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58 Commercial Road, Hereford: archaeological monitoring

Huw Sherlock and P J Pikes 2002



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58 Commercial Road, Hereford: archaeological monitoring 2000

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Cover Photograph: Greenland's Furniture Depository, 1994, courtesy of R. Williams

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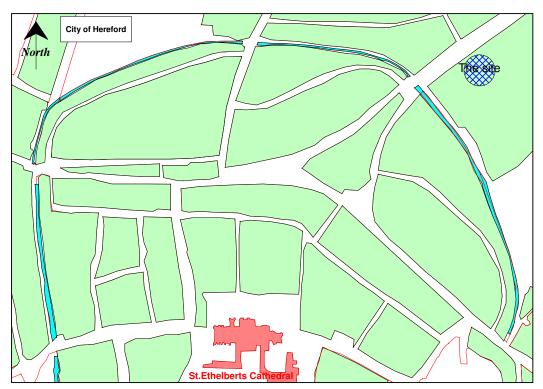


Figure 1: Showing the location of the site in relation to the line of the city defences and the major arterial route ways of the medieval city.

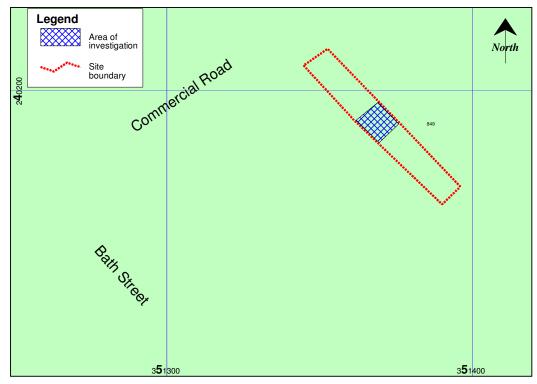


Figure 2: A detail from the OS Superplan data (reproduced by permission of the Ordnance survey Copyright Licensing Authority, drawing ref. HERE-010603519A). Shows the site boundaries and the area investigated.

1.0 Summary

NGR SO 51370/40190 Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record - Event 30350No Hereford City Museum Accession No HFDMG2000-17

TA Building Solutions (the client) commissioned a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording in accordance with a brief issued by the Herefordshire Council Archaeology Service. This was issued in response to planning application CE1999/2461/F for permission to demolish existing structures and to construct a rear extension to an existing early 20th century building in order to facilitate the conversion of that building into a public house, *The Litten Tree*.

The property fronts onto Commercial Road, which forms part of the main Hereford to Worcester road, to the north-east of Hereford City centre. The other boundaries are formed by number 59 Commercial Road to the south-west, the rear of properties fronting onto Kyrle Street to the south-east and *O'Neil's* public house to the north-east.

Commercial Road formed the Bye Street suburb of medieval Hereford and the site lies wholly within the Hereford Area of Archaeological Importance, as designated under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979). The development therefore affected a site on which archaeological remains of importance were likely to exist

A four-storey steel-framed building occupies the front of the property. This was originally erected as a furniture warehouse for Messrs Greenlands of Hereford at the beginning of the 20th century. The basement, ground and first floors of this building were converted into the *Litten Tree* public house. The upper floors were to be converted into accommodation.

A new two-storey extension was added to the rear of the building. In this area an early stage of the project entailed the demolition of extensive outbuildings which incorporated a row of mid 19th century terraced cottages, Hop Bine Place.

Here the removal of gravel, brick and stone, which formed the early 20th century yard, exposed medieval deposits with no sign of later disturbance. These consisted of what appeared to be a medieval garden soil into which several pits had been cut. There appeared to be no disturbance of the medieval archaeology apart from truncation caused by a general lowering of the ground surface.

Apart from where they would have been removed for the construction work the fills of these pits were not excavated, but where they were, animal bones, pottery and samples of soil were recovered.

The evidence suggested that the pits were rubbish pits to the rear of street-front housing, dating from the 12th or 13th centuries. Horn cores from the pits suggest that the manufacture of horn utensils may have been a nearby industry. The project has made a small but important contribution towards our knowledge of the Bye Gate suburb of medieval Hereford.

The fieldwork took place during May 2000.

2.0 Geological, historical and archaeological background

2.1 Geology and land use

The area of the site lies on a low rise to the south-east of Commercial Road with what appears to be a natural slope down to the road itself. Underlying recent hard-standing is a buried horticultural soil, which in turn lies on the periglacial gravels.

The immediate previous use of the site was as part of the premises of I & J Brown Ltd., an antique furniture sales and restoration business. A range of surfaces and out-buildings had covered the rear area.

The general area is occupied by small to medium sized commercial properties of various types, on- and off-licensed premises, shops and restaurants.

2.2 Historical background

The walls of Saxon Hereford formed a circuit which ran from the River Wye at a point to the east of the present Greyfriars Bridge, via the eastern side of Victoria Street, the south sides of Eign Street, High Street, High Town and St Owen's Street and returned to the Wye at the east side of the Castle Green.

Commercial Road appears to be the original road approaching Hereford from the north-east and, before the Norman Conquest, would have led to the Saxon north gate of the city at the north end of what is now Broad Street¹. Although Domesday records that there were houses outside the walls in King Edward's time, it seems likely that the land this far out of the Saxon town was purely agricultural.

After the Conquest a large triangular market was laid out immediately to the north of the town, in the area now bounded by High Town, Union Street and Commercial Street. The approach roads to the new market appear to have been wide, and Commercial Road, extending north-east from the triangle, at 25 metres, remains a very wide street. The width was utilised in the late 18th century when the beast fair, previously held in the slightly narrower Broad Street, was relocated here.²

Along both sides of the roads approaching the market from the north-east (Commercial Road) and south-east (St Owen's Street), burgage plots were laid out. As in other English towns, French immigration was encouraged by means of preferential legal treatment (Hillaby, 1983). It would have been these immigrants who populated these plots. The plots were long and narrow, and aligned at right angles to the road. Burgage plots along the south-eastern side of what is now Commercial Road were part of this development. Their rear boundary was formed by the common Portfields, which stretched south to the rear of the plots on the north side of St Owen's Street.

