



Tel 0871 200 2233 www.interlink.org.uk

BUSES

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

TOILETS

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

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE

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

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A BRIEF HISTORY OF BISHOP'S STORTFORD

Our town is probably of Saxon origin (5th/7th Cent.), situated on a defensible rise where St Michaels 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 was given 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.

Waytemore Castle (see Town Trail Route 2), originally built of wood on a large artificial mound (1086), later of stone and 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.

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.

Because roads were poor, the Stort Navigation (1769 – see Routes 3 & 4) 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 Michaels) promoted colonial expansion; 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 roads to ease traffic, and housing development.

But the past is still present if you know where to look. Today, Stortford is an attractive mix of the Norman, mediaeval (St Michaels Church and several inns), Georgian (Corn Exchange) and later periods. Enjoy your tour; visit our Museum in the Rhodes Arts Complex (Routes 3 & 4); we hope the Town Trails bring alive our town's history.



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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GIBBERD GARDEN, HARLOW
CM17 0NA Tel 01279 442112
www.thegibberdgarden.co.uk
An inspirational gallery and Grade II listed garden created by Sir Frederick Gibberd, and the master-planner of Harlow New Town, who acquired the site in 1957 and remodelled the house and garden.

HATFIELD FOREST, TAKELEY
CM22 6NE Tel 01279 870678
www.nationaltrust.org.uk
Relax in the beautiful woodland of Hatfield Forest near Takeley. Ideal for walking with a number of nature trails and an ornamental lake.

STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL
CM24 BBL (Limited opening times.)
www.stanstedmountfitchetwindmill.co.uk
Part of the village skyline since 1787 and donated to the people of Stansted in 1935. Its cap is "live", constantly facing into the wind, and its sails can still be turned.

WAYTEMORE CASTLE
officially opened in 1963.
and Commonwealth Centre which was rebuilt as the Rhodes Memorial Museum

THE RIVER STORT AND NAVIGATION
The Museum opened in 1938 but was built as the Rhodes Memorial Museum and Commonwealth Centre which was rebuilt as the Rhodes Memorial Museum

RODHES ARTS COMPLEX & MUSEUM
CM23 3JG Tel 01279 710200
www.rhodesbishopsstortford.org.uk
This complex started life as the Rhodes Memorial Museum, dedicated to Cecil Rhodes, born in Netteswell House, the home of his father, Rev Francis Rhodes, vicar of St Michael's.

MOUNTFITCHET CASTLE & TOY MUSEUM
CM24 8SP Tel 01279 813237
www.mountfitchetcastle.com
A unique, award-winning, all-weather heritage entertainment complex where prehistory, history and nostalgia combine to make an exciting day out. The Toy Museum contains one of the largest toy collections in the world.

AUDLEY END HOUSE AND GARDENS
Saffron Walden, CB11 4JF
Tel: 01799 522 842
www.english-heritage.org.uk
Audley End was one of the greatest houses of early 17th-century England. Robert Adam transformed this house in the 1760s, while Lancelot 'Capability' Brown remodelled the grounds, to create one of England's finest landscape gardens. Visit the stables and its animals.

BISHOP'S STORTFORD
OTHER PLACES OF INTEREST IN AND SURROUNDING

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 Ferry Green. Guided tours available. Open Weds - Sun & Bank Holidays. Enjoy a break at the Hoops Inn.

FORGE MUSEUM
SG10 665 Tel 01279 843301
www.herts Museums.org.uk
Explore the village of Much Hadham with the Forge Museum and Victorian Cottage Garden.

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PLEASE ALLOW ABOUT 55 MINUTES FOR THIS WALK

FROM THE FRONT OF THE TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE WALK TO THE TRAFFIC LIGHTS and continue downhill along Bridge Street.

1. BRIDGE STREET, descending from the crossroads, is one of the oldest streets in Bishop’s Stortford. Its buildings are of Victorian brick, locally made, and earlier timber-frame constructions, some 16th century. More information on the Bridge Street area is found in **Town Trail 2**.

2. BEYOND THE BLACK LION INN, the old transitions into the new: past **Devoils Lane** on your right, demolition has made way for the Jackson Square Shopping Development (opened 1974) which saw considerable change to the route of the River Stort and the buildings around us on both sides of the road.

