

How important was Basing House?

A short introductory activity exploring the events and people of Basing House, Basingstoke, from its Tudor heyday in 1601 to its destruction in the Civil War in 1645.

Duration: 30 minutes

National Curriculum links

KS2 History

- A local history study
 - A study over time tracing how several aspects of national history are reflected in the locality (this can go beyond 1066)
 - A study of an aspect of history or a site dating from a period beyond 1066 that is significant in the locality
- A study of an aspect or theme in British history that extends pupils' chronological knowledge beyond 1066
 - The changing power of monarchs
 - A significant turning point in British history

Cross-curricular links

- KS2 English
 - Spoken language
 - Reading
- KS2 Geography
 - Locational knowledge
 - Human and physical geography

Learning context

Prior learning: none required.

Learning objectives

- To learn what the local site of Basing House was like in its Tudor heyday (1601)
- To learn how the inhabitants of Basing House lived in 1601, and what happened to them in 1645.

Learning outcomes

All: will be able to investigate a primary and a secondary source to understand that Basing House is a local site at which there was a large, wealthy palace which is now in ruins.

Most: will be able to construct a simple chronology of Basing House, drawing contrasts between its Tudor heyday and later destruction; understand that Basing House was an important and wealthy household.

Some: will be able to critically interrogate and connect all sources to evaluate the importance of Basing House at two different time periods.

Activity resources

- 1) Where is Basing House? Map of Basingstoke – page 7
- 2) What was Basing House? Modern images of the site – page 8
- 3) The Sealed Knot YouTube video, available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DhHpbgmFfms> [2 minutes 48 seconds long. Watch up to 2 minutes].
- 4) Modern artist's impression of Queen Elizabeth and her entourage arriving at Basing House in 1601 (page 9)

- 5) List of what was taken at Basing House by Cromwell and Dalbier on 14 October 1645 (page 10)

Additional resources – for information, future learning or extension activity

- 1) Modern artist's impression of the battle of Basing House, 14 October 1645 – page 11
- 2) Timeline of Basing House – page 12

How important was Basing House? Lesson plan

Activities in this lesson plan can be run as whole-class teacher-directed discussion, or as group or pair discussion with feedback, or as individual reflection using the prompt questions.

Contents of this pack:

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	Timing (mins)	Activity	Resources
Starter	0 – 5	<p>Where and what was Basing House?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Identify the location of Basing House on the map. Relate this to locations/landmarks with which students are familiar 2) Look at modern images of the site to understand what Basing House was 	<p>Where and what was Basing House?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Where is Basing House? Map of Basingstoke (page 7). 2) What was Basing House? Modern images of the site (page 8).
Development	5 – 20	<p>How important was Basing House? 1601: Queen Elizabeth I</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Study the modern artist's impression of Queen Elizabeth I arriving at Basing House's gatehouse on one of her many visits in 1601. What is happening in the picture? 2) What can you spot in this picture that tells us that Basing House is important? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The building: large, decorated, has a gatehouse, entrance bridge, statues, chimneys, glass windows, red brick (compare Hampton Court Palace of Henry VIII), expensive • Visited by a Queen: on horseback, expensive clothes, queen's standard (flag), soldiers guarding, has brought an entourage • People: well-dressed man greeting the queen, wealthy-looking family waiting behind him through the archway, compare the way other people are dressed e.g. the group at the bottom of the ladder: workers or servants for the family. • What jobs might these servants have done in Basing House? • What preparations may have been made for Queen Elizabeth I's visit? <p>1645: Civil War battle</p> <p>44 years after Elizabeth I's last visit, Basing House was on the side of King Charles I in the Civil War. There were three battles (sieges) at the house against the enemy Oliver Cromwell and the Parliamentarians, the final one in 1645.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Watch the Sealed Knot video on YouTube up to 2 minutes 	<p>How important was Basing House?</p> <p>Modern artist's impression of Queen Elizabeth and her entourage arriving at Basing House in 1601 (page 9)</p> <p>1645: Civil War battle</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The Sealed Knot YouTube video [2:48] at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DhHpbgmFfms

