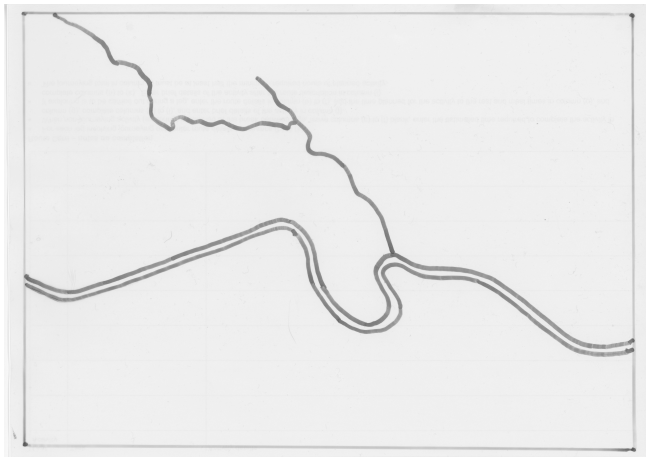
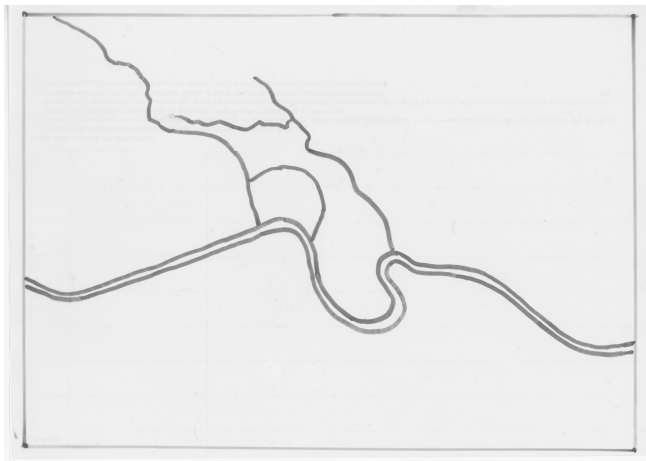


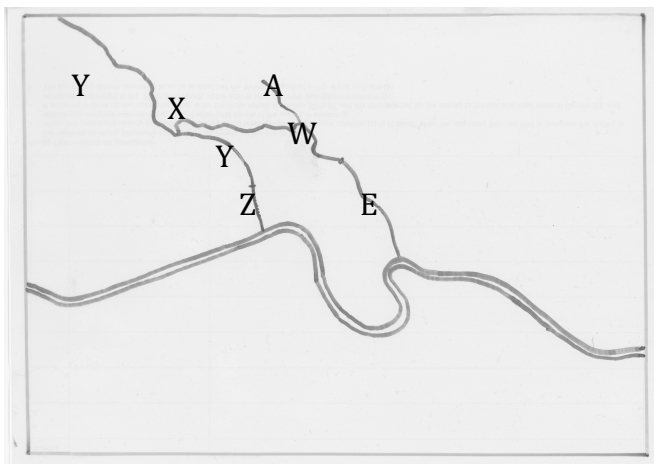
A suggested history of the Yazor Brook in maps. Nic Howes, March 2017



"Natural" stage, post Devensian glaciation and pre-leat



Yazor Brook diverted along leat to feed moat outside City Walls (pre-1606)



Y is Yazor Brook
W is Widemarsh Brook
E is Eign Brook
A is Ayle Brook

X is concrete weir that links Yazor and Widemarsh Brooks

Z is section of Yazor Brook that lies under Friar Street and Greyfriars

Present situation

1606: Speed's MS plan clearly suggests that a leat has been taken off the Yazor Brook to feed the moat that ran just outside the City Walls at "Eygne Gate". There is no mill named as such on this map. Although this map does not show where the leat was taken off the Yazor Brook it seems reasonable to assume that it was in the vicinity of the present concrete weir at Canon Moor.

