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Newark Advertiser



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Newark civil war trail



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Newark Civil War Trail

Distance: 1.5km

Time: 45 minutes. Easy trail

OS Map reference: SK 79700 - 54050

Start: at the Newark Bronze Map in the Castle Grounds

Finish: at the Town Wharf

Wheelchair & pushchair friendly

This short walk around the town centre takes in many of the sites and buildings that relate to the Civil War period.

*Walk back around the side of the gatehouse following the path down to the riverside. Turn left and follow the length of the castle wall. Can you see the small depressions in the wall? **Curtain Wall, Riverside***

(3) Small circular depressions in the wall here, mostly at head

Turn right, walk for 50m and cross the zebra crossing. Walk down Stodman St (to your left) to the Woolpack which is the 6th building on the right. Cross over to get a better look.

The Prince Rupert (4) Now a pub, it was built around 1452 as a rich merchant's house, and would have been about 200 years old at the time of the Civil War. The roomy building would have provided ideal accommodation for soldiers. Originally the Prince Rupert had 3 bays, with the upper floors jettied forward, as may be seen in the surviving right-hand bay. The left hand bay was removed at some point after the siege as it could have been damaged beyond repair.

Continue along Stodman St until you come to the Nat West Bank.

Opposite is the Governor's House (Greggs 5) another rich merchant's house (1474), its copious timber framing indicated high status. This, together with its position close enough to military headquarters in the castle to

permit speedy access, meant it was certain to be commandeered by the Royalist forces. Also, its proximity to the Parish Church ensured that a place for worship and observation of the enemy (from the steeple parapet) was conveniently close. It was used as The Governor's House for the duration of the Civil War.

The Nat West building now stands on the site of Hercules Clay's house. The plaque high on the wall gives details.

height, were caused by balls from Parliamentary cannon of the type known as a 'Robinette'. These guns had a calibre of 4cm (1.5in) and the balls weighing about 700g (1.5lbs). They were perhaps fired periodically to harass anyone trying to unload boats. Larger irregular scars on the wall at 2-3metres (8ft to 9ft) height were caused by 9cm (3.5in) cannon balls weighing 8kg (16lbs). *The height suggests that the aim was splintering the stone to injure rather than to kill.*

Now continue to follow the path around the castle, crossing over the wooden walkway and turning left up the path onto the main road.

Start the walk at the Bronze Plan of Newark in the Castle grounds (1).

Straight in front you will see the **Castle Gatehouse (2)**

This is the best-preserved Norman castle gatehouse in Britain. Walk towards the gatehouse and look under the archway. The stonework is still blackened by the gunpowder that Parliamentary forces used in 1646 when attempting to destroy the castle after the town's Royalist garrison had obeyed King Charles's order to surrender. In later years much of the castle's stone was removed by local people to repair houses damaged during the siege.



During the English Civil War 1642-46, the market town of Newark played a role out of all proportion to its size. Troops loyal to the King swelled its population many times over and, from the safety of its defences, they would launch attacks on local Parliamentarians - hence the town's motto *Deo fretus erumpe* or "Trust in God and sally forth". Newark was besieged on three occasions and finally surrendered only when ordered to do so by the King after his own surrender.

Site of Alderman Hercules Clay's House

(6) The house was destroyed in March 11th 1643 by a bomb that was actually aimed at the Governors House. The Alderman had three dreams that his home would be destroyed and moved his family just in time to a place of safety. He bequeathed a thank you offering to the town of £100 and gave £100 to the vicar on condition that he preached a sermon every year on the 11th March - this still continues in Newark today.

You are now in the Market Place – walk along the right hand side of the square – in the corner of the Market Place you will see a colourful timber-framed building.

This is **The Old White Hart (7)** The oldest surviving inn in Newark, The Old White Hart dates from the early 14th century, with the earliest section lying underneath the carriageway and to the right. The ornate façade of the front section (1459) was extensively restored in the 1980s, but is authentic in style and colour, as sufficient original material remained for copies to be made. This large inn would certainly have been a billet for soldiers.

Turn around and head towards the opposite corner of the square and up to St Mary Magdalene Church. At the tall chimney (which was the church's central heating boiler), turn right down an alley, onto Appleton Gate. Turn left and left again, enter the Garden of Remembrance and walk to the far right hand corner of the churchyard. Look up towards the church spire and you will see a hole below the left hand corner of the uppermost central window.

