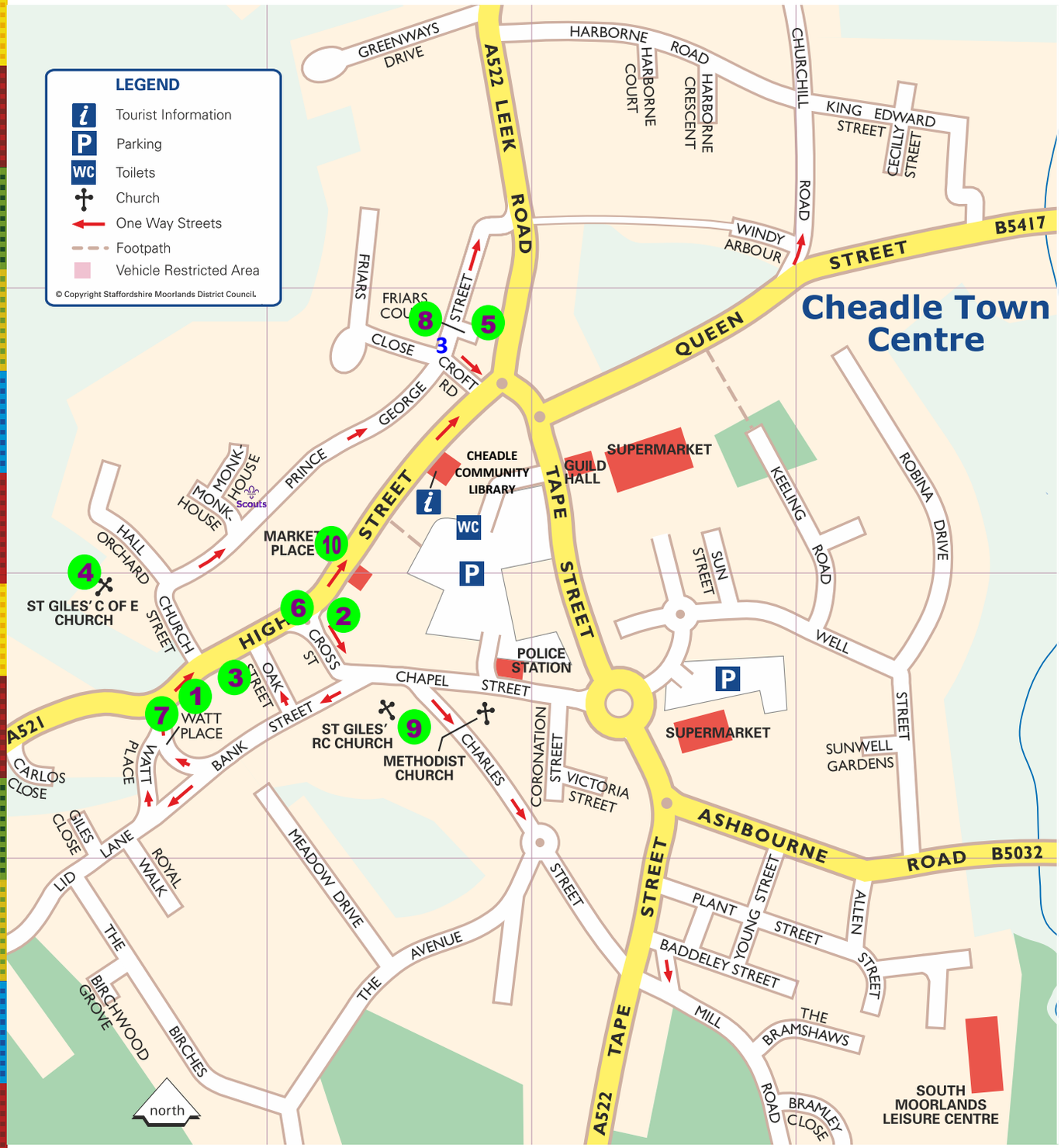
Cheadle

Staffordshire

discover the secret...



Located in the North of Staffordshire, on the edge of the Peak District, Cheadle is a busy, picturesque historic market town with independent shops and cafes. Follow this fascinating tour around the town and marvel at the Medieval, Tudor and Georgian architecture.



1 Tudor House - Tudor House is a black and white timber-framed building dating from 1558. The frontage was rediscovered and restored in 1907.

