

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 [D/65/61-82]. This practice appears to have stopped after the Acts of 1834-35, when presumably the county inspector took over.

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.
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.		
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 Burridge 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>	

¶ Brass 2oz weight with two Herefordshire county marks. At the bottom is the mark of Andrew Thompson, the sole inspector 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 c1917 to 1950.	 VR 214	<p>Qualified inspectors:</p> <p>T.P.B. Giles (q1890/1-1914) H. 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 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	<p>H·C 1835</p> 	366	s:1835 r:1867 n:1880-1950
<p>The inspector appointed in 1834/5 was William Howells, sword-bearer and magistrates' clerk. In 1847 [H] the inspector was James George, described as a 'law and public officer', while in 1856 [K] and 1859 [S] it was Francis Woodhouse Hollins. In 1866 there was a full-time inspector, probably Thomas Hodges, who was listed in 1868 [S].</p> <p>Daniel Ovens was mentioned as IWM in 1874 [SBk] and 1876 [L]. In 1881 [Census] his occupation was given as market constable. He was listed as IWM in 1896 [AR] and continued until c1917, despite not qualifying. Thereafter the borough shared the county inspectors, H. Lovesey (c1917-43) and J. C. Hanks (1943-74). In 1950 authority was formally transferred to the county.</p> <p>The City of Hereford Museum has the standard capacity measures from 1835, and weights dated 1904 and 1907.</p>				
<p>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, but appear to have ceased when the county appointed a full-time inspector [D/65/61-82].</p>				
Leominster	AncBo MB:1835 cp	 	---	s:1826 r:1867
<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. Thomas Beavan was listed as inspector in 1847 and 1868 [S]. He was probably a land agent, as reported in 1866.</p> <p>In 1876 [L], the superintendent of the borough police force George Johnson (CC 1866-89) was IWM. 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 bronze 1lb 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 are believed to indicate the Hereford Corporation.

¶ A bronze ½lb weight originally stamped with the crowned GR mark of the examiners before 1835. The mark comprising the letters H.C in a diamond is believed to indicate the Hereford Corporation.



C: The trade in Herefordshire

HEREFORD	
Avery	First noted 1913 [K]. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commercial Road <1913-50>• Union Walk (possibly the same premises) <1955-68>
Griffin	Arthur H. Griffin, scale maker [1926 KMT]. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 39 Commercial Road <1926-58 Griffin's firm also had branches in Coventry (the main branch) and Dudley. It was acquired by Avery in 1958.
Hereford Scale	Hereford Scale Company, established 1976. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 Vaga St <2007>

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.

Original documents

Herefordshire Record Office

Q/SM/28: Minutes of Quarter Sessions, noting appointments and recognizances for the 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.