

# **Investigation of Operations at No. 3 Quay Street, Hereford.**



**Report prepared by**

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**Herefordshire Archaeology Report No. 337**

**Herefordshire Archaeology**  
Environment, Planning and Waste

Places and Communities Directorate

Herefordshire Council



**NGR: SO 511 397  
EHE 80038**

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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.

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**Summary:**

*An archaeological intervention was necessary during the demolition and re-building of a garden wall to the rear of 3 Quay Street, Hereford. In order for the replacement wall to be constructed a foundation trench had to be excavated which reached "solid ground". The southern end of the foundation trench was excavated to a depth of 1.5m below the present ground surface without archaeological supervision. The site lies within the Hereford Area of Archaeological Importance. Herefordshire Archaeology recorded the section of foundation trench left open. The trench cut through a well mixed, dark earth deposit to a depth of approximately 1.5m below the present ground surface. The ceramic artefacts within this deposit suggests an 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century date for its formation and it is suggested that it may be related to the construction of the stone founded wall which forms the southern boundary between No. 3 Quay Street and Well Cottage.*

**Disclaimer:** It should not be assumed that land referred to in this document is accessible to the public. Location plans are indicative only. NGRs are accurate to approximately 10m. Measured dimensions are accurate to within 1m at a scale of 1:500, 0.1m at 1:50, and 0.02m at 1:20.

Figures contained within this report contain material from the Ordnance Survey. The grid in this material is the National Grid taken from the Ordnance Survey map with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office (OS Licence 100024168). This material has been reproduced in order to locate the site in its environs.

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## Introduction

This report (EHE 80038), provides an account of archaeological investigation and recording of a hole excavated within the garden of No. 3 Quay Street, Hereford.

No. 3 Quay Street is a comparatively modern building off the eastern side of Quay Street, and was at one time a doctor's surgery. It is now under development to convert it into a nursery building for Hereford Cathedral School. It features a small walled garden area to the south and east of the principal building form.

### **Circumstances of Project.**

The archaeological project came about because of a pre-existing council recommendation for archaeological work made in response to application 133529/L, and also the formal notification and investigation procedures relating to the Hereford Area of Archaeological Importance (Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, Part 2). The developer, Hereford Cathedral School, had proposed and commenced the replacement of the old wall forming the eastern boundary to the site. A large and unstable hole had been produced at the southern end of this wall-line. Following discussions between Herefordshire Council's Archaeological Advisor and the scheme agent, it was agreed that Herefordshire Archaeology would, as mitigation, undertake summary investigation and recording of this hole, prior to it being filled and secured.

