



The Elgar Statue, Cathedral Close, Hereford an archaeological excavation

Nico Vaughan
2005



archenfield archaeology ltd

Principal Archaeologist: Huw Sherlock BA, Diparch, MIFA

Archenfield Archaeology Ltd is a multidisciplinary archaeological consultancy, offering a complete range of archaeological advice and services to the public and private sector. We specialise in giving archaeological advice to developers, housing associations and private individuals. We also undertake archaeological intervention, from monitoring to full-scale excavation; building survey; landscape and geophysical surveys and community-based historical and archaeological projects.

*The Elgar Statue, Cathedral Close, Hereford: an archaeological excavation
2005*

*The author would like to acknowledge the help and support
of the Elgar in Hereford Group, Cathedral Archaeologist
Ron Shoesmith, the staff of the Hereford City
and Cathedral Libraries, and the Dean
and Chapter of Hereford*

Client: the Elgar in Hereford Group

Text: Nico Vaughan

Project Manager: Daniel Lewis

Illustrations: Nico Vaughan

Cover Photograph: Statue of Sir Edward Elgar by Jemma Pearson
in Hereford Cathedral Close



Contents:

Summary.....	2
Introduction	3
1.1 Site location.....	4
2.1 Geological background and land use.....	5
2.2 Historical background	5
Hereford Cathedral	5
The Cathedral Close.....	5
2.3 Archaeological background	10
3.0 Project aims and objectives.....	10
4.0 Methodology	11
4.1 Field methodology	11
4.2 Processing methodology	11
5.0 The results.....	12
5.1 The stratigraphy.....	12
5.2 The finds.....	17
6.0 Conclusions.....	20
7.0 Archive deposition	20
8.0 Publication and dissemination Proposals	20
Appendix: Harris Matrix of the Cathedral Close excavation	22
Bibliography	23
Cartographic Material.....	23

Figures:

figure 1: The Cathedral Close, Hereford	4
figure 2: James Wathen's watercolour of the east view of the Chapter House, 1799	7
figure 3: Isaac Taylor's map of Hereford, 1757.	8
figure 4: The cathedral on John Speede's 1606 draft of the map of Hereford.....	9
figure 5: Blackfriars' Priory on Speede's 1606 draft, with the preaching cross annotated as 'pulpit'	9
figure 6: location of the trench in the Cathedral Close	12
figure 7: The trench at a depth of 0.1 metres	13
figure 8: Contexts (7) and (9)	14
figure 9: final trench plan.....	15
figure 10: the possible stone surface	15
figure 11: south facing section, including auger hole	16
figure 12: the fully excavated trench, looking south-east	16
figure 13: green-glazed jug handle from context 7	17
figure 14: a selection of human bone from contexts 9 (left) and 2.....	18
figure 15: masonry from context 7.....	19
figure 16: Jemma Pearson's statue of Sir Edward Elgar	21
figure 17: Sir Edward Elgar outside Hereford Cathedral in 1933.....	21

Tables:

Table 1: The pottery breakdown from trench 1	17
--	----

Summary

Archenfield Archaeology conducted an archaeological excavation upon the north-east of the Cathedral Close, Hereford in front of the Precentor's House, to assess the significance of archaeological remains prior to the erection of a statue commemorating Sir Edward Elgar. The composer lived in Hereford for seven years between 1904 and 1911.

The excavation of a single trench began on Wednesday May 25th 2005, and finished on Friday June 3rd, with the final re-interment of the excavated human remains taking place beneath the same site on Monday 13th June.

No articulated human remains were recovered from the site. Instead, the good scattering of disarticulated, many fragmentary, bones was in keeping with the upper layers being those of levelling and landscaping in the 18th and 19th centuries after the cemetery had been closed. The juxtaposition of medieval and post-medieval artefacts in the lower ones is also evidence of redeposition, possibly by gravedigging, and certainly by modern root action.

Introduction

NGR SO: 351051 239841

Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record – Event Number 42736

The Elgar in Hereford Group (the clients) commissioned a programme of archaeological work on the north-east of the Cathedral Close, Hereford, in front and slightly to the east of the Precentor's House, prior to the insertion of a statue base by the general contractors C J. Bayliss. The proposed statue commemorates Sir Edward Elgar. Born in Worcester, Elgar lived in Hereford between 1904 and 1911 at Plas Gwyn, a house in the eastern suburbs, and was friendly with the Cathedral organist, George Sinclair, who lived at 20 Church Street, and to whom Enigma Variation XI is dedicated. Sinclair's dog Dan, the inspiration for the piece, was commemorated with a statue, on the banks of the River Wye, some years before the famed composer himself was.

The site for the statue, in alignment with the lime trees to the west, was chosen because it had lain empty since 2000, when another lime tree was felled by a gale. Another reason for its choice was the likelihood that the archaeology had already been disturbed by the roots of the fallen tree, and also because the position would avoid the modern services beneath the tarmac road to the north.

Due to the small area involved, an evaluation was considered unnecessary. However, it was stipulated in the brief by the consultant archaeologist Ron Shoesmith (Archaeologist to the Dean and Chapter) that any excavation associated with the insertion of the base or the reburial of bones should be conducted by suitably qualified archaeologists, as it was highly probable that sensitive archaeology would be encountered close to the surface. The conditions in the brief were all adhered to, and Mr Shoesmith paid regular site visits to monitor the work (and would have been informed before the lifting of articulated human remains, should any have been discovered).

1.1 Site location

Planning Authority: Herefordshire Council



figure 1: The Cathedral Close, Hereford

2.0 Geological, historical and archaeological background

2.1 Geological background and land use

Hereford stands on a fluvioglacial gravel terrace on the left bank of the River Wye. These gravels represent a glacial outwash fan and are present below the whole of the old city. Directly beneath them is the Raglan Mudstone Formation of the Old Red Sandstone (Brandon and Hains, 1981).

The Cathedral Close, upon which the statue is to be erected, has been a landscaped open park since 1851, when the final levelling and realignment of the pathways took place. It was closed as a place for burial in 1791 due to overcrowding.

2.2 Historical background

Hereford Cathedral

Despite suggestions to the contrary, the earliest English reference to either Hereford or its bishop is in 801 when Wulfheard, Bishop of Hereford, made a written profession of obedience to the Archbishop of Canterbury (Richter, 1973).

Whatever form the original Saxon church took, it was rebuilt in stone around 830, and then again in the time of Edward the Confessor by Bishop Athelstan. During the following centuries the cathedral underwent several redesigns, often interrupted by warfare, until Easter Monday 1786 when natural causes became responsible for the building's evolution.

