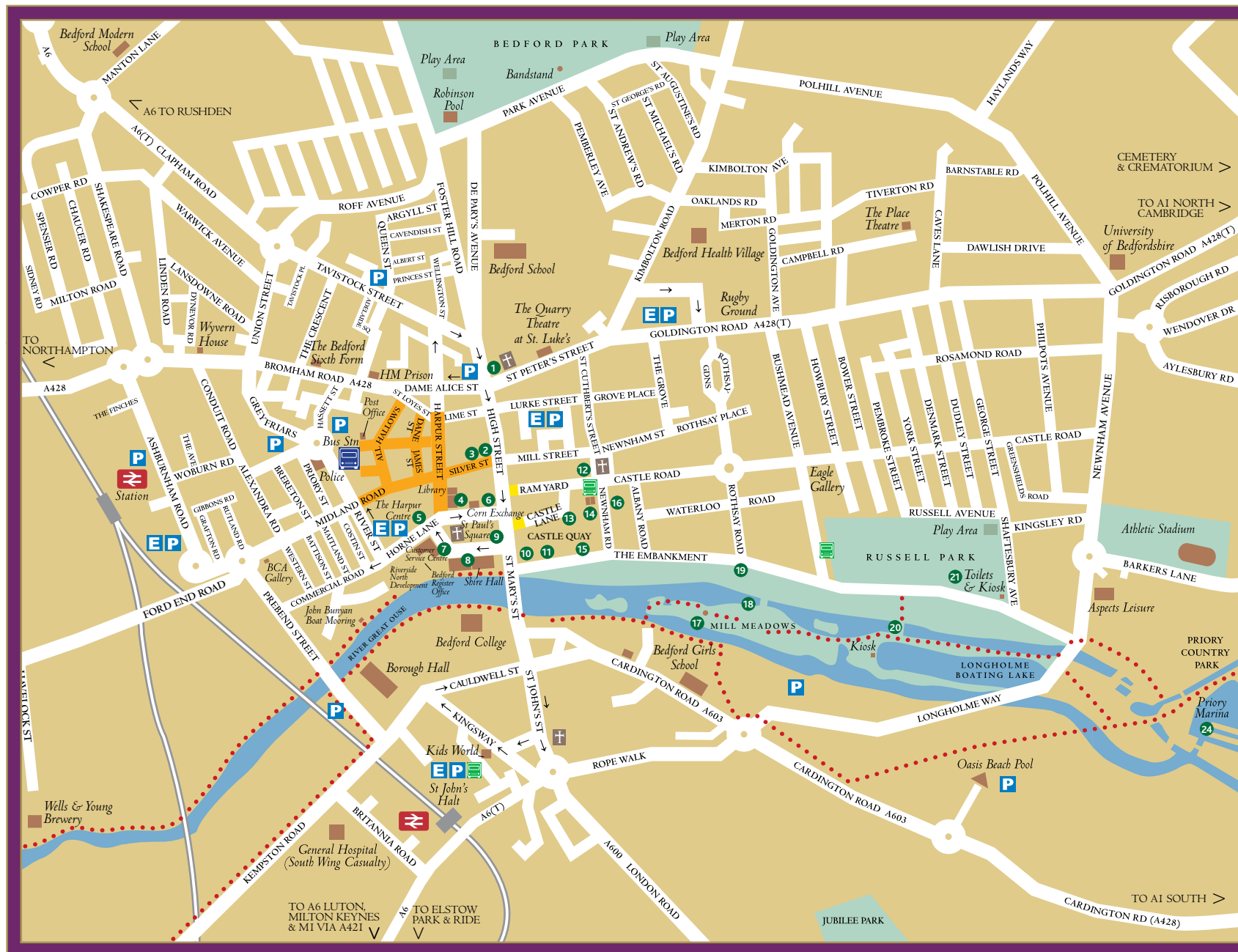


Bedford Self Guided Trail



Key

- 1 John Bunyan Statue
- 2 Reflections of Bedford
- 3 Archbishop Trevor Huddleston
- 4 Harpur Suite
- 5 Harpur Centre
- 6 Corn Exchange
- 7 BPHA Customer Services
(Formerly Tourist Information Centre/Old Town Hall)
- 8 Bedford Magistrates Court & County Court
- 9 John Howard Statue
- 10 War Memorial (South African War)
- 11 Swan Hotel
- 12 John Bunyan Museum
- 13 Castle Quay & Medieval Lime Kiln
- 14 The Higgins Bedford
- 15 Castle Mound
- 16 Panacea Museum
- 17 Bandstand
- 18 Suspension Bridge
- 19 Bedford War Memorial
- 20 Butterfly Bridge
- 21 Putting Green Kiosk

- Pedestrianised street
- Pedestrianised shopping area
- Local facilities
- P Parking
- EP Evening parking available
- P Coach parking
- Coach bay
- Cycle/foot path (Traffic free)
- One way road

Toilets are located in the Harpur Centre and Mayes Yard (off St Paul's Square by the Corn Exchange)

Bedford Self Guided Trail

Follow the numbers from 1 to 16 on the map, please allow 90 minutes to complete.

