

## CHAS SCANS

Between 1977 and 2002 Canterbury Urban Studies Centre and Canterbury Environment Centre published around 30 guides and city trails describing various aspects of Canterbury's past. Both organisations were based in St Alphege church.

Between them they produced 14 titles in the 'Trails' series, and a further 16 titles outside the main series. All are now out of print and many are difficult (a few impossible) to find through normal second hand sources. Many contain information that is not readily available in other printed or on line sources.

CHAS (Canterbury Historical and Archaeological Society) is scanning a selection of these publications for uploading to the CHAS website as PDFs. In this way a new generation of readers and researchers can have access to this unique resource.

A full list of these publications appears on the CHAS website:

<http://www.canterbury-archaeology.org.uk>

*Note: this publication was printed as a single large folded sheet*



### Canterbury City Trails No.1

# CITY WALLS & GATES

This walk follows the ancient city wall, which has a circuit of 1½ miles (2.4 Klms).

**KEY**

Main Route ————

Detour →

Text key number ①

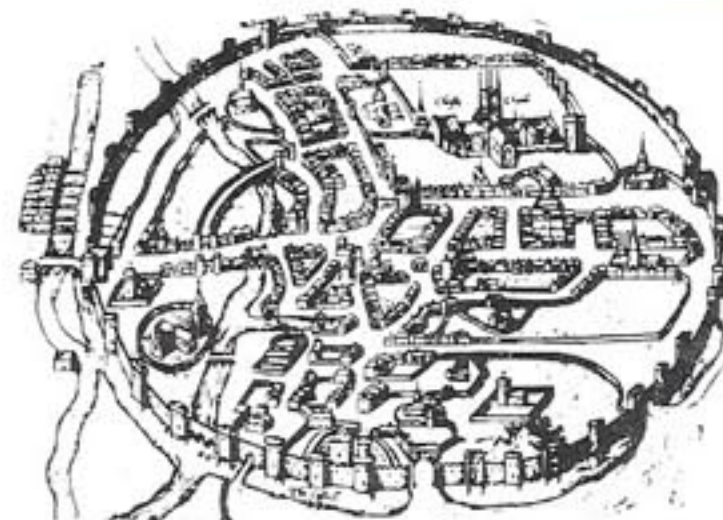
Car Parks P

Toilets T

Continuation of Trail text ———→

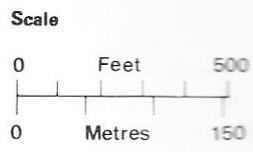
It is much easier to read, and follow the trail, in the correctly numbered sequence.

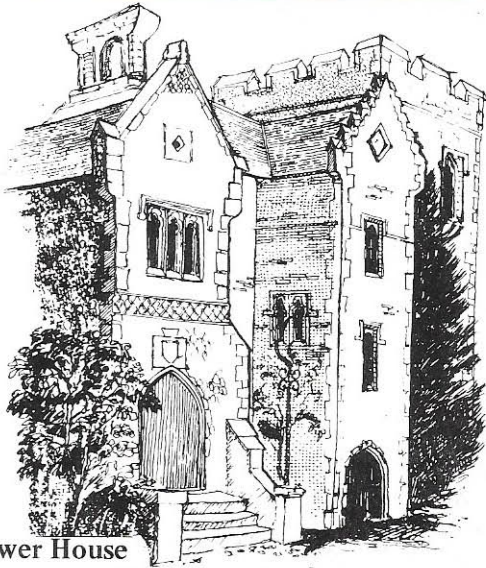
Note: Reconstructed drawings of buildings, now demolished, are surrounded by a black line.



The Roman Wall was built c. 270-90 A.D. The Medieval Wall followed the line of the Roman Wall and had 8 Gates and 21 Towers. Part of the Wall was destroyed after the Civil War, and still more demolished in the 18th century. Approximately half the Wall still remains.

click numbers to see relevant page





### 3. Tower House

Tower House, a 19th century flint-and-brick walled building, adjoins a 14th century bastion of the city wall. The house was given to the city in 1936 and is now used as the Mayor's Parlour.



### 2. Westgate Grove

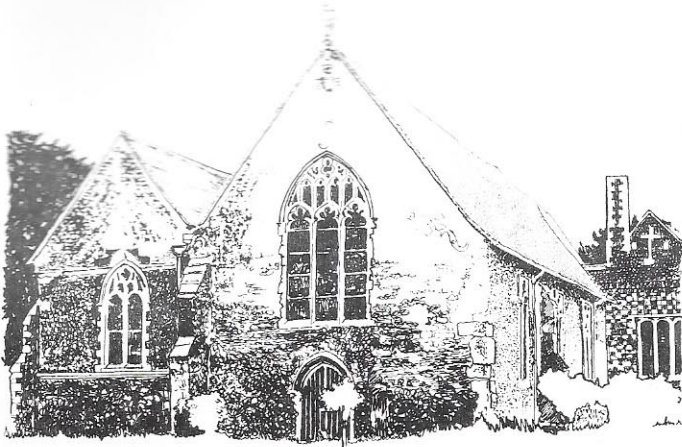
Westgate Grove, on the opposite bank of the River Stour, is mainly c. 1620. One house dates from the 15th century.

Parallel to the path through the Westgate Gardens, and a little to the right of it, is the former course of the city wall. The small section of stonework with an arched opening, near Tower House, is probably a remnant from the ruins of St. Augustine's Abbey. It was moved to the Gardens in about 1850.

### 1. Holy Cross Church

Holy Cross Church was originally situated over an earlier westgate, but was rebuilt in its present site by Archbishop Simon of Sudbury c. 1380. The church was extensively restored during the 19th century. It is kept locked at present and is awaiting future use as a council chamber.

Starting at the Westgate, walk through the gate next to Holy Cross Church into Westgate Gardens.



### 7. St. Mildred's Church

St. Mildred's Church is one of the oldest parish churches in Canterbury. The south wall and part of the west wall are of the 8th century. See especially the massive megalithic quoins at the south west corner and the reuse of Roman tile along the south wall. Following a fire in 1246, the church was partially rebuilt. The southern chapel was added during the reign of Henry VIII (1509-1547) by Atwood, a former Mayor of the City. The tower in the middle of the north aisle was demolished in 1822. St. Mildred, great-great-grand-daughter of King Ethelbert was a popular Kentish Saint. She founded a convent in Minster, Thanet, and her body was acquired by St. Augustine's Abbey in Canterbury. The Church of St. Mildred figured in the Monastic strike of 1089, when the monks of St. Augustine's conducted a protest sit-in in the Church yard. Izaak Walton, author of "The Compleat Angler" was married here in 1626.

Turn left into Church Lane and walk along to St. Mildred's Church.

