

## ABOUT THE WALK

**DISTANCE:** 3 miles **TIME:** 1.5 hours

**START/PARKING:** at Church St CP (alternative The Saracen's Head CP).

**TERRAIN:** first part is town walking, second part in Norwood Park is grassy track.

**FOOTWEAR:** walking boots preferable for Norwood Park

**REFRESHMENTS:** plenty of choice in town - inns and cafés.

**OS MAPS Explorer series No. 270, 1:25,000 scale**

**Landranger series No. 120, 1:50,000 scale**

### THE EDWARD CLUDD TRAIL

This focuses on Southwell during the English Civil War, on aspects of the town's rich religious heritage and on Norwood Park one of the Archbishop of York's medieval deer parks.

**The trail starts from the Church St. CP (alternative 'The Saracen's Head' CP.). Cross Church St., go through the Minster gateway opposite and make for the North Porch of the Minster. Enter and walk into the nave.**

**Edward Cludd** was born in 1603. His parents had property around Arnold and were from the gentry. We have very limited knowledge of his early life though a deed describes him as 'Citizen and Mercer of Lombard St. London'. We also know he was married to Mary Bonner from Essex and had no children. It is reported that he was a firm and very influential supporter of Parliament during the Civil War period and yet a source of 'moderation' in any discussions. The trail visits three places where his moderating influence had a clear impact on local events though the detail of that influence is not always so clear. After 1660, when the monarchy was restored, Cludd, unlike many other supporters of Parliament, was able to escape retribution. He was allowed to continue living at Norwood Park, but only as tenant for life and the Minster Chapter did lease him lands at Westhorpe until his death in 1678. His importance during these turbulent years was recognized when the Secondary School on Nottingham Rd was named after him.

POINT  
OF INTEREST  
1

#### Southwell Minster during the Civil War period 1642-60.

When you enter the superb nave consider the likely changes that would have occurred once the Parliamentary troops had taken control of the Minster. Firstly, Puritan religious practice was to remove all furnishings and ornaments as they would be considered

idolatrous. Secondly, tradition has it that the nave was used for the stabling of the Parliamentary troops' horses and early in the 19th century, the iron rings, to which the horses were tethered, were still attached to some of the nave columns. It is argued that but for the moderating influence of Edward Cludd the Minster would have suffered much more damage and this could well be accurate as many other prominent churches did suffer much greater destruction by Parliament's soldiers. Nevertheless the Minster records after 1660 suggest extensive repairs had to be undertaken.



Southwell Minster - The Nave

The Chapter House, famed for its fine carvings, suffered damage around this period and we have evidence from a later report to the Archbishop that 'Scottish soldiers pillaged the Treasury'. One story is that a pregnant wife of a Royalist officer, finding Southwell under the control of Parliamentary troops, sought sanctuary in the Minster, in spite of the nave being full of Cromwell's troops; but she was smuggled into a small room above the North Porch. Whilst she was hiding there, attended by a servant, she gave birth. Tradition has it both mother and baby survived.

**Leave by the South door. You are now facing the Archbishop of York's Palace, mostly in ruins, apart from the building immediately in front of you. To get an idea of the old palace's size, turn to your left and walk to the end of the churchyard. If you look over the**

**churchyard wall you can still see much of the Palace's east wall. The original courtyard plan is also evident and forms an attractive walled garden, attached to the Bishop's Manor. Return to the surviving building, now called the 'Great Hall'.**



The Archbishop of York's Palace

POINT  
OF INTEREST  
2

**The Palace of the Archbishop of York during the Civil War period.** Most experts date the Palace to the late 14th century. In the early stages of the Civil War, 1642-3, it appears likely

Charles 1 stayed at the Palace en route for the North. When Parliament's troops took control of the district, it is said Edward Cludd invited the Scottish Commissioners to reside in the Palace and to use it as a base for their discussions. Once the Commissioners had gone, at the end of hostilities, it seems the remaining Parliamentary troops '*stripped the roof of the Palace of its lead and everything they could sell for a penny*'. It is believed some parishioners contributed to the destruction by taking stone and timber for themselves. Even the Archbishop's Steward, William Clay, became involved as records show in 1662 he was defending himself against the accusation of taking stone and timber from the Palace. After this destruction the only part usable was the Archbishop's State Chamber on the First Floor, now called the 'Great Hall', and the Chapel on the Ground Floor. The State Chamber was retained initially to use as a Court. Today the Great Hall, much admired for its portraits and window glass, is used for a variety of Minster and Town functions and the old Chapel is used by the Choir.

