



MAGNA CARTA 800

Sample commemoration trails

For 800 years Magna Carta has influenced constitutional thinking worldwide. In over 100 countries the Rule of Law and Human Rights has affected billions of people. Whenever its principles have been denied it has led to loss of liberties and to loss of human rights.

In 2015 it will be 800 years since Magna Carta was agreed between King John and his barons, so enshrining the rule of law in English society and limiting authoritarian rule.

The original charter was sealed by King John on 15th June 1215. This version was revised several times in the 13th century. The 1297 version became part of English law, guaranteeing trial by jury, due process of law, independence of justice, and many things affecting all citizens, such as universal (now) suffrage, fair treatment of widows and children, even standard weights and measures.

In 2015 we invite you to visit England and commemorate, along with the ten Charter towns and the many towns and villages connected with this period of history, the 800th anniversary of this corner stone of modern freedom.

Tours lasting two or three days – each with a distinct Magna Carta focus – can be arranged to fit in with varying time frames or combined into longer tours of a week or more depending on inclination and time available.

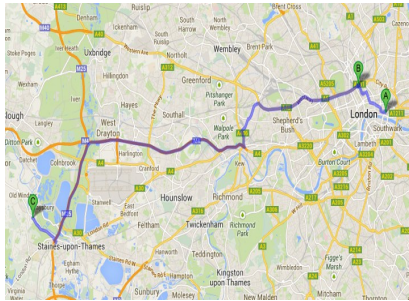
Bring the “Great Charter” alive in 2015 and discover the locations with direct relevance to the liberties we enjoy today.

Trail One – London to Windsor

Day 1: City of London -

London is the only city the charter in a clause that

The City itself played a that led to Magna Carta's The Mayor (later known as subsequently appointed with that its provisions were carried out and a month earlier King John, in an attempt to gain the City's support, had granted it a royal charter to elect its own Mayor.



The centre of dissent

specifically named in affirms its liberties.

central role in the events creation in June 1215. the Lord Mayor) was 24 of the barons to see

The Mayor was required to receive royal approval and to take an oath of loyalty – provisions that govern the annual election and swearing in of a Lord Mayor to this day.

The most significant Magna Carta sites in the City include the new **Heritage Gallery** at Guildhall Art Gallery and the Temple complex, the former of which houses the City Corporation's 1297 Magna Carta sealed by Edward I.

The **Temple Church** was where, for a week in January 1215, King John was confronted by a posse of barons demanding a charter. Four months later, the original charter was issued from the Temple. In Temple Church there is an effigy of William the Marshall who mediated between King and barons (and Bishops) and was a witness to the Charter.

Bringing you into the present day, special guided tours of City Magna Carta sites leave the City Information Centre (opposite St Paul's Cathedral) at 11am daily (between 1 June and 20 September 2015). A programme of special events relating to the Magna Carta and the City will take place on different days throughout the summer of 2015 (see website for full details).

Whilst in the area: At nearly 2,000 years old, the City is the birthplace of London. It is here that Roman remains and two millennia of London history are on view through the buildings, streets and open spaces. Icons like St Paul's Cathedral, the Tower of London (which houses the Crown Jewels), and Tower Bridge, stand alongside contemporary architecture that reflects the City's modern role as one of the world's leading financial centres.

Explore the City's iconic attractions and mazes of small streets and alleyways, many unaltered for centuries. And take time for tea (or a pint) in one of the many traditional cafes and pubs.

For information on where to stay, visit www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/hotels.

Day 2: The British Library - A treasure trove for Charter enthusiasts -

Two of the only surviving four copies of the 1215 version of Magna Carta are housed in the **British Library**. 2015 will see a major exhibition commemorating the 800th anniversary depicting the story of Magna Carta from its origins to modern times.

In addition to Magna Carta, original medieval documents are held in a dedicated Magna Carta room in the Library's Treasures Gallery. They include a unique copy of the barons' demands, a papal document which declared the Magna Carta null and void in 1215, and a sealed copy of Henry 111's 1225 Magna Carta.