Continue walking alongside the wall of St. Mildred's churchyard. The churchyard wall is built on the line of the city wall which was pulled down in 1787. Materials from the city wall were used for re-paving in Canterbury.

### 6. St. Mildred's Tannery

St. Mildred's Tannery is an interesting group of 19th century industrial buildings.

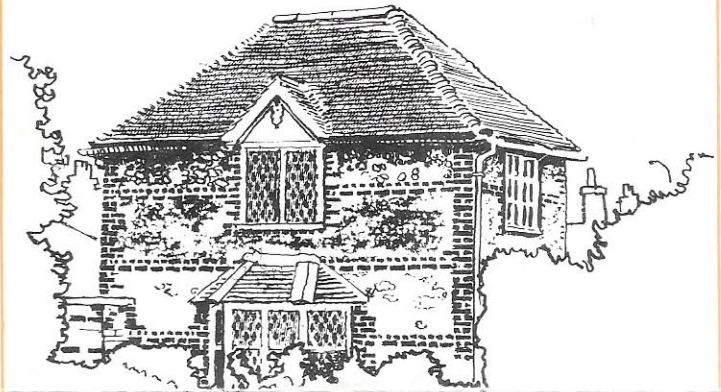
A few metres further on, the city wall turned away from the river. Remains of this section of the wall lie under Rheims Way. (Rheims Way is named after the French city of Reims with which Canterbury is "twinned".) Walk under Rheims Way bridge and follow the grass track alongside the road. When you reach the branch of the River Stour, walk under the road bridge and climb the bank on the other side. Cross over the river by means of the pavement on the road bridge.



### 5. London Gate

Amongst the trees you will find a second stone tablet marking the line of the city wall. A few metres further on, another stone tablet marks the site of the "London Gate", a small Roman gate consisting of a single-arched opening in the wall.

From the stone tablet, continue walking across the grass parallel to the river – you are now walking along the former course of the city wall.



### 4. Ivy Cottage

Ivy Cottage, a picturesque building, stands at the nursery entrance.

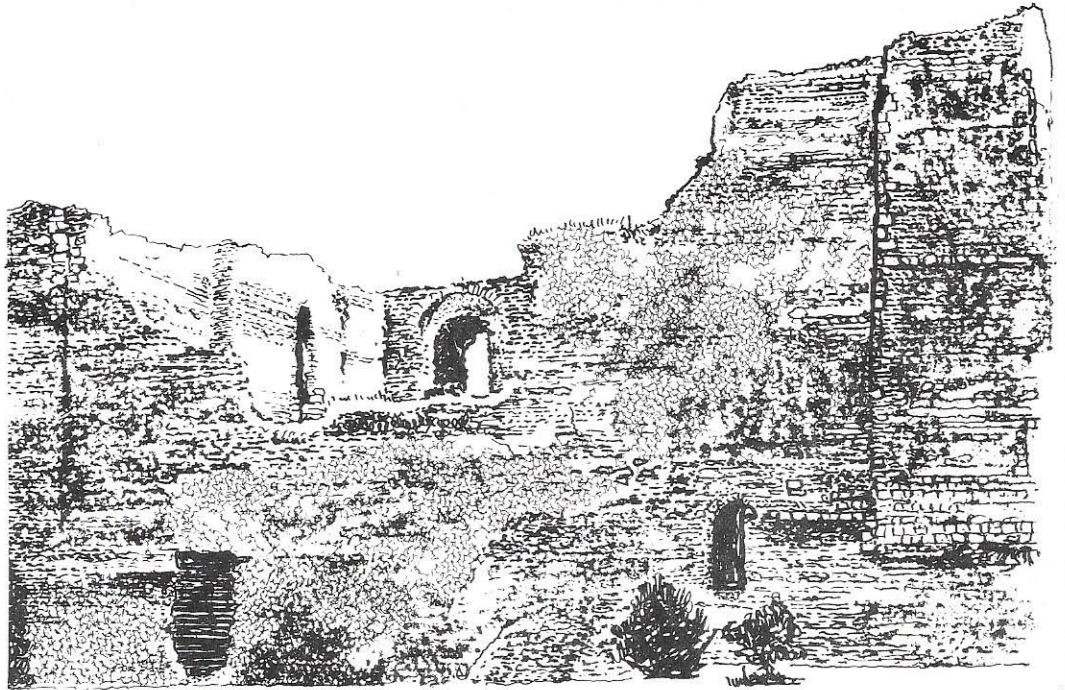
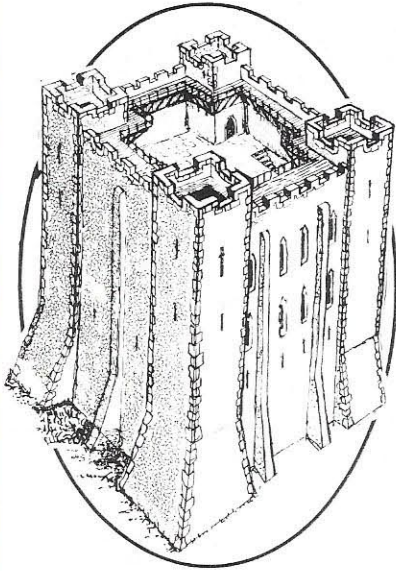
Continue walking along the riverside footpath, past a second isolated stone archway, and turn left at the second foot-bridge. A few metres further on, at the side of the path, an inscribed stone tablet in the turf marks the line of the city wall.

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### 9. The Castle of Canterbury

The Castle of Canterbury contains one the earliest stone Keeps in England. It was built late in the reign of William the Conqueror and is mentioned in the Domesday Book. Construction began c. 1084, and it originally consisted of a Keep, or inner fortress, with surrounding bailey walls, that on the south being the Roman City Wall. Only the shell of the Keep remains, all traces of the outer fortification, curtain walls, towers and ditch enclosing an area of some 4½ acres, have disappeared. The Keep is the fifth largest of its kind in England, measuring 88 by 76 feet. It originally had three storeys until 1817, when the top floor was demolished during a general attempt to pull

the building down. Eventually the strength of the mortar and the thickness of the walls, over 11 feet in places, proved too much, and the attempt was abandoned. The main entrance to the Keep was on the first floor on the western side, and was protected by a fore-building, recently excavated. The main apartments were on the first floor, including Hall, Chapel and Kitchen, the latter with its remarkable domed fireplace. The Castle was of little military significance, surrendering to the French in 1216, without a fight. It became a prison in the sixteenth century, and more recently it was used as a coal store by the local Gas Company.



At the end of Gas Street, turn right into Castle Street and walk along to Castle House on the left.

### 10. Worthgate

A Stone tablet in the wall of Castle House marks the site of the Worthgate. Here the road to Lympne (Roman Lemanis) passed through a single-arched opening in the wall, 3.7 metres (12¼ feet) wide. The gate was bricked up in 1548 and removed in 1790 when Castle Street was extended.

