

# Transport

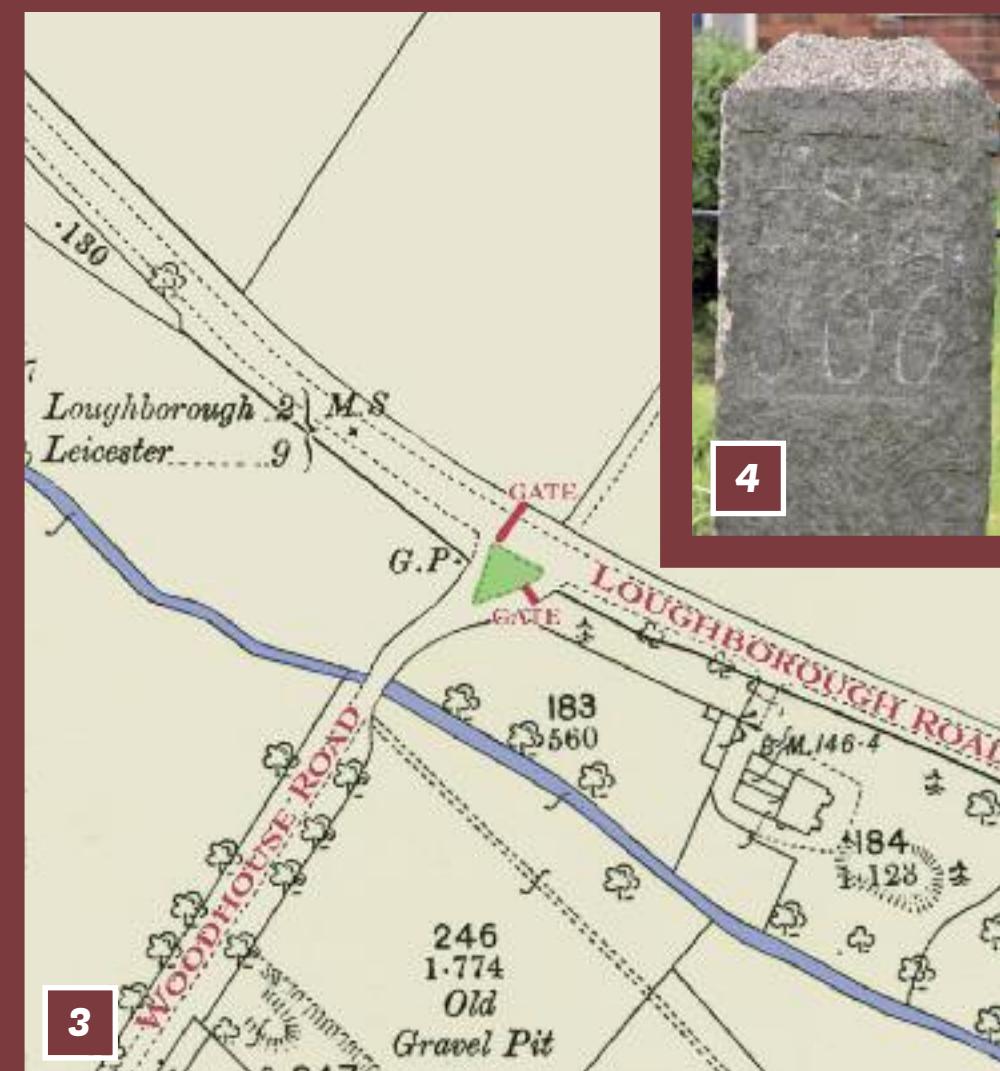
**Quorn is located on the River Soar and in a corridor between Charnwood Forest and the Leicestershire Wolds. As a result of this positioning it has been on major transport routes for many centuries.**

## Waterways

The River Soar transported people and goods long before the advent of decent roads and the railways. In the 1790s the Soar became part of the Leicester Navigation canal system (later the Grand Union Canal), linking Leicester and Loughborough to the River Trent and south to London.

