

History

A hidden gem, St Mary Street is one of the most historic streets in Chippenham, with houses dating back to the 16th century. John Betjeman described it as 'the most perfect unconscious bit of English country townscape one could hope to find' and it even hosts events including an open air cinema and Chippenham's annual folk festival.

2 St Mary Street

3 Monkton Park and the River Avon

When the current Town Hall was built in the High Street in 1835, the function of the Yelde Hall changed, becoming a bank, armoury, fire station and eventually a museum. It is now used for special events and performances.

Flowing through the centre of the town, the River Avon offers an oasis of calm in the heart of Chippenham. Follow the riverside walk along its banks to see the wonderful wildlife. Stroll through Monkton Park, which of English country townscape one most perfect unconscious bit

1 The Yelde Hall



Chippenham was first settled in the sixth century by the Anglo Saxons. It was a 'Royal' town, owned by the Kings of Wessex. Alfred the Great built a hunting lodge here to take advantage of the surrounding forests. It was in Chippenham on Twelfth Night 878 AD, that Alfred fought the Viking invaders eventually driving them from Wessex.

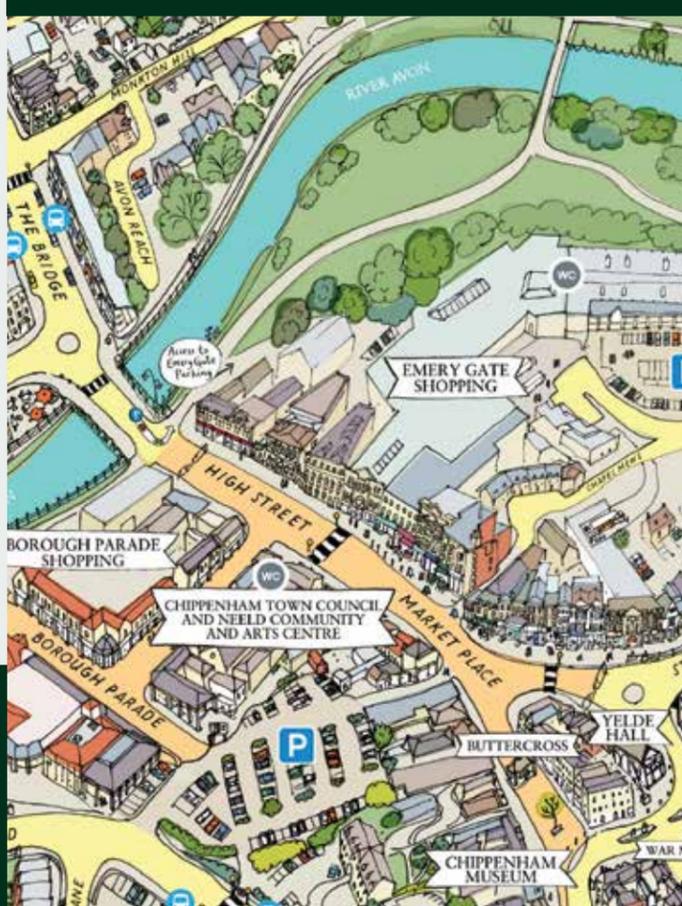
From the Medieval period, the town flourished, making its wealth from the wool trade. Being on the Great West Way, between Bristol and London, Chippenham was and still is an important market and transport hub. The arrival of the Great Western Railway in 1841, saw the town rapidly develop and become a centre for the railway industries as it is to this day.



CHIPPENHAM TOWN COUNCIL
Improving the quality of town life

A guide to Chippenham

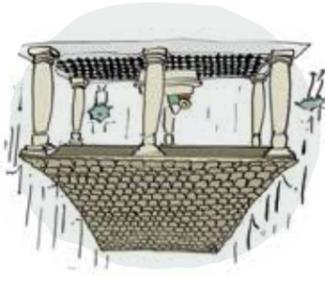
INCLUDING TOWN MAP



In 1995, the Buttercross was re-erected in the town by Chippenham Civic Society. It now stands as the centre-piece of the pedestrianised town centre, where a market is held each Friday and Saturday.

Where milk and cheese was sold, the ancient Buttercross once stood at the centre of the Shambles, at the current location of Barclays Bank. In 1889 it was sold and moved to Castle Combe Manor House, where it was used as a garden gazebo.

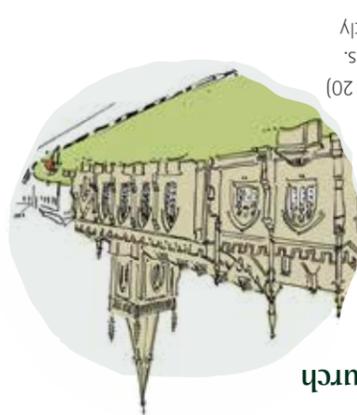
6 The Buttercross



The museum hosts regularly changing displays in its temporary exhibition gallery and holds a varied programme of walks, talks, events. Don't forget to visit the museum shop selling a wide range of souvenirs, books and gifts inspired by the museum's collections.

