

# Hereford City Sculpture Trail



# The Walking Trail

**Hereford Public Art Walk Trail. Cathedral Close, Castle Green, St James, Bishops Meadow, Bartonsham, both banks of the River Wye and High Town. A 3¼ mile easy walk on good terrain, with two fields which could be avoided by taking a street alternative.**

Start and finish at Hereford Town Hall.

Take rear exit, cross East Street into Harley Court passage.

No 5 Harley Court was the home of "Leylines" man Alfred Watkins from 1919 to 1935.

Reach Cathedral Close, and

(1) *Sir Edward Elgar*, a bronze, life size statue of the composer leaning on his Sunbeam bicycle "Mr Phoebus", by Jemma Pearson.

Turn left in Close and left again into Castle Street. Turn right into Quay Street.

(Canon Gorton, Elgar's ill-fated "bodyguard" lived at Quay House, further down to the right).

But, turn left for

(2) *St Ethelbert's Well*: cast-iron drinking fountain, with sculpted 14th Century stone head.



After the murder of Ethelbert, King of the Angles, in 794, it is said that a spring arose at this spot when his body was rested on its way to burial. Hereford Cathedral, originally dedicated to St Mary, was by the end of the 10th century also dedicated to Saint Ethelbert.

Carry on up Castle Hill to follow top left



edge with views to

(3) *Nelson's Column* on Castle Green. Thomas Hardwick's 1809 ashlar column on base supporting an urn with dolphins.

Go right, behind bowling green, then turn left down easy access path to Mill Street. Head a little right to Wye Way. Turn right to

(4) *Old Hospital Swans*, a welded steel sculpture by Walenty Pytel of a pair of swans on an abstract base. It was commissioned by Laing Homes when the Old General Hospital Hereford was converted into apartments.



Retrace steps along drive and turn right along Nelson Street. Continue ahead along Harold Street.

Note inscription by the front door of the Volunteer Inn, referring to the Barracks opposite.

Continue into Crozen Lane, "Rotherwas ½". Keep ahead to Outfall Works Road. (Point a) is here - see later.) Turn right, passing Old Bone Mill to Greenway Bridge.

As you cross the bridge, you might like to muse that it was up to the left, beyond the railway bridge, that close contemporaries Sir Edward Elgar and Alfred Watkins were near neighbours. Here, above the left bank of the Wye, Elgar lived at Plas Gwyn from 1904 to 1911 and Watkins at Vineyard Croft from 1890 till 1919.

Follow the all surface track of Greenway for 460 metres to

**(5) *Sculptures of Elgar, Violette Szabo and Josie Pearson.*** Szabo, a Special Operations Executive during World War II, was the first woman to be awarded the George Cross. Before she "carved her name with pride", Violette spent many happy childhood days in Wormelow, six miles away.

Josie Pearson grew up in west Herefordshire at Brilley. Already an England wheelchair rugby player, she took the gold medal for discus in the 2012 Paralympics.



Return 460 metres to re-cross bridge.

Turn left for 25 metres and descend steps on right down into field on Three Choirs Way footpath.

(For the street alternative to steps and field, return right, instead, to Point a), signed Bartonsham, and follow Crozen Lane and Park Street to Point b)). Head left of telegraph pole towards far right corner of field. Turn right through gate/gap into second field, along line of telegraph poles, to reach walkers' gate. Exit. Head up into Green Street. (Point b) is at this end of Park Street.)

Turn left into Vicarage Road between almshouses and St James School.

Keep straight ahead down surfaced footpath, between fence and wall. Turn right to follow left bank of Wye to Victoria Footbridge.

(At this point you are walking one of Alfred Watkins's most famous leylines - linking Dinedor Camp, behind, the Cathedral Tower and All Saints Church, in front.)

Cross bridge. Turn left 230 metres to

**(6) *Sunken Galleon, a Thousand Ghosts.*** Wood and steel sculpture by Mariele Nuedecker.

Retrace steps back to a point level with the Victoria Footbridge to

(7) *A Fish's Eye View*. Metal sculpture by Chris Brammall, which depicts reeds, ripples in the water and, yes, fish. Follow riverbank footpath, to

(8) *Mappa Mundi Labyrinth*, with information board, and a few more paces to

(9) *Dan the bulldog*, John Tasker's wooden sculpture. Dan was the inspiration for Elgar's *Enigma Variation No. 11*.

(Also, it was on the opposite bank, sadly, that Elgar's "bodyguard" Canon Gorton slipped into the river in his wheelchair. He was found eleven days later at Mordiford.)

