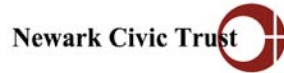


# Newark

## malting & brewing trail

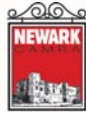
This is the second leaflet in a series of eight and the full range may be viewed on our website [www.newarkcivictrust.org.uk](http://www.newarkcivictrust.org.uk)

The original Trail and this reprint were made possible by the following organisations:



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The malting industry in the UK is still an important link in the food and drink supply chain – and the headquarters of the Maltsters' Association of Great Britain is in Newark. For more information about maltsters and malting, visit [www.ukmalt.com](http://www.ukmalt.com)

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of Newark Civic Trust

Registered Charity Number: 1015046



Printed on 80% recycled paper

D&P 07.12/EXT/5672



## Newark Malting & Brewing Trail

Distance: 2.2 km

Time: 1 hour 15 minutes. Easy trail

Start: at the bronze model of Newark in the Castle Grounds

Finish: at the Castle Grounds

Wheelchair & pushchair friendly

*This short walk around the town centre takes in many of the sites and buildings that relate to the Malting and Brewing.*

our image has been manipulated to show the house in its original form, before it was altered to accommodate a garage business in the 20th century.

**Turn right then left to walk along Castle Gate, then turn**

**Pizza Express building which was once a Sketchley warehouse but dates originally from the 15th century.**

**Turn right to walk downstream along the riverside.** On the opposite bank can soon be seen **two large rectangular maltings (3)**. The nearer of these, known now as *The Kiln*, was built for the Manners-Sutton family of Kelham in 1857 and bought by Samuel Hole Jr in 1874 so as to set up his son James Hole as an independent maltster. The building is remarkable as the first example in modern Britain of the large-scale use of mass concrete - no steel reinforcement being used. After becoming redundant as a malting it had several uses and was a chocolate warehouse when it was gutted by fire in 1992, but the shell was preserved and in 1997 a new interior was added to provide office accommodation and the large gantry for loading and unloading barges was restored. The success of mass concrete for construction was emphasised by the building, circa 1880, of a second similar malting a little further down stream. Now converted into flats and named Stephenson House, the building retains its two hoist towers.

**Continuing downstream, the path turns away from the river, along Water Lane, to reach North Gate. Turn left, passing The Malt Shovel pub (another reminder of the malting industry), and walk along to enter the Aldi car park via its pedestrian entrance** - note the low arched openings in the walls which represent typical malting windows. The car park is built on two sides of the 35 North Gate maltings complex, now visible on your left and one of the oldest in the town. The completely windowless wall of the four-storey owner's house towers above the malting floors on either side.



Beer has been brewed in many parts of the world for thousands of years. An essential ingredient is malted barley - after steeping in water, the grains are spread on a floor to germinate and produce enzymes before the process is halted at the critical point by careful drying in a kiln. During the 18th century, throughout the 19th, and until the second half of the 20th century, Newark was the centre of the English brewing and malting industries. With excellent water quality, unrivalled road, rail and river transport links, and with easy access to barley-growing country, the town had many advantages over the competition, becoming known as 'The Metropolis of Malt'. Beer and malt in all their glorious varieties were produced in vast quantities for local consumption and exported around the world. The brewers

and maltsters built large works as well as elegant family homes. This walk takes in many interesting architectural remnants of that splendid era.

**Start the walk at the bronze model of Newark in the castle grounds.**

**Leave the castle grounds via the iron gates which were erected in 1951 to mark the Festival of Britain and turn left, towards Trent Bridge. Cross the zebra crossing towards the Ossington Coffee Palace (built in 1881 to provide a temperance alternative to beer!), pausing at the halfway point to admire the **Queen Anne style Sketchley House (1)** (now occupied by *Holden's* furniture shop) that was once the home of the 18th century brewer Samuel Sketchley (see below) -**

**left down The Wharf (formerly known as Brewery Lane).**

The large building on your right was the **Town Wharf Brewery (2)**, built in the 1760s for the Handley family, who were the town's bankers. Samuel Sketchley, having learned his craft from his father in Burton-on-Trent, came to Newark in 1766 and took a lease on the building - the first large-scale commercial brewery in Newark. It was originally built without windows - a common practice in breweries to prevent ingress of wild yeasts which would spoil the brew - and the cast-iron windows were added in 1865. The building was converted into flats at the end of the 20th century, but the sack hoist was retained. **Continue walking down The Wharf towards the Trent, passing the**



Walk around the corner of the buildings to see the very model (4) of a 19th century malting floor with three rows of low arched windows, metal barred and some still with the shutters that were used to control ventilation/temperature.