The new town plan was further developed in the 1140s when the Priory of St Guthlac, which had become isolated within the outer bailey of the expanded Hereford Castle, was re-located to a new site on the extreme north-east of the town (Martin, 1954). The precise lay-out of St Guthlac's remains elusive, but the site was on the south-eastern side of Commercial Road with the Eign brook bounding its north eastern side. Although the south-western precinct wall has not been located it may lie on the present Union Walk in which case it was preserved at the dissolution and

The Northern end of Broad Street was much narrower until the late 18th century when it was widened by the Duke of Norfolk, who rebuilt the old Swan and Falcon Inn there as the City Arms Hotel. Up until that time this length of street was known as the Northgate. It is marked as such on Isaac Taylor's 1757 map of Hereford.

Public Notice in the Hereford Journal, 3rd October 1776

was re-emphasised in the 1790s when John Nash's new county gaol was erected on the priory site (Shoesmith and Crosskey, 1994). In any event the boundary of the precinct would have marked the north-eastern limit of the secular development on the south-east side of Commercial Road.

In the 1180's the old town, the new market place and many of the inner burgage plots were enclosed within a new defensive rampart and ditch. This circuit left the priory, and the burgage plots furthest from the market place, outside the defences, and defined them, for the first time, as suburbs. These limits – the street, the priory, the Portfields and the 12th century defences on the line of the present Bath Street, define an area of Hereford in which many properties appear to have retained their medieval integrity until the recent past. The Litten Tree site, then, lies within this area, on the south-eastern side of the medieval *Bishop-street* suburb.

During the 13th century the earthen defences of Hereford were upgraded by the construction of a massive stone wall. These works seem not to have been completed until the end of the century (Whitehead, 1982, p21). The existing defences were however sufficient to protect the city when Roger Mortimer of nearby Wigmore Castle, with other lords, together with men of the Prior of Leominster, attacked it in November 1265. Some extra-mural buildings were pulled or burnt down by the defenders, both before Mortimer arrived on the 10th November, and by sortie that night 'while the army was about the town'. However, the total destruction of the suburb containing the site was effected by the attackers on the 11th when 'some of the said great men cast fire upon the street called Bissoppestret, and burned all that suburb'.¹

The area was rebuilt, and in the 1530s Leland noted that *'outside Bishopgate Street there is a pleasant suburb'* (Chandler, 1993, p220). This suburb is clearly visible on John Speed's 1610 map of Hereford (figure 3), which shows it as ribbon development extending north-east from the Bye Gate. Many of these buildings would have served as business premises as well as accommodation. In the year that Speed's map was published, one of the houses was Jane Draper's alehouse from where one Mary Powell was accused of stealing a gold ring, the property of Thomas Traherne with whom she had been drinking.²

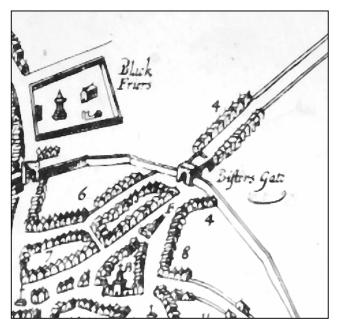


Figure 3: Extract from John Speede's map of Hereford, 1610.

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An account of this action is to be found in the Inquisitions Miscellaneous of the reign of Henry III. The background is the baronial war between Simon de Montfort and Henry III in which Hereford took Simon's side, while Mortimer bitterly opposed him. At this time, following Simon's victory at the Battle of Lewes in May 1264, both Henry and his son Prince Edward (later Edward I) were his de facto prisoners. After summoning his famous parliament to Westminster in January 1265, Simon arrived in Hereford with Henry and Edward on the 6th May. On the 28th Prince Edward escaped from his escorts while riding on the outskirts of the town. He was soon in the field at the head of a loyalist army. In late June, Simon moved the court to Monmouth, but prevented from crossing the estuary to Bristol, returned to Hereford. From here he marched east to the Severn, and having forded it, was defeated and killed by Edward at Evesham on 4th August. The leading citizens of Hereford were summoned to court and the city was fined five hundred marks for its support of Simon.

Hereford City Documents – transcript of sacks – Bag 12, bundle 1 – 9, Herefordshire Record Office

Hereford's suburbs were to undergo another phase of destruction in the English Civil War. In the summer of 1645 royalist Hereford prepared itself for assault by a Scottish Army in support of parliament. As the Scots approached, houses in the suburbs were pulled down in order to clear the field of fire for the defenders and deprive the enemy of cover, and earthworks were constructed to augment the dated medieval walls. The siege began on 31st July and lasted for five weeks. The Scots were finally driven off by the approach of the king with a relieving force. Again the suburbs had to be rebuilt.

In the mid 18th century Isaac Taylor's map of Hereford clearly shows buildings on the street frontage of the site (figure 4). The narrow plots stretching back from the street are likely to reflect the original medieval burgage lay-out (Hillaby, 1983). In the 18th century Commercial Road was known as Bye-street-without, and, for the greater part of the first half of the 19th century as New Street.² By the mid 19th century the properties in Commercial Road included residences of the gentry, the county prison, a rope and twine manufacturer, a fellmonger and wool dealer, a patent brick and tile maker, the city gasworks³ and the Zion Baptist Chapel⁴.

The siege is commemorated on Hereford City coat-of-arms which has a border of ten St Andrew's crosses representing the ten divisions of the besieging Scots Army. This was the third occasion that parliamentary forces had approached Hereford. On the previous two occasions they had taken the city with little opposition. The fourth occasion was to be in the December following the siege, when Colonel Birch took the city by means of a ruse. Disguising some soldiers as workmen breaking the ice in the ditch at the Bye Gate, he hid a small force in the ruins of St Guthlac's Priory. While the disguised soldiers grappled with the guards, the group from the priory charged up to and through the gate.

