

## The Journey to the New World

Life for the enslaved Africans on board the slave ships was extremely harsh. They were shackled and placed in the cargo hold below deck. They were often placed on two tiers of shelving with no room for adults to stand in. Many cargo holds had shelves less than 18 inches apart.

There were no toilets on board ship and the slaves below decks had no choice but to go to the toilet where they lay. In these filthy conditions diseases spread very quickly.

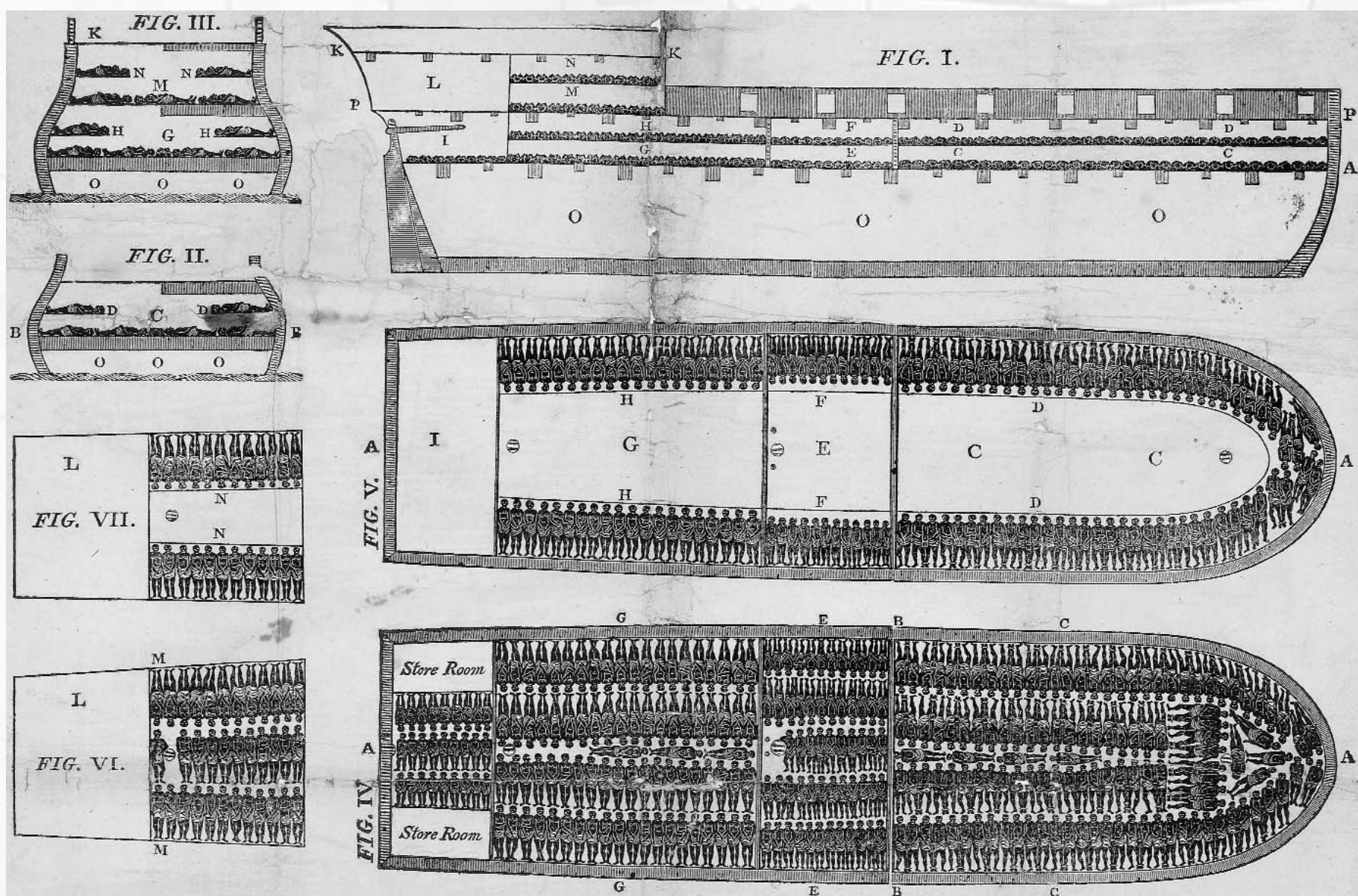
On board, food was scarce. Malnutrition, dehydration and diseases caused by drinking unclean water were common amongst the slaves.

During the Transatlantic slave trade it is estimated that between 9 and 15 million Africans embarked on the middle passage. Of these people, between 3 and 5 million died whilst making this journey from Africa to the Americas.



Above: Detail of 'Whitby' by Joseph Murray Ince. Large slaving ships leaving British ports often had to be guided out to open waters by smaller boats  
Herefordshire Heritage Services

Below: Brookes' slave ship image. Showing enslaved Africans packed tightly together on board a slave ship.  
Copyright: Wilberforce House, Hull Museums, Hull City Council.



## What was an enslaved life like?

At the end of the terrible "Middle Passage" journey across the oceans, slaves were sold at auctions to plantation owners in the Caribbean. The plantation owners would give their slaves English first names and they were often given the surname of the estate manager or owner. They were now the property of another person.



Above:  
Moccas Court, home of the Cornwall family.  
Herefordshire Heritage Services.