A wider programme of public events including a conference, lectures and a learning programme will be staged at the British Library throughout 2015. And the Library's cafe is to be recommended.

The other original 1215 Magna Carta's are at **Salisbury** (see trail two) and **Lincoln Cathedrals** (see trail three) – tours can easily link these three locations.

Day 3: Runnymede - The sealing of Magna Carta

Runnymede, a water-meadow alongside the River Thames in Surrey (an hour from London), bears a symbolic plaque marking the site of the ancient 'meeting meadow' where King John agreed to Magna Carta in 1215.

In a grassed enclosure on the lower slopes of Cooper's Hill is the **Magna Carta Memorial**, created by the American Bar Association. It contains a pillar of English granite on which is inscribed "To commemorate Magna Carta, symbol of Freedom Under Law".

Look out for the Ankerwyke Yew opposite Runnymede, close to the ruins of St Mary's Priory. It is a male tree with a girth of 26 feet (8 meters). Estimates put its age at between 2,000-2,500 years. The tree would have witnessed the sealing of Magna Carta and also the meeting between Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn in the 1530s – if only its branches could relay the tales!

Day 4: Windsor

The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead has plans for the celebration of Magna Carta's 800th in 2015. The Parish of Wraysbury lies within the Royal Borough on the opposite bank of the river Thames to Runnymede. In the Parish is a 2,500 year old yew tree, the ruins of Ankerwycke Priory and St Andrew's church, whose Norman foundation was over one hundred years old in 2015.

The area has been settled for thousands of years and recent excavations have found traces of the oldest round house yet discovered. The body of a woman wearing gold jewellery and amber buttons also was found. Wraysbury was part of the dower lands of Queens of England. One the barons present at the sealing of Magna Carta, the youngest, baron Mountfichet was the lord of the manor of Wraysbury.

Whilst in the area: Runnymede is close to the royal town of Windsor, a must visit for all royal enthusiasts. Other nearby attractions are Henry VIII's Hampton Court Palace, the More-Molyneux family's Loseley Park and the Surrey History Centre.

A trip to the National Archives in Kew, which hold two Magna Carta's and will have a special exhibition in 2015, is also well worth a visit.

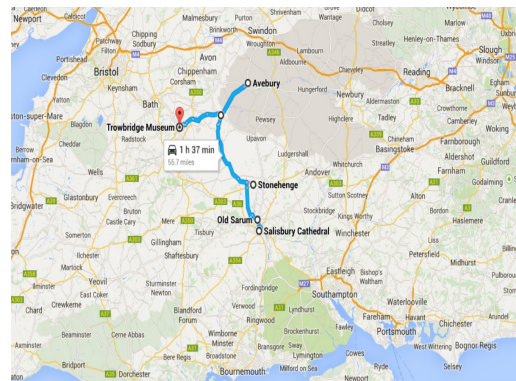
The medieval royal manor of Odiham lies midway between Winchester and Windsor, and it was from **Odiham Castle** that King John rode to Windsor and Runnymede on 10th June 1215, returning two weeks later when a French translation of Magna Carta was attested here. For information on where to stay, visit www.windsor.gov.uk/accommodation.

Trail Two - Salisbury and Wiltshire

Day 1: Salisbury

Morning: **Salisbury Cathedral** is extremely proud to be home to arguably the finest preserved of the four original copies of Magna Carta 1215.

This is on permanent display in the cathedral's Chapter House. In 2015 it will be re-displayed as part of a major new exhibition using the latest interpretation techniques to re-present the Magna Carta, exploring its historic context and modern significance.



One of England's most impressive medieval buildings with its soaring spire, Salisbury Cathedral contains an effigy of King John's half-brother William Longspee, who urged him to accept Magna Carta. Elias of Dereham, who later masterminded the building of the present cathedral, delivered Salisbury's copy of Magna Carta to the original cathedral at **Old Sarum**, the site where the Domesday Book was delivered to William the Conqueror in 1085.