They would have run past the site on the way.

The name *New-street* is used in 1819 by J P Wright in his *A Walk Through Hereford or the Stranger's Guide to that Ancient and Interesting City*. By 1850 Slater's Directory uses the name *Commercial Road*.

Various local directories - Hunt & Co's 1847, Lascelle's 1851, Cassey's 1848, Slater's 1859 and others

⁴ Harold A Neal, *History of Hereford Baptist Church*, 1978

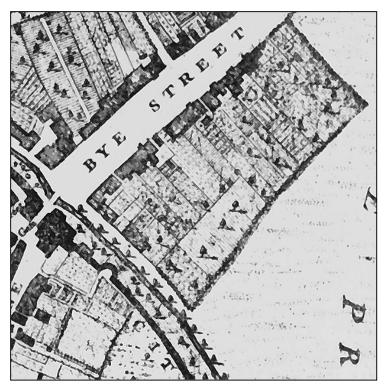


Figure 4: Extract from Isaac Taylor's map of Hereford, 1757. The site is directly opposite the side street entering Bye Street from the north (top of drawing).

Number 54 was the Hop Pole Inn, which had been a public house since before 1777 when William Gough moved from the Elephant and Castle to replace Mr James Hayes¹.

By 1858 a terrace of four two-up/two-down cottages had been built behind the Hop Pole with their fronts onto the rear part of the yard. This row was known as Hop Pole Passage.² By 1871 another row of four newer cottages, Hop Bine Place, had been built, facing Hop Pole Passage (by then Hop Pole Place) across the rear of the combined property.³

By 1893 a block of property, which had belonged to the late Mark Samuel Davies of Hunderton, Hereford, was on the market.⁴ This consisted of the Hop Pole and the four shops extending along the street frontage to the south-west (numbers 55 to 58), together with the cottages to the rear.

Hereford Journal, 27th March 1777

 $^{^2}$ $\,$ See drawing – appendix D. They are shown on Timothy Curley's map of Hereford in 1858

³ 1871 census

Sales particulars in Herefordshire Record Office – M5/14/11

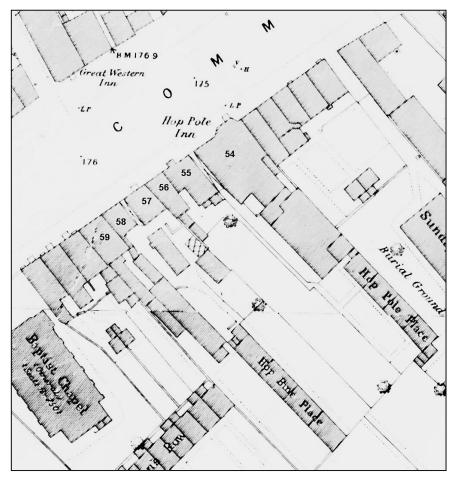


Figure 5: Extract from the 1886 Ordnance Survey 1:500 scale map of Hereford. The relevant property numbers are shown in bold type.

In 1903 the Hereford Society for Aiding the Industrious, who had presumably purchased the property in 1896, instructed Messrs Stooke and Son to place the property, augmented by the addition of number 59, on the market again. The property apparently failed to sell as a single unit and was divided into two lots (Shoesmith, 1998, p240).

Sales particulars in Herefordshire Record Office – M5/14/12

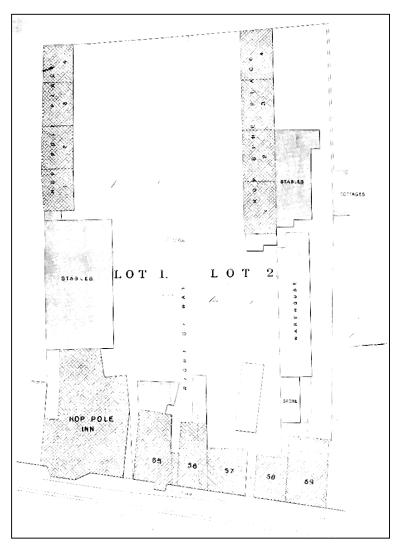


Figure 6: 1903 plan of the site included with sales particulars. The top of the plan is to the south-west.

At this time, with the exception of number 59, the buildings on the street front of the property were demolished. With this act the 11th century boundaries disappeared. The new boundary cut through number 56, and a new, larger, Hop Pole public house was built to the north-east of that boundary, incorporating the original Hop Pole at number 54, the adjacent shop at number 55 and the greater part of number 56. Two years later the cottages of Hop Pole Place were converted into stabling.

To the south-west, a new furniture warehouse was built for Messrs Greenlands Ltd, a local firm with their main branch in High Town, Hereford. In addition to number 56, numbers 57 and 58 were demolished to accommodate the new building. Number 59 was unaffected by these developments and was to continue as a corn dealers shop for several more years. This building, which would have been typical of those on the street frontage in the 19th century, contained a shop, office and back kitchen, underground cellar, large sitting room, four bedrooms and a WC.¹ Greenlands' warehouse was separated from number 59 by a narrow passage.

An expansion of Greenlands a few years later meant the demolition of number 59, the last intact medieval burgage plot, and the construction of an extension to the

Building plans in Herefordshire Record Office – BO/38/5/79

south-west, in a different style, of the warehouse. By 1917 Greenlands occupied both 58 and 59 Commercial Road, the number 57 (the core of the original Greenlands property) had, together with 55 and 56, disappeared from the street numbering sequence.

In the 1960s part of number 59 was occupied by Hereford's first Indian restaurant, the Bombay (sometime the Delhi). In the early 1980's, I & J Brown Ltd., Furniture Wholesalers occupied the property and remained there until the summer of 1999.

In 2000 the properties 58 and 59 were again separated, number 59 becoming the *Litten Tree* public house.