*A List of Negroes on Spring Garden Pen. 1. Jan 1811*

No.	Names	age	Occupation	No.	Names	age	Occupation
1	Elizabeth	46	Ho. Cook		Becky	17	Field
	Margaret	38	Ho. Woman		Rosby	40	Driverep
	Jolly	15	"		Pegs Bepny	13	Small Gang
	Molly	13	Houltho.		Mary Ann	40	Washer
	John	16	Wright. Boy		Lilly	12	Field
	James	27	Carpenter		Litch Pote.	11	"
	Nero	22	Cattlemann	50.	Willm	10	"
	Quamin	30.	Field		Jue	11	"
	Jenny	29	Driver		Henry	9	"
	Juba God.	57.	Doctors		Princes	8	"
	Quashie	14	Sheep Boy		Charles	7	"
	Lucas	14	S. Gang		Mary	12	"
	Richard	42	Waltzman		Price	8	"
					Old Betty	46	watching
					Sam	36	do.

Left:  
Names, ages and occupations of enslaved workers, 1811.  
Copyright: Herefordshire Archives Services.

Below:  
Description of enslaved people on Lataste estate.  
Copyright: Herefordshire Archives Services.

*By value of Negroes - profits  
account*

916	2	2
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Names	Occupation	Age	Description
Pompy	Distiller of Watchman	62	infirm & indifferent
S. Jack	Waltzman	45	a Stout Tusky Negro
Joseph	90	45	Lame, scabby and a little lame
Davy	90	30	lost the fingers of his right hand healthy & well inclined

### Take a look at the inventories of slaves on display.

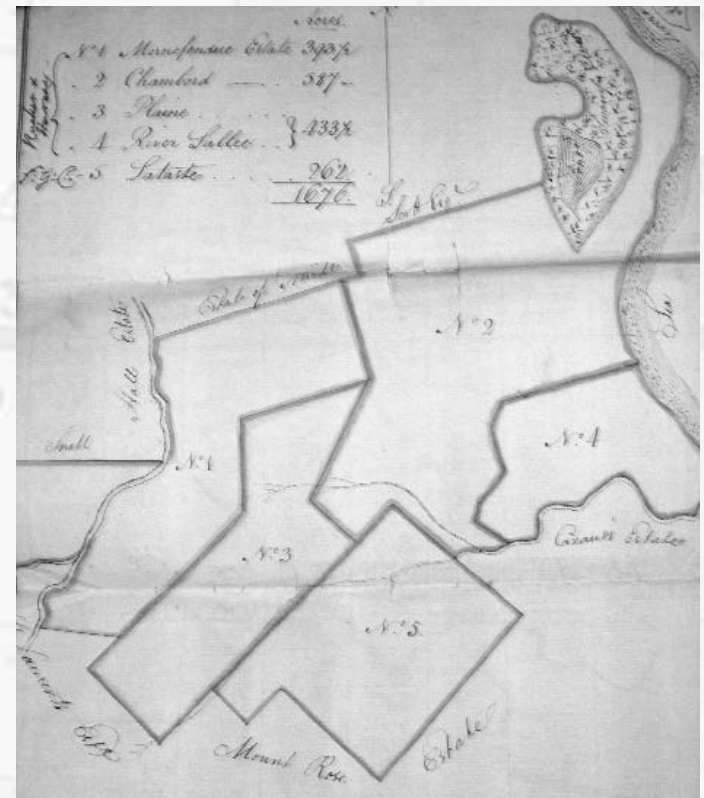
Note how the slaves have been described, from their physical description to notes about what work they do on the estate.

Take a look at the copy of the account books for the Wolley's plantation.

It shows the number of slaves owned in each year and the amount of sugar and rum produced in each year.

The copy of the deeds of sale for the Westwood and Rodriguez plantation clearly shows the attitudes of the estate owners to their chattel slaves:

"To sell and dispose of such Negroe slaves and cattle or such of them or any part thereof as shall become useless, worn out or unfit for service and to purchase others in their place".



Above: Map showing sugar estates in Grenada.  
Copyright: Herefordshire Archives Services.

Below from left to right: Sugar tongs, sugar bowl and sugar sifter. Herefordshire Heritage Services.



Left:  
Wolley family estates year-on-year productivity chart.  
Copyright: Shropshire Archives.

Year	1716	1717	1718	1719	1720	1721	1722	1723	1724	1725	1726	1727	1728	1729	1730	1731	1732	1733	1734	1735	1736	1737	1738	1739	1740	1741	1742	1743	1744	1745	1746	1747	1748	1749	1750																																																																																																																								
Blaise	154	153	152	151	150	149	148	147	146	145	144	143	142	141	140	139	138	137	136	135	134	133	132	131	130	129	128	127	126	125	124	123	122	121	120	119	118	117	116	115	114	113	112	111	110	109	108	107	106	105	104	103	102	101	100	99	98	97	96	95	94	93	92	91	90	89	88	87	86	85	84	83	82	81	80	79	78	77	76	75	74	73	72	71	70	69	68	67	66	65	64	63	62	61	60	59	58	57	56	55	54	53	52	51	50	49	48	47	46	45	44	43	42	41	40	39	38	37	36	35	34	33	32	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0

## Life as a Plantation Slave

The Cornwall family who lived at Moccas Court, Herefordshire and the Wolley family from Shropshire both owned sugar plantations on the Caribbean island of Grenada. They used slaves on these plantations as either agricultural labourers or domestic staff.

Working on a sugar plantation was hard work, the hours were long and conditions harsh.

The slaves had to work all day in the hot sun with no time to rest or eat food.

