



OAKHAM, the County Town of Rutland is a classic English market town mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086. It has a castle, market place, butter cross and stocks, a famous school, in close association with the magnificent parish church all arranged in a rectangular shape around which the Town has grown. Its streets contain a variety of shops, many of which are independently owned, that along with the traditional Wednesday and Saturday markets provide a different shopping experience for residents and visitors alike.

Oakham lies in the picturesque Vale of Catmose. Rutland Water is only a short distance away and provides a wide range of activities to enjoy. The Town is surrounded by picturesque villages in typically rolling countryside and provides excellent walking and cycling. Three long distance walks (the Hereward Way, the Macmillan Way and the Viking Way) all converge on the Town with the Viking Way finishing in the grounds of Oakham Castle. For the more ambitious the 65 mile long Rutland Round circumnavigates the County using existing footpaths. The historic towns of Uppingham, Stamford and Melton all lie within 10 miles of Oakham with Leicester, Peterborough and Nottingham all less than 30 miles away.



During the Summer, the Town is awash with floral displays and Oakham won the Best Town in Britain at the 2007 Britain in Bloom Awards. Oakham also plays host to a number of events throughout the year. These include the Oakham to Melton CiCLE race in April that is now regarded as the finest race of its type in the County. The Oakham Festival runs for two weeks from the middle of June and there are also themed markets, open air band concerts and the Oakham Parade and Fun Day. In addition the British Birdwatching Fair takes place in September at Egleton, only two miles from Oakham, the Rutland Agricultural Show attracts entrants and visitors from all over the Country and at nearby Tolethorpe Hall nationally recognised productions of Shakespeare take place in the open air against a dramatic forest backdrop.



In Oakham, with 5 outliers, Church jurisdiction, Queen Edith had 4 carucates of land taxable. Land for 16 ploughs. The King has 2 ploughs at the hall; however, another 4 ploughs possible. 138 villagers and 19 smallholders who have 37 ploughs. Meadow, 80 acres. A priest and a church to which 4 bovates of this land belong; woodland pasture 1 league long and 1/2 league wide. Value before 1066 £40.

DOMESDAY BOOK 1086



With a wide range of accommodation, eating places and ample parking the historic market town of Oakham makes an excellent centre for visitors. For further details of what Oakham, Rutland and the surrounding area have to offer please contact:

The Visitors' Centre at
Rutland County Museum, Catmose,
Oakham, Rutland LE15 6HW.

(01572) 758441

Other information from
www.discover-rutland.co.uk
www.rutnet.co.uk



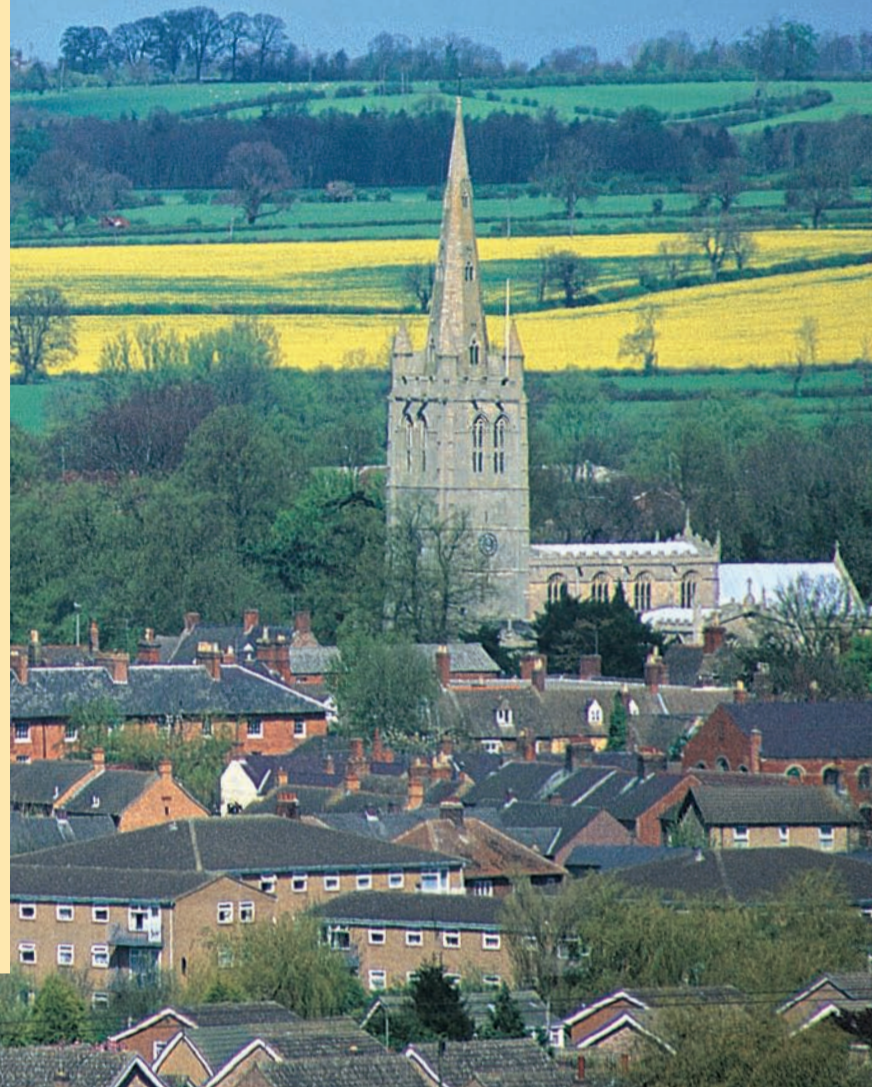
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by Oakham Town Council
(01572) 723627

