



The 14th century splendour of All Saints Church is a good starting point for a short walk around this ancient town. Walk across the churchyard and into the historic and recently refurbished Market Place, a venue for the many outdoor events and festivals that take place in the town throughout the year. If you walk from All Saints in the other direction, you will come to Church Street, a quiet, attractive residential corner of Westbury with a range of period buildings, some of which date back as far as the 15th century. Here you will find one of the oldest operational swimming baths in the country, a gift to the people of Westbury from the Laverton family. Next door is the former Angel Cloth Mill. In Bratton Road, you will come to the building that bears the family name. Today, The Laverton, a beautiful example of Victorian architecture, serves as a community centre and is home to the Town Council. Walk past the Laverton and you will come to Prospect Square, a series of almshouses that Abraham Laverton built for his workers. By this time you may be in need of some refreshment, which is what you will find amongst the shops and cafes when you wind your way back to the centre of town.

## A walk around Westbury

## Useful information

### Travel

Westbury railway station is an important rail hub with mainline services to London, Exeter, Bath, Bristol, Salisbury, Southampton and Swindon; and travel links to Hampshire, Somerset, Dorset, Devon, Cornwall and Wales. A number of buses provide travel routes in most directions out of the town. Travel Line 0871 200 2233

### Doctors

The Eastleigh Surgery (0844 477 8760) is in the centre of town at the junction of Station Road and Haynes Road. There is additionally the White Horse Surgery (0844 477 8762) in Hospital Road. The town is also served by main hospitals in Trowbridge, Warminster, Bath and Salisbury.

### Library

Westbury's library (01373 822294) not only offers books and computer facilities, but extensive information relating to local services and town events. The library is situated in a historic building in Edward Street not far from All Saints Church.

### Westbury Visitor Centre

Run by the Westbury Heritage Society, this is a useful source of historic and current information about the town and the surrounding area. 1 High Street, Westbury, Wiltshire 01373 825784 [www.westburyvisitorcentre.co.uk](http://www.westburyvisitorcentre.co.uk)

### Westbury Town Council

For more details about the town, its facilities and local services, please contact: Westbury Town Council, The Laverton, Bratton Road, Westbury, BA13 3EN. 01373 822232 [www.westburytowncouncil.co.uk](http://www.westburytowncouncil.co.uk)



For generations, the famed White Horse, perched high up on the chalk downs, has looked down on the historic events that have shaped Westbury. The name Westbury itself is Saxon meaning 'the fortified place in the West', and it was in Edington, four miles east of Westbury, that Alfred is believed to have fought and won the decisive Battle of Ethandune against the Danes. Westbury capitalised on the woollen industry. Mills mushroomed throughout the town powered by fast flowing streams – Westbury was celebrated for its broad weave cloth – and the mill owners grew wealthy. One such was the Victorian benefactor Abraham Laverton, who built almshouses for his workers along with other public buildings. Laverton's foray into politics gave Westbury another first: secret ballots – a result of shenanigans by Abraham's opponents, including John Phipps. In the 19th century, the railway came to Westbury and extensive deposits of iron ore were found and a foundry was established. Westbury was also noted for the production of quality gloves (some of which have graced royal hands); and since 1961 and up to 2010 Westbury has been a home to the cement industry. Today, the town continues to act as a centre for enterprise and is home to the many companies based at the nearby West Wilts Trading Estate.

## A community steeped in history

### Welcome to The Laverton

This historic building situated close to the centre of Westbury is home to Westbury Town Council and offers a range of rooms and adaptable spaces that are available for hire by community organisations, individuals and local businesses.

For further information about the Laverton or to arrange an informal visit please contact us.