Learn about the town's development, through its connections to river, road and rail and explore its surprising links to Alfred the Great and Isambard Kingdom Brunel

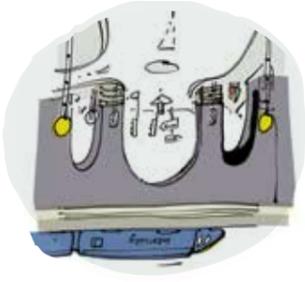
5 Chippenham Museum



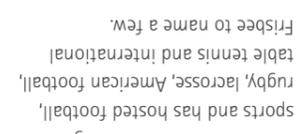
Housed in an 18th century townhouse, Chippenham Museum tells the fascinating story of this historic market town from its prehistoric origins to the present day.

The earliest church on the site of St Andrew's is thought to have been Saxon. It would probably have been built of timber and was demolished completely in order to build a stone church. The present church is thought to date from around Norman times (about 1120) although very little now remains. The current building dates mostly from the 15th century and is built in the perpendicular style.

4 St Andrew's Church



10 The Brunel Arches



9 Stanley Park Sports Ground



This impressive stone and brick viaduct was designed by Isambard Kingdom Brunel, to carry the Great Western Railway through Chippenham.

Our award winning site, offers flexible facilities for a range of sports and has hosted football, rugby, lacrosse, American football, table tennis and international Frisbee to name a few.

7 John Coles Park and Splashpad

Opened in 1922, John Coles Park is a beautiful green space offering a variety of activities for all ages. Its traditional Bandstand hosts free Sunday afternoon concerts, while the SplashPad is a great place for children under 12 to cool off on hot summer days. If that's not enough the park also offers a play area, tennis courts, a bowling green, multi-use games area and refreshment kiosks.

8 Neeld Community Town Hall and Arts Centre

Built in 1835, the Town Hall plays a major role in the life of Chippenham and its Town Council. The building was generously funded by local dignitary Joseph Neeld MP. The ground floor once held a covered market, but is now home to Customer Services, where you can get information on public transport and places to visit.

11 Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre

This state of the art building, near the train station, holds the Wiltshire and Swindon archives, with historic documents dating back to the 12th century. It also holds Wiltshire Local Studies Library with books, photographs, newspapers and other published material on the history of the county.

Exploring our town

Nestled on the banks of the River Avon and easily accessible by rail and road, Chippenham offers an ideal centre for relaxation and exploration of rural Wiltshire, Bath and the Cotswolds. Chippenham is 4 miles south of the M4 and on the mainline rail route from London Paddington to the West Country and just 10 minutes by train to the world-famous historic city of Bath.



Chippenham enjoys a reputation as a flourishing and lively market town, with a compact centre and thriving commercial life, it has been granted Purple Flag Status for its nightlife. Chippenham has a wealth of beautifully maintained parks, play areas and open spaces.

The combination of the ancient and the new, the historic architectural gems, excellent transport links, modern shopping centres and with some of the country's greatest houses and historic villages on the doorstep, makes Chippenham an idyllic location for living, working and visiting.

Visitor information

<p>Customer Services at the Town Hall The Town Hall, High Street Chippenham, Wiltshire, SN15 3ER enquiries@chippenham.gov.uk 01249 446699</p>	<p>Opening Times Monday to Thursday: 9am – 4.30pm Friday: 9am – 4pm Saturday: 9.30am – 3pm</p>
<p>Chippenham Museum 9–10 Market Place, Chippenham Wiltshire, SN15 3HF 01249 705020</p>	<p>Opening Times Monday to Saturday: 10am – 4pm</p>
<p>The Neeld Community & Arts Centre High Street, Chippenham Wiltshire, SN15 3ER 01249 446699</p>	<p>Opening Times Monday to Thursday: 9am – 4.30pm Friday: 9am – 4pm Saturday: 9.30am – 3pm</p>
<p>Stanley Park Sports Ground Stanley Lane, Chippenham Wiltshire, SN15 3RP 01249 463905</p>	<p>Opening Times Sunday to Friday: 8am – 10pm Saturday: 8am – 5.30pm</p>
<p>Yelde Hall Market Place, Chippenham Wiltshire, SN15 3HF 01249 705020</p>	<p>Opening Times Friday and Saturday: 10.30am – 3.30pm or by request</p>
<p>John Coles Park Fleet Road, Chippenham Wiltshire, SN15 1NZ 01249 446699</p>	<p>Opening Times Mid-January to mid-November: 8am – dusk Mid-November to mid-January: 8am – 4pm</p>

Chippenham Town Council
The Town Hall, High Street
Chippenham, Wiltshire, SN15 3ER

01249 446699
enquiries@chippenham.gov.uk

  chippenham.gov.uk

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