

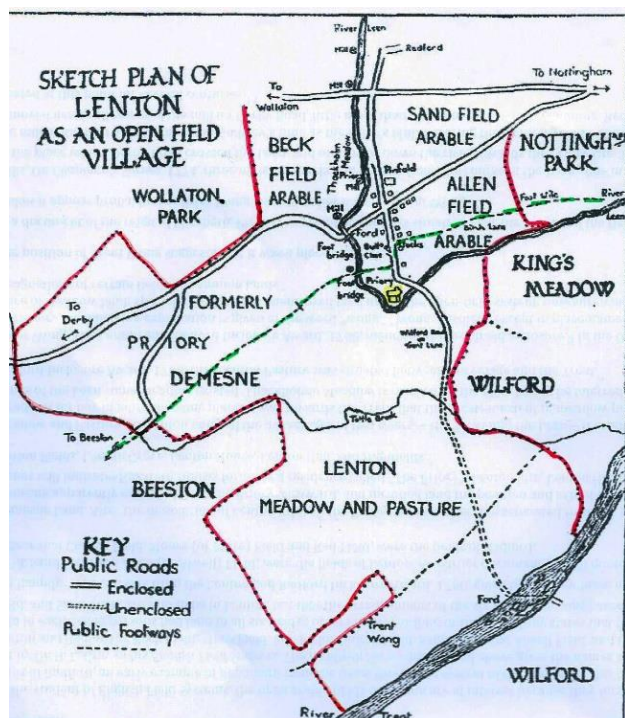
4A. Nottingham University & Wollaton Park Appendix – Further Information on Sites along the Walk

The walk routes are drawn using Open Street Maps from the internet <https://www.openstreetmap.org>, with some use of Google Maps <https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-e&q=google+maps>, and old maps are from Old Maps Online <https://www.oldmapsonline.org/en/England> and National Library of Scotland, Ordnance Survey Maps <https://maps.nls.uk/os/6inch-england-and-wales/>

Facts, descriptions, old photographs and historical information used in the walks are from sources openly available on the internet. The sources are recorded with links – readers can use the links (available at time of writing - 2024) to obtain further information.

1. Gregory Street and Lenton Village

Gregory Street is part of an old road that went from Radford, through the small village of Lenton and over the River Leen and then over the River Trent at the site of the earliest ford crossing of the Trent (earlier than the one at Wilford), near where Clifton Bridge now stands. The name of the River Leen comes from the Celtic word meaning "lake" or "pool" and the river gave its name to Lenton, 'ton' being the Saxon word for village. Lenton village was originally separated from Nottingham by open fields and The Park and with open fields beyond – as shown in this sketch plan in a Nottinghamshire History article: <http://www.nottshistory.org.uk/articles/tts/tts1936/lentonvillage1.htm>



In earlier centuries Lenton had been the site of a Priory (shown yellow in the expanded map) – see (2) [Lenton Priory](#). The Priory's land – 'Demesne' – is indicated by the red line.



Although a village of several hundred inhabitants, Lenton in 1760 showed little sign of the approach of Industrialism. The parish registers mention framework knitters in 1717, a basket-maker in 1733, a weaver in 1735, and a needle-maker in 1777.

The village was on two roads – the village street (now Gregory Street) running north-south and the Nottingham to Derby road (Derby Road) running east-west. There was also an older route – a track or footway (shown green) from Nottingham city centre, past the Castle, through The Park, across what is now Nottingham University Park to Beeston – see (16) [Cut Through Lane](#).

With the demise of the Priory the village of Lenton became a rural backwater where most inhabitants followed agricultural pursuits. The Nottingham Canal, constructed in the 1790s, passed through Lenton and its arrival led to the establishment of a number of factories bringing more people to live here.

By 1801 the population stood at 893, rising to 1,240 by 1821, and ten years later shooting up to 3,077. Unable to find suitable building land within Nottingham itself, entrepreneurs bought land outside the town to erect both residential and industrial properties, leading to the creation of 'New Lenton' situated away from the existing village on what had previously been farmland.



Surveyed: 1880 to 1881, Published: 1885

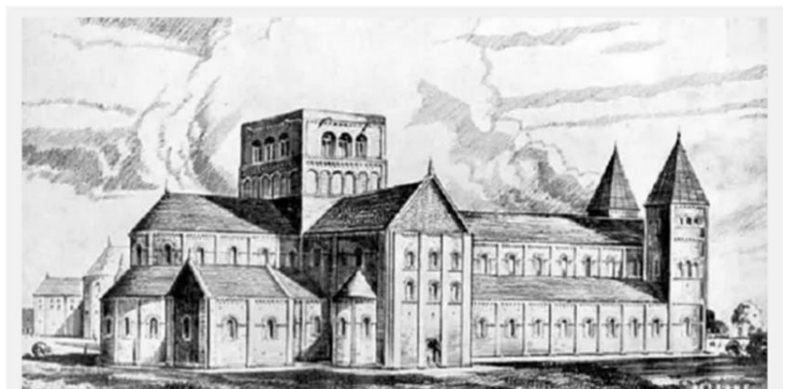
A sizeable number of those who became resident in Lenton during the early part of the nineteenth century earned their living in the lace trade. By the 1850s there were over twenty firms manufacturing lace in Lenton and associated businesses providing employment for lace machine builders, bobbin and carriage makers etc. Lenton became part of Nottingham in 1877 following the enlargement of the borough boundaries. The lace factories have all gone, as has most of the housing built in the early part of the nineteenth century, with new houses and flats erected in their place, as well as the QMC and Nottingham University.

<https://www.lentontimes.co.uk/history.htm>

2. Lenton Priory

Soon after the Norman Conquest, William I ordered the building of Nottingham Castle and gave it to the keeping of William Peverel who had 162 lordships in England and was one of the most powerful Norman knights in the country.

Some time at the beginning of the 12th century, Peverel gave money for the founding of a Priory of the Cluniac Order, owing allegiance to its mother-house, Cluny Abbey in Soane-et-Loire, France. A site was chosen at Lenton, less than 1½ miles from the castle, on the banks of the River Leen and the priory was completed in about 1170.



Reconstruction drawing of Lenton Priory (R H Elliott and A E Berbank, Lenton Priory: Excavations, 1943-1951, Transactions of the Thorton Society, 56, 1952).

Usually a priory would pay a proportion of its income to its mother-house; however, Peverel established in the foundation charter that Lenton Priory would be free from the obligation to pay tribute to Cluny, "*save the annual payment of a mark of silver as an acknowledgement*". It was a huge endowment, including the village of Lenton and other local smallholdings, 7 mills, 3 churches, with tithes from woods and fisheries, and from stud farms, lead and venison in Derbyshire where Peveril also held land. It was fortuitously situated on the River Leen, allowing it to control key trade and river crossings close to Nottingham. The monks played a significant role in the development of post-Conquest Nottingham and in the political life surrounding the castle.

The majority of the monks at Lenton came from France. Not used to the colder climate in England, in the winter of 1257/58, Pope Alexander IV had to give permission for the monks to wear caps during church services due to the "*vehement cold*".

With lands and holdings in both England and France, Lenton Priory became the tenth wealthiest in the country. By 1534, yearly income on land alone, was rated at £387 10s 10½d or £319,000 in today's terms. However, over the years, different kings and senior church authorities reduced or removed some of the Priory's land income and by the beginning of the 14th century the Priory was noted for "*its poverty and indebtedness*".

King Henry VIII's 'Dissolution of the Monasteries' (1536-41) brought the end of the Priory. As it was the most visible and powerful monastery in Nottinghamshire, Lenton Priory was an obvious target for the King. In 1538, the King's commissioners 'knocked on the door of the Priory'. Prior Heath, the last Prior of Lenton, was thrown into prison in February 1538, along with many of his monks. They were accused of high treason. In March, the prior with eight of his monks and four labourers of Lenton were indicted for treason and suffered the fate of all traitors, being 'hung, drawn and quartered'. This dreadful punishment may have taken place in Nottingham's market square and the limbs and various body parts of the executed were displayed above the Priory gates. The priory was dissolved; those monks who were not killed were turned out on their ear, penniless.

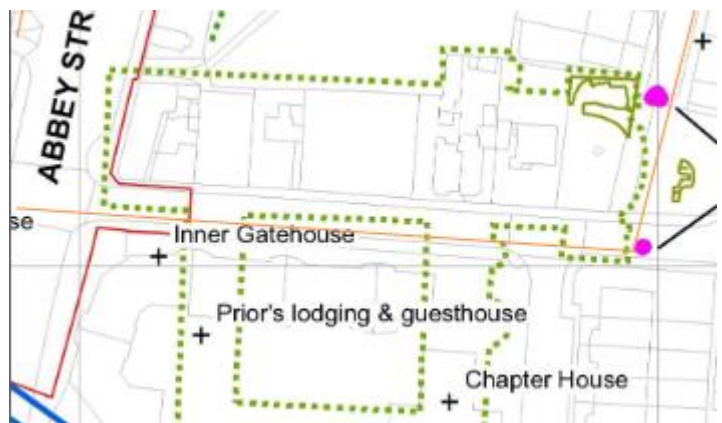
Following the dissolution, the Priory's lands became the property of the Crown and were later sold off to private individuals, the buildings plundered for their materials for use elsewhere, including, in the late sixteenth century, by Sir Francis Willoughby for his magnificent stately home, Wollaton Hall (see 21). As a result, although much of the foundations still remain, there is practically nothing of Lenton Priory left above ground except the stump of a pillar, from the east end of the building, which remains in a patch of grass on Priory Street, although this is not believed to be its original position; it was probably moved during the Victorian period.



