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‘Edgar Street Grid’ Hereford: An Archaeological Issues Paper

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Herefordshire Archaeology is Herefordshire Council’s county archaeology service. It advises upon the conservation of archaeological and historic landscapes, maintains the county Sites and Monument Record, and carries out conservation and investigative field projects. The County Archaeologist is Dr. Keith Ray.

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Summary:

The ‘Edgar Street Grid’, a substantial area of land just to the north of the historic centre of Hereford, is currently the subject of a strategic development study. While only part of the area is Scheduled as an Ancient Monument and it only partly lies within the Hereford Area of Archaeological Importance, it does contain a variety of significant remains, and has clear archaeological potential. Its archaeology is nonetheless relatively poorly understood and under-recorded.

The principal archaeological issues identified in this Report arise from the late Saxon, Medieval monastic and suburban, and post-Medieval Industrial period remains located within the Grid area. However it should be emphasised that hitherto unsuspected buried deposits and structures of other periods may exist. Sporadic finds of (for example) Roman and Prehistoric date have been made in the vicinity, possibly indicative of surviving traces from these periods.

There are a number of specific archaeological concerns that will need to be addressed in any review of the development potential of the area. The northern extent of the late Saxon town may impinge on the Cattle Market site, particularly in the south. The Medieval and Early Post-Medieval suburbs /industrial areas, especially along and adjacent to Widemarsh Street and Commercial Road, feature a high level of archaeological sensitivity. The Blackfriars medieval monastic complex, the full extent of which may not be protected by virtue of lying within the defined Scheduled Ancient Monument, is a major constraint. However, its presence within the Grid area along with the medieval and later Coningsby Hospital also represents an important amenity opportunity. The former Hereford and Gloucester canal complex (including remains of associated buildings and works) covers a wide area, and should be a major consideration in any decisions taken. This historic industrial/transportation complex should be viewed more as an asset than as an obstacle to development, but will need very sensitive treatment.

In accordance with national guidance and Council policy therefore, it is advised that further exploratory archaeological work be undertaken at the earliest opportunity, in order to assess the archaeological potential more fully. It is likely that it will be necessary to conduct mitigatory archaeological fieldwork both immediately before, and during, the course of any development. The precise form of the archaeological programme will be determined by the nature of any development to take place, but strategically it should follow the broad outline set out in this document. It is important to realise that archaeological involvement in the evolution of the Edgar Street Grid regeneration project is likely to be a lengthy process, but there is no good reason, with adequate planning, why it should be either problematical or unduly costly.

Introduction

Late in April 2003, Herefordshire Archaeology (the Council's county archaeological service) was requested by Herefordshire Council Community and Economic Development Services to produce an archaeological issues paper for the 'Edgar Street Grid' area of Hereford city. ***The Grid is a strategic development zone to the north of Hereford city centre***, encompassing a broadly triangular area of some 35 Hectares. This triangular area has its apex to the north, at the northern limit of Edgar Street. To the west it is bounded by the whole length of Edgar Street (the A49 north of the city centre). To the south it is bounded by Newmarket Street, Blueschool Street and Commercial Road, and to the east by the course of the railway.

An archaeological issues paper of this kind is designed both to highlight the key factors that represent a constraint to development, and also to identify the opportunities that exist for heritage-led regeneration. The paper therefore specifies the known archaeology within the area and summarises the consequent conservation issues. It explains what is needed to fully explore positive regeneration and mitigation strategies for the conservation and enhancement of the historic landscape and heritage assets of the Grid area.

In this case, the issues paper is supported by a specification of information currently available from the County Sites and Monuments Record. It must be emphasised throughout that although they identify some of the salient historical background and also provide some pointers towards some of the archaeological potential, the information contained in these records is very limited. *It is therefore strongly recommended that the gathering of further field based geo-technical and archaeological information is undertaken at the earliest opportunity.* Without this further stage of site-specific data gathering, the full implications of the issues raised in this present document will not be understood.

The paper does not go into any detail about the urban historic landscape, urban design or design master planning. However, it should also be emphasised that an informed historic and archaeological involvement in the development of designs for a new planned quarter of the city will be an invaluable aid to successful integration of new build with the present fabric. In particular, the canal basin and associated waterways provide immense potential. It will be possible to produce a supplement to this issues paper that examines these questions in more detail, and points the way to further historic landscape studies that would better characterise the historic 'texture' of the Grid area.

The current paper is organised in the following way. To begin with, it summarises the development background of the Grid area, and notes the framework of law, guidance and policies within which archaeology is material to planning decisions. It then identifies the archaeological remains that are present or are likely to be present, based upon limited current knowledge. It goes on to specify the principal archaeological issues affecting development within the Grid area, and outlines the strategies by which archaeology can be properly dealt with to achieve desirable outcomes under the Herefordshire Plan (Ambition 6, the environment). Supporting technical information is provided in annexes at the end of the paper.

Development background

The Edgar Street Grid has been defined as a potential area regeneration zone immediately north of Hereford city centre. The cattle market site is at the hub of this zone. The definition of the 'Grid' area is designed to facilitate a strategic re-consideration of the whole 'North Hereford' area in terms of its possible contribution to the future economic and social development of the city. Consultants have been appointed to report upon the Grid area, to conduct a 'master-planning' exercise, and to carry out a public consultation exercise. Their brief requires them to assess the development and design potential of this area of the city with reference to a wide range of Council policies and objectives, as well as those of the wider Herefordshire Partnership. In particular, there is a concern to build upon the recent 'City of Living Crafts' branding of the city in any regenerative projects within the Grid area. Moreover, any regeneration and design master plan for the Grid area will need to take into account the plan objectives of the draft Unitary Development Plan for Herefordshire.

The need for an archaeological issues paper for the area was identified in discussions between Dr. Keith Ray, the County Archaeologist, and Mr Geoff Hughes, Head of Community and Economic Development early in the financial year 2003-4. Although the Grid area manifestly contains a number of significant archaeological constraints, it also possesses considerable cultural assets. These assets are in many instances capable of enhancement or reinstatement, to the benefit of present and future generations. The contribution to urban design that can occur through careful treatment and integration of these features may also deliver significant economic dividends.

Policy framework

Any strategic approach to the Grid must have regard to the existing framework of local and national archaeological guidance and policy, and Acts of Parliament.

The 'senior' enactment in relation to archaeology is the 1979 Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act. Within the Grid, the site of the former Blackfriars Friary and its precincts (including the Coningsby Hospital) is scheduled as an Ancient Monument ('SAM') under the Act. Scheduled Monument Consent would generally be required from the Department of Culture Media and Sport for any works affecting this monument, and there may also be issues with regard to the 'setting' of proposed developments.

The medieval Blackfriars monastic precinct forms part of the designated Hereford Area of Archaeological Importance ('AAI'), as also do some limited areas around the southern perimeter of the grid, under section 33 of the 1979 Act. Herefordshire Council is the administering authority, and Herefordshire Archaeology is the Investigating Authority, under Section 34 of the Act. Both should be formally notified of works in the AAI. The Investigating Authority has wide powers, including the right to enter sites summarily and subject them to immediate archaeological excavation.