2.3 Archaeological background

Although a number of archaeological projects have been undertaken in this north-eastern quadrant of Hereford, they have mainly been concerned with the medieval priory of St Guthlac, to the north-east of the present site, where a number of investigations have taken place (Shoesmith, 1984, Boucher 1998a and b).

Few other sites anywhere on the outskirts of medieval Hereford have been excavated. These have tended to be the sites of other religious establishments, that of the Black Friars to the north of the city (Shoesmith, 1994; Stone, 1991; Taylor, 1991) and that of the Grey Friars to the east (Shoesmith, 1987; Crooks and Eisel, 1999).

It is assumed that the area of Hereford immediately outside the original Saxon defences is a Norman planned town around a large triangular central market place, and that this Norman town was undefended. Evidence of this phase of Hereford's development is scarce.

The impact of the late 12th century defences is still clearly visible in the topography of the city. What is less clear is what changes, if any, occurred in those areas which were transformed into suburbs by the construction of those defences. An excavation in Harrison Street, to the south-east of the present site and immediately outside the city walls, discovered evidence of intensive medieval activity, the earliest of which seemed to date from the late 12th century (Sherlock and Pikes, 1999). This perhaps indicates that the new defences did little to discourage extra-mural occupation although extensive open areas were to remain within the city walls for centuries. It seems possible that the extent of development in the mid 18th century as shown on Taylor's map, remained essentially that which had been established by the 13th century (Noble, 1965).

Within the block defined by Commercial Road, Union Walk, the rear of the Commercial Road property boundaries and Bath Street, and which contains the present site, very little archaeological investigation has been undertaken. An excavation at the site of a new magistrate's court in Spring 2000 (60 metres to the south-west of the site, fronting onto Bath Street in the car park marked on the plan in figure 2 - Vyce, forthcoming) has shown that this area was being used for industrial purposes. The presence of deep timber lined pits indicates that tanning may have been occurring on this site during the medieval period (*pers. comm.* A. Boucher). The availability of running water is a pre-requisite of the tanning industry and there would have been none until the ditch was excavated as part of the 12th century defences.

It was in this context that the present site was investigated.

3.0 Project aims and objectives

The aims of the project were: -

- to monitor all groundwork undertaken by the contractor and to record the extent and depth of all such groundwork.
- to record of any archaeological features or deposits exposed by the groundwork.
- to record the presence of archaeological material within the trenches or in the spoil removed during excavation, and to retrieve any potential dating evidence.
- to ensure that if any environmental evidence was preserved, that a sufficient sample be retained to allow for further analysis.
- to record negative evidence and to consider its implications.

4.0 Methodology

4.1 Field methodology

The following methodology was employed: -

- Suitably qualified archaeologists monitored all activity that involved disturbance of the ground surface. Because of the nature of the development, and the co-operation of the contractor, much better access to the archaeological features was possible than on many similar projects.
- An assessment of the archaeological significance of finds, structures and deposits was made and appropriate action taken.
- Structures and stratigraphic sequences observed were recorded on a 1:200 scaled plan and the position of all work disturbing the ground, and any archaeological features, was located on it.
- The presence of artefacts and was recorded with a description of their type, quantity and original location. The spoil was scanned for significant finds although in fact none were recovered by this means.
- Significant features were, where possible, photographed next to an appropriate scale rule, and a board displaying a unique context number. Each photographic exposure was recorded in the photographic log.
- All descriptions of structures and deposits, photographic records and drawing numbers were recorded on the relevant data capture documents in accordance with Archenfield Archaeology's standard site recording procedures.
- Staff carrying out the monitoring of the groundwork followed the guidelines laid down in the Archenfield Archaeology Health and Safety Policy

Archenfield Archaeology conforms to the Institute of Field Archaeologists'
Code of Conduct and code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of
Contractual arrangements in Field Archaeology. All projects are, where
applicable, carried out in accordance with IFA Standards and Guidance or
Draft Standards and Guidance.

4.2 Processing methodology

All retained artefacts and ecofacts were subjected to further analysis: -

- Ian Baxter, a recognised archaeozoologist, examined the animal bones recovered from the site, and produced a full report.
- A ceramics specialist, Stephanie Ratkai examined the ceramic material recovered and has provided spot dates.
- Soil samples were recovered from several of the deposits and processed by means of a Siraf type flotation system.
- All data were entered into a Microsoft ©Access relational database

5.0 Results

5.1 Structures

Greenlands' Furniture warehouse (cover photograph), designed by local architect W.W. Robinson of 10 King Street, Hereford, was approved by the Roads and building Committee of Hereford Council on 1st September 1903.¹

The building (context 24) was a free standing steel framed structure consisting of four stories plus a basement. Each story was 12 feet (3.66m) high and the basement 10 feet (3.05m). In plan the front wall was aligned with the street while the side walls were aligned with the adjacent properties so that the north-eastern wall was 76 feet (23.16m) long externally while the south western was 84 feet (25.6m): the back wall was at 90° to the sides and the building was 39 feet (11.89m) wide. The building was separated from the new Hop Pole hotel to the north-east by a 12 feet (3.66m) wide access way and from the old property to the south-west, number 59 Commercial Road, by a narrow passage.

At the rear, a 10 feet wide cellar (context 25) ran across the width of the building. In the centre of this was the base of a hoist, which serviced all floors. Leading off the southern corner of this cellar was another, small, 4 feet (1.22m) wide cellar (context 26) for storing coal. Above these cellars was a single story lean-to structure with a pent roof reaching to the base of the second floor. To the rear of this structure was hard standing which extended to a distance of 37 feet (12.19m) from the rear wall of the main building. Within the main building there were no internal staircases, access to the various floors being by means of the hoist, centrally placed at the rear, and an external spiral staircase, adjacent to, and to the south-west of, the hoist.

The rear cellars were entirely of brick and, apart from where the hoist was positioned, had vaulted ceilings of three courses.