		<p>This is a re-enactment of a Civil War battle, like those at Basing House:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is a re-enactment? • In what ways would a re-enactment be different from a real 17th century battle? <p>Basing House lost the final battle and the house was captured then destroyed by Oliver Cromwell and the Parliamentarian army.</p> <p>2) Study the list of what was taken from Basing House when it was captured on 14 October 1645:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can you identify the items on the list? Find the meaning of any unfamiliar words. • Do any of the items surprise you? • What does this list tell us about who and what was at Basing House in 1645? • Does this list give us any clues about how important Basing House was? • Who wrote the list? Are they a reliable author? 	<p>2) List of what was taken at Basing House by Cromwell and Dalbier on 14 October 1645 (page 10)</p>
<p>Plenary</p>	<p>20 – 30</p>	<p>How important was Basing House?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) From these sources, summarise how important you think Basing House was. Use evidence from the picture and the list of what was taken in the battle to support your answer. 2) Why might the Parliamentarians have wanted to attack Basing House in the 1640s? 3) What do you think happened to Basing House after the Civil War battle (look again at the pictures of how it looks now)? 4) What further information might you need to develop a fuller picture of Basing House's importance? 	<p>How important was Basing House?</p> <p>3) What was Basing House? Modern images of the site (page 8).</p>

Future learning

To learn more about how important Basing House was, and also what happened at Basing House during the Civil War:

- Watch Time Team Series 7, Episode 8: 'The Royalists' Last Stand' Basing House, Hampshire
- Visit Basing House and take part in the Palace to Ruins or Civil War programme. Travel bursaries are also available.
- Attend a Sealed Knot re-enactment event, such as that at Basing House on 23 – 25 May 2020, or The English Civil War Society in September.

See 'Further Information' for details of these activities.

Possible historical enquiries:

- How important was Basing House?
- Why was Basing House important?
- Who lived at Basing House?
- What was life like at Basing House in the (i) 1500s (Tudor times), (ii) 1600s (Civil War)?
- Why was Basing House involved in the Civil War?
- Why did the Parliamentarians want to attack Basing House?
- Who was fighting at Basing House?
- What led to the capture and downfall of Basing House?
- What was life like at Basing House during the sieges of 1643-45?

Further information

Basing House on television

Time Team Series 7, Episode 8: 'The Royalists' Last Stand' Basing House, Hampshire. First aired on Channel 4, February 2000. Duration: 46 minutes.

Tony Robinson presents as archaeologists look for evidence of the final siege of Basing House in 1645. The English Civil War Society demonstrates how the soldiers lived and prepared for battle.

Can be viewed online at: [Daily Motion](#) or [YouTube](#)

Civil War living history and re-enactment groups

- The Sealed Knot, a registered educational charity which principally performs re-enactments in local communities based around battles, skirmishes and sieges of the Civil War: [The Sealed Knot](#)
Next re-enactment at Basing House: 23-25 May 2020.
- The English Civil War Society shows both military and civilian aspects of life during the Civil War with a living history display as well as drill displays and skirmish re-enactments: [The English Civil War Society](#)
Next visit to Basing House by the Marquis of Winchester's regiment: 26-27 September 2020 TBC

Historic records and source material

Many original records for Basing House are kept in the Archives and Local Studies section of Hampshire County Council's Record Office: [Hampshire Record Office](#). The collection includes images, maps and legal and family documents.

Visits to Basing House

The ruins and grounds of Basing House are open to schools all year round by appointment and to the general public from April to October. See the [Basing House](#) website for public opening times and prices.

School visits:

KS2 Palace to Ruins

A unique opportunity to learn one site's significance in two key aspects of British national history: life in the great Tudor mansion, which 100 years later was destroyed by Cromwell during the Civil War. Artefacts from Basing and the historic ruins offer clues as to who lived there, how they lived and what happened to the House.

