

# Lindley Trail

## About the Lindley Trail

The village of Lindley has its origins in Saxon times. However, while some of what we see dates from the C18th, most was built during the growth of the textile trade in the industrial revolution of the C19th.

We begin at the Methodist Church on East St and make our way to the Anglican church of St Stephen's, passing, among other buildings, the New Connexion Sunday School and the Mechanics Institute. On the way we can see where the fortunes of one of the village's leading families began, before seeing some of the houses they built or occupied.

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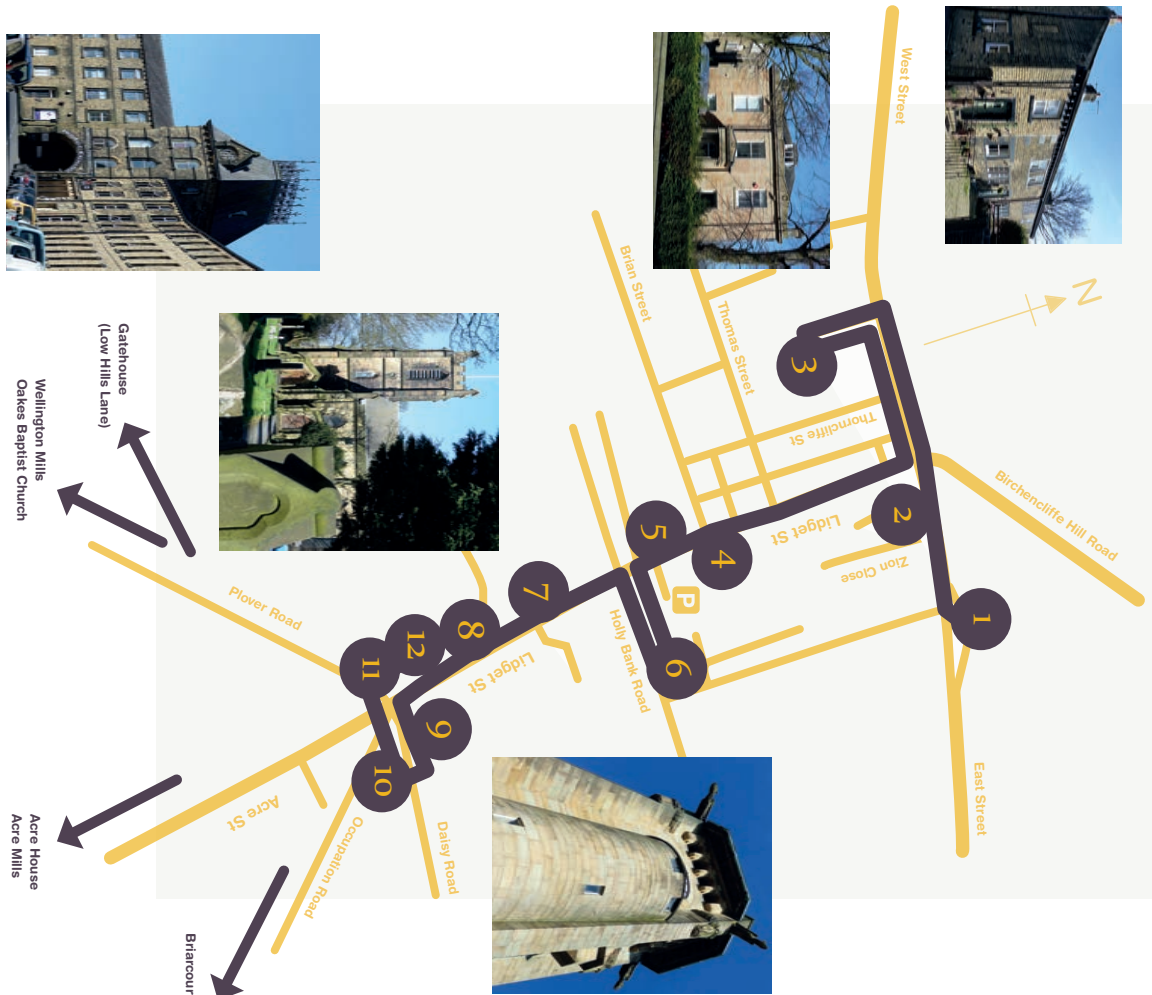
## Information

For more information about Discover Huddersfield or to learn more about the project and how to get involved, please get in touch through the following media:

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Parking

Key:

Discover Huddersfield offers new ways to experience this amazing Yorkshire town, through guided walks, talks and trails. See Huddersfield at its very best: grand listed buildings and small independent shops; a place for radicals from the Luddites to the Sex Pistols; birthplace of Rugby League; a town rich in creativity, stories, heritage and the odd ghostly encounter.



