

and large-scale rebuilding of Southampton, much of the circuit of thirteenth-century walls survives, particularly along Western Esplanade, behind Queen's Way and by Platform Road and Orchard Place; three of the original town gates and several mural towers also survive.

Southwick (SU6208) Richard Norton, the Parliamentary soldier and politician, inherited Southwick Park, formerly the estate of a twelfth-century Augustinian priory. The great house, which incorporated parts of the old priory itself, was destroyed by fire around 1750 and the present Southwick House dates from the nineteenth century.

The Vyne (SU637568) The Vyne is an early Tudor red brick mansion, extended by the Chute family during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Chaloner Chute, lawyer, Parliamentarian, MP and Speaker of Richard Cromwell's Protectorate Parliament, acquired the house at the beginning of the 1650s and resided here until his death in 1659. He was responsible for adding the grand north portico, often described as the earliest domestic portico in England.

As a memorial to Speaker Chute, a tomb chamber was added in the late eighteenth century to the medieval chapel which adjoins the house. Inside is a magnificent monument by Thomas Carter portraying Chute lying on his side, his head propped up on an elbow, dressed in his official Speaker's robes and with his large hat beside him. (In fact, Chute died at his London house at Little Sutton and probably lies not here but in St Nicholas's, Chiswick.) The Vyne is open at weekends and on certain weekdays during the summer.

Warblington (SU728055) Margaret Pole, Countess of Salisbury, built a large moated manor-house here in the early sixteenth century. The house was garrisoned for Parliament by Col. Norton in January 1644 but fell to Hopton later in the year following a siege and bombardment. The Royalists made no attempt to hold the place, possibly because it had been badly damaged during the bombardment, and Warblington played no further part in the war. Today nothing remains of the Tudor mansion except a

tall octagonal turret in stone and red brick – formerly the angle tower of the gatehouse – and parts of the adjoining walls. The present Warblington House is a post-Civil War building which stands to the east of the site of the Tudor manor-house.

Winchester (SU4829) Town and castle changed hands several times in the course of the Civil War as first one side and then the other gained control of central Hampshire. In December 1642 Waller seized the town and quickly overwhelmed the small Royalist garrison which had taken refuge in the castle. The Parliamentarians soon moved on and the Royalists returned. Although Waller attacked the town again in spring 1643 he was driven off by a relieving force and Winchester remained in the King's hands. By summer 1645 the town was one of the few important bases in central southern England still held by the King and as such it became one of Cromwell's main targets during his Hampshire campaign. He arrived before Winchester on 28 September, overran the town on the following day and laid siege to the large and well supplied Royalist garrison which had taken refuge in the castle. Five days of heavy bombardment from all sides severely damaged the outer defences of the castle and induced the Royalists to open negotiations. The 700-man garrison surrendered to Cromwell on 6 October. The damaged castle was slighted by Parliament after the war and today little remains of the once mighty fortress begun by William I and greatly extended by his successors. The Great Hall alone survived demolition, and is now one of the finest medieval halls in England. The Roman and medieval town walls have also largely disappeared, though odd fragments remain, including a section around College Street, and two of the medieval town gates survive, Kingsgate and Westgate, the latter housing a small museum of local history.

On a hillside to the south-west of the town (SU460278) is an earthwork known variously as Cromwell's or Oliver's Battery or Cromwell's Camp, supposedly a gun emplacement thrown up by Cromwell at the end of September 1645. However, the site is a very long way from the town and castle and the association seems doubtful.

HEREFORD AND WORCESTER

Hereford and Worcester saw frequent fighting during the opening months of the Civil War until the region was secured for the King at the beginning of 1643. It remained overwhelmingly Royalist became the centre of renewed Royalist activity in August 1651 as Charles Stuart and his Scottish Royalist army entered the county and established their HQ here. The campaign which culminated in their destruction at the Battle of Worcester was led by Cromwell, his one clearly recorded visit to the area covered by the modern county.

Aconbury Camp (SO506330) Some sources suggest that this large Iron Age hill-fort, west-south-west of the village, was reoccupied and refortified during the Civil War.

Bewdley (SO7875) The town was important during the Civil War as it commanded one of the few bridges across the Severn. Lord Wharton secured the place for Parliament in September 1642 but by the end of the year it had fallen to the King and it remained in Royalist hands for well over a year. In April 1644 Col. Fox and a 60-strong detachment for Edgbaston took the town; they arrived before Bewdley in the early evening, coolly bluffed their way past the guards on the bridge and at the east end of the town and then overpowered the surprised and gullible garrison. They proceeded to capture the governor, Sir Thomas Littleton, and the other senior officers, who had retired for the night to Tickenhill Manor, just outside the town. Fox made no attempt to hold the town and returned at once to Birmingham with his prisoners. He probably destroyed the town's defences as he left, for neither side garrisoned Bewdley thereafter. No trace of the medieval town walls and gates remains and the late medieval bridge across the Severn was long ago replaced by one of Telford's spans. Tickenhill Manor survives on the hillside beyond Park Lane, its Georgian exterior concealing the late medieval and Tudor building which was once a royal manor and a meeting place for the Council of the Marches.

Brampton Bryan (SO370726) A Parliamentary outpost in a largely Royalist area, the small castle held out heroically for many months. It was occupied for Parliament in 1642 and defended by Brilliana, Lady Harley, against Vavasour's besieging Royalists for much of the following year – the King's men lacked heavy artillery and were unable to batter down the outer walls. After a brief winter respite the siege and bombardment were renewed by Col. Woodhouse with greater energy and larger guns in

March 1644. On 17 April the Parliamentary garrison surrendered the by then badly damaged and undermined castle. Brampton Bryan was immediately razed and little more than the ruined gatehouse (private property) survives. In the 1650s stone from the demolished castle was used to rebuild the adjoining Church of St Barnabas, which had been occupied as a Parliamentary outpost in 1642–43 and wrecked by the Royalist bombardment of 1643–44.

According to tradition a violent storm on 3 September 1658, which toppled many of the trees in the grounds of the ruined castle, was caused by the Devil dragging Cromwell through the park on his way down to Hell. The Devil supposedly returns every 3 September to ram-page through the grounds with Cromwell's soul.

Broadway (SP0937) According to tradition, Cromwell stayed at the Lygon Arms, formerly the Whyte Harte, at some point during his Worcester campaign. The well preserved Tudor building in brown stone contains a room, decorated with seventeenth-century plasterwork and a fine Stuart fireplace, in which Cromwell supposedly lodged.

Canon Frome (SO6543) Canon Frome Court, a late Georgian building, stands on the site of the demolished fifteenth-century manor-house which was garrisoned for the King during the Civil War. On 22 June 1645 the stronghold was stormed and taken by Leven's Scots, who put governor Barnard and most of his garrison to the sword.

Croft Castle (SO449654) The Welsh border castle was garrisoned by both sides during the Civil War as a minor outpost guarding the northern approaches to Hereford. The fine late medieval fortified manor-house, with round corner towers in pink stone, was restored and remodelled in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The richly decorated house is open to the public on certain weekdays during the summer.

Eldersfield (SO8031) A decisive skirmish, known variously as the Battle of Eldersfield or Redmarley, was fought in open land somewhere between these two villages on 27 July 1644. Col. Mynne's 1,000-strong Royalist force spent the night of 26–27 July in Redmarley (Glos), awaiting the arrival of reinforcements from Worcester before continuing south to attack Gloucester. Meanwhile, Massey had marched north to meet the threat and his men spent the night in Eldersfield. As the dawn mist cleared, the two forces clashed somewhere on the borders of Gloucestershire and Hereford and Worcester, Massey attacking the Royalists before their reinforcements had arrived. The King's men were slowly pushed from their initial position amid an area of enclosures and out onto open land, where their Horse was charged and put to flight by the Parliamentary Cavalry and their Foot then routed by Massey's experienced troops. Mynne and 130 of his men were killed and at least 200 more captured.

Evesham (SP0344) Control of Evesham became a major objective of both armies during the Civil War, for the town occupied a crucial position in the Avon valley and commanded the two parallel roads which linked the Royalist cities of Worcester and Oxford. The Royalists were anxious to keep this line of communications open, the Parliamentarians to break it, and Evesham thus became the centre of frequent skirmishing. The King's men held Evesham for much of the war and erected earthworks to protect the unwallied town. The Avon afforded protection on three sides and the Royalists concentrated on strengthening the fourth, landward side, linking the meandering river with a ditch and embankment surmounted by a timber pallsade. On 26 May 1645 Massey launched a dawn raid on Evesham, filling the ditch with faggots, scaling the embankment, tearing down the pallsade and breaching the defences in several places. Legg's Royalists resisted fiercely and at first prevented Massey's men entering the town but by mid-morning the Parliamentarians had breached the defences in so many places that the over-stretched garrison could no longer keep them out. The defences were slighted after the Civil War and no trace of them now survives.

Cromwell stayed in Evesham on 27 August and 5–7 September 1651 on his way to and from Worcester.

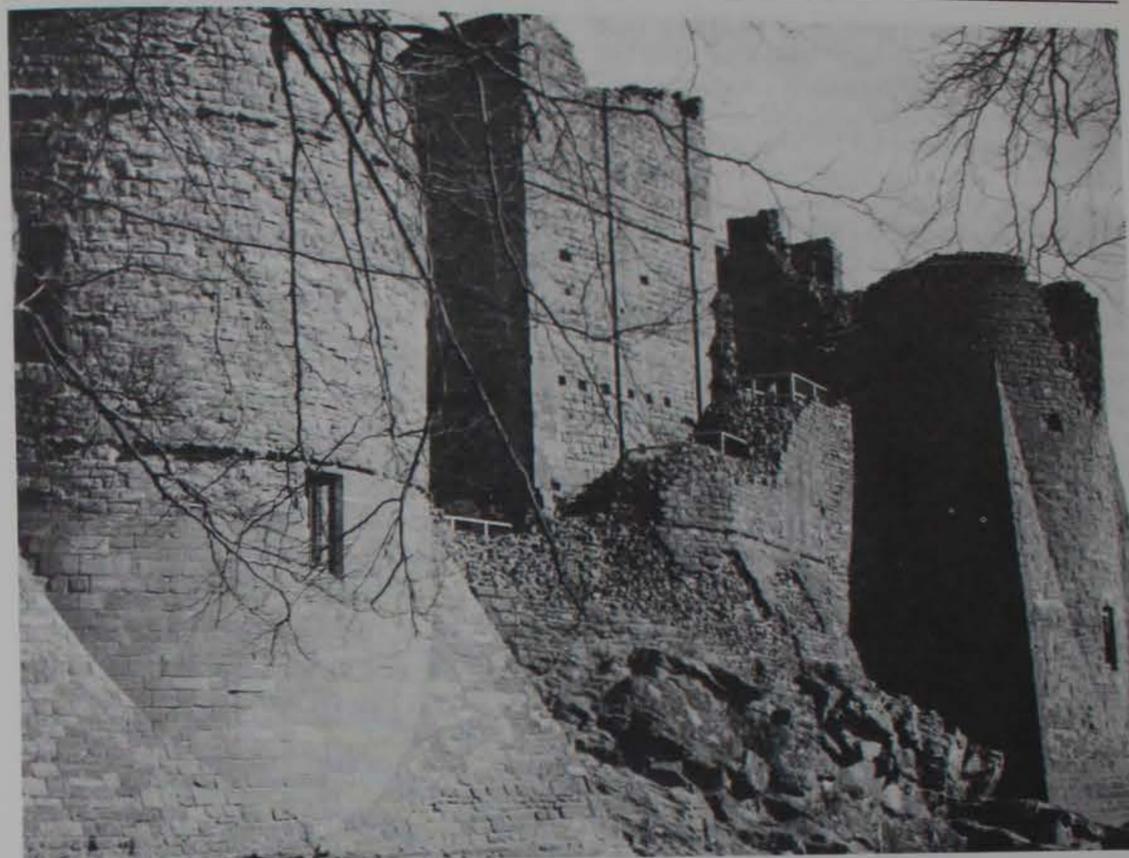
Ewyas Harold (SO3828) On 13 November 1642 a Parliamentary detachment under Col. Kyrle surprised and scattered a party of Welsh

Royalists here and pursued them back towards Raglan.

Goodrich Castle (SO5719) The medieval castle was held for Parliament by the Earl of Stamford during 1643 but by December Royalist pressure in the area had compelled the Parliamentarians to withdraw into Gloucester and the outpost was lost. From 1644 until summer 1646 the castle was garrisoned for the King by Sir Henry Lingen. Colonel Birch laid siege to Goodrich in July 1646 and bombarded it with heavy artillery, including a great mortar known as Roaring Meg. By the end of the month the castle's water supply had been cut and when cannon-fire and mines brought down the Ladies Tower, the Royalists within surrendered. The castle was subsequently slighted. The spectacular and extensive remains of the red sandstone fortress stand on a rocky outcrop above the village. The ruins are open daily.

Hartlebury (SO836712) Hartlebury Castle, built by the Bishops of Worcester in the thirteenth century and extended and renovated in the fifteenth, was one of the few medieval fortresses within the county which survived in fairly good order at the outbreak of the Civil War. It was secured for the King without opposition in 1643 and garrisoned by Col. Sandys until the end of the war. On 9 May 1646 Col. Morgan's Parliamentarians arrived before the fortress; brief negotiations convinced Sandys that the King's cause was hopeless and that no relieving force existed to come to his aid, and the castle was surrendered on terms on the 14th. Hartlebury then served for several years as a minor Parliamentary garrison but the troops were withdrawn at the end of the decade and the castle was slighted. By the late seventeenth century little remained of the medieval fortress and the present 'castle', a long, low building in red sandstone with a central hall flanked by projecting, two storey wings, is almost entirely late seventeenth and eighteenth century. The chapel and the Great Hall are probably medieval, but both were heavily remodelled in the eighteenth century. The north wing now houses a museum, open each weekday during the summer; the rest of the castle is open to the public on Sundays and certain weekdays throughout the summer.

Hereford (SO5139) Although the strength of Royalism in the area ensured that the former county town was held by the King for most of the war, Hereford suffered several Parliamentary raids from Gloucester and changed hands



Top: Goodrich Castle, Hereford & Worcs. The mighty sandstone fortress stands on a bluff above the Wye. The border fortress fell in 1646 to John Birch, the local Parliamentary leader, who survived and prospered under Charles II. His imperious marble effigy stands in Weobley church (left). Above: Brampton Bryan Castle, Hereford & Worcs. The twin-towered medieval gatehouse alone survived razing after the castle was captured by Parliament in 1644. The mansion to the left is Georgian.

more than once. The Earl of Stamford took Hereford for Parliament in September 1642 but evacuated it in early December; a Royalist garrison under Col. Lawdey promptly moved in. On 25 April 1643 Waller led 2,500 men north from Gloucester, sieged the town and briefly garrisoned it for Parliament; having failed to take Worcester or to break the Royalist hold over the area, Waller fell back at the end of May and the King's men returned once more. In July and August 1645 Leven's Scots unsuccessfully besieged the town and were driven off in early September by the approach of the King. Relief was brief, for in November a larger Parliamentary force appeared before the walls and on 18 December Col. John Birch stormed the place, surprising the garrison and quickly overcoming the very half-hearted resistance – collusion was suspected. Birch held the town for the rest of the war.

The Civil War garrisons sheltered behind a hastily repaired circuit of medieval town walls, several sections of which survive, particularly on the west side, running north from Greyfriars Bridge along Greyfriars Bridge Street and Victoria Street. The medieval castle, probably semi-derelict by the time of the Civil War, was completely demolished at the end of the seventeenth century and nothing now survives but an open space known as Castle Green. Traffic is now carried over the Wye by modern Greyfriars Bridge but Old Wye Bridge still spans the river a little to the east; for defensive purposes the Royalists demolished the third bay from the north in 1644 and replaced it with a draw-bridge, and despite many subsequent renovations the arch rebuilt immediately after the war is still noticeably different from the others. Roaring Meg, John Birch's huge mortar used to devastating effect at Goodrich and elsewhere, is on display in Hereford Museum. Three-quarters of a mile east of Victoria Bridge stands the 'Scots' Hole' or 'Scots' Rowditch', an oval entrenchment cut into the hillside and defended by a now weathered rampart. It was supposedly constructed by Leven's men in 1645 during their unsuccessful siege.