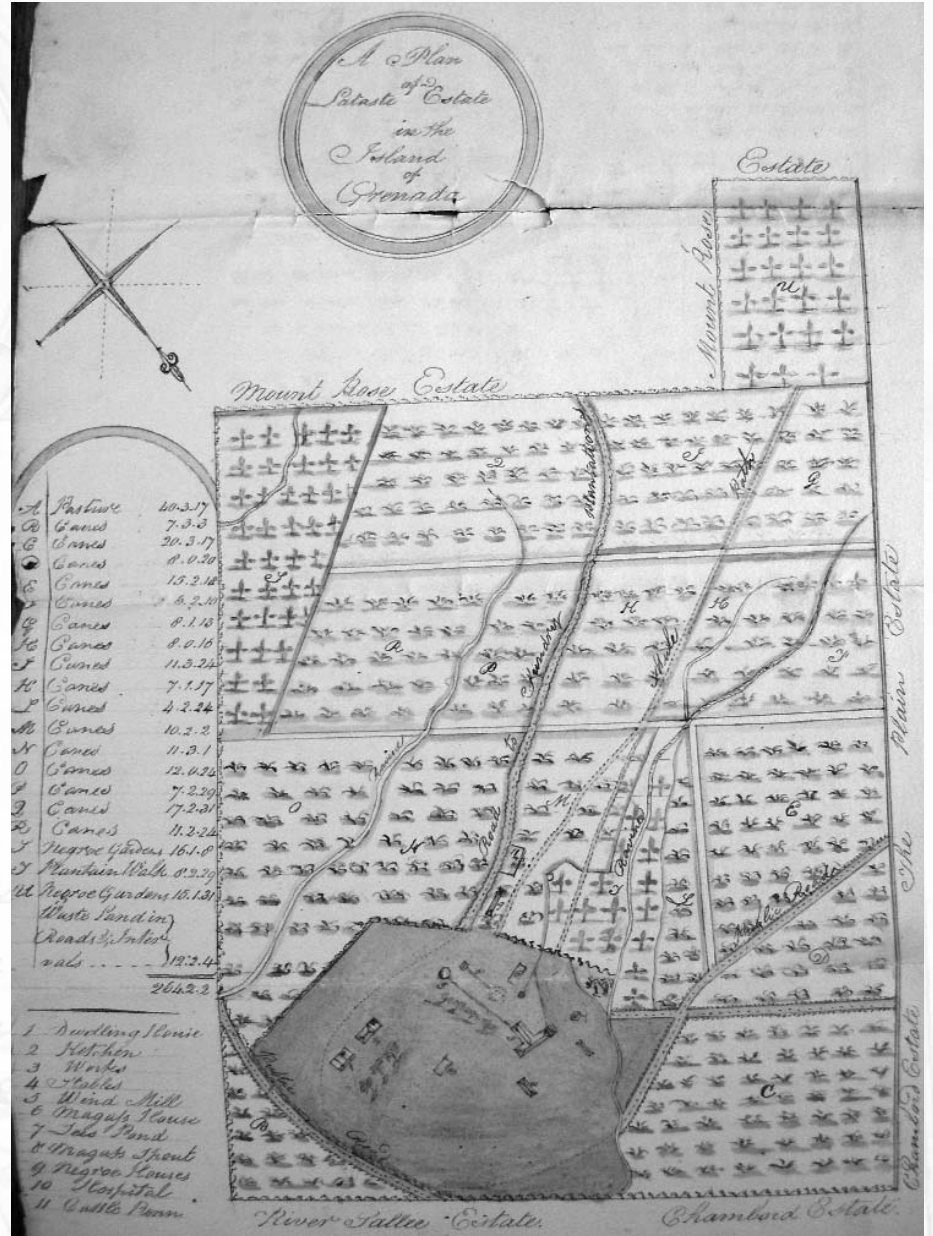
The plan of the Lataste estate shows that the plantation animals had more living space than the slaves who worked on the plantation.

Plantation owners did not care about the well-being of their slaves.

The slaves were treated as just another part of the plantation stock.

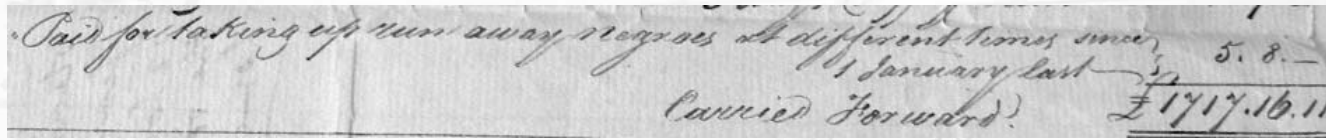
If they were too old or weak to work they could be disposed of as easily as a broken tool.

The Cornwall family used the profits from their Grenadian plantation to develop and expand their Herefordshire estate.



Plan of Lataste estate.

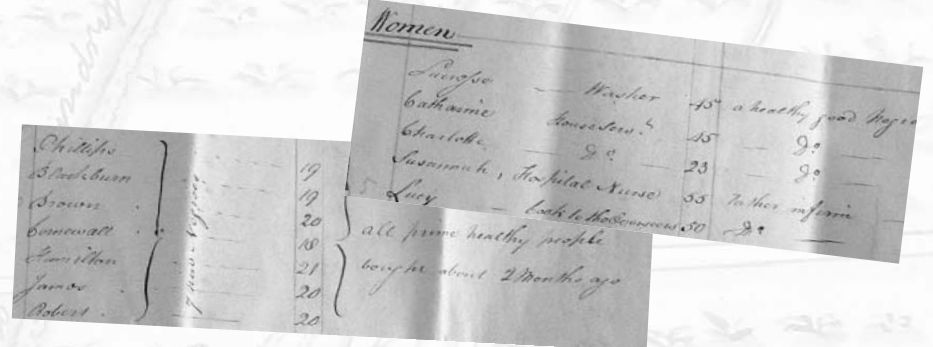
Copyright: Herefordshire Archives. Services.



