

Newark Town Trail



Distance	2½ miles (4 km)
Duration	2 hours
Stiles	0
Route summary	Short gentle walk on surfaced paths and pavements
Start point	Tolney Lane Car Park
Public transport	Daily bus and train services to Newark from Nottingham. For details call Traveline on 0871 200 22 33 or visit www.traveline.org.uk .
Parking	Tolney Lane Car Park
Dogs	Please keep your dog under close control at all times

Directions

From the car park walk through the park and on to the riverside path opposite the Castle ruins and turn right along the river. Cross the sluice over a footbridge to walk past the Town Lock. Passing the waterways repair yard follow the path as it bends right over a small footbridge and then left.

Newark Town Lock is one of the regions busiest during the summer months. The old lock is still identifiable, located behind the lock keepers cabin. A sensory garden has been built on land adjacent to the lock and is the ideal place to sit and relax.

Follow this surfaced path until reaching Mill Bridge, where we cross over the river to reach the old 'Trent Navigation' warehouse. (You also have the option here to extend your walk by following the riverside bridleway straight ahead).

As you cross Mill Bridge onto Mill Lane you will notice the row of restored cottages. These were probably inhabited by workers for the Trent Navigation Company who owned the warehouse at one time. The warehouse has been converted into the Millgate Museum of social and folk life. It has three main exhibition floors illustrating the social and industrial life of the town. Travel back in time as you look into the ground floor rooms of a Victorian terraced house. Walk down a street of 19th century shops and look into a saloon bar, which has hand-drawn beer pumps.

From the museum main entrance walk forward onto Mill Gate and turn left and walk along the road until it joins Castle Gate where our route turns left to join it. On your left hand side a little further on – opposite the junction with Stodman Street – is the Corn Exchange.

In the 19th century, Newark was known as the "granary of England" and its importance is reflected in this ornate building. It is here that merchants, millers and maltsters met farmers to trade in the produce of the surrounding land. Architect Henry Duesbury erected the building in 1848. Either side of the central turret are figures of agriculture and commerce.

Turn right along Stodman Street and on the right hand side as you join the Market Place you will see the timber framed building that used to be the Governor's House.

This was the residence of the Governors of Newark during the sieges of the Civil War. At one time it is said that the surface of the square deteriorated so much that a path was laid for the Governor to walk from his house to the south door of the church without soiling his feet.

On the west side of the square, the Market Place is dominated by the Town Hall, built in the 1770's and designed by John Carr of York. It was originally constructed as two separate houses with the centre part consisting of the portico, entrance hall, Buttermarket and staircases. However the Assembly Rooms soon grew inadequate so alterations were made and doors cut through to the two houses which then became part of the Town Hall. Further along the market square you will find the Clinton Arms, which is typical of the large coaching inns on the Great North Road.

In the late 18th century it had stabling for 90 horses. In 1806 and 1808 Byron stayed here while his work was being printed by S and J.Ridge across the square.

Continue along the colonnade to the bust of the Saracen set high in the wall.

The Saracens Head Inn is now closed, but in earlier days it was visited several times by Sir Walter Scott and a plaque commemorates Jeannie Dean's stay here in his novel "Heart of Midlothian".

In the south corner of the Market Place, over the entrance to the present inn, is the Olde White Hart, a 14th century timber framed building named after the emblem of Richard II. This is one of the finest examples of 14th century timber framed architecture in England.

Continuing around the Market Place in the same direction, note the house on the corner of Bridge Street and Market Square. This was the building used by the printers S.and J.Ridge mentioned earlier. On leaving the Market Place via Church Walk you immediately approach the Parish Church of St. Mary Magdalene.

This is the largest parish church in Nottinghamshire and the spire is over 240 feet high. The tower is 13th century and Henry III granted six oaks from Sherwood Forest for the work to be carried out.

Leave the church along Church Walk to reach Appleton Gate. Turn right along the road and then left along Barnby Gate. Shortly turn left into Bede House Lane and on your right you will see Bede House Chapel.

A Bede House is an almshouse - a charitable foundation for the care of the poor – run by the friars. The word 'Bead' originally meant prayer and came from the Middle English 'Bede'. The little stone chapel you see today is all that remains of the Bede House, which once stood on the site and dates from the 16th century. Note the wooden belfry and the door with its '4 centred arch', typical of the late middle ages.

Retrace your steps back to Appleton Gate, turn right and continue along the road to reach Newark Museum, housed in the old Magnus School.

The school was founded in 1529 by Archdeacon Thomas Magnus, one of Newark's greatest benefactors. The 16th century stone building peeps out from behind a brick building of 1817 which was also once part of the school.

From the museum return along Church Walk to reach Wilson Street. Turn immediately right in front of the church and then left into Kirkgate.

On your right is the Old Westminster Bank, now the Newark Technical College School of Violin Making. Further down on the right are some timber framed houses. The first one you reach has a plaque explaining that Queen Henrietta Maria stayed here during the Civil War.