From Castle Street follow the footpath (Gas Passage) into Worthgate Place.

### 11. Wincheap Gate

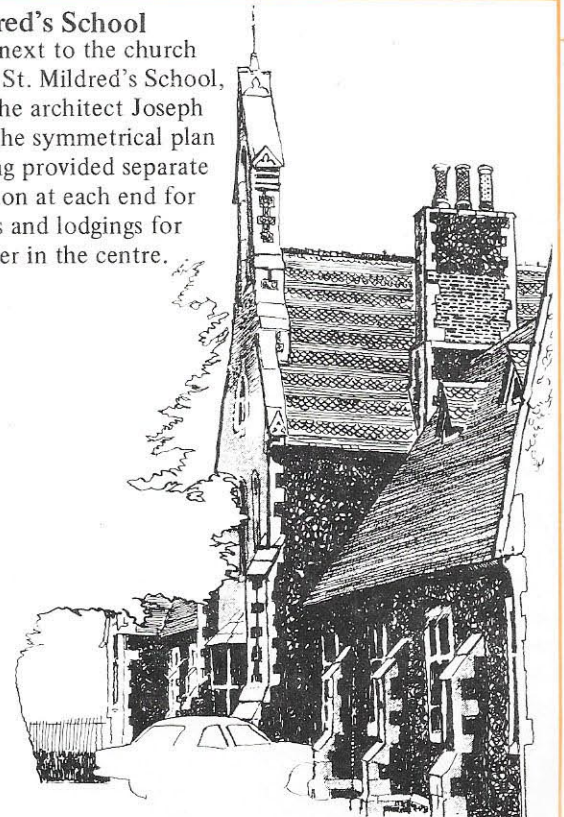
Wincheap Gate was sited where the line of the city wall crosses Worthgate Place. It was rebuilt several times, lastly in 1730, and demolished later in the 18th century to make the road more suitable for public traffic. Notice the stone plaque – “Farewell 1833”.

The Castle grounds or the bailey extended around the keep. The south side of the bailey is bounded by the city wall, part of which is original refaced Roman work.

Retrace your steps along Church Lane and turn left into Gas Street.

### 8. St. Mildred's School

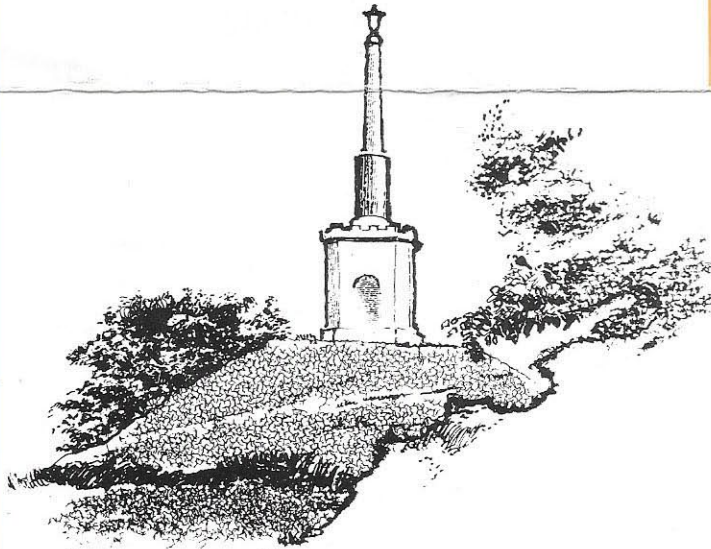
The building next to the church was formerly St. Mildred's School, designed by the architect Joseph Messenger. The symmetrical plan of the building provided separate accommodation at each end for boys and girls and lodgings for the headmaster in the centre.



the road more suitable for public traffic. Notice the stone plaque – “Farewell 1833”.

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## 12. Dane John Gardens



Ascend the ramp to the high level walk along the parapet of the city wall. This section of the city's defences, with restored 14th century bastions, overlooks the Dane John Gardens. The Gardens were laid out and presented to the city by Alderman James Simmons in 1790. The long avenue of lime trees was planted at this time. Public executions took place here until the end of the 18th century.

## 13. Dane John Mound

At the second medieval bastion the city wall changes direction to skirt the Dane John Mount. The mound is evidently earlier than the city wall, perhaps 1st century A.D., and is probably the burial place of an important Romano-British person. Footpaths lead up to a monument erected in 1803 to commemorate the generosity of Alderman Simmons.

Continue walking along the ramparts. Notice on your left the Royal East Kent Imperial Yeomanry War Memorial and beyond this, on the far side of the avenue, a memorial to the Elizabethan dramatist, Christopher Marlowe, who was born in Canterbury in 1564. The city's theatre is named after Marlowe.

#### 14. The Marlowe Memorial

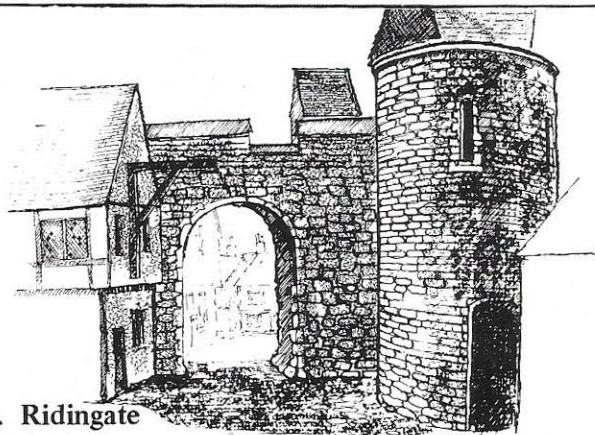
This statue is a memorial to Christopher Marlowe, 1564-1593, the famous 16th century playwright. Marlowe was born in Canterbury and christened in St. George's Church. He was a contemporary of Shakespeare. His works include Dr. Faustus, The Jew of Malta and Tamburlaine.



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#### 15. Terraced Houses

The terraced row of houses, fronting the Dane John Gardens, was built in 1800-5. Their slated mansard roofs are an unusual feature in Canterbury for this period.



#### 16. Ridigate

Walk on to the concrete footbridge that spans Watling Street. Here the Roman road from Dover entered the city through a major gateway which, in later times, was given the name of Ridigate. It is thought that Ridigate was formerly spelt "Red-in-Gate", a word of Celtic root, the "re" or "rhe" describing marshy places and the Saxon suffix "ing" meaning meadow or marsh. The name of the gate possibly refers to the swampy nature of the locality in Roman times.