Above right: Charges for return of escaped slaves to the Lataste estate. Copyright: Herefordshire Archives Services.



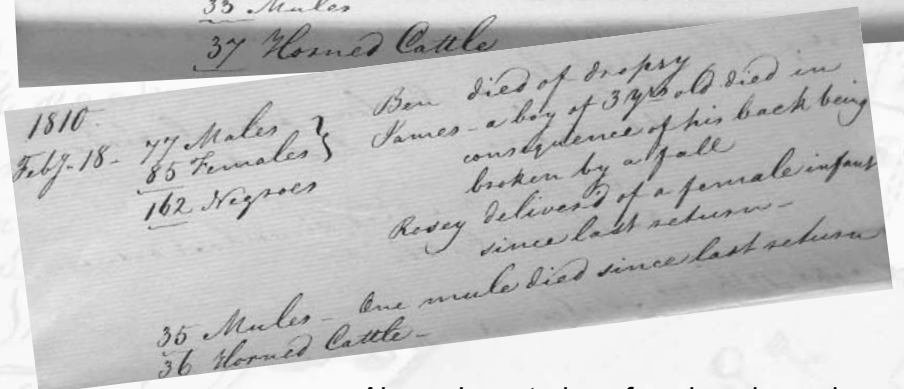
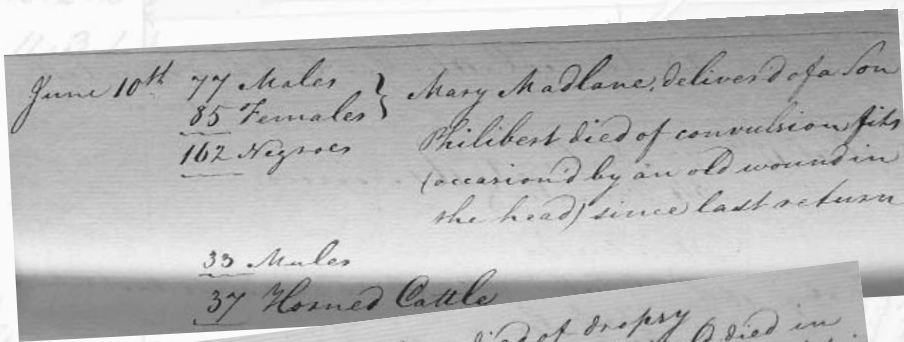
Right: Sugar mill. Wikimedia commons.



Above: Descriptions of enslaved people.

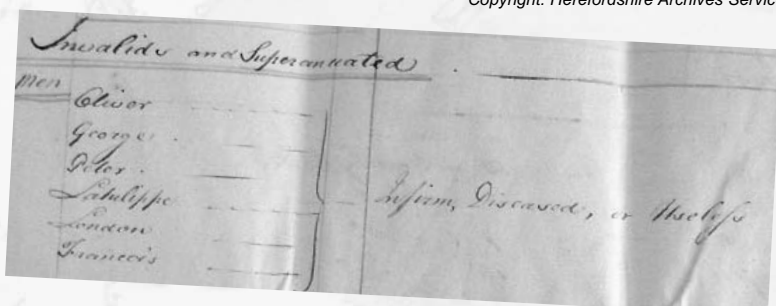
Copyright: Herefordshire Archives Services.

Below: Sugar cane. Wikimedia commons.



Above: Inventories of enslaved people: descriptions of their deaths. Below: Descriptions of invalids.

Copyright: Herefordshire Archives Services.



## Suffering in the Caribbean brings local luxury

Ferdinando Gorges, (also known as “King of the Black Market”), spent his life involved in the slave trade. He was a sugar plantation owner and a slave trader. In 1673, he used the fortune he had made from his involvement in the slave trade to purchase Eye Manor in Herefordshire. He retired to Eye Manor and spent his fortune rebuilding the house. Living in rural Herefordshire in the luxury of Eye Manor was a world away from the terrible conditions to which he had subjected hundreds of enslaved Africans.

Sir John Hawkins’ profits from his slave trading activities also found their way back to Herefordshire. After John’s death, Lady Margaret Hawkins bequeathed the building of a school with a well equipped library in Kington, “Lady Hawkins’ School” in 1632. This school is still educating the children of Kington nearly 400 years later.



Eye Manor, Herefordshire.  
*Herefordshire Heritage Services*



*Above:* Bag decorated with insect wing cases from tropical areas.

*Herefordshire Heritage Services.*

*Left:* Luxury goods like this dress were often purchased with money gained from involvement in the slave trade.

*Herefordshire Heritage Services.*



*Below:* Lady Hawkins School, Kington, 1907.

*Copyright: Kington Museum.*



## Abolition

In Britain, a group of people called the Abolitionists worked to bring about the abolition of the Transatlantic slave trade. These people saw the inhumanity of the trade and the terrible effects it had on enslaved peoples. They worked to raise public understanding of slavery and petitioned Parliament to convince the government to change the slave trade laws. Religious communities such as the Quakers also supported the abolitionist cause, as well as enslaved people themselves, who did a lot to ensure the trade in human life did not continue.

For example, Olaudah Equiano was a slave. He wrote a book in 1789 called "An Interesting narrative." It tells his story as a slave.



