

Rotherham - The Place

The Metropolitan Borough of Rotherham is so much more than its industrial heritage at the heart of the UK's coal and steel industries. Home to over 260, 000 people and situated in South Yorkshire, the borough comprises the minster town of Rotherham itself and a further 100 square miles of smaller towns, attractive villages and rolling countryside.

Homes and quality of life

Rotherham is a largely green borough: 70% rural with three country parks, woodlands, rivers and waterways and within a stone's throw of the Peak District: ideal walking country.

Rotherham has the benefit of a wide choice of housing within the boundary of the town itself with pleasant suburbs like Wickersley, Whiston, and Broom and lovely villages like Brampton-en-le-Morthern, Harthill, and Wentworth. House prices are among the most attractive in the UK, with town and country homes ranging from large detached houses to picturesque cottages, modern estates and apartments to Victorian and Edwardian properties.

The quality of life in Rotherham is good, and the cost of living is significantly less than the UK average. The town is also one of the safest places in Yorkshire to live and work.

Education

Rotherham has 16 secondary schools, with 69% rated good or outstanding. .

The overall A-level pass rate is 99.7%, which is slightly above the national average pass rate of 99.5%.

At Key Stage 4, the percentage of pupils achieving grade 4 (pass) or above in English and Maths combined is 72%, which is below the national average of 77%.

The Early Years Foundation Stage Profile for a 'Good Level of Development' (GLD) in 2019 (latest data available) is 70.3%, compared to the national average of 71.8%. In 2019, Rotherham was ranked 10th out of 15 local authorities in the Yorkshire and Humber region for GLD outcomes.

In addition to schools, there are also ~~259~~ early years registered providers in the borough (~~58-57~~ group providers and ~~201~~ 185 childminders) with ~~98%~~ 97.9% rated good or outstanding, 0.6% above the national average.

University Centre Rotherham, a state-of-the-art higher education campus in the town centre, opened in autumn 2018. Rotherham is also home to two general further education colleges and a sixth form college. The town is a short commute from Sheffield's two highly acclaimed universities, providing high-calibre graduates from their student population of 40,000-plus, and near the major universities of Nottingham, Manchester, Leeds, Lincoln, Derby, Hull, Huddersfield, and Bradford.

The Yorkshire & Humber region's ten universities produce more than 10% of the UK's graduates each year, with 40% qualifying in scientific, electronic and computer science related subjects. The region supplies 25% of all electronics graduates in the UK.

Business and investment

Rotherham has transformed itself over the last decade and is playing a major role in Yorkshire's resurgence, building a bright future with exciting new jobs and investment.

The Council has a number of significant and exciting regeneration programmes including the £12.6m Future High Street Fund to redevelop Rotherham Markets and deliver a new central library in the

town centre, deliver improvements to public realm, and to support the new Riverside Gardens which is part of the town centre Forge Island flagship scheme with a new 8-screen cinema. A further £31.6m Towns Fund has been provided for ambitious regeneration projects across the town centre, Eastwood and Templeborough, with Rotherham Council receiving one of the largest awards whilst almost £40m was announced in the Autumn of 2021 to help improve Leisure Economy and Skills in the borough and the town centre as part of the Levelling Up Fund. Meanwhile, the Council is investing £4m as part of the new Towns and Villages Programme which will see improvements made across the borough, working with local ward members.

The Council is focused on leading the strategic direction of Rotherham's economy, supported by the Rotherham Business Growth Board and working closely with the business community, and is a key player in the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority.

Rotherham is determinedly building on its industrial heritage to develop and harness manufacturing expertise. The Advanced Manufacturing Park (AMP), off the M1, is a joint venture between public and private sector organisations and an internationally recognised centre for advanced engineering, innovation, research and manufacturing excellence. The 100-acre site is home to both world-class research and manufacturing organisations, such as McLaren, Boeing and Rolls Royce, and smaller, emerging companies developing the next generations of cutting-edge technology.

Outside of the AMP, over 100 overseas companies have already invested in Rotherham. They, and local companies, operate across a wide range of sectors, including aerospace, food production, healthcare, automotive components, ICT and other hi-tech industries.

Next to the AMP, the flagship Waverley development will comprise up to 3,890 homes, shops, restaurants, a primary school, and leisure and community facilities, including parks and 310 acres of green open space.

Gulliver's have now opened a £37m tourist attraction in the borough; the 12-year project will include a theme park, adventure centre, glamping, 300 woodland lodges and a 100-bedroom hotel.

Attractions

Rotherham is bustling with cultural and leisure activities. Although some government restrictions remain in place at the time of advert, we will hope to see opportunities for visiting local attractions increase as restrictions are eased.

Many of the borough's attractions are associated with the history of the region, as well as drawing on the incredible landscapes of this beautiful part of the country. Visitors to Rotherham will find plenty to do.

A whistle-stop tour of the borough could take in:

Clifton Park Museum. Twice nominated for museum of the year, Clifton Park uses the latest technology to bring to life the history and heritage of Rotherham. The beautiful park, voted as one of the country's top ten favourite green spaces, also takes in wonderful gardens, water splash, tennis courts and even a land train to take visitors to and from the museum.

Boston Castle and Gardens. Recently restored, this grade II listed building, set in beautiful gardens, is an ideal setting for a family picnic.

The Magna Science Adventure Centre. Set in the old Templeborough steelworks, this is the UK's first such centre, bringing science to life for children of all ages.

Wentworth Woodhouse. Open to the public, Wentworth Woodhouse is the largest privately owned house in Europe and combines both baroque and Palladian architecture, with tours of the garden.

Wentworth Garden Centre. Much more than just a garden centre. Situated in sixteen acres of historic walled and landscaped gardens, it is arguably the largest and most attractive centre in Yorkshire and the north Midlands.

Gallery Town. The UK's largest open-air gallery in a town comprising over 100 art installations in 60 town centre locations.

Three beautiful country parks. Including Rother Valley, Yorkshire's premier watersport and outdoor activities centre, covering 750 acres, and home to the Sheffield Cable Water Ski Centre. Waleswood caravan and camping park, with 163 pitches and a huge range of facilities, opened at Rother Valley in 2019.

Roche Abbey. Founded by Cistercian monks and built in 1147 by Richard de Busli, who owned the estates at nearby Tickhill from the time of the Norman conquest, and Richard FitzTurgis. Capability Brown was responsible for landscaping the grounds in 1774.

Leisure – Maltby leisure centre, awarded the top prize for leisure centres in a national competition, with its operator Places and People winning the prize for best operator.

New York stadium. A fantastic football stadium and home of Rotherham United: a real community club with great links to training and young people.

What people say about the borough

As part of the fresh start at Rotherham Council, staff have been engaging with communities and colleagues to find out what they love about the borough.

"We have some wonderful countryside; it really is a beautiful borough."

"We have good transport links and decent schools and colleges."

"Our family enjoy visiting the country parks in Rotherham, even though we live in Sheffield."

"The Advanced Manufacturing Park is the envy of the north."

"We have a good shopping offer, in the High Street and in the Parkgate Shopping Park."

Infrastructure

Rotherham is extremely easy to access via road, rail and air. Both the M1 and M18 pass through the borough and the A1(M) is a short distance away. Aside from the motorway network, frequent trains connect to Sheffield, Manchester, Leeds and York as well as many other towns and suburbs in South Yorkshire. Funding has been secured via South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority to improve cycle routes into the town centre and across the borough, with longer term plans for a new mainline train station and a station to serve the AMP and Waverley.

Four international airports within 90 minutes give access to 46 European cities in less than three hours.