The so called Anglo-Saxon Chronicle records that in 1055 Gruffydd ap Llewellyn, who led a Welsh army, and Aelfgar, who headed a force of eighteen ships companies from Ireland, defeated the Earl of Hereford in battle and burnt the city and its cathedral. On 16th June 1056 Bishop Leofgar found Gruffydd near Glasbury-on-Wye, and in the action that followed he, the Sheriff of Hereford, priests, and several leading citizens were killed (Garmonsway, 1975).

Robert de Losinga (Bishop between 1076 and 1095) began, and Reinhelm (1107-1115) continued, the reconstruction of the cathedral on the existing plan. This building phase was interrupted during the troublous reign of Stephen (r. 1135-54), and the construction did not continue until Robert de Bethune gave it its Norman form. Alterations and additions were made from then on, which eventually culminated in the collapse of the west end and its 130 foot high tower in 1786, as the foundations were unable to support the increasing weight of masonry upon them (Bumpus, 1927, 139). James Wyatt designed and built a new west end in the style of the late-18th century but it was not received well, Bumpus (1927, 140) referring to it as feeble and miserable. The lack of enthusiasm for the design coupled with the damage suffered during an earthquake in the late 19th century meant that the cathedral was not considered finished until a new west front was built to the design of John Oldrid Scott in the early-20th century. Replacement masonry work by Capps and Capps Ltd continues to the present day.

The Cathedral Close

During the Saxon period both the Cathedral and St Guthlac's Priory, which was then situated on the Castle Green, held burial rights (Stone and Appleton-Fox, 1996, 10). But by 1108 the Cathedral was claiming exclusive burial rights within the city and its neighbourhood; the cemetery at Guthlac's being closed in 1143 when the Priory was transferred to a new site east of the old city. These rights over the other churches were jealously maintained (Shoesmith, 2000, 305) and in 1260 the master and brethren of St. Anthony's Hospital, Vienna, as patrons of All

Saints' and St. Martin's, Hereford, gave assurance that they would not prejudice the burial rights of the cathedral or allow other cemeteries to be made (Morgan, 1976, 15). The ruling extended over several parishes outside the city too, and in 1288 the rector of Hampton Bishop and the Chapter agreed that any parishioner whose goods at the time of his death exceeded six shillings in value should be brought to the Cathedral cemetery for interment, whilst women and those of less means should be buried nearer home. Another dispute followed in the time of Bishop Trillek (1344-60) concerning the parishioners of Allensmore, who, it was subsequently agreed, could be buried in their own cemetery, but fees were still to be paid to the cathedral. Burial fees contributed to the upkeep and refurbishment of the cathedral. This was especially so in the post-Civil War years when money was scarce, windows needed renewing, and covers, furniture, fittings, vestments and vessels were obtained for the seemly conduct of worship (Tomlinson, 2000, 113).

As a result of this monopoly on burial rights and the subsequent repeated use of the same plots for interments, the ground level of the Close rose considerably throughout the medieval and post-medieval periods. The lack of space was an issue as early as the 12th century, when a mandate from Bishop Foliot ordered the removal of a house that had been built on the cemetery. A similar issue was to arise several hundred years later in 1787 when a Mr Francis Thomas was ordered to take down a newly erected shop which was considered a '*publick nuisance*' (Morgan, 1976, 16).

In 1389, during the reign of Richard II, a royal licence was given to the dean and chapter to enclose the cemetery and to keep the gates locked after curfew. The reasons for this, amongst other things, were to prevent the secret burial of unbaptised infants, and the swine from dragging dead bodies from their resting place in the ground. In 1434 Bishop Spofford complained of these problems again, writing that the Close more resembled '*a highway or open ground than a cemetery and holy place dedicated to God*', and required the dean and chapter '*within twenty days to remove all trading and servile work, and to stop all animals from entering the cemetery, enclosing it with lock and key*' (*ibid*, 15).

The cemetery was clearly becoming overcrowded, and indeed, the rise of the ground level was what James Wyatt deemed the reason for the collapse of 1786, as ground water returned upon the foundations. The risen surface necessitated the presence of steps, which ascended the Close from Church Street to the north, Castle Street to the east and Broad Street to the west (Shoesmith, 2000, 305). The plague pits of the mid-14th century would have contributed to the rise of the latter area- the 1993 excavation preceding the construction of the New Library Building revealed three mass graves laid out in a row, and the possibility exists that further pits still survive to the north of that area (Stone and Appleton-Fox, 1996, 24).

In the post-medieval period there was increased pressure on the cemetery, as a smaller burial area was combined with a larger population. It is possible that the vicinity of the New Library Building had been deemed unsuitable for burials since the 14th century, due to fears of disturbing the pestilence within the plague pits. Certainly by the mid-16th century the area was being used for gravel extraction, apparently then being viewed as outside the cemetery limits. There is documentary evidence referring to the use of this area as a garden by 1741, and after this date the area, to the west of the Lady Arbor, shown fenced off on Taylor's 1757 map (Figure 3), was used as a timber yard.

To the north of the Close, the grounds of the canonical houses probably extended a considerable distance further south than at present, suggesting that in the latter

part of the 17th or early-18th century there was a radical change in the whole appearance of the Close (Shoesmith, 2000, 303). The abandonment of the south of the Close for burials may have necessitated, or at least contributed to, the withdrawal of the north. The first step towards the reduction of the canonical grounds may have begun following the capture of Hereford by the Parliamentarians during the Civil War. When this occurred the cathedral canons were removed from their houses around the Close (Shoesmith, 1995, 141), the lands of the dean and chapter were sold (Tomlinson, 2000, 113), and the Bishopric of Hereford remained vacant for fourteen years (Shoesmith, 1995, 143). Whatever the date when the grounds that had belonged to the canons receded, it must have been before 1757 when Taylor drew up his map.

Accompanying or in addition to this, in 1775 a plain rail was placed around the east, north and west sides of the precinct so that the cross-walks could be converted into burial grounds (Morgan, 1976, 17). But even with this claimed land available, on 11th September 1790 the dean and chapter wrote to several parishes announcing that after March 25th 1791 no more bodies would be admitted, except those who died within the precincts (Shoesmith, 2000, 305), as well as inhabitants of St. John's parish (Morgan, 1976, 17). The following year the city parishes acquired their own cemeteries, and the cathedral churchyard was effectively closed (Hoverd, 1998, 3). An Act of Parliament was passed in 1853 to stop general burial in urban areas (Stone and Appleton-Fox, 1996, 12).



figure 2: James Wathen's watercolour of the east view of the Chapter House, 1799, showing the poor state of the cathedral cemetery

In 1762 the walks across the Close were repaired and raised with gravel (Morgan, 1976, 16), but following the closure of the site for further burials, a general reworking of the area commenced, beginning with the removal of tombstones in 1796. The main phase of landscaping and levelling took place in 1850 and 1851, the scheme being to present an open lawn traversed with paths. It was shortly before this, in 1845, that the precinct was first referred to as the Cathedral Close (Stone and Appleton-Fox, 1996, 13). The amount of soil removed during the work of the mid-19th century was considerable, and John Eisel estimates from comparisons with 19th century prints that a depth of roughly 0.7 metres was removed from the area around the north transept and the Lady Chapel (Hoverd,

1998, 3). An indication of the depth is provided by F E Gretton, who mentions that only an inch or two at the top of the crypt windows was visible, just enough for marbles to slip through (Morgan, 1976, 18). There is now no trace of the steps that are said to have ascended the Close from Church Street, Castle Street and Broad Street, and it can be assumed that the soil removal was not restricted to areas directly around the cathedral. This is also suggested by the paths illustrated on Taylor's 1757 map, which follow very different routes from those of today.