Source: Hereford City Defences: a conservation management plan. Herefordshire Council, September 2011. Herefordshire Archaeology Report 292.

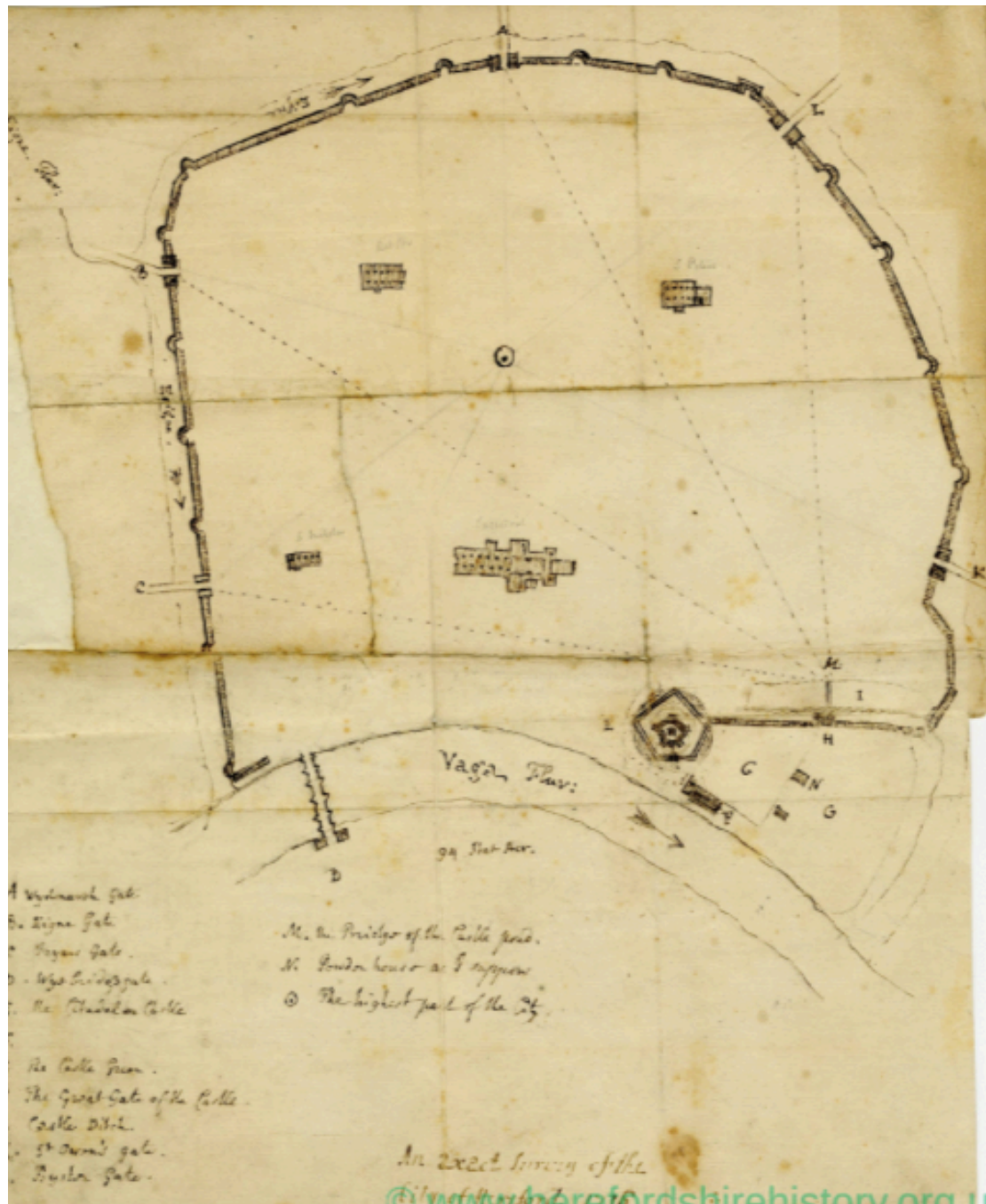
1652: Jansson's map shows Yazor Brook but not the diversion to feed the moat

Source of this map and those that follow:
<http://www.herefordshirehistory.org.uk/archive/herefordshire-historic-maps>

1695: Morden's map also shows Yazor Brook but not the diversion



1716: shows City Walls enclosed by "Eigne Fluv", which reaches them at Eigne Gate.