towncouncil@oakham.uk.com
www.oakhamtowncouncil.gov.uk

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Oakham in Rutland

HISTORIC COUNTY TOWN



The Historic County of Rutland lives up to its motto 'Multum in Parvo' - Much in Little. The county is renowned for its rolling unspoilt countryside, dotted with picturesque villages that allow the visitor a little extra time to relax and enjoy their surroundings. The more energetically minded are also well catered for with golf, sailing, cycling and even climbing readily available. Nearby historic attractions include Belvoir Castle and Burghley House and families might also take a trip to Twin Lakes Activity Park near Melton Mowbray.



Rutland Railway Museum at Cottesmore



Stocks at Market Overton



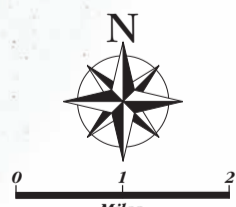
Topiary at Clipsham



Sailing at Rutland Water

Rutland Water is England's largest reservoir, with four large car parks and picnic areas and a wide range of leisure activities. For the energetic there is sailing, cycling, walking, golf and an adventure playground. For those wishing to relax there is fishing, bird-watching at Egleton and Lyndon Hill, the Normanton Church Museum and a butterfly and aquatic centre at Sykes Lane car park. The restful, educational and enjoyable gardens at Barnsdale are also nearby.

Rutland MULTUM IN PARVO



- Churches of outstanding interest
- Golf Course
- Car Park



Beautiful Uppingham



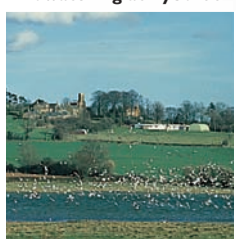
Rutland Agricultural Show

Uppingham is a picturesque stone built town with a very long attractive high street and, at the crossroads, a fine market place with the old Falcon Inn on one side and the parish church on the other. The town is famous for its bookshops and art galleries. There are tours of Uppingham School and at Uppingham Theatre a full programme of events open to the public. A few miles south is Eyebrook Reservoir open April to October for trout fishing.

Bede House, Lyddington



Birdwatching at Eyebrook



Open air theatre at Tolethorpe, Casterton



Casterton Show

Stamford in Lincolnshire is described as one of the outstanding stone towns in England, with much to offer the visitor. Its attractive medieval street layout contains a wide range of shops, two museums, an arts centre and theatre and many listed buildings and churches of historic interest. One of the grandest surviving Elizabethan buildings in England, Burghley House, and its surrounding park, are one mile from the town centre.

Seaton Viaduct



Windmill at Morcott



Oakham

COUNTY TOWN OF RUTLAND



1 All Saints' Church
The fine 14th century spire, crowned by Cock Peter, is a local landmark. A church was mentioned at Domesday, in 1086. The first church was probably wooden. A stone church built in the 13th century, rebuilt in the 14th century, modified in the 15th century, was considerably restored in 1857-58 by G.G. Scott. The south door is one of the oldest surviving parts. Inside, the elegant nave has eye-catching carving on the capitals which include grotesque figures, dragons, the Green Man, Adam and Eve, Reynard the Fox, ducks, a monkey and serpents. The Church has undergone a programme of improvements including the installation of a new organ and its role in the community has been further emphasised by reorganisation at the West Entrance.

