

EMAS

Archaeological Society

Study Tour to Yorkshire



Richmond Castle

1 – 6 November 2021

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Itinerary

Monday, 1 November

Repton Church and Viking overwintering site of 873
Anchor Church
Arrive York

Tuesday, 2 November

St James Church, Nunburnholme
St Oswald's Church, Lythe
Gisborough Priory
Helmsley Castle
St Gregory's Minster

Wednesday, 3 November - All day in York

St Mary's Abbey
Multangular Tower
Barley Hall
Bootham Bar
Minster
The Shambles
Merchant Adventurers' Hall
Clifford's Tower
Jorvik Viking Centre.
(The actual order of the visits may vary according to special services in the Minster)

Thursday, 4 November

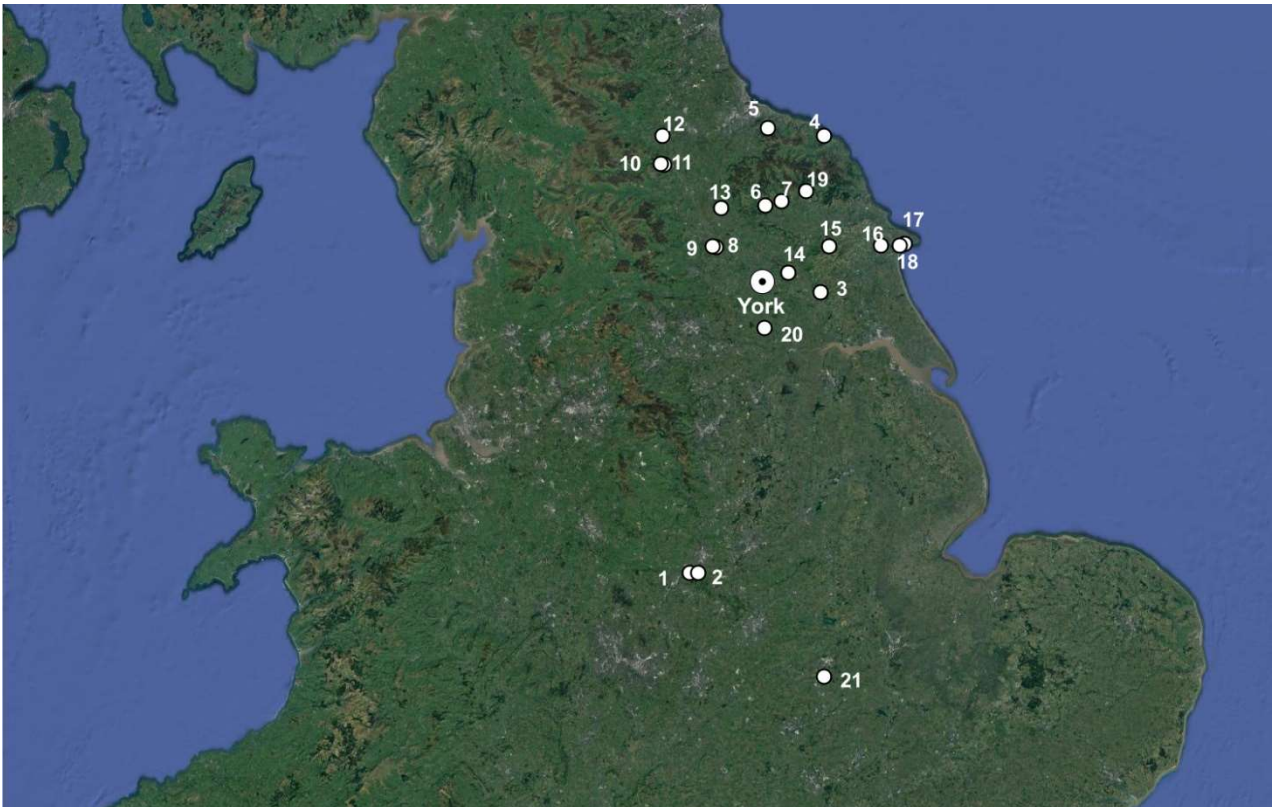
Aldborough Roman Site
The Devil's Arrows
Easby Abbey
Richmond Castle
Stanwick Iron Age Fortifications
St Mary's Church, Thirsk

