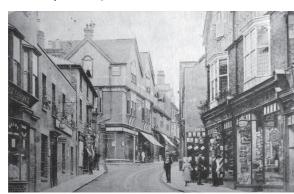
### PLEASE ALLOW ABOUT 1 HOUR FOR THIS WALK

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.



3. THE CAR PARK on your right

was the site of St Michael's Primary School (19th Cent), with separate

[1] Potter Street (1890s)



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

buildings for Boys and Girls with gardens behind for cultivation. Apton Road leads past the modern St Michael's School to the 'new' Cemetery (1855), replacing St Michael's churchyard, designed by GE Pritchett, who designed or renovated many churches in the area, and who built Oak Hall in Chantry Road.

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.



[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).



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.

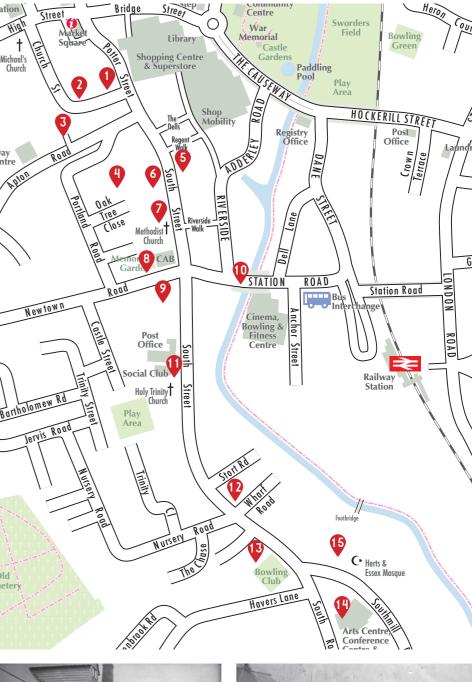
The small Garden of Remembrance [7] was given to the town by the Quakers in the 1930s in memory of Dr. Thomas Dimsdale, an early practitioner of smallpox inoculation.



[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









[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)



Because roads were poor, the Stort Navigation (1769 – see Route 3) and the new railway (1842) greatly facilitated commerce with London's huge population. The Georgian town houses in Windhill (Route 1) reflect this increasing wealth. After the railway opened Henry Gilbey's old-style coach service collapsed; but wealthy entrepreneurs began to live out of London and the town expanded (see Newtown Road – Route 3). Cecil Rhodes (son of FW Rhodes, vicar of St Michael's) promoted colonial expansion in Southern Africa; Sir Walter Gilbey (wine merchant extraordinaire) and Sir John Barker (London department store magnate) stimulated the town's Victorian development. In 1944 the US Army expanded Stansted airfield, fostering today's major airport. The 1960s less aesthetic improvements saw river diversion, the Jackson Square shopping precinct, new

Stortford's position on the London to Cambridge-Newmarket road brought many visitors. The Tourist Information Centre occupies the Reindeer Inn site in Market Square, famously recorded in Samuel Pepys' diary (1667). Inn-keeping and local barley malting for brewing became big enterprises; many old maltings remain (see Routes 1 & 2); Hawkes & Co built a large brewery in Water Lane (Route 2). The neoclassical Corn Exchange (1828) also indicates the town's agricultural importance.

Waytemore Castle (see Town Trail Route 2), originally built of wood on a large artificial mound (1086), later of local flint (c.1135), was moated and represents an enormous investment in manual labour. It was a prison from c.1290 onwards. Only the gatehouse and a gaol survived after 1549.

## **TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE** 2 Market Square, CM23 3UU Tel 01279 715001

tic@bishopsstortford.org www.bishopsstortford.org

CM23 2EN

**BUSES** Tel 0871 200 2233 www.interlink.org.uk

Market Square
Bishop's Stortford. CM23 3UU
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POLICE STATION Service).



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Emergency 999 from any phone

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

# 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

Our town is probably of Saxon origin (5th/7th Cent.), situated on a defensible rise where St Michael's Church (15th Cent.) and Market Square are now. It faced a marshy Stort river valley to the east; beyond, the Danelaw threatened. Stortford lies south of Stane Street, a major Roman road linking Camulodunum (Colchester) to Ermine Street at Puckeridge. Market Square is at an ancient cross-roads, where the Saxon east-west deviation from Stane Street once crossed the north-south trackway to London. Stortford became 'Bishop's Stortford' when the Norman Bishop of London acquired the area after the Conquest. 'Storteford', described in King William I's Domesday Book (1085-6), had c.30 households, a priest (therefore a church), two mills, and enough woodland to sustain 300 hogs.

STORTFORD

A BRIEF HISTORY OF BISHOP'S

SURROUNDING OTHER PLACES

**BISHOP'S** 

**STORTFORD** 

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## HATFIELD FOREST, TAKELEY CM22 6NE Tel 01279 870678

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.

This castle mound is the remnant of what

WAYTEMORE CASTLE

opened in 1963.

The Museum opened in 1938 but was rebuilt as the Rhodes Memorial Museum and

alth Centre which was officially

of St Michael's.

Memorial Museum, dedicated to Cecil Rhodes, born in Nettleswell House, the home of his father, Rev Francis Rhodes, vicar

www.rhodesbishopsstortford.org.uk
This complex started life as the Rhodes

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Chestnut

Bartholomew Rd

teet Street

taarte rodan A

LANYIS ROAD





But the past is still present if you know where to look. Today, Stortford is an attractive mix of the Norman, mediaeval (St Michael's Church and several inns), Georgian (Corn Exchange) and later periods. Enjoy your tour; visit our Museum (Route 3); we hope the Town Trails bring alive our town's history.

aesthetic improvements saw river diversion, the roads to ease traffic, and housing development.









Financial support for the production of these town trails was gratefully received from East Herts District Council, Bishop's Stortford Town Council, Bishop's Stortford Civic Federation and the Bishop's Stortford History Society.

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