

The Macmillan Guide to the UK 1978-79



Edited by
A.Bax and S.Fairfield

**THE MACMILLAN GUIDE
TO THE UNITED KINGDOM**

1978-79

**Compiled by
A. Bax and S. Fairfield**

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Foreword and Acknowledgements

The preparation of this book was begun by Anthony Bax, who died while still working on it in the Spring of 1977. Since then it has been completed with the help of numerous County Councils and other bodies, for whose co-operation I am most grateful. I am also grateful to all those people—some of them unknown to me by name—who helped Tony before he died, and whose work did much to make the task of compilation easier.

Among my own colleagues I am particularly grateful to John Bishop, who wrote most of the introductions, to Maureen Parker for hours of research and many inspirations, to Dorothy van Emden and Beryl Haigh and to Mesdames Bryant and Taylor for their meticulous copy-editing.

It is plainly impossible to say everything about the counties and regions of the United Kingdom in one book, and we have not attempted to cover those intangible things which make people prefer one place to another. What we have done is to attempt an objective survey of some of the essential things that need to be considered when a family, an institution or a company has to move. For a far more detailed study of these things than we have been able to provide, the reader can buy from the county and Scottish regional planning offices copies of the various documents (initial surveys, topic reports etc.) that go to make up their Structure Plans.

Information on water supplies is based on figures given by the individual Water Authorities and on the Water Services Yearbook, which is published by Fuel and Metallurgical Journals Ltd.

Metric Measures and Equivalents

1m—100cm—1.0936yds

1km—1000m—0.6214 miles

1 are—100 sq m—119.6 sq yds

1 hectare—100 ares—2.4711 acres

1 sq km—100 hectares—0.3861 sq miles

British Measures and Equivalents

1yd—3ft—0.9144m

1 mile—1760yds—1.6093km

1 acre—4840 sq yds—2.47102 hectares

1 sq mile—640 acres—2.59 sq km

The Land Utilisation Survey

The first Survey was made between 1931 and 1939 under the supervision of the late Sir Dudley Stamp. Findings were noted on Ordnance Survey maps of 6" to one mile and published together with a series of county memoirs. A similar survey of Northern Ireland was undertaken by Mr D. A. Hill. The second Survey was begun in the 1960s under Miss Alice Coleman of Kings' College, London. It covers England and Wales and (to date) two areas of Scotland. The sheets which have so far been published are given under each county to which they apply; to date there are 107 sheets each covering an area of 78 sq miles. The maps are available from Edward Stanford Ltd, 12-14 Long Acre, London WC2E 9LP.

The Conservation Groups

The title of the Council for the Protection of Rural England is perhaps self-explanatory, but it should be emphasised that its function is to protect the countryside as an economy and not simply as a landscape. This includes concern with the population and employment structure of rural settlements, the management of agricultural land and the encouragement of rural industry, as well as the protection of rural areas from destructive forces. The Civic Trust is concerned

mainly with the conservation of urban or village landscape through the preservation of characteristic buildings and the encouragement of new building in harmony with them. It is also concerned with the details of urban landscape: street furniture, the scale of highways, the impact of traffic management schemes and so on. The Nature Conservancy Council is an official body established by Act of Parliament in 1973 to be responsible for the conservation of wild life and physical features throughout Great Britain. It manages the National Nature Reserves and undertakes research on all aspects of ecological interest. In addition to the Nature Reserves there are over 3000 Sites of Special Scientific Interest which have been identified to local planning authorities and to their owners; local authorities are required to consult the Council before granting planning permission for development. Local Nature Reserves are those established by local authorities in consultation with the Council.

The National Trust was founded in 1895 by Miss Octavia Hill, Sir Robert Hunter and Canon H. D. Rawnsley. In 1907 Parliament gave the Trust power to declare its land inalienable, and this has applied to the majority of its properties. In England, Wales and Northern Ireland the Trust owns about 377,000 acres altogether. It is independent of the government but its duties, procedures and rights are laid down by Acts of Parliament and it has received much Government help.

There is a separate National Trust for Scotland.