The principal national guidance followed in relation to Archaeology and Planning is currently Planning Policy Guidance Note 16, 1990. The fundamentals of PPG 16 are

as follows. The value and fragility of archaeological remains is emphasised, and the ideal of preservation *in situ* stated. The value of early consultation in the development process is stressed, and the responsibilities of local authorities are outlined. The importance of including archaeology in development plans is noted, and the incorporation of archaeological procedures into the planning application system is discussed. Particular weight is given to the importance of preliminary archaeological assessments and field evaluations as a means of providing adequate information *in advance* of the making of planning decisions. Proposed arrangements for archaeological mitigation (“preservation by record”) are summarised, and the use of planning conditions and agreements is considered.

PPG 15, Planning and the Historic Environment (1994), has a wider scope and deals in some depth with listed buildings, conservation areas and historic landscapes. PPG 15 “*complements the guidance given on archaeology in PPG16*”. The archaeological profession uses a variety of means to achieve a degree of consistency and to help achieve desirable outcomes. The *Standards* of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1999, as amended) are among the most important of these. Archaeologists in the West Midlands region are currently (with the support of English Heritage) developing a formal research framework that will seek to support curatorial decisions with identified research priorities. The West Midlands research framework programme is part of a national initiative, and is due to be completed in 2003.

The local planning policy context is provided in the adopted Hereford Local Plan (1996). The relevant sections of this plan discuss the national government guidance and statutory designations, and give clear support to the importance of early assessment and evaluation. Policy CON35 of the plan states that “*Where development proposals may affect remains of archaeological importance, the City Council will require developers to submit an evaluation of the character, extent and importance of the remains and the extent to which the proposed development is likely to affect them. Such evaluations should be submitted with the application for planning permission or be made available at an early stage*”. In practical terms archaeological evaluation will normally involve the excavation of archaeological trial trenches, although other techniques, such as geophysics, may be utilised.

The plan makes it clear that preservation of important archaeological remains *in situ* is the preferred option. Policy CON36 states that “*There will be a presumption against development proposals which would involve significant alteration or cause damage to nationally important archaeological remains (whether scheduled or not), or which would have a significant impact on their settings*”. Even for archaeological sites of lesser importance, there is a degree of presumption against development. Policy CON37 states “*Development which would adversely affect other sites of archaeological interest and their settings will not normally be allowed, and development proposals should seek to provide for the preservation of such remains in situ. Where the preservation of remains is not justified in the circumstances of the case... the city council will ensure before granting planning permission that the developer has made appropriate and satisfactory provision for the excavation and recording of the remains, which would be carried out before development commences. Provision should also be made for the analysis and subsequent publication of the results*”.

In addition, Policy CON39 notes that “*The city council will seek to protect and enhance features of archaeological importance and their settings in considering development proposals and through implementation of specific enhancement schemes where appropriate*”. As well as the possibility of preservation *in situ* being sought for potentially important remains, there is also the option under this policy of enhancing archaeology through conservation works, promotion and interpretation, and other improvements linked to regeneration. This option may be particularly valuable in relation to later period remains, which are likely to retain extant structures suitable for such an approach.

Archaeological and historic assets

Several key locations and their associated assets can be identified. They include most importantly the Blackfriars medieval monastic complex, which is mostly under statutory protection, but whose precise limits and evolution are still poorly understood. The Widemarsh Road and Commercial Road frontages and back-plots with associated Medieval/ Post-Medieval settlement and industrial activity are also of considerable importance. The railway station and an area to its west is important due to the likelihood that it retains extensive below ground structures belonging to former mill and canal facilities. The present cattle market site is also potentially important. It is particularly poorly documented archaeologically but may contain (for instance) late Saxon remains of national significance.

The information currently held in the county Sites and Monuments Record has been used to compile a period by period narrative of the historical development of the Grid area through time. This appears in the supporting technical documentation to this issues paper, below. The remainder of this section provides an overview concerning the main known cultural assets and key locations.

As already noted, the Grid area contains the site of a major medieval extra-mural monastic site and its precincts – the Dominican Friary at Hereford or the Blackfriars monastery, as well as the medieval Coningsby Hospital. The Blackfriars monastic site is the only Scheduled Ancient Monument within the Grid area, and will without doubt be a major constraint on development. The Dominican Friary at Hereford was founded shortly after 1350AD, and was placed within a substantial - and subsequently walled – precinct. This precinct extended out to latter-day Widemarsh Street to the west, and at least to Coningsby Street to the south, Canal Road to the east, and to the Tan Brook to the north-east. Its precise northern limits are uncertain. It is anticipated that archaeological remains of exceptional importance could be found anywhere within this precinct area, and therefore extending beyond the current Scheduled Area.

The status of this complex nationally is exceptionally high. It contains one of the few upstanding traces of an urban Friar’s lodging, and the only complete example of a cemetery preaching cross of a Mendicant Order. The presence of the medieval and later Coningsby Hospital in remarkably complete and well-preserved order adds substantially to the significance of the complex as a whole. The survival of remains of two such extra-mural medieval institutions side by side is rare nationally. As such, the monastic remains and the Hospital represent the most visible historic assets and the greatest potential for telling the story of this part of the city from medieval times.

The Grid area also contains the whole of one medieval suburb (Widemarsh Street, to the north of what is now Blueschool Street) and the northern margins of another (along what is now Commercial Road, up to the railway). These suburbs are likely still to retain important evidence of frontage buildings, and cut features/rubbish deposition to the rear. Associated with these suburbs was an area of medieval industry focused around the early site of Monkmoor Mill. The medieval industrial activity appears to mainly relate to the leather processing and associated trades. These activities are reflected in the name 'Tan Brook'. This watercourse runs from the northern sector of Widemarsh Street, south-eastwards along the southern edge of what is now a playing field (following the presumed northern perimeter of the Blackfriars precinct). It continues down towards the mill site - which is now preserved under the modern 'Safeway' supermarket just south of the railway station.

The Grid area is also rich in remains of a later date, principally those of an industrial nature connected with the further evolution of traditional trades, and the early development of Hereford's large scale transport infrastructure in the Nineteenth Century. In 1845 the ill-starred Hereford and Gloucester canal, the last mainline canal to be built in Britain, reached Hereford, terminating in an extensive and now lost Wharfe area (to the north of the 'Safeway' supermarket). This canal terminus is of considerable interest because of the unusual circumstances of its construction, the very short period of effective use, and its likely good degree of survival below ground. The canal terminus was effectively put out of business by the construction of Barr's Court (railway) Station in 1855. The Site of Monkmoor Mill evolved progressively through the Post - Medieval and early Modern periods, and by the Twentieth Century was considerable in its scope and sophistication.

Historically, the eastern part of the grid would appear to have been on the alignment of an ancient route from the historic fording point of the River Wye (some 70m - 100m east of the Old Wye Bridge). This route is thought to have continued the approximate line of Broad Street northwards, to have carried on through what is now the eastern most car park of the modern 'Tesco' supermarket site, and to have passed through what is now the Cattle Market site. Although *direct* evidence of this extended alignment is lacking before the medieval period, it is notable that Roman metallurgy deposits and cemented materials have been found beneath Broad Street. There is a possibility, therefore, that a Roman road crossed the grid area south to north, and that such a road continued in use through part of the Early Medieval period

The 'Saxon Town' of Hereford appears to have had its principal northern defences along a line approximately parallel to and northwards from the course of West Street and East Street. It is nonetheless clear from archaeological investigations carried out during the building of the 'Tesco' supermarket that there was some early medieval ('late Saxon') activity and occupation of the area beyond this. The balance of available evidence would suggest in fact that at least some elements of the early urban layout continued beyond Newmarket Street, and into what is now the Cattle Market. Of particular relevance here is at what *depth* any early medieval remains formerly existed. Because the southern margins of the cattle market site are terraced flat, remains with little later cover of occupation deposits may not have survived. Meanwhile any remains present that are more deeply buried should still survive.

