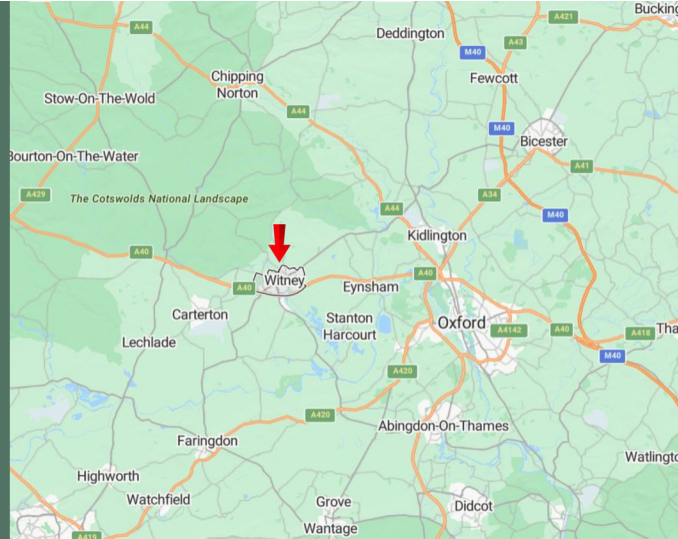


# Witney Historical Buildings Walk

**WITNEY is a Medieval market town that has an illustrious industrial past from the cloth-making industry to ironmongery with much of it being water or steam-powered. The once-small town stood at the forefront of industry with many historical building or places.**



**Look out for Blue Plaques on your journey to find out more local history.**



Parking is available at the Woodford Way car park, Witney, OX28 6GS



Wheelchair friendly



Distance: 2.0 miles approx



[www.heritagesearch.oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.heritagesearch.oxfordshire.gov.uk)



[www.westoxon.gov.uk](http://www.westoxon.gov.uk)



[www.heritageopendays.org.uk](http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk)



[www.francisfrith.com](http://www.francisfrith.com)



WEST OXFORDSHIRE  
DISTRICT COUNCIL



heritage open days



National  
Trust

**7 St. Mary's Church** The church was built around 1100 AD and funded by the Bishops of Winchester. It's thought that an Anglo-Saxon Turriform Church stood on the site from around 800 AD. The building you see now is mostly 13th century and was re-dedicated in 1243.

Looking up the impressive 156ft spire of St. Mary's Church, you may spot a stone carving of a monkey appearing to climb the spire, legend notes that, alarmed by the noise of the local fair, the monkey escaped a stallholder and climbed the part built spire, dating back 800 years, the fair still runs annually to this day, as for the monkey, it came down.

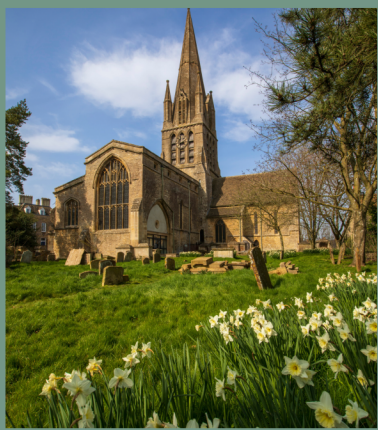
**8 Old Police Station** To the right of the church sits Witney's old Police Station, built in 1859 it replaced the lock-up in the Market square. Both the inspector and the sergeant would have lived there, as well as cells, offices, and a courtroom! The Police station was re-directed in 1965 by the current premises in Welch Way. Head back down Church Green turning left into Corn Street.

**9 The Three Horse Shoes** Built in the early sixteenth Century was originally a private dwelling, the building was remodeled sometime during the mid-seventeenth Century to become a Cross-Wise Inn with stables and an open yard behind. Now a grade 2 listed building, the Three Horseshoes is one of the oldest pubs in Witney.



Thank you for completing the walk, we hope you enjoyed it.  
Opening times of attractions may vary.





**1 Woodford Way car park** Named after Woodford Mill, later named Witney Mills, it is a Medieval fulling mill, and is one of the oldest of the many blanket factories in Witney, with Early's being the largest establishment. The fulling mill would have cleaned and thickened the wool ready for use in making cloth. Head across the road and into Marriotts Walk.

**2 Marriotts Walk** Another famous blanket-making family in Witney was the Marriott family. William Marriott is known to have been working in the cloth trade since 1628, and over 300 years later the family was still making blankets. The piece of modern art you can see represents the early beginnings of Witney, consisting of the Buttercross and a knitting needle. Continue through Marriotts shopping center not missing the Witney Yarn mosaic.

**3 Temperance Hotel** Stroll up the high street to Boots the Chemist, this building has gone through many changes throughout its history, in 1834 the building was a coffee tavern, set up by the British and Foreign Temperance Society, they supplied hot meals but only nonalcoholic beverages, and was popular with many local manufactures, also holding the annual Tuckers feast, which were held twice annually, once in May and November the tuckers, normally 'Fullers' who clean and thicken the cloth, held feasts for the master weavers.

**4 Old Post Office** The old Post Office sits on the opposite side of the road, now a toy store the old post office would have been a hive of activity. Head off up to the Market Square. The Market Square is an area of great significance to Witney dating back to the 13th century, in 1540 Witney was described as a 'Great Market Town', later in the 17th Century livestock and food were bought and sold and the market still thrives to this day.

**5 Corn Exchange** This beautiful grade II listed, Cotswold stone building was designed by architect J. Collier of Putney in an Italianate style and by 1875 was Witney's leading building. The Corn Exchange was built by the private 'Corn Exchange Company' in 1863, replacing a 16th-century building used in the 1850s as a corn returns office. This beautiful building was designed by architect J. Collier of Putney in an Italianate style. By 1875 it was Witney's most prominent building and used for social events and meetings. The Corn Exchange is a resource for the people of Witney and our visitors to this day.

**6 Buttercross** Of uncertain origins and age The Buttercross has evolved through various stages, originally a cross was thought to have sat on the center pillar, possibly a prehen cross, twelve outer pillars were added later, and then given a roof in 1606 where people sold butter, eggs, and milk. Later in 1683, a legacy by William Blake of Cogges, a clock tower was added. Follow Church Green to Saint Mary's Church.