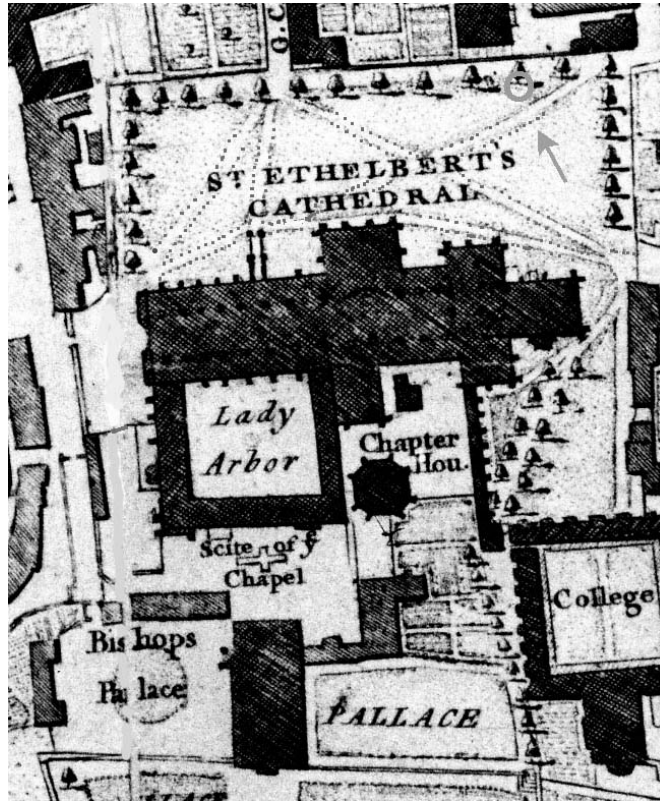


figure 3: Isaac Taylor's map of Hereford, 1757. The site of the excavation is circled

The area of the excavation discussed in this report lies on the northern extremity of the Cathedral Close, and as such, before the 18th century would probably have lain within the grounds of a canonical house. The Precentor's House (No 2 the Close), which lies to the north-west of the site, appears on Taylor's 1757 map, and is probably early-18th century in date (Shoesmith, 2000, 300). This area was not available for burials as long as the main part of the Close, and with the cemetery closing in 1791 it probably saw relatively little activity. This seems especially likely when it is considered that cemeteries are normally less densely packed towards the periphery. However, as the map of 1757 indicates, it was in close proximity to a path that crossed the Close in the direction of St John's Street, and thus could have been a favourable and accessible spot for burials. Although, the absence of this path today illustrates that the area was involved in the landscaping of the 19th century, and this could have interfered with the archaeological evidence.

The recently published (Smith, 2004) 1606 draft map of Hereford by John Speede indicates a cross in the north-east of the Close (Figure 4). However, on his 1610 map of Herefordshire, which includes an inset plan of the city, the cross is shown to the west of the Chapter House. Likewise the illustrations that illuminate the border of Taylor's 1757 map depict a preaching cross in the Lady Arbour, which, like the Chapter House, is to the south of the cathedral.

However, if Speede were to have employed artistic licence on his plans, it would seem more likely that he would have done so on the finished article, rather than his reconnaissance sketches. Also, whereas Taylor depicts the Lady Arbour cross as being very similar to the one at Blackfriars Priory, Speede's crosses are very different, with the Priory cross being clearly labelled as a 'pulpit' (Figure 5). This discrepancy could suggest that a separate cross did exist on the north of the Close, but for aesthetic's sake was indicated near the Chapter House on the 1610 map, and was absent entirely by the time of Taylor, perhaps a victim of the Puritans during the Civil War.

figure 4: The cathedral on John Speede's 1606 draft of the map of Hereford, indicating a cross on the north-east of the Close

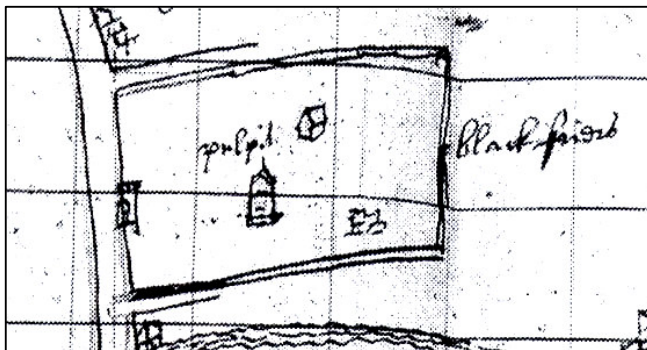
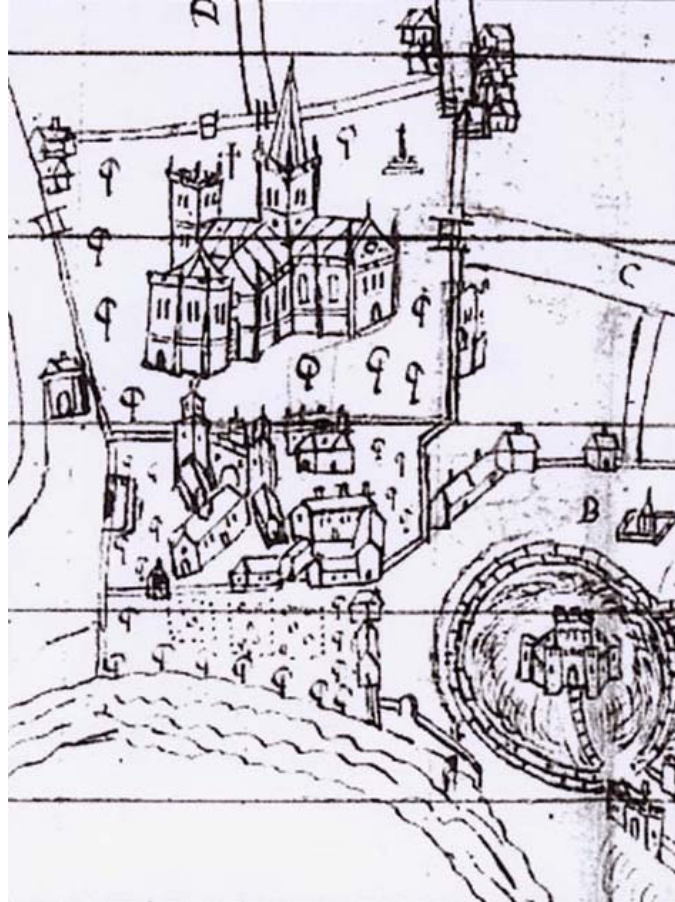


figure 5: Blackfriars' Priory on Speede's 1606 draft, with the preaching cross annotated as 'pulpit'