The Church Spire (8)

The hole visible in the spire marks the spot where the shot from a Parliamentarian cannon is said to have struck the church in 1644.

In the centre of the churchyard there is a Monument - A simple engraved bronze slab commemorating the lives of officers killed in other sieges of

Newark. The bones here interred were removed from the Church crypt, which now houses Church silver.

If you have time feel free to explore the inside of the church where you will find a plaque dedicated to Hercules Clay and the crypt previously mentioned.

To exit the church grounds, walk towards the church and turn right following the

path back to the main entrance. Enter Kirk Gate on the right which is in front of you; walk on the left hand side for 50m up to the black and white timber-framed building which is opposite. This is **Charles I Coffee House. (9)** Queen Henrietta Maria stayed here when visiting Newark. Unaccompanied queens were always to be chaperoned but it was deemed fitting on this occasion to stay with gentry. The two timber-framed buildings show different structural styles, the 16th century one using less timber than the more ostentatious 15th century one, many of the uprights being for decorative effect only.

Continue along to the corner of Kirk Gate and Middle Gate crossing over to get a better look at the shop (10) The building dates from 1337 and would have made an ideal billet for Civil War soldiers. Another example of a rich merchant's house, but possessing an architectural feature unique in Newark - it is jettied on two adjoining sides, with part of the diagonal dragon beam which supports the upper corner post still visible within.

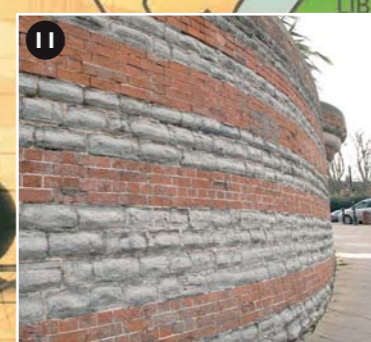
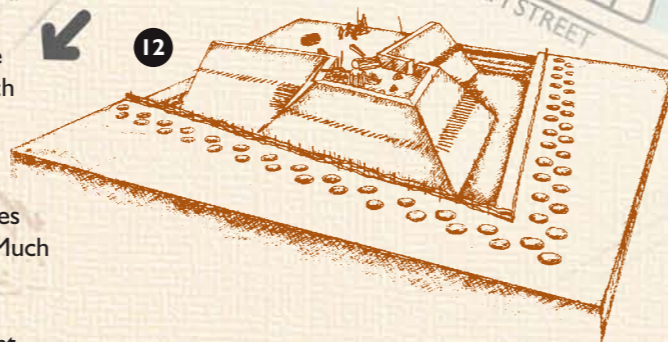
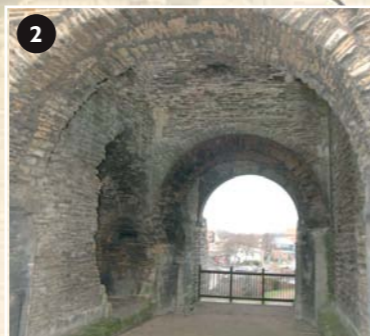
To complete the trail continue down Kirk Gate turning left at the end and crossing at the zebra crossing. Head towards the Wharf, keeping the large brick and timber-framed building (The Ossington) to your right. At the junction turn right and walk to the centre of the car park to look at the stone wall opposite.

The Wharf (11) The curved stonewall, although dating from 1883, follows exactly the line of the old town wall as it made its way towards the castle. This would have formed part of the town's inner defences during the Civil War.

If you wish to extend the trail for another hour you can walk 1km (¾ mile) or drive down, parking at Scone Hills car park to the The Queen's Sconce (12) This was one of a pair of earthwork fortifications erected to defend the town's northern and southern approaches against Parliamentary forces, and is probably the most complete Civil War fortification remaining in the country. Four raised corner bastions

provided artillery platforms, while the connecting ramparts protected the lower central area. Attackers would have been faced with the formidable bank and ditch obstacles, but the whole surrounding area was a killing field

liberally supplied with pitfalls - deep holes with sharpened stakes at the bottom. Much improved access facilities now permit a birds' eye view, allowing a much better appreciation of this important monument.



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