

PLEASE ALLOW ABOUT 40 MINUTES FOR THIS WALK

FROM THE FRONT OF THE TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE walk down High Street to the traffic lights, turn right into Potter Street and along to Market Square.



[1] Corn Exchange (built 1828)

1. MARKET SQUARE, bounded by High Street and Potter Street, is home to the **Corn Exchange** [1] (1828) designed by Lewis Vulliamy and in use until c.1946. It once housed the Magistrates' Courts (now a bank) and had a large Ballroom. It was saved from demolition by public objection in 1967. This area and the cross-roads is the heart of the ancient Saxon town.

2. WITH POTTER STREET behind you, on the far side of the Square stands the former **Curriers Arms** [2] (1771), a public house until 1905.



[2] Curriers Arms (built 1771)

3. ON THE LEFT CORNER with Potter Street stood the **Plume of Feathers Inn**. It later became part of **Clement Joscelyne** a large family-owned Department Store, which traded for over 130 years until 2012.

4. AT THE LEFT SIDE of the square a lane leads to the old **Drill Hall**, built in 1906 in memory of Cecil Rhodes (Colonialist and founder of Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe). It has been a home for the Territorial Army, Saturday Dances, a health clinic etc. It is now a restaurant.

RETURN TO THE HIGH STREET

5. THE TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE (corner of High Street) was once the **Reindeer Inn**, famously described by Samuel Pepys in his diary on his journeys to Cambridge (1667).

6. WALK UP THE HIGH STREET to No. 7 (a hairdressers) on the corner of Church Street: this was the **Old Grammar School** [3] (18th-early19th Cent).



[3] Old Grammar School (18th-early19th Cent).

7. UP THE HILL is **St. Michael's Church** [cover], 15th Cent, replacing earlier Saxon and Norman buildings. A famous vicar was the Rev Francis Rhodes (1807-1878), father of Cecil Rhodes; he enlarged the parish (c.1860) to include All Saints Church (Hockerill) and Holy Trinity (South Street). More details of St Michael's can be found inside.

YOU ARE NOW IN WINDHILL: Mediaeval fairs were held here; residentially favoured by the 18th-19th Cent gentry.

8. ST. JOSEPH'S R.C. CHURCH, was designed by Doran Webb and consecrated on June 19th 1906. The **Town Council offices** are now in the 'Old Monastery'; behind are the former 'Monastery Gardens'.

9. NO. 11, THE LINKS: home of Henry Gilbey who started a coach service from here to Cambridge in 1823 and Aldgate, London in 1824; father of Sir Walter Gilbey (of Gilbey Gin fame), the Gilbey family were massive benefactors to the town.

10. NO. 15B is a former **Oast House**; the buildings were once a **Maltings**, now converted to residences.

11. THE BUILDING at the top is **St. Marys R.C. School**, once a convent, home to an order of Belgian nuns (late 19th Cent). **RETURN DOWN THE HILL ON THE LEFT-HAND SIDE.**

12. ON THE LEFT IS No. 28 the local **British Legion**. It was acquired by them in 1948, with donations from 3 local businessmen.