Leave the car park and head in the direction of the white-painted Millennium Bridge to regain the riverside path.

As you walk along this path you are following the route of a railway track that served numerous maltings (5) that once stood on the land to your right, delivering barley and coal and taking away malted grain and other products.

About 250m down river turn right to find the ornate Northgate Malting (6). This was built in 1864 for Richard Warwick, who had leased and operated the Town Wharf Brewery for many years after the death of Samuel Sketchley. At the time of writing it is due for restoration and re-use as a bar/restaurant.

Walk past the malting to reach the Northgate Brewery (7). This once-vast complex was begun in 1871 (the date stone is visible) by Richard Warwick, whose ambitions had outgrown his Town Wharf operation. A second phase of building in 1877 augmented the business's capacity, as did further expansions in 1882 and 1891 (further date stones can be seen). An elegant colonnade shelters the vehicle loading bay. By 1890 Joseph Richardson, formerly MD of the competing Trent Brewery in Mill Gate, had become a partner in this company which traded for the next 76 years as Warwick & Richardson's. The Victorian owners' pride in their premises is obvious from the quality of the building and its decorative features. Our image is taken from a 19th century advertisement. Walk to North Gate and turn right. Carefully cross the road, using the pedestrian refuge, and turn to see the office block which was completed in 1892, boasting a boardroom, MD's office and an open-plan office for typists and others. Above the oriel window of Mr Warwick's office may be seen Newark's coat of arms in terracotta. Alongside the office block is a row of almshouses - also built in the late 19th century to provide for the company's ex-workers.

Walk to the far end of Meyrick Road. Turn left then right to enter Warburton Street, with Lovers Lane School on your right. At the school gate, look across the playground for a first view of the enormous George Street No 2 Malting (8), with twin malt kilns. Walk straight on to reach Appleton Gate and turn right for a second view of George Street No 2 and its second

pair of kilns. Passing The Newcastle Arms pub, enter George Street to get more views of the complex, which is being progressively converted into dwellings. On the opposite side of the street can be seen the remains of the extensive George Street No 1 Malting. Note the names of modern housing developments in the area, such as The Malthouse, Maltsters Court, The Maltings and The Maltkiln.

