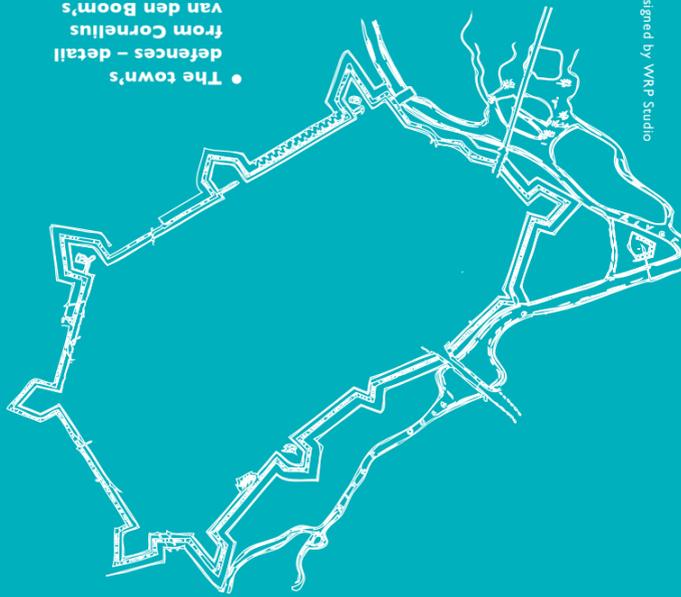




• The town's defences – detail from Cornelius van den Boom's 1644 plan



Designed by WRP Studio

Delve into history and find what's right before your eyes.
Explore the Newport Pagnell you've never seen before. Uncover its hidden history as a 17th century important frontline, fortified town during the Civil War from 1642–1651. With historical sites and facts there's a lot to discover.



Swan Revived, 2012 - Helen Williams

38. SWAN REVIVED formerly the Swann Inn in the 17th century. The building next to it, The Saracen's Head, was built in the 16th century and was the finest hostelry in the town. Commandeered by the Governor, Sir Samuel Luke, it became the garrison's military and civilian headquarters.

“Parliament ordered the garrison to be built stipulating the fortifications should cost £4000 per month, equivalent to £7million today”

39. BURY FIELD was, as it is today, Common Land, but Van den Boom's design for garrison fortifications required it to be cleared of trees and deep ditches dug in front of the ramparts so they could be flooded in the event of an attack. The only remaining evidence is some earthworks and a partially erected stone wall. The area is an ancient monument site.



Bury Field, 2012 - Gareth Jones



Church Passage, 2012 - Helen Williams

40. CHURCH PASSAGE with its narrow street leading past the almshouses up to the Church hasn't changed much down the centuries.



Sir Samuel Luke - Beds County Council, Moot Hall, Elstow

41. MARKET HILL - THE GREEN
The area stretching down to Station Road was once called The Green. It's where Governor Sir Samuel Luke's residence is thought to have been and where Royalist assassins made a failed attempt on his life in the spring of 1644. The only time the garrison came under attack during the Civil War.

The town's population doubled when Parliament ordered the building of a garrison to accommodate 1500 troops in 1643. Earthwork fortifications designed by Dutch engineers were quick to build and used a local workforce. Common Lands around the town were cleared of trees, three metre high ramparts bolstered by timber palisades were erected and a surrounding three metre deep defensive ditch was dug which could be flooded by opening sluice gates.

The once quiet market town was noisy and bustled with troops. Tented encampments housed soldiers and camp followers; the local area was ransacked of livestock and produce to cater to their needs. Under-resourced garrison soldiers (including one John Bunyan) shared beds, clothes and were often paid in worthless IOUs. Awaiting action, they spent many hours in taverns that led to drunk and disorderly behaviour in the streets.

Religious discontent was rife in the town. It was a hot-bed of spies from both sides; Cromwell valued reports he received from his trusted Scoutmaster, the garrison's Governor Sir Samuel Luke. It was here that Cromwell frequently visited, where his son, Oliver Jnr, was stationed and where Cromwell chose to amass thousands of troops at the garrison's Sherrington outpost prior to the Battle of Naseby.

