



## **City Trail LRSA 2024**

An Urban Guided Walk through Leicester

**LRSA**

Leicestershire + Rutland Society of Architects

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### Introduction

This guide book illustrates the route and sights along the 'City Trail LRSA', a guided walk through the city centre of Leicester, created by the Leicestershire + Rutland Society of Architects in 1984 and re-instated by the LRSA in 2024.

The walk is marked by 37 terracotta plaques along the way, incorporating 25 original plaques which were installed 1984 when the City Trail was conceived, and 12 new plaques installed in 2024 to re-established the walk.

Each of the plaques marks a vantage point, from which to observe the townscape, their purpose is to identify panoramic views of interest, not just individual buildings.

The guide book gives a description of the view from each location as well as a summary of the changes in the city centre during the 40 years since the original trail was laid out.

### Background

For a number of years the Leicestershire + Rutland Society of Architects investigated the mystery of the terracotta foxes on numbered plaques with the LRSA inscription in Leicester.

We were contacted regularly by members of the public, including Heather Cresswell and Sarah Le

Boutillier, who had spotted these plaques and asked us about the story behind them, as well as for a map of their locations in the city.

We couldn't provide either, unfortunately, but we were intrigued and started to search for the foxes and research the origins of the trail.

We have researched the trail, found its potential origin, discovered a likely predecessor, retraced the route and discovered how much the townscape has changed in the past four decades.

The plaques were curated in 1984, by the Leicestershire & Rutland Society of Architects, and made by Ibstock, the local brick manufacturers.

The terracotta signs are fixed to buildings throughout the city centre, inscribed with the words 'City Trail LRSA 1984', featuring a running fox, an individual number and Ibstock's name.

They are about 25 by 25 centimeters in size and orange in colour, similar to the typical Leicester red brick of Victorian buildings.

Some are prominent and easy to spot against a rendered white surface, others blend into a background of orange brickwork, one has been painted over and one is covered by ivy, so we needed to look closely to find the 25 original which still exist today.

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#### Predecessors

1984 was a busy year for architectural and historical festivities, it was the 'Festival of Architecture Year' and 'British Heritage Year'.

Leicester City Council and the LRSA published a folded leaflet called 'The City Trail: Explore the Corners of Leicester - A perambulation around some of the corners of Leicester'.

Copies of this map still exist, it features photos and descriptions of noticeable buildings on street corners, which were marked with letters.

Historians Sally Hartshorne and Colin Hyde shared with us their article "Town Trails in Leicester", published by the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society in the Leicestershire Historian No 55 (2019):

*"The City Trail - Explore the Corners of Leicester (1984)' was [...] produced by the Environmental Committee of the Leicester and Rutland Society of Architects and the City Engineers Department, Leicester City Council, in association with the Fosse Camera Club.*

*This used both wall and pavement plaques - that can still be seen - to guide the walker through the city. The wall plaques marked the 1984 Festival of Architecture and the pavement*

*plaques commemorated British Heritage Year. This had high production values, was a large foldable paper trail, and featured photographs as well as a map. The theme of the trail was street corners and the text highlighted the different ways in which they contributed to the townscape of Leicester."*

A photograph of the 'The City Trail - Explore the Corners of Leicester (1984)' is included in the annex of this guide.

The pavement plaques all disappeared, not surprisingly, given the frequency of re-paving projects in the city centre, which left us with the wall-mounted plaques. We found 25 of these in what we assume are their original positions.

The reason for the uncertainty about the numbers and locations is that we were unable to find a map with their positions, any written records relating to the creation of the trail itself or any memories from architects who were involved in the LRSA at the time.

Therefore we overlaid the original 'Explore the Corners' walk over the layout of today's city centre and created a couple of maps to compare the positions of the lettering used for the 'Explore the Corners' walk with the numbers displayed on the 'City Trail LRSA' plaques.

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This exercise showed a general proximity of the LRSA plaques to the route of the walk, however there are fewer plaques than lettered markers, and their positions do not match precisely.

The reason for this variation is a significant difference in how many of the LRSA plaques are meant to be used: they mark vantage points from which to observe the city scape, not buildings which should be looked at themselves.

A good example of this is plaque No 12, found on a humble building at the corner of Guildhall Lane and Coronation Place, a non-descript sul-de-sac:

Its position becomes obvious as soon as you turn around to look at Leicester Cathedral, the Guildhall to the right and the corner of Loseby Lane and Guildhall Lane on the left.

A dozen of the original 'City Trail' plaques from 1984 have disappeared, mostly in clusters, and the locations of these missing signs illustrate where the city centre has changed the most.

The 'New Walk Centre' of the 1970s has been demolished (Nos 1 and 2), the Shires / Highcross shopping centre has been built (Nos 15, 17 to 19) and large retail signage now obscures many facades, exactly at the height of the plaques.

#### **2024 Route**

The walk along the 2024 route is circa 3.5km long, it takes you past all of the original 25 terracotta plaques still in place and gives a description of buildings and cityscape seen from each location.

Our commentary also comments on the changes in the city centre since the original trail was laid out in 1984 and points out significant new buildings erected since.

The new plaques are marked '2024' and are mostly installed along the original route close to original locations; however the route has been amended to take into account the development of the Highcross centre (plaques No 17, 18 and 19) and the discovery of the remains of King Richard III (No 11), which have had a significant effect on the city centre.

On the walk you will pass numerous 'Heritage Panels', which have been erected in the past decade. These will provide detailed information on many of the buildings on the trail, so we encourage you to take advantage of these boards.

And finally, our recommendation is to look up and observe the top of the buildings you pass, many have retained their original grandeur at high level.

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#### **Plaque 1: The Circle, New Walk Place**

We begin the trail under a new plaque on King Street, close to Marlborough Street, at a new apartment building overlooking New Walk Place.

The panoramic view starts on the righthand side with a group of Georgian buildings along New Walk, Leicester's unique Georgian pedestrian promenade leading from the town centre up the hill to Victoria Park.

Straight ahead is the prominent curved corner window at No 19 King Street, the beginning of a terrace of red-brick Victorian buildings which frames the view towards Market Street.

The Georgian buildings, all Grade II listed, the Victorian terrace and New Walk, were here when the City Trail was created in 1984, but the group of buildings on the lefthand side is a very recent addition to the city.

The new brick-clad apartments and the glazed offices opposite were completed in 2018 and replaced the former 'New Walk Centre', the council's main offices between 1975 and 2015.

The new development included the creation of the semi-circular public open space before you and has brought life back into this part of the city.

The trail now heads north-west along a short leg of New Walk towards Welford Place.

#### **Plaque 2: Phoenix House, Welford Place**

The original 1984 plaque has been lost, possibly during the demolition of the 'New Walk Centre'; the new vantage point has been chosen to include the view along Grade II listed New Walk.

New Walk was laid out in 1785 across then un-built land between Welford Place and Leicester's first racecourse and it became the most desirable address in town for a century.

We cross the busy intersection via the traffic island, heading for the pavement on the right side of Newarke Street, past the statue of John Biggs, a former mayor, magistrate and member of parliament for Leicester in the 19th century.

#### **Plaque 3: Stibbe Lofts, Newarke Street**

Standing underneath the terracotta plaque you are looking at a street scene that has changed beyond recognition since 1984.

The Sue Townsend Theatre ahead of you, known as the Phoenix Theatre then, was obscured by buildings and only became visible when the site in front of it was cleared for the multistorey car park on the left and the surface car park ahead.

Sue Townsend was a local writer and the creator of Adrian Mole, the fictional character, who's diary describe his early childhood in Leicester.



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#### **Plaque 4: The Charlotte, Oxford Street**

The panoramic view from this vantage point, underneath the lettering of the former pub, includes one of the oldest and one of the most recent buildings in the city and a newly created public square, which forms the entrance to the campus of De Montfort University.

Right in front of you is the Magazine Gateway, a Grade I listed structure built in 1400, which formed part of the nearby Leicester Castle.

Back in 1984 this important building was inaccessible and isolated from its setting, as it was surrounded by the inner ring road on all sides.