Principal issues

The principal archaeological issues relate to the historical and archaeological significance of the Grid area, and to the development of a coherent strategy for conservation and development.

Two main challenges present themselves. Firstly, there is a danger of the direct loss of historic built fabric and below ground remains. This loss can to a degree be mitigated. Secondly, there is a potential risk of unduly compromising the historic landscape pattern (such as the form and layout of the historic suburbs).

Conversely however, there are also a number of opportunities. For instance, improvements can be made to the condition and environs of the Blackfriars monastic precinct and the Coningsby Hospital. There is an opportunity to reintegrate elements of the historic environment back into the ‘living geography’ of the modern city through imaginative re-design of accesses and pathways linking the Grid historic assets to the historic urban city centre. Assets can be given new life and new value, such as the buried structures associated with the industrial sites and canal complex, and the visible railway structures, principally the railway station itself. Any necessary archaeological investigations to add to our knowledge of the historical development of the city.

In general terms, therefore, there will need to be an acceptance of some constraints on development: *some* archaeological remains, monuments or areas should be subject to either limited or no change. At the same time a landscape framework approach will need to be developed, to identify which elements of the existing urban landscape are important to retain, and what can be deleted or added. Archaeological mitigation will be necessary in areas that are to be subject to change. However, there is nonetheless a significant opportunity to realise the social, cultural and economic value of assets such as the former canal site, and to enhance features such as the standing remains of the Blackfriars medieval monastery.

Due consideration needs to be given to *specific* issues as follows.

The Blackfriars/Coningsby monastic/hospital complex

- The possible expansion of the area of the complex currently protected
This will need to be determined from exploratory archaeological investigations, and to be fitted into an imaginative design for the conservation, interpretation and setting of the monument.
- Potential removal of inappropriate modern structures in the near vicinity
The setting of the monument is at present unacceptably cluttered, and this is detrimental to its visual appreciation, its conservation and its amenity potential.
- The optimal future creation and use of open space around the complex
There is considerable recreational, performing arts and educational potential in the Blackfriars site, at present entirely unrealised.
- Better integration of the complex into the city centre
The opening up of alternative, pedestrianised, access routes to the city centre, and linkage through activity nodes would counteract the present inhospitable approaches to the Blackfriars complex along Widemarsh Street.

The Cattle Market Area

- The degree of survival of the below-ground remains (see above)
- Archaeological mitigation, including possible preservation *in situ*
The possibilities regarding preservation in situ are unknown, but it may be that major late Saxon structures such as the putative corn-drying ovens located close to the city wall near West Street are discovered that merit preservation in place.
- The need for quality design in relation to the setting of the city wall
This is not something that so far has received the attention it merits, but with the redevelopment of the cattle site it should attract close consideration.

The Industrial Sites near the Station

- The degree of survival and structure of former mills, canals, tanneries, etc.
The possibilities for re-instatement of the canal structures such as basins and connecting waterways will depend upon the build quality and extent of survival of retaining structures and any surviving surfacing.
- The building and design potential of the canal and associated structures
Another factor to be taken into account will be the degree to which it is possible to integrate the buried structures into coherent re-design of the surroundings.
- Better integration of these sites into the city centre, and new accesses
Again, the possibilities for the creation of alternative and pedestrian accesses will directly affect the degree to which the newly developed assets can be integrated with the existing city centre.
- Possible creation of a 'plaza' that reinstates the focal nature of the station
The station has considerable local architectural merit, but has always lacked a coherent setting.

The Former Medieval Suburbs

- Better understanding of how the historic suburbs relate to former industries
The Tan Brook industries existed at some distance from the suburbs along the main thoroughfares, but the nature and extent of linkage between these areas is only dimly perceived at present.
- The potential for redefinition of parts of the Post-Medieval street plan
The need for alternative and pedestrian routes into the city centre from the Grid areas and the potential for creating new urban vistas may mean that parts of the inherited but historically recent pattern may need to be re-thought.

Some further sets of issues relate to specific further sites within the Grid area, but are not identified in any detail here. For example, the area of open space/playing fields to the north of Blackfriars (Monkmoor) represents a considerable unknown entity archaeologically at present.

Strategic approach

In general the procedures to be followed for archaeological mitigation will be determined by the policy frameworks discussed above. However, initial area- or site-specific approaches can be put forward in order to maximise early information 'gains'. The northern and north-western sectors of the Grid for example are severely lacking in archaeological information of any kind, and would be best served initially by further preliminary study. This should include very detailed desk based assessment and documentary research to try and determine whether the potential of these areas can be further elucidated without initial fieldwork.

The Cattle Market site urgently requires some intrusive archaeological trial trenching to better understand likely deposit survival and to inform possible mitigation if it is shown that pre-Conquest remains (or other remains of significance) are still present in this location. Such mitigation may involve a number of lengthy archaeological projects, but it is not currently certain that archaeology will be a major planning issue in this location.

The location of the playing field/open space to the north of Blackfriars (the former Monksmoor area bordering on Tan Brook) is especially suitable for a comparatively early and large-scale archaeological evaluation. It is accessible in physical terms, it is effectively green-field with limited obstacles, and is an ideal location for investigating a range of specific issues related to the extent and evolution of the Friary precinct and the Medieval tanning industry. This location also has palaeo-environmental potential. In the final analysis it is conceivable, depending on the results of such evaluation, that the far southern margin of the playing field may be regarded as being of such archaeological interest that it should not be directly developed. The very close proximity of the Friary Scheduled Ancient Monument may be material to any such decisions. Some kind of landscape buffer or re-ordering of the open space may be appropriate.

With regard to the Blackfriars complex itself, there is a general need to better understand the monument and its precinct. The open space and access arrangements to the immediate area of the monument would benefit from a fundamental review, in order to resolve some of the current problems (e.g. vandalism) and to maximise the potential of the monument as a heritage asset. There is a clear opportunity to enhance the site by providing improved interpretation and other facilities, and this should be achievable within the constraints of the 1979 Act and other legislation. During the course of improvements to the site, it is likely that there will be a need for some small-scale mitigatory archaeological projects, but it would not be appropriate to contemplate anything larger scale in this location.

The primary area of industrial interest around the former canal terminus and mill sites will need to be dealt with carefully and imaginatively. Early ground investigation aimed at assessing the depth and condition of the buried mill and terminus structures/features would be especially valuable, and should be linked into more detailed documentary research. The information from all of this would be used to help in putting forward a detailed development brief. Such a brief could consider such issues as the integration of historical aspects of the area into new developments, the specific

reclamation of in-filled areas of particular interest, and methods of promoting and interpreting the historical significance of the area.

In conclusion it should be emphasised that although a number of significant archaeological issues have been raised by this paper, and ways of managing them suggested, new archaeological information will (and should) accrue through time. As new information becomes available, strategic approaches may need to be adjusted in order to properly incorporate the evolving archaeological issues into the development plans. Fundamentally, this paper is only a first step, and archaeological involvement in the development process should be seen as a long-term involvement. It is hoped that the information and views that have been provided are of use, and that the paper will serve as a constructive contribution to the way forward in respect of the Grid.