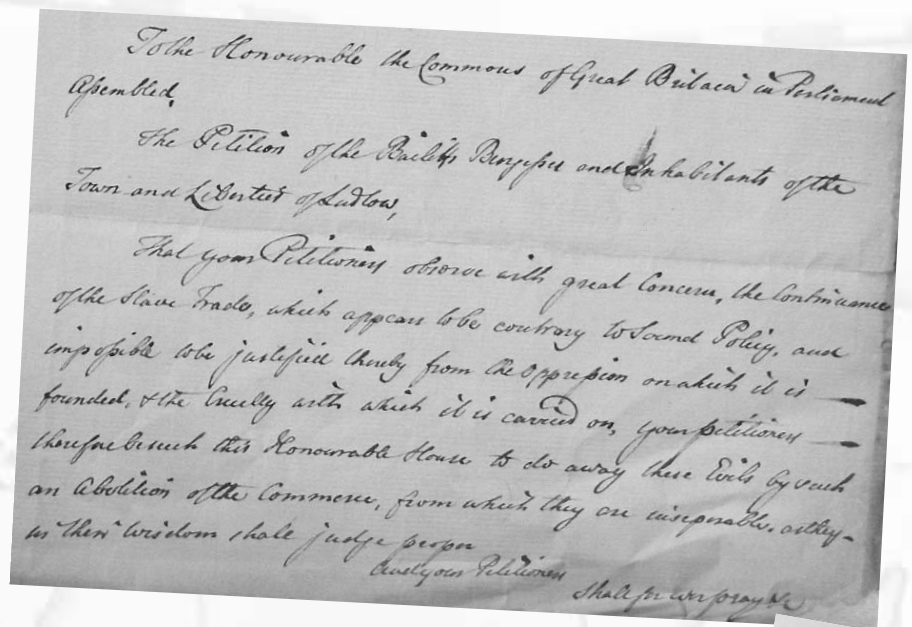
Olaudah Equiano

Image from Wikimedia commons

Slave uprisings caused damage to the plantation estates where the slaves worked. The records from Lataste estate in Grenada show that many enslaved people lost their lives in this fight for freedom.

Communities of escaped slaves known as "Maroons" worked hard to spread knowledge of how enslaved people could fight for freedom through sabotage and by disrupting production on the estates.

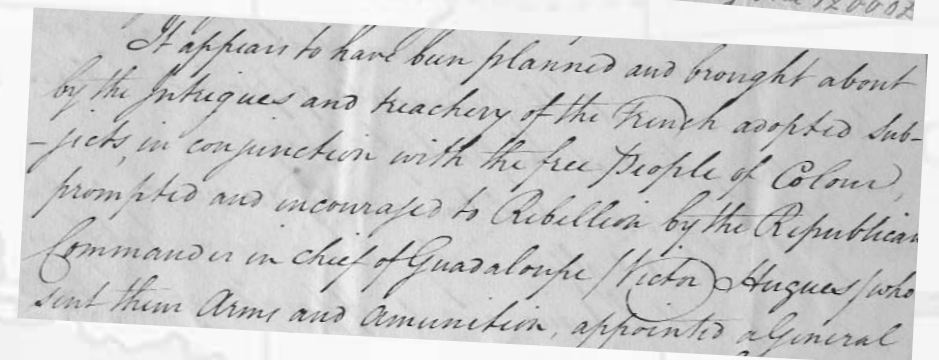
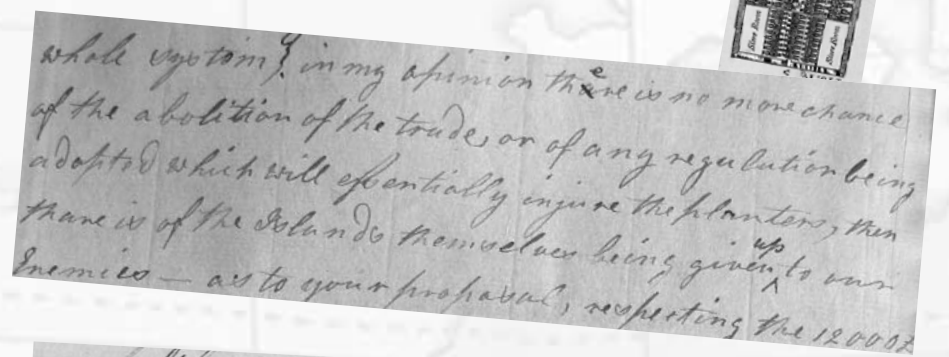
Together these actions meant that eventually the British government decided to take the first step towards abolishing the Transatlantic slave trade. In 1807, they banned the trade in new slaves from Africa.



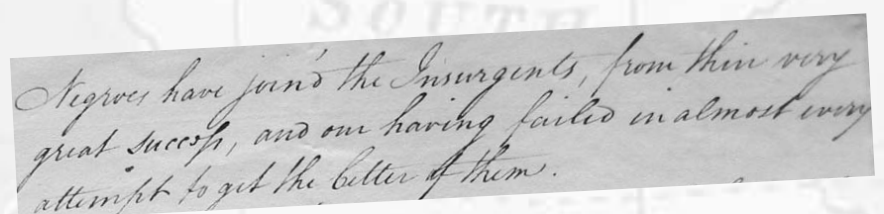
Above: Petition to Parliament for the abolition of the slave trade from the people of Shropshire. Copyright: Shropshire Archives.

Below: Letter from Lataste estate manager to Sir George Cornwall concerning imminent abolition of the slave trade. Copyright: Herefordshire Archive Services.

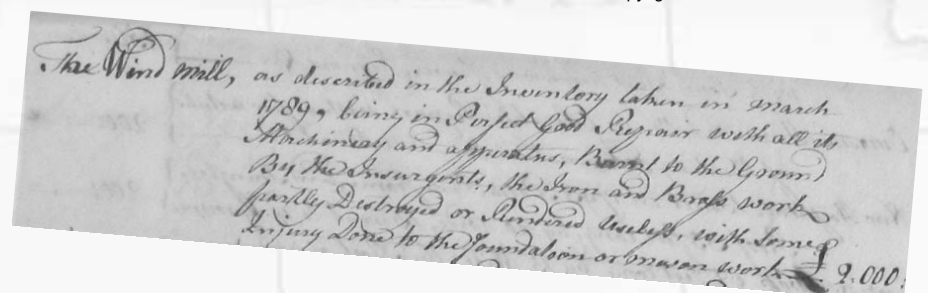
Right: Brookes slave ship image; first published by Abolitionists to raise public awareness of the Transatlantic slave trade. Copyright: Wilberforce House, Hull Museums, Hull City Council.



