

= Wellingborough =

Wellingborough is a market town and borough in Northamptonshire , England , situated 11 miles ( 18 km ) from the county town of Northampton . The town is situated on the north side of the River Nene , most of the older town is sited on the flanks of the hills above the river 's current flood plain . Due to frequent flooding by the River Nene , the town was mostly built above the current level of the flood plain . Originally named " Wendelingburgh " , the settlement was established in the Saxon period and is mentioned in the Domesday Book under the name of " Wendelburie " . The town was granted a royal market charter in 1201 , by King John of England .

As of 2011 the census states the borough has a population of 75 @, @ 400 , which the town itself accounts for 49 @, @ 087 . The town of Wellingborough is governed by The Borough Council of Wellingborough , with their office located in the town centre . The town is twinned with Niort in France , and with Wittlich in Germany .

The town is predicted to grow by around 30 percent under the Milton Keynes South Midlands ( MKSM ) study , as the British government has identified Wellingborough as one of several towns in Northamptonshire where growth will be directed over the next 30 years . The study allocates 12 @, @ 800 additional homes mainly to the east of the town . The town has also a growing commuter population as it is located on the Midland Main Line railway , operated by East Midlands Trains , which has InterCity trains to London St Pancras International station taking under an hour , giving an interchange with Eurostar services .

= = History = =

The town was established in the Anglo @-@ Saxon period and was called ' Wendelingburgh ' . It is surrounded by five wells : Red Well , Hemming Well , Witche 's Well , Lady 's Well and Whyte Well , which appear on its coat of arms .

The medieval town of Wellingborough housed a modest monastic grange ? now the Jacobean Croyland ' Abbey ' ? which was an offshoot of the larger monastery of Croyland Abbey , near Peterborough , some 30 miles ( 48 km ) down @-@ river . This part of the town is now known as ' Croyland ' .

All Hallows Church is the oldest existing building in Wellingborough and dates from c . 1160 . The manor of Wellingborough belonged to Crowland Abbey Lincolnshire , from Saxon times and the monks probably built the original church . The earliest part of the building is the Norman doorway opening in from the later south porch . The church was enlarged with the addition of more side chapels and by the end of the 13th century had assumed more or less its present plan . The west tower , crowned with a graceful broach spire rising to 160 feet ( 49 m ) , was completed about 1270 , after which the chancel was rebuilt and given the east window twenty years later . The church was restored in 1861 by Edmund Francis Law . The 20th @-@ century Church of St Mary was built by Ninian Comper .

Wellingborough was given a Market Charter dated 3 April 1201 when King John granted it to the " Abbot of Croyland and the monks serving God there " continuing , " they shall have a market at Wendligburg ( Wellingborough ) for one day each week that is Wednesday " .

In the Elizabethan era the Lord of the Manor , Sir Christopher Hatton was a sponsor of Sir Francis Drake 's expeditions ; Drake renamed one of his ships the Golden Hind after the heraldic symbol of the Hatton family . A hotel in a Grade II listed building built in the 17th century , was known variously as the Hind Hotel and later as the Golden Hind Hotel .

During the Civil War the largest substantial conflict in the area was the Battle of Naseby in 1645 , although a minor skirmish in the town resulted in the killing of a parliamentarian officer Captain John Sawyer . Severe reprisals followed which included the carrying off to Northampton of the parish priest , Thomas Jones , and 40 prisoners by a group of Roundheads . However , after the Civil War Wellingborough was home to a colony of Diggers . Little is known about this period .

Wellingborough was bombed once during World War II . The bomb fell where the town centre McDonald 's restaurant used to be located . The town was also used for evacuated children from

London .

Originally the town had two railway stations : the first called Wellingborough London Road , opened in 1845 and closed in 1966 , linked Peterborough with Northampton . The second station , Wellingborough Midland Road , is still in operation with trains to London and the East Midlands . Since then the ' Midland Road ' was dropped from the station name . The Midland Road station opened in 1857 with trains serving Kettering and a little later Corby , was linked in 1867 to London St Pancras . In 1898 in the Wellingborough rail accident six or seven people died and around 65 were injured . In the 1880s two businessmen held a public meeting to build three tram lines in Wellingborough , the group merged with a similar company in Newport Pagnell who started to lay tram tracks , but within two years the plans were abandoned due to lack of funds .

= = Governance = =

Wellingborough is part of the Borough Council of Wellingborough which is , as of July 2010 , a Conservative borough . The borough council covers 20 settlements including the town together with Bozeat , Earls Barton , Easton Maudit , Ecton , Finedon , Great Doddington , Great Harrowden , Grendon , Hardwick , Irchester , Isham , Little Harrowden , Little Irchester , Mears Ashby , Orlingbury , Strixton , Sywell , Wilby , and Wollaston .

