Throckmorton (1607-1700) Sir Gilbert Pickering, a close associate and distant relative of Oliver Cromwell, was born, brought up and lived at the late Tudor manor house in Throckmorton. A man of adaptable religious and political views, he managed to survive most of the pitfalls of the period to remain at or near the centres of power. A member of every parliament 1640–60, he also served on numerous councils and committees, including the powerful Protectorate Council of Oliver and Richard Cromwell. Barred from office at the Restoration, he retired to his extensive estates in Northamptonshire. His principal seat, which had been built for his father John in 1591, was demolished at the end of the eighteenth century and today nothing remains except an extensive if poorly preserved earthworks on the north-west outskirts of the village.

Weldon Bec (SP6258) On 26 February 1645 a Royalist force attacked 400 Parliamentary Horse as they were moving through Weldon on their way from Daventry to Northampton. The Parliamentarians retreated westwards, harried all the way from Weldon to Borough Hill, and lost over 150 killed or injured before they reached the relative safety of Daventry.

Wellingborough (SP8689) There is a tradition that Cromwell spent the night before the Battle of Naseby, 13 June 1645, at the Hind Inn, now the Hind Hotel, in the centre of the town. However, Cromwell's movements immediately before and after the battle are fairly well documented and at no point does a night halt in Wellingborough appear plausible.

Four years later, in May 1649, William Thompson, the leader of the Leveller-inspired army mutiny, was shot by pursuing Parliamentary troops in Wellingborough Woods. Thompson managed to hit two of his pursuers before being cut down by carbine.

Chillingham Castle (NU06232) The medieval brick tower and stronghold of Chillingham was a fortification built during the sixteenth century. It was held for the King until 1642-43 and the Civil War, one of the northern centres of the second Civil War. It was captured by the Scots as they crossed the border to the north. The castle was modernised again in the eighteenth century.

Chillingham Castle is open daily except Saturdays during the summer.

NORTHERMLAND

The county was held for the King without challenge during 1642–43 and the first real fighting occurred in January and February 1644 as the Scottish Parliamentary troops marched through the area. The castle was captured by the Earl of Newcastle's army and captured most of the strongholds en route. The Castle is open on Sundays and certain weekdays during the summer.

Alnwick Castle (NU18712) The medieval brick tower and stronghold of Alnwick was taken by the Scots as they crossed the border into Northumberland, the mid-seventeenth century, when the castle was restored and modernised. The castle spent many years as a Royalist castle but was captured by the Scots in 1644. No Civil War military works survive, and the town was used by the Royalists as a base to attack the fortress. The castle is open daily except Saturdays during the summer.

Bamborough Castle (NU18332) The stunning clifftop castle occupies a site fortified since Roman times. The defences have been repeatedly strengthened and rebuilt and the present castle, though basically medieval, owes much to over-repairing in the eighteenth-century. The castle is open daily except Saturdays during the summer.

Berwick upon Tweed (NT9935) The most northerly town and stronghold of England, Berwick was in something of a military backwater in the seventeenth century and, despite its strong defences, saw no serious action during the first Civil War. In 1645, however, Berwick became one of the northern centres of the second Civil War, captured by Langdale's Royalists on 28 April and held by them throughout the summer. After the disintegration of the King's Scottish army around Preston, the Royalist elements in Berwick melted away and Cromwell entered the town unopposed in the latter half of the month.

The town's rather unexciting Civil War history is one of the reasons why its defences survive in such good condition. The fourteenth-century castle has been, flattened by the Victorious in the opening year of the Civil War and Interregnum. The castle is open daily except Saturdays during the summer.

Coquet Island (ND2090) The tiny North Sea island off the coast of the river Coquet was held for the King during the opening year of the Civil War and Interregnum. The castle is open daily except Saturdays during the summer.

Chillingham Castle was one of the northern centres of the second Civil War. It was captured by the Scots as they crossed the border to the north. The castle is open daily except Saturdays during the summer.

The town was used by the Royalists as a base to attack the fortress. The castle is open daily except Saturdays during the summer.
it is possible that the Royalists occupied and fortifed the medieval monastic buildings on the island.

Corbridge (NY944) At the beginning of 1644 Newcastle led 8,000 men north from Yorkshire in an attempt to halt the 20,000 Scottish Parliamentarians advancing through Northumberland. On 19 February the two forces approached each other at Corbridge, where Newcastle hoped to hold the bridge over the Tyne. After a brief skirmish, possibly involving only part of the two armies, the outnumbered Royalists fell back and the road south was open. Much of the Scottish army, however, halted here for six weeks while their colleagues tried unsuccessfully to capture the town of Newcastle, and the Earl of Newcastle and Sir Marmaduke Langdale were able to mount many destructive raids on the Scottish quarters in and around Corbridge.

Eglingham Hall (NU104194) The present hall, still a private residence, is largely eighteenth century but incorporates at the west end a section of the earlier Tudor house which stood on the site. Owned during the 1640s by the local Parliamentary leader Henry Ogle, Cromwell lodged here on 9 August 1651.

Ford Castle (NY94374) Odinel de Forde’s medieval quadrangular castle at Ford was rebuilt in the sixteenth century in the form of an ‘E’-shaped fortified manor, the original north-east and north-west corner towers were incorporated within the Tudor mansion, though the former was all but lost under Elizabethan reworking. Ford Castle was held by the Royalists from the outbreak of the Civil War until early 1644, when it fell to the Scots. It played no further part in the conflict. The Tudor house survives intact and nearby stands the now ruined and isolated south-west tower of the medieval castle.

Lindisfarne (NU123747) Much of the medieval monastery on Lindisfarne was demolished after the Dissolution and the stone carted off to build a Tudor artillery fort high above the sea at the southern point of the island. The fort was secured for the King at the outbreak of the Civil War and served as a base for land and sea operations along the north-east coast until besieged and taken by Parliamentary forces in 1645. The fortress remained in Royalist use until the early nineteenth century, when it rapidly fell into disrepair. It was rebuilt as a grand and romantic house by Sir Edward Lutyens at the beginning of this century. The house is open daily except Tuesdays during the summer, tiles permitting.

Morpeth Castle (NZ197856) The Norman motte and bailey castle, extended and strengthened during the fifteenth century, changed hands no less than five times in 1644. Captured by the Scots on their way south in January, it was retaken by Newcastle’s forces in the following month. The Scots returned to Morpeth in March, recaptured the castle, and installed a 500-strong garrison under Lt.-Col. Somervile. The departure of the main Scottish army into Yorkshire left the castle vulnerable to attack and in May Montrose swooped on Morpeth and besieged and bombarded his compatriots into surrender on the 30th. Within weeks the Battle of Marston Moor and the departure of Montrose had altered the balance of power once more, this time permanently, and Morpeth was reoccupied by Parliamentary troops without opposition later in the summer. Cromwell stayed here on 11 September 1648 and on 16 July 1650. Morpeth Castle is now ruinous.

Norham (NY947) Despite its mighty castle and its position at a crossing of the Tweed, Norham apparently played little part in the Civil War. The medieval castle had been repaired and modernised in the sixteenth century but may have fallen ruinous once more by the mid-seventeenth century, for neither side seems to have garrisoned the place. Cromwell stayed at Norham on 19–21 September 1648, possibly lodging in the Tudor domestic range within the castle, possibly in a humbler building in the village.

Prudhoe Castle (NZ92653) The medieval Percy stronghold housed a small Royalist garrison 1642–44 and became an important base for harrying the Scottish Parliamentarians as they attempted to cross the Tyne here in February and March 1644. When the Scots pushed south, Prudhoe was evacuated and played no further part in the war. The castle, which stands on high ground south of the Tyne, comprises a freestanding keep and an inner and outer bailey, both protected by well preserved walls, mural towers and gatehouses. The remains, part of which have been incorporated within a late Georgian house, have recently been opened to the public.

Rock (NJ2020) On 18 July 1650 Cromwell reviewed his troops on Rock Moor, to the west of the village, before marching to Chillingham.
and on to Scotland. It is not clear whether Cromwell stayed somewhere in Rock overnight – Rock Tower, the remains of which have been incorporated within the Youth Hostel seems a possible venue – or whether he pressed on to Chillingham on the 17th.

Warkworth Castle (NZ47018) The impressive remains of Warkworth Castle stand above the town in a loop of the river Coquet. Warkworth was one of the strongest and most important English bases in the North, a simple twelfth-century motte and bailey castle later converted by the Percies into a complex and formidable stronghold. The castle played a surprisingly small part in the Civil War - possibly it was already semi-ruinous by the mid-seventeenth century – garrisoned by the Royalists at the beginning of the war but surrendered to the Scots with little or no resistance in January 1644. Parts of the keep are still habitable, but for the most part Warkworth is now a dramatic ruin, open daily.

NORTH YORKSHIRE

Most of North Yorkshire was secured for the King at the outbreak of the Civil War and remained firmly Royalist until the latter half of 1644. York quickly became a major Royalist stronghold, the King's northern capital in all but name. Only the very south of the county saw action in 1642-44, when the area around and to the south of York was repeatedly raided from Parliamentary bases in West Yorkshire and Humberside. The arrival of the Scots, the crushing defeat at Marston Moor and the fall of York in summer 1644 dramatically altered the situation and the whole region rapidly fell to Parliament with little opposition. Nothing more than a scattering of isolated bases remained in the King's hands by the end of 1644. Cromwell campaigned in the area in summer 1644: he fought at Marston Moor, was present during the siege and capture of York and then probably saw action nearby during the rest of July. He passed through the area again in 1648 and 1650-51 on his way to and from Scotland.

Bilbrough (SE10463) The Parliamentary Lord General Sir Thomas Fairfax, later the 3rd Lord Fairfax (d1671), lies buried in St James's Church, a nineteenth-century neo-Norman building incorporating parts of its medieval predecessor. Fairfax lies beneath a black marble tomb chest, richly decorated with foliage, shields and trophies. There is no effigy.

Bolton Percy (SE32443) Ferdinando, 2nd Lord Fairfax (d1648), the father of the Lord General and himself one of the leaders of the Parliamentary war effort in the north during the first half of the Civil War, was buried in All Saints Church. He lies near a large railed mural monument with a sarcophagus and pediment.

Buttercrambe Castle (SE7318) The remains of the medieval castle served as a minor outpost of York, guarding the bridge across the Derwent. The small Royalist garrison was overpowered by the Scottish Parliamentarians as they pushed south in May 1644. No trace remains of the motte and bailey stronghold, which stood west of the bridge in what is now Aldby Park.

Byram House (SE9296) Cromwell halted in Yorkshire during November 1648 to oversee the siege of Pontefract Castle. Although he spent most of the month at Knottingley, he lodged during the first week of November at Byram House, 1½ miles north of the town. The Tudor manor-house has since been demolished and the ruins of a later, eighteenth-century great house now stand in the private park.

Calton (SD9859) Major General John Lambert was born and brought up at Calton Hall. The late medieval house was gutted by fire at the end of the seven teenth century and, although restored in the eighteenth century, it was then abandoned and fell to ruin and little or nothing of Lambert's home survives; what may be the west end of the original hall is now incorporated in a much later private house. Cromwell and Lambert passed within a few miles of Calton in August 1648 and it is possible that the two made a slight detour to visit the hall. If so, it was one of the last times Lambert saw his old home - he lived in London and Wimbledon during the 1650s and then spent the rest of his life a prisoner.
CASTLE BOLTON

Castle Bolton [SE033918] Bolton Castle was built by the Scrope family in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, a quadrangular stronghold with corner towers and a large south-eastern gatehouse. It was garrisoned for the King throughout the Civil War and held out until the end of hostilities in 1646, when Capt. John Scrope and his garrison were finally starved into surrender. The castle is open daily.

Cawood Castle [SE574796] The medieval fortified palace of the Archbishops of York was secured for the King by Capt. Grey at the outbreak of the Civil War. On 4 October 1642 Hotham junior and 600 Parliamentary Foot from Hull stormed the castle and established a garrison of their own. Cawood changed hands at least twice more during 1643 as fortunes ebbed and flowed in the area south of York. The Parliamentarians recaptured the castle for the final time in May 1644 and with the collapse of the King's cause in the region two months later, peace returned to Cawood. Little now survives except the mid-fifteenth-century gatehouse built by Archbishop Kempe, an embattled block with corner turrets and a courtroom above the arched entrance.

Coxwold [SE533712] Within the fifteenth-century Church of St Michael lie many members of the Bellasys family, including Thomas, Viscount or Earl of Falconberg (d.1700), who married Cromwell's third daughter Mary in 1657. The elaborate white marble monument features an effigy of Falconberg dressed in Roman garb.

Crakey Castle [SE607970] In the fifteenth century the Bishops of Durham built a small fortified palace here on the site of a Norman motte and bailey castle. Briefly garrisoned by both sides in 1643-44, Crakey played only a minor role in the war. It was, nonetheless, slighted by Parliament in 1647. One of the ruined ranges was rebuilt in the nineteenth century and remains a private residence; nearby is a very ruinous fifteenth-century tower house.

Denton Hall [SE417487] Nothing remains of the late medieval hall owned by the Fairfax family in the sixteenth and seventeenth century in which the Parliamentary Lord General Sir Thomas Fairfax was born and brought up. The present Denton Hall dates from the 1770s.

Fort Airmy  F  [SE7223] The Royalists established an earthwork strongpoint here, at the junction of the Aire and the Ouse, to guard the waterborne approaches to York and Selby. The outpost fell to the Scots in May 1644. No trace remains of the earthwork defences but the name 'Fort Hill' may commemorate the Civil War or earlier stronghold.

Helmsley Castle [SE412836] The medieval castle above the river was begun by Robert de Rood, Lord of Helmsley and by the fifteenth century comprised a keep, great hall, chapel and domestic ranges standing within an enclosure defended by a curtain wall, mural towers and a gatehouse and southern barbican. The castle was held without challenge for the King by Sir Jordan Crossland in 1642-44. Sir Thomas Fairfax laid siege to Helmsley in August 1644 and although the King's men held out for over three months, they were eventually starved into submission and surrendered on 22 November. Fairfax was shot and badly wounded in the course of the long siege. Parliament ordered the castle slighted after the war and one side of the keep and several sections of the curtain wall were brought down by mines. The extensive ruins are open daily.

Kirkby Malham [SD993610] Many members of the Lambert family of nearby Calton Hall are buried within St Michael's Church; most lie beneath the south chapel, otherwise known as the Calton Chapel. The Parliamentary Major General and politician, John Lambert, was baptised here and although he was buried in Plymouth (Devon), a modern plaque within the church commemorates his association with Kirkby Malham. There are contemporary monuments to many of his relatives, including a large tablet in memory of his son John. Cromwell's signature in the parish records witnessing a marriage here in the mid-1650s is undoubtedy a forgery for at no time during the Protectorate was he anywhere near Yorkshire.

Knaresborough [SE485790] The fourteenth-century double bailey castle was held for the King in 1642-44 but fell to Parliament in 1644 following a brief siege. Some accounts suggest that Cromwell was present during the operation in July 1644 and lodged in a house in the High Street, demolished in the eighteenth century, which stood near the Crown Inn. He was certainly here on 1 September 1648 en route to Scotland. The extensive remains of the castle are open daily during the summer.

Marston Moor [SE4952] The Battle of Marston Moor was one of the largest and most decisive engagements of the Civil War and the Royalist defeat effectively ended the King's cause in northern England.
Throughout June 1644 a 28,000 -strong Parliamentary army had besieged York, creating increasing distress within the city. At the end of June, Rupert led 18,000 Royalists to relieve York and the Parliamentarians drew off to the west of the city, intending to engage Prince Rupert as he approached. However, Rupert, however, swung north, avoiding York. The main Parliamentary army and entered the town unopposed on 1 July. Despite Parliament's objec tions, the Prince was determined to give battle, looking for justification to an ambiguously - worded letter from the King.

The two armies approached each other on 2 July with Parliament on the west of Long Marston. The Parliamentarians deployed in an east - west line south of and parallel to the Long Marston to Tockwith road, with the foot in the centre and the Horse on the wings; Fairfax led the right wing, Cromwell the left. The Parliamentary command point was established on Cromwell's Plump, a small, tree - covered hillock to the rear of the foot. The Royalists drew up between Kendall and Attertine Lane in a line parallel to and north of the Parliamentarians. Their precise position is unclear: according to some, they deployed on the far side of a broad and deep ditch north of the Long Marston to Tockwith road, whilst other accounts suggest that they lined a hedge and small dune running outside the road itself.

Both sides deployed very early during the afternoon and Rupert probably planned to stay in the field overnight and give battle on the 3rd. But the Parliamentary commander noticed that the Royalists appeared both outnumbered and unprepared and decided to attack at once. At 7 p.m. amid a heavy shower, the Parliamentary front line charged forward. The right, under Fairfax, crossed the Tockwith to Long Marston road and then began moving down Attertine Lane, but here they met heavy fire and were thrown back. Elsewhere, however, everything went well. Parliament's left flank, under left, under Cromwell, smashed the Royalist right and then tore into the flank of the King's foot, which began retreating and swinging round to meet the Cavalry attack. Repeated Parliamentary Cavalry and Infantry charges broke the Royalist foot, which gave way and fled. The exception was Newcastle's troop of Whitecoats, who resisted the attack. One of Edinburgh's men, either in White Syke Close or Milsop Wood. A Cromwell Association memorial stands by the junction of Moor Lane and the Long Marston to Tockwith road at SE490521; the obelisk bears inscriptions describing the battle and the parts played by Cromwell and Fairfax. Cromwell's Plump survives to the south of the road and is a good vantage - point for viewing the battlefield.

Cromwell supposedly spent the night before the battle at Marston Hall in Long Marston; the hall, which still stands, is reputedly haunted by his ghost. Cromwell was wounded during the initial charge and temporarily left the field; the house in Tockwith where, according to tradition, he had his injuries tended was destroyed during the Second World War. On 8 March 1655 around 100 Royalists gathered on Marston Moor as part of their planned nationwide rising, but they panicked and dispersed without incident, leaving four cartloads of arms on the moor.

