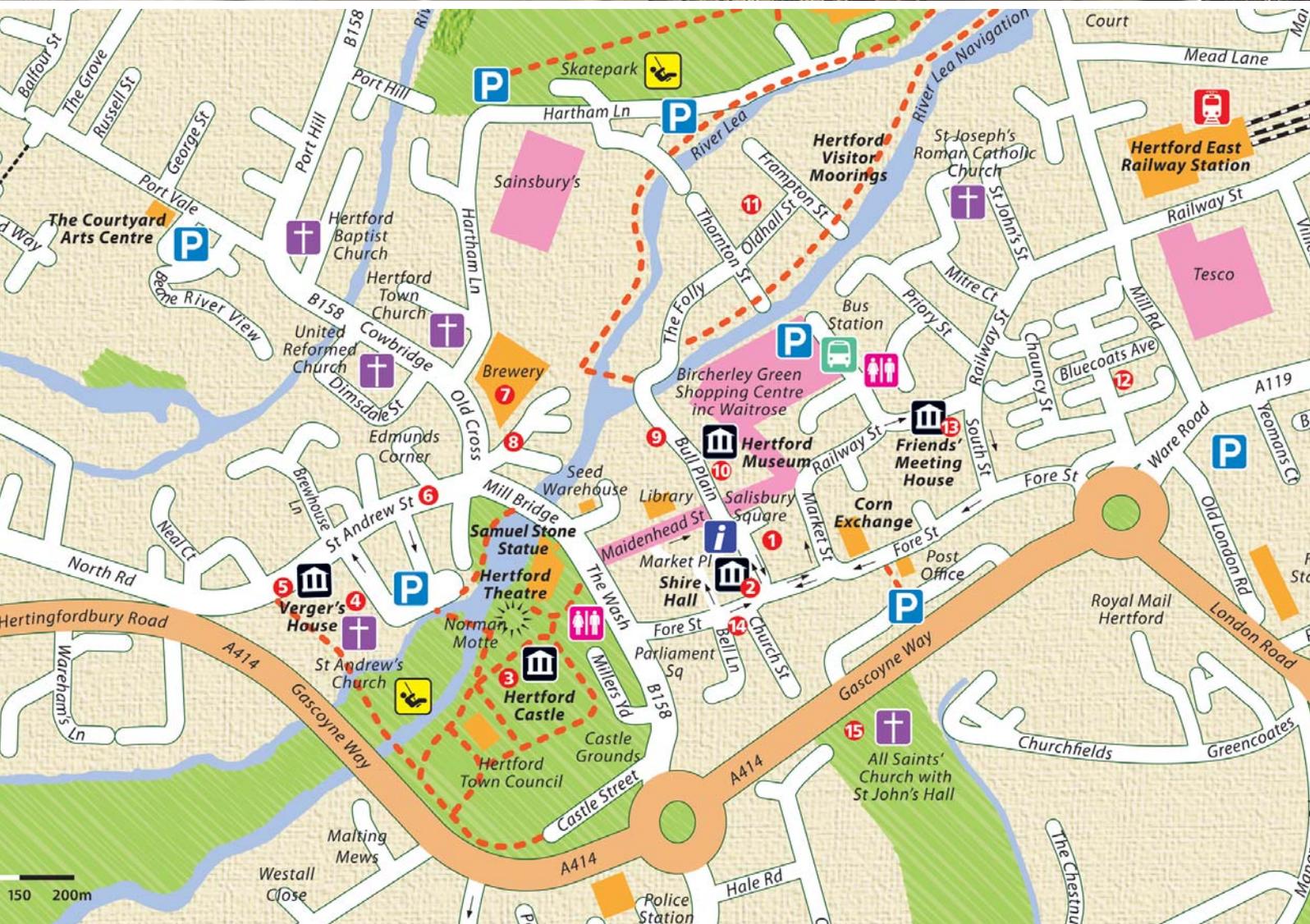


Follow this fantastic trail around town

# Discover Hertford Historic Walk



The Discover Hertford Historic Walk takes you on a unique journey around the County Town of Hertford to discover some of the rich history on offer.