NEWPORT PAGNELL was an important frontline garrison town during the Civil War (1642 – 1651). Very little of the fortifications remain as Parliament ordered the town defences to be 'sieghited' in 1646 (they were finally pulled down in 1648), but the military town is still visible today. Use this guide to walk around the town uncovering its hidden history.

The Civil War, fought between Royalists (Cavaliers) and Parliamentarians (Roundheads), Newport Pagnell was important to both divided families, religions and the nation. Newport Pagnell was a strategic location, bridging the River Ouse and fording road routes to London, westwards to Oxford and eastward to Cambridge. First captured in 1643 by Royalists, a major military blunder twelve days later left the post unguarded. opposing troops walked in and henceforth the town was a Roundhead stronghold.

Map

Newport Pagnell Garrison Town Trail



NEWPORT PAGNELL CROMWELL'S GARRISON TOWN

1. HIGH STREET

The busy 17th century town thoroughfare and a centre for trade is still recognisable today.



Print, 18th century view of High Street Newport Pagnell Historical Society

2. NORTH BRIDGE

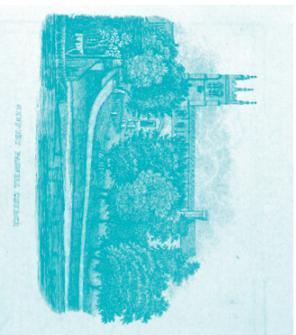
Bridge crossing the River Ouse. Sentries guarded the access road to and from Northampton and Bedford.

3. ROYAL BRITISH LEGION AND OUSEBANK GARDENS

The Royal British Legion building was once a wealthy merchant's house with land backing onto the Church and river in Ousebank Gardens. An elevated area in Ousebank Gardens is believed to be what remains of the Mount Bulwark that is marked on Van den Boom's 1644 map.

4. THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST PETER AND ST PAUL

Reconstructed in the 14th century, the Tower was built in the 16th. Church towers made excellent look-out posts during the Civil War and some stories say horses were stabled inside the Church as the town's amenities were limited.



Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul Engraving detail from 18th century map

5. CHURCH CEMETERY, CASTLE MOUND

The Church cemetery has remains of a gun battery. This gun emplacement overlooked the point where the Rivers Ouse and Ouzel (now Lovat) converge.

6. CASTLE MEADOW

Outside of the town's garrison fortifications and set below the Church, this area housed a large tented encampment, billeting troops and hundreds of camp followers. The river would have been used for washing clothes and ablutions.

7. NORTH SQUARE

One of the town's three markets was held weekly in North Square. Soldiers would supplement their meagre daily rations from the markets.

8. No 38

Building dates back to 17th century

9. GARRISON BARRACKS

Many of the Parliamentarian officers were billeted on houses in the town. Barracks, to house soldiers, were erected down the middle of the High Street, though hastily built traces survived into the late 1700s.



	CAR PARKS
	NEWPORT PAGNELL MEDICAL CENTRE
	LIBRARY
	POST OFFICE
	SWAN REVIVED HOTEL
	CHURCHES

10. UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

The Rev John Gibbs, former vicar of The Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul established an Independent Church in the town in a barn behind the existing United Reformed Church in 1660. His graveyard is in the Parish Churchyard.



Rev John Gibbs gravestone - Janet Lane

11. No 85

A stone building, which later became known as The Vicarage, dates to the 17th century.

12. The probable site of the **town gaol** and stocks and the site of another market called the 'shambles', one of 3 markets in the town.

13. **THE DOLPHIN INN**, 16th century, is located near the site of the town brewery (now the Health Centre). Most towns had breweries making vast quantities of ale, the everyday beverage, as water was often contaminated and unfit to drink.