2.3 Archaeological background

In July 1991 a borehole survey was carried out in association with the excavation of the New Library Building. The cores were examined by the City of Hereford Archaeology Unit, who stressed that archaeological interpretation from such boreholes could only be provisional. However, the cores suggested that there were archaeological deposits up to 1 metre thick below the cemetery deposits, which were themselves up to 0.6 metres thick, and covered by a similar thickness of further occupation material (Stone and Appleton-Fox, 1996, 17).

It seems likely that the case would be similar on the north of the Close, although perhaps with less emphasis upon the cemetery deposits, the area having been available for burials for a shorter period. Also, the burials would be likely to occur closer to the surface, for it can be inferred from the 1757 map that the north of the Close was landscaped, whereas the 0.6 metre depth of 'further occupation material' indicated in the borehole could suggest that less or no soil was removed from the south during the 19th century developments. This idea is given further credence by the discovery of burials very close to the surface during various investigations at the east end of the Lady Chapel in 1998 and 2000.

3.0 Project aims and objectives

The aim of the project was to record any archaeological remains on the site of the proposed statue.

The objectives were:-

To hand excavate a trench to the specifications laid out in the plan drawn by the project architect Vernon Thurgood RIBA

To make a record of any archaeological features or deposits exposed.

To retrieve any all finds and any environmental material recovered

4.0 Methodology

4.1 Field methodology

The following methodology was employed: -

A single trench was excavated in accordance with the stipulations laid out in the plan drawn by the project architect Vernon Thurgood RIBA:

The trench formed a half-oval shape, measuring 6 metres east-west at the widest point, and 4 metres north-south. Within this half-oval, measuring a metre in width from the limit of excavation, the base for a gravel path was dug at a depth of 0.2 metres below surface level which followed the contours of the slope. The path-base on the north side of the trench was orientated with the line of the lime trees to the west, and thus was slightly angled across the trench, measuring some 0.8 metres out from the tarmac road on the west end, and only 0.5 metres from it on the east. This part of the path-base had to be sunk to a depth of 0.4 metres, rather than the preferred 0.2 metres, due to the unstable rotten roots present in the north of the trench. The innermost 0.3 metres of the path-base was sunk a further 0.1 metres (except for the stretch on the north side) to accommodate the footings of the plinth, and the remaining 4 metres x 3 metres in the middle of the trench was excavated on a level plain measuring 0.5 metres below surface at the southern, shallowest extremity.

All excavation was conducted by hand, and two qualified archaeologists were on site at all times. The archaeologists were David Wychbold, Samuel Meadows, PJ Pikes and Nicholas Vaughan.

An assessment of the archaeological significance of finds, structures and deposits was made and appropriate action taken

Archaeological and natural features were recorded accurately on a suitably scaled plan, and stratigraphic sequences were recorded in section drawings

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

Significant features were, where possible, photographed next to an appropriate scale. Each photographic exposure was recorded in the photographic log

The presence of artefacts was recorded with a description of their type, quantity and original location

Staff carrying out the excavation 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 cleaned, conserved and catalogued

All data were entered into a Microsoft Access relational database.

5.0 The results

5.1 *The stratigraphy*

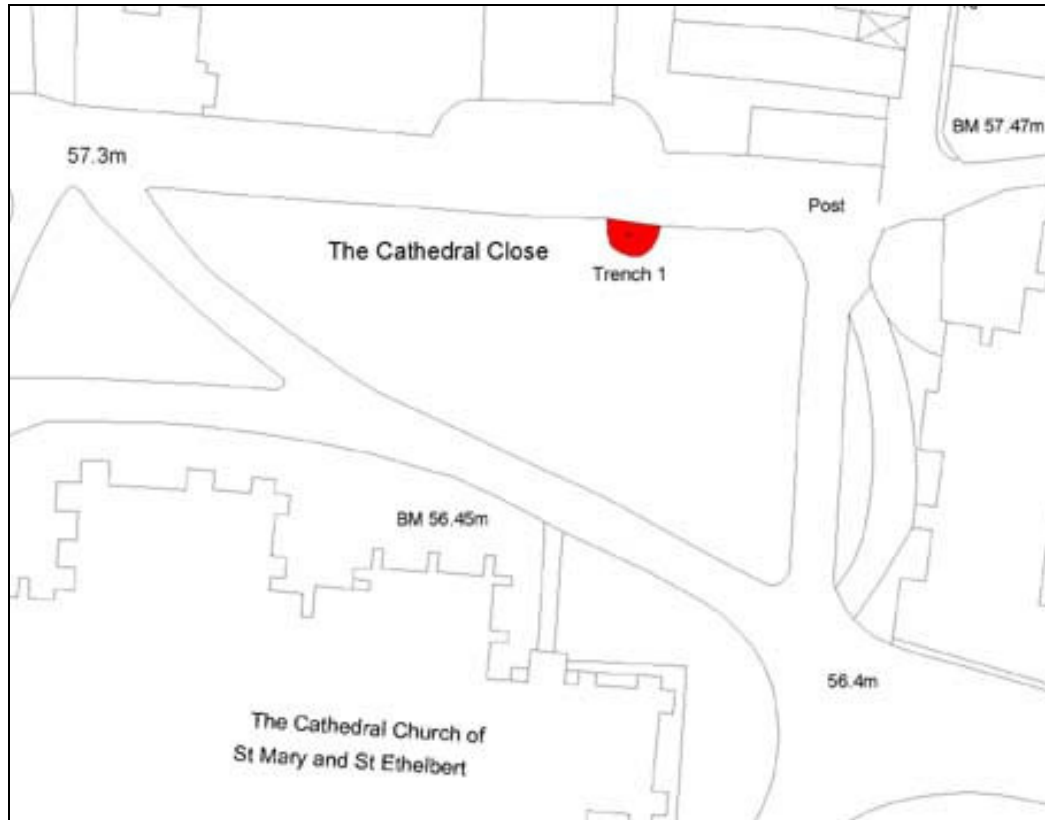


figure 6: location of the trench in the Cathedral Close

The turf and topsoil, (context 1), measured 0.1 - 0.15 metres in thickness and contained a mix of post-medieval and modern artefacts including fragments of 19th century clay pipe bowl and stem, a piece of a circa 18th century onion bottle, and what appears to be the ferrule of a 20th century paint brush.