Tel. 01373 822126

or visit [www.westburytowncouncil.co.uk/laverton](http://www.westburytowncouncil.co.uk/laverton)

The Laverton

Bratton Road, Westbury, Wiltshire BA13 3EN



This leaflet is available in large print upon request

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Westbury is situated on the western edge of Salisbury Plain between the county town of Trowbridge and nearby Warminster. A small market town, Westbury has a fascinating history that belies its size. There have been settlements in and around Westbury from the Iron and Bronze Ages, since when it has been the stage for some historic events, and was a hub of the woollen trade, an important industry that brought both wealth and distinction to the town. Today, Westbury is a lively town offering a mix of shops, hotels, restaurants, arts and crafts studios and tea-rooms, all nestling alongside the old world charm of attractive cottages, narrow streets and sedate town houses. Set within a picturesque landscape nestling below Salisbury Plain, Westbury offers access to Wiltshire's glorious countryside and the pleasures of walking, pony trekking, hang gliding, or simply the peace and quiet of rural England.



# Welcome to Westbury

## Town guide and map





Market Place on French Market day



The Lopes Arms



Soisy-sur-Seine gardens



Marlborough House



All Saints Parish Hall



Victorian swimming baths



Maristow Street - Street Fayre



The library - Westbury House



The ridge of Salisbury Plain



The Visitor/Heritage Centre



Memorial of the Great War



A private garden gateway



A wide variety of housing



Christmas in Westbury



A wide choice of accommodation



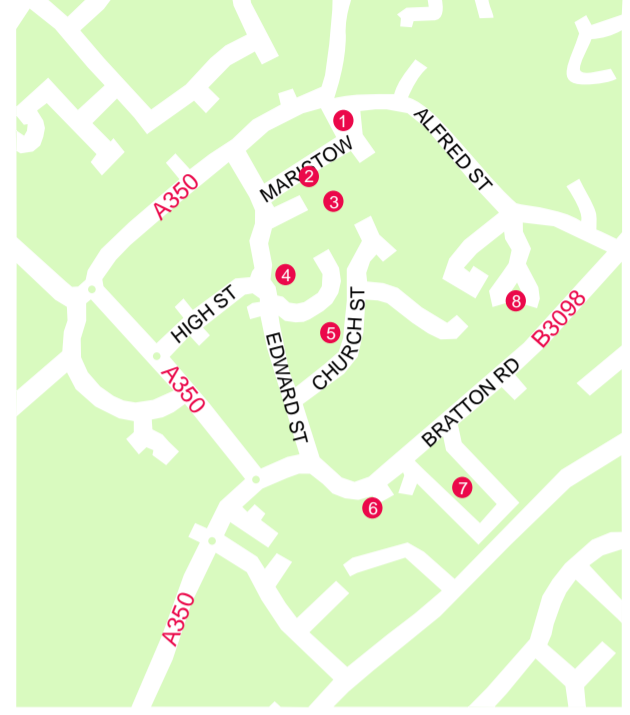
All Saints Church



Angel Mill archway

# Westbury town centre - points of interest

- 1. Market Place**  
A charming old square formed by some of the oldest buildings in Westbury, including the old Town Hall and the historic Lopes Arms Hotel.
- 2. Maristow Street**  
A quiet back street of cottages and small shops in a mix of architectural styles.
- 3. All Saints Church**  
14th century, but standing on the site of an even older Saxon church. It boasts the third heaviest peal of eight bells in the world and an Erasmus Bible.
- 4. Westbury House, Edward Street**  
Built around 1800 for the owners of Angel Mill, it then became a school before becoming, in 1970, Westbury's public library.
- 5. Victorian Swimming Pool, Church Street**  
Modernised with a heated pool, it is very popular, particularly with a resident ghost called George.



