Chester u3a Walk and Treasure Trail 6
Mediaeval Chester 1215 to 1485

This document can be used as a walk, an historical tour of Mediaeval Chester, or a Treasure Trail. Distance is around 2.6 miles, and circular. Either follow the directions, or there is a map on the next page to help. You can also just put your feet up and read it!

During these years Chester was a boom town. At the beginning of the 13th century it was a prosperous city with well-established patterns of settlement, much of the area inside the walls was still green space, with gardens, orchards, and even vineyards (there is a record of one in Foregate St). Then several things happened at once, giving impetus to growth: Edward I used Chester as his military base for his assault on North Wales; a fire destroyed some of the existing buildings; and a charter was granted giving citizens more control over what they could do. The result was a boom in building, some of which is still visible today.

Above is the Gough map, and if you look carefully you can see that Chester has a cathedral, and that there are no real roads in North Wales, pretty much all routes are by sea. There is a website devoted to an interactive version if you want to take a closer look.

If you wish to participate in the Treasure Trail, then look at the Treasures photographs at the end, and see if you can identify where they were taken.

If you just fancy a walk, then follow the directions in blue italics.

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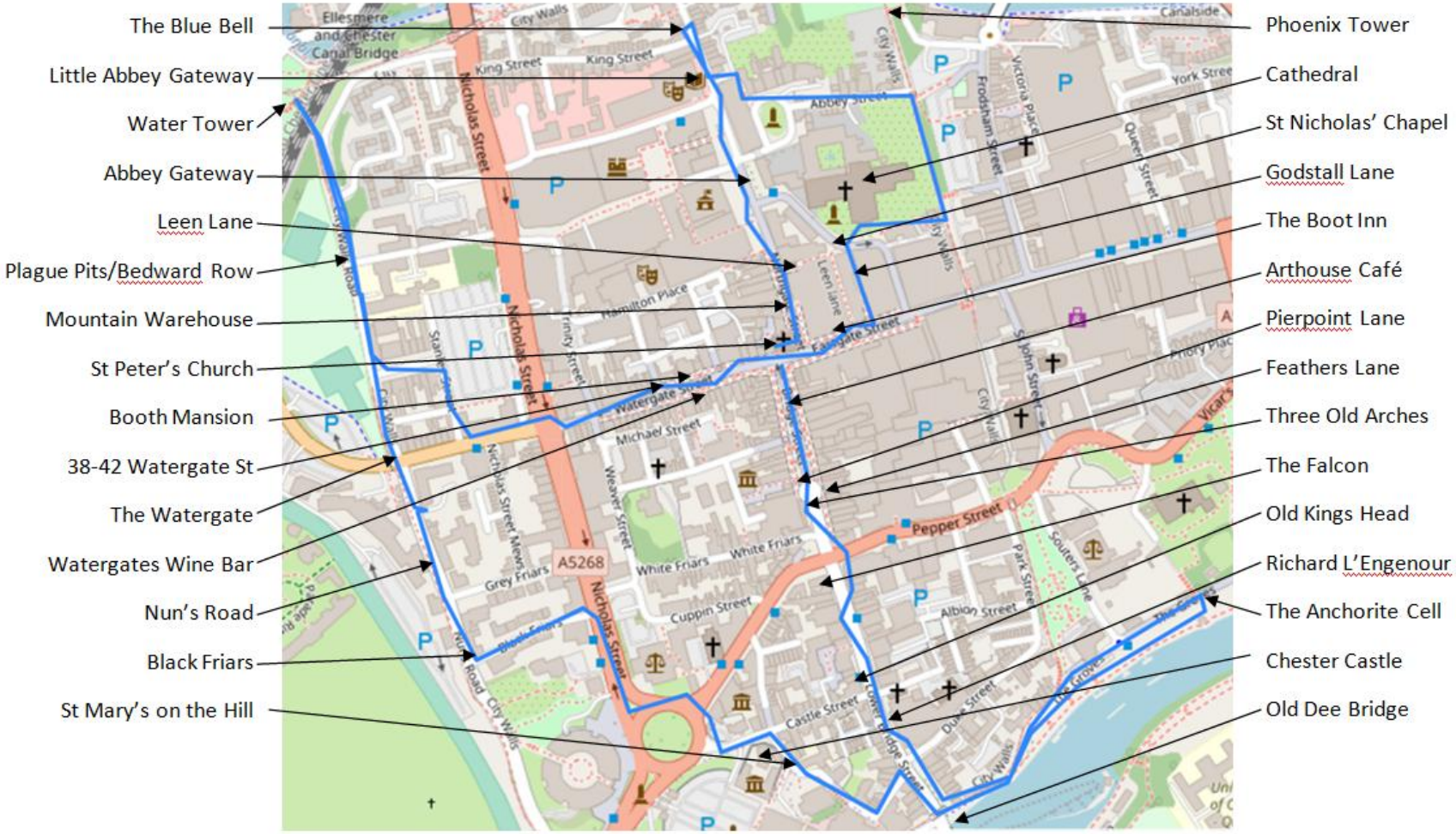

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Directions

Begin and end at the Cross.