In addition to the new exhibition, Salisbury Cathedral will run a series of lectures chaired by the Dean of Salisbury featuring international speakers exploring topics inspired by the Magna Carta. There will be events throughout the year including a week-long Flower Festival 15-20 September 2015 and a Barons Sculpture trail to follow around Salisbury. Salisbury Playhouse, Salisbury International Arts Festival and other local organisations are offering a whole host of Magna Carta related events and celebrations.

Afternoon: The Cathedral Close contains wonderful museums and historic properties open to the public such as **National Trust Mompesson House**, **Arundells**, and **Salisbury Museum**.

Day 2: Stonehenge and Trowbridge

Morning: **Stonehenge** and **Avebury** form part of one of the UK's UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Stonehenge is just 20 minutes from Salisbury and archaeologists believe it dates back approximately 5,000 years, evolving between 3,000 and 1,600 BC. Its ring of standing stones are aligned with the rising and setting of the sun at the solstices and explanations behind why the sites are located where they are, and their exact purpose, still remains a mystery to this day.

Avebury has the largest stone circle in the world consisting of around 100 stones. It is believed to have been erected around 4,500 years ago with many of the stones re-erected by Alexander Keiller in the 1930s. Visitors can not only explore the stone circle but also the Avenue, the West Kennett Long Barrow and can look over at Silbury Hill - the largest man-made hill in Europe. Similarly to Stonehenge, Avebury is also plays host to both winter and Summer Solstices.

Afternoon: Visit **Trowbridge** which will be taking part in the Magna Carta Anniversary celebrations as it is one of the Baron Towns. Henry de Bohun from Trowbridge was one of the 25 barons elected to enforce Magna Carta in the early 13th century. He is pictured in a stained glass window in St James's Church, holding a copy of the Charter. A major exhibition is planned at the Trowbridge Museum and a Medieval Charter Fayre will be held in the town from 24 - 26 July 2015.

The **Wiltshire Museum** in Devizes has new displays featuring gold from the Time of Stonehenge, including Britain's richest Bronze Age burial.

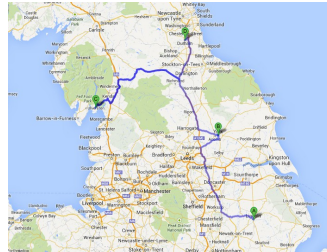
Whilst in the area: In addition to the highlighted attractions above, nearby you can find Old Wardour Castle, Stourhead and Wiltshire's iconic chalk horses. Longleat and Wilton - two leading stately homes - and the classic English villages of Lacock and Castle Combe are also close by.

Please visit www.visitwiltshire.co.uk for accommodation and details of other places of historic interest.

Trail Three – The Cathedral Cities of the North

Day 1: Lincoln –

Twelfth and learning, where a constitutional Archbishop of in Magna Carta



The beginning and the end

thirteenth century Lincoln was a place of young Stephen Langton's radical idea took shape. Langton later became Canterbury (see Trail Four) and instilled his ideas on kingship.

A fourth and final 1215 Magna Carta can be seen in a new visitor centre at Lincoln Castle and is owned by **Lincoln Cathedral**. 'Lincolnia' is written twice on the back of the document, written, like the charter itself, in an official Chancery hand. A copy of it was entered into a register of 1330 in the Dean and Chapter archives. All of this evidence adds up to Lincoln Cathedral's Magna Carta having the best provenance of all four originals. Until its travels beginning in the mid-20th century, it has always been in Lincoln.

The Lincoln Magna Carta was exhibited in the British Pavilion at the New York World's Fair in 1939. After the outbreak of World War II it was decided that it should remain in the USA for safe-keeping, so it was sent to the Library of Congress in Washington, DC. 15 million people saw Magna Carta in the USA. After December 1941, when the USA joined the war, it was sent for safe-keeping to Fort Knox, Kentucky, along with the Declaration of Independence, the US Constitution, and other iconic American documents. Having returned to Lincoln in 1946, it has been sent to later exhibitions in the USA.

