

1 The Market Square
Stony Stratford was first granted a market by Richard I in 1194. A Farmer's market is now held here on the fourth Friday of the month.



MARKET SQUARE IN 1812

2 Preachers and Prisoners
Beneath the once magnificent Elm tree, the Methodist preacher John Wesley addressed the crowds in the 1770s before the Chapel in Silver Street was built.

The Old Court House

The large brick building in the square was the Victorian police station - possibly erected on the site of an early lock-up. The Court with the Judge's chambers and even the original cells have now been converted into offices.



MARKET SQUARE PANORAMA

3 Church Street
This attractive row of houses probably formed the north side of the medieval market. No 40 (The Sundial House) is a former bakery. The Latin inscription on the sundial (dated 1739) translates as 'Time and Fire Destroy All'. No 36 was, until the 1980s, part of the important leather works (Sharp & Woollard).

The Library

This is a good source of historical background material. Readings, exhibitions and other events take place here. The Town Council is based here too.

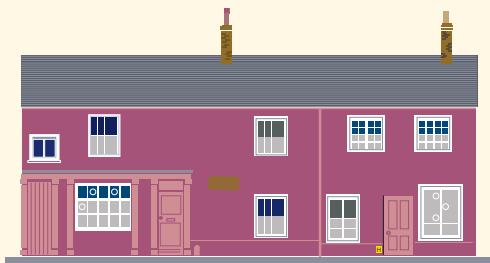
7 Burgage Strips
The buildings fronting the High Street date from the Medieval layout of the town whereby each property (Burgage) had a frontage on the main street and a long narrow plot extending to a 'back lane'.

Evidence of redevelopment of two of the burgage strips can be seen at **Timor Court** on your right and, when you cross the road, **Stratford Arcade** which extends back from what was formerly a chemist's shop. Many of the original fittings are still visible.

8 Signs of the Times

Many of the former inns now have new uses, but retain many marks of their original purpose, such as the large archways leading to stables etc at the rear.

On the left, 97 High Street, **'The Cross Keys'** is one of the oldest surviving buildings in the town. It still bears its old sign and retains some old timbers.



26 AND 28 THE HIGH STREET

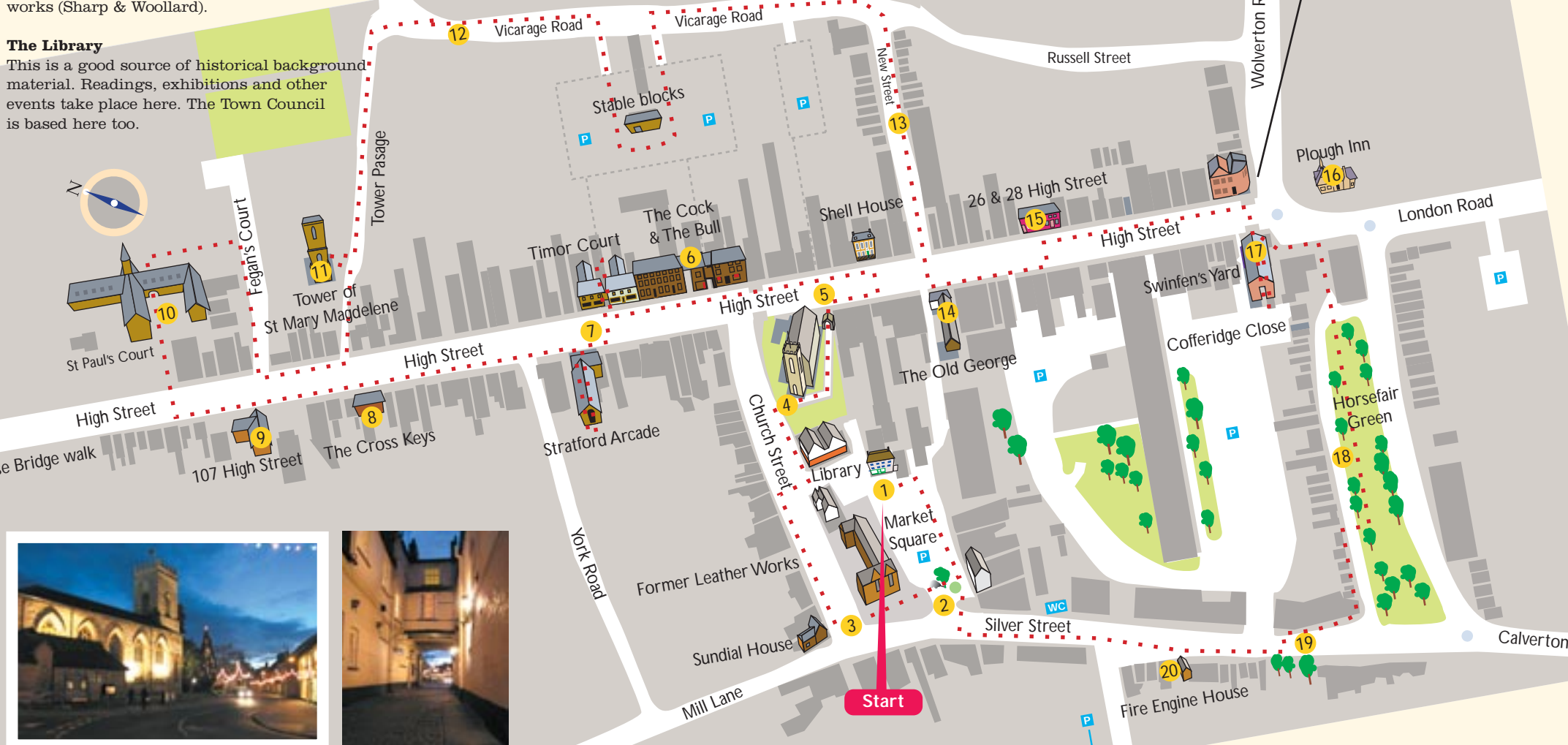
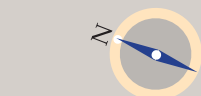
14 The Old George
This is one of the oldest surviving inns in the town dating back to 1609, with 18th century two-storey bay windows. Note the lower floor level showing how the road has been built up over time.