Friday, 5 November

Stamford Bridge
Duggleby Howe
Rudston Monolith
Danes' Dyke Sewerby
The Priory Church of St Mary, Bridlington
Cawthorn Roman Camp

Saturday, 6 November

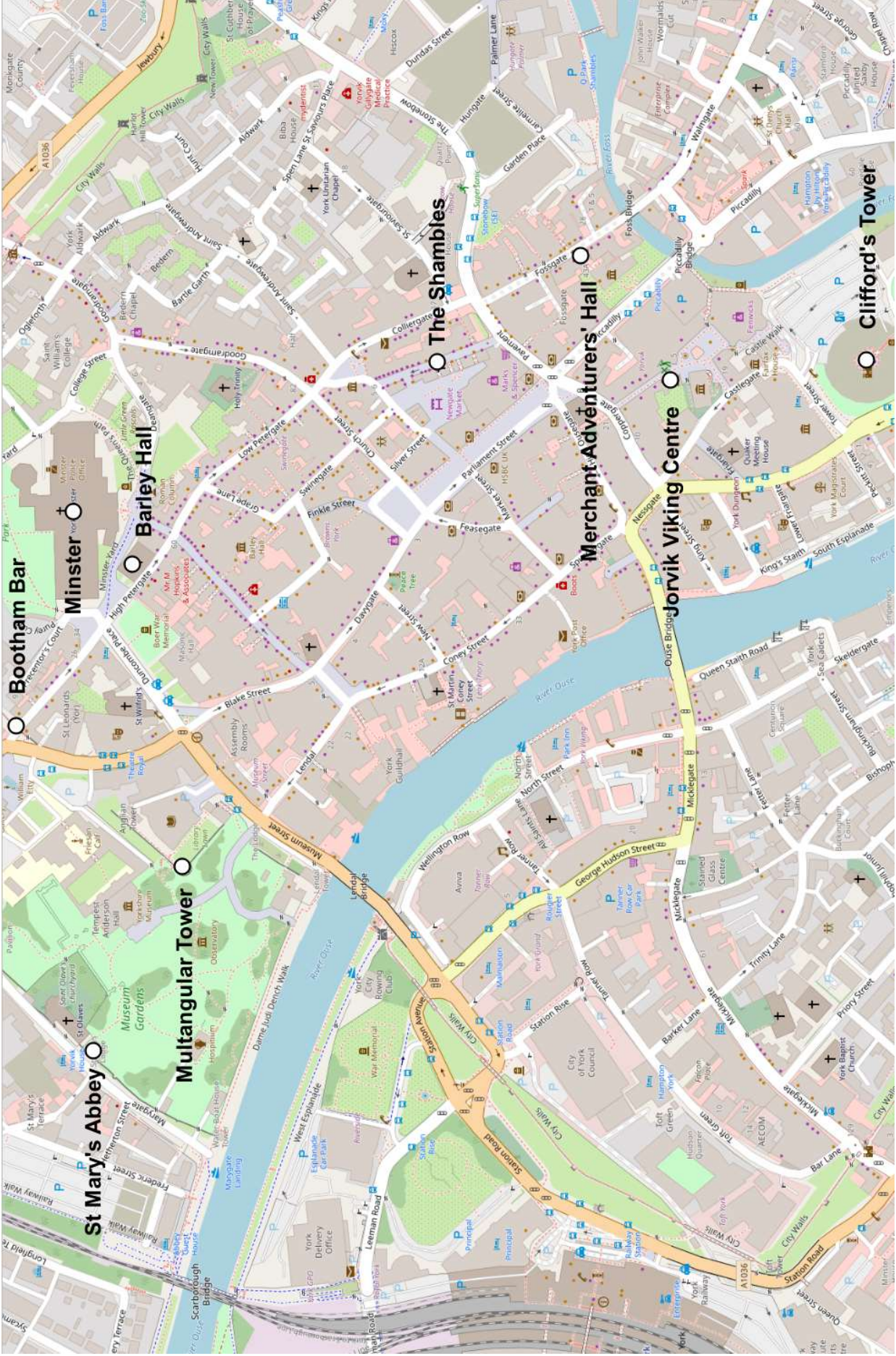
Selby Abbey
St Mary Magdalene Church, Geddington
Eleanor Cross, Geddinton
Arrive London



