

Southwell Heritage Trails

The King Charles I Civil War Trail



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The Fate of Charles I, Hudson and Ashburnham.

In 1649 Charles was put on trial by Parliament. He was found guilty of treason and on the 30th January 1649 he was beheaded outside Whitehall Palace. Soon after the monarchy was abolished. What happened to his two loyal servants, Hudson and Ashburnham? Ashburnham continued to serve his King, was imprisoned after the King's death but after the monarchy returned in 1660 he resumed his post as Groom of the Bedchamber. Hudson's story is quite extraordinary. He fought on to serve the interests of his king, abroad and back in England. He, too, was imprisoned and his responses to investigation provide much of what we know of these events. He escaped, was recaptured and sent to the

POINT OF INTEREST 7



King Charles 1 on his way to execution

Tower. Again he escaped, this time disguised as a hawker carrying a basket of apples on his head. He returned to the Stamford area where he led a royalist rebellion and garrisoned Woodcroft House. He was forced on the roof by the besieging Parliamentarian Army and, in trying to escape over the battlements, his hands were cut off and he fell into the moat. He managed to swim to the bank but then was killed by a blow to the head by a musket.

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There are six Heritage Trails for Southwell

left towards Morton and walk downhill towards a farm. Ahead and slightly to your left lie Upton and Kelham, where Charles was escorted after his departure from Southwell. Read below for details of what happened at Kelham.

POINT OF INTEREST 6

Charles I at Kelham. What happened to him?

Charles became a prisoner of David Leslie, the Scottish Army Commander, and no one was allowed access to him. The Scots were aware they were in a supreme bargaining position with Parliament as they had possession of the king. They also were aware the Royalist garrison at Newark could be made to surrender if they put pressure on Charles to order it. Charles wrote to Governor Bellasis of Newark and stated that if Newark did not surrender Charles would not be able to go north with the Scots (he still had some hope of safety) The order was reluctantly accepted by the governor. Following the surrender of Newark, the Scots moved north to Newcastle taking Charles, Hudson, Ashburnham and the king's barber! Despite their earlier promises, the Scots handed Charles over to the English Parliament in exchange for the waiver of a loan.

The FP bends to the right and again to the right. Cross over the stile and walk straight across a meadow to a gate. Having passed through the second gate walk to the left towards a hedge and go over a stile and take a line straight across a field towards Weldon Farm. After another stile, continue on the FP which takes you to the right of the farm. Keep to the right with a pond on your right and walk by the hedge on your right. At a junction of paths walk straight ahead for approximately 800 metres keeping the hedge to your right until a dead-end is reached at a T junction. Here the walker is reunited with the outward FP and must turn left downhill to Halloughton Dumble. The FP bends to the left, cross the Dumble and walk to the right following the hedge.

This will take you up to a farm lane. Turn right and walk back to the car parked near High Cross Farm, which you will see ahead on your left.



The Warrant for the arrest of King Charles 1

Southwell would certainly have been witnessed and would have been a major talking point for many years. Continue past The Minster and Vicars' Court as far as Harvey's Field by the Potwell Dyke. Turn right along the FP, walk into a playing field, keeping the dyke to your right, until you reach a stile up to your left on the far boundary of the playing field. Pause and read below.



The Potwell Dyke Grasslands

POINT OF INTEREST 5

The Potwell Dyke Grasslands is a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation comprising hay and wet meadow with smaller areas of vegetation, such as meadowsweet, rushes, sedges and iris, typical of semi improved habitats. Managed as a nature reserve by volunteers for the Minster Chapter, the grasslands provide a wonderful show of wild flowers in spring and summer. Especially noteworthy are the carpets of yellow flowers including cowslips, buttercups and yellow rattle and the Southern Marsh, Common Spotted, Bee and Pyramidal orchids. The Potwell Dyke is also visited on Heritage Trail 4.

Turn left and walk back across the playing field to a snicket which leads to Farthingate. Cross the road and keeping to the right walk round the bend into Farthingate Close and look for the snicket on your right between houses 17 and 19. Cross over, turn down the snicket and go over the stile into a meadow. Climb over the next stile on your right and walk on the FP which bends to your right and goes uphill. When you come to a wood go over the stile on your left and follow the FP through the wood to Crink Lane. Turn right, walk round the bend and pass Park Farm which is named after New Park, one of the Archbishop of York's Deer Parks. Continue along Crink Lane for about 500 metres and enjoy the excellent views of the Minster and the town. At the junction of FP's turn