Disclaimer:

This document is an initial and provisional appraisal only, and does not represent a full assessment, or an explicit anticipation of what might be present or found within the grid area. Further information will be required. The views expressed in this document are based on the current professional opinions of the author, and may change as further information becomes available.

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Supporting Technical Information

Historical narrative

In this narrative the archaeological interest and significance of the grid area will be summarised on a period - by - period basis, in order to provide an ordered chronological narrative of the development of the area. Individual 'sites' may be referenced to an HSM number, which is the unique number given to such sites in the County Sites and Monuments Record. The approximate time divisions used in the section derive from those employed by the West Midlands Research Framework, i.e.

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Palaeolithic | 500,000BC - 10,001BC |
| Mesolithic | 10,000BC - 4001BC |
| Neolithic | 4000BC - 2351BC |
| Bronze Age | 2350BC - 801BC |
| Iron Age | 800BC - 42AD |
| Roman | 43AD - 409AD |
| Early Medieval | 410AD - 1065AD |
| Medieval | 1066AD - 1539AD |
| Early Post-Medieval | 1540AD - 1750AD |
| Modern | 1750AD - Present. |

It needs to be emphasised that because the Grid is primarily within an 'industrial inner suburb' of Hereford, there is a substantial inbuilt bias in the nature and scope of the *records* of archaeological remains from different periods. The generally ephemeral nature of Prehistoric archaeological remains often leads to national records from this period being very sparse in the urban context, particularly outside the more thoroughly investigated historic urban cores. Also, because (unlike for instance London or York) Hereford has no large-scale Roman settlement, and has its Early Medieval activity mostly confined to its core area, there is limited Grid area evidence of the historic first Millennium AD. However, because of the reason stated, this absence of prior record should not be taken to mean that significant remains from some or all of the earlier periods do not in fact exist.

The currently available evidence from each period is as follows.

Palaeolithic

Within the wider Hereford region, the area was within the scope of the major direct and indirect effects of Pleistocene glacial processes. Occasional finds of Paleolithic flint tools have been made, such as an Acheulian Hand Axe from Tupsley. Because of

the substantial build-up of deposits during and subsequent to this period, there is a possibility that chance finds of major significance could be made at depth, in gravels and other naturally transported materials.

In relation to the specific area of the Grid, the summary research conducted for this document found no records of archaeological sites features or materials for this period.

Mesolithic

With regard to the wider Hereford region, this area would, with the warming climate, have developed a wooded marshy environment. This environmental change is likely to be reflected in variably deposited early alluviums and peat deposits (again in some cases at depth). Mesolithic peoples are likely to have exploited this environment in a transient fashion. Evidence of such exploitation is of particular archaeological research value. Occasional scatters of Mesolithic flints have been found in the region.

In relation to the specific area of the grid, the summary research conducted for this document found no records of archaeological sites features or materials for this period.

Neolithic

Some of the land in the wider Hereford region was directly under cultivation and there were some more permanent (although very small scale) 'settlements'. There are recorded sites of great significance further away, such as in the Dorstone area. It is conceivable that parts of the Grid area that have not been subject to extensive disturbance in the comparatively recent past, may retain evidence of the former Neolithic landscapes and features. This kind of possibility was enhanced recently by finds of early Neolithic deposits within pits discovered immediately south of the new Wye Bridge in Hereford.

In relation to the specific area of the grid, the summary research conducted for this document found no records of archaeological sites features or materials for this period.

Bronze Age

In the wider Hereford region, at least parts of the land were more fully occupied, and there are sporadic finds of the typical "barrows" or burial mounds of this period. Flint arrowheads from the Bronze Age have been recorded from excavations in central Hereford. There is currently no clear evidence from the region of activity as intense as in (for instance) Wessex or the Yorkshire Wolds, but important finds from County locations such as Wellington do hint at real potential.

In relation to the specific area of the grid, the summary research conducted for this document found no records of archaeological sites features or materials for this period.

Iron Age

There is good evidence of intensive settlement the wider Hereford region in the Iron Age. Credenhill Fort, approximately 7 km to the northwest of the city, is a major site of the period, as are Sutton Walls to the north and Dinedor Camp to the south. There is also some evidence from lowland occupation sites or 'farmsteads' such as that excavated a few years ago just to the east of Kenchester Roman town. There are almost certainly more occupation sites lost and at risk in the landscape. It was postulated by Alfred Watkins that part of Aylestone Hill (ie very close to the Grid area) was the location of an Iron Age fort, but this belief has yet to be substantiated by firm evidence. Quite how such sites relate to each other and to modern Hereford is difficult to assess.

In relation to the specific area of the grid, the summary research conducted for this document found no records of archaeological sites features or materials for this period.

Roman

Hereford, in common with several historic towns in the Marches, possesses no Roman remains of great extent. Possibly the reason for this is that the settlement at Kenchester, only 6km to the west, was (in effect) Roman Hereford. The layout of the Roman road system is on the face of it suggestive of this, and despite the very extensive archaeological investigations that have been conducted in the core of Hereford over the years, direct evidence is still sporadic, piecemeal, and perhaps debatable. However, it may to an extent be the case that the extensive impact of medieval occupation has masked potentially important evidence of the Roman period.

In relation to the specific area of the Grid, the summary research conducted for this document found limited records of archaeological materials, and no records of archaeological sites or features. A coin of Valens was found in Blackfriars Street in (HSM 20237). Other Roman coins have been found nearby but slightly outside the Grid, e.g. at 40 Moorfield Street (HSM 8361). So called 'small finds' such as ancient coins are typical of the kinds of chance discoveries made in localities like the Grid. Sometimes such finds merely represent arbitrary loss, but on other occasions may be indicative of lost 'sites'. It is often suggested that there was a Roman road leading northwards from Hereford (i.e following the alignment of Broad Street), but no direct evidence of this has yet been found.

Early Medieval

'Saxon' Hereford became an important defended and episcopal settlement, the remains of which are regarded as having a high priority nationally, in terms of research. Quite how far Saxon settlement extended westwards and northwards beyond the Medieval period defensive line along what is now Eign Gate and High Town is a crucial archaeological question. Some evidence has come from archaeological investigations immediately to the southwest of the Grid area (for instance at Wall Street and the former Brewery Site, where Tenth Century pits and property boundaries were found).

This does suggest that Saxon occupation of a peripheral nature may have extended into what is now the southern part of the Cattle Market. However, because the Cattle Market site has not been subject to any archaeological investigation, this has not been confirmed. It is generally believed that one of the arterial roads of Saxon Hereford followed the alignment of Broad Street northwards, but whether such a road continued into the Grid area cannot yet be determined.

Medieval

Hereford and its immediate hinterland evolved rapidly and further to become a major and important medieval city. The hub of this city was of course the walled circuit, but there was some new 'ribbon' development outwards away from this along and adjacent to the principal arterial roads that passed through the city gates. These roads defined suburbs today represented by St Martin's Street, Barton Road, Eign Road, Widemarsh Street, Commercial Road, and St Owens Street. There does not appear to have been any major route-way on the alignment of modern Edgar Street. Extra-mural monastic sites developed adjacent to the arterial routes at Greyfriars (Franciscans), Blackfriars (Dominicans), and St Guthlac's (Benedictines; modern County Hospital site). External industrial quarters grew up in a number of places.