Kilpeck Castle (SO4430) The medieval motte and bailey fortress, west of the ornate church, was probably derelict by the seventeenth century and there is no record of action here during the Civil War. Nonetheless it was ordered slighted by Parliament in 1645. The fragmentary remains of a twelfth-century polygonal shell keep stand on a motte above a kidney shaped bailey and three outer enclosures.

Ledbury under Malvern (SO7137) Ledbury was occupied by Massey's Parliamentarians on several occasions during the last two years of the war and frequently served as a temporary base for operations in the south of the county. On one such occasion, in April 1645, it was Massey who suffered defeat, surprised and routed here by Prince Rupert. The Prince marched down from Worcester overnight, arrived before Ledbury at dawn on 22 April and sent a detachment round to the south of the town to block Massey's natural line of retreat. The main Royalist force then attacked from the north, overcoming stiff resistance from Massey's Infantry manning the barricades, pushing on through the streets, and finally pursuing the defeated Parliamentarians out of town. Massey struggled back to Gloucester but lost 120 dead and at least 400 captured. Bullet holes in the panelling of the Talbot Inn, New Street, are said to have been made during this clash.

Madresfield (SO808474) Madresfield Court, the Elizabethan moated mansion of the Lygons family, was garrisoned for the King throughout the war. The Royalists endured one siege in October 1645 but Col. Aston promptly surrendered the place to Col. Whalley in the following June, allegedly in return for a £200 bribe. The Tudor hall has since been demolished, though fragments of Elizabethan and Jacobean work, including panelling and chimney-pieces, were saved and have been incorporated within the present nineteenth-century house.

Moor (SO9848) According to tradition Cromwell lodged on 28 August 1651 in the old half-timbered manor-house at Moor, sometimes called Hill and Moor, near Fladbury.

Much Dewchurch (SO4831) St David's Church contains many monuments to the local Pye family, including James (d1646) and Robert (d1681). Sir Robert Pye (d1701) was a leading Parliamentary soldier and politician – he saw action in much of southern England, led the unsuccessful defence of Leicester against Rupert in 1645 and was a member of most Parliaments of the period. Pye's seat, The Mynde, 1¼ miles south-west of the village (SO470296), was seized and fortified by the King's men in autumn 1642. There seems to have been no serious action here and the house was probably abandoned without a fight towards the end of the war. The present house is a 2½ storey Georgian mansion, though incorporating the remains of the Tudor hall which saw service in the Civil War.

Pembridge Castle (SO488193) Built in the thirteenth century, Pembridge Castle was a small border fortress with curtain walls, angle towers and a double towered gatehouse; a hall, chapel and other buildings were added within the courtyard during the sixteenth and early seventeenth century. Pembridge was occupied by Parliamentary troops in summer 1644, but the garrison was battered into submission in the following November. The castle was badly damaged during the two week bombardment and played no further part in the Civil War. Although the buildings within the ward were renovated in the 1650s, the whole place fell derelict in the eighteenth century. The extensive ruins were consolidated and partly restored in the twentieth century. Pembridge Castle is open on certain weekdays during the summer.

Pershore (SO952462) In June 1644 the King fled from Oxford to Worcester and ordered the bridge over the Avon at Pershore to be destroyed behind him to hinder Waller and Essex and the pursuing Parliamentarians. The Royalists successfully brought down the central arch, but the masonry gave way sooner than expected and 30 soldiers and several civilians were drowned. The old bridge still spans the river immediately north of the modern road bridge, and its central arch, repaired after the Civil War, remains noticeably different from the others.

Powick Bridge (SO835524) Although it was the first serious engagement of the Civil War, the skirmish fought around Powick Bridge on 23 September 1642 involved fairly small numbers and was of little significance in the development of the conflict. Moreover, our knowledge of the engagement rests on several confused and contradictory contemporary accounts.

During the third week of September the Royalists decided to evacuate Worcester and to cover this manoeuvre Prince Rupert stationed 1,000 men to the south of the city. Meanwhile Cols Brown and Fiennes led an advanced party of Parliamentary Horse towards Worcester, ahead of Essex's main army. By the afternoon of 23 September Brown and Fiennes were in Powick Ham, an area of open land between the village and the bridge across the Teme. The Parliamentarians decided to advance, the main body waiting near the bridge while Col. Sandys led a detachment over the Teme and north up the lane towards Worcester. Surprised by the Parliamentary advance, Rupert quickly drew his force together and counter-charged. A confused and bloody mêlée ensued as the isolated Parliamentary unit was pushed back south to the

bridge. After more fighting around the bridge itself, the main Parliamentary force turned tail and rode away to rejoin Essex's army. The Royalists had won the first battle of the Civil War, taking 70 prisoners and killing or wounding at least twice that number, but the evacuation of Worcester went ahead as planned.

The fifteenth-century bridge at Powick still spans the Teme to the west of the Victorian construction which now carries the road. Although the south-western suburbs of Worcester are approaching Powick, the area around the bridge where fighting was fiercest is still open land. Marks on the outside of the tower of the Church of St Peter and St Lawrence in Powick may have been made by Civil War bullets fired as Rupert pursued the fleeing Parliamentarians through the village. (For further action around Powick in 1651 see 'Worcester' below).

Ripple (SO8637) A minor battle was fought here on 13 April 1643 as Waller's Parliamentarians advancing north from Tewkesbury clashed with a Royalist force under Prince Maurice marching south from Upton to intercept them. Waller was following the old Worcester road which ran to the west of the present A38 and took him through the village of Ripple. At this point he could see Maurice's 2,000 men drawn up on flat ground away to the north, blocking his path. In response the Parliamentarians deployed across a slight hill – Old Nan's Hill – 3–400 yards north of Ripple around Uckinghall. Waller had fewer than 1,500 men and little artillery and after an initial exchange he decided to fall back. He posted his Dragoons ahead to guard his front as he moved most of his army to his right into the lane the leading back to Ripple (around SO875382). Maurice saw this movement and decided to attack; one party was sent straight down the lane while Maurice led the main Royalist force south along the river bank before swinging left up the gentle western slopes of the hill and so into Waller's left flank. The Royalist units tore into the redeploying Parliamentary force causing confusion and panic. Although Hesilrige's lobsters made a temporary stand, they too were broken and forced back and Maurice then pursued the Parliamentarians into Ripple and beyond. Although most of Waller's men headed for the comparative safety of Tewkesbury, some fled west towards the ford near Uckinghall (SO683375) and were either cut down as they ran or drowned in the Severn.

The area of the battle is still open farmland to the north of Ripple, little changed since the seventeenth century

Ross on Wye (SO5924) The border town changed hands several times in the course of the Civil War as the Gloucester Parliamentarians repeatedly pushed west and then fell back in the face of Royalist pressure. In summer 1644, during one of his longer occupations of Ross, Massey established a fortified position in and around St Mary's Church, surrounding the churchyard with a circuit of ditch and bank.

Spetchley (SO8953) According to a plausible tradition, Cromwell was based at Spetchley before the Battle of Worcester and lodged at Spetchley House, the home of Mr Justice Berkeley, on 30 August–2 September. The house, which no longer exists, stood a little south of the present nineteenth-century great house in Spetchley Park.

Strencham (SO9140) Strencham House or Court was a small but important base in the south of the county, guarding the road north from Gloucester via Tewkesbury. Sir William Russell's fortified mansion was held by Parliament in 1644–45; although there is no record of fighting here, it must have changed hands at some point, for Strencham is listed as one of the minor outposts to be surrendered to Parliament in 1646 at the same time as Worcester. The old fortified mansion has been demolished, though its site is probably marked by the remains of a moat near the centre of the village. A later Strencham Court, which stood to the south-west, has also been demolished and its site obliterated under the M5.

Upton upon Severn (SO8540) Before attacking the Royalists in Worcester, Cromwell wanted to gain free access to the west bank of the Severn, thus permitting him to assault the city from the south-west and breaking the possible Royalist line of retreat into Wales. To this end Lambert and a troop of dragoons were despatched to Upton on 28 August with orders to take the bridge. Arriving around dawn on the 29th, Lambert found that the Royalists had demolished the central arch of the bridge but that a plank had been left in place across the breach. Massey's 300-strong Royalist guard was nowhere to be seen – many of the Scots were allegedly sleeping off the night's excesses in the taproom of the Anchor Inn. A dozen or so Parliamentary volunteers managed to crawl across the plank and reach the west bank before the guard was roused. The Royalists quickly turned out, preventing anyone else getting across the bridge and surrounding the Church of St Peter and St Paul, in which the small party of

west bank Parliamentarians had hastily taken refuge. It seemed that they were doomed and that the mission had failed. However, Lambert saw that the river was unusually low and his main force were able to part ford part swim the Severn at a spot called Fishers' Row, just below the bridge. The Royalists were taken by surprise when further Parliamentarians appeared, fell back from the church and were driven off towards Worcester with heavy losses; Massey, the former Parliamentarian and hero of the siege of Gloucester, was badly wounded but lived. Cromwell visited Upton later on the 29th to inspect the bridge and to thank Lambert's men for their efforts. According to tradition he exchanged greetings with an old woman in a cottage near the church, on the strength of which a modern restaurant within the building was named 'Cromwell's'.

The old bridge at Upton has long gone and the present span is modern. The old parish church of St Peter and St Paul was largely demolished in the eighteenth century, though the fourteenth-century tower survives, now topped by a Georgian cupola. The adjoining information and heritage centre includes a display on Upton in the Civil War.

Walford Court (SO586206) Walford Court Manor, a sixteenth-century castellated mansion, was the seat of the Kyrle family during the seventeenth century. Robert Kyrle (b1613) saw service on the Continent during the 1630s and at the outbreak of the Civil War he became an officer in the Parliamentary army. He later defected to the King's army, only to return to Parliament once again, helping to betray Monmouth to Massey's Parliamentarians in 1644. His house was garrisoned for the King until 1645–46, but in summer 1646 it became the base for Birch's Parliamentarians during their operation against Goodrich. Kyrle himself returned here after the war and lies beneath an inscribed tablet in the Kyrle Chapel of St Leonard's Church.

Weobley (SO4051) In May 1691 John Birch was laid to rest in the Church of St Peter and St Paul in Weobley. Half a century before, Birch had joined the Parliamentary army and risen rapidly through the ranks. Severely wounded and left for dead during the attack on Arundel Castle, he survived to become one of the most active commanders in Herefordshire during the latter stages of the first Civil War, capturing Hereford in December 1645 and remaining there as governor. He fell from favour during the 1650s and actively supported the Restora-

tion. Thereafter he enjoyed a long and rewarding political career and acquired considerable property in the Hereford area. A white marble statue in St Peter's and St Paul's shows Birch dressed in armour and carrying a baton.

White Ladies Aston (SO9252) According to tradition Cromwell lodged on 29 August 1651 at George Symonds's half-timbered house at White Ladies Aston. The building was demolished in the nineteenth century.

Wigmore (SO4169) Both sides established minor outposts at Wigmore at various stages of the war. The Harleys' medieval castle was ruinous by the seventeenth century and probably served as nothing more than a surveillance or artillery post. The main stronghold was probably St James's Church. Wigmore was one of the largest of the border castles but is now poorly preserved. The remains of an oval shell keep crown the high motte, below which the inner bailey is protected by fragments of the wall, mural towers and gatehouse which once encircled the area.

Wilton Castle (SO590243) Wilton Castle, a medieval quadrangular fortress with corner towers and a south-western gatehouse, stands outside the village of Bridstow. The castle, which had been partly converted into a more comfortable Elizabethan mansion during the late sixteenth century, was garrisoned for the King in 1643–44 but fell to Massey's Parliamentarians in May 1644 when they forded the river and surprised the King's men. It was soon reoccupied by the Royalists. The late Tudor bridge which the garrison was protecting still spans the Wye.

Worcester (SO8555) Having changed hands several times during the opening months of the Civil War, the city was secured for the King at the end of 1642 and thereafter became one of the principal Royalist strongholds and a base for operations over a wide area of the West Midlands and the Welsh Marches. The medieval town walls and the seven town gates were repaired and strengthened and several earthwork banks and bastions were added. The city endured occasional Parliamentary raids – on 29 May 1643, for instance, 3,000 men under Waller tried unsuccessfully to storm the place – but not until 1646 was Worcester seriously threatened. By spring of that year most of the surrounding region had fallen to Parliament and on 23 July the Worcester garrison abandoned the struggle and surrendered to the Parliamen-

tarians who had besieged and bombarded the city for nearly two months.

The region was fairly quiet during 1648 but three years later Worcester again became the Royalist HQ. On 22 August the small Parliamentary garrison here fell back at the approach of the main Royalist army and Prince Charles entered the city unopposed on the following day. He halted at Worcester, established his court at a house in the Corn Market and set about repairing the city's defences in preparation for the expected attack. Earthworks were thrown up beyond the walls, particularly around the gates and across the London road to cover the southern approaches to the city; a large, star-shaped fort, Fort Royal, was built south-east of the city and was linked to the walls by earth ramparts.

Cromwell appeared before Worcester at the end of August and laid careful plans for the final attack. His main force was stationed on Red Hill, south-east of the city, and from here Parliamentary cannon maintained a heavy bombardment to soften up the Royalists within. At the same time he secured the west bank of the Severn and stationed a secondary force under Fleetwood around Powick. To ensure easy communication between the two halves of his army, Cromwell constructed bridges of boats across the Severn and the Teme near the junction of the two rivers.

The two-pronged attack was launched on 3 September. On the west bank, Fleetwood advanced through Powick, throwing back the Scottish outposts – the bullet marks on Powick Church may have been made during this skirmish – and eventually carried Powick Bridge, though the Scots abandoned the crossing only after a fierce fight and the arrival of Parliamentary reinforcements from the east bank. The Royalist right eventually broke and fell back into Worcester. Watching from the tower of the cathedral, Charles had seen the Parliamentary redeployment and ordered his men to engage the depleted Parliamentary force on Red Hill. The Parliamentarians were initially pushed back by this Royalist attack, but Cromwell hurriedly returned with his troops from the now secured west bank, rallied his forces and counter-charged. The Scots were routed and fell back into the city, closely pursued by the Parliamentarians who took Fort Royal and then burst into Worcester itself. Charles slipped away through St Martin's Gate as the final Royalist resistance on Castle Mound was being overcome. By the end of the day 3,000 Royalists were dead and up to 10,000 captured – many prisoners were temporarily held in the cathedral – the Royalist

cause was shattered and Prince Charles was a fugitive fleeing for his life. The 'crowning mercy' of Worcester was also the triumphant finale of Cromwell's distinguished military career. He remained Lord General of the Army until his death but never again would he lead his soldiers into battle.

The battle raged over a large area, but there were two distinct centres of fighting. One, north of Powick Bridge and the Teme, remains open land, the Ordnance Survey battle symbol at SO846535 accurately indicating the position around which Fleetwood's men clashed with the Scots. Two slight depressions on Powick Ham, still visible at the beginning of this century, supposedly marked the position of large pits in which the dead were buried after the battle. The other centre of fighting, Red Hill, has since been built over and is now a south-eastern suburb of Worcester. The subsequent expansion of the city has also obliterated both the medieval stone walls and the Civil War earthworks, including Fort Royal.

As the city fell, Prince Charles briefly took refuge in Rowland Berkeley's town house, a Tudor half-timbered building in New Street, now known as King Charles's House. The Commandery off Sidbury Street, a Tudor building incorporating parts of an earlier hospital, became the Royalist HQ during the battle; recently restored, it is now a museum and contains displays on Worcester during the Civil War, including arms and armour, a copy of Cromwell's death mask and an excellent film presentation of the Battle of Worcester. The City Museum in Foregate Street also contains several relics from the war and the battle. The façade of the Georgian Guildhall in High Street incorporates statues of Charles I and II and Cromwell's head appears above the doorway, nailed by the ears to the wall behind.

The Cromwell Association has a memorial tablet in an alcove at the city end of Sidbury Bridge, adjoining St Peter's Church, on the site of the former Sidbury Gate through which Parliamentary troops first entered Worcester.