KS2 or KS3 Civil War

A bookable full day programme that supports classroom learning on the topic of the Civil War, or can be used as a Humanities linked trip during Activities Week. Students participate in a range of active led and self-led hands-on activities exploring Civil War artefacts and replicas, and investigating the ruins of the site itself to piece together what happened and what life was like as a Civil War soldier at Basing in 1645. Contact: milestones.schools@hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk or 01256 639550.

Travel bursaries available

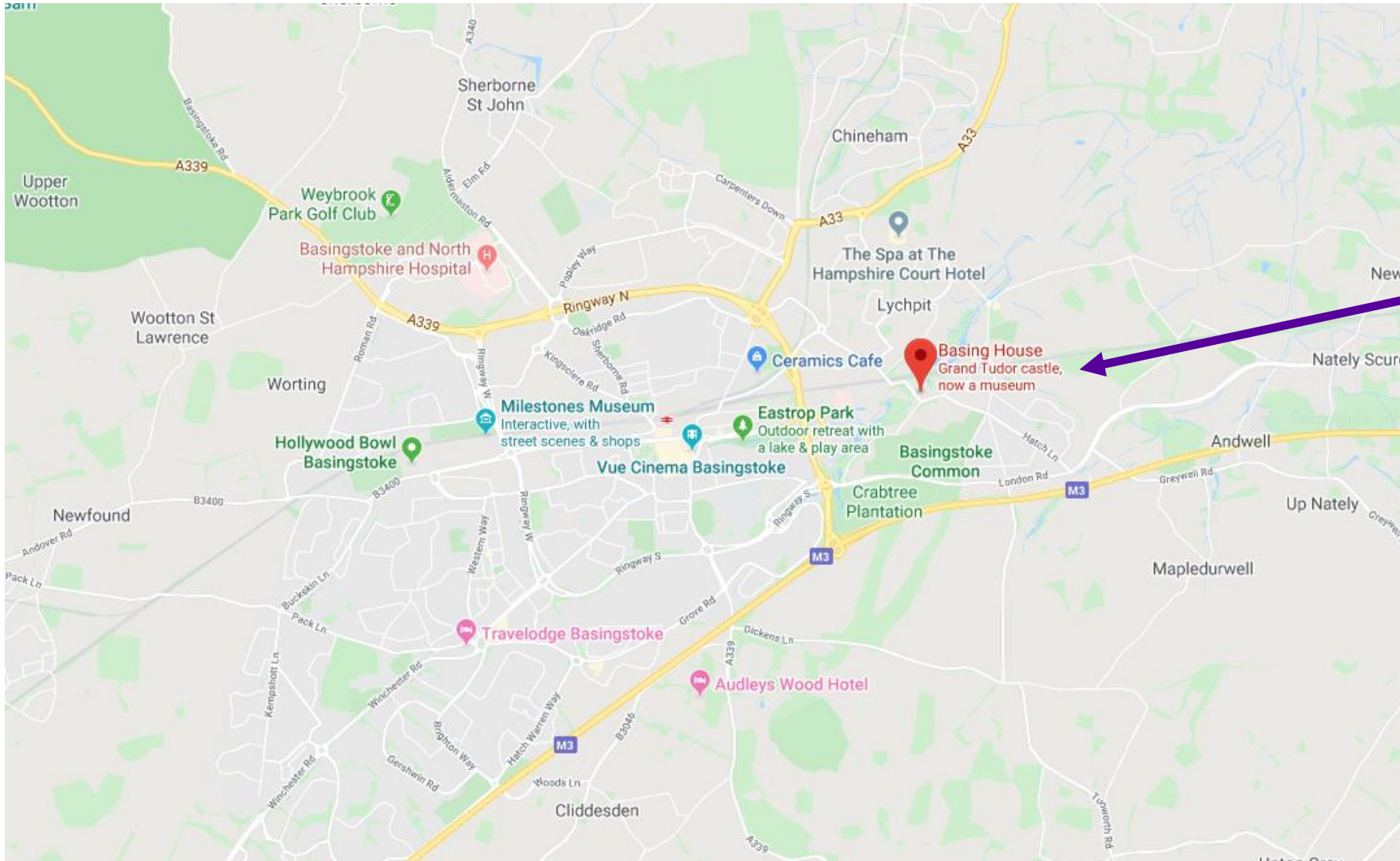
Travel bursaries of up to £400 are available to qualifying schools in North Hampshire through the Reaching Out project, funded by Arts Council and the Department for Education. To qualify, the school must:

