

1 St Nicholas Church

At the heart of the parish. The tower shown here was replaced by a new one in the early 1600s, with bricks recycled from Heddingham Castle.



2 The Market Place

A regular market was held from medieval times. The charter to hold a market made Castle Heddingham a town, though most people call it as a village today.



3 The Castle

The castle was owned by the de Vere family. Queen Elizabeth I visited in 1561. Some people believe Edward de Vere, the 17th Earl of Oxford (1550-1604) was the true author of Shakespeare's works.



4 The Fish Ponds

These supplied the castle with fresh fish. It also had farmland, deer parks, an *ortyarde* (orchard) and *dovelhowse*, so was largely self-sufficient.



5 The Water mill

The water mill ground grain into flour to make bread, a staple food for most villagers. Water power from the River Colne (shown in blue) drove a large waterwheel which turned the mill stone.



6 The Site of the Nunnery

The nunnery was once an important part of local life. Sketched a generation after its closure, substantial remains of the buildings can be seen on the map. Today, Nunnery Street is a reminder of this part of Castle Heddingham's history.



7 Chappell Yard

Evidence of Castle Heddingham as a pilgrim site appears in Chappell yard, where the well chapel and holy well were located until the Reformation. Henry VIII drank holy water here, but later enforced its closure.



Top 10 Highlights

Israel Amyce's 1592 map covered the whole parish... from the Castle park to the water mill on the River Colne. We hope these close-up details give a real flavour of the wider area in Elizabethan times.



10 A numbered scale?

Faintly marked on the map is a scale, numbered 1-13. Each division appears to be an old unit of measurement called a rod. In Elizabethan times one definition of a rod was the length of the left feet of 16 men, lined up heel to toe, as they emerged from church!



9 A date and a direction

Clearly marked at the top is the date 1592. Less obvious is a small N in red ink, which stands for North. East, south and west are also marked by initials in the borders.



8 Who's who in 1592?

One of the delights of the map is that the names of owners and tenants of buildings are recorded in a numbered key. Many can also be identified from entries in the birth, marriage and burial registers of St Nicholas Church. Some family names are still common in the area today.

Fascinating fact
When Lucy de Vere died, an illuminated mortuary roll was sent to all monasteries and nunneries in the south of England, asking for prayers for her soul.



Can you find?
Flower and dolphin designs on the house to the right of the Bell Inn. This decoration, called pargetting, is found on many old houses in Essex. Look out for other examples.

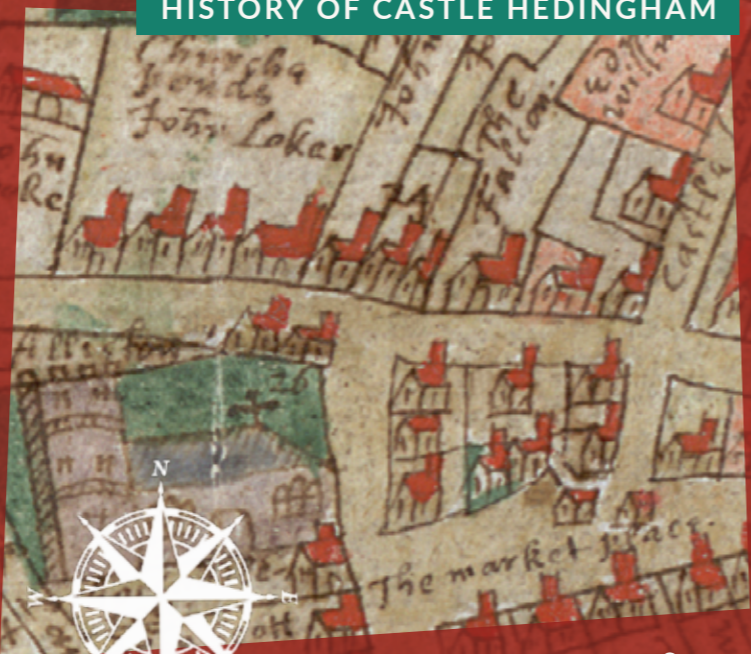


Start outside St Nicholas Church...

The walk is wheelchair accessible and takes approximately 40 minutes.

Unfold the map and follow the circular trail (numbered 1-16).

HISTORY OF CASTLE HEDDINGHAM



Explorers' Map

Embark on a family-friendly adventure, inspired by an old Elizabethan map, to discover the fascinating history of our village.

Castle Heddingham in 1592

Create your own map

Maps help us get from A to B and are often beautiful and highly collectable. Have fun making your own colourful map of your town, house, garden, imaginary land or island.

Include important features such as buildings, rivers, forests and mountains, a scale and compass points. Old maps sometimes include sea monsters or giants, so why not add some. And don't forget a title, date and signature.

If it's a treasure map, include 'X marks the spot' to show where the loot is buried. Or clues to find it. You could hide some treasure and ask friends to hunt for it using clues on the map.

Use a large piece of paper or card. Stain it with a tea bag or tear the edges to make it look old. Roll it into a scroll and tie it with ribbon, or fold it several times.

Happy map-making!

Who was Israel Amyce?

Israel Amyce was a talented surveyor who in 1592 produced a written survey of the Manor and Lordship of Castle Heddingham. In order to make it clearer he included sketch and pull-out maps.

He was requested to make the survey by Lord Burghley, possibly because the estate was about to be sold. A survey would allow a buyer to see what they'd get for their money.