HERTFORDSHIRE

The county was held securely for Parliament throughout the period and saw no significant fighting during the Civil War. The Parliamentary army and its high command were frequently stationed in Hertfordshire and were in the area for much of spring and summer 1647 during their dispute with Parliament. Cromwell was certainly in Hertfordshire with the army in June and July 1647 but he must have passed through the county on many other occasions on his way between London and Cambridgeshire.

Berkhamsted (SP9907) Cromwell and the Parliamentary army were stationed here on 25 June 1647. The soldiers probably quartered in the grounds of the medieval castle; derelict by the early seventeenth century it had played no part in the Civil War. Berkhamsted or Castle Place, an Elizabethan mansion on Castle Hill, was owned by the Parliamentarian soldier and regicide Col. Daniel Axtell and Cromwell and the other senior officers may well have lodged here for the night. Little remains of the old house, a victim of late seventeenth-century fires and modern rebuilding.

Cheshunt (TL3402) Richard Cromwell spent his last years in quiet retirement in this small Hertfordshire village, now overshadowed by the extensive modern developments to the east. On his return to England in 1680 Richard lodged with the Pengelly family in Finchley, north

London. At the death of Thomas Pengelly in 1700, his widow moved to a house in Churchgate, Cheshunt, left to her by her late uncle Arthur Otway, and Richard spent the last twelve years of his life here. The house, which was destroyed by fire in the nineteenth century, stood next to the present, much later Pengelly House.

By coincidence, another Cromwell came to Cheshunt a century after Richard's death. Oliver Cromwell, great-great-grandson of Lord Protector Oliver through his fourth son, Lord Deputy Henry, inherited Cheshunt Park and other parts of the former royal estate of Theobalds. Oliver, a London-based solicitor and author of a rather muddled biography of his illustrious forefather and namesake, used Cheshunt as his country retreat. He died here in 1821 and lies buried beneath an inscribed slab in the north-west corner of St Mary's churchyard. He left only



Cheshunt, Herts. Two descendants of Oliver Cromwell ended their days here. The Protector's eldest surviving son and successor as Lord Protector, Richard (left), enjoyed a mere nine months in power followed by half a century in exile or retirement. From 1680 he lived very quietly in England, calling himself John Clark but otherwise adopting little disguise. The sad life of 'Richard IV' – or 'Queen Dick' as the army officers had cruelly called him – ended in Cheshunt in 1712.

A brick table tomb in St Mary's churchyard (above) marks the resting place of Oliver Cromwell of London and Cheshunt. The lawyer and biographer was Cromwell's last male heir through the male line and the direct line died with him in 1821. According to tradition, King George had been approached sometime before to sanction the preservation of the name in the female line but had refused, allegedly declaring that there had been quite enough Cromwells already and that there should be no more!

daughters – a son had died in infancy forty years before – and at Oliver's death the Protector's direct male line became extinct. The Lord Protector has many descendants through the female line, but his namesake lying in St Mary's churchyard was his last male descendant through the male line.

Hatfield (TL236085) During summer 1647 Charles I was lodged by the Parliamentary army at several points in Hertfordshire in order that he be kept close to the peripatetic army HQ. On 26–27 June he was held at Hatfield House, the magnificent Jacobean mansion built for the Earl of Salisbury in 1607–12. Hatfield House is open daily except Mondays throughout the summer.

Hertford (TL3212) Cromwell and Fairfax stayed here in mid-November 1647 while negotiating with the discontented and semi-mutinous troops drawn up on Cockbush or Corkbush Fields, open ground to the east of the town. Some accounts claim that the two commanders lodged at the Bell, now the Salisbury Arms, a late sixteenth- and early seventeenth-century coaching inn which stands on the corner of Fore and Church Streets. Other reports have it that they stayed in Hertford Castle, a medieval fortress remodelled and modernised in the sixteenth century; most of the castle has since been demolished and the three storey turreted gatehouse is the only part to survive intact.

On 15 November Cromwell and Fairfax confronted the troops at Cockbush, crushing the half-hearted mutiny and arresting the ringleaders, who were tried by a hasty court martial and sentenced to death. They were forced to draw lots and the loser, Richard Arnold, was executed on the spot. The area is now covered by a modern housing estate, 1½ miles east-northeast of Hertford town centre; the street name Cockbush Avenue is the only reminder of the events of 1647.

Hitchin (TL1829) According to tradition, Cromwell, Pym, Hampden and other prominent figures used to meet and confer at the Sun Inn, Hitchin, during the late 1630s and early 1640s. During the war it certainly became a meeting place for soldiers and officers. The Tudor inn, remodelled and refitted during the eighteenth century, still stands in Sun Street; a low, half-timbered range off the courtyard incorporates the former Tudor gallery.

Royston (TL3540) Cromwell stayed here in early June 1647 while conferring with the discontented Parliamentary troops quartered around

Thriplow (Cambs). A fortnight later, on 25 June, Charles I was lodged overnight in King James's Palace, his father's hunting lodge, a ramshackle collection of mostly Jacobean buildings which stood in the area between Kneesworth Street, Dog Kennel Lane and Melbourne Street. Most of the complex has disappeared, but several buildings in Kneesworth Street once belonged to the palace, including the former buttery, kitchen, guardhouse and the so-called 'Palace', a two storey brick house with large chimneys, much of which dates from the eighteenth century.

St Albans (TL1407) Cromwell probably passed through the town on many occasions in the early 1640s as it lay on one of the routes – though not the most direct – between London and Cambridgeshire. According to tradition, he often broke his journey here and stayed with Col. Alban Cox. Moreover, Cromwell was probably with Essex's army as it marched through St Albans on the way to and from Edgehill in autumn 1642. He was certainly here on 14 January 1643, for he and his men broke up a pro-Royalist meeting in the Market Place – after a brief mêlée around the gateway of the Great Red Lion, the Parliamentarians arrested Sir Thomas Coningsby, the High Sheriff of Hertfordshire, who had been attempting to read a Royal proclamation.

St Albans was a convenient base for the Parliamentary army, and both the soldiers and the high command were frequently stationed here. Part of the abbey, now the cathedral, was requisitioned by the military and used as prison, conference hall and army court – it was here that Nathaniel Fiennes was tried, convicted and sentenced to death for the loss of Bristol. In mid-November 1648 Fairfax, Ireton and other senior officers – though not Cromwell, who was absent in Yorkshire – met in the Abbey to discuss the future settlement of the country. Despite opposition from Fairfax and others, the St Albans meeting ratified *The Remonstrance of the Army*, calling for the trial and punishment of the King.

Stanstead St Margarets (TL380116) In St Margaret's Church lie several members of the Lawrence family, including Henry Lawrence, friend and sometime landlord of Cromwell during the 1630s, a leading supporter of the Protectorate twenty years later, a Member of the Protectorate Parliaments and President of the Protectoral Council. Lawrence retired to Stanstead at the Restoration and died here four years later. He lies beneath an inscribed slab in the chancel, near the altar.

Stevenage (TL2325) The Cromwell Hotel in the High Street was built around a sixteenth-century farmhouse supposedly owned at one time by John Thurloe, Cromwell's Secretary of State and Secretary of the Protectoral Council. Above the fireplace in what is now the Cromwell Bar is a stone bearing the date 1667 and the initials 'THF'; it has been suggested that they stand for Thurloe Home Farm.

Ware (TL3514) Ware stood on the most direct road between London and Cambridge and Cromwell must have passed through the town on many occasions during the 1640s. He was certainly here on 4 June 1647, for he stopped at Ware for refreshment on his flight from London to the army. Three years later, on 28 June 1650, he lodged here for the night at the beginning of his journey north from London to Scotland.

HUMBERSIDE

Although most of Humberside was secured for Parliament at the outbreak of war, the area saw considerable fighting during 1643 as the Royalists advanced to the gates and ditches of Hull. The Royalist threat receded during the opening months of 1644 and disappeared altogether after Marston Moor. In September 1643 Cromwell visited the besieged garrison at Hull, his only recorded visit to the area covered by the modern county of Humberside.

Beverley (TA0339) The town was held by Parliament in 1642–43 to defend the northern approaches to Hull and the garrison hastily repaired the medieval town walls. In June 1643 Sir John Hotham senior, former Parliamentary governor of Hull turned Royalist, was captured here as he fled north to join the King's forces. In the following month the garrison abandoned the town without a fight at the approach of Newcastle's 15,000-strong army. Of Beverley's medieval and Civil War defences nothing now survives except a single gateway, the fourteenth-century North Bar.

Boynton (TA138678) Boynton Hall, a late Tudor brick hall with projecting wings, extensively remodelled in the eighteenth century, stands amid private parkland and plantations at the southern end of the village. The hall was the principal seat of the Strickland family, including Sir William (d1673), a prominent Parliamentarian and member of all the parliaments of the period, and his younger brother Walter, Parliament's agent in Holland in 1642–51, one of Cromwell's leading supporters during the 1650s, a member of the Protectorate Parliaments and a Protectoral Councillor.

Bridlington (TA1766) Bridlington was secured by Newcastle in early February 1643 and on the 22nd Queen Henrietta Maria landed here with cash and plate collected on the Continent.

Parliamentary ships under Batten were in pursuit of the Queen's convoy and bombarded the town that night; according to tradition the Queen rushed back to her ship to rescue her dog and then sought refuge in a ditch while shot flew overhead. Some accounts indicate that after the incident the Royalists threw up batteries to overlook and defend the harbour, but there is no record of further fighting here and no trace remains of any Civil War earthworks.

Brigg (TA0007) Seventeenth-century Brigg possessed neither walls nor a castle and the weakly defended town changed hands several times during 1643. It was not formally garrisoned until the end of the year, by which time the area had been secured for Parliament. Lord Willoughby's garrison threw up earthworks around the town early in 1644 but they were not put to the test for the Royalists never returned. No trace of the Civil War defences survives.

Burton upon Stather (SE8618) The village guarded the lowest safe ferry crossing on the Trent before it joined the Humber estuary, control of which was vital to anyone seeking to defend or attack what was then north Lincolnshire, now south Humberside. In consequence, the village and ferry changed hands several times during 1643 before the Parliamentarians secured the area at the end of the year and established a large garrison at Burton to guard

against further attack. The Civil War earthworks, thrown up during 1643 on both banks of the Trent, have been obliterated by repeated floods and by the growth of a small hamlet, The Ferry, on the east bank.

Flamborough (TA226702) Walter Strickland, Parliamentary diplomat, politician and Protectoral Councillor, lies buried beneath an inscribed tombstone within the Church of St Oswald.

Kingston-upon-Hull (TA1028) A vital east coast port and magazine during the mid-seventeenth century, Hull was one of the first towns in England openly to defy Charles I in 1642. It was a Parliamentary stronghold throughout the Civil War, one of the very few bases in the area to resist the Royalist tide of summer and autumn 1643.

Secure behind newly renovated medieval walls, governor John Hotham refused to admit the King on 23 April 1642 and continued to resist throughout the summer, enduring a Royalist blockade organised by Lord Lindsey from his base in Anlaby. The Royalists departed in August and over the following months Hotham made further repairs and additions to the town's defences. The Parliamentarians piled earth behind the fourteenth-century stone and brick walls which enclosed the old town to the west of the river Hull. As a second, outer line of defence, Hotham added a bank and ditch beyond the wall, with half-moon batteries covering each of the four principal town gates. The east bank of the Hull was defended by three blockhouses linked by a Tudor wall. During the early months of 1643 Hotham demolished most of the extra-mural suburbs to prevent them being used for shelter by a besieging army.

The feared assault began on 2 September 1643 when the Earl of Newcastle and 15,000 Royalists appeared before Hull and settled down for a long, formal siege, building their own earth forts and ditches around the town. Lord Fairfax, governor of Hull in place of turncoat Hotham, opened the sluices along the north bank of the Humber estuary, flooding not only the town ditch but also a large area of low ground around Hull, greatly disrupting Royalist operations. Moreover, Newcastle had curiously made no attempt to secure the south bank of the Humber estuary, which remained in Parliamentary hands throughout, and so was powerless to prevent supplies and reinforcements reaching Hull by sea or ferry. The position is well-

illustrated by the ease with which Cromwell and Willoughby crossed the Humber unopposed and entered Hull on or around 22 September to confer with Sir Thomas Fairfax, who had himself arrived during the early stages of the ineffectual siege. Newcastle's position was hopeless and increasingly vigorous sallies induced the Royalists to abandon the effort and march away on 2 October.

Sadly the medieval and Civil War defences of Hull have been completely destroyed, and nothing remains of the walls and gates, the banks and the earthwork forts. A modern plaque in Whitefriargate shopping precinct marks the site of Beverley Gate, the town gate from which Hotham defied the King in 1642. Ye Old White Harte, off Silver Street, is a Tudor inn, extended in the sixteenth century and restored in the nineteenth. Sir John Hotham was dining here in April 1642 when he received word that King Charles was approaching. He retired to a back room, later dubbed the Plotting Room, to consult with Pelham and others about granting or refusing admission to the town.

Scorborough (TA017452) A decayed moat south of the church and near the later great house is the only surviving trace of the late medieval moated hall which once stood here. In the seventeenth century the hall was the seat of the Hotham family, including Sir John senior and junior, the leading Parliamentarians in the county during the opening year of the Civil War who later attempted to defect to the King and were executed by Parliament in 1645.

Winestead (TA3024) Andrew Marvell, the poet and Latin Secretary to the Protectoral Council, was born in Winestead in 1621. The Tudor rectory in which he was born and brought up has long since disappeared; it stood north of the towerless Church of St German, where Marvell was baptised on 5 April.

Wressle (SE707316) Wressle Castle was one of the very few defensible fortresses within seventeenth-century Humberside. It was held for Parliament during most of the first Civil War and again in 1648 to block the road from Pontefract to Hull. The moated quadrangular castle with massive corner towers was built by the Percies in the fourteenth century. Partially slighted by Parliament after the Civil War, the ruined sections were incorporated within a later farmhouse, itself destroyed by fire in 1796. The extensive remains of two corner towers survive, together with the linking hall range.

ISLE OF MAN

The Isle of Man was dominated during the 1640s by the Earl of Derby, and his retainers crushed all anti-Stanley rebellion here, which was fanned by the landing of Parliamentary troops. By the end of the year all the Royalist strongholds had fallen and the island was controlled by Parliament for the remainder of the decade.

The Royalists garrisoned a number of medieval strongpoints, including Peel Castle (SC242845), the thirteenth-fourteenth century cathedral-cum-fortress on St Patrick's Isle; the outer walls of Peel Castle were damaged by artillery in 1651 during its capture by Parliament. The Stanleys also built or refortified several earthwork defences around the island, most of which, includ-

ing the fort at Point of Ayre (NX466052), have completely disappeared. However, one such earthwork, Fort Loyal, survived intact and has recently been restored. Built in 1648-9, the large rectangular fort with bank and ditch defences and corner bastions stands south-east of Ker-roogaroo (SC406970), and is freely accessible to the public.

ISLE OF WIGHT

In August 1642 the Royalist Countess of Portland surrendered Carisbrooke Castle, the only real strongpoint on the island, to the Parliamentary governor of Newport, and thereafter the Isle of Wight was held for Parliament without serious challenge. The island was a potential landing spot for foreign invaders and both during and after the war Parliament kept a tight grip on the Isle, with a large and well equipped garrison at Carisbrooke and a string of lesser bases around the coast, particularly on the northern shore, facing the mainland. There is no clear evidence that Cromwell ever visited the island.

Carisbrooke Castle (SZ486878) From November 1647 to autumn 1648 Charles I was held here as a prisoner of the Parliamentary army, watched over by the governor of the castle, Col. Hammond. The King was lodged either in the Governor's House itself or in adjoining rooms within the range of domestic buildings which runs from the foot of the motte to the north curtain wall. Charles passed much of the time playing bowls on the Old Barbican, an open space at the eastern end of the inner bailey. The Governor's House is now a museum, containing many items associated with the King's captivity here. The modern chapel within the grounds was built as a memorial to Charles I. The castle is open daily.

Cowes Castle (SZ495966) The small Henrician coastal fort served as a small Parliamentary outpost throughout the period. It now serves as the clubhouse of the Royal Yacht Squadron.