Sites visited outside of the City of York

● City of York

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|---------------------------------|--|
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| 2 Anchor Church | 13 St Mary's Church Thirsk |
| 3 St James' Church Nunburnholme | 14 Stamford Bridge |
| 4 St Oswald's Church Lythe | 15 Duggleby Howe |
| 5 Gisborough Priory | 16 Rudston Monolith |
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Eleanor Cross, Geddington |
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Sites within the City of York

Repton Church and Viking overwintering site of 873

St. Wystan's Church is justly famous for its Anglo-Saxon crypt. The crypt was built in the 8th century and was constructed over a spring, which means that its original function might have been a baptistry.



It was later converted into a mausoleum for King Æthelbald of Mercia before his death in 757. Later, King Wiglaf (died 839) and his grandson Saint Wigstan (died c.849) were buried there. After the burial of Wigstan, the crypt became a place of pilgrimage

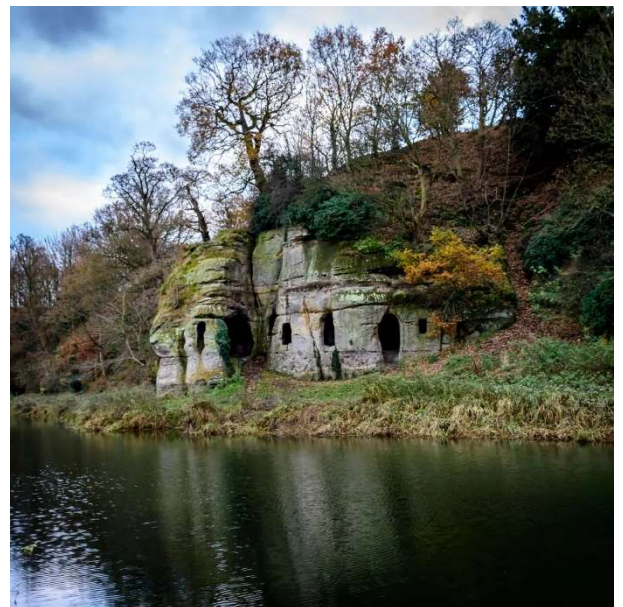
In 873 the Viking Great Army overwintered in Repton. Having taken over the church the Vikings constructed a huge D-shaped enclosure. One side of this enclosure was defended by the river Trent, the other sides were defended by earthworks. The tower of the Anglo-Saxon church was used as a gatehouse.

Anchor Church

A 2021 survey carried out on the cave system known as Anchor Church suggests that it may be the former home of a ninth-century king, which would make it the United Kingdom's oldest intact domestic interior.

The work carried out by archaeologists from the Royal Agricultural University (RAU) and Wessex Archaeology indicates that this hermitage once housed Eardwulf, an exiled ruler of the Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Northumbria.

Little is known of Eardwulf and the reasons for his deposition and exile are unclear. Symeon of Durham (died after 1129) reports that:



“Eardulf was taken prisoner, and conveyed to Ripon, and there ordered by the aforesaid king [Æthelred] to be put to death without the gate of the monastery. The brethren carried his body into the church with Gregorian chanting, and placed it out of doors in a tent; after midnight he was found alive in the church.”

(Symeon of Durham “*Historia regum Anglorum et Dacorum*” *sub anno* 790)

St James Church, Nunburnholme

The church has a Norman Nave and an Early English chancel both thoroughly restored 1872 - 3. The west tower was rebuilt 1901 - 2.

However, it is not the church itself, that is the glory of this place, but the Anglo-Scandinavian cross shaft in the sanctuary. Pevsner describes it as "the most elaborate figural cross shaft in the East Riding". It was discovered when the south porch was demolished in 1872. It dates from the late 9th - early 10th centuries and displays a splendid seated warrior holding a Viking sword.



The village takes its name from a priory of Benedictine nuns which was situated at the opposite end of the village to the church. Now, only earthworks remain.

St Oswald's Church, Lythe

There has been a church at Lythe since at least the 13th century, although the present building is the result of extensive renovations in 1769, 1819, and 1910.

