










Points of interest

No.	Name	Date	Description
14 	Hungerford Police Station	19th century to present	The police station was built in 1864 by the architect Joseph Morris and still retains most of its original features. It consisted of an office, two cells and accommodation for the officer in charge.
15 	The Chapel	19th century	The chapel is shown on 19th century mapping to the north east of the Union Workhouse. The workhouse was built in 1847, but demolished in the late 20th century.
16 	Hungerford Common	Prehistoric to present	There is evidence of late prehistoric, Roman and Medieval fields on the common, but it is first mentioned in documents dating from the 16th century. It has seen many different uses, including sheep fairs, prize fights in the 19th century, a golf course and military camps in both World Wars.
17 	84 High Street	18th century	A Grade II Listed 18th century timber framed house and the only remaining thatched cottage on the High Street.
18 	85-86 High Street	15th to 19th century	A Grade II Listed mid 15th century hall house, converted into two houses and with a 19th century frontage. Tree ring dating suggests a construction date of 1449.
19 	42 High Street	19th to 20th century	A Grade II former National School, dating to 1814 and also used as a hospital during the First World War.
20 	26 & 27 High Street	16th to 18th century	A Grade II Listed 16th century house with a later 17th century frontage. Murals were uncovered in the 1990s that are thought to date to the 18th century.
21 	Town Hall	18th to 19th century	A Grade II Listed Town Hall, built in 1871 but replacing the earlier town hall of 1786. It houses the Corn Exchange and Magistrates Room, where the local magistrates court was held.
22 	Three Swans Hotel	17th century to present	Originally an inn in 1645, with documentary evidence of fire insurance being taken out in 1716

This walk was originally delivered as part of **LibraryFest 2016**

To find out more about heritage in your area please visit www.westberkshireheritage.org

West Berkshire Archaeology: www.westberks.gov.uk/archaeology

Walking For Health: www.westberks.gov.uk/wfh

© West Berkshire Council Archaeology Service 2016

West Berkshire HERITAGE

Shaw House | West Berkshire Museum | Local Heritage



Hungerford Heritage Walk

Hungerford is an attractive market town with a long history. Its origins date to the Medieval period as a planned town, although there are clues to earlier settlement activity. A market and fair are recorded from the 13th century onwards, but it continued to grow in importance onwards. Nowadays, Hungerford boasts a substantial stock of historic buildings and features that are a lasting testament to its rich heritage.



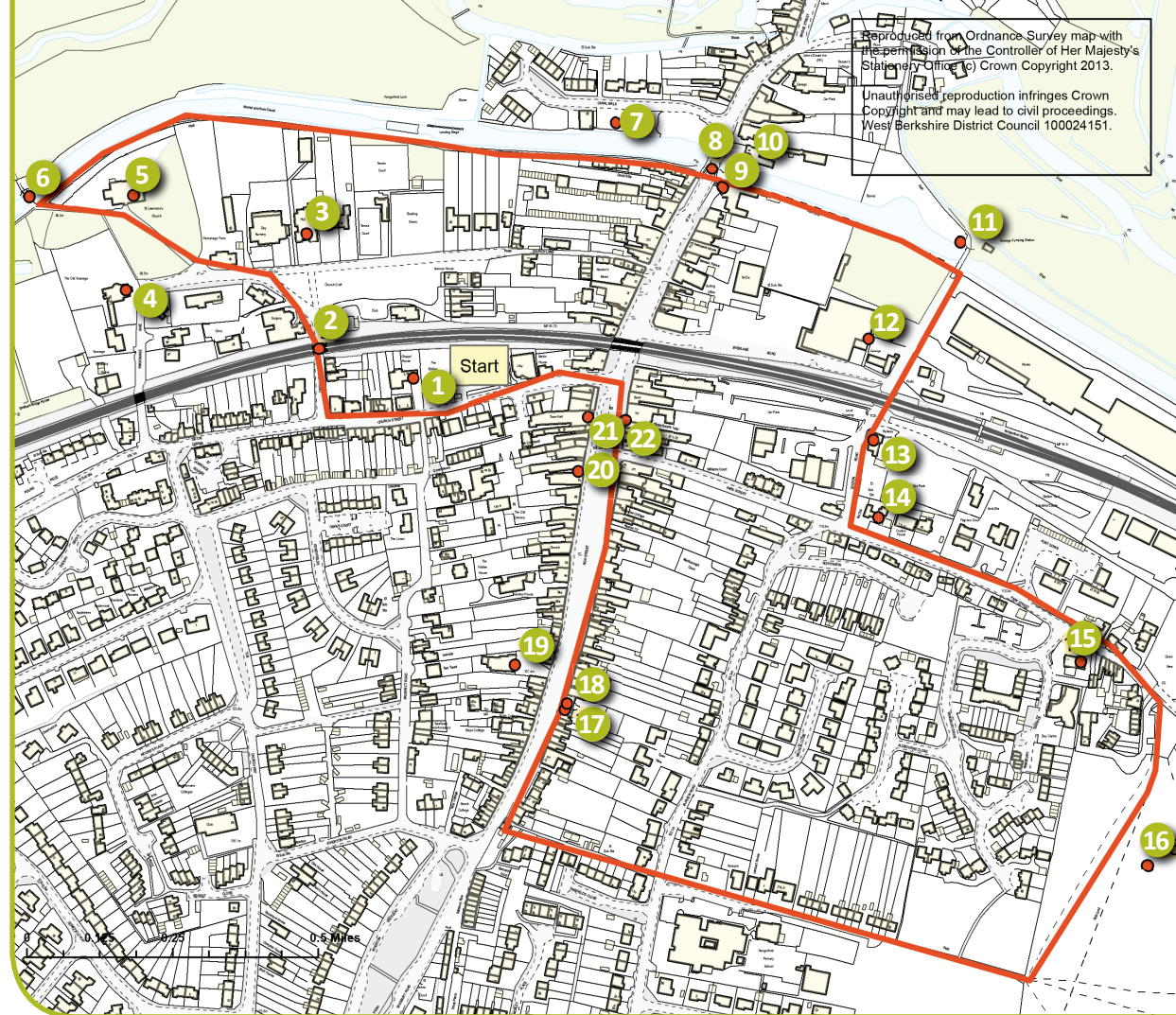
West Berkshire has a wealth of heritage ranging from early prehistoric finds to remnants of the Cold War and beyond – these can be seen as archaeological sites, historic buildings and even landscapes. These walks offer an opportunity to explore your heritage as it exists around you,