The ring road has since been reduced in width and realigned to one side of the Magazine Gateway, so the monument is now the focal point of the newly created Magazine Square.

To the left of the Magazine Gateway you see the Hugh Aston Building, clad in patinated green copper, which opened in 2009 as part of De Montfort University's expansion.

Please cross the road, walk past the Magazine Gateway and head towards a raised piece of land behind the row of trees on your right. Aim for the signage of the Newarke Houses Museum, fixed to a red brick corner ahead of you on the right.

#### **Plaque 5: Newarke Houses, The Newarke**

The historic plaque no longer exists, so this new, elevated vantage point has been chosen to offer a good view across the public open spaces in front of the Magazine Gateway on the left and the Hawthorne Building on the right.

The Hawthorn Building opened in 1897 as the first building for the Leicester Municipal Technical and Art School, which later became the Leicester Polytechnic and eventually De Montfort University in 1992, named after Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester in the 13th century.

When you now walk towards Vaughan Way, please turn to look back at the mural depicting a Buddhist Bhikkhu, tigers and elephants, a tribute to the success of Leicester City Football Club and its Thai owners in 2016.

#### **Plaque 6: Heritage House, Castle Street**

Walk along Vaughan Way and turn left into Castle Street. You have reached one of the less remarkable views on the trail, which was dominated by the Southgates underpass in 1984 as much as it is today.

In the past the vehicle movement to and from the bus depots on either side of the road will have added to the overall impression of a traffic

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thoroughfare, so at least the two large Halls of Residence for students built in since 2000 on either side of the road have brought back a more appropriate use for this urban environment.

The trail now takes you down the quiet Castle Street, away from the noise and to an important part of Medieval Leicester, the remains of the castle and one of its oldest churches.

#### **Plaque 7: Boundary wall of Castle House, Castle View**

The view from this spot is intriguing and probably much more rewarding today than it was in 1984.

The previously mentioned bus depot on the opposite side of the street has been replaced by student accommodation and the recent development at 41 Castle Street is one of the better examples of this typology.

The raised embankment on the righthand side creates an interesting resting place and a view of the Grade I listed church of St Mary de Castro and cemetery with its mature trees.

St Mary de Castro, founded around 1007 by the first Earl of Leicester as the chapel attached to the castle in the 13th century, was extended repeatedly and altered continuously throughout the next centuries, including work by Sir George Gilbert Scott in 1853.

Follow the curved cobbled street up the hill and step through the archway into Castle Yard and head diagonally across the square towards the opening in the brick wall opposite, the entrance into the Castle Motte.

#### **Plaques 8: Entrance to Castle Motte, Castle Yard**

It is difficult to say where the location of the original plaque was in 1984, so we have decided to place the new one in the most obvious spot in our walk, close to the remnants of Leicester Castle.

Leicester Castle was part of the medieval town fortification, built over the Roman town walls, most likely around 1070. The remains now consist mostly of the castle mound, a Scheduled Monument, which is accessible through the iron gate in the red brick wall behind you.

The changes since 1984 to the panorama in front of you are not immediately noticeable, but they are all significant.

On your right is the main elevation of St Mary de Castro, which has lost its octagonal spire: it had to be dismantled in 2014 when it was at risk of collapse due to faulty repair work in the 1920s.

The archway behind the church, which you walked through, belongs to Castle House, a Grade II listed building from the late 18th century, which

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makes it the youngest member of this group of heritage assets.

The main building, on your left, is the Great Hall, Grade I listed, built on site of castle in 1695. It was later converted into a periodic Assize Court and was the Leicester Crown Court until 1981, before the Great Hall was converted in 2016 into De Montfort University's Business School.

The trail now turns back through the archway along Castle View and turns left in Castle Street. Follow the road on the lefthand pavement until you reach St Nicholas Circle and turn left again.

Walk along St Nicholas Circle until you get to a set of traffic lights on your right, opposite the gates to Castle Gardens, cross both sets of lanes until you reach Bath Lane ahead of you.

#### **Plaque 9: No 5, Bath Lane**

The view from this spot stretches along the Grand Union Canal. On the left are the mature trees of Castle Gardens, with the striking stone piers of the Grade II listed West Bridge in front.

The second bridge has been added since 1984, so traffic now dominates this location, despite the fact that Bath Lane itself has been narrowed.

The artwork in front of you is a reference to the former dyeworks on the land, which were demolished and replaced with the apartments on

your right in 2006. It features expressions from the trade and reflects the transformation of material through the dyeing process.

Turn left and follow the trail uphill towards the city centre, along the lefthand pavement of St Nicholas Circle.

On the way you pass very important Roman remains; the City Trail did not include a plaque in this location, but these structures are too important to be ignored:

Jewry Wall is said to be west side of a basilica from 125 AD of Roman masonry of freestone and bricks, with two arches in alcoves and a niche between on east side. It is situated on the east side of the excavated site which features the remains of Roman Forum and Roman Baths, all Grade I listed. The adjacent Jewry Wall Museum, itself Grade II listed, displays the history of Roman Leicester.

Continue up the hill past the churchyard of St Nicholas and over the Vaughan Way underpass.

#### **Plaque 10: Foresters Institute, St Nicholas Place**

The Institute of the Ancient Order of Foresters, overlooks a cityscape which has changed beyond recognition: Jubilee Square, the new public space at the end of the High Street was created in 2014 on land used as a mundane carpark in 1984.

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In medieval Leicester this was a market place, so its new purpose as a focal point in the city centre is very appropriate; it was named Jubilee Square to commemorate the visit of Queen Elisabeth II during the Diamond Jubilee of her reign in 2012.

We now aim for the Grade II listed pillar of the High Cross, built in 1577 as a shelter for traders with a circle of eight pillars holding up a dome, of which just this one remains. As part of the landscaping work to create Jubilee Square it is now easily accessible in a prominent position.

Turn right at the High Cross and walk along St Nicholas Place towards Applegate. On your right are the premises of BBC Radio Leicester, the first BBC Local Radio station in the country launched in 1967, which has been broadcasting from this new home since 2005.

Continue along Jubilee Square and pause at the black railings of Wygston's House, which is Grade II listed building and Leicester's oldest private house, originally a timber-framed merchant's residence from circa 1490, which was extensively altered around 1760 with a new front range.

It has been used as a penitentiary, an annex of Wyggeston's School, council offices and a museum, before the building was adapted for today's use as a bar and restaurant in 2017.

Both the BBC's public building and Wygston's House provide active frontages along Jubilee

Square's newly created sides and help to ensure a constant flow of pedestrians across space.

The trail continues along Applegate and then turns left into Peacock Lane. Head for the St Martins Lodge hotel on the righthand side.

#### **Plaque 11: St Martins Lodge, Peacock Lane**

This is a new plaque in a new location, chosen to mark a place of historic significance, the discovery of the remains of King Richard III, and the subsequent changes to the townscape.

The site of the excavation is only 50m to the east of where you are standing, a former surface car park off New Street.

The story of his life and death on the battlefield in 1485, initial burial and disappearance, rediscovery and reburial are very well presented in the King Richard III Visitors Centre, which is located on the right opposite the bronze statue of the king.

King Richard III was reinterred in the Cathedral Church of St Martin in 2015 and his grave can be visited in the Cathedral, which was refurbished and reordered to create a fitting environment for the new tombstone of the king.

The church itself, a Grade II\* listed building, is predominantly a Victorian edifice, including the tower and spire completed in 1867.

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Externally the work leading up to 2015 included new landscaping around the church, with the construction of a new Heritage and Learning Centre a further phase of this major project.

Now follow the footpath St Martins Walk straight ahead of you towards Guildhall Lane. Before you pass the Cathedral, please note the artwork "Towards Stillness" on the left, which illustrates the life and death of the king in a series of silhouettes cut into sheets of weathered steel.

When you exit St Martins Walk turn right and look for the discreet junction with Coronation Street, which is more of a passage than an actual street.

#### **Plaque 12**

##### **Corner of Coronation Street and Guildhall Lane**

This is one the most intriguing vantage points of the City Trail, as well as one of the most difficult plaques to find, on one of the narrowest streets in the city centre, a non-descript sul-de-sac.