**1** The Methodist Church, East St.

Opened in 1868, replacing the first church which remains visible in the curved part of the adjacent building. Earlier, a cottage (still standing on West St) and a meeting room had been used for worship. The chancel at the rear was designed by Edgar Wood, the Manchester architect with Lindley connections, in 1895. Behind, is a huge, sloping graveyard.



**2** Along East St pass Zion Close once a court of small back-to-backs. Pass beneath the old lintel that may date from the C17th and was salvaged from another small close, Lidget Fold. Both closes were demolished in the late 1950s. Across the main road notice the early shop front. Set back is Linbourne, 113 Lidget St, formerly the home of Samuel Auty, stonemason and sculptor, who may have carved many of the figures on the Clock Tower.

**3** Dearne Fold opposite the 18th century farm building now the Black Bull. Originally a collection of small cottages, the Fold probably dates from at least the 18th century. The surviving Dearne House, was the home of John and Charlotte Sykes who established here the carding business that became Joseph Sykes and Brothers and eventually the English Card Clothing Company, in Acre Mills on Acre St.



**4** Mechanics Institute

Founded in the 1840s by local employers and working men, for further education and general improvement, the building dates from 1849 and was used for a variety of social events as well as concerts and public dances. It is now the public library.

**5** The Zion Sunday School

Now a clothes shop, the building was completed in 1874 after nearly £10,000 was raised locally with over £2500 given by William Sykes, card manufacturer. At one point the children of more than 250 local families attended the school. Opposite, once stood the Zion chapel itself, built in 1866 to a similar design; behind, the graveyard is now an open space with a footpath passing the original site of the chapel and a Sykes family memorial.



**6** Holly Bank Rd

The bungalows are built on the site of the Lindley Church School. The schoolmaster's house still stands on the corner of George St and Holly Bank Rd. Below that is the former Parish Hall. Partly damaged in a fire the mid 1950s the school was replaced by the two schools on George St. Some pupils were temporarily accommodated in an old Italian PoW camp on Crosland Rd.

**7** Shop Front 51 Lidget St

Victorian shop front with the date 1859 and initials GG carved above the yard entry, formerly the premises of the Gledhill family who began as village blacksmiths and eventually became retail ironmongers. In the small yard can be seen a small relief showing blacksmiths' tools. Please respect the privacy of occupants of this very small yard.



**8** Norman Terrace

Completed in 1898 by Edgar Wood for his uncle JN Sykes. Unusual for workers' cottages of the time as they had inside toilets. Note the carved lintels and canopies over the doors, with windows above. (The design of the lintels is similar to that on East St.) In 1914 at No Number 11 lived the Dyson family, who lost a son in the Great War. In the terrace behind, at right angles, lived the Armitages, whose son was a Conscientious Objector.



**9** The Clock Tower

Designed for James Nield Sykes, of Field Head House, 'for the benefit of his native village' by Edgar Wood with sculptures by Stirling Lee, and finished in 1902, the Art Nouveau tower is 83 ft. tall and of local stone. Note the corner buttresses bearing the eternal virtues and Time is depicted above the door. The gargoyles are beasts 'fleeing the tower of time'.

**10** The Lindley Liberal Club

FW Sykes of the Acre Mills family, acquired the land for the club and £3000 was raised selling shares.

Designed by Huddersfield architect, AJ Taylor, the building was completed in 1888. As well as a bar and function rooms on two floors, the club also had four public baths in the cellar as well as warming apparatus.

**11** St Stephen's, the parish church

Completed in 1829, St Stephen's was a 'Waterloo Church', built under a government funded scheme to erect Anglican churches in the growing industrial towns where non-conformism was taking root. Opposite the main entrance a Celtic cross marks the grave of Dr Demetriadi, local councillor, churchwarden and a medical officer in the Territorial Force, who died in WW1. The crypt, visible under the East wall, contains the remains of the John and Charlotte Sykes (See Dearne Fold).



**12** Field Head House

Adjacent to St Stephen's, Field Head, now the Manor House Hotel, is mid C19 and was the home of James Nield Sykes, one of the partners of Joseph Sykes and Brothers card making company, with its mill on Acre St, now part of the hospital. Field Head was one of the many large houses in Lindley owned by the family.

Further afield

Along Acre St reach Acre House (another Sykes mansion) and Acre Mills, both now owned by the NHS. The hospital itself is on the site of another Sykes estate, Green Lea. Down Occupation Rd is the old vicarage and Briarcourt, another Edgar Wood house.

Alternatively, go along Plover Rd to Wellington Mills, the largest woollen mill in Huddersfield. Down Wellington St opposite the mill is Oakes Baptist Church and the nearby Oakes School.

A stunning gatehouse, also by Edgar Wood for JN Sykes is on Low Hills Ln.