In Robert Plant's 'History of Cheadle' (1881) this building was described as Cheadle's oldest house – at that time however it's true age was hidden behind plaster.

In 1907 renovation work was carried out and the Tudor oak beams were uncovered, along with two previously hidden attic rooms and windows. The earliest known occupants of the building were Saddlers and Harness makers. In the ground floor are two shop fronts, and between them is a doorway with a moulded surround and a semi-circular hood. The windows are mullioned and transomed, and contain sashes.

2 Wheatsheaf - This is the oldest surviving public house on the High Street, having been extensively renovated and re-opened by the J.D. Wetherspoon chain in 2012.

The earliest reference to the Wheatsheaf is from 1738, when it had recently changed its name from The George. It was likely developed into a Coaching Inn during the 18th Century, when Cheadle was on the Birmingham to Manchester stagecoach route. On the front is a doorway that has a Tuscan porch with a moulded cornice and a frieze, and above it is a large wrought iron inn sign bracket.

3 Royal Oak - Another of Cheadle's former Coaching Inn's, the earliest references to this public house are from the early 1800s. In the 1820s it was developed into a hotel, possibly as the result of John Yarde-Buller owning the building. At this time Yarde-Buller was the Lord of Cheadle Manor and the Royal Oak was used as the town's courthouse and main meeting venue.

At the time of printing, the building is vacant and a community group 'Friends of the Royal Oak' are working to transform it into a multi-purpose building which will benefit the community.

4 St. Giles the Abbot and Graveyard - The Parish Church dedicated to St. Giles was built in 1838, replacing an older church which dated from around 1340. The new church was designed by architect James P. Pritchett of York in a gothic style, it was larger than the original church and further up the hill. The graveyard around the church contains several Grade II listed tombs, including that of the Grosvenor family who built Hales Hall.

5 Osborne House (former Town Hall) - The decorative façade of this building is all that remains of Cheadle's Town Hall, which opened in November 1894. The Town Hall was where the newly formed Parish Council first met, it was also the meeting place for the Girls Friendly Society and served as the town's Masonic Lodge. A cinema was established in the early 20th Century and the building gradually became better known as the Osborne Cinema.

6 **Market Cross -** The Market Cross marks the location of the town's original market place, for which a charter was granted by Henry III in 1250. Crosses in market places encouraged honest dealings, to re-enforce this the town stocks were once at the bottom of the steps.

Cheadle's cross possibly dates from the 17th Century. During the Victorian era a gas lamp was fitted to the top helping to light the street. Various lamps were fitted over the years, including an electric version. The lamp and metal work were removed in the early 1950s, which is when the cross was given a Grade II listing. It is in stone and has a roughly rectangular plinth with six steps. On it is a square cross shaft, chamfered as it rises to become an octagon, and with a pyramidal cap.

7 **Bourne Fountain -** This former drinking fountain was built in 1879, with money bequeathed to the town by Miss Edith Bourne, the sister of surgeon John Bourne. Miss Bourne also left money to establish a medical dispensary for the poor, which was based at Daisy Bank on Leek Road. The lower stage contains round-headed niches containing gadrooned bowls. At the angles are granite pilasters with urn cappings. The base of the upper stage is a dome, above which is a moulded frieze and dentilled pediments, over which is another dome with an urn finial. In the upper stage are inscribed plaques.

8 **The Round House -** This quirky building can be found at the top of Croft Road, off the High Street. It dates from the mid-19th Century and served as the entrance lodge to a large house called The Croft, which was formerly a solicitor's residence.

9 **St. Giles Roman Catholic Church -** This magnificent church was designed by the renowned architect Augustus W.N. Pugin, having been commissioned by the Earl of Shrewsbury.

While many of Pugin's buildings were limited by their budgets, in this case Pugin was given almost free reign to spend what he wanted. The result is one of the finest examples of Gothic Revival architecture in the world.

in Decorated style, it is built in red Hollington sandstone, and has a lead roof with cast iron cresting. The church consists of a nave, north and south aisles, a chancel, a chapel, a north vestry, and a west steeple. The steeple has a tower of four stages, with angle buttresses containing niches, a west doorway, a pointed west window, and an octagonal spire with pinnacles and lucarnes.

10 **Market Square -** The area of land was developed into the Market Square in the 1820s, originally cast-iron structures known as shambles were on either side. In the early 1900s these were brought together to form the Indoor Market. The shops at the top of the market are a good example of Georgian architecture.