

This leaflet explains what a conservation area is and how it may affect you. It shows the boundary of one of the 32 conservation areas and points out some of the features which make it special.

Ringwood

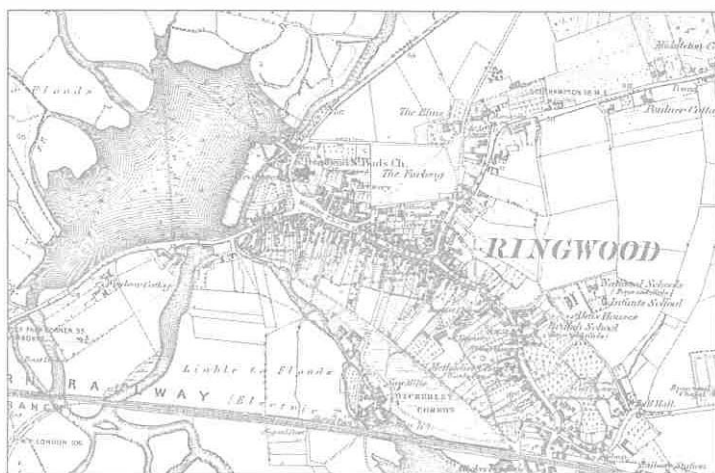


New
Forest
Conservation
Areas

This market town grew up at a crossroad beside an important crossing point of the River Avon. The conservation area is large and extends beyond the historic core of the town. The character of the edge of the town is varied; 18th and 19th century residential roads, turn of the century suburbs, and the remains of village lanes with thatched cottages. There are over 70 listed buildings of all kinds dating from different periods, ranging from the Church of St Peter and St Paul (Grade II*) to the Jubilee Lamp in the Market Place and including the bridge over the River Avon. Much of the historic fabric and layout of plots has survived despite severe redevelopment pressures and new road construction. A real effort has been made recently to improve the quality of spaces in the town including the Market Place and Friday's Cross.



Ringwood Bridge



The Ordnance Survey map of 1870 shows how the town was bounded by large stretches of water to the west and south of West Street Bridge.

The Domesday Book mentions a church and a mill in the town and there were at least two other mills including one at Bickerley. The last Town Mill, close to the church, was demolished in 1936 to make way for the first bypass which irretrievably altered the relationship between the town and the river.

A weekly Wednesday market has existed since 1226 when a charter was granted by Henry III. For at least 300 years there was probably a Market House. The last one was erected in 1734 and demolished in 1867 to make way for the new Town Hall and Corn Exchange but parts of it have been reused and can be seen today in a building on the south side of the Market Place by Lynes Lane.