

## ACTION POINTS

### Newport Pagnell and thereabouts in the Civil War

Between 1643 and 1646 Newport's population was supplemented by up to 1500 fighting men when it became a military garrison – initially for the Royalists, and then for Parliament.

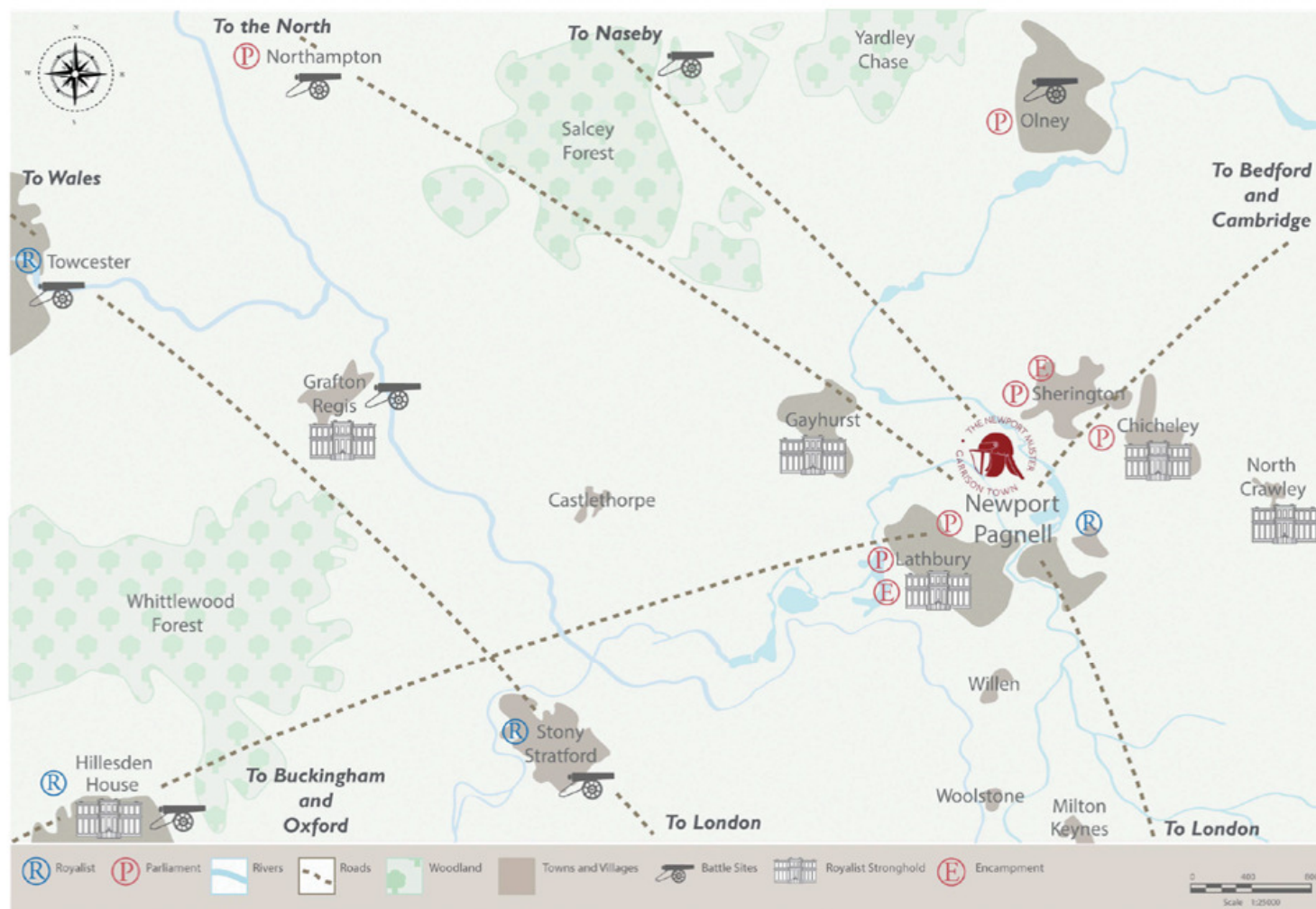
Situated on the Front Line between the opposing forces, it sent troops to join major regional battles, launched attacks on local targets (often in conjunction with other garrisons like Northampton) and controlled several major roadways.



It also acted as a base for supplies, a centre for administration and as the important heart of a network of battlefield spies, scouts and informers.

Oliver Cromwell's eldest son served time at the garrison, so did a young John Bunyan whose book *Pilgrim's Progress* would later become one of the world's most-read religious works.

The soldiers were stood down in 1646 and the earthwork walls and defences were slighted (pulled down) two years later.



#### Main Locations:

- Northampton** - Parliament fortress
- Towcester** - Royalist front line garrison 1643/4
- Whittlewood, Salcey Forest & Yardley Chase** - woodland / hunting belt stretching from Oxford to Lincoln
- Stony Stratford** - Royalist field command post
- Grafton Regis** - fortified Royal estate / siege
- Castlethorpe** - field track > NPagnell
- Gayhurst** - Gunpowder plotters
- Lathbury** - Parliament stables and PoWs jail
- Chicheley** - Parliament stables and billets
- Olney** - Parliament billets / battle

- Newport Pagnell** - Garrison Royalist control Oct 1643 / Parliament 1643 – 46\* (48)\*\*
- Sherington** - Parliament billets; Cromwell's son and Naseby rendezvous
- North Crawley** - Cardinal Wolsey's mansion, Elizabeth I visit
- Milton Keynes with Willen & Woolstone** - then k/a Middleton Gaynes and Wylig; watermill and fish farming
- Hillesden House** - Royalist fortified estate / sacking
- \* = Troops disbanded
- \*\* = Fortifications pulled down



Graphics and illustrations by WhiteRoom Press (Katie Barrington, Owen Chapman & Christian Tilt) - a contemporary adaptation, not to scale