Middleham Castle (SE127875) The extensive and spectacular remains of the former Neville fortress dwarf the surrounding village at the head of Wensleydale. The castle, of medieval square keep with a great chapel and domestic ranges stand in an enclosure defended by a curtain wall, mural towers and a gatehouse. Despite its size, Middleham had a quiet Civil War, held without challenge at the outbreak of the Civil War and a major engagement near the village on 21 March 1643, however, governor Sir Hugh Cholmley defected and betrayed town and castle to the King. The Parliamentarians raised the place several times over the following year but not until summer 1644 did they mount a prolonged campaign to retake Scarborough. The town was quickly overrun but the castle held out for almost a year of close siege and heavy bombardment from Parliamentary batteries at Peasholm, on North Cliff and in St Mary's Church. The Parliamentarians launched several unsuccessful attacks, during one of which, Sir John Meldrum, was fatally wounded. Starvation and disease eventually forced Cholmley to surrender on 22 July 1645.

Three years later history repeated itself, for Governor Matthew Boynton declared for the King and Scarborough became one of the Royalist centres of the 2nd Civil War. Besieged by early August 1645 and surrendered to Colonel Berington on 12 December 1648. The impressive ruins include the remains of a massive Norman keep (the west wall was largely destroyed in the seventeenth - century curtain walls and mural towers of the two barleys, and a narrow harbarican. The castle is open daily.
St Mary’s Church in Castle Road served as a Parliamentary battery in 1644–45 and in consequence sustained considerable damage during the Royalist counter-bombardment. The two west towers and the north transept were destroyed and it was probably Civil War damage which caused the main crossing tower to collapse in the 1650s.

Selby (SE6132) Seventeenth-century Selby was a small town, possessing neither stone walls nor a castle, but it occupied an important position on the southern road and river approaches to York. The town was held for Parliament in 1642 and became the Fairfaxes’ HQ from December 1642, when they fell back from Tadcaster, until March 1643, when the loss of Scarborough and the uncertain loyalty of Hull forced them to retreat into West Yorkshire. In May 1643 Sir Thomas Fairfax clashed with a small Royalist force at Selby but successfully cut his way through and reached Hull. On 11 April 1644, as a preliminary to the siege of York, the Fairfaxes swooped down on Selby with the main Parliamentary army and captured the town and its large Royalist garrison.

Sherburn in Elmet (SE4913) Sherburn lay in the very south of the county, near the Parliamentary strongholds of West Yorkshire and in an area which was fiercely contested during the opening year of the war. The town had no walls or castle and could not be defended against determined attack and thus it usually changed hands with little or no bloodshed. On 14 December 1642, however, Sir Thomas Fairfax attacked a Royalist unit temporarily quartered here and inflicted heavy losses. Three years later, on 15 October 1645, Digby and 1,300 Royalist Horse heading north, contrived to win and then lose a skirmish here. On entering Sherburn, Digby’s advanced guard surprised and captured a small Parliamentary unit, but confusion and panic then spread amongst the main Royalist force who somehow believed that it was their colleagues who had been captured by a much larger force; the Royalists turned and fled in disorder.

Skipton Castle (SE994519) The thirteenth- and fourteenth-century Clifford stronghold was garrisoned for the King throughout the Civil War. It was held without challenge until 1644, but after Marston Moor it was subject to relentless parliamentary attacks. In 1645 Lambert arrived to take charge of the siege and brought with him heavy guns, which he placed on top of Cockhill to bombard the south side of the castle, One of the last bases in the area to hold out for the King, Skipton was finally surrendered by Sir John Mallory on 21 December 1645. Cromwell may have lodged in the castle when he stayed at Skipton on 14 and 27–28 August 1648 on his way to and from meeting the Scottish Royalists in Lancashire. The fortress was slighted by Parliament at the end of the 1640s but was restored by Lady Ann Clifford in the following decade and has been remodelled several times since. The castle, which is still in good condition, comprises a fourteenth-century double-towered gateway, sixteenth- and seventeenth-century ranges of domestic buildings, a long banqueting hall and a Tudor octagonal tower. The extent of the damage caused by the Civil War bombardment and post-war slighting is still clear in the Watch Tower and Muniment Tower, where the lower levels of walling are much darker than Lady Clifford’s repair work above. Parts of the castle are open daily.

Tadcaster (SE5841) In late November 1642 Lord Fairfax occupied Tadcaster as part of his campaign to threaten York and set about defending the town with earthworks and barricades. These were put to the test on 6 December when Newcastle’s 4,000 Foot attacked the town, but the 1,500 Parliamentarians within held off their opponents throughout the day and then slipped away to Selby under cover of darkness. On 29 March 1643 the small Royalist garrison fell back at the approach of Sir Thomas Fairfax but on the following day the Parliamentarians, in turn, were compelled to evacuate the place when a large force from York marched on Tadcaster. No trace of the Civil War defences survives.

York (SE6051) The ancient stronghold on the Ouse became the Royalists’ capital in the north of England from the outbreak of war until the city’s fall in July 1644. York was defended by a near continuous circuit of Roman and medieval walls and two medieval castles. They had become rather dilapidated during the first half of the seventeenth century but were repaired and strengthened by the garrison during 1643. A number of earthworks and fortified churches and manor-houses outside the walls gave further protection.

In spring 1644 the northern Parliamentarians felt sufficiently strong to mount a sustained campaign against York. On 22 April Fairfax and Leven arrived at the head of 22,000 men and surrounded the city in an arc around the east, south and west sides. Manchester and Cromwell appeared on 3 June and their 6,000
men were stationed to the north of the city, and the result was the capture of the town. The Royalists were defeated, and the city surrendered.

In May 1642, the Parliamentary forces took advantage of the Royalists' retreat to begin preparations for the siege of York. The city walls were strengthened, and the Royalists were forced to evacuate the town.

The siege of York lasted from 1642 to 1644, and it was one of the most significant events of the Civil War. The city was garrisoned by Parliamentary forces under the command of Lord Fairfax, and the Royalists were commanded by the Earl of York.

The city was finally captured by Parliamentary forces on 15 May 1644, after a long and bloody siege. The city walls were breached, and the Royalists were forced to surrender.

The city was then occupied by the Parliamentary forces, and it remained under their control until the end of the war in 1651. York was then given to Sir John Mordaunt, the Lord Mayor of London, to govern.

The city was extensively rebuilt in the eighteenth century, and many of the old buildings were destroyed. However, some of the old walls and gates have survived, and they are a testament to the city's rich history.

Attenborough

The farmhouse next to the village church incorporates parts of the earlier seventeenth-century buildings on the site, once owned by the Ireton family. The brothers John and Henry Ireton were born and served under Fairfax, and the main hall includes a representation of the Ireton family. The farmhouse next to the village church incorporates parts of the earlier seventeenth-century buildings on the site, once owned by the Ireton family. The brothers John and Henry Ireton were born and served under Fairfax, and the main hall includes a representation of the Ireton family.

Fellney Priory

The present, modern building known as Fellney Priory incorporates fragments of the cloister brick and stone mansion built by the Millingtons during the sixteenth century; this house, in turn, incorporated parts of the twelfth-century Augustinian priory, which stood here until 1650. The Tudor house served as a minor Royalist outpost during 1643 but there was no record of fighting here and the garrison was probably evacuated sometime in 1643–44.

Newark

The small town of Newark lay on the Fosse Way and the Great North Road at the point where the latter crossed the Trent, and it was thus a vital centre of road and river communications during the Civil War. Newark was secured for the King in December 1642 and became one of the most important and strongly defended Royalist bases in the country and a centre for operations over a very large area of the East Midlands. The garrison resisted repeated attacks and prolonged sieges and held out until May 1646, finally surrendering on the orders of the King.

Newark's medieval defences – a twelfth-century castle immediately south of the Trent Bridge and stone walls enclosing the town centre – were dilapidated and outdated by the Civil War, and the Royalist garrison of several hundred Parliamentary troops who heightened the banks of the Trent and built redoubts and ditches. The garrison was then probably intended to serve as the main road to York and to watch for movements from Newark and other Royalist bases in east Lincolnshire.
The expansion and redevelopment of Newark and the repeated ploughing and flooding of the surrounding land has destroyed many of the military works but the surviving earthworks are still by far the most extensive in the country and Newark remains the mecca for Civil War enthusiasts.

(I) Royal defences. The twelfth–thirteenth-century castle, a rectangular stronghold with square or hexagonal corner towers and a northern gatehouse, was garrisoned throughout the war, suffered repeated bombardments — the outer walls bear innumerable scars where struck by cannon-balls — and was slightly after the war; the ruins are open daily. The successive governors of Newark lived in the Governor's House, by the Market Place, a late medieval timber-framed building with projecting upper storeys. The museum in Appleton Gate Street contains many relics of the Civil War, including arms, armour, siege money and contemporary maps of the defences and siege works. The circuit of earth banks thrown up around the town in 1643 has almost totally disappeared; a single short stretch of bank at the north-east angle survives in gardens along Friary Road and by the junction of Seaftord Road with Appleton Gate (around SK80285412). Several of the outlying Royalist defences also survive. The King's Sconce was destroyed in the nineteenth century but the Queen's Sconce survives in good order in open land to the west of the present modern span (SK79035305). A battery in the form of a pear-shaped mound surrounded by a ditch stands by Crankley Lane on the Island, just west of the present A6065 (SK78965558). The main entrance to the island in the seventeenth century was over Muskmash Bridge, which stood around 100 yards west of the present modern span carrying the A6065; despite flood damage, traces remain of the polygonal three-bastioned earthwork fort which stood at the southern end of the long-destroyed bridge (SK78455622).

(II) Parliamentary earthworks. Although the line of ditches and banks dug in 1646 has completely perished, traces of two earthwork forts which stood near the end of the line remain — the northern rampart and bastions of Col. Grey's Sconce, originally a square fort by the Trent, largely destroyed by modern sewage works (SK80253565), and parts of the ditches and banks of the flood-damaged square redoubt by the river Devon, west of Hawton (SK78545130), adapted from the earthworks of a long-demolished medieval hall.

Several earthworks built in 1646 by the Scottish forces on the Island survive, including the south bastion of 'Edinburgh', a huge enclosed oval earthwork protected by a roughly rectangular outer wall. The moat was 30 ft deep, its sides had arched stone turrets, and a bridge at each end. The earthworks extend 200 yd up the hillside to the north-west. The Scots also built a great esplanade 360 yd south-west of the town, probably the best surviving Civil War earthwork in the country. Covering more than three acres, the sconce comprises a square embankment with large angle bastions, each designed to carry two guns.
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museum in honour of a later Byron, the
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Plain Text
Rufford Abbey (SK664647). After the Dissolution, the twelfth-century Cistercian abbey at Rufford was bought by the Earl of Shrewsbury, who had most of the monastic buildings demolished. The large mansion at Rufford Abbey House, erected on the site, Cromwell lodged here on 22 August 1651 on his way to Worcester. The house was remodelled and extended in the nineteenth century and remained a private residence, the twelfth-century Cistercian abbey at Southwell was acquired by the Stanhope Manor. The house was remodelled and extended in the eighteenth century and remains a private residence. The church was owned by the Royalist, William Stanhope, in the course of which Stanhope and most of the earlier monastic buildings were demolished in the nineteenth century, fell ruinous in the nineteenth and was partly demolished in the twentieth. Parts of the sixteenth- and early seventeenth-century house survive, together with fragments of earlier monastic buildings.

On 8 March 1655 Rufford Abbey was the Nottinghamshire rendezvous for the projected nationwide Royalist rising. Up to 3,000 Royalists gathered here overnight but dispersed without incident on the following day.

Screveton (SK7343). Kirketon Hall was the home of the Whalley family of Nottinghamshire and the birthplace of Edmund Whalley, Edmund served in the Parliamentary army during the 1640s, signed Charles I's death warrant and became a senior officer, a Major General and a close colleague of Cromwell - his cousin - during the Protectorate. He fled the country at the Restoration and died in America. His old home, a late medieval mansion house, was extensively redesigned in the eighteenth century and completely demolished in the nineteenth. Ancient trees and slight earthworks west of the church mark the site of Kirketon Hall. Many of the family lie beneath monuments in St Wilfrid's Church.

Shelford House (SK474344). The medieval priory at Shelford was acquired by the Stanhope family after the Dissolution and partly converted into a Tudor mansion, Shelford House or Manor. The house was secured for the King in December 1642 and held throughout the war by Sir Philip Stanhope's 200-strong garrison. An existing ditch and rampart protected the house but the Royalists strengthened the defences by throwing up half-moon earthworks to guard the main approaches; a further wet ditch, probably part of the medieval drainage system, ran in a long circuit around house and gardens. Shelford House survived until November 1645. On the 1st Col. Poyntz and his 2,000 men occupied the village, expelling a small party of Royalists from the church. Only a day later the house itself was stormed and captured, though without a fierce fight in the course of which Stanhope and 140 of his men were killed. The house was then plundered and burnt to the ground. The present private house was built on the site in 1676; slight traces of the medieval and Civil War earthworks survive in the grounds.

Southwell (SK7035). Although the itinerary of the King during 1642–46 lies beyond the scope of this work, an exception may perhaps be made for the Saracen's Head in Southwell. This early seventeenth-century coaching inn, which survives in good condition, saw the beginning and the end of the first Civil War: Charles I stayed here in August 1641 shortly before entering Nottingham to raise the Royal Standard, and he returned nearly four years later to pass his last night of freedom before surrendering to the Scots around Newark.

Staunton Hall (SK805433). The Tudor house by the church was owned by the Royalist, William Staunton, and was raided and looted by Parliamentary troops in 1643. The bullet marks in the door are thought to date from the Civil War. Staunton Hall was extended during the eighteenth century and remains a private residence.

Thurgarton Priory (SK924924). Although much of the medieval priory at Thurgarton was demolished at or soon after the Dissolution, some parts, chiefly the priory church and outbuildings, were retained and converted for secular use. The church and stables were occupied for the King in December 1642 as an outpost of Newark and were held by a 40-man garrison under Sir Roger Cooper. Thurgarton remained in Royalist hands until December 1644, when a raiding party from Nottingham led by Col. Rossiter, but were first caught as they marched through Widmerpool. After moving a little further south, Sir Philip Monkton and his fellow Royalists turned and faced Rossiter outside Willoughby. According to tradition, the fight took place in a beanfield near the church; most of the villagers watched the spectacle from the church tower. The exhausted and inexperienced Royalists were routed by the professional soldiers and the second Civil War in Nottinghamshire was over.

Welbeck Abbey (SK467647). Welbeck Abbey was a fortified Tudor and Jacobean mansion built on the site of a medieval abbey and incorporating sections of the monastic cloister. It was owned in the seventeenth century by the Earl of Newcastle, the Royalist commander in the north, and was garrisoned for the King in December 1642. Welbeck was attacked and taken by Manchester in August 1644 after Marston Moor and then garrisoned for Parliament as a check on Newark. However, the 200-strong garrison was repulsed and replaced by the Newark Royalists over the following year and the house was finally captured by them in July 1645.

Welbeck seems to have remained under Royalist control until early 1646, when the soldiers were withdrawn to defend Newark. Although sections of medieval and Jacobean work remain, the present rambling mansion largely dates from the eighteenth and nineteenth century.

Willoughby in the Wolds (SK4325). In summer 1648 a detachment of Royalist rebels marched south from Yorkshire, plundered their way through Lincolnshire and entered Nottinghamshire via Newark. They hurried south, pursued by a Parliamentary force under Col. Rossiter, but were first caught as they marched through Widmerpool. After moving a little further south, Sir Philip Monkton and his fellow Royalists turned and faced Rossiter outside Willoughby. According to tradition, the fight took place in a beanfield near the church; most of the villagers watched the spectacle from the church tower. The exhausted and inexperienced Royalists were routed by the professional soldiers and the second Civil War in Nottinghamshire was over.

Wiverton Hall (SK733646). Secured for the King in December 1642, Sir Thomas Chauncey, the Royalist, bought a 300-manor-house, with the adherents of Newark throughout the Civil War. The Parliamentary army made no serious attempt to take the hall until November 1645, when Col. Poyntz and his 2,000-strong force marched on the town. Robert Therville surrendered without a fight and the Parliamentarians sacked and burned the hall. The Parliamentary army then marched on Southwell, the Royalist commander in the north, and remained there with 3,000 Royalists until June 1646. Cromwell was frequently in the area between September 1644 and June 1646. The Royalists launched several unsuccessful sorties but the town unopposed and Abingdon remained in Parliamentary hands thereafter and was firmly Royalist during the opening years of the war. The Parliamentary army began attacking the fringes of Oxfordshire in late 1644 and slowly pushed the King's men back into an ever decreasing area around Oxford. The city itself held out until June 1646. Cromwell was frequently in the area between September 1644 and June 1646; he campaigned here during spring 1645 and was present throughout the siege of Oxford in the following year.

After his failure to capture London in autumn 1642, the King withdrew to Oxford and the city became his capital and military HQ for the rest of the Civil War. The city was protected by a circle of garrisons guarding the approach roads, and the county was firmly Royalist during the opening years of the war. The Parliamentary Army began attacking the fringes of Oxfordshire in late 1644 and slowly pushed the King's men back into an ever decreasing area around Oxford. The city itself held out until June 1646. Cromwell was frequently in the area between September 1644 and June 1646; he campaigned here during spring 1645 and was present throughout the siege of Oxford in the following year.

Abingdon (SU509797). Abingdon was held for the King from December 1642 until 25 May 1644, when the garrison was withdrawn as part of the operation to find troops for the summer campaign. Essex and Waller promptly occupied the town unopposed and Abingdon remained in Parliamentary hands thereafter and served as a base for the campaign against Oxford in 1645–46. The Royalists launched several unsuccessful attacks on their old base - on 11 January 1645 1,800 men under Rupert were halted and driven off just outside the town and in March 1646 a surprise attack reached the Abbey Gate before a Parliamentary counter-charge and the general congealation of men and carts around the gate halted the Royalist advance.

The commanders of the Parliamentary and Royalist garrisons probably established their HQ in the King's Head and Bell in East St Helen's Street. St Helen's Church, nearby, is the resting place of Thomas Traherne, Cromwell's military surgeon and the man who embalmed Charles I's body and sewed back the head after execution.