Beyond the tennis courts, either continue up steps, or by easy access to the left, to Wye Bridge. Cross river. Take first right into (what is) Gwynne Street, bearing its Nell Gwynn(e) birthplace plaque. Reach Palace Yard in front of St Mary and St Ethelbert's Cathedral. Pause to view

(10) *Jesus Christ the Apple Tree* stone mosaic outside west door, by Canon Sandy Elliott. Turn left along King Street. Cross to other side and continue along St Nicholas Street.

(Besieged by autograph hunters, Elgar took this route to his lodgings in Barton Road during the 1933 Three Choirs Festival.)



Turn right along Victoria Street.

Reach and cross West Street. Go along Gunners Lane to Eign Gate. Keep ahead and turn right into Bewell Street.

(11) *King Offa*, who ordered the slaughter of King Ethelbert, is on the left, looking suitably warlike in the forecourt of Bewell House (once the home of Charles Watkins, father of Arthur.) The site of the Mercian King Offa's

Herefordshire palace - and the murder - is still a matter for conjecture.

Carry on to All Saints Church. Just before, turn right and left to





**12) Sails/vaulted ceiling** steel statue by Adam Greenwell.

Keep ahead for High Town. At Widemarsh Street, going left, you could make a two-thirds of a mile return visit to

**(13) Blackfriars Rose Gardens, 14th Century Preaching Cross.** \*See Cycle Trail for more details.

Or, carry on main walk to stride across the inscribed paviers of High Town to

**(14) Hereford Bull**, by Brian Alabaster, outside the Old House.

Keep ahead, past the Old House to the

**(15) The 1922 War Memorial** in St Peters Square, by L. W. Ballard.

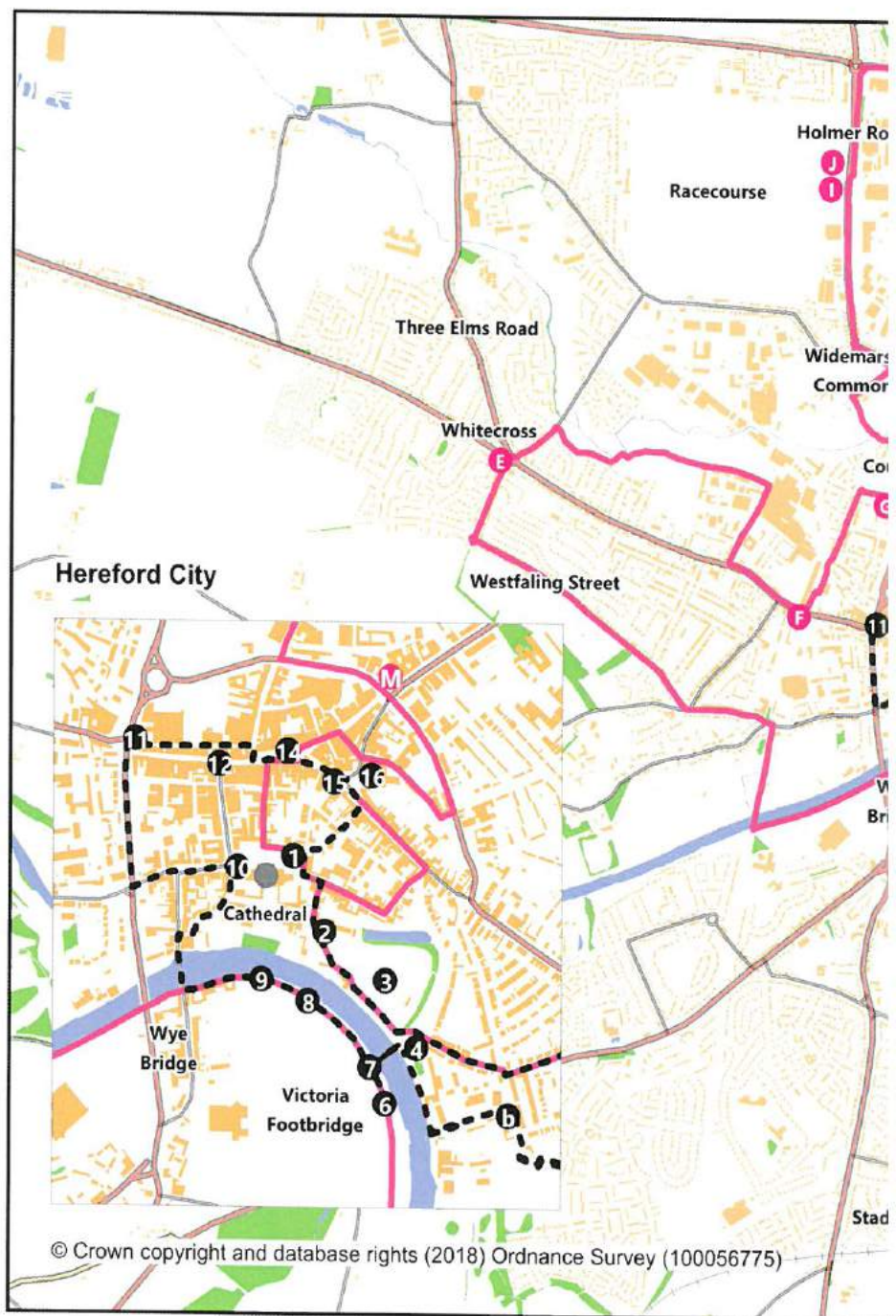
and beyond, to the statue of



**(16) Sir George Cornwall Lewis**, by Baron Marochetti, outside the Shire Hall.

Lewis was an MP for Herefordshire, Chancellor of the Exchequer, Home Secretary and Secretary of State for War. When the politician had a traffic cone on his head, the people of Hereford seemed to take a bit more notice of him. The 1994 spectacle was one of several indignities which have befallen the baronet's bronze statue. Seven years after the traffic cone, the celebrated public figure was unceremoniously toppled from his plinth by revellers who put a dent in his forehead and shoulder; and for good measure he's also had his head decorated with a potted aspidistra.

