



Cheapside, the High Street and Lost Street Names

The 'Salamander Cookshop' stands at a distinctive double bend in the High Street and makes you wonder why such a bend exists, but an earlier name for the winding part near the Minster gives a clue – Cheapside.

An Old English word 'ceapan', "to buy" and a middle English word 'chapien' have found their way into town & street names. 'Chipping' is often a part of the name of a town or village; Chipping Barnet, in North London; Chipping Norton in Oxford – 'Chipping' suggesting a market existed. Another word linked to such places comes from the Saxon for 'Market' - 'chepe' and 'Cheapside' most likely originates from that. So a reason why the market was here with the way bending so sharply may lie in the Precinct that would have enclosed the Minster itself; this could have been an embankment – perhaps with a fence or palisade needing to be detoured around – and open spaces too, often by churches were gathering places.



This picture shows a road off 'Cheapside' (now the High Street) continuing towards the bridge crossing on the Mill Stream – just a little downstream from the old town Corn Mill. That crossing can be seen in maps from many hundreds of years ago but the houses in this photograph beyond Salamander's are long gone; replaced with the Crown Mead shops and the library. Lock's, the hairdresser's shop can be seen on the left – just across from where

'Salamander Cookshop' now is - and in this hairdresser's it is said that Thomas Hardy – the poet & author [<https://www.wimbornehistorytrail.uk/page26.html>] who lived for a few years in Avenue Road, overheard of a wife being sold in the nearby New Inn – (The Albion & now 1777) <https://www.wimbornehistorytrail.uk/page16.html> – and this features as a theme in his book "The Mayor of Casterbridge"

Thinking too of other lost and changing street names there are quite a few others in Wimborne, but that's hardly surprising since the town has been developing its current street layout since the 1200s.– Just around the corner and left along East Street there's a bridge – Dubbles Bridge in 1349. East Brook was Biestebrok, Ysterbroke, Isebroke (1286) and finally by 1591; Eastbroke. Where was Sluggeslane – and was Clackstrete (1318) ; a street noisy with chatter, maybe near Cheapside ? All secrets of the old town, some of the answers to which we may never know

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