However, its position becomes obvious as soon as you turn around to look at Leicester Cathedral and the Guildhall to the right. These are among the oldest, most significant and most visited buildings in the city, on one of the most important thoroughfares since the middle ages.

At first glance it appears that not much has changed in this view since 1984, but while the

buildings' facades have not been altered, their interiors have been transformed.

The medieval Guildhall, Grade I listed, was built for the Corpus Christi Guild around 1390, enlarged and extended by the addition of ranges to the east and west up to 1490, before a domestic wing was added in the 19th century.

In 1993 a comprehensive programme of repair and restoration was undertaken for the building's use as a community facility, museum and entertainment venue, to ensure continued use of one of Leicester's most important historic assets.

The internal and external work to the Cathedral Church of St Martin has been described on the previous page.

Continue the walk along Guildhall Lane, where two more plaques follow in quick succession.

#### **Plaque 13:**

##### **Corner of St Martins East and Guildhall Lane**

This view is more rewarding now than it was in 1984, it is also more peaceful thanks to the absence of cars. Guildhall Lane and most of the city centre was not yet pedestrian-friendly then, something we now take for granted.

The buildings around us have remained the same though, with the exception of the new visitor behind Leicester Cathedral centre on the right.

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#### **Plaque 14: Corner of Loseby Lane and Silver Street**

This is a busy junction of two medieval roads, which fascinated the architects so much in 1984 that the walk passes it twice; on the first stop we point out two particular aspects:

The view back along Guildhall Lane includes the gables of the Guildhall in the distance, but it is dominated by the striking silhouette of the cathedral spire against the sky, framed by the brick facades along the curved street below.

The building opposite is The Globe, one of the oldest public houses in Leicester, established possibly as early as 1720 to brew ales with spring water from its own well beneath the building.

We continue past The Globe PH along Carts Lane up to the High Street and stop opposite the entrance to the Highcross shopping centre.

#### **Plaque 15: Nos 40-50, High Street**

The entrance to the shopping centre has filled what was Union Street in 1984, but you can still see the elaborate corners of the two buildings once overlooking this street corner either side of the inserted entrance canopy.

The original plaque has disappeared, probably when this entrance was built, and the entire Union Street was absorbed into The Shires, as it

was originally called. The new plaque offers a good vantage point of the past and the present.

The High Street itself was a busy road in 1984, dominated by busses heading to and from the Clock Tower, but not a popular shopping destination itself, so plans for a new shopping centre had been discussed since the 1970s.

The development of the shopping mall, called The Shires, eventually opened in 1991; most of the existing buildings along High Street were retained, so fortunately its effect on the street scene was limited and footfall increased.

Continue the walk along High Street towards the Clock Tower and look for plaque on the facade of the Royale Arcade on your right.

#### **Plaque 16: Royal Arcade, High Street**

This is the first of three covered arcades the walk will pass by, and the first time we encounter this particular venue, which will be covered in more detail later on the walk at Plaque No 29.

In the past two decades busses have been re-routed away from the High Street and it was pedestrianized in 2005, which helped to make it one of the busiest pedestrian routes in the city.

Please now turn around and walk towards Jubilee Square at the end of the High Street, then turn right into Highcross Street.

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#### **Plaque 17: Nos 62-68, Highcross Street**

This is one of three new plaques along a new route for the City Trail, as the original trail and a number of the historic plaques were lost during the 1990s development, so this new route takes you through the expansion of the shopping centre, which opened in 2008.

The building straight ahead of you is the Grade II\* listed Free Grammar School, built around 1573 and one of the oldest school houses in England. It served as a school until 1841, was used for various purposes afterwards, and eventually reopened as a restaurant in 2008.

The historic school house and the new buildings of the shopping centre, which combine retail units on the ground floor and apartments on the upper floors, frame a new tiered square and from your vantage point you can see one of the open pedestrian routes through the Highcross which have made this part of the city more permeable.

The pub on your left bears the name of King Richard III for a good reason: the king spent his last day before his death in the Battle of Bosworth in Leicester and stayed at the Blue Boar Inn on this street, unfortunately the building was demolished in 1836.

We continue along Highcross Street and stop under the cantilevering facade on the right.

#### **Plaque 18: No 1, Highcross Lane**

The scale of the buildings in this panorama is a dramatic change from the previous stops, as is the amount of traffic along the ring road. This shows the ambitions of the city' property developers, but also the urban design aspirations of the city council's planning department.

The apartment building with beige and brown elevations on the righthand side opened in 2014, followed by the hotel wrapped in stone and extensive glazing, and finally the office building opposite, clad with silver aluminium panels

One benefit of this development is the mix of various uses, which adds activity and footfall throughout the day into the evening.

The second and equally important contribution is its urban design which, despite the incoherent street scene, creates a new direct connection with the Great Central Railway Station visible in the distance between the offices and the hotel.

The Grade II listed station opened in 1899 and was Leicester's main railway station up to its closure in 1969. The main building lay idle for decades before it was converted into entertainment venue in 2020, when the new glazed roofline was added.

Please now turn right and walk along Highcross Lane to St Peters Square.

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#### **Plaque 19: No 11 Bath House Lane, St Peters Square**

The entire quarter you see around you is new, the square and all of the buildings around it were part of the extension of the shopping centre in 2008 when The Shires became Highcross.

In 1984 this was a non-descript and underused part of the city centre, dominated by a multi-storey car park and public swimming pool, both now demolished, surrounded by vacant plots.

The Shires was an inward-looking development, typical of its time in 1991, an indoor mall with a couple of entrances from the High Street but with minimal engagement with any of the other surrounding streets, which only served to provide access for deliveries and car parking on top.

This lack of interaction was addressed with the master plan for the expansion, which envisaged outdoor spaces with active frontages for shops and restaurants along the ground floors, including to the original mall facade behind you.

The variety of uses also overcame many of the issues with the previous mono-culture of retail, mainly in the form of a cinema and restaurants, to attract visitors until late and ensure footfall and street life outside of shopping hours.

The elevations of retail and apartments above on the lefthand side are a good example of careful

design, which created interest across the large facades and considered the proportions of the street between the buildings to create a strong urban sense of enclosure.

The two monolithic buildings for the cinema in front of you and the department store on the right are less sensitive to their setting. Both designs are effectively decorated boxes, with simple compositions of fully glazed ground floors below vast expanses of shiny metal and printed glass.

Each building would like to be the sole landmark, but they abut each other and form an uneasy ensemble with a shared silhouette.

Now head right, walk under the glazed footbridge and turn right again onto Causeway Lane. Turn right again on East Bond Street and cross the street towards the Cherry Tree PH.

#### **Plaque 20: Cherry Tree Public House, East Bond Street**

This is possibly the original vantage point on the trail which has changed the most, almost beyond recognition, as a result of the various developments around the shopping centre.

When the Shires was added in 1991 with all the urban design faults described in the previous paragraphs, St Peters Lane on your right was severed and its righthand leg became a cul-de-sac to a service yard for the shopping centre.



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Fortunately, the extension of the mall in 2008 on the other side of St Peters Lane was designed more carefully. The leisure activity behind the expansive glass facade creates interest for passers-by throughout the day and the apartments above provide architectural interest.

The most regrettable impact the Shires had was on New Bond Street opposite: in 1984 the street had a charming collection of well-proportioned buildings on its lefthand side and was probably a well-used road down to the High Street and the Clock Tower, the literal centre of the city.

The development in 1991 changes this to such an extent that the lower half of New Bond Street was lost without a trace, and what remained of the road was cut off from the busy street life around the Clock Tower. The handsome buildings remained, but the lack of footfall is clearly visible.

The Shires development turned its back to the street and relegated it to a service road for loading bays; the token gesture of oversized shop windows and pithy facade decorations don't create active frontages which would complement the historic buildings around it.

Please now turn and walk along the pavement of East Bond Street until you get to the gate for the Great Unitarian Chapel on your right.