Banbury (SP4540). Banbury was held by Parliamentary forces during the first weeks of the Civil War, but fell to the Earl of Northampton on 29 October 1642; town and castle served as a Royalist base for the rest of the war. Parliamentary troops under Col. John Ffenness overran the town in August 1644 but, despite a three-month

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Besselsleigh was served as a minor Royalist outpost. W1ndebank later protested that he had surrendered martial and shot outside Windebank and became a meeting place for leading opponents of the King's government in the pre-war years. Hampden, Pym, Brooke and others held secret conferences in the Council Chamber. During the war, Broughton was garnished for Parliament by Saye and Sele and his sons, John and Nathaniel Fiennes. It suffered frequent Royalist raids and was briefly taken by the King's men in December 1642.

The building survived the war intact and remains one of the finest and most complete medieval houses in England. Open to the public on Sundays and certain weekdays in the summer, Broughton Castle contains many relics of the Civil War, including arms and armour and portraits of Oliver and Richard Cromwell and John Hampden.

Besselsleigh (SP4901) William Lenthall, Speaker of the Long Parliament and of the 1st Protectorate Parliament, owned the manor-house adjoining the church here. It was seized and fortified by Oxford Royalists at the end of 1644 but quickly retaken. The Parliamentarians, however, made no attempt to hold Besselsleigh and immediately withdrew, slighting the manor-house as they left. Nothing now remains of Lenthall's house except the seventeenth-century gatepiers near the churchyard. In happier days during the 1630s Lenthall had financed the restoration of the medieval church, including the addition of the twin bellcotes. St Lawrence's contains the tombs of many of the family, including Col. John Lenthall, the Speaker's son, himself a Parliamentary officer and politician, sometime Governor of Windsor. An inscription in the chancel records Speaker Lenthall's association with the church.

Bletchington House (SP018) The old manor-house, of which no trace now remains, served as a minor Royalist outpost throughout the war. It was surrounded by Cromwell's troops on 24 April 1645 and surrendered without a fight in the early hours of the 25th. Col. Windebank later protested that he had surrendered the house in this fashion because his young wife and her female friends were there, but the officers in Oxford were not impressed; Windebank was condemned to death by court martial and shot outside Oxford castle on 3 May.

Broughton Castle (SP4193) The fourteenth-sixteenth-century fortified mansion was owned by Lord Saye and Sele during the 1630s and became a meeting place for leading opponents of the King's government in the pre-war years. Hampden, Pym, Brooke and others held secret conferences in the Council Chamber. During the war, Broughton was garnished for Parliament by Saye and Sele and his sons, John and Nathaniel Fiennes. It suffered frequent Royalist raids and was briefly taken by the King's men in December 1642.

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Burford (SP2512) In May 1649 Burford became the centre of a Leveller-inspired mutiny in the Parliamentary army. The military leaders in London moved quickly to quell the outbreak and on 14 May Fairfax and Cromwell swept into Burford, surprising the soldiers, and took the town with a brief resistance. Three hundred and fifty rebellious troops were captured and spent an uncomfortable night locked in the church. On the following day they were all sentenced to death by court martial. In fact, only three ringleaders — Thompson, Church and Perkins — were executed, shot by the churchyard wall. Their colleagues were forced to watch the executions from the church roof and were then taken down to suffer a lecture on loyalty and Godliness from Cromwell. The church of St John the Baptist has also disappeared and the present building dates from 1800. Burford museum contains many relics of the Civil War in the area.

Burford Church, Oxon. St John's (top) became a prison in May 1649, when Cromwell and Fairfax quelled a half-hearted mutiny and held the 350 rebellious troops in the church. Three ringleaders were subsequently shot in the churchyard and their colleagues forced to watch from the roof of the Lady Chapel (far left), a modern plaque on the outside wall of the Lady Chapel commemorates the three (above).

Right: Swinbrooke Church, Oxon. In the chancel stands a three-tier monument to the Fettiplace family erected by Sir Edmund Fettiplace in 1686; it carries effigies of Sir Edmund at the top, his father beneath him and, at the bottom with straight hair, his Parliamentary uncle who had served at Cirencester and elsewhere during the Civil War.
Chalgrove (SP630836) In the early hours of 18 June 1643 a party of Oxford Royalists under Prince Rupert and Sir Samuel Luke's quarters at Chalgrove forced 50 Parliamentary soldiers at Clench that 50 Parliamentary soldiers and capturing 120. The Royalists pressed on in search of a Parliamentary convoy, which they knew was running through the area, carrying £20,000 cash to pay Essex's troops. Rupert failed to locate the convoy — forewarned of the Prince's approach, it had taken cover — and turned back towards Oxford, pursued by a force of local Parliamentarians under John Hampden. After being harried for several miles, Rupert halted on Chalgrove field and charged his pursuers, quickly routing and scattering them. The other minor skirmish is memorable for the death of the Parliamentary commander. At some stage Hampden was badly injured — whether he was shot in the shoulder by a Royalist or lost a hand and arm when his own pistol burst is not clear — and died soon afterwards of his wounds. A large obelisk, erected in 1843 by the Old Wartington Road (SU447942), commemorates John Hampden and the Battle of Chalgrove Field.

Clanfield (SP350320) According to tradition, Cromwell stayed in Clanfield in spring 1645 while campaigning around Radcot, and lodged at the Plough Hotel, a seventeenth-century inn which stands at the centre of the village.

Coleshill (SU220898) One of the greatest houses of Interregnum England stood at Coleshill, a grand baroque mansion built in 1650-52 and designed by Roger Pratt, possibly in consultation with Inigo Jones. Sadly the house was gutted by fire in 1952 and has been completely demolished. Today nothing remains but four pairs of gatepiers dating from the mid-seventeenth century.

Cornbury (SP107813) Although Cornbury House played no known part in the conflict, the remains of a Civil War earthwork stand 1/2 mile east of the house, near the river Evenlode. A double bank and ditch running around 2½ sides of a square enclosure, the earthwork was probably a gun emplacement thrown up by the Royalist Danvers family to protect their home against possible attack.

Crockford (SP46446) On 29 June 1644 the King and his 8,500-strong army were marching north through Oxfordshire, marching along the Davenport road to the village of the Cherwell. Waller's 9,000 Parliamentarians were shadowing the King, following a parallel road to the west of the river. The two roads were linked by a short lane running from Great Bourton to Williamscote and crossing the Cherwell by a bridge at Cropredy. Fearing attack, the King posted Dragons to guard the bridge and attempted to hurry his men north and away across Hay's bridge. He succeeded only in dangerously stretching his line and so encouraging the Parliamentarians to attack. Waller led one party towards the ford at Slat Mill, one mile south of Cropredy, while Middleton and the rest of the army set out to capture Cropredy bridge. Both attacks were initially successful — Waller forced the river and threw part of the Royalist line into confusion and Middleton swept across the bridge and pursued the surprised Royalists north. However, the King's men regrouped and counter-charged and both the Parliamentary units were pushed back across the river with heavy losses. The armies stayed in position overnight but burned away on the 30th.

The area around the village is still open farmland, little changed since 1644. The present bridge at Cropredy (SP469463) was built in 1937 but an inscribed plaque on the south side commemorates the earlier bridge and the battle and prays 'From Civil War Deliver Us'. The nearby Oxford Canal takes water from the Cherwell and thus the river today is not the obstacle that it must have been in the 1640s. Several pieces of Civil War arms and armour found on the battlefield are displayed within St Mary's Church.

Cuddesdon (SP600503) Cuddesdon Palace, an early Stuart bishop's palace, housed a small Royalist garrison for most of the war. The King's men were withdrawn in 1645, destroying the building as they left to deny it to Parliament. The palace was rebuilt after the restoration but this restoration, in turn, was destroyed by fire in the 1960s.

Deddington (SP463511) The minor Royalist garrison here saw little action and was evacuated in 1645. The north-east of the village, was very ruinous by the seventeenth century and the King's men were probably based in Castle House, north of the church, a sixteenth- and seventeenth-century mansion in two-tone stone, incorporating part of a medieval manor-house which stood on the site.

Faringdon (SU220898) A Royalist base throughout the latter half of the war, the garrison survived a siege by Cromwell in late April and early May 1645 and held out for another year. On 24 June 1646 George Lisle and his men finally surrendered to Robert Pye and the besieging Parliamentarians. The Norman castle at Faringdon was very ruinous by the seventeenth century and the Royalist garrison was based in Faringdon House and the medieval and Tudor seat of the Pye family. The house, which has been completely demolished, stood near the present Faringdon House, the late Georgian mansion that is the church. The mid-seventeenth-century gatepiers of the old house survive near the church.

The tower of All Saints Church was destroyed at some point during the war and was rebuilt in 1646. The earthworks on Faringdon Hill are sometimes described as Civil War siege works and may have been thrown up by Cromwell in spring 1645 or by Pye the following year.

Gaunt House (SP403083) The late medieval house, 1/2 mile East of Standlake, served as a minor Royalist outpost during the Civil War. Besieged and bombarded by Col. Rainsborough's troops during May 1645, the garrison surrendered on the last day of the month. Gaunt House survives as a private residence, but the present building appears to date from the 1600s, presumably the medieval house was largely destroyed during or after the Civil War.

Godstow House (SP470793) Most of the twelfth-century Benedictine nunnery of Godstow, near Worcester, was demolished soon after the Dissolution, but some of the cloister buildings were retained and converted into a secular residence, Godstow House. The house was held for the King from the outbreak of war until May 1645, when the garrison was withdrawn and the house slighted to prevent its recapture. Today little remains except a wall leading into the gardens and scattered fragments of masonry. Parts of the medieval hospice may also have survived and been incorporated in a later inn, the Trout.

Great Milton (SP630206) Secretary of State John Thurloe leased the Priory at Great Milton for many years and lived here from time to time, particularly after the Restoration when he had lost much of his official power. There are colourful but unlikely stories of Cromwell and Milton visiting Thurloe here. The Priory survives in good order, a Tudor hall with projecting seventeenth-century wings, and stands north of the church near the village green. It is not open to the public.

Henley on Thames (SU67602) The town was frequently raided by Royalists during the Civil War but remained a Parliamentary base throughout the conflict. Bulstrode Whitehall was governor of Henley for a time and established his HQ at Philip Court, the late medieval hall which he owned just outside the town (SU658390). Whitehall's house was later demolished to make way for the present nineteenth-century Police Station.

William Lenthall was born and brought up in Henley, in the sixteenth-century gabled house in Hart Street now known as The Speaker's House.

Hinton Waldrist (SU3799) Hinton Manor, an early seventeenth-century manor-house on the site of an earlier house built during the 1630s and 1640s by Henry Marten, a member of the Long Parliament, one of the most outspoken opponents of Charles I, and later, a regicide. According to tradition, Cromwell and his troops quartered in and around Hinton Manor during their Oxfordshire campaign. Marten's old house survives in good order, an early eighteenth-century five bay front now concealing the early Stuart house behind; nearby are the remains of the moat and moat of the thirteenth-century castle.

Holton (SP2066) Cromwell probably lodged at Lady Wherewood's house at Holton during May and June 1646 during the siege of Oxford. On 15 June Henry Ireton married Cromwell's eldest daughter, Bridget, in St Bartholomew's Church. The Tudor and early Stuart mansion was completely demolished in the nineteenth century, but its moat survives within the former park. According to tradition, Cromwell himself planted the cherry tree which stood in the park.

Little Wittenham (SU679395) Cromwell's aunt Mary (d1617) and her husband Sir William Dunch (d1612) spent their married lives at the late medieval and long-demolished manor-house at Little Wittenham. Both lie buried in the village church beneath an elaborately carved in the tower. Mary is portrayed in alabaster, wearing a ruff and a stiff collar, her nine children kneel around the tomb. Several descendants lie nearby, including Ann Dunch (d1683), whose tomb is covered by a monumental brass.

Mapledurham House (SU677620) The fine Tudor house served as a Royalist outpost during the early stages of the war to guard the southern approaches to Oxford. As part of the operations to reclaim Reading, Parliamentarian troops
quickly overran the house in April 1643 and proceeded to loot the house. Mapledurham survived intact and remains one of the finest Elizabethan houses in the county. The richly decorated and furnished house is open on summer weekends.

Marston (SP5399) Marston was one of the Parliamentary bases in March 1643. Fairfax and Cromwell established their HQ in Union Cтоке's manor-house. A slightly later building, known as Cromwell's House, stands on the site in Pond's Lane. Cromwell and Fairfax probably viewed the city from the tower of St Nicholas's Church.

Oxford (SP350) For 3½ years Oxford served as the King's capital, the seat of the Royal Court, the Privy Council, Parliament and Courts of Justice, and as a military base and stronghold. It was not seriously threatened until 1645 and held out until 24 June 1646, when it surrendered on the King's orders.

The defence of Oxford lay primarily in a circle of outlying garrisons, designed to halt aggressors and prevent a direct attack on the city. Nonetheless, the Royalists quickly set about fortifying Oxford itself, building a circuit of banks, ditches and interval towers around the city. The former castle, defences of which were built by the seventeenth century, the castle was semi-ruinous and the town walls had been outgrown.

The new earthworks were particularly strong to the west of the Great or Grand Bridge. The King and Court were based at Christ Church, where the Privy Council met and the Oxford Parliament assembled for formal ceremonies; the Great Hall was struck by cannon in 1645 and in the following year articles of surrender were signed in the Audit Room. The Queen lived at Merton College, and New Inn Hall, on the site of the present St Peter's College, became the Royal Mint. The Cromwell's往往 used to meet in Convocation House by the Divinity School. New College Cloister and Quadrangle became the principal Royalist magazine and the outer ranges of earthworks and exercises all around the town, particularly in Merton Park and Christ Church Meadows.

Cromwell was present throughout the siege of Oxford in May and June 1646 and returned with Fairfax and other senior officers in May 1649. They entered the city to an official welcome on 17 May and stayed for three days, lodging in the water-rooms of All Souls College — the present Warden's Lodging are later. They dined at Magdalen on the 19th and were awarded honorary degrees.

Oxford Museum in Aldgate Street contains many relics of the Civil War, including arms, armour and plans and paintings of the siege of Oxford. The Ashmolean, off Carfax, possesses Cromwell's death mask, watch and Great Seal, a later bust of the Lord Protector, and many other items from the period.

Wychwood (SP5181) Cromwell supersedely lodged at Penstone or Penistone Farm, Stanford, during his Oxfordshire campaign of spring 1645. The early seventeenth-century building, restored and extended in the eighteenth century, is one of the oldest houses in the area traditionally linked with Cromwell.

Watham Abbey (SP7009) The sixteenth-century house in which Cromwell lodged between 23–25 May 1645 no longer exists. The present house was built in the nineteenth century, possibly incorporating part of the earlier mansion known to Cromwell.
**SHROPSHIRE**

The Civil War in Shropshire quickly developed into a conflict of garrisons and raiding. There were no major battles and few significant skirmishes in the region; instead each side set about securing its own and manoeuvring towns and villages, medieval castles and Tudor manor-houses. There were a very large number of garrisons within Shropshire — the Royalists alone had at least 31 bases here. The King's men were slowly driven out by Parliamentary forces who held almost the whole county in 1642 but they did not advance from the north and east, though not until 1645–46 did the last Royalist bases fall.

There is no evidence that Cromwell ever visited Shropshire.

**Albright Hussey** (S002174) The isolated house served as a Royalist garrison, established as Rupert's covert by March, but later withdrawn. The area fell under Parliamentary control. The house was later partly demolished but the area is now a notable site of parish church buildings. The church bears marks of gun- and cannon-fire inside and out. The garrison had been placed at Atcham to cover the bridge over the River Severn was held for the King from the outbreak of war until summer 1645. It was garrisoned by Parliamentary troops who forced an entry through the north gate via St Leonard's churchyard. The Royalists hastily retreated into the castle, setting fire to the town behind them; the flames reached their powder, stored in St Leonard's, and the resulting explosion demolished the medieval church and wrecked many other buildings in the area. The King's men held out in the castle for almost a month, but heavy bombardment and mining persuaded them to surrender on 26 April. The Norman fortress, badly damaged during the encirclement, was slightly after the war. The ruins of the leaning keep, its crazy angle caused by Parliamentary mines and later subsidence, stand in a public park at the south end of High Town. St Leonard's was rebuilt soon after the war, but the present church is almost entirely Victorian.

**Benthall (SJ656026)** Benthall Hall was garrisoned for the King from the outbreak of war until summer 1645. When it was hastily withdrawn after the fall of Shrewsbury. At some stage there was fighting here, for the church bears marks of gun- and cannon-fire inside and out. The garrison had been placed at Atcham to cover the river Severn and the south-east approaches to Shrewsbury. The building survived the war intact and has been little altered since. The finely decorated hall is now owned by the National Trust and is open on Saturdays and certain weekdays during the summer. St Bartholomew's Church served as an outpost of the Royalist main garrison; the building was badly damaged during the war and was rebuilt after the Restoration.

**Bridgnorth** (S007913) The hilltop town above the Severn was held for the King without serious challenge throughout the war and became an important base for operations in the West Midlands and southern Staffordshire. On 31 March 1646 the town was stormed by Parliamentary troops who forced an entry through the north gate via St Leonard's churchyard. The Royalists hastily retreated into the castle, setting fire to the town behind them; the flames reached their powder, stored in St Leonard's, and the resulting explosion demolished the medieval church and wrecked many other buildings in the area. The King's men held out in the castle for almost a month, but heavy bombardment and mining persuaded them to surrender on 26 April. The Norman fortress, badly damaged during the encirclement, was slightly after the war. The ruins of the leaning keep, its crazy angle caused by Parliamentary mines and later subsidence, stand in a public park at the south end of High Town. St Leonard's was rebuilt soon after the war, but the present church is almost entirely Victorian.

**Brockhall Castle** (S0045867) The picturesque red brick building, with several towers and a decorated hall, was completed to nineteenth-century restoration, but the great tower near the entrance is mostly fourteenth-century work, one of the few sections of the late medieval stronghold to survive. The fortress was garrisoned by Royalists for much of the war but was evacuated in spring 1645. The King's men slighted the defences as they left. It was occupied and restored by Parliamentary troops in June and a Royalist counter-attack on 4 July was fiercely repulsed.

