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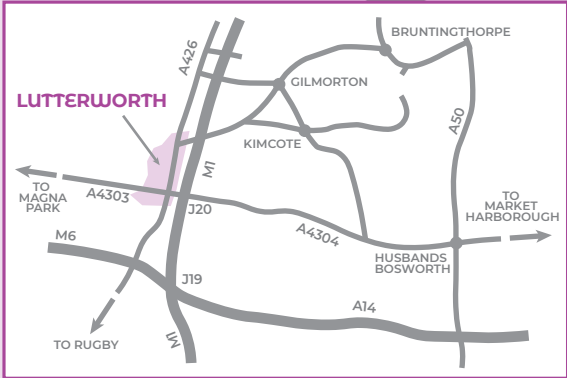
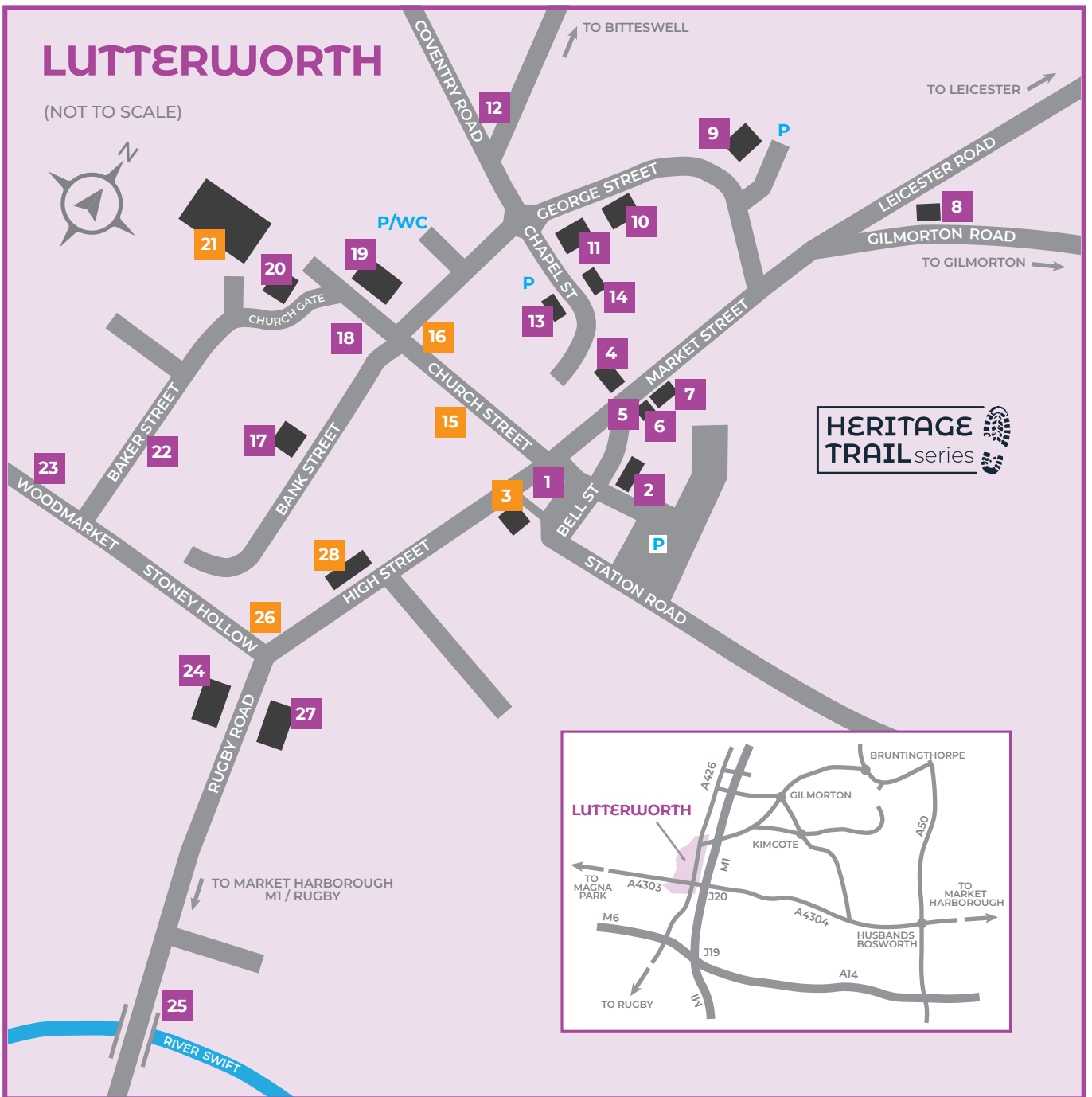
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Enjoy our historic village trails
in beautiful south Leicestershire



LUTTERWORTH

(NOT TO SCALE)



At the southernmost tip of Leicestershire, Lutterworth is an attractive market town of approximately 10,000 inhabitants. The town centre is a designated conservation area with much to discover in the architecture.