#### **Plaque 21:**

##### **Great Unitarian Chapel, East Bond Street**

The Grade II listed chapel was built in 1707 and is considered one of the earliest brick buildings of importance in Leicester, together with the Great Meeting School from 1859, also Grade II listed.

The historic buildings and their mature trees are surrounded by much larger buildings, so they have an uneasy relationship with their context. They would sit proudly in a small town but struggle to do so in this urban environment.

This was already the case in 1984, when the land opposite the Great Meeting School was occupied by a supermarket and a multistorey car park, now replaced by the 2008 Highcross extension. The plot opposite the Great Unitarian Chapel was developed for offices in the 1990s, with brickwork patterns that makes it easy to date the building.

The trail now turns heads into Butt Close Lane to the corner of The Salmon on the lefthand side.

#### **Plaque 22:**

##### **The Salmon Public House**

The original plaque is missing, but this is its most likely location, so we have re-instated this vantage point, which offers more historic and architectural interest than it appears at first.

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On the lefthand side of Blake Street is No 3 Darker Street, the oldest example of a master hosier's house and hosiery workshops in Leicester, dating back to 1852. It is Grade II listed and now propped up by scaffolding due to its poor structural state, but in 1984 it was still occupied.

On your right, building behind the mature tree, you can see a larger timber clad building, set back from Butt Close Lane.

This large five-storey warehouse is Grade II listed; it was built in the 1830s with a partially external timber frame. Large braces support the overhanging eaves and prominent timber buttresses project through the external walls on the lower floors, creating a memorable elevation for such a utilitarian building.

At the bottom of the hill turn right into Church Gate, a road that sits over the eastern edge of the original Roman settlement.

#### **Plaque 23: No 66, Church Gate**

The building itself is a peculiar design, a combination of Art Deco and Leicester Orange brickwork, crowned by an elaborate large fluted top. The listed warehouse we saw from the last spot is actually hidden behind this brick building.

The street scene opposite is a mix of ornate Victorian buildings and humble Georgian houses,

with two focal points on the left: The Langtons furniture store features a rendered white Art Deco tower and, in the far distance, the Grade II listed St Margaret's church, which gave its name to this street.

#### **Plaque 24: No 53, Church Gate**

The Clock Tower is within two minutes of this location, but like many streets to the north of the city centre it lacks footfall and feels neglected.

In 1984 there was certainly more activity on the street, but little has changed with regard to the buildings around you. The street scene is humble, and while the scale of the facades increases towards the Clock Tower, it is not clear why this stopping point was included in the City Trail.

#### **Plaque 25: Church Gate Tavern PH, Church Gate**

The LRSA was very fond of Church Gate in 1984, as this third stop in the street shows, and the upper floors of Italianate facade to which the terracotta plaque is fixed are worth admiring.

This cannot be said of the entrance to the Highcross shopping centre opposite, which came at the cost of demolition of Victorian properties and was executed without reference to its historic context; the canopy was added later when the mall was rebranded.

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Please continue along Church Gate, walk past the Clock Tower and head straight for the building with the fully glazed facade on East Gates.

#### **Plaque 26: No 3, East Gates**

This plaque is a reinstatement, the original plaque has been lost, but this corner was very probably a stop in the City Trail.

There was much to observe at the heart of the city centre in 1984, even though none of the streets were pedestrianized, so cars and especially busses dominated the view, with associated noise and fumes, and there is much to comment on today, as this key location offers a 270° panorama of mainly Victorian grandeur.

On the very righthand side is the junction of Humberstone Gate with Gallowtree Gate, which follows the eastern edge of "Ratae", the original Roman settlement.

On the right of the view is the Clock Tower, Leicester's Grade II listed landmark and meeting point, built in 1868 as a refuge for pedestrians crossing this busy junction of five major roads, which once even included tram stops.

In this view the Clock Tower overshadowed by the Haymarket Centre, Leicester's first shopping mall. This is an uncompromising 1960s design, but

despite its bulk it does provide active frontages along the main streets, unlike the Shire development three decades later.

Behind the Clock Tower and to the left of the Haymarket Centre is Belgrave Gate, the original Roman road from Leicester to Lincoln, which entered the Roman fortress at this point.

Straight ahead, overlooking Church Gate, is the former Eastgates Coffee House. The building is Grade II listed because, as a purpose-built coffee house, it is part of the architectural legacy left by the Temperance movement. The facade has retained its elegance despite later alterations and a change to the current retail use.

Further to the left is the main entrance to the Highcross, crudely formed within the shell of an elegant Victorian building which once framed an important street corner of the aforementioned former New Bond Street.

The former street was partially absorbed into the shopping mall and filled in clumsily with a low-rise, low-quality shop unit; at least the low gable wall allows the upper elevations of the original buildings to remain visible.

The next plaque is on the opposite side of the street, fixed to the modern stone panels at the base of the narrow townhouse of red-brick with stone columns and windows on the first floor.

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### An Urban Guided Walk through Leicester

#### **Plaque 27: No 7, High Street**

We were unable to locate the original plaque, like many others it may have been removed during the development of the Shires or obscured by large retail signage now found on many facades.

This new vantage point mirrors our previous stop and features a terrace of more humble Georgian buildings along the south side of the High Street, in contrast to the Victorian decoration behind you.

The first building to catch the attention is therefore the Silver Arcade to the righthand side of the view. Built in 1891, this striking Grade II listed covered arcade contained three floors of shops and is lit by a generously glazed roof above.

The upper levels have been converted to other uses, but the entire building has retained its grand interior and is worth a quick look inside on the way to the next plaque.

The next noticeable feature is the prow-shaped facade opposite the Silver Arcade at the confluence of High Street and Silver Street. This is 8-10 High Street, also Grade II listed, described by Heritage England as an "exuberant late Victorian shop ornamented with finely worked terracotta and multiple tiers of decoration sweeping around the curved frontage of its rounded corner site, terminating in an eye-catching conical roof".

Fortunately the building avoided demolition when the High Street was widened between 1902 and 1904 by the Leicester Corporation in order to accommodate tramlines.

It contributes to the distinctive Victorian commercial character of the city centre and is part of a strong group of listed buildings together with the Silver Arcade and the Lloyds Bank immediately to the right of our stop.

The Lloyds Bank is impressive on the outside as much as on the inside, it opened in 1903 and is now Grade II listed. It is the first of two examples of impressive commercial banking architecture, both illustrate the scale of commercial success in Leicester around 1900, executed in Portland stone with an abundance of architectural detail.

The trail now continues past the Silver Arcade along Silver Street.

#### **Plaque 28: Malcolm Arcade, Silver Street**

The next plaque on the trail was awarded in 1984 to the Malcom Arcade, an unimaginative building in an underwhelming stretch of the street.

This may have been considered a good example of attractive shopping environment at the time, but there is not much to admire in the building or its vicinity today, so we move straight on to the next plaque, a couple of meters further along.

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#### **Plaque 29: Royal Arcade, Silver Street**

Unlike the previous example, the Royal Arcade offers more architectural and historic interest and in 1984 the Leicestershire + Rutland Society of Architects was so fond of this arcade that it features twice on the City Trail and you have already seen its High Street elevation (Plaque 16).

However, you may not recognize this elevation as part of the same arcade, as the Victorian facade facing Silver Street and the top-lit passage in the middle of the building are entirely different to the Art Deco appearance on the High Street.

This arcade is formed by two buildings of different ages: the High Street facade dates from 1931 and its metal windows are visible above most of the covered passage, but the frontage along Silver Street is older, dated 1877 at the top of the grand arch, and more inviting than the single-storey entrance on the High Street.

We now continue along Silver Street to the corner with Loseby Lane.

#### **Plaque 30: The Globe PH, Silver Street**

This is the second time the City Trail passes this particular junction. Standing below the plaque you see an astonishing group of eight Grade II listed buildings: four along the lefthand side of

Guildhall Lane and four on the righthand side of Loseby Lane, including No 20 in front of you.

The view today is almost identical to what you would have seen in 1984, a medieval street lined by well-preserved Georgian and Victorian buildings, occupied mostly by independent shops.