**Caus Castle** (S317078) The twelfth-century border castle at Caus was held for the King from the outbreak of war until summer 1645, when it was besieged and bombarded by Col. Mackworth's Parliamentaryists; the small garrison surrendered on 23 June. The castle originally comprised a large shell keep, surrounded by curtain walls and mural towers protecting a double bailey, but is now very ruinous.

**Clun Castle** (S029099) Biton Ditches, two

**High Ercall** (S393174) In the seventeenth century, the royalists held High Ercall Hall comprising four ranges around a central courtyard protected by a gateway, bridge and moat. It was garrisoned for the King in 1644–45 and survived several Parliamentary attacks, including siege in February, March and July 1645. The garrison finally surrendered on 28 March 1646 after a prolonged siege and heavy bombardment which badly damaged the hall — two of the four ranges were completely demolished. The now-Lord-shaft of this English Civil War era house, and it is possible that a wall and red sandstone north front, stands by the road near the village church. St Michael's and All Angels' was itself badly damaged during the Parliamentary bombardment and was largely rebuilt in the 1670s using the original stone.

**Holgate Castle** (S0062897) Holgate housed a minor Parliamentary garrison, designed and decorated by the Ludlow Royalists. Of the thirteenth- and fourteenth-century castle, little now survives except a semicircular tower in fine ashlar north of the church and behind a modern farmhouse.

**Hopton Castle** (S367780) Hopton Castle was the scene of one of the most notorious massacres of the English Civil War. To mid-February 1644 the medieval castle was fortified and garrisoned for Parliament but was almost immediately besieged by Royalist forces. On 13 March Sir Michael Woodhouse stormed the castle and then cold-bloodedly killed the 31 captured Parliamentaryists. Their bodies were dumped in a pool, possibly the remains of a moat. The garrison ruins of the Norman castle stand in field on the outskirts of the village of Hopton Castle.

**Larling Castle or Castle** (S330308) The late medieval and Tudor fortified hall was garrisoned for the King during the Civil War but the garrison was evacuated in February 1646; the house was slighted and burnt in the town behind them. On 24 August 1645, it was captured by Parliamentary troops, and the resulting earthworks, constructed or reused by the Royalists to a castle, stand in a public park at the south end of High Town, behind and a modern farmhouse.

**Lilleshall Abbey** (S003842) Much of the abbey, particularly the church, was converted into a secular residence after the Dissolution and is still in good order in the mid-seventeenth century. It housed a Royalist garrison for much of the Civil War. In May 1644 a Parliamentary force sent to capture the site was interdicted and repulsed on route (see 'Longford') and Col. Levenson's garrison survived for another 17 months. Not until 23 August 1645 did Lilleshall fall, bombarded and then stormed by a large Parliamentary force under Col. Braine. The Parliamentary cannon had brought down much of the town and Lady Chapel. The impressive ruins of the thirteenth- and fourteenth-century Augustinian abbey are open daily.

**Longford** (S37218) On 25 March 1644 a unit of 500 Parliamentary Foot led by Col. Myton bound for Lilleshall was caught and routed at Longford by Royalist forces under Capt. Lilleshall and Sir. Much of the abbey, particularly the church, was converted into a secular residence after the Dissolution and is still in good order in the mid-seventeenth century. It housed a Royalist garrison for much of the Civil War. In May 1644 a Parliamentary force sent to capture the site was interdicted and repulsed on route (see 'Longford') and Col. Levenson's garrison survived for another 17 months. Not until 23 August 1645 did Lilleshall fall, bombarded and then stormed by a large Parliamentary force under Col. Braine. The Parliamentary cannon had brought down much of the town and Lady Chapel. The impressive ruins of the thirteenth- and fourteenth-century Augustinian abbey are open daily.

**Llpool Castle** (S340000) The present hall, a Stuart red brick and stone edifice, was built after the Civil War. The Royalist garrison of 1643–45 was based in the medieval hall, completely demolished in the eighteenth century, the position of which is indicated by decayed earthworks and broken ground.

**Loppington** (S472235) In autumn 1643 a troop of Parliamentary troops under Capt. Mytton was surprised at Loppington and hastily retreated towards St Michael's. The King's men were the castle and then cold-bloodedly killed the 31 captured Parliamentaryists. Their bodies were dumped in a pool, possibly the remains of a moat. The garrison ruins of the Norman castle stand in field on the outskirts of the village of Hopton Castle.

**Shrewsbury** At some stage there was fighting here, for the church bears marks of gun- and cannon-fire inside and out. The garrison had been placed at Atcham to cover the bridge over the River Severn was held for the King from the outbreak of war until summer 1645. The fortress itself had been held for the King since the outbreak of war but the small garrison saw little action and surrendered in 1644 on the threat of bombardment. Much of the Norman castle has been demolished but the banks and ditches which surrounded the two baileys still survive, together with fragments of the curtain wall and two semicircular mural towers.
Ludlow (SH2174) Town and castle served as an important Royalist base throughout the war and a centre for operations in the south of the county. Occasional Parliamentary raids during 1644–45 were turned back outside the town and Ludlow held out until spring 1646, one of the last important bases in the county to remain in the King's hands. Col. Birch and a large force of Hereford Parliamentarians attacked and quickly overran the town on 24 April 1646, but their initial assault on the castle failed and Birch was compelled to lay siege to the fortress. The garrison finally surrendered on 29 May. The massive red sandstone castle was slighted in 1652, but large parts of the thirteenth-century keep standing amid the ruins were intercepted and scattered at Whittington, three miles east of the town. The medieval castle was badly damaged during the bombardment of June 1644 and was slighted after the war; today only fragments of the shell keep survive on a mound behind Bailey Head. St Oswald's Church, damaged by the Royalist counter-bombardment, was repaired after the war and survives intact.

Moreton Corbet Castle (SJ40231) The early thirteenth-century castle, modified and extended by the Corbet family in the sixteenth century, was garrisoned for the King in 1643–44. It fell to a surprise night attack on 8 September 1644, but the Parliamentary garrison soon retreated in the face of Royalist pressure. The King's men, in turn, evacuated the place in 1645 following the fall of Shrewsbury, and they probably slighted the castle as they left to prevent its reoccupation by Parliamentary troops. The ruins, which are open daily, include an early thirteenth-century keep standing amid the ruins of Sir Andrew Corbet's Elizabethan domestic buildings and a northern gateway, originally medieval but heavily remodelled in 1579.

Oswestry (SJ2939) In June 1644 a large Parliamentary force attacked Oswestry, which had been garrisoned for the King by Lord Capel in the previous year. St Oswald's Church was taken and used as a battery from which cannon bombarded the Royalist defences in and around the castle. In the end, however, it was a petard which blew the castle gates and compelled the garrison to surrender. A Royalist attempt to retake the town in July ended when their forces were intercepted and scattered at Whittington, three miles east of the town. The medieval castle was badly damaged during the bombardment of June 1644 and was slighted after the war; today only fragments of the shell keep survive on a mound behind Bailey Head. St Oswald's Church, damaged by the Royalist counter-bombardment, was repaired after the war and survives intact.

Rowton Castle (SJ3712) The medieval castle, slighted in the late fourteenth century and very dilapidated by the seventeenth, housed a small Royalist garrison in 1643–45. Parliament ordered the castle demolished after the war and nothing survives. A red brick Queen Anne house, with a Victorian round tower, stands on or near the site.

Shawardine Castle (SJ60133) The medieval castle was garrisoned for the King by Sir William Vaughan in spring 1644 and became a base for attacks on the many Parliamentary outposts in the area; Vaughan soon became known amongst the Shropshire Parliamentarians as ‘the Devil of Shawardine’. In October 1644 Mytton moved to eliminate the troublesome base and he surprised and captured Vaughan and other officers in St Mary's Church. Nonetheless, the garrison resisted fiercely, and Mytton was compelled to fall back. The fortress finally surrendered on 29 June 1645 after a long siege. Little survives of Shawardine Castle except three crags of masonry, the remains of the keep, on a low mound, north-east of the towerless church.

Shrewsbury (SJ9132) Charles I entered the town in September 1642 and thereafter Shrewsbury was a major Royalist base and the centre for operations over the surrounding region. It was also Prince Rupert's HQ for much of the war. The medieval castle and town walls were repaired and strengthened and the four town gates put in order. Occasional Parliamentary attacks during 1644 were strongly repulsed by the large garrison, but on 22 February 1645 town and castle fell with surprising ease to Col.
Stokesay Castle

Mytton. The night attack appears to have caught the King's men unprepared and although they put up some resistance in and around the castle, the Parliamentarians swept all before them.

A thirteenth-century mural tower and adjoining sections of the wall survive along the south side of Town Walls Street, but the rest of the town's defences, including the four gates, have completely disappeared. The castle, built in the tenth and twelfth centuries but heavily restored and remodelled by Telford and others in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, comprises a medieval keep and later domestic ranges encircled by curtain walls and a gatehouse; it is open daily except Tuesdays.

The adjoining Church of St John the Baptist, originally the castle chapel, was also garrisoned for the King as an outpost of the castle. It was badly damaged during the Parliamentary bombardment of 1645 and the north wall of the nave was completely destroyed. St John's was extensively rebuilt in 1654 and remains a largely Interregnum church.

Tong (SJ7907) The castle and church to the south changed hands several times in the course of the Civil War until finally secured for Parliament in spring 1645. The medieval castle or fortified house has long since disappeared; the eighteenth-century mansion which stood on the site was itself demolished in 1954. St Bartholomew's, however, still bears evidence of Civil War conflicts — the north wall of the church is pitted with musket shot and the scar of a cannon is visible near the blocked doorway.

Wem (SJ1512) The town was occupied by Parliamentarians in September 1643, one of their first bases within the area, and despite repeated Royalist raids and occasional sieges, it remained in Parliamentary hands for the rest of the war.

Wrockwardine (SJ4212) The village was garrisoned for Parliament in 1644–45 and served as a base for operations against High Ercall. The Parliamentarians resisted several counter-attacks from Vaughan and others. The garrison was probably based in St Peter's Church and in Wrockwardine Hall to the north-east, a two-storey Jacobean building, which was remodelled and extended in the eighteenth century.

Stokesay Castle (ST45317) The beautiful thirteenth-century fortified manor house was garrisoned for the King at the outbreak of war and remained in Royalist hands until 1645. Contemporary and later sources give conflicting accounts of the precise dates and sequence of events in 1645, but it is clear that the castle was taken by Parliament in the early summer after a siege and that Royalist attempts to retake it a little later in the year were defeated. The castle was neither damaged during the war nor slighted after it and survives intact, a perfect example of a late medieval fortified manor-house, with a thirteenth-century great tower and adjoining chambers ranged around a courtyard protected by a curtain wall, an Elizabethan timber gatehouse and a moat. Stokesay Castle is open daily except Tuesdays.

The Parliamentary assault was mounted on 10 July 1645 to secure the road for the main army. They halted on Babylon Hill to keep watch over the surrounding area, particularly the Parliamentary units in Yeovil below. There was minor skirmishing throughout the day, but the Parliamentarians appeared few in number and unwilling to risk a major engagement. However, at the end of the day, as Hopton was preparing to march east and rejoin Hertford, the Parliamentary forces launched a surprise attack which created confusion and near-panic in the unprepared Royalist ranks. Hopton hurried away into the gathering darkness, but he lost over 20 dead. Babylon Hill is now crossed by the main A30.

Bridgewater (ST2937) A Parliamentary stronghold during the first year of the war, the town was evacuated in June 1643 at the approach of the Royalists. Hopton's 6,000 Royalists, who occupied Bridgewater unopposed on the 6th. It remained a Royalist base for two uneventful years. The Parliamentarians returned in July 1645 and for ten days the main army under Cromwell and Fairfax laid siege to the town. Bridgewater was defended by a medieval tidal ditch, newly renovated and deepened by the Royalists, stretches of stone walls and earth banks and a medieval castle. The Royalist garrison under Col. Sir Hugh Wyndham had been bolstered by the arrival of that part of Goring's army which had survived Langport. The Parliamentary high ground was established a base at Chedzoy, three miles east of the town, and Cromwell probably lodged here during the early part of the operation. Royalist outposts were attacked and driven in, including a unit at Sydenham House, one mile north-east of the town. Massey led a detachment over the Hamp to threaten Bridgewater from the south-west. By the 20th, the Parliamentary deployment was complete and Fairfax and Cromwell formally summoned the town; according to tradition the reply was issued by Lady Wyndham who took a pot-shot at Cromwell. The assault began that night and the Parliamentary troops soon breached the East Gate and took Eastover, the area east of the Parrett. The Royalists, however, withdrew into the western half of the town, either destroying the bridge or lifting the drawbridge spanning the already demolished arches as they went. They held out for a further three days, during which much of the town was wrecked by a heavy bombardment, before surrendering on 23 July.

Little survives of the Civil War defences. The ditch, bank and walls have all long gone and the present town bridge is Victorian. The medieval castle, which occupied the area between Fore Street, Kings Square and Chandos Street, was slightly altered after the war and the site was redeveloped in the following century; the only part to survive is the Water Gate, a simple arched postern in West Quay.

Bridgewater has close links with Robert Blake, the Parliamentary soldier and admiral. Blake was born here in 1599, spent much of his early life at Knowle, three miles northeast (ST3340) and was elected MP for Bridgewater in 1640. He had a distinguished Civil War, conspicuous in operations at Bristol, Lyme Regis and Taunton, and when as a General-at-Sea he embarked upon a very successful naval career during the 1650s. He died on campaign in 1657 and was buried in Westminster Abbey. He was probably born in the Tude House, now the Admiral Blake Museum, which includes a permanent Blake exhibition. A fine bronze statue of the Admiral stands in Cornhill.

Barrington Mount or Mump (ST38359) The curious hill rises abruptly above Burrow Bridge, the last passage over the Parrett before Bridgwater. A raised fifteenth-century church on top of the mound served from time to time during the Civil War as a lookout and base for troops guarding the bridge. In July 1645 150 Royalists took refuge here after the Battle of Langport but surrendered on the 13th at the approach of a Parliamentary detachment. The present hill is Parliamentary detachment. The present hill is now open and the church, begun in 1793 but never completed, stands above the hamlet which has been referred to as the hamlet which has been referred to as the Cheddar village which has stands above the bridge hill and church are now owned by the National Trust.
Cannington (ST2359) John Pym - leader of the Parliamentary party in the Long Parliament until his death in December 1643 and one of the five Members whom Charles I had tried to arrest in January 1642 - was born and brought up at Brymore House, near Cannington.

Chewton Mendip (ST5553) The first serious engagement in summer 1643 between the Royalist invasion force and the Somerset Parliamentarians took place on the evening of 10 June, when Waller clashed with the Royalist Cavalry around Chewton Mendip. Waller's Horse drew up on Nedge Hill (around ST55512), ½ miles south-west of the village. The Royalists charged and pushed their opponents into Chewton Mendip and beyond, but here they ran into the main Parliamentary army and were repulsed. It was probably at this point that Prince Maurice was wounded and temporarily captured. A more general skirmish developed around Chewton but evening mist and then nightfall soon brought proceedings to a close and the two forces disengaged.

Dunster Castle (SS92434) Dunster Castle was secured for Parliament at the outbreak of war but was evacuated in May 1643 at the approach of Hopson's forces. It remained in Royalist hands for the rest of the war, finally surrendering in summer 1646 after a five month siege, the last stronghold in Somerset to fall to Parliament. Much of the medieval and Tudor fortress was demolished in the eighteenth century, when the castle was extensively remodelled and rebuilt. One of the Norman towers and sections of Tudor work were incorporated in the new castle and nearby stands the thirteenth-century gateway and flanking towers guarding the entry to the former bailey, now the terrace; a Civil War bullet is embedded in one of the gateway's medieval, iron-bound doors. Dunster Castle is open from Saturday to Wednesday during the summer.

Farleigh Hungerford (ST00176) Farleigh Hungerford Castle was begun by Sir Thomas Hungerford in the 1370s and extended by his son Walter, who moved the village away from the castle walls to a new position further up the hill. The former village church, St Leonard's, became the castle chapel. Hungerfords fought on both sides during the Civil War and their castle changed hands several times, finally falling to Parliamentary troops in September 1645. Described by the eighteenth-century and now very ruinous, the castle comprises a square central block with corner towers and a southern gatehouse, and an inner and outer bailey defended by curtain walls, mural towers and gatehouses. The ruins are open daily. Parts of St Leonard's Church now serve as a museum and contain a marble effigy of Sir Edward Hungerford, KCB (1648) and his wife. Sir Edward was one of the leading Parliamentary officers in west Wilts and east Somerset during the first Civil War and it was he who retook the castle from his Royalist half-brother in September 1645.

Isle Moor (ST722) In early July 1645 George Monck and a detachment of Royalist Horse were sent west from Langport in the hope of deceiving Fairfax and Cromwell into thinking that the Royalists were about to attack Taunton and thus distracting them while the main army retreated into Bridgwater. The plan worked all too well, for Fairfax sent Massey and 4,000 men to oppose the Royalist force. Failing to set a proper watch, Porter was caught by surprise on 8 July as he and his men were relaxing on Isle Moor. The unprepared Royalists were quickly routed by Massey, 500 falling prisoner and the remainder fleeing in confusion.

Langport (ST4226) At the approach of Fairfax, Cromwell, and a 14,000-strong army in late June 1645, Goring hastily abandoned the siege of Taunton and marched east to meet the threat. Failing to hold the area around Yeovil, the Royalists turned north-west and began marching along the Yeo valley toward Bridgwater. On 10 July Goring took up a strong defensive position to the east of Langport in the hope of holding off his pursuers while his guns and baggage were taken to Bridgwater. His men drew up along the west bank of the Wagg, a large stream which ran south through a distinct valley and into the Yeo. His position, about one mile east of Langport near the village of Hush Episcopi, was well chosen, with the Yeo to the south, the steep and difficult valley of the Wagg to the north and an area of marshy ground to the east. Advancing from Long Sutton, Fairfax had little choice but attempt a direct frontal assault along the lane which ran west into Hush and which formed the Wagg near the centre of the Royalist line. After Rainborough dislodged Royalist Musketeers lining the hedgerow, the Parliamentary front line under Bethel charged across the stream, throwing the Royalists back towards Langport. When Goring's reserve halted the initial attack, Disbrowe led the second wave across the ford, swinging round across the now cleared ground west of the Wagg.