Go right into St Owen's Street for Town Hall.







# The Cycling Trail

**Hereford Public Art Cycle Trail.** Castle Green, St. James, Greenway, Rotherwas, Saxon Gate, Bishop's Meadow, Great Western Way, Whitecross, Moorfields, Widemarsh, Holmer, College and Town Centre. A 12 mile route using designated cycle paths wherever possible.

Start and finish at Hereford Town Hall.

Take rear exit, left along East Street to the end, right into Castle Street and bend right. Just before Cathedral Close, turn left into Quay Street for

(2) *St Ethelbert's Well*, in the wall on the way towards Castle Hill.

However, carry on down Quay Street, passing the old home of Elgar's "bodyguard" Canon Gorton. Go up to Castle Green, along right edge with views across the River Wye and left to

(3) *Nelson's Column* on the Green.

Follow path down to Mill Street. Head a little right to Wye Way. Turn right to

(4) *Old Hospital Swans*, by Walenty Pytel.

Return along drive to turn right along Nelson Street. Continue ahead, along Harold Street, to reach Crozen Lane. Bike route says "Rotherwas ½". Keep

ahead to Outfall Works Road. Turn right, passing Old Bone Mill to Greenway Bridge.

Cross river and follow the Greenway to

5) *Sculptures of Elgar, Violette Szabo and Josie Pearson*.



Carry on along Greenway cycle path. At path junction, turn left for Rotherwas, under railway bridge. Keep ahead for Rotherwas East. Swing right, in front of reservoir, passing Dinedor and Rotherwas Explored Munitions Factory information board. At 3rd junction on right, opposite Skylon View sign, turn right for Rotherwas South. At

roundabout, turn left for Holme Lacy. Keep ahead at roundabout just past Coldnose Road, to reach the 1st of the



**A) *Rotherwas Women***, monoliths by Bruce Williams of sandblasted granite and steel. Sophie Dillon represents "The Future".

Turn 180 degrees to follow road back past previous roundabout, now heading for Rotherwas West, to 2nd of the Rotherwas Women.

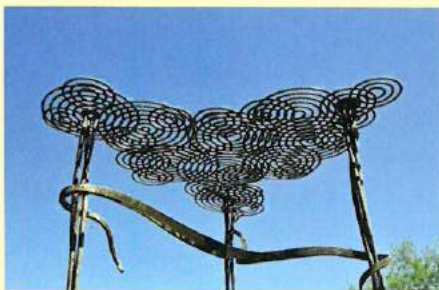
**(B) Debbie Gittoes** is a representative of "Business Leaders".

Now continue to 3rd board

**(C) Nora Foster** - a representative of "Munitions Workers". About 12,000 men and women worked at Rotherwas during the two world wars. The women, especially those who worked at filling bombs have come to be known as The Canary Girls, as a result of their turning yellow from handling Picric Acid.

