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)*

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.

3. DOWN THE STEPS (or return to the traffic lights and turn right down Bridge Street), on Devoil's Lane (originally Dunghill 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].

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

[3] *Bridge Street (c 1900)*

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.

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.

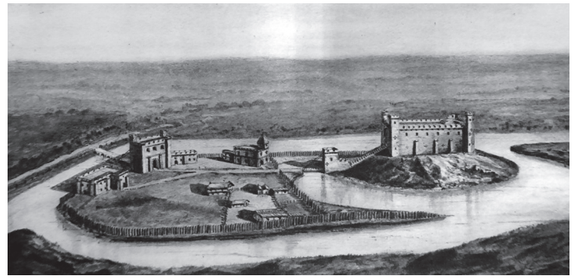
[4] *The Town Mill sluice looking towards the Bridge Street Maltings (c. 1960)*

[5] *Hawkes Brewery looking towards its Water Lane entrance*

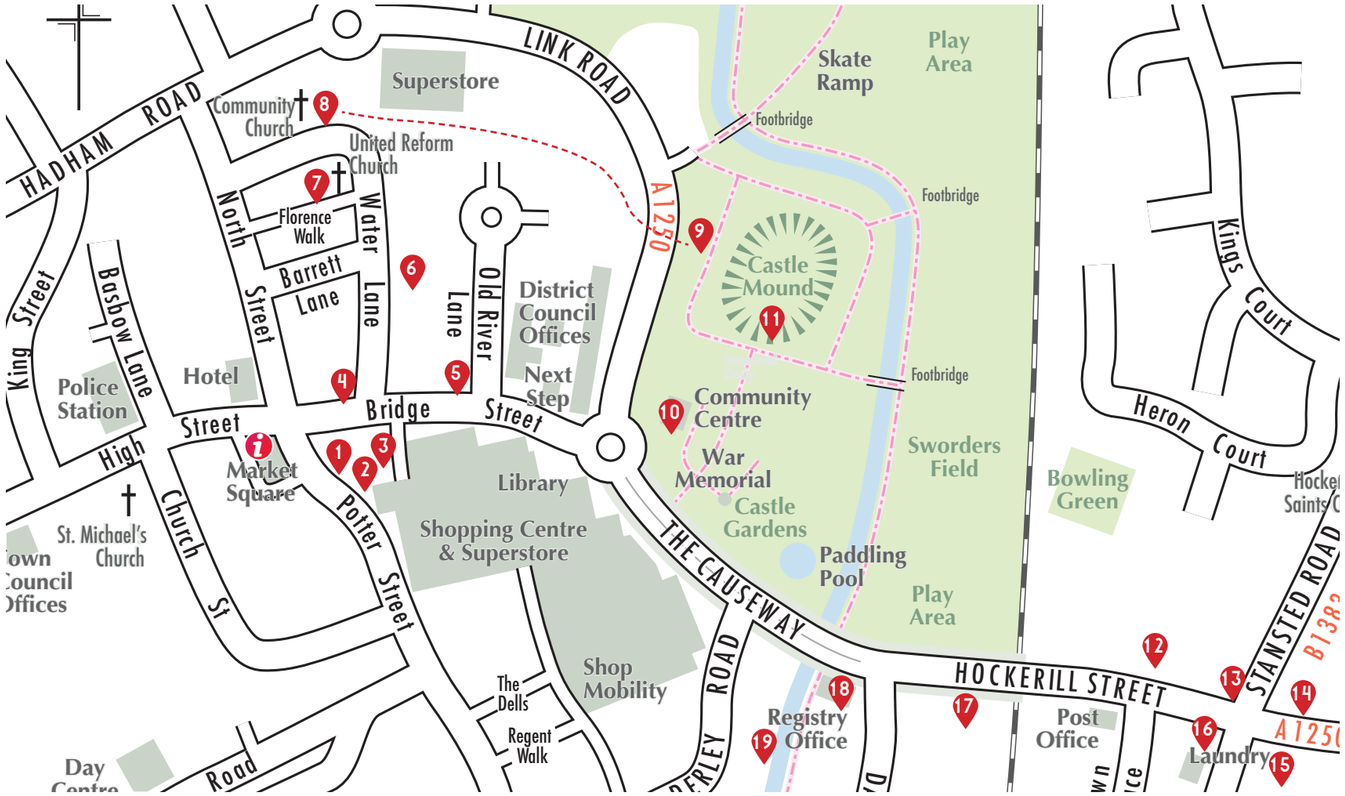
8. ALONG WATER LANE by the bend are several buildings, parts of the former **Hawkes Brewery** [5]. Looking east across the car park, behind the trees, are the Norman **Waytemore Castle** mound, Hockerill and All Saints Church beyond.