Above: Bridgwater, Somerset. Robert Blake, Parliamentary soldier during the Civil War turned Cromwell's most successful Admiral at sea during the Interregnum, towers over his native town. Pomeroy's statue was completed at the very end of the eighteenth century.

Top right: Farleigh Hungerford Castle, Somerset. Sir Edward Hungerford and his wife, Margaret, lie beneath a fine marble monument in St Ann's Chapel. Sir Edward, an energetic and forthright character, given to quarreling with his Parliamentary allies just as fiercely as with his Royalist foes, is portrayed in full armour.

Right: Nunney Castle, Somerset. The huge corner towers, high walls and deep moat which made de la Mare's castle so formidable in the fourteenth century proved too intractable in the seventeenth and the deployment of heavy artillery soon opened the walls and brought Royalist opposition to an end. The far wall of the castle was then brought down by mines, so rendering the place indefensible.
and falling on the Royalist flank. Goring's line soon broke and the Royalists fled in confusion towards Bridgwater, pursued by Cromwell for several miles. Three hundred Royalists died in battle and many more fell along the Bridgwater road.

The area of the battle has changed little since the seventeenth century. The main A372 now skirts the southern edge of the battlefield, crossing the Wagg at ST433265, and a certain amount of modern ribbon development has taken place along the road, but the area to the north is still open land.

**Marshall's Elm** (ST43341) The first blood of the Civil War in Somerset was spilt near this tiny scattered village on 4 August 1642. A newly raised body of 80 Royalist Horse under Sir John Stowell and Lt-Col. Lunsford, drawn up on Walton Hill, saw 600 Parliamentary troops marching through the cornfields below. Lunsford decided to attack and sent hisDragoons to take up positions in quarry pits on the lower slopes of the hill. Their fire halted the inexperienced Parliamentary and Stowell then charged down into the stationary and bewildered force. Sixty Parliamentarians were captured, seven were killed on the spot and 20 died later of their wounds. Thus did the Civil War begin in Somerset.

**Norton St Philip** (ST7215) The George Inn is a fine early fifteenth-century stone house with a Tudor hall-timbered upper storey. According to tradition, Cromwell lodged here at some point during his Somerset campaign of 1645.

**Nunney** (ST73458) The ruined shell of Sir John de la Mare's fourteenth-century castle stands in the village, a small rectangular keep dwarfed by massive cylindrical corner towers, surrounded by a moat and an outer bank. Held for the King by Col. Richard Prater in 1643-45, the castle was captured by Parliamentarians in summer 1645 but endured a prolonged siege and surrendered on 20 August only when heavy artillery, brought to Nunney two days before, had opened several breaches in the walls. According to tradition, during the siege the starving Royalists had daily tormented their one and only pig in the hope that its squealing would convince the Parliamentarians that the garrison was well-supplied and encourage them to abandon the siege. The castle was sieged by Parliament after the war, when mines brought down a large section of its north wall; more walling on the north side collapsed early this century. The otherwise extensive ruins are open daily.

**Taunton** (ST2324) Despite the general Parliamentary sympathies of its inhabitants, Taunton changed hands several times during the Civil War as the two sides fought for control of southern Somerset and southern Devon. In 1644, when Parliament at the outbreak of the war, the baronies of Taunton and Holdford with 6,000-strong Royalist army on 5 June 1643. The Royalist garrison enjoyed a year of peace until July 1644, when a Parliamentary force under Blake and Pye pushed west, overran the outer earthworks and laid siege to the 80-man garrison which had sought refuge in the castle. Reeve surrendered a week later on 10 July. Taunton was the best stronghold in Somerset to be recaptured by Parliament in 1644 and for many months stood in peril in a largely Royalist area. Three times the King's men tried to recapture the town and only heroic efforts by Robert Blake and his garrison preserved the town for Parliament. In autumn 1644 Col. Wyndham besieged Taunton but was driven off on 14 December by a relieving force underCols Holborne and Ashley Cooper. A larger force under Grenville and Berkeley returned in April 1645, surrounding the town with their own earthworks and overwhelming the outer earth works the following May. In fierce street fighting on 8 and 9 May Blake and his men were pushed back into the town centre, an area between the castle and St Mary's Church protected by earthworks. This, too, fell on the following day the approach of a large relieving force under Col. Weldon compelled Berkeley to withdraw. The Royalists tried again in June, but Goring's forces marched off at the end of the month to meet the main Parliamentary army.

The Civil War earthworks around the town and in the town centre have long disappeared and much of Henry of Blois's medieval castle has also perished, replaced by the Castle Hotel and its gardens. The thirteenth-century gateway survives, but the rest of the present castle is eighteenth-century or later. The castle houses a library and local museum, open daily.

**Wellington** (ST4445) In August 1642 the Marquis of Hertford secured Wells for the King and established his HQ in the Bishop's Palace. The expected Royalist support in the area did not materialise and instead several thousand local Parliamentarians gathered on Prior's Hill, 1½ miles to the north. Negotiations and occasional exchanges of cannon-fire ended when Hertford and his small force broke out of Wells and fled to Dorset. The town was retaken by Royalist forces without opposition in July 1643 and was held by them for two uneventful years. They evacuated the place in 1645 and Wells changed hands for the third and final time, again without bloodshed.

**South Yorkshire**

The area covered by the small modern county contained few important strongholds in the the county in autumn 1642, but the Parliamentarians pulled back at the approach of Cromwell's Parliament in summer 1644 in an equally unexpected fashion after the Royalists troops were withdrawn to defend York. Cromwell was here in July and early August 1644 during his brief Yorkshire campaign and passed through the area again in 1648 and 1650-1.

**Bramhope** (SK2543) The chapel in the grounds of Bramhope Hall was built in 1649 and retains much of its mid-seventeenth-century appearance inside and out. It is a fairly plain and simple rectangular building; inside, a three-decker pulpit stands in the middle of the north side, with box pews arranged to focus upon it.

**Doncaster** (SK7073) On 29 October 1648 a party of Royalist rebels from Pontefract burst into Doncaster and attempted to seize Col. Rainibourough who was lodging at an inn. They probably intended to take him prisoner, but in the ensuing struggle Rainborough was killed and the Parliamentarians returned to Pontefract empty-handed.

**Cromwell** (SK2543) Cromwell stayed at Doncaster on 25 July-5 August 1644 at the end of his Yorkshire campaign and again on 9 August 1648 and 21 August 1651 on his way to intercept Scottish Royalist armies.

**Great Houghton** (SK8406) The chapel of the former Old Hall was built in 1650 and survives almost unaltered, a rare example of an Interregnum church. It comprises a single, undivided nave and chancel, with box pews and a pulpit opposite the entrance. The Elizabethan structure to which it was originally attached has recently been demolished.

**Houndshill** (SK3194) Houndshill manor-house, an early seventeenth-century 'H'-plan mansion in stone and timber, stands ½ mile south-south-west of Barnsley. It was built for the Elmhirst family and garrisoned for the King by Col. Richard Elmhirst at the outbreak of the Civil War. Sir Thomas Fairfax besieged the garrison in the following summer and the 40-man garrison within surrendered when the Parliamentarians threatened to storm the place.

**Rotherham** (SK4292) Rotherham was secured for Parliament by Sir John Gell during the opening months of the Civil War but was evacuated in March 1643 at the approach of Newcastle's Royalists. The town was attacked without opposition in the latter half of 1644. Cromwell stayed in Rotherham on 8 August 1648 on his way to intercept the Scottish invasion force.

**Sheffield** (SK3187) Sheffield was taken unopposed by Sir John Gell in November 1642 and a small Parliamentary garrison installed in the medieval castle. The town was evacuated in the following March as Newcastle approached, and town and castle were then held for the King for over a year. In late July 1644 the town quickly fell to Crawford's Royalists. The Royalist garrison in the castle put up greater resistance. Attempts to drain the moat and bring down the walls by tunnelling were unsuccessful and not until heavy artillery arrived and pounded the fortress did the Royalists abandon the struggle; Major Thomas Beaumont surrendered on 11 August. The castle was slain in 1649 and today nothing survives except odd fragments of masonry around the Castle Market, which covers the site of the former bailey.

**Skellow Hall** (SK3190) According to tradition, Cromwell once lodged at Skellow Hall, Old Skellow, while on his way through the area travelling to or from Scotland. The building no longer exists.

**Tickhill Castle** (SK39328) The Norman motte and bailey castle, repaired and modified in the sixteenth century, was held for the
King throughout 1643–44, Col. Monckton's mutinous garrison surrendered to Col. John Lilburne on or around 26 July 1644 after a brief siege. Cromwell had travelled over from Doncaster to supervise the surrender and evacuation of the castle. In fact, all was not well in the Parliamentary army, for Manchester had slipped into characteristic inactivity and was far from happy to learn that his subordinates had resumed hostilities without his approval.

Tickhill Castle was slighted after the war and today the fragmentary remains stand on private land by the road. The twelfth-century gatehouse, reconstructed in the sixteenth, survives in fairly good order but the shell keep and curtain walls have largely disappeared.

STAFFORDSHIRE

The Civil War in Staffordshire was a conflict of garrisons and raiding, not of field armies and set battles. In the opening year of the war the two sides garrisoned a large number of towns and villages, castles and manor-houses, so many that only a selection can be mentioned below. In the main, the Royalists initially held the south and west of the county, the Parliamentarians the north and east, though from the start of the war each side had outposts in territory largely controlled by the other. In an un spectac ular manner the Parliamentarians slowly extended their control, though not until 1645–46 did the last Royalist strongholds fall. Cromwell played no part in the Civil War building.

Alton Castle (SK073425) The fragmentary remains of Alton Castle stand in the forecourt of a Victorian great house, now a school. Built in the twelfth century, the small fortress lay in an area of Staffordshire fiercely disputed during the first half of the Civil War and it changed hands several times. Its eventful Civil War history is probably one of the causes of its present, very ruinous condition and little remains above ground except a single corner tower. (Alton Towers, nearby, is an entirely separate post-Civil War building.)

Barton under Needlewood (SK1818) Barton House, a late medieval and Tudor mansion, served as a Royalist outpost of Burton for much of the Civil War. In June 1645 the garrison was evacuated and the hall burnt to the ground to prevent it being used by the Parliamentarians. The present Barton Hall was built in the eighteenth century on or close to the site of the old house.

Biddulph (SJ3346) Biddulph Old Hall, an Elizabethan mansion of four ranges round a central courtyard, was garrisoned for the King by Lord Beresford throughout the opening year of the Civil War. In February 1644 a Parliamentary unit led by the governor's own uncle, Sir William Beresford, arrived before the hall. Three days of close siege and the arrival of heavy artillery, particularly 'Roaring Meg', persuaded Lord Beresford that further resistance would be both futile and costly and the Royalists surrendered on 22 February. The ruins of the Tudor Old Hall or of a later seventeenth-century rebuilding stand in the grounds of a farm.

Burton upon Trent (SK2423) A combination of factors conspired to ensure Burton an eventful and unhappy Civil War. The town stood at a major crossroads and controlled an important crossing over the Trent, it lay in a hotly contested frontier zone between Parliamentarians to the north and Royalists to the south and west, and it possessed very weak defences, probably nothing more than a circuit of earth banks and barricades. Burton could not be held against a serious attack and the town changed hands at least eight times during the war as fortunes ebbed and flowed in the surrounding area. No trace of the Civil War defences survives.

Caverswall Hall or Castle (SJ950429) Walter de Caverswall built a castle here in the thirteenth century, a quadrangular fortress with polygonal corner towers. In 1615 Matthew Craddock demolished parts of the medieval castle and converted the rest into a more comfortable domestic dwelling, with a three-storey embattled hall and a mock-medieval tower. The hall was garrisoned for Parliament for most of the Civil War.
but apparently never saw serious fighting. It survived the war intact and is now a convent and guesthouse.

Chillington Hall or Castle (SP620699)

Although Chillington has been the seat of the Gifford family for over 400 years, the present building on the site is no earlier than the sixteenth century, and most of it is later still. John Gifford's Tudor fortified hall, occasionally referred to as Chillington Castle in deference to the earlier fortress which it replaced, was garrisoned for the King at the outbreak of the Civil War. It was captured by Brereton in August 1643 and seems to have suffered further parts in the war. The Tudor hall was extensively rebuilt and remodelled in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and the house which saw action in the Civil War is all but lost amid the present Georgian mansion. Chillington Hall is open to the public on Sundays and certain weekdays during the summer.

Colwich (SK012111) Many members of the local Wolesley family lie within the medieval village Church of St Michael. Most of the family sided with King during the Civil War, but young Sir Charles Wolesley became a strong supporter and close friend of Cromwell during the 1650s. He was named a Councillor for the public for the Alihough Chillington was a Hanoverian on the throne. He was buried in the country. He served as a Councillor and died in 1653 and thence at just 23 or 24. Sir Charles married Elizabeth, daughter of John Gell and the Protectorate, and thus at just 23 or 24 became one of the most powerful politicians in the country. He served as a Councillor and MP throughout the Protectorate and then spent over fifty years in semi-retirement in Staffordshire. At the death of his former master, Richard Cromwell, in 1712, Wolesley became the last senior proprietor to open up a huge breach in the wall and the Parliamentarians nearby were frequently held as an outpost by the garrison and in consequence suffered repeated bombardments. Civil War cannon may have been responsible for the demolition of the medieval transepts—they both disappeared in the mid-seventeenth century—and for damage to the north-west corner of the nave.

Hopton Heath (SJ33263) The early fourteenth-century fortified mansion, changed hands several times during the opening 18 months of the war. Initially secured for Parliament, it fell in spring 1643 to a daring night raid launched from Chillington: a handful of volunteers scaled the outer wall and, undetected by the garrison, opened the main gate to admit their colleagues, who quickly overpowered the 70 Parliamentarians.

Lapley (SJ5712) Lapley House or Hall, a sixteenth-century fortified mansion, changed hands several times during the opening 18 months of the war. Initially secured for Parliament, it fell in spring 1643 to a daring night raid launched from Chillington: a handful of volunteers scaled the outer wall and, undetected by the garrison, opened the main gate to admit their colleagues, who quickly overpowered the 70 Parliamentarians.

Lichfield (SK1109) The Royalists entered the town unexpectedly at the beginning of 1643 and hastily set about securing Lichfield against possible attack. Seventeenth-century Lichfield possessed neither town walls nor a castle and instead the King's men established their base in the Cathedral Close, the area immediately behind the cathedral, encircled by a high wall; Minster Pool afforded additional protection on the southern side. The Royalists stored their ammunition within the cathedral and commanded the village at strategic points on, in and around the building.

The expected onslaught began at the end of February 1643 with the arrival of a Parliamentary force under Lord Brooke. The Parliamentarians besieged the Close and bombarded the Royalist positions, badly damaging the towers and spires of the cathedral. Although Brooke was killed by a Royalist sniper—a modern plaque in Dam Street marks the spot where he fell—the attack continued under Sir John Gell and the small Royalist force surrendered in March. The Parliamentary troops sacked the cathedral and then the Close themselves, thus blocking the main north-south road through the country.

Prince Rupert moved quickly to recover the town and arrived on 10 April at the head of 4,000 men. He overran the town without difficulty but the Close again proved a greater obstacle and a ten day siege, enlivened by repeated attempts to scale the walls, ended with little on 20 April, however, the Royalists used ladders and opened up a huge breach in the wall and the Parliamentarians inside promptly surrendered.

Lichfield remained in Royalist hands for nearly three years and served as a centre for operations throughout the south of the country. It held out long after the collapse of the King's cause in the surrounding area and not until 6 March 1646 did Brereton finally recapture the Close. The cathedral towers and spires and St Chad's Chapel were very badly damaged during the Civil War and had to be almost completely rebuilt after the Restoration. The defensive wall around the Close has long since disappeared and the medieval and early modern buildings remain within the area it once enclosed. Minster Pool lies in a small public park south of the cathedral.

Patshall (SP900606) The late medieval and Tudor manor house was garrisoned for the King by Walter Asley from 1642 until its capture by Parliamentarians in summer 1645. Ruinous by the end of the seventeenth century, the old hall has been completely demolished; it stood on low ground below the present eighteenth- and nineteenth-century hall. The archway into the forecourt of the hall contains the figures of two civil war soldiers and the old church nearby contains an elaborate monument to a Royalist officer, Captain Richard Atley (d1688), who is depicted riding at the head of his troop of Cavalry.

Paynsley Hall (SJ973880) The isolated late medieval and Tudor manor house, now served as a farm and garrisoned for the King from the beginning of the war. It saw little action and was probably evacuated sometime during 1644–45. The building which was garrisoned in the Civil War has gone, but in its place, a large 'L'-shaped building in red sandstone, was built in the early nineteenth century. It is now owned by the university.
Stafford (SP22) Civil War Stafford was protected by a rather dilapidated system of medieval defences, including a circuit of walls and two castles, one within the town and the other near Castle Bank, on a hill to the west. The country town was captured by King King on 14 June 1642, but immediately became the target of repeated Parliamentary raids. Although the garrison turned back several attacks in February and March 1643, the town fell on 15 May to a surprise dawn raid led by Brereton. It remained in Parliament’s hands for the rest of the war. Most of the Civil War defences have disappeared. The town walls and castle have long gone and the town gates are nothing more than a memory preserved in the street names. The castle to the west of the town was slighted by Parliament after the war and the remains were later incorporated within a nineteenth-century Gothic pile, which has itself largely disappeared; recent excavations have investigated the remains of the Norman-cum-Victorian fortress. The only building with clear Civil War associations which still stands intact is High House, a very large four storey timber-framed building on the west side of Greengate Street. Charles I and Prince Rupert stayed in the late Tudor house in 1642 and from 1643 it served as a gaol for captured Royalists.

