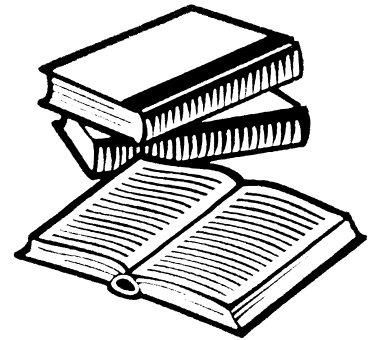


# How to Research Your Property

**It can be useful to find out more about the history of your property. It can help you understand how the building is constructed, what it was used for and how it has changed over time. It can also be fascinating to learn about the lives of previous occupants and custodians.**



## Starting Points

**There are some useful national resources available.**

**Historic England's [‘Your Homes’ History](#) is a good place to start.**

A screenshot of the Historic England website. The page title is 'Your Home's History'. Below the title, there is a paragraph of text: 'Discovering the history of a house - who lived in it and when it was built - can be a challenging and rewarding experience. It can also be very useful. Knowing its history, and that of its surroundings, can tell you what's important about it - its significance. It can also tell you how your house was constructed, and if there were later additions or alterations. This sort of information can help when you're thinking about making changes, or tackling the building's energy efficiency.' Below the text are two images: a black and white photograph of a large, multi-story house with a chimney, and a black and white photograph of a row of smaller, terraced houses. Under each image is a small text box with a title and a short paragraph. The first title is 'What Could You Find Out about Your Home?' and the second is 'How to Find Out About Your Home's History'.

## THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

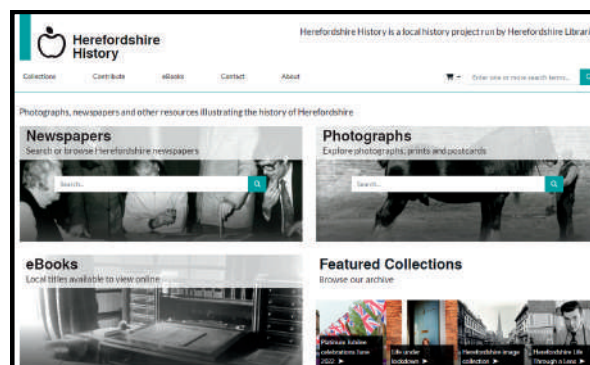
**The UK Government's official archive, known as the National Archives, holds over 1,000 years of public records.**

**Its website includes a searchable online catalogue and online guides to various topics such as wills and probate records, and census returns. It also has a helpful [research guide](#) for houses.**

# Local Information

Herefordshire's [Historic Environment Record \(HER\)](#) is a great source of information about buildings in Leominster. It can be accessed from the [Herefordshire Through Time website: https://htt.herefordshire.gov.uk/](https://htt.herefordshire.gov.uk/) Similarly, [Herefordshire Archives and Record Service \(HARC\)](#)

[Herefordshire History](#) has an online collection of photographs, newspapers and other resources illustrating the history of the county. The postcards of old Leominster collection is particularly fascinating.



[Leominster Museum](#) is a great source of local information. They also have a range of publications about the history of the town.

[Leominster Library](#) is also a good source of local history.

It is also useful to look up the planning history for a building or site using the [Herefordshire Council website](#) or the [Planning Portal](#). Previous and current applications may include building plans, photographs, maps or even planning and heritage statements which could give you some interesting and useful background information.

The [Leominster Conservation Area](#) appraisal and Management Plan provides a detailed assessment of the town's development, character and appearance.

## Newspaper archives

The [British Newspaper Archive](#) online is a searchable database of national papers. From 1800s up to the 1950s.

Another online newspaper tool is [The Gazette](#).

# Picturing the Past

**Collections of photographs by enthusiastic local photographers are sometimes deposited at an archive and can be as early as the late 19th or early 20th century in date.**

**Newspapers have substantial photograph archives. [Mirrorpix](#) is a national collection, including the archives of many regional newspapers such as [The Mirror Group](#) took over ownership. There are often license and copyright restrictions / fees with these, but fine if you are only sourcing for personal research.**

**An online catalogue of archive material is held at the [Historic England Archive](#) in Swindon. The archive is a large collection of historic photographs of buildings, including [Britain from Above](#). Some museums also hold large online available archive collections.**

**The [Frith archive](#) is an extensive database of heritage postcards available online.**

**Regional heritage film footage can be searched here [BFI](#)**

## Maps

**Historic Ordnance Survey Maps, or OS maps, can also be very useful. They are usually available to view at your local records office, with many available on the [National Library of Scotland](#) website.**

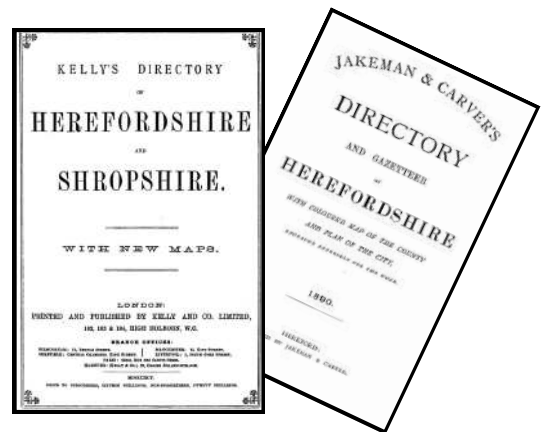
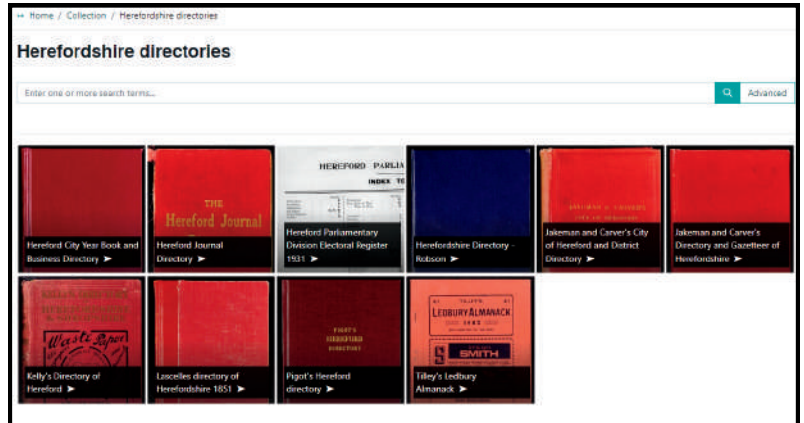


**Find Tithe maps (c.1838) by subscription at [The Genealogist](#) or at your local record office, or archives. There are also some private websites sharing historic maps which might be useful, though you may be expected to pay for a subscription to view some of them, or reproduce their images.**

# Researching Businesses

**Trade directories are an essential tool for local, urban and family history.**

**Herefordshire trade directories can be viewed [here](#) for the 1850s, 1890s and 1910s, including the national Kelly's and Pigot's directories as well as those by regional publishers.**



**The Herefordshire Directories can also be viewed on the [Herefordshire History](#) site.**

**You will often find trade directions on the shelves in reference library sections of the local archives or library to browse too.**

**Leominster [Heart and Heritage](#) website also has lots of historical information about Leominster businesses.**