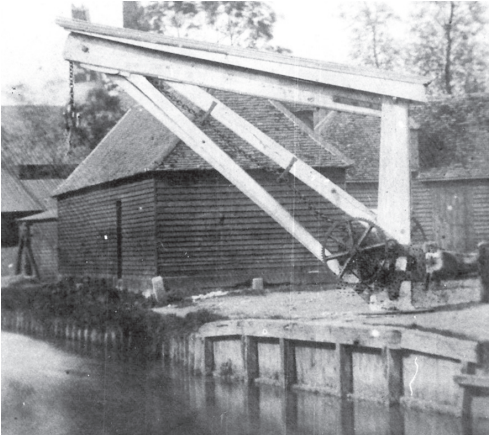


[2] Bridge Street looking uphill; the old Town Mill is centre.

4. KEEP RIGHT INTO THE CAUSEWAY, which marks the Saxon river-valley crossing. The new buildings to your right (the Public Library etc) have replaced the granaries, maltings and commercial yards active at the heyday of the River Stort Navigation (opened 1769).

5. ADDERLEY ROAD to your right is built over the site of the builders’ yard of JL Glasscock & Son [3]. JL Glasscock Jnr was also a historian and town councillor. The river flows under The Causeway and a footpath to your right takes you **onto the canal towpath**.

6. FOLLOW THE TOW-PATH: here the ‘Hockerill Cut’ is the furthest point of the Stort River Navigation, founded by Thomas Adderley (1707-1774), landlord of the Crown Inn at Hockerill, and Sir George Jackson (1725-1822), MP, Judge Advocate of the Fleet, who later took the name of Duckett. Both men are remembered in the names of Jackson Square and Adderley Road. **The River Stort Navigation** connects Bishop’s Stortford with the **River Lea Navigation** (13 miles south), thence Hertford and London.



[4] A dockside crane on the corner leading to Terminus Basin.

9. CONTINUE ON past the huge **Flour Mill** (left), whose Victorian fore-runner was burnt down in a spectacular fire (1935), to **Station Road Bridge** (constructed 1867 and paid for by public subscription). You can access the railway and bus stations and the town centre from here.

10. Although the railway opened in 1842, until the New Bridge opened in 1867 access to South Street was via a ferry, or round via Bridge Street. The photos [6, 7] show how much the buildings and the bridge have changed.



[6] Looking south from Station Road Bridge (early 20th century).



[1] The maltster's house beside the River Stort, now Old River Lane.

3. AT THE PEDESTRIAN CROSSING by **Old River Lane**, notice the **maltsters house** [1] next to the maltings (now Coopers, see **Town Trail 2**). This building once stood on the river (since diverted to make way for the shopping development) that flowed under the road (hence its name – Bridge Street) to the **Town Mill** (now replaced by a camera shop and optician) on your right [2, cover]. Near the entrance to the shopping precinct there is a lichen-covered plaque which records the Mill (demolished in 1899).



[3] The yard of JL Glasscock & Son, builders.

7. A DOCKSIDE CRANE [4] on the opposite bank reminds us of considerable local industry – Hughes Timber yard, the Foundry and Glasscock’s Builders’ yard that once existed behind it (now all replaced by modern buildings).

8. A FEW STEPS FURTHER downstream, the Navigation branches [5]. The stub of the Navigation that remains here once led to the Terminus basin (middle branch) and received the mill race from the old Town Mill (left hand branch) [Cover], all superseded by Jackson Square in 1974.



[5] The Navigation's terminus in 1896.



[7] Loading grain at HA & D Taylor's store, with Station Road bridge behind.



[8] A commercial remnant bordering the former Phipp's Yard.

12. On our side was a **gas works:** coal-gas street-lighting first came to Stortford in 1833, before the railway opened, so coal for the works was transported by barge. A condominium on the left has an octagonal shape, reflecting the gas holders that stood here [9, 10].

13. THE NEW FOOT BRIDGE connects the tow path with a large former Maltings, once owned by HA & D Taylor (see [7]). First constructed 1843, the largest, middle, wing was built 1897.



[10] A maltings in South Street, with gas holder behind.

16. ALTERNATIVELY, continue down the tow-path. Amongst the greenery on the far bank you will notice a **river branch** that once led to South Mill [12] on Mill Street.

To reach the next section of the tow path, cross the busy **London Road** (for safety, use the pedestrian crossing). You will pass South Mill Weir and Lock, the first descent of the Navigation (it lies 93 feet above the Lea Navigation 13 miles downstream). Twyford Lock (the 2nd descent) is about 1 mile. There are information boards along the tow path; enjoy the present-day peace and tranquility of the waterside.