Stourton Castle (SO8688) This small medieval castle, two miles west-north-west of Stourbridge, was occupied by Col. Fox at the beginning of 1644 to disrupt Royalist lines of communication between Shropshire and the West Midlands. On 24 March a large body of Royalists under Gerrard marched towards Stourton, defeated a 300-strong Parliamentary force drawn up on Stourbridge Heath and went on to expel the small garrison remaining in the castle. Stourton fell derelict in the late seventeenth and eighteenth century and the fragmentary ruins were incorporated within the private mansion, still known as the castle, which was built on the site in the nineteenth century.

Swnycerton Hall (SJ3533) The Tudor seat of the Fitzherberts was garrisoned for the King during 1643-44. The old hall was demolished in the early eighteenth century and the present hall, a severe 2½-storey mansion which dominates the village, was built in 1725.

Tamworth Castle (SK8004) Tamworth Castle was secured for the King at the outbreak of the Civil War, but it lay too close to the Parliamentary strongholds in the West Midlands to survive for long. It was captured and garrisoned by Parliament early in 1643 and although it stood in an area which continued to be disputed until 1644-45, Tamworth apparently remained under Parliament’s control for the rest of the war. The Norman shell keep standing on a motte originally raised and fortified by the Saxons; a number of early modern buildings were added within the walls, including a sixteenth-century banqueting hall, now a museum. The castle ruins are open daily except Fridays.

Trentham (SJ4611) The twelfth-century Augustan priory at Trentham was acquired by the Leveson family at the Dissolution. Much was demolished, but the remainder was converted into a grand secular house, remodelled and extended in the 1630s. It was garrisoned for the King for much of the war. The house survived the Civil War intact, but was completely demolished in the early eighteenth century and replaced with a much grander edifice, itself repeatedly extended and remodelled over the succeeding century. The house was demolished in 1910; its extensive grounds are now a public park.

Tutbury Castle (SK209291) Tutbury Castle was held for the King throughout the Civil War, its small garrison frequently reinforced by troops from the nearby bases of Lichfield and Ashby to help repel the Parliamentary attacks and sieges. Not until early 1646 did the then isolated stronghold surrender to the besieging forces. The castle was slighted after the war and little now survives of the eleventh–fifteenth-century fortress. The medieval keep has completely disappeared — a much later building stands on the site — but fragments of the outer bailey wall survive, together with the remains of a gatehouse, a mural tower and late medieval domestic ranges. The ruins are open daily.

Uttoxeter (SK9933) Although armies frequently passed through the area during the Civil War, Uttoxeter was not fortified or garrisoned until 1645, when the Parliamentarians threw up earthworks and erected street barricades and turned the town into a military base for operations against Tutbury and Lichfield.

In late August 1648, the Lieutenant of the Scottish Royalist Horse which had survived Preston and left Warrington was trapped here by Lambert and Grey. Hamilton surrendered without a fight and large numbers of prisoners were temporarily held in churches at Uttoxeter, Bramshall and other villages in the area.

Wootton Lodge (SK09438) Sir Richard Fleetwood’s early seventeenth-century house was garrisoned for the King in 1642 but fell to local Parliamentarians in the following summer after a two-day bombardment. The Parliamentary guns were set on rising ground nearby, still known as ‘Cromwell’s Battery’, though Cromwell himself was over 100 miles away at the time. The lodge was repaired after the war and has been repeatedly renovated since, but it still retains much of its original Jacobean appearance.

Wrottesley Hall (SJ3501) Wrottesley Hall was garrisoned for the King during the opening years of the war, but by 1645 the Royalists had been expelled and Wrottesley became a base for Parliamentary operations in the area. The building which now stands on the site of the Civil War was probably Tudor in origin, extended and strengthened in the early seventeenth century; it comprised a two-storey central block with cross wings defended by a moat and a gateway. The old hall was demolished in 1690 and a new house built to the south-west. This house, in turn, was gutted by fire and the present hall largely dates from the 1920s.

SUFFOLK

Suffolk was secure for Parliament throughout the period and saw no significant fighting during the Civil War. Cromwell paid a brief visit to the county in March 1643 to secure Lowestoft and he returned in spring 1647 when the discontented Parliamentary army was temporarily based in north-west Suffolk.

Bury St Edmunds (TL6364) Part of the Parliamentary army was stationed around Bury during spring and summer 1647. Although Cromwell was ill in London for much of March, some contemporary reports suggest that he travelled to Bury on 20 March and on 24 March fired the disaffected garrison. He was, however, almost certainly absent when the Council of the Army met in Bury St Edmunds on 29 May 1647 to discuss military and political grievances and the army’s response to them.

Kentford (TL7064) The Parliamentary army held a general rendezvous on the open heathland around Kentford on 4-5 June 1647 before moving closer to London to pursue their grievances with Parliament. Cromwell had spent most of the previous months in London attending Parliament, but he was also a senior officer and had — and was known to have — considerable sympathy for the army in its growing rift with Parliament and was accordingly viewed with increasing suspicion by many MPs. Cromwell hurriedly left London early on 4 June and travelled north to join the army here.

Lowestoft (TM5553) Cromwell arrived in Lowestoft on 14 March 1643, surprising and overpowering a party of local Royalists who had hoped to deliver the town to the King. The King’s men were in the process of securing the town with barricades and chains stretched across the streets, but they put up no resistance to Cromwell and his troops. Cromwell spent two days here and established his HQ in the Sun Inn, long since demolished which stood on the east side of the High Street.

Newmarket (TL1663) Charles I was lodged at Newmarket on 7-24 June 1647 as a prisoner of the Parliamentary army, quartered nearby in Cambridge and Hertfordshire. The King stayed in the royal palace which stood on the south side of the High Street. The late fifteenth-century buildings, redesigned and extended by Inigo Jones in the seventeenth century, were acquired by Col. Okey after the King’s death and he demolished much of the complex. Charles II completed the destrucion, using the brick and stone to build a new palace slightly to the east. This, too, has largely vanished and the only section still visible is part of the eastern block, preserved in the lower storeys of the later Palace House Mansion by Palace Street.

Somerleyton Hall (TM49378) Cromwell lodged in the Tudor brick mansion on 14-16 March 1643 while securingestates accounts from Royalist plotters. The surviving estate accounts indicate that Cromwell’s troops also took advantage of Somerleyton’s hospitality and quartered in the hall or its grounds. The present hall, opened on Thursdays and on certain weekdays during the summer, dates very largely from the extensive rebuilding of the nineteenth century but fragments of the Tudor and Jacobean mansion survive.
SURREY

Surrey was secure for Parliament throughout the Civil War and saw very little fighting. The Royalists occasionally pushed as far as Farnham during the first Civil War and in 1646 the Earl of Holland's Royalists marched through the county, though the major engagement which ended the rebellion was fought just over the border in Greater London. Cromwell paid only one recorded visit to Surrey, to Farnham in March 1648, but in fact he probably passed through the north-west of the county on several occasions during the First Civil War while travelling between London and Hampshire.

Banstead Down (TQ2355) On the downland to the east of Walton on the Hill stand the remains of four earthworks (TQ231552 and TQ231554), each comprising a rampart and ditch enclosing a roughly rectangular area with an entrance on one of the shorter sides. They have sometimes been described as Civil War earthworks, thrown up as defensive positions in preparation for a Royalist attack on London planned for spring 1643 but never executed. However, the account connecting these earthworks with a planned attack on London seems unconvincing and there is no satisfactory evidence to link them with the Civil War at all.

Cranleigh (TQ0363) Near the altar of St Nicholas's Church is an inscribed plate marking the resting places of Sir Richard Onslow (d1664) and his wife Elizabeth (d1679). Sir Richard was a prominent Parliamentary and collegiate of Cromwell during the 1640s, but he became increasingly disillusioned with the Interregnum regimes and was an outspoken critic of the Protectorate. The family seat was at Knowle, ¾ mile south-west of Cranleigh; the Tudor mansion was demolished during the eighteenth century and only fragments survive within the modern buildings on the site. Despite a strong tradition that Cromwell once stayed here, there is no surviving evidence to show that he ever visited Knowle.

Ewell (TQ2263) On 7 July 1648 the Earl of Holland's Royalists marched from Reigate back towards their original base at Kingston upon Thames, harried all the way by pursuing Parliamentary forces under the command of William Lloyd and Audley. A fierce skirmish took place 'in a pass' between Ewell and Nonsuch — possibly the track now known as Ox Lane — before both forces continued their troubled march north out of Surrey.

Farnham (SU8446) Farnham Castle (SU837473) occupied a strategic position roughly half way between Winchester and London and as such was in something of a strategic position; the castle was the most westerly of an arc of Parliamentary bases protecting the approaches to London, whilst Royalist campaigns in central southern England occasionally progressed as far east as the Farnham area. At the outbreak of war the castle was garrisoned for Parliament by George Wither, but he soon fell back before the approaching Royalists and Sir John Denham entered town and held it unopposed in early November. His 100-strong garrison did not survive for long, however, for on 30 November a large Parliamentary force under Waller arrived before the castle. Waller had no artillery but he managed to blow the main gates with a petard on 1 December. His men rushed in, demolishing the hastily erected barricades in the courtyard and overwhelming the garrison. Thereafter Farnham Castle served as a Parliamentary stronghold, suffering occasional raids by Hopton and Goring, but rarely under serious threat. The now ruinous medieval castle, open daily, comprises a shell keep with mural towers and a gatehouse enclosing a circular ward which contains the remains of an earlier great tower. The adjoining Bishop's Palace, which was used by the garrison as an additional storeroom and living quarters, survives intact but is not open to the public.

Farnham had two distinguished visitors in 1648. On 19 December Charles I stayed here overnight on his way from the Isle of Wight to London; he was lodged in Vernon House, West Street, now a public library. Cromwell visited the town earlier in the year, on 27–28 March, to discuss with Richard Major the terms of the planned marriage between Cromwell's son Richard and Major's daughter Dorothy; Cromwell may have lodged at the Goat's Head Inn on the corner of Borough and Castle Street.

Nonsuch (TQ2363) Although the outline of Henry VIII's favourite palace was recovered by excavations in the late 1950s, almost nothing now survives above ground. The double quadrangular palace was demolished in the 1680s and only a section of the garden walls and a rectangular platform — probably the base of the Banqueting House — remain in the south-west corner of the park. The palace was acquired after the Civil War by Thomas Pride, the Parliamentary soldier and later an MP and a Major General, best known for his prominent role in purging the Long Parliament in December 1648. He lived here until his death in October 1658, after which the palace was briefly owned by John Lambert before returning to the Crown at the Restoration. Pride was buried in 1658 in the palace church, which stood within the inner courtyard. Although he was attainted two years later and his body ordered exhumed, hung, drawn and quartered, his remains escaped the indignity, presumably because they could not then be located. Pride still lies undisturbed somewhere beneath the parkland.

TYNE AND WEAR

Firmly Royalist at the outbreak of the Civil War, the county remained in the King's hands until 1644 and saw no serious fighting until the Scottish Parliamentarians arrived in February and March of that year. The Scots halted here for several weeks and overran many of the smaller towns and garrisons but they failed in their main objective, the capture of Newcastle. They moved on in early April and the King's cause survived for a few months longer, but the disaster at Marston Moor and the reappearance of the Parliamentarians at the end of July soon marked the end of Royalism in Tyne and Wear. Cromwell passed through the county in 1648 and 1650–51 on his way to and from Scotland.

Gateshead (NZ2256) Seventeenth-century Gateshead was a small ribbon development strung out along the road south of the Tyne Bridge. With neither a castle nor stone walls the town could not withstand determined assault and the Scots had little difficulty in expelling the heavily outnumbered Royalist garrison on 27 July 1644.

Newcastle upon Tyne (NZ2246) Seventeenth-century Newcastle was one of the principal centres of trade and commerce in the north-east and was an important Royalist asset during the first half of the war. The King's hold on Newcastle was first challenged in February 1644, when the Scottish Parliamentarians approached the town and quickly overran the outlying Royalist bases. Newcastle itself proved a far more difficult obstacle and after a fruitless month-long siege the Scots abandoned the operation and moved on south. Governor Sir John Morley took the opportunity to strengthen the walls and ditches which surrounded the town. His work was soon put to the test, for the Scots reappeared in early autumn and attacked the town with renewed vigour. On 19 October the town was taken, with the loss of many life and property, and opened large breaches around Westgate and White Friars Tower. The Scots poured in and by the following day the town had fallen. The King's men sought refuge in the castle but their position was hopeless and they surrendered a week later.

Cromwell was landed on Newcastle by the King. Only fragments of the medieval defences remain, including lengths of ruined walling around Forth Street, Bath Lane and Stowell Street on the west side of the town and the Planner and Sallyport Towers on the east side. The Normans' more and bailey 'new' town, which stood at the south entrance to the castle, was surrounded by the Tyne, was replaced in the twelfth-fifteenth century by a great square keep and adjoining defensive and great square keep and adjoining defensive and great square keep and adjoining defensive and great square keep and adjoining defensive buildings. The keep was repaired in the domestic buildings. The keep was repaired in the domestic buildings.

Newcastle upon Tyne was defended by a hastily repaired circuit of fourteenth-century town walls, originally containing 7 gates and 19 mural towers. Only fragments of the medieval defences remain, including lengths of ruined walling around Forth Street, Bath Lane and Stowell Street on the west side of the town and the Planner and Sallyport Towers on the east side. The Normans' more and bailey 'new' town, which stood at the south entrance to the castle, was surrounded by the Tyne, was replaced in the twelfth-fifteenth century by a great square keep and adjoining defensive and great square keep and adjoining defensive and great square keep and adjoining defensive buildings. The keep was repaired in the domestic buildings. The keep was repaired in the domestic buildings.

Redhill (TQ3850) On 6 July 1648 Holland's Royalists marched from Kingston upon Thames, though north Surrey via Ewell, Leatherhead and Dorking to Reigate, where they halted for the night.

Cavalry units posted on Redhill Common to guard against a attack from Kent were soon put to the test, for Audley's Parliamentarians fell upon them in the evening, driving the Royalists from the common and back into Reigate. Holland avoided a major engagement by hastily evacuating Reigate in the early hours of the 7th and retracing his steps towards Dorking and Kingston.
South Shields (NZ3647) South Shields was garrisoned for the King in 1643 but fell to the Scots at the second attempt on 20 March 1644. The town was retaken by Montrose's Scottish Royalists in May but evacuated after Marston Moor.

Stella Hall (NZ2178) The Elizabethan and Georgian hall in which Cromwell lodged on 12 August 1651, on route from Scotland to Worcesters, has recently been demolished. Only the roofless summer-house remains, an octagonal brick structure on Summerhouse Hill.

Sunderland (NZ3557) The small and generally pro-Parliamentary port of Sunderland was secured by the Scots in early March 1644 and served as a base during their operations against Newcastle over the following weeks. Although heavily outnumbered, the Earl of Newcastle decided to offer battle in an effort to halt the Scottish advance and relieve the pressure on Newcastle, and during March he repeatedly approached Sunderland, harrying outposts. A series of limited and rather confused engagements took place on 23 March around Hylton (NZ3557), then a separate village, now a western suburb of Sunderland. The armies clashed on the lower slopes of Bedwell Hill on the north bank of the Wear. The enclosed nature of the ground precluded the use of Horse, but the two infanties engaged in a series of running fights which began in the afternoon and continued well into the night. Neither side emerged victorious: the Scots sustained heavy losses and drew back into Sunderland but the Earl had insufficient men to attack the town and instead returned to Durham, leaving the Parliamentarians free to continue the siege of Newcastle and resume their march south.

Tynemouth (NZ37583) The remains of the medieval priory and castle occupy the same clifftop promontory above the North Sea. The dual nature of the site ended at the Dissolution, when the outer defences were strengthened and many of the former monastic buildings taken over by the military. Tynemouth Castle was garrisoned for the King in 1643; it resisted a brief siege in March 1644 but fell to the Scots upon their return to the area in October. Four years later, in October 1648, the Parliamentary garrison within the castle declared for the King but Hislop acted quickly to stifle the rebellion. He arrived before Tynemouth with a large force and promptly stormed town and castle. Most of the rebellious garrison, including the governor, Col. Henry Lilburne, were killed during the attack. The ruins of the priory and castle, including the remains of the fourteenth-century curtain wall, gatehouse and barbican, are open daily.

WARWICKSHIRE

With the exception of the southern fringes of the county, which lay within the orbit of Royalist Oxfordshire, Warwickshire was held for Parliament throughout the war. The Battle of Edgehill, the first major engagement of the war, was fought in Warwickshire but thereafter the county saw nothing more than isolated raids and minor skirmishes. Cromwell was with the Parliamentary army on the Edgehill campaign but he rarely returned to Warwickshire and was involved in no further fighting within the county.

Astley House or Castle (SP112895) The medieval castle at Astley was derecital by the mid-seventeenth century and it was the Tudor house standing within the ruins and also known as the 'castle' which was garrisoned by Parliament in 1642 and held throughout the war. The house was raided by Lord Loughborough's Royalists in January 1646. The Elizabethan house survives in good order, a long, embattled, rectangular block; beyond are the fragmentary remains of the gatehouse and the curtain walls of the medieval fortress. The castle is private.

Bascot Heath (SP4063) On 23 August 1642 the first serious confrontation of the Civil War in Warwickshire took place on Bascot Heath. A Parliamentary troop from Warwick Castle under Lord Brooke clashed with a party of Royalists, killing up to 50 of the King's men and putting the rest to flight.

Caldecote Hall (SP3559) The Tudor hall was the seat of the Purefoy family, including the prominent Parliamentarians William and George. The hall was attacked by Rupert on 28
August 1642 but the motley band within, Mrs Purefoy, her son-in-law George Abbot and a small group of servants, managed to repulse the first assault. Rupert returned in the evening, firing the outbuildings and then overpowering the defenders. The old hall was completely demolished in the eighteenth century and the present Caldecote Hall on the site dates from the nineteenth century.

The bullet-marked oak door of the old hall was rescued prior to demolition and now stands in the porch of St Theobald and St Chad. Within the church is an alabaster mural monument to George Abbot (d1649) which mentions his defence of the hall.