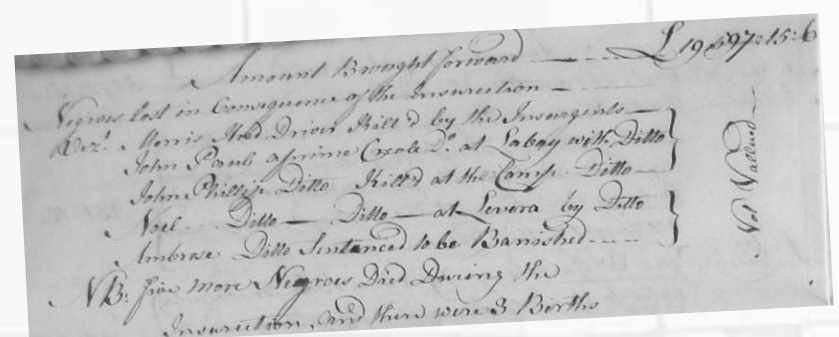
Above and below: Reports of Grenadian uprising. Copyright: Herefordshire Archives Service.



Below: Insurance assessors report on damage to a plantation in the 1795 uprising. Copyright: Herefordshire Archives Service



Below: Details of enslaved people who died fighting for their freedom in the 1795 uprising. Copyright: Herefordshire Archives Service.



## The Effects of Abolition

The 1807, the British ban on trade in new slaves from Africa, still allowed for people in the Caribbean to continue to own enslaved people. A total ban on the owning and selling of slaves in the British colonies did not occur until 1833.

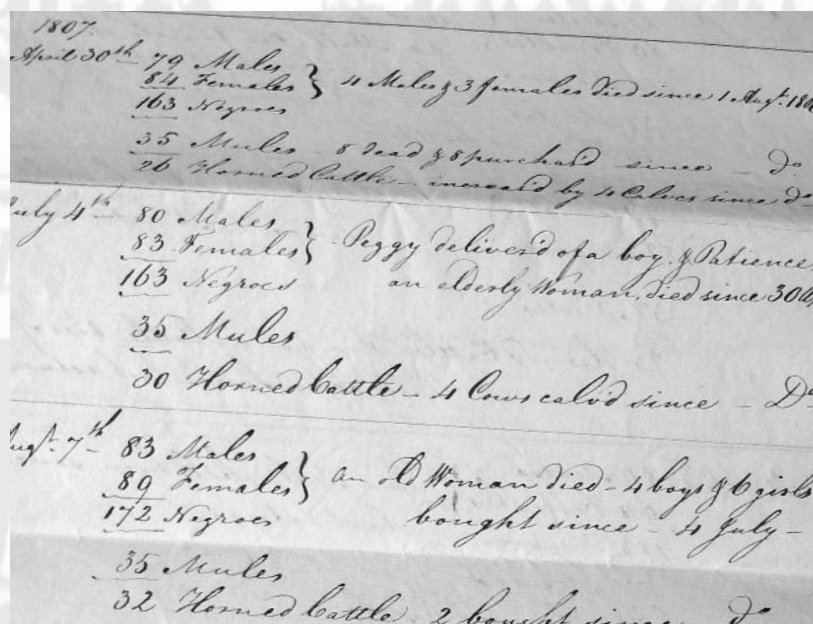
In the USA, very little changed after the British act of 1807 as slavery and the trade in enslaved people was not abolished until 1865.

However, the new British law meant that the largest slave-trading nation had now appointed itself as the enforcer of this new law. British vessels patrolled the waters off the coast of Africa and in the Caribbean intercepting ships from other countries, which continued to trade in enslaved people.

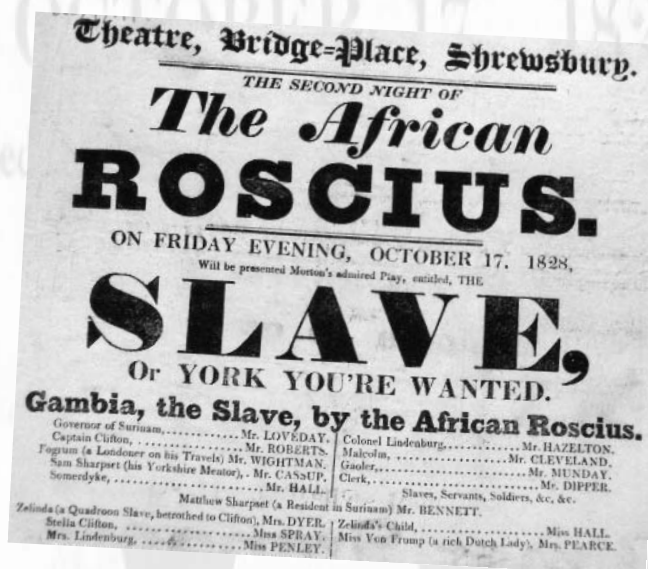
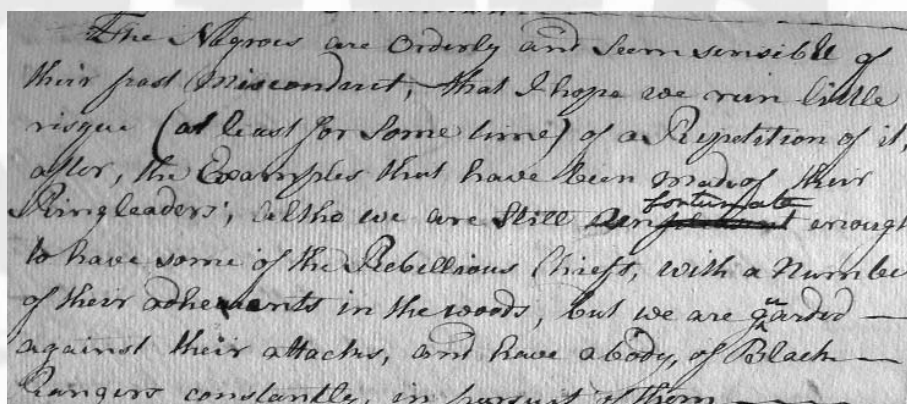