[11] The Rhodes Birthplace Museum (c. 1938).



[12] South Mill with barge (early 20th century).

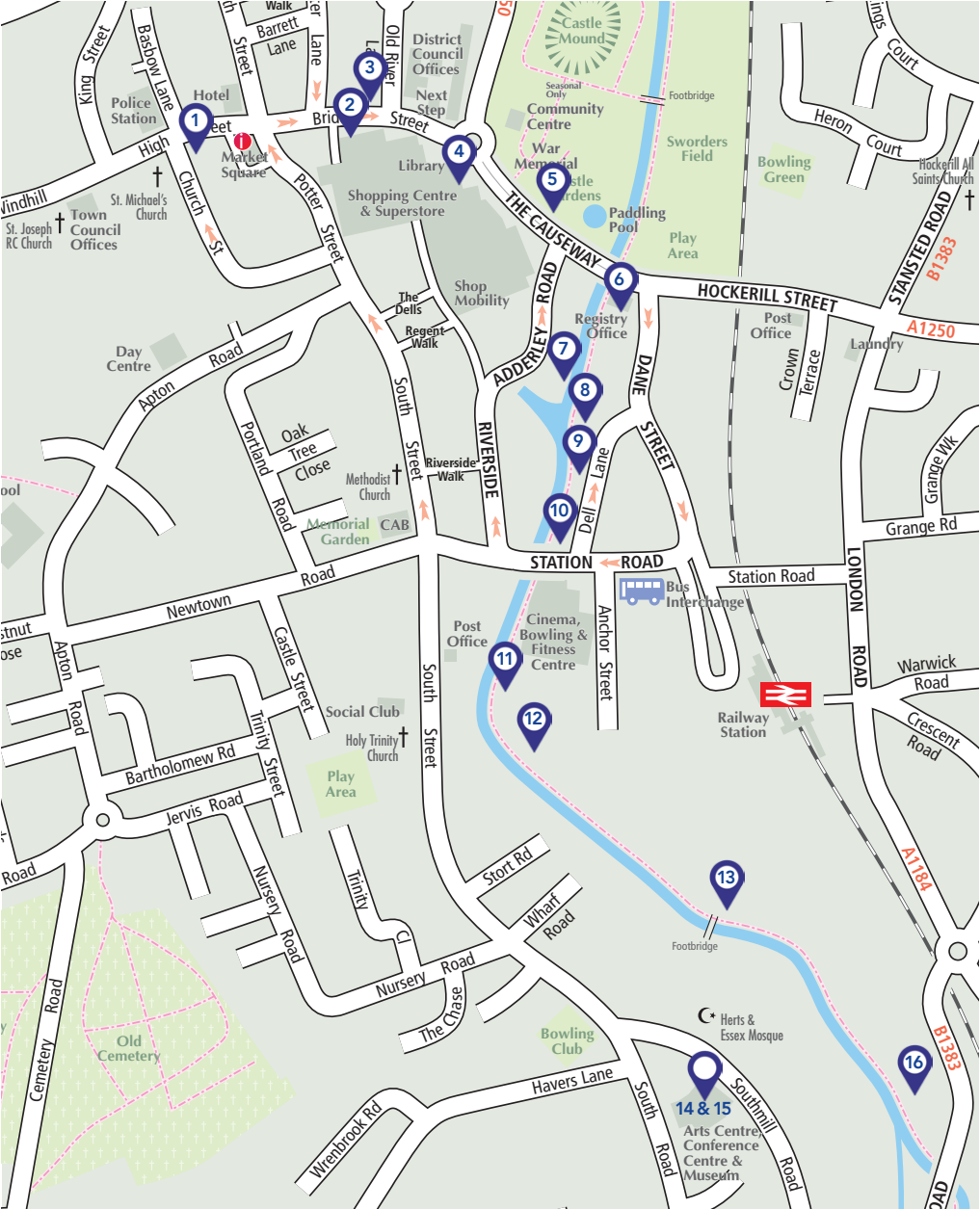


Photo acknowledgements: Bishop’s Stortford Museum (1,2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10,11, Cover). C Lydamore (5, 8, 9). V Sparrow (1982) Bishop’s Stortford in Old Picture Postcards;European Library, Zaltbommel, Netherlands (12)

Cover: The River Stort (early 1970s), just downstream from the Town Mill’s former site, now replaced by Jackson Square. The maltings in the background is on present-day Old River Lane.