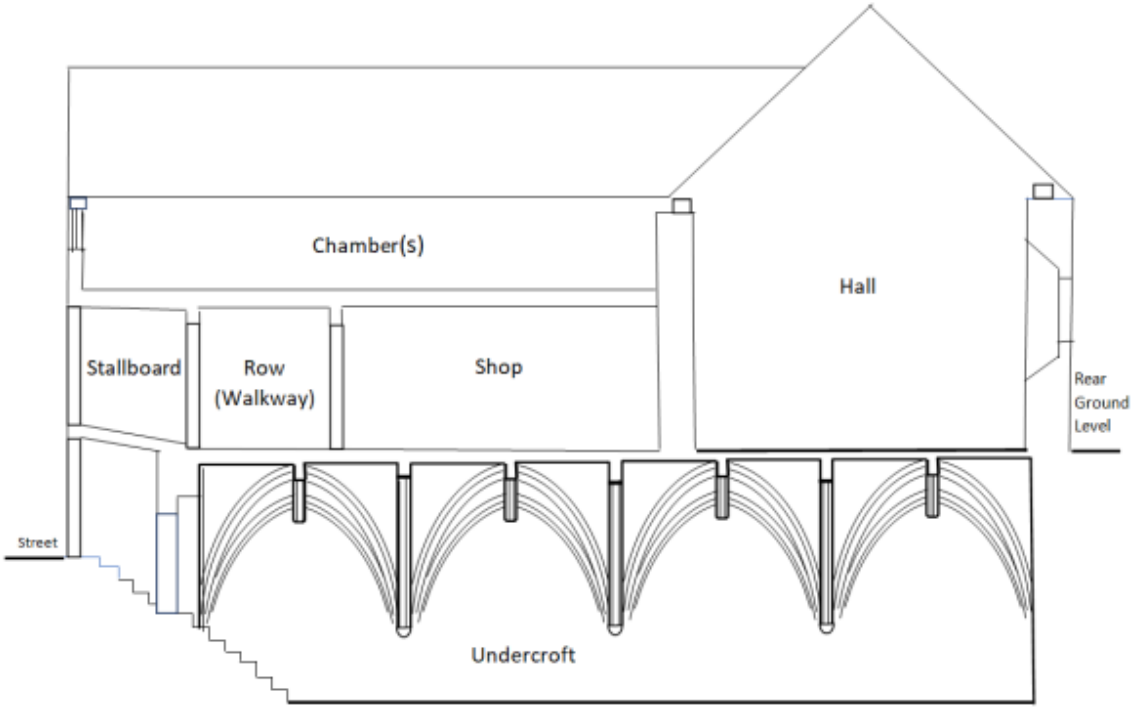
The Rows

Why does Chester have Rows? Nobody knows for sure, but we can make informed guesses.

The earliest known reference to the Rows is a deed of grant dated 1330. There was a fairly unique combination of circumstances – a fire in 1278 that meant part of the city needed rebuilding; the choice of Chester by Edward I as a base for the campaigns (1277 and 1282-3) in North Wales meant the city became wealthier and that stone masons were readily available; the lie of the land (on top of Roman remains) encouraged a certain style of building, with shops at an upper level.

Rows properties were not just shops, they were family homes, with rooms for entertaining and sleeping, space for servants, and long back gardens for growing vegetables and keeping animals.

Undercrofts were used for storage, and were more secure and had more fire protection, in the shape of thicker stone walls, than upper storeys. Flights of steps appear on



Cross section of a typical Row property

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average every third plot, and this seems to have been consistent since mediaeval times.

Stallboards could be used either for displaying wares, or as extra retail space. The full extent of the Rows in this period can be seen on this map (outlined in teal).

St Peter's Church

Although the church was founded in 907, it was completely rebuilt in the mid 14th century, then extended in the 15th. If you enter the church there is a mediaeval wall painting on the pillar near the door. The part of the church nearest the street is the oldest.

St Peter's wall painting

St Peter's was, and still is, the church for the Guilds of Chester, and St George's guild, which had close links with the ruling elite and was open to both men and women, was housed here.

Bad relations between crafts and guilds, on the feast of Corpus Christi in 1399, caused more than 80 clothworkers to be in a great affray outside the church, and attacked by their own master craftsmen, armed with pole-axes, daggers, and iron-pointed staves.