Lincoln Cathedral, constructed mostly between the eleventh and fourteenth centuries, is one of England's most beautiful churches and nearby Steep Hill, with its medieval houses, indicate the character of King John's times. Lincoln's Cathedral Quarter also has the Medieval Bishop's Palace and the Castle dating from this period.

A new secure underground vault will open at **Lincoln Castle** in 2015. It was built specifically to display this copy of Magna Carta together with a copy of the 1217 Charter of the Forest (which limited the power of the king to seize large areas of land for hunting). Films projected onto a curved 180 degree screen will give visitors a fully immersive experience.

King John renounced Magna Carta within weeks of agreeing to it and he cut a swathe through Lincolnshire in a civil war to save his throne. Illness ended his life in **Newark Castle**, a residence of the bishops of Lincoln. Fighting continued, until the climax was reached in the deciding battle in Lincoln in 1217, led by William the Marshall which defeated Prince Louis of France and rebel barons, asserting the succession of John's son Henry III to the English throne.

Whilst in the area: Walk along Lincoln's newly-restored castle walls and visit re-opened 18th and 19th century prisons within the castle.

(Lincoln is easily accessible from London. Trains run from St Pancras International, just a few minutes' walk from The British Library).

Day 2: York and Cartmel

Morning: Disastrous wars early in his reign left King John short of money. One way to raise it was to allow a town's citizens to buy the right to rule themselves. In 1212 the king granted a charter to the citizens of York allowing them, rather than his representative, to collect and pay taxes to the Crown, to hold their own courts and to appoint a mayor. The charter proved to be a precursor of Magna Carta.

An exhibition in the Medieval Gallery of the **Yorkshire Museum** marks the 800th anniversary of York's independence.

Afternoon: William the Marshall established the Priory Church of St. Mary and St. Michael in Cartmel, Cumbria, in 1189. Marshall was the leading mediator in the showdown with King John. He later became Lord Regent of England during Henry III's childhood and was central to the review of Magna Carta in 1217.

Whilst in the area: Brougham Hall, near Penrith, contains papers belonging to Henry Brougham, Lord Chancellor of England in the 1830s and the man who introduced the second most important piece of legislation in English history - the Great Reform Bill of 1832.

Day 3: Durham – Earls Palatine

Durham Cathedral in Durham City, often cited as the greatest Norman building in Europe, holds three editions of Magna Carta dated 1216, 1225 and 1300, which demonstrate the evolution of the original. The 1216 issue - the only surviving copy - will be on display from 1 June to 31 August 2015 at Durham University's Palace Green Library, in the heart of the city's UNESCO World Heritage Site as part of *Magna Carta and the changing face of revolt..*

The Bishops of Durham held the unique status of Earls Palatine and were effectively religious warlords, charged by the King with securing England's northern border. The cathedral is sited alongside Durham Castle, the stronghold of the Earls Palatine.

Whilst in the area: Auckland Castle in the Vale of Durham was home to the Bishops of Durham for over 900 years – stroll through its magnificent state rooms adorned with precious works of art. And at award-winning Beamish Museum take a tram ride in to the past for the chance to touch, taste, hear, see and smell history.

For information on places to stay, visit www.thisisdurham.com or call the Durham Visitor Contact Centre on 03000 26 26 26.

Trail Four – Kent and East Sussex

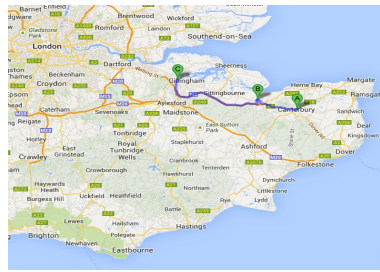
Day 1: Canterbury

Canterbury

Canterbury's

From the conversion of Christianity in 597 Archbishop of religious life and

Crown. In 1170 the infamous murder of Thomas Becket took place here.