The electoral wards in the town comprise : Brickhill , Castle , Croyland , Hemmingwell , North , Queensway , Redwell East , Redwell West , South , Swanspool West while other , non @-@ political divisions , are areas in Wellingborough such as : Gleneagles , Hatton Park , Hemmingwell , Kingsway , Queensway , Redhill Grange , and Redwell .

Wellingborough is part of the Wellingborough Constituency which includes the town , surrounding villages and other urban areas . The current MP is Peter Bone . Most wards in the Borough Council of Wellingborough are covered by the constituency and also include the wards in East Northamptonshire , the wards are : Brickhill , Castle , Croyland , Finedon , Great Doddington and Wilby , Hemmingwell , Higham Ferrers Lancaster , Higham Ferrers Chichele , Irchester , North , Queensway , Redwell East , Redwell West , Rushden Hayden , Rushden Spencer , Rushden Bates , Rushden Sartoris , Rushden Pemberton , South , Swanspool , and Wollaston .

For European representation , Wellingborough is part of the East Midlands constituency with five MEPs .

= = Geography = =

= = = Geology = = =

The town is sited on the hills adjoining the flood plain of the River Nene . In the predominantly agrarian medieval period , this combination of access to fertile , if flood @-@ prone , valley bottom soils and drier ( but heavier and more clay @-@ rich ) hillside / hilltop soils seems to have been good for a mixed agricultural base . The clay @-@ rich hilltop soils are primarily a consequence of blanketing of the area with boulder clay or glacial till during the recent glaciations . On the valley sides and valley floor however , these deposits have been largely washed away in the late glacial period , and in the valley bottom extensive deposits of gravels were laid down , which have largely been exploited for building aggregate in the last century .

= = = Iron ore = = =

The most economically important aspect of the geology of the area is the Northampton Sands ironstone formation . This is a marine sand of Jurassic age ( Bajocian stage ) , deposited as part of an estuary sequence and overlain by a sequence of limestones and mudrocks . Significant amounts of the sand have been replaced or displaced by iron minerals giving an average ore grade of around 25 wt % iron . To the west the iron ores have been moderately exploited for a very long time , but

their high phosphorus content made them difficult to smelt and produced iron of poor quality until the development of the Bessemer steel making process and the " basic slag " smelting chemistry , which combine to make high quality steelmaking possible from these unprepossessing ores . The Northampton Sands were a strategic resource for the United Kingdom in the run @-@ up to World War II , being the best developed bulk iron producing processes wholly free from dependence on imported materials . However , because the Northampton Sands share in the regional dip of all the sediments of this part of Britain to the east @-@ south @-@ east , they become increasingly difficult to work as one progresses east across the county .

= = = Climate = = =

Wellingborough experiences an oceanic climate ( Köppen climate classification ) which is similar to most of the British Isles .

= = = Compass = = =

Wellingborough 's nearest towns are Rushden , Higham Ferrers and Irthlingborough .

= = Demography = =

Wellingborough 's population expanded rapidly from 26 @,@ 000 to 60 @,@ 000 in the 1960s and 1970s as agreements were signed between the Urban District Council and London County Council and the Greater London Council for the town to re @-@ house over @-@ spill population from London . Following the post World War II arrival of immigrants from the Commonwealth group of nations into Britain , a sizeable Black Caribbean and Indian / Pakistani community grew up in this small market town , and now represents 7 % of the population in the Borough and to 11 % within the town .

= = Economy = =

Wellingborough has approximately 2 @,@ 500 registered businesses within its boundaries . Much of the town centre was redeveloped during the 1970s , when it grew rapidly from London overspill . The Borough Council has adopted a ' Town Centre Action Plan ' . The former traditional economic structure based on footwear and engineering is gradually diversifying with wholesale , logistics , and service sectors providing new opportunities for employment .

As a market town , Wellingborough has major high street chains mainly located in the town centre . The only shopping centre , Swansgate , previously known as the Arndale Centre , was built in the 1970s . Since 2009 the Borough Council has been looking at rebuilding the centre and major stores want bigger floor @-@ spaces . The Britannica Fund , which owns Swansgate shopping centre is currently in administration , and decision on the future of the centre is expected in early 2013 . Supplementing the town centre shops are several out @-@ of @-@ town retail parks and supermarkets including a Sainsbury 's , four Tesco stores , an Aldi store and a Morrisons store in the town centre . The town has a market three times a week and a weekly privately organised market .

Other businesses operating within the town include motorsport , high performance engineering , distribution , engineering , environmental technology and renewable energy , digital and creative media , financial and business services , and global brands , once such brand being Cummins UK at Park Farm , and major park home manufacturer Tingdene Homes Ltd at Finedon Road Industrial Estate . There are several industrial estates in the town , these include Park Farm , Denington , Leyland and Finedon Road .