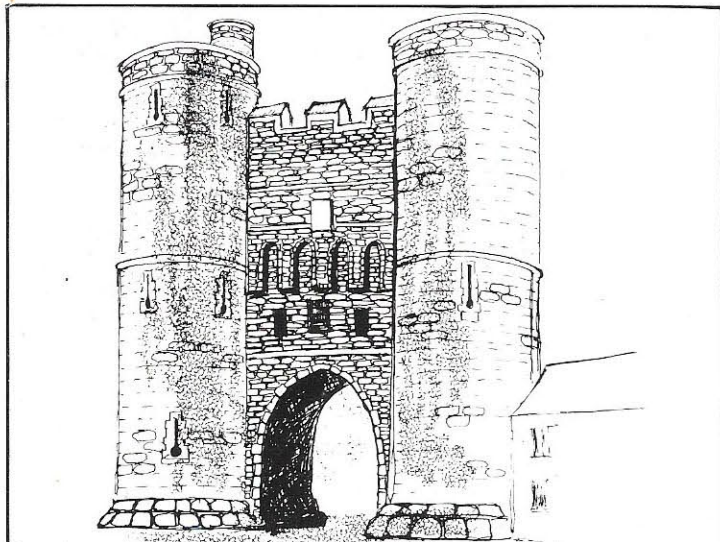
**Trail continued from overleaf.**

From the footbridge you can see the University of Kent (opened in 1965) on the hillside to the north of the city. Post-war buildings dominate the foreground.

Continue walking along the ramparts to the next bastion.

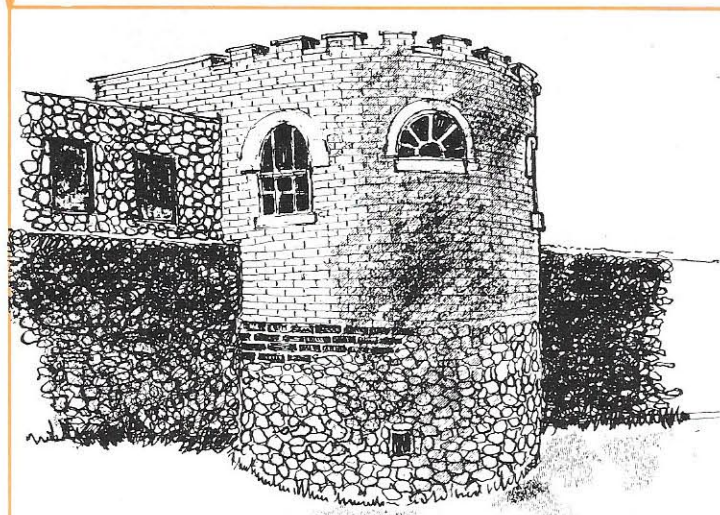
**17. Cattle Market**

The ground outside the wall at this point was used from at least 605 until 1956 as a cattle market. The market now opens on a site in north-east Canterbury.



**18. St. George's Gate**

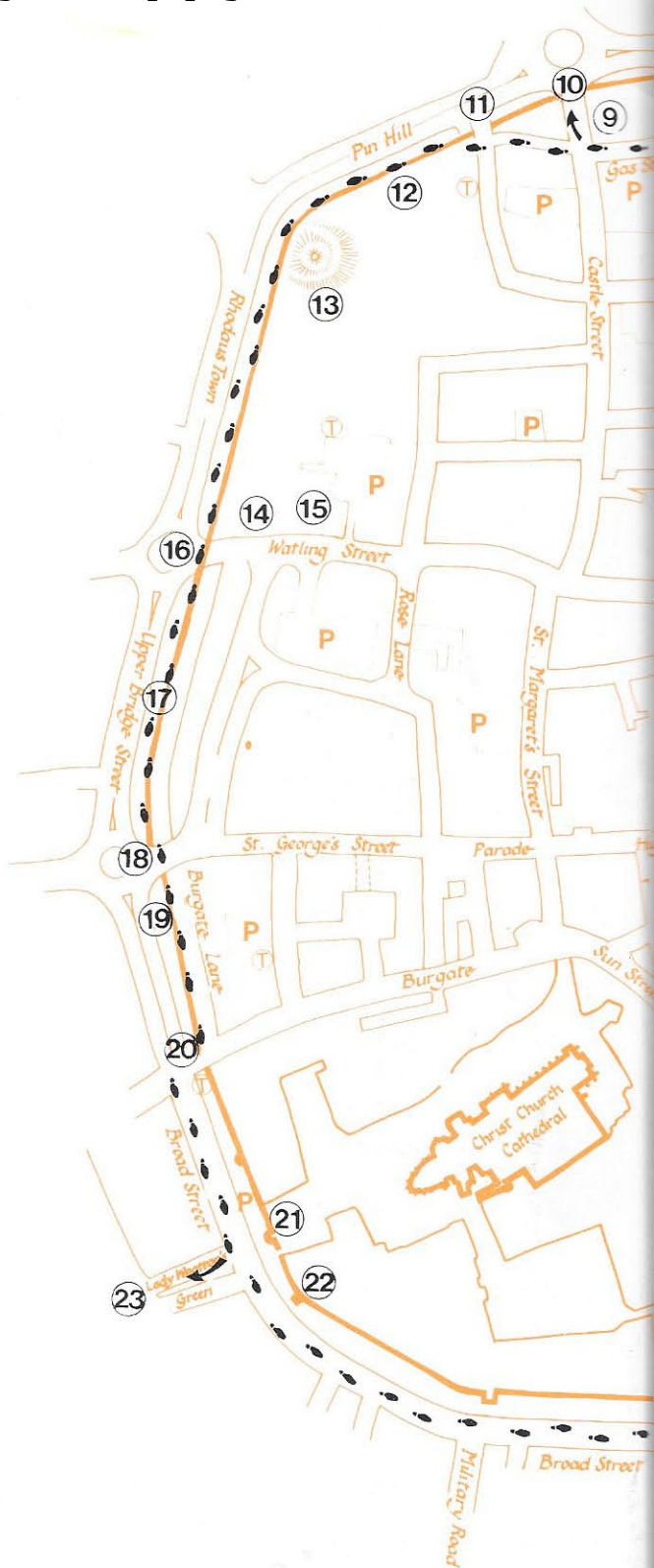
St. George's Gate, or Newingate, rebuilt c. 1470, stood at the entrance to St. George's Street. Cisterns, installed in each tower of the gate, supplied the city "with excellent water, by pipes with public cocks, to every one of its markets, as well as to the town hall." It was customary to place sentries at St. George's Gate - frequent complaints were made of the rudeness of the sentries "especially to the wives and daughters of the citizens passing through it." The gate was knocked down in 1801 after the construction of the New Dover Road.



**19. The Zoar Chapel**

The city wall bastion on the right was used as a water tower after St. George's Gate was demolished. The Zoar Chapel was established by the Zoar Baptists in 1845. The scale of the building is in keeping with the scale of Burgate Lane yet the architectural features are few and bold - three semi-circular openings with fanlights, linked and emphasised by broad bands of painted cement.