- The eye of the storm

Cathedral forms one third of UNESCO World Heritage Site. of the Anglo-Saxons of Kent to and the proclamation of the first Canterbury, it was at the core of many political disputes with the

The accession of Stephen Langton as Archbishop of Canterbury in 1207 brought church-state tensions to a head. Langton became an implacable opponent of King John and joined with rebellious barons and other bishops to limit the royal powers. This led directly to the showdown that produced Magna Carta. Langton's input to the charter is emphasised by the first clause, which protects the freedom, rights and liberties of the English church.

Whilst in the area: Many buildings in Canterbury including the Norman castle, the Roman town walls, St. Augustine's Abbey, Eastbridge Hospital, the Black Friars and St. Martin's Church (the oldest parish church in continuous use in England) link back to the medieval era.

Visit the Grey Friars, the remains of which house the Canterbury Heritage Museum. Fantastic restaurants, cafes and bars surround the Cathedral, and the shopping ranges from the modern to boutiques, antique stores, and even a bookbinder, proud of his tradition and tools.

Day 2: Faversham and Rochester - Kings, Queens & Sieges

Morning: **Faversham**, just 15 minutes from Canterbury possesses a 'magnificent collection of Charters' including a 1300 Magna Carta, the last reissue of King Edward I's seal. From 23rd May to 28th June 2015, Faversham will host 'Magna Carta Rediscovered' a fascinating state of the art exhibition which will display the 1300 Faversham Magna Carta as the centrepiece. Whilst the exhibition is in Faversham, visitors will also be able to view the Faversham Charter Collection a display of royal charters presented to the town between 1252 and 1685, many of which recognise the special status of Faversham as a member of the Cinque Ports Federation plus other important artefacts rarely on display.

Known as the 'Market Town of Kings' Faversham acquired this title due to the steady stream of Kings and Queens who have visited the town - not least King John. The town is the perfect stopping off place to explore with nearly 500 listed buildings, one of the finest medieval streets in England and an excellent choice of cafes, pubs and restaurants.

Afternoon: Kent's second Cathedral at **Rochester** houses the remarkable 1123 Textus

Roffensis – an Anglo-Saxon manuscript containing the first code of English law. Written in the vernacular Old English in c. 604, it inspired the principles of Magna Carta.

Nearby **Rochester Castle** was besieged by King John in 1216 after being seized by rebel barons.

Whilst in the area: Whilst in the area: Faversham is also home to Shepherd Neame, Britain's oldest brewer. Enjoy an award-winning brewery tour, learn about Kent's hopping traditions and sample the specially commissioned Magna Carta Ale. Guided town walks are an excellent way to discover many of the 'Hidden Gems' of Faversham and are led by highly knowledgeable members of the Faversham Society. The town walks also include entrance to the Fleur de Lis Heritage Centre.

Depending on your favoured route and base for your tour, a further half day option could be considered:

Day 3: The Key to England or a Norman stronghold

Option 1: The Key to England – Dover

Sitting atop the world famous White Cliffs of Dover, **Dover Castle**, known as the Key to England, was besieged by Louis VIII of France in 1216. Louis was invited by a group of rebel barons to come and take the English crown. He had some success in breaching the castle walls but was unable to ultimately take the site. During the siege, the English defenders tunnelled outwards and attacked the French, thus creating the only counter tunnel in the world. This can still be seen in the medieval works.

Option 2: Pevensey, East Sussex

Pevensey received a royal charter from King John in 1207. Four witnesses to this charter also witnessed the sealing of Magna Carta eight years later, including Peter des Roches (Bishop of Winchester), the powerful and unpopular ally of the king. The Royal Charter is on view in the **Court House Museum**.

Whilst in the area: Also at the Court House are the oldest surviving seals of the Cinque Ports (Britain's original naval force) dating from the early 13th century and an extremely rare William I silver penny minted in Pevensey. Visit the unique Norman Castle at Pevensey, situated within the largest Roman shore fort in Britain. Pevensey beach was the main landing place of William the Conqueror in 1066.