In relation to the specific area of the Grid, the summary research conducted for this document found appreciable records of archaeological sites features and materials. The development of Widemarsh Street, passing as it does directly through the Grid, is of particular importance. There are clear documentary references to Widemarsh Street from the thirteenth century onwards, and the limited excavations that have taken place along the extra-mural frontages (e.g. at Number 118) have indicated the presence of a significant tanning industry by the fourteenth century. Rubbish pits and other evidence of medieval deposition has been found at such locations as Number 88. It seems that the increase of activity along Widemarsh Street was directly related to the reorganisation of the central market area of Hereford by William Fitz-Osbern. Subsequent to this and the growth in the importance of Widemarsh gate, Widemarsh Street became in effect the 'Great North Road' of Hereford.

There is also sound evidence, although most of it just outside the Grid area, of the growth of the peripheral area of Commercial Road, (or Bye Street, as it was formerly known). During recent development of the Wetherspoons' pub at 57 Commercial Road, well preserved and close to the surface deposits of 12th 13th Century date were encountered. Medieval deposits and features were also evident during the KFC development (HSM 22891). Although not believed to be within the Grid, the presumed location of the lost monastery of St. Guthlac will clearly have had some broad influence on the general evolution of the area. The monastery was [re]founded in approximately 1150 AD, but the only major remains of this monastery that have currently been found are those of the accompanying cemetery, around Union Walk. It is believed that the site of Monkmoor Mill (within the grid) was associated with St. Guthlac's in the medieval period.

Blackfriars Friary, in the heart of the grid, was founded was founded by the Dominican order, c.1351. A recorded early dispute between the Friars and the local people, regarding access to 'Smallpors' (Tan?) Brook, implies that the area was exploited early and was probably subject to some settlement before the monastic

foundation. Butler's excavations at Blackfriars in the 1950's produced some Thirteenth Century pottery, amongst the other findings. The Friars church, now lost, probably stood on the south side of the cloister, of which the surviving buildings formed part of the western range. The Friary was dissolved in 1538, and was largely demolished thereafter. The site was sold to the Scudamore family, and then to the Coningsbys, who constructed a house on the site. The preaching cross within the precinct is fourteenth century and is of particular merit. The Coningsby Hospital is Thirteenth Century in origin and was dependent on the Preceptory of Dinmore.

Early Post-Medieval

During the early modern period, Herefordshire as a whole, at least in a rural context, appears to have been prosperous and experiencing expansion and development. With this in mind, it is perhaps strange that Hereford itself does not on the face of it seem to have evolved very much at this time. In the aftermath of the Civil War, the city seems to have stagnated, and there is little evidence that the vigorous extra mural sites established in the medieval period were able to expand and intensify any further. If anything, the balance of current evidence is that there was actually a degree of contraction, albeit with some improvements to individual buildings. As the City defences fell out of use, there are records of them having been robbed to provide building materials for such work.

In relation to the specific area of the grid, the summary research conducted for this document found appreciable records of archaeological sites features and materials. Early in this period for instance we have the first available map of any precision, the 1610 map of John Speede. This map may be viewed as giving a good snapshot of what the grid area was probably like at the very end of the previous (medieval) period. Although this map is to a degree limited and stylised, there is fair scale and accuracy in some respects. Of particular relevance here is the way Widemarsh Street is depicted, with the entire frontage, excepting Blackfriars, subject to intensive settlement all the way northwards through the Grid to its apex. The symbols adopted in relation to Widemarsh Street are almost identical to those used for the urban core, contrasting with (for example) the more intermittent portrayal of St Owens Street, and the limited depiction of Commercial Road (Bye Street).

By the time of Taylor's map of 1757, at the end of the Early Post Medieval Period, more detailed information about the Grid area is shown. This may merely reflect advances in cartography however, and should not be taken at face value to indicate an intensification of land-use. In fact, there may be fewer frontage buildings than previously, and a lot of the available space appears to be under non-intensive use such as allotments or orchards. For the first time, Monksmoor (the former wasteland to the north of Blackfriars, currently occupied by playing fields and 'Jewsons') is clearly indicated, and the location of the Monksmoor Mill (currently under the north-east angle of 'Safeway') is shown. There is some settlement suggested along the frontages of what are now Coningsby Street and Catharine Street, but this settlement is sparse and has very much a rural feel to it. The new location of the Gaol is shown to the south of Commercial Road (Bye Street). The "Port Fields" are shown in the general area of Edgar Street: as with Speede's map, there is no real evidence of any suburban development on the alignment of today's Edgar Street.

Modern

A considerable degree of suburban growth and industrial development occurred as the city moved into the modern period. In relation to the specific area of the Grid, the summary research conducted for this document found substantial records of archaeological sites features and materials. This growth and development can best be understood by an analysis of the changing land use, as suggested by the following succession of historic maps. Bach's map of 1774 provides more clarity than Taylor did concerning the Widemarsh/Monkmoor area. Cole's map of 1806 provides a good overview of a landscape not greatly differing from that at the time of Taylor. The Tithe Apportionment map of 1832 shows much more extensive suburban growth and features such as Barr's Court. Curly's large-scale map of c.1858 shows a number of significant features for the first time, including the now lost canal terminus and the early railway station. The 1888 Ordnance Survey First Edition accurately depicts the Grid area prior to the commercial developments of the twentieth century.

The principal sites of interest that are depicted on these maps are as follows. The location of Monkmoor Mill and associated works /structures was established in the previous periods, but its development can more clearly be seen after 1750, by which time it was functioning primarily as a leather mill. It was a large operation by the late nineteenth century. The (site of) the Hereford and Gloucester Canal and its terminus is the north of the mill site, and also covers an extensive area. The canal reached Hereford in 1845 but only had a short period of major influence and was mostly sold off in the 1870s. The layout of the canal terminus is well shown on Curly's map. By the time of the First Edition OS, the terminus was already in decline, as indicated by the infilling of the eastern dock area. A likely reason for the early demise of the canal was the construction in 1855 of Barrs Court railway station (HSM 26963). The former Great Western Railway forms the eastern edge of the Grid. Other sites from the period include the burial ground off Commercial Road (HSM 26994), the former Gas Works and Phoenix Building Works site (HSM 269770), the Nineteenth Century cattle market site (26943), and the Hereford United football ground (HSM 26941).

Map regression

There follows overleaf a chronological succession of the relevant maps showing the grid area from 1610 onwards.

Sites and Monuments Records

The Sites and Monuments Records (HSM record numbers) are presented in three ways. Firstly as a summary table, then as a supplementary text, and finally on a base map.