Underlying topsoil 1 was 3, a generic number for the roots and bole of the lime tree that fell down in 2000. These roots extended beyond the limit of excavation on all sides and below the base of the trench and will have caused a great deal of mixing between the different archaeological horizons. The bole was loosely filled in 2000 with context 4, a red-brown clay that contained modern detritus (Figure 7).

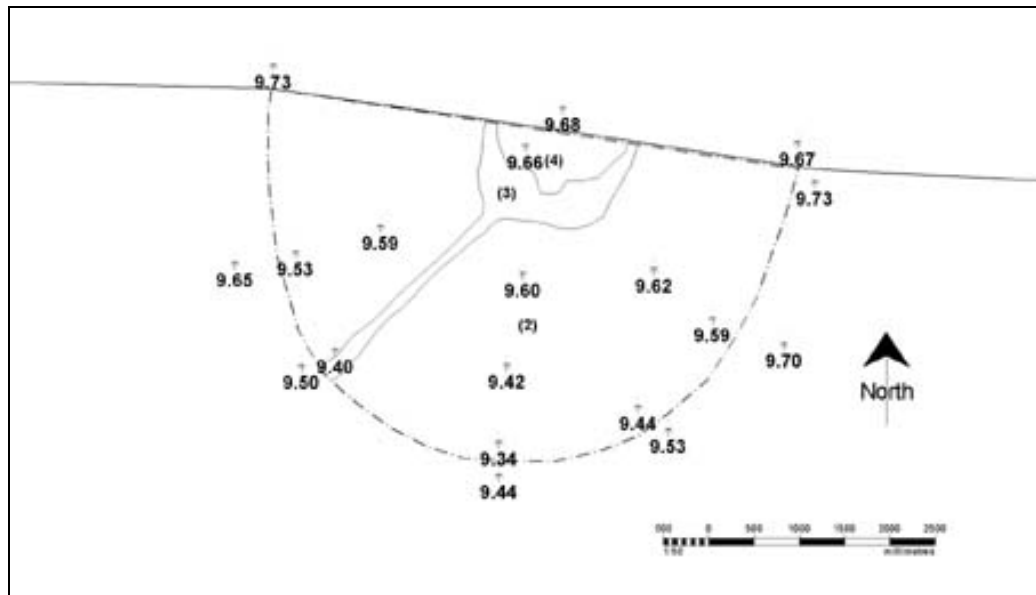


figure 7: The trench at a depth of 0.1 metres

Earlier than 3 was a gravelly layer (2) roughly 0.2 metres deep that extended across most of the trench, and contained many pieces of disarticulated human and animal bone. The most diagnostic bone was a human radius (figure 14), but the vast majority was very fragmentary; and often it was impossible to tell whether the bone was human or not. There was a number of animal teeth recovered, including those of sheep and pig. It is known that there were pigs on the Close in the medieval period because it is mentioned that they rooted up the corpses. The layer had been recently interfered with by the roots of the lime tree, but the mixing was such (for instance the juxtaposition of 19th century clay marbles, medieval pottery and a prehistoric worked flint), that it appears to be material that was excavated and then levelled in the 19th century as part of the landscaping process. Given that the topsoil (1), peeled off this gravelly layer quite readily, it may be that gravel extracted from elsewhere was placed over the levelled soil to conceal any exposed bone, but it soon became interspersed and less distinct due to the root action.

Gravel layer 2 overlay very gravelly layer 7. This contained a handful of fragmentary bones, but it was not possible to determine whether they were human or animal. The tree bole (3), had divided this context into two halves. It seems likely that 7 represents redeposited gravel, possibly associated with the post-medieval gravel extraction near the New Library Building, or the remainder of spoil excavated for a grave. Within the context was a piece of green glazed jug handle (figure 13), dating to around the 14th century. However this does not represent a date for the context itself, as it could well have been removed from an earlier context when the gravel was dug out.

If layer 7 does represent the spoil of a grave, it would have been one of the last interments in the cemetery, because this part of the Close only became available after the withdrawal of the canonical grounds in the late-17th or early-18th century. Layer 7 is probably of roughly the same date as a very thin band of pebbly clay (5) that contained no finds (Figure 11). It too was probably the remains of spoil dug for a grave or another function.

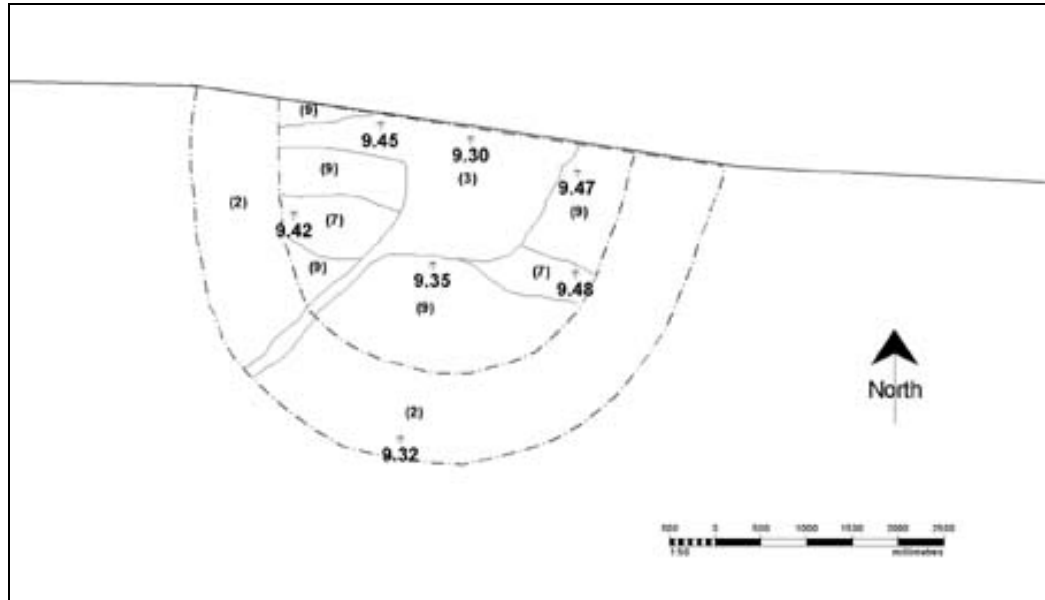


figure 8: Contexts 7 and 9

Context 9, which after the removal of the tree bole was found to be the same as context 6, measured roughly 0.35 metres in thickness and covered the majority of the site. It contained many fragments of disarticulated bone. Once again, the poor preservation of the bone made it impossible in most cases to distinguish whether it belonged to a human or animal, although some teeth were those of sheep and cow, and there were fragments of jaw and skull which were clearly human (figure 14). The datable evidence within 9 included medieval green glazed pottery, fragments of 18th century onion bottles and 19th century clay pipes, showing that the layer had been greatly mixed.