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)*



[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.

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.

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)

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

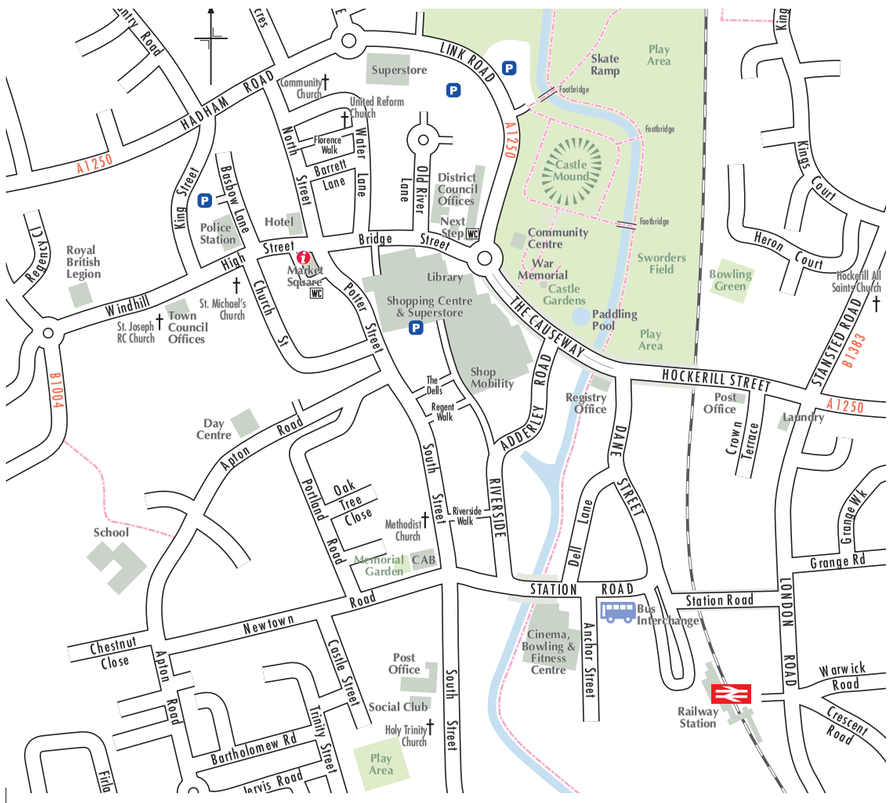
TOILETS
Market Square
Bishop's Stortford. CM23 3UU
East Herts Council Offices
Charringtons House. CM23 2EN

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 Naviagtion to Hertford and London.

RHODES 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 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.

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.

MOUNFITCHET CASTLE & TOY MUSEUM
CM24 8SP Tel 01279813237
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 collection in the world.

STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL
CM24 8BL 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.

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.

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, an uncompromising Modernist architect and the master-planner of Harlow New Town, who acquired the site in 1957 and remodelled the house and garden.

