

The Melton Mowbray Navigation, using the improved Rivers Wreake and Eye, ran from the Leicester Navigation at Syston near Leicester to Melton Mowbray and was completed in 1797. It was nearly 15 miles long with 12 locks, finishing in a basin (now filled in) near the Boat Inn in Melton Mowbray. It was finally closed to navigation in 1877. An extension to Oakham was opened in 1893, but did not survive competition from the Melton to Oakham railway, and was closed in 1848.

The Melton and Oakham Waterways Society (MOWS) was formed in 1997 to develop and draw attention to the recreational opportunities of this attractive waterway, and to investigate the possibility of re-opening some or all of the Melton Mowbray Navigation.

MOWS' activities since 1997 have included:- continuing improvements to the river banks and the adjacent parks in Melton Mowbray. The construction of a slipway, used by the scouts and others for the launching of canoes and the Society's trip boat 'Sysonby Water Rat' (or 'Ratty') and also the work boat 'Mole'. Footpath improvements, in support of the work of the Leicestershire County Council, along the length of the river. Working with SUSTRANS in a successful application for funds for footpath improvements, which will enable the old bridge at the junction with the Leicester Navigation to be replaced with a new and more user friendly one. Obtaining funds for a small bank protection scheme near the Waterfield Leisure Pools known as 'spilling' which will prevent erosion and improve river flow.

MOWS organises regular working parties caring for the river banks and the footpaths. If you would like to join us, contact our Secretary, Richard Booth, Sysonby Knoll, Asfordby Road, Melton Mowbray, LE13 0HP, Tel: 01664 503330

The area of the leaflet is covered by  
O/S Explorer Map number 246

#### Local Bus Services

There are regular bus services from Leicester (St. Margaret's Bus Station), via Syston and the Wreake Valley villages of Ratcliffe, Thrusington, Hobby, Frisby and Kirby Bellars to Melton Mowbray (Windsor Street).

A regular bus service also runs from Leicester and Syston along the main road A607 to Kirby Bellars, and then to Melton Mowbray via Station Lane, Asfordby. All bus information can be obtained from:-

Traveline Tel: 0871 200 22 33

### Melton & Oakham Waterways Society (MOWS)

#### Come and Join Us!

Membership Single £7, joint £12 per annum

Contact: Linda Hulme  
14 White Street, Quorn,  
Loughborough, Leics. LE12 8EB

Visit our website: [www.meltonwaterways.co.uk](http://www.meltonwaterways.co.uk)

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## THE WREAKE VALLEY WAY

Following as far as possible,  
the route of the Melton Mowbray Navigation from  
Melton Mowbray to the River Soar

### Leaflet Two

#### HOBY TO THE RIVER SOAR

Hoby to Thrusington

Thrusington to Ratcliffe on the Wreake

Ratcliffe on the Wreake to the River Soar

