THE ROUTE

Use the map to start your Chartist walk and follow in the steps of the Chartist protestors who marched for democracy in 1839.

Yellow arrows show the route the Chartists took on final approach to the town in 1839

Icon shows heritage plaque locations

SHORT ROUTE Approx 30 minutes

1 NEWPORT MUSEUM & ART GALLERY

Newport Museum and Art Gallery has extensive Chartist displays, bringing the subject to life and exploring characters on both sides. Contemporary guns and other weapons sit alongside artworks and written accounts showing the devastating impact that the events of the 4 November 1839 had on the area and the country as a whole.

2 THE PARROT INN

This is where John Frost called the meeting of 30 October 1838 when an audience of 400-500 people adopted The People's Charter. Thomas Walker was landlord of the Parrot Inn and also a Special Constable; he was injured at High Cross during the Newport Rising.

3 THE WESTGATE INN

On 4 November 1839, thousands of Chartists massed in front of the Westgate Inn and tried to force entry through the main door. Shots were exchanged with soldiers hidden inside and a battle raged for more than 20 minutes. The Chartists dispersed, leaving behind more than 20 dead. This event became known as The Newport Rising.

4 MULLOCK - A WITNESS

From an upstairs window of a building on this site, a young artist called James Flewitt Mullock witnessed the attack on the Westgate Inn. When a shot struck nearby, he fled down Skinner Street. A year later, he produced a lithograph of the scene, which has been printed many times since.

5 THE MURENGER

John Frost was one of the owners of this building which dates from 1533. His draper's shop also stood on this side of High Street until the late 1870s. Once home to the High Sheriff of Monmouthshire, today the Murenger is a public house.

6 THE CARPENTERS ARMS

On Saturday 2 November 1839, a young Chartist messenger from Bradford stayed in the Carpenters Arms before travelling home by stage-coach the following day. He had met Frost in Blackwood, where he tried unsuccessfully to persuade him to delay the march on Newport because the Yorkshire Chartists were not yet ready to rise in support.

7 THOMAS STREET

This building stands on the site of the entrance to Thomas Street, where John Frost's parents John and Sarah kept the Royal Oak public house. He became a magistrate and Mayor of Newport in 1836 before becoming involved in the Chartist movement.

8 THE SIX POINTS

The six points of The People's Charter are inscribed alongside the steps leading to John Frost Square. The Charter was drawn up by William Lovett and sets out the changes Chartists wanted to see to the electoral system. The People's Charter still provides the foundation of our modern democracy.

9 JOHN FROST SQUARE

John Frost Square, originally created in the 1970s and redeveloped in 2015, is named after one of the leaders of the South Wales Chartists. The tall building visible to the north of the Square is called Chartist Tower in commemoration of the Rising. Newport Museum and Art Gallery contains an extensive Chartist exhibition.

LONG ROUTE Approx 90 minutes

10 ST. PAUL'S CHURCH

St. Paul's Church opened in 1836. In April 1839, the Rev. James Francis, the church's first vicar, preached from Jeremiah 2:13, warning against 'foolish allegiances' with the Chartist Movement. The many Chartists in the congregation, including Henry Vincent, John Lovell and Charles Waters, sat in the pews in silent protest.

11 ST. PAUL'S WALK

Women contributed one in five of all signatures on the National Petition to Parliament in 1839, even though the Charter would not get them the vote. The seven mosaics at St. Paul's Walk honour 100 years of women's history and remember a number of significant Newport women including Mary Brewer and Joan Williams who supported the Chartists. For further information visit http://www.newport.gov.uk/en/About-Newport/St-Pauls-Walk

12 CWRT-Y-BELLA

At approximately 8am on Monday 4 November 1839, the Chartists paused at the Cwrt-y-bella weighing machine near this site, after walking through the night from the Valleys. They received news that troops had occupied the Westgate Inn. Led by Frost and Jack the Fifer, they marched in military formation towards the turnpike gate on Stow Hill.

13 BELLE VUE PARK PAVILION

On 4 November 1839, the Chartists stopped to regroup at Cwrt-y-bella weighing machine which stood on Cardiff Road just below this site. After enjoying this beautiful park which opened in 1894, you can rejoin the Chartist Trail near the top of the park on Belle Vue Lane or at the bottom of the park on Cardiff Road.

14 THE FRIARS

Nearby stands The Friars which was built in the early 1840s for Octavius Morgan, magistrate, MP and eighth son of Sir Charles Morgan of Tredegar Park. He examined prisoners and witnesses after the Rising, served on the Grand Jury at Shire Hall, Monmouth and campaigned against pardons for the Chartist leaders throughout the 1840s.

15 THE WORKHOUSE (ST. WOOLOS HOSPITAL)

This was where Captain Stack and 70 infantrymen of the 45th Regiment were stationed in the new workhouse. As the Chartists passed the Stow Hill turnpike on the morning of 4 November, they could see soldiers on guard at their makeshift barracks. Following the Rising, the workhouse acted as both prison camp and hospital.

16 ST. WOOLOS SQUARE

The Chartist force of 5000 men passed through here on the morning of 4 November before marching down Stow Hill and into the town.

17 THE SIX BELLS

After the Newport Rising of 1839, 18 year-old Susan Stephens gave testimony to Newport Magistrates, saying that she '...saw the prisoner Lovell passing her house the Six Bells on Stow Hill with a mob with a gun in his hand.'

18 ST. WOOLOS CHURCH (NOW CATHEDRAL)

On 11 August 1839, a large group of Chartists attended a service at St. Woolos. During the night of Thursday 7 November 1839, the authorities moved the bodies of ten Chartists from the stables of the Westgate Inn. They buried them in four unmarked graves in St. Woolos Churchyard at the north side of St. Mary's Chapel.

19 CROSS HOUSE

In 1839 Edward Hopkins, the Superintendent of the Newport Police who arrested Frost after the Rising, lived in a house on this site. It also served as the police station. Following the battle at the Westgate, more than 150 weapons abandoned by the Chartists were collected and brought to Hopkins' home.

20 ST. MARY'S CHURCH

The church was under construction at the time and the marchers called on the workmen to join them. A carpenter slammed the church doors shut to prevent the Chartists from entering and it is rumoured that some Chartists hid behind the altar after the battle at the Westgate to avoid detection by the soldiers and special constables.

21 THE MAYOR'S HOUSE

Mayor Thomas Phillips' House was at the bottom of Stow Hill facing the Westgate Inn . Injured during the attack on the Westgate, Phillips received a knighthood for his defence of her majesty's authority.



Other places of interest not shown on map

ST. DAVID'S CHURCH, BETTWS

On 24 October 1812 the future Mayor of Newport and Chartist leader, John Frost (1784-1877), and Mary Geach (1783-1857), whose first husband had died five years earlier, were married in this church. Mary was living in the parish of Bettws at that time. They were later to become parents to eight children - five daughters and three sons.

SHIRE HALL, MONMOUTH

Shire Hall in Monmouth, Wales, built in 1724, is notable as the site of the 1840 Chartist trials. The leaders of this working-class political reform movement were tried here following the Newport Rising. Today, the restored Hall serves as a visitor attraction, commemorating this significant historical event.