Continue to road junction, just before Hinton Road going right, turn left into Winston Road. At end, turn right into Hoarwithy Road. After 15m, turn left up cycle path across Poppy Walk, along The Hawthorns. After 90m, turn right to Bromfield Road bus stop. Turn left and right to the middle of Staddlestone Circle to

**(D) SAS Memorial.** Fibreglass statue of a dagger and a shield on the site of a former SAS camp.



Turn right from statue, between numbers 25 and 26, to 8-21 Poppy Walk. Turn left along Hoarwithy Road cycle path. At roundabout, go ahead into Chestnut Drive. Sweep left. Turn right at T-junction, across Hinton Road, through double gates. Follow riverside path to view

**(6) *Sunken Galleon, a Thousand Ghosts.***

**(7) *A Fish's Eye View.***

**(8) *Mappa Mundi Labyrinth.***

**(9) *Dan the bulldog.***

Continue by easy access to Wye Bridge. Cross road, straight down to other side of bridge, heading for Great Western Way, ½ mile. Go under bridge to access path across river, signed City Centre. On the other side, at point just before road bridge, turn left, right and left into Breinton Road. Continue beyond Crematorium to roundabout. Turn right down Wordsworth Road to the Whitecross.

**(E)** *The Whitecross* was built by Bishop Lewis Charlton and depicts his coat of arms, a "lion rampant". It marks the site of a temporary market, where food was left on the edge of the city for Herefordians during the highly infectious plague of 1347.

Take third exit into Yazor Road. Just past Sheridan Road, turn right to follow cycle path, signed City Centre. At H.P. Bulmer, turn right along Plough Lane to the Plough Inn. TL along Whitecross Road to the unmistakable

**(F)** *Woodpecker* sculpture by Walenty Pytel at the Cider Garden on the corner of Grimmer Road.

TL at traffic lights to rejoin the Great Western Way at Aldi, signed Widemarsh and Holmer. At Penhaligon Way, turn right to call in at The Courtyard.

**(G)** *Un-named Sculpture*. In front of the box office is a featured sculpture, purchased with the support of the Elmeley Foundation and Friends of the Courtyard. On the second floor is

**(H)** *The Flying Leap*, a sculpture by Simon Meikeljohn, donated by his family in loving memory of Peter Meikeljohn.

From the exit, turn left, opposite Hereford FC, along Edgar Street to the traffic lights. Turn left into Prior Street and keep ahead along Moor Walk, signed Widemarsh ¼ mile. Turn right in front of Widemarsh Common, past Hereford Lads Club, then around to left. Follow sign to Holmer and cross Newtown Road. Go left, to follow cycle path, then slip road up Holmer Road to roundabout by Starting Gate Inn.

**(I)** Hereford Skate Park Plinths. Reflecting the idea of the fourth plinth in Trafalgar Square, the sculptures on these plinths will change every six months. The one plinth displaying work of local artists the other work from the students from the Hereford College of Arts.

Turn right to Old School Lane, then right again. At traffic lights, go ahead into Venns Lane to the entrance to RNC Learning Hub and

**(J)** *"4 Runner"* - a man running in a futuristic style.

A galvanised welded steel sculpture, capturing movement, again by Walenty Pytel. It is based on the painting "Frantic", by Sarah Withers, a partially sighted student in Art at the Royal National College for the Blind from 2002 to 2004.

**(K)** There is an *Un-named wooden sculpture*, next to it.

Retrace route to crossroads. Turn left down College Road to mini roundabout.





Take 2nd exit. Cross bridge to next mini roundabout. Turn left along Widemarsh Street to

13) *Blackfriars Rose Garden* and the only surviving example in the county of a *Preaching Cross*. It was built in the 14th century in conjunction with the Blackfriars Monastery on land given to the order by Sir John Daniel; he was beheaded for interference in baronial wars during the reign of Edward III. Here, also, are the remains of the Dominican Friars Monastic buildings founded in about 1276. The church on site was consecrated in the presence of Edward, his son the Black Prince and three archbishops. The order was later dissolved by Henry VIII. Carry on to traffic lights. Turn left, middle lane, to next set of lights to see, left,



(L) *Franklin House Sunflower*, by Trevor Worton. The building was originally designed to house a garden centre and was opened by Percy Thrower in 1964.

Keep ahead into Bath Street and take next right at John Haider, formerly the John Venn Building. The Reverend John Venn, of St Peter's Church, next to

(15), was a philanthropist who worked tirelessly for the poor of Hereford. Turn right to end of Gaol Street and left to

(16) *Sir George Cornwall Lewis*, outside the Shire Hall.

Now go to right of the

(15) *War Memorial*

into Offa Street. Cross, slightly right, into St John's Street and continue to the Cathedral Close to view

(1) *Sir Edward Elgar* leaning on his bicycle.

Return along St John's Street and turn right to rear of the Town Hall.

\*For more details on some of the artworks, please see Walk Trail.

**Produced by**



**Hereford**  
City Council  
working for our city



**The Parish Council for the City of Hereford**

Hereford City Sculpture Trail; a project promoting tourism and arts, heritage and culture in the City of Hereford.

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**The trails laid out in this leaflet are a synopsis of the  
many sculptures which can be found around the City  
of Hereford.**