Please walk along Loseby Lane and stop at the lefthand corner with St Martins.

#### **Plaque 31: No 15, St Martins**

Starting on the left, this view features a row of humble buildings with independent shops facing the imposing facade of the former Pares's Bank, Grade II\* listed, which opened in 1902.

It is considered an excellent provincial example of Baroque Revival commercial architecture and is testament to the scale of commercial activity in Leicester at the start of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, executed in Portland stone with a granite plinth.

In 1984 this building was still operated by the Westminster Bank; in 2016 it was converted into a restaurant, and fortunately the impressive half-paneled square banking hall with its shallow dome and central skylight was preserved.

On the opposite side of the road is the former Savings Bank, built in 1874 on a much smaller scale with a simpler material palette, but the red

## **City Trail LRSA 2024**

### An Urban Guided Walk through Leicester

brick is complemented by delicate stone details in an elaborate Gothic style.

Like its neighbour, the Grade II listed was converted in 2016 into a deli and restaurant and much of the banking hall has been retained.

Grey Friars, the name of the road between the two former banks, indicates that this is a significant location within the historic townscape: the land either side of the street was once the north-east corner of the precinct of the Franciscan friary known as Greyfriars.

Following the dissolution of the friary in 1538 was demolished and the site levelled, subdivided, and developed over the following centuries, resulting in the Georgian and Victorian buildings on the righthand side of the view, very unchanged from what it would have looked like in 1984.

In 2012 an archaeological investigation successfully identified the site of the Greyfriars church and, more spectacularly, the location of the shallow grave of King Richard III.

The burial site has been incorporated into the King Richard III Visitor Centre, which is on your right; the discovery has visibly and economically transformed this part of the city.

The next plaque is literally around the corner: walk along St Martins on the left and then turn right into Hotel Street.

#### **Plaque 32: Corner of Hotel Street and St Martins**

Ahead of you is an eclectic mix of frontages, which disguises the fact that this is one large Victorian building. The ornate shop fronts have been altered so the original consistency has been lost, but the impressive glazed row of windows on the first floor is intact throughout.

The original factory-made luggage, hence the name of the restaurant which operated on the upper floors between 1990 and 2013.

The most significant change to the area happened at the time when the City Trail was laid out: the creation of St Martin's Square, which you can see on your left. The archway leads to a small square at the centre of the development, which also connects to Silver Street and Cank Street.

This is a welcome alternative to large-scale malls and has stood the test of time well: a clever insertion of new shops behind existing buildings with the added benefit of more pedestrian routes.

The next plaque is on the other side of the street.

#### **Plaque 33: The Market Tavern PH, Hotel Street**

Today the buildings facing you on the other side of the street all cater for diners and drinkers, but in 1984 they were all banks, including the

## City Trail LRSA 2024

### An Urban Guided Walk through Leicester

impressive Grade II listed building at 5-9 Hotel Street directly opposite.

It was built in 1915 in an exaggerated Neo-Greek style with gigantic Doric columns, initially as offices for an insurance company and later converted into a bank with a central banking hall.

The Edwardian banking hall and its oval cupola has been retained together with the original fittings including panelled counters, iron screens, marble wall cladding and ornate plaster ceilings, worth a quick visit if the bar is open.

On your right is No 6 Hotel Street, also known as Clock Chambers, thanks to the prominent clock on the first floor. Similar to the adjacent Case building the elevations include shop fronts along the pavement and a continuous glazed facade across the first floor, using modern windows with small frames and large glass panes.

The Market Tavern behind you is Grade II listed, a plain building dating from the early 19th century, most of its architectural interest is in the delicate joinery of the ground floor windows.

The detail is difficult to appreciate today, due to the dark blue paint applied crudely across windows and doors, signage, downpipes and the terracotta plaque, which is very difficult to spot.

Thankfully the next plaque is much easier to find and literally next door.

#### **Plaque 34: Knight & Garter PH, Hotel Street**

The plaque is fixed to a peculiar building, which would sit comfortably in a suburban context with its in scale and appearance, but stands out for its vernacular revival style in this central location.

It is Grade II listed, built in 1904, with two unique entrances: on your right is a corner entrance with a random Tuscan column, around the corner a wide vaulted entrance below a stone arch.

In the past this building was also known as The Saracen's Head Public House, and on maps from 1984 it is labelled as Saracen's Head Hotel.

Across the street are the City Rooms, among the most elegant Georgian buildings in the city. The Grade I listed building opened in 1800 and was originally intended to be the first hotel in Leicester, this is how Hotel Street got its name.

It was opened as the Assembly Rooms in time for the annual gathering of aristocracy and gentry at Leicester Races in September 1800. The ballroom on the first floor was originally used for banquets, balls, meetings and auctions, while the ground floor was used as a coffee room.

After an extensive refurbishment by private owners, the City Rooms reopened in 2006 for the originally purpose of hosting social functions and an associated boutique hotel.

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### An Urban Guided Walk through Leicester

Please cross the street and walk along Hotel Street past the City Rooms with the elaborate railings and stone canopy. The next plaque is located on the brick elevation on your left at the corner with Horsefair Street.

#### **Plaque 35: No 20, Hotel Street**

The panoramic view at this junction starts on the lefthand side with the clock tower of the Town Hall, Grade II\* listed, built in the Queen Anne style, a Victorian revival of English Baroque.

It opened in 1876 on the site of the old cattle market and replaced the medieval Guildhall, which you passed earlier on the walk, which was no longer adequate to accommodate the local government of a rapidly growing industrial town.

The entrance to Market Street is framed by two buildings of similar footprint and scale with matching chamfered corners, but with very different appearances.

The post-war elevations on the left are plain, most noticeable is the glazed first floor elevation which separates the ground floor shop fronts from the stone-clad upper floors and adds a strong horizontal emphasis; the Victorian building on the righthand side of Market Street does the opposite and features vertical bay windows and pilasters.

The building is linked to the lower properties to its right, the entire group were once the Gas Offices and associated gas Showrooms in 1984 may have still be used for this purpose. The conversion into a restaurant and offices above took place around 1990.

Finally, the building on the very righthand side of the view is an unintended amalgamated replica of the previous two: an elaborate facade with vertical bays and slender windows, clad with a just one type of stone, giving it the austere appearance of a Scottish tenement block.

Please proceed now along Market Street to the penultimate plaque on the righthand side.

#### **Plaque 36: No 15, Market Street**

The charm of this street comes from the diversity of its buildings, which vary in height, width, style and age. The last development was carried out as recently as 1988 when the shop units on the lefthand side were added, so these post-modern elevations did not feature in this view in 1984.

Fortunately, they are modest in scale and don't distract from the fascinating group of five buildings opposite, starting with the Art Deco elevation of 10-12 Market Street, an elegant composition of tall windows above a curved shopfront with a simple black and white colour



## City Trail LRSA 2024

### An Urban Guided Walk through Leicester

scheme, executed with such conviction that the simplicity is its greatest strength.

The narrow building next door has been altered, much to the detriment of the lower floors, but the peculiar columned balcony of the second floor is a quirky eye catcher.

The Midland Auction Mart displays its opening date prominently in its facade, executed in such a flamboyant Italianate style that the building appears almost too small for its grandeur. It is surprising that this property is not listed, especially as the facade is virtually unspoiled.

The Midland Auction Mart is flanked by another tall white rendered facade, this time very slender due to the narrow plot. While the shop front is partially obscured by an awning and signage, the focus is on the double height Crittall window between the pilasters, the ornate balcony and the light fitting styled as a street lamp post.

The final facade to note from this vantage point is No 20 Market Street, a celebration of windows and arches, brickwork and stonework. The dark grey render around the ground floor opening is clearly not original, but it appears like a restraint plinth which allows the upper floors to stand out.

While you continue to the end of Market Street you can appreciate the variety of elevations and roofscapes at the top of the facades.

#### **Plaque 37: Former Central Lending Library, Belvoir Street**

This is the final plaque on the trail, close to the starting point on King Street on the left, at the junction of five street and overlooked by a set of imposing landmark buildings.

