

# BATTLE OF WORCESTER WALK

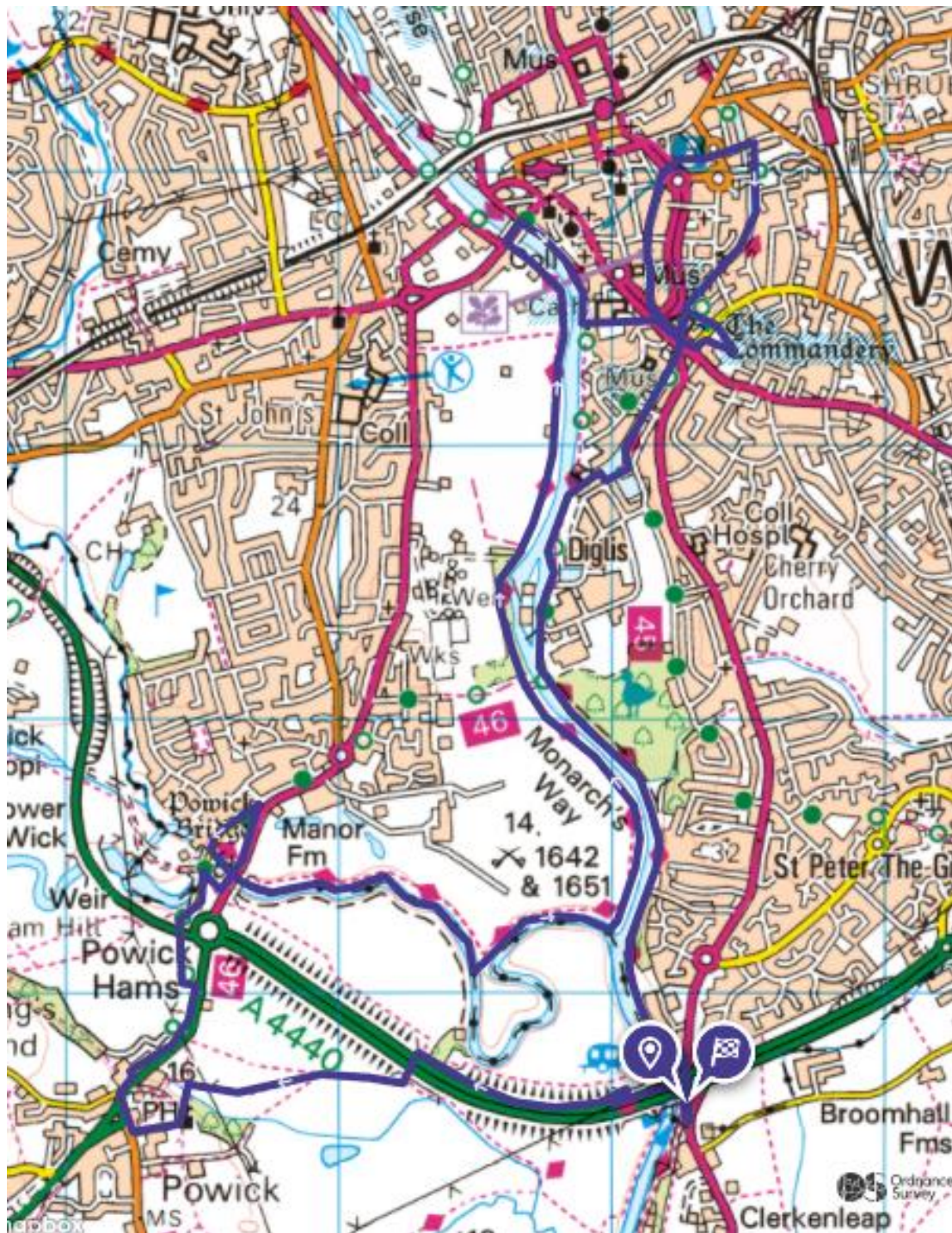
## 1. OUTLINE OF THE WALK (use with gpx file)