Most likely established in Anglo-Saxon times, Lutterworth had prospered sufficiently to be included in the Domesday Book of 1086. In 1214 King John granted a market charter to Nicholas de Verdun for the sale of livestock and dairy produce. King Henry V granted weekly markets to run in 1414 and the Thursday market continues today.

The medieval original street pattern is laid out formally on either side of the High Street with a large market place. The timber framed Shambles public house remained as an example of timber and mud building material use. The imposing buildings in the town centre date mainly from the coaching heyday between 1750 and 1850. As long distance communications became more practical, the town became an important posting station for stage coaches on the London to Chester turnpike and High Street is still dominated by the Greyhound Hotel and other former coaching inns, the Denbigh Arms and the Hind Hotel. After a flurry of building in the early 19th century, including the distinctive Town Hall, little was built during the Victorian period, until connection to the railway network in 1899.

Lutterworth is famous for having twice made its mark on world history. In the 14th century John Wycliffe, as Rector of Lutterworth inspired the translation of the Bible into English. Over five hundred years later, Sir Frank Whittle revolutionised aviation by developing the jet engine. Find out more about these pioneering figures by visiting St Mary's Church and Lutterworth and District Museum.

Lutterworth continues to serve as the market town for the area, with a good range of independent shops and places to eat and drink.

The trail starts in the Market Place.

1 The Market Place - The buildings surrounding the Market Place have a variety of styles and are evidence of the evolutionary development of the town centre. In 1414, King Henry V granted the Lord of the Manor a charter to hold a weekly market – which is still held every Thursday.

2 The Shambles - The market building for the butchers, called the Shambles was once here. The timber framed thatched building dates from the 16th century and was damaged by fire in 2023.

3 Town Hall - In 1836 the architect Joseph Hansom, designed the Town Hall. His designs include Birmingham Town Hall and the horse drawn Hansom Cab. The ground floor originally had open sides for a covered market and was first known as the Butter Market. A photograph from about 1900 (in the Town Museum) shows workmen filling in the sides.



4 The Greyhound Coaching Inn - This hotel is one of the three original coaching inns that still line the main street. It retains an early 19th century façade. The courtyard and stables have been extensively renovated to form an attractive enclosure with brickwork from different periods.

5 Lutterworth & District Museum - In its new home in Highpoint, the museum contains many fine exhibits including a timeline and displays on John Wycliffe (1st translation of the bible into English) and Sir Frank Whittle (inventor of the jet engine).

6 Town Estates Office - This building has an Edwardian appearance, but behind the frontage is a 16th century timber framed building.

7 The Manor House - The Manor House (to the left hand side of the Town Estates Office) is a late Regency building in a classical style.

8 The Police Station - At the junction of Leicester Road and Gilmorton Road is the former Police Station. Built in 1843, this was the oldest working police station in England until its closure in 2013.

9 Wycliffe Rooms - An art deco building, formally the Ritz cinema, is now a community & entertainment venue and coffee shop.

10 George Street Church - First records of the Congregational Chapel, now the George Street Church, dates back to 1689, but the present building bears the date 1777.

11 Western House - Gideon Bibles are found in hotel bedrooms throughout the world. Western House, 24 George Street, is a Regency villa which now serves as the national headquarters of Gideons International.

12 Wycliffe Memorial - A small but attractive terrace of late Georgian houses leads the eye to the Wycliffe Memorial, erected to mark Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897. Beyond it is the Methodist Church of 1905.

John Wycliffe - In 1374 this early church reformer was made Rector of Lutterworth as a royal reward for his diplomatic services. His curate carried out his parochial duties whilst he preached and wrote tracts, that threatened the doctrines of the Roman Church. The first English translation of the Bible was produced under his guidance. The last three years of his life were in exile in Lutterworth. He

suffered a 2nd stroke on 27th December 1384 and died four days later on 31st December. Wycliffe was subsequently denounced as an heretic. In 1428, his bones were exhumed by order of the Pope and burned.

Retrace your steps to Chapel Street.

13 Good Hope Church - This plain building of 1839 in Chapel Street was formerly the Baptist Chapel.

14 Candlemas Cottage - Opposite the Good Hope Church is a late 16th century house with two exposed timber framed walls.

Proceed through the yard of the Greyhound Coaching Inn and turn right down Market Street.

15 Church Street - Church Street is the retailing centre of the town. Its intimate scale is due to the fact that the buildings conform to their medieval cottage plots with narrow frontages. A variety of architectural styles represent the 17th to the 20th century, when looking up above the shop windows.



