

## About Peterborough

As an ancient cathedral city whose population doubled to almost 160,000 during a 20-year expansion programme in the 1970s and 1980s, Peterborough delivers a quality lifestyle to its residents.

The city's infrastructure provides efficient transport networks, easy access to the countryside, a vast array of sports, leisure and cultural activities, an excellent choice of homes and schools, and modern shopping facilities.

Peterborough is a vibrant City, having emerged from 'New Town' major expansion and growth during the 1970s and 1980s as a major regional centre but with significant growth still taking place with the development of Peterborough's fourth township, Hampton.

Peterborough is mid-way between the East Anglian coast and the Midlands and has excellent road and rail connections both north south and east west. The city is 78 miles from London, five miles from the A1, and less than 20 miles from the A14, which links the East Coast ports of Felixstowe and Harwich with the Midlands.

London is less than 50 minutes away by train - the city is on the East Coast main rail line, which links London with Leeds, York, Newcastle, Edinburgh and Glasgow. An east-west rail line links Peterborough with Norwich, Great Yarmouth, Leicester, Birmingham and beyond.

Peterborough is a city rich in history - just to the east; archaeologists have discovered a 3,000-year-old settlement at Flag Fen. Later, the Romans established a large industrial city to the west of Peterborough, to exploit the reserves of clay. The city's Norman cathedral was founded in 650 AD, and the earliest part of the present building dates from 1118 AD.

From medieval times to the start of the industrial revolution, Peterborough was a small market town on the edge of the Fens. Its real growth started in the mid-19th century, with the arrival of the railways. Peterborough soon became a major railway junction and attracted a number of heavy industrial companies.

By the late 1960s, the 'New Towns' programme had begun. Peterborough was designated a 'New Town' in 1968, and the Peterborough Development Corporation was established to double the city's population in close partnership with the city council. The master plan was to concentrate development in four new residential townships, each with a full range of social and economic facilities. The last of these, Hampton, is now being built to the south of the city, which will continue the city's growth into the next century with the development of over 5,000 houses and industry and commercial space for 12,000 jobs.

New parkways - heavily landscaped dual carriageway roads - were built to improve the transport infrastructure, and bus services were encouraged. A network of cycle routes was established and Peterborough now has one of Britain's largest segregated cycling systems, over 100 km in length.

Peterborough is a multi-cultural city, with significant Asian, African-Caribbean and Italian communities. The city is a major employment centre, with a strong economic base, and is home to a number of national and international companies, including Thomas Cook, Travelex, IKEA, AMP and Perkins.

The city centre has developed into a regional shopping centre. The indoor Queensgate centre, voted amongst the best in Europe, complements the older, tree-lined pedestrianised shopping area.

Peterborough is a major centre for sport and recreation. Among its open spaces are the Nene Country Park and Ferry Meadows, with extensive sporting facilities. There are ten golf courses within 20 miles, and Peterborough is a centre for major shows and displays, including the East of England Show - Britain's second-largest agricultural show.

Peterborough was designated an Environment City in 1992, one of only four cities in Britain to be given this status. A unique environment partnership exists between public, private and voluntary sectors, centred on the Peterborough Environment City Trust, which takes a lead role in many environmental initiatives in the area. Over the coming years, the population of the city is set to continue to grow, from 156,500 (mid 2000 est.) to 185,200 by 2016.