| SMR No. | Easting | Northing | Site type | Period | Description |
|----------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 406 | 5121 | 4019 | Excavation | Medieval | Blue School Street |
| 407 | 5114 | 4020 | Excavation | Medieval | Blue School Street |
| 408 | 5107 | 4021 | Watching brief | Medieval | Blue School Street |
| 413 | 5124 | 4016 | Gatehouse | Medieval | Bye Street Gate |
| 414 | 5101 | 4022 | Gatehouse | Medieval | Widemarsh Gate |
| 418 | 5118 | 4043 | Friary | Medieval | Blackfriars Friary |
| 419 | 5112 | 4045 | Hospital | Medieval | Coningsby Hospital |
| 3983 | 5115 | 4042 | Preaching Cross | Medieval | Blackfriars Friary |
| 3984 | 5118 | 4043 | Excavation | Medieval | Blackfriars Friary |
| 8230 | 5150 | 4040 | Mill | Medieval | Monkmoor mill |
| 20073 | 5120 | 4030 | Watching brief | Post-medieval | Canal Road |
| 20110 | 5115 | 4049 | Watching brief | Post – medieval | 118 Widemarsh Street |
| 20112 | 5117 | 4045 | Excavation | Medieval | Blackfriars |
| 20124 | 5149 | 4025 | Gaol | Post-medieval | County Gaol, Bus station, Hereford |

| | | | | | |
|-------|------|------|-------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|
| 20125 | 5145 | 4027 | Cinema | Post-medieval | Classic Cinema |
| 20125 | 5142 | 4025 | Excavation | Medieval | Union Walk |
| 20126 | 5142 | 4025 | Excavation | Medieval | Union Walk |
| 20208 | 5108 | 4032 | Dwelling | Post-medieval | 84-88 Widemarsh Street |
| 20209 | 5104 | 4025 | Dwellings (site of) | Post-medieval | 127-128 Widemarsh Street |
| 20237 | 5000 | 4000 | Coin | Roman | Blackfriars Street |
| 22890 | 5154 | 4032 | Evaluation | Medieval | Junction of Stonebow Road |
| 22891 | 5155 | 4033 | Excavation | Medieval | Harford Motors excavation |
| 26941 | 5090 | 4050 | Stadium | Post-medieval | Football stadium, Edgar Street |
| 26943 | 5090 | 4030 | Market | Post-medieval | Cattle market, Edgar Street |
| 2693 | 5152 | 4053 | Station | Post-medieval | Barrs Court Station |
| 26976 | 5135 | 4055 | Wharf, Her & Glou canal | Post-medieval | Canal |
| 30327 | 5164 | 4041 | Gas works | Post-medieval | Shown on Curly's map of 1858 |

(HSM)

406

Excavations at Blue School Street

The results from this excavation along the city defences indicated the presence of a secondary gravel rampart on the defensive line. Also, it was shown that a semi circular bastion became square in the 17th century, possibly during the Civil War.

Shoesmith R 1974 City of Hereford, Archaeology & Development

407

Blue School Street Excavations

Archaeological work was undertaken in advance of the ring road development. A lost section of the town wall was revealed, and shown to be secondary to an earlier gravel rampart. Work inside the defences, indicated that the Town Ditch was very narrow in places but that the bastion footings were up to 2m deep. Signs of a timber structure to carry a walkway were found.

Shoesmith R 1974 City of Hereford, Archaeology and Development

408

Blue School Street Watching Brief

Observations were made of two mechanically excavated cuts into one of the medieval bastions. It was shown that this bastion was built into the side of the town ditch and bonded with the town wall.

Shoesmith R 1974 City of Hereford, Archaeology & Development

413

(Site of) Bye Street Gate

The most important entry into the city was from the north-east, the approach from Worcester, and it was here that the most impressive gateway stood. The Bye Street Gate originally had a dual function, to defend the entry into the city, and to serve as the City Gaol. There are several similarities with the Widemarsh Street gate - once again the walls were offset, the western part being set forward. It also had a tall, two-centred arched gateway that was flanked externally by the attached towers, the one to the north being slim like those at Widemarsh Gate whilst the southern one was much wider. The gate arch has several moulded orders, but unlike the other gates the orders were confined to the arch and did not continue down the jambs. The external window, lighting the room above the passage, was quite ornate, with a two-centred head and a drip mould with decorated terminals.

Flanking it, on the towers on either side, were similar heads and drip moulds each containing a statue. Both niches had cusped, trefoiled heads. A thin string course ran along the whole facade of the gatehouse between the top of the arch and the cill of the

first-floor window; a similar string is likely above the window. One striking feature was the very bold roll-moulds decorating the external panels of the flanking towers. A building to the north of the gatehouse, between the wall and the berm, is set forward from the passage and could have provided some defensive flanking fire for any attack on the gateway. To the south, the buildings of the city gaol appear to envelop the wall for a distance of some 20m. None of the decoration of the gatehouse continued onto this structure that was probably a later addition. A description of the gaol and its' relationship to the gateway is given by Shoemith (1994).

Shoemith R 1974 Hereford Archaeology & Development
Thomas A &
Boucher A 2001 Hereford City Excavations, Vol 4.

414

(Site of) Widemarsh Gate

Widemarsh Gate provided the access into the city from the north. Although originally designed to be defensive, by 1634 the only means of blocking the arch was 'a little iron chaine, knee high on the outside' (Shoemith, 1995, 60). A series of watercolours by James Wathen show the internal and external aspects, Dated to the 1790s, one was actually drawn when demolition was taking place (Pls. 8.9, 8.10, 8.12 & 8.13). The gateway was not very tall, and had a two-centred head. The outer arch appears to have been of one single plain-chamfered order, protected by a dripmould; the inner arch was probably the same.

Above the gateway was a first-floor chamber, lit on each side by a tall, central window that could have been original. Above the outer window was a horizontal string-course, not repeated internally. Above this course was a series of projecting corbels that may have been associated with a former machicolation that was destroyed when the upper parts of the gatehouse were re-built and re-roofed probably in the 17th century. Flanking the gateway were two narrow projecting towers topped by the remains of a parapet, presumably part of former battlements. At ground-floor level in the eastern tower was a mullioned and transomed window, presumably inserted for the benefit of the gatekeeper. On the inner face of the gatehouse there was a doorway immediately west of the passage and a niche containing a statue above it.

The wall approaching the gatehouse from the west was offset to the south by some 5m. from the wall on the east. On the eastern side of the gate passage was a timber-framed building. It may have formed part of the gatekeeper's lodgings and would originally have been protected by the wall. However, the insertion of a door and windows through the wall in the early 17th century by Thomas Church (Shoemith, 1982, 22, 87) changed the whole aspect. The building still survives as the Farmers' Club with parts dating back to the 16th century (Morriss, forthcoming). The dating of the gatehouse from the surviving illustration is difficult, but the rectangular design and corbelling along the external face would suggest a 14th century date. On the western side of the gateway there was sufficient room between the set-back wall and the ditch for a narrow building-an inn-to be built which is reflected in the position of the present late 19th century JD's pub. An inserted doorway led through the wall from the inn into the city (Watkins, 1919; Pl. 8.11).

Blackfriars Priory.

The priory was founded before 1246 and dissolved in 1538. Major part of the Monastery, including the church was destroyed after the dissolution. The west range survives (HSM 419) survives and is dated to the 14th century (Knowles et al 1971). After the dissolution the site was sold first to the Scudamores and then to the Coningsbys who built a house on the site. According to the Royal Commission for the Historical Monuments of England, The Dominican order appear to have acquired their site in the Widemarsh suburb by 1322, and to about this date may be assigned the surviving (western) range, of the convent. The Commission further describe the Priory site thus:

After the dissolution of the house under Henry VIII the major part of the buildings, including the church, were demolished, but portions were retained as a house. The surviving W. range was much altered by Thomas Coningsby early in the 17th Century, but by the 18th Century the structure was ruined and reduced more or less to its present condition. The church of the friars would appear to have stood on the S. side of the cloister, of which the existing building formed part of the western range. As in many Friars' houses, the cloister alley was included in the ground storey of the range. The outer walls on the E. and W. are probably of 14th-century date, and the E. wall still retains two openings and part of a third which opened on to the cloister-court and lighted the Western alley. These openings are of three unglazed lights with cinquefoiled arches under a square main head; the lights are divided by octagonal shafts with defaced moulded capitals and bases, and the jambs have attached half-shafts.