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lenton_Priory <https://leftlion.co.uk/features/2017/11/street-tales-lenton-priory/>

As part of the planning requirements for NET Phase 2, areas likely to contain things of archaeological interest had to be investigated. Trent and Peak Archaeology were contracted by the NET contractors, VINCI Construction UK, to undertake the necessary work. The location of Lenton Priory was an obvious case for such investigation, both under the proposed tram alignment along Gregory Street and the eastern side of Abbey Street and along the streets (Old Church Street and Priory Street) where a new cable trench was to be dug so that the cables were avoiding the line of the tram tracks.

During the excavations along Priory Street and Old Church Street substantial portions of Lenton Medieval Priory's floor plan, which had hitherto only been conjectural, were observed and recorded for the first time. The work concluded that the medieval priory was aligned, more or less, exactly with the modern orientation of Priory Street, with its main (eastern) entrance being on Abbey Street.



<https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/library/browse/issue.xhtml?recordId=1154575&recordType=GreyLitSeries>

Along Abbey Street the archaeological investigations yielded evidence for settlement layout and use from the 11th/12th to 17th centuries, including enclosure ditches, refuse pits and material that is likely to have resulted from the use of the area during the annual Martinmas Fair event that was held in Lenton at least intermittently from 1164 into the 16th century. The finds appeared to confirm Medieval and post-medieval texts suggesting that the annual eight-day fair was held within the outer precinct of the Priory and would have included booths used by merchants and their families to both sell goods from and to lodge in. The Fair has been recreated in recent years, as reported by the Lenton Times, the magazine of the Lenton History Society: https://www.lentontimes.co.uk/streets/martinmas_fair.htm

The annual Martinmas Fair held at Lenton Priory during the Middle Ages was once one of the most important fairs in the country. Long since gone, the Dunkirk and Lenton Partnership in 2014 organised their own version of this fair in the form of a 'living history event' mounted in the churchyard of the Priory Church, Old Lenton. This took place on Saturday 15th November when costumed characters, mock tournaments and market stalls all helped recreate the past.

The site of the Priory was bought by William Stretton in 1802 and he built a large house called 'The Priory'. William was interested in antiquities and he is known to have removed old architectural materials whilst his house was being constructed. When William died he left the house to his son Sempronius. Colonel Sempronius Stretton died in 1842 and left the house to his brother Severus William Lynam Stretton. Neither of the sons regarded the Priory as home and Severus sold the house. It was bought in 1880 by the Poor Sisters of Nazareth, a Roman Catholic order of nuns, and was renamed 'Nazareth House' and other buildings were built around it.

The Sisters of Nazareth sold the property in the 2005, the other buildings were demolished and the site redeveloped for housing but the 19th century house remains, now named 'The Bishop's House', at the corner of Nazareth Road and Nazareth Court.

In recognition of its history, the streets in this area of Lenton are named Priory Street, Friar Street, Friary Close, The Friary, Nazareth Road, Nazareth Court and, next to the church, Old Church Street.

<https://nottinghamhiddenhistoryteam.wordpress.com/2013/07/01/lenton-priory/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lenton_Priory

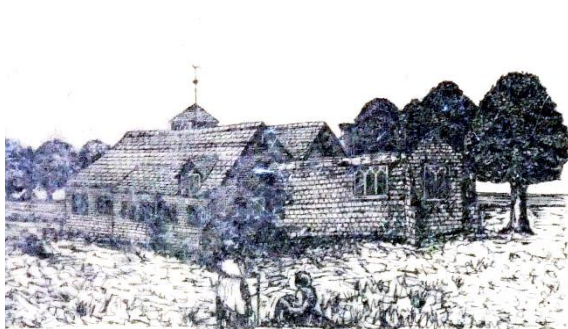
<https://www.medievalists.net/2021/03/lenton-priory/>



3. The Priory Church of St. Anthony

This church was founded during the second half of the 12th century as the chapel of St. Anthony's hospital which stood in the courtyard of Lenton Priory. The hospital was established by the monks for the care and cure of the sick poor, particularly those suffering from 'St. Anthony's fire', a distressing skin disease, similar to erysipelas, an epidemic of which swept the country at that time. This small church was built for their exclusive use.

When the Priory was dissolved in 1538 the villages transferred their parish altar, dedicated to the Holy Trinity, from the Priory Nave into this small church. The church then became known as 'Holy Trinity Church'. The building remained the parish church until 1842, when the present parish church was built on Church Street midway between Old Lenton and New Lenton. The title and parochial status was transferred to the new building. The roof of the nave of the old church was removed and the chancel was converted into a mortuary chapel. Following an increase in population in the 1880's it was decided to restore the nave and bring this 'Mother' church back into use with its original dedication of St. Anthony.



The Priory Church in 1843



St. Anthony's church today

The Nottingham Evening Post, reporting on the re-opening of the church on 4 December 1884, provides a summary of the restoration work:

'The [restoration] was placed in the hands of Messrs. Evans and Jolley, architects, of Nottingham, and the result is that the roofless walls of the nave, the chancel, and the vestry of the old building have been transformed into a handsome church, capable of holding about 400 people....'

<https://southwellchurches.nottingham.ac.uk/lenton-priory/hhistory.php>

4. River Leen, Nottingham Canal & QMC site

In the 1790s, two new canals were constructed: Nottingham Canal, from the River Trent near Trent Bridge, through the city and Lenton to Langley Mill and also the Beeston Canal (also known as the Beeston Cut), from the Nottingham Canal at Lenton to the River Trent at Beeston. They opened in 1796.

Passing through Lenton, the canal ran parallel to the River Leen, as shown in the map below (Surveyed: 1880 to 1881, Published: 1885).

The canals provided a means of goods transport serving local coal mines and other industry, including the mills and factories in Lenton, including the Tannery & Leather Works on Leen Gate, which is now apartments, and the Lace Factory and Cotton Spinning Mill on what is now the site of the Queens Medical Centre. There was a large Mill Pond between the Leen and the canal just north of Abbey Bridge

The section of canal between Lenton and Langley Mill was disused by 1928 and was abandoned in 1937, and much of it was filled in after the war. Mill Pond has gone. However, the River Leen, which used to go along what is now Castle Boulevard, was first diverted into the southernmost section of the abandoned canal, between Derby Road and the operational canal at Lenton and, a short distance past Abbey Bridge, it goes under the operational canal in a syphon, before entering a brand new channel that took it to join the Trent near the Riverside Way/ Queens Drive junction.

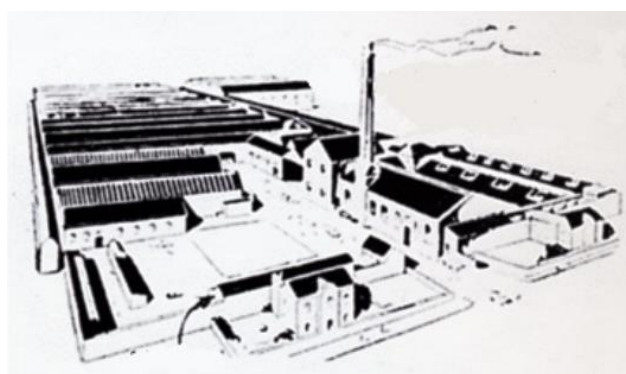
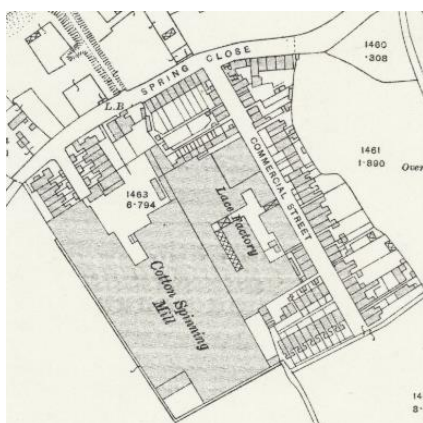
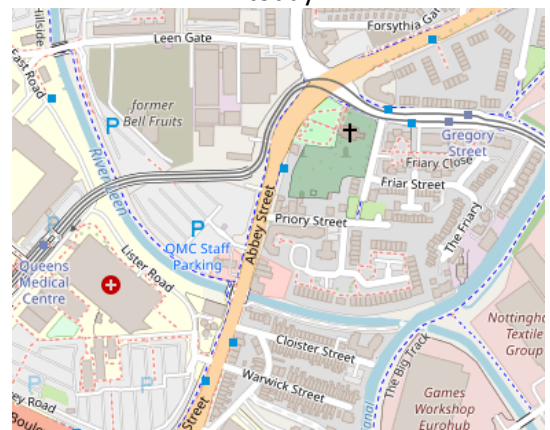
<https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/canals-and-rivers/nottingham-and-beeston-canal/the-history-of-the-nottingham-and-beeston-canal>

<http://www.nottsheritagegateway.org.uk/themes/canals.htm>

1880's



today



A view of the Spring Close Works (from the north-west) c.1940s

There were residential streets (Spring Close/Commercial Street) next to the lace factory and cotton mill, presumably built for employees. The memories of people living here in the 1940's and 1950's are included in an article in the Lenton Times https://www.lentontimes.co.uk/streets/spring_close_area.htm. I include one here which tells of work in Albert Carter factory:

I started work at Albert Carter's as a trainee embroiderer in 1951. Most of the young females who lived in the immediate area started work at Albert Carter's as there was not much of in the way of an alternative for female school leavers.

