



## A Walk Around Bishop's Stortford

There is much to see in the town with its rich collection of 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Century buildings in the centre, including several of the old inns that are still in business. Climb the *High Street* to the *Parish Church of St Michael*, a 15<sup>th</sup> Century church overlooking the town. The Belfry and Clock Tower date from 1431 and the brick upper part and spire are early 19<sup>th</sup> Century additions. Amongst its notable monuments is a memorial to

Cecil Rhodes, son of a former Rector.



2 Opposite the Church you will see the former *Boars Head Pub*, a 15<sup>th</sup> Century Inn with a medieval doorway. Continue down the High Street to see the *Corn Exchange* in Market Square, built by Louis Vulliamy, with its neo-classic styled façade with iconic

columns and pediments. It has now been converted into a restaurant. Continue down *Bridge St* and you will find *The Black Lion*, a 16<sup>th</sup> Century timbered pub, which has as its emblem the Black Lion of Queen Phillippa.



4 Walk along Water Lane to see the *United Reformed Church* and then walk through the car park to *Waytemore Castle & Gardens*. Traces of the

foundations of the 10<sup>th</sup> Century castle remain on top of a 12 metre high mound. The moat is still visible as a waterway surrounding the attractive Castle Gardens.



7 Take a walk along the *River Stort* 8 to the *Town Museum (Rhodes 9)*, the birthplace of Cecil Rhodes.

Then perhaps take a stroll back along *South Street* to visit our *Shops and Market*. (Thurs & Sat) 10



## Bishop's Stortford Visitor Guide

Bishop's Stortford Tourist Information Centre  
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WELCOME

**B**ishop's Stortford is an Ancient Market Town near the Hertfordshire/Essex borders. Contrary to popular belief, the town did not take its name from a crossing place over the River Stort, though from earlier times the Roman road from Verulanium ( St Albans ) to Camulodonum ( Colchester ) forded the river in the vicinity of what we now know as the Town Meads.

This river was not called the Stort – in fact that name only came into common usage in the sixteenth century – but the crossing was known as Esterteferd, perhaps named after a family or small clan ( old English, Steort – tail ), who controlled the crossing.

The town which grew up at the ford where the road crossed the river took the same name as Esterteferd and became the site of one of the lines of fortifications reputedly constructed by Edward the Elder ( died 924 ) to defend the surrounding countryside from invading Danes.

Built on a great mound which can still be seen in the Town's Castle Gardens, Waytemore Castle survived almost six hundred years before being finally demolished. In about the year 1060 the Town of Esterteferd, together with its castle, was sold to the Bishops of London and became known as Bishop's Esterteford. It later changed to the present spelling of Bishop's Stortford.