

PLEASE ALLOW ABOUT 1 HOUR FOR THIS WALK

FROM THE TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE walk to your right into Market Square and then to Potter Street.

PROCEED DOWN POTTER STREET: this follows an ancient route south through the town; walk towards the corner of Church Street. Potter Street and South Street [cover] have changed considerably in the 19th and 20th centuries, having lost their inns, residences and Maltings, being extensively rebuilt for shops.

1. THE MODERN Boots building [1] on the corner of Potter and Church Street replaced older buildings [2] that also housed pharmacy businesses.

2. IN CHURCH STREET walk up the hill; on the left, new buildings have replaced a Technical College. Around the corner, the large brick building (right) was the first Police Station and Jail, later becoming the headquarters for the Probation Service and the Civil Defence.

RETURN TO THE BEND in church Street, cross the road and walk down the footpath to Apton Road.



[1] Potter Street (1890s)



[2] Corner of Church Street and Potter Street (1880s)

4. ACROSS APTON ROAD, Apton (or Appleton) Fields formerly stretched south to Newtown Road, but was increasingly built up in Victorian times. The large building opposite reached up a flight of steps was until the 1990s the headquarters of the Salvation Army (rebuilt in 1925).

TURN LEFT DOWN Apton Road, at the corner turn right and start walking down South Street.



[3] Granada (formerly Regent) Cinema (1950s)

5. MARKS & SPENCER across South Street was built on the site of the Regent (later Granada) Cinema [3]; at one time there were two cinemas in the town. The walk beside it once led to the river, diverted in the 1960s.



[4] The former Working Men's Club, demolished 1937

6. THE LARGE BRICK BUILDING opposite Marks & Spencer replaced the Working Men's Club [4] and Great Hall (opened 1876, demolished 1937) that held many town functions; before 1876 it was the mansion of FJ Nash, a partner in Hawkes Brewery (Water Lane – Route 2). Next door was located the Bishop's Stortford Fire/Ambulance Station [5].

7. FURTHER ALONG was a Temperance Hotel (the 4-storey brick building), next stood the old Post Office [6] now replaced by a food store. Opposite was the Anchor Inn, behind it were Maltings destroyed in a huge 1907 blaze. The Methodist Church was built in the early 1900s; Riverside Walk opposite led to the River Stort.



[6] The old Post Office (1950s)

9. ALMOST OPPOSITE the garden is the former Baptist Church [7], now converted into business and residential accommodation.

RETURN TO SOUTH STREET

10. OPPOSITE NEWTOWN ROAD is Station Road. Its bridge [8] across the River Stort Navigation was opened in the 1860s to improve access to South Street for railway goods and passengers. Previously there was a ferry, or you went round by Dane Street and Bridge Street.



[8] Station Road Bridge (c. 1870)

13. FURTHER ALONG South Street on the right are five Kings Cottages. Plaques show they were funded by local benefactors, including Sir Walter Gilbey, Admiral F. Vander Meulen JP and Mrs. Georgina Menet (related to 1st wife of Rev F Rhodes). These were built as alms cottages and are still run by a Trust.



[5] The former Fire / Ambulance Station (1950s)

8. CONTINUE ALONG and walk up Newtown Road. Newtown was built in the 19th Cent on Apton Fields to house workers on the Railway (opened 1842). Some of the early terraced housing still remains.

The small Garden of Remembrance [7] was given to the town by the Quakers in the 1930s in memory of Dr. Thomas Dimsdale, an early practitioner of smallpox inoculation.



