

A Little of Leicester

A wander around some of the historic buildings and monuments of central Leicester.

ST NICHOLAS CHURCH

The Norman church, next to the Roman bath house, includes Saxon features including two windows in the north wall of the nave. It was almost demolished in the early 19th century, but instead was renovated several times.



The wall of a Roman bath complex, Jewry Wall survived because it was incorporated in the structure of a later, long-demolished, church. The wall was built using a mixture of sandstone, limestone and granite, with red brick bonding

STATUE OF RICHARD III

A bronze statue commissioned by the Richard III Society in 1980 to commemorate his death at the Battle of Bosworth in 1485.

LEICESTER CASTLE

Various fragments, of the 11th century Leicester Castle survive, including the Great Hall, the church of St Mary de Castro, the Turret Gateway, Castle Yard and "John of

ALL SAINTS CHURCH

A redundant Anglican church, unused since 1982, much restored and rebuilt, though originating in the 12th century. It has a Norman doorway.

FREE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Completed in 1574, the two storey school (now a restaurant) was built using stone recycled from the demolition of the medieval church of St Peter. Recent repairs also used stone from the archaeological excavation of the church's foundations.

ABBEY PUMPING STATION

Built in 1891, Abbey Pumping Station's four beam engines pumped sewage until 1964. The buildings now house Leicester's Museum of Science and Technology (closed in winter).

LEICESTER ABBEY

Founded in the 12th century, the Augustinian Abbey of St Mary de Pratis is the resting place of Cardinal Wolsey, who died there in 1530. Stone from the abbey was used to build what came to be known as Cavendish House, which burnt down following Charles I's defeat at Naseby. The abbey gatehouse survives.

LEICESTER GUILDHALL

One of the best preserved timber framed halls in the UK, with a 14th century Great Hall. In use until the late nineteenth century, and having fallen into disrepair and narrowly escaped demolition, the hall was renovated in the 1920s.

ST MARTIN'S CATHEDRAL

A Norman church on an earlier site, the building was rebuilt and enlarged several times between the 13th and 15th centuries, with the spire being added during a 19th century restoration. It became a cathedral in 1927.

MAGAZINE GATEWAY

Once part of the defences of Leicester castle, the 15th century gateway is now separated from the rest of the site.

LEICESTER PRISON

The imposing gateway of Leicester Prison was built in the 1820s. The prison was designed to resemble a castle.

LEICESTER CANAL

Part of the grand Union Canal, the Leicester Line was opened in 1814 and joins the River Soar to pass through the city. Never a commercial success, the canal links the Grand Union to the River Trent.

Complied by Ralph Mills

At first glance Leicester can seem pretty uninspiring, with its overbearing and busy road system and clusters of recent architectural mistakes. But look a little closer and you will find surviving evidence of the city's Roman, Anglo-Saxon and Medieval past, with some especially important late medieval buildings. There are also plenty of fine 19th century buildings, especially if you look above the usually unsympathetic shopfronts. The city's industrial past has also left significant traces. And all within walking distance of the university!