The W. front has at the S. end three buttresses, probably original; further N. are two added projections, one to enclose a fireplace, one a small garderobe tower, and a third, apparently original and of uncertain purpose; the windows, some of which are blocked, are, with one exception, all of late 16th or early 17th-century date, and have square heads. In the second bay from the south is an early 17th-century doorway with chamfered jambs and round head, and above it is a round window; the next bay has a window formerly of a single trefoiled light, perhaps originally above the later window in the same bay is a corbelled projection to carry a former window of the floor above.

In the S. wall of the building is an early 17th-century doorway with chamfered jambs and round head. In the N. wall is a wide opening of the same date, with plain jambs and four-centred arch; farther W. is a two-light transomed window with the head removed. Inside the building the former wall shutting off the cloister alley has entirely disappeared. In the W. wall are two early 17th-century fireplaces, one above the other; they have moulded heads; the bead of the upper fireplace has the initials T. P. C. for Thomas Coningsby and Philippa his wife.

Knowles D &

Hadcock R N 1953 Medieval Religious Houses, 214

Pevsner N 1963 Herefordshire, The Buildings of England

Anon 1850 Blackfriars, Hereford. Archaeologia Cambrensis, part 1, 213

Morriss R&

Shoemith R 1988 The Hereford Blackfriars: an interim (HAS 38)

The Coningsby Hospital

The Hospital off Widemarsh Street was founded sometime after 1221. Portions of the hall and chapel range appear to date from the 13th century. The Hospital was dependant on the preceptory of Dinmore, who maintained a chaplain on the site. The dedication in 1340 was to the Holy Ghost and St John; this was probably the date of the transfer to the Hospitallers. After this the hospital continued as a hospital for sick men. It was dissolved in 1540, only to be re-founded in 1614 by Sir Thomas Coningsby. Reconstruction was undertaken and a further three ranges and a Gate-House were constructed. The building was restored in the 19th Century. Prior to 1221, a hospital of St Sepulchre was recorded as being in Widemarsh Street.

The Hospital is located on the E. side of Widemarsh Street, some 700 yards N. of the cathedral. It is a quadrangular building, mainly of two storeys, and the walls are of local red sandstone and the roofs are covered with stone slates. The external elevations, generally, have a chamfered or moulded plinth and restored windows with trefoiled heads. The chimney-stacks have tabled offsets and modern tops. At the N. end of the E. front is the gable of the chapel. It has three dwarf buttresses and three graduated lancet windows. The windows are restored but represent an old, perhaps 13th-century feature, and the splays and rear-arches are old. On the apex of the gable is a finial formed of re-used material and bearing the Coningsby initials T.P.C. The doorway to the passage through the E. range has chamfered jambs and round head, with the Coningsby initials.

The N. front has at the E. end a modern lancet window to the chapel, and farther W. an early 17th-century window with a trefoiled head and the Coningsby initials. Towards the W. end of the range is a gabled porch, largely reconstructed. At the W. end is a doorway, with a four-centred head and the Coningsby initials, opening into a stair-turret. The W. front has at the end of the hall-range, a 14th-century window of two trefoiled ogee lights with tracery in a two-centred head; on the gable above is a 17th-century bell-cote with two trefoil-headed openings, one containing a bell, and a capping of re-used material.

The doorway in the W. range has chamfered jambs and round head with a tablet above it bearing the Coningsby achievement and initials, flanked by Ionic columns on scrolled brackets and supporting a cornice. The range projecting towards the S. contains an early 17th-century entrance-archway, probably the gatehouse of Coningsby's house; it is now blocked and has moulded jambs and elliptical arch, and is flanked by much-decayed Doric columns, standing on pedestals and supporting the remains of separate entablatures and a continuous cornice. The archway, also blocked, on the other side of the range is of similar form but without columns and entablature. The N. wall of the courtyard (Plate 15 8) has two doorways to the chapel and hall, both with chamfered jambs and two-centred heads; above the chapel-doorway are the Coningsby initials and above the hall-doorway is the Coningsby crest. On the other sides of the courtyard the doorways to the tenements have restored four-centred heads and the archways to the passages, elliptical or four-centred heads; above the archway on the E. side is a cartouche of the Coningsby arms. On the N. side of the courtyard are some worked stones including one with the Coningsby initials.

In the interior the *Chapel* has a trussed-rafter roof and contains the following fittings-Coffin lid: with plain incised cross, 13th-century. *Communion Table* : of oak with eight legs in the form of Doric columns and supporting round arches with key-blocks and turned pendants, moulded bottom rail, early 17th-century. *Glass*: In N. window, achievement-of-arms of Coningsby impaling Fitzwilliam, with date 1614, enclosed in a later elliptical border, also quarries with Coningsby crest and initials and fragments; in E. window, quarries with the Coningsby crest and initials and a double-headed eagle. Pulpit: semi-octagonal and made up with 17th-century carved and moulded panels.

The Plate: includes cup and cover-paten of 1675, the former inscribed " Provided by Fitz.Wrn. Coningsby Corporall " and the latter with the date A77, also a pewter plate probably early 18th-century. *Seating*: at W. end, pew with panelled front, upper panels with arabesque ornament, high back with similar panels and flat tester with moulded cornice, strapwork frieze and turned pendants, early 17th-century. *Miscellanea*: incorporated in reading desk, carved 17th century panel. On W. wall, stone panel with the Coningsby arms, initials and the date 1597. The *Hall* has simple moulded ceiling-beams. In the N. wall is a fireplace with chamfered jambs, four-centred head and the Coningsby initials. In the W. wall are two doorways with chamfered jambs and four-centred heads, all framed in oak. There are twelve tenements and one additional one in the former gatehouse range.

RCHM 1931 *Inventory of monuments, Herefordshire, South West, Vol 1*

Knowles D

Hadcock R N 1953 *Medieval Religious Houses.*

Clay R 1909 *Medieval Hospitals of England*

Rees W 1947 *Order of St John of Jerusalem in Wales.*

Pevsner 1963 *The Buildings of England.*

Beese A K 1984 *Coningsby Hospital*

Dugdale 1805 *Monasticon Anglicanum. Royal Commission, Vol VL, part ii*

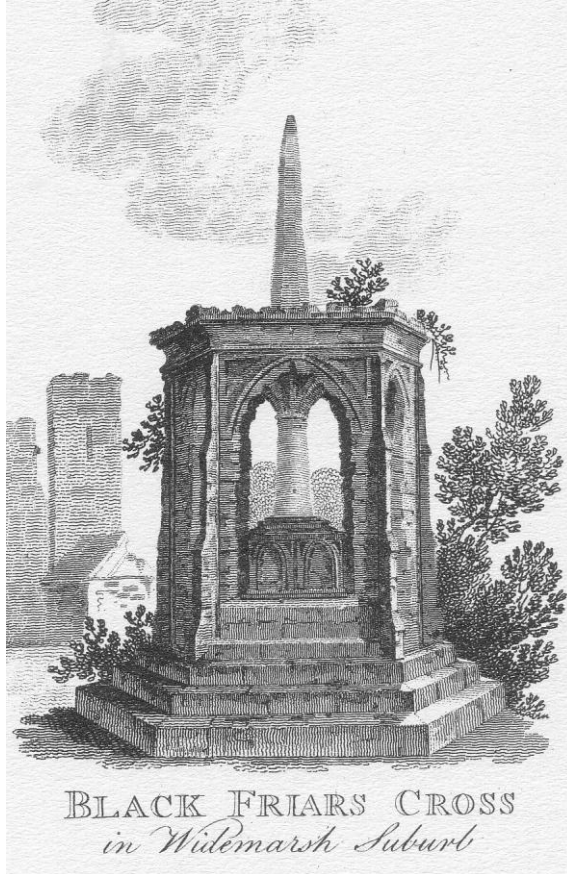
3983

The Blackfriars Preaching Cross

The preaching cross was constructed in the fourteenth century, some time after the Friary was first built, and stands in the Friar's cemetery to the west of the extant monastic range. It is the only surviving example in this country of the preaching-crosses erected by the friars in their cemeteries. The structure is of stone, hexagonal on plan with three-stage buttresses at the angles and standing on four steps. Each face has an open cinquefoiled arch in a square head, the lower part filled with an open stone balustrade, having two cinquefoiled openings; one side formed an entrance but the balustrade is now continued across it; the structure is finished with a moulded and embattled cornice.