The factory operated on three floors. The office and canteen were on the ground floor, while the first floor was the lace repairing area where the older ladies sat repairing holes or small tears on huge rolls of lace that was made for table ware or bridle fabric. On the top floor were the single head embroidery machines. I was based on one of these working mostly on ladies blouses and underwear. There would have been at least fifty women working on this floor. Those working on the patterns and marking out the designs were also based on this top floor.

The pantographing room was located in a separate building at the rear of the main one. Here were five or six huge and very noisy lace machines and there would be a head girl who would work the pattern from one end of the machine and a couple of others to keep the bobbins full. They produced beautiful Nottingham lace that went around the world. There was even a suggestion that some of the lace had been made specifically for the royal family. The yard in between the main building and the pantographing room was shared with another business involved in dyeing and sometimes the smell that wafted over from dyes and the bleach they used would be almost unbearable.

During WWI the textile and lace mill (Spring Close Works) was used as a National Shell Factory, set up by the Nottingham Munitions Committee for the manufacture of 13-pdr, 18-pdr. High Explosive and Smoke shells plus 2.75" shells.

The shell factory opened in mid-1916. After the war the site reverted to a textile mill. Later it became the site for QMC.

<https://war-work.com/national-shell-factory-nottingham/>

5. Queens Medical Centre

The Queen's Medical Centre (QMC) was the first purpose-built teaching hospital in the UK.

In 1964 Health Minister Anthony Barber announced in Parliament that Nottingham had been selected for a new teaching hospital and medical school, with 1,200 beds and an annual intake of 100 students. According to the University of Nottingham, there was a shortage of doctors at the time and existing medical schools could not cope with demand. Apparently, Nottingham was picked because the city's healthcare provision was deemed to be among the most inadequate in the country.

It was designed by the Building Design Partnership. Legal delays with the purchase of the 43-acre site meant that building work did not commence until May 1971. The first pile was driven on the Clifton Boulevard site, marking the beginning of the building of the Medical School and the hospital's West Block. Lack of funding became a serious problem after 1979, and slowed the commissioning of some parts of the hospital. It was well into the 1980s before the project was completed.



The Hospital was officially opened by Queen Elizabeth II on 28 July 1977, and admitted its first patient in 1978.

One of the largest hospitals in the UK and the largest major trauma centre in England, the QMC has more than 1,300 beds and employs more than 6000 people.

<https://www.nottinghampost.com/news/health/timeline-history-queens-medical-centre-245978>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Queen%27s_Medical_Centre



6. Sir Peter Mansfield Bridge



At the planning stage, it was intended that the tram stop should have direct level access into the main building of the QMC but delays in determining what internal changes were necessary for this meant the link bridge was not opened until 3 years after the tram service started – tram passengers had to access the hospital by going down the lift or stairs.

The new, level access bridge was officially opened in July 2017, which was also the 40th anniversary of the official opening of the QMC.

The bridge is named after one of Nottingham's most famous science pioneers – Sir Peter Mansfield. Sir Peter, who died in February 2017, invented the MRI scanner, which transformed the world of medicine. He was knighted in 1993 and ten years later shared the 2003 Nobel Prize for Medicine. He is also honoured with his name on Tram 227.

Dr Peter Homa, chief executive of Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust, said: *“This is the only bridge in the country that connects a tram to a hospital. This hospital is very special, we have the best number of patient outcomes here in the country and it is the best teaching hospital in the country”.*

<https://www.nottinghampost.com/news/health/qmcs-new-tram-bridge-opens-251660>

7. Ningbo Friendship Bridge

This most impressive structure built as part of the NET tram extension was officially named the Ningbo Friendship Bridge by the Lord Mayor of Nottingham, Councillor Ian Malcolm, and the Vice Mayor of Ningbo, Mr Zhang Minghua, at an official ceremony on Wednesday 11 June 2014, in honour of the special relationship shared between Nottingham and Ningbo in China. The naming of the bridge coincided with the 10th anniversary celebrations of the opening of The University of Nottingham Ningbo China (UNNC) — the first foreign independent university campus to be established in China.

The steel bowstring bridge, measuring 62 metres long and weighing more than 1,000 tonnes, is part of a series of structures that forms a 300-metre-long elevated tram route through the Queen's Medical Centre.

The bridge was constructed on the ground within the QMC site and then raised up and, with an overnight closure of Clifton Boulevard, slowly moved across the road to its final position.



According to a University of Nottingham article, 10 Jun 2014, the naming of such a significant new landmark on the city's skyline also cements the existing relationship between Nottingham and Ningbo, helping to raise the profile of Nottingham in China - one of the world's fastest growing economies - and forging important links in trade, education, and research between the two cities. The strategic placement of Ningbo, just south of Shanghai, and the presence of UNNC, has led to a number of opportunities for Nottingham's economy including Chang'An Automotive locating to the Nottingham Science Park and research work agreements being signed with Avic, a Chinese aerospace group. A number of Nottingham based businesses, including Asiana, Benoy, and Romax have also been able to establish a strong presence in China thanks to the close working relationships developed with Ningbo.

Vice-Chancellor of The University of Nottingham, Professor David Greenaway, said: *“The Ningbo Friendship Bridge is an outward symbol of the significant relationship between Nottingham and Ningbo, which has gone from strength to strength over the ten years since the inception of our campus in China. We are proud to be involved with such a prestigious event, which will see our two cities becoming ever closer for a mutually prosperous future.”*

Vice Mayor of Ningbo, Mr Zhang Minghua, said: *"In the past ten years, The University of Nottingham Ningbo Campus acts just as a bridge linking the two cities closely together. Today, I am honoured to witness the naming of a real bridge in our sister city, which shows the commitment of the City of Nottingham to the long-term friendly relations between us."*

Nottingham City Council Leader, Councillor Jon Collins said: *"The naming of such an important new Nottingham landmark reinforces the very close bond we have forged with the city of Ningbo which is to the mutual benefit to both cities, our citizens, and our business communities, and we are very happy to be able to pay tribute to Ningbo in this way."*

<https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/news/pressreleases/2014/june/iconic-tram-bridge-to-be-named-in-honour-of-ningbo-.aspx>

It should be noted that the above report and quotes were made at a time when, under Prime Minister David Cameron, UK relations with China were more positive than today.

8. University of Nottingham

For the history of this site I am using a useful piece from the University itself:

<https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/about/history/abriefhistoryoftheuniversity.aspx>

plus additional detail from:

<https://onedrive.live.com/?authkey=%21AOJDH4Aw4jpQJtk&id=2D17D9AEBA72197%21209&cid=02D17D9AEBA72197&parId=root&parQt=sharedby&parCid=UnAuth&o=OneUp>

1881 - Nottingham's first civic college

Nottingham's first civic college was opened in the city centre in 1881, four years after the foundation stone was laid by former Prime Minister, W E Gladstone. An anonymous benefactor had offered £10,000 for a college on condition that a suitable building be erected by the Council and that the college should be provided with £4,000 a year.

1928 - The move to University Park

After the First World War, the college outgrew its original building. A generous gift by Sir Jesse Boot, of 35 acres of land at Highfields, presented the solution and in 1928 the College moved to what is now the main campus, University Park. Initially, it was accommodated in the elegant Trent Building and was officially opened by King George V in November of that year.

Even in its early days on this site, the College attracted high profile visiting lecturers including Professor Albert Einstein, Mahatma Gandhi and H G Wells.

1948 – Becoming The University of Nottingham

In 1948, the college was awarded the Royal Charter and became The University of Nottingham, now able to award degrees in its own name. During this period the School of Agriculture was established when the Midland College of Agriculture at Sutton Bonington merged with the University.

The University of Nottingham continued to grow and still focuses on its development.

The Medical School: In 1970 we established the UK's first Medical School in the 20th century, and in 1995 the School of Nursing was formed following the merger of the Mid-Trent College of Nursing and Midwifery. In 2003 a new campus was opened in Derby City General Hospital.

