



# Workington Heritage Trail

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This trail has been designed to give you the chance to become intrigued by the town, and encourage you to look for further information about your family connections and links you didn't know were there; you may become intrigued by the history of sailing ships which took cargo all over the world from the port; or you may find yourself wrapped in the beauty of our churches, the fascinating history of the Curwen family and the incredible contribution Workington made to the world steel production.



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Line drawings by Tom Routledge, painting of Workington High Market by Kevin Nutter. Artwork and Printing by Firpress Printers, Workington.

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# Workington Heritage Trail

**Trail One Description:** (1) Start point - **Workington Hall**, follow the path up towards the car park cross the main road to (2) **Helena Thompson Museum**. From the museum walk down the main road and turn left onto Cavendish Street, to (3) **Portland Square**. Exit Portland Square via Portland Street; turn left into Nook Street. Walk to the end of Nook Street and cross the main road with the roundabout on your right. Turn left and walk up to (4) **Banklands and Our Lady and St Michael's Church**. Retrace steps back to main road, turn left and (5) **St John's Church** is on the left. Opposite the church on Ritson Street is the (6) **Old Jailhouse**. Turn back onto Nook Street, walk to the end onto Wilson Street, here you will find the fabulous (7) **wall mural and the Lamport Fountain**. Turn left at the bottom of Wilson Street onto Washington Street. Halfway down on the left is the (8) **Theatre Royal**. Retrace steps and cross at the traffic lights walking with Marks and Spencer's on your left. Cross at the traffic lights and turn left onto (9) **Ladies Walk**. Follow Ladies Walk and you will come to (10) **the old brewery** on the right.



1 **Workington Hall** is a grade one listed building. It was the ancestral home of the Curwen family. The first building on the site dates from 1379. There are many different phases of architecture in the building. In 1783 John Christian Curwen commissioned the architect, John Carr to convert it to a mansion. One of the Hall's claims to fame is that it was here that Mary Stuart spent her last night of freedom before being taken into captivity on the orders of Elizabeth I. Mary was subsequently imprisoned for many years in Fotheringhay Castle before being beheaded. John Christian Curwen achieved fame as the Father of English Agriculture and developed new methods and techniques to the advantage of the local people. His model farm is Schoose Farm, a short distance away from the Hall. It is still a working farm today but in private ownership

2 **Helena Thompson Museum** is a Georgian house which carries a grade two star listed building status. Known as Park End House, it was formerly the home of Helena Thompson MBE, JP, a benefactress to the town. It was Helena's family home for many years, which was bequeathed to the town of Workington, on her death, on condition that it was kept as a Museum for the town. It is the repository for much of Workington's Heritage. A number of rooms and galleries display information relating to the area and a Victorian drawing room, dining room and costume gallery give an insight into life in years gone by.







**3 Portland Square and the Peat Memorial.** This is one of the best surviving pure Georgian squares in the North West; the Peat memorial was erected by public subscription to Dr Anthony Peat 1819 to 1877, who was of great service to the poor in the town.

**4 Our Lady & St Michael's, Star of the Sea** situated at Banklands. This beautiful church was built in 1876. It was designed by E.W. Pugin, and the church was built to cater for the increasing Catholic population who came over from Ireland to work as labourers for John Christian Curwen.

**5 St John's Church.** The portico on this church is a copy of the church St Martin's in the Field in London. St John's was built in 1823 to commemorate the Battle of Waterloo.

**6 The Old Jailhouse** was built by public subscription in 1825 and its annual ground rent is two shillings in perpetuity. It was a holding pen or 'lock up' for people pending appearance at the magistrates' session in the former police station, which is just round the corner In Nook Street.

**7 The Lamport Fountain** in Wilson Street was presented to the town by Charles Lamport, a local ship builder, in 1859. The wall mural depicts the old market square, just at the head of Wilson Street and shows certain local characters,

