Long Eaton Townscape Heritage Initiative

This leaflet celebrates the achievements of the Long Eaton Townscape Heritage Initiative which operated in the Town Centre and Lace Factories Conservation Areas from 2009-13. The programme contributed to the revitalisation of Long Eaton’s historic centre through the repair, reinstatement and conservation of the town’s heritage. Over twenty commercial properties received grant for projects including re-roofing, historic window repairs and shop front reinstatements. Additionally extensive public realm works were undertaken in the Market Place and on Lime Grove. This leaflet is one of several complementary educational initiatives.

The Townscape Heritage Initiative is a Heritage Lottery Funded programme to help communities improve the built historic environment of conservation areas in need of investment.

A THI ‘common fund pot’ was established, amounting to over £2.4m, from four funding streams: the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Derby & Derbyshire Economic Partnership, Erewash Borough Council and matching funding from property owners.

Contact Us
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www.erewash.gov.uk
This leaflet describes a self-guided walk around Long Eaton town centre, looking at historic buildings and features. These include repair projects funded through the Townscape Heritage Initiative grant programme.

Introduction
This guided walk has been researched and written by Keith Reedman, a member of the Townscape Heritage Initiative Steering Group. Photographs and references in the text identify many of the projects which received grant funding through the Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) programme. The numbers in brackets relate to the numbers on the centrefold map.

Long Eaton is situated on land just a few feet above the level of the River Trent, which marks the town’s southern extent. Its eastern boundary with Nottinghamshire is the River Erewash which gives its name to the Borough that has administered Long Eaton since 1974.

At the start of the Victorian era Long Eaton was an agricultural village of 750 people where a few of the farmers supplemented their income by manufacturing lace. The construction of the Midland Counties Railway in 1839 and the building of the Erewash Valley railway line in 1847 created a focus of railway communications. By 1850 a railway wagon manufactory was in operation and Toton sidings were being developed to deliver Erewash Valley coal. From this time expansion was rapid as the embryo lace industry flourished and grew.

Most of the old village was swept away as commerce and industry took over, so that between 1880 and 1914 the town centre was almost completely re-developed.

Take care
The walk keeps to pavements and surfaced paths around Long Eaton town centre, and is almost entirely on the level. The route includes a short stretch along the canal towpath, where the water’s edge is unguarded. Please keep to the public rights of way and do not stray onto private property. Erewash Borough Council has collated the information contained in this leaflet in good faith. The information was correct at the time of going to press.

1 Start from the Town Hall, a grand farmhouse built about 1778 for Henry Howitt (1). The building is attributed to Derby architect Joseph Pickford and was purchased by the Long Eaton Urban District Council in 1921. Walk down the steps onto Derby Road and cross over at the traffic lights.

2 Head left towards The Green and on the right is 21 Derby Road (IMS) (2) which had a Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) grant towards a new shop front made to resemble the original one, based on photographic evidence. This lock-up shop was built about 1903 by Horace Ball, a local plumber. After the First World War the property was occupied by several shop-keepers and for many years was a confectioners.

Continue along Derby Road towards the Market Place, passing on the right Barclays Bank at No 1 on the corner of Oxford Street. This building was erected in 1899 for the Derby & Derbyshire Banking Company to the designs of architect Ernest Ridgeway of Long Eaton.

On the opposite corner of Oxford Street are the Oxford Buildings of 1907, built as furniture showrooms on the ground and first floors with offices above. The architect was Clarence Ross of Long Eaton and one of his ‘trademarks’, a horseshoe arch, can be seen high up on the terracotta elevation to Market Place.
A few metres after crossing the end of Oxford Street stop to look at the buildings opposite, Nos 36/40 Market Place. The two storey building with the circular brick towers flanking a semi-circular arch is York Chambers, built in 1902 by architects Messrs Gorman & Ross as their own office above a ground floor lock-up shop (3). Sadly, the horseshoe-shaped shop front has been destroyed along with the name ‘York Chambers’ in the tympanum of the roughcast rendered gable arch, though its position can still be discerned.

Next door to the left is the impressive three storey building attached to York Chambers which was built in 1903 for the Midland Counties District Bank which occupied the ground floor and basement. The two upper floors contained offices which were connected to the entrance of York Chambers. These buildings are listed Grade II and considerable refurbishment has been carried out using a THI grant.

At one time, the interior of the bank building, now the Rendezvous Cafe, had been lined, which hid the original features and decoration. These have now been revealed, including an original fireplace and the entrance lobby canopy with leaded glasswork.

Retrace your step a few metres to the pedestrian crossing and cross the road, making your way to the churchyard via the gateway at the rear of the Rendezvous Cafe. From here the rear of York Chambers can be seen as well as the rear of No 34 Market Place, H. Swann & Son Menswear, where THI funded work was carried out on the roof and on outbuildings.