The History of Castle Heddingham Explorers' Map was created by Martin Crowther (Heritage Engagement Officer) and John Devlin as part of the St Nicholas Church Voices from the Pews project. (The Design Practice) with input from local heritage researchers, Israel Amyce 1592 map. © Essex Records Office. Ref D/DMH M.

It's a snapshot in time and one of the most detailed depictions of an Elizabethan town to survive.

Little more than a generation has passed since the Reformation and evidence of the town's medieval nunnery and well chapel survive.

The roads to the nearby towns of Sudbury, Halstead, Great Yelham and Braintree are clearly shown.

We get a flavour too, of other trades and occupations. There's *The Smyth's Shop* (the blacksmith) where horses were shod and ironwork forged, *The Wright* (wheelwright) who made wheels for carts and the *water myll* where grain was ground into flour.

where visitors could quench their thirst or buy a meal at *The Bell*, *The Swann* or *The Falcon*.

The wide *market place* indicates where on busy market days, the town would be alive with the bustle of trade and cries of stallholders, and where visitors could quench their thirst or buy a meal at *The Bell*, *The Swann* or *The Falcon*.

Huddled around St Nicholas Church, are the homes of the townspeople, with occupants listed by name, from *Margaret Warde* to *Thomas Crisms*.

just four years after the Spanish Armada. The Castle dominates the small market town, with its *Castle park*, *ortyarde* (orchard) *lords hopyard*, fishponds and *dovelhowse*.

Unfold the map and follow the circular trail (numbered 1-16). The walk is wheelchair accessible and takes approximately 40 minutes.



1 St Nicholas Church

St Nicholas Church is over 800 years old and one of the finest churches in Essex.

Important features include a rare wheel window (one of Castle Heddingham's glittering treasures). It has its own *Young Explorers' Trail* and guidebook for adults, so don't forget to visit!



2 Old bicycle shop

A hundred years ago the small building by the church gate was a bicycle shop. It later became a garage, repairing some of the first cars in the village.



Did you know? Augusta House is a Georgian house. One side is a mirror image of the other.

3 Augusta House

In Victorian times this was a school for young ladies. PE was led by an army sergeant who supervised physical jerks in the garden.



4 The Wheatsheaf Inn

Was once a wool merchant's house. The sale of wool made Castle Heddingham rich in medieval and Tudor times.



5 St James' Street

Called The Market Place and The High Strete on the 1592 map, it gets its name from the church of St James (replaced by Castle Heddingham famous for its holy well. You can see medieval pilgrims in the stained-glass window.



6 The Old Moot House

The Moot House, dating from the 15th century, was where important local issues were decided. Moot is an Anglo-Saxon word which means a gathering of people to discuss things.



Can you find? The date the Memorial Hall was built. Clue: Look at the bricks.

16 Church Lane

Church Lane (*The Back Lane* on the map) now leads to the Memorial Hall, a venue for many local events. This building was originally the church school.



15 Church Ponds

Boasts an impressive row of timber-framed cottages. The oldest are 800 years old. It's named after the ponds that used to be behind the cottages. Older villagers remember a bakery which sold delicious bread hot from the oven!

Can you find The Bell, the church and the market place?



This map was created by Israel Hingce in 1592!

X marks the spot of Castle Heddingham's glittering treasure - its rare wheel window!

Follow the numbers to discover the story of our historic village!



15 Church Ponds

Boasts an impressive row of timber-framed cottages. The oldest are 800 years old. It's named after the ponds that used to be behind the cottages. Older villagers remember a bakery which sold delicious bread hot from the oven!



Fascinating fact! Falcon Square is triangular!

14 Falcon Inn (Falcon House)

Now a private house, the Falcon Inn was once a village pub. Monica Nash recalled a big log fire where they used to heat a poker... and put it in your pint mug if you wanted [your beer] warm!



13 Falcon Square

Gets its name from the Falcon Inn. In medieval times, the castle falconer and his birds lived here. Falconers were used to hunt small animals such as rabbits. Falconry was a popular sport of the nobility. The painting by Eric Ravilious shows two cyclists riding through Falcon Square.



12 Castle Lane

Leads to Heddingham Castle, which has one of the best preserved Norman keeps in the country. In medieval times a fortified castle gatehouse or barban was positioned halfway up the lane.



11 Lucas Lane

Named after Lucy de Vere who founded a nunnery here in about 1190. She often walked down this lane on her way to and from the well chapel and holy well.



10 Bricks from the Blue Boat

The tennis courts are on the site of the old Blue Boat Inn which burned down in 1865. The herringbone-patterned wall is made from its bricks. The Women's Institute used to meet here too, in a draughty old hut.



Can you find? The blue plaque on the side of the house. What does it say?

9 Eric and Tirzah

Artists Eric Ravilious and Tirzah Garwood lived at Bank House in the 1930s and early 1940s and captured some memorable scenes of village life. Eric was famous for his watercolours, while Tirzah moved in, Bank House was full of rats!



8 Village Shops

Monica Nash remembered three butchers, two bakers and two grocers here in the years after World War 2. Her mother used to drop off a shopping list and basket. Then on Friday we'd collect it. Butter, sugar, lard, marger, bacon, eggs, tea. I remember it... because it was your ration.



7 The Bell Inn

Can you find it on the 1592 map? The Bell is an old coaching inn. A famous visitor was Victorian politician Benjamin Disraeli.