

Over a thousand years of drinking
– a small pub trail through the streets of Tewkesbury.



1. The Bell Hotel

The Bell is difficult to date as a pub! The earliest known landlord was Nathaniel Reeve, in 1736, when the place was called the Ten Bells. Since then, it has always had 'Bell' in its name; the Eight Bells, the Bell and Bowling Green, the Ring of Bells. There is strong circumstantial evidence that it was previously known as the Angel, but no details. As a lodging house for the Monastery, its history as a hostelry goes back maybe eight or nine hundred years. We have no specific dates, unfortunately.

2. The Royal Hop Pole Hotel

This hotel includes the New Inn (the Georgian fronted building) and the Bull (the building to the right which includes the old hotel restaurant).

The earliest record of a landlord is Elizabeth Collett (widow) in 1774. The Crowne, with a reference in 1545 seems to have been on this site, though before the Georgian upgrade!

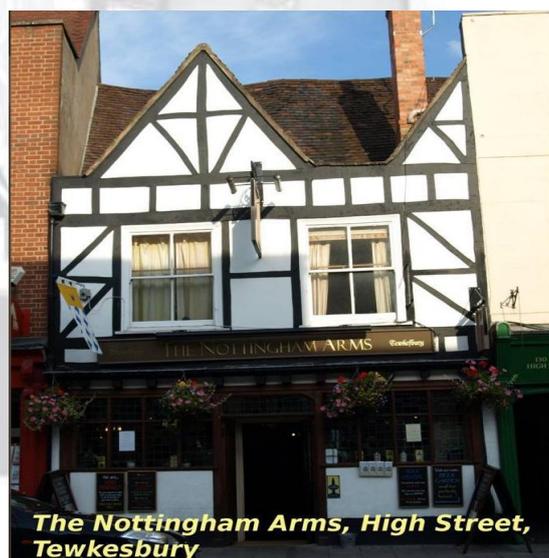


3. The Berkeley Arms

The earliest reference to the Berkeley as an inn is 1869. However, it looks very likely that this was previously called the Queen's Arms. Queens Arms references can be found from 1838 onwards. The first reference is to a lecture by the president of the temperance Society in their 'public room'!

4. The Nottingham Arms

The Nottingham was first licenced in 1869, as a beer house, as required by the Wine and Beerhouse Act (1869). It undoubtedly predates this act, possibly by many years. I've found a reference in 1865. Beerhouses were licenced through the Excise department, not local magistrates and it was all a bit lax! The original was probably just what is now the public bar; all the 'extensions' behind were created by taking over alley cottages, hence the profusion of timbers propping up the ceiling where walls have been removed.



The Nottingham Arms, High Street, Tewkesbury



5. The Tudor House Hotel

The Tudor was established as a hotel in 1926, but from the outset was temperance. It wasn't until the late 1970s/early 1980s that it got a licence. I think that at that time it extended into the building next door (the Cromwell bar). It was certainly serving ale in 1983 when the Wild family (who owned the George Hotel in Cheltenham) owned it.

6. Ye Olde Black Bear

Reputedly stated as being the oldest pub in Gloucestershire and dating from 1308, but dates detailing licensees of The Black Bear Inn, as it known, are a little sketchy before 1830, when Samuel Turner was listed as the Innkeeper.

However, the current premises are closed and I will post further information upon its re-opening.

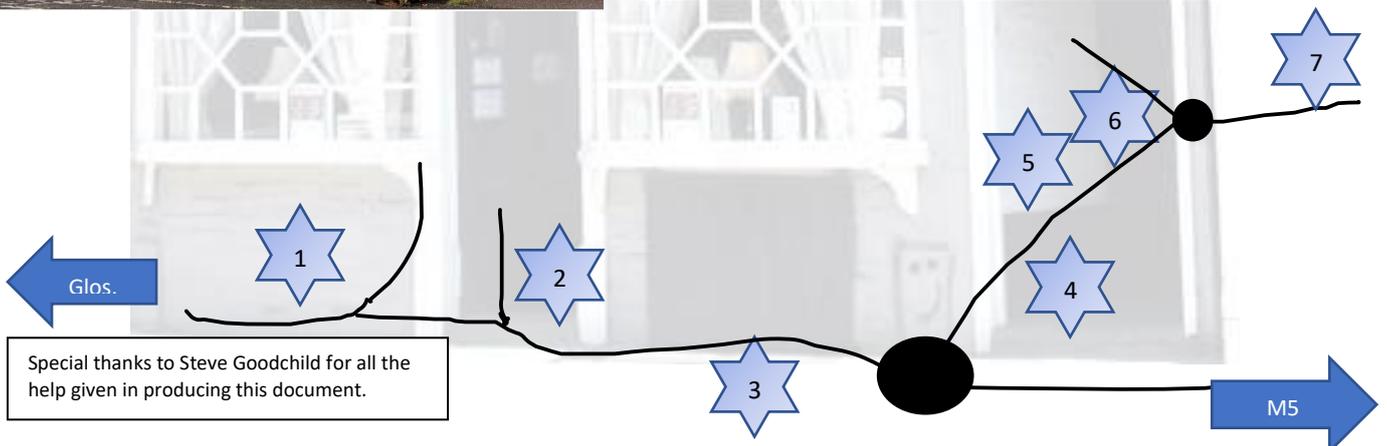


Ye Olde Black Bear, High Street, Tewkesbury



7. The White Bear

The White Bear first got its licence in 1867, when William Westfield became the first landlord. The building is obviously a lot older than that and was a for a long time the last building in town. Being regularly flooded, with customers sometimes using the windows instead of the door, marks it out from other pubs in the town. An almost unknown fact is that the Salvation Army was established in Tewkesbury in February 1887 and met in what was then called the club room at the White Bear.



Special thanks to Steve Goodchild for all the help given in producing this document.