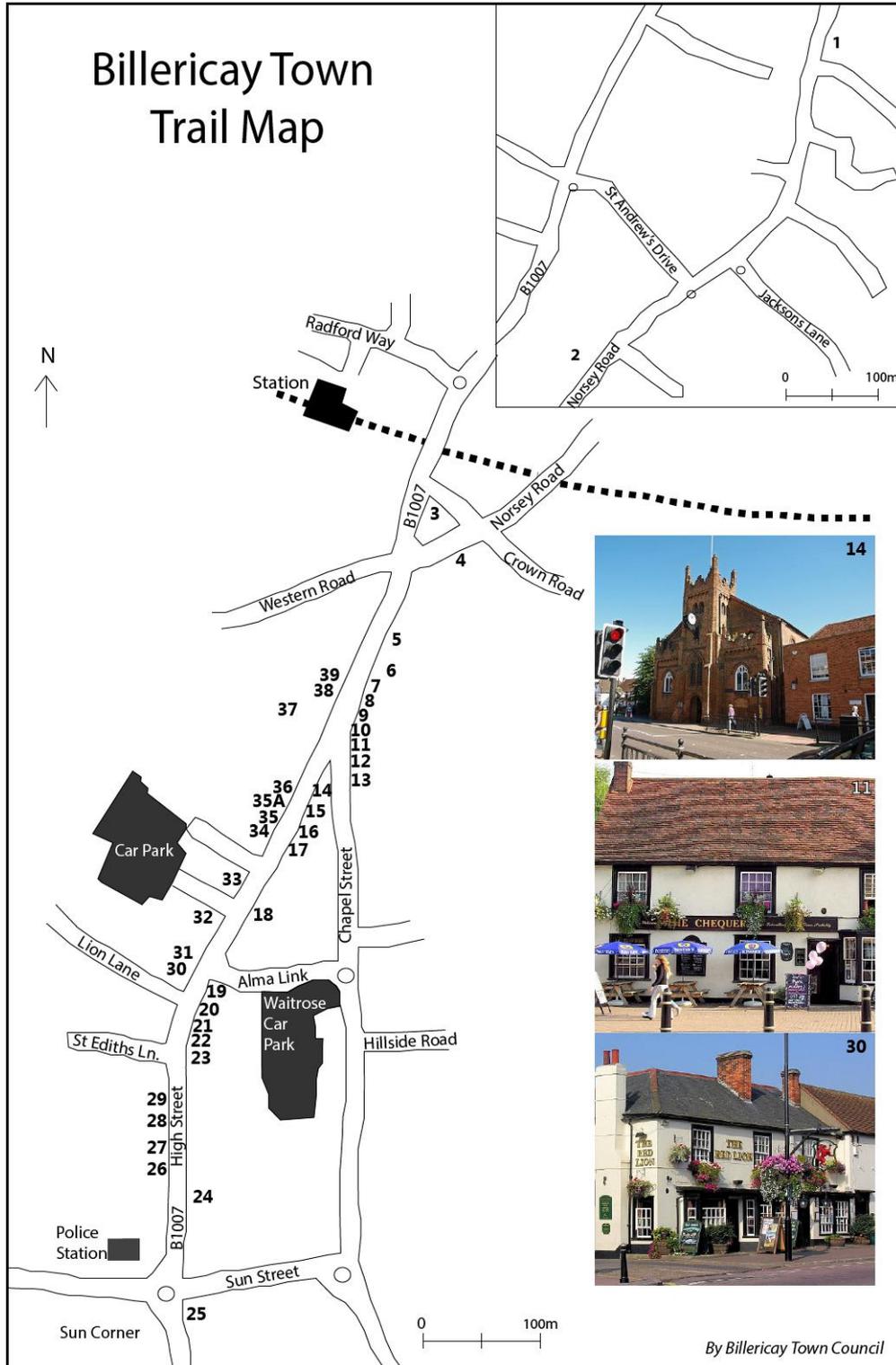




Billericay Town Trail

By Billericay Town Council

Billericay is home to many historic locations and notable buildings which can now be appreciated through this town trail guide. You will find a plaque on the exterior of each building numbered on the map below. Along with the map this guide gives a brief history for each location and building.



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1. Norsey Wood

Norsey Wood is a Scheduled Ancient Monument and local nature reserve which has a history spanning over 4000 years. Evidence from the bronze, iron and Roman age have been found. Norsey Woods is also thought to have been the location where the men from Billericay made a stand, battled and were killed in the Peasants Revolt in 1381. Earthworks from this time and a mysterious "Danepit" make the area particularly interesting.

2. Billericay Union Workhouse, Norsey Road

Designed by Sir George Gilbert Scott who also designed the St. Pancras Hotel and the Albert Memorial. Built in 1840 under the Poor Law legislation when the town became the centre of a Union of Parishes to help the poor. It catered for the area between Brentwood and Benfleet. The workhouse was primarily for families who could not support themselves, deserted spouses with their children, and widows. Overnight accommodation was provided for tramps travelling the country looking for work, in return for work before departure the following day. The strawberry tree in the grounds is possibly the only large example of this extremely rare species in the country. It was planted before 1896 by Robert Duncan the last but one master. The last master was Walter Needham from 1891 until it closed.

3. 1 – 5 Norsey Road (Listed)

These are terraces which were built in the 18th century with casement windows and fine chimneystacks.

4. 6, 8 & 10 Norsey Road (Listed)

Three timber framed cottages which are Grade II listed.

5. 12 High Street (Listed)

This is the remaining centre and south cross-wing of a 16th or 17th century half-timbered house with exposed framing to the first floor. It was the site of the Bull Inn from 1600 to 1906.