As you walk towards Burgate, notice the different types of material used in the floorscape of Burgate Lane.

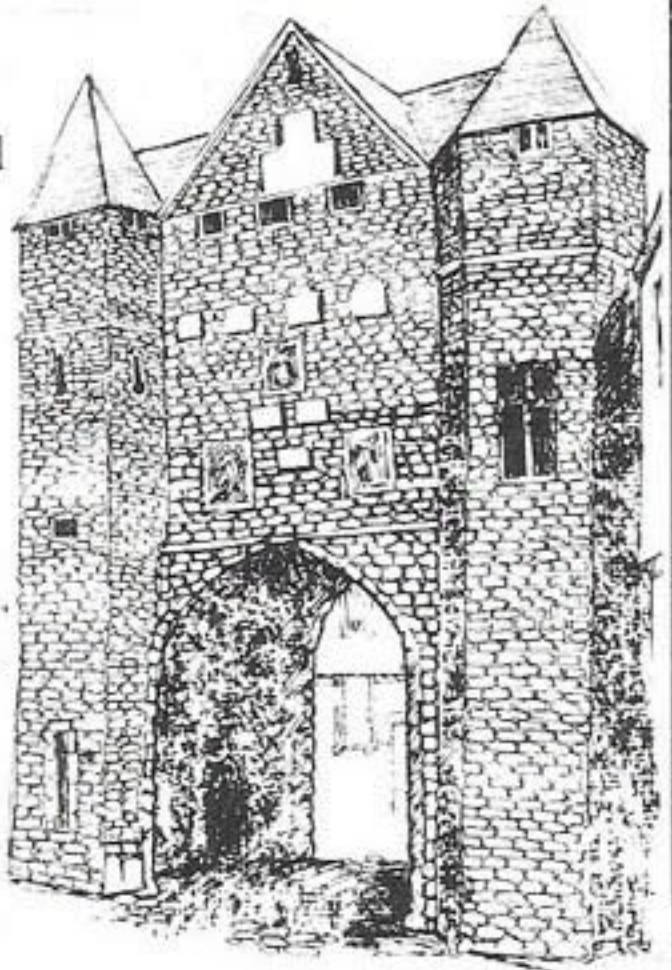


Continue walking along the east side of Broad Street. From the end of Broad Street car park to Northgate, the city wall is occasionally visible between the buildings fronting the street. At the junction of Broad Street and Military Road enter the cemetery garden on the right. From here, there is a view of the Cathedral over the rooftops of the King's School. Return to the road and cross over the pedestrian crossing into Broad Street. On the right hand side of the street you will see a variety of housing - from 13th century to modern. The roof of No. 70 is 13th century while the interior dates from the 15th century. No. 71 is 18th century with a handsome 1780's doorway. Nos. 72-74 are high and narrow with steep gables - the deep set doors are original and the Flemish-bond brickwork dates from 1693. At the far end of Broad Street, turn left into Northgate. (On your immediate right is St. Mary's Church.)

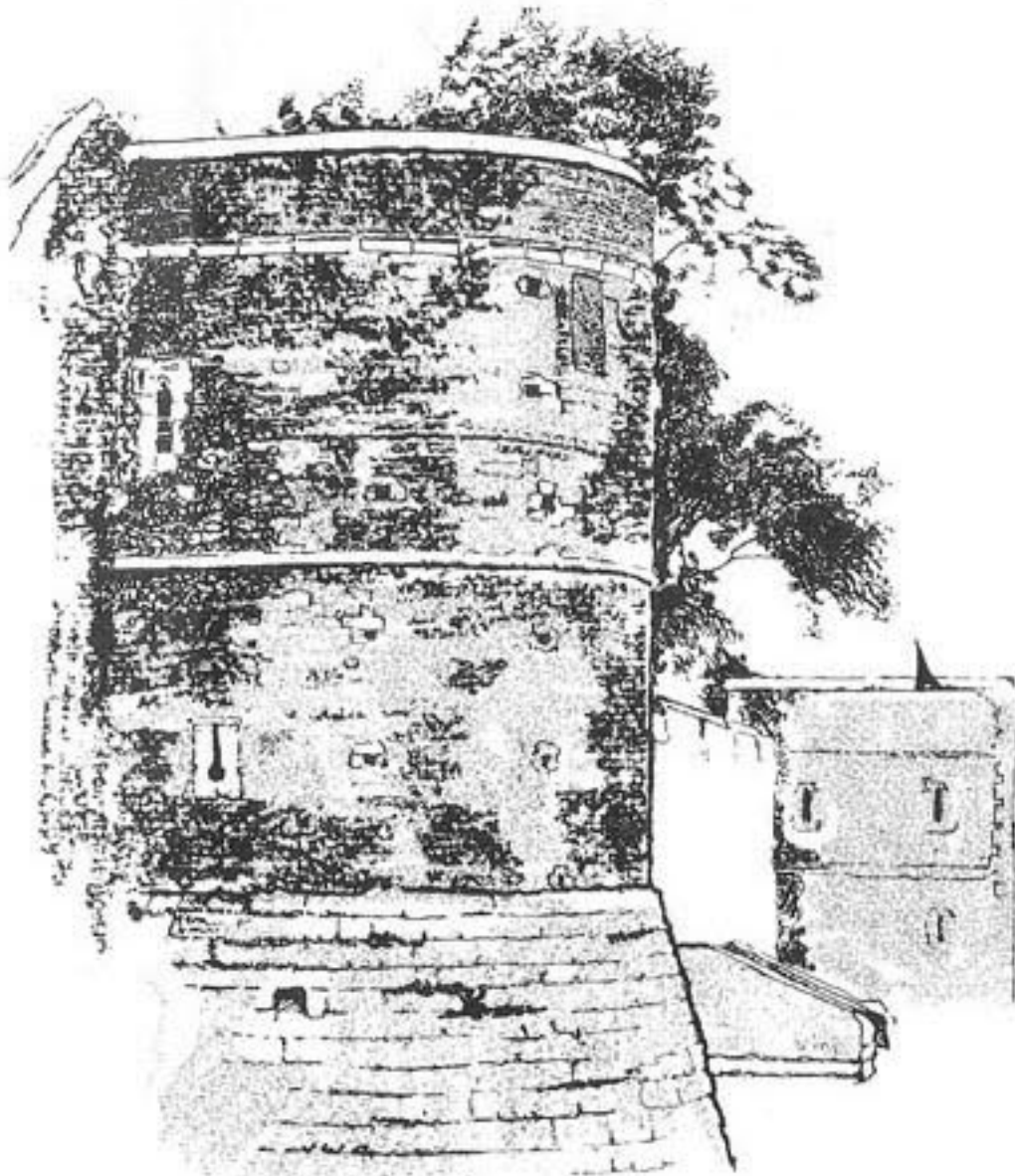


## 20. Burgate

The “Bur”, “Bar” or “Borough” Gate, rebuilt of brick 1475, stood at the entrance to Burgate. The main road from the city to Sandwich passed through this gate. Most of the gate was demolished in 1781; the north tower remained until 1822 when it was taken down to widen the street. Much of Burgate was destroyed during World War II and many of the buildings fronting this street are post-war solutions to the problem of restoring its previous character.