The Development Agencies

The Small Firms Information Service is an agency of the Department of Industry, the Scottish Office and the Welsh Office; it provides a free information service on all aspects of small businesses.

The Council for Small Industries in Rural Areas

The Council provides advice and loans to help small manufacturing and servicing industries in rural areas. 'Small industries' are those normally employing not more than 20 skilled people and 'rural areas' include country towns of up to 10,000 inhabitants. Small tourism enterprises providing overnight accommodation in the rural parts of the Development Areas are eligible for assistance. The service does not extend to agriculture, horticulture or the retail trades.

Representatives (called Small Industries Organisers) seek out and maintain contact with small rural firms, assess their needs for help and, if the firm so wishes, channel to them appropriate assistance either from local resources or by calling in the Council's technical or business management advisers on any of the following:

Technical

- Building and joinery
- Clay product technology
- Electrical engineering
- Estimating
- Farriery
- Furniture making and antique restoration
- Industrial safety

- Leatherwork
- Plastic fabrication techniques
- Saddlery and saddle-making
- Sawmill management
- Structural engineering
- Thatching
- Timber technology
- Welding techniques
- Workshop design and plant layout
- Wrought ironwork
- Business Management
 - Accountancy
 - Advertising and sales promotion
 - Costing
 - Exhibitions
 - Export procedure
 - Marketing
 - Records
 - Work study

The Council also arrange courses. Apprentices, improvers, journeymen and mastermen employed in small industries can attend courses on:

- Abrasive Wheel Regulations
- Agricultural Machinery Repair
- Estimating for Builders and Joiners
- Furniture and Antique Furniture Restoration
- Reinforced plastics
- Saddlery and Leatherwork
- Thatching
- Vehicle Electrics
- Welding
- Woodworking Machinery
- Wrought ironwork

The Council's Loan Fund may lend money for building, and/or purchase of plant and equipment and/or working capital throughout England and Wales. A loan may be up to 80% of the cost of the project and the maximum amount for which one can be indebted to the Fund at any one time is £30,000. Repayment may be over a period between 2 and 20 years, according to the type of loan. In the rural parts of the Development Areas in England and Wales the Loan Fund may lend money to small tourism enterprises for new accommodation or improvements to existing accommodation in a small hotel, guest house, bed and breakfast establishment, motel or holiday chalet. The conditions of the loans are the same as for industrial loans.

In Scotland a similar service is provided by the Scottish Development Agency, Small Business Division, 102 Telford Road, Edinburgh EH4 2NP.

In Northern Ireland a similar service is provided by the Local Enterprise Development Unit, 21 Linenhall Street, Belfast 2.

The Vaughan Nash Trust

The Council for Small Industries in Rural Areas administers a trust fund for England and Wales which provides grants for craftsmen or their apprentices in rural areas to purchase tools or to help pay for educational courses connected with their crafts. Grants may be made

a) towards the purchase of appropriate tools for needy apprentices in any of the trades with which CoSIRA is concerned;

b) to craftsmen or apprentices for attendance at educational courses of an exceptional nature connected with their crafts (the Trustees will need to be assured that public funds are not available);

c) to supplement scholarships if necessary when apprentices are attending recognised courses at centres for further education;

d) exceptionally to provide prizes for rural industries competitions.

Further details are obtainable from the Small Industries Organiser for the county concerned or from the Secretary to the Vaughan Nash Trustees, CoSIRA, P.O. Box 717, 35 Camp Road, Wimbledon SW19 4UP.

The Location of Offices Bureau

This is not given under the sections on individual counties since, up to date, its function has been to encourage London businesses to move out of the city and, therefore, the London office at 27 Chancery Lane has been its only centre of operations. Following a re-definition of its policy recently announced and presently under consideration, the Bureau may need a new structure to enable it to re-locate offices in a number of urban centres. The Bureau's service includes a register of available office space, information on rates and rents, local conditions and services, government incentives and the mechanics of the move itself. The Bureau was set up by Parliament and its service is free.