Compton Wynyates (SP370419) A perfect Tudor mansion in a hillside setting, Compton Wynyates was built by Sir William Compton in the early sixteenth century and incorporated sections of an earlier moated hall which stood on the site. The Comptons were staunch Royalists during the Civil War and their house was garrisoned for the King; the soldiers were quartered in a seventeenth-century barric-room which still survives. A Parliamentary force under Col. Purefoy captured the house in June 1644 after a brief siege and Compton served as a Parliamentary base thereafter. At the end of the war the moat was drained and the outer fortifications demolished but otherwise the hall was undamaged and survives in good order. The richly furnished and decorated quadrangular house in pink brick, with embattled towers and numerous ornate chimneys, has recently been closed to the public.

Coughton Court or Castle (SP383605) The fortified house of the Royalist and Catholic Throckmorton family, Coughton Court was set up by Parliamentary troops in 1643 and held by them for the rest of the war, resisting occasional raids launched from Royalist bases in Hereford and Worcester. Much of the building which saw action in the Civil War survives in good order, including the imposing sixteenth-century gatehouse now incorporated within the Georgian west front and two Tudor ranges at the rear with timber-framed upper storeys resting on brick and stone ground floors. Coughton Court is open from Wednesday to Sunday during the summer.

Edgehill (SP3747) The first major battle of the Civil War was fought on 23 October 1642 on what was then an open plain between Edgehill and Kenilworth. On the morning of the 23rd the King's army gathered on Edgehill itself before descending and drawing up at the foot of the hill. The Royalist line faced north-west and had its centre just north of the village of Radway, Essex, meanwhile, had deployed his army 1½ miles south-east of Kenilton in a line stretching from the present B4086 to Oak's Wood. Battle commenced with the Royalist Cavalry on both wings charging the Parliamentary flanks, breaking Essex's Horse and chasing them from the field. There followed a long, fierce and ultimately indecisive Infantry engagement in the centre of the plain. The two forces disengaged at nightfall, slept in the field and then drew off and marched away on the 24th. Both sides had lost around 700 men apiece and the battle was effectively a draw. Cromwell had marched with Essex's army and was certainly in the vicinity of Edgehill on 23 October, but what part, if any, he played in the battle itself is not clear.

If contemporary accounts leave many points uncertain, the present state of the battlefield only adds to the confusion. Although some parts of the plain were hedged by the seventeenth century, the battle was fought over largely open ground. Today, however, the area is dotted with woods – The Oaks stand where Essex's right would have been stationed and Battleton Holt where the Royalist guns were deployed. Moreover, large parts of the battlefield are now covered by an army ordnance depot and are strictly private. The ruins of King's Leys Barn, in which Charles I supposedly spent the night after the battle, lie ½ mile north of Radway. A modern monument to the battle stands by the B4086 at SP373473. The Ordnance Survey battlefield symbol at SP355492 indicates a position near the centre of the plain around which the Infantry clashed. An eighteenth-century tower at Ratley Grange on Edgehill (SP373473), now the Castle Inn, serves as a good vantage-point for viewing the battlefield on the plain below.

Kenilworth Castle (SP278723) The extensive medieval castle, begun in the twelfth century and greatly enlarged 200 years later, had been restored and modernised in the late sixteenth century and was in good order at the outbreak of the Civil War. It was occupied without opposition by Parliamentary forces in September 1642 and was garrisoned for a little over a year. With Coventry to the north and Warwick so close to the south, Kenilworth was found to be an unnecessary drain on money and manpower and the garrison was withdrawn at the end of 1643. The castle was then slighted, the north wall of the keep and parts of the north curtain wall were brought down and the Norman dam was breached to drain the sur-
rounding meat-cum-lake. The impressive ruins are open daily.

Maxstoke Castle (SP2386) The medieval castle housed a small Parliamentary garrison throughout the war but saw little or no action and survived undamaged. Restored and extended in the nineteenth century, the castle is a spectacular combination of medieval and modern, comprising four ranges linked by polygonal corner towers and surrounded by a moat. Sadly, both the castle and surrounding land are private.

Milcote on Stour (SP1972) The Groveville mansion at Milcote was sacked and burnt down by Purley's Parliamentarians in 1644. The remains of the old manor-house, including part of a Tudor chimney, stand in open land near the present modern Milcote Hall.

Offchurch (SP3666) Fights on the south face of the tower of St Gregory's Church are often attributed to Civil War bullets. There is, in fact, no record of fighting here.

Packwood House (SP1732) Packwood is a Tudor and early Stuart timber-framed house with additional late seventeenth-century brickwork, standing in gardens which were originally laid out during the 1650s. According to tradition, Henry Ireton lodged here in October 1642 before the Battle of Edgehill. The house is richly furnished but the Ireton Room is particularly fine, with original seventeenth-century oak panelling and a decorated overmantle. Packwood is now owned by the National Trust and is open on Wednesdays and Saturdays during the summer.

Stratford upon Avon (SP5009) Stratford was important during the Civil War because of its bridge across the Avon and its position at the crossing of the Oxford to Shrewsbury and Coventry to Gloucester roads. Thus when Col. Wragstaife and his Oxfordshire Royalists attempted to establish a garrison in the town in 1643, Parliamentary forces under Lord Brooke were quick to meet the threat. Brooke marched to Stratford on 23 February and routed the Royalists in an engagement on Welcombe Hill, one mile north of the town. He then took Stratford itself, though in the process a stray spark ignited the Royalist magazine and the resulting explosion killed many Parliamentary troops and demolished the old town hall. Although the Oxfordshire Royalists remained active in the area until 1645, they never again established a formal garrison in Stratford.

Cromwell stopped overnight in Stratford in June 1645 and again in August 1651 when on his way to Worcester. There is no clear evidence to indicate where he lodged.

Warwick Castle (SP2865) The massive castle above the river was a centre of royal and baronial government during the Middle Ages and of Parliamentary dominance during the Civil War. The fortress was secured for Parliament by Lord Brooke in August 1642 and was held for the rest of the war. The Earl of Northampton briefly besieged the castle during the opening fortnight of the war, but thereafter the only Royalist soldiers seen here were prisoners – Warwick Castle became one of the main prisons for the West Midlands and imprisonment on the walls of the dungeons below Caesar’s Tower are thought to have been carved by captive Royalists. The castle served as the Parliamentary HQ for Warwickshire and housed a large garrison and magazine. Cromwell probably lodged in the castle during his visits to Warwick in June 1645, July 1648 and August 1651. The extensive buildings, open daily throughout the summer, contain a fine collection of arms and armour, including many items from the Civil War period. The Protector’s death mask is on display, as is a Civil War helmet claimed to be Cromwell’s own.

Wormleighton (SP4853) John Spencer’s early Tudor manor-house at Wormleighton was probably similar in design to nearby Compton Wynates. It stood in the south-east of the county and fell under the control of the Royalist Oxfordshire for much of the Civil War. Garrisoned for the King from early 1643, the outpost survived for 18 months until Warwick Parliamentarians moved against it in summer 1644. The manor house was besieged and bombarded and the garrison within quickly surrendered. Only one range of the once quadrangular house now survives, a ruinous brick wing dating from the early sixteenth century; nearby are the remains of the stone gatehouse added in 1613.

WEST MIDLANDS

Now dominated by the Birmingham conurbation, this small modern county, comprising parts of former Warwickshire, Worcestershire and Staffordshire, covers an area which was strongly Parliamentary throughout the Civil War. Although most of the manorial centres were held for Cromwell, there was a centre in the area during the first month of the war, marching with the Earl of Essex’s army, and he returned nine years later, passing through Coventry in August 1651 on route back under heavy fire. Not until he sent out flanking parties through the adjacent fields did Cromwell make for the city. The Earl of Essex moved on the 7th of August, but his men abandoned the struggle and fell back into Birmingham. The so-called Battle of Camp Hill was not one of Rupert’s more illustrious victories. Even then, the fighting was over, for as the Royalists advanced up High Street, Deritend, they came under renewed fire and as they entered the town itself they were surprised by a Parliamentary counter-charge which temporarily halted their advance and inflicted heavy casualties, including Lord Denbigh, who was severely wounded and died within a week. Rupert took a fearful revenge, expelling Greaves’s force and then sacking Birmingham, plundering, killing and burning almost everything in sight. For months Birmingham remained a fortress and the garrison held out until the end of the war. The city Museum and Art Gallery contains a fine portrait of Oliver Cromwell, probably by Walker.

Aston Hall (SP07989) Aston Hall is a fine red brick Jacobean mansion with a central hall and domed towers flanked by projecting wings. It was built in the then open countryside to the north of Birmingham by Sir Thomas Holte, an ardent Royalist who entertained the King here in autumn 1642 and installed a Royalist garrison in December. The Birmingham Parliamentarians moved quickly to eliminate the threat; 1,200 troops arrived before the hall on 26 December and proceeded to bombard the place into submission. The hall, which had sustained only minor damage, remained in Parliamentary hands without serious challenge for the rest of the war. Now surrounded by the urban sprawl of Birmingham, Aston Hall stands in a small park 2½ miles north of the city centre. It is open to the public daily throughout the summer and on certain weekdays in winter.

Birmingham (SP0686) A small but growing manufacturing centre in the seventeenth century, Birmingham was overwhelmingly Parliamentary in sympathy throughout the war and supplied the army with arms and equipment. There was no formal garrison here – with no stone walls or natural defences, Birmingham would have been a very insecure base – but troops were often quartered in the town, after fighting, by a circuit of earthen banks and ditches around the town. The later massive expansion of the town has obliterated all trace of the Civil War defences.

In early April 1643 Rupert marched through the area and decided to punish the town for its disloyalty. Advancing from the south at the head of 1,200 Horse and 700 Foot, Rupert approached the town along the Stratford Road on 3 April. He found the road blocked beyond Springfield around Camp Hill, then an open track outside the town, now a main suburban road about one mile east-south-east of the city centre. Here a force of 200 Parliamentarians under Capt. Greaves had drawn up behind hastily erected barricades and earthworks. Rupert attacked the heavily outnumbered Parliamentary force, but his men were twice thrown back under heavy fire. Not until he sent out flanking parties through the adjacent fields did Greaves and his men abandon the struggle and fell back into Birmingham. The so-called Battle of Camp Hill was not one of Rupert’s more illustrious victories. Even then, the fighting was over, for as the Royalists advanced up High Street, Deritend, they came under renewed fire and as they entered the town itself they were surprised by a Parliamentary counter-charge which temporarily halted their advance and inflicted heavy casualties, including Lord Denbigh, who was severely wounded and died within a week. Rupert took a fearful revenge, expelling Greaves’s force and then sacking Birmingham, plundering, killing and burning almost everything in sight. For months Birmingham remained a fortress and the garrison held out until the end of the war. The city Museum and Art Gallery contains a fine portrait of Oliver Cromwell, probably by Walker.

Coventry (SP179) Secure behind their well-maintained fourteenth-century walls and gates, the pro-Parliamentary citizens refused to admit Charles’s troops in August 1643. The Royalists barricaded the town and broke down New Gate but marched off at the approach of Lord Brooke and his troops. The town fell after a serious action thereafter and was held for Parliament throughout the war. Coventry was one of the centres for holding Royalists captured in the midlands – they were lodged within St John’s Mill – and the phrase ‘sent to Coventry’ may spring from this, though there are several alternative explanations. Revolutions new and old have come and gone, but the town’s defences have endured. Today all that remains are parts of two medieval gates, the Swanswell and Cook Street Gates, and a fragment of the wall in Lady Herbert Garden off White Street.

Dudley Castle (SP040907) The medieval hill-
top castle was almost the only defensible fortress within the county during the seventeenth century. Secured for the King in the closing months of 1642, it remained a Royalist stronghold throughout the Civil War, an outpost and centre of operations in an otherwise Parliamentary region. Local Parliamentarians attempted several times to remove this thorn in their side. In May 1644 Lord Denbigh, Parliamentary heir of the Royalist Lord Denbigh. fataly wounded at Camp Hill, laid siege to the castle with a large force drawn from several garrisons in the region. Although he managed to repel Lord Wilmot’s relieving force in a confused and bitter action around Tipton Green (S0572) on 11 or 12 June, lack of ammunition and Waller’s demands for reinforcements compelled Denbigh to abandon the operation soon after. The garrison held out until 14 May 1646 when its governor, Thomas Leveson, surrendered on terms to Beresford’s besieging army. The fortifications were slighted on Parliament’s orders and a fire in the eighteenth century reduced the domestic buildings within the bailey to a similarly ruinous state. The remains, including parts of the gatehouse, barbacan and tower-house, now stand in the grounds of Dudley Zoo, which is open daily. Leveson supposedly still haunts the remains of his former stronghold.

Edgbaston (S0584) Edgbaston Hall, an early Georgian mansion standing in parkland southwest of Birmingham city centre, was built on the site of an earlier medieval hall. The original hall, longtime home of the Gough family, was seized by Col. Fox in March 1644 and garrisoned for Parliament thereafter, a base for raids throughout northern Worcestershire. The hall survived the Civil War intact, but was completely destroyed by Birmingham rioters in 1688.

Hawkesley Hall (S0578) In 1644 Col. Fox seized Hawkesley Hall, the home of the Catholic Royalist Middlemore family, and garrisoned the late medieval mansion for Parliament under Capt. Gough. The hall and adjoining village of Kings Norton accordingly became targets of Royalist raids launched from Dudley, but the garrison held out until May 1645. On 13 May the main Royalist army under Rupert, Maurice and Astley appeared before Hawkesley and summoned the garrison to surrender. The 100 Parliamentarians refused and endured a three-day bombardment – the deep moat around the hall hindered Royalist operations and prevented a direct assault – before Gough abandoned the struggle and surrendered on 16 May. The Royalists quickly sacked and burnt the hall before marching on. Nothing remains of the old hall beyond slight traces of the moat, preserved amid a modern housing estate.

Rushall (S0303) The fifteenth-century Rushall Hall and the adjoining medieval parish church changed hands several times during the Civil War. Held initially for Parliament by Col. Edward Leigh, the hall was attacked and taken by Prince Rupert in April 1643 and a Royalist garrison was installed. Col. Lane’s garrison survived for a year and was a serious threat to Parliamentary communications in the area north of Birmingham. In late May 1644 Denbigh arrived before Rushall with a large force and heavy artillery and proceeded to bombard both the hall and adjoining Church of St Michael, held as an outpost and store. On the 29th the King’s men abandoned the by then badly damaged buildings and surrendered. Old St Michael’s has completely disappeared and the present church in Leigh Road is Victorian. Next to it stand the fragmentary remains of Rushall Hall, a ruined fifteenth-century gatehouse and parts of the once extensive curtain wall, the latter bearing numerous scars where struck by Civil War cannon-balls.

Willetten (S0999) Bentley Hall, which stood by the main road between Willenhall and Walsall, was garrisoned for the King by Col. John Lane. The outpost was in a strongly Parliamentary area and the garrison was quickly expelled by troops from Birmingham. The hall is better known as one of the places where Prince Charles stopped and was given aid after the Battle of Worcester. The main building perished long ago and the last surviving parts, the stables and other outbuildings, were demolished in 1927. Its site is marked by a cross, just off the main road, and commemorated in the name of a local pub, the Lane Arms. The suburb of Bentley now covers the area.

Wolverhampton (S0198) Wolverhampton was a small and unimportant town during the Middle Ages and never acquired stone walls. With nothing more than earthworks and street barricades for protection, the town could not be held against determined assault during the Civil War, was never formally garrisoned and changed hands frequently with the minimum of bloodshed. The Royalist army was based here briefly in October 1642 and the soldiers spent the night in St Peter’s Church. In May 1643 Beresford launched an early morning raid on the town and surprised and captured a party of Royalists who were in Wolverhampton gather-
ing supplies. In May 1645 the King’s army again passed through unopposed, but Capt. Stone’s Parliamentary then fell upon and scattered the Royalist rear, which had carelessly become detached from the main force.

WEST SUSSEX

West Sussex was held by Parliament for most of the Civil War and saw very little fighting. On two occasions – in December 1642 and November and December 1643 – Royalist forces invaded from southern Hampshire, pushing east in the hope of securing the whole south-east coast; on both occasions, however, they progressed no further than West Sussex and were quickly halted and expelled. It seems that Cromwell never visited the area.

Arundel Castle (TQ210704) The castle changed hands three times during the opening months of the Civil War but at the beginning of 1643 the Parliamentarians established control and the fortress served as a Parliamentary stronghold and garrison for the rest of the year. In December 1643 town and castle fell to Hotspur’s forces, the high-point of the Royalist invasion of the region. Waller retook the town on 20 December and settled down to besiege and bombard the castle and its 1,000-strong garrison. Heavy guns were hauled up to the tower of St Nicholas’s Church to pound the north and west sides of the castle. By early January the walls had been shattered and the Royalists opened negotiations which led to the castle’s surrender on the 6th. The returning Parliamentary garrison carried out makeshift repairs but the castle fell derelict and ruinous after the war and much of the present fabric dates from the eighteenth and nineteenth century when the building was restored and largely rebuilt. Arundel Castle is open daily except Saturdays during the summer.

Bramber (TQ191016) Bramber was the furthest point reached by the Royalists during the invasion of December 1643. Hotspur and Ford were making for Lewes Castle but found the bridge over the Adur at Bramber held by a Parliamentary force under Capt. Temple. A fierce engagement left 1,000 Royalists dead, many more injured and the remaining huddled back westwards.

Chichester (SU695069) The walled town was seized by Sir Edward Ford’s Royalists in November 1642 and garrisoned for the King. On 20 December Waller appeared before Chichester with 6,000 men and established his HQ on the Broyle, high ground to the north. The town was besieged and the extra-mural suburbs quickly overrun. Guns were mounted on the almshouses in Broyle Road to attack the north gate of the town, and on the tower of St Pancras’s Church to bombard the east gate. The Royalists surrendered early on 27 December when the Parliamentarians threatened to storm the town. Chichester saw no further action during the Civil War and was by-passed by the Royalists in December 1643. Although the town gates have disappeared, the circuit of Roman and medieval walls around the town is almost complete and survives in good order.

