

A self guided trail  
through Christchurch



# A step back in time

Discover Christchurch through the decades by following this walking trail around the historic town.

This is a flexible trail and so the route can be adapted to suit you. Our suggested route begins at Christchurch Rail Station and finishes on the Quay.





**Route Map:** This trail begins at Christchurch Station and takes you down Bargates, along the High Street and down Convent Walk to the Quomps.

**Distance:** 1.2 miles

**Time to walk:** approx. 30 minutes

Zoom into to the map for clearer details and details of road names.

Directions: Exit Christchurch Rail Station

# 1. Christchurch Rail Station

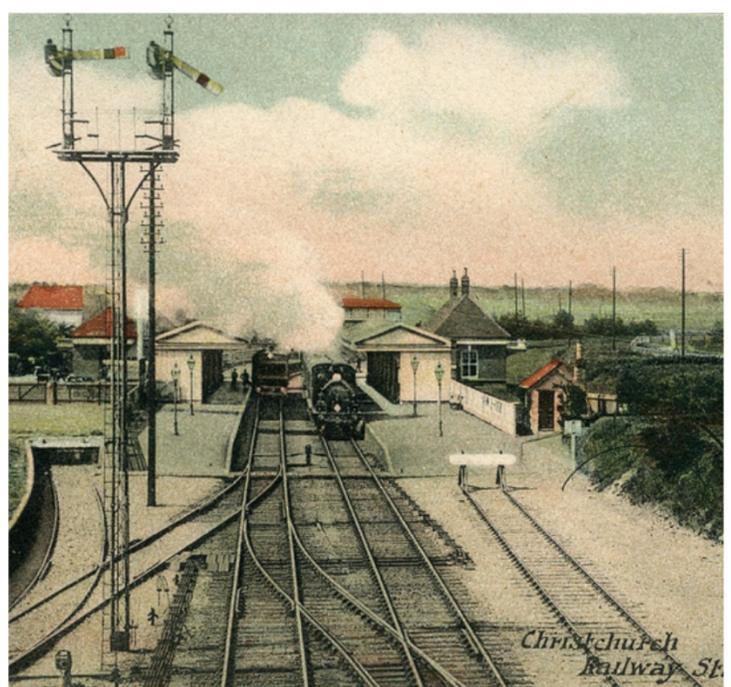
Prior to its current location, Christchurch Railway Station was situated to the east of Fairmile Road, but this site closed in 1886 and moved to the site where it currently operates. The line was electrified in 1967 when faster more frequent services were introduced.

The interior of Christchurch signal box with the signalman in attendance. The Ringwood line appears to be shown on the indicator board so this photo possibly dates from around 1960.



A photo of Railway staff on the platform of Christchurch Railway Station, taken in the 1890s.

A postcard showing Christchurch station from the bridge with trains on both up and down lines. c1905.



Directions: Walk down Station Road until you get to Stour Road crossroads.

## 2. Stour Road

The photo shows the junction of Barrack Road with Stour Road (c Early 1900s.) In the background near the railway bridge, railway signals for Christchurch station can just be made out.



Photo courtesy of Hampshire Cultural Trust and Christchurch History Society.



Photo courtesy of Hampshire Cultural Trust.

A postcard view along Stour Road looking towards Bargates, taken in the 1930s. Station Road and the entrance to the station can be seen together with a trolleybus in the passing bay.

Directions: Take a left at the crossroads and walk down Stour Road until you get to The Railway Pub on Fairmile Road.

## 3. Top of Bargates

The view down Bargates from the Railway Bridge. You can see two of the trolleybuses, part of the system ran from 1933 - 1969 and was the second largest in the UK.



Photo courtesy of Hampshire Cultural Trust.



Photo courtesy of Christchurch History Society and Hampshire Cultural Trust.

This photo presents the Railway Inn, taken in 1910. It was often used by the railway workers as accommodation on Stour Road. The Railway can still be visited today.

Directions: Turn right and walk down Fairmile Road, down Bargates (away from the Railway Bridge). Keep walking past the turning 'Avon Buildings'.

## 4. Mid-way down Bargates

A photo of Bargates in the 1950's showing the old Post Office and the trolleybus wires.



Photo courtesy of Christchurch History Society.



Photo courtesy of Hampshire Cultural Trust.

The view down Bargates in the early 1930s. Standing in the doorway of No. 23 is Elizabeth Hayball, wife of the owner.