Jubilee Campus: The £50 million Jubilee Campus development opened in 1999 and subsequently phase two opened in March 2009. The campus has won numerous awards due to its environmentally-friendly features.

Malaysia Campus: The University opened a campus in Malaysia in 2000. Subsequently a new purpose-built park campus was opened in September 2005 in Semenyih, Malaysia, close to Kuala Lumpur International Airport.

King's Meadow Campus: In March 2005 The University opened the King's Meadow Campus in the former Carlton Television Studios. The campus is home to many of The University's administrative and support units, Manuscripts and Special Collections and two television studios.

China Campus: The University admitted its first students in the city of Ningbo, China in 2004, and the purpose-built campus was formally opened in February 2006, as part of a joint venture. The University then became the first foreign university to establish an independent campus in China.

School of Veterinary Medicine and Science: The University of Nottingham officially opened the School of Veterinary Medicine and Science in April 2007 (having admitted its first students in September 2006). It was the first purpose-built new veterinary school to be opened in the UK in 50 years.

9. Lakeside Arts

As part of the Highfields park commissioned by Sir Jesse Boot (see **10**) for the people of Nottingham was Highfields Lido, apparently the largest swimming pool in Britain, which opened in 1924. It remained open until 1980 when, because of low usage and the high cost of essential repairs, the City Council decided to close it. Part of the site is now occupied by Lakeside Arts buildings and some is used by the tram.



Lakeside Arts was established by the University of Nottingham in September 2001, when the Pavilion housing the newly built Djanogly Theatre first opened, adding to the University's pre-existing arts buildings of the Djanogly Gallery and Djanogly Recital Hall.

The first elements of what would become Lakeside Arts were initially established in the early to mid-1990s after former University of Nottingham Vice-Chancellor, Sir Colin Campbell, set up the Arts Centre Appeal committee to develop an innovative new public art facility and visitor centre at the south entrance to the University on the site of England's largest outdoor swimming pool facility – Highfields Lido (pictured above). Sir Colin gathered around him a Campaign Team chaired by a great friend and alumnus of the University, Thomas Angear, and including our long-term benefactor Sir Harry Djanogly.

The campaign was extremely successful and in 1992 the Djanogly Gallery – the first truly accessible University of Nottingham arts facility that could be shared with the general public – opened its doors with a Gerhard Richter exhibition. Members of the public were encouraged to come in and find out more about the University in the Visitor Centre, and to enjoy a café frequented by students, staff and the general public alike.

Two years later the second stage was completed providing the state of the art Djanogly Recital Hall and teaching facilities for the Department of Music; the first public concert took place on 21 October 1994.

The Jubilee Campaign that followed aimed to create a professional theatre space, public exhibition space for Manuscripts & Special Collections and an informal white-box gallery space. Edgar and Judith Wallner, alumni and keen New Theatre members, helped support this development alongside Sir Harry, and the Garfield Weston Foundation. The Pavilion opened in late 2001, and we launched the concept of Lakeside as the combined arts complex at the south entrance.

There have been further additions and developments since: 2004 saw the extension of the Pavilion and the addition of performing arts, visual arts and artist in residence studios which greatly expanded our community learning programme, as well as providing new facilities and opportunities to support artists; and in 2011 the University Museum relocated to Lakeside and the Djanogly Gallery was expanded.

<https://www.lakesidearts.org.uk/about-us/our-history.html>

<https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/about/facilities/artandperformance.aspx>

10. Highfields Park

The university grounds (University Park) and the Highfields Park are all part of what was the land holding (demesne) of Lenton Priory (see **1** & **2** above) until the dissolution of the monasteries in 1538. The monks had used the land for crops and grazing and it was likely there was a fish pond. The land was owned by absentee landlords in the 17th century and let for grazing. In the late 1700s most of the land was bought by two bankers (Thomas Paget and Thomas Pares) who divided and sold the land to James Green, who built Lenton Abbey House, John Wright, who built Lenton Hall, and Joseph Lowe, who built Highfield House and developed the Highfield Estate.

<https://www.lakesidearts.org.uk/SiteData/Root/File/Visit%20us/heritageguide.pdf>

The Lowes were a family who had long owned land and property in Cheshire. Joseph Lowe was born Derbyshire in 1737, the son of a Presbyterian minister, who sent him to London when he was about seventeen, to work for a linen merchant. In the late 1750s Joseph came to Nottingham, trading for a few years as a mercer in Bridlesmith Gate. By the age of 22 he had been elected a Burgess of Nottingham, and had embarked on a busy public life in the town, becoming Sheriff in his mid-twenties.

In 1798, he purchased the Highfield estate in Lenton parish. Here he built Highfield House, to the designs of William Wilkins (who also designed Donington Hall in Leicestershire). For the next 100 years (or perhaps longer – records I have found give different years) the house and surrounding land remained within the Lowe family. During this period the Lowe family worked on “embellishment of this delightful spot, which occupies an elevated situation overlooking the Trent Valley from a fine commanding plateau faced by sandstone bluffs, at the bottom of which there is a handsome lake, and environed by about 160 acres of lawns, pleasure-grounds, and meadows, abounding in all the concealed landscape beauties of a private demesne”. They also created a fish pond by damming the Tottle Brook.

Joseph Lowe’s grandson, Alfred Joseph Lowe J.P. was a horticulturalist, meteorologist and astronomer. He was a magistrate for Nottinghamshire, and for many years vice-chairman of the Radford Union. He was Sheriff of Nottingham in 1812-13.

He was a founding member and treasurer of the Nottingham Mechanics' Institution. In 1846 he started a vocal music class which evolved into the Nottingham Harmonic Society. He applied the principle of the Jacquard loom to the bobbin net lace machine which produced the pattern in the lace at the same time as manufacturing the fabric. This invention resulted in a significant improvement in productivity of lace, and turned Nottingham into the centre of mechanical lace production in England.

As a horticulturalist, he developed the estate at Highfield House, planting many trees and shrubs, and, as a meteorologist and astronomer, he built an observatory at Highfield House and was a founder member of the Meteorological Society which later became the Royal Meteorological Society.

http://www.nottshistory.org.uk/articles/sneinton/sm62_11-22.htm

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alfred_Joseph_Lowe

https://www.lentontimes.co.uk/streets/highfields_park.htm



This map below shows the area as it was c.1880s.

Remains of the Lowe’s landscaping today are the area of the escarpment, parts of the islands and some trees within woodland along the southern edge of the lake.

I have been unable to find when the Lowe family sold the estate. One source states that Alfred's son Edward Joseph was the last of the Lowes to live at Highfield, selling the estate in 1881 to a lace manufacturer, Henry Simpson. Another source says Edward Joseph Lowe’s son, Hugh Lee Peyton Lowe, still owned it in 1919. Whichever is correct, the Highfield Estate eventually, in 1919-20, became the property of Sir Jesse Boot, for a price of £32,284 3s 4d. (£1.4m at today’s prices)

Jesse Boot (1850-1931) was born in Nottingham. His father, John Boot, had been an agricultural labourer in Radcliffe-on-Trent but due to ill health he became a purveyor of herbal medicines in Nottingham, helped by his wife Mary. After John’s death, Jesse began to assist his mother and by the age of twenty-one he became a partner and the business was known as ‘Mary & Jesse Boot – Herbalists’. Jesse’s ethos was to sell large quantities of stock as

cheaply as possible and he also branched out into non-medicinal products. After Mary's retirement in the late 1870s, Jesse took sole charge of the business, expanding it first in Nottingham and then nationally. He and his wife Florence also took a keen interest in the welfare of their employees, providing works canteens where they could obtain food at reasonable prices and organising activities outside working hours. He was known for his philanthropic activities in Nottingham, such as giving £50,000 to the Nottingham General Hospital, giving 2/3 of the cost of the purchase of Woodthorpe Grange Park and its conversion into a recreational facility, building the Dorothy Boot Homes almshouses in Wilford (see the Wilford walk) and, in 1920, purchasing a large area of land within the Victoria Embankment adjacent to the Trent with the intention of using it as a site for a proposed East Midland University. In 1909 Jesse Boot received a knighthood in recognition of his outstanding success and in 1928 he became a peer of the realm, assuming the title of Lord Trent. <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1430894?section=official-list-entry>

Sir Jesse bought the Highfield estate with the intention of using it for a new industrial development with housing for his workers. However, he then had an offer for his company (then named The Boots Pure Drug Company) from the United Drug Company of America. Sir Jesse asked for £2½million (over £100m today), apparently thinking such a high price would be refused. It wasn't and so he sold the company and, as the new owners showed no interest in his idea of using Highfield for a new factory, he thought about converting the estate into a large public park. However, at around the same time the idea of using Victoria Embankment for a new University was losing favour and Sir Jesse was looking for an alternative site. He put forward a generous offer to the then owners of Wollaton Park, the 9th Baron Middleton and his wife, for the university. Middleton turned down the offer for the reason that Lady Middleton wanted the hall kept as a dower house for her if she were ever to be widowed. So, Sir Jesse decided instead to offer 35 acres of the Highfield estate as the site for the new University College buildings.

