



Westbury Timeline

Date	Note
Stone Age BC	Artefacts found suggest transient movement rather than permanent occupation in the area
Iron Age BC	Earliest evidence of occupation around Westbury at this time
Roman Period	A pottery kiln site at Wellhead, villas at Chalchot and Storridge and pots at the Ham provide evidence of Roman occupation
Saxon Period	Land held by Edith, wife of Edward the Confessor
1086	A royal manor held by William I. Domesday Book records an estate of approximately 5000 acres including local villages. Population approximately 600 including 9 beekeepers, 29 pigmen and an unspecified number of potters. There were 6 mills and a church.
c1109-1120	Church given by Henry I to Salisbury Cathedral
1226	Fulling mill in existence at Brook
1252	A weekly market granted to be held on Fridays and also an annual fair to be held on 1 November. These form the basis for a trading centre created by the establishment of a borough supported by burbages, properties whose occupants enjoy trading privileges in the market and have the sole right to vote for members of parliament.
1291	A Tuesday market and 6-day fair granted.
1380	It is believed that All Saints Church dates from this time on the site of both a Saxon and a Norman church.
1400s	All Saints Church extensively rebuilt.

1428	A corn mill in existence on Bitham Brook
1448	From this time 2 MPs are returned to parliament.
c1450	By this time a Borough Court is meeting
1460	A Thursday market and 3 annual fairs are granted.
Late 1400s	Westbury becomes the centre of the cloth industry in the region.
c1540	Angel Hotel in Church Street built.
1571	The town has a Mayor by this time.
1573	A fulling mill in existence at Bitham
1597	Silver seal presented to the borough.
1599	A guildhall and court house in existence.
1602	The clock in the tower of All Saints dates from this time.
1603-1604	There is an outbreak of plague in the town.
1616	Fire in the town causes over £1,000 damage; a peal of 6 bells installed in All Saints.
1623	Fulling mill in existence at Chalford.
1648	Civil War - Parliamentarian forces quartered for free in the town for a month
1662	Congregational Church founded by Philip Hunton; Baptist church at Westbury Leigh founded.
1669	Anabaptists meeting at the house of Roger Cutter.
1672	Philip Hunton licensed to preach as a Congregationalist in his own house.
c1693	Congregational Meeting House built.
c1700	White Horse cut as an outline only.
1711	Congregational Meeting House destroyed by fire and rebuilt.
1714	Baptist Chapel at Westbury Leigh built.
1744	Earliest reference to a post office at the King's Arms in Market Place.
1748	John Wesley first preaches in Westbury
1751	A division in the Congregational Church results in the formation of the Upper Meeting.
1754	Lord Abingdon Arms in existence, possibly on the site of the 16th Century inn St. George and the Dragon.
1769	Workhouse built at Gooseland, Eden Vale
1770	There are 61 burbages in the town.
1772	Earliest reference to a fire-fighting service in the town
1778	White Horse re-carved
1783	There are 15 clothiers in the town
1795	Indigo Mill and dye house at Eden Vale producing the blue dye used in the woollen industry up until mid 19th century.
1797	Baptist Chapel rebuilt on site of existing chapel at Westbury Leigh.
c1800	Boyer's Mill built.
1800	Leighton House built by Thomas Henry Hele Phipps.
1803	Factory using water power built at Bitham Mill
1808	Methodist Church built in Warminster Road.
1809	Lord Abingdon Arms renamed Lopes Arms; Angel Mill, a woollen mill for steam driven machines, built by John Matravers.
1813	Westbury and Whorwellsdown Union Workhouse built on site of existing workhouse.
1814	British Boy's School opened in the old Athenaeum, Bratton Road with a bequest from John Matravers.
1815	Market Hall presented to the town by Sir Manesseh Massey Lopes.
1819	Schoolroom built at Westbury Leigh Baptist Church.
1821	Congregational Chapel rebuilt at a cost of £2,000; William Boulton establishes a gloving works in Westbury Leigh.
1825	Baptist Church built at Cook's Stile Meeting House.
1826	William Cobbett visits the town and in his rural rides describes Westbury as a `nasty, odious, rotten borough, a really rotten place` where the cloth mills seem `ready to tumble down as many of the houses`.