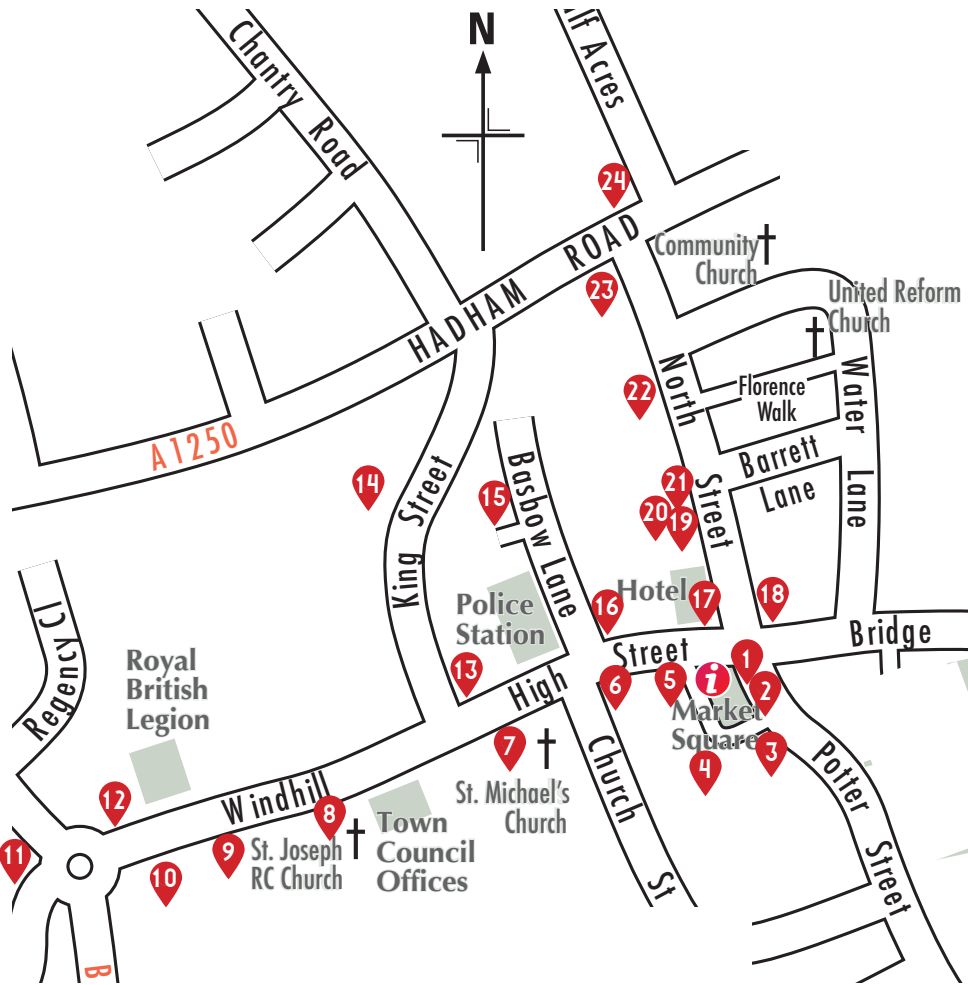
13. FURTHER DOWN the hill the half-timbered building was the **Boars Head Inn** [4], 15th Cent, with a filled-in mediaeval doorway.

14. BEFORE THE PUB, turn left into King Street. Note the early 19th Cent cottages, No's 25-33 with fine fire insurance company plaques.

15. TURN SHARP RIGHT at the end and up the steps into Basbow Lane (or return up King Street, then turn down Windhill). Notice Nos. 43-49, early 17th Cent cottages with their back doors in King Street.



[4] Boars Head Inn (built 15th Cent)



[5] The George Inn (originally 15th Cent)

16. AT THE OTHER END of Basbow Lane is a fine 14th-15th Cent timber-framed building (formerly Tissimans, a tailors). Note the carved angle post; along the side in Basbow Lane above the first window are carpenters' marks used to assist the assembly of the timber frames—an early version of flat-pack.

17. ON THE CORNER with North Street is **The George Inn** [5], originally a 15th Cent building now of the 17/19th Cent, and one of the oldest recorded Coaching Inns in Bishop's Stortford, visited by King Charles I in 1629. Its plasterwork is decorated ('pargetted'), a typical feature of the area.

TURN LEFT ALONG NORTH STREET

18. ACROSS NORTH STREET [6] is a restaurant; this building housed the first **Holland & Barrett** department store, (originally A S Barrett). Also, further along, notice the **White Hart**, emblem of the 1st Herts Light Horse Volunteers (formed 1862) once based at Silver Leys on Hadham Road (now Bishop's Stortford Rugby Football Club).



[6] North Street with Holland & Barrett, Department Store

19. FURTHER ALONG, two restaurants occupy 17th/18th Cent premises, once a former 19th Cent department store [7]; notice the fine range of 18th Cent cast-iron window fronts.



[7] Swooner's Ironmongers and Auctioneers (19th Cent)

22. FURTHER ALONG, past the next yard entrance, stands the former **White Horse Inn** [8], 15th Cent, now a restaurant. Its plaster work is pargetted. In the middle of the street once stood the Cage or town Lock-up, which was removed during the 18th century.

23. THE HALF MOON [9] on the corner, a 17th Cent inn still retains some original stables



[8] White Horse Inn (15th Cent)



[9] Half Moon, (17th Cent) and Chantry Gate, (16th Cent)

24. AT THE END of North Street look across Hadham Road to the gated **Chantry** [9]. It dates back to the 16th Cent and once housed a Chantry priest (founded 1485).

RETURN ALONG NORTH STREET TO THE TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE FOR ROUTES 2 & 3.

Photo acknowledgements: Hertfordshire Archives & Local Studies (cover, 1, 3, 6, 9); Bishop's Stortford Museum (2, 4-5, 7-8)

