

Key vocabulary	
medieval	A time period in history – after the Romans.
industry	The processing of raw materials and the manufacture of goods in factories
trade	The action of buying and selling goods and services.
Market town	Usually a small town that has held public markets at stated times.
Wool /cloth production	The manufacture of wool from the raw fibres and the creation of cloth by weaving.
Fulling mills	A place where woolen cloth is cleansed by being beaten with wooden hammers.
Drying islands	Places where woolen cloth was allowed to dry
agriculture	The practice of farming – arable or animal
Buttercross	A place where dairy and meat products were sold.
viaduct	A type of bridge that supports a railway, canal or road.
Industrial Revolution	A time when machinery changed how we produced goods.
The plague	A disease that killed many people
navvies	People employed to do hard physical labour.
weaver	Someone who creates fabric by weaving.
workhouse	A place where people went if they had no means to support themselves financially.
timeline	A graphical representation of a period of time.



Chippenham before the Industrial Revolution:

The town was a significant market town and the market would have been an important feature of the town. At times there has been a separate pig and cheese market in the town. The weaving industry was well established with many separate spinners and weavers, all of these were brought together in the 1700s when Waterford Cloth Mill was built. The River Avon was used for the fulling mills and the small islands for drying the cloth on racks.

Chippenham after the Industrial Revolution:

The expansion of Chippenham began at the end of the 18th Century. In 1800 the Wilts and Berks Canal was officially opened giving the town access to the markets of Bristol and London. In 1841, the GWR line from London to Bristol going through Chippenham, was completed. The building of the railway and the access it provided to raw materials brought a new range of industries to Chippenham.



Industries in Chippenham.

There have been a few world renowned companies that have used Chippenham as a base to produce goods. Companies such as Westinghouse Brakes and Signals, now part of the Siemens Group, and Nestle milk condensery (left), have all helped to define Chippenham.

A Brief History of Chippenham

- 878 Alfred the Great defeated the Danes at the Battle of Ethandune (Edington), after they had invaded the town earlier that year.
- 1086 Chippenham was recorded in the Domesday Book as "Cepen" a crown manor, with a population of 600
- 1458 The market hall of Yelde Hall was built after this date
- 1570 The original Buttercross was built for the sale of meat and dairy products
- 16thC The existing woolen trade prospered
- 1611 There was an outbreak of plague in Chichester
- 1622-23 There was a notable drop in corn production
- 1636 There was another outbreak of plague causing hardship.
- 1736 A parish workhouse was established and was open for 3 years
- 1792 The wool trade began to prosper again
- 1798 Chippenham was linked to the Wiltshire and Berkshire canal. A wharf was built where the bus station is today.
- 1841 The Great Western Railway from London to Bristol reached town
- 1842 Rowland Brothers railway engineering works was established
- 1873 Nestle opened its factory – the oldest milk condensery in the world, until 1962
- 1889 The Buttercross was purchased for £6 and rebuilt at Castle Comb Manor House
- 1935 Westinghouse Brake and Signal CO Ltd, became the main employer
- 1995 The Buttercross was re-built in its present location.
- 2001 Population censuses showed 28,065 people living in Chippenham
- 2004 The cattle market was closed