The first of these is Former City Lending Library, to which the plaque is fixed. Built in 1831 as meeting hall for the Liberals, the Grade II listed building is now occupied by the Adult Education College, but in 1984 it was in use as a library.

The Former City Lending Library is joint with the immediately adjacent Hansom Hall, also Grade II listed, now also used by the Adult Education College. Built in 1845 as a Baptist Chapel, it features a prominent rounded facade and was designed by the architect Joseph Hansom, the inventor of the horse-drawn cab.

The panoramic view starts on the left with the flamboyant building between Wellington Street and King Street, the former offices of the General Accident Fire and Life Assurance Corporation. The combination of mock timber and sandstone base tries hard to look medieval, but was only completed in 1932. It does, however, form a real landmark in the view along Market Street.

On the other side of King Street is Phoenix House, a functional 1970s office building, which does not

## City Trail LRSA 2024

### An Urban Guided Walk through Leicester

contribute to the street life due to its raised ground floor, gloomy entrance and windowless corner, regrettable in 1984 as much as today.

Fortunately, the shop fronts along King Street do create active frontages and the outdoor seating on both sides create an inviting atmosphere.

The entrance to Market Street is flanked on the left by Nos 33-49, an unusually large building on this street. The consistency of the shop fronts has been lost and the different types of awnings add to the visual confusion, but on the upper floors you can admire the coherent facade, crowned by four gables on top of the elevation, and the elongated turret on the street corner.

The final building to be described on our walk is the Gresham Building, formerly the Fenwick Department Store. Unlike the building opposite this is not one plot, but was formed instead by merging adjacent properties along Market Street, Belvoir Street and Bowling Green Street.

It started with Nos 36, 38 and 40 Market Street, two shops designed in 1880 and 1883, which are Grade II listed. The corner of No 40 is a striking cluster of components, combining the recessed entrance behind a polished red marble column

with curved corner bays and the turret-like gables projecting forward from the roofscape, making it a such a feature in the townscape.

The premises were amalgamated in the early 1900s and in 1962 the entire block of buildings with frontages on Market Street, Belvoir Street and Bowling Green Street was bought by Fenwick, the nationwide chain of department stores from Newcastle.

The shop fronts with their distinctive green fascia boards were inserted in the following year and painted in the corporate colour, a striking and recognizable green and this is how the building presented itself in 1984.

The store closed in 2017 and the buildings were converted into an aparthotel with bar and restaurant and office space, which opened in 2021. As part of the conversion the shopfronts and signboards were replaced with designs based on historic precedents, so today's appearance is closer to the original store than it was in 1984.

We have found no evidence of any further plaques beyond this point, so this vantage point is a fitting location to conclude the City Trail.

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# City Trail LRSA 2024

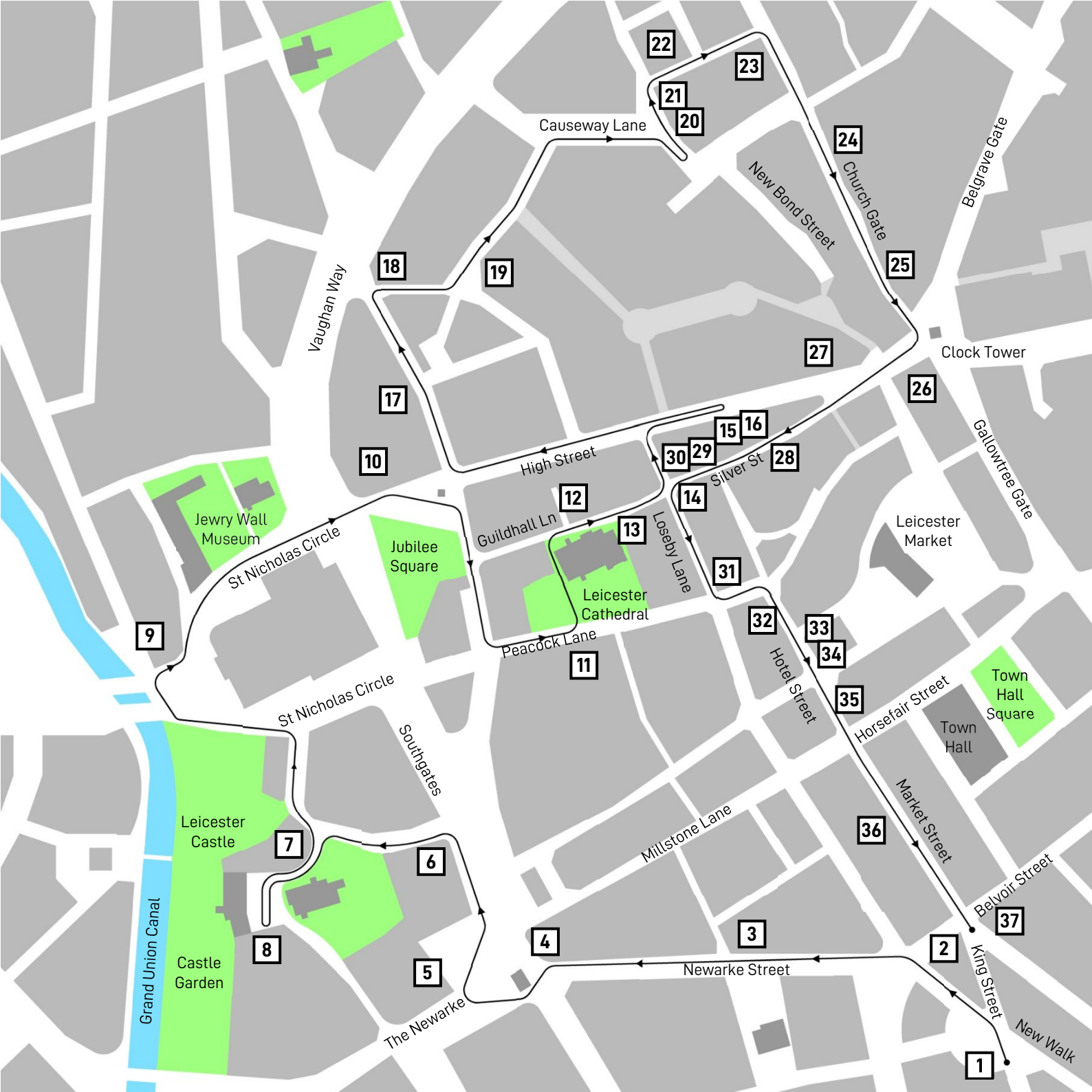
## An Urban Guided Walk through Leicester

### Map

Route of 'City Trail LRSA 2024'

### List of plaques

- 1 The Circle, 5 New Walk Place
- 2 Phoenix House, 4 Welford Place
- 3 Stibbe Lofts, 11 Newarke Street
- 4 The Charlotte PH, 8 Oxford Street
- 5 Newarke Houses, The Newarke
- 6 Heritage House, 51 Southgates
- 7 Boundary wall of Castle House, 22 Castle View
- 8 Entrance to Castle Motte, Castle Yard
- 9 No 5, Bath Lane
- 10 Foresters Institute, 29 St Nicholas Place
- 11 St Martins Lodge, No 6, Peacock Lane
- 12 Corner of 17a Guildhall Lane and Coronation Place
- 13 Corner of 12 Guildhall Lane and St Martins East
- 14 Corner of 31 Loseby Lane and Silver Street
- 15 Nos 40-50, High Street
- 16 Royal Arcade, High Street
- 17 Nos 62-68, Highcross Street
- 18 No 1, Highcross Lane
- 19 No 11 Bath House Lane, St Peters Square
- 20 Cherry Tree PH, 43 East Bond Street
- 21 Great Meeting Unitarian Chapel, East Bond Street
- 22 The Salmon PH, 19 Butt Close Lane
- 23 No 66, Church Gate
- 24 No 53, Church Gate
- 25 Churchgate Tavern PH, 9 Churchgate
- 26 No 3, East Gates
- 27 No 7, High Street
- 28 Malcolm Arcade, Silver Street
- 29 Royal Arcade, Silver Street
- 30 The Globe PH, 43 Silver Street
- 31 No 15, St Martins
- 32 Corner of Hotel Street and 2 St Martins
- 33 The Market Tavern PH, Hotel Street
- 34 Knight & Garter, 14 Hotel Street
- 35 No 20, Hotel Street
- 36 No 15, Market Street
- 37 Former Central Lending Library, Belvoir Street



