

A Walk of Worship, Newington



Visorando



Walk No. 36280479

A walk proposed by Newington History Group

A return rural walk between one of Kent's most interesting medieval churches and the remains of a 2,000 year old Romano-British temple.

Duration :	0h45	Difficulty :	Easy
Distance :	1.52 mi	Return to departure point :	Yes
Vertical gain :	39 ft	Activity :	Walking
Vertical drop :	43 ft	District :	Newington (Kent)-1
Highest point :	102 ft		
Lowest point :	46 ft		



Description

Start : St Mary the Virgin car park, Newington. (ME9 7JX) Grid ref. TQ 862 653

The first part of the walk is on rural roads with no pavement. Take care and walk in single file on the right-hand side.

(D/A) Leave the car-park via the entrance, return to the public road and turn right. At the first turning, Wardwell Lane, turn right (North-East). After 300m, where the road bears left, turn along the footpath on the right to walk behind the church **(A)**. At the end of the footpath, turn right. This brings you back onto a rural road - **take care**.

(1) After 50m on the road, carefully cross by the house called Snakesbury and take the footpath on the right. Follow it over the railway line. **Listen and look out for trains before crossing**. On the other side, take the footpath diagonally right across a field and through the hedge. The footpath goes straight ahead along a small ridge but you'll see a new footpath is being formed by people walking down the hill to the temple at the bottom.

(2) Follow this new path to visit the temple **(B)**.

(3) Return to the top of the ridge, retracing your steps to cross the railway line.

(4) This time, turn along the footpath immediately left - **there is an initial steep section that may be slippery when wet**. When you reach the road, turn left and then right onto the private road to return to the church. **(D/A)**

Practical information

Start : St Mary the Virgin car park, Newington. (ME9 7JX) Grid ref. TQ 862 653

Parking : The walk begins at St Mary the Virgin. There is a free car park at the church but it is also less than 10 mins of easy walking from Newington rail station and from bus routes along the A2.

Terrain : Part of this walk is on rural roads. Wear clothing that is easily visible, walk in single file and on the right-hand side. Particularly in summer and autumn, you may encounter brambles and stinging nettles. In winter, paths may be muddy. please dress accordingly.

Facilities : The church is usually open during daylight hours and welcomes respectful visitors. There is drinking water and an accessible toilet in the kitchen area. Please leave any area you use clean and tidy.

In the nearby area

(A) St Mary the Virgin has its origins in the 12th century when it was founded by Richard de Lucy, Henry II's most trusted advisers and one of the wealthiest men in England. It has unique remains of 14th century wall-paintings, interesting memorials and a permanent display giving brief information about Newington's history and heritage. It also has the unusual shrine of St Robert le

Waypoints

S/E St Mary the Virgin car park - St Mary the Virgin, Newington

N 51.356741° / E 0.672904° - alt. 62 ft - mi 0

1 Road - Snakesbury

N 51.356657° / E 0.677168° - alt. 59 ft - mi 0.62

2 Watling Place Temple

N 51.352277° / E 0.675098° - alt. 82 ft - mi 1

3 Top of the ridge

N 51.352145° / E 0.676183° - alt. 89 ft - mi 1.04

4 Railway line

N 51.354063° / E 0.676725° - alt. 102 ft - mi 1.18

S/E St Mary the Virgin car park

N 51.356726° / E 0.672879° - alt. 62 ft - mi 1.52

Bouser, a local 15th century saint who was credited with many miracles.

As you leave the car-park at the beginning of the walk, note the 'Devil's Stone' on the left hand side. The legend of the stone has been passed through generations of local children. It seems the Devil, incensed by the ringing of the church bells, clambered up the tower to silence them. Stories differ about whether he jumped or fell but, either way, he left a footprint in the stone, which used to be on the village green.