Newport (SZ4989) In September 1648 a delegation from both Houses of Parliament, including Holles, Vane, Salisbury and Pembroke, arrived on the island to confer with the King at Newport. Talks aimed at reaching a political settlement were held in the old town hall, long since demolished, which stood on the site of the present guildhall. During the conference Charles was lodged at the old grammar school, a much renovated Jacobean building, which survives at the corner of St James and Lugley Street.

Yarmouth Castle (SZ354897) The Henrician coastal fort, completed in 1547, was garrisoned for Parliament throughout the period, but never saw action. The castle is square with a single arrowhead bastion commanding the water below. The garrison was housed in the southern range; the second floor gun platform is on the other side of the irregular courtyard. Yarmouth Castle is open daily.

ISLES OF SCILLY

The Isles of Scilly were nominally Royalist throughout the first Civil War, but played no part in the conflict beyond sheltering the Prince of Wales for six weeks in spring 1646 after he had fled the mainland. In the late 1640s St Mary's and Treasco became the base of Sir John Grenville and his force of pro-Royalist pirates, and their increasingly disruptive operation against Parliamentary shipping prompted Blake to lead a full-scale invasion of the islands in 1651. A fleet of 20 ships landed nine companies of Foot on the Scillies and combined land and sea operations quickly secured Treasco. Star Castle on St Mary's was then besieged and bombarded into submission. The islands were held peacefully by Parliament for the rest of the 1650s.

St Mary's Above Hugh Town stands Star Castle (SV899107), a late Elizabethan artillery fort in the shape of an eight pointed star surrounded by a rock cut ditch and earthwork ramparts. The castle has been converted into an hotel.

Tresco On high ground in the north-west of the island stand the fragmentary remains of King Charles's Castle (SV883162), a two storey artillery fort built by Henry VIII to cover the channel below. In the late 1640s the Royalists strengthened the place by adding a semi-pentagonal earthwork fort on the landward side.

Cromwell's Castle, a 60 foot high circular tower on a granite platform, stands on an isthmus a little to the south of King Charles's Castle (SV882159). Now entered at ground level through an eighteenth-century doorway, marks on the outer wall indicate where an external stairway originally led to the first floor, where the garrison was quartered. The guns were mounted on the roof and six gun ports pierce the low parapet. The castle was probably garrisoned for Parliament during the 1650s and was almost certainly built by Blake's troops immediately after the 1651 invasion. The well-preserved castle stands on land freely accessible to the public.

KENT

In August 1642 Cols Sandys and Livesey and their force of 2,300 troops secured the county for Parliament in the face of little serious resistance. Despite occasional plots and minor risings, the county remained firmly Parliamentary throughout the first Civil War and saw no significant action until 1648, when Kent became one of the centres of Royalist rebellion. Cromwell made only one recorded visit to the area, in May 1652, long after order had been restored.

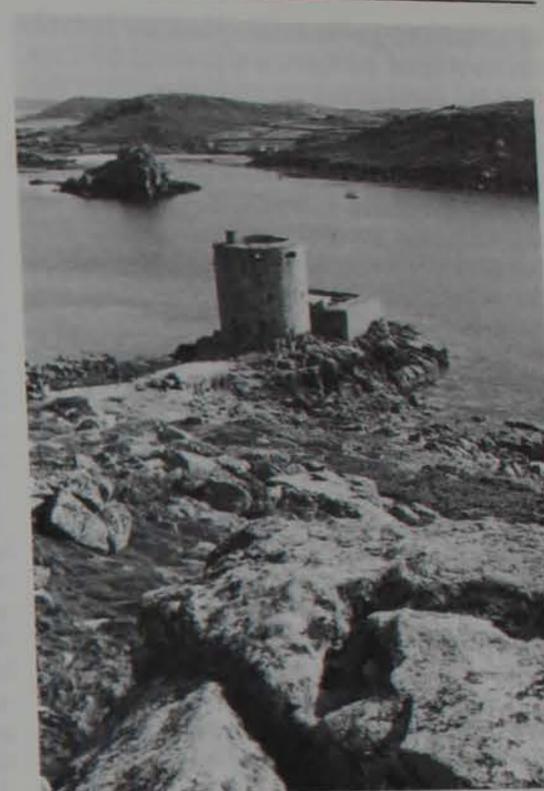
Canterbury (TR1457) On Christmas Day 1647 the Royalist elements within Canterbury rose up in rebellion and expelled the small Parliamentary garrison stationed here. 3,000 men, drawn largely from the London Trained Bands, invested the town in January and the rebels surrendered without a fight. The ringleaders were imprisoned in Leeds Castle and the town defences slighted to prevent further trouble – all the gates were broken down and a stretch of wall on the west side of the town demolished. Long stretches of the medieval flint walls remain, particularly around the south and east of the town. The fourteenth-century Westgate also survives and is now a museum, open daily.

Deal (TR378522) Deal Castle was one of a string of Henrician forts built along the south coast in the late 1530s and early 1540s. It saw no action during the first Civil War but in June 1648 it was seized and garrisoned by the Royalist rebels. Deal was promptly besieged by Parliamentary forces and endured a heavy bombardment by land and sea. The garrison surrendered on 25 August after a small relieving force had been scattered by the Parliamentarians. The castle, open daily, comprises a central circular keep surrounded by six semicircular bastions linked by an outer wall.

Dover (TR324420) Dover Castle was held by a



Above: Fort Loyal, Isle of Man. The Royalists' earthwork fort is typical of Civil War artillery works. The huge arrowhead corner bastions, which carried the principal artillery, were linked and surrounded by a bank, ditch and outer parapet.



Right: Treasco, Isles of Scilly. Cromwell's Castle, built by Parliament in 1651, was designed as an artillery point to cover the channel below.

Below: Carisbrooke Castle, Isle of Wight. On the far side of the courtyard stands the Governor's House, a domestic block renovated and enlarged in the sixteenth century. It was here that the King was held prisoner in 1647–8 and it was through one of its windows that he tried to escape.



small Royalist garrison during summer 1642 but on 21 August the fortress was siezed by Capt. Richard Dawkes and ten companions in a daring night raid. Dover remained in Parliament's hands throughtout the first Civil War. At the beginning of June 1648 the castle was besieged by Royalist forces under Sir Richard Hardress, but Governor Bradfield and his garrison held out until a relieving force arrived and drove off the King's men. Cromwell visited town and castle in May 1652 to enquire into naval business. The magnificent clifftop fortress, with a twelfth-century keep standing amid concentric circuits of walls, gatehouses and mural towers, is open daily.

East Farleigh (TQ7353) On 1 June 1648 Fairfax and his army crossed the Medway at East Farleigh, avoiding the main Royalist outposts and thus approaching Maidstone from the south. The bridge he crossed still spans the river, a five-arched ragstone construction, one of the finest medieval bridges in southern England. In the nineteenth century a number of bodies were discovered in ground adjoining the bridge, probably members of the small Royalist guard who fell as Fairfax swept through.

The Parliamentarian and local M.P. Augustine Skinner owned East Farleigh Hall, since demolished. Skinner lies beneath a monument in St Mary's Church.

East Malling (TQ7057) Matthew Tomlinson lived in retirement at East Malling after the Restoration. A colonel in the Parliamentary army, Tomlinson saw action throughout England during the 1640s and later served under Fleetwood and Henry Cromwell in Ireland. He is best remembered, however, as the commanding officer of the troop which guarded Charles I from December 1648 until his execution. His courteous treatment of his prisoner earned praises from the doomed King and saved his own head eleven years later. Tomlinson lies beneath an inscribed slab in the chancel of St James's Church.

Lullingstone Castle (TQ528645) The castle, really a fortified manor-house, was captured in April 1645 in the course of a minor Royalist rebellion but was immediately retaken by two Parliamentary troops under Col. Blount. Most of the Tudor house was subsequently demolished and the present 'castle' dates from the eighteenth century. In the grounds, however, stands the original sixteenth-century gatehouse, a three storey embattled building in red brick.

The castle and grounds are open to the public during the summer.

Maidstone (TQ7656) The Battle of Maidstone of 1 June 1648 was the only major engagement of the Civil War in Kent. At the end of May the Earl of Norwich and his 7-8,000 Royalists established themselves at Maidstone, throwing up barricades across the streets and sending out units to guard the approach roads. In response, Fairfax mustered his forces on Blackheath and marched on the town via Farleigh and Loose, thus avoiding the 1,000 Royalists posted at Aylesford to defend the Medway crossing (TQ7258); Fairfax had no difficulty in sweeping aside the much smaller force guarding Farleigh bridge. The Parliamentarians arrived before Maidstone at around 7 p.m. on 1 June and when their advanced units under Hewson were engaged by Royalist forces on the outskirts of the town Fairfax ordered a general assault. The fighting was very fierce, but the Parliamentarians eventually carried the barricades and then made their way up the High Street, pushing the rebels into St Faith's churchyard. Despite further stubborn resistance the Royalists were at last overwhelmed and by 11 p.m. the battle was over; 300 rebels were dead, over 1,000 were captured and the remainder were fleeing northwards.

In Earl Street stands the seventeenth-century town house of Andrew Broughton, sometime Mayor of Maidstone, who acted as Clerk of the High Court which tried the King. A plaque on the outside of the building records the association.

Penshurst (TQ528440) Penshurst Place in the centre of the village was the family home of the Sidneys, Earls of Leicester. The fourteenth-century manor-house was largely destroyed 200 years later, when the present Tudor mansion was built, though parts of the original house survive, including the magnificent Barons Hall. Best known for its association with the Elizabethan poet and courtier Sir Philip Sidney (d1586), in the seventeenth century Penshurst was the home of the 2nd Earl of Leicester and his eldest son, Philip Sidney, Viscount Lisle, later the 3rd Earl. Lisle was one of Cromwell's leading supporters during the 1650s and became a member of the Protectoral Councils and Parliaments. Penshurst is open daily except Mondays during the summer.

Plaxtol (TQ602537) The village church, which has no dedication, was begun in 1649 and was thus one of the very few churches built during

the Civil War and Interregnum. The present building is far from pure seventeenth-century, for it incorporates parts of an earlier chapel which stood on the site and was later renovated and enlarged by the Victorians. The interior of the nave, however, with its great hammer-beam roof, is thought to date from 1649.

Rochester (TQ7468) A port and fortified town on the Medway, Rochester was secured for Parliament in autumn 1642 by Col. Sandys, who scattered a group of local Royalists trying to hold the bridge. In early June 1648 many Royalist rebels fled here after the Battle of Maidstone, but surrendered to Fairfax without further resistance. Cromwell visited the town in May 1652 on naval business.

Sevenoaks (TQ5255) In July 1643 around 1,000 anti-Parliamentarian or pro-Royalist protesters gathered at Sevenoaks, though many scattered on hearing that Parliamentary troops were approaching to restore order. On the 23rd Col. Browne's man entered the town and dispersed the 700 rebels who remained, expelling them from the town and pursuing them south towards Tonbridge.

Shipbourne (TQ592522) The remains of Sir Henry Vane junior, the leading Parliamentarian executed in June 1662, were buried in St Giles's Church near those of his wife and parents.

Stone (TQ5774) In June 1648 Major Hubbard's Parliamentarians caught a party of Royalist rebels here, killing 20 and scattering the rest.

Tonbridge (TQ5845) On 23 July 1643 a party of Royalist rebels, driven from Sevenoaks by Col. Browne, fled to Tonbridge, breaking down the bridge over the swollen Hilden Brook behind

them (TQ585474) in an effort to hinder the pursuing Parliamentarians. Five hundred rebels attempted to hold the town and castle but were expelled after a fierce exchange with Browne's troops. It was probably this episode which prompted Parliament to order the castle slighted. The ruins, including a fourteenth-century gatehouse with massive flanking towers, curtain walls and a twelfth-century shell keep, stand in the town centre; they are open daily.

Upnor Castle (TQ758708) Upnor Castle was built in 1561 to guard the entrance to the Medway and the shipping moored just inside the river mouth. Extended and strengthened in the late sixteenth and early seventeenth century, the fortress comprises a blockhouse with a large pointed bastion facing the river and a gatehouse on the landward side. It was held uneventfully for Parliament throughout the first Civil War and occasionally served as a prison for captured Royalist officers. The castle was seized by the Kentish rebels in May 1648 but was swiftly retaken by Parliamentary forces. Upnor Castle remained in military use until the nineteenth century but is now a scheduled monument, open to the public daily.

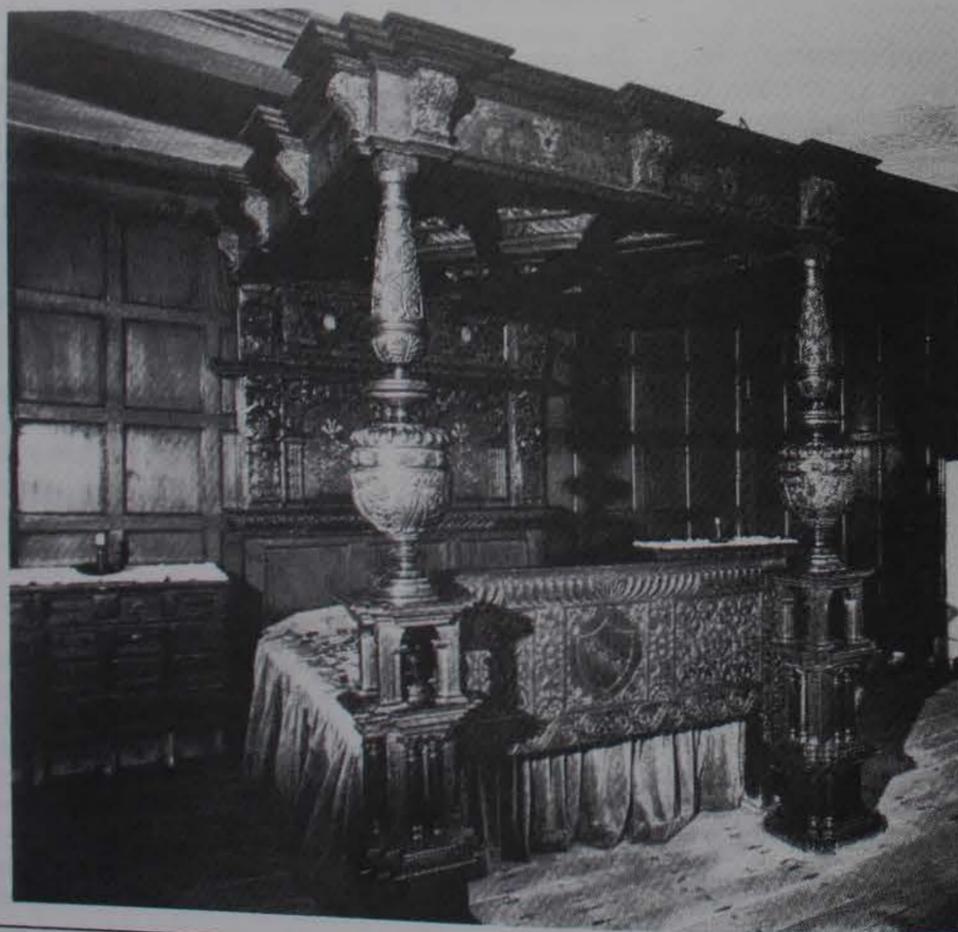
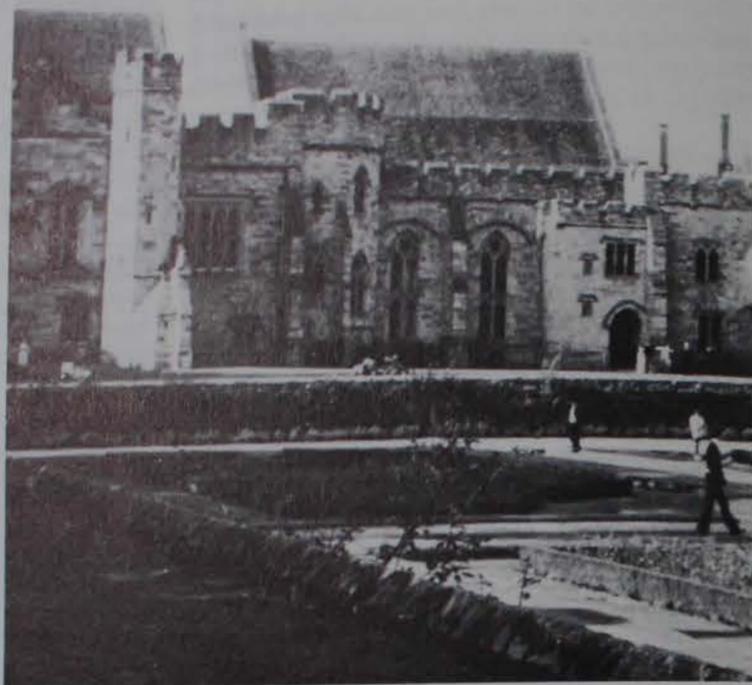
Walmer Castle (TR377501) The Henrician coastal fort, comprising a central circular keep surrounded by four semicircular towers enclosing a small courtyard, survives intact and remains one of the official residences of the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports. Walmer was siezed by Royalist rebels in June 1648 but was soon under close siege. Royalist ships tried to relieve the garrison by sea but attempts to land stores and reinforcements on 5 and 9 July were beaten back by heavy fire. The 60 rebels within abandoned the struggle soon after and surrendered Walmer on 12 July. The castle is open daily, unless the Lord Warden is in residence.

