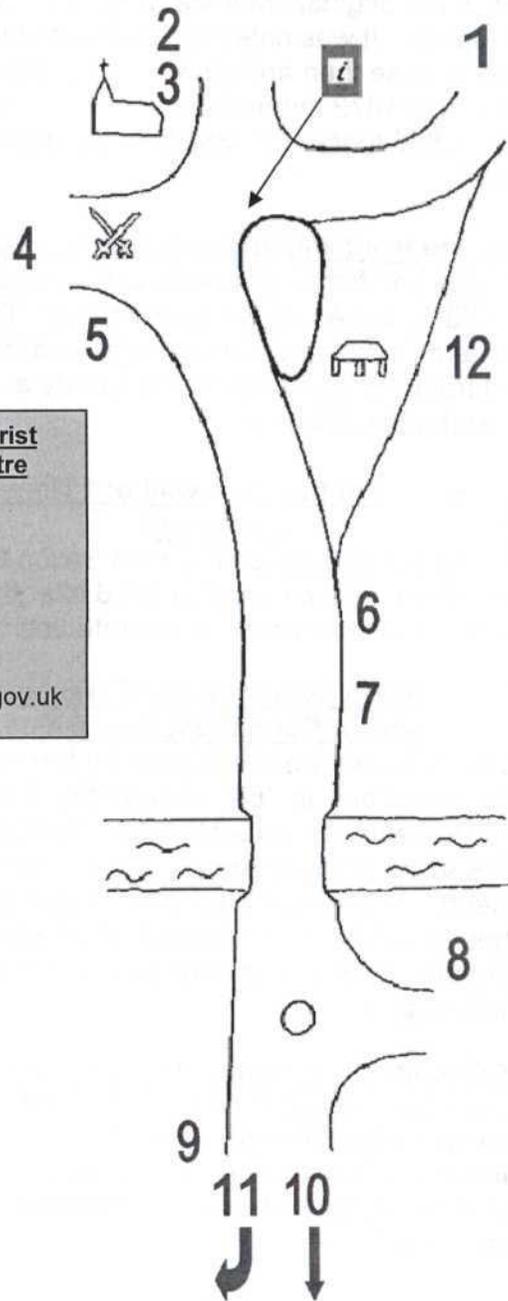


Location of Plaques



Chippenham Tourist Information Centre
 Yelde Hall
 Market Place
 Chippenham
 Wiltshire
 SN15 3HL

 01249 665970
 tourism@northwilts.gov.uk



A Tour of Chippenham Plaques



Situated around the main centre of Chippenham are 12 blue plaques all signifying a particular point of interest about the town. This leaflet guides you around these plaques and provides a unique insight into Chippenham's diverse history.

Map of plaque locations on the back page.

- 1. On the side wall of 11 Timber Street (Nr. Bus Stn)**
 This is the site of Canal Wharf (1799-1917) and was the terminus for the Chippenham link of the Wilts & Berks Canal. The canal would have been used for transporting goods such as coal and the wharf would have been an important and busy trading venue for the town before the coming of the railway. Unfortunately none of the original structures have survived, but the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust are in the process of restoring the site of the Pewsham Locks on the outskirts of the town.



2. **Adjacent to the front door of the Jubilee Building, Market Place (next to Strakers)**

This building was erected to commemorate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887. Celebrations would have taken place all around the country and Chippenham would have been no exception. The Queen was a popular lady who brought a great deal of wealth to the country and marking her 50 years on the throne would have been an auspicious occasion.



3. **On the front wall of 32-34 Market Place (The China Bowl)**

This building was once the Lyon Inn and it is believed that it was here that John Woodman plotted the fire of London in 1666. The fire caused great devastation in London and it is hard to believe that this quiet corner of Chippenham could have been witness to such a crime!



4. **On the gable end of 56 St Mary Street**

As you walk along St Mary Street you will see many fine examples of elegant Georgian buildings, some of which originate from the medieval period. The street was also important during the Civil War when it was witness to a ferocious fight when Royalist stormed the Parliamentary controlled town.

5. **On the front wall of 44-45 Market Place (Iceland)**

As mentioned above, Chippenham featured during the Civil War. This building was once the White Hart Inn and Oliver Cromwell, Leader of the Parliamentarians, lodged here in 1649 en route to Bristol.

6. **On the front of the Town Hall**

The Town Hall was built in 1835 by local dignitary, Joseph Neeld. In 1827 he inherited a £1 Million fortune from his great-uncle and by 1830 he had become M.P for the town. In 1850 he constructed large sheds at the rear of the Town Hall for the Cheese Market (Plaque 7) and the Corn Exchange.

7. **On the front wall of 4a High Street**

This arch is the original entrance to the 19th Century Cheese Market. It was noted in 1848 that the market held more cheese than any other in the West of England and in 1872 the amount of cheese for sale peaked to 1,856 tons! By 1884 this had declined to almost half.



8. **On the front wall of Avon Bridge House, Bath Road**

This building was formally Nestlé's Condensed Milk Factory and was built in 1873 by the Anglo Swiss Company. The milk was delivered from the farms in horse drawn vehicles and the line of milk carts often extended from the Town Hall to the factory and along the Bath Road for a considerable distance!



9. **On the front wall of 1 New Road (Gough Solicitors)**

A flour mill stood here from Saxon times. The last mill that stood here was built in 1816 after the previous one was set on fire and the mill continued to operate until 1957.

10 & 11. **North Eastern side of Western Arches and the front wall of Permanent Way Office, Railway Station**

The Western Arches were designed by Isambard Kingdom Brunel and were built in 1841 to carry the Great Western Railway. Brunel made several trips to the town. He used the offices at the Railway Station and he also stayed with family friend, Mr Rowland Brotherhood, at his house near the arches (now The Futon Studio). Brunel's work is now renowned the world over and the town is privileged to be part of this history.



12. **Adjacent to the front door of the Angel Hotel**

The Angel Hotel was an important 18th Century coaching inn on the busy London to Bristol route. The journey by horse and coach would have been slow, so the sight of the Angel Hotel would have been a welcome relief!