During the work on the tower in the early 20th century, a number of Anglo-Scandinavian carved stones were discovered. A selection of these stones are now displayed in a permanent exhibition, and the remaining stones are stored in the modern crypt.

It is obvious from these stones that there was an important Viking Age cemetery here, and it has been suggested that the churchyard contains some graves dating as far back as the 10th century.



The image shows a tentative reconstruction of how St Oswald's churchyard may have appeared during the Anglo-Scandinavian Period.

Gisborough Priory

Gisborough Priory was founded by Robert I de Brus (c.1070-1142) as an Augustinian House following Rule of St Augustine, a set of principles attributed to St Augustine of Hippo (AD 354-430).



The members of the priory were regular canons. The members of these communities were distinct from monks, whose lives were governed by the rather stricter Rule of St Benedict. Unlike monks, Augustinians were generally ordained priests and carried out duties beyond the walls of their priories.

The importance of Gisborough can be seen from the fact that Prior Cuthbert, who headed the priory from c. 1145 to 1154, was part of the delegation that travelled to Rome to oppose the appointment of William Fitzherbert as Archbishop of York.

Helmsley Castle

Helmsley was granted to Robert, Count of Mortain after the Norman conquest, but there is no evidence that he built a castle here. In 1120 Walter l'Espece constructed an earthwork and timber castle at Helmsley. This had double ditches surrounding a rectangular inner bailey.



In 1186 Robert de Ros started work on the stone castle. He built two main towers, the round corner towers, and the main gateway on the south side of the castle before his death in 1227. The castle passed to his older son William, who built the chapel in the courtyard.

After William's death in 1258, his son, Robert inherited the castle. He built the new hall and kitchen, and strengthened the castle - which may have included the south barbican which was constructed between 1227 and 1285. He also constructed a wall dividing the castle into north and south sides, with the southern half for the private use of the lord's family.

St Gregory's Minster

The church is famous for its remarkable Anglo-Saxon sundial which commemorates the rebuilding of the ruined church in c.1055. The inscription on the sundial reads as follows:

+ ORM GAMAL / SVNA BOHTE SCS / GREGORIVS MIN / STER ĐONNE HI / T ?FS
ÆL TOBRO // CAN 7 TOFALAN 7 HE / HIT LET MACAN NE?AN FROM / GRVNDE
??E 7 SCS GREGORI / VS IN EAD?ARD DAGVM CNG / 7 [I]N TOSTI DAGVM EORL
+

Orm Gamal suna bohte Sanctus Gregorius Minster ðonne hit wæs æl tobrocen and tofalan and he hit let macan newan from grunde Christe and Sanctus Gregorius in Eadward dagum cyning and in Tosti dagum eorl.

"Orm son of Gamal bought St Gregory's Minster when it was all ruined and collapsed and he caused it to be made new from the ground for Christ and St. Gregory in the days of Edward the King and in the days of Tosti the eorl."



The Anglo-Saxon sundial

The City of York

Please note that the order in which these sites are visited may vary due to circumstances beyond our control.

St Mary's Abbey

St Mary's Abbey was established in 1088 as a Benedictine monastery, situated on the north bank of the Ouse, inside the city walls of York. In time it grew to become one of the largest and most powerful monasteries in the north of England.

Little remains of the Norman structure, but much still stands of the later 13th-century abbey structure including the abbey church, the watergate, the Marygate gatehouse to the abbey precinct, and the Hospitium.



Multangular Tower

The Multangular Tower is the best example of standing Roman remains in York. The tower stood at the west corner of the legionary fortress. It was one of the two corner-towers of the huge stone wall that looked down onto the river. The small stones in the lower half are Roman whereas the upper half was reconstructed in the medieval period.



The original Roman parts of the tower probably date from the early third century. The fortress wall was built 5m (c.15 ft) high. At the west corner stood what we now know as the Multangular Tower, which may have been well over 10m (c.30 ft) high. A matching tower stood at the fortress's south corner, with six interval towers in between, projecting from the wall.

Barley Hall

Barley Hall was purchased by York Archaeological Trust in 1987 and has been carefully restored.

