.

8.0 Maps

8.1 Rotherwas Estate and it's broad location.



8.2 Rotherwas Enterprise Zone: Projected Areas

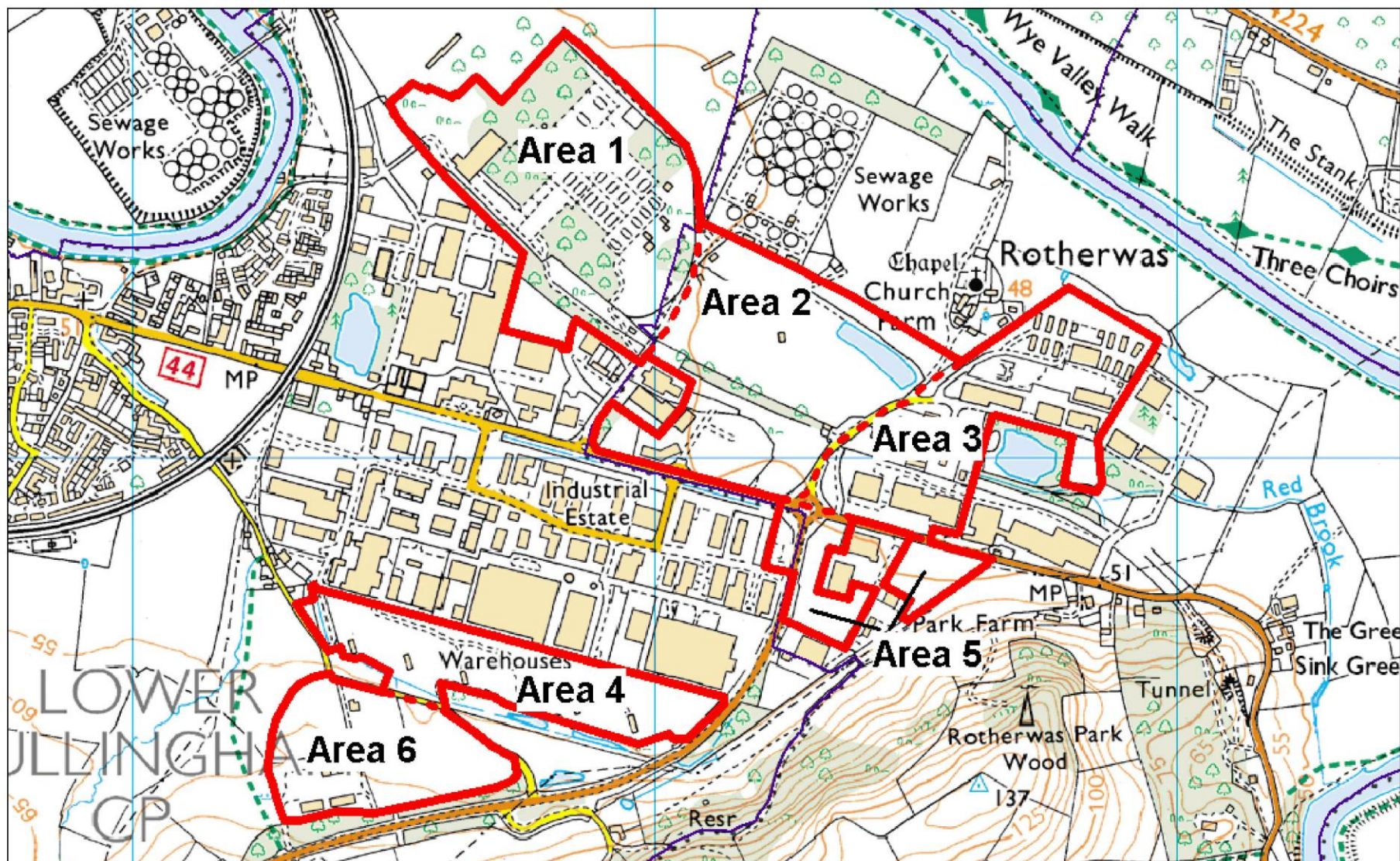


Figure 8.2 Rotherwas Enterprise Zone Projected Areas

Scale 1:10,000



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8.3 Rotherwas Visible Heritage Assets Overview

