



Rutland Discovery Trails

6. Lost and Gone Trail

You can start in Oakham and make your way up the scarp fringing the Vale of Catmose to Burley and the Cottesmore along the B668. There are lovely views to your left over the Vale, if hedges allow.

As you **proceed towards Cottesmore** notice on your right the mound marking the site of the lost village of Alstoe. There are other signs in the fields around. Centuries ago, this spot was an important meeting place.



Cottesmore is in some of the finest fox-hunting country but the famous Cottesmore Hunt was established by Tom Noel at Exton in 1732 eventually moving to Stocken Hall then Cottesmore, from 1890 the kennels were on the Ashwell to Oakham road (now residential buildings) but since 2004 their home has been on the Ashwell to Cottesmore road.

In St Nicholas church look for the R.A.F. chapel and many other fine features. Can you find the mention of R.W. Baker who invented the Rutland Plough? The best parts of the village are off the main road. Wander down the Leas. Clatterpot Lane and Mill Lane. Perhaps you will have time for a pleasant drink at the Sun Inn. Not far away is the Rutland Railway Museum, home to historical locomotives and items from the bygone era of Ironstone quarrying.

Follow the road to Greetham which has a pleasant walk through the back lane of the village near the church, the Hall and the pretty stream. Can you find the fountain on church lane with its memorable inscription? Greetham is unusual as it still has three thriving pubs, perhaps due to the camping sites around the area.

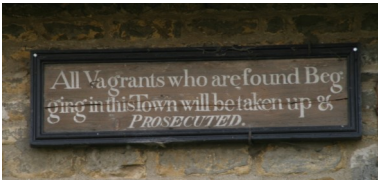
Drive out of the village and turn left onto Thistleton Lane. Now you are skirting the large airfield, you will reach a favourite corner for plane spotters, once offering views of the magnificent Tornado and Harrier aircrafts at the base of R.A.F.

Cottesmore. **Follow the road around the airfield and go left into Thistleton** where you will pass Thistleton Herb Nursery, **then left again towards Market Overton.**

On to Market Overton taking a left in the village. Look for the stocks, whipping post, village green and the church situated in a former Roman encampment - another military feature in the landscape. Nearby you can find traces of the iron-working which had its hay-day about 1906 and later - look for the line of old railways and water-filled quarries called 'gullets'. Market Overton has a popular pub, the Black Horse, and a community shop making it a very appealing village.



Below the scarp on which the village sits you will find signs of the Oakham-Melton Canal, long gone, another technological revolution vanished! But return to Oakham following the Main Street going south. If you have time, **take the 'village only' road into Barrow** - a small and quirky village. Look for the old sign stating 'All vagrants who are found begging in this town will be taken up and prosecuted'! Even the old church on the green went in 1974.



And yet, as the past seems to lie so hopelessly and obscurely around in lost villages, vanished churches, disused railway, abandoned iron-working, derelict canal and a R.A.F base that is soon to be closed, this trail reminds us that the past and the future exist in the present and that man's technological ingenuity is boundless beneath the same sky of a thousand centuries.

Travel back out of Barrow and turn right and follow signs towards Oakham. Between Cottesmore and Burley, you may catch a glimpse of Burley House on your left, with the marvellous Doric colonnade fronting Rutland's finest mansion, once the location for several episodes of TV's 'Upstairs, Downstairs', it is now home to several residential dwellings.

Useful Contact Information:

The Sun Inn, Cottesmore: 01572 812321 www.thesuninncottesmore.co.uk
A popular inn situated in the heart of the village, serving food daily from 12-9.30pm

Rutland Railway Museum, Cottesmore: 01572 813203 Explore Rutland's industrial heritage, you can see a number of steam and diesel loco-motives, wagons and machinery, plus there is a café on site. Open Tuesdays, Thurs-days & Sundays

The Wheatsheaf, Greetham: 01572 812325 www.wheatsheaf-greetham.co.uk
Friendly village pub with an excellent British menu. Closed all day Mondays (open for lunch on Bank Holiday Mondays) and Sunday evenings.

The Plough Inn, Greetham: 01572 813613 www.theploughgreetham.co.uk
A village pub that serves good home made food, home to the longest lunch in Rutland (with baguettes reaching 2 feet long). Welcomes children and dogs. Open 7 days a week for lunch and dinner. Bar closes Mon—Wed afternoons in winter.

The Herb Nursery, Thistleton: 01572 767658 www.herbnursery.co.uk
Small traditional family-run nursery specialising in herbs but offering much more.

The Black Bull, Market Overton: 01572 767677 www.blackbullrutland.co.uk
Warm traditional inn using local suppliers in their menu. Closed Sundays