Arthur Mee, (The King's England: Nottinghamshire, Hodder & Stoughton, 1938 from Nottinghamshire History website <http://www.nottshistory.org.uk>) writes that Sir Jesse:

"...had grown rich and famous, but all his wealth and all his fame he would have given for good health. Rheumatoid arthritis had him in its grip; his body failed him more and more. He lay on his back day and night, unable to move alone, but with a mind alert and dreaming of doing some great new thing. What he did was to build this University College, one of the finest monuments learning has. It rises from its mantle of trees at Highfields with the graciousness and elegance of a beautiful white lady. The south front, impressive by its very simplicity, is 400 feet long, its great masses well balanced in the curves of the hillside. The boulevard laid out in front of it with lawns and banks and lime trees is nearly a mile long. On one side are playing fields, on the other the lovely grounds with masses of rhododendrons, shrubs and trees, rock gardens and waterfall, a lake for boating, and the biggest open-air swimming pool in England, 330 feet long and 75 wide. It is filled by electric pumps, and though it holds 772,000 gallons of water it can be filled at a cost of less than a pound. There are scores of cricket pitches, football grounds, tennis courts, bowling greens, hockey fields, and croquet lawns, and rising in the midst of them is Mr Morley Horder's lovely College, crowned by the elegant tower Giotto himself would have loved to see".

At Highfields Sir Jesse hired a Nottingham Engineer, WH Radford, to plan a new road – University Boulevard – across the site, with plans for playing fields on one side and a pleasure park, lido and ornamental boating lake (enlarging the 19 century fishpond) on the other side. Material dug out to enlarge the lake was used to raise the level of the road.

<https://onedrive.live.com/?authkey=%21AOJDH4Aw4jpQJtk&id=2D17D9AEBA72197%21209&cid=02D17D9AEBA72197&parId=root&parQt=sharedby&parCid=UnAuth&o=OneUp> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boots_\(company\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boots_(company))

The new park was designed by the architect Percy Richard Morley Horder to form a setting for the University Trent Building which he designed and built in 1922-28. The park was opened fully to the public in 1926 and in 1929 the Croquet Club began using the lawns around the principal entrance on University Boulevard.

At this main entrance there is a statue in recognition of "Our Great Citizen Jesse Boot Lord Trent"



In 2017-18 a 4.8m National Lottery Funded project fully restored the park including path resurfacing, reinstalling lost railings and stonework, rebuilding the ticket office arches, restoring the boathouse, pavilions and de-silting the lake.

Today Highfields Park is a Grade II* listed 21 hectare park owned by the Highfields Leisure Park Trust and managed by Nottingham City Council, the sole trustee. There is more information about the history of the public park on boards around the lake.

https://committee.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/documents/s9164/Highfields_stage2_app2.pdf

11. DH Lawrence Pavilion

Sir Jesse Boot built the Lakeside Pavilion as part of the new Highfields Park. It was initially a restaurant and dance hall but when the University College took over the building in the 1930s, the pavilion served as a gymnasium until 1970 when a new indoor sports centre was opened elsewhere on the campus. The pavilion became an examination hall and refectory. In 1999 it suffered serious fire damage and was demolished and replaced with the new building, in tribute to DH Lawrence, designed by architects Julian Marsh and Jerzy Grochowski, with a 250-seater theatre, café, seminar rooms and exhibition area.



A lakeside view of the new D.H. Lawrence Pavilion taken in June 2001. Photograph by Paul Bexon.

<https://onedrive.live.com/?authkey=%21AOJDH4Aw4jpQJtk&id=2D17D9AEBA72197%21209&cid=02D17D9AEBA72197&parId=root&parQt=sharedby&parCid=UnAuth&o=OneUp>

12. Chinese stone lions

The two magnificent Chinese stone lions were given to Nottingham by the city of Ningbo in 2015

The gift of the lions was to further strengthen the decade-long links between Nottingham and Ningbo, and in a reciprocal gesture, Nottingham gave a full-size replica of the famous Robin Hood statue to Ningbo. The lions were officially unveiled at a special ceremony by Councillor Jon Collins and Ningbo Vice-Mayor Mr Wang Jianhou at Highfields Park on 21 September 2015, as part of the Chinese delegation visit to Nottingham. The delegation included more than 100 representatives from business, local



government and education as well as a 16-strong troupe of Tai Chi performers who performed during the welcoming ceremony.

The two stone lions look at each other, with their bodies facing towards the Jesse Boot statue, with the University's Trent Building behind. Each statue is more than two metres tall and weighs 3.5 tonnes on its plinth. The male lion stands with his paw on a ball, representing supremacy over the world, while the female stands holding her cub, representing nurture. The statues are suggestive of the lions guarding the Forbidden City, and statues of guardian lions have traditionally stood before Chinese Imperial palaces, Imperial tombs, government offices, temples, and the homes of the powerful.

Following the unveiling ceremony, representatives from Ningbo went by tram from The University tram stop over the Ningbo Friendship Bridge across the A52 and into the city centre to see the original Robin Hood statue near Nottingham Castle and be guests at a civic dinner at the Council House.

<https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/news/pressreleases/2015/september/chinese-stone-lions-take-pride-of-place-in-nottingham.aspx>

13. Highfields escarpment

The disused stairs were built by the Lowe family for access down the escarpment from Highfields House to the fishpond.

An information board in the park tells us that:

Highfields Park has an interesting topography, most notably in its rocky outcrop, or escarpment, which forms the northern boundary. The south-west end of the park sits on Nottingham Castle Sandstone while the north-east end is Mercia Mudstone. The Highfield Fault, defining the movement of the Highfields tectonic plates, divides the Sandstone and the Mudstone. Within the escarpment lies evidence of the possibility of late Mesolithic/early Neolithic rock caves. The escarpment area would have been attractive to prehistoric man because of the shelter offered by the rock face and the availability of water from the Tottle Brook and the natural springs which emerge from below the Mudstone.

14. Trent Building

Within the gift by Sir Jesse Boot, work to build the Nottingham university college started in the 1920s with the Trent Building, designed by architect Percy Richard Morley. It was officially opened by King George V in November 1928.

Trent Building under construction in 1926



The King formally opening the building with a gold key presented to him by the architect. After a tour of the building the King and Queen took tea with Sir Jesse and Lady Boot in his private rooms.



"On the day when the dream of Sir Jesse Boot was coming true, when the King was coming to open the door with a golden key, he drove past the great university building through streets alive with joy and sunshine, and gay like the rainbow with colours flying in the breeze, and found the giver of all this good lying alone in a small room near the banks of the Trent. The people were waiting for the King and Queen, thinking how beautiful their city looked, and thrilling with pride on this great day, and the founder of all this happiness lay on his plain bed physically helpless, with two or three men within call if he should need to be moved, and the two or three secretaries he was always needing. He was cheerful and uncomplaining, a poor boy grown rich and sharing his riches with the town that had helped him, a strong man grown weak, yet fashioning his life into things that are better than gold."

Arthur Mee, *The King's England: Nottinghamshire*, Hodder & Stoughton, 1938

Nottinghamshire History website: <http://www.nottshistory.org.uk>



This picture postcard shows the Trent Building from the air, taken on the day of the opening in 1928

Today the Trent Building serves as one of the main administrative buildings of the University of Nottingham. It also contains academic facilities, principally for the arts and social sciences.

Note the coat of arms above the entrance – ‘Sapientia urbs conditur’ – A city is built on wisdom.



The building has a fine courtyard



On the tower, just above the level of the building's roof is a sculpted plaque in honour of Jesse Boot: “ad gloriam dei et homines artibus instrvendo has aedes cvravit aedificandas lesse Boot baronnetivs MCMXXVIII” – for the glory of God and for the instruction of men in the Arts, he took care to build this place, Jesse Boot, 1928 [I'm not entirely sure about the translation]



15. Highfield House



Highfield House as it appeared c1870

The house was built c1797 by the Lowe family (see 10) who lived there for at least 3 generations.

The garden is the remnant of a much larger walled garden that was once filled with 'vineries, stove houses and exotic plants'. To the north side of the building were the servants' quarters and the stables, plus cowsheds, a piggery, carthorse stalls and a farmyard.

The house was bought by Sir Jesse Boot in 1919.

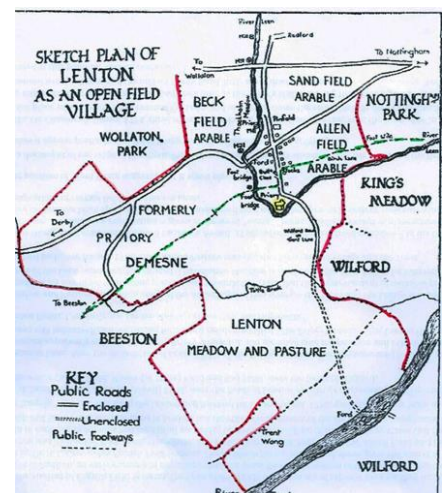
In 1928, after the acquisition of the Highfields Estate for the University College, it became the residence of the Principal, and subsequently of the Vice-Chancellor of the University.