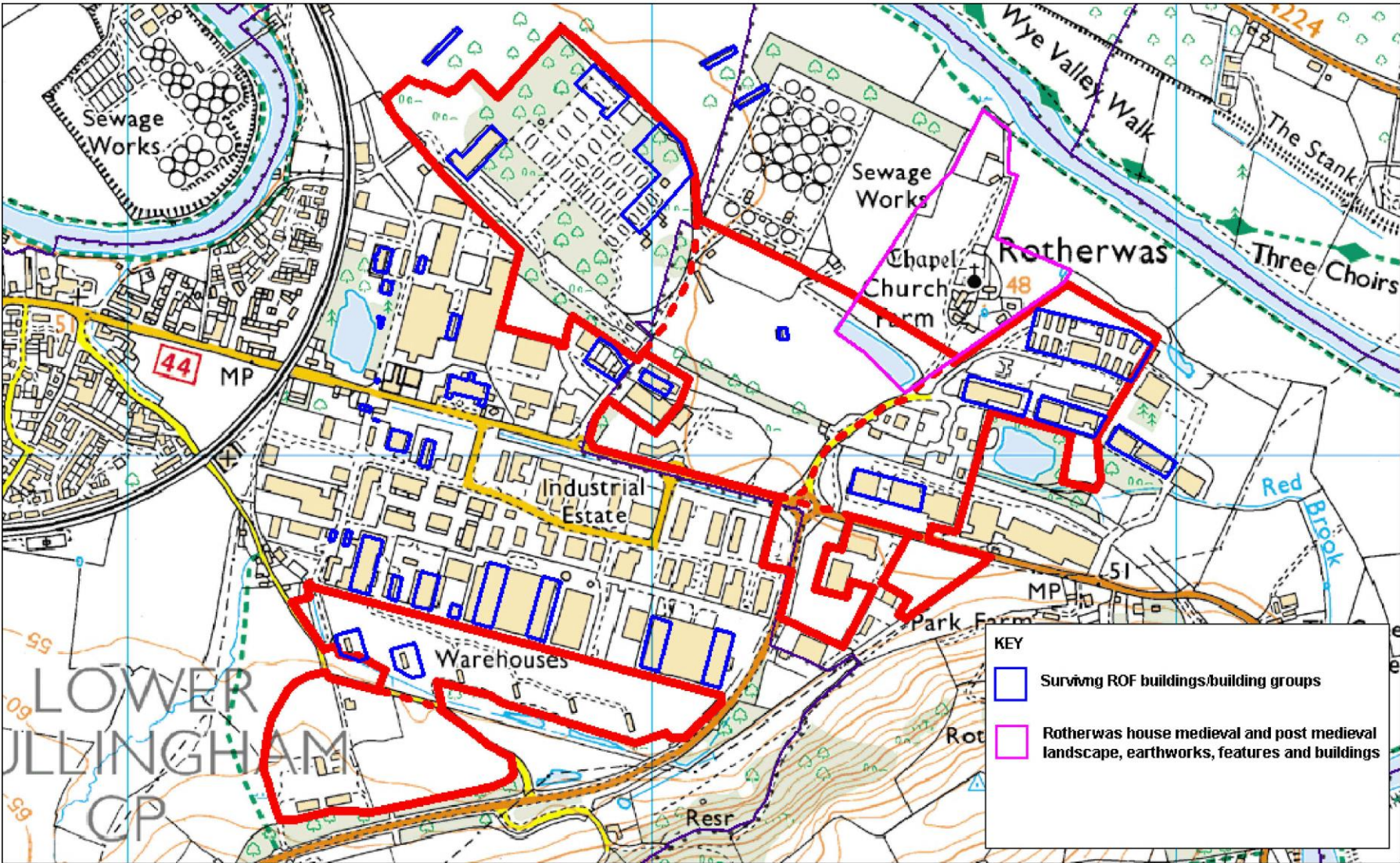


Figure 8.3 Rotherwas Visible Heritage Assets Overview
Scale 1:10,000

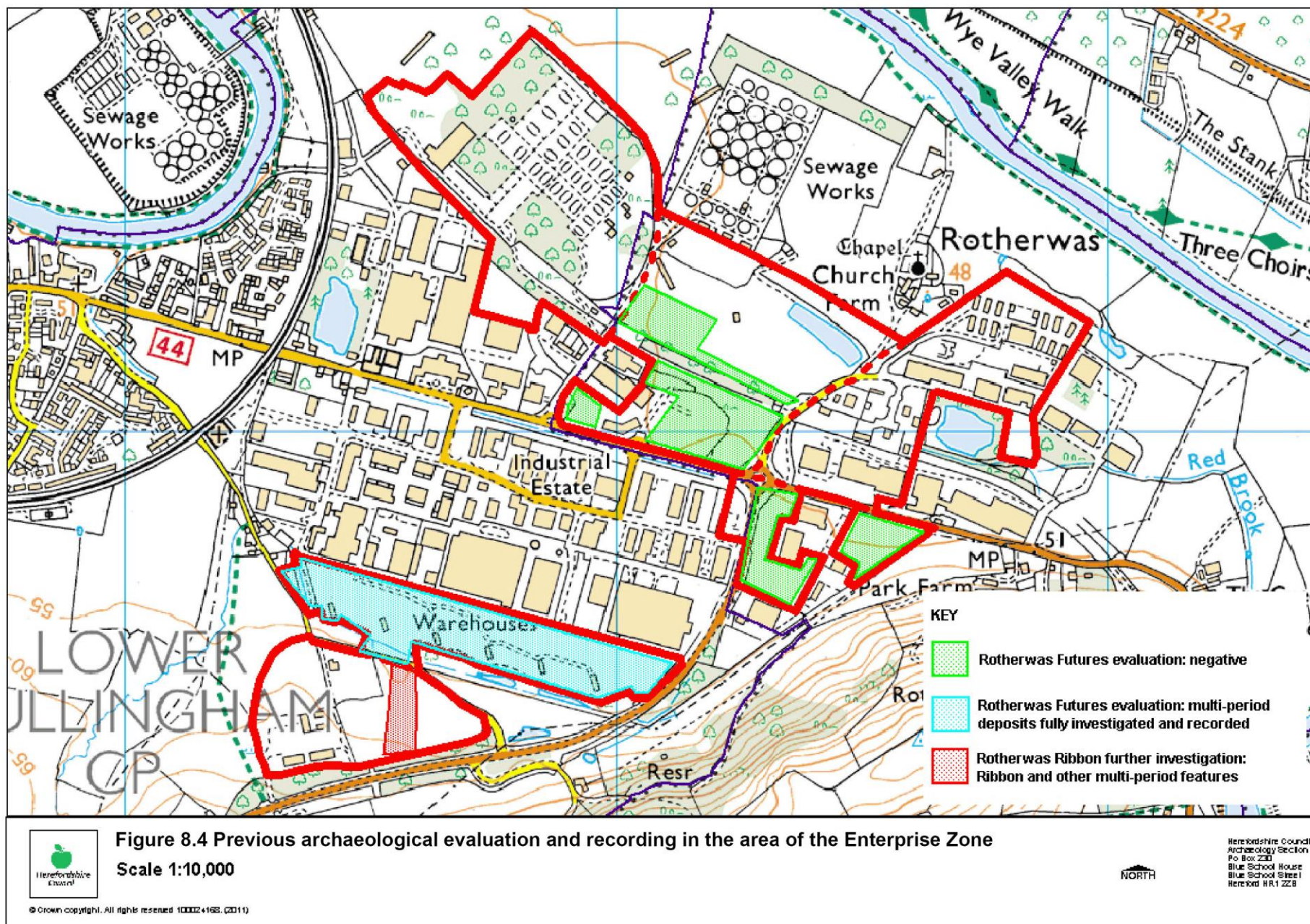


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8.4 Previous Archaeological Evaluation and Recording in area of The Enterprise Zone