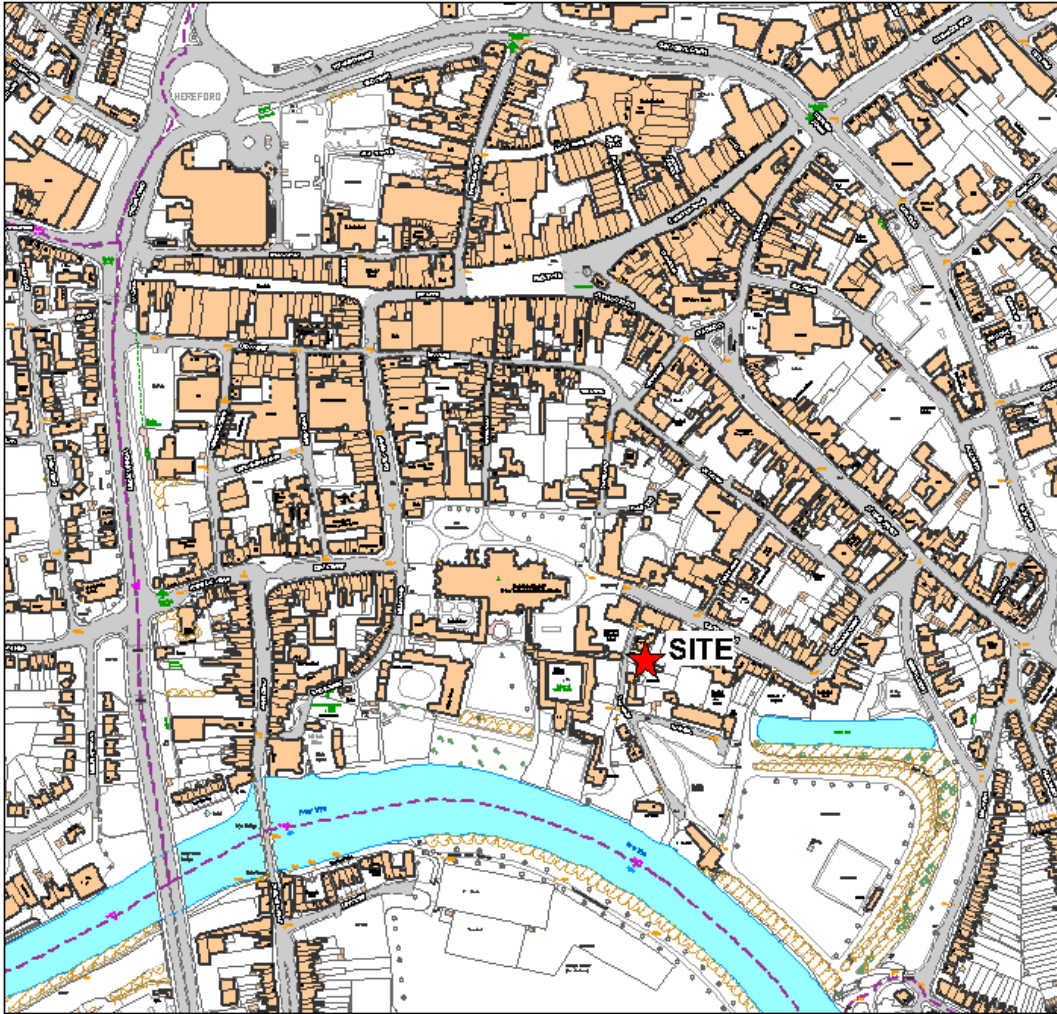


Figure 1: Location of the site within the City of Hereford.

### Background history and previous archaeological work

Quay Street comprises a minor street running off the southern side of Castle Street. No archaeological excavations have been undertaken within Quay Street, however its proximity to both Hereford Cathedral and the site of Hereford Castle would suggest that it was part of the Norman street plan. Castle Street itself represents one of the outstanding unsolved problems of the east side of early medieval Hereford: interpreted for many years as a major through-street truncated by the construction of the Norman castle, there is no supporting evidence to indicate that it ever continued beyond the city's perimeter. Yet its width, its association with the planning of the Cathedral Close and associations with the castle and with the site of St Guthlac's church within the castle, all indicate its importance, and there is recent excavated evidence for late pre-Conquest occupation at its eastern end (the Castle Hotel: SMR 31780, 31829). The eastern end of the street was also the site of the medieval corn market, which in 1395 was said to have 'long been held' there (Whitehead 2007, 22-23). The plots lining Castle Street, and St Ethelbert Street, its northward return, fall into two groups. Those towards the west end of the street, in institutional use, are wider, with large

areas of garden ground behind the north-side plots and smaller areas behind the south-side plots, which are dog-legged to the west. The plots on both sides of the streets further east are (apart from the St Ethelbert's Hospital plot) narrower, and generally in residential use. These distinctions do not seem to be purely recent, though they do reflect current land use (institutional v. residential): they can be seen on Taylor's map of 1757 and distinction between the main plot types appears to coincide with the parish boundary between St John's (the Cathedral parish) and St Owen. The western end of the street was at least partly occupied by further canonical residences. The extent to which the area was subject to regular planning is uncertain: minor streets (Quay Street, Ferrers Street, St Ethelbert Street) branch off Castle Street at approximate right-angles and could be interpreted as a simple street grid adapted to the constraints of the site.