Context 9 does not, however, seem to represent a phase of levelling material like gravel 2. Context 7, which overlies it, was undisturbed until the 20th century root action, and so 9 could not have been interfered with in the landscaping of 1850-1851. Nor would it appear to represent an earlier phase of levelling, as it seems unlikely that the workmen would have dug to this depth only to level it flat again, especially, as John Eisel suggests (Hoverd, 1998, 3) in reference to the 19th century programme, soil was *removed* from the Close, not simply flattened out. This is supported by the evidence that suggests that this part of the Close would not have required such drastic levelling anyway, having been available for burials for a shorter period of time than the main part of the Close. One would also have expected to find a greater amount of bone should the capacity have been exhausted, whereas only a scattering of fragments was revealed. It seems most reasonable to describe layer 9 as a cemetery deposit, but one that has suffered a great deal of root action and mixing. If context 7 is grave spoil, it represents the final activity of this cemetery layer.

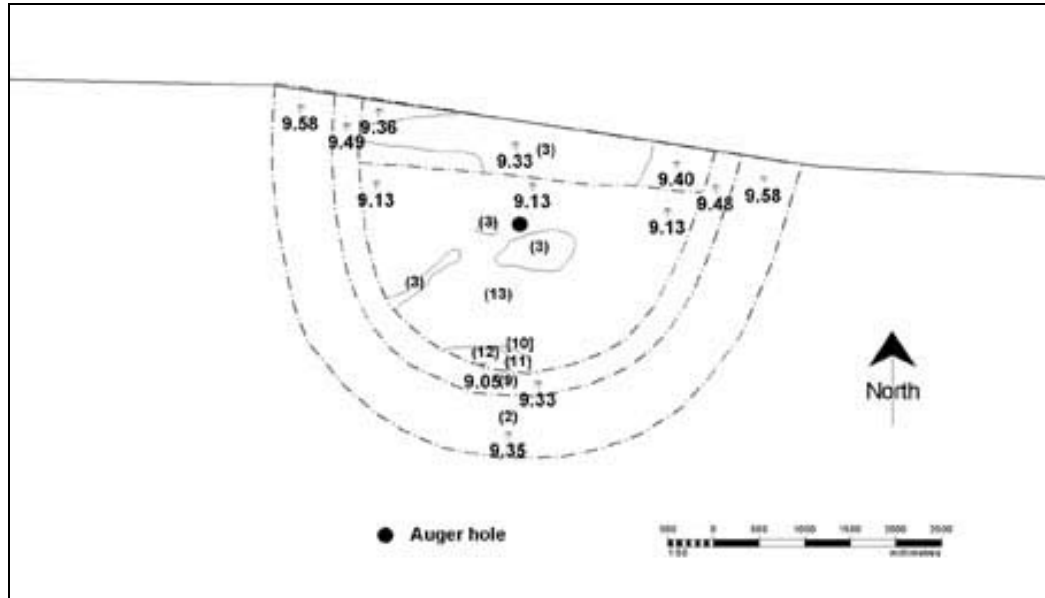


figure 9: final trench plan

Beneath context 9 lay cut 10, which had a lower fill (11) and upper fill (12) (figure 10). The cut extended beyond the limit of excavation, and was only revealed at the very extent of the predetermined depth of the trench. As such, its shape and depth could not be investigated. Fill 11 was a red-brown clay, devoid of the gravel seen in the overlying 9 and the underlying layer 13. Later than 11, was a tightly packed layer of angular stones (12) measuring roughly 50 - 100 millimetres in diameter. This appears to be the cut, bedding and stones for a surface. Taylor's 1757 map indicates a path on a north-east/south-west alignment in the direction of St. John's Street, and it may be the edge of this, or a precursor to this, that was uncovered. A precursor seems more likely, as Taylor's paths were probably removed rather than buried. However, without being able to reveal a greater proportion of the feature, linking it to a path would be a little tenuous. It may be the edge of a cut for a grave, or simply a filled tree bole; there having been many trees planted on the precinct.

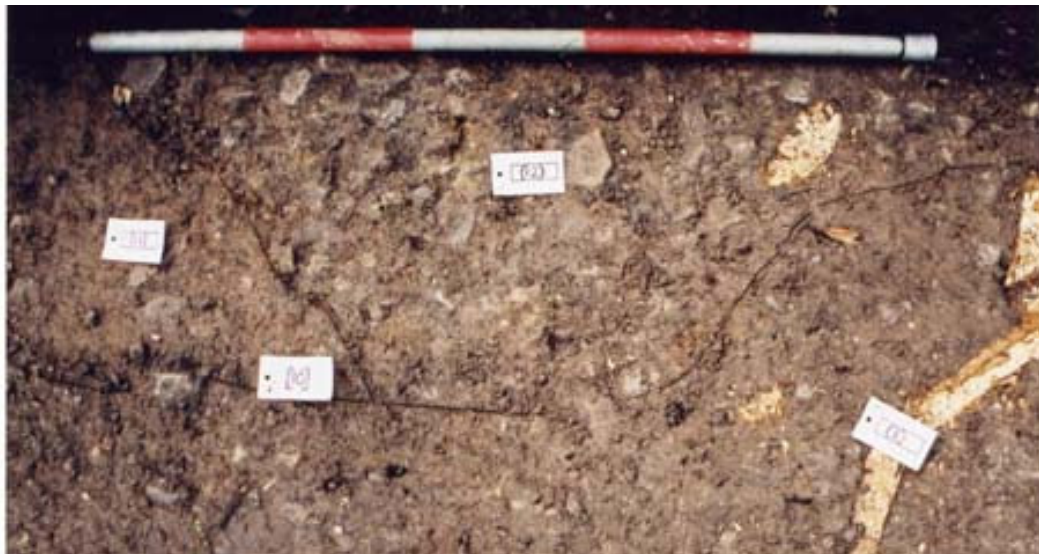


figure 10: the possible stone surface

At the bottom of the trench was layer 12. It was very similar to context 9, having been mixed together by root action. A small amount of fragmentary, disarticulated bone was retrieved, indicating that it was a cemetery layer. An auger was used to investigate the depth, but could not be sunk further than 0.55 metres (1.05 metres below surface level, Figure 11), at which depth it struck a stone or solid gravel.

