

see the Catholic Church (circa 1791), a fine example of Georgian architecture, and from there you then come into St. James Square the main crossroads and formerly the site for the local cattle market. The main focal point here is Queen Victoria's Monument (11) that was paid for by public subscription.



11. Victoria's Monument

If you then turn back on yourself and walk in a southerly direction along St. James Street you will come into what is known locally as Nodehill, a name that dates from 1377, where French invaders were ambushed, killed and buried; a 'noddy' is a body. If you continue in this direction you will come across Nodehill Middle School, which was the country's first lending library when it was built in 1904.

You reach the end of the trail by turning left and walking into Church Litten Park.

This was previously a cemetery initially used during the plague, when it was outside the town centre. In the park you will discover a monument to Valentine Gray, a child chimney sweep who got trapped and died in 1822 and a stone gateway that dates back to Tudor times.

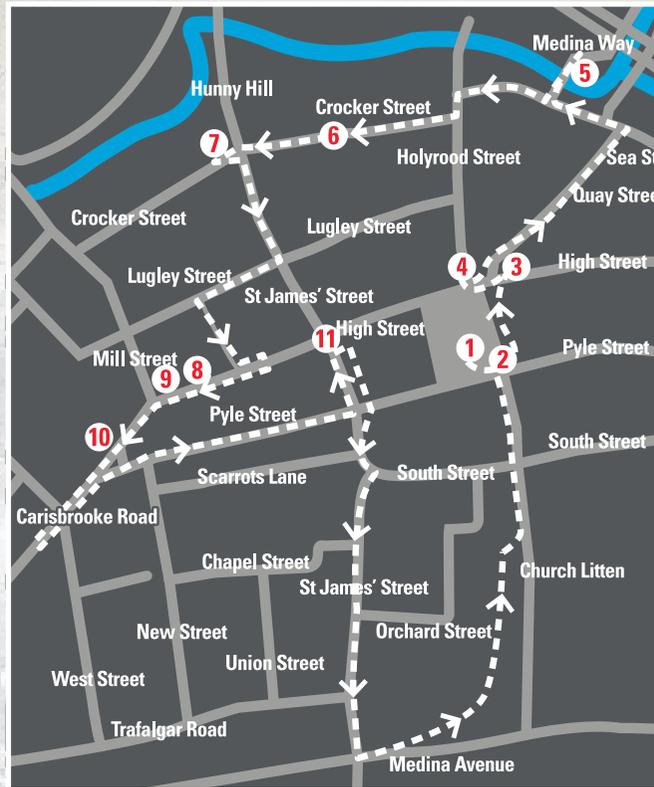
***We hope you enjoyed your walk***

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NEWPORT PARISH COUNCIL  
**HERITAGE  
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# NEWPORT PARISH COUNCIL

# HERITAGE TRAIL

## A Brief History

Historically Newport has always had strong trade links with the mainland using the River Medina and this meant that the town flourished. The layout of the town centre still reflects the original medieval street pattern. It was not a walled town and the edge of the town is defined by the street names (i.e. East Street, South Street, West Street etc).

## The Trail

***We estimate that your walk will take about 60 minutes at most.***

Starting in St. Thomas Square, outside the Minster **(1)**. There has been a church on this site since the 12th century but this actual building was completed in 1857. Princess Elizabeth, daughter of Charles I, is buried here.

When standing outside the main entrance to the church you can see opposite the former Corn Exchange (now Unity Hall) and, on the corner of Pyle Street, the Wheatsheaf Hotel (PH) and opposite that, the former Rose and Crown (PH) (now a restaurant) which also has links back to the days of Charles I. The War Memorial is rightfully in a prominent central position in a traffic free area. If you walk down the south facing side of the church you come to Gods Providence House (restaurant/

1. The Minister



2. Gods Providence House



tea room) **(2)**, standing on the site of a former building where it is thought that the plague was brought to an end in 16th century, hence the name. Turning into the High Street you will see on the corner at the junction with Quay Street, the Guildhall **(3)**, originally the Town Hall, built in 1813 by the famous architect John Nash, with the clock tower added later to celebrate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887.

3. The Guildhall



4. Watchbell Lane



Adjacent to this is Watchbell Lane **(4)** this is where a hand bell was housed to warn residents of the curfew and to ensure that all fires were extinguished because most buildings at that time were thatched. Progress down Quay Street and you will come across a former store building on the Quay, which is now a popular community facility known as the Quay Arts Centre **(5)**. If you walk in a westerly direction along Sea Street you will come to the Railway Medina (PH), close to the site of the former railway station, cross the road (Holyrood Street) and turn into Crocker Street (formerly North Street) where you will discover on the left hand side of the street what is reputed to be the oldest building **(6)** in Newport and a little further along, on the opposite side, the Blue Jenny Charity School that used to educate female 'waifs and strays'.

Continue along Crocker Street and cross over at the junction

5. Quay Arts Centre



with St. James Street and after a few yards you will discover a row of almshouses. On his death in 1618 the benefactor asked that they should be named the Worsley Almshouses. Now return to the junction



6. Oldest building in Newport



7. Grammar School

with St. James Street, turn right and walk towards St. James Square. On the corner of Lugley Street you will see the former Grammar School **(7)** built in 1619 where Charles I stood trial while he was a prisoner at Carisbrooke Castle.

Turning into Lugley Street after about one hundred yards you will find a narrow 'cut' known as Post Office Lane that leads down the High Street, also known as Castlehold.

Walk in a westerly direction along the High Street and after a very short distance you will come across the Red House **(8)**; the only surviving example of a typical local townhouse of the late 18th

8. Red House



century and a little further along the Castle Inn **(9)** the oldest public house in the town. From here going out of the town centre you can see Carisbrooke Mall **(10)** where the Victorians would 'promenade' on a Sunday afternoon. Walking back towards the centre along Pyle Street you will

9. Castle Inn



10. Carisbrooke Mall