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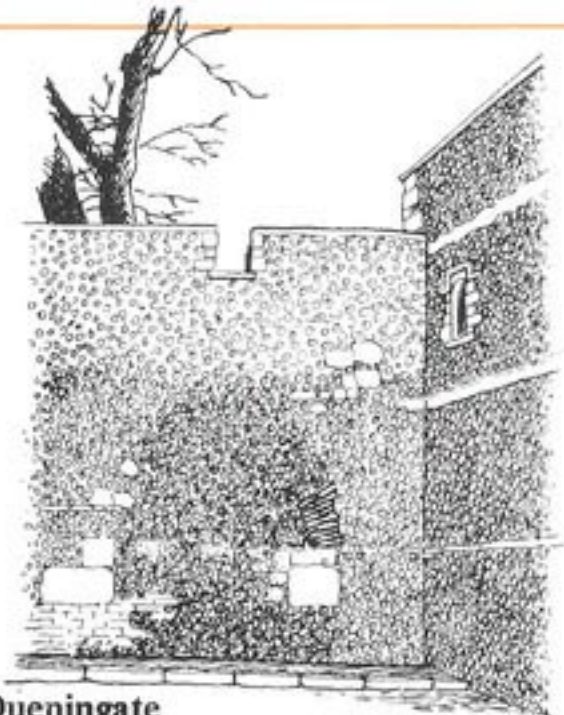
## 21. Memorial Chapel

The second bastion in Broad Street, c. 1496, has been restored as a Memorial Chapel to the dead of World War I.

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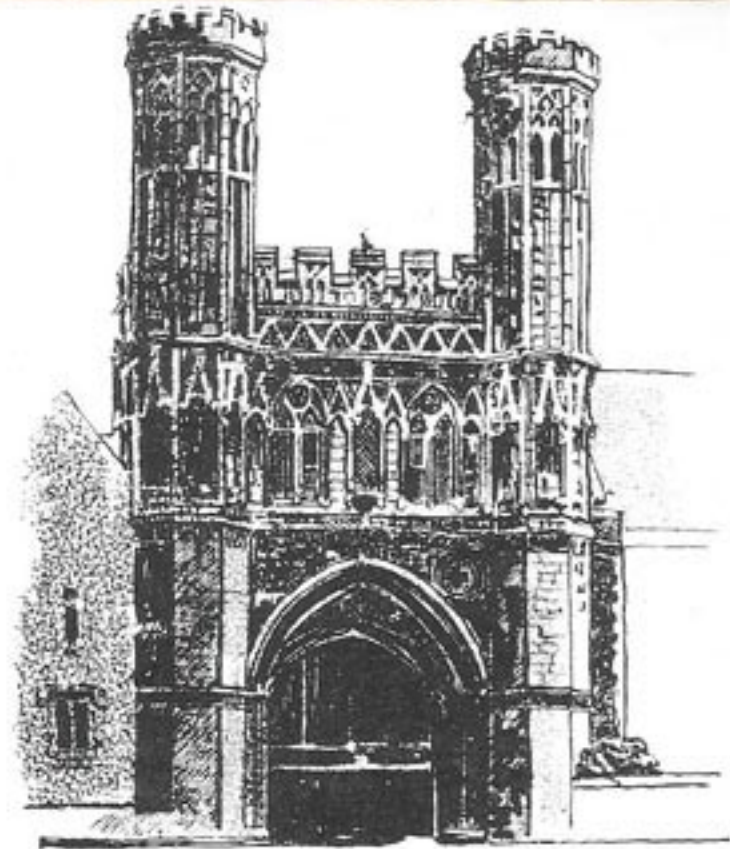
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Retrace your steps and cross Broad Street by the pedestrian crossing to Lady Wootton's Green.



### 22. Queningate

Just before the square bastion, you can see in the wall the remains of a Roman gate built c. 270-90 A.D. and known as the Queningate. It consists of some large blocks of Kentish ragstone and part of the brick turn of the arch, making an aperture 8 feet wide. The gate was blocked up by 1409 and the late medieval Queningate was possibly on the site of the present opening to the War Memorial Gardens.



### 23. Lady Wootton's Green

Lady Wootton's Green was used as a market place in medieval times (c. 750 A.D.) The gateway of St. Augustine's Abbey – the Fyndon Gate – was built in 1301-9. Entrance to the ruins of St. Augustine's Abbey is through a brick archway to the left of the gate.

Retrace your steps and cross Broad Street by the pedestrian crossing to Lady Wootton's Green.



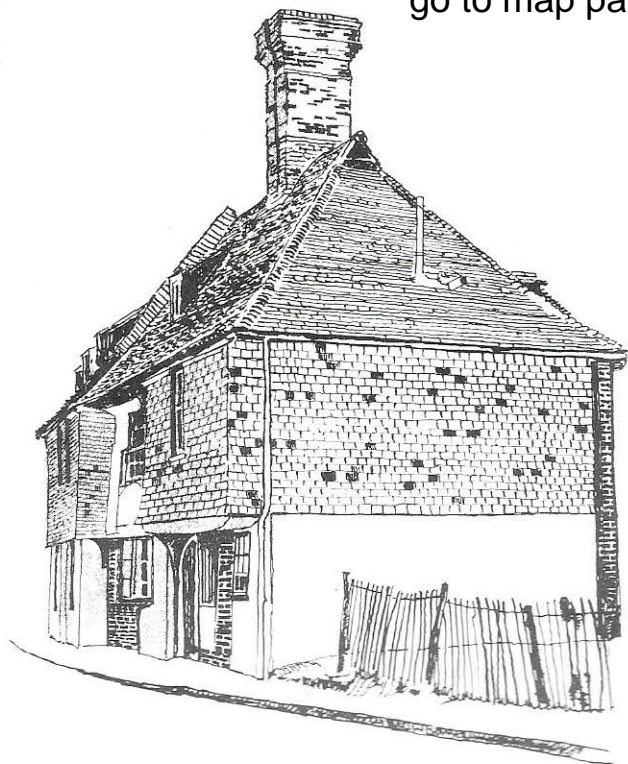
#### 24. Northgate

This street follows the line of the Roman road running north out of the city towards Thanet. The suburb beyond the gate was one of the earliest and most important in medieval Canterbury, stretching for nearly half-a-mile from the wall. The area around the gate was very crowded, as can still be seen by the crush of buildings and their narrow frontages. Already by the 12th century buildings had been constructed in the city ditch at this point.