Architect's Drawings in Herefordshire Record Office BO38/2/10 a, b, c and d

The roofs of the rear cellars were demolished with some difficulty in May 2000, and the exposed cavity backfilled. The main building itself was retained as the new 'Litten Tree' public house with the upper two stories being converted separately into accommodation.

Hop Bine Place (context 5) was constructed by early 1871 as a row of four cottages for let to working class families. In the census of that year (April 2nd) only numbers 1 and 4 were occupied, numbers 2 and 3 being still empty. In the 1881 census, married couples with children occupied each cottage.

Hop Bine Place measured 28m by 4m, with a shared washhouse and two WCs attached to the north-west gable. Each two up/two down cottage measured 7m by 4m. This was a respectable size for cottages in this area; some of the cottages in nearby Bath Street measured as little as 6.5m by 3.5.

In 1903 the rent of each cottage in Hop Bine Place was four shillings per week while that of a cottage in the older Hop Pole Place was three shillings and threepence.¹ Each row of cottages had a shared washhouse and two shared WCs.

The cottages of Hop Bine Place were later incorporated into a warehouse, which stood behind 58 and 59. This entire structure was demolished in January 2000 (see plate 1).

Hop Bine Place was an extremely rare survival of the small terraces which once stood behind many of the buildings fronting the streets of Hereford.

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Sales particulars in Herefordshire Record Office – M5/14/12



Plate 1: Frontage of Hop Bine Place during demolition. The ground floor has been completely obliterated but the first floor is relatively intact. The name plaque is visible in the centre of the terrace.

5.2 Stratigraphy

The new development was to the rear of the early 20th century Greenlands' building in an area that would have been approximately in the middle of the original burgage plots.

In this area the initial operation of the contractors was the removal of the concrete slab (6) in the area where the new extension was to be constructed. This was by means of pneumatic drills.

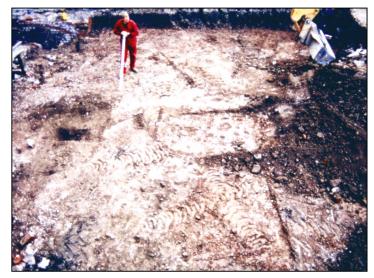


Plate 2: Showing the machining in progress. Note feature 11 visible at extreme left of picture.

Beneath the slab was an earlier surface of compacted gravel with some soil (7), and beneath this again a layer of stone and brick (8) overlying a layer of fairly clean redeposited gravel (9). All of these appeared to be structurally related to the furniture warehouse.

Immediately below gravel 9 was a layer of mid dark brown soil (10), which covered the entire site apart from the area of the cellars immediately behind the main building. Cut into this soil were a number of pits, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19 and 22. Apart from pit 19, which cut the fill (12) of pit 11, all of these were discrete. None of these deposits contained clay pipe or any other obviously post-medieval material.

Of these pits, only pit 13 was fully excavated in a standard archaeological fashion and proved to be a circular feature with a surviving depth of less than 250 mm with a diameter of approximately 0.5m (plate 3). Pit 11 was also shallow with a surviving depth of less than 200 mm.

Pit 17 had a surviving depth of approximately 650 mm, while pits 15, 19 and 22 were not bottomed. The fills of these three pits therefore survive beneath the new building.

The whole surface area of the yard, and that to the rear of number 59 Commercial Road next door, was approximately 0.5m below the properties on either side. The floor of Hop Bine place corresponded in level to the adjacent properties. Layer 27, at the north-western end of Hop Bine Place, and outside the excavated area proper, survived until January 2000 to a similar height, as an isolated patch of slightly higher ground within the property. This layer contained post-medieval pottery and clay pipe, but was removed before the start of the project.

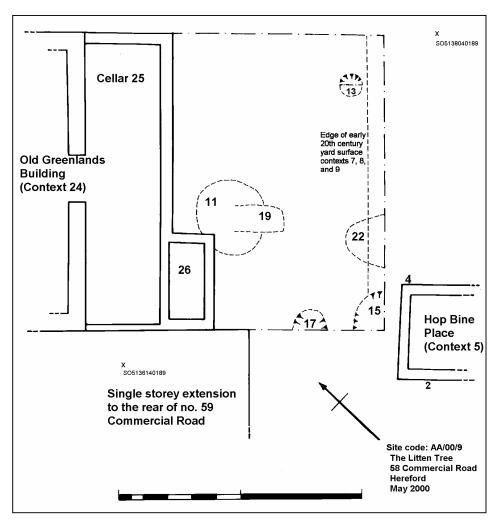


Figure 7: Plan showing features identified during the watching brief.



Plate 3: Showing a section through feature 13.

5.3 The Ceramics

Stephanie Ratkai

All the fabrics from this site have been previously recorded in Hereford. There is not sufficient pottery to draw any conclusions other than the earliest fill, 12, (of pit 11) probably dates from the 13th century and may incorporate earlier material – e.g. fabric C1, but it is equally possible that all three fabrics were in use contemporaneously in the late 12th to early 13th centuries.

Context Numbe r	Context Type	Context Dating (Spot dates)	Fabric Code	Sum Of Weight (grammes)	Pottery Fabric	Pottery Dating
12	Fill (pit 11)	(Late 12th) 13th century	A2	4	Cooking pots	late 12th - late 13th centuries
12	Fill (pit 11)	(Late 12th) 13th century	B1	21	Cooking pots	early 12th - mid 14th centuries
12	Fill (pit 11)	(Late 12th) 13th century	C1	26	Cooking pots	late 11th - mid 13th
16	Fill (pit 15)	Late 13th - early 14th century	A5	6	Jugs	mid 13th - early 14th centuries
16	Fill (pit 15)	Late 13th - early 14th century	A7b	30	Jugs	mid 13th - mid 15th centuries
16	Fill (pit 15)	Late 13th - early 14th century	B1	4	Cooking pots	early 12th - mid 14th centuries
18	Fill (pit 17)	Late 13th - 15th century	A7b	6	Jugs	mid 13th - mid 15th centuries
20	Fill (pit 19)	Late 13th - 15th century	A7b	3	Jugs	mid 13th - mid 15th centuries
999	Unstratified Finds		B5?	268		
999	Unstratified Finds		MGW	20	Modern glazed wares	18th-19th centuries

5.4 The Animal Bone Ian L. Baxter BA MIFA

Introduction

A small quantity of animal bone consisting of 30 "countable" fragments (see below) was recovered by Archenfield Archaeology during a watching brief at 58 Commercial Road, Hereford. The site lies outside the line of the medieval city wall and pottery found in context (12), which contained the largest assemblage of animal bones, dates from the 12th-13th century AD. The bones are well preserved and in very good condition.