The church was the site of the Pentice, a lean-to building which was the administrative hub of the city. Initially it was on the southern side, but extended round the corner later. The Pentice had shops, which achieved high rents and were usually occupied by hosiers, drapers, and mercers, on ground level, and offices above. Piepowder court sessions were held at the church door, and oaths sworn inside. The pillory was in the street just outside.

Civic authorities were responsible for the church clock, which was used to regulate the working day, and to ensure that those summonsed to the Pentice appeared on time.

With your back to the church, turn left, then take the first left into Northgate St.

Northgate St

This produced the lowest revenues of all the streets (in 1409 £2 compared to £15 from Eastgate St), partially because so much of the land was owned by the Church (who did not have to pay taxes). The Rows proper did not extend much beyond what you see today.

Continue until you see Mountain Warehouse on your right.

Mountain Warehouse

Although this is a modern building, underneath it are a pair of mediaeval sandstone undercrofts with a

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mediaeval doorway. These extend out under the pavement.

Continue until you see the entrance to Leen Lane on your right.

Leen Lane

One of the four surviving mediaeval lanes of Chester (this walk goes past all of them). Leen Lane doglegs round to St Werburgh St, and was named after a merchant family that owned property in it in the c13th.

Keep walking up Northgate St, until the Abbey Gateway on your right.

Abbey Gateway

This was the main entrance to St Werburgh's Abbey precinct, and was built c.1300. The large arch was for carts, the smaller for pedestrians, and they led to a courtyard of buildings which included the abbey bakery and brewhouse.

At this stage all ales were flavoured with gruit, rather than hops, on which the church had a monopoly on supply. They charged an exorbitant amount for gruit, and then taxed the produce. Common ingredients used to make a gruit include Heather, Artemisa (Wormwood), Juniper, Yarrow, Bog Myrtle, Sage, and other commonly found herbs, some of which can be psychotropic. What Did Mediaeval People Drink?

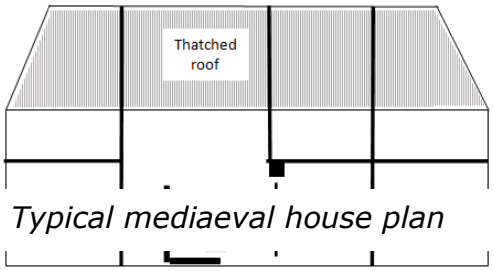
Walk further up the west side of Northgate St, until you see the Blue Bell on your left.

The Blue Bell

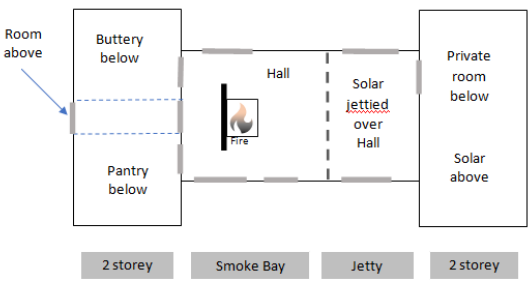
Built around 1470, this was originally two houses, the one furthest away from the Northgate is around 50 years older. Both houses would originally have had a full height hall, but were later divided horizontally to put in upper floors.

The upstairs in 63 is open to the

Hall with smoke bay



Typical mediaeval house plan



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roof, and has a rare crown post truss. Beneath both buildings is a single mediaeval sandstone cellar.

On the previous page is a plan of a typical mediaeval house. There were no chimneys, with smoke escaping through the roof of the double height Hall – in Chester a roof was typically made of wooden shingles. A solar was a family's private living and sleeping room.

Halls were where everyone, family, visitors and servants, dined together. Hospitality was a social duty, and also a way of displaying wealth. Even if the food was simple and the household poor the act of laying the table was considered a reflection of the Last Supper.

How did people light their homes? Candles were very expensive, and a much cheaper homemade option were rush lights.

Turn around, and walk down the opposite side of the street, until you reach Little Abbey Gateway on your left.

Pass underneath the arch and turn immediately right, entering Abbey Sq. Head left, and exit down Abbey St, walking until you reach the city Walls at the end. Pause and look left at King Charles Tower, which has had various names.

The Phoenix Tower

This is probably of late 13th century origin, and is believed to have also been called Newton's Tower during the Middle Ages. If you can ever get into it from the Walls level, it has a vaulted octagonal chamber, and was used as a meeting room for several of Chester's Guilds.

Turn right, just before the Walls, and join them, walking past the Cathedral.

The Cathedral

Originally a Norman abbey, the main body of the church (as it then was) was built in the 13th century, with the Chapter House in 1225-50, the Lady Chapel in 1270, and the Quire in 1280/80. There are many mediaeval elements, particularly in the wood and stone carvings.