<https://www.lakesidearts.org.uk/SiteData/Root/File/Visit%20us/heritageguide.pdf>
<https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/sustainability/documents/grounds/gardensguide.pdf>

16. Cut Through Lane & Keighton



Cut Trough Lane is shown coloured green on this 1700s map (right) of Lenton village and the Priory demesne (see 1) and on the map from the 1880s (left) passing Highfield House.



It is part of a much older footpath or bridle road running between Nottingham and Beeston:

The oldest road in this neighbourhood, whose age it is impossible to speak of in terms of years, was the track from east to west on the high land above the jungle of the Trent Valley. This road, after passing by, or through, the ancient enclosure of Nottingham, proceeded by Pepper Street [off Bridlesmith Gate behind M&S], Houndsgate, Lenton Road [The Park] and Cut Through Lane [through Nottingham University campus] to the west [Beeston].

<http://www.nottshistory.org.uk>

This image of Cut Through Lane is from a 'Clumber' postcard produced by Albert Hindley in the early twentieth century. This one was posted in Beeston on 7th July 1907 and sent to a Miss Brown in Wisbech and signed by 'mother'. It says 'We come thro' this walk on our way to Mrs Hewitt's. It is very nice in the daytime but rather dreary at night'.

https://www.lentontimes.co.uk/streets/university_campus.htm



To the south of Cut Through Lane and east of the Portland Building lies the site of the deserted village of **Keighton**. The platforms on which houses stood are visible as bumps in the grass.

The remains of Keighton were discovered in the 1940s with further excavations since, the most recent being undertaken in 2006 by the Department of Archaeology at the University.

Keighton is first mentioned in 1106 in the foundation charter for Lenton Priory, and in 1387 cottages there were said to be ruinous and without potential tenants. Archaeology finds indicate possible settlement here in Saxon times and, certainly, it was occupied in the 12th century. It was likely to be finally deserted in the 16th century at the time of the Dissolution of the Monasteries.

Keighton may have been a 'service centre' for Lenton Priory, as it was producing floor and roof tiles in the 15th century and pottery from at least the 14th century.

(Info from [The University of Nottingham Museum of Archaeology](#))



Cooking pots found at Keighton where they were probably made, late 14th – 15th century.



A Keighton tile

17. Millenium Garden

The Millennium Garden is a quiet, reflective place for students, staff and the community and was created after a design competition.

The bold design is based on the theme of time. A central pathway leads into the garden and to a series of interconnecting circular paths and areas. There is a formal pool with 12 fountains, which 'tell the time' and steel bridges — set low to create a feeling of 'walking on water' — leading to a central island.

Lord Dearing, former Chancellor of the University, formally opened the Millennium Garden on Tuesday 4 July 2000.

<https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/sustainability/documents/grounds/gardensguide.pdf>



18. East Midlands Conference Centre

Established in 1994, the East Midlands Conference Centre is a cornerstone for events, known for its architectural elegance, a multitude of rooms, state-of-the-art facilities, and a prime location next to the Orchard Hotel & Restaurant.

After nearly a decade under the De Vere Group, whilst the Nottingham Conferences team were part of the university, in June 2022 it was rebranded and now the East Midlands Conference Centre, Orchard and Jubilee hotels and the university conference facilities that make up the newly named Campus Venues, will sit under the unified brand. It boasts a wide portfolio of conference venues, meeting rooms, the David Ross Sports Village, hotels, cafes, and restaurants, all set within the beautiful parkland grounds of the university.

The unique nature of this offering sets it apart from competitors and has seen it become a firm favourite of organisers of global conferences, networking events, overnight stays, and business meetings.

www.nottinghamvenues.com



Orchard Hotel



East Midlands Conference Centre

19. David Ross Sports Village

The David Ross Sports Village offers an inspirational and accessible sports provision for all. The sports village has been supported by a significant commitment from Nottingham alumnus and Carphone Warehouse founder - David Ross.

Opened in 2016, David Ross Sports Village offers world-class sports and fitness facilities, including the largest sports hall and one of only four all-glass squash courts in the country, a dedicated archery, fencing and table tennis salle, martial arts dojo, high performance zone as well as a Sports Injury Clinic.

<https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/sport/sport-facilities/david-ross-sports-village.aspx>



20. Beeston Lodge

Beeston Lodge and attached walls are Grade II listed. Built in 1832, it was designed by Sir Jeffry Wyattville for the 6th Lord Middleton. The listing describes it as a 'Defensive fireproof construction..... Heavy Gothick style with "martello-type" round outer towers, with battlements.... Gatehouse has a central Tudor arched carriage entrance...The structure is a rare type that is virtually unaltered. This lodge was built following the Nottingham Reform riots in October 1831.

Following the rejection of the second Reform Bill (which would have extended the vote to most men with a small holding of property) in the House of Lords on 8 October 1831, serious rioting and systematic destruction took place in Nottingham.

On 9 October the property of prominent opponents of reform was attacked in the town. On 10 October a public protest meeting turned violent. The mob marched out to Colwick and sacked Colwick Hall, the home of John Musters. Towards evening they surrounded the Castle, which was the town house of the 4th Duke of Newcastle, and burned it down and it remained a blackened and roofless shell for over 40 years. Newcastle was well known for his opposition to Parliamentary Reform and the defeat of the Whig government's Reform Bill, on 8 October 1831, made him an object of popular hostility and abuse.



<http://www.nottshistory.org.uk>

During the night of 10 October the main body of rioters had headed down Derby Road clashing with police. An attack on Wollaton Hall was only stopped by a full cavalry charge.

Wollaton Hall was the residence of the 7th Baron Middleton, a Tory known to oppose the Reform Bill. The rioters attempted to storm the gates near the crossing of Derby Road and Beeston Road ('Beeston Road' is now named Beeston Lane and runs through University Park but used to join Derby Road near Beeston Lodge – see 1899 map below):

"But every preparation had been made. Col. Hancock had garrisoned the Hall with a strong body of colliers, and several pieces of cannon, and the Wollaton Yeomanry were stationed near the entrance. The mob, however, attacked the gate, which was forced open; the yeomanry immediately charged, the gate was closed, and sixteen or seventeen prisoners were taken."

A Special Commission opened on 4 January 1832 to try arrested rioters. Framework knitter John Armstrong from Pleasley (aged 26), bobbin and carriage maker George Hearson (22) and boatman George Beck from Wollaton (20) were hanged on 25 January 1832 for their part in the riots. Six more are transported to Australia.



1899

<https://archiveshub.jisc.ac.uk/search/archives/462a6a85-38ef-3b35-b7ad-2e6a58fb616d>

<https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/manuscriptsandspecialcollections/learning/dukeofnewcastle/theme2/riotsandreform.aspx>

<https://leftlion.co.uk/features/2020/06/1831-reform-bill-riots-nottingham-history-rebellion-protest/>

https://peopleshistreh.files.wordpress.com/2010/10/tothecastle_paper_final_a4.pdf

21. Wollaton Park and Hall

Before the Norman Conquest, the manor of Wollaton was "the homestead of Wulflaf." Through corruption of speech "Wullave(s)ton" became first Olaveston (the name it has in the Domesday Book) and eventually Wollaton.

It comprised some 180 acres. After the Conquest, it was held for the King by William Peverel, a favourite of William the Conqueror. In 1086, the Domesday Book records William as holding 162 manors, forming collectively the Honour of Peverel, in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire, including Nottingham Castle. Later, the manor of Wollaton was under the responsibility of Robert de Mortein and by 1176 Adam de Morteyn is described as Lord of Wollaton and his family lived in a house probably on the site of the Old Rectory in the village. The Morteins were responsible for part of the building of the existing church which was completed in the fourteenth century by the Willoughby's who had acquired the Manor of Wollaton and adjoining parishes of Cossall and Trowell by purchase and by marriage after 1312. From about this time herds of deer were kept in the parkland adjacent to the village.

It was not until the 1460's that the Willoughby's actually moved to Wollaton, where they probably either rebuilt or expanded the Manor House. The Willoughby's wealth derived from substantial coal mines in the parish as well as their extensive land holdings. At the time of his death in 1528, Sir Henry Willoughby was one of the richest men in England.

In 1580 Sir Henry Willoughby's great grandson, Sir Francis Willoughby, began construction of Wollaton Hall on the top of the nearby hill, surrounded by parkland. Designed by Robert Smythson, it was built using Ancaster stone carried from Ancaster by donkey or packhorse and paid for with Wollaton coal. Also, archaeologists have clearly identified stone taken from Lenton Priory was incorporated into this building.

"This great pile of ornamented stone, an impressive spectacle, has a variety of Gothic, Tudor, and classical styles, and is striking for its countless windows, pilasters, cornices, balustrades, and niches, in which are busts of Plato, Virgil, Aristotle, and Diana. A fine Prospect Room with projecting turrets crowns the centre block, and there are four square

pavilions at the corners with Dutch gables and pinnacles. The great hall has a handsome stone screen and a hammerbeam roof." Arthur Mee, *The King's England: Nottinghamshire*, Hodder & Stoughton, 1938,

Nottinghamshire History website <http://www.nottshistory.org.uk>

The Hall, which "cost £80,000 in Queen Elizabeth's coinage", was completed by 1588 and the some of the park was landscaped in the style of an Elizabethan garden.