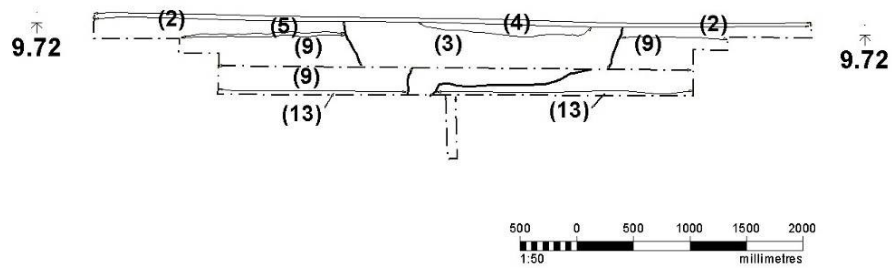


figure 11: south facing section, including auger hole



figure 12: the fully excavated trench, looking south-east

The stratigraphic matrix for the excavation is included in the Appendix on page 22.

5.2 The finds

Pottery

All retained pottery was hand washed, dried, and marked with a site identification code and individual context number. The pottery was then bagged. Initial bulk recording of the pottery was by context, for which total weight and number of body sherds, handles and other diagnostic sherds was entered into the database. The total weight of the retained pottery was 430g.

Table 1: The pottery breakdown from trench 1

Context	Pottery Type	Date
1	1 post-medieval	19 th century
2	10 medieval (6 green glazed) 23 post-medieval (1 slipware, 2 Westerwald tankard body sherds, 5 transfer printed).	c.14 th century - 19 th century
3	1 medieval 3 post-medieval (1 Westerwald)	c.14 th century - 18 th century
7	1 medieval (green glazed jug handle)	c.14 th century
9	7 medieval (4 green glazed) 13 post-medieval	c.14 th c – 18 th century

Comment

All the pottery was redeposited. This was shown by the mixture of medieval and post-medieval pottery within the same context and the fact that most sherds were no more than 20 millimetres in diameter, suggesting that they had been disturbed on numerous occasions.

The modern tree bole and associated root disturbance (3), cut through all contexts and contained medieval and post-medieval pottery. Context 2 was a 19th century levelling layer, and contained a similar mixture of medieval and post-medieval sherds, including two fragments roughly 30 millimetres across of a Westerwald drinking tankard with combed lines. Context 7 contained a medieval green glazed jug handle (Figure 13), although this would have been redeposited as spoil from a grave or another cut feature that was not revealed. Context 9 showed a similar trend of medieval and post-medieval pottery redeposited and mixed by burial activity.



figure 13: green-glazed jug handle from context 7

Given the redeposited nature of the pottery, and the small size of the sherds, the potential of the assemblage for further research would be limited.

It was also thought that an examination of the bones by a specialist would prove largely uninformative, due to the bones having been removed from their original contexts and their preservation being so poor. However, the fragments of human jaw containing teeth were shown to Dr Janice Scott, a qualified dentist, who identified one as belonging to an adult, and the second, which showed the eruption of adult teeth, to a juvenile (*pers comm*). The latter also bore visible evidence of an abscess. Other diagnostic pieces of bone included examples of the right supra-orbital margin from two human skulls.



figure 14: a selection of human bone from contexts 9 (left) and 2

The bones were cleaned, recorded and photographed before being reburied within the trench in two places that corresponded as closely as possible to where they were excavated from. This also reduced the possibility of subsidence caused by burying a relatively large collection of bone in one place. The bones from context 2 and 7 were re-interred within context 2 against the outer edge of the eastern path-base, and were covered with a layer of spoil. Those from context 9 and 13 were reburied near the middle of the central half-oval of the trench, to avoid any subsidence of the concrete that might occur if they had been buried towards the edge, and were again covered with spoil.

Other finds included five 19th century clay marbles from context 2, and also a piece of medieval masonry from context 7. It was roughly cylindrical in shape, although a scar on the back indicated that it had broken from another piece. It measured 170 millimetres in length, and 80 millimetres in diameter, and was probably a component of window tracery (Figure 15).

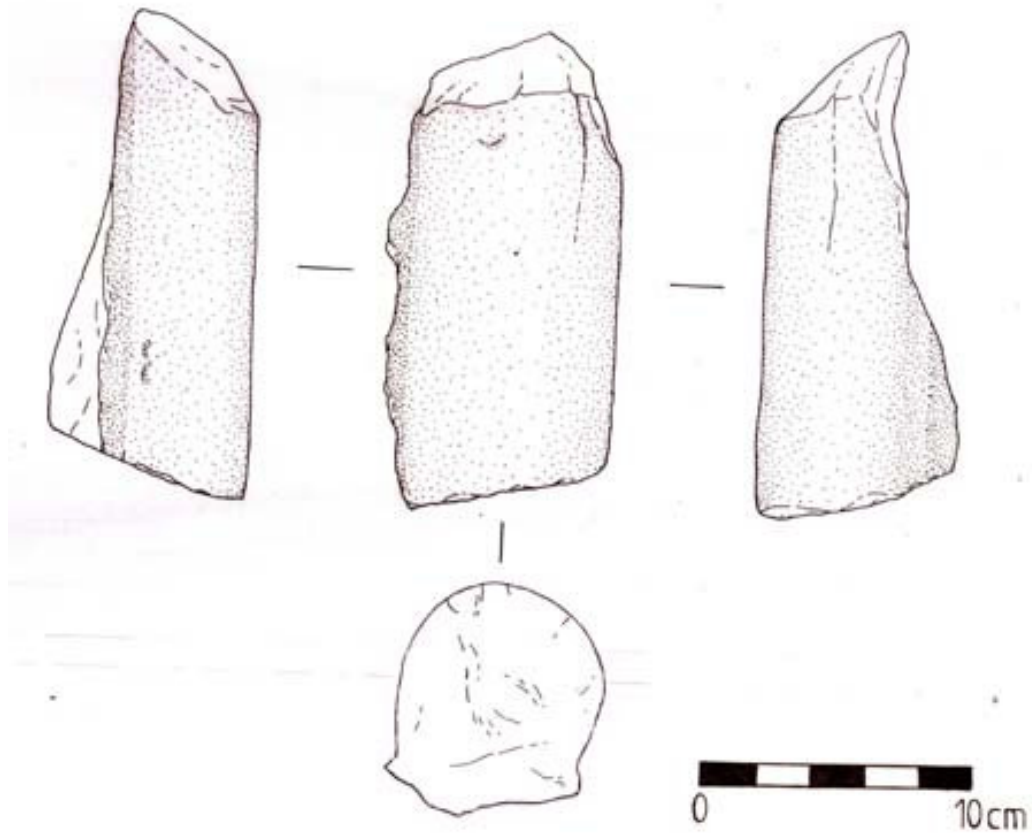


figure 15: masonry from context 7

6.0 Conclusions

The scatter of fragmentary animal and human bone near the surface, and the mixture of medieval and post-medieval artefacts is indicative of the levelling and landscaping that took place in the Cathedral Close between 1850 and 1851. Below this, the cemetery layers largely represent a further mixing of bone and material which can be explained by the repeated use of the same soil for burials, and by root action. The lack of articulated bones, or even relatively well preserved disarticulated ones, is an indication that the north of the Close was not used as a burial ground for as long as the rest of the precinct, becoming available only after the reduction of the grounds of the canonical houses in the late-17th or early-18th century.

