

START HERE

People have lived and worked in Westgate Street since Roman times.

Its buildings have been restored, repaired, and sometimes even completely replaced over and over again in the centuries since then. The Westgate Street we see today is a rich historical fabric woven out of the countless lives of its past residents and the buildings they made and lived in.

You can tell a lot about these old buildings by looking at their windows. Read on to discover how the shape, size, and style of windows have changed over time, reflecting changes in people's tastes and new technologies.

See if you can find all five different styles of window on Westgate Street, and fill in the boxes below.

GOTHIC

TUDOR

GEORGIAN

VICTORIAN

EDWARDIAN



Cathedral Quarter

Funded by Historic England and run by Gloucester City Council, Cathedral Quarter is breathing new life into Westgate Street by restoring historic buildings and bringing empty spaces back into use.

We'll also be transforming public spaces and putting on a series of events and activities in the street.

Find us online for more info:

[Facebook.com/cathedralquartergloucester](https://www.facebook.com/cathedralquartergloucester)
[Instagram @cathedralquartergloucester](https://www.instagram.com/cathedralquartergloucester/)
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GIVE US FEEDBACK



**Windows Through Time
is part of Bright Nights**

Gloucester Bright Nights Festival is bringing colour, light, and joy to the City of Gloucester in the winter months with the support of Arts Council England, Gloucester BID, Unlimited, FESTIVAL.ORG, & Gloucester Culture Trust.

COLOURFUL PAST
BRIGHT FUTURE



The oldest surviving building standing above ground on Westgate is **St Nicholas's Church**. First built in the 1100s, in the middle of the fifteenth century it was given a new tower with **Gothic windows** and a (now wonky) spire.

Gothic windows have distinctive pointed arches and ornate patterns in the stone. They are tall and thin to let lots of light into the church and are supposed to point upwards towards God.

The Georgians loved symmetry, so **Georgian buildings** have nice symmetrical windows with regular grids of twelve panes of glass arranged in a three-by-four grid. 57-59 Westgate Street (**Tobin's Café**) is a great example of Georgian architecture.

The **Edwardians** were inspired by England's own architectural history, building mock-Tudor half-timbered buildings like the row of shops on the east side of College Street.

Elsewhere, the Edwardians revived other old styles like in the 1911 extension to Shire Hall, done in the same style and materials as the original Classical portico of 1816.

Lots of **Tudor** buildings on Westgate Street were built as merchants' houses, with a stone cellar for storing goods and lots of space upstairs for living and business. The **Folk Museum** is a brilliant example of this.

Tudor windows often stick out from the face of the building, creating more space and light inside. Large panes of glass were difficult to make, so Tudor windows have lots of little diagonal panes instead arranged in a lattice or 'quarry' pattern.

In Victorian times, the art of stained glass was revived and used more and more in homes and shops.

50 Westgate St (RFC) still has its original Victorian stained glass.



Industry boomed in **Victorian Gloucester**, with several factories supplied by the recently built canal and docks. New technology made it easier and cheaper to produce bigger and bigger panes of glass, so Victorian windows often have a small number of large panes instead of lots of little ones. A normal Victorian window, then might only have two or four panes of glass.

Sometimes it's hard to tell how old a whole building is just by looking at the windows. Buildings such as 26 Westgate St (Gloucester Antiques Centre) and 100 Westgate St (Dick Whittington) hide medieval and Tudor features behind their Georgian facades.

WESTGATE TODAY

Later in the 1900s, some of Westgate's old buildings were demolished and rebuilt or given modern shopfronts. The street now includes a wonderful array of buildings from past times.

Cathedral Quarter is working to restore and enhance historic buildings on Westgate, putting back lost details and traditional shopfronts and bringing empty properties back into use. Working with local partners, we're breathing new life into Westgate Street, making it more attractive to residents, businesses, tourists, and investors.