

UNCOVER ROYAL MELTON

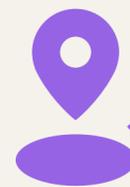
UNCOVER
THE STORY TRAILS

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Originally located on the ancient Great North Road, and with links to royalty around every corner, Melton Mowbray is a great place to explore. Considered the Monaco of its day in the 19th century, anyone who was anyone, from Kings to Maharajas, came to stay in what was the 'capital of fox hunting'. It's a town where Saxon coins were minted during the reign of King Aethelred II, where a market recorded in the Domesday Book is still held each Tuesday, and where Edward VIII's royal fate was sealed when he met Wallis Simpson. Why not plan your visit, and retrace the steps of its many royal visitors, from Richard I to Charles III.

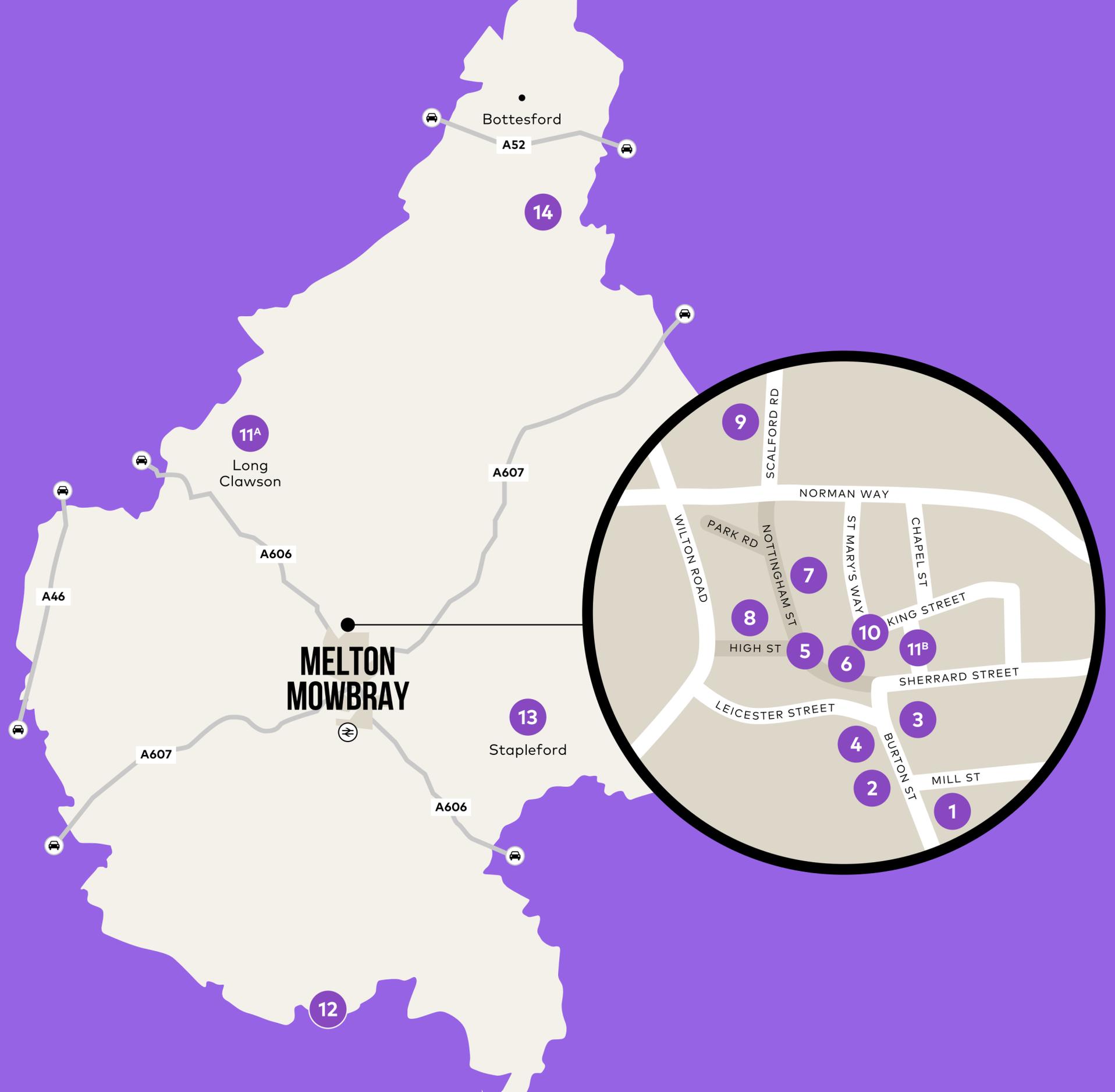
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TOUR TO FIND OUT MORE.**