LANCASHIRE

Much of the county is fairly bleak upland and was neither garrisoned nor fought over during the Civil War. The conflict in Lancashire focussed on control of the road which ran from Warrington via Preston and Lancaster to Carlisle and thence to Scotland. There were few engagements in the field, and barely half a dozen important garrisons. Although most of the county was secured for the King by the Earl of Derby in 1642, from the outbreak of war the southern fringes of Lancashire fell under the influence of Parliamentarian Greater Manchester and during the first half of 1643 much of the county was captured by Assheton. The scattering of Derby's army at Whalley and the departure of the Earl himself crippled the Royalist cause in the area and by the end of the year the King's men were restricted to a handful of strongholds. Scottish Royalist armies marched through in 1648 and 1651; in August 1648 Cromwell pursued them to Preston and beyond, his only recorded visit to Lancashire.

Right: Penshurst Place, Kent. In the 1650s this fine manor-house was the country seat of Philip Sidney, Viscount Lisle, heir to the earldom of Leicester. One of the few members of the old aristocracy actively to support Cromwell and a Protectoral Councillor, he left money in his will to a couple of his bastards, apparently sired during the 1650s.

Below: Astley Hall, Lanes. The richly carved and canopied oak four-poster is reputed to be the bed upon which Cromwell slept when he stopped here sometime after the battle of Preston. His riding boots, too wet to wear, were left at Astley when he continued his journey south.



Astley Hall (SD574184) Astley Hall, Chorley, a richly plastered half-timbered hall, was built by the Charnock family in the sixteenth century. It was subsequently renovated and extended on several occasions – the front was redesigned in the 1660s – but much of the Elizabethan building survives. It is now an art gallery and museum, open daily. According to tradition Cromwell spent a night here in August 1648 after the Battle of Preston; his boots and the large oak bed in which he slept are on display within the hall.

Cromwell's movements at this time are well-documented and seem to rule out a night halt at Astley. On 17 August he fought the Scots outside Preston and then entered the town late in the day; if he had any sleep that night, it was probably in a building in or very near Preston (see Walton le Dale). On the 18th he marched south from Preston and spent the night quartered in open ground to the north of Wigan. If there is any truth in the tradition, it is more likely that Cromwell and the other senior officers stopped at Astley sometime around midday on the 18th to shelter from the driving rain and to snatch a few hours sleep before continuing their journey towards Wigan.

Blackburn (SD6827) Houghton's Royalists occupied Blackburn unopposed in November 1642 but were expelled later in the month by a night attack led by Shuttleworth and Starkie. Thereafter neither side garrisoned the weakly defended town.

Clitheroe (SD743417) The medieval hilltop castle housed a Royalist garrison in 1643–44 but was evacuated in August 1644 following the defeat of the northern Royalists at Marston Moor. It was slighted by Parliament some years later. The remains of the small twelfth-century square keep and the inner bailey wall stand on a limestone knoll above the town.

On 16 August 1648 the advanced guard of the Parliamentary army skirmished in the town with the rear of the retreating Scottish Royalists. Cromwell himself passed through Clitheroe later in the day.

Gawthorpe Hall (SD806341) Restored by Barry in the nineteenth century, Gawthorpe Hall is a compact three storey fortified hall built in 1600 around an earlier square tower. It was owned by the Shuttleworth family in the seventeenth century and although some Shuttleworths fought for the King in the Civil War, the family home was garrisoned for Parliament by Col. Richard Shuttleworth. It saw little action. The

well-preserved hall is open on Wednesdays and at weekends during the summer.

Greenhalgh Castle (SD500452) Greenhalgh Castle outside Garstang is a rectangular fortified hall with corner towers. Built by a Stanley Earl of Derby at the end of the fifteenth century, it was garrisoned for the King by their descendant 150 years later. The Royalist garrison withstood one siege in summer 1644 but fell later in the year, a victim of the general demise of the Royalist cause in the area after Marston Moor. The castle was demolished by Parliament in 1649 and only fragments of walls and of one of the corner towers now remain. The ruins stand on private land but can be viewed from a public footpath which runs close by.

Hodder Bridge (SD705392) The medieval three arched bridge, still sometimes called 'Cromwell's Bridge', stands next to the present modern road bridge across the Hodder. Cromwell held an impromptu Council of War here on 16 August 1648 to discuss the movement of the Scottish Royalists and the Parliamentary response. It was decided to march straight for Preston and the Parliamentary army immediately crossed the bridge and headed south-west towards the Scottish position.

Hoghton or Houghton Tower (SO622265) Hoghton Tower was built by Thomas Hoghton in the 1560s, a fortified hilltop mansion in the form of a double quadrangle, with a cross wing and gatehouse separating the outer and inner courts. Sir Gilbert Hoghton garrisoned the place for the King at the end of 1642. The Royalist tenure was brief, however, for the garrison was attacked by Col. Starkie in February 1643 and surrendered almost immediately. By accident or design, the Royalist powder stored in the central gatehouse exploded as the hall was being handed over, wrecking that part of the building and killing Col. Starkie and at least sixty of his men. Hoghton Tower was restored after the war and has been remodelled on several occasions since. It is open to the public on summer weekends.

Hornby Castle (SD587687) There was a castle on the site by the twelfth century, but the present remains date from the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, when the fortress was rebuilt by Lord Conyers. Hornby passed to the Stanleys in the late fifteenth century and was garrisoned for the King by the Earl of Derby in 1642. Col. Assheton's Parliamentarians attacked the place in June 1643; as one party diverted the Royalists by assaulting the gatehouse, their colleagues

forced an entry to the east and set fire to the castle. The King's men were smoked out and the castle was gutted. The remains, including part of the keep and curtain wall, stand behind the present 'castle', a spectacular Victorian pile incorporating fragments of its Tudor predecessor. Neither castle nor grounds are open to the public.

Lancaster (SD4761) Lancaster's involvement in the Civil War was brief but bloody. Neither side initially garrisoned the place and the Parliamentarians were able to occupy the town without serious opposition in February 1643. They were almost immediately attacked by the Earl of Derby, who overran and violently sacked the town and laid siege to the castle, in which up to 600 Parliamentary troops had taken refuge; the approach of a relieving force compelled Derby to fall back. A second siege in May was equally unsuccessful. Thereafter the Parliamentarians held town and castle almost unchallenged and Lancaster became the centre for operations throughout the north of the county. The Scottish Royalist army marched through in 1648 and 1651, but on both occasions it soon moved on without seriously attempting to capture the castle and its large Parliamentary garrison.

Only part of the fortress which saw action in the Civil War survives today. Much of the castle has been completely demolished and other sections were remodelled beyond recognition in the eighteenth and nineteenth century. Most of the site is now covered by the county court and gaol, both post-Civil War. The main medieval survival is John of Gaunt's great gatehouse, a large late fourteenth-century building, the gateway flanked by two octagonal towers. Slight earthworks on the south-west side may date from the Civil War.

Lathom House (SD4609) The present eighteenth-century Lathom House stands on or near the site of the medieval fortress of the Earls of Derby, a massive fortified mansion in red sandstone built around a great tower, the Eagle Tower. The house was defended by a moat and an outer curtain wall with nine mural towers and a gatehouse. A major Royalist stronghold from the outbreak of the Civil War, Lathom held out long after the collapse of the King's cause throughout the surrounding region. In January 1644 Fairfax summoned and invested Lathom with 2,500 Parliamentarians. Lady Derby and her 350-strong garrison endured a three month siege, lifted on 27 May at the approach of Prince Rupert. Col. Egerton resumed the siege later in the year, but not until 2 December 1645

did the defenders, then under the command of Col. Rosthorn, finally surrender Lathom. By holding out for so long, the Royalist garrison had tied down large numbers of Parliamentary troops and thus hampered the war effort. In revenge, Parliament ordered the mansion razed in 1646. So complete was the destruction that the position of the medieval fortress cannot now be located with certainty. Although the present Lathom House may stand on the site (SD459091), its surroundings seem inconsistent with contemporary descriptions of the Civil War stronghold. Extensive earthworks ½ mile south east, on a slight rise above a stream and amid post-seventeenth-century woods, may mark the site of the medieval fortress (SD466085).

Longridge (SD6037) Early on 17 August 1648 the rear guard of the Scottish Royalist army under Langdale was surprised here by units of the Parliamentary army led by Cols Hodgson and Smithson. The Royalists briefly attempted to hold the main street through the town but soon turned and fell back south-west, towards Preston. The main Parliamentary army under Cromwell passed through Longridge later in the morning.

Preston (SD5429) The town changed hands several times during the first Civil War but was, for the most part, under Parliamentary control. Johan Rosworm designed a circuit of earthwork defences.

The decisive battle of the second Civil War was fought at Preston on 17 August 1648 when the Parliamentary army under Cromwell caught and scattered part of the Scottish Royalist invasion force led by Hamilton, Callendar and Langdale. The Royalist force of 20,000 men was far larger than the Parliamentary army, but Cromwell skillfully exploited his enemy's disunity and never engaged the whole Royalist army.

By 17 August the King's men had reached the Preston area on their march south, but they had become dangerously strung out, with much of their Foot still approaching Preston as their Horse left Wigan, several miles to the south. The Royalist rear fell back from Longridge in the early morning, pursued all the way by advanced units of the Parliamentary army. Langdale halted his men two miles north-east of Preston and attempted to hold the sunken lane from Longridge to Preston at the point where it left the open space of Ribbleton Moor and ran through an area of hedges and enclosures. The Royalist high command in Preston was probably unaware that its rear was faced by the whole weight of the Parliamentary army and Hamilton

refused to send Langdale any reinforcements. Thus Langdale's men were heavily outnumbered when Cromwell attacked at around 4 p.m., his main force charging down the road as flanking units set off to cut their way through the enclosures on each side of the lane. The fight was long and fierce but Langdale's men were pushed back, at first slowly, then in rout, and by evening Cromwell had entered Preston.

The Scottish Foot had hurriedly departed by this time, leaving units to guard the two vital bridges over the Ribble and the Darwen (SD552287 and SD557280 respectively) to the south of the town. But after further fighting, the heavily outnumbered Royalist guards were pushed back and the bridges captured.

Cromwell had faced only part of the Scottish Royalist army at Preston but had nonetheless scored a decisive victory. By the end of the day roughly a quarter of the original invasion force had been killed or captured and the remainder were fleeing south in disorder.

The area to the north-east of the town around which fighting was fiercest has since been built over and absorbed into Preston; the sunken lane of 1648 is now the main road through the north-eastern suburb of Ribbleton (SD5631).

Stonyhurst College (SD690392) Despite many later alterations and extensions, Stonyhurst remains at heart the late Elizabethan quadrangular house built for Sir Robert Sherburne in the 1590s. Cromwell stayed here overnight on 16–17 August while on his way south-west to intercept the Scottish Royalists around Preston. The table on which he supposedly slept is in the Great Hall. Stonyhurst is now a Roman Catholic College and is not usually open to the public.

Thurland Castle (SD610730) The medieval castle was garrisoned for the King at the outbreak of the Civil War but changed hands three times in the following year. In June 1643 local Parliamentarians captured the castle but did not garrison it and Sir John Girlington's Royalists quickly returned. In August a second Parliamentary force under Col. Rigby appeared before the castle, which surrendered two months later following a prolonged siege and a heavy bombardment. The old fortress was destroyed by fire in

the nineteenth century and the present 'castle' is a late Victorian mock-Tudor fortified mansion surrounded by the restored and remodelled moat which once protected its medieval predecessor.

Walton le Dale (SD5528) According to tradition, a thatched seventeenth-century inn, the Unicorn (now a restaurant), in the lane leading from Darwen Bridge became Cromwell's HQ after the Battle of Preston. From here he directed the mopping-up operations around the town and despatched units south to pursue the fleeing Royalists; he may have spent the night of 17–18 August here. A Cromwell Association plaque on the outer wall records the building's link with Cromwell.

Whalley (SD7336) In April 1643 Col. Ralph Assheton sent a Parliamentary force north from Rochdale to draw Derby's men away from the towns in the north and west of the county. The Earl called together his forces and stationed them around Whalley in the hope of blocking and intercepting the Parliamentarians; Derby himself quartered in the abbey. A detachment of Horse and Foot sent off south-east along the Padiham road to look for Assheton's men stumbled straight into an ambush and were put to flight by Parliamentary musketeers lying in wait by the road where it crossed the Sabden Brook. The Parliamentarians then swept down into Whalley and the main Royalist army, drawn up on low ground around the river Calder, made no attempt to stand and fight and instead turned and fled westwards in disorder. A partial stand at Lango Green (SD7034) was ineffective and the panic-stricken Royalists continued their disorderly flight along the Ribble valley.

The action at Whalley by no means finished the Royalist cause in the area – Derby escaped to the Isle of Man, several Royalist strongholds held out for another year or more and not until the destruction of the King's northern army at Marston Moor fifteen months later was the area finally secure for Parliament. Nonetheless the victory at Whalley lifted the immediate Royalist threat to much of Lancashire and permanently altered the balance of power in the area in favour of Parliament.

LEICESTERSHIRE

Lords Stamford and Grey secured Leicestershire for Parliament in autumn 1642 and most of the county remained under Parliamentary control throughout the Civil War. The King's men established a number of bases on the fringes of the county, chiefly Ashby de la Zouch in the north-west and Belvoir in the north-east, major centres of Royalist operations; both held out until early 1646. The county town was brutally sacked by Rupert's men in 1645, but otherwise Leicestershire suffered little more than fairly minor Royalist raids. Cromwell passed through the county on several occasions in 1643 and 1644 and was briefly based here in June 1645 after the Battle of Naseby. He passed through the county again in 1648 and 1650–51 on his way to and from Scotland.

Ashby de la Zouch (SK361166) A Royalist stronghold throughout the Civil War, the fifteenth-century castle was garrisoned for the King by Henry Hastings at the outbreak of war and became a centre for Royalist activities over a wide area of north-west Leicestershire and the adjoining counties. Town and castle were occasionally raided by Parliamentary units from Leicester, but not until autumn 1645 were the Parliamentarians strong enough to launch a sustained campaign against Ashby. The town was quickly overrun and the castle invested; it surrendered in the following February after a long siege. The fortress was slighted in 1648 and the south wall of the Hastings Tower and much of the outer defences were brought down by mines. The present extensive ruins, including the massive four storey tower added by Lord Hastings in the 1470s, are open daily.

Belvoir Castle (SK820337) The spectacular Gothic pile overlooking the Vale of Belvoir is the latest in a succession of buildings on the site stretching back to the eleventh century. Robert de Todeni's Norman castle was repeatedly strengthened and partially rebuilt over the succeeding centuries and was extensively modernised by the Earl of Rutland in the sixteenth. The castle changed hands several times during the opening year of the Civil War but by the latter half of 1643 the Royalists had secured the place and installed a large garrison. Like Ashby to the west, Belvoir became a major Royalist stronghold and a base for operations over a wide area; it, too, survived long after the general collapse of the King's cause in the East Midlands. Cromwell was around Belvoir in late April 1644 but apparently made no real attempt to take the fortress, and not until autumn 1645 did the Parliamentarians mount a prolonged campaign against the Royalist outpost. Col. Poyntz arrived before the castle in October and over the following months he gradually tightened his grip, overrunning the outer earthworks

and cutting the garrison's external water supply. The King's men surrendered in January 1646. The castle was slighted three years later and has been rebuilt several times since. In consequence very little of the fortress which saw action in the Civil War is now visible. The lower part of the Stainton Tower is believed to date from the sixteenth century and odd fragments of masonry elsewhere are probably late medieval or Tudor. Belvoir Castle is open to the public during the summer.

