

PLEASE ALLOW ABOUT 50 MINUTES FOR THIS WALK

WALK TO YOUR RIGHT FROM OUTSIDE THE TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE, through Market Square until you reach Potter Street [1] on your right.



[1] Potter Street (c. 1900)

3. DOWN THE STEPS (or return to the traffic lights and turn right down Bridge Street), on Devoil's Lane (originally Dunhill Lane), the **Black Lion** (16th Cent) [2] is another mediaeval survival; a black lion was the heraldic symbol of Queen Phillipa, wife of Edward III.

4. IN BRIDGE STREET [3], almost opposite is **The Star** (16th Cent, with 16th/17th Cent outbuildings). Further down, the Town Mill stood near the present entrance to **Jackson Square** (find the moss-covered stone plaque to the left); the Stort River (since diverted) flowed on the route of Old River Lane under a bridge here [4].



[3] Bridge Street (c 1900)

TURN RIGHT OUT OF COOPERS into Water Lane, part of the ancient town that once had tanneries and a brewery [5].

6. TO THE RIGHT IS THE Guild House, c.1740, now an Estate Agents, one of an array of buildings whose back gardens ran down to the River Stort (since diverted).

7. TO THE LEFT is the **United Reformed Church** (1860), in the Italianate style; it replaced an earlier, smaller Congregational chapel.



[5] Hawkes Brewery looking towards its Water Lane entrance

1. OPPOSITE MARKET SQUARE is an 1889 Italianate building (now a building society), which contained the town's first purpose-built Post Office.

2. TO THE RIGHT ARE STEPS to Devoil's Lane; further along, **Jackson Square** marks a major 1960s town redevelopment: the River Stort was diverted, the Link Road bypassed the old town centre and many Victorian buildings along Potter Street were replaced.



[2] Black Lion Inn (16th Cent.)

5. OPPOSITE IS AN OLD Maltings building (note the chimneys); further up Bridge Street, this building once housed Bishop Bonner (c.1555), Queen Mary's persecutor of the Protestants. Inside **Coopers**, to the right of the entrance next Water Lane, are decorated plaster panels on the ceiling.

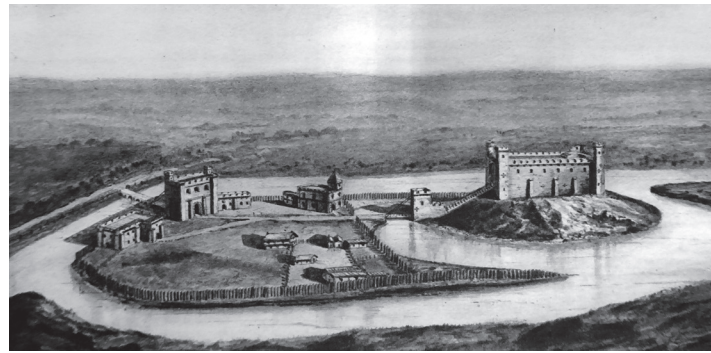


[4] The Town Mill sluice looking towards the Bridge Street Maltings (c. 1960)