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POINTS OF INTEREST

1. **Harboro Hotel**
49-51 Burton Street
LE13 1AF
2. **The Anne of Cleves**
12 Burton Street
LE13 1AE
3. **The Old Club**
11 Burton Street
LE13 1AE
4. **St Mary's Church**
8 Burton Street
LE13 OPN
5. **Market Place**
6. **King Street**
7. **Ye Olde Pork Pie Shoppe**
10 Nottingham Street
LE13 1NW
8. **The George Hotel**
8 High Street LE13 OTR
9. **Livestock Market**
Scalford Road LE13 1JY
10. **Melton Royal Mile Walk**
Start at the bottom
of King Street
11. **Long Clawson Dairy**
A. Long Clawson Dairy,
Long Clawson LE14 4PJ
B. The Melton
Cheeseboard, 8 Windsor
Street LE13 1BU
12. **Burrough Court**
Burrough-on-the-Hill
LE14 2QS
13. **Stapleford Park**
Stapleford LE14 2EF
14. **Belvoir Castle**
Vale of Belvoir
NG32 1PE





HARBORO HOTEL

Known as the 'Fox Hunting Capital', 19th century Melton Mowbray drew royals from far and wide who came here to enjoy their favourite winter pastime.

That meant that lodgings, too, were in great demand, with coaching inn the Harboro Hotel no exception. In 1874, it welcomed the ill-fated renowned royal beauty 'Sissi', the Empress Elisabeth of Austria and Queen of Hungary, as a guest.

With plenty to see and do in this historic town, the centrally located hotel remains popular with visitors, who stay overnight or dine in its contemporary restaurant before seeing the sights. Nearby is Cardigan House, the former hunting lodge of James Thomas Brudenell who, as 7th Earl of Cardigan, led the Charge of the Light Brigade.



THE ANNE OF CLEVES

If walls could talk, what tales the Anne of Cleves would tell. Originally a 14th century abbey, its fate was sealed once Henry VIII was told by the Pope he could not divorce Catherine of Aragon.

The King broke ties with Rome, set up the Church of England, and through the Dissolution of the Monasteries confiscated religious houses throughout the land.

The Melton Mowbray abbey was given to royal favourite Thomas Cromwell but after compelling Henry to marry Anne of Cleves, he was promptly executed for this mismatch.

Gifted to Anne in the divorce, it's not known if Henry's fourth queen ever visited, but as a pub it's open to anyone looking for drinks and food in incredibly historic surroundings.



THE OLD CLUB

A private property these days, a Blue Plaque on the unassuming building at 11 Burton Street alludes to an intriguing and historic past. Back in the early 19th century, this was a hunting and dining club called The Old Club, with none other than famous Regency Dandy George Bryan 'Beau' Brummell a member.

Known as much for his wit and outrageous remarks as for his elegant dress and trend-setting style, the undisputed 'King of the Dandies' had friends in high places, and is said to have introduced the Prince Regent to hunting in Melton Mowbray. The club is also linked to 'The Melton Breakfast', a painting by Sir Francis Grant, whose portrait subjects included Queen Victoria and Prince Albert.



ST MARY'S CHURCH

More cathedral than church, St Mary's dates back around 800 years and was likely built on the site of one or more Saxon churches.

Melton Mowbray prospered thanks to its position on the Great North Road, travelled by 11 kings reigning from 1194-1487, and the church's wow factor reflects this. Built in a cross shape, its aisled transepts are a rare addition, usually only seen in cathedrals.

Hanging in its Nave is Charles II's Royal Coat of Arms, previously that of Charles I, and bearing Civil War musketry practice holes to prove it. In a town where coins were minted for Saxon King Aethelred II, its church also houses the tombstone of a 16th century Master of the Royal Mint.



MARKET PLACE

Browse the stalls in Market Place and you're following an ancient tradition. The town's Tuesday market is the third oldest in the country, and is even recorded in the Domesday Book.

It wasn't, however, until 1324 that the town was granted a formal Market Charter by King Edward II. He was just one of the 11 reigning kings to have travelled the Great North Road, which ran through the town from 1194-1487, bringing with it trade and prosperity.

From the market you can see part of the old Swan Inn, one of the buildings daubed with red paint by the mischievous Marquess of Waterford in 1837, an act said to have coined the phrase 'Painting the town red'.



KING STREET

As part of the Great North Road, which ran from London to the North, King Street in Melton Mowbray has certainly won a royal seal of approval or two. Actually, it's more than that, with 11 of the 15 kings who reigned from 1194 to 1487 travelling upon it.

Leading the pack, his journey marked with a Blue Plaque near St Mary's Church, was Richard I, accompanied by King William of Scotland. Over the next 300 years, 10 more kings came to town, including Richard III and, after he was slain at the Battle of Bosworth, his successor and the first monarch of the House of Tudor, Henry VII.



YE OLDE PORK PIE SHOPPE

No trip to Melton Mowbray is complete without stepping through the doors of Ye Olde Pork Pie Shoppe, and royal visitors are no exception.

