

# FROM CROWNS TO CONSPIRACIES TRAIL

From England's steps towards the first representative parliament to Worcester's part in the final clashes of the English Civil Wars. Visit the sites which have inspired Worcestershire's heritage story.



## TOP TIP

If you're peckish after exploring, the cakes at the Commandery café are a must try.

## TRAIL STOP 1



### 01 COMMANDERY & FORT ROYAL PARK

Based in the centre of Worcester, the Commandery was the Royalist Headquarters during the Battle of Worcester in 1651, the final battle of the Civil War which was fought in the city streets and at Fort Royal Park. The park is now a peaceful location to enjoy the city skyline with a wonderful Civil War themed play park.

The Commandery now is a celebration of the buildings history and a great location to choose which side of history you would have stood on...royalist or roundhead?

🕒 **Commandery:** Tuesday - Sunday 10am-4pm (Sunday 10am-3pm)

**Fort Royal Park:** Open every day

£ **Commandery:** Various ticket options for adults, children & families

**Fort Royal Park:** Free entry

🕒 2-3 hours

☑️ Café onsite (Commandery), baby changing facilities, toilets

♿️ Level access entrance to café & building, disabled access toilet, lifts, blue badge parking available at Kings Street

📍 Less than a 10-minute walk



Opening Hours



Facilities



Entry Cost



Accessibility



Activity Duration



Travel time to next stop

TOP TIP

While in Evesham you could visit The Royal Oak for lunch, a 16th Century building reputed to have hosted King Charles I in 1645, or enjoy a number of lovely local eateries such as Felton's Bistro or Evesham's Secret Tea room.

## TRAIL STOP 2



## 02 WORCESTER CATHEDRAL

Founded in 680 AD Worcester Cathedral is regarded as one of the most interesting of all England's cathedrals. Featuring Tudor architecture, the resting place of King John, Prince Arthur and stunning stained-glass windows.

King Charles II watched the Battle of Worcester from the Cathedral tower and the building was subsequently badly damaged during the English Civil War.

- Monday - Saturday 10am-5pm  
Sunday 12:30-3pm
- Free entry
- 2-3 hours
- Café onsite, toilets & baby changing facilities, nearest parking is in Cathedral Square
- Disabled toilet, wheelchair accessible from the North Door via a slope however, not all areas of the Cathedral are wheelchair accessible. Large print guides, tactile maps & hearing loop available
- 35-minute drive or 1 hour bus journey

TOP TIP

Walk down towards the river, take in the Flood Levels and enjoy a stroll up the river towards the city – and enjoy Worcester from a different perspective.

## TRAIL STOP 3



## 03 EVESHAM ABBEY BELL TOWER

The only surviving part of Evesham Abbey (which was destroyed during the dissolution of monasteries in 16th Century) with the memorial to Simon de Montfort summoned England's first representative parliament before falling at the Battle of Evesham.

- Daily – no set hours
- Free entry
- Evesham Abbey Bell Tower – less than an hour. The Evesham battlefield walk is around 6 miles in length and takes around 1-2 hours depending on which of the routes chosen
- Closest car park is Oat Street and toilets can be found in Abbey Park and at the bottom of Bridge Street, just over the bridge
- Wheelchair accessible from most entrances (however the entrance at the top of the park is via a steep slope
- 45-minute drive

## LOVING THIS TOPIC?

Why not visit during the Battle of Evesham Events and see the re-enactment take place live on the battlefield (main event usually August), or want to explore something spooky? You can follow in the footsteps of royalty on the Worcester Ghost Tour.



TRAIL STOP 4



TRAIL STOP 5

### 05 HARTLEBURY CASTLE

Once the grand residence of the Bishops of Worcester from 855 AD to 2007, Hartlebury Castle has witnessed centuries of religious, political, and social transformation. Visitors can explore the Bishop's Palace, uncover stories of saints, soldiers, and even a bishop who defied Henry VIII. The Castle also houses the Worcestershire County Museum, offering hands-on exhibits and immersive displays that bring local history to life. From its time as a medieval fortress to its role as a WWI hospital and sanctuary, Hartlebury Castle's walls echo with tales of resilience and change.

- 🕒 Tuesday - Friday 10am-5pm, Saturday & Sunday 11am-5pm (not open in January)
- £ Various ticket options for adults, children & families
- 🕒 2-3 hours
- ☕ Café, baby changing facilities, toilets
- ♿ Disabled toilet, wheelchair accessible with level access to entrance, shop & café. Lifts available for upper floors. Audio & large print guides available
- 📍 10-15-minute drive

### 06 HARVINGTON HALL

Step inside Harvington Hall and be transported to a time of faith, fear, and resistance. An Elizabethan manor, Harvington's rich history will take you on a journey into the shadows of England's religious past - where every creaking floorboard and concealed passage tells a story.

- 🕒 Wednesday - Sunday 10:30am-4pm
- £ Various ticket options for adults, children & families
- 🕒 2-3 hours
- ☕ Free parking, café, baby changing facilities, toilets
- ♿ Disabled parking, wheelchair access to the Hall ground floor and gardens only



## CHARLES II

Learn more about our historical characters, and our wider campaign at [visitworcestershire.org/historic-worcs](http://visitworcestershire.org/historic-worcs)