

## Listed Building / Heritage Statement

The Subject of the Application, Property for The Co-operative Food, at former offices in Britannia Chambers. West Street, Staffs, ST13 8AD.  
Part of National, External, Corporate Re-signing Programme.

***Leek** (/li:k/) is a market town in the county of Staffordshire, England, on the River Churnet. It is situated about 10 miles (15 km) north east of Stoke-on-Trent. It is an ancient borough and was granted its royal charter in 1214.*

*It is the administrative centre for the Staffordshire Moorlands District Council. King John granted Ranulph de Blondville, 6th Earl of Chester, the right to hold a weekly Wednesday market and an annual seven-day fair in Leek in 1207.*

*Leek's coat of arms is made up of a Saltire Shield. On the top is the Staffordshire Knot, either side is the Leek "Double Sunset" and below a gold garb. The crest is a mural crown with three Mulberry leaves on a Mount of Heather on top of which a Moorcock is resting his claw on a small-weave Shuttle. The motto 'ARTE FAVENTE NIL DESPERANDUM' translates to: Our skill assisting us, we have no cause for despair.*

### **New acquisition by the Co-operative Food – Former offices in Britannia Chambers.**



The Building resides in the Leek Conservation area.

### **Proposed Works.**

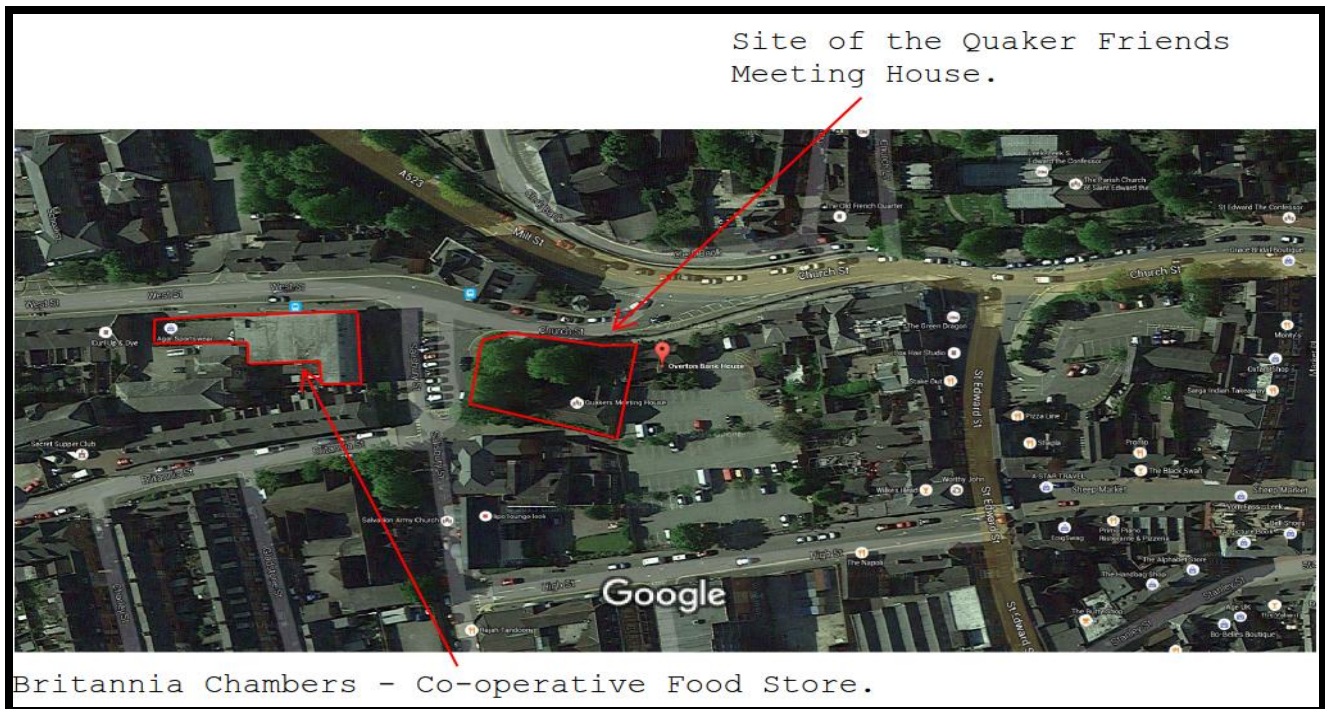
- 2 X Externally illuminated fascias.
- 1 x non illuminated internally applied window vinyl.
- 1 x internally illuminated projecting sign.
- 3 x non illuminated post mounted car park signs.

Please refer to scheme drawing for full details.

The property resides in the Leek Conservation area and although the building is not listed, to the east of the site lays the Quaker Meeting House. This building including the wall, are both listed.

**Significance of the Historic fabric/ area that will be affected.**

Staffordshire's first purpose-built Meeting House was built at Leek in 1697. In fact, in those days the Staffordshire Moorlands were the real stronghold of Quakerism in the county, with about 200 people attending various meetings in private houses. Following a general decline in numbers in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Leek Meeting House closed in 1848, re-opened 1880, but closed again 16 years later, when it was leased to the 'William Morris Labour Church'. At the start of the 20th century Quakerism became more open and liberal, and numbers started to increase. In 1939 the Leek Meeting House was re-opened as a Quaker meeting, and has remained so ever since.



*SJ9856NW OVERTON BANK  
611-1/4/102 Society of Friends Meeting House  
13/04/51*

## II

*Society of Friends meeting house, apparently purpose built. c1694. Roughly coursed and squared stone with plain-tiled roof. L-plan, with advanced wing to left (its gable wall refronted) containing staircase.*

*EXTERIOR: 2 storeys. Off-centre door with 16-pane sash window above, both with flat stone lintels. Main body of meeting house has 3-window range, but most of the windows now blocked. Horizontal openings, possibly originally mullioned, with sash windows of 8 and 12 lights in left-hand windows, the others blocked. Blocked doorway to left of centre, with heavy chamfered lintel. Plain string course and quoins to former window openings. Similar blocked doorway in gable wall, and blocked 3-light mullioned window to its right. Tall upper window a later insertion (16-pane sash). Similar window openings in rear wall, all now sashes with heavy stone heads and quoins. Coped gables, and moulded string course.*

*INTERIOR: stone staircase in advanced wing, the former galleried meeting room now subdivided under the gallery, which is itself now screened off with wood panelling. Meeting room has raised dais at one end, with dado panelling. The meeting house was used by the Labour Church in the late C19-early C20, and contains murals by Walter Crane which have been painted over.*

### **The impact of the proposed works on the historic fabric / area.**

There will be little or no impact on the nearby Listed Building to the East of the proposed Co-operative Food Store.

The store will bring new jobs to the area and will be there to serve the local community.

All work will be carried out with the minimum of disruption and great care will be taken when any work is done on the building.

During the installation, the elevation will be cordoned off by barriers whilst safely leaving pedestrian access.

Text in *Italics* have been taken from Wikipedia and British Listed Buildings.