



# WHEATHAMPSTEAD HERITAGE TRAIL

## HERITAGE TRAIL

- 1 THE BULL INN
- 2 RIVER LEA
- 3 TUDOR ARCHWAY
- 4 WHEATHAMPSTEAD PLACE
- 5 WHEATHAMPSTEAD STATION
- 6 WHEATHAMPSTEAD HOUSE
- 7 THE OLD BAKERY
- 8 WHEATHAMPSTEAD MILL
- 9 CRINKLE-CRANKLE WALLS
- 10 BURY FARM COTTAGES
- 11 ST HELEN'S CHURCH
- 12 ST HELEN'S CHURCHYARD
- 13 OLD CHURCH SCHOOL
- 14 BREWHOUSE AND MALTINGS
- 15 COLLINS CORNER
- 16 THE SWAN INN
- 17 LATTIMORES
- 18 THE WHITE COTTAGE
- 19 JESSAMINE COTTAGE
- 20 THE TWO BREWERS
- 21 DEVIL'S DYKE



Wheathampstead has an ancient history. At the end of the last Ice Age, Mesolithic hunter gatherers left worked flint tools here. Iron Age farmers kept cattle and lived in round houses beside Devil's Dyke. Celtic warriors built a defensive ditch there up to 30 m wide and 12 m deep. Some think that these extensive earthworks were the location of the tribe's original capital and possibly part of one of the biggest Iron Age sites in the country. Cassivellaunus, chief war leader of the Catuvellauni tribe, led resistance to the Roman invasion from here in 54 BC.

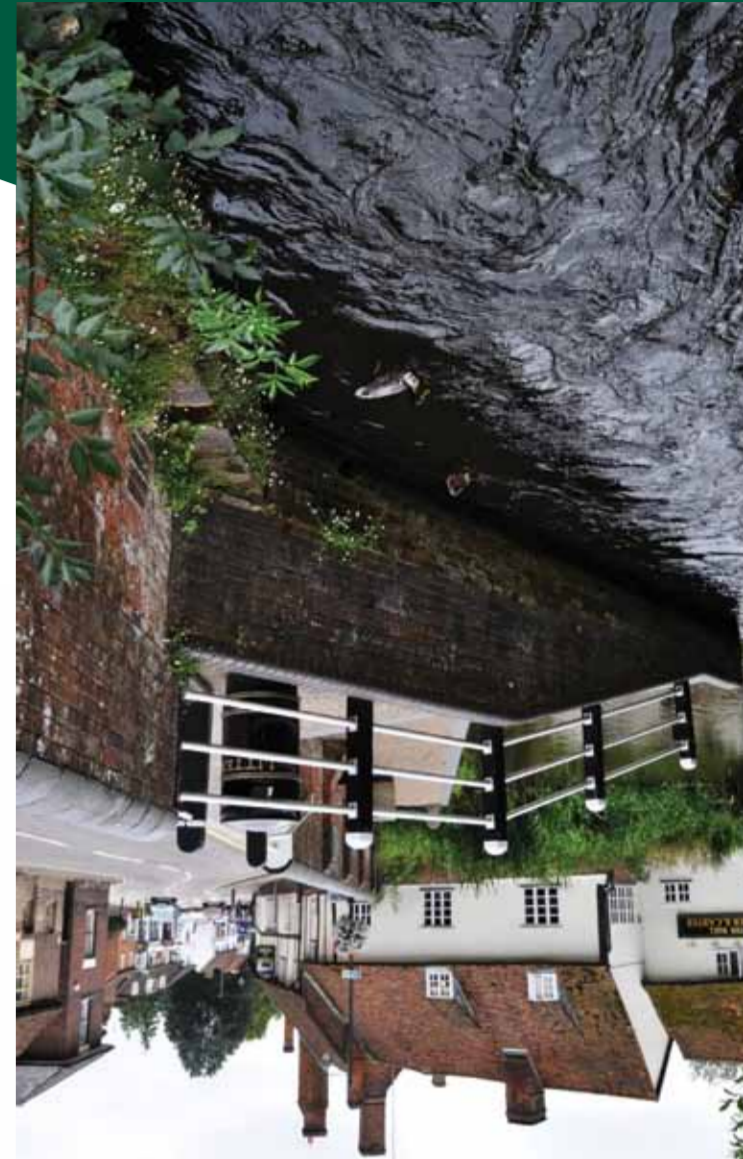
Two immensely rich early Romano-British cremation burials, "one rung below native royalty", from nearby Turner's Hall Farm included silver brooches and some fine bronze ewers from the Bay of Naples. Anglo-Saxons left a unique bronze burial pot and glassware (now in the British Museum) near the old railway station. The earliest document in the county (1060) tells of King Edward the Confessor's gift of his manor of 'Hwaethamstede' to his newly founded Westminster Abbey. Our church has an Anglo-Saxon foundation and thought by some to have been a minster with royal

connections. The River Lea was the boundary between Saxon and Viking England under the Danelaw Treaty agreed by King Alfred the Great in 880. More recently, in the 1940s, Mill Quay was broken when a circus elephant was taken there for a drink.

Other major sites include the remains of our railway station built in 1860 (recently renovated by a team of local volunteers), rare crinkle-crankle walls and a High Street with many important seventeenth-century inns and historic buildings. Our heritage includes events such as the death of prize-fighter Simon Byrne ("The Emerald Gem") after a 99-round bare-knuckle fight on nearby Nomansland Common, the earliest steeplechases in Britain and Field Marshal Montgomery's review of the troops before D-Day. Important names connected with the village include the notorious Wicked Lady, newspaper magnate Lord Harmsworth, George Bernard Shaw and explorer Apsley Cherry-Garrard who travelled with Scott to the Antarctic.

Recent history includes filming of the TV series Band of Brothers and parts of the Harry Potter films. Wheathampstead is English history in microcosm. Today it is a vibrant, caring community with over 250 local businesses providing a wide range of services.

KEY: Heritage Trail site with plaque



WHEATHAMPSTEAD VILLAGE CENTRE

## Welcome to WHEATHAMPSTEAD

Come to visit Wheathampstead – Verulamium Museum in St Albans calls it "The First Capital" and our timeline stretches back 10,000 years. You can walk our fascinating village Heritage Trail with 21 different historical sites marked by green and gold information plaques. Find out more about the colourful stories and people that bring our history to life then reward yourself with a visit to one of our excellent shops, pubs or restaurants.

This walkers' map covers the Wheathampstead village centre Heritage Trail. The complete circular walk is about one and a quarter miles (2 kilometres) and will take around an hour and a half to complete. If you are feeling energetic, walk the extra 0.6 miles (1 kilometre) to the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Devil's Dyke to the east of the High Street. For even longer walks, follow one of the Heritage Trail routes of up to eight miles around the wider Parish through our beautiful countryside.

More information about famous events, characters and historic sites can be found on our website.

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www.wheathampsteadheritage.org.uk

**DEVIL'S DYKE**  
A Scheduled Ancient Monument and our most historic site. Devil's Dyke is an impressive earthwork. Even today, more than 2,000 years after its construction, it is up to 40 feet (12 metres) deep. Sir Mortimer Wheeler excavated the dyke in the 1930s and suggested it was the site where Julius Caesar defeated the resistance led by the local Catuvellauni tribe under Cassivellaunus. It is a very significant Iron Age monument and partly responsible for St Albans Museum's reference to Wheathampstead as "The First Capital".



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