The Roman gate spanning the street contained an upper chamber, which became the church of St. Mary Northgate in medieval times; being later extended westwards. The church was substantially rebuilt later in the middle ages and was 'of uncommon length and narrowness'. At this gate the mayor and corporation would receive the King or Queen on their journeys from Thanet, and present them with the keys of the city. The gate survived as a passage under the church until 1830 when the chancel was demolished and the adjoining nave substantially rebuilt.

Walk along the narrow footpath to the left of St. Mary's Church (now used as a gymnasium) into Church Lane.

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#### 25. St. Radigund's Hall

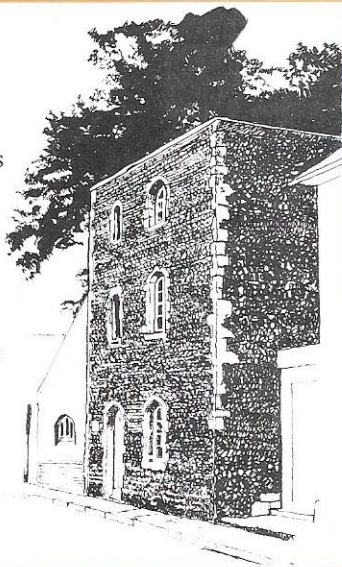
The fine timber-framed building on the left is Radigund's Restaurant, formerly St. Radigund's Hall (built c. 1490).

## 29. Sudbury Tower

Further along, on the right, is another medieval bastion - the "Sudbury Tower" (No. 6 Pound Lane). The section of the city wall to the north-east of Sudbury Tower was taken down c. 1825 to make room for houses now demolished.

## 28. No. 16 Pound Lane

No. 16 Pound Lane, on the bend in the road, is an old bastion of the city wall with a new facade. It is now used as the headquarters of The Canterbury Society.



On the opposite side of the road is a group of terraced houses - notice the intricate, contrasting, decorative brickwork framing the windows and doorways.

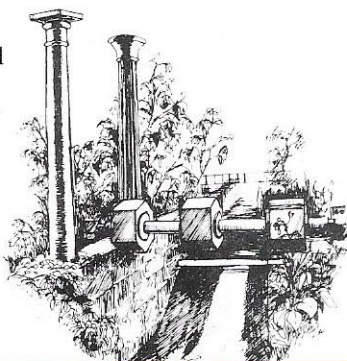
## 27. No. 19 Pound Lane

No. 19 Pound Lane, on the right, is an old bastion of the city wall which has been considerably restored and refaced in plaster. There is a very small section of the city wall on the corner next to the bastion.

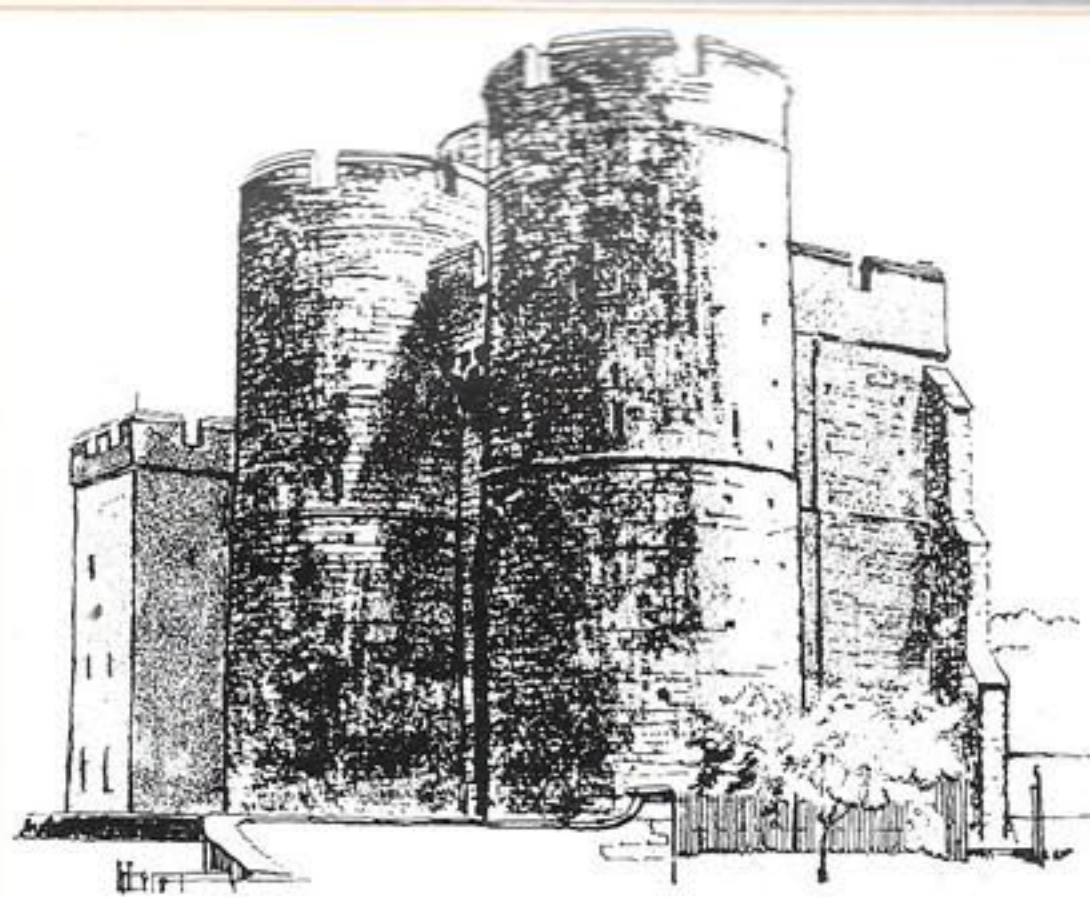
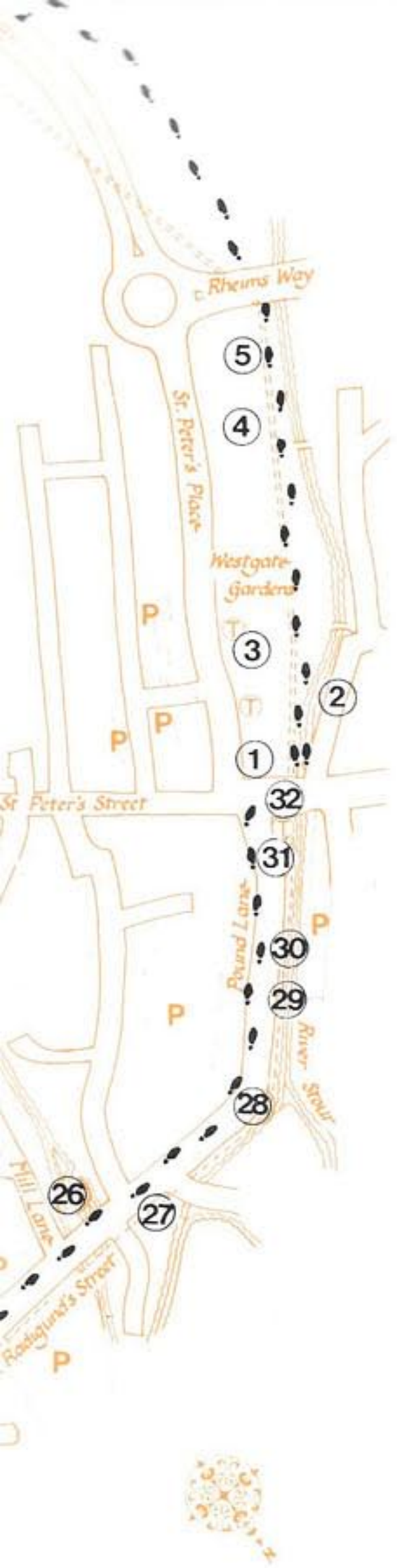
Walk over the bridge into Pound Lane.