[7] Garden of Remembrance and Baptist Church

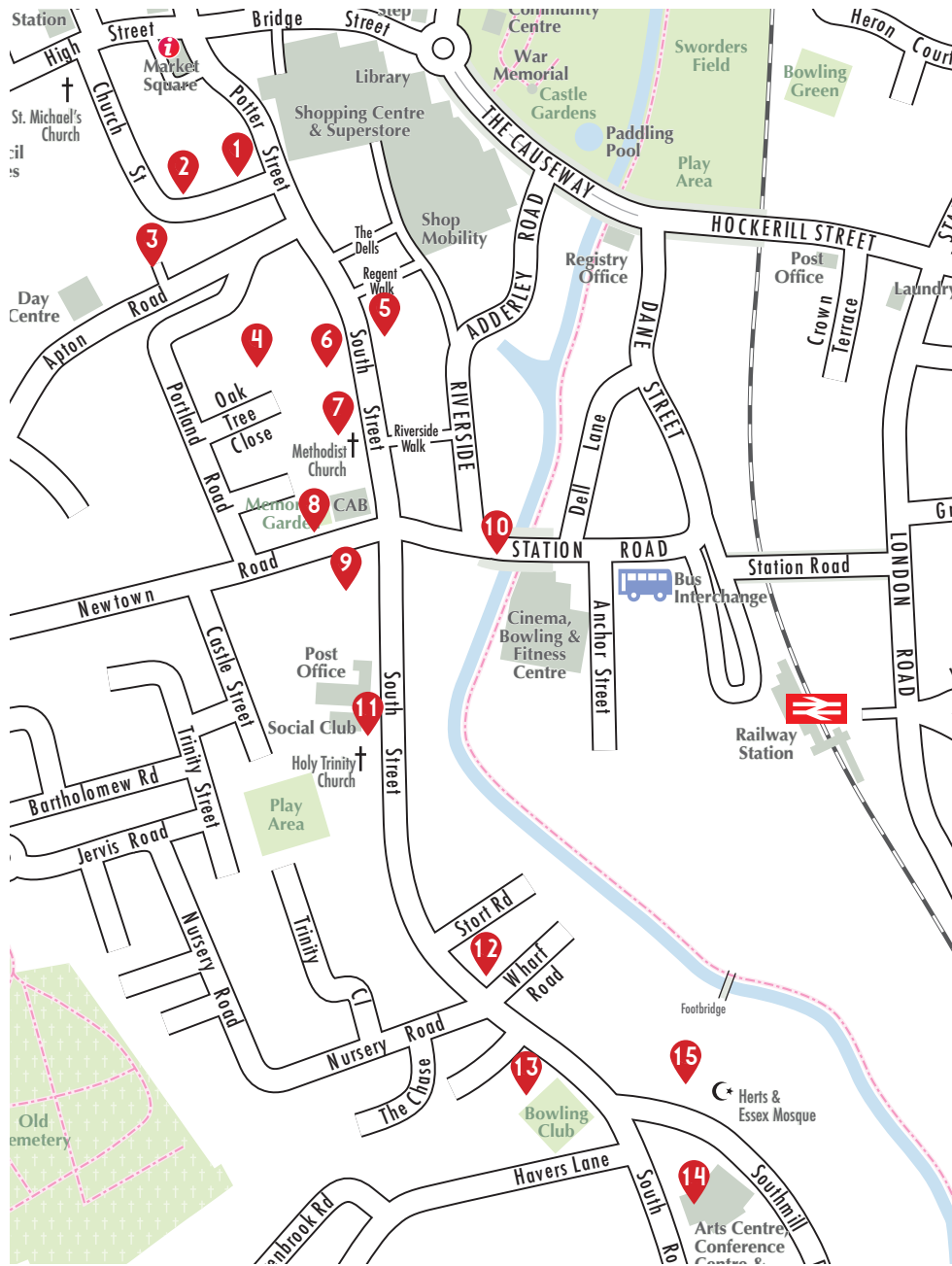
11. RETURN TO SOUTH STREET: further along on the right is the Bishop's Stortford Social Club, which (1930s) replaced the original Working Men's Club in South Street.

12. ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE of South Street you will see short streets (Stort Road, Wharf Road) which once led to Maltings and factories and provided river access.



[9] Birth place of Cecil Rhodes

14. OPPOSITE King's Cottages's the Rhodes Art Complex and Museum containing the birth place of Cecil Rhodes [9] (1853-1902), son of the Rev Francis Rhodes (vicar of St Michael's Church), Imperialist and founder of Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe).



[10] Victorian Maltings



[11] River Stort Navigation

15. OPPOSITE, in Southmill Road, are three large converted Victorian Maltings [10]. Find behind them a foot bridge over the River Stort Navigation [11] to the tow path on the other side. From there you can enjoy a peaceful walk along the river, either back to Station Road and the Causeway, or onwards along the tow path to Twyford Lock. The River Lee Navigation is 13 miles, proceeding to Limehouse Docks on the River Thames in London.

YOU HAVE REACHED THE END OF THIS TRAIL. WHY NOT CALL IN AT RHODES: VISIT THE MUSEUM TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR TOWN, ENJOY REFRESHMENTS IN THE LOUNGE BAR, OR VISIT THE GALLERY.

Photo acknowledgements: Bishop's Stortford Museum (cover, 1-11)



Shopping & entertainment: How the 20th century has replaced Victorian and earlier expansion away from the old town centre.



TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE

2 Market Square, CM23 3UU  
Tel 01279 715001  
tic@bishopsstortford.org  
www.bishopsstortford.org

TOILETS

Market Square  
Bishop's Stortford. CM23 3UU  
East Herts Council Offices  
Charringtons House. CM23 2EN