The oldest parts of Barley Hall date from about 1360, when the Hall was built as the York townhouse of Nostell Priory, a monastery near Wakefield in West Yorkshire. A new wing was added to the building in about 1430.



Bootham Bar

The gateway is on the site of the Porta Principalis Dexter (the north-west gate) of the Roman fortress.

Bootham Bar contains some stonework from as early as the 11th century, such as the main archway, although the majority is from the 14th century when it was heightened to add a portcullis.

Bootham Bar was the last of the Bars to lose its defensive barbican in 1831 and it fortunately managed to avoid complete demolition in 1832 due to strong public opposition.



York Minster

A bishop of York was summoned to the Council of Arles in 314 which implies the presence of a Christian Community in early fourth-century York, although archaeological evidence for this is scarce.

Bede tells how a wooden church was built in 627 to provide a place to baptise King Edwin of Northumbria. This building was replaced by a stone structure in the 630s, but this had fallen into disrepair when it was rebuilt by Wilfrid, Bishop of Northumbria.

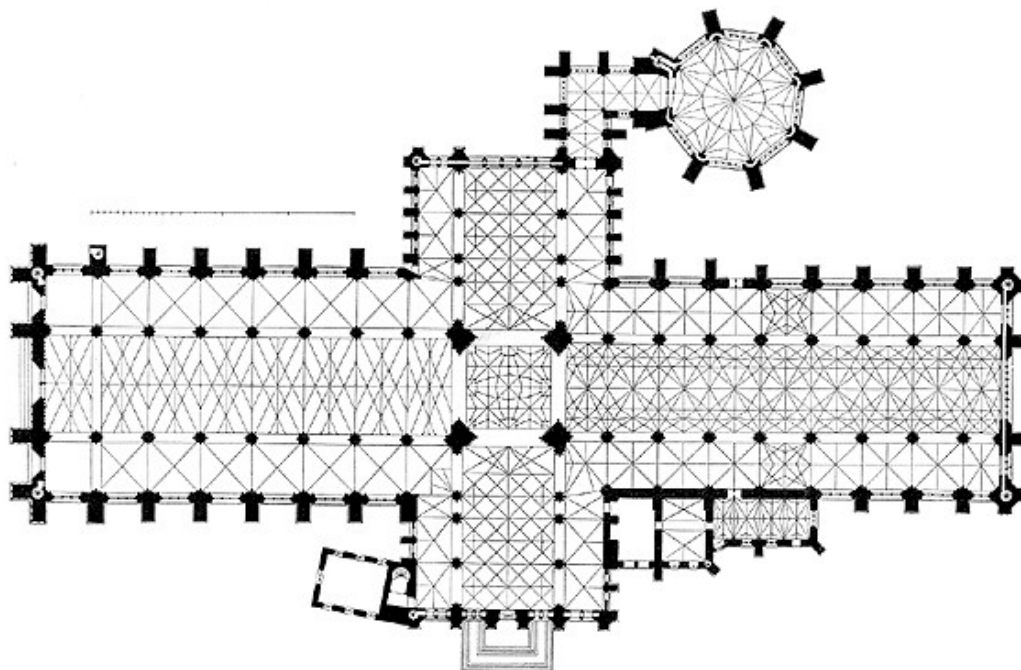
Wilfrid's church was destroyed in a fire in 741. A new, larger church was built that held 30 altars. York suffered under Viking attacks, and the history of the building is unclear until after the Norman Conquest.

The church was damaged in 1069 during the harrying of the North, and repairs were begun by the first Norman archbishop, Thomas of Bayeux, in 1070. This church was destroyed during a Danish raid in 1075 and rebuilding began in 1080. Although damaged by fire in 1137, the church was soon repaired. The choir and crypt were remodelled in 1154, and a new chapel was built.

When Walter de Gray was made archbishop in 1215, he ordered the construction of a Gothic building and work began in 1220. The north and south transepts were completed by 1250, but construction continued until the 15th century.

Construction of the Chapter House was started in the 1260s and was completed before 1296. Work began in the 1280s to replace the Norman nave. The roof was completed in the 1330s, but the vaulting was not finished until 1360. The Norman choir was demolished in the 1390s, and work was completed by c.1405.