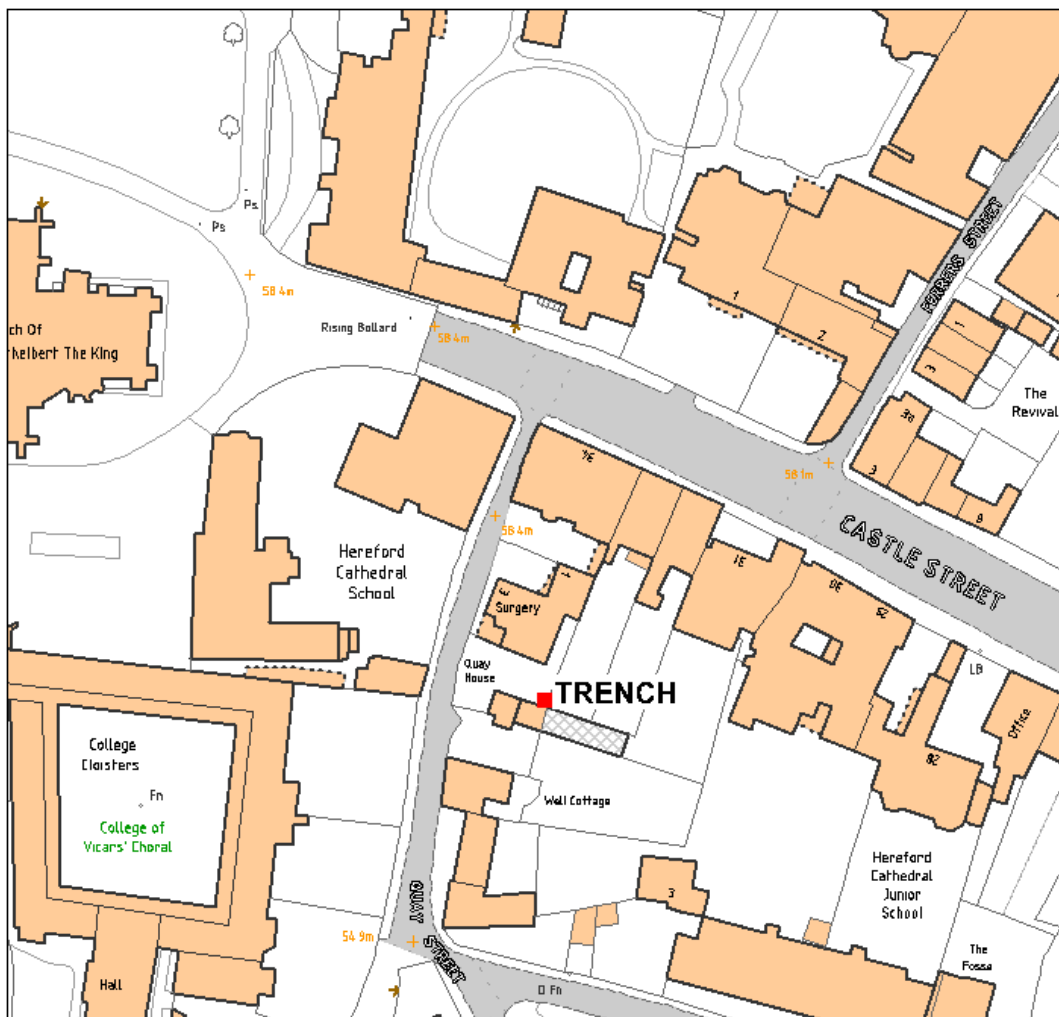


Figure 2: Plan showing location of trench excavated within No. 3 Quay Street.

## Fieldwork in 2014

A site visit was made on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2014 by the author. A hole approximately 1.4m square was present within the south eastern corner of the plot. Due to the nature of the deposits, the sides of the hole were unstable and it was not entered by Herefordshire Archaeology Staff.