1757: Taylor's magnificent map shows the City Walls encircled by brooks and Castle Mill located just before the point where the eastern branch of Eigne Fluv enters the Wye (note that today's Mill Street was then Briton Street). There is a strange apparent tributary along Above Eigne (now Whitecross Road) that does not appear on other maps. Also of interest on the north eastern corner of the map is a glimpse of the brook (downstream of the Eigne Fluv leat) powering Monkmoor Mill.

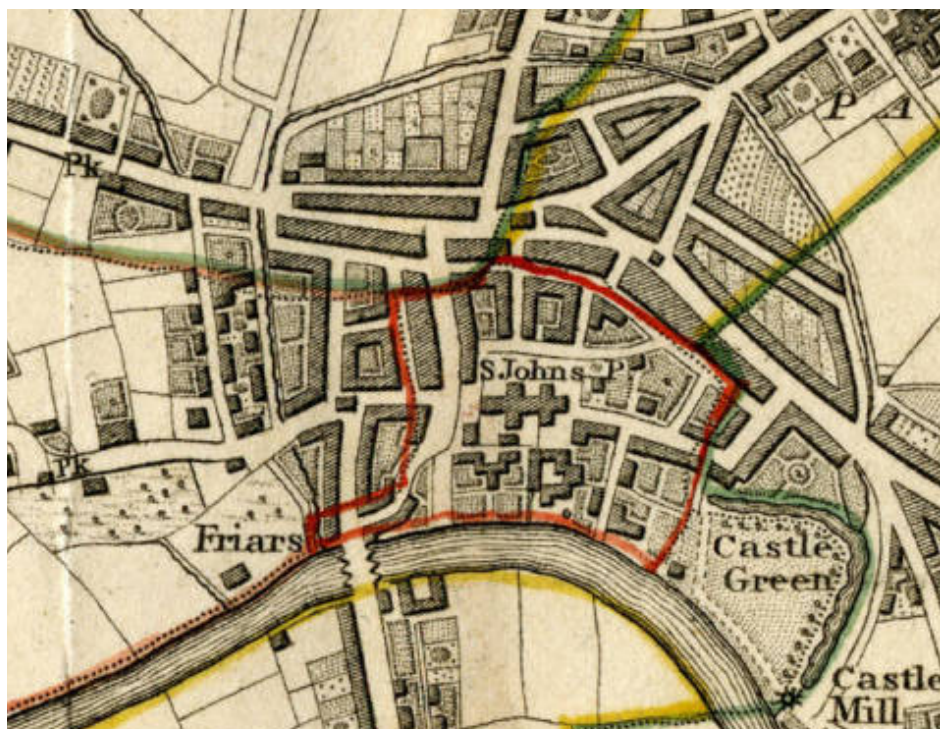


[illegible]

c. 1794: copied from a painting by Thomas Hearne in the British Museum.
Acknowledgement: "Hereford" by Ron Shoesmith. Clearly shows water outside the City Walls, crossed by a bridge to access Bye Street Gate, approximately at the site of the Kerry Arms today.