Methodology

The mammal bones were recorded following a modified version of the method described in Davis (1992) and Albarella *et al* (1997). In brief, all teeth (lower and upper) and a restricted suite of parts of the postcranial skeleton was recorded and used in counts. These are: horncores with a complete base, malar (zygomaticus), atlas, axis, scapula (glenoid articulation), distal humerus, distal radius, proximal ulna, radial carpal, carpal 2+3, distal metacarpal, pelvis (ischial part of acetabulum), distal femur, distal tibia, calcaneum (sustenaculum), astragalus (lateral side), centrotarsale, distal metatarsal, proximal parts of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd phalanges. At least 50% of a given part had to be present for it to be counted. The presence of large (cattle/horse size) and medium (sheep/pig size) vertebrae and ribs was recorded for each context, although these were not counted.

Wear stages were recorded for all P_4 s and dP_4 s as well as for the lower molars of cattle, sheep/goat and pig, both isolated and in mandibles. Tooth wear stages follow Grant (1982). The only measurements taken are the greatest length (GL) of long bones after von den Driesch (1976) to enable the calculation of withers heights, and the crown height of equid teeth in order to estimate age at death following Levine (1982). Withers height calculations for cattle are based on Matolcsi (1970) and for sheep on Teichert (1975).

Species representation

The following species are represented at the site:

Common name	Species	Context
Cattle	Bos f. domestic	999 (U/S), 12, 14, 21
Sheep	Ovis f. domestic	12
Goat	Capra f. domestic	12
Sheep/Goat	Ovis/Capra f. domestic	12, 14, 20
Pig	Sus f. domestic	12, 20
Horse	Equus caballus	12, 20
Dog	Canis familiaris	16
Cat	Felis catus	21

Table 2: Animal species present by context.

Discussion and conclusion

This is a tiny assemblage of animal bone but all the common medieval domestic mammals are represented. Cattle account for 63% of the identified fragments recovered. Cattle were also the dominant species at sites previously excavated both within the medieval city (Noddle 1985) and outside the walls at Harrison Street

(Baxter unpublished). An unstratified metacarpal derived from a beast 107 cm high at the shoulder, which is comparable to medieval cattle from the other sites. A horncore from context 12 came from a short horned old adult ox and is also similar to the cattle from the other Hereford sites during this period. Both prime beef around 2 years old, and older animals are present.

Goat is represented by a single horncore found in context 12. Goats are almost exclusively represented by their horncores at Hereford in common with many medieval urban sites (Baxter unpublished and forthcoming) and it seems probable that goat horns, often together with those of rams, were imported into towns (possibly still attached to skins) for subsequent utilisation by horners (Albarella 1999). Sheep/goat remains are relatively infrequent compared to cattle at Commercial Road but include a metatarsal from a sheep 60 cm high at the withers from context 12.

Only two pig fragments were recovered, but these include the scapula of a neonate found in context 20 suggesting that pigs were being bred in the vicinity. Horse remains include a lower third molar from an individual approximately 11 years old at time of death. The proximal femur of a small dog was found in context 16. This was a gracile animal with straight legs, a lap dog or terrier. The pelvis of a very small adult cat was found in context 21. Medieval domestic cats were frequently much smaller than modern cats and seem to have generally led a somewhat precarious feral existence (Luff and Moreno García 1995).

In conclusion, this is a small but well preserved and informative assemblage of animal bone providing evidence of the rearing, butchery and consumption of domestic stock outside the walls of medieval Hereford beyond the previously known site at Harrison Street.

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5.5 The Environmental evidence

Methodology

Bulk soil samples (of approximately 30 Litres) were taken from contexts 12, 14, 16 and 21 (the fills of pits 11, 13, 15 and 17 respectively). These were taken in order to assess the degree of preservation of macrofossil floral remains and the possible presence of insects and molluscs. An assessment of the potential of these samples was made. Three samples were sub-sampled and processed by flotation using a *Siraf* type flotation tank. The sample was placed on a 1mm mesh net and the flot was collected using a 250-micron mesh. The flots and the residues were subsequently examined. All of the samples taken came from pits containing medieval pottery and can thus be assumed to represent the fill of rubbish pits.

The Results

Sample 1 (context 12) consisted of a mid-brown friable loam that contained a high percentage (25-30 %) of small water washed pebbles and pea gravel. The flot consisted of small fragments of charcoal. It is not considered that this sample has good potential for further analysis. The residue from the sample did contain some fragments of animal bone, but these are not likely to be of diagnostic value.

Sample 2 (context 12) also consisted of a mid-brown friable loam that contained a high percentage (25-30 %) of small water washed pebbles and pea gravel. This sample was chosen in order to examine the material from the bottom of pit 11. The flot contained many small fragments of charcoal, but these are not large enough to be identifiable by species. The residue contained some fragments of animal bone, some of which is probably from a small fowl.

Sample 3 (context 14) consisted of a friable mid to light brown silty loam (the fill of pit 13). It contained gravel and light red-brown clay, pieces of charcoal and lumps of

greenish-grey clayey material. The floated sample produced a large quantity of charcoal, some of which may be identifiable by species. Some macro fossil floral evidence, burnt grain and a number of insect pupae cases were also present. This would indicate that the preservation was good within this pit. Further study of the remainder of this sample may be warranted at some stage.

