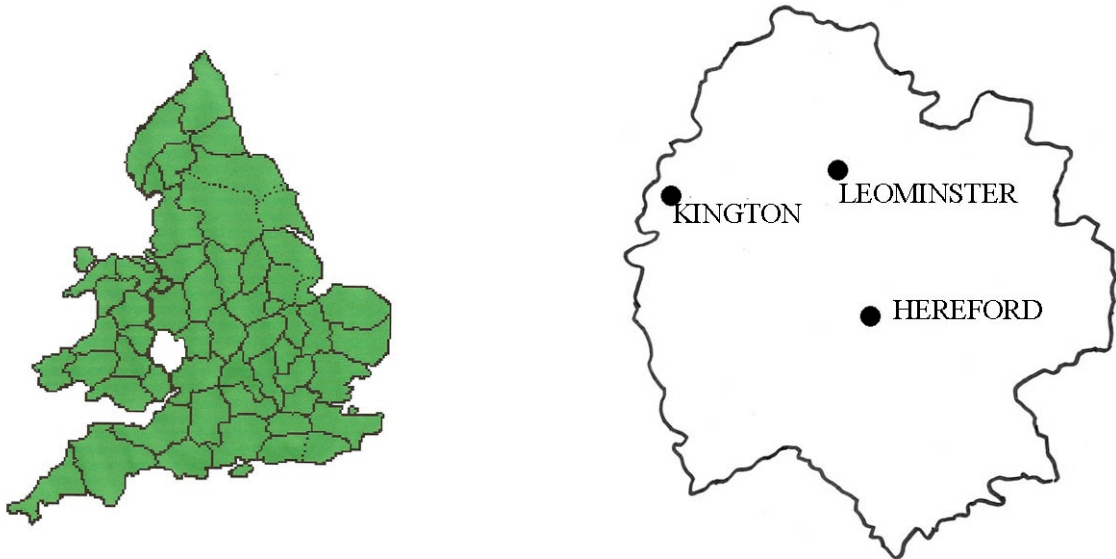


HEREFORDSHIRE



Herefordshire is an English county bordered to the west by Wales. On the English side the adjacent counties are Shropshire, Worcestershire, and Gloucestershire. There was a single inspector for the whole county from 1834 until 1858, when the police force took over.



The county is mainly rural, and even the ancient boroughs of Hereford and Leominster are quite small. The former shared the county inspectors from about 1917 onwards, and the latter was too small to be a Weights and Measures Authority after 1889.

The town of Kington lies very close to the Welsh border. It claimed to be an ancient borough, but by the beginning of the nineteenth century it was in fact governed by a manorial Court Leet, at which 'fish and flesh tasters and inspectors of weights and measures' were appointed annually. There is record of this practice in 1836, but Kington never had standards and presumably the county inspector took over soon afterwards.

There is no evidence of specialist scale makers until the twentieth century, and then only in Hereford itself.

In 1974 Herefordshire and Worcestershire were united to form a single administrative county, but they were separated again in 1998, when Herefordshire became a unitary authority.

A: Inspection by the County of HEREFORDSHIRE

Dates	Events	Marks	Comments
1825	One set of standards [13] issued to Andrew Thompson, clerk to the magistrates [Sbk].		Before 1834 examiners were appointed for the 11 hundreds.
1834	Andrew Thompson appointed inspector for the whole county.		The mark used from 1834 until 1858 incorporated the initials of Andrew Thompson and his son Arthur.
1854	Arthur Thompson replaced his father [HJ 4/1/54].		
1857/8	Police force set up. At the January 1858 Quarter Sessions the superintendents for 11 divisions were appointed as inspectors of WM. Two more sets of standards [1220-1221] issued.		There were originally 11 police divisions, eventually combined to make 7 for WM purposes. No divisional marks are known.
1859	Whitney division absorbed by Weobley, Wigmore by Leominster.		James Telfer was chief constable 1857-95 and was listed as IWM in 1873 [SBk] and 1888 [AR].
1872	Harewood End became part of Ross.		
1875	Abbey Dore became part of Hereford.		
1879	No. 214 issued.		




¶ A bronze 4oz weight made between 1826 and 1830, with mark of Andrew Thompson or his son Arthur.