Dog on shrine of St Werburgh

Amongst the items you should look for are the Chester Imp; the carving

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of a dog scratching on the Shrine of St Werburgh; a tomb which, when opened, proved to be empty (perhaps it was built to attract more pilgrims, who collected badges on their journey?); a master mason carved high in the Quire; the boss of the murder of Thomas a Becket; the refectory pulpit (1260-ish); the tomb of Ranulph Higden, author of the Polychronicon, and the misericords, designed to save the legs of elderly monks. There are also mason's marks on the pillars on the north side of the main aisle.

The Lady Chapel will give you an idea of the colourfulness of a mediaeval church.

Empty Tomb

Turn right off the Walls immediately after the Cathedral, going down either the steps or the ramp, and walk to the end of Godstall Lane, from where you should be able to see Superdrug (St Nicholas Chapel), and the other end of Leen Lane.

St Nicholas Chapel

Built in 1348, it was used as the parish church of St Oswald. Some mediaeval stonework is still visible on the south side (Music Hall Passage now, but St Nicholas Lane then). The nave and aisles were filled with interments, and prominent citizens were buried in the graveyard.

Turn left to walk down Godstall Lane.

Godstall Lane

Although mediaeval, this lane has been there since Roman times, as it follows the eastern boundary of the Roman commanders' residence. Bakers lived at the Eastgate St end of it, and their bundles, kept for lighting the ovens, were a fire hazard, causing the creation of Gorse Stacks as a safer place for flammable materials. Lighting an Oven the Mediaeval Way.

Loaves of bread were sold at standard prices of ¼d, ½d or 1d. The assize of bread, held by the mayor, calculated the weight according to the current price of wheat. Bakers stamped their loaves and wax copies of their stamps were lodged, to allow identification of substandard products – you could be fined if loaves were underweight or badly baked.

Turn right at the end, into Eastgate St Row and walk along the Dark Row

Eastgate St

Eastgate St shops commanded high rents, and paid the most taxes, and in this area butter, milk, bread, and cheese were sold. The name 'Dark Lofts' or 'Dark Row' dates from at

least 1440. It was also known as Cooks Row.

Fleshmongers Lane ran off approximately where the entrance to the Grosvenor Precinct is now, and it was a fashionable address, housing mayor, sheriffs, and gentry including the Dutton and Savage families.

Glovers Lane was on the south side of Eastgate St, and glovers were still based there at the beginning of the c17th. If you look, you can see a hanging glove above the Row.

Boot Inn

Built around 1480, this was originally a merchant's house. Downstairs (17 Eastgate St) still has sandstone masonry from its undercroft, and upstairs (9 Eastgate Row) was constructed from wattle and daub.

Almost immediately opposite you can see the 'Crypt Chambers', which contains a fine mediaeval undercroft sadly hidden from view at the moment. When you reach the end of the Row, descend the steps, go back to the Cross, and head down Watergate St.

Crypt Chambers

Watergate St

Revenues here were considerably lower than Eastgate or Bridge Streets, but higher than Northgate St. The street petered out around Holy Trinity (now the Guild Hall), and gave way to two monasteries, one on either side of the road, and the Crofts, where members of religious orders were permitted to farm.

If you look carefully on the map of Chester Parishes, you can see that the gardens of properties on the south side of Watergate St ran all the way back to Commonhall St, and at this time there would have been animals kept, crops grown (including saffron), and orchards planted.

Two rock-cut pits were found in the garden of 12 Watergate St, which were covered by flimsy wooden structures in the 13th century, and had obviously been used as privies. There is no evidence of any public latrines in this period.

Continue down Watergate St, noting the following as you go.

Watergates Wine Bar

This has the best stone vault in Chester, and was originally the Crypt for St Peter's. The stone masons building castles in North Wales could only work in the summer, and some were quartered in Chester during the winter, so it is highly likely that anything of this quality was built by them. This is said to be the oldest undercroft in Chester.

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Booth Mansion 1260 – 1280

This is two mediaeval town houses, with a Georgian frontage. The Row passing through it has c13th arches, and both undercrofts (currently a tobacconist and whisky shop) date to 1260-80 with dendrochronology.

38-42 Watergate Street c.1335

Described as 'an exceptionally well-preserved stone mediaeval town house, spanning three tenement plots', this is certainly one of the most interesting buildings in Chester.

During the reign of Edward III a 'Mansion Place' at the corner of Gerrard St (now Goss St) was mentioned in records, and this is likely to be it.

The original Great Hall, which had three service doorways that can still be seen, has now been divided into four rooms. Feasts would have been held in this Hall, with a raised dais at one end where the most important people were seated. In the body of the Hall, tables were set along both sides, with a hearth in the middle to warm the room. The doors would have led to the kitchen, buttery, cellar, and pantry, and there would have been a ewery for hand-washing before the meal.