While in the churchyard a peep inside the south porch (if it is open) will reveal a fine Norman archway which has an inner order of 16 different fantastical beak-heads.

To the right of the church gate is the town’s War Memorial in the form of an Old English cross, designed by Sir Ninian Comper and erected in 1921.

In the Market Place is evidence of the prosperity of Long Eaton during the late 19th and early 20th centuries brought about by the flourishing lace and, to a lesser extent, railway industries. The evidence is in the form of four banks and several substantial commercial buildings. On the west side on the corner of Regent Street is the National Westminster Bank which was built in 1903 (date on rainwater hoppers) for the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Bank. The architect was John Sheldon of Long Eaton. The building to the left of this bank was built in 1910 as the New Palace Cinema. Adjoining is a restaurant in what was Long Eaton’s oldest public house, the (Old) Bell which was probably built during the early eighteenth century.

The next bank along (HSBC) was built in 1891 (datestone over door) for the Nottingham Joint Stock Bank whose device is carved in a stone over the side entrance. The architect was Albert Bromley of Nottingham. A little further along is The Royal Bank of Scotland which was converted from an existing building about 1923 for William Deacons Bank.

Return to the churchyard by the main gateway into the pedestrianised Market Place (4) which has been re-modelled and resurfaced through a THI-funded scheme.

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Next to the War Memorial is the Halifax. This bank was built in 1889 for Messrs Samuel Smith & Co (Nottingham bank) and designed by the well-known Nottingham architect Watson Fothergill. The datestone is on the keystone of a first floor window.

From the Halifax walk on down the Market Place towards Union Street, passing the Modernist style Therm House (now the Lockstone pub) built in the 1930s as a showroom for the Long Eaton Gas Company.

Enter Union Street on the left, and on the right hand side of the street a few metres along is a blue plaque commemorating the birthplace of Dame Laura Knight RA, an eminent 20th century painter. Return to Market Place and continue towards the High Street. On the left is a range of shops which are interrupted by two archways leading to the rear. These entrances led to early tenement lace factories which were the site of the first lace factory in the town. In the High Street, immediately after the second archway, is No 66 which now has a shop front but was originally the home of the Austin family who built the first tenement lace factory.

Continue down the High Street which still has several late Victorian buildings. On the right is the Blue Bell public house, one of the handful of eighteenth century buildings to survive in the town. Walk on to Brown's Road on the left - a narrow street which contains, behind the new shops, High Street Mills. This lace factory, a Grade II listed building, was built in 1857 (the date stone is high up on the gable end) for the Smith brothers.

Return to the High Street and continue, passing the former 1930s Woolworths on the right, and a little further on is the distinctive Montague Burton gents’ outfitters of 1935 on the corner of Howitt Street. Opposite is No 22, Rowells drapers, a particularly idiosyncratic Long Eaton institution still firmly locked in the pre-WW2 tradition.

Continue to Nos 12 (dry cleaners) and 10 (Pete’s Upper Crust Cafe (5), both of which had new shop fronts fitted using THI funding. Across the road, No 15 also had a THI grant towards roof repairs.

The crossroads where the former hotel stands is where Main Street, High Street, Station Street and West Gate come together. Diagonally opposite is the former ‘New’ Central Co-operative Society’s premises with a prominent clock tower. This building of 1900 (date stone in gable on cant corner) was designed by Ernest Ridgeway of Long Eaton and is now being converted to flats. Down Station Street, past the Co-operative building on the right, is the Baptist Church schoolroom where leaded windows were restored with the help of a THI grant (7).

Return to the crossroads and turn left into Main Street. Cross at the lights to the west side and continue to Bank Street where buildings on either corner (8) have had THI grants for external repairs to the intricate brickwork. These highly decorative buildings were probably designed by John Sheldon - the chimney stacks are typical of his work.

Carry on round the corner to the right until at the corner of Clifford Street is No 5 High Street (6), the former Royal Hotel where a considerable amount of work has been done using a THI grant during the building’s conversion to flats.

The core of this building is a town house built in 1830 by John Howitt when he left The Hall. It was rebuilt and enlarged as an hotel in 1888 (date on lintel over main entrance door) but incorporating much of the original house. Part of the original house can be seen in the Clifford Street elevation.
Walk up Bank Street and continue into the car park, the site of a large 5 storey lace factory of 1881 which was built by Joseph Orchard. Rutland Mill (9), part of Orchard's 'Old' two storey factory can be seen alongside the car park. THI funding provided a grant to refurbish the roof, brickwork and windows of this building. Exit the car park into Chapel Street and turn right. On the left are surviving buildings of the first gas works (built in 1852 by William Bush, a lace manufacturer) and on the right is a former 'Tin Tabernacle'.