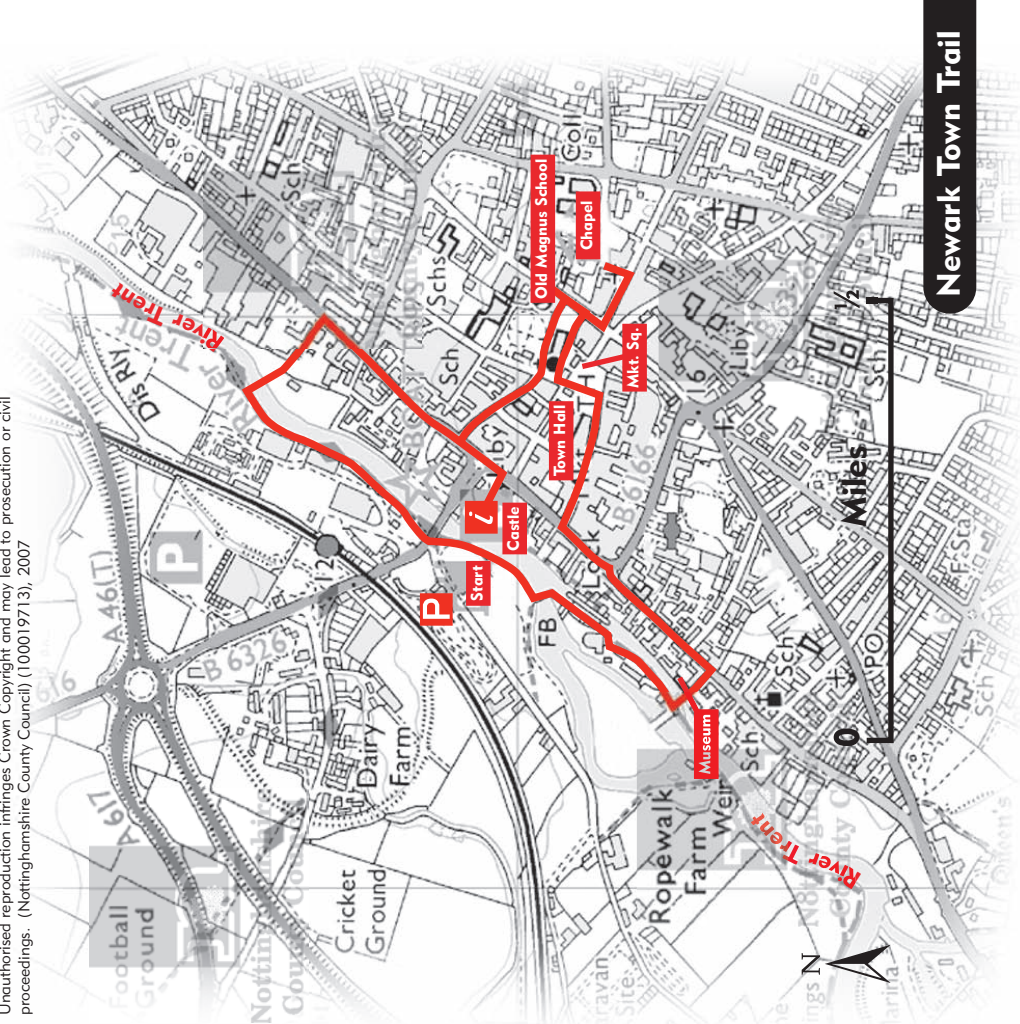
At the end of Kirkgate, cross over and turn left onto Castle Gate. Follow the road around to the right at the roundabout and you will find yourself in front of the Ossington.

The Ossington Coffee Palace was built in 1882 by the Viscountess Ossington as a Temperance Hotel, in the hope of promoting coffee as an alternative to alcoholic drink. It didn't work!

Across from the Ossington are the remains of Newark Castle, 'Key to the North'.

Alexander, Bishop of Lincoln, began building the castle in 1129. Today nothing from that period remains. Today you can see the fine gatehouse (built 1170/75) to the north and the west wall, which is late 13th century. After the Civil War, the citizens of Newark, who were loyal to the King, were instructed by the victorious Parliamentarians to demolish the castle. Fortunately for us they did not

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complete the task and we are left with an impressive monument presenting a dramatic face to the river.

To return to our route, walk back onto Castle Gate and along Bar Gate, which becomes North Gate. Turn left into Cow Lane (at the Aldi supermarket sign) and follow this to the end where you cross a footbridge over the Trent. (There is another option here for you to extend your walk here by turning right along the riverside path).

Kings Marina, on your right, was opened in 2001 and can accommodate up to 160 craft, including long term, residential and short-term moorings.

Turn left to follow the riverside path back to Riverside Park and the car park.

The Newark riverside has seen extensive regeneration in recent years including the Kiln Warehouse. The grade II listed warehouse built in 1857 is the earliest example of a concrete building in the British Isles. An arson attack in 1992 destroyed the roof, top floor and much of the interior. British Waterways chose to restore the building for use as office suites and today part of the building is home to their East Midlands Navigations team.