Some items, such as trencher bread, were always on the menu, but usually there were different dishes for each table, and more for the top table than for the others. Any menu was served in two courses, with a dessert course afterwards for special guests. Each course contained a number of meat, poultry or fish dishes, and two or three sweet ones. Each dish was portioned, and this required a skilful carver, and each dish was served with a sauce. Carver and Saucer were professions in their own right.

When you reach the traffic lights at the end of the street, cross over and head further down Watergate St, taking a right turn into Stanley St, then left into Stanley Place. Continue until you reach the Walls, then turn right and walk along them towards the Water Tower.

Plague Pits

The Black Death (or Great Death, as it was known at the time) reached Chester in 1349, probably through

the port. Up to 50% of the population died, and the plague pits are likely to be outside the city walls, approximately where Queens School playing fields are now.

Monks and nuns suffered disproportionately, as one of their jobs was to tend the sick, and the abbot and prioress of the two Benedictine establishments both succumbed.

Business declined in Chester, and trade collapsed. As a result there was a slump in property prices, and crops rotted in fields because there was no-one to pick them. In Flint many of the lead miners died, and those who were left refused to work there any more – they could get better, safer, jobs elsewhere.

Two years later this gave rise to a cheapness of meat – a fat ox could be bought for 6/8d, a fat sheep for 6d. Labourers wages had risen to 6d per day, and, for the first time, peasants could afford to eat better quality food.

A Statute of Labourers was introduced in an attempt to curb this, but led to an uprising in Chester in 1353, which was quelled by the Black Prince with an armed force.

After the Great Death, use of Norman French died out in England, and the language of parliament and courts became Middle English. It is said that Edward III could only swear in English, whereas for the next king, his grandson, English was his native tongue.

We have good evidence for how English was spoken in this period, and it is interesting to note that whilst Chaucer (writing in the 1370s) and Shakespeare (writing around 1570 onwards) could have understood each other's literary text, they would have struggled to understand their respective speech. Listen to a reconstruction of a late mediaeval Northern accent.

Bedward Row

This follows the line of the mediaeval Dog Lane, and approximately marks the end of the precinct of the of the monastery and the beginning of the Crofts, where food was grown and animals farmed.

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The Water Tower 1322 – 6

Originally called the New Tower, this was built, at Chester's expense, to protect the town from shipborne attack via the harbour. In practice it was probably used to monitor shipping; collect tolls on vessels and merchandise; and as a deterrent to pirates and Welsh raiders. By 1506 the Tower stood on dry land.

Here is a digital reconstruction video of both the Water Tower and St John's.

Turn around and retrace your steps along the Walls, back to the Watergate.

The Watergate

This was a busy area, bustling with activity. Silting affected access by the late c13th, and large vessels had to anchor downstream, cargoes brought to the port in small boats.

Items subject to taxes included crockery, knives, brushwood an coal, but the main goods were sea fish, shellfish, and herring. Casks of Gascon wine, millstones from Anglesey, and Welsh slate were unloaded here.

South of the Watergate lay an area of salt marsh, washed daily by the tides in the late 1100s. By 1288 it was normally dry, and was used for archery practice. By 1364 it had become permanent grassland, owned by the city, and used by townsmen to graze horses, cows, and sheep.

Keep walking along Nun's Rd

Nun's Road

Named after the Benedictine nunnery of St Mary, the only remaining trace of the building is the arch in the Grosvenor Park. Mediaeval nunneries were places where women could run their own lives, and noblewomen often retired to them.

Nuns mainly came from wealthy families, as there was a widespread practice of demanding a dowry on entry, ruling out poorer girls, although in 1331 the income of the nunnery was barely sufficient to support the inmates.

A c15th manuscript has given us a processional lullaby that they would have sung on their way to their church, and which was one of the last mediaeval carols written in Latin. It is very beautiful and atmospheric, you can listen to it here: Song of the Nuns of Chester (but beware, it takes 16 secs for it to start).

Music was an important part of everyday life. Singers, pipers, players of the harp, psaltery, lute and fiddle provided entertainment in the drinking houses, and there was a

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Minstrels Court, where they received their licences to play for the year. The city employed official Waites, who were expected to play five mornings and three evenings a week. They were provided with gowns, but had to find their own instruments, which included trumpets and hautbois (oboe).

When you reach Black Friars, turn left into it.

Blackfriars

It is difficult to overestimate how dominated Chester was by religious establishments during this time. Clergy constituted more than 5% of the population, and probably a third of the land inside the city walls was part of a monastic precinct, with the monks and nuns also owning surrounding areas such as Handbridge. This road and others were named after them. There is a Map of Ecclesiastical Chester to give you an idea of the extent.