- Park at the car park of the Ketch Worcester Battlefield Viewpoint. This located by the roundabout where the A4440 intersects with the A38, fairly close to M5 junction 7, opposite the Toby Carvery. At the viewpoint look for the tower of Powick Church and the huge chimney at Powick Mill, also Redhill behind you
- Then using the underpass cross to the other side of the A4440 and then use the footpath on that road to cross the Severn, soon using the available approach road make your way to the ground beneath the road bridge.
- Once below cross a large stile and then a gate into the field, walk at the edge of the field, parallel with the road. After about half a mile go under the road and enter a field via a gate. Turn right to the field and follow the hedge line. Eventually head out at 45 degrees in the direction of the church tower. Cross a small bridge, mount some steps and enter the churchyard. See bullet marks in church tower.
- Leave Powick Church via the main approach road and turn right. Eventually cross the main road just before a petrol station, pass by Cromwell's Car Wash, take the pedestrian flyover towards Powick Bridge. **Powick bridge is presently closed, so you have to divert to go along the main road, doubling back along Old Road to get to Powick Mill.**
- The Monarch's Way starts at Powick Mill. Have a look at the wonderful ancient bridge nearby and then follow the River Teme to the confluence with the Severn, the large, near circular, loop taken by the Teme can be omitted.
- At the confluence, follow the Severn onto Worcester, still on the Monarch's Way. Do not take the Diglis bridge, stay on the west bank of the river, passing the Cricket Ground to your left.
- Cross the River via Worcester Bridge, near where the bridge was at the time of the battle. Pause to take in the iconic view of the Cathedral.
- Rejoin the River path, this time going South, along the East bank.
- Just past the Cathedral, leave the River via Water Gate, go past the College Green (now mostly school buildings) and through Edgar's Tower, the last trace of Worcester Castle, which was a prison at the time of the Civil War. Spectacular ruins of the former Monastery can be seen.
- After the Tower, you can turn left along College Precinct to see more of (and perhaps visit) the Cathedral. At all events, turn right at the main road. Just before the canal bridge, cross over the road to see the Commandery, near the site of Sidbury Gate.
- Briefly take the canal path by the Commandery and then divert right through the back garden of the Commandery, onto Wylds Lane and then into Fort Royal Park
- Climb up into the park, seek out the cannons, the Liberty Oak and the battle plaque. Go back down and rejoin Wylds Lane, turn left. Turn right at the end of Wylds Lane, passing the Commandery.
- Arrive at and cross the dual carriageway, known as City Walls Road, along which a few fragments of the walls (which were destroyed by Cromwell after the battle) are preserved. Cross over and briefly carry on
- Turn right into Friar Street, which Charles used to escape from the Sidbury Gate fighting. This road contains many remnants of Medieval Worcester, including the NT property Greyfriars House and Garden.
- Friar Street eventually becomes New Street, towards the end of which is the King Charles pub, a fragment of the house where he lodged at the time of the battle and to where he briefly returned after fleeing from Sidbury Gate. *This is the recommended lunch stop.*
- At the end of the road, to the right, is another fragment of his lodging, now a hearing centre. There is a small statue of Charles escaping to be seen here. Moving slightly on, there is a plaque about St Martin's Gate, where the King made his exit from the city.
- There are now Monarch's Way signs (also Worcester Shrub Hill signs) to guide you to the Worcester/Birmingham Canal. Briefly – cross the road, go straight through the shopping centre and then passing through the multi-storey car park (unlikely as this seems), turn right at the road and then cross at the pedestrian crossing and carry on through the retail park. You will soon reach and cross the pedestrian canal

bridge, then turn right to join the canal path to take you back to the Severn. Take care to keep your eye open for the canal path as you pass through the marina.