8.5 Rotherwas Protected/Designated Heritage Assets

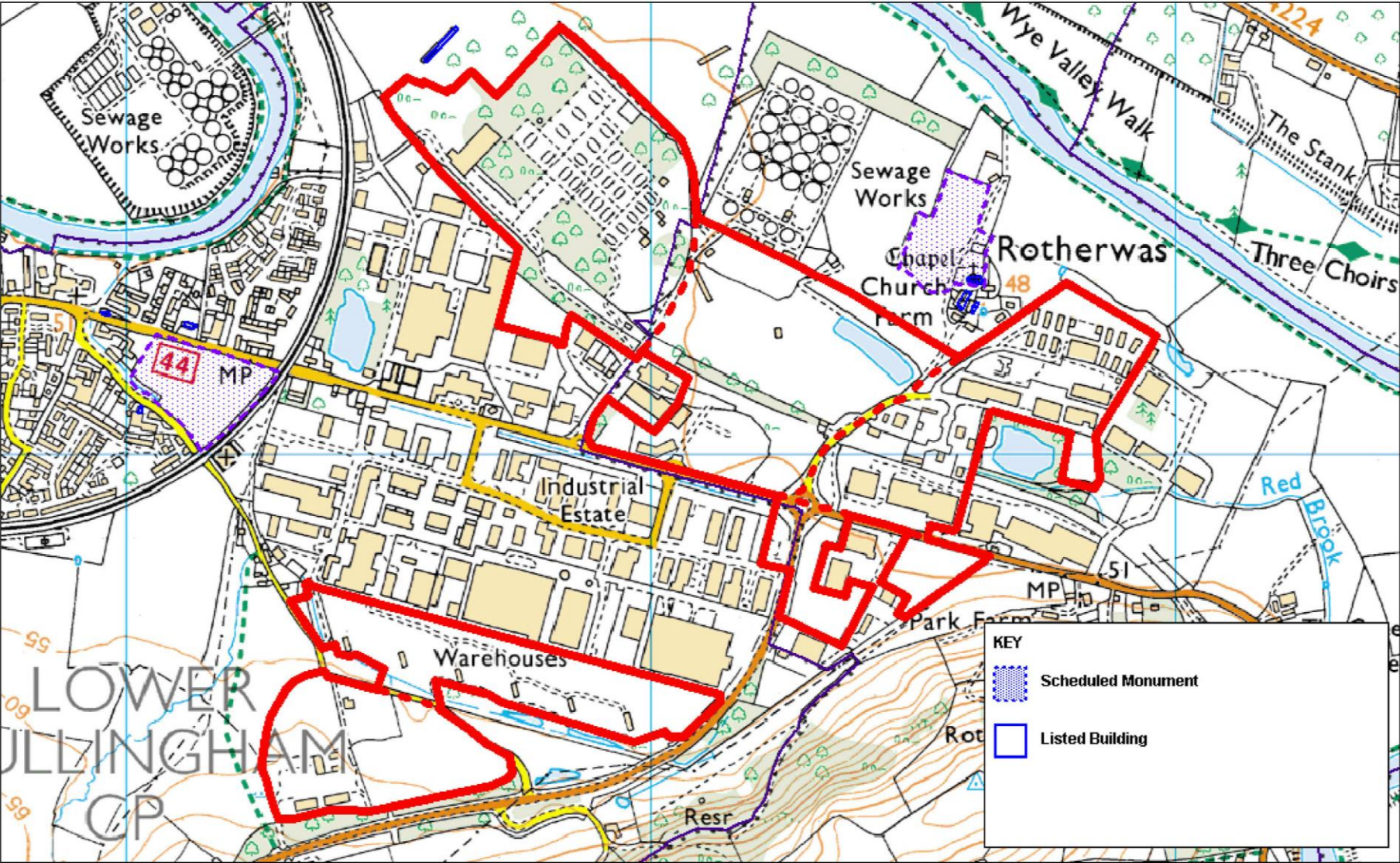


Figure 8.5 Rotherwas Protected/Designated Heritage Assets

Scale 1:10,000



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8.6 Rotherwas Enterprise Zone Recommended Heritage Management