There were 9 churches, and parish boundary markers give us visual clues – see if you can spot any of these as you go round. There are marks on the wall are at the end of Bedward Row, which show the boundary between Trinity Parish (TP) and St Michaels's Parish (SMP).

The abbot of St Werburgh's was the wealthiest churchman in the archdeaconry, and in the clerical poll tax of 1379 had to pay £4 – the same as the rate for a peer of the realm.

Parish Boundary Marks

During the 1400s there was friction between St Werburgh's and the townspeople, partly because of the abbot's jurisdiction over all pleas except manslaughter during the Midsummer Fair. Individual monks provoked hostility by roaming the streets at night and visiting brothels (most prostitutes lived in Greyfriars, Blackfriars, and Nun's Lane); brawls between monks and townsmen often resulted in serious injuries and deaths.

At the end of Black Friars, turn right. Cross at the first crossing, and head towards the Grosvenor Museum, then pass to the right of the museum into Castle St.

The Castle

Chester's military and political importance was highest during the reign of Edward I. There was an uprising in Wales, and Chester was chosen to serve as a major supply base. Large quantities of weapons and equipment were held here, including 345 carpenters and 1,010 diggers needed to build roads and fortifications.

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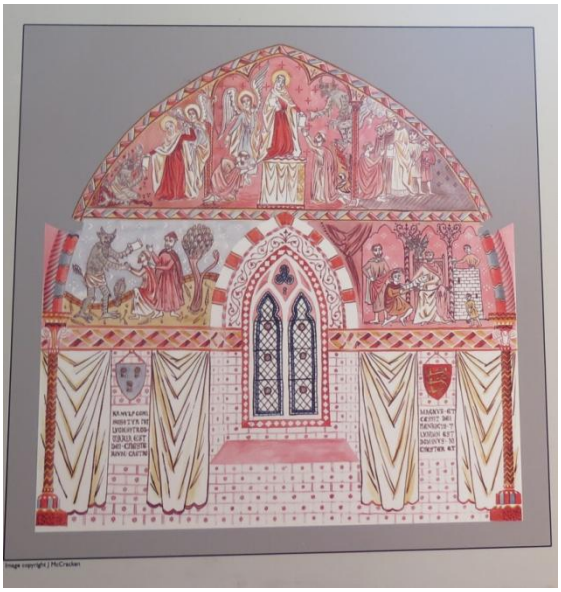
Edward I arrived in June 1282, with the royal court and chancery, and took command of the cavalry. Up to 65 horses at a time were stabled at the Castle, including destriers (warhorses) worth £80 each.

Business boomed in Chester, and Edward commissioned a ring of castles in Snowdonia. Another revolt happened in 1294, and Edward once again moved to crush the Welsh from his base in Chester.

Royal visits necessitated works at the Castle, including Royal Chambers, a chapel, a stable, and an outer gatehouse. One mason worked for 8-9 months making a seat for the King in the new chapel, and gardens were laid out. Richard the Engineer became master of works (see later).

1284-91 was the greatest period of castle building in British history, during which £1,500 was spent on Chester Castle.



English Heritage wallpainting reconstruction

If you can get inside St Mary's de Castro there are some mediaeval wall paintings based on the legend of Theophilus, and English Heritage have reconstructed one wall of what they would have looked like – mediaeval life was brighter and more colourful than we imagine it.

In 1387 Richard II stayed at the Castle, during the worst crisis of his reign. Later that year he appointed Robert de Vere, a royal favourite, justice of Chester and North Wales. De Vere enjoyed a scandalous relationship with one of the Queen's ladies and lived the high life, until accused of treason. He escaped and fled to the continent, and a copy of the appeal against him was nailed to the door of St Peter's.

In 1399, Sir Piers Legh, a supporter of Richard II, was executed by Bolingbroke (later Henry IV), and his head placed on the Castle tower.

From Castle St, turn right, onto St Mary's Hill (originally St Mary's Lane, or Sheepe Lane)

St Mary's on the Hill c.1350

This church shows the movement of population. Originally St Marys dei Castro (in the castle), then on the hill, then finally in Handbridge, it moved with its parish.

Churches had social as well as spiritual functions, and were places where loans were agreed and repaid, where disputes were arbitrated, oaths were sworn, and where inquiries known as proofs of age were held (usually where someone was to come into an inheritance at a

certain age). St Mary's witnessed the proof of age of Katherine, daughter of Richard Hatton, in 1428.

Head down the hill, following it round until it joins Lower Bridge St, the turn right and go underneath the Bridgegate, turning left, walking parallel to the Dee.