Grand Union Canal

Leicester Castle  
Castle Garden

Jewry Wall Museum

Jubilee Square

Leicester Cathedral

Leicester Market

Town Hall Square  
Town Hall

Vaughan Way

Causeway Lane

High Street

New Bond Street

Newarke Street

The Newarke

Millstone Lane

Guildhall Ln

Peacock Lane

Loseby Lane

Hotel Street

Market Street

Belvoir Street

King Street

New Walk

Clock Tower

Gallowtree Gate

Belgrave Gate

Church Gate

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**City Trail LRSA 2024**  
An Urban Guided Walk through Leicester

# **City Trail LRSA 2024**

## An Urban Guided Walk through Leicester

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The plaques were installed by Hickman Signs Ltd

The Leicestershire + Rutland Society of Architects is grateful to the property owners and their representatives for the permission to install the plaques in 2024 and to the previous building owners for preserving the plaques since 1984.

## Annex: Explore the Corners

Original leaflet and descriptions from  
'The City Trail - Explore the Corners of Leicester'.

# The City Trail

## Explore the Corners of Leicester

A publication by the Leicester and Rutland Society of Architects and Leicester City Council to mark Festival of Architecture Year and British Heritage Year, 1984.

A perambulation around some of the corners of Leicester

### Introduction

Leicester is an ancient city, first settled before the Roman Invasion. The Romans made it into a small town. During the Anglo Saxon period it is thought to have been the local capital of the Kingdom of Mercia. The Middle Ages brought prosperity and the establishment of the town as an important Market Centre. Victorian Leicester produced an explosion in the size of the city. The population rose from 60 642 in 1851 to 211 579 by 1901. The city has grown since that time but not at such a great rate.

On the walk you will see buildings or the remains of them from all of these periods from the Roman settlement onwards.

### The Walk

One of Leicester's assets are its street corners. They are specially designed to act as a visible sign to help you find your way around the city streets.

There are a number of ways in which this can be carried out.

The square — a corner can be square, in which case it is either decorated as in (B — Welford Place/New Walk, William Flint 1842) or has a projecting sign as in (PP — The Saracen's Head, Hotel Street/Market Street).

The V junction — where two streets meet at an acute angle there is a difficult design problem. It was solved very nicely at (A — New Walk/King Street) by finishing the corner with a circular bay.

Curved corners can be gentle as in (D — The Leicestershire Club, Pocklington's Walk/Newarke Street, Goddard and Paget 1870's) or very sharp as in (W — St. Martin's/Loseby Lane).

There is the Recessed corner, set back from the other two elevations. It can be curved as (Z — High Street/New Bond Street) or angled. As with the curved, an angled corner as at Allen House (H — Newarke Street/Oxford Street) can be gentle, or it can be sharp as at (MM — St. Martin's/Creyfrians, Edward Burgess 1873) and (E — Pocklington's Walk/Welford Place). Note how the corner in (MM) is further emphasised by the gable over.

There are places where we find a combination of the types (UU — Market Street/Belvoir Street). This corner has an angled top, curved middle and is square at the bottom.

Another way of marking a corner is to crown it with a turret that stands above the rest of the building. (X — High Street/Cart's Lane) has a projecting circular bay and a dome (WW — Market Street/Welford Place) has a spirelet and (G — Newarke Street/Upper Brown Street) an octagonal domed projecting bay.

Certain buildings we associate with the street corner. The Public House (CC — The Salmon, Butt Close Lane/Blake Street) and the corner shop have become a symbol of urban life.

Two adjacent corners can act as a funnel. The entrance to the Royal Arcade (HH — Silver Street) has angled corners with a curved decoration over to lead us into that thoroughfare. It is also true of streets, as you turn from St. Martin's into Hotel Street look at how the buildings funnel you into Cank Street.

Finally there is the Quiet Corner (L — Castle Gateway/Castle Street), not much traffic here; it is both quiet and restful.

How would you describe the following corners?

- C** City Council Offices.
- J** Millstone Lane — Southgates.
- K** Southgates — Castle Street.
- R** St. Nicholas Circle — Vaughan Way.
- S** Highcross Street — High Street.

- T** Applegate — Guildhall Lane.
- W** Guildhall Lane — Carts Lane.
- Y** High Street — Union Street.
- GG** High Street — Silver Street.
- AA** New Bond Street — South Bond Street.
- EE** Churchgate — Mansfield Street.
- FF** Eastgates — Gallowree Gate.
- KK** Silver Street — Loseby Lane.
- RR** Millstone Lane — Market Street.
- VV** City Lending Library, Belvoir Street — Wellington Street.
- XX** Wellington Street — King Street.

Other buildings of interest on the walk are:

**F** The Electricity Sub-station, Newarke Street. An unusual building in the classical style of the 1920's which blends unnoticed into the streetscape.

**M** St. Mary de Castro Church, 11th Century, much restored by Sir George Gilbert Scott in the 1860's. The facade of the Castle building within the courtyard is of the 18th century. Behind is a medieval building.

**N** The Fex Factory — The original factory, built to the designs of William Flint in 1849 has had a modern reflective glass extension (Douglas Smith, Stimson Partnership, 1982), which reflects the beauty of the canal and the trees facing it.

**P** The Roman Baths, Museum and Vaughan College. Note how the columns of the modern building (T. Dannet, 1962) are carefully designed to line through with the ancient Roman walls. The church of St. Nicholas behind us, is of Anglo-Saxon origin, evidence of which can be found inside. The tower is of early Norman origin.

**U** Wygston's House is now a costume museum. The building fronting onto Applegate was built in the late 18th Century. Behind is a 19th century timber framed section.

**V** The Guildhall was erected for the Corpus Christi Guild in the 14th century. From 1495 to 1876 it acted as the Town Hall and Police Station. The cells are still there and can be visited as the building is now a Museum.

**BB** The Great Meeting, 1704-6, is one of the earliest brick buildings in Leicester. The classical colonnade to the front is a later addition. Adjacent is the school built in 1813 in the Gothic style.

**DD** Timber Warehouse — Beautifully restored, this unassuming venacular building is typical of many that have long since disappeared.

**JJ** The Globe Inn — an eighteenth century public house, a typical Georgian facade hides a friendly homely interior.

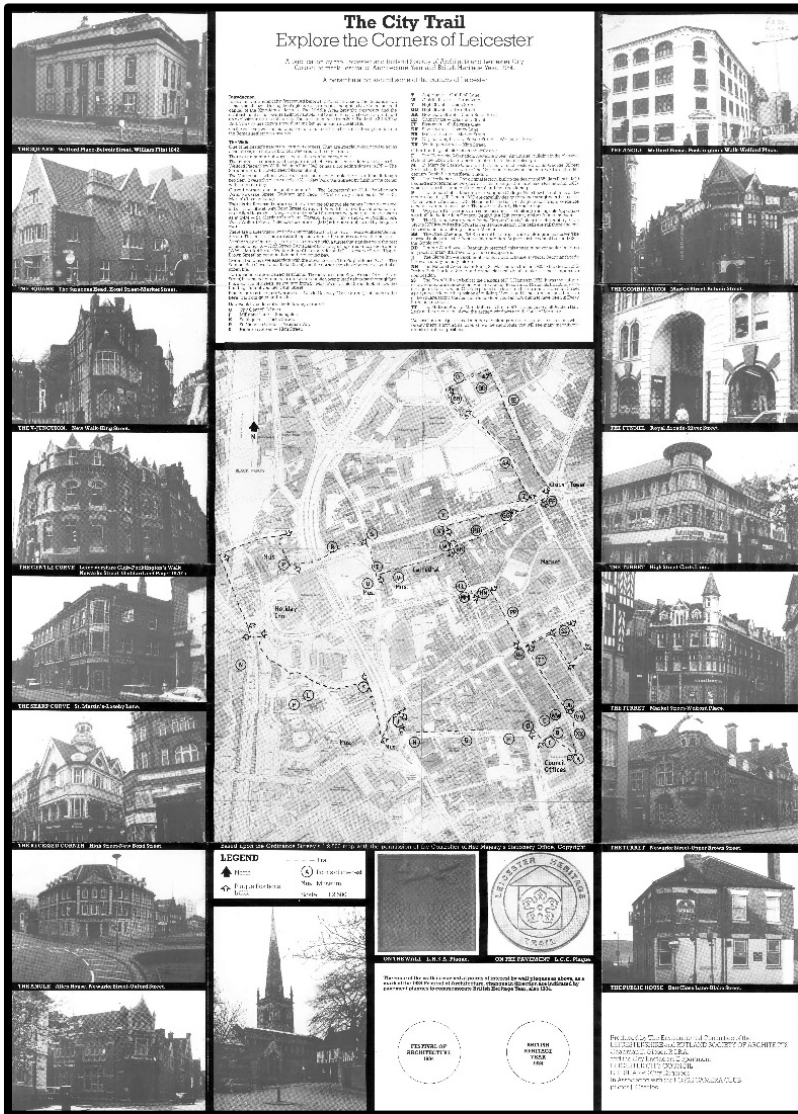
**NN** The National Westminster Bank, St. Martin's was built in 1900 to the design of S. Perkin Pick. Portland Stone and grand classical details make it a most impressive composition.