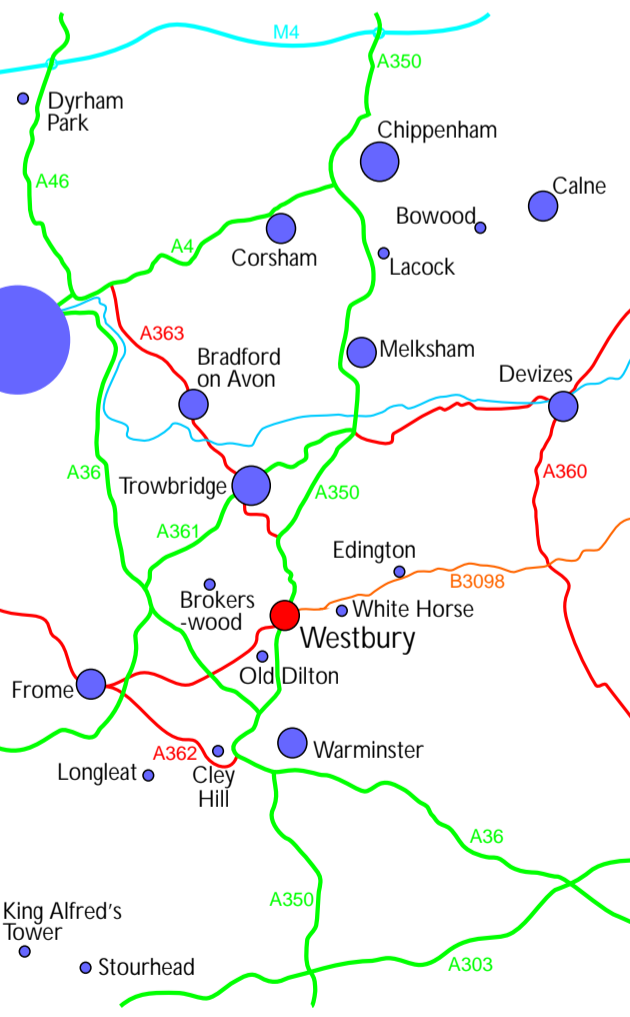
**Westbury White Horse** (map below)  
The oldest of its kind in Wiltshire and reputed to have been first created in 878, the current shape dates from the 1770s. The White Horse hill is a favourite spot for picnics, walking, pony treks, kite flying, hang gliding and para gliding.

**Bratton Castle**  
Next to the White Horse, this Iron Age Hill Fort has defensive ditches cut into the hillside.

- 6. The Laverton Institute, Bratton Road**  
A splendid Victorian building in the Venetian style, this was donated to the town by Abraham Laverton to encourage learning and leisure. It became a school and now houses the Town Council offices and is being re-developed as a community centre and multi-purpose venue.
- 7. Prospect Square, Bratton Road**  
Almshouses, built by Abraham Laverton for his mill workers, and tastefully renovated to a high standard, is a testament to Victorian benevolence.
- 8. Bitham Mill, Bitham Lane**  
The oldest documented premises dedicated to the woollen industry in Westbury (1573), it was extended and converted to steam in 1829.

# Around Westbury - points of interest

- Kennet & Avon Canal** - This beautiful stretch of waterway can be accessed just north of Trowbridge. The canal also runs through Devizes joining Bristol with London (see map).
- Brokerswood Country Park** - An 80-acre haven for wildlife amidst an ancient woodland. This privately owned centre also has nature trails, a lake, outdoor playgrounds and a narrow gauge railway.
- Frome** - Not far from the famous Longleat House and Safari Park, Frome is architecturally interesting as well as being a good centre from which to explore east Somerset and the beautiful surrounding villages.
- Old Dilton Church** - A 13th century building famous for its beautiful oak box pews and three-decker pulpit. Once a centre of the woollen industry, Old Dilton is now a quiet hamlet.



- Devizes** - A town with fine buildings and a distinguished history. Home of Wadworth's brewery and the Devizes museum where some of Westbury's historic artefacts can be found.
- Edington Priory** - Off the B3098 east of Westbury. Believed to be the scene of Alfred's great victory over the Danes, the church standing today was originally started in 1352. Site of the international music festival every August.
- Warminster** - The ancient market town was originally a Saxon settlement and grew to become a major centre and training centre for the Army. In the 17th century, it was the "greatest corn-market by much in the West".

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The Laverton - architectural detail



Almshouses at Prospect Square



Warminster Road