The central tower collapsed in 1407 and a new tower was begun in 1420. The western towers added between 1433 and 1472.



The Shambles

The Shambles were originally known as The Great Flesh Shambles, from Old English *Fleshammels* meaning 'flesh shelves'. This street remained the centre of the butchery trade until the late 19th century.

Some of the buildings in this street date to the 14th century, and the area houses an impressive collection of medieval domestic architecture.



Merchant Adventurers' Hall

The main part of the construction of this hall began in 1357 when a group of influential people founded a religious fraternity called the Guild of Our Lord Jesus and the Blessed Virgin Mary.

A hospital for the poor people of York was created in the undercroft in 1371.

In 1430, the guild was granted a royal charter by Henry VI and renamed 'The Mistry of Mercers'. In the 16th century, Elizabeth I granted it the status of the Company of Merchant Adventurers of York.



Clifford's Tower

The first castle on this site was a motte and bailey built under the orders of William I as he marched northwards to quell the rebellion in 1068. This castle probably remained relatively unaltered through most of the 12th century.

It was probably this castle that was the site of a mass suicide and massacre of 150 Jews who had been given permission to shelter in the castle to protect them from the anti-Jewish mobs. The tower was burned down during the riots but was repaired shortly afterwards.

The construction of the existing castle was ordered by King Henry III in the mid-13th century.



Jorvik Viking Centre

This famous 'dark ride' has been constructed over part of the 1976 to 1981 Coppergate excavations. The depth of surviving stratigraphy – up to 9 metres of mostly Viking Age deposits – and the excellent organic preservation of the waterlogged ground revolutionized existing knowledge of the Viking Period in England.

The discovery of well-preserved archaeological deposits during the excavation of a vault at Lloyds Bank in York led to a discussion of how to deal with this discovery.

Peter Addyman (Director of the York Archaeological Trust until 2002) said:

“We came to the conclusion that one of the really useful things that archaeology in York could do would be to select an area of the Viking town and excavate it properly, because (a) we knew very little about ‘Dark Age’ towns in Britain; (b) we didn’t have any single houses of that period in England (lots in Scotland... but not in England); and (c) it was known that the anaerobic conditions in parts of York would give a much broader view of contemporary life.”

Such was the importance of the site that the decision was made to recreate part of the excavation showing part of a street and the houses along that street.

The original Jorvik Viking Centre was badly damaged by wintertime flooding in 2015 and led to the need to carry out costly repairs. The decision was taken not just to repair, but to completely update the displays.

The new Jorvik Viking Centre has taken advantage of new technology and has involved newly created figures and exhibits. A reconstruction of part of the excavations shows what the original information in the ground was like.



Aldborough Roman Site

Isurium Brigantum, one of the northernmost urban centres of the Roman Empire was probably founded in the late first century or early second and was the administrative centre of the area.

Part of the Stone fortification remains visible, the rest of the structure can be seen as earthworks. There are two *in situ* mosaics and a small museum on the site.



The Devil's Arrows

The Devil's Arrows are three standing stones in a NNW-SSE alignment. The tallest stone is 6.85 m high, the others being 6.7 m and 5.5 m. The stones are part of a wider Neolithic complex on the Ure-Swale plateau.

The two outer stones stand 110 m and 60 m away from the central stone. They form an alignment NNW-SSE. It has been suggested that they are aligned with the southernmost summer moonrise.

The stones are composed of millstone grit, which most likely came from Plumpton Rocks two miles south of Knaresborough, and about nine miles from the site of the Devil's Arrows.

William Camden mentions four stones in his *Britannia*, noting that "*one was lately pulled downe by some that hoped, though in vaine, to finde treasure.*"



Easby Abbey

Easby Abbey is one of the best-preserved monasteries in Britain of the Premonstratensian order, a religious order founded in 1120 by St. Norbert of Xanten, who, with 13 companions, established a monastery at Prémontré, France.

Easby Abbey was founded c.1152 by Roald, constable of Richmond. After its suppression in 1536 the buildings rapidly lapsed into ruin, before becoming an object of interest for antiquarians and Romantic artists. The grandeur of the surviving buildings indicate the success and wealth of the abbey.