Above: Ledbury Baptist church.  
 Right: Ross-on-Wye Baptist church.  
 Below: Ross-on-Wye British and Foreign school.  
 All Herefordshire Heritage Services.

The British Isles also became a refuge for enslaved people who had escaped. One such man, Moses Roper, made it onto a ship to Britain and toured the country telling his life story of enslavement in North America. In 1839, he visited Ledbury, Leominster, Ross on Wye and Tenbury in Herefordshire and Oswestry, Wellington, Wem and Whitchurch in Shropshire.



Above: Inventory of enslaved people on Lataste estate, 1807.  
 Below: Fighting for their freedom, meant risking their lives.  
 Both copyright: Herefordshire Archive Services.



Plays about enslaved people raised public awareness and support for abolition.  
 Copyright: Shropshire Arcives.



## Enslaved Legacies

Across Britain the 400 years of the Transatlantic slave trade has left its mark on almost every aspect of our lives. From the tropical produce that is now an everyday part of our lives to the more personal legacies of the descendants of enslaved people.

Elizabeth Barrett Browning, the 19th-century poet whose family owned a large estate in Herefordshire was herself a descendant of slaves on her father's side.

The Barretts were a Creole (mixed ethnicity) family who owned sugar plantations in Jamaica and who relied on slave labour to work their land. Elizabeth passionately opposed slavery and became estranged from her father because of her views.

Her poetry often called for social justice for slaves and child labourers alike.

The African societies and countries most affected by the Transatlantic slave trade had their social, cultural and political structures disrupted.

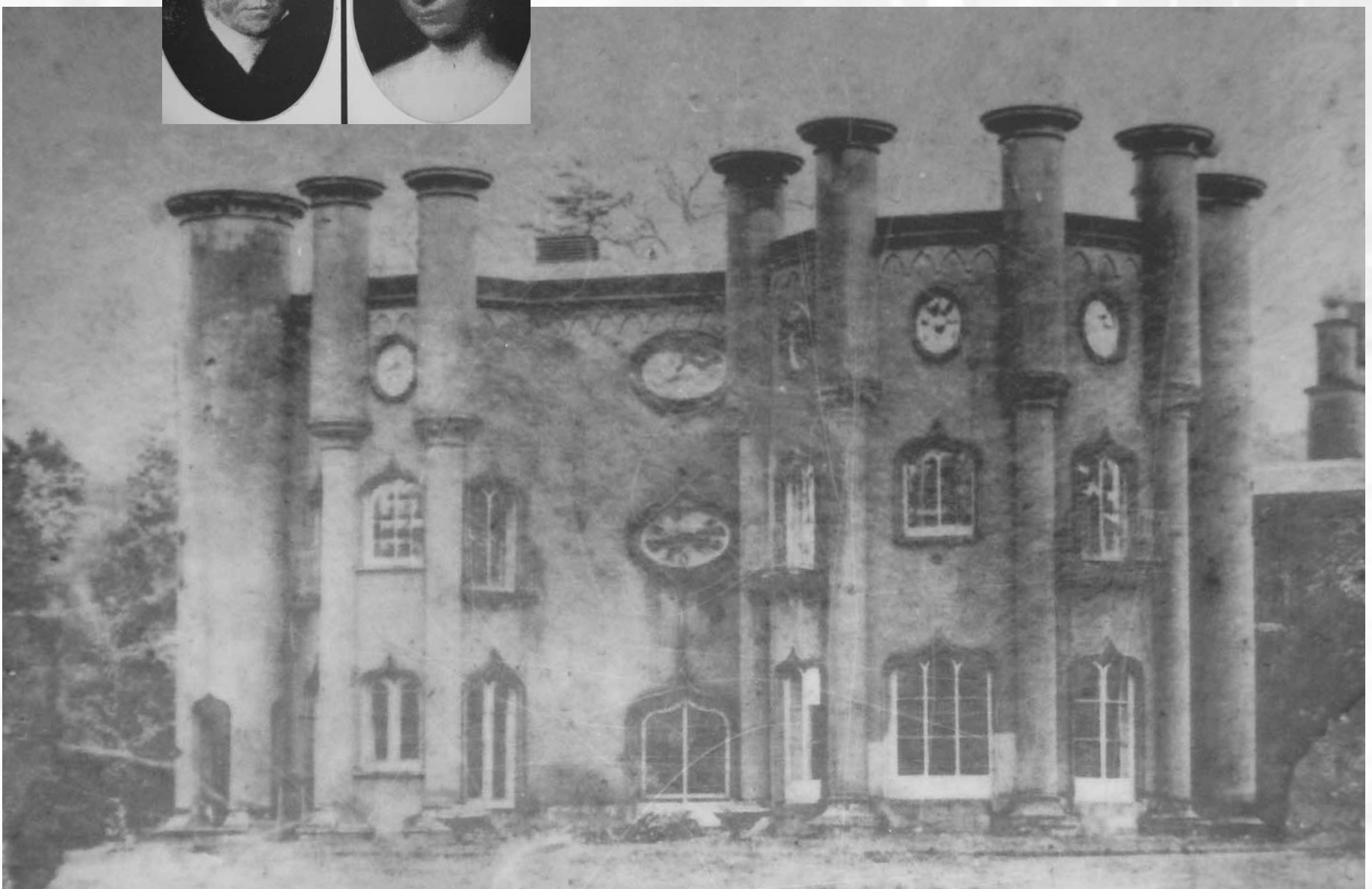
Many of the poorest nations in Africa today are in the areas that supplied the most people to feed the Transatlantic slave trade.