Future developments

As part of its Milton Keynes South Midlands ( MKSM ) study , the government has identified Wellingborough as one of several towns in Northamptonshire into which growth will be directed over

the next thirty years . It allocates 12 @, @ 800 additional homes to Wellingborough , and will also create additional facilities , further improve the town centre , improve infrastructure and increase employment opportunities . A jobs growth target of 12 @, @ 400 jobs has been set to accompany the large scale housing growth . A plan for 3 @, @ 000 homes north of the town has been accepted by the British Government after an appeal by Bee Bee Developments . The plan was first refused by Wellingborough Borough Council .

As a result , plans have been made for a major urban extension in the town , mainly to the east of the railway station . When finished , the town would be around 30 % larger and 3 @, @ 200 new homes would be built on ' Stanton Cross ' site , with new schools , bus stops , community centres , shops , a doctor 's surgery and new open spaces . The railway station would be developed into an ' interchange ' with local buses and trains . The upgrade would provide a new platform , footbridge and new station buildings . Outside the station a new road bridge from Midland Road over the railway line is also planned with a new footbridge to reach the new development . Other plans to include the development of the High Street , Shelley Road and the north of the town areas are also being considered .

= = Transport = =

The A45 dual carriageway skirting to the south , links the town with the A14 , and M1 which also allows links to the east and west of the country . The A45 links Wellingborough with Northampton , Rushden , Higham Ferrers , Raunds , Thrapston , Oundle and Peterborough .

The town is served by a bus network provided by Stagecoach in Northants , Centrebus and Soul Brothers with local Wellingborough buses W1 , W2 , W3 and W4 linking the town centre ( Church Street ) with local suburbs and villages . Departing every 30 minutes the X4 service also links the town with Milton Keynes , Northampton , Kettering , Corby , Oundle and Peterborough . Other routes include 45 , X46 and X47 .

East Midlands Trains operate direct trains to London St Pancras International from Wellingborough railway station , departing every 30 minutes , with an average journey time of around 55 minutes . The railway line also connects Wellingborough with Bedford , Luton , Kettering , Corby , Leicester , Nottingham , Derby , Sheffield and Leeds . Just north of the railway station is a GB Railfreight location , usage is for London Underground maintenance and other freight services .

Several UK airports are within two hours ' drive of the town , including London Luton , East Midlands , Birmingham and London Stansted . Luton can be reached directly by train while East Midlands and Stansted can be reached by one change at Leicester . Sywell Aerodrome , located 5 miles northwest of Wellingborough , caters for private flying , flight training and corporate flights .

= = Education = =

Fourteen government controlled primary schools feed the secondary schools that include : Wellingborough School , an independent , fee @-@ paying school with a cadet force , and the state secondary schools of Sir Christopher Hatton School , Weavers Academy ( formerly the Technical Grammar School & then Weavers School ) , Wrenn School ( formerly the Wellingborough Grammar School ) , and Friars School .

The Tresham College of Further and Higher Education has a main campus in Wellingborough , and outreach locations in Kettering , Oakham and Corby . It provides further education and offers vocational courses , GCSEs and A Levels . In collaboration with several universities the college also offers Higher Education options .

The University of Northampton in Northampton , with around 10 @, @ 000 students on two campuses , offers courses from foundation and undergraduate levels to postgraduate , professional and doctoral qualifications . Subjects include traditional arts , humanities and sciences subjects , as well as entrepreneurship , product design and advertising .

= = Culture = =

The Castle Theatre was opened in 1995 on the site of Wellingborough 's old Cattle Market . It brings not only a theatre to the area but other facilities for local people . Most rooms are used on a daily basis by the local community , users include the Castle Youth Theatre and Youth Dance .

Wellingborough has a public library in the corner of the market square . The Wellingborough Museum , an independent museum run by the Winifred Wharton Trust , located next door to The Castle Theatre , has exhibitions which show the past of Wellingborough and the surrounding villages . The museum is housed in a Victorian swimming pool ( " Dulley 's Baths " ) built in 1892 , from 1918 to 1995 it was Cox 's shoe factory . Accompanying the exhibitions and articles is a souvenir shop and cafe . Free entry .