There is some evidence to suggest that there was a religious community on the site before the abbey was founded. This was possibly an Anglian minster based on the existing church of St Agatha which would have been a college of priests responsible for serving the surrounding parishes.

Richmond Castle

Following William's harrying of the north, the borough of Richmond was given to Alan Rufus, of Brittany. He constructed a castle, which was in the form of a stone-built first floor hall, similar to the earliest phase of Chepstow Castle.

At the end of the 12th century Duke Conan IV of Brittany built a 30 m high keep, which unusually sits over the gatehouse.

In 1158 the Earldom of Richmond was seized by Henry II, who strengthened the castle by adding towers and a barbican.



By the 14th century the condition of the castle had slowly deteriorated. It was granted to Richard, Duke of Gloucester (later Richard III) in 1478 adding to his other extensive estates in Yorkshire including Helmsey, Middleham, Sheriff Hutton and Skipton. Thereafter the castle drifted into ruin and a survey of 1538 found it to be derelict.

Stanwick Iron Age Fortifications

This complex of earthworks marks the remains of the first century AD Stanwick Iron Age Fort, defensive fortifications of the Celtic Brigantes tribe of North Yorkshire. It features over 9 kilometers of ditches and ramparts enclosing around 300 hectares of land.

Evidence exists to define the fortifications as being contemporary with the Late Iron Age and start of the Roman presence in Britain, the fort may have lost its importance around 70 AD with the increasing Roman conquest of the area.



Sir Mortimer Wheeler led a team of archaeologists excavating the fort in the summers of 1951 and 1952. Wheeler's 1954 account of the history and excavation of the ramparts stated it to be an important centre of the Brigantes, he considered it to be the rebel stronghold of the Brigantian Venutius, the ex-partner of the Queen Cartimandua.

The Brigantes were the most powerful tribe in northern Britain in the early Roman period, the warlike Brigantes occupied the largest section of what would later become Northern England, and a significant part of the Midlands. Their name derives from the Celtic goddess Brigantia. Territorially the largest tribe in Britain, their kingdom, centred in what later became Yorkshire, is referred to as Brigantia.

St Mary's Church, Thirsk

As Pevsner says:

"Without question, this is the most spectacular Perpendicular church in the North Riding. Admittedly it cannot compete with the East Anglian Perp, but in its own county it stands out. It was begun in about 1430 and built into c.16 century the tower first (see the straight joints



between its E buttresses and the aisle W walls), the chancel after the nave and aisles. The stimulus seems to have been the foundation of a chantry by Robert Thirsk, who died in 1419."

Stamford Bridge

Stamford Bridge was the site of one of the three interlinked battles of 1066 (Fulford, Stamford Bridge and Hastings), where King Harold Godwinson and the English army fought against an invading Norwegian force led by King Harald Hardrada and Harold's brother Tostig Godwinson.

It is difficult to pinpoint the site of the battle, but as we pass through the town on our way to Duggleby Howe, we will make a brief stop.

The famous inn sign recalls a legend that the bridge was held by a Viking swordsman who fought off all comers until an Anglo-Saxon crept under the bridge and stabbed him from below.



Duggleby Howe

Duggleby Howe is one of the largest round barrows in Britain, being 37 m in diameter. At some time in the past the top of the mound was levelled and at one time was used as the siting for a medieval post mill.

The barrow is set within a roughly circular enclosure, c. 370 m in diameter, which is formed from interrupted ditches, and is open to the south.

East of the barrow are two ring ditches, probably dating to the Bronze Age. One ring ditch is within the enclosure, the other is outside.



Rudston Monolith

The Rudston monolith is the tallest prehistoric standing stone in Britain, measuring almost 8 metres high, nearly 2 metres wide, a metre thick and estimated to weigh c.26 tons. There is one other smaller stone, of the same type, in the churchyard, which was once situated near the large stone.

It is thought to have been quarried more than 10 miles away in the Cayton Bay area south of Scarborough, although the glacial transportation of a large block of stone that was then later utilised is also possible.



Danes' Dyke, Sewerby

Danes Dyke is a bank and ditch earthwork which cut off Flamborough peninsula from the mainland. Danes' Dyke runs for 4 km across the whole of the Flamborough