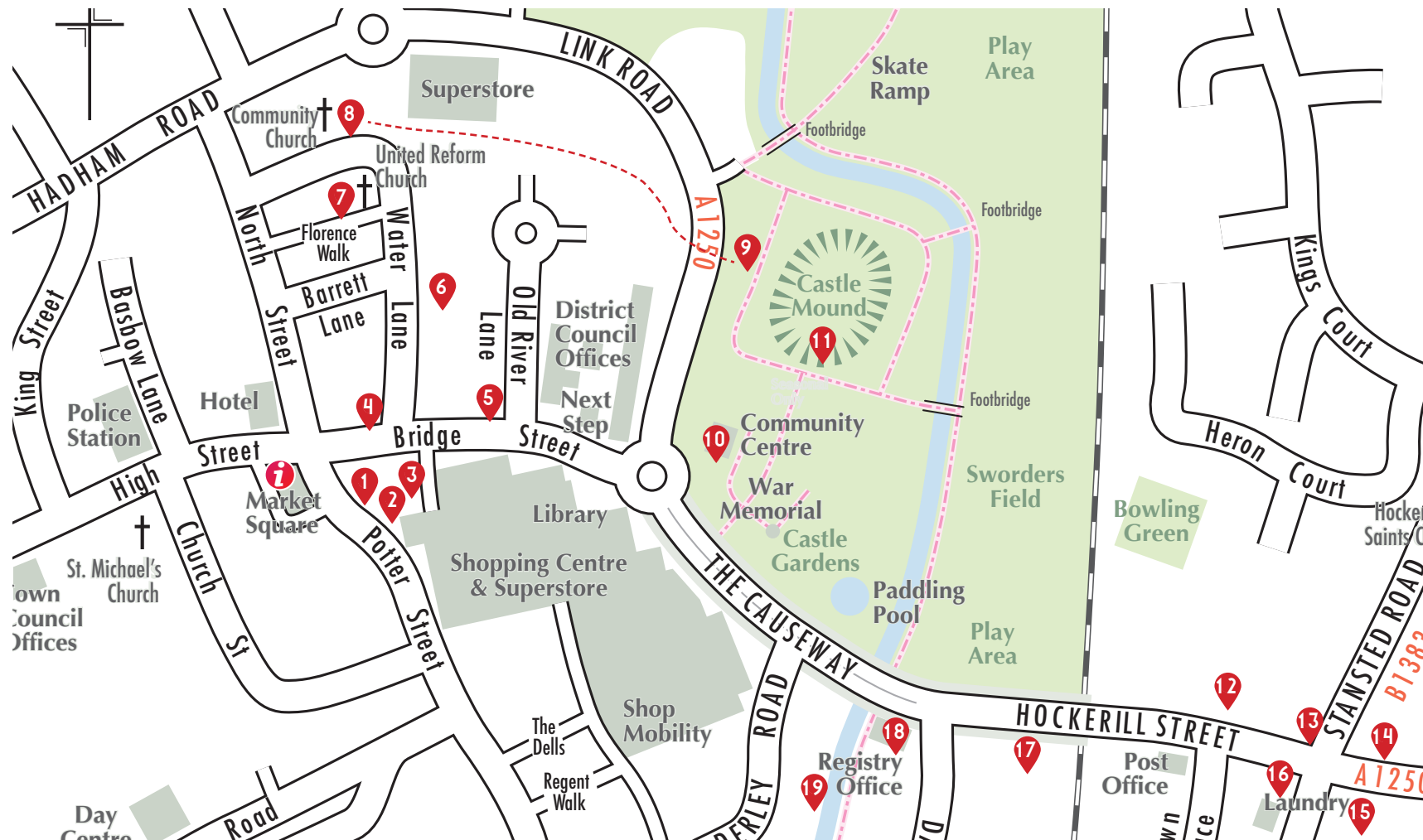
8. ALONG WATER LANE by the bend are several buildings, parts of the former **Hawkes Brewery** [5]. Looking east across the car park, behind the trees, are the Norman **Waytemore Castle** mound, Hockerill and All Saints Church beyond.

TURN RIGHT DOWN THE PATH beside the Supermarket car park, across the car park is the Link Road (a 1960s development); use the pedestrian crossing over the Link Road to enter **Castle Gardens**.

9. BY THE PATH is a granite **Water Fountain** donated to the town in 1872 by Edwin & Eliza Eyre in memory of George Bramston Archer Houblon (born George Bramston Eyre) of Hallingbury Place. It was in the Hockerill Crossroads until 1920.



[6] Reconstruction: Waytemore Castle in the time of King John (c.1150)



10. FURTHER AROUND the path is a bungalow which marks the position of the notorious **Castle gaol** and dungeons demolished in 1649, replaced by the Cherry Tree Inn.

11. THE MOUND bears the remains of **Waytemore Castle** (c.1086) [6], held by the Bishops of London for 600 years. The key from the **Tourist Information Centre** allows access to the steps up the mound and an interesting view of the town.

LEAVE CASTLE GARDENS: pass the War Memorial, cross the bridge over the moat, turn left into the Causeway and proceed past the park up the hill (Hockerill Street).

12. IN HOCKERILL STREET [7] notice the remnants of several Maltings behind the shops on the left.



[7] Hockerill Street and the Cock Inn (built 1620)



[8] The Crown Inn, demolished 1899'

13. AT THE CROSSROADS were four coaching inns: this was the turnpike (17th/18th Cent) that superseded the old way through Market Square. On the west corner of Stansted Road was the **Red Lion** (c.1660 – now a restaurant) which played host to Charles II. Henry Gilbey became the landlord in 1841; Sir Walter Gilbey, his son, co-founded the great wine merchant business W & A Gilbey

14. OPPOSITE IS The **Cock Inn** (1620) [7], a pargetted (patterns in the plaster facade) building that once had a courthouse and gaol attached.

15. THE Coach and Horses (c.1770) stood on the south-east corner, now redeveloped as offices.

16. ON THE SOUTH-WEST CORNER stood the famous **Crown Inn** (1601) [8] visited by the gentry (inc. John Wesley, George IV and Princess Victoria). Landlord Thos. Adderley (1734) was a co-founder of the Stort Navigation Co. The premises (demolished 1898) extended from Crown Terrace around the corner into London Road.

WALK BACK DOWN HOCKERILL STREET

17. NO 18 HOCKERILL STREET is a converted remnant of a large **Match Factory** that stood behind; No 14 has a fine mansard roof, both buildings saved from demolition in the 1970s.

18. AT THE BOTTOM OF THE HILL, across Dane Street, the mock-Tudor building (c.1920s) is now the **Town's Registry Office**: it has the clock from a former wharf building and once provided offices for the Union Workhouse (now renovated for housing in the Herts & Essex Hospital grounds).

19. FROM THE CAUSEWAY river bridge, walk a few yards along the river towpath; this represents the end of the Stort Navigation opened in 1769; see the rare **riverside crane** on the right used for loading barge traffic.

RETURN TO THE TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE for Routes 1 & 3 and to **return** the **Castle Mound** key.

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