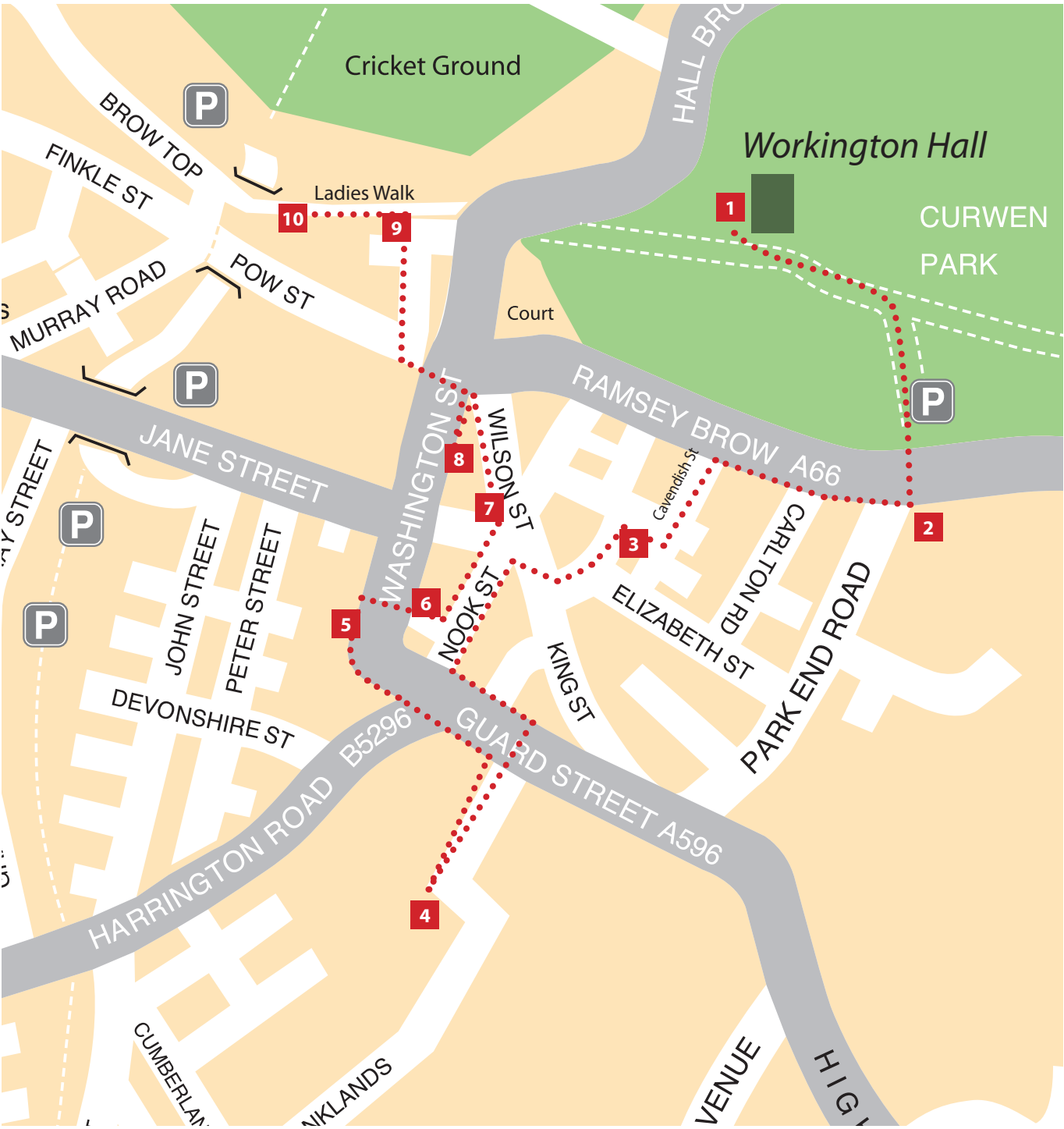
**8 Theatre Royal** is the oldest existing theatre in the town. It was built in 1866 and was, for a time, the cinema. It is now owned by 'The Playgoers', a local amateur dramatic society, which

presents regular productions.

**9 Ladies Walk.** This area of land was once an apple orchard associated with the Hall. Local tradition accepts that it formed part of the route taken by Mary Stuart, Queen of Scots, on her way from her landing place on the shore, to seek sanctuary in the Hall

**10 The old Brewery,** This was built in 1839 and was noted for its John Peel brand. The first 'John Peel' ales were brewed in 1929. This was a malting business on an extensive scale. The brewery changed hands a number of times before being closed to be converted into flats.





Cricket Ground

Workington Hall

CURWEN  
PARK

Court

Ladies Walk

Calendish St

BROW TOP  
FINKLE ST

MURRAY ROAD

POW ST

JANE STREET

JOHN STREET

PETER STREET

DEVONSHIRE ST

WASHINGTON ST

NOOK ST

WILSON ST

KING ST

ELIZABETH ST

CARLTON RD

PARK END ROAD

HARRINGTON ROAD B5296

GUARD STREET A596

RAMSEY BROW A66

VENUE

HIGH

CUMBERLAND

WINKLANDS



1

2

4

5

6

7

8

9

10