1829	Bitham Mill converted to steam power and a new extension added.
1830	There are 6 malt houses in the area
1832	From this time only 1 MP returned to parliament
1837	Committee formed to consider a scheme for lighting the town by gas
1838	Working Men's Association founded
1844	British Girl's School in Lower Road opened
1845	Angel Mill converted to a flour mill
1847	Church of England Day School (Newtown School) built at corner of Newtown and Bratton Road; extensive restoration work to All Saints church undertaken
1848	The post office is in Maristow Street by this time; railway station opened and line brought to Westbury from Thingley Junction near Chippenham
1850	Railway line from Westbury to Frome opened as first stage of route to Weymouth
1852	Angel Mill restored to a woollen mill and new wing added
1853	A school room added to the Baptist Church
1857	Great Western Iron Ore Smelting Company founded to exploit the iron ore beds to the north of the town; cemetery opened with 2 chapels - an Anglican and one for dissenters
1858	First bank in Westbury, the North Wilts Banking Co., opened
1859	A new building opened at Newtown School for girls and infants
1860s	New buildings added to Bitham Mill
1861	Town Mill destroyed by fire causing £2,000 worth of damage; town fire brigade, with 4 engines, formed
1868	West End Baptist Church built on site of existing church and schoolroom
1869	Prospect Square, 39 houses including 7 almshouses, constructed by Abraham Laverton
1870	New fire station built in Cheap Street
1873	Laverton Institute founded by Abraham Laverton; girls and infants from Newtown School move to a new building next to All Saints Church in Church Lane
1874	British Boys School moves to Laverton Institute
1876	By this time the market is no longer being held
1877	Church of the Holy Saviour at Westbury Leigh opened
1880s	From this time the post office is in Edward Street
1882	First recorded mention of the Horse and Groom Inn
1884	Laverton County Infants School built by Abraham Laverton in Bratton Road
1885	The borough disenfranchised and abolished; Westbury Leigh Church of England primary school opened
1887	Public Baths in Church Street built by William Henry Laverton
1888	Leighton House acquired by William Henry Laverton and extensive alterations and extensions undertaken
1890	Stafford Brown Almshouses, comprising 10 cottages, established for the poor of the parish
1892	Leighton Sports Ground built by William Henry Laverton
1893	Westbury Leigh church of England school opened
1894	Parish split into the 3 separate civil parishes of Westbury, Dilton Marsh and Bratton
1897	Westbury and District Hospital opened in Westbourne Road; Technical School of Science and Art in Church Street built by William Henry Laverton
1899	Laverton Institute occupied by Westbury Urban District Council
1901	Water pumping station opened in Bratton Road supplied by the reservoir at Beggars Knoll; direct railway line from London to Westbury opened; Boyer's Cloth Mill converted to a tannery owned by Charles Case & Sons Ltd
1905	William Boulton moves his glove manufacturing business to Bull's Mill where he builds a new factory
1906	London to Westbury railway line extended to Exeter
1907	British Boys School is renamed Laverton Institute School
1915	GWR locomotive depot opened
1918-1939	120 council houses built

1920s	Westbury and District Choral Society founded; war memorial built in Market Place
1920	Vista cinema opens in Warminster Road; Westbury United Football Club founded
1921	The bells at All Saints church recast and 2 more added; Leighton House becomes Victoria College, a private school for boys
1922	Sewage works built at Frogmore
1925	Westbury Senior Council School formed from the amalgamation of the senior classes of Laverton Institute School, Westbury Church of England School and the British Girls School; Westbury Church of England Junior School formed from the amalgamation of the junior classes of the British Girls School, Laverton Institute School and Newtown School
1926	Methodist Church in Station Road opened and dedicated
1928	Prideaux Hospital opened in Haynes Road
1929	Westbury Leigh Church of England School becomes a mixed junior and infants school when senior pupils move to Leigh Road Senior School
1931	Westbury and District Hospital moves to Butts Road
1933	By this time all iron ore mining has ceased; Westbury by-pass railway line built for non-stopping trains
1934	Westbury and Whorwellsdown Union Workhouse now redundant and sold for commercial purposes
1935	Borough seal destroyed by fire in the Urban District Council offices
1936	Victoria College closed
1938	Present police station built in Station Road; recreation ground provided; Roman Catholic church of St. Bernadette of Lourdes built
1939	Leighton House and park requisitioned by the War Department as a convalescent depot; Bitham Mill converted from steam power to electricity
1940	Two Congregational churches reunited
1945	Westbury Senior Council School is renamed Westbury County Secondary Modern School
1947	Electric street lighting installed in the town replacing gas lighting
1949	Leighton House becomes the permanent home of the Regular Commissions Board which selects officers for training at Sandhurst
1950s	Westbury War Memorial partially moved to Edward Street
1950	Prideaux Hospital closed
1955	Stafford Brown Almshouses now in disuse and sold off
1959	Sewage works modernised; Newtown Boys School closed; Laverton County Infants School moved to premises at All Saints church vacated by Newtown Boys School; Westbury Church of England Junior School moves to a new building in Oldfield Park
1960s	Westbury County Secondary Modern School becomes a comprehensive and is renamed Matravers School
1962	Building of the High Street begun, development and shops and maisonettes, Blue Circle cement works open; development of the West Wilts Trading Estate begins
1965	Locomotive depot closed
1968	Laverton County Infants School moved to Eden Vale and renamed Westbury Infants School
1969	Glove manufacture ceases at Bulls Mill; Angel Mill and Bitham Mill, the last 2 woollen mills in Westbury closed; extensive underpinning carried out to the tower of All Saints Church to save it from collapsing; Anglican chapel at cemetery closed and remaining chapel renovated
1970	Westbury House in Edward Street converted to use as Westbury Library
1972	Congregationalists joined with Presbyterians to become United Reformed Church
1974	Present fire station opened in Meadow Lane
1978	Westbury twinned with Soissy-sur-Seine in France
1982	Tanning at Boyers Mill ceases
1983	Laverton Court, 6 almshouses built by the Housing Trust at the rear of the library, opened
1988	Vista cinema destroyed by fire
1991	Post office moves to Coopers Country Store

1992	Victoria Gardens opened on the site of 16th Century mill pond
1993	Bitham Brook School opens
1995	Extension added to Methodist Church; church re-opened and re-dedicated
1998	Twinning with Soissy-sur- Seine ceases
2004	Westbury Leigh Church of England primary school moves to a new building