Police superintendents as inspectors 1858-90 [G56/6]

<p><i>AbbeyDore (1858-75)</i> Thomas Blossett 1858-62& William Blunsden 1862-70& George Tanner &1870-75</p> <p><i>Bromyard</i> Daniel Harwood 1858-75& Thomas Ovens 1875-90</p> <p><i>Harewood End(1858-72)</i> Samuel Langdon 1858-59 Charles Hopton &1859-62& Thomas Blossett &1862-68& William Shead &1868-72&</p> <p><i>Hereford (and Abbey Dore)</i> Charles Briscoe 1858 Charles Wilson &1858-74 William Cope &1874-90</p>	<p><i>Kington:</i> John Humphries 1858 William Shead &1859-68& Thomas Blossett &1868-75 Daniel Harwood &1875-79 Richard Edwards 1879-90</p> <p><i>Ledbury:</i> George Tanner 1858-70& William Blunsdon &1870-81 James Smith &1881-87 Andrew Cope 1887-90</p> <p><i>Leominster (and Wigmore)</i> Thomas Dykes 1858-82 Richard Strangward 1882-90</p> <p><i>Wigmore (1858-59)</i> William Shead 1858& Charles Hopton 1858-59&</p>	<p><i>Ross (and Harewood End)</i> Edward Burrige 1858-62 Charles Hopton &1862-64 Edwin Moore 1864-68 William Cope 1868-74& George Smith 1874-90</p> <p><i>Weobly (and Whitney)</i> Samuel Langdon 1858& Robert Dallow 1858-72 William Shead &1872-81 George Ovens 1881-90</p> <p><i>Whitney (1858-59)</i> Charles Wilson 1858& Thomas Simpson 1858-59</p>
--	--	--



¶ A brass 2oz weight made in the reign of William IV. There are two Herefordshire county marks. At the bottom is the mark of Andrew or Arthur Thompson, the inspectors from 1834 until 1858. Near the top is the crowned VR/CH mark used by the police from 1858 until 1879.

Dates	Events	Marks	Comments
1889	Hereford CC set up; county took over inspection from Leominster. The county inspector was also inspector for the Borough of Hereford from c1914 to 1950.		<p>Qualified inspectors:</p> <p>T.P.B. Giles (q1890/1-1914) Harold Lovesey (q1914-43) J. C. Hanks (1936-74, chief 1943-74) [MR 74:219]</p>
1950	Number 214 still in use. Bo. of Hereford made a formal arrangement with county.		
1974	Authority transferred to the new county of Hereford and Worcester		



¶ A weight used as a county standard from 1903 onwards. The number 2725 is the indenture number, and there are several ‘portcullis’ marks indicating that it was reverified regularly by the Standards Department of the Board of Trade. .

B: Localities with separate jurisdiction in the county of HEREFORDSHIRE

Locality	Status	Marks		Dates & Notes
		Non-uniform	Number pre-1951	
Hereford	AncBo MB:1835 qsb	H·C 1835 ◊ H.C ◊ ◊ G.J ◊	366	s:1835 r:1867 n:1880-1950

The inspector appointed in 1834/5 was William Howells, sword-bearer and magistrates' clerk. In 1837 he was replaced by George James [HT 18/8/37], whose initials appear in a new verification mark. James served until 1849 when he was succeeded by Francis Woodhouse Hollings [HJ 10/10/1849].

In 1867 the borough standards were reverified and there was great concern about the effectiveness of the inspection. Hollings resigned and, after some debate, Thomas Hodges was appointed [HJ 20/7/1867]. At this time the inspection became part of the duties of the market constable.

Daniel Ovens was appointed as IWM in 1870. He was mentioned as the inspector in 1874 [SBk] and 1876 [L], and in the Census of 1881 his occupation was given as market constable. He was listed as IWM in 1896 [AR] and, despite not having qualified, he was still listed in the Inspectors Handbook for 1912-13. By 1922 the borough was sharing the county inspector Harold Ernest Lovesey (up to 1943) and then J. C. Hanks (up to 1974). In 1950 authority was formally transferred to the county.

The City of Hereford Museum has the standard capacity measures from 1835, and weights dated 1904 and 1907.





¶ A bronze 11lb weight made in London before 1826 and stamped with the marks of the Founders Company. There are three marks comprising the initials H.C and the date 1835, which indicate the Hereford Corporation.



¶ **Left** A brass weight with two ‘diamond’ marks: GJ for George James, the inspector from 1837 to 1849, and HC for Hereford Corporation

Right A bronze ½lb weight, originally stamped with the crowned GR mark of the examiners before 1830, and a single HC ‘diamond’ mark, probably indicating that it was verified by one of the later Hereford inspectors.