Sample 4 (context 16) consisted of a friable mid brown loam with clay. This contained a moderately high percentage (20-25%) of pea gravel. The floated sample produced a large amount of fragmentary pieces of charcoal, which are generally too small to be identifiable by species. Some small fragments of coal were present, along with some amorphous pieces of clay daub, and some small fish vertebrae. The residue from the flotation contained some larger pieces of animal bone (including one vertebra) and several sherds of glazed medieval pottery, of probable thirteenth to fourteenth century date. Two undiagnostic sherds of black cooking pot were also present as well as two sherds of an orangey buff fabric with a speckled green glaze. One of these sherds showed traces of having a raised decorative pattern on it. Two pieces of amorphous ferrous material, thickly covered in concretions, were also recovered from the residue.

Sample 5 (context 21) consisted of a friable mid brown loam with clay. This contained a moderately high percentage (20-25%) of pea gravel. The flot from this sample consisted mainly of small fragments of charcoal, which could not be identified by species. Also present were fruit pits (including apple and blackberry) and insect exoskeletons. The residue from this sample contained a bovine molar, a fish vertebra and one small unidentified metallic object, possibly a lace chape. A high percentage 50%-60%) of mineralised phosphate concretion may indicate that this material represents the decayed remains of human faecal material, although the larger pieces of animal and fish bone may indicate that domestic waste was also disposed of in this pit.

None of the flots or residues from the processed samples appear to be suitable for further study, but a sub sample of each unprocessed sample has been retained, as there may be some potential for palynological and other analyses.

Environmental Conclusions

Overall the environmental evidence from the fills of the pits strongly suggests that they were rubbish pits. There appeared to be relatively good preservation of environmental material. Further archaeological work in the area should focus on the potential of this environmental evidence to build up a picture of the pattern of use of the landholdings across this area in the medieval period.

6.0 Conclusions

That Commercial Road was developed as part of a planned Norman new town seems fairly well established. The present project sheds a little more light on this area.

The medieval pits were presumably associated with houses built closer to the main road. The successors to these houses are shown on Taylor's map of 1757. Traces of these street-front structures would have been destroyed by later development, although such destruction may not have been complete until the early 20th century when the new Greenlands building was constructed and the earlier cellars were altered and enlarged.

The evidence recovered from the pits is suggestive of everyday medieval domestic activity from as early as the 12th century onwards. The horn cores (see above) may indicate some specific industrial activity, such as the production of utensils, which would leave the core of the horns as waste material. An inference could be drawn that butchery and tanning were likely to be occurring nearby, as this would be true of any medieval town. The good state of preservation of medieval features immediately underneath modern surfaces indicates that other sites in this area may have similarly well preserved archaeology present.

No high status material likely to be of monastic origin was found during the fieldwork. This negative evidence again suggests that the site of St. Guthlac's Priory lay further to the north-east.

7.0 Archive deposition

The primary project archive, consisting of the excavated material and any original paper records, will be prepared and stored in accordance with the guidelines laid down in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' guidelines for the preparation and storage of archives. The primary archive will be stored with Hereford City Museum.

A copy of the digital archive, stored on CD and consisting of context, artefact and ecofact data, together with the site plan and selected photographs, will accompany the primary archive.

The client, in consultation with the project manager, will make provision for the deposition of all finds from the excavation with the Hereford City Museum. On completion of the fieldwork and the processing, collation, recording and analysis of the finds from the excavation all finds will be handed over to the museum staff, along with the project archive. Arrangements will be made with the museum for the transfer of title.

8.0 Publication and dissemination proposals

Paper copies of this report will be lodged with the Archaeological Adviser to Herefordshire Council, Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record and Hereford City Library. A short note on the project will be prepared for publication in the Transactions of the Woolhope Naturalists Field Society.

CDs of this report, together with the supporting archival material will be available from Archenfield Archaeology.

The complete photographic record, including the negatives, will be retained by Archaeology.