Bosworth Field (SK402002) The open ground above Market Bosworth is famous for its role in deciding an earlier conflict. On 1 July 1644 it was the scene of a much smaller engagement, when a Royalist raiding party from Ashby was surprised here and scattered by Col. Babington's Parliamentarians.

Bradgate (SK534102) Bradgate was the principal country seat of the Parliamentarian Henry Grey, 1st Earl of Stamford. Built by his predecessor Thomas Grey, Marquis of Dorset, at the end of the fifteenth century, Stamford's fortified home was attacked and sacked by local Royalists at the outbreak of the Civil War. The Earl returned here after an inglorious war – he occupied Hereford in September 1642 but abandoned the place in December, he was heavily defeated by Hopton at Stratton (Cornwall) in the following May and he surrendered Exeter to the besieging Royalists later in the year. He declared for the King in 1659, survived the Restoration unmolested, and lived quietly at Bradgate until his death in 1673. The house was abandoned in the 1730s and rapidly fell to ruin; parts of three towers and of the adjoining walls remain standing. The chapel alone survives in good order, restored and reroofed this century; the 1st Earl and his wife lie inside, beneath a large table tomb bearing recumbent effigies of the couple.

Leicestershire

Right: Ashby de la Zouch Castle, Leics. The Royalist strongpoint and centre of operations fell to Parliament in 1646 and was slighted two years later. The early medieval castle had passed to Edward IV's Chamberlain, Lord Hastings, in 1464 and he completely overhauled its defences, adding the huge tower which still bears his name.

Below: Staunton Harold Church, Leics. One of the very few churches built during the Interregnum, Holy Trinity was begun in 1653. As the inscription has it: 'When all things Sacred were throughout ye nation Either demollisht or profaned Sir Robert Shirley, Barronet, Founded this church, whose singular praise it is To have done ye best things in ye worst times, and hoped them in the most callamitous. The righteous shall be had in everlasting remembrance.' Shirley himself died in the Tower in 1656, aged 29. Holy Trinity survives almost unaltered, a curious mixture of Gothic architecture and Jacobean furnishings, the box pews still complete with their brass candlesticks. The rather poor ceiling of assorted clouds and swirls was painted by Samuel Kyrk in 1655 and probably represents the theme of order out of chaos.



Burley (SK885102) Burley House, built by the 1st Duke of Buckingham in the 1620s, served for much of the Civil War as the Parliamentary HQ for the old county of Rutland. It was hastily evacuated in June 1645 when the Royalist capture of Leicester instilled near panic in the surrounding area. The Royalists marched through later in the month and breached the outer defences of the house to prevent its re-occupation. Parliament completed the destruction by slighting the house in the following year. No trace of Buckingham's mansion survives and the present Burley House dates from the very end of the seventeenth century.

Coleorton (SK4017) Coleorton served as a Parliamentary garrison for most of the war, enduring frequent raids and evacuated from time to time – for instance, the troops temporarily pulled out in May 1645 after the fall of Leicester. The garrison was housed in the sixteenth-century manor-house of the Beaumont family, of which nothing remains. The present hall on the site, a Gothic ashlar mansion, dates from the early nineteenth century.

Cotes (SK5520) The decayed medieval village of Cotes stood at an important crossing of the river Soar and was the scene of several skirmishes. In March 1644, for instance, a Parliamentary force under Hartop engaged a party of Royalists, moving to relieve Newark, around the bridge; Hartop fell back on the approach of Royalist reinforcements under Loughborough.

After the war Sir Christopher Packe acquired Cotes Hall, the Tudor seat of the Skipwith family, and he spent the last years of his life in retirement here. The hall was destroyed by fire in the eighteenth century.

Hemington Hall (SK4528) Medieval Hemington Hall served as a minor Royalist base during the Civil War, defended by trenches and earthworks on the slope above. There is no record of fighting here and the hall was probably abandoned as Royalist fortunes waned. The weathered earthworks survive and below them, to the west of the church, stand the remains of the hall, two stone ranges at right angles to each other.

Hinckley (SP4293) In March 1644 a fierce but indecisive skirmish developed around St Mary's as a Parliamentary unit arrived at Hinckley and attempted to rescue some of their colleagues, held prisoner within the village church.

Kirby Bellars (SK7117) The early seventeenth-

century great house in Kirby Park was garrisoned for Parliament throughout the Civil War; it was one of the bases hastily evacuated in June 1645 following the fall of Leicester, but seems to have escaped Royalist attention. The old ironstone manor-house still stands, but it was drastically altered and remodelled in the nineteenth century. Neither house nor park is open to the public.

Leicester (SK5804) After 2½ uneventful years as the Parliamentary HQ for the county, Leicester was seriously threatened for the first time on 29 May 1645 by the arrival of Prince Rupert and 5,000 Royalist troops. The King's men surrounded the town and established a battery on Raw Dykes, the decayed banks of the Roman aqueduct beside the Aylestone Road. The walls and banks which defended the town were breached in several places on 30 May and Rupert's men stormed the place in the early hours of the 31st. The 2,000-strong Parliamentary garrison fiercely resisted, but despite heavy fighting around West Bridge, East Gate, the Newarke and St Margaret's churchyard, Leicester fell to the Royalists. Although pro-Parliamentary accounts probably exaggerated the ensuing massacre, there is little doubt that Rupert exacted a bloody and violent revenge on the town. The Prince and most of his men soon marched on, leaving a small garrison to hold the town. A fortnight later Fairfax and the main Parliamentary army appeared before Leicester, and Governor Hastings surrendered the town on 18 June after a two day siege and bombardment.

The Roman and medieval walls and the Civil War earthworks have largely disappeared, the victims of neglect and urban expansion. Parts of the castle – the Parliamentarians' HQ and magazine – still stand, including the Norman motte and the twelfth-century Great Hall, extensively renovated in the eighteenth century and now the county court. Two gates into the fifteenth-century outer bailey, which was known as the 'New Work' or 'Newarke', also survive.

Cromwell was in and around Leicester on several occasions during the Civil War and was with Fairfax's forces on 16–20 June 1645 during the siege and capture of the town. He usually stopped for the night in Leicester on his way to and from Scotland in 1648–51 and contemporary accounts talk of him being feasted by the Mayor on such occasions. The banquets may have been held in the Old Guildhall in Guildhall Lane, a fourteenth-century building with an early Stuart Mayor's Parlour. The Guildhall is open daily.

Lowesby Hall (SK7207) Although Col. Hutchinson, the Parliamentary soldier and republican, possessed considerable property in the north of Nottinghamshire, he also acquired the early Stuart mansion of Lowesby Hall. It was there that his widow wrote her account of Hutchinson after the Restoration. The present hall, a two storey brick mansion, is early Georgian, but it incorporates parts of the seventeenth-century stone mansion. Many of the woods, fishponds and terraces which Hutchinson laid out in the grounds of Lowesby Hall are still to be seen.

Market Harborough (SP7387) The Church of St Dionysius served as a temporary prison for some of the many Royalists captured or wounded at Naseby. This seems to be the origin of lurid and probably unfounded tales of massacre here after the battle.

Melton Mowbray (SK7519) Melton Mowbray was a Parliamentary base throughout the Civil War; its garrison enduring repeated Royalist raids from Belvoir and other centres. The worst attack took place in November 1643 when Col. Lucas and a party from Belvoir and Newark surprised the garrison and carried off 300 prisoners. Fifteen months later, in February 1645, Langdale's Horse surprised and scattered Rossiter's Parliamentary force just outside the town.

North Luffenham (SK928033) In autumn 1642 a 200-strong Royalist garrison was established in Henry Noel's fortified house, Luffenham House, which stood immediately west of the village church. In the following spring 1,200 Parliamentarians under Grey and Wray swooped down on the garrison, which surrendered after a brief bombardment. The hall was then plundered and burnt and today nothing survives except a dry ditch, the remains of the former moat, just west of the churchyard. (The large house to the east of the church now known as Luffenham Hall is a completely different building on a different site.)

A small circular mound surrounded by a ditch and bank stands nearby to the south of the river Chater and west of the road from North Luffenham to Morcott. Probably prehistoric in origin, it is said to be the spot on which Parliamentary guns were planted during the bombardment of the old hall.

Noseley (SP737985) Sir Arthur Hesilrige was

born, brought up and spent much of his life at Noseley Hall, the family's Leicestershire seat. A prominent opponent of the King from the beginning of the Long Parliament, Hesilrige was one of the five Members whom Charles I attempted to arrest in January 1642. Hesilrige and his distinctively armoured troop of 'lobsters' saw service in southern England throughout the first Civil War; in 1648–51 he served in northern England and Scotland. Hesilrige returned to politics during the 1650s and became an increasingly outspoken opponent of the Protectorate. He was not a regicide, but he was arrested at the Restoration and held in the Tower, where he died in 1661. Although his house was later demolished – the present Noseley Hall is eighteenth-century – the adjoining thirteenth-century Chapel of St Mary survives intact. Hesilrige and his two wives lie buried here beneath an ornate marble monument. Sir Arthur rests in effigy on a table tomb, watched over by his second wife, who lies on her side next to him; beneath them kneel their twelve children.

Prestwold Hall (SK578215) Sir Christopher Packe, Parliamentarian, City politician and sometime Lord Mayor of London, acquired extensive property in Leicestershire during the 1650s and 1660s, including a mansion at Cotes and Prestwold Hall. He was barred from holding further public office at the Restoration but otherwise escaped unmolested and continued to live quietly here and at his other properties in London and Cambridgeshire until his death at Cotes in 1682. His house at Prestwold has disappeared – the present hall is eighteenth-century – but the medieval Chapel of St Andrew next to the hall escaped demolition and survives intact. Packe lies buried near the impressive mural monument in the chancel which shows a semi-reclining effigy of Sir Christopher dressed in his mayoral robes, with the Arms of the City of London, the City mace and other insignia by his side.

Staunton Harold (SK380209) As the inscription over the west door relates, Holy Trinity Church was begun by the Royalist Sir Richard Shirley in 1653, and although not completed until 1665, it is substantially an Interregnum church, one of very few built. It has been little altered and remains a mid-seventeenth-century church inside and out, with a short aisled nave, chancel, west tower, west gallery and screen and box pews.

LINCOLNSHIRE

Although the county was secured for Parliament at the outbreak of the Civil War, the Royalists soon began making inroads into the region and by autumn 1643 much of Lincolnshire had fallen to the King. The Royalist threat receded thereafter but fighting continued well into 1645 and the area was frequently raided by Prince Rupert and by troops from the bases at Belvoir and Newark. A party of Royalist rebels marched through the area in 1648. Cromwell was frequently in Lincolnshire during the 1640s and spent much of 1643 on campaign within the county. He had been present during the Edgehill campaign and had worked hard in 1642–43 to secure East Anglia and to organise the defence of Cambridgeshire, but it was in Lincolnshire during summer 1643 that Cromwell first experienced prolonged military action and began to rise to national prominence.

Ancaster Heath (SK9843) In March 1643 a large Royalist force led by Charles Cavendish and including men from the Belvoir and Newark garrisons advanced into southern Lincolnshire in the hope of cutting the county in two and breaking the lines of communication to Cambridgeshire and the south. The Royalists took Grantham and pushed on towards Boston. On 11 April 1643 their path was blocked at Ancaster by 1,500 Parliamentarians under Lord Willoughby and the younger Hotham. In a brief engagement on heathland just outside the town, the Parliamentarians were brushed aside by the larger and better organised Royalist army.

Belleau (TL4078) The old manor-house at Belleau was owned by Lord Willoughby during the 1640s and was acquired by Sir Henry Vane junior after the Civil War. Vane lived here and at Raby (Durham) until the Restoration. Sections of the sixteenth-century moated manor-house survive and are now incorporated within a later farmhouse and outbuildings; an octagonal dovecote, once part of the Tudor estate, stands near the Church of St John the Baptist. Within the largely nineteenth-century church (TL402785) is a modern memorial to Sir Henry Vane.

Belton (SK9339) On 13 May 1643 Belton was the scene of a confused skirmish between Parliamentarians under Cromwell and Willoughby and 1,200 Royalists from Newark and Gainsborough led by Cavendish and Henderson. Our knowledge of the engagement rests largely on a brief and sometimes dubious account given in one of Cromwell's letters. The Parliamentarians had just retaken Grantham and early on the 13th Cromwell led his troops out of the town towards Newark in a fruitless attempt to find the Royalist forces known to be in the area. In fact, Cavendish's men were already very close to Grantham and in the morning they attacked and scattered a Parliamentary outpost stationed around Belton. The main engagement took place

that evening, when Willoughby and Cromwell faced Cavendish's army on flat land between the river Witham and the present park gates of Belton House (which was built forty years after the Civil War), south-east of Tolthorp. After the dragoons had exchanged fire, Cromwell launched a Cavalry attack which seems to have surprised and shaken the Royalists – possibly they were off-guard, not expecting their opponents to give battle at 10 p.m. A brief mêlée in failing light left 100 Royalists dead or wounded, 45 captured and the rest falling back northwards in disorder.

Bolingbroke Castle (TF349648) The Norman motte and bailey castle in Old Bolingbroke, enlarged and strengthened by John of Gaunt in the fourteenth century, was occupied and garrisoned for the King in summer 1643. The Royalists were under siege by September and surrendered to the Earl of Manchester in the following month. It was then garrisoned for Parliament, but the troops were soon withdrawn for service elsewhere and the castle slighted to prevent its reoccupation. Some sections, including the gatehouse, survived until the nineteenth century, but very little now remains. Recent excavations have revealed extensive foundations, but nothing more than odd fragments of masonry are now visible on and around the motte.

Boston (TF3244) Boston was the principal Parliamentary stronghold and magazine in the south-east of the county, held for Parliament without serious challenge throughout the war. Cromwell passed through the town on many occasions in 1643 and was based here for much of September and early October.

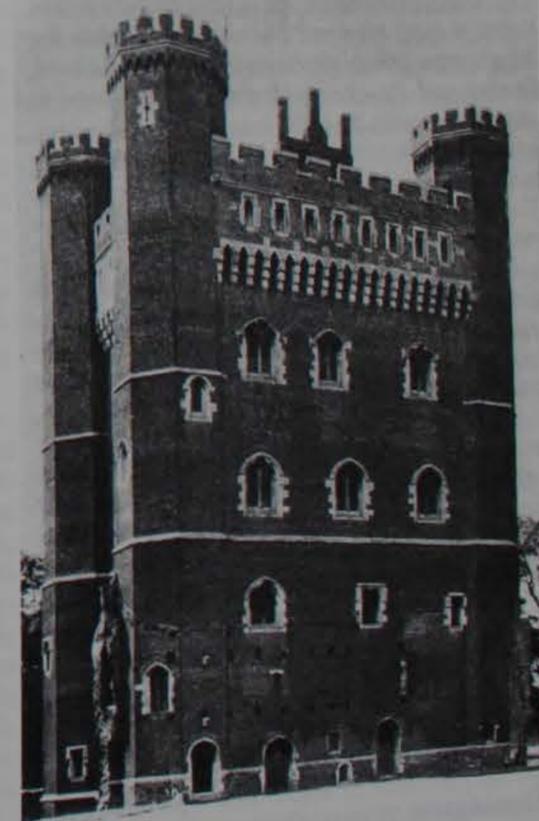
Cressey Hall (TF225304) In one of the earliest engagements of the Civil War in Lincolnshire, Sir Anthony Irby surprised and scattered a party of local Royalists before Cressey Hall. A small Parliamentary garrison was established in the late medieval moated hall, but the troops were

Lincolnshire

Right: Crowland, Lincs. The carved figure on fourteenth-century Trinity Bridge, sometimes jokingly identified as Cromwell, is in reality Christ or the Virgin and almost certainly came from the medieval abbey.