The Regional Structure of Government Offices Responsible for Development and Industries

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Eastern Region: Block C, Government Buildings, Brooklands Avenue, Cambridge CB2 2DR

East Midlands Region: Block 2, Government Buildings, Chalfont Drive, Nottingham NG8 3RH

North Region: Government Buildings, Kenton Bar, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE1 2YA

South-East Region: Block A, Government Offices, Coley Park, Reading RG1 6DT

South-West Region: Block 3, Government Buildings, Burghill Road, Westbury on Trym, Bristol BS10 6NJ

West Midlands Region: Woodthorne, Wolverhampton WV6 8TQ

Yorkshire/Lancashire Region: Block 2, Government Buildings, Lawnswood, Leeds LS16 5PY

Welsh Department: Plas Crug, Aberystwyth, Dyfed SY23 1NG

Department of Employment

South-Eastern Region: Hanway House, Red Lion Square, London WC1

Midland Region: 2 Duchess Place, Hagley Road, Birmingham

Northern Region: Wellbar House, Gallowgate, Newcastle upon Tyne

North-Western Region: Sunley Building, Piccadilly Plaza, Manchester

South-Western Region: The Pithay, Bristol

Yorkshire and Humberside: City House, Leeds LS1 4JH

Scottish Region: 43 Jeffrey Street, Edinburgh

Welsh Region: Companies House, Crown Way, Maindy, Cardiff

Export Credits Guarantee Department

Birmingham Region: Colmore Centre, Colmore Row, Birmingham

Bristol Region: Robinson Building, 1 Redcliffe Street, Bristol

Cambridge Region: 72-80 Hills Road, Cambridge

Leeds Region: West Riding House, Albion Street, Leeds

London Region: 7-12 Noel Street, London W1V 3PB (Central); 593-599 High Road, Tottenham (North); 320 Purley Way, Croydon (South)

Manchester Region: Elisabeth House, St Peter's Square, Manchester

Northern Ireland Office: River House, High Street, Belfast

Scottish Office: Fleming House, Renfrew Street, Glasgow

Department of Industry

Regional Development Grants Offices

Northern Region: Queensway House, West Precinct, Billingham, Cleveland

North-Western Region: St Peter's House, Stanley Precinct, Bootle, Merseyside

Welsh Region: 24-26 Newport Road, Cardiff

Scotland: Magnet House, 59 Waterloo Street, Glasgow

The Northern Regional Office handles grants for Cumbria except Barrow, Dalton and Furness; Durham; Cleveland; Northumberland; Tyne and Wear; Yorkshire and Humberside; parts of Lincolnshire.

The North-Western Regional Office handles grants for Barrow, Dalton, Grange and Furness in Cumbria; Lancashire; Merseyside; Greater Manchester; Derbyshire; Salop; Nottinghamshire; Cheshire.

The Welsh Regional Office handles grants for Wales, Cornwall and Scilly, Devon; derelict land clearance areas of Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and Staffordshire; investment grants also cover Dorset, Gloucestershire, Hereford and Worcester, Leicester, part of Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire, part of Nottingham, Salop, Somerset, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, West Midlands and Wiltshire.

Ordinary Regional Offices

Northern Region: Stanegate House, 2 Groat Market, Newcastle upon Tyne, Tyne and Wear

North-Western Region: Sunley Building, Piccadilly Plaza, Manchester

Yorkshire and Humberside Region: Priestley House, Park Row, Leeds

East Midlands: Severns House, 20 Middle Pavement, Nottingham

West Midlands: Ladywood House, Stephenson Street, Birmingham

South-Western Region: The Pithay, Bristol

Eastern Region: Charles House, 375 Kensington High Street, London

London and South-East Region: Charles House, 375 Kensington High Street, London

Manpower Services Commission

London Region: 180 High Holborn, London WC1V 7AT

South-East Region: Telford House, Hamilton Close, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 2UZ

North-East Region: Derwent House, Washington Centre, Washington New Town, Tyne and Wear NE38 7ST

North-West Region: Washington House, The Capital Centre, New Bailey Street, Manchester M3 5ER

Midlands Region: Windsor House, 3 Temple Row, Birmingham B2 5JX

Wales and West Region: 4th Floor, Companies House, Crown Way, Maindy, Cardiff CF4 3UT

Scotland: 43 Jeffrey Street, Edinburgh EH1 1UX

The statutory Regions are composed as follows

Northern: Cumbria (except Furness peninsula); Cleveland; Northumberland; Tyne and Wear; Durham.

