The peak of Newmarket’s royal patronage was Charles II’s reign, during which time he built a palace stretching from the High Street to Palace Street. What is left of the palace now forms part of Newmarket’s National Heritage Centre for Horseracing and Sporting Art, Palace House.

From the era of Charles II developed the first organised racing - leading to the founding of The Jockey Club in 1750, with its home on the same site as the current Jockey Club Rooms. In 2016 Newmarket Racecourses celebrated 350 years of its oldest known race, the Town Plate.

Not only were kings and queens drawn to Newmarket by the Heath, so too have some of the greats in the history of British art. Stubbs, Seymour, Herring and Munnings all painted scenes of Newmarket Heath and the town is home to one of the best collections of sporting art in the world when the collections at Palace House and The Jockey Club are combined.

Integral to Newmarket’s enduring role at the heart of horseracing is the Heath. The Heath is Newmarket’s equivalent of a natural mineral. Under the protection of The Jockey Club, the Heath avoided being ploughed up during the wars and has been kept free of railway lines and new roads, thereby allowing Newmarket’s ‘natural asset’ to continue to attract horses and grow the sport’s contribution to the local economy.

However, it was not always so; Newmarket has endured peaks and troughs. In the mid-nineteenth century there were more racehorses trained at Stockbridge, Hampshire than in Newmarket. Today there are no horses trained at Stockbridge, while there are close to 3,000 horses in Newmarket.
GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

“Through the last five centuries, the Heath has been the single most important factor in the town’s development - after all, there are over 50 towns that boast a racecourse, but none that has the Heath or anything to compare with it.

“It was these gallops that brought the trainers, the staff, the owners and the horses, and with them followed ancillary businesses - veterinarians, saddlers, forage merchants, blacksmiths, sales companies, bloodstock agents, as well, of course, as the development of the surrounding land to accommodate the great studs that now surround the town.”

Trainer, Sir Mark Prescott Bt

A VIBRANT INDUSTRY

Newmarket is home to Tattersalls, the oldest bloodstock auctioneers in the world and the largest in Europe. In 2017 Tattersalls offered a total of 6,441 horses, generating an annual turnover in excess of £364 million, the highlight of which was a European record for a thoroughbred at auction when the mare Marsha was sold for 6 million guineas (£6.6m).

Largely due to investment from overseas-based breeders, over the last 30 years the quantity and quality of stallions based in Newmarket has increased markedly. There are currently more than 30 stallions based in the area, including the world’s highest ever rated racehorse, Frankel, and one of the most successful stallions in the world, Dubawi, both of which command a covering fee in excess of £100,000 per mare.

In total, Newmarket-based stallions cover up to 3,000 mares every breeding season, February to June, generating a total turnover of more than £150 million in covering fees.

A total of £108.85 million in prize money will be put up by Newmarket Racecourses in 2018, which stages more class 1 ‘Pattern’ races than any other racecourse.

Newmarket is home to three of the leading equine veterinary practices in the world and two equine hospitals. Combined, the practices and hospitals employ 100 veterinary surgeons and support staff.

LAND USE WITHIN 5 MILES OF THE CLOCK TOWER

Newmarket is home to a variety of organisations that perform important roles within the horseracing industry. These include: The National Stud and British Racing School, the charities Animal Health Trust, Injured Jockeys’ Fund, Racing Welfare and the National Heritage Centre for Horseracing and Sporting Art at Palace House.

There are 50,000 acres within a five mile radius of the Clock Tower on Newmarket High Street of which 47% (23,500 acres) relate directly to the racing and breeding industry.

- 15,990 acres are stud land.
- 4,500 acres are managed by The Jockey Club and include the Training Grounds, Racecourses, National Stud and various residential and commercial properties.
- 2,300 acres are non-Jockey Club managed training grounds, including Godolphin and over 100 training yards.
- 710 acres include property owned by Tattersalls, British Racing School, pre-trainers and veterinary practices.

A VIBRANT INDUSTRY

Below The champion Frankel stands at Banstead Manor Stud, just outside Newmarket

Below Tattersalls’ auctioneers enjoyed another good year of results, topped by the sale of Marsha for 6 million guineas.

HORSES IN TRAINING

Around one-third of the total of Flat horses-in-training in the UK are stabled in Newmarket and around one-fifth of the overall total.

There are over 80 racehorse trainers using Newmarket Training Grounds.

The 2,500 acres of Jockey Club Estates Training Grounds include 50 miles of turf gallops, 14 miles of artificial gallops and 10 miles of purpose-built horsewalks/walking grounds.
ECONOMY AND TOURISM

In 2017 Newmarket Racecourses attracted 365,000 visitors to meetings on the Rowley Mile and July Course.

In 2016 Her Majesty The Queen officially opened the National Heritage Centre for Horseracing and Sporting Art. Developed by Forest Heath District Council in conjunction with the Horseracing industry, the restoration of Palace House and the accompanying stable yard and its transformation into the National Heritage Centre was a multimillion-pound project, funded by a Heritage Lottery Fund grant and charitable donations.

The National Heritage Centre is expected to attract thousands of new visitors per annum to Newmarket.

Despite a population half the size, Newmarket has the same number of hotel rooms as Bury St Edmunds, just 14 miles away. The 2017 update of the economic impact of Newmarket’s Equine Cluster confirmed that Newmarket has over 270 rooms. Business generated from events at the racecourse and sales at Tattersalls is key to the economic viability of Newmarket’s hotels and the rates of the rooms increase for around 50 nights of the year, coinciding with racing and sales. The report conservatively estimated that visitors and tourists attracted to Newmarket by racing-related activities contribute around £9.5m per annum to the local economy and the hotels provide employment for more than 200 people.

Also a source of employment for 250 people is the LGC laboratory, nearby in Fordham, specialising in forensic testing and analytical services in sport. Initially developed specifically for British horseracing, the laboratory now also provides a range of services to other sports and clients.