

Settlement: Hereford (Towtree Lane/Roman Road)

Location of Investigation

Figure 1: Large Scale Map showing the location of flooding around Towtree Lane and Roman Road within Hereford.

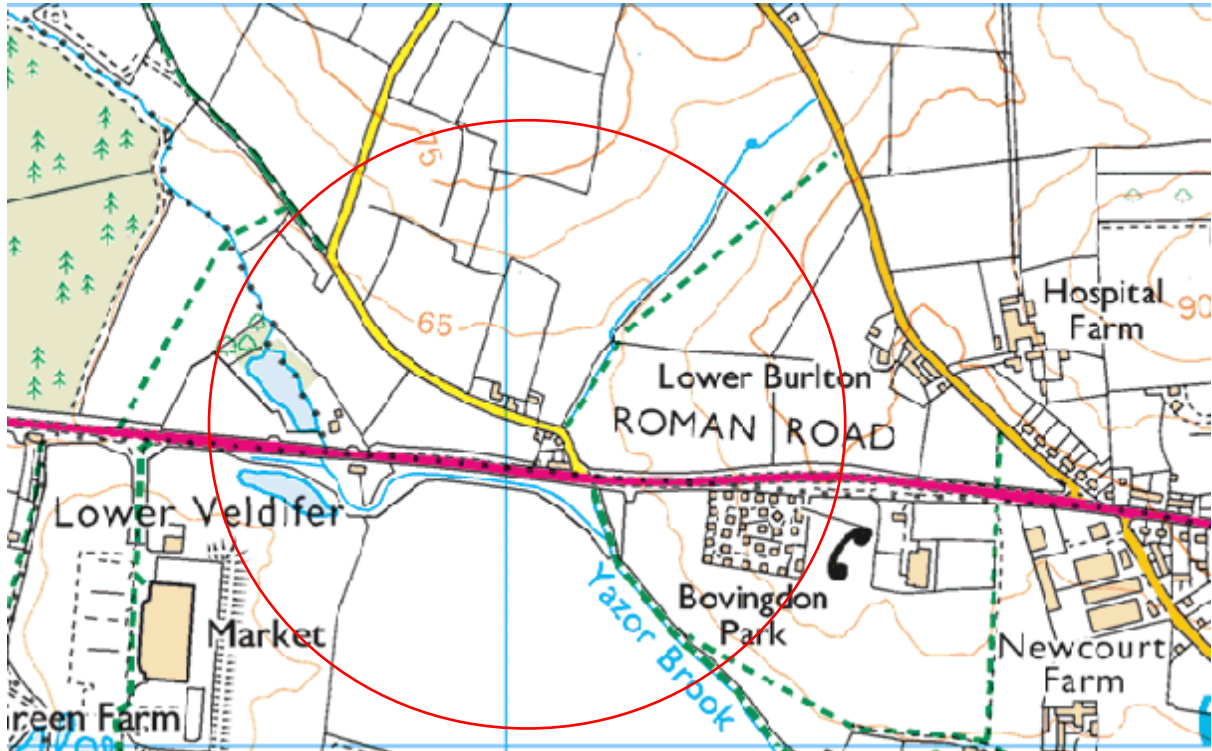
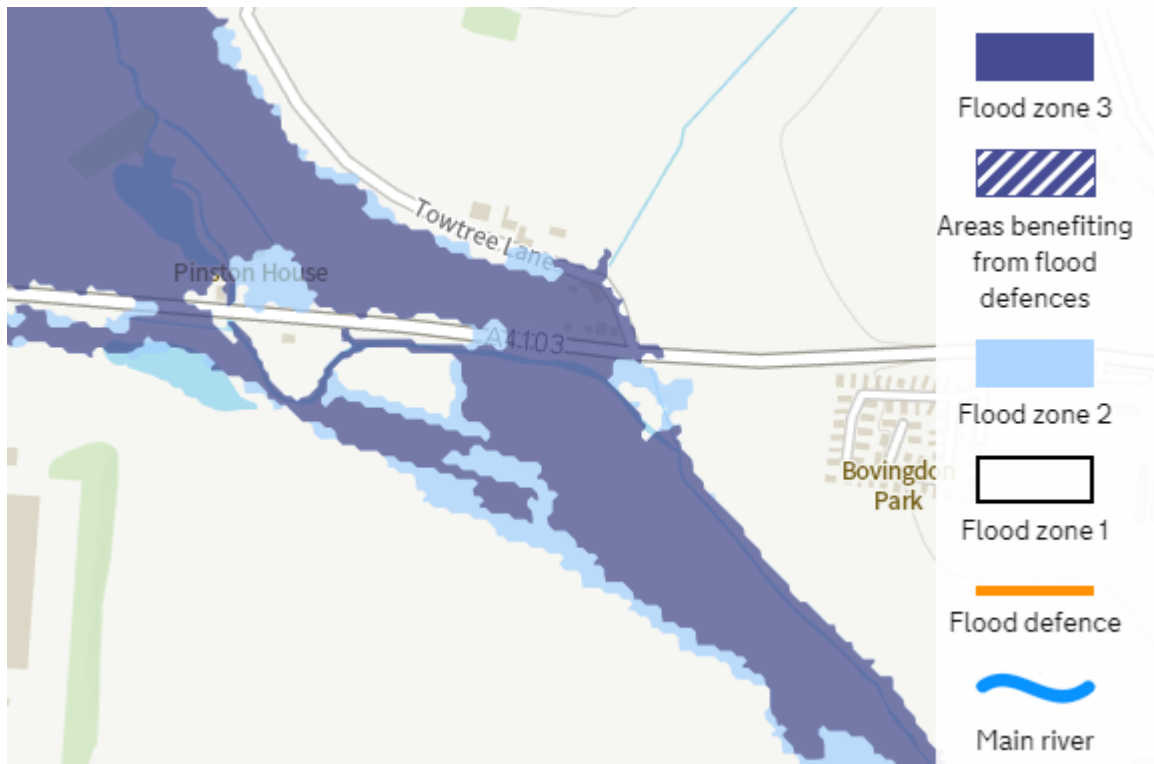