Above:  
Elizabeth Barrett Browning.  
*Herefordshire Heritage Services.*

Left:  
Elizabeth Barrett Browning's parents.  
*Herefordshire Heritage Services.*

Below:  
Hope End, Ledbury. The local home of the Barrett family.  
*Herefordshire Heritage Services.*



## Slavery Now

There are more enslaved people in the world today than during the time of the Transatlantic slave trade.

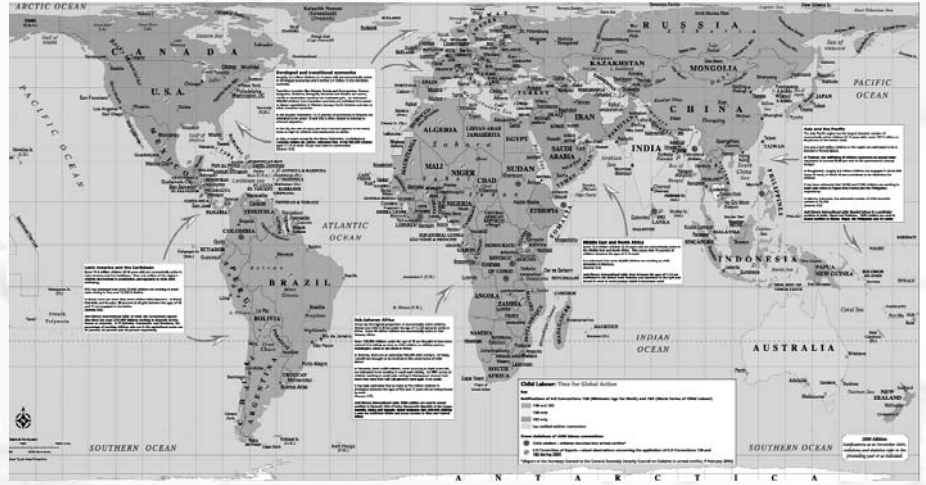
This modern slavery takes different forms:

### Bonded labour

People take or are tricked into taking a loan. They then have to repay the debt by working long hours for as long as the debt exists.

### Forced labour

People are illegally recruited by employers and forced to work under threat of physical violence or other punishments.



Map showing child labour in the world today.  
Copyright: Anti-slavery International.

### Chattel slavery

People are dehumanised and bought and sold as property as during the Transatlantic slave trade.

### Early and forced marriage

Women and girls are married without choice and often subjected to physical violence.

### Slavery by descent

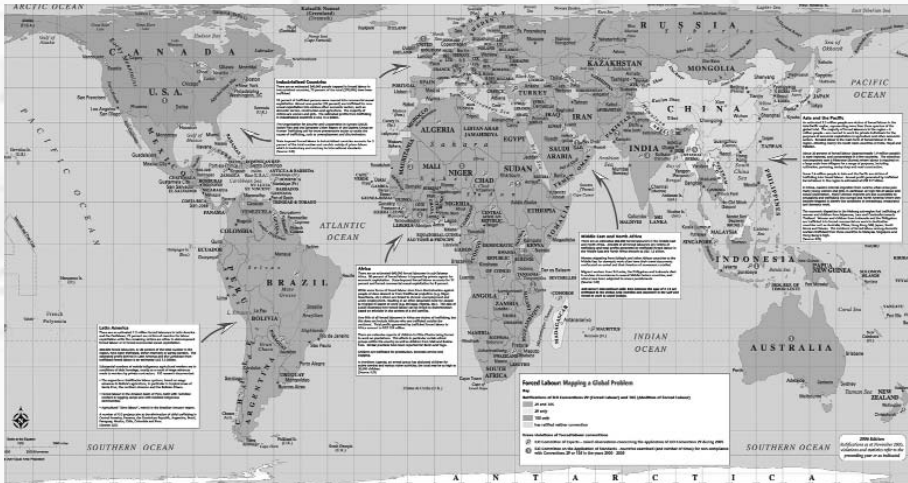
People are born into a slave class.

### Trafficking

This is the transport and trade of people from one place to another so they can be forced into working as slaves.

### Child labour

This affects about 179 million children world-wide. They carry out work that is dangerous and harmful to children's health and well-being.



Map showing forced labour in the world today.  
Copyright: Anti-slavery International.



Look for these logos on products when you shop.



### Unfair trade!

Living in Britain, we may unknowingly support slavery through the products we buy.

### What you can do?

Herefordshire is a designated **Fairtrade** county.

The **Fairtrade** logo is an independently assessed standard which means that the workers who produced these goods were paid a fair wage and were not part of the industry of slavery.

So, help stop slavery today:  
only put **Fairtrade** products in your shopping basket.

Be an active consumer and let retailers know how you feel about their involvement in modern slavery.