**Walk now to your right and take the long, straight path up to Westgate. Look back and note how well the Bishop's Manor has been incorporated into the Palace ruins. In 1884 the diocese of Southwell was created and it was decided in 1905 to have an official residence for the Bishop in the town. On reaching Westgate note the fine Prebendal houses opposite. Sacrista Prebend on the right, was used for many years by The Minster School. It is now a convent. Cross the road, turn up Prebend Passage and stop at The Methodist Church on your right.**

POINT  
OF INTEREST  
3

**The growth of Non-conformist groups, after the Civil War.** In Cludd's day there was a growing number of people known as Puritans who dissented from the ritual and practices of the

Church of England. There was certainly a QUAKER presence in the town around that time but the first organised Non-conformist chapels didn't come until the early 19th century. THE METHODIST CHAPEL was opened in 1839 replacing an earlier, smaller chapel off Westgate. Methodism started in the town in the late 18th century. A Wesleyan Methodist Day School was opened, on Kirklington Road, in 1871. THE BAPTIST CHAPEL, on Nottingham



Baptist Chapel, Nottingham Rd

**At the end of the passage, by Lowes Wong School, go right to meet Halam Road and then turn left, passing the school and stop at the Roman Catholic Church.**

POINT  
OF INTEREST  
4

**The Roman Catholic Church** had been centred on Southwell Minster until the 16th century. Following the Reformation, the Minster became Church of England and Roman Catholics in the town would have been without a public centre of worship and had to resort to private chapels. Roman Catholics achieved more freedom in

the 19th century and this led in 1962 to the building of the Church of Our Lady of Victories on Halam Road.

**Cross Halam Rd and to the right, note the site of Merryweather's Nursery opposite, which you will visit on the way back. Continue ahead to Norwood Park. Some 350 metres past the brick pillars and white gated private entrance, and passing Allenby Rd, take the FP on your right, through the hedge and enter the park.**

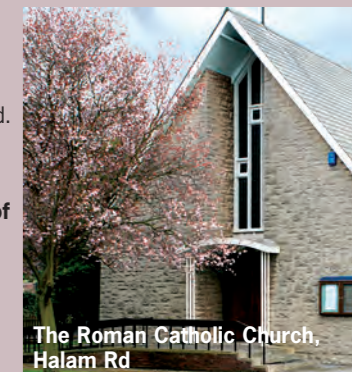
POINT  
OF INTEREST  
5

**Norwood Park, the residence of Edward Cludd.** This was one of four Deer Parks owned by the medieval Archbishops of York and the one which has most retained its

rural feel and openness. George Hodgkinson's diary suggests there was still a plentiful supply of venison in the district in 1781. Around 1647 the Archbishop's lands, like most church property, were taken over by the victorious Parliamentary government and put up for sale with the result that Edward Cludd purchased Norwood Park for £964.

**Walk up the rising ground. The bank marking the southern boundary of the deer park would have followed the southern edge of the wood to your left and continued through the gap in the alder shelter belt close to the young oaks. Continue walking straight ahead but notice the 18th century temple on the high ground to the left and soon Norwood Hall will come into view, front left. Pass by or over two stiles and pause at the crossroads. Read the following information on Edward Cludd's residence.**

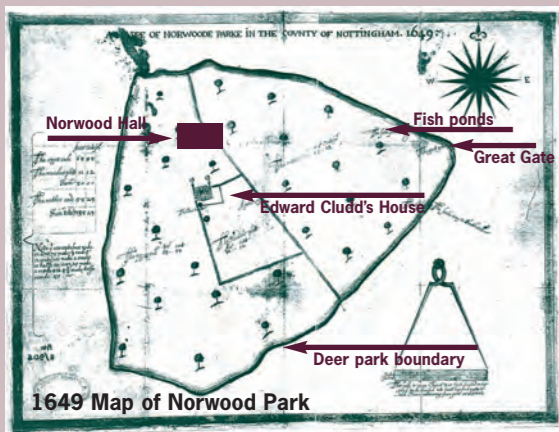
**Edward Cludd's Residence.** Around 1649 Cludd built what Thoroton calls 'a pretty brick house'. In all probability it sat on a terrace close to the cricket square on the pond side (see copy of 1649 map). At the return of the monarchy in 1660 the park was returned to the Archbishop but Cludd was able to continue residence as tenant for life. Was this a favour for his protection of the Minster from further damage during the Civil War? A later tenant was Edward Becher, the first of that well known family to settle in



