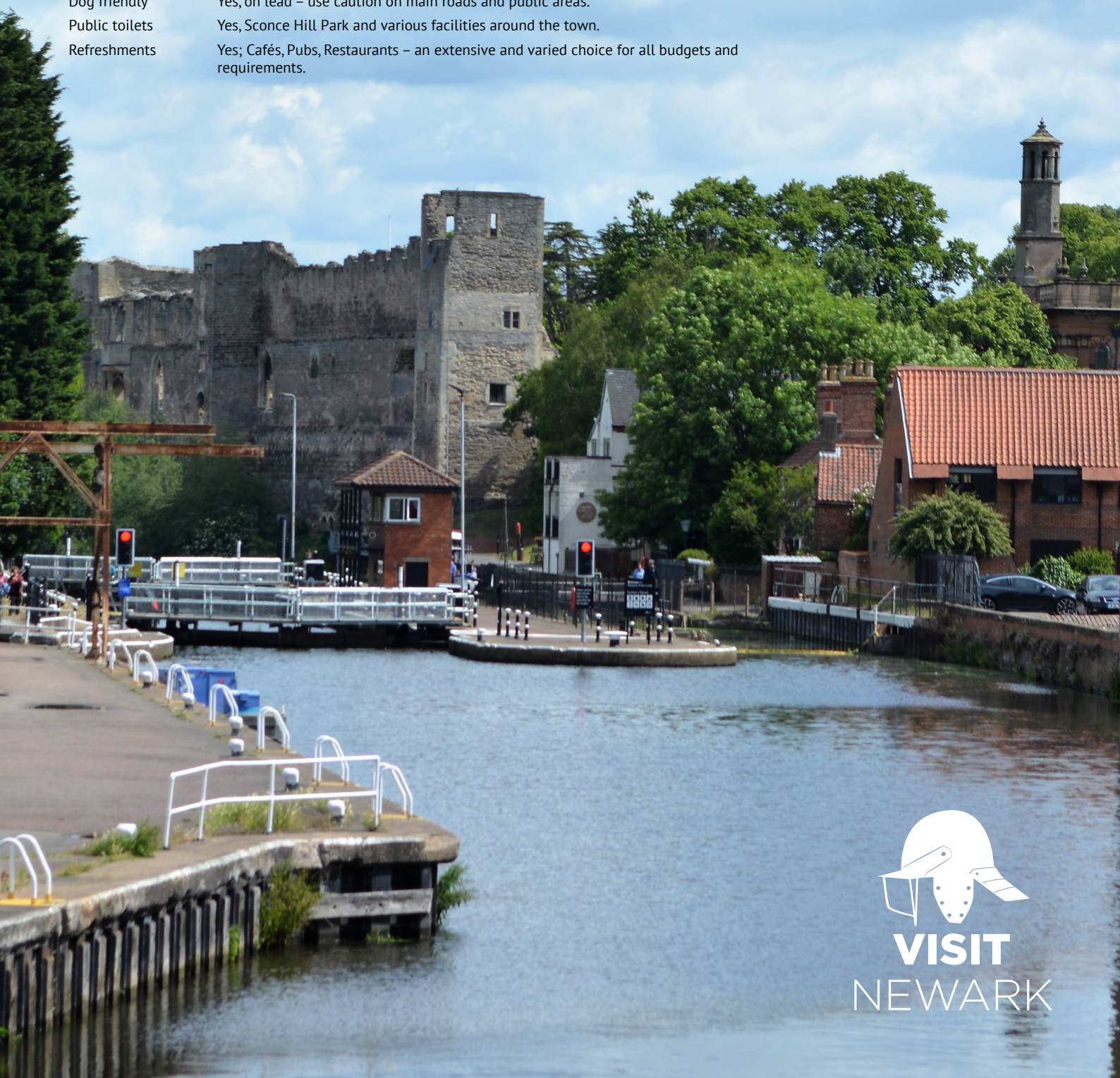


# Sconce and Devon - Newark Circular

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| Distance             | Approx. 3.5 miles (5.6km)  |
| Gradient             | Mostly flat  |
| Severity             | Easy to moderate   |
| Approx. time to walk | 2 hours at a leisurely pace but allow extra for sight-seeing and a refreshment break.            |
| Stiles               | None   |
| Maps                 | OS Explorer 271 Newark-On-Trent  |
| Path description     | Town, streets, riverside paths and tracks.   |
| Start point          | Sconce and Devon car park, off Farndon Road, NG24 0AU  |
| Grid ref             | SK792533   |
| Parking              | Sconce and Devon car park  |
| Dog friendly         | Yes, on lead – use caution on main roads and public areas.                                       |
| Public toilets       | Yes, Sconce Hill Park and various facilities around the town.                                    |
| Refreshments         | Yes; Cafés, Pubs, Restaurants – an extensive and varied choice for all budgets and requirements. |





**This wonderful walk** takes us on a journey in and around the splendid market town of Newark, which nestles beautifully along the banks of the River Devon and the River Trent, with a long and colourful history, which dates back to the Roman era.

During the First British Civil War, Sconce and Devon Park was the Royalist stronghold for the town, steeped in history, seeing torturous bloodshed and violent battles, it now remains one of the best examples of 17th century military engineering in Great Britain. It was also utilised during the First and Second World War as a military base for soldiers. Today the park is a splendid recreational area and provides the perfect environment for an array of wildlife, including rare butterflies, kingfisher and wonderful displays of wildflowers. The River Devon, which is a tributary of the River Trent, meanders peacefully alongside the park, and once played an important role in Newark's industrial revolution and development.