At some time during the Civil War in the 1640s the Hall was occupied by Parliamentary troops. In 1641 a fire caused extensive damage and the Hall was unused until 1687 when Francis Willoughby and his sister Cassandra, returned to the Hall, making it their principal residence.

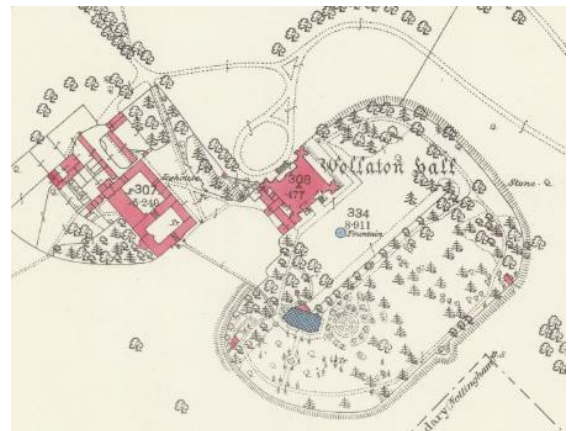


Wollaton Hall from the air in the early 1930s.

In the early 1700s, gardens below the southern terrace were restyled, adding ponds and fountains, the park wall was built and, in 1742, the Stable Block was built. Over the years there were further tree planting, extensions to the lake, garden redesign and other changes.

Another fire, in 1801 caused damage to the original interior of the house and it was remodelled by Jeffry Wyattville, a prominent garden and architectural designer who worked on Chatsworth House in Derbyshire.

By the 1880s the hall was still owned by the head of the Willoughby family, Digby Willoughby, 9th Baron Middleton, but by then the Willoughbys considered it "too near the smoke and busy activity of a large manufacturing town".



Surveyed: 1879 to 1883.

In 1924 Wollaton Hall and Park were sold by the 10th Lord Middleton to Nottingham Corporation (later Nottingham City Council) for the sum of £200,000 and was used as a museum and public park, becoming a popular destination for visitors. The eastern part of the Park was developed with a new road, Middleton Boulevard, and housing on either side (see **25**).

The Natural History Museum was established in the Hall in 1926.

During World War II, the Park was used as a military camp and training ground by the British Army and, in 1942, it was handed over to the United States Army as a base for the 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment (see **23**)

Subsequently German prisoners of war were billeted here for employment in the locality between 1945 and 1947.

The Industrial Museum was opened in the stable block in 1970.

In 2005 the Hall was granted £4.5 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund and in 2007 it had major restoration and refurbishment.

Today the Hall is Grade I listed, the Stable Buildings are Grade II listed and the Park is designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) for its rich and diverse wildlife habitats.

<https://friendsofwollatonpark.org.uk>

<http://www.nottshistory.org.uk/articles/tts/tts1920/wollaton1.htm>

22. Camellia House

The Camellia House in the gardens of Wollaton Hall is Grade II listed and is the oldest cast-iron-framed glass house in Europe, from 1823, and is the only remaining one of its kind in this country. It was built in 1828 for Henry Willoughby, 6th Lord Middleton, and was designed by Jeffry Wyatt so as to capture rainwater and funnel it down to water the plants inside. It also had underfloor heating but this was proved unnecessary as the Camellias it was built

for are relatively hardy, originating from the Himalayas, so the heating system was later removed. The Wollaton collection contains over 25 specimens, some of which are over 100 years old.

The building was visited by Joseph Paxton and was reputedly the inspiration for his design for the Crystal Palace pavilion for the Great Exhibition in 1851 in Hyde Park.

<https://wollatonhall.org.uk/deer-park-and-gardens/>
<https://friendsofwollatonpark.org.uk>



23. US Parachute Regiment

During World War II, American troops of the 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, part of the US 82nd Airborne Division, arrived in Nottingham on 13th March 1944 and were billeted at Wollaton Park, waiting to be parachuted into Europe. They remained here until 29th May when the troopers were informed by their respective commanders that the invasion was imminent and the camp was sealed. They flew out to land in Normandy on D-Day, 6 June 1944, as part of Operation Overlord, the invasion of Normandy by the Allies. Approximately 13,100 American paratroopers from the 82nd (including those based at Wollaton) and 101st Airborne Divisions conducted the opening maneuver of parachute drops.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_airborne_landings_in_Normandy
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wollaton_Park



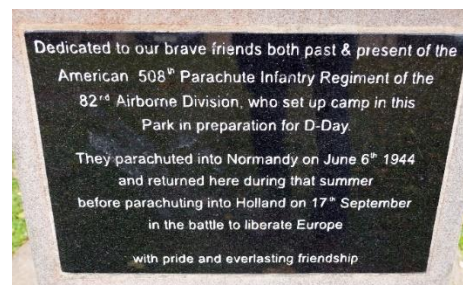
Men of the Parachute Infantry Regiment being loaded onto a couple of Barton Buses en route to the airfields where they would board the planes to take them over to Normandy for the D-Day invasion.

<https://www.nottinghampost.com/news/history/wont-forget-american-heroes-tent-2862292>

A small memorial commemorates this event.

I was out planning this walk shortly after Remembrance Day 2023 and there were notes on display from soldiers of the Parachute Regiment about their time here.

Here are some of their memories:



Sgt Don Jakeway recalls his arrival at Nottingham on March 12th 1944:

"You can imagine our joy when we first set foot in this wonderful city, surrounded by a myriad of pubs.....How well I remember the chill that settled over me when I first strolled in [one of the pubs]. I was the first American Paratrooper they had seen and they weren't about to receive me with open arms until they had thoroughly studied my behaviour.....As I continued to patronise this pub [they] did find out that I was a fairly nice person. They came to accept me and I met and made many fine friends."

Ray Barnhart remembers the kindness of local people:

"During my time at Wollaton Park, I was invited to Mr and Mrs Stewart's home for Sunday dinner, and just before leaving camp I raided the cook house and managed to get them a complete Ham and a pound of Butter. I rationalized my theft by saying to myself that the cooks would ruin it anyway.....The wonderful people of Nottingham helped us all in one way or another to forget the war, and I for one will always be grateful, especially to Mr and Mrs Stewart."

Sgt. OB Hill recalls 'the Deer incident':

One morning as we looked in amazement at Nottingham Castle (so we thought) shouting and yelling started up ...at the other end of camp. This was immediately followed by gunfire, so everyone ran like hell to see what the ruckus was about. When we arrived at the scene of the shooting, there racing away was a herd of Deer. Some of our guys were still blasting their M1 rifles at them, there were already 2 Deers laying on the ground. [An officer arrived and]

demanded - who the Hell is responsible for this?... [the troopers responded] it was open season on Deer no matter what country they were in. Their smiles quickly faded when the Captain informed them that all Deer in England were owned by the King and protected by law and was a hanging offence to kill the Kings Deer without permission....the troopers were heavily fined by the US Army and compensation was paid to the British Government."

Darell Glass, Company Commander, recalls the return of C. Company to Wollaton after D Day:

"As we saw 18 or 20 men of approximately 130 that participated in D.Day, come marching in cadence down the company street, an enormous lump filled my throat and tears came to my eyes. I watched that small group of men in Baggy Pants, worn out, bedraggled and sleepy eyed marched into the area with chests out, chins high and with an aura of pride beyond description. A pride that overflowed into all of us."

24. Middleton Boulevard

Up until the early 19th century it was on Derby Road that the Wollaton Park entrance was situated; Middleton Boulevard had not been built.

In this 1700s map (from (1) above) the Wollaton Park boundary is in red, Derby Road in blue and the Park drive in green. Derby Road at this point is further north than its alignment today. In the early 19th century, Henry, 6th Lord Middleton resolved to extend the eastern boundary of the Park; he wanted to increase the Park area as far as

the Nottingham Canal (the bendy line running N-S to the right of the map) which at that time ran through Lenton up to Langly Mill (see 4 above).