Cowardhay House (SU972021) The quadrangular fortified mansion was begun at the very end of the fifteenth century and completed by the Earl of Southampton in the 1530s. Hotspur captured Cowardhay House in late November 1643 and left a small garrison here when his main force moved east. It was retaken without serious resistance on 18 December. The house was gutted by fire in 1793 and although the three storey Tudor gatehouse in the west range survives in fairly good order, the rest is now very ruinous. The remains are open daily.

Haywards Heath (TQ333226) The efforts of Sir Edward Ford, the Royalist High Sheriff, to secure Sussex for the King in December 1642 came to an abrupt halt on Haywards Heath. Advancing east and making for Lewes, he and his forces were intercepted by local Parliamentarians on what was then heathland just outside the town; a church now stands on the site (TQ331239). The Royalists were outnumbered and routed and lost 200 dead or wounded.

Petworth House (SU794219) The medieval manor-house was captured by Hotspur’s Royalists in early December 1643, but the small garrison left here surrendered to Waller without a fight a fortnight later. The old manor-house was demolished in the late seventeenth century and the present Petworth House was built on the site. The thirteenth-century chapel is the only part of the mansion to survive. House and gardens are now owned by the National Trust and are open at weekends and on certain weekdays during the summer.

Stansted House (SU760102) The late medieval and early Tudor royal hunting lodge in the very west of the county was captured by Hotspur and Ford in late November 1643 and garrisoned for the King. A month later, after the main invasion force had been halted and expelled, Waller arrived before the castle. Unlike most of the Royalist garrisons established in the area, Stansted resisted the initial summons and only when Waller began to bombard the defences and threatened to storm the house did the Royalists emerge. The lodge was largely destroyed in the eighteenth century, though fragments of Tudor masonry survive in the west front and south porch of the largely nineteenth-century chapel, which stands to the west-south of the present modern house on the site.

WEST YORKSHIRE

The prosperous and vulnerable West Yorkshire wool towns were an invigorating target and changed hands several times during the opening nine months of the Civil War as both sides fought for control of the area. The townspeople were generally Parliamentarian in sympathy and the two Fairfax troupes were active on behalf of Parliament, but the troops and civilians were heavily outnumbered by Newcastle’s huge Royalist army. When the Earl left the region in March 1643 – he was under instructions to escort the Queen to Staffordshire – the Fairfax were able to take or retake several strongholds, but Newcastle’s return in June and the ensuing Battle of Adwalton quickly extinguished the Parliamentarians and West Yorkshire was firmly Royalist throughout the latter half of 1643. The departure of Royalist troops to reinforce York in spring 1644 and their destruction at Marston Moor left the region return to Parliament. The town never fought for the King after 1643, but retaken by Parliamentary forces in 1648, when Pontefract became one of the Royalist bases during the second Civil War. Cromwell oversaw operations here en route to and from Scotland in 1648; he marched through West Yorkshire again in 1650–51, before and after his second Scottish campaign.

Adwalton Moor (SE222288) On 30 June 1643 Newcastle’s 10,000 Royalists met and defeated the Fairfax’s 4,000 Parliamentarians on open moorland outside Bradford. Lord Fairfax had judged that his men stood no chance of holding Bradford itself against such numbers and had marched out east to engage the Royalists in the open, in the hope that a surprise attack might halt Newcastle’s advance. However, the element of surprise was lost when the Parliamentarians stumbled into the Royalist advanced guard on Westgate Hill and as the Fairfax marched towards Adwalton Moor they found Newcastle’s army already deployed. The Royalists had drawn up in a line running north–south across the top of the moorland ridge about 1/2 mile west of Adwalton. The Parliamentarians drew up a few hundred yards further west, the main force under Lord Fairfax deployed across the top of the ridge but SirThomas Fairfax and a small detachment were stationed on the south, below the ridge, around the point where Waren Lane branches off to the south. After a series of charge and counter-charges in which Lord Fairfax generally had the best of the fighting, a ferocious Royalist attack led by Col. Skerton broke the Parliamentary Infantry on the left wing and the line gave way. Lord Fairfax was compelled to fall back on Bradford but his son at the foot of the ridge did not see the general retreat and fought on against great odds. By the time he had realized the situation, his direct line of retreat to Bradford had been cut and instead he had to flee south and then swing round in a large arc back to the town. The battle left 1,000 Parliamentary dead and 1,500 captured and it effectively ended the Parliamentary cause in West Yorkshire for the rest of the year.

Much of the area of the battle, including the ridge on which Lord Fairfax drew up, has been covered by the suburbs of Adwalton, Drighlington and Moorside. Part of the battlefield, however, is still open as it was crossed by public roads. Waren Lane, around which Sir Thomas Fairfax was stationed, still exists. The Ordnance Survey battle symbol is at SE222283

Bradford (SF13113) Described by Fairfax as a very untenable place, Bradford had neither
stone walls nor a castle and was very vulnerable to attack. The defending force usually made St Peter’s Church – now the cathedral – their stronghold, but castles placed on higher ground could achieve little against a determined assault. Bradford changed hands at least four times during the opening year of the war as the Royalists repeatedly captured and then evacuated the town. Newcastle attacked Bradford on 1 July 1643 after the Battle of Adwalton Moor and captured a large part of Parliament’s infantry. The garrison then held on until the general collapse of the King’s cause in the region in summer 1644.

Howley House or Hall

In common with most towns in the area, Wakefield changed hands repeatedly during the opening year of the war. A small Royalist force had secured the town by the end of 1642 but the King’s men hastily evacuated the place and fell back to York following the fall of Leeds on 23 January. Wakefield was reoccupied in April after Fairfax’s reverse at Seacroft Moor but the Royalists, anxious for a victory to raise flagging morale and to obtain prisoners to exchange for captured colleagues, went on the offensive. On 21 May the town was held by Goring and his 3,000-strong garrison, but seventeen-century Wakefield had no walls or castle and the Royalists relied on street barricades and rather feebly earthworks. The King’s men may have later ignored his plans and they definitely outnumbered the 1,200-strong Parliamentary force, but after fierce fighting around the barricades at Watergate and Norgate, Fairfax’s men overcame the resistance and captured the town. They then hastily put their way up the main street and into the Market Place, where they took the Royalist guns in the churchyard of All Saints, Goring’s men lost heart and fled in disorder. Fairfax had achieved a tremendous victory and returned to Leeds with 400 prisoners, including Goring himself, plus captured guns and ammunition.

Wetherby

The town was occupied by Fairfax at the end of 1642 as part of the Parliamentary operation to isolate York. Possession of Wetherby not only threatened York directly but also secured the bridge across the Wharfe, thus preventing a Royalist linking attack on the main Parliamentary force at Tadcaster (North Yorks). Sir John Glenham led 800 Royalists out of York to effect a flanking operation but Fairfax forewarned of his plans and the Royalists were fiercely repulsed when they launched a night attack on Wetherby. Nonetheless, the general Royalist commander penned Fairfax to fall back from Wetherby and his other bases around York in February and March 1643.

Wiltshire

Although Wiltshire was largely Parliamentary during the opening months of the Civil War, the Royalists quickly established several bases within the area and the north-eastern fringes of the county soon came under the control of Royalist Oxfordshire. During 1643-4 most of the county fell to the Parliamentary cause and was occupied in scattered outposts, particularly in the north-west of the county. Wiltshire was retaken by Parliament during 1645.

Aldbourne

Prince Rupert fought a delaying action on the rolling downland of Aldbourne Chase. Having relieved Gloucester, the main Parliamentary army under Essex marched back towards London, pursued by the King, who hoped to block the road and force battle on favourable ground. On 18 September, with both armies making for Newbury, Prince Rupert launched a surprise attack on the Royalists outside Aldbourne, inflicting heavy losses before being driven off. But his main purpose was to slow down the Parliamentary advance and divert Essex’s advance and his action at Aldbourne, coupled with the Lord General’s carefully diarized movements, enabled the King to enter Newbury ahead of his opponents.

Amesbury

The George Inn was
originally part of the medieval abbey, converted to secular use at the Dissolution and remodelled in the eighteenth century. In 1645 it became the temporary HQ of Fairfax and the high command as the Parliamentary army campaigned in the area.

Bishopstrow (ST943). Tradition has it that Cromwell breakfasted beneath a yew in Salisbury Road after the Battle of Newbury.

Broad Hinton (SU10763). In the Church of St Peter ad Vincula is a monument to Col. John Glanville, a Royalist officer killed at Bridgewater in 1645; his armour, worn throughout the Civil War, is displayed above. Nearby is a memorial tablet to his kinsman, Sir John Glanville (d1661), Speaker of the Short Parliament.

Devizes (SU10161). Garrisoned by Sir Edward Hungerford for Parliament at the outbreak of war, Devizes was abandoned in February 1643 as the King’s men advanced through Wiltshire and from then until September 1645 it served as a Royalist base. In July 1643 Wilmot tried to retake the town; advancing from the west, he brushed aside the Royalist outposts guarding the ford just north of Rowde and laid siege to the town on 9 July with his army of 4,500 men. The Royalist forces inside the town, including Goring’s army, manned the barricades, ditches and earth banks which surrounded Devizes, enduring a heavy bombardment from Wilmot’s batteries in Coatefield and the Jump to the east. The approach of Wilmot’s relieving force and the destruction of Waller’s army, manned the barricades, in an heavy bombardment from Waller’s batteries.

Royalist look-out posts in the towers. St John’s tower still bears the scars where it was struck by Parliamentary cannon-balls. No trace of the Civil War earthworks which encircled the town now survives.

Great Chalfield (ST86030). Great Chalfield Manor changed hands several times during the closing two years of the war. It was fortified and garrisoned for Parliament in spring 1644 but evacuated in September before the advancing Royalists. The King’s men themselves withdrew shortly afterwards at the approach of Massey, who restored a Parliamentary garrison. Built by Thomas Tropenell in the late fifteenth century, the house survived both the Civil War and nineteenth-century restoration and remains one of the best preserved late medieval mansions in the region. Although the innermost rooms survive, an outer wall and moat which once surrounded both the manor-house and the adjoining church have disappeared. Great Chalfield Manor is open to the public on certain summer weekends.

Highworth (SU12924). The Church of St Michael was fortified and garrisoned for the King in 1644. On 27 June 1645 Cromwell supervised the bombardment and storming of the place by a detachment from Fairfax’s main Parliamentary army. Scars on the outside of the tower near the doorway are usually ascribed to Parliamentary cannon.

Lacock Abbey (ST39264). Sir William Sharpton acquired the medieval Augustinian nunnery at Lacock after the Dissolution and converted it into a secular mansion, retaining much of the former cloister and clerestory buildings and adding a polygonal tower in the south-east corner. Lacock Abbey was garrisoned for the King in 1644-45 but surrendered on 24 September 1645 following a brief Parliamentary siege. The house was neither damaged during the war nor slighted after it and survives intact. Famous for its association with Fox Talbot and the development of photography in the nineteenth century, Lacock Abbey is now owned by the National Trust and houses a permanent Fox Talbot display. It is open daily except Tuesdays during the summer.

Littlecote (SU3079). Littlecote House is a splendid brick and flint manor-house, largely Tudor but incorporating fragments of medieval masonry from an earlier house which stood on the site. It was owned by the Popham family in the seventeenth century, two members of which, Coles Edward and Alexander, fought for Parliament.
mment during the Civil War and were active in north Wiltshire, Somerset and Avon. The house was gained for Parliament — the soldiers were quartered in the long attic on the north side of the house — but there was no serious fighting here and the house was most likely never occupied by troops. Open to the public on summer weekends and also on weekdays during August, Littlecote contains a superb collection of Civil War relics. A large equestrian portrait of Col. Alexander Popham hangs at the west end of the Great Hall, around which is displayed a large selection of Civil War arms and armour, including pistols, muskets, bandoliers and Popham's own armour and the distinctive nuts worn by Hessigre's 'lobsters'. The chapel in the north-west range is also of interest, for it is one of the very few in the country to preserve its mid-seventeenth-century furnishings and arrangement, with an elevated wooden pulpit and reader's desk at the east end in place of an altar and a gallery around the other three sides. By the main entrance to the house is a small Civil War guardroom, with a flagstone floor, seventeenth-century furnishings and a standing effigy of a guard dressed in seventeenth-century and a standing effigy of a guard dressed in regalia.

Longford House or Castle (SU17267) The house was built by Sir John Coleraine in 1619 and a standing effigy of a guard dressed in seventeenth-century and armour in including pistols, muskets, bandoliers and Popham's own armour and the distinctive nuts worn by Hessigre's 'lobsters'. The chapel in the north-west range is also of interest, for it is one of the very few in the country to preserve its mid-seventeenth-century furnishings and arrangement, with an elevated wooden pulpit and reader's desk at the east end in place of an altar and a gallery around the other three sides. By the main entrance to the house is a small Civil War guardroom, with a flagstone floor, seventeenth-century furnishings and a standing effigy of a guard dressed in regalia.

Maiden Bradley (ST8038) New Mead Farm, on the eastern outskirts of the village, was the birthplace of Edmund Ludlow, the Parliament­ary officer and radical politician who fought with distinction in England and Ireland during the Civil War.

Malmsbury (ST3387) The circuit of twelfth-century town walls was very dilapidated by the seventeenth century and, despite the additional earthworks and barricades, Malmsbury retained its vulnerable, unable natural defences but had a narrow gulf between the town and they did not march out to assist Wilmot until the very end of the battle. Thus Wilmot was heavily outnumbered when the two armies clashed in the wide shallow valley be­tween Roundway and Morgan's Hills, roughly one mile north-north-east of the village of Roundway. There was little coordinated strategy and the battle soon developed into a cavalry melee along a narrow valley between the hills.

Marlborough (SU1869) Marlborough changed hands several times during the Civil War, usually with little or no fighting, the garrison evacuating the town. In 1645 Private John Gentleman was captured and marched out of the town by a Royalist force under Wilmot and Digby attacked the town in the early morning. The defenders were caught by surprise and the Royalists soon overcame the lightly defended barricades. However a fierce fight developed as the King's men slowly pushed their way up the High Street, clearing the side streets and build­ings as they went. They were eventually captured and sacked and many of the Parliamentary garrison were taken prisoner and carted off to Oxford. Marks on the outer walls of St Mary's Church are usually attributed to Civil War gunfire.

Ramsbury Manor (SU256710) Cromwell passed through the area in July 1649 en route to Ireland, according to tradition, he lodged on the 12th not in Marlborough itself but at Ramsbury Manor, the Earl of Pembroke's seat three miles east of the town. The Pembroke's acquired the medieval palace of the Bishops of Salisbury in the sixteenth century and converted it into a grand country seat. The building in which Cromwell was reputedly entertained was completely demolished in 1680, when the present brick manor-house was built on the site. The house and its park are private.

Roundway Down (SU0165) On 13 July 1643 Waller lifted the siege of Devizes and marched his army to Roundway Down to meet a 1,800-strong relieving force under Wilmot which had been despatched from Oxford. Goring's 3,000 Royalists at Devizes possibly believed that Waller's departure would enable them to relieve Devizes and they did not march out to assist Wilmot until the very end of the battle. Thus Wilmot was heavily outnumbered when the two armies clashed in the wide shallow valley be­tween Roundway and Morgan's Hills, roughly one mile north-north-east of the village of Roundway.

The area is open farmland, encircled by a number of roads. The Ordnance Survey battle symbol is at SU016655 in the flat open valley, slighted changed since the seventeenth century. Despite its name, 'Oliver's Camp', an Iron Age hill-fort a little to the west (SU016647) had trading connection with Oliver Cromwell or the Civil War.

Salisbury (SU1429) With neither town walls nor a castle, Salisbury could offer little resistance to determined attack and the town changed hands several times during the Civil War, usually with little or no fighting. In December 1645 however, Salisbury witnessed considerable bloodshed as the town was captured and then abandoned by the King's forces.

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Wardour Castle (ST9326) Old Wardour Castle, the principal seat of the Arundell family, was held for King at the outbreak of the Civil War. The garrison was a small one – probably less than 30 men – but the mighty outer walls of the castle made Wardour a formidable stronghold. In late April 1643 Sir Edmund Hungerford laid siege to the place with his 1,300-strong force but neither a week-long bombardment nor the Parliamentarians' vast superiority in numbers had any impact on the Royalist defences. Tunnelling operations brought better results and when sections of the outer wall were breached on 8 May the Royalists surrendered on terms. The damage was quickly repaired and the castle garrisoned for Parliament by Edmund Ludlow. In the following December the Royalists returned to retake the fortress but Wardour again proved a formidable obstacle. The King's men besieged the castle for three months, throwing up earthworks and an earth and turf fort on the hillside above the outer gate, but not until March 1644 were the Royalists able to get close enough to the walls to lay mines and thus break the stalemate. The mines were sprung in mid-March and brought down two of the six angle turrets and opened large breaches in the walls. Although Ludlow repulsed one Royalist assault, the ruined castle was all but indefensible and the 75-man garrison surrendered to Sir Francis Doddington. Wardour had been damaged beyond repair and played no further part in the war. Indeed, the damage was never made good and when the Arundells returned to the area in the eighteenth century they lived not in the medieval castle but in New Wardour Castle, a Georgian mansion built for them nearby.

The fourteenth-century castle was built to a curious and probably unique plan. Within the walled bailey stood a large hexagonal keep, the six ranges enclosing a central courtyard. The exterior was not a perfect hexagon, for a very large rectangular gatehouse, extended in the sixteenth century, projected to the east. The extensive ruins are open daily.

Warmminster (ST7743) By the churchyard path of the Minster Church is the weathered gravestone of Capt. Gourden, an officer fatally wounded at Edgehill.

Wilton House (SU099310) Wilton House, the Earl of Pembroke's Tudor mansion, stood on the site of a medieval nunnery. It was garrisoned for the King in 1643–44 but evacuated without a fight towards the end of 1644. Cromwell stayed here on 10 April 1645. The house was accidentally gutted by fire in 1647 and subsequently restored; it was again restored and extensively remodelled in the nineteenth century. With the exception of the Tudor Holbein Gate, which is detached from the main house and stands in the grounds, very little of the original sixteenth-century work is now visible. House and gardens are open from Tuesday to Saturday throughout the summer.