Turn right into Gibb Street and walk up to West Gate where, opposite, is 18 Gibb Street (10), a former printer's workshop which received THI funding for re-roofing and chimney repairs. Turn left into West Gate and continue ahead down Salisbury Street. The houses on the right, 18-24, were built about 1900 and have highly decorated tiled front porches.

On reaching Tamworth Road turn left and cross at the lights. Continue to the left until reaching the gates to the public library. These Art Nouveau gates were once matched by railings around the library grounds, which were lost during WW2. Through the gates is the Long Eaton Public Library of 1906 (11). This splendid Arts & Crafts building is listed Grade II and is typical of the many Carnegie libraries which were built at this time. The building was designed by Messrs German & Ross who supplied the winning entry of five in an architectural competition.

The very large plate glass windows are a feature not normally found in buildings of this period and another large window on the west side is filled with stained glass panels depicting the arts of Music, Painting, Literature and Poetry. This window by Andrew Stoddart of Nottingham is one of the most important secular stained glass windows in the region.

Walk through the library grounds to the right and exit into Broad Street. Turn left and continue to the end where there is a bridge across the Erewash Canal into West Park. Pause on the bridge to view Long Eaton Lock to the right; the first lock on the canal after locking up from the River Trent at Trent Lock. In the park follow the footpath towards Harrington Mill and after passing its gable end turn right through the gate into the cemetery. From this viewpoint can be seen the vast extent of Harrington Mill. This huge lace factory is one of the main elements of the Lace Factories Conservation Area and was built to the design of John Sheldon in two stages around 1885. To the left is the cemetery chapel of 1891 (12), a Grade II listed building designed by William Knight of Nottingham. The chapel was in a state of serious neglect and had suffered from vandalism before the THI scheme provided grant funding for repairs.
Walk down Stanhope Street past the 1907 lace factory Stanhope Mills on the left and a lace machine shop and factory of 1886 on the right.

Follow the street to the left into Leopold Street where the facing view is of the West End Mill of 1882, the first tenement lace factory to be built to the west of the canal. The architect was John W. Keating of Nottingham whose plain building is in stark contrast to the adjacent Whiteley’s Mill of 1883. This factory was designed by William H. Radford of Nottingham and incorporates external decoration not normally found in lace factories. The building has gables to the street elevation, stone dressings, polychrome brickwork and terracotta embellishments.

Turning right down Leopold Street the back and yard of Harrington Mill can be seen on the right along with the boiler room and the magnificent chimney. The office block at the end of the street has been restored lately in a most sympathetic manner.

Leave the cemetery by the main gateway, an interesting set of wrought iron gates, into Lime Grove. This street was restored with THI funding. The road and footpaths were re-surfaced, some trees were replaced and some railings were reinstated.

Continue along Lime Grove until Derby Road is reached where at the corner, No 119, is Keith Hall’s Training Academy (hairdressing). Here THI funding provided for a new gate and reinstatement of the wall to Lime Grove, as well as reroofing, some re-pointing and repairs to timber windows.

Opposite, No 58 Derby Road (15) is a shop where a new shop front, as well as other repairs, was provided using a THI grant. Turn right into Derby Road and take the first right into Stanhope Street. On the left is the former Derby Road Board School, designed and built in 1885 by local builder Goulding Fullalove.

On reaching Derby Road, almost opposite is Bridge Mills (17) of 1902. This factory was the last of the multi-storey steam-powered tenement factories to be built in the town, the architect was John Sheldon and the contractor was Francis Perks and Son, a prolific local builder. The large circular chimney with the almost spherical cast iron head, is a local landmark of some significance and dominates the streetscape here.
Walk along the towpath, past the first gateway into Regent Street, and leave the canal towpath by the second gate into Lawrence Street. Take the first right into Milner Road to view, on the right, the former Long Eaton Urban District Council’s electricity generating station (19). The provision of an electricity supply in 1903 transformed the way in which lace factories were built, from steam-powered multi-storey factories to single storey north light shed-type buildings with electric motors to drive the machinery. The electricity supply was direct current (DC) and because the factories were closed on Sundays generation was stopped and the small load on that day, for private houses and the like, was provided by batteries which were charged during the week.

Turn round, walk into Regent Street by the footpath at the end of Milner Road, and turn right. On the left is the surviving two thirds of Willatt’s factory (20), a large four storey tenement lace factory of 1877. One of the partners of Willatt was the Long Eaton lace manufacturer Terah Hooley and the cast iron tie bar plates along the exterior have his initial ‘H & Co’ cast into them.

On the left after the factory is No 12 Regent Street (21). This two storey building was used from 1892 until well into the twentieth century as the Long Eaton telephone exchange but had been badly mutilated. The front was reinstated with windows of the original proportions using a THI grant. Walk to the end of the street to complete the tour in the Market Place.