Route

Walk length: 1.75 miles approx

This walk is relatively easy and for the most part on roads and footpaths. There are some short stretches of road that do not have pavements, and a length along the canal side that can get wet and muddy - please wear suitable clothing and footwear. **Please be aware that many of these heritage assets are private property or on private land, so please keep to public rights of way and respect owners privacy.**

- Start at Hungerford Library and walk up Church Street, one of the original east-west roads of the Medieval town. Note **Chapel House (POI1)** on the right behind the Fire Station, a converted former Methodist Chapel dating to 1807. Turn right into Croft Road and walk underneath the railway line, itself dating to 1862 – you can see some of the original 19th century **railway bridge arches** still surviving (**POI2**).
- Enter the Croft, originally part of the pre-urban area of Hungerford. Evidence for Saxon activity was found during an archaeological dig on the site of the doctors' surgery. Note **Croft Hall (POI3)**, the site of a Free Grammar School built in 1653 as a charitable institution for boys and girls. The Hall dates from the late 19th century
- Walk up towards the church, noting **The Old Vicarage (POI4)** which is Grade II Listed and originally dates to the 17th century. Pass through the entrance gatepost to the churchyard, embossed with the name of John Platt Jnr, who owned the town brewery in 1886. **St Lawrence's Church (POI5)** is first mentioned in the 12th century, but was replaced with the current church in 1815. This is also the possible location of a leper hospital for women, first recorded in 1228 and given royal protection in 1232.
- Continue past the church to the canal. This section of the Kennet and Avon Canal was built between 1798 and 1799 – **the swing bridge (POI6)** before you is likely to have its origins in this period, although it has probably been rebuilt several times. Turn right along the canal path.
- Carry along until you reach the site of **Hungerford Wharf (POI7)**. By 1823, this area had a crane, gauging station and warehouses – one of these survives up to the present day, although it has been much altered. Carry on past a row of former canal worker cottages, originally dating from the 18th and 19th centuries



- Pass underneath the Grade II Listed **18th century canal bridge (POI8)**, crossed by the Hungerford to South Toll Road, formed in 1771. Note the groove marks on the corner stones, made by the ropes from earlier horse drawn canal traffic.
- On your right is **131 High Street (POI9)**, a Grade II Listed house and offices dating to the 18th century. Note the separately Grade II Listed 19th century pedestrian bridge connecting the house to the High Street. Across the canal is the Grade II Listed **No.14 Bridge Street (POI10)**, originally built in 1820 by local hop merchant Thomas Viner. This is also the site of former cottages, demolished during the construction of the canal.
- Walk along the canal past the turning circle until you reach a footbridge. Before turning right into Everland Road note the surviving **WWII pillbox** on the north side of the canal (**POI11**).
- Continue up the hill. An archaeological dig on the site of the Somerfield Store uncovered **prehistoric flints and Roman pottery (POI12)**, evidence of the earlier history of Hungerford. Carry on, crossing the railway line next to Hungerford Station, originally built in 1867 but later replaced following a fire. **The Railway tavern (POI13)** has been a pub and hotel from the 1830s.
- Carry on up Station Road and turn left into Park Street. On your left is the **Police Station (POI14)**, originally built in 1864 and not altered much since. Continue along Park Street, noting **The Chapel** on your right (**POI15**). Built of flint in an Early English style in the mid 19th century, it was originally adjacent to the Union Workhouse that was built in 1847 but demolished in the late 20th century.
- Walk up past the Downgate Pub (noting the WWII 'dragon's teeth' anti-tank defences), and turn right following the footpath over **Hungerford Common (POI16)**. Documentary evidence exists of the Common from the 16th century, but evidence exists of Roman and Early Medieval agricultural usage before this. It has been used for sheep sales, prize fights and has been the site of a golf course and military camps in both World Wars. Walk across the common, turning right into South View.