# Discover Hertford Historic Walk



**1 The White Hart** - This splendid 17th Century pub forms a corner of the square named after the Marquess of Salisbury. In 1994 a water sculpture by William Pye called 'Confluence' was erected in Salisbury Square. This modern fountain represents the four rivers which flow into Hertford. These rivers are the Beane, Lea, Mimram and Rib

**2 Shire Hall** - The most impressive building in the centre of town is Shire Hall, once the administrative offices for the County and Borough Councils and now the home of the Magistrates Courts. It was designed in 1769 by James Adam. The beautiful ballroom which graces the interior of Shire Hall is believed to be the setting for the regimentals ball in Jane Austen's 'Pride and Prejudice'.

**3 Hertford Castle** - Most people think of the Castle when they think of Hertford. The remaining Gatehouse was built in the 15th century the second on this site. On the east side a stone beside the path commemorates the first General Synod of the English Church which was held in 673.

**4 St. Andrew's Church** - Next to Beckwith's is St. Andrews Church. While there has been a church with this name on the site since before the Norman Conquest, the building you see was built in 1869. Note the splendid spire.

**5 11. St. Andrew Street** - No.11 St. Andrew Street was the childhood home of Alfred Russel Wallace, an explorer and anthropologist his work on evolution was published alongside Charles Darwin. He once described Hertford as 'one of the most pleasantly situated country towns in England'.

**6 St. Andrew Street** is worth admiring for the variety of its historic buildings. The most important is Beckwith's Antique shop which was built in 1450 and restored in 1973. It was once the

Verger's house and along with no's 58 & 60 nearly opposite, they are the oldest dwellings in Hertford still standing.

**7 McMullen's Brewery** - McMullen and Sons limited is recognised as one of the country's leading independent brewers with an estate of 145 top quality pubs inn Hertfordshire, Essex and London. The company was founded in Hertford in 1827 by Peter McMullen, great, great, great grandfather of the McMullens who run the present day company.

**8 The Old Ford** - leading towards the river from Old Cross is St. Nicholas Lane. It is believed to be the original ford across the river which gave the town its name. Old Cross was the centre of Hertford in the 10th century. Nearby, across Mill Bridge you will see the prominent statue of Samuel Stone, the founder of Hartford, Connecticut.

**9 Beadle House** - Bull Plain takes its name from a large coaching inn demolished in the 1850's and contains some fine buildings. Beadle House, of the Queen Anne period was one of the homes of the Dimsdale family who are still famous locally. Dr. Thomas Dimsdale used smallpox inoculation on the Russian Royal Court and was granted the title of Baron of all the Russians.

**10 Hertford Museum** - Although the building dates back to 1610 the frontage is 18th century. Explore the museum if you have time and discover to its rear a charming period garden. Hanging outside the museum is a sign from an old ironmongers dated 1798, made in the shape of keys.

**11 Folly Island** - Across the bridge, surrounded by wharves and warehouses at the head of the canal, lays an area of Hertford known as Folly Island. The 'island' was called Bray's Folly in 1766. The houses here were built between 1866 and 1893. It became an island when a millstream was dug through in

the late 11th Century (now the course of the Lea Navigation). A popular pub, the Old Barge, is on the island.

**12 Bluecoats** - Look at the two coloured figures above the gates to what was once Christ's Hospital School. This establishment for children dates back to 1682, providing overspill education 'for the recovery of their health by the benefit of the air'. The "parent" school was in Newgate Street, City of London. The figures are dressed in the traditional uniform for boys. From 1902 only girls were educated in Hertford until the Girls School joined the Boys school in Horsham in 1985.

**13 The Friends Meeting House** - The Friends Meeting House in Railway Street is the oldest of its kind in the world still used as a place of worship. Many original features survive. It is open to the public at certain times, and music concerts are held there regularly.

**14 The Salisbury Arms** - This is the elegantly decorated Salisbury Arms. The plaster work seen on the facade is called pargetting, and further examples can be seen on buildings opposite. Inside the hotel is a beautiful Jacobean staircase. Cromwell and Fairfax stayed here before putting down their own army mutiny in 1647. The Inn was built on a medieval plan, the original name was Bell & Three Cranes, but the Bell is written on the front as the name before 1800.

**15 All Saints'** - The Church of All Saints with St. John's was burnt down in 1891. The present building opened in 1895. Notice the wrought iron gates on both sides of the new dual carriageway (Gascoyne Way) which were erected to enable the assize judge to process from the Church to the assize Court at the Shire Hall. The gates at the end of Church Street, which originally led into the churchyard, are 18th Century and from the Priory House, the home of Dr Dimsdale. They were a gift from Mr Purkiss-Ginn in 1963.