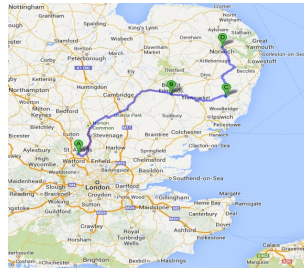
In Kent don't miss Leeds Castle ("the loveliest castle in the world"), Hever Castle (of Anne Boleyn), and/or Chartwell, home of Sir Winston Churchill.

For information on where to stay, visit www.visitkent.co.uk/places-to-stay

Trail Five –East of England

Day 1: St. Albans and Bury St. Edmunds

Morning: At **St. Albans Abbey** in Hertfordshire barons and clergy met in 1213 to demand King John for past grievances. This led to general rights and privileges based on past The Cathedral and Abbey will stage a range of events between 2013 and 2015 (see website



Hertfordshire payment from demands for royal charters. of Magna Carta for more details).

Afternoon: At the High Altar of the Abbey in **Bury St. Edmunds** (90 minutes from St. Albans), the barons reputedly met on St Edmund's Day - 20th November 1214 - to swear an oath of allegiance to each other to force King John to accept the Charter of Liberties, the immediate precursor to Magna Carta.

The remains of the abbey are visible today in the Abbey Gardens. St. Edmundsbury Cathedral, with its recently completed Tower is located in the precincts of the abbey. Facsimiles of the barons' shields can be seen in the Cathedral. The Abbey of St Edmundsbury was one of the most important in the land and received many visits from Kings making pilgrimages all through the middle ages. A light and sound event will be held in October 2014 as well as other events through the year.

Whist in the area: Take a walking tour of St. Albans and visit Verulamium Museum displaying the life and times of a major Roman city. Drop by **Huntingfield** village in Suffolk; Baron de Huntingfield was one of 25 Barons to act as surety to Magna Carta.

Day 2: Framlingham and Norwich

Morning: **Framlingham Castle** in Suffolk is home of Roger Bigod, 2nd Earl of Norfolk, and one of the most important of the 25 baronial sureties of Magna Carta. The castle was seized by King John in 1216 after a siege but returned to the family the following year.

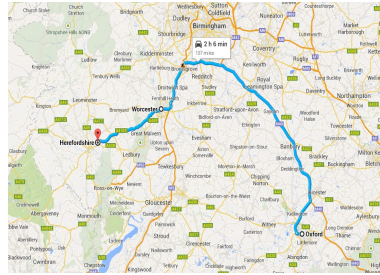
Afternoon: **Norwich Castle** and Cathedral both pre-date Magna Carta era. In 1216 the castle was besieged and captured by French forces led by Prince Louis, son of the King of France, who had intervened in the baronial uprising against the crown.

Whilst in the area: At the University of East Anglia see the results of a three-year research project to track down lost Magna Carta originals and related documents from more than 300 archives in the UK and France. Public lectures and an exhibition are scheduled. The results of the research project will be freely available online.

Trail Six: The Heart of England

Day 1: Oxford

Oxford's **Bodleian Library** holds the world's original 13th century Magna Carta. Of the seventeen Charters, three are in the Bodleian, the four surviving 1217 Charters.



nearly a quarter of manuscripts of known surviving including three of

In addition the Bodleian holds a fourth “engrossment” (an official document from the Royal Chancery bearing the ruler’s seal) in the shape of a 1225 issue of Magna Carta that once held the Great Seal of Henry III. No other institution has such a concentration of Magna Carta’s.

In 2015 the four Oxford Charters will be displayed together for only the second time in 800 years.

Whilst in the area: The Bodleian contains a unique collection of other exhibits including a pristine Gutenberg Bible, a 14th century copy of the Travels of Marco Polo, Jane Austen’s handwritten compendium of her early works and the Spanish Codex Mendoza account of the Aztec civilization.