16 Memorial Gardens - The Memorial Gardens commemorate the town's dead of two world wars and other combats since. Facing Church Street is a bust of Sir Frank Whittle, inventor of the jet engine.

Sir Frank Whittle - A brilliant innovator, Sir Frank Whittle pioneered the design of the gas turbine for jet propulsion. In 1936 a new company, Power Jets Ltd, was formed to develop this engine. Development and testing work commenced in Lutterworth on the 16th April 1938 at a foundry just off Leicester Road. The first 'flight engine' powered the specially designed Gloster



16 Sir Frank Whittle (Memorial Gardens)

E28/39 aeroplane, which made its successful maiden flight on the 14th May 1941. A full size replica of this aircraft can be seen on the roundabout at the southern entrance to Lutterworth.

17 Bank Street - Bank Street contains a varied selection of houses. No 14, constructed c.1835 in Greek Revival Style, is now office space. It is reputed to have been originally designed as a bank by Joseph Hansom, architect of the Town Hall, although there is no evidence.

Return to Church Street and turn left towards the church.

18 Western end of Church Street - The western end of Church Street is an old residential street. The last of the timber houses on the south side was once the Coach and Horses Inn – the plaque on the building giving full details.

19 Old Sherrier School - This gabled building was originally built as a school in 1875 and is one of the town's few substantial Victorian buildings. It was paid for largely through a bequest from Rev. Edward Sherrier who was Rector of Shawell (a nearby village).

20 Churchgate - The Churchgate Centre is located within an attractive Victorian building that was originally built in 1876 as the Reading Room for the Mechanics' Institute.

21 Parish Church of St. Mary - This large church is of 12th to 14th century construction, but much restored by Sir Gilbert Scott in 1868. The spire collapsed on Christmas Day in 1701 and was replaced some sixty years later by four weighty pinnacles. The churchyard is extensive and secluded, with a fine array of slate headstones. There are some exceptional wall paintings inside the church and the Millennium Tapestry hangs at the western end.



21 Parish Church of St Mary

22 Baker Street - Baker Street is now entirely residential. The buildings are mainly of 19th century origin, but the street, with its narrow frontages, has been built up continuously since the early 17th century. No 43 is the Old Bakehouse.

23 Woodmarket - For such a quiet residential street Woodmarket is surprisingly wide. This is probably because it was the main road out of town to the west and also one of the town's market streets. Several large houses in Woodmarket indicate the town's prosperity. These include Hythe House (Queen Anne); the White House (Georgian), opposite and Hill House (Regency) at the top of Stoney Hollow.

24 The Springs - At the corner of Stoney Hollow, the Springs, an 18th century house with additions and some earlier features, takes its name from the springs in the garden, said to never freeze or dry up. There is a legend that when Wycliffe's bones were taken to the River Swift one was dropped, and miraculously a spring of water rose up. The water was thought to be curative and local residents used the water as a cure for problems. Three

unusual features are the cast milepost, the insurance plaque and the porch lamp with a glass from the Ebenezer Chapel, Leicester. John Parsons Cook lived at The Springs until Dr William Palmer poisoned him in Rugeley, Staffordshire in 1855. This was one of the most notorious crimes in Victorian Britain.

25 River Swift Bridge - Just outside the old part of the town, the main road south crosses the River Swift. There has been a bridge here since the Middle Ages. It was rebuilt in brick in 1778 by public subscription and widened in 1910. John Wycliffe's ashes are said to have been thrown into the river and distributed by water over the whole world. 'The Avon to the Severn runs, The Severn to the sea, And Wycliffe's dust shall spread abroad, Wide as the waters be!' (Anon)

26 The White Horses - On the southern entrance to the town, The White Horses were unveiled in 2014 as a symbol of Lutterworth's coaching past.



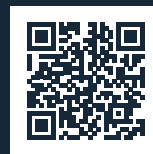
27 The Terrace - Built to a classical design in the 1830's, this major feature of lower High Street reflects the quality of the architecture of the town in this period.

28 The Denbigh Arms and Hind Hotel - The Denbigh Arms and the Hind Hotel are former coaching inns now converted for residential and commercial use. Before the railway age these were the main stopping places for travellers. The Hind Hotel has a 19th century façade which does not hide the fact that its main structure is late 17th century. The Denbigh Inn also has an early 19th century façade, taking its name from the Earl of Denbigh and occupies the site of one of their former manor houses.

You can return to the starting point of the trail by continuing up the High Street to the Market Place.



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This leaflet has been prepared by Harborough District Council with support from Lutterworth & District Museum.

Thanks to **RJ Brand Design** for design and production (www.rjbranddesign.co.uk).

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All the information in this leaflet is correct at time of printing.