## 26. Millrace

To the left of the bridge you will see the remains of a millrace. The race was part of a six storey wooden corn mill which was destroyed by fire in 1933.



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### 32. The Westgate

The Westgate concludes this walk round the circuit of the city wall:

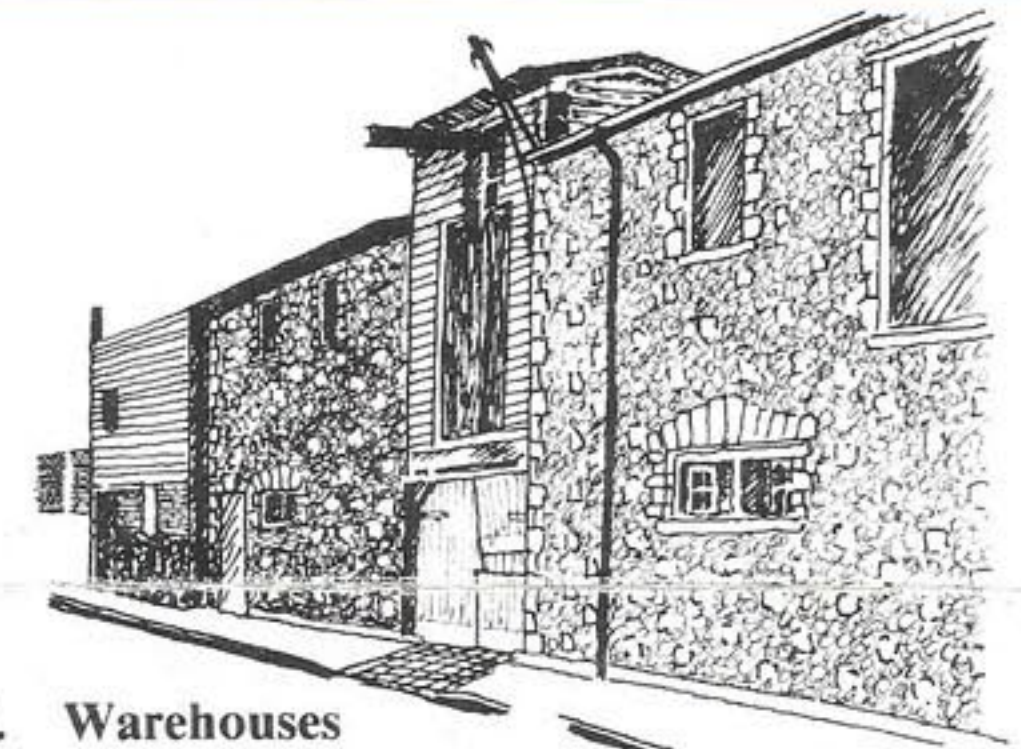
The gate was possibly designed by Henry Yevele (who may have been the architect of the nave of the Cathedral) and was built by Archbishop Simon of Sudbury c. 1380. It is made of Kentish ragstone and incorporates some bricks in its structure. It owes its preservation during the last century to one of the Mayors of the city. He gave his casting vote against the owner of a travelling circus who wanted the gate removed to allow his caravan procession to enter the city. From c. 1430 to 1829 Westgate was the city gaol. The old prison cells retain their original doors and fittings and there is a collection of old fetters, manacles, gyves and other related items. The condemned cell contains the timbers of the old gallows.

A newel staircase leads to the roof of the gate. From here, you can see the slide for the portcullis and the holes for the chains which raised the drawbridge. The portcullis, according to one old account, "was a grate spiked at the bottom, to let fall in case of surprise, with opposite grooves in the stone work of the gate, to direct its fall, and keep it in its place." There is a projecting parapet over the gate with openings "through which the defendants might pour down scalding water, or other annoyances on those who should attempt to force or fire the portcullis or gate, without being themselves exposed to danger or view."

The Westgate is open to the public daily (except Sundays) from April to September, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. October to March, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. The entrance is under the main arch - mind the traffic.

### 31. The Kent Music Centre

The Kent Music Centre and School was formerly the city police station. Notice the yellow-coloured stonework and the decorative pointed arches to the windows. Inside the building, the prison cells remain intact.



### 30. Warehouses

The Wool Stores on the right incorporate part of the City Wall in their structure. The timber building was burnt by a young arsonist. There is a plan to restore the Wool Stores and convert them.



# CANTERBURY URBAN STUDIES CENTRE

The Canterbury Urban Studies Centre aims to promote a fuller understanding and enjoyment of the urban scene – its history, its buildings, its people and its life. Since 1975 the centre has been actively engaged in many aspects of environmental education at all levels in and around the city of Canterbury.

Our activities are concerned with three main areas:

1 Running a full programme of open lectures, courses, forums and other events covering a wide range of topics from 'Archaeology' to 'Alternative energy'.

2 Working with school children by providing teaching resources and promoting projects.

3 Looking to the future of Canterbury – There is a great need for more contact between town planners and the public. The public must be well informed if public participation in planning is to be effective. The CUSC aims to provide an impartial link between the experts and the public by putting planning facts and alternative proposals forward for open discussion. In this way the centre provides links between the council, the School of Architecture, amenity societies and the public at large. We hope to extend this side of our work in the future.

From Summer 1984 visit the newly converted Canterbury Centre in the former Church of St. Alphege, off Palace Street.

Please support our Canterbury Centre Appeal by sending a donation to:  
The Treasurer, Canterbury Centre Appeal, National Westminster Bank, The Parade, Canterbury.

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