The River Trent flows through Newark and its significance was principal to the industrial growth and expansion of the town. Newark became an important inland port - ironworks, engineering, brewing and a well-known sugar industry flourished. As you walk along, the riverside buildings are a reminder of that bygone era. You can't help but notice the splendid examples of urban regeneration, including stylish bars, restaurants and housing.

Newark town is brimming with so many interesting buildings, the architecture quite beautifully eclectic, its diversity is showcased in the Market place, which is dominated by the splendid Georgian town hall. Markets are held in the square every Wednesday and Saturday selling a huge variety of wares; from fresh fruit and vegetables to artisan foods, gifts and clothing. It has to be one of the most attractive Markets Squares around, with its café culture rivalling many across Europe, drawing in visitors from all over the country, and beyond.

Our walk explores the narrow alleyways and small cobbled roads. Notice the Timber framed buildings along Stodman Street, the Prince Rupert Pub was built around 1452 and was originally a merchant's house, now a perfect spot to sample some real ales and fine wines in a building brimming with history!

Check out the Castle's curtain wall along the riverside, bearing the scars of battle. You can see small indentations caused by canon ball fire; you need to look up though, about head height to spot it, this would have most probably been to create structural damage rather than injury. The fabulous castle gatehouse is said to be one of the greatest examples and best preserved in Britain. If you look at the stonework under the arch you will notice blackened remnants of gunpowder, used by the Parliamentary forces in 1646, as attempts were made to destroy the castle after the Royalist submission. The medieval castle ruin stands magnificently on the banks of the river and is unquestionably the most momentous landmark of the town. Newark has a wealth of history and heritage, plus lots of green space for recreation and relaxation, especially around the castle area, which also plays host to a variety of outdoor events which occur throughout the year, such as music concerts, plays and re-enactments.

It's the perfect place to take a picnic and watch the world go by or you can take a tour of the underground tunnels and passages! You won't be disappointed!

A super walk for all, enjoy!

***Happy Ramblings ~ Sally (local rambler)***





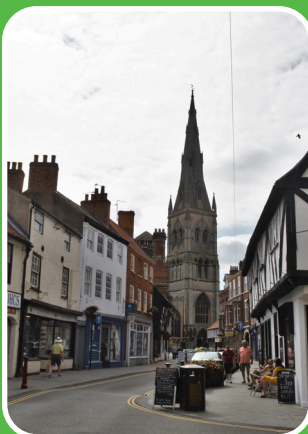
**1** **START** – At Sconce and Devon Park. Begin by walking from the car park, continuing along following the surfaced path, passing the play area on your left. Then bear right and follow the path round through the park area into the open grassy space of the Sconce Hills, exploring the earth works as you go. Continue along until you reach an information board and an intersection of paths, continue straight ahead following the path beyond the trees until you reach a large open grassed field.



**2** Approximately half-way, walk over the grassy area to the opposite side and towards the trees, you will reach a path which leads you to the bank side of the River Devon. Proceed along the marked woodland path until you reach a further junction. Here you bear left and walk along the bank of the river, heading along towards the B6166. Once you reach the road, cross over taking great care as it's a busy road. Turn right and walk along the path until you reach the Spring House junction where you will pass the Newark Marina and boat yard.



**5** At the roundabout, turn left and after a short distance cross over Bar Gate turning right onto Kirk Gate - you will see the Church of St. Mary Magdalene in the distance. Walk to the church which becomes Church Street. If you get the chance to pop into the church, it's an absolute treat!



**6** From Church Street, you will see the Market Square, which is a fabulous space to explore. If you walk through to the market, and cross over the market square diagonally to the Nottingham Building Society, notice its beautiful frontage, which dates to the 15th Century and other parts of the building date back to c1350. There are some wonderful places to stop for a bite to eat or drink too, the café culture in the market square rivalling many across Europe!



**3** Once you have passed the Marina, turn left (using the crossing) and walk along Millgate, then proceed along down Mill Lane, where you cross over the River Trent to reach Huddlestone Wharf. (Notice the superb buildings). You should now be able to see the Castle and grounds.



**4** Continue to walk along Huddlestone Wharf until you reach the Newark Town Lock and dry docking area. Take the riverside path and continue along until you reach the bridge. Here you'll notice the great view of the Castle. There is a perfect opportunity to explore the Castle at this point. Once at the bridge, walk up to the road and turn right along the B6326, back over the River Trent to the Ossington Beast Market.







**7** Passing the Town Hall, you will see Newark's thinnest house. Just 6ft 9" wide, it's nestled unassumingly between the Georgian buildings.

**8** At the corner of the Town Hall and buildings, turn right along Stodman Street. Continue straight, passing Middlegate to your left. After a short distance you will pass another one of Newark's impressive buildings, The Prince Rupert Pub. Dating back to 1452, this superb Medieval building, bursting with charm, is steeped in history and worth a short diversion before your return to the start point.



**9** Continue along to the end of Stodman Street and cross over the road (taking care), turning left and walking along Mill Gate passing an eclectic array of houses and buildings, until you reach the large junction, where you cross over the road at the crossings and return to your start point - Queen's Sconce and Devon Park car park.



**10** It's worth spending a little extra time exploring this area as it is rich in wildlife, flora and fauna.