Directions: Walk to the end of Bargates, keep left until you get to the underpass. Walk under the underpass. You should emerge at the top of the High Street by Patisserie Mark Bennett.

## 5. Fountain Roundabout

This is a photo of the subway, built in 1980s, and the top of the High Street. c 1980



Photo courtesy of Christchurch History Society.

The Antelope Public House at the end of the High Street. The Antelope was demolished to make way for the bypass. C Early 1900s.



Photo courtesy of Hampshire Cultural Trust.

Directions: Turn left onto the High Street (away from the Roundabout)

## 6. Top of the High Street

A view down the High Street, showing the Midland Bank, which became HSBC.



Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip during a visit on 15th July 1966. Behind them you can see people looking out from the bank and neighbouring businesses

Directions: Keep walking along the High Street until you get to the Mayor's Parlour, at the front of Saxon Square.

## 7. Midway down the High Street



Photo courtesy of Christchurch History Society.

The Mayor's Parlour in 1911 during King George V's coronation. For Coronation Day, the street was decorated in flags and a procession marched down the High Street.



Photo courtesy of Hampshire Cultural Trust.

This photo shows a trolleybus arriving into Christchurch from Poole. On the left you can see the Mayor's Parlour.

Directions: Keep walking down the High Street until you see the turning on the left to Millhams Street. (Don't take this turning unless you want to take a detour to the Ducking Stool!)

## 8. High Street, by Millhams St.

This photo, taken in c1955, shows a bus going down the high street near the bus lane by the current library. In the background you can see the Mayor's Parlour.



Photo courtesy of Christchurch History Society.



Photo courtesy of Sue Newman.

This postcard view shows the High Street in c.1920. You can see Butcher's and Chemist's, along with other shop fronts and businesses.

Directions: Keep walking down the High Street until you get to the small roundabout, which connects to Castle Street. You should see the Ye Olde George Inn.

## 9. Top of Castle Street



This photo shows the Ye Olde George Inn and the view up the High Street, including a trolleybus.



Photo courtesy of Hampshire Cultural Trust.

A trolleybus from Poole arriving at the end of the line in Church's Street. In the background stands the Priory.

Directions: Turn left at the roundabout and walk down Castle Street. Walk past the castle ruins to Norman House. Cross over a small bridge, but stop just before you get to the large second bridge.

## 10. Bridge Street

From this bridge, Castle Street becomes Bridge Street. Bridge Street was often flooded by the river Avon until defensive work was completed in the late 1950s.

Here we see two police officers trying to move a vehicle in the flooding of Bridge Street, c1956.



This photo shows a man assisting with the effects of the severe flooding of Bridge Street, c1956.

This photo shows Major Martin, the town vet, in what appears to be a Renault, outside his practice at Number 36 Bridge Street. This photo was probably taken c1910.



Directions: Turn right before the second bridge and walk down Convent Walk, along the riverside, past Norman House. Keep walking alongside the river, past the Priory, until you reach the start of the Quay and Place Mill.

## 11. Place Mill

One half of a stereograph of Place Mill on the Quay. Place Mill was built in approximately 1100AD, although a mill on this site was mentioned in the Domesday Book.



Photo courtesy of Sue Newman.



Photo courtesy of Hampshire Cultural Trust.

This photo shows the Quay as a working area for fishermen. The original Sailing Club is missing from this photo. C Late 1800s.

Place Mill is no longer a functioning mill, but opens in the Summer as a heritage and cultural site.

Directions: Keep walking along the Quay towards and past the bandstand. You are now on the Quomps. This is the end of the trail.

## 12. The Quomps



Photo courtesy of Hampshire Cultural Trust.

This photo shows a view of the annual Regatta before the outbreak of the First World War. The Quay can be seen densely populated by people out to enjoy the spectacle.



Photo courtesy of Christchurch History Society.

This is a postcard of Christchurch Quay. It shows the Wick Ferry Crossing and children gathered enjoying the Quomps. c1956.

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**This is the end of the trail. Return the way you came or follow signs to get back to the High Street or Station.**

To view more photographs of Christchurch, visit the Red House Museum: Quay Rd, Christchurch BH23 1BU

For more trails, visit:

[bournemouth.co.uk/christchurch/walking-trails](http://bournemouth.co.uk/christchurch/walking-trails)

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