- Carry on down South View, crossing over Fairview Road and entering the alleyway ahead. This follows the line of the Medieval burgage plots that ran back from the High Street. These were used as rental plots by the residents, and possibly follow the lines of ploughstrips from the fields that existed before the Medieval town. Continue down though the narrow passage into the High Street, emerging next to the former Salisbury Arms – a pub dating to the 1860s.
- Walk down the High Street, which contains a mix of historic building dates and styles. **84 High Street (POI17)** is a Grade II Listed 18th century timber framed house and the only thatched cottage in the High Street. Next door is **85-86 High Street (POI18)**, a Grade II Listed mid 15th century hall house behind a 19th century frontage. Inside, some of the original rood survives with smoke blackening and a tree ring dating suggested a construction date of 1449, making it one of the earliest surviving houses in the area.
- Cross the High Street to see **No.42 High Street (POI19)** – a Grade II Listed former National School dating to 1814 and used as a hospital during the First World War. Continue down past the Congregational Chapel which dates to 1840 but on the site of an earlier chapel dating to the 18th century. Walk down to **Nos 26 & 27 High Street (POI20)**. The building front dates to the 17th century, but the original house is most likely 16th century. Restorations in the 1970s exposed most of the timber framed construction, and murals were found in 1990, most likely dating to the 18th century. Some of the ancient panelling can be seen inside
- Carry on down the High Street to the **Town Hall (POI21)**, built in 1871 but replacing the earlier town hall of 1786. This housed the Corn Exchange and local magistrates court. Note the **Three Swans Hotel** opposite (**POI22**), originally an inn in 1645 – documentary evidence shows that fire insurance was taken out on this property in 1716. Turn left into Church Street to arrive back at the starting point.





Points of interest

Use a QR Reader application on your smartphone or tablet to scan the code in the No. Column to link to more information.

No.	Name	Date	Description
1 	Chapel House	19th century	Former Ebenezer Methodist Chapel and school, built in 1869 and in use until 1910. A former burial ground existed in front of the building
2 	Bridge over Great Western Railway	19th century to present	Modern structure, incorporating earlier railway bridge, under section of Great Western Railway opened in 1862
3 	Croft Hall	17th to 19th century	Location of Free Grammar School built in 1653 and a school until the late 19th century. Croft Hall was built in 1899 by Sir William Pearce.
4 	The Old Vicarage	17th to 18th century	The Old Vicarage is Grade II listed and dates to the 17th-18th century.
5 	St Lawrence's Church	12th century to present	St Lawrence's Church is first mentioned in 12th century documentation, but was replaced by the current church in 1815. Also the likely site of a 13th century leper hospital for women
6 	Kennet and Avon Canal: Swing Bridge	18th century to present	Section of the Kennet and Avon Canal built in 1798 – the swing bridge is likely to have its origins in this period.
7 	Kennet and Avon Canal: Hungerford Wharf	19th century	Hungerford wharf was established in the early 19th century and by 1823 had a v crane, gauging station and warehouses. One of these survives as a converted residential property.
8 	Kennet and Avon Canal: Bridge	18th to 19th century	Grade II Listed late 18th century canal bridge, crossed by the Hungerford to South Toll Road formed in 1771 and ended in 1878.
9 	131 High Street	18th to 19th century	Grade II Listed house and offices originating from the 18th century and Grade II Listed 19th century pedestrian bridge, steps, arch and gate.
10 	14 Bridge Street	19th century	Grade II Listed 19th century house, built by local hop merchant Thomas Viner. This was also the site of some earlier cottages that were demolished when the Canal was built.
11 	WWII Pillbox		A surviving World War II type 22 pillbox, part of the Stop Line along the Kennet and Avon Canal.
12 	Prehistoric and Roman evidence	Neolithic to Roman	An archaeological evaluation on the site of the Somerfield Store uncovered a gully containing prehistoric flints and Roman artefacts.
13 	Railway Tavern	19th century to present	An unlisted 19th century hotel, still in use as a public house. Previously known as The George, it was in operation from at least 1830