

Date	Description	Archival Reference
9 November 1854	George Gilbert Scott delivers his report to the Dean and Chapter on the dilapidated state of Hereford Cathedral. He mentions that underpinning is needed, and that the choir requires an entire re-fitting.	Chapter Acts 7031/20, pp. 306–7
9 November 1857	In the transcript of a letter dated 9 November from Scott to the Dean, he gives a general estimate of the cost for the proposed works. Scott indicates that the interior of the choir should be a separate matter, and recommends Messrs Hardman or Mr Skidmore or Mr Potter for the ironwork. He writes that the nave must be open to the choir with only a light, open screen between them.	Chapter Acts 7031/20, pp. 405–7
1 December 1860	Francis Skidmore meets with the Chapter and explains his plans for lighting the cathedral. Further consideration is postponed.	Chapter Acts 7031/21, p. 1
25 June 1861	Scott reports that he has entered into an agreement with Skidmore for lighting the cathedral with gas. The fee of £826 for fittings is confirmed.	Chapter Acts, 25 June 1861
31 December 1861	A drawing by Scott of the screen is approved and the work entrusted to Skidmore. Details of the tender are given. A screen of iron, brass, mosaics, and enamels, according to the sketch, is to be further developed by Mr Scott and Mr Skidmore for £1,500, provided that Mr Skidmore can first exhibit the screen at the International Exhibition. The cost of transport is to be included. Skidmore is to be offered the use of the Dean and Chapter's scaffolding and the assistance of workmen.	Chapter Acts, 31 December 1861
13 November 1862	The Chapter resolves to subscribe £300 to Skidmore's screen, "about to be erected in the cathedral". The Dean is to subscribe £50.	Chapter Acts, 13 November 1862
12 November 1863	An order is made that £500 be paid to Skidmore as balance on the screen.	Chapter Acts, 12 November 1863, p. 161
23 January 1864	According to a transcript of a letter to the Dean and Chapter from Skidmore, it is decided that the screen should be made to project more from the choir stalls while it is being erected, and so the returns should be enlarged. Skidmore is irritated that his men have been kept waiting while this has been debated, and that he did not have as much help from the cathedral as he had expected.	Chapter Acts, 23 January 1864
27 October 1964	It is decided in principle that it is necessary to remove the screen on aesthetic grounds and in view of the heavy expenditure needed for cleaning and repair. The Dean is authorized to ascertain the cost of its dismantling and removal.	Chapter Acts, 27 October 1964
1964–5	The Dean argues strongly for the screen's removal, citing George Gilbert Scott's original reservations about the screen, and reporting that it is "thoroughly dilapidated and corroded and spreads an atmosphere of gloom and decay". It is felt that its removal will help the spirit of worship, while the screen itself will be preserved in the Herbert Art Gallery, Coventry.	"31st Annual Report of Friends of Hereford Cathedral"
March 1965	An architect is instructed to obtain alternative estimates for repairing the marble base and for replacing it in stone, in the event of the screen's removal.	Chapter Acts, March 1965, p. 386
30 April 1968	The Dean resigns to work in Bournemouth. The Annual Report notes that "Local people will know that the controversy this caused was much greater in London than in Hereford."	"34th Annual Report of Friends of Hereford Cathedral"