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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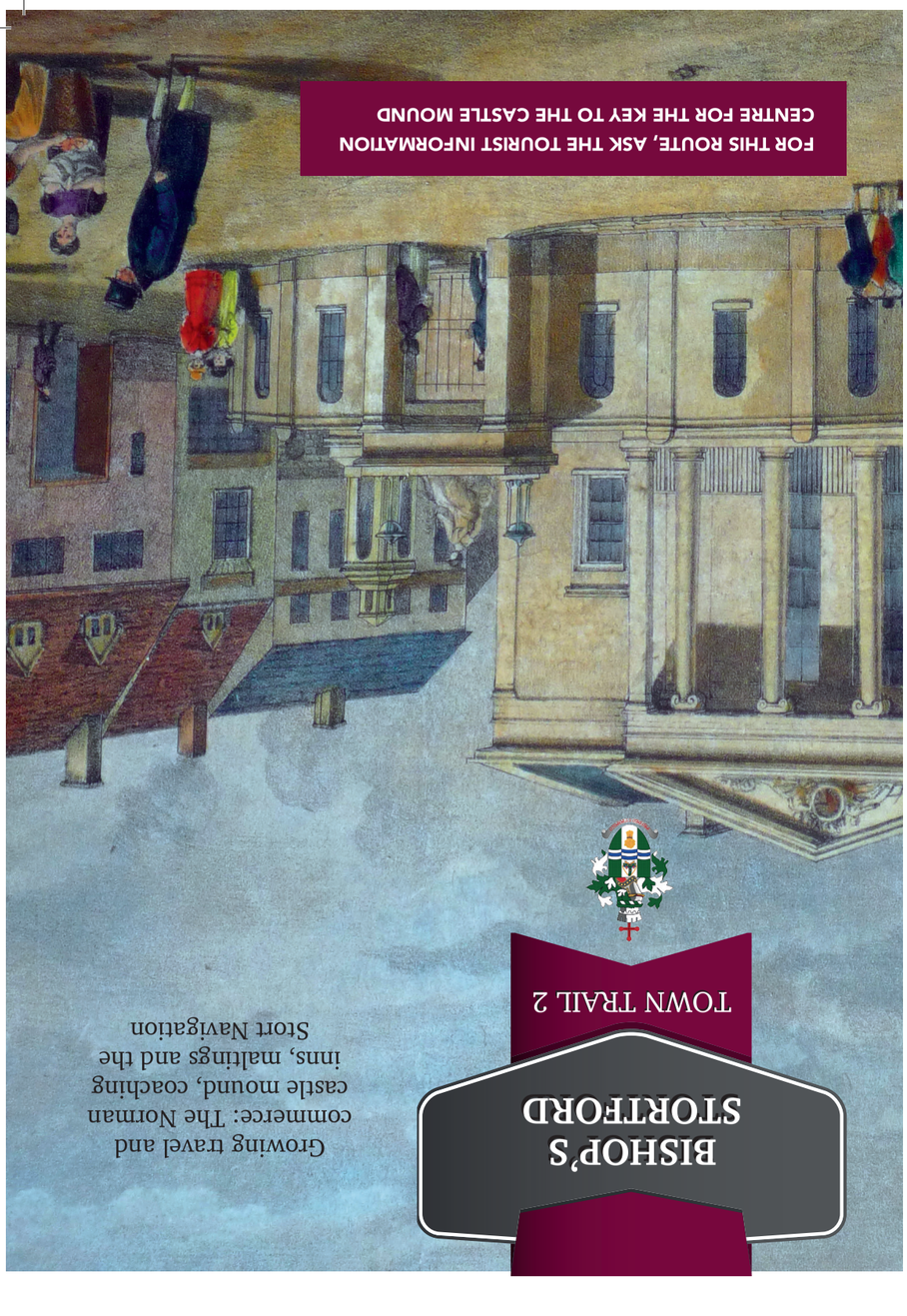
A BRIEF HISTORY OF BISHOP'S STORTFORD

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.

Waytemore Castle (see Town Trail Route 2), originally built of wood on a large artificial mound (1086), later of local flint (c.1135), was mooted 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 Relndeer 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 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 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, medieval (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.