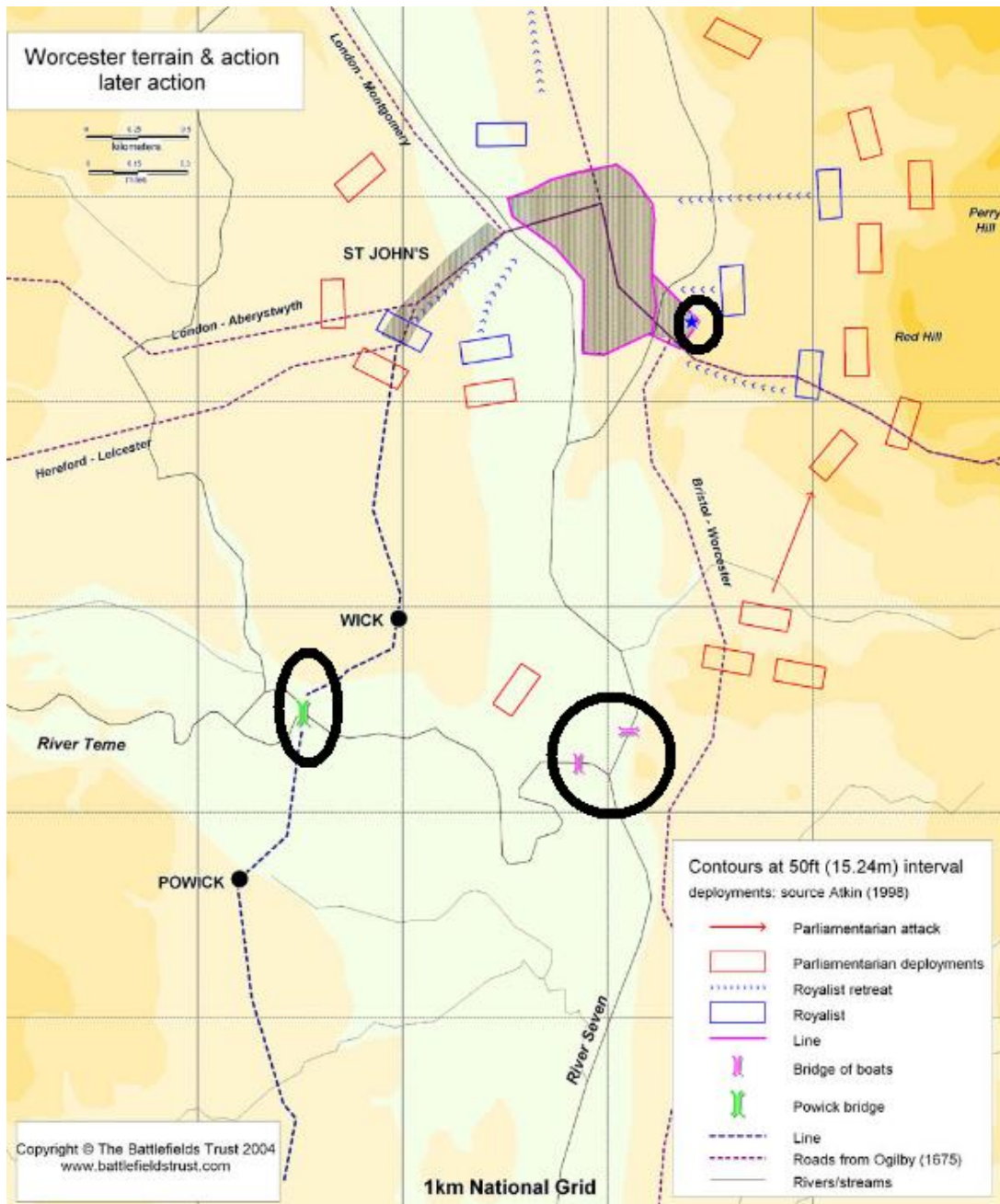
- At the river turn left, and carry on, eventually passing the confluence with the Teme and leading all the way back to the car park. Near the end, after passing through an open area, look of for a concealed path in the bushes up to the left about 100 yards before the A4440 bridge. This path leads uphill and will take you back to the A38 via the Toby Inn grounds. Then use the underpass to get to the car park.

## 2. MAP OF WALK





### 3. PLAN OF BATTLE OF WORCESTER



|                           |                                  |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Oval – Powick Bridge      | Large Circle – Teme meets Severn |
| Small circle – Fort Royal | Grey area – The walled city      |

#### 4. TIMELINE OF BATTLE ACTION

#### 5. MONUMENTS, PLAQUES & INFORMATION BOARDS ON THE ROUTE AND RELATED TO THE BATTLE

**3rd September**

Approx. Times

**5am** - Parliamentary Army under Fleetwood leave Upton

**12noon** - Parliamentary West Division attacks Royalist troops at Powick Village

**2pm** - Parliamentary West Division approaches the River Teme; Parliamentary East troops prepare to support their attack

**3pm** - Cromwell attacks the Royalist Army, across the bridge of boats at the confluence

**4pm** - Royalists counter attack on East of the city but are repulsed

**5pm** - Fort Royal is captured by the Parliamentary troops & Sidbury Gate is stormed

**6pm** - Charles II escapes from the city via St Martin's Gate

**8pm** - Most of the Royalists have surrendered

**10pm** - Last of the Royalist Army surrenders at Castle Mound

- At car park – viewpoint information board of battle ground
- Powick Village – information boards in the Church
- Powick Bridge –
  - Start of Monarch's Way marker
  - Information board about the battle
  - Plaque about Scottish soldiers
- North-west bank of confluence – information board
- By the Severn, approaching the city – sculpture of civil war soldiers
- Sidbury Bridge – outside the Commandery –
  - Replica weaponry
  - Plaque about the battle
- Commandery Garden – information board
- Fort Royal –
  - Replica cannon
  - Plaque provided by Battle of Worcester Society
  - Liberty Oak and plaque
- King Charles House – plaque
- Back of King Charles House – statue of the escaping Charles
- St Martin's Gate – plaque
- Opposite confluence – information board