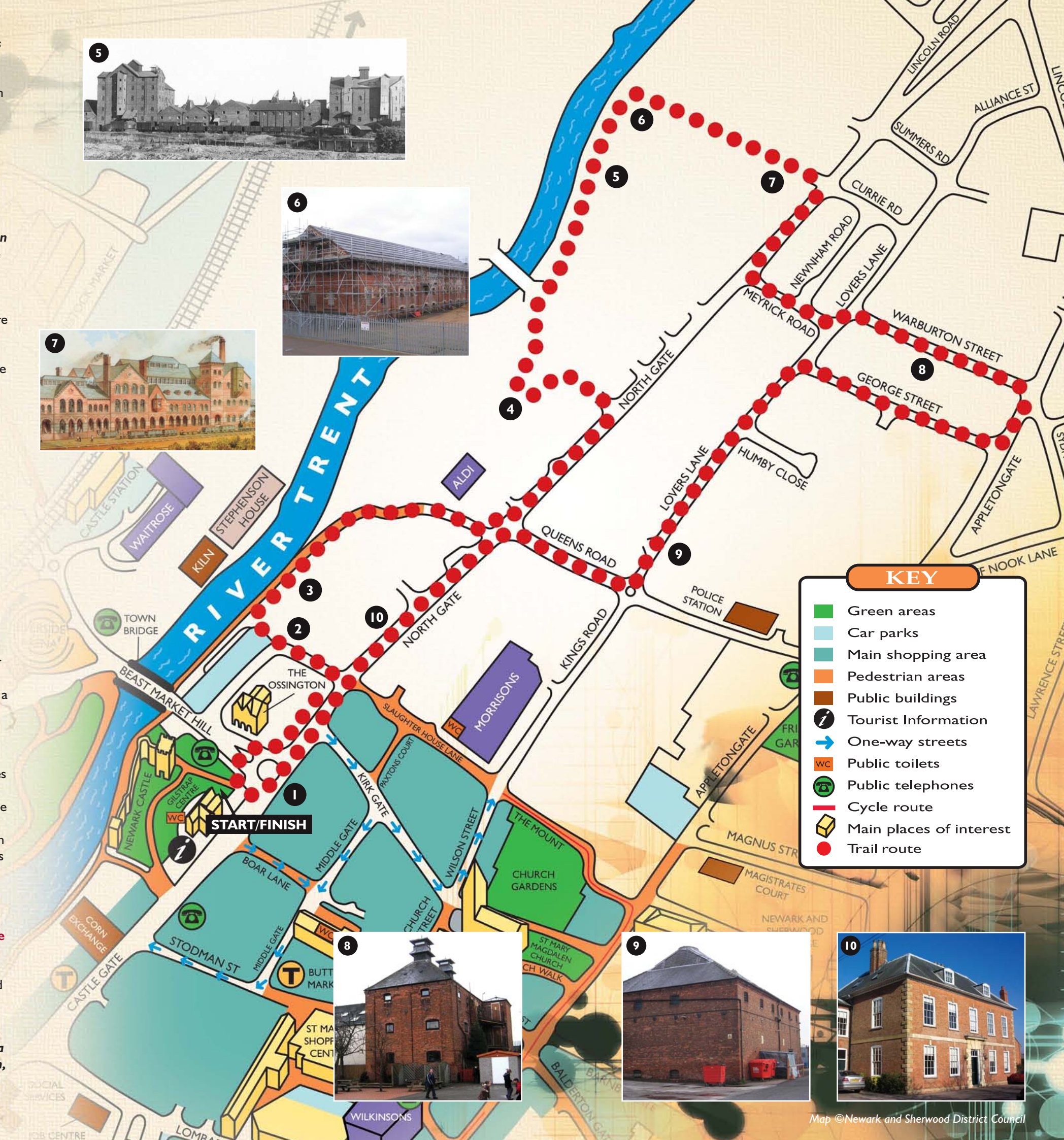
Continue to the end of George Street (passing more malting remnants) and turn left along Lovers Lane. Some 100m on the left you can see, end on to the road, the building that, from 1855, housed Lovers Lane Malting. Careful examination of the brickwork shows that the lowest courses are the remains of an earlier building of similar size. On the south side, the maltkilns (9) sadly recently demolished of the original building can still be seen, with their unusual oval cast-iron wall-plates still in place. These were attached to both ends of a metal bar running horizontally across the building to prevent the walls from bursting outwards due to the tremendous weight of malt on the floors above. These specimens bear the legend "CORCORAN WITT MALKILN BUILDER LONDON" and date from the early 19th century.

Walk to the end of Lovers Lane and turn right into Queen's Road. On the left side, before the supermarket car park, are the remains of two maltings. On the right side, the stumps of brick walls and odd remnants show the position of further malting-related buildings - the Goat Stream now runs under the road and away down Water Lane in a culvert, but until the 19th century provided a convenient disposal route for industrial effluent.

Behind The White Swan pub, the small rectangular building that now accommodates lavatories was once a small malthouse/brewhouse that would have made ale for the pub. Once a common sight, such small units fell out of use due to competition from larger brewers and maltsters as well as new taxation complications.

Turn left at the traffic lights and walk along North Gate for 100m. On the opposite side is the elegant Handley House (10), which was once the home of the Handley family. As well as the town's bank and Town Wharf Brewery, the family owned much of the property between The Wharf and Cow Lane (Aldi).

Continue along North Gate, pausing for a closer look at Sketchley House if you wish, then cross at the zebra crossing to finish in the castle grounds.



KEY	
	Green areas
	Car parks
	Main shopping area
	Pedestrian areas
	Public buildings
	Tourist Information
	One-way streets
	Public toilets
	Public telephones
	Cycle route
	Main places of interest
	Trail route