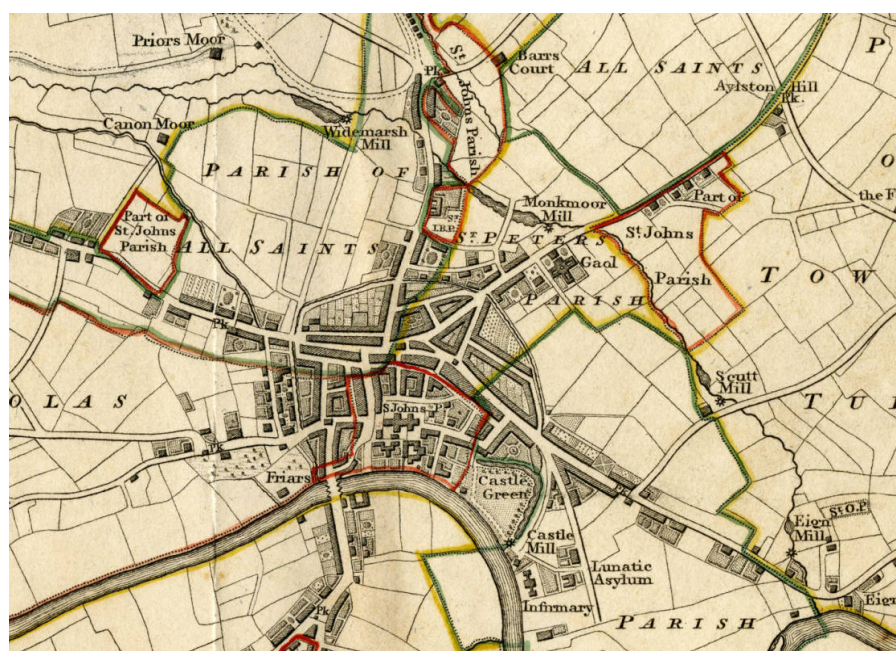
1802 Price's map clearly shows the City Walls encircled by a brook – shown by a wiggly black line - that powers Castle Mill



1802 Price's extraordinarily clear, detailed map also appears to show that the leat has become the main flow upstream of Canon Moor while the former course of the Yazor appears to have been "beheaded" (inside green circle below).



The "beheaded" stream appears to have had enough flow to power 4 mills: Widemarsh, Monkmoor, Scutt and Eign.



1836: John Wood's map clearly shows a water-filled ditch outside the City Walls and Castle Mill with its millpond on the site of the present day Mill Street arboretum. It also shows the site of beheading and the 4 mills shown in 1802.

1858: Curley's map shows no sign of water round the City Walls and the Mill Street millpond is labelled as "filled up" and below it is the "Site of Castle Mill". Monkmoor Mill, Scut Mill and Eign Mill are clearly named and located.

1894: Stanford's map shows a blue line encircling the City Walls (which may not signify water) and names the 3 Brooks the same as we do now. Useful notes in the NW corner tell us that the Widemarsh Brook follows the "Original Channel of the Yazor Brook" and that the Yazor follows the "Ancient artificial cut to supply the City Moat".

1900: E.G. Davies' map applies the name "Collateral Cut" or "Town Brook" to the leat and - interestingly - applies the name Yazor to the brook that Stanford names Widemarsh. A section of Stanford's Widemarsh Brook is named Tan Brook (the name of a former adult education centre that occupied the site of Ron Smith's at the bottom of Aylestone Hill).

1970s: The beheaded Yazor appears to have remained so until some time in the late 1960s or early 1970s when a concrete weir reconnected the Yazor to its old course, by now renamed the Widemarsh Brook (which becomes the Eign Brook after passing under Commercial Road at KFC).



Soon after exiting the southeast corner of the above map, the Yazor follows the line of its ancient leat and enters a series of culverts under the City from Plough Lane to the Ring Road at Eign Gate and then southwards under the Ring Road to its outfall at Greyfriars. The tops of an infilled three-arched outfall are just visible in the left bank of the Wye directly under the new Friar's Gate development while a concrete outflow upstream of the Rowing Club may be the Yazor's present confluence with the Wye (suggesting a modern westward diversion).