North Western: The Furness peninsula; Lancashire; Merseyside; Greater Manchester; Cheshire; the High Peak District of Derbyshire.

Yorkshire and Humberside: North, South and West Yorkshire and Humberside.

East Midlands: Nottinghamshire; Derbyshire (except the High Peak); Leicestershire; Lincolnshire; Northamptonshire.

West Midlands: West Midlands; Hereford and Worcestershire; Salop; Staffordshire; Warwickshire.

South-West: Cornwall and Scilly; Devon; Somerset; Wiltshire; Gloucestershire; Avon; Dorset.

Eastern: Bedfordshire; Berkshire; Buckinghamshire; Essex; Hertfordshire; Oxfordshire; Cambridgeshire; Norfolk; Suffolk.

London and South-Eastern: Greater London; Kent; Surrey; Sussex; Hampshire; Isle of Wight. (For strategic planning purposes South-Eastern Region includes this region and Eastern Region above).

The European Regional Development Fund

Grants are paid to the United Kingdom government in line with its own expenditure on the projects for which the grants have been approved. The government is then entitled to pass on the money to the investor or to treat it as a partial reimbursement of its own expenditure. In the latter case, the additional resources thus made available are to be used for other regional development purposes. Total EEC grants to UK projects (since 1973) at January 1978, £504.4m; loans, £1578m.

Main companies assisted during 1977

The Plessey Company, South Shields	£1,021,000
Cleveland County Council (for improvements to the road network)	£1,117,800
John Walker and Sons Ltd., Glasgow	£3,150,192
Cummins Engine Company Ltd, Shotts, Strathclyde	£3,328,984
Hughes Tool Company, Belfast	£960,750
The British Steel Corporation, Lackenby, Cleveland	£1,250,000
Coles Cranes Ltd, Sunderland, Tyne and Wear	£930,575
Corning Ltd, Sunderland, Tyne and Wear	£1,567,000
Beecham Pharmaceuticals, Irvine, Strathclyde	£1,248,893
Courtaulds Ltd, Campsie, Londonderry	£1,412,812
Haliburton Manufacturing and Services Ltd, Arbroath, Tayside	£1,050,000
Clyde Port Authority, Hunterston Terminal	£3,164,100
Carreras Rothmans Ltd, Darlington, County Durham	£2,512,939
Vickers Ltd, Newcastle upon Tyne	£895,000
Ford Motor Company Ltd, Belfast	£1,210,846

The bulk of assistance is distributed in hundreds of small loans and grants for projects in industry, agriculture, education and training, and for the development of roads, ports, and other necessary services.

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England

AVON

Avon covers an area previously divided between the County Boroughs of Bristol and Bath and the counties of Somerset and Gloucestershire. Most of its boundaries are natural—the River Severn (west), the Mendips (south) and the Cotswold escarpment (east). The two urban centres are the commercial, industrial, cathedral and university city of Bristol and the city of Bath which, although smaller, extends an influence well into Wiltshire.

The port of Bristol developed seven miles inland in the basin of the rivers Avon and Frome, in an area of shallow soil with limestone outcrops; there was no great supply of building stone, however, and the city builders were always dependent on a variety of materials brought in from other districts.

The port became important in the twelfth century; the marriage of Henry II to Eleanor of Aquitaine opened the Aquitaine wine-producing regions to English merchants and most of the trade from Bordeaux came through Bristol. The trade in Spanish and Portuguese wines developed with the blocking of French sources by the Hundred Years' War. Bristol became the second port after London and was made a separate county in 1373. Trade with the West Indies and America developed in the seventeenth century, mainly in tobacco, slaves and sugar.

The original siting of the city was as much for safety as for commerce; enemies had been foiled by the difficult river approach and the easily defensible Avon Gorge. But by the mid-eighteenth century access from the coast to the city docks was hazardous and expensive for bigger ships, and when Liverpool opened its easily accessible estuary docks Bristol lost most of the Atlantic trade. This decline in traffic lasted until the situation was restored by the opening of new coastal docks at Avonmouth (1877) and Portishead (1879).