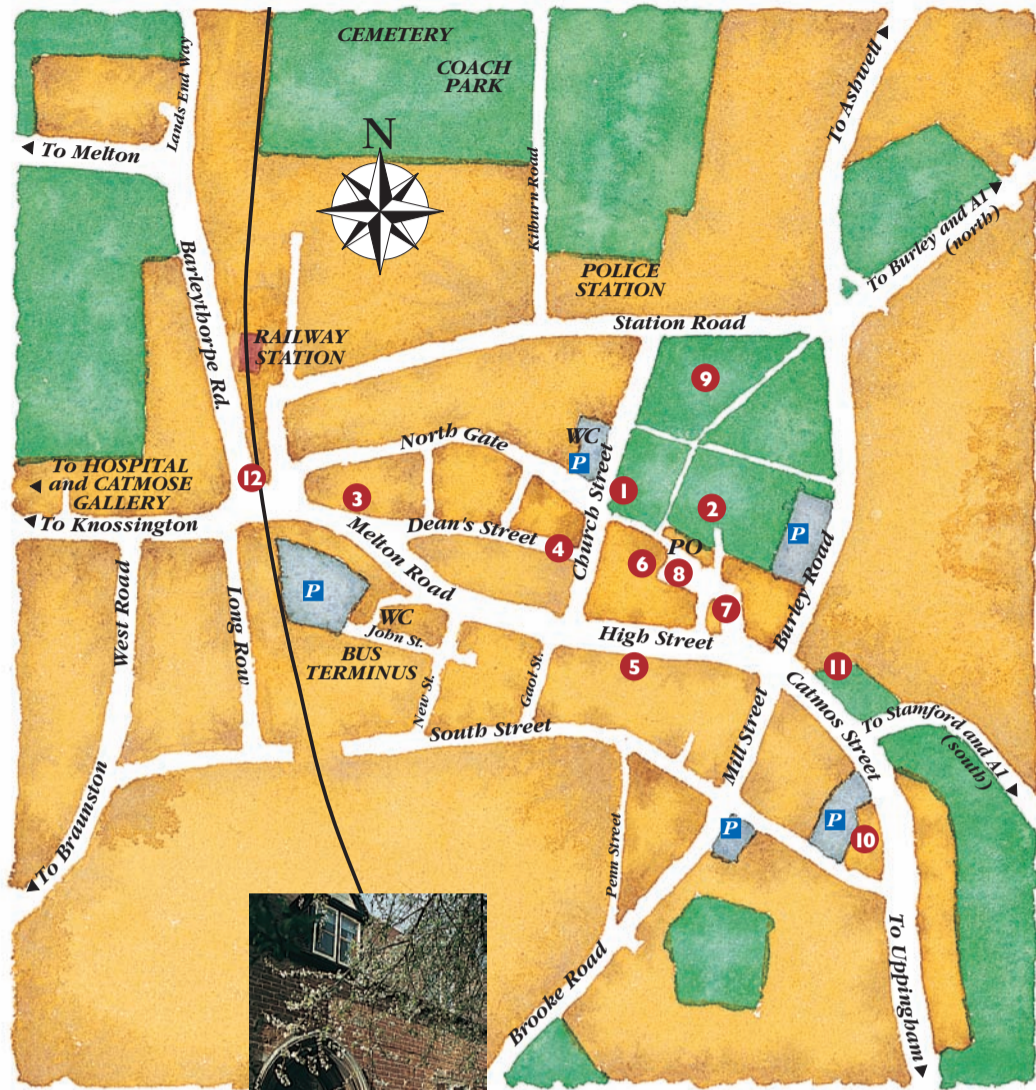


2 Oakham Castle includes the Great Hall built for Wakelin de Ferrers between 1180-90. Recognised as one of the finest examples of domestic Norman architecture in England, it is the earliest surviving aisled stone hall in the country and has been a law court for more than 800 years. The Hall contains over 200 horseshoes, given as forfeits to the Lord of the Manor by Peers of the Realm and royalty. This ancient custom is thought to date back to the 12th Century, although the oldest surviving horseshoe is said to have been given by Edward IV in 1470. Horseshoes are still being given by the present Royal Family. Set in pleasant grounds, the Castle is now a popular venue for civil marriages, and internal improvements will further enhance its appeal as both a visitor attraction and a community resource.