Now King Charles III and Queen Camilla, back in 2011, the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall not only called in, but also tried their hand at making one of these famous local delicacies that, along with Stilton cheese, helped the town earn the name 'Rural Capital of Food'.

Fifteen years earlier, crowds flocked to greet Queen Elizabeth II, whose visit in 1996 included a drive down Market Place and a walk along Nottingham Street. Once inside the shop, staff presented Her Majesty with a commemorative pie to take back to Buckingham Palace.



THE GEORGE HOTEL

Located near Melton Mowbray's historic market and iconic Ye Olde Pork Pie Shoppe is 18th century coaching inn The George Hotel.

Although no longer a hotel, in its heyday this Grade II-listed building was a stop-off for travellers looking for horses and coaches to rent, and in 1843, a royal visit caused quite a stir. Queen Victoria, Prince Albert and their entourage stopped here for a change of horses, with the whole town decorated for the occasion.

The royals had attended the christening of the Duke of Rutland's son at Belvoir Castle. A visitor attraction today, the castle was originally built on land gifted to Robert de Todei, William the Conqueror's Standard Bearer at the Battle of Hastings.



LIVESTOCK MARKET

Melton Mowbray's 1,000-year-old livestock market – the largest of its kind in the UK – moved to its current site in 1869 but its history goes back much further. The town has held a Tuesday market since the days of the Domesday Book of 1077, and was granted a Market Charter in 1324 by Edward II.

New buildings were officially opened by Princess Anne in 2018, and King Charles III, then Prince of Wales, visited in 2000. Today, as The Stockyard, the Tuesday market tradition continues, alongside a Friday Farmers' Market and Sunday car-boot sales. As befits the 'Rural Capital of Food', it's also home to local food and drinks producers, selling everything from meat and bread to ale and gin.



MELTON ROYAL MILE WALK

Look out for the Royal Melton placards located around the historic centre of Melton Mowbray. You'll be able to follow a one-mile route linking buildings and sites of historical interest, particularly those associated with the town's royal heritage.

For more information and to download a trail visit royalmelton.com

For more information about Melton's visitor attractions and events go to discovermelton.com



Image © Long Clawson Dairy

LONG CLAWSON DAIRY

As 'Rural Capital of Food' Melton Mowbray is renowned for its local produce, with one of the most famous items its Blue Stilton cheese.

Of just six dairies in the world licensed to make this tangy, creamy delicacy, three are in the town. One, Long Clawson Dairy, has been operating for over 110 years and still makes its range of award-winning cheeses using traditional methods.

Back in 1985, royal cheese-lover Prince Charles opened the dairy's Harby site, and as patron of the Specialist Cheesemakers Association, visited again in 2011 to mark its centenary. You can buy Long Clawson Stilton at the dairy's shop during public opening hours or at The Melton Cheeseboard.

clawson.co.uk



BURROUGH COURT

It was at a party hosted by Lady Thelma Furness in 1930 that the Prince of Wales was introduced to Wallis Simpson. A few years later, the pair were in love and with the American socialite now twice-divorced, King Edward VIII was forced to choose between the Crown and love.

Choosing the latter, that fateful meeting at the Furness' country retreat, Burrough Court, led to the King's abdication in 1936, after less than a year on the throne.

The days of lavish royal parties have gone, but Burrough Court still invites people to The Larder coffee shop. Set in a tranquil garden, visit for breakfast, lunch, or to pick up fresh milk, or honey from the estate's very own beehives.

burroughcourt.com

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STAPLEFORD PARK

With a history spanning more than 500 years, this grand country estate passed between well-heeled owners ranging from Barons to Earls.

With opulent interiors and gardens designed by famous 18th century landscape designer Capability Brown, it was more than fit for visiting royalty. Both George VI and his brother Edward VIII were 20th century guests, and today as a hotel, Stapleford Park is a welcoming retreat offering a taste of the finer things in life to everyone.

Stay overnight in a luxury suite or simply visit for an à la carte dining experience or traditional afternoon tea. Pampering spa days are also available in the Stableyard Spa, housed within former stable blocks modelled on those at Buckingham Palace.

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BELVOIR CASTLE

Built on land gifted to William the Conqueror's Battle of Hastings Standard Bearer and left in ruins by vengeful Civil War Parliamentarians, Belvoir Castle is an historian's dream.

Visiting monarchs include James I, after his succession to the throne on the death of Elizabeth I, and Charles I, whose overnight stay is blamed for its destruction in 1649.

The fourth structure on the site, today's fairy-tale castle of turrets and towers is a Regency mansion built between 1801 and 1832 for the 5th Duke of Rutland John Henry Manners. Belvoir, still home to the Manners family, went on to host George IV and Queen Victoria. In the 21st century, it's welcomed film and TV companies, who use it as a Windsor Castle stand-in, most recently seen in Netflix's The Crown.

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