**SS** The Town Hall was built to the designs of F. J. Hames in 1876. It was the subject of an architectural competition, Hames winning design in red brick-fits its setting into the square. Note how the Clock is placed in a tower on the corner of Horsefear Street as a symbol to locate the position of building. If you stand in the street on the other side of the square, facing the main entrance door, you can now claim to have been in Every Street in Leicester.

**TT** The Midland Auction Mart, Millican & Smith 1876, is a purpose built Auction Hall. Look at the decoration above the arched windows and the bust of Mercury.

We have looked at just a small number of buildings on the route and it can be seen what beauty there is around us. Look above the shopfronts, you will see many magnificent architectural compositions.



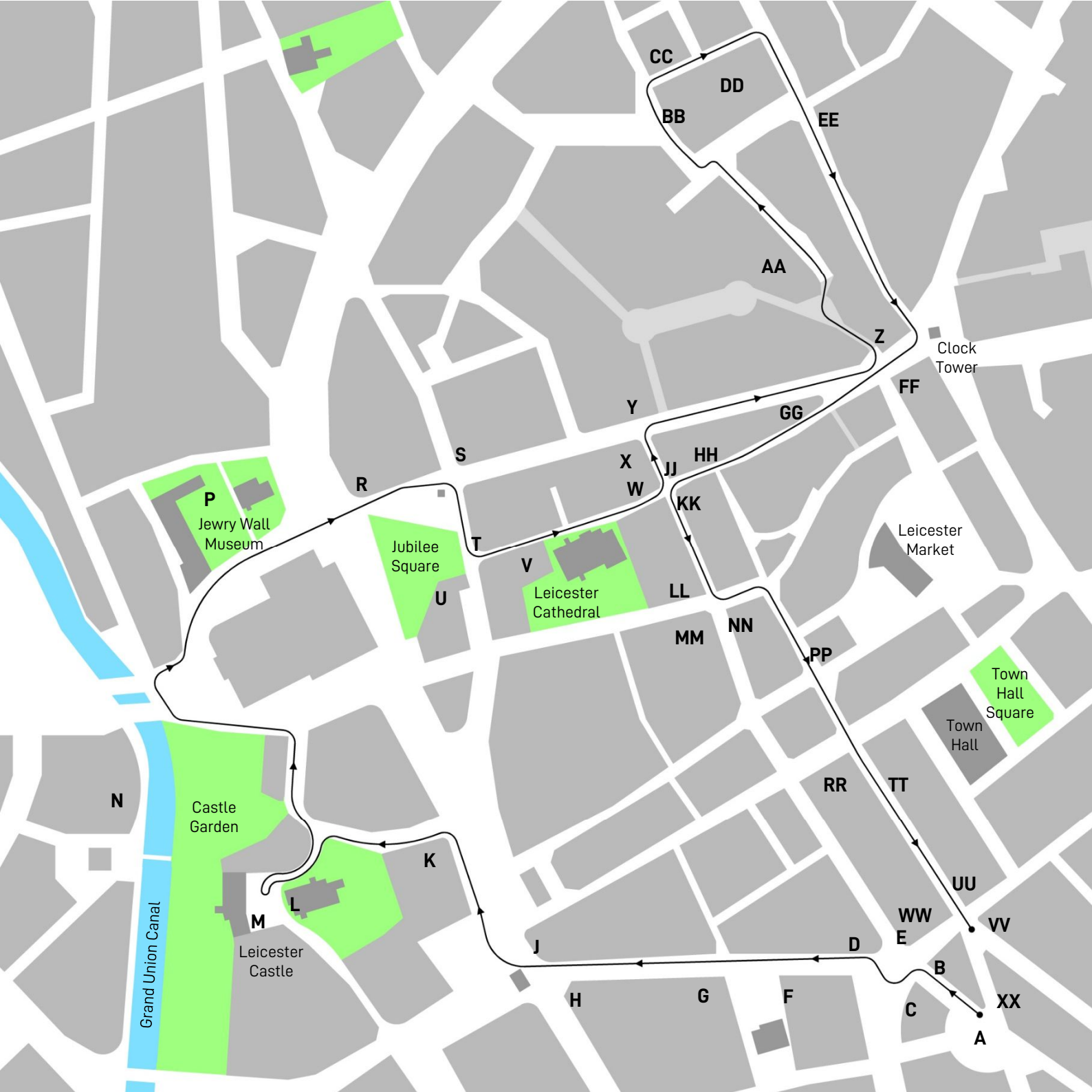


## Map

Route of 'The City Trail - Explore the Corners of Leicester' overlaid over 2024 map of city centre

### List of buildings

A	New Walk / King Street	Z	High Street / New Bond Street
B	Welford Place / New Walk	AA	New Bond Street / South Bond Street
C	Welford Road / Welford Place	BB	Great Meeting Chapel, East Bond Street
D	Pocklington's Walk / Newarke Street	CC	Butt Close Lance / Blake Street
E	Pocklington's Walk / Welford Place	DD	Timber Warehouse, off Church Gate
F	Electricity Sub-station, Newarke Street	EE	Churchgate / Mansfield Street
G	Newarke Street / Upper Brown Street	FF	Eastgates / Gallowtree Gate
H	Newarke Street / Oxford Street	GG	High Street / Silver Street
J	Millstone Lane / Southgates	HH	Silver Street / Royal Arcade
K	Southgates / Castle Street	JJ	The Globe PH, Silver Street
L	Castle Gateway / Castle Street	KK	Silver Street / Loseby Lane
M	St Mary de Castro, Castle View	LL	Loseby Lane / St Martin's
N	Pex Factory, Westbridge Close	MM	St Martin's / Greyfriars
P	Roman Baths & Jewry Wall Museum	NN	Greyfriars / St Martin's
R	St Nicholas Circle / Vaughan Way	PP	Hotel Street / Market Street
S	Highcross Street / High Street	RR	Millstone Lane / Market Street
T	Applegate / Guildhall Lane	SS	Town Hall, Town Hall Square
U	Wygston's house, Applegate	TT	Midland Auction Mart, Market Street
V	Guildhall, Guildhall Lane	UU	Market Street / Belvoir Street
W	Guildhall Lane / Cart's Lane	VV	Belvoir Street / Wellington Street
X	High Street / Cart's Lane	WW	Market Street / Welford Place
Y	High Street / Union Street	XX	Wellington Street / King Street



Grand Union Canal

Castle Garden

Leicester Castle

Jewry Wall Museum

Jubilee Square

Leicester Cathedral

Clock Tower

Leicester Market

Town Hall Square

Town Hall

CC

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Town Hall Square

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