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6. 18 High Street at rear

There were 18th century buildings in this courtyard, with early 19th century stables and coach houses.

7. Sheredays, 22 High Street (Listed)

This timber-framed building was built in the 16th century as a small farmhouse and in cased in brick during the C18th. George Fitz-George, the illegitimate son of George IV was drowned whilst attending a boys' academy here in 1819. Note the children's marking on the wall at the side.

8. Hill House, 24 High Street (Listed)

Early 19th century red brick house with yellow brick front.

9. 38 High Street (Listed)

Timber framed house built in 1577 with 18th century additions which was formerly part of the Magpie and Horseshoe Inn.

10. 40 High Street (Listed)

South cross-wing of a timber framed and plastered house. At one time it was part of the old Magpie and Horseshoe Inn. The first floor originally overhung the pavement.

11. The Chequers, 42-44 High Street & 1 Chapel Street (Listed)

This building has been an inn since 1765. It was originally a 16th century timber framed and plastered house with a central hall and projecting cross-wing.

12. The Nook & St. Aubyns, 3 & 5 Chapel Street (Listed)

Timber framed house originally built about 1450 with a gable cross-wing to the north and an overhanging upper storey.

13. 7 & 9 Chapel Street (Listed)

An 18th century weather boarded timber framed houses.



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14. St. Mary Magdalen Church. (Listed)

This was once St. John's Chapel subordinate to Great Burstead. It was eventually sold to the people of Billericay and in 1693 dedicated to St. Mary by the Bishop of London. The late C15th tower was restored in 1880 and the church was rebuilt in the late C18th.

15. Church House, 46 High Street (Listed)

Originally a 18th century red brick house which was restored in 1997.

16. 72 High Street. (Listed)

The remaining gable of a 17th century timber framed house.

17. The Cater Museum, 74 High Street. (Listed)

Number 17 is an 18th century building. The centre window of the first floor is blocked possibly to save window tax. The shop window on the left was inserted in the C19th, and to the right is a fine Georgian bow shop window restored in the C20th.

18. The Old Town Hall, 94 High Street.

This building was built in 1830 as a market hall with grammar school and assembly room. In 1862 part of the ground floor was used as a police station, with cells at the rear. Later it was used as a Magistrates' Court and Superintendent Registrar. It was used as the offices of Billericay Urban District Council until 1956. It was reconstructed and converted to a restaurant in 2000.

19. Regis House. 98 High Street. (Listed)

Georgian style red brick house built in 1750, formerly known as Barnsley House. It was the Maiden Head Inn until 1810 and was used as the headquarters of the Home Guard in the Second World War.

20. Foxcroft. 100 High Street (Listed)

A Georgian style house with white brick front, built around 1750. It was an E.C.C. children's home from 1930.



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21. Sparklers. 104 High Street.

This is part of a 16th century house. It was the Post Office in the late 1800s until 1938.

Note the clock and memorial plaque to the jeweller Julian Stone murdered here on 3rd July 1996.

22. 106 High Street (Listed)

Imitation 18th century timber framed and plastered house which was rebuilt in 1960.

23. 108 High Street. (Listed)

108 is a mid 17th century building with a central hall and north and south cross-wings. The arched entrance below the north wing suggests coaching facilities. The first Roman Catholic mass in Billericay since the Reformation was said in a hut in the coal yard of Billericay Station for the Irish workers on the new railway. In 1884 it was then said in this building.

24. The White Hart. 138 High Street (Listed)

Built in 1724, this was the Star Inn. The White Hart transferred here from 67 High Street between 1765 and 1772.

25. The Rising Sun (Listed)

There was a house here in 1593. The hotel opened in 1810 and by 1823 coaches were leaving daily for London and Southend.

26. Burghstead Lodge. 143 High Street (Listed)

This is a large Georgian House in a classical 18th century style.

27. Three Horseshoes House. 139 High Street. (Listed)

139 is a late 18th century red brick house, formerly known as the Three Horseshoes Inn.

28. 137 High Street. (Listed)

Late 18th century or early 19th century red brick house, formerly the Three Horseshoes Inn. Note the bracket for the old inn sign.



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29. The Old Shambles. 133 High Street. (Listed)

An 18th century double fronted house. Was previously used as a butcher's shop and later became the Old Shambles Hotel.

30. The Red Lion. 113 High Street. (Listed)

One of the oldest buildings in Billericay, thought to be 15th century. Timber framed, but very much altered. There has been an inn on this site since 1593. Before the decline of the coaching trade it included No.111.

31. 107 High Street.

An 18th century red brick house.

32. 93 & 95 High Street. (Listed)

18th century timber framed and plastered building.

33. 91 High Street. (Listed)

Mid 16th century timber framed building, weather boarded at the rear. This was the meeting place of Independent Dissenters in 1672.

34. Shelley's. 75-79 High Street. (Listed)

An early 1500s building which was the White Lyon Inn from 1685 to 1809.

35. 63 High Street. (Listed)

Late 18th century or early 19th century red brick house.

35A/36 The Chantry. 57-61 High Street. (Listed)

Timber-framed house of a central hall type with a gabled cross-wing on the north and south built around 1510. It is believed to have been the site of the priest's house.

Christopher Martin, responsible for provisioning "The Mayflower" is said to have lived here.

Legend states that the Essex contingent for "The Mayflower" met here the night before they left to join the ship.



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37. Crescent House (through the archway) 51 High Street. (Listed)

A Georgian red brick house of the mid 18th century. During the 19th century it was first a girls' school and later a boys' school.

38. 43 High Street. (Listed)

An 18th century house with a red brick front to a timber framed building.

39. 41 High Street. (Listed)

Originally a small 18th century house with a red brick front.