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Recent Improvements

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XXXIII.16.3

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Sheet XXXIII.SE

Ordnance Survey, 2000 Superplan Data – Drawing Ref No HERE-

010603519A

Appendices

Appendix A: Occupiers of property associated with 58 Commercial Road 1777-2000

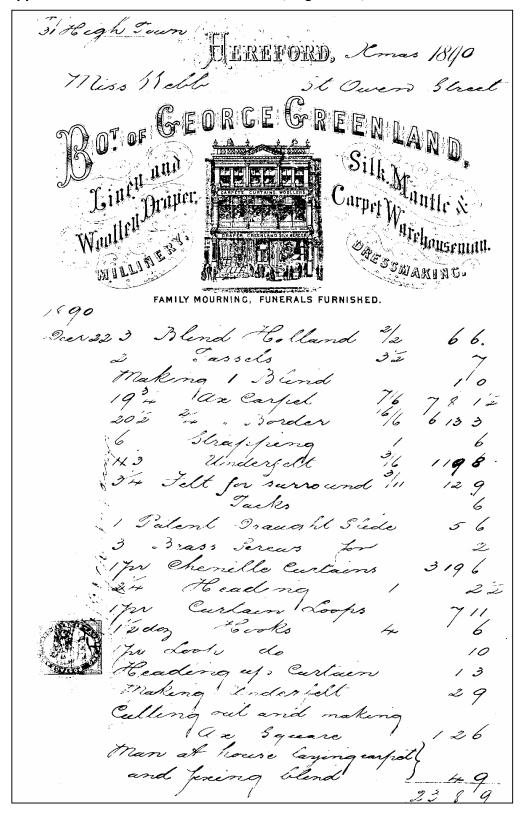
	59	58		57	56		55	54
1777								Hop Pole James Hayes
1777								Hop Pole William Gough
1830								Hop Pole Sarah Roberts (New Street)
1835								Hop Pole Samuel Roberts (New Street)
1851								Hop Pole, Thomas Brookes
1876	Redding, T Carpenter	Rowlands CW Carpenter		Davies John Baker	Eating house		?	Hop Pole Alfred Horley
1886	Bethel, JR corn and flour dealer	Davies, Miss E general dealer		Davies, J Baker and grocer	Morga Carpe and shopk	nter	Lane, W butcher	Williams, S Hop Pole Inn
1895	Bethel, John R corn and flour factor	Jay, Willian shopkeepe		Davies, John baker	Jacks Georg dairym	е	Bayley, Emmanuel butcher	Gwynne, James Hop Pole
1896	?	Roberts, Daniel		Davies, John baker	Jones Alfred		Bayley, Emmanuel butcher	Held by Jupp, Joseph Hop Pole
1900	Bethel, John R corn and flour factor	Hunt, Francis shopkeepe	er	Cotterell. Mrs Frances Dining rooms	Jones Edith Dairyr		Bayley, Emmanuel butcher	Gwynne, James Hop Pole
1902	Bethel, John R corn and flour factor	Hunt, Francis shopkeepe	er	?	Rober Daniel Shopk		Bayley, Emmanuel butcher	Gwynne, James Hop Pole
1912	59 Meats, Edward Vincent corn dealer	passage Greenlands Ltd furniture warehouse			Herefordshire Public House Trust Ltd Hop Pole PH Bishop, William			
1914	59 Meats, Edward Vincent corn dealer	passage 58 Greenlands Ltd furniture warehouse			Herefordshire Public House Trust Ltd Hop Pole PH Bishop, Amy (Mrs)			
1917				ordshire Public	House Trust			
1922	Greenlands Ltd furniture warehouse				People Assoc Hop P	es Refreshme iation	ent House	

1950	Greenlands Ltd Furniture removers		Hop Pole Hotel, Eade, Doug., proprietor P.R.H.A. House	
1960	Greenlands Ltd Furniture removers		Hop Pole Hotel Mitchell & Butlers Martin, LJ - manager	
1998	Brown's Ltd Furniture restorers		54 O'Neil's	
2000	59 58 The Litten Tree		54 O'Neil's	

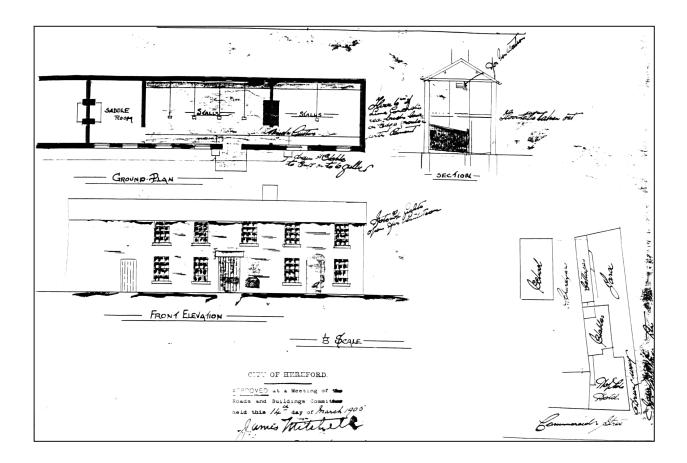
Appendix B: Occupiers of properties on the south-east side of Commercial Road in 1886 and in 2000

Address 1886	Occupier 1886	Address 2000	Occupier October 2000
46	Void		Hereford County Hospital
47	Jones, Thomas, rly porter		Hereford County Hospital
48	Thomas, John, carpenter		Hereford County Hospital
Johnson's Hospital			Hereford County Hospital
	Her Majesty's Prison		Bus Station
Here is Unior	l n Road	Here is Union	Walk
48	Merton Hotel Posting Yard	48a	Vacant
	, and the second	48c	Vacant
		Union Walk Union Walk	Dunelm Mill Shop Walk Café
	Baptist Sunday School	Union Walk	Vacant
	Thorne, Wm., timber yard foreman		Vacant
49	Neesham, A., Game Dealer	49-53	Vacant
50	Magness, Mrs Elizabeth	49-53	Vacant
51	3 ,		Vacant
	Evans, Miss, shopkeeper	49-53	
52	Walker, James	49-53	Vacant
53	Tringham, W T, tailor	49-53	Vacant
54	Hop Pole Inn S. Williams	54	O'Neills
1 Hop Pole Passage	Edmonds, William, labourer	54	O'Neills
2 Hop Pole Passage	Phipps, Henry, labourer	54	O'Neills
3 Hop Pole Passage	Oliver, Henry, labourer	54	O'Neills
4 Hop Pole Passage	Void	54	O'Neills
55	Lane, W., butcher	54	O'Neills
56	Morgan, J., carpenter &	54	O'Neills
	shopkeeper	58	The Litten Tree
57	Davies, J., baker & grocer	58	The Litten Tree
1 Hop Bine Place	Bethel, Edward, porter	58	The Litten Tree
2 Hop Bine Place	Wigley, Charles, painter (j)	58	The Litten Tree
3 Hop Bine Place	Clifford, George, letter carrier	58	The Litten Tree
4 Hop Bine Place	Wood, John., tanner	58	The Litten Tree
58	Davies, Miss E., general dealer	58	The Litten Tree
59	Bethel, J. R., corn & flour dealer	59	Vacant
60	Elliot, John	60	H & G County Wine
61	Portlock, J. H., boot & shoe maker	61	Golden Galleon Restaurant
62	Faulkner, F. G., compositor Faulkner, Mrs E., dress-maker	62	Glass Tandoor Restaurant TJ's Bar
	Baptist Chapel		Baptist Chapel
	Eye and Ear Institution		Baptist Chapel

Appendix C: Headed bill from Greenland's, High Town, dated Christmas 1890.



Appendix D: Architects plan and elevation showing proposed change of use of Hop Pole Place dated 1905. Hop Bine Place would have had a similar frontage.



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