## Highways

At the centre of the village is Quorn Cross where Station Road and Meeting Street, part of an ancient salt route, cross what was a major north/south coach road going from London to Manchester and on to Scotland. This was a busy thoroughfare in the 18th century, with not only local carts and carriages, but over 30 stagecoaches a day carrying both mail and



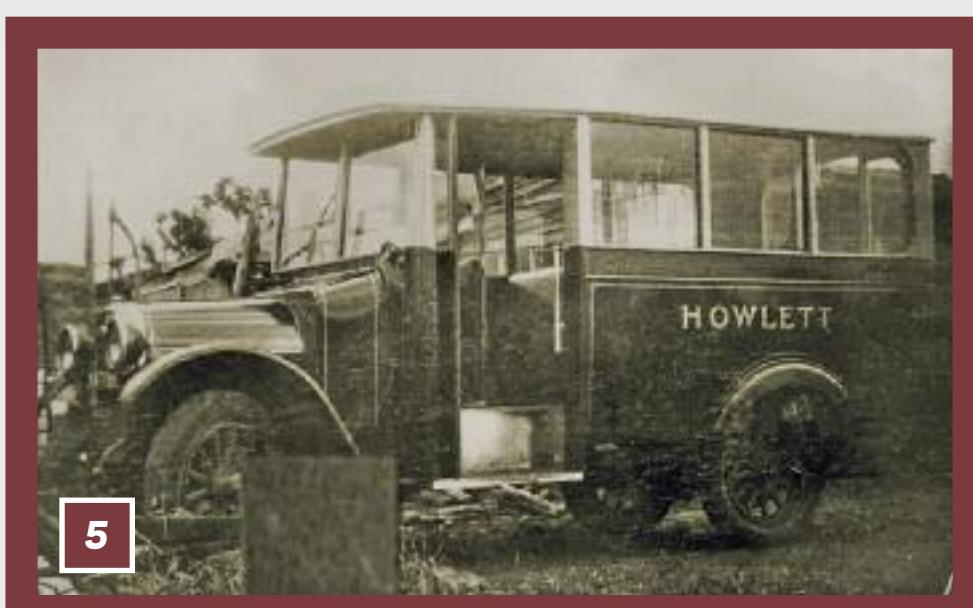
passengers. In 1726 it became the first Turnpike Road in Leicestershire with toll fees being used to improve the surface.

Quorn was an important 'stage stop' and coaching inns were established including the Swan with Two Necks (now the Quorndon Fox), the Bulls Head and the White Horse. Horses would be changed and travellers could have a meal and drink or stay overnight.

In 1936 the main road became the A6 and traffic increased over the years. Levels reduced when the M1 opened in 1959 and again when the A6 bypass opened in 1991.

## Buses

Being on a main road, many buses ran through Quorn and firms such as Allens, Barkus, Kemp & Shaw, Boyers, Midland Red, Squires, Prestwells and Howletts were household names. Howlett's Bus Company, who had their depot on Barrow Road in Quorn, was founded by George Howlett in the early 1920s and by 1969 was the biggest privately-owned coach business in Leicestershire. They were bought by Tricentrol in 1979.



Scan here to play the audio for this board.



**1** The Coal Wharf on Soar Road in 1879 by local artist William E Cooke. Another wharf served the Gas Works at The Brinks, established in 1853.

**2** The Bulls Head (now 18 High Street) in the early 1900s when it was still a public house. Note the open passageway which led to a cobbled yard and stables.

**3** A small toll house and weighing machine was located on a triangle of land at the corner of Woodhouse Road and Loughborough Road. There were two tollgates, believed to be in the positions indicated.

**4** 18th century Swithland slate turnpike milestone on Leicester Road, Quorn. It says "From London 106".

**5** Howletts 14 seater bus, 1920s.

**6** Quorn and Woodhouse Station in 1959.

## Railways

The first railway to serve Quorn was the Midland Counties Railway which from 1840 had a station at Barrow-upon-Soar.

In 1899 Quorn and Woodhouse Station was opened by the rival Great Central Railway. At its height about 300 passengers a day used the Station and its popularity led directly to housing development on Chaveney Road and Woodhouse Road, allowing people to work in the nearby towns and live in Quorn. The Station closed in 1963, and the line in 1969, but in 1973 it reopened as part of what is now the UK's only double track main line heritage railway.