Kington The Manor of Kington and Huntington was partly in Herefordshire and partly in Wales. Appointments of ‘fish and flesh tasters and inspectors of weights and measures’ were made annually by the Court Leet in the years 1809-1836. In the last year, William Lilwall and John Coates were appointed to these positions [D56/82]. The manorial authority appears to have ceased soon afterwards.

<p>Leominster</p>	<p>AncBo MB:1835 cp</p>	<p>   </p>	<p>---</p>	<p>s:1826 r:1867</p>
<p>The initials JPB in the first mark are those of Joseph Powell Bradford, the inspector appointed in 1834/5, who was also inspector for Ludlow in Shropshire. In 1847, following complaints about his lack of activity [HJ 10/2/1847], Bradford resigned and was replaced by David Lloyd, a watchmaker and silversmith [HJ 29/12/1847]. In 1848 Lloyd was carrying out the inspector's duties [HT 7/10/1848]. In 1853 Thomas Be[a]van was appointed [HT 9/11/53], and he was active as the inspector in 1854 [HT 8/18/1854]. He was probably a land agent, as reported in 1866, and was listed in 1868 [L].</p> <p>The superintendent of the borough police force from 1866 to 1889 was George Johnson, who was listed as the inspector in 1876 [L]. The second mark shown was said to be in use in 1882 [AR]. Johnson was still listed as IWM in 1885 [K]. The borough was disqualified as a WMA in 1889 because its population was less than 10,000, and the police force was amalgamated with the county force.</p>				



¶ A brass 1oz weight with the Leominster mark and an enlargement of a similar mark on another weight.

C: The trade in Herefordshire

HEREFORD	
Avery	<p>In 1907 W. & T. Avery advertised that they would display their machines at the Hereford Cattle Fair, and by 1913 [K] they had set up shop in the city.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercial Road <1913-50> • Union Walk (possibly the same premises) <1955-68>
Griffin	<p>Arthur H. Griffin founded a firm of scale makers in Coventry around 1912. By 1926 [KMT] he had branches in Dudley and Hereford. The firm was acquired by Avery in 1958.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 39 Commercial Road <1926-58.
Hereford Scale	<p>Hereford Scale Company, established 1976.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Vaga St 1976-2024>

HEREFORD CATTLE FAIR,
OCTOBER 15th & 16th.
W. & T. AVERY, Ltd.,
BIRMINGHAM,
AND 29, KING STREET, GLOUCESTER,
Weighing Machinists and Butchers'
Outfitters,
 Will have on View at the above Fair
 a large selection of
Butchers' and Farmers' Scales, Weights, Steel-
yards, Tools and Cutlery, and Dairy Appliances
of our guaranteed quality.
REPAIRS AT MAYLORD STREET.

¶ Advertisement from the *Hereford Journal* 12 November 1907. The 'Repairs at Maylord Street' may refer to the City Weights and Measure Office which was located in that street.

References for Herefordshire

Published works

1. Vera Hadley. *Herefordshire Constabulary 1857-1967*, Vera Hadley, Hereford, 1999.
Contains useful information on the county police force.

Directories

- H. Hunt's Directory for ... Hereford ... [N370] 1847.
- La. Lascelles Directory of Herefordshire [N371, ST558] 1851.
- K. Kelly's Post Office Directory of Herefordshire [ST559] 1856-1941.
- C. Cassey's ... Directory of Herefordshire [ST560] 1858.
- S. Slater's Directory of ... Herefordshire [N89, ST29] 1859, 1868.
- L. Littlebury's ... Directory of ... Herefordshire [ST 561, ST563] 1867, 1876.
- J. Jakeman and Carver's Directory ... of Herefordshire [ST564] 1890, 1914.
- KH. Kelly's Directory of Hereford ... [ST573] 1928-1939.
- KMT Kelly's Mechanical Trades Directory 1926, 1932.

Newspapers

HJ: Hereford Journal

HT: Hereford Times

Original documents

Herefordshire Archives

Q/SM/28: Minutes of Quarter Sessions, noting appointments and recognizances for the county inspectors of weights and measures 1858-59.

G56/6: Personal records of constabulary, 1857-1891.

D/65/61-82: Records of the Manor of Kington and Huntington, with annual appointments of 'fish and flesh tasters and inspectors of weights and measures', 1809-1836.

Personal Communications

R.P. Holdaway: list of old weights and measures in Hereford City Museum (c.1997).