

The walk

Start on **1 Saltergate** at its junction with Rose Hill East and you are at the North West corner of the medieval town.

"Gate" is the old name for a road, Saltergate was the route where salt was brought to us from Cheshire. Go east and turn down **2 Glumangate**, this is the street of the Glee Men or Minstrels and is a unique British street name. At the end turn left onto **3 Knifesmithgate**, another unique name which may refer to the presence of cutlers. Turn left up Cavendish Street and right at the end onto **4 Holywell Street**, the North East boundary of medieval Chesterfield. Follow the road round to the back of the Church, this area was the site of **5 Chesterfield's market** in the 11th Century. Visit **6 The Museum**, among the medieval artefacts on display is the builders windlass used to construct the church.

Walk through the churchyard to admire **7 The Parish Church of St Mary and All Saints**, known worldwide as The Crooked Spire. The first record of a church is from 1042, this would have been a much smaller building. The church we see today was started in the 13th Century. Inside find The Anniversary Window as it shows a scene from the 1266 Battle of Chesterfield.

Walk away from the church and after crossing South Street turn left into **8 The Shambles**, the area where butchers slaughtered animals and sold their meat. Most medieval towns would have been like this with small blocks divided by narrow streets, the buildings almost touching. Find The Royal Oak, built in the 12th Century, it is the oldest pub in Chesterfield and one of the oldest in the country. Come out of the Shambles into **9 the "new" market place**, only in use since the 1190s.

Leave the market place by Boots and go down the steps to Beetwell Street, the medieval southern town boundary. Across the road, behind the wall on the corner of South Street is **10 Chesterfield Bowling Green** which dates from 1294 and could be the oldest in the country.

Make your way back to the market place and at the end of Low Pavement find **11 The Peacock**. Now a café, a building has occupied this site since about 1200. This one is Chesterfield's most complete late medieval building dating from around 1500. It is thought to have been built as the Guildhall for one of Chesterfield's four Guilds.

You might also be interested in these out of town sites:

12 The Priest's Grave in Spital Cemetery

A leper hospital, dedicated to St Leonard, existed by 1171 and gives the area of Spital its name. Bones excavated near the site are thought to belong to one of the priests who worked there. He was re-interred in the entrance of the cemetery with a headstone marking his grave.

13 Eyre Chapel

The Eyre Chapel stands at the highest point of Newbold Village at the meeting point of four ancient trackways, parts of the building have been dated to the 11th Century. The chapel takes its name from the Eyre family who bought the Manor of Newbold in 1570. For further information or to visit the site please contact Jean Barr on 01246 231803



Chesterfield was a thriving market town in mediaeval times. Little of this remains but we can still get a sense of "Cestrefeld" from our street names, town plan and some buildings. You can explore Chesterfield's Mediaeval heritage with this self guided short walk around our historic town.

Chesterfield 750 medieval walk

Explore Chesterfield's medieval heritage with this self guided short walk.



CHESTERFIELD
BOROUGH COUNCIL



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Railway Station



Coach Station

Queen's Park

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