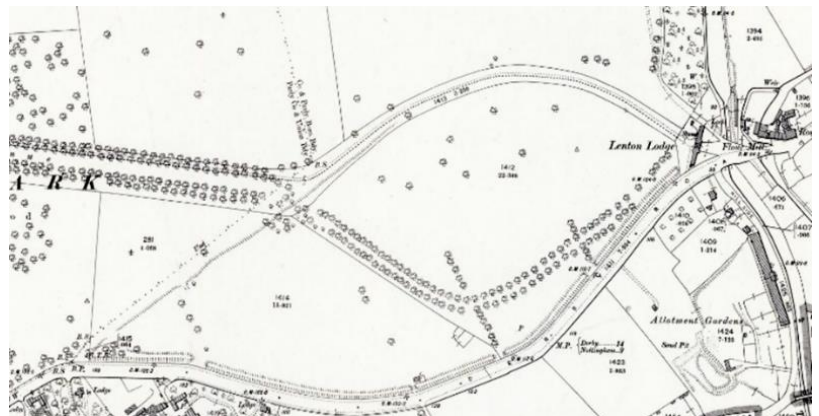
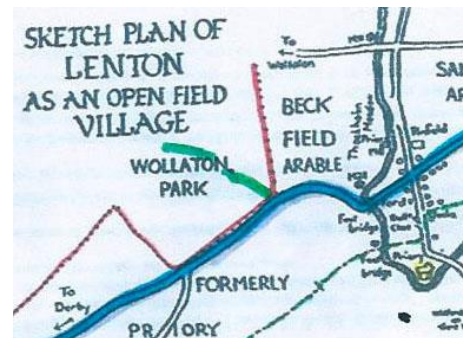
He also increased the Park a little by having part of Derby Road moved south. He extended the Park drive to a new gatehouse (Lenton Lodge – see 27 below).

This map, surveyed in 1899, shows the old Derby Road alignment curving north, past the end of Lime Tree Avenue on the left and round to Lenton Lodge on the right. The new (and present day) Derby Road alignment curves south – thus all the land above this new alignment was part of the Park.

From the map it appears that Lord Middleton planted a boulevard of trees extending Lime Tree Avenue to the new gateway at Lenton Lodge but also there appears to be a roadway along the original Derby Road alignment.

Having bought the Wollaton Park Estate in September 1924 from the 10th Lord Middleton, Nottingham Corporation built a new road – named Middleton Boulevard after the 10th Lord – and the Corporation knew how they should use the land either side.

Following the Housing and Town Planning Act of 1919 (also known as the Addison Act) which placed obligations upon Local Authorities to create better quality homes or 'homes fit for heroes', Nottingham committed itself to improving the quality of working class homes and outlined a number of sites around the city for development. Approximately 20 new housing developments had been completed within the city by 1924 creating around 1,500 new homes. When the land purchased within Wollaton Park became available most of it was set aside as a development site for social housing.



Map dated 1952

Not all the land was used in this way; at the southern end of Middleton Boulevard plots of land were sold so that private houses could be built. Adams Hill, Oundle Drive, and Wollaton Hall Drive were all developed with large private houses. They were occupied by leading industrialists and prominent people in the life of the city of Nottingham, partly because of ease of access to the city centre.

Evident from its name, Wollaton Hall Drive roughly follows the alignment of the roadway in the 1899 map above from Lime Tree Avenue to Lenton Lodge (also the old route of Derby Road).

https://www.lentontimes.co.uk/streets/lenton_lodge.htm https://www.lentontimes.co.uk/streets/middleton_boulevard.htm
<https://southwellchurches.nottingham.ac.uk/wollaton-park/hhistory.php>
[https://committee.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/Data/Wollaton%20and%20Lenton%20Abbey%20Area%20Committee%20\(Area%207\)/20110215/Agenda/SuttonPasseysDraftAppraisalV1%20-%2045933.pdf](https://committee.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/Data/Wollaton%20and%20Lenton%20Abbey%20Area%20Committee%20(Area%207)/20110215/Agenda/SuttonPasseysDraftAppraisalV1%20-%2045933.pdf)

25. Sutton Passeys Crescent

Sutton Passeys Crescent is named in memory of the long lost village of Sutton Passeys which was situated in what is now part of the Wollaton Park.

W.P.W. Philimore (*Notes on some of the deserted villages and churches of Nottinghamshire*), writing in 1884, notes "It would be difficult to find another place in this county which has more completely vanished from memory than that of Sutton Passeys, the site of which has been absorbed in Wollaton Park. Its position is not certainly known, but it must have stood somewhere between the hall and the present Radford entrance to the park.

"In Thoroton's (*History of Nottinghamshire, 1790*) day it then was, and long had been, totally decayed, and was only known by the name of Wollaton Park. At that time the inhabitants of Radford claimed that it lay within their parish. "A road [Beeston Lane] which runs northward from the village of Beeston, and stops short of the park wall [at Beeston Lodge], is by some supposed to have extended into the park to the village of Sutton" [see 1899 map at **20** above].

Philimore concludes "The village continued in existence till quite a late period, for it is entered in a subsidy roll of Elizabeth's reign in the year 1558. From the amount at which it was assessed it is clear that it was still a place in flourishing condition....Perhaps when Sir Francis Willoughby built that stately pile, the house at Wollaton, he may have found the village of Sutton inconveniently near his mansion, and therefore may have had it entirely demolished. Wollaton Hall occupied about eight years in building, and was completed in 1588. If this suggestion of the cause of the disappearance of Sutton Passeys be a correct one, the date of its destruction may be probably fixed at some time between 1580 and 1588".

http://www.ournottinghamshire.org.uk/page/sutton_passeys?path=0p2p203p

26. Jubilee Campus

The Nottingham University Jubilee Campus is a modern purpose-built campus which now extends to 65 acres and is located only one mile from University Park. The initial phase was opened by Her Majesty the Queen in 1999. The state-of-the-art facilities now include:

- the Schools of Education (including CELE) and Computer Science,
- the Nottingham University Business School,
- the National College for Leadership of Schools and Children's Services,
- a Sports Centre, and
- the University of Nottingham Innovation Park.



Built on a site that previously had industrial use, Jubilee Campus is an exemplar of brownfield regeneration and has impeccable green credentials, including a series of lakes which, as well as being home to a variety of wildlife, provide storm water attenuation and cooling for the buildings.

The environmentally-friendly nature of the campus and its buildings have been a big factor in the many awards that it has received.

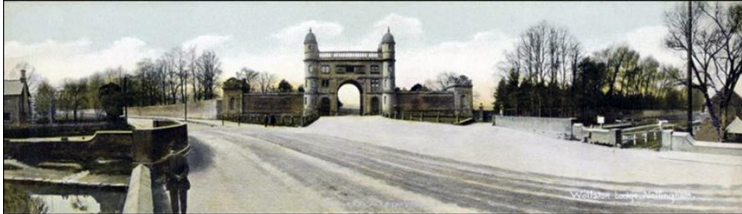
<https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/about/campuses/jubileecampus.aspx>



27. Lenton Lodge

As noted at **24** above, when the 6th Lord Middleton extended the eastern boundary of Wollaton Park he decided the main entrance from Nottingham should have an imposing gatehouse. He engaged Sir Jeffry Wyattville to design and oversee the construction in the early 1820s. Wyattville was an English architect and garden designer mainly remembered for making alterations and extensions to Chatsworth House and Windsor Castle. The gatehouse design was based on the form of an Elizabethan gatehouse with a turreted round tower at each corner and it cost between six and seven thousand pounds. It had accommodation for two households either side of the arch.

There are lots of great old photos of the Lodge on the Lenton Times website, including this double-size postcard which shows the gatehouse, probably sometime in the early 1900s.



https://www.lentontimes.co.uk/streets/lenton_lodge.htm

The picture on the right is a 1909 drawing by Thomas William Hammond (see The Park walk for info. on Hammond)



In both pictures the Nottingham Canal was still in use and both the canal and the River Leen went under Derby Road here. The Lodge became separated from Wollaton Park in the 1920s by housing to its rear, and the canal was closed in 1937.



28. Leen Court

According to this 1885 map the Leen Court apartment building was originally a Tannery & Leather Works owned by Thomas Bailey & Co, skin processing works, leather dressers and glue and parchment manufacturers. The leather treatment process required a lot of water and so the works were located alongside the River Leen. In the early 1960s, a newly formed company known as 'Counting Machines Ltd.' set up operations in part of the old tannery building. Soon both its name and its product were to change as it moved into the fruit machine market and became known as the Bell-Fruit Manufacturing Co.



By the late 1980s the company had vacated the tannery building and concentrated operations in its purpose built premises on the other side of the road. The building was converted into apartment buildings

https://www.lentontimes.co.uk/images/gallery/leen_gate/leen_gate_listener_44.htm
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/buzzer999/43927575585/>



29. The White Heart

The White Hart Inn was built about 1825, with part of it being an older house known as the Lenton Coffee House. The Nottinghamshire History website http://www.nottshistory.org.uk/whatnall1928/white_hart.htm notes that:

"In the Eighteenth and early Nineteenth Centuries, coffee-houses were extremely popular, and the custom grew up of establishing these delightful rendezvous at some little distance from centres of industry and surrounding them with gardens, bowling greens, and other means of diversion in order to attract the young folk of the neighbouring towns to visit them for recreation and refreshment. The White Hart at Lenton began as one of these coffee-houses, and was known to bygone generations as the Lenton Coffee-house. The excursion to its charming bowling green across Nottingham Park, beside the then limpid waters of the River Leen, must have been exceedingly pleasant. "



In 1900, Thomas William Hammond created a drawing looking east along Leen Gate with the White Hart Inn ahead. Apparently, the shops on the left included a bookmaker, a hairdresser, newsagent, tobacconist and a general store with attached post office.