Day 2: Evesham and Worcester

AM - Evesham

Travel from Oxford through the Cotswolds to the riverside market town of Evesham and follow the Simon de Montfort Trail. Simon de Montfort led the rebellion against King [Henry III of England](#) during the [Second Barons' War](#) of 1263–4. This self-guided Trail, clearly signed by waymarked posts, takes you over the area where the battle was fought. It simply attempts to show you the lie of the land and leaves you to envisage for yourself what happened here on 4th August 1265. Besides exploring the scene of the battle, you can enjoy the beauty of this typical Vale countryside with its extensive orchards – a very important part of Evesham’s later history. There are glorious views to Bredon Hill and (on a clear day) the Malvern’s.

The Almonry Heritage Centre, which dates back to the 14th century will house an exhibition throughout 2015, to educate people about the series of events that led to the Simon de Montfort parliament.

PM - Worcester

Travel through the Vale of Evesham to the historic city of Worcester. Worcester has played a huge role in English democracy.

King John often visited Worcester Cathedral to worship at the shrine of St Wulfstan. His favourite hunting grounds in Wyre, Feckenham and The Chase forests were nearby. At the end of King John's reign, the city of Worcester had declared for the rebellious barons. In July 1216 one of John’s lieutenants broke through the defences at Worcester Castle and captured the city. John’s last visit to Worcester was in August 1216, when he ordered citizens to make a payment so that alms might be given to the poor.

In October 2016 following his death, King John was buried at Worcester Cathedral, as requested in his Will. His Will is usually kept in the Cathedral Library and his effigy, the oldest royal effigy in England, is in front of the High Altar. Many medieval manuscripts written by the cathedral's monks, as well as documents from John's era are on display in the Cathedral Library. From September 2015 relics from King John's tomb including his thumb bone and fragments of his clothing, as well as his Will, can also be viewed by appointment in the library. There will be an exhibition, talks, events and concerts relating to Magna Carta from April 2015 in the Cathedral. Whilst in the area: The Cathedral tower where kings have stood offers fine views of the city and beyond.

A comparison of what the city looked like during this significant time in history can be seen in The Commandery, one of the Worcester city museums, on a 1:500 scale reconstruction of the walled city of Worcester in 1250.

From the Commandery, once the headquarters for King Charles II troops, walk through Fort Royal Park, commemorates those who died in battle some 360 years ago. It is a site that was of interest to ~~our~~ former presidents, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson who visited Fort Royal Hill 1786. After visiting the battlefield in Worcester, John Adams wrote that he was "deeply moved" but said, "And do Englishmen so soon forget the ground where liberty was fought for? Tell your neighbours and your children that this is holy ground, much holier than that on which your churches stand. All England should come in pilgrimage to this hill, once a year."

Continue to follow the Battle of Worcester 1651 City Centre Trail, for a glimpse into the Civil War that changed British history.

Day 3: Hereford

Two important Magna Carta items are housed in the New Library building of **Hereford Cathedral** together with a wealth of other fantastic treasures. The first is the finest surviving 1217 Magna Carta – the significant revision of the original 1215 charter issued by King John's son Henry III.

The second is the sole surviving copy of the 'Kings Writ,' issued by King John in the form of a letter to royal officials across England following his meeting with the barons at Runnymede. The document instructs recipients to ensure the terms of the charter are made known publicly, sworn to and kept. Period illuminations and documents from the cathedral's historic Chained Library are on view and illustrate themes of the charter.

Whist in the area: The unique Mappa Mundi depicts the beliefs, knowledge and scholarship of the 13th century European world. It was created about 1300.

Take a slight de-tour between Hereford and Worcester to visit **Berkeley Castle**. The Barons met in the great hall of Berkeley Castle, including a member of the Berkeley family, before going to Runnymede. The Berkeley was one of the 40 Barons present at Runnymede.

For further information and up to date events go to

www.magnacarta800th.com