3 Hudson's Cottage Jeffery Hudson was 'the smallest man from the smallest county in England'. His widely asserted birth date of 1619 may be incorrect and the year 1612 is mentioned in some quarters. His birth place is reputed to be this cottage on Melton Road but there is no firm evidence to support this. What is not in doubt is that he was so small that he was served up in a pie at a banquet hosted by the Duke of Buckingham when Charles I and Queen Henrietta Maria were his guests. He subsequently became part of the Royal Court and had many adventures in Royal Service. His later years were, however, less distinguished. He was expelled from the Royal Court following a duel, captured by Barbary pirates and held as a slave in North Africa and was finally falsely imprisoned for treason. He died in poverty in 1682. The house is not open to the public.

4 Dean's Street This narrow lane has a medieval feel about it. Popularly known as 'Dead Man's Lane' due to coffins going by this route to the church, its real name is Dean's Lane. This is a reminder that the church and the area to the west once belonged to the Dean and Chapter of Westminster Abbey. The castle and the area to the south was known as Lordshold. A hundred years ago between Dean's Street and Northgate were many overcrowded yards and jitties of which some traces still remain.



5 Flore's House
Flore's House is one of the oldest buildings in Oakham. It stands next to the site of Bargate, an entry into the medieval town. It is late 14th century and was built or re-built by the Controller of Works at the castle, William Flore, or his son Roger Flore. There have been later additions and alterations but the door, crown-post roof and timber framing are original. Roger Flore was a rich merchant and Speaker of the House of Commons four times between 1416 and 1422. He died about 1427 and it was largely due to him that All Saints' Church has such a splendid spire.

6 Oakham School Founded in 1584 by Archdeacon Robert Johnson, the original Old School stands in All Saints Churchyard. This illustrates the close association of religion and education at that time. There are Latin, Hebrew and Greek inscriptions outside the building as well as graffiti carved by many generations of schoolboys. Near the church is the school chapel, designed by Streatfield and built as a World War 1 Memorial in 1924. Around it are some of the oldest buildings of the School including College House, once the Rectory and one of the oldest houses in Oakham with 14th Century beams. It may have originally been the residence of the Abbot of Westminster Abbey who owned the Church. The present School has undergone an extensive series of improvements with new



buildings and sympathetic conversions that include a day house on Ashwell Road that was once the Oakham Workhouse.



7 The Market and Shopping
The Historic Market lies at the heart of Oakham near to both the Church and the Castle. Markets are held every Wednesday and Saturday adding a lively atmosphere to the town. A Farmers' Market is held on the third Saturday every month in Gaol Street. Oakham has a wide variety of shops, many independently owned, in pleasant surroundings that provide visitors with a unique shopping experience. Oakham and the surrounding area also has many fine eating places including award winning restaurants and pubs.



8 Butter Cross and Pump
The Market Place is shaped like a reversed 'L' in one corner of which is the famous Butter Cross. An intriguing mystery surrounds the stocks which have 5 holes; the reason for which has never been discovered. The Butter Cross is at least 400 years old being shown on Speed's map of 1611. Dairy products were sold here and since it was also a cross, preaching must have taken place too. The Town Pump lies in front of the castle gates in a central position in the Town.

9 Cutt's Close This park, owned by Oakham Town Council is situated north of the Church and the Old School. It contains a fine Bandstand where concerts are given throughout the summer. In the past it was thought to be the outer bailey of Oakham Castle, complete with moat and fishponds. However, this view is currently being reconsidered in the light of new archaeological information.



10 Rutland County Museum and Visitors' Centre is the perfect introduction to the smallest county in mainland England. The 'Welcome to Rutland' gallery tells the story of the county and leads into displays of archaeology, history and rural life. Visitors can also have a go at a range of traditional local games, or sit and enjoy refreshments in the spectacular indoor riding school of the Rutland Fencible Cavalry – well worth a visit in its own right. The Museum's temporary exhibition programme features the work of local artists with many pieces for sale. The Visitors' Centre holds the latest information about other events and activities that are going on in the area. Across the road is what remains of the Catmose Arboretum, originally planted in the middle 1800's. It is a gem in the heart of town and has public access. Explanatory leaflets may be obtained from the Museum, County Library and Oakham Town Council offices.



11 Rutland County Library The library was built in 1972 on the site of a hotel and corn merchants at a point where the entrance into Oakham was very narrow until widened in the late 1960s. The library is a focal point in the town with a knowledgeable and friendly staff, an excellent Local Reference Room and internet facilities.



12 Oakham Signal Box Railway enthusiasts will appreciate the signal box, built in 1899 to Midland Railway design 2b. The box was the prototype for an Airfix plastic kit that is still in production today. The Signal box is now a Grade 2 Listed Building and controls the main level crossing and the automatic barriers at the Brooke Road level Crossing.