The area of excavation lay well within the Saxon city, and it is thought that the pre-conquest east-west road was intersected by Bishop Reinhelm's Norman cathedral. However, no evidence was found relating to the Saxon settlement.

7.0 Archive deposition

The primary project archive, consisting of the excavated material original 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 Museum.

A copy of the digital archive, stored on CD and consisting of context and artefact 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 Hereford Museum, except the human and animal bone, which has been reburied on-site.

On completion of the fieldwork and the processing, collation, recording and analysis of the finds from the excavation, all retained finds will be handed over to the museum staff, along with the project archive, which consists of copies of the report on paper and CD, the project database, site and inked drawings, and photographs. 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 Archaeologist to the Dean and Chapter (Ron Shoesmith), 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 Club.

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 Archenfield Archaeology.



figure 16: Jemma Pearson's statue of Sir Edward Elgar

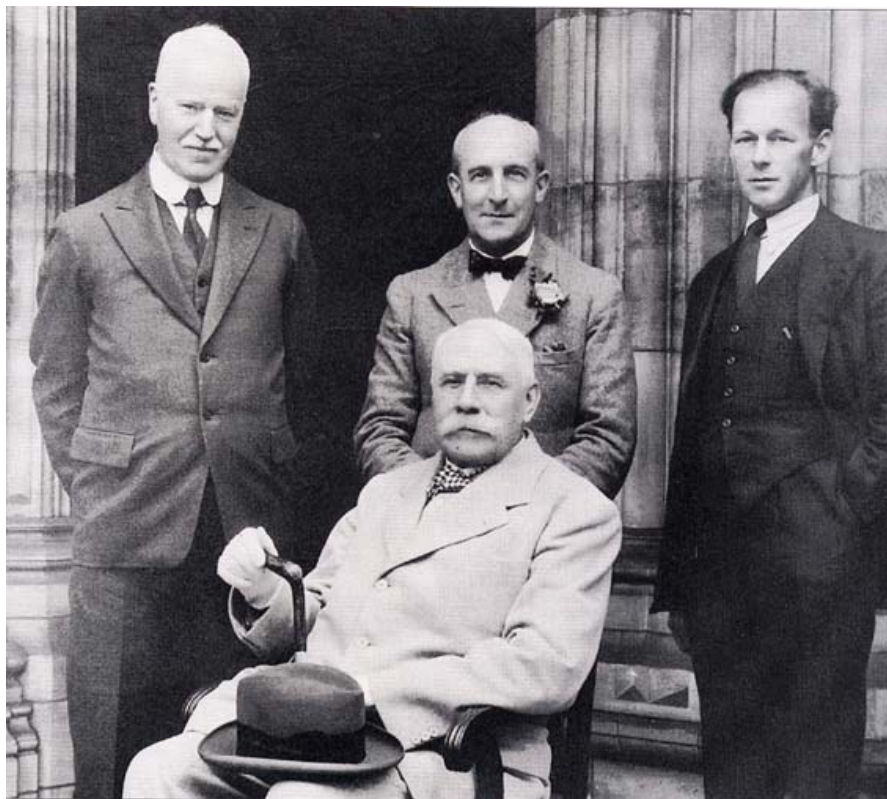
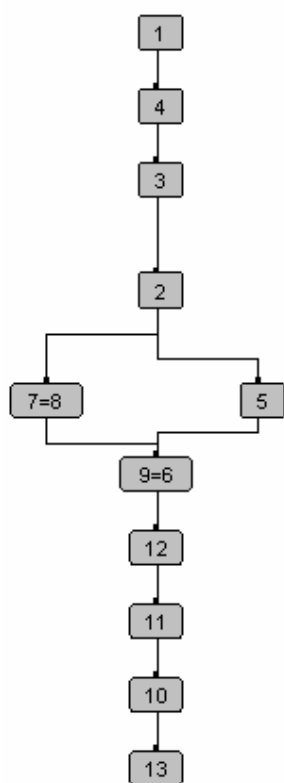


figure 17: Sir Edward Elgar (foreground) outside Hereford Cathedral in 1933, flanked by organists (left-right) Sir Ivor Atkins, Dr Percy Hull and Herbert Sumsion.

© Reproduced by kind permission of the Dean and Chapter of Hereford.

Appendix: Harris Matrix of the Cathedral Close excavation



Bibliography

Aylmer G and Tiller J, 2000	<i>Hereford Cathedral: A History</i> , The Hambledon Press, London
Brandon A and Hains B A, 1981	<i>Geological notes and local details for 1:10,000 sheets SO43NE, SO44SE, SO53NW and SO54SW Hereford City</i> . Institute of Geological Sciences
Bumpus T F, 1927	<i>The cathedrals of England and Wales</i> , T. Werner Laurie Ltd, London
Garmonsway G N, 1975	<i>The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle</i> , J M Dent and Sons Ltd, London
Hoverd T, 1998	<i>Cathedral Close, Hereford. Archaeological investigation of a void at the east end of the Lady Chapel</i> , unpublished report by Archaeological Investigations Ltd
Morgan P, 1976	<i>The Cathedral Close</i> , Friends of Hereford Cathedral, 42nd Annual Report
Richter M, 1973	<i>Canterbury Professions</i> , Canterbury and York Society
Shoesmith R, 1995	<i>The Civil War in Hereford</i> , Logaston Press, Almeley
Shoesmith R, 2000	The Close and its buildings, in Aylmer and Tiller 2000, pp 293-310
Smith B, 2004	<i>Herefordshire Maps 1577 to 1800</i> , Logaston Press, Almeley
Stone R and Appleton-Fox N, 1996	<i>A View from Hereford's Past</i> , Logaston Press, Almeley
Tomlinson H, 2000	Restoration to Reform, 1660-1832, in Aylmer and Tiller 2000, pp 109-155

Cartographic Material

Ordnance Survey, 1923

1:25000 pl. County Series, Herefordshire Sheet, XXXIX. NE

Isaac Taylor, Map of Hereford, 1757

John Speed, draft for Hereford city, 1st September 1606

Merton College, Oxford, D3/30, no 7

Copyright

Archenfield Archaeology will retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documents, under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1998 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provide an exclusive licence to the client for use of such documents by the client in all matters relating to the project.

