

# Weobley Jubilee Heritage Trail



The spire of Weobley Church is the second tallest in Herefordshire

Weobley's origins date back before Norman times. Its name was derived from "Wibba" the Anglo Saxon son of Creda and "ley" meaning a clearing or glade in a wood. The trail is in two parts, the inner and outer; the latter (see green circles below) includes the Church. (allow 40mins.) The inner trail (see yellow circles) is in and around the village centre. (allow 30mins.) At each stopping point on the trails is a plaque with information about the place you are looking at. Each plaque is numbered and directions are given to the location of the next plaque. There are plenty of places to stop and rest and take refreshments.

In mediaeval times Weobley was a flourishing market town whose wealth came from the wool trade, known locally as Leominster Ore. Weobley was also noted for ale, glove and nail making. Today it is at the heart of a thriving agricultural industry.



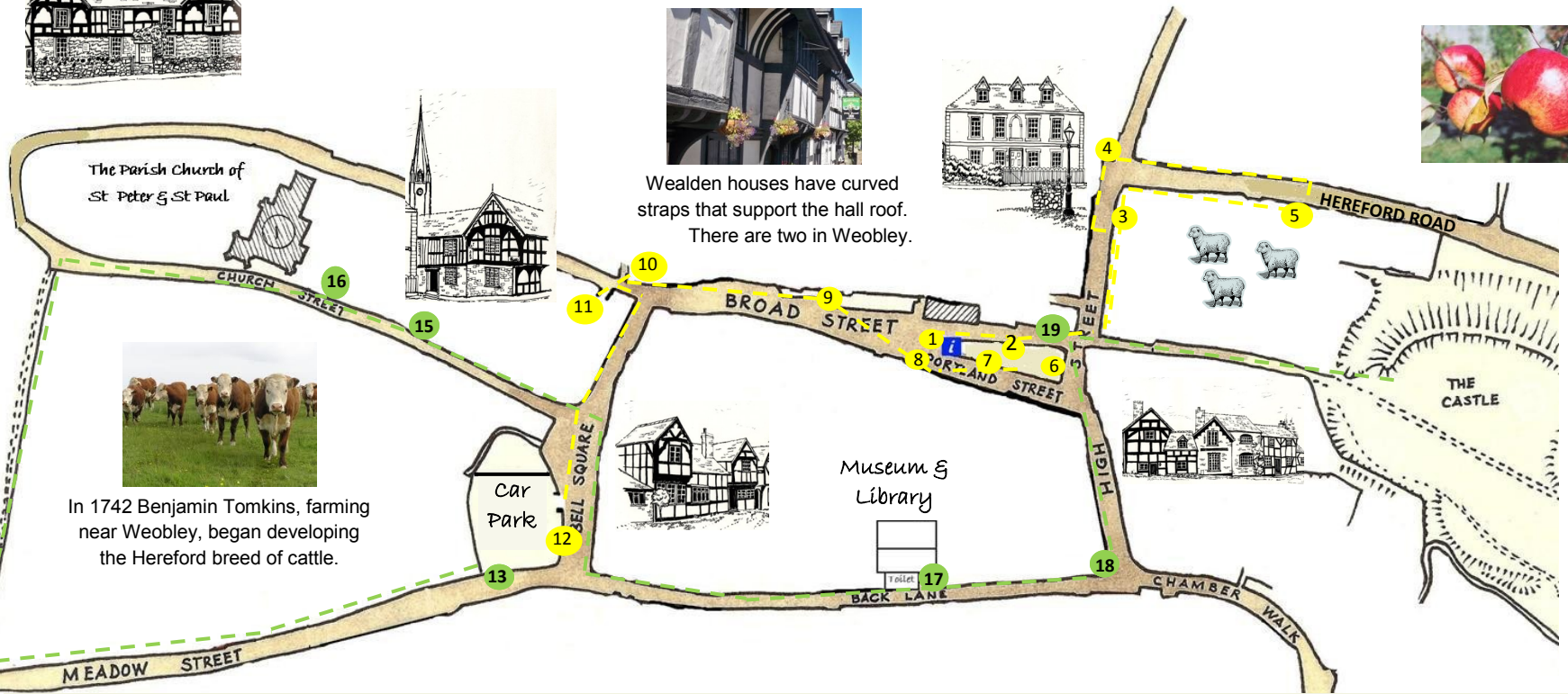
Wealden houses have curved straps that support the hall roof. There are two in Weobley.



Charles 1st stayed in Weobley in 1645 during the Civil War



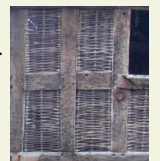
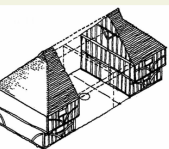
In 1742 Benjamin Tomkins, farming near Weobley, began developing the Hereford breed of cattle.



All the timber framed houses in Weobley are constructed of wood frames of recently felled oak, cut to size off site. A number was scratched into the timber at each joint position so a house could be assembled like a kit. As the oak dried, the joints tightened, making them stronger. (As you walk around the village look for the wooden pins which hold the joints together.)

The spaces in the frames were filled in with panels made of woven hazel and ash or chestnut, called 'wattle', which were plastered with lime, manure and straw, called 'daub'.

The largest and most expensive houses were 'hall' houses. These were constructed in the style shown on the left: a central hall, open to the roof with two (sometimes one) gable-ended transverse wings.



The hall was used for transacting business, receiving visitors and eating. Often servants would sleep on sacks, filled with hay, on the rush-strewn floor beside the fire. Hence the expression 'hitting the sack'. Some people added fragrant bedstraw (*Gallium Verum*) to the sacks which had the added advantage of being a natural flea killer. At night the fire was covered for safety, in French *cuevrefeu*, giving us the English word, *curfew*.



A fine example of a cruck frame. One of two in the village