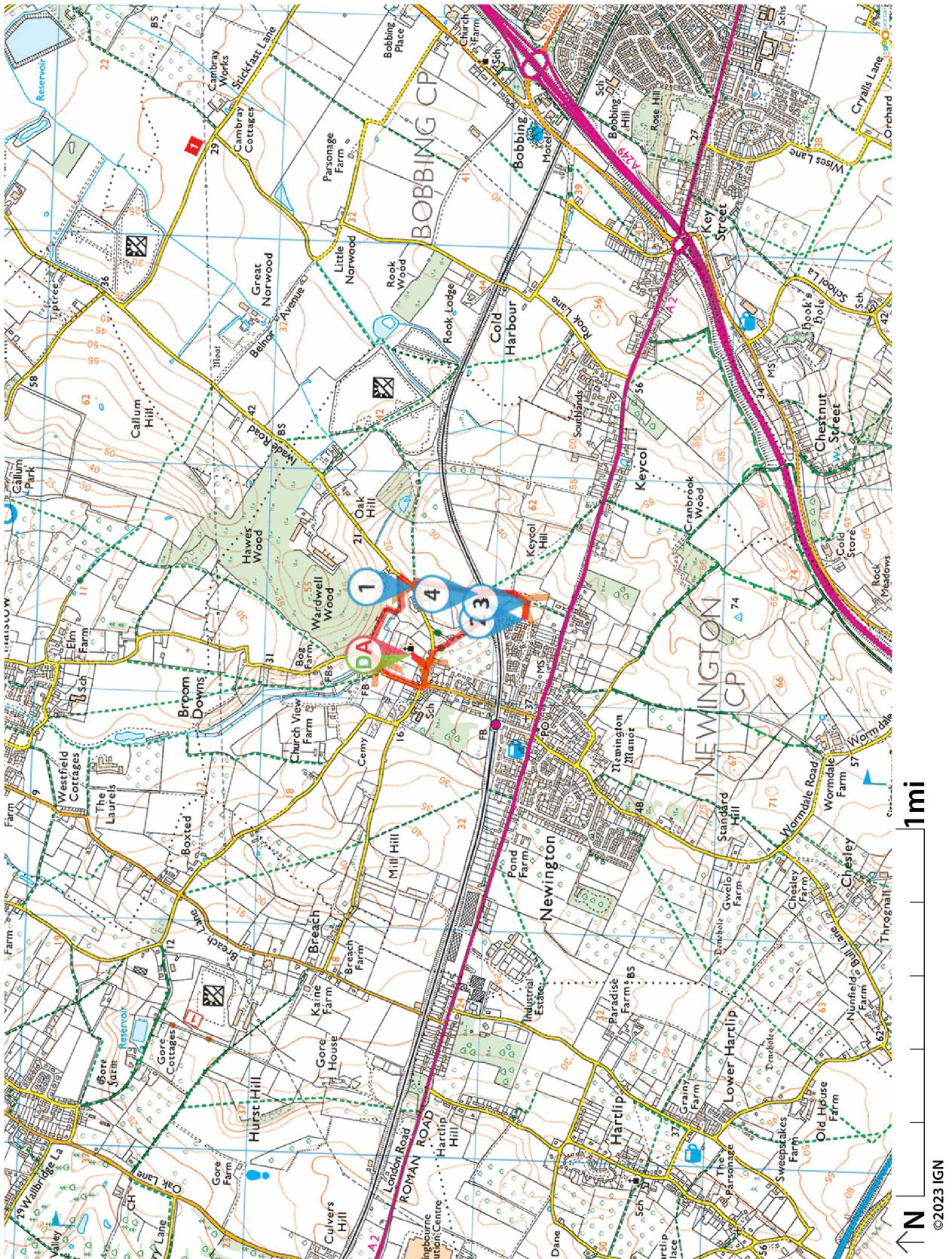
Walking along the footpath behind the church gives superb views of its flint walls. You'll also see, on the left hand side, the remains of a building that was once part of a World War One inland defence system that put Newington on a potential front line.

(B) The remains of the Roman temple were uncovered during an excavation prior to the building of the homes you see next to it. It was found just 70m from where it is now. The recreation is the exact size and in the same orientation as the original and uses flints from the original. The building is the result of a unique project between Newington History Group and the archaeological team who carried out the excavation, SWAT Archaeology. and is located here with the kind permission of Persimmon Homes. An interpretation board gives more information about Roman religion and the amazing discovery of where the temple was located.

Let us know your opinion on : <https://www.visorando.com/en/walk-a-walk-of-worship/>

Find out more : *Newington History Group*

Email : cuentas@newingtonhistory.co.uk - Website : <https://newingtonhistory.uk>



Visorando and the author of this walk sheet cannot be held responsible in the event of an accident during this walk.



THE WALKER CODE

Visorando

by Visorando

Before the walk



CHOOSE YOUR WALK CAREFULLY

by matching its difficulty and duration to your skill and physical ability.



CHECK THE WEATHER FORECAST

and look for other important information, such as snow, temperature, tide times, wind speed, fire risks, etc.



BE PROPERLY PREPARED

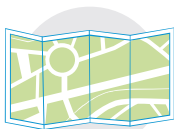
by taking suitable equipment with you, such as whistle, first-aid kit, appropriate clothing and something to eat and drink.



LET SOMEONE KNOW

where you will be walking.

During the walk



STAY ON THE PATH

Follow local signs and keep to marked paths unless wider access is available.



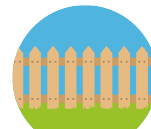
RESPECT THE COUNTRYSIDE

by not damaging fences, fields and crops and not picking fruit or vegetables..



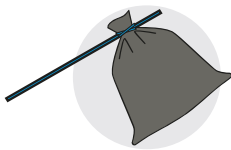
RESPECT LOCAL RESTRICTIONS

such as bans on fires, barbecues, camping, fishing, swimming, etc.



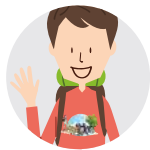
LEAVE GATES AS YOU FIND THEM

be cautious of farm animals : try to go around, not through herds or flocks.



TAKE YOUR RUBBISH HOME

and do not leave any trace of your journey except your footprint.



DON'T MAKE LOTS OF NOISE

and do be respectful and courteous to people along the route.



KEEP YOUR DOG ON LEAD

and have it close to you at every crossroads of other users. Bag and bin its dog poo. Walking with a dog is not recommended on routes where there are farm animals.



THE COUNTRYSIDE IS A LIVING ENVIRONMENT

that evolves with time. Waling is an adventure and there are risks associated with it. Be responsible, and know when it is better to give up and turn around than get into danger.

Countryside Code for England and Wales : <http://www.gov.uk/countryside-code>
Countryside Code for Scotland : <https://www.outdooraccess-scotland.scot/>
Countryside Code for Northern Ireland : <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/countryside-code>

Emergency contact : 999 (UK) or 112 (Worldwide)

In case of accident, please do not sue the owners of the places where it happened because hikers could be prohibited there then. However, feel free to report to us any risk encountered.