Below: It was in Lincolnshire during 1643 that Cromwell first saw serious action and his capture in April of Crowland Abbey marks perhaps the true beginning of his military career. Robert Walker's much-copied portrait of Cromwell, executed sometime in the mid to late 1640s, shows the still relatively youthful and active soldier; subsequent service in Ireland and Scotland in 1649–51 broke his health and markedly aged him.

Below right: Tattershall Castle, Lincs. The huge fifteenth-century keep, which dominates the surrounding countryside, was built by Ralph, Lord Cromwell, from nearly one million bricks in local red clay.



soon withdrawn to serve in more important bases in the region and Cressey played no further part in the conflict. The hall thus survived the Civil War intact, but it was burnt to the ground in 1791 and nothing survives except the remains of the moat near the road and the present nineteenth-century hall.

Crowland (TF242105) The medieval Abbey of Crowland and the village which grew up around it stood on an island of rising ground surrounded by low marshland. Most of the monastic buildings were demolished at or soon after the Dissolution, though parts of the great abbey church were retained and converted into a secular church. On 25 March 1643 a pro-Royalist faction within Crowland secured the village for the King and occupied and fortified the village church and other surviving sections of the abbey. Local Parliamentarians under Hobart and Irby soon surrounded Crowland, and operations were stepped up when Cromwell and his troops joined the siege on 25 April. Their heavy artillery pounded Royalist positions for three days until the King's men surrendered on the 28th.

The village saw further action in 1644. The Parliamentary garrison was temporarily evacuated in March as Royalists passed through. It was evacuated again in October when the Royalist army returned and on this occasion the King's men left a garrison to hold Crowland. Fairfax and Rossiter laid siege to the place as soon as the main Royalist force had marched on, but heavy autumn rains flooded the surrounding land and saved the garrison from direct attack. The Royalists were eventually starved into surrender at the end of the year.

Parts of the abbey church, including the north aisle and tower, still serve as the village church, incorporated within the largely nineteenth-century building; nearby are the remains of the nave and other sections of the medieval church.

By one of the flights of steps of the triangular bridge in Crowland is a seated figure holding a sphere. Despite suggestions that it is Oliver Cromwell with a bun, it is almost certainly an effigy of Christ or the Virgin Mary, crowned and holding an orb.

Denton (SK8632) On 29 October 1644 Col. Rossiter intercepted and captured a Royalist troop at Denton. They were *en route* to Crowland to relieve the Parliamentary siege of the newly-established garrison.

Donington (TF2035) Donington was the scene of several skirmishes 1643–44, the most impor-

tant of which took place on 13 June 1643 when Royalists from Belvoir (Leics) surprised and routed a party of Parliamentarians from Boston. Cromwell himself had passed through the village just three days before.

Gainsborough (SK8189) Gainsborough was an attractive and vulnerable target during the Civil War, a prosperous port and commercial centre defended by nothing more than earthwork banks and ditches and standing in an area which, though controlled by Parliament for much of the war, was dangerously close to Newark and other Royalist bases. Gainsborough was captured by a raiding party from Newark in January 1643 and remained in Royalist hands for six months. On 20 July Willoughby launched a surprise attack and overwhelmed the Earl of Kingston's men, retaking the town for Parliament. He was, however, almost immediately besieged by Charles Cavendish's Royalist army and summoned assistance.

On 28 July a 1,200-strong relieving force under Cromwell and Meldrum approached Gainsborough. They engaged and overcame Cavendish's advanced guard near the village of Lea (SK8286) and then pressed on over steep and difficult ground towards Cavendish's main force, drawn up on the hill immediately east of Gainsborough. The ensuing fight was fierce but brief, for the Parliamentarians soon broke the enemy Horse and began to push the Royalists from the field. Cavendish, however, had kept some troops in reserve, and at this point he charged the flank of the now disorganised and careless Parliamentarians. Cromwell, too, had held back three troops from the chase and with these he swooped down on the rear of Cavendish's reserve, breaking the last surviving element of the Royalist army and completing the rout. Cavendish was fatally wounded as he and his men were pursued downhill into the marshland beside the Trent. Long afterwards, the names of fields and other features in this area recalled the battle and ensuing slaughter – Redcoats Field, Graves Close and Cavendish Bog.

Cromwell had relieved Gainsborough and spent the night in the town but the respite was short-lived. On the following morning Newcastle and the main Royalist army were spotted approaching from the north and although Cromwell managed to get his troops away and back to Grantham, the garrison was left in a hopeless position; Willoughby surrendered on 31 July. The town changed hands twice more – it was retaken by Meldrum in December but evacuated in March 1644 at the approach of Prince Rupert – before it was finally secured for

Parliament by the Earl of Manchester in summer 1644.

Grantham (SK9135) Although the town was held for Parliament for most of the war, it was vulnerable to attack from nearby Belvoir and Newark and changed hands several times in 1643. Royalists took the town in January but were promptly ejected. Two months later, on 23 March, a much larger force under Charles Cavendish stormed and captured Grantham and, although they did not garrison the place, their presence in the vicinity severed the main road between London and York and seemed to herald a full-scale invasion of Lincolnshire. In response, Willoughby, Hotham and Cromwell rendezvoused at Sleaford on 9 May and re-entered Grantham two days later. Although they had retaken the town without opposition, Cavendish's forces were still in the area and soon moved to expell them. On 13 May the armies clashed 2½ miles north-east of the town (see Belton).

Grimsthorpe Castle (TF045228) Gilbert de Gant's thirteenth-century quadrangular fortress was extensively modernised during the sixteenth century when a fine south front was added. In the seventeenth century the castle was owned by the Berties, Earls of Lindsey, and they garrisoned the place for the King late in 1643. Grimsthorpe was captured in the following April by the Earl of Manchester, whose men proceeded to sack and partly demolish the place. It was repaired and remodelled by Vanbrugh and much of the present building dates from the eighteenth and nineteenth century. Of the fortress which saw action in the Civil War, there survive the four medieval corner towers, the Elizabethan south front and several early modern interiors. Grimsthorpe is open daily during August.

Horncastle (TF2669) According to a strong and plausible tradition, Cromwell stayed in Horncastle after the Battle of Winceby, lodging at a house in West Street, now demolished, which stood next to the present Cromwell House. On 11 October he supposedly supervised the burial of Sir Ingram Hopton, a Royalist officer killed at Winceby as he was about to attack the unhorsed Cromwell. Hopton lies in St Mary's Church, near a later monument which describes Cromwell as an 'arch rebel'. The church also contains a number of relics found on the battlefield.

Hougham House (SK888442) The medieval

moated manor-house of the Bussey and Brundell families was garrisoned for Parliament during the Civil War. Near the western border of Lincolnshire, Hougham was always vulnerable to raids from Newark. In one such attack, a party of Newark Royalists surprised and captured Hougham in an early morning raid on 10 June 1645, only to fall themselves to Col. Rossiter in the course of a fierce counter-attack launched later the same day. The present stone mansion east of the church is Georgian, but it incorporates sections of its medieval and Jacobean predecessor; nearby are the remains of the medieval moat which surrounded the old house. The house and grounds are private but a public footpath runs close by.

Lincoln (SK9771) By the seventeenth century the Roman and medieval defences at Lincoln were semi-ruinous and the town could put up little resistance to a determined attack. Thus although Lincoln was held for Parliament for much of the war, it never became a major base and it repeatedly fell to Royalist raids from Newark and, in 1644, from Prince Rupert's forces. The county town was plundered again in summer 1648 as Royalist rebels marched through. Cromwell was here in July 1643 and May 1644 and he spent most of August 1644 at Lincoln, kicking his heels while Manchester did nothing.

The extensive ruins of the Norman castle, open daily, stand in the north-west corner of the old town. Fragments of the Roman and medieval walls survive, together with Eastgate, Newport Arch and the foundations of Lower Westgate.

Mablethorpe Hall (TF492846) In August 1643, at the height of their fortunes in Lincolnshire, the King's men established an outpost at Mablethorpe. The garrison fell to Parliamentary forces towards the end of the year. The Royalists garrisoned Mablethorpe Hall, the moated mansion of the Fitzwilliam family, one mile west of the village. The old house has been largely demolished, though fragments were incorporated in the modern farm buildings, still called Mablethorpe Hall, which stand amid the remains of the moat.

Saltfleet (TF4593) Tradition has it that Cromwell spent the night after the Battle of Winceby – 11 October 1643 – in Saltfleet, sleeping in the seventeenth-century red brick manor-house opposite New Inn. There is, however, no contemporary evidence to place Cromwell here and the story conflicts with another unconfirmed but

much more plausible tradition that he spent the night at Horncastle. Cromwell was certainly recalled to Cambridgeshire soon after the battle, and Saltfleet is hardly on the way. All that can be said in favour of the town is that Cromwell was in the general area east of Lincoln on several occasions in 1643–44 and was in Louth, about 11 miles away, on 8 October 1643, three days before the battle.

Sleaford (TF0645) A small town in the centre of the county, Sleaford was garrisoned for Parliament for much of the war and served as a convenient base for operations over a wide area. The twelfth-century castle was very ruinous by this time and the garrison established a base in Sir Robert Carr's late medieval fortified house, the Old Place, in Boston Road about ½ mile east of the town centre. Cromwell probably lodged here on his frequent visits to the town in 1643 and 1644. A nineteenth-century 'L'-shaped house now stands on the site, though fragments of medieval masonry from the original hall show up in the garden walls. Town and garrison suffered repeated Royalist raids in 1643–44 and in March and October 1644 Sleaford fell to Prince Rupert, though on both occasions the Prince's army soon moved on and the returning Parliamentarians swiftly expelled the small garrisons left behind.

Stamford (TF0307) The southern gateway to Lincolnshire, Civil War Stamford was defended by a medieval castle and town walls, though by the seventeenth century both were in some disrepair. The town was held for Parliament for most of the war and Cromwell was a frequent visitor, particularly during July and August 1643. However, the town lies in the very south-west of the county and was vulnerable to Royalist raids from east Leicestershire; it was captured by the King's men in April 1643 and October 1644, though on both occasions the Royalists soon departed. In summer 1648 a party of Royalists entered the town in search of arms and recruits but instead found a Parliamentary unit under Col. Waite, who attacked and dispersed the rebels.

Little now remains of the medieval defences repaired and reused during the Civil War. The castle has completely disappeared and although fragments of masonry survive, particularly around West Street and Wharf Road, most of the town walls and gates were destroyed in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Syston Park (SK9240) Cromwell's letter of 13 May 1643 describing the capture of Grantham

and the Battle of Belton was written from Syston Park, less than a mile from the scene of the engagement. Presumably Cromwell lodged in the great house after the battle while his troops quartered in the surrounding park. The private park still lies on the outskirts of the village, though the house in which Cromwell stayed has been demolished; the present Old Hall dates from the nineteenth century.

Tattershall Castle (TF211575) Robert Tattershall's thirteenth-century castle was rebuilt by Ralph, Lord Cromwell two centuries later. Two moats and baileys surrounded the great red brick keep, four storeys high with crenellated parapets and octagonal corner towers. Tattershall was garrisoned for Parliament during most of the Civil War; it was captured and briefly held by the King's men in summer 1643. Although little now remains of the outer defences and of the domestic buildings which once stood within the baileys, the keep survives in good order, restored and consolidated at the beginning of the twentieth century, and is one of the most spectacular complete medieval brick buildings in England. Tattershall Castle is open daily.

Thorganby Hall (TF209982) The late medieval and Tudor hall was sacked and damaged by Royalist rebels as they marched through the county in summer 1648. Although the hall was remodelled in the eighteenth century, the post-Civil War repairs are still apparent in the south and east faces of the building. Thorganby Hall is private but the exterior can be viewed from the public footpath which runs close by.

Torksey Castle (SK837788) The Elizabethan fortified manor-house of the Jermyn family was held by Parliament during the Civil War to guard the Trent and the approach roads to Lincoln and Gainsborough. It was captured and briefly occupied by the King's men in October 1644. In the following August the Newark Royalists returned and this time they destroyed the castle before falling back at the approach of Parliamentary forces. The badly damaged fortress played no further part in the war. Torksey Castle is now a spectacular ruin, its stone and red brick west front, three storeys high and incorporating four octagonal towers, standing in a field near the church.

Wainfleet All Saints (TF4959) The village grew up around an important crossing of the river Steeping on the main coast road north of Boston. Wainfleet was occupied by Royalist

forces in August 1643 and the King's men began to construct earthwork defences around the bridge. They hastily evacuated the place in early October at the approach of part of Manchester's Parliamentary army. No trace of these Civil War earthworks survives.

Winceby (TF3168) On 11 October 1643 the Parliamentary army under Manchester and Cromwell engaged and defeated a large Royalist force on open ground about ¾ mile north-west of Winceby. The armies drew up on parallel ridges which ran east-west but which curved round and met to the east, thus forming a horseshoe of high ground enclosing a natural amphitheatre. Manchester deployed along the southern ridge, with Cromwell in the van, the Royalists along the northern. The battle opened with the Dragoons charging forward and clashing in the low ground between the two armies. Both front lines then charged, exchanging fire at close range and engaging. In the course of the hand-to-hand fighting, Cromwell had his horse shot from under him and was attacked by Sir Ingram Hopton, who was himself cut down. Cromwell escaped unhurt but apparently played little further part in the battle. With a fierce but confused fight raging below him, Sir Thomas Fairfax led the second Par-

liamentary line along the ridge and round to the east and then charged down into the Royalist left flank, quickly breaking the enemy line. The Royalist Cavalry fled south-west, where they were trapped by high hedges and a narrow gateway and were cut down by the pursuing Parliamentary Horse; the spot was afterwards known as Slash Hollow. Although fairly small numbers had been involved, Winceby was a decisive and important Parliamentary victory, for it halted the Royalist advance south and east through Lincolnshire.

The battlefield is still open farmland to the east of the A115 near its junction with the A158. The battle symbol on Ordnance Survey maps is placed at TF315689, near the centre of the hollow.

Woolsthorpe (SK835338) The medieval church at Woolsthorpe was held by the Royalists for much of the Civil War as an outpost of Belvoir. At the beginning of 1646, as part of the Parliamentary operation against the castle, Woolsthorpe was attacked and the church captured after a heavy bombardment which wrecked the building. It was never repaired and today the ruins still stand in the old graveyard about ¼ mile from the post-Restoration Church of St James which replaced it.

MERSEYSIDE

There was very little action within Merseyside during the Civil War. The Wirral played no part in the conflict and the only town and stronghold in the area was Liverpool, a small but prosperous port and a possible landing point for reinforcements from Ireland. Cromwell never visited the area.

Liverpool (SJ3490) Garrisoned for Parliament in spring 1643, Liverpool was strongly defended by a medieval wall and ditch which ran in an arc round the landward side of the town; a thirteenth-century castle stood at the southern point. Rupert approached the town in June 1644 and began bombarding the stronghold with heavy artillery on the 7th. The defences held for five days, enabling Col. Moore to send men and ammunition away by sea, but on the 12th Rupert's guns finally demolished a section of wall near the northern end of the town and

the Royalists rushed in. Liverpool was then garrisoned for the King, but the town was soon isolated in a solidly Parliamentary area and the Royalists surrendered in November after a long if half-hearted siege.

Seventeenth-century Liverpool covered the area now crossed by Duke, Water, Tithebarn, Chapel, Old Hall and Castle Streets. Sadly, the medieval walls and ditches which defended the old town have completely disappeared, as has the castle, the foundations of which lie somewhere beneath Derby Square.

NORFOLK

The county was held for Parliament without serious challenge throughout the Civil War and saw very little fighting. Minor Royalist intrigues were legion, but only at King's Lynn did their efforts bear fruit, provoking the one outbreak of major violence within Norfolk during the first Civil War. There were several pro-Royalist riots in the area in 1648, including a bloody outburst in Norwich. Cromwell toured the county in March 1643 investigating reports of Royalist activity and was present at King's Lynn later in the year, but he seems never to have returned to Norfolk after October 1643.