The Old Dee Bridge

Built around 1387, the two arches nearest to the city span the leat which used to power the Mills of the Dee. The arch furthest away is narrower, because it replaced a drawbridge at a later date. The piers between the arches have pointed stone cutwaters, to protect the masonry from erosion, and the sixth arch has the longest span, and the massive pier has a projection upstream which was the base of a defensive gatehouse.

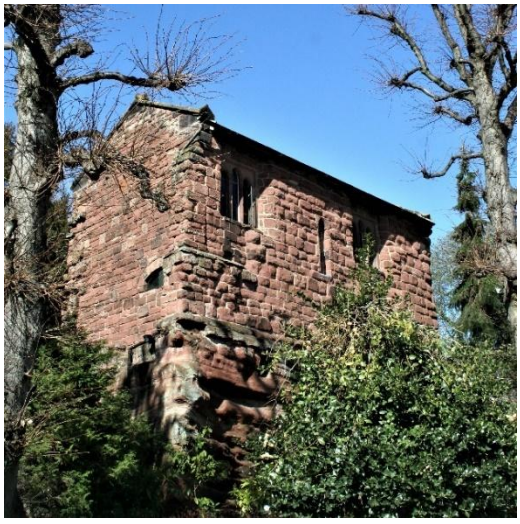
The Welsh approached the city over this bridge, bringing cattle to the livestock market and Welsh cheeses and sea coal from Flint. The Bridgegate was occasionally called Welshgate.

Walk on, until you see the Anchorite Cell on your left.

The Anchorite Cell

This was built in 1363, precluding the local legend that the first anchorite was Harold Godwinson, post Battle of Hastings.

Being an anchorite (or anchoress) was very popular in the middle ages – often you could get a noble or member of the landed gentry to sponsor you, and a friar named as John Spicer, hermit, was formally inducted here in 1363. Another hermitage stood beyond the Dee bridge, and John Benet, an occupant, was indicted as a receiver of robbers, for sheltering malefactors, and for keeping a common brothel.



Anchorite Cell

Turn around and retrace your route, until you see Recorders Steps on your right. Go up the steps onto the Walls.

River Dee

Until the Water Tower was built in the 1320s, the area downstream of the Bridgegate was a harbour, although fast silting up, and there were several mills on both sides of the river. The Handbridge end had two quays built in 1298-9, to provide unloading facilities for timber. Fishermen had their own guild (Drawers), and caught salmon, lampreys, and eels.

27 ships from Cinque ports were sent by Edward I to support his military campaign in North Wales, and may well have moored here.

Some citizens obtained their water from wells, or from rainwater

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cisterns in gardens, but many drew their water from the river.

Follow the Walls, and take the right fork which leads back to Bridge St. As you approach the road, the Walls curve out, and, if you look carefully, you should be able to spot a mason's mark.

Mason's mark

Lower Bridge St

The Rows extended all the way down to the river, and craftsmen worked in cheaper places off the main thoroughfare. Glovers, skinners, and leather dressers congregated here, at least in part because of the proximity to the river, and the smelliness of their crafts.

Turn right up Lower Bridge St.

Richard L'Engenour

Richard the Engineer, master mason, moved to Chester at the behest of Edward I, and remained here for the rest of his life, eventually serving as mayor. He built himself a fine residence next door to St Olave's. Corner plots were more sought-after, because of the additional light they afforded.

Site of Richard L'Engenour's House

Chester was a frontier town, and life was dangerous, so his house was fortified with towers, and had tunnels leading to the Castle.

Richard supervised the construction of Flint Castle, amongst others, and there is a video reconstruction of how it would have looked at the time, plus the mediaeval settlement of Flint

Carry on up Bridge St

The Old King's Head 1208

This was the house built for Peter the Clerk, the administrator of the Castle, and it used to have a first floor Row, which you can see in the line of braced posts in the restaurant above the bar.

Castle St (then Castle Lane), runs next to it, and many country gentlemen, drawn to Chester by the demands of administration, invested in residential and commercial property here.

Carry on up Bridge St

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The Falcon c.1215

What you can see is the surviving half of an impressive c13th town house, which had a massive great hall running parallel to the street. It was rebuilt later in the c13th, to incorporate the newly fashionable Row. The timber partition that runs through the seating area is the remains of the shop fronts that were put in during this period.

Carry on up Bridge St, crossing over at the traffic lights.

Bridge Street

This was the second most important trading street. Close to the Cross were wealthy apothecaries and mercers. The two cellars at the north western corner were leased to prominent citizens, usually involved on the wine trade. It was an upmarket retail area, where customers bought fine woollen cloth, squirrel skins, and silver pendants, but both rich and poor lived here.

Not only were there shops, but also selds – a kind of bazaar, or stalls within a shop, which would have sold the same goods (e.g. clothing, but from a variety of tailors). There was a Stone Seld at the corner of Bridge St and Watergate St, from c. 1270 to 1430s). The word seld was also used to refer to a market stall outside.