Diverse manufacturing had been carried on since the middle ages, notably in woollen cloth, glass, pottery, chocolate, tobacco products and lead shot. Early industries were supported by local supplies of coal, sandstone and charcoal. Banking became important in the eighteenth century.

Bristol's rural hinterland had as strong an influence on its character as did its maritime interests. Most of the seamen sailing from the port were local and no cosmopolitan community ever developed; the only sizeable colony of outsiders was Welsh. With the removal of commercial shipping to the coast the city has become a marketing, manufacturing, entertainment and employment centre for much of Somerset, Gloucestershire and Gwent, and a distribution centre for South Wales, the south-west of England and the south-west Midlands.

Bath's development was independent of Bristol. It was a spa under Roman rule but the baths fell into disuse until the eighteenth century when a revival began under the influence of Beau Nash. The mediaeval town, centred on the abbey, was rebuilt and extended in local stone from quarries on the edge of the city. From the 1720s onwards it grew as a residential resort and shopping centre, having traditionally more contact with London than with Bristol, although the two cities were linked by Brunel's Great Western Railway in 1841. Bath is still a resort and a shopping and cultural centre for much of Avon, Somerset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire. Bristol and its extended suburbs form the industrial and commercial centre of the county, and the development of Bristol district has been the biggest single influence on the area which is now Avon.

Area: 332,596 acres; **population:** (1976 estimate) 920,200.

Births: (1975) 10,580 (11.5 per '000 home population); **deaths:** 10,653 (11.6).

Lord Lieutenant: Sir John V. Wills, Bt.

High Sheriff: H. Densham.

Chief Constable (Avon and Somerset): Kenneth W. Steele.

COUNTY COUNCIL

Offices: Avon House, The Haymarket, Bristol BS99 7DE, but County Engineer and Surveyor, County Planning Officer, Director of Education are at Avon House North, St James' Barton, Bristol BS99 7NB; other officers at various addresses.

Chairman of the County Council: G. Walker.

Chief Executive Officer: W. J. Hutchinson.

Council statistics 1977-8: Rateable value, £112,716,841; rate, 60.84p-63.94p; estimated product of 1p rate, £1,575,620; debt, £100m; number of councillors, 73; political control, Conservative.

DISTRICT COUNCILS, 1977-8

Bath City

Area, 7,092 acres; population, 83,100; rateable value, £10m.; rate, 92.59p; estimated product of 1p rate, £137,000; debt, £34.9m; council houses and flats, 7500; public open space, 450 acres; number of councillors, 48; Chairman (Mayor), R. C. Rosewarne; Chief Executive, D. C. Beeton; offices, Guildhall, Bath BA1 5AW.

Bristol

Area, 27,067 acres; population, 416,300; rateable value, £59.9m; rate, 97p; estimated product of 1p rate, £727,200; debt, £60m; council houses and flats, 44,515; public open space, 3800 acres; number of councillors, 84; Lord Mayor, E. J. Wright; Chief Executive, P. McCarthy; offices, Council House, College Green, Bristol BS1 5TR.

Kingswood

Area, 11,862 acres; population, 78,800; rateable value, £7m; rate, 84.63p; estimated product of 1p rate, £135,400; debt, £26.9m; council houses and flats, 5908; public open space, 220 hectares; number of councillors, 47; Chairman, I. Macdonald; Chief Executive, A. Smith; offices, 26 South View, Staple Hill, Bristol BS16 5PL.

Northavon

Area, 114,507 acres; population, 116,400; rateable value, £13.5m; rate, 84.32p; estimated product of 1p rate, £193,720; debt, £20.1m; council houses and flats, 6720; public open space, 304 acres; number of councillors, 57; Chairman, D. J. Winstone; Chief Executive, F. Maude; offices, Council Offices, Thornbury, Bristol BS12 1HF.

Wansdyke

Area, 78,414 acres; population, 74,500; rateable value, £7.7m; rate, 88.39p; estimated product of 1p rate, £124,725; debt, £16.1m; council houses and flats, 6825; public open space,