The interior has a stone bench round a central pier with six small shafts with moulded bases and capitals from which spring the moulded ribs of the stone vaults; there are

similar shafts in the internal angles of the structure. The front of the bench has cinquefoil-headed panelling, and from the central pier rises the restored shaft and cross, above the roof. The building is of the 14th century, but has been considerably restored. Although weathered, the preaching cross is in good condition.



Preaching Cross from Duncumb,p397

| | | |
|-------------------|-------|--|
| <i>Pevsner</i> | 1963 | <i>The Buildings of England. 183</i> |
| <i>RCHM</i> | 1931 | <i>Inventory of monuments, Herefordshire, South West, Vol 1</i> |
| <i>Shoemith R</i> | 1983 | <i>Survey of the Blackfriars Preaching Cross. CHAC</i> |
| <i>Watkins A</i> | 1930 | <i>The old standing crosses of Herefordshire</i> |
| <i>Palmer C</i> | ----- | <i>The Friars or Blackfriars of Herefordshire. The Reliquary</i> |
| <i>Shoemith R</i> | 1986 | <i>Blackfriars Monastery. A note on its condition. CHAC</i> |

3984

(Excavations at) Blackfriars Friary

Archaeological excavations were undertaken on the site by Butler in 1958. The Friary was founded on a level containing 13th and 14th Century pottery. Subsequent evaluation By Stone in 1991 indicated the presence of complex site stratigraphy.

| | | |
|----------------|---------|--|
| <i>Butler</i> | 1958-60 | <i>Excavation at Blackfriars, Hereford</i> |
| <i>Stone R</i> | 1991 | <i>Land off Canal Road, Hereford</i> |

8230

Monkmoor Mill.

The site of the mill originally belonged to St Guthlac's Priory. The priory owned 7 mills in the 15th century. Monkmoor mill was rented at 30 shillings to Katherine Taylor. At the dissolution it was worth 1.6/8d and rented together with all the priory holdings by Sir John Pine. By 1693 it was in bad condition and was rebuilt in 1732 as a leather mill. Excavation suggests that there was a rectangular building on the north side of the tailrace with the water wheel fed from the pond via the tailrace. The Mill site was later extended in the post-medieval period. Further excavation in 1989 exposed a length of medieval road (SMR 30326) that ran along the eastern edge of the site. In 1998, a watching brief was undertaken during the initial groundwork for the construction of a new postal sorting office at Station Approach, Hereford, but the Mill deposits to the south were not disturbed. The presence of peat at depth was indicated, possibly associated with an early stage of the mill waterworks.

Shoesmith R 1988 *Monkmoor Mill, Hereford*
Morriss R 1988 *Monkmoor Mill, Hereford*
Vyce D 1998 *Postal Sorting Office, Station Approach, Hereford*

20073

Watching Brief on Canal Road.

The upper-most fill of a north-south Medieval ditch was encountered but not excavated, and no other finds were made.

Jackson R 1996 *Watching brief on Canal Road*

20110

Watching Brief, 118 Widemarsh Street

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at the former Midshires Farmers site in 1991. The watching brief provided evidence of a 17th century timber framed building, and evidence of the environment and topography of the former "Widemarsh."

Stone R 1991 *Midshires Farmers, Archaeological Watching Brief*

20112

Evaluation off Coningsby Street.

This investigation was undertaken in 1990 to the SE of Blackfriars i.e. on the corner of Coningsby Street and Canal Road. No deposits related to the Friary were exposed although there were several pits of both medieval and modern date present.

Thomas D A 1990 *Evaluation Excavation, Coningsby Street Hereford*

20124

County Gaol

This is the “new” location of the County Gaol when it moved from Bye St Gate.

20125

Evaluation at Classic Cinema, Bus Station, Commercial Road.

Trenches were excavated on this site, but nothing of interest was found.

Shoesmith R &

Thomas D A 1988 Excavations at Hereford Bus Station 1986-7

20126

Bus Station Excavations.

Work in 1987 revealed multi period occupation, including a 12th century cess pit, a pre 17th century iron-working site and the foundations of both the County Gaol and the 1930's cinema.

Shoesmith R&

Thomas D A 1988 Excavations at Hereford Bus Station 1986-7

20208

84-88 Widemarsh Street

On this site formerly were two dwellings dating to the 17th century

RCHM 1931 Inventory of monuments, Herefordshire, South West, Vol 1

20209

127 and 128 Widemarsh Street

Site of two 17th century timber framed buildings.

RCHM 1931 Inventory of monuments, Herefordshire, South West, Vol 1

20237

Roman coin

A Roman Coin of Valens is recorded as having been found on Blackfriars Street.

Norwood J F 1960 Transaction of the Woolhope Naturalists Field Club.

22890Evaluation off Commercial Road.

A Medieval ditch was identified at a slight angle to Commercial Road, and is thought to represent an early Priory precinct boundary. A Pig burial and a timber beam slot were identified, but the medieval Period is mainly represented by a stony soil build-up. The only buildings identified were 18th Century in date.

Appleton Fox, N& Stone R 1995 *Desk-Top Survey*
 1995 *Evaluation Excavation*

22891Excavation at Hartford Motors, Stonebow Road.

There was some evidence of alluviation on this site, possibly dating from the medieval period, and it is suggested that this may represent activity associated with a stream or canalised leat associated with St Guthlac's Priory. Flooding appears to have continued until the 18th century. There is also evidence of butchery in the medieval period. The only structures clearly identified are cellars and a stable of 19th century date.

Stone R 1995 *Hartford Motors*
Pearson E 1995 *Environmental Analysis at Hartford Motors*

26941Edgar Street Football Ground

This stadium has been the home of Hereford United since 1890's.

26943Hereford Cattle Market

The earliest reference to this is the 1888 1st edition OS (Herefordshire Sheet xxxlll.16).

26963Barrs Court Station

The Station was constructed in 1855. The first map record is on the Ordnance First Edition of 1888.

26976Hereford and Gloucester Canal

The canal terminus was constructed c. 1845. The first map record is in 1858.

30327

Site of the Gasworks.

This Site is shown on Curley's map of 1858; the gasworks was later moved to Holmer Road.

Shoesmith R *1989* *Monkmoor Mill: An interim report (unpublished)*

Base map (over)

N.B. In order to show the current landscape at a very detailed scale, the western margin of the grid area has not been included on the map. Only two sites however are recorded within this margin (The Cattle Market and the Football Ground), and these hardly need to be identified.