Three Old Arches c1270

This is reckoned to be the earliest surviving shop front in England. Built in 1274, there was a Hall at right angles to the Row. During the c14th it was extended into the property next door, to the south, and knocked through to create the largest example in Chester of a mediaeval stone-walled hall, set parallel with the Row.

Four doorways of the Hall can still be seen inside the Row level shop. There is no stallboard here – they came later.

Moving further up Bridge St, on the right you will see Feathers Lane, and on the left, Pierpoint Lane

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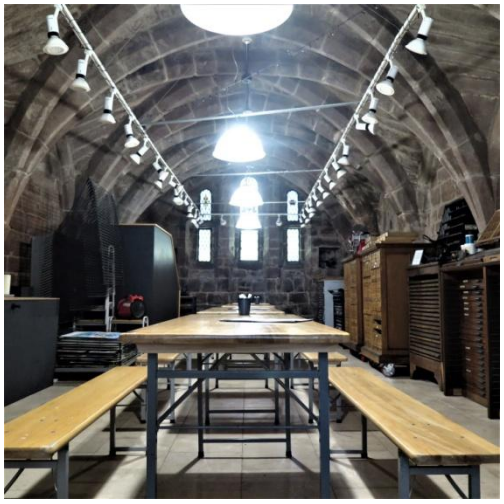
Feathers Lane

The third of the lanes, it gets its name from the Feathers Inn which stood here, but in mediaeval times was called Dublyn Lane.

Pierpoint Lane

The fourth and final surviving mediaeval lane, it was named after the Pierpoint family, who, in the c14th, produced an abbess of St Mary's nunnery.

Arthouse Café (12 Bridge St)



This is the second oldest Undercroft in the city, dating from the late c13th, and is the only undercroft with a rear window (the original mediaeval ones have been replaced, but you can still see the brickwork). It also has a staircase linking to the house above. Unlike some of the other undercrofts, which were let separately, this one was intended to be part of the main house. It was rediscovered, after being buried under rubbish, in 1839.

Return to the Cross.

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Mediaeval Chester 1200 to 1485 – A Timeline

1199	John crowned King
1216	John dies, Henry III ascends to the throne
1237	Last of the Norman Chester earls dies, and the title Earl of Chester is taken back by the monarch
1241	Henry III visits Chester to receive the submission of the Welsh prince Dafydd ap Llywelyn. Work begins on the Castle.
1245	Henry III again in Chester, at the head of a large army
1257	Famine throughout England
1272	Henry III dies, Edward I becomes King
1277	Edward I chooses Chester as his military base for his 7 year campaign to subdue Wales
1278	Fire breaks out, reputedly destroying a large section of the city
1282	Welsh rebellion greatly enhances Chester's military and administrative importance
1284	For the first time, the eldest son of the monarch becomes Earl of Chester
1300	Edward I grants Chester a new Charter, and recognises the right to a mayor
1307	Edward I dies, succeeded by Edward II
1312-17	Great Famine throughout Europe, estimated 10-25% of the population died
1327	Edward II dies, Edward III crowned
1349	The Black Death arrives in Chester
1377	Edward III dies, succeeded by Richard II
1398-9	Richard II visits Chester at least six times, authorising the outlawing of any foreign or unpropertied defendants who failed to respond to summonses to appear in its courts, and was briefly imprisoned here by Henry Bolingbrook, Duke of Lancaster, after being captured at Flint Castle.
1399	Richard II dies, coronation of Henry IV, first of the Lancastrians
1403	Owain Glyndwr's revolt. Chester corporation was required to impose a curfew upon all Welshmen visiting Chester, and to ensure that they left their arms at the city gates and did not gather in groups of more than three; all Welsh residents were expelled and any who stayed overnight were threatened with execution.
1413	Henry IV dies, Henry V becomes King
1422	Henry V succeeded by Henry VI
1461	Henry VI, last of the Lancastrians, is followed by Edward IV, first of the house of York
1483	Edward V accedes and presumably dies, followed by Richard III
1485	Battle of Bosworth. Richard III defeated, Henry VII crowned King

Chester u3a Walk and Treasure Trail 6 Mediaeval Chester 1215 to 1485

Treasure Hunt Instructions

On the following page is a sheet of photos. By following the map and/or directions you should go past all of them, but not necessarily in the order in which they are shown. If you can't find them all, and get frustrated, then you can ask for our Hints sheet by emailing treasuretrails@chesteru3a.org.uk

Don't forget to let us know how you get on – particularly if you want us to produce more!

So, get out there, and get hunting!

Chester u3a Walk and Treasure Trail 6 Mediaeval Chester 1215 to 1485