Great Yarmouth (TG5207) Cromwell passed through the town on 13 or 14 March 1643 on his way from Norwich to Lowestoft and he may have stopped here overnight, lodging in the house in South Quay belonging to John Carter, the leading Parliamentarian in Great Yarmouth. According to a later, rather unlikely story, Carter's house was the venue for a meeting of senior officers in 1648 at which it was decided to bring the King to trial. The house, No. 4 South Quay, was extensively altered in the eighteenth century but retains its late Tudor and Jacobean interiors. It is now a museum of domestic life.

Cromwell's granddaughter, Bridget Ireton and her husband Thomas Bandysh lived at Southtown, on the other side of the Yare, during the late seventeenth century. Both lie buried in the medieval Church of St Nicholas by St Nicholas Road, which was gutted by fire in 1942 and has since been rebuilt.

King's Lynn (TF6119) Cromwell visited King's Lynn on 20–21 March 1643 to investigate rumours of a Royalist plot and to ensure the town's loyalty to Parliament. The rumours were eventually matched by action, for on 13 August 1643 the governor, Sir Hammond L'Estrange, declared for the King, the first and only stronghold within the county to do so. The Royalists hastily repaired the town's defences, adding earthworks and bastions beyond the medieval stone walls. Local Parliamentary troops were refused admission and in late August Manchester arrived before the town, establishing his base at Setch Bridge to the south. Cromwell visited the siege in early September and reportedly supervised the placing of guns at West Lynn. The town was bombarded and St Margaret's Church hit, though little or no damage was caused. A

Civil War cannon-ball now hangs above the entrance to Hampton Court, a late medieval house and warehouse in Nelson Street. King's Lynn surrendered to Parliament on 16 September and a fortnight later, on 2 October, Cromwell visited the newly-secured town to confer with Manchester.

The Royalists' earthworks have long since disappeared but parts of the medieval stone walls survive, chiefly on the east side of the town, along Kettlewell Lane, Wyatt Street and the Walls. One gateway also remains, the South Gate, an early Tudor brick and stone building with angle turrets and battlements.

Norwich (TG2308) Cromwell was here on 12–13 and 17–19 March 1643 on his tour around the county. The town had a quiet Civil War and peace was shattered only once, in May 1648, when a series of pro-Royalist riots broke out and threatened Parliament's control of Norwich. Fleetwood's troops, stationed nearby, quickly put down the disturbances, but in the course of the troubles the magazine in the Committee House was ignited – whether by accident or design is unclear – and the resulting explosion killed 40 people, demolished the Committee House and badly damaged many buildings in the area, including St Peter's Man-croft. Fairfax visited Norwich in July to survey the damage and to ensure that everything was quiet. Over 100 rioters were subsequently tried and seven or eight were shot by firing-squad in the castle grounds on 2 January 1649. The medieval castle itself played no recorded part in the war; the restored keep is now a museum of local history and possesses many relics from the period, including Civil War armour and Cromwell's death mask.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Despite its size and central position, Northamptonshire saw surprisingly little action during the Civil War. Although the south-west of the county fell under the influence of Royalist Oxfordshire, most of the region was held for Parliament without serious challenge and suffered little more than minor and isolated raids. The exception was the Battle of Naseby, one of the largest and most decisive engagements of the Civil War. Cromwell was present for the battle but otherwise played no part in the war in Northamptonshire and rarely visited the county.

Althorp (SP682651) The early Tudor house, extensively rebuilt in 1790, played no significant part in the war. It does, however, contain many fine portraits from the period, including a representation of Oliver Cromwell thought to be by Walker.

Canons Ashby (SP577508) In the mid-sixteenth century the Dryden family built a quadrangular stone and brick house here on the site of the former guesthouse of the medieval priory. Extended in the early seventeenth century, Sir John Dryden's house became a base for Parliamentary units operating in the south-west of the county during the Civil War. One such unit was surprised by Royalists on the night of 18–19 August 1644 and took shelter, not in the house but in the nearby Church of St Mary, which was quickly surrounded. As the Royalists blew the doors with a petard, the Parliamentarians took refuge in the tower, but they emerged when the King's men threatened to burn the building down. The house itself survived the war intact and is now open to the public at weekends and on certain weekdays in summer. Amongst the furnishings and other relics on display is a small collection of Civil War arms and armour.

Daventry (SP5762) The final military action of the Interregnum took place just outside Daventry on 22 April 1660, when a motley Republican force under Lambert, Okey, Axtell and others was attacked by troops sent by Monck and commanded by Col. Ingoldsby, a former Parliamentarian and regicide out to earn a Royal Pardon. The engagement to the north of the town was brief and one-sided and after an exchange of fire and a short mêlée the Republican force disintegrated and Lambert was captured; he was never to know freedom again. A fortnight later the Convention Parliament declared Charles Stuart King of England.

East Farndon (SP716851) Although there is no record of fighting here, the village may have been garrisoned at some stage during the conflict, for earthworks here are sometimes described as Civil War defences. Other sources,

however, suggest that they are part of the decayed medieval village.

Grafton Regis (SP7646) Although the south-west fringes of the county fell under the influence of Royalist Oxfordshire, the King's men established very few formal garrisons in the area. From time to time they attempted to garrison Henry VIII's palace at Grafton Regis, but the base was very vulnerable to Parliamentary attack and the Royalist tenure was usually brief. Eventually Skippon and 3,000 men from Newport Pagnell put an end to the outpost once and for all, capturing the garrison and then plundering and burning the house to prevent its reoccupation. A later manor-house now occupies the main site and the only part of the Tudor palace to survive is a rectangular outbuilding which stands by the road near St Mary's Church.

Holdenby House (SP693678) In spring 1647 King Charles was held by Parliament at the royal mansion at Holdenby while MPs discussed his own and the country's future. Suspicious of Parliament's intentions, an army unit under Cornet Joyce marched to Holdenby on 2 June and secured the place; two days later the King was removed to the army base in Cambridgeshire. Sir Christopher Hatton's double-warded Elizabethan mansion had been acquired by James I in 1607. After his son's execution, the house was bought by Col. Adam Baynes, a Parliamentary officer and close associate of Lambert, who proceeded to demolish most of the Tudor house. The present Holdenby House was built in the nineteenth century and incorporated odd fragments of the earlier, much larger mansion. Three of the original archways stand in the grounds, two on the lawn and the third, which bears the date 1659 and a defaced coat of arms, to the north of the modern house. The gardens are open to the public during the summer.

Kelmarsh (SP728801) After excavation in the 1960s, several earthworks in Kelmarsh were ascribed to the mid-seventeenth century and

described as Civil War defences. However, there is no record of any action here and it seems likely that the earthworks, which have largely been destroyed, formed part of the decayed medieval village.

Lampor Hall (SP7574) Although Lampor Hall was begun in the sixteenth century, much of the present building dates from the 1650s and is one of the very few country houses of the Interregnum to survive in something like its original condition. Now flanked by late seventeenth and eighteenth-century extensions, the five bay two storey block designed by John Webb in 1654–57 remains the central feature of the hall. The richly furnished hall is open on Thursdays and Sundays during the summer.

Naseby (SP6878) Naseby was one of the largest and most decisive battles of the Civil War and the Parliamentary victory here on 14 June 1645 marked the beginning of the end of the Royalist cause in England.

Stung by the fall of Leicester, Fairfax abandoned the siege of Oxford on 5 June and marched north, determined to retake the town and engage the main Royalist army, then stationed around Daventry. Cromwell and his men joined Fairfax at Kislingbury early on 13 June. Surprised by Fairfax's approach, the King's army began marching away towards Market Harborough, closely pursued by the Parliamentarians. On the evening of the 13th Fairfax's main army was around Guilsborough, but the advanced guard entered Naseby, four miles to the north, surprising the Royalist rear lingering in and around the village. With Fairfax now so close, the King decided to turn and face his pursuers.

Both armies were on the move by the early hours of the 14th, stumbling around in the gloom and the fog, looking for each other and for a good position to give battle. Eventually the two forces drew up on either side of a slight valley, one mile to the north of Naseby; a track from Naseby to Sibbertoft – now a minor road – ran through the middle of both lines. The armies deployed in east–west lines, with the Foot in the centre and Horse on the wings. The Royalists drew up on the edge of Dust Hill, the Parliamentarians along the edge of Mill Hill, and the battle was fought in Broad Moor Valley, the wide and gently sloping valley between the two.

The Royalists moved first, advancing into the valley at around 10 a.m., but were soon met by the general Parliamentarian charge. The Parliamentary left was quickly broken by Rupert but the indisciplined Royalist Horse then

careered off to Naseby to loot the Parliamentary baggage. In the centre, the fighting was fierce but the Royalists began to gain the upper hand. On the Parliamentary right, however, Cromwell had charged into the enemy line at speed, shattered the King's left wing and then held his men together to swing round and attack the Royalist centre from behind. Cromwell's manoeuvre changed the course of the battle, for the Royalist Foot, now surrounded and outnumbered, lost their initial advantage and were soon routed and surrendered *en masse*. Rupert and his Horse returned to the battlefield to find that all was lost and although he managed to ride round and rejoin the King behind his crumbling army, the surviving Royalists refused to charge and instead turned and fled northwards. Of the Royalist army of 8–9,000, over 1,000 were killed in battle and up to 5,000 captured.

Although currently threatened by a major road scheme, the battlefield is still open ground little changed since the 1640s. Part of the area is now hedged and cultivated but nothing more than a handful of farmbuildings impinge upon the scene. Two monuments commemorate the battle; a nineteenth-century obelisk bearing a pro-Royalist inscription, which stands away from the battlefield by the village (SP694784), and a Cromwell Association memorial by the Naseby to Sibbertoft road on the edge of Broad Moor Valley, near the centre of the battle where the Infantry clashed (the monument is at SP684800, the Ordnance Survey battle symbol at SP684803). The monument records that 'from near this site Oliver Cromwell led the cavalry charge which decided the issue of the battle and ultimately that of the Great Civil War'. There is a rather improbable story that Cromwell's body was secretly carried to Naseby in September 1658 and buried somewhere on the battlefield. His ghost supposedly still stalks the area.

To the west of the battlefield, near Sulby (SP66978013), is a depression in the hillside with a slight mound in the centre, reportedly a communal grave for those who fell in the battle. Nineteenth-century excavations uncovered many human bodies here.

According to tradition 'Cromwell's Table', now in All Saints Church, Naseby, once stood at an inn in the village and was the table around which Royalist officers were eating and drinking on the evening of the 13th when disturbed by the Parliamentary advanced guard.

Naseby Battle and Farm Museum, immediately south of the village, contains several Civil War relics found on the battlefield, together with a large model of the battle itself.



Naseby, Northants. Sprigge's plan of the battle of Naseby (above) is stylized and possibly exaggerates the size of the Royalist army, but it remains of great value as one of the very few contemporary illustrations of Civil War engagements with any claim to accuracy. A modern obelisk (right) commemorates the decisive battle fought here in June 1645. Below: Rockingham Castle, Northants. The great thirteenth-century gatehouse, with its twin drum towers, dominates the collection of Elizabethan and later buildings of the present 'castle'. Many of the medieval buildings, including the keep, were destroyed during or immediately after the Civil War.



Northampton (SP7560) Secure for Parliament throughout the Civil War, the county town frequently served as a rendezvous and rallying point. Essex gathered his army at Northampton in September 1642 and it was probably here that Cromwell and the Cambridgeshire contingent joined him. Cromwell certainly passed through the town on several occasions later in the war.

The only real fighting here took place in May 1649, when mutinous Leveller troops under William Thompson occupied the town. On 17 May Colonel Reynolds and a Parliamentary force burst into Northampton, pushing the Levellers into Holy Sepulchre Church in Sheep Street where they were captured after further fighting; the walls still bear bullet marks from the brief exchange. Thompson lies buried in an unmarked grave in All Saints Church, George Row.

The town was the centre for the manufacture of leather goods during the seventeenth century, and throughout the war the Parliamentary army marched in Northampton boots and rode in Northampton saddles. The Museum of Leathercraft in Bridge Street contains many examples of Civil War leatherwork.

Rockingham Castle (SP867914) Rockingham was one of the few fortresses in the county still defensible in the mid-seventeenth century, though by then most of the Norman motte and bailey stronghold had disappeared and the 'castle' which saw action in the Civil War was an Elizabethan fortified house, comprising the restored Great Hall and additional sixteenth-century ranges. Rockingham was secured for Parliament by Lord Grey in 1643 and garrisoned thereafter. The buildings were badly damaged at this time, though it is not clear whether by a Royalist attack during the war or by Parliamentary slighting after it. Parts of the castle were restored or rebuilt during the 1650s, including the three bay Walker's House to the north of the gatehouse. The building was remodelled and extended in the eighteenth and nineteenth century and the present castle is a confusing mixture of several ages, medieval – the gatehouse and parts of the Great Hall – early

modern – the restoration work to the Great Hall, the east and west ranges, Walker's House and the Laundry – and modern – the square south tower, the roof and most of the interior. The castle is open on Sundays and certain weekdays during the summer.

Titchmarsh (TL021800) 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 Titchmarsh. 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 Protectorate Councils 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 extensive if poorly preserved earthworks on the north-west outskirts of the village.

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

Wellingborough (SP8968) 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.

NORTHUMBERLAND

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 Parliamentarians marched through, throwing back the Earl of Newcastle's army and capturing most of the strongholds en route. With their departure southwards in March the King's cause in Northumberland made a brief recovery, encouraged by the short-lived presence of Montrose's Scottish Royalists. Their Parliamentary compatriots reappeared after Marston Moor and Royalism in Northumberland was effectively ended. Cromwell passed through the county in 1648 and 1650–51 on his way to and from Scotland.

Alnwick Castle (NU187136) The medieval border castle was taken by the Scots as they marched through in January 1644 and served as a minor Parliamentary outpost thereafter. Cromwell probably lodged here when he halted at Alnwick on 12–15 September 1648 and again on 17 July 1650. By the eighteenth century the former Percy stronghold was derelict and much of the present building dates from the eighteenth and nineteenth century, when the castle was restored and modernised. The shell keep, bailey walls, some of the mural towers, and the outer gatehouse and barbican are largely medieval. Alnwick Castle is open daily except Saturdays during the summer.

Bamburgh Castle (NU183352) The stunning cliff-top 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-zealous restoration work of 1894–1905. The castle played no serious part in the Civil War, but the armoury contains a good selection of weapons and armour of the period. Bamburgh is open during the summer.

Berwick upon Tweed (NT9953) 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 1648, however, Berwick became one of the northern centres of the second Civil War, taken 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 September. He was in the area for nearly a fortnight before moving into Scotland on 3 October, and returned here in late July 1650 prior to his second Scottish campaign. On both occasions, however, he seems to have spent most of the time lodging outside Berwick, either at Norham to the west or Mordington just across the border to the north.

The town's rather unexciting Civil War history is one of the reasons why its defences survive in such good condition. The twelfth-century castle has gone, flattened by the Victorians to make way for the railway station, but the town walls remain almost complete. Begun by Edward I, they were remodelled and strengthened in the latter half of the sixteenth century, when several towers, bastions and gun platforms were added.

Holy Trinity Church, off the Parade, is of interest as one of only a handful of churches built during the Civil War and Interregnum. Designed by John Young of London and constructed 1648–52 under the supervision of Governor George Fenwick, Holy Trinity is a curious mixture of classical and gothic designs. It is rather heavy and squat, with no tower of any kind – according to tradition, plans for a tower were vetoed by Cromwell, who inspected the works on his visit to the town. The chancel and western turrets were added in the nineteenth century. Originally galleried on all four sides, only the west gallery now remains; the pulpit dates from 1652.

Chillingham Castle (NU062258) Cromwell's army quartered in the grounds of Chillingham Castle on 19 July 1650 and Cromwell himself probably lodged within the fortress. Built in the fourteenth century and extended over the following 200 years, Chillingham had been converted into a more comfortable, domestic residence during the second quarter of the seventeenth century. It was modernised again in the mid-eighteenth century, when the surrounding park was laid out. The quadrangular castle, with four three-storey ranges linked by square angle towers, is not usually open to the public.

Coquet Island (NU2904) The tiny North Sea island off the mouth of the river Coquet was held for the King during the opening year of the war, one of several off-shore strongholds secured as potential naval bases. It was overrun by Scottish forces on their way south in January 1644. No Civil War military works survive, and