14. No 126 and POLICE STATION

Evidence of portcullis earthwork and ditch defences was uncovered during garden works at Beechwood House, 126 High Street.

15. No 75

dates back to the early 17th century.

16. **WOLVERTON ROAD**
A draw bridge or sallyport guarded the roads to Stony and Fenny Stratford at this point through the rampart defences.

17. **MILL STREET**. A corn mill and cloth mill operated down by the riverside, but were outside the garrison walls, near the site of Mill Bulwark as marked on Van den Boom's 1644 map.

18. **THE GEORGE**, a public house, one of many within the garrison in which soldiers would idle away the hours waiting for action.

19. **HYDRAULIC PUMP AND RESERVOIR**
A hydraulic pump and a reservoir were built in the town by the Dutch engineers who had built the

garrison. Their exact locations remain unknown, but are thought to have been near Mill Street.

20. **THE CANNON** public house, named in acknowledgement of the town's history. A cannon is reputed to have been found at the rear of the site.



Demi Culverin Cannon

21. ST JOHN'S HOSPITAL

The exact location of St John's Hospital remains unknown, but the nearby house at Tickford Bridge bears an inscription on a beam dated 1615 when James I rededicated the hospital and lands in honour to his wife Queen Anne (mother of Charles I).

22. 17th Century **Dovecote** uncovered in the gardens of the former manor house, Waterhall, where the British Legion building now stands.

deer park that was closed under Henry VIII's dissolution of the monasteries. The existing cast-iron bridge is one of the oldest surviving iron bridges still in use today.

27. **SILVER STREET**, once called Marsh Street, is a narrow winding road with several buildings dating back to the 16th and 17th centuries. At the top end was another of the town's markets, the 'shambles', a tented market that is recorded to have held a 'ladies day' once day a week.



Silver Street, 2012 - Helen Williams

28. No 19, **the Hermitage** is a large 17th century residence with double chimneys and is of brick and tile construction.

29. No 16, timber-framed building with jettying.

30. **Lincoln Lodge and Lincoln Cottage** (Nos 23 and 23a) date back to the 17th century. Once a single large property and thought to be the residence of a wealthy merchant.

31. PAGGS COURT and CHAPEL COURT

Narrow passageways that provided access to the rear of the premises facing the High Street. Most notably the barn owned in 1660 by William Smyth (to the rear of the present United Reformed Church) where Rev John Gibbs established the Independent Church. Paggs Court has an original stone and pebble path with drainage.

32. **No 72**, now redeveloped, was once the site of a thatched cottage during the Civil War period.

33. **THE TANNERY BULWARK**, marked on Van den Boom's 1644 map, was erected near workshops that produced leather and parchment goods. Today Cowley's Parchment works are located nearby on Caldecote Street.

34. **MARSH END and CALDECOTE** were both small settlements outside the town boundaries.

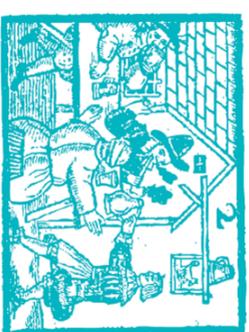
35. **No 16** is a stone, brick and timber-framed building that dates back to the Civil War when it was possibly a barn.

36. LOVAT CREST

Tudor thatched house, timber-framed with black and white detailing is believed to be one of the oldest surviving buildings in the town.

37. TICKFORD STREET

Tickford was a small settlement outside the town and the road crossing the River Ouzel led to Tickford Abbey, once a large priory with an estate that included a deer park. Tykeford established after the Norman Conquest was abandoned during Henry VIII's dissolution of the monasteries. There are several dwellings that date back to the 16th and 17th centuries in this area including the Bull Inn and the Kings Arms.



Woodcut illustration of 17th century tavern scene

26. **TICKFORD BRIDGE** crossing the Ouzel (now Lovat) was guarded by sentries. The road led to Tickford Priory, an important site with a large