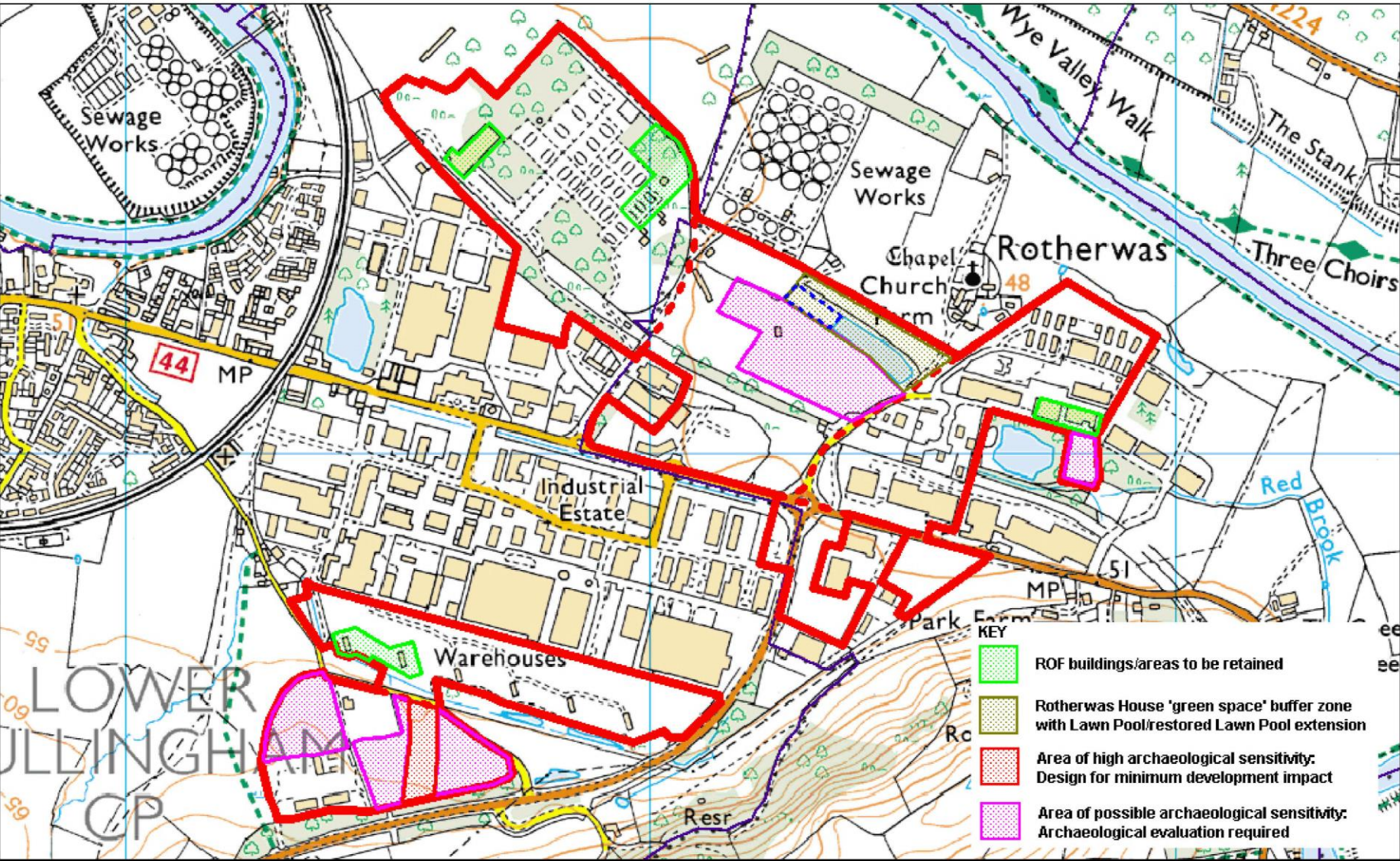


Figure 8.6 Rotherwas Enterprise Zone: Recommended Heritage Management

Scale 1:10,000



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