15 26 & 28 High Street. A Royal Kidnap in 1483
Once the Rose & Crown Inn, this is reputedly where the boy King Edward V and his brother, Duke of York, were captured and carried off to the Tower of London by their uncle, Richard, Duke of Gloucester (later Richard III).

16 Plough Inn
At the junction with Wolverton Road, the Plough Inn was originally built as a Church School in 1873 by E Swinfen Harris and converted to a pub in 1937. The famous Steam Tram (pictured below) used to stop here, transporting up to 100 people to the Railway works in Wolverton until the General Strike in 1926, (see the plaque on the corner building).



STONY STRATFORD STEAM TRAM



4 The Church of St Mary and St Giles
Stony Stratford had two churches originally, one in the east, St Mary's in the Parish of Wolverton, and St Giles here in the west.

The tower which dates from 1487 is the only part of the Medieval church to have survived fire in 1743. Rebuilding was completed by 1777. Unusually, the nave has wooden pillars supporting a gallery.

Follow the path around the back of the church and through the lychgate (1931) and on to the High Street.

5 The High Street
This is part of Roman Watling Street which ran north west from London through the Midlands to Holyhead.

During the coaching era (mid 17th century to early 19th century) up to 30 horse-drawn carriages carrying mail and passengers would stop at one of the many inns. Stony Stratford was a comfortable half-to-one day's journey out of London and a useful 'service-station' for both horses and passengers.

48 High Street, The Shell House

This striking house with iron railings dates from the 17th century. It has an imposing porch with an unusual 'shell' canopy.

6 The Cock Inn and The Bull Inn
These large coaching inns are two of the town's most famous landmarks. Both have impressive fronts (The Cock 18th century and The Bull 19th century) with ornate brackets carrying their painted signs. The pictorial signs were not only decorative, but also helpful for the illiterate. The saying 'A Cock and Bull' story originates here as does the nursery rhyme, 'Ride a Cock Horse to Banbury Cross.'

9 107 High Street
Designed by E Swinfen Harris in 1892 for his own use. The inscription over the door NISI DOMINUS is from the first words of Psalm 127 - 'Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that buildeth it . . .'

At this point there is an option of taking a few minutes to walk down to the Ouse Bridge and back - (see description overleaf). Alternatively cross the road at 115 High Street and go into St Paul's Court.

10 St Paul's Court
This Victorian complex was built as a school in 1863, and then became an orphanage known as 'Fegan's Home'. It was then converted in the mid 1980s to residential use. The restaurant occupies the large school chapel - worth a look if it is open.

11 Tower of St Mary Magdelene
Formerly the parish church of east Stony Stratford, but largely destroyed by fire in 1742, leaving just the tower standing. The Anglican church of St Mary and St Giles now serves the parish.

12 Vicarage Road
This was the the 'back lane' on the eastern edge of the Medieval town. Note the old stable blocks at the rear of The Cock and The Bull. The Victorian Vicarage stood at the junction with Russell Street, (now St Giles's Mews).

13 New Street
In 1862-3 the Rev. W. T. Sankey re-developed a burgage strip to create New Street connecting his new Vicarage with the High Street. The date can be seen on the rainwater heads and in the brickwork of number 2.

17 Swinfen's Yard
Swinfen's Yard is a 1980s redevelopment of a group of old shops, commemorating the local architect.



18 Horsefair Green
This pleasant green space edged with lime trees is the site of the 13th century horsefairs and has remained a public space ever since. The older houses (Georgian mostly) are those on the north side, formerly the edge of the town. The Green is still used for events, notably Folk on the Green in June, and the Town Fayre in August.

19 Silver Street
Re-named in 1887 in honour of Queen Victoria's Silver Jubilee, this was the Medieval 'back lane' along the western edge of the old town. Here, until WWI one could see women and children making lace - an important local cottage industry.

20 Fire Engine House
This intriguing little building (14 Silver Street) was built in 1864 to house Stony Stratford's fire engine after another serious fire in 1848.

Walk along to the Market Square to complete the walk.