In 1959 : The residents of Wellingborough , England woke to find a trail of white footprints painted along the main street of their town . At the end of the trail were the words , " I must fly . " Police had later identified the individual as none other than " local scumbag " Frederick Hatton Gherkins . Related : ? April Fool 's Day Street Pranks [http : / / www.museumofhoaxes.com / hoax / aprilfool / P30 /](http://www.museumofhoaxes.com/hoax/aprilfool/P30/)

### == Sport ==

Wellingborough is home to two football clubs : Wellingborough Town and Wellingborough Whitworth . In 2009 the town 's rugby club was the first club to be awarded the RFU Whole Club Seal of Approval in the East Midlands . Harrowden Hall , a 17th @-@ century building in Great Harrowden village just on the outskirts of the town , is the clubhouse of a privately owned golf course . The four leisure centres and health clubs in Wellingborough include Bannatyne 's , Redwell , Waendel and Weavers ( which is part of Weavers school ) .

Wellingborough was also served for many years by Club Diana . Club Diana was closed by administrators on 1 June 2011 . However it has now been reopened and is available once again . It has a swimming pool , 5 squash courts and a bar and restaurant .

Waendal is home to the local swimming club : WASC . ( Wellingborough Amateur Swimming Club ) . They also train at Wollaston , Oundle , and Rushden .

Wellingborough Phoenix is one of the United Kingdom 's largest basketball clubs ; the men 's first team currently play in EBL Division 3 and the women play in EBL Division 2 . Youth teams also play in the EBL ; ages ranging from u13 to u16 .

### == Services ==

Several NHS centres provide health care facilities , with Isebrook Hospital being equipped for procedures such as large X @-@ Rays and neurological investigations , and long @-@ term care , that are not catered for by primary care surgeries . Accident & Emergency ( A & E ) , maternity , and surgical issues are mainly covered by Kettering General Hospital . The Air Ambulance is provided by Warkshire and Northamptonshire Air Ambulance service . A petition signed by thousands of local residents in the towns of Wellingborough and Rushden for a new A & E to be built in Wellingborough has been handed to 10 Downing Street ( when Prime Minister Gordon Brown was in power ) , by local MP Peter Bone on 10 February 2010 .

Other emergency services are provided by the Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service and the Northamptonshire Police . Wellingborough Prison was located just outside the town , but closed in 2012 .

### == Landmarks ==

The railway station is a Grade II Listed building , and among the many unusual and other listed buildings in Wellingborough is the 600 @-@ year @-@ old Grade I listed steeple that forms part of All Hallows Church .

The Three Silver Ladies is one of two identical sculptures installed on the Harrowden Road , They

depict local Roman history , the river , and the townspeople working together .

= = Wellingburians = =

Ryan Carter , of Wild Things fame , was born and raised in Wellingborough .

Wellingborough is the birthplace and residence of many notable people , including the former world champion snooker player Peter Ebdon , and Sir David Frost , OBE , a broadcaster who attended Wellingborough Grammar School , whose campus is now occupied by the Wrenn School . The winner of Britain 's Strongest Man contest in 2002 , Marc Iliffe , lives in the town .

Scientist Kenneth Mees , and Frederic Henry Gravely an arachnologist , entomologist , and zoologist were born in the town . Paul Pindar , an ambassador of King James I to the Ottoman Empire , was born and grew up in the town , and attended Wellingborough School .

The town has sports people such as Rory McLeod and Jamie O 'Neill both snooker players , born in the town , and football players Trevor Benjamin and Bill Perkins both grew up in the town . Perkins played for a number of teams including Liverpool Football Club , Kettering Town and Northampton Town . Fanny Walden was born in the town , formerly playing for Northampton Town and Tottenham Hotspur . Brian Hill , referee , was also born in the town . Anita Neal , 100m olympic sprinter , lived in the town and went to John Lea School England Rugby captain Bob Taylor and player Jeff Butterfield both taught at Wellingborough Grammar School . Infamous football hooligan colloquially known as the Pig of Marseille is also from the town .

Wellingborough is home to singers Peter Murphy of Bauhaus who lived a large portion of his early life here , Thom Yorke of Radiohead , musician Robin Rimbaud aka Scanner , and politicians Alfred Dobbs , Arthur Allen ( for the Labour Party ) and Brian Binley ( for the Conservative Party ) .

Authors connected with the town include Lesley Glaister who was born in Wellingborough , while Stephen Elboz was born and currently lives in the town . Journalist and whisky writer Jim Murray also lives here . Author and historian Bruce Quarrie lived in the town before his death in 2004 . A school in Wellingborough is named after Sir Christopher Hatton , and high scoring WWI fighter pilot Edward Mannock ( Major ' Mick ' Mannock ) lived in the town and is mentioned on the Wellingborough War Memorial and has a road named after him .

= = Twin towns = =

Wellingborough is twinned with :

Niort , France ( 1977 )

Wittlich , Germany .

and also has relations with Willingboro , township in Burlington County , New Jersey , United States , while Irchester and Grendon , two of the villages within the Borough of Wellingborough , have twin town partners at Coulon near Niort , and Bois @-@ Bernard near Arras .