The hole has been excavated to a depth of 1.5m in order to achieve solid ground. The excavated material comprised a well mixed, dark earth (001) from the present ground surface to a depth of 1.15m. This appears to date from the 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century and contained a significant quantity of Victorian pottery, animal bone and small tile / slate fragments. Immediately below this, was a more compacted deposit of dark soil (002) containing brick fragments and coal / charcoal. This deposit became firmer with depth and was excavated to a maximum of 1.50m below the present ground surface. The southern side of the trench was formed by the southern boundary wall of the site. This comprised a brick wall above ground level, however at a depth of 0.4m below the present ground surface the foundations were of roughly coursed masonry. The wall footings continued through the base of the trench. No cut for the stone foundations could be seen within deposit (002) suggesting that this had either been excavated and refilled at a point in time after the construction of the stone wall footing or that the stone wall footing completely filled the foundation cut.

No archaeologically significant deposits were encountered.

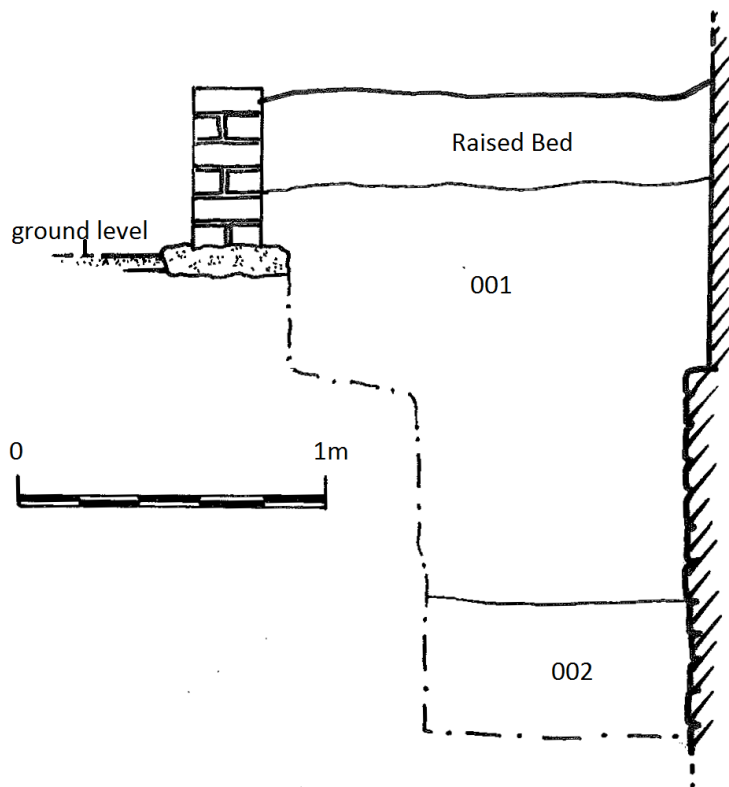


Figure 3: Eastern Section of trench



Plate 1: Trench looking south-east



Plate 2: Trench looking east.





Plate 3: Trench looking south.

## Conclusions

The watching brief has confirmed that no archaeologically significant features or deposits survive in this location between the present ground level and 1.5m depth. It is clear that significant disturbance has taken place during the late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century at this point. This has left a localised area of “soft” earth within the corner of the plot.

## Site Archive

8 digital photographs

1 site notebook entry

1 section drawing

This document

## Acknowledgements

Herefordshire Archaeology would like to thank Keith Lilley and GAJ UK Limited.

## List of Illustrations

Figure 1: location of the site within the City of Hereford.

Figure 2: Plan showing location of trench excavated within No. 3 Quay Street.

Figure 3: Eastern Section of trench

Plate 1: Trench looking south-east

Plate 2: Trench looking east

Plate 3: Trench looking south

## Bibliography

Baker, N, 2009, A Characterisation Of The Historic Townscape Of Central Hereford  
*Herefordshire Archaeology Report 266.*