BUSES

Tel 0871 200 2233 www.interlink.org.uk

TRAINS

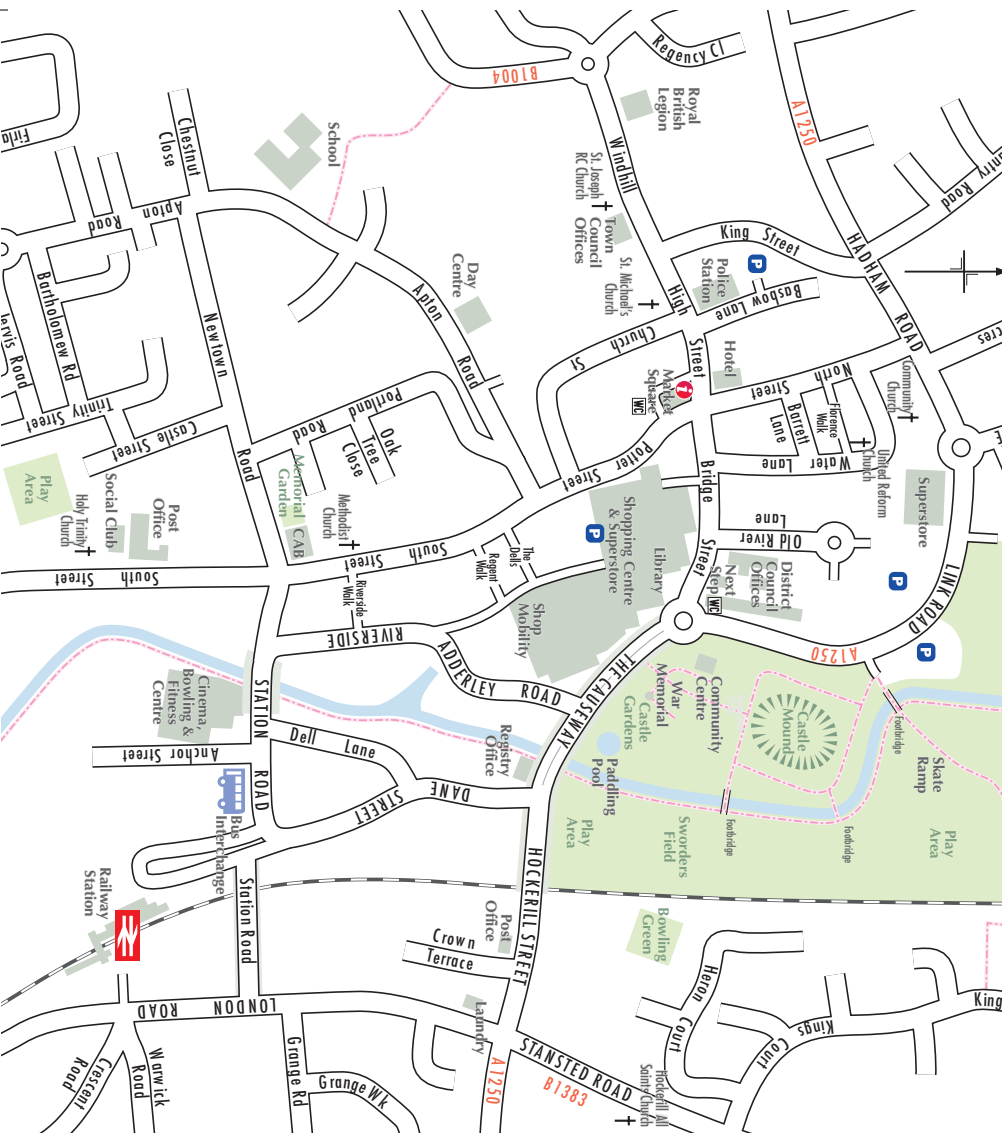
National Rail Enquiries  
08457 484950 www.nationalrail.co.uk

POLICE STATION

(No Counter Service).  
Please use telephone outside.  
Non emergency 101 from any phone  
Emergency 999 from any phone

MARKETS

Thursday & Saturday from 8.30  
Farmers & Craft Market: first Sat of  
the month 9.30 – 1.30



OTHER PLACES OF INTEREST IN AND SURROUNDING BISHOP'S STORTFORD

THE RIVER STORT AND NAVIGATION

Malting was the town's major industry for around five centuries but in 1602 a law was introduced which restricted movement of malt to packhorses rather than carts. This led eventually to an initiative by George Jackson and others to create the Stort Navigation. This received Royal Assent in 1766 and the work was complete by 1769, stretching about ten miles south to join the River Lea Navigation to Hertford and London.

RHODES ARTS COMPLEX & MUSEUM

This complex started life as the Rhodes Memorial Museum, dedicated to Cecil Rhodes, born in Nettleswell House, the home of his father, Rev Francis Rhodes, vicar of St Michael's.

The Museum opened in 1938 but was rebuilt as the Rhodes Memorial Museum and Commonwealth Centre which was officially opened in 1963.

WAYTEMORE CASTLE

This castle mound is the remnant of what was certainly a Norman castle, and possibly even Saxon. A wooden structure at first, it was likely converted to a traditional motte and bailey masonry structure soon after 1086, and surrounded by a moat.

FORGE MUSEUM

SG10 6BS Tel 01279 843301  
www.hertsmuseums.org.uk  
Explore the village of Much Hadham with the Forge Museum and Victorian Cottage Garden.

HENRY MOORE FOUNDATION

SG10 6EE Tel 01279 843333  
www.henry-moore-fdn.co.uk  
Visit the Studios, Gardens and Family Home to view some of the impressive works of Henry Moore at nearby Perry Green. Guided tours available. Open Weds – Sun & Bank Holidays. Enjoy a break at the Hop Poles pub.



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