1. John Bunyan Statue

For long periods between 1660 and 1676 John Bunyan was imprisoned for his beliefs. Published in 1678, "The Pilgrim's Progress" is reputed to have been translated into over 200 languages. Statue by Sir Joseph Edgar Boehm, said to be Queen Victoria's favourite sculptor.

Colonel Frederick Gustavus Burnaby

Remarkable commemorative window in St Peters Church to Colonel Frederick Burnaby, the son of a vicar. A soldier, adventurer and writer, Colonel Frederick Burnaby - Burnaby of The Blues, was born at the parsonage of St Peter's Church in 1842. He died aged 42 supporting General Gordon who was besieged in Khartoum.

2. Reflections of Bedford

The faces are the work of artist Rick Kirby who has named the piece 'Reflections of Bedford'. The design work has been influenced by references to Bedford and, in particular the history of lace and brick making locally as well as recognising Silver Street as the historical site of a 'Mint' in the 10th and 11th centuries. At night, the sculpture dramatically changes through the use of colour spot lighting with lights set in the ground, up-lighting the pieces.

3. Archbishop Trevor Huddleston

Bedford born Trevor Huddleston was recognised for his work against apartheid in South Africa. The bust was unveiled by the Bishop of St Albans in 1999 and was re-dedicated by Nelson Mandela, ex-premier of South Africa when he visited Bedford in April 2000.

4. Harpur Suite (1834)

Bedford grew and needed social and meeting places and this was built as the Assembly Rooms, and part of it used as a subscription library. It has an elegant interior and still serves Bedford as a function room.

5. Harpur Centre

The façade (1833) by Edward Blore (architect) formerly housed the Harpur Trust School for Boys and latterly Bedford Modern School. Reconstructed in 1976 to accommodate the shopping centre. (Edward Blore designed the balcony frontage to Buckingham Palace).

6. Corn Exchange (1874)

Built and opened as a Corn Market, it was used regularly by the BBC during World War II for Symphony Concerts and 1944 Proms. Also in 1944, Glenn Miller gave his first UK broadcast from here. A bust of Glenn Miller can be seen on the front of the building.

7. BPHA Customer Services (Formerly Tourist Information Centre / Old Town Hall)

One of the oldest public buildings in Bedford dating back to c1550, it was originally the home of the Grammar School and became the Town Hall in 1891. Sir William Harpur (1497-1574), born in Bedford, rose to be Lord Mayor of London, and as a wealthy man, provided an endowment to support education in Bedford. The present 18th century facade includes a statue of him, dressed as though he was an alderman of this later period.

8. Magistrates Court formerly Shire Hall (1879/81)

Built by architect Alfred Waterhouse, best known for his Natural History Museum, London and Manchester Town Hall. This building was the home of the Assizes. Many people were tried here including James Hanratty.

9. John Howard (1726-90) Statue

Known for his work on prison reform, John Howard travelled throughout Europe. He died in Ukraine from typhoid and there is a monument in Kherson, Ukraine to honour him. Note the good cherubs coming out of the mouths of the devils on the corners of the base of the statue. (The statue is by Sir Alfred Gilbert, the sculptor of the Eros Statue in London)

10. War Memorial

This memorial is to honour the men of Bedford who fought in the South African campaign also known as the 2nd Boer War, many of whom perished in the Transvaal.

11. Swan Hotel (1797)

Coaching inns clustered around the bridge crossing the river. The present building was constructed for the Duke of Bedford. It contains the staircase from Houghton House (now derelict), reputedly the inspiration for "House Beautiful" in John Bunyan's "The Pilgrim's Progress".

12. Bunyan Meeting and John Bunyan Museum

John Bunyan (1628-88) rose from humble origins to become one of the world's most widely read authors. The present church (c1849) stands on the site of a barn purchased by Bunyan and his followers and was later used as a place of worship. Visitors should particularly see the famous Bronze Doors. Bunyan is buried in the dissenter's grave yard in Bunhill Fields, City Road, London.

13. Medieval Lime Kiln

Peer through the window on the Castle Lane development opposite the Museum entrance to learn about the use of the Lime Kiln.

14. The Higgins Bedford

The Higgins Bedford is housed in the historic buildings of Castle Brewery and the Higgins family home. The art gallery and museum celebrates the inspiring stories of local people, encourages a sense of place for Bedford and the surrounding area, and showcases outstanding and varied collections. These collections inspire a busy programme of temporary exhibitions as well as our active learning and events programmes.

15. Castle Mound and Gardens

Follow the trail of the siege of Bedford Castle around the Castle Mound and discover the foundations of the Great Hall. From the viewing platform enjoy a commanding view of the River Great Ouse.

16. Panacea Museum

The museum tells the story of the Panacea Society, a remarkable religious community that existed in Bedford for almost a century.

Walking along the River Great Ouse

You can enjoy walking further along the River Great Ouse by following the footpath along the river, from the town centre you can head east towards Willington or west towards Kempston.