Figure 2: Environment Agency's Flood Map for Planning (Rivers and Sea), June 2021



Date of key flood event	February 16 th 2020
Authorities with Flood Risk Management duties or functions relating to the event	Herefordshire Council (Land Drainage Authority)

The Yazor Brook is designated as an Ordinary Watercourse which therefore fall under the regulatory supervision of Herefordshire Council Land Drainage Authority.

Key Flood Event

Flood Type: Fluvial

Watercourse Catchment: Yazor Brook is a tributary of the River Wye.

Five properties reported internal flooding around the Towtree Lane/ Roman Road area of Hereford during the February 2020 event, with flood depths varying from less than 6 inches up to 4ft.

The only respondent to provide information on the source of flooding indicated that the source was an overflowing watercourse and a blocked bridge or culvert, as well as an overflowing ditch and overflowing sewer.

None of the respondents reported flooding prior to 2020. HC records identify some history of flooding in this location.

Burghill Parish Council issued a report clarifying the flooding mechanisms.

Number of Internally Flooded Properties related to key flood event	5
Number of Internally Flooded Properties during most acute flood	5
Impact on Strategic Highway Network	A4110 Roman Road
Impact on Critical Services	None reported
Health Risks	No injuries or loss of life were reported

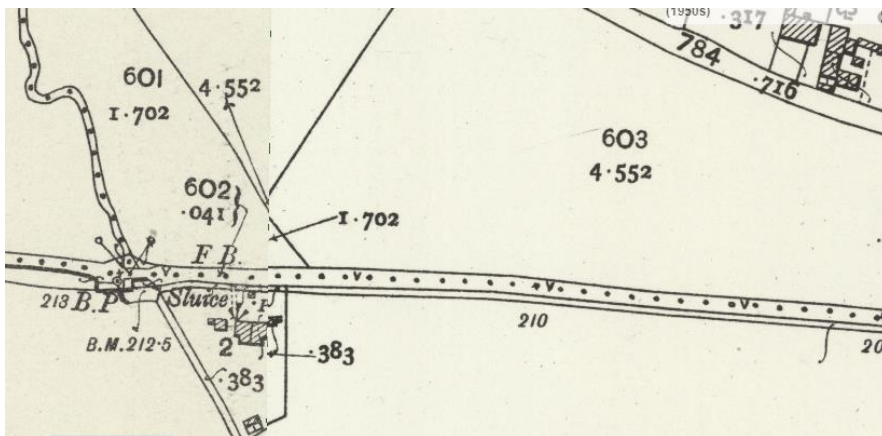
Description of Flooding

Evidence for fluvial flooding comes from Flood Zone mapping. The properties which reported flooding in 2020 are within or adjacent to Flood Zone 3.

All the properties in this area which reported internal flooding, are close to the confluence of the Yazor Brook and its unnamed tributary that drains Crowmoor. During the early 2000's, the A4110 Roman Road was raised, but at this time provision was made to help convey flood water below the carriageway.

The Surface Water Flood Map does not indicate any areas of flood risk which are located away from watercourses and fluvial flood zones. This indicates that the influence of surface water flooding in this area is likely to be low. However, Roman Road has been subject to surface water flooding at this location.

Figure 3: 1892 Historic Mapping showing the diverted watercourse.



The primary route of the watercourse ran to the south and an overflow channel ran alongside Roman Road.

The watercourse was diverted so that it crossed below Roman Road on higher ground towards the west. The upstream channel was also diverted onto higher land. Because the watercourse crosses higher ground, water can break out of bank towards the south-east flooding the lower lying farmland.

A fishing lake now fills from the Yazor Brook via a weir. There are a series of small weirs on the Yazor Brook upstream of Roman Road. When the Roman Road was raised in the 2000's a concrete weir and an overflow channel were also built to help convey flood water below the carriageway.

Burghill Parish Council have also identified that a ditch has been culverted on Towtree Lane. Owing to the absence of a surface feature such as a pond or ditch, floodwater cannot easily discharge from the flood zone.

Damage to Cultural Heritage Sites: There are no listed properties located within the Flood Zone.

Previous reports of floods

Prior to the 16th February 2020, flooding was reported at one property.

Previous Flood Risk Studies

The design of the A4110 highway improvements considered flood risk aspects.

Herefordshire Council completed an Integrated Catchment Strategy in 2019. Part of the study involved proposals for a flood storage area on land to the north of Roman Road. The study noted the presence of a foul sewer that crosses the field. Any clay bund that may be proposed in this area would need to consider the presence of the foul sewer.

Conclusions

Herefordshire Council Land Drainage Authority proposes to exercise their flood risk management function in response to the recent flooding. Herefordshire Council have identified a requirement to promote drainage improvements at Roman Road. A highway drainage project on the A4110 is scheduled for 2021/22.

DEFRA grant funding is being sought for a flood risk study based on the existing fluvial flood risk to areas of Towtree Lane and Roman Road area of Hereford. Further governance reports will be required prior to any formal application for funding. Options being considered at this stage are improvements to the land drain on Towtree Lane and potential bunding works. There may be some scope to improve conveyance of flow along the brook by making minor amendments to weir levels and optimising the use of overflow channel.