The Roman Catholic Church, Halam Rd

## Southwell Heritage Trails

# The Edward Cludd Civil War Trail



the town. Recently Robert Hardstaff has written a book on the Becher family's involvement in shipping. In 1763 Dr. John Sutton bought the lease, pulled down Cludd's house and built the present hall. The Sutton family had a passion for the sport of hunting and it should be pointed out that, but for hunting, the built environment of Norwood Park and its eco-management would not be as it is today. Sir Richard Sutton, the next tenant, had a distinguished career in politics and served as Lord of the Treasury in the 1770s.

As you continue your walk, notice a pond on each side of the FP. As well as being aesthetically pleasing to the owners and their families, **PONDS** would also have had practical value. The pond in front of the house served as a source of clay for making bricks for house building. The pond to the right, on the golf course, was dug for the sport of angling and would have been stocked with coarse fish. Pause on the edge of Crow Wood, by the **LARGE OAK** on your right, opposite a track to your left.

### Edward Cludd's Oak.

After the fall of the monarchy, Puritan attitudes flourished. Civil marriages replaced marriages in church. There are references in local registers to Edward Cludd, as a magistrate, solemnizing



Old oak tree, Crow Wood

marriages under a large oak tree at Norwood, at no distance from the house. It is probable that the oak was up near the temple and tradition has it that Cludd sat under this tree to transact his business. The tree blew down at the end of the 19th century, but close to the FP and Crow Wood there is a magnificent specimen of an oak, which, on account of its girth, must have been a fine tree in Edward Cludd's day. Look at the tree and try to visualise what the setting for the marriage ceremony would have been like.

Leave the fine oak tree and walk on. Note the ancient Deer Park boundary bank is clearly visible at the point where arriving golfers turn into the CP and the bank and ditch form the edge to Crow Wood. Continue on the estate road, this brings you out to Lower Kirklington Rd.

**Norwood Park Today.** The Starkey family have owned Norwood Park since 1881. Sir John R. Starkey founded the fruit farm when he planted Maythorne Orchard with 40 acres of Bramleys. The current owner, Sir John Starkey, has continued the fruit farming and also revived the Edward Cludd tradition of providing couples with an excellent location for civil marriages. Norwood has also become a popular venue for business activities of all kinds with the further attraction of an 18 hole, American - designed golf course and driving range.



Norwood Park today

Turn right at the main road and head back to town. At this point there are no pavements and walkers should take care whilst walking on the sometimes busy roads. Turn right again into Kirklington Rd and walk back at the side of Norwood Park. This takes you downstream of the **MEDIEVAL FISHPONDS** sited at the lowest point of the Deer Park and past the **GREAT GATE**, (see 1649 map) no trace of which remains. Turn right and go down Hopkiln Lane (derived from the original local hop growing industry) with Norwood on your right. Take the footpath on your left, just after the last house. It takes you past where Merryweather's Nurseries were for many years.

### POINT OF INTEREST 6

The Merryweather Nursery was started in 1854 by Henry Merryweather and son, also called Henry. It was the younger Henry, who saw the potential of an apple, which came from a tree in Easthorpe (see Easthorpe Trail). He asked the owner of the tree, a Mr. Bramley, for permission to take cuttings and the result was the Bramley Apple that we know today. One of Henry's sons was responsible for hybridizing roses, the Merryweather Damson and the Southwell Redcurrant. The business by 1900 had become extremely prosperous, both nationally and internationally, and was the first of a number of well known nurseries, set up in the local area.

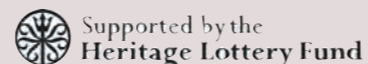


On reaching Halam Rd turn left and make your way back into the town and the CP. There is a fine selection of inns and cafés where you can take refreshments.

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There are six Heritage Trails for Southwell



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