- Book a visit to Basing House to take place before March 2021
- Have a Pupil Premium of 10% or more

Terms and conditions apply. Contact milestones.schools@hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk for more information.

Basing House is operated by [Hampshire Cultural Trust](#), an independent charity which promotes Hampshire as a county that offers outstanding cultural experiences to both its residents and visitors.

Where is Basing House?



**Basing House –
east of
Basingstoke in
Old Basing**

What was Basing House?



**A great Tudor
palace built in the
1530s, destroyed in
the Civil War in the
1640s – only the
Great Barn still
stands, the rest is
now ruins**



Queen Elizabeth I and her entourage arriving at Basing House in 1601



List of what was taken at Basing by Lieutenant General Cromwell and Colonel Dalbier on Tuesday 14 October 1645



From the Parliamentarian News sheet

10 pieces of Ordnance	300 fitches of bacon
10 barrels of gunpowder	4,000 lbs weight of cheese
9 colours	The Marquess' plate worth £5,000
2,000 arms	The Marquess' cabinet and jewels
200 horses	Sir Robert Peake's plate worth £500
300 slain and burned	The Marquess' own bed and furniture cost £1,300
180 taken prisoners	£300 gold taken in one hole by one soldier
20 Gentlewomen taken	One cabinet of jewels burned
1 Gallant gentlewoman slain	Sir Robert Peake's box of jewels, rings and bracelets
6 priests slain	A box of brass riven plates of Sir Robert Peake's
4 priests taken prisoner	100 gentlewomen's rich gowns and petticoats
£8,000 worth of beads, clothes and other goods	A great quantity of wine
Many firkins of butter	Many hogsheads of beer
Much bullet and match	The Marquess taken, Sir Robert Peake and Inigo Jones taken...
All their ammunition taken	The Marquess and some with him had quarter releasing Colonel Hammond and Major King
Bag and baggage	
Many books of them divers [Catholic]	
A great many crucifixes and [Catholic] pictures taken	
1,000 chests, trunks and boxes	
200 barrels of beef	
400 qtrs of corn	

Artist's impression of the battle of Basing House on 14 October 1645



Basing House: significant events in the site's history

STONE AGE – 500,000 BC

Mesolithic hunters near site

BRONZE AGE – 2000 BC

Barrows on Cowdrey's Down

IRON AGE – 800 BC

Farmstead at Basing

ROMAN – AD 43

Villa at Basing

SAXON - 410

'Royal' buildings on Cowdrey's Down

NORMAN CONQUEST - 1066

Motte & Bailey castle by the river

MEDIEVAL - 1150

Ringwork Castle

TUDOR - 1485

William Paulet inherits Basing

TUDOR - 1530

First house built

TUDOR - 1560

Second house added to first

STUART - 1603

Lots of royal visits to Basing House

STUART – 1642-9

Basing House sieges and fall (1645)

GEORGIAN - 1714

Hunting Lodge at Basing Grange (near the barn)

VICTORIAN - 1837

Basingstoke Canal dug through site

VICTORIAN - 1837

Railway comes to Basing

VICTORIAN – 1870-1904

Lord Bolton's excavations of the site

20th CENTURY - 1940

WWII Home Guard defences

20th CENTURY - 1976

Basing House acquired by Hampshire County Council

21st CENTURY - 2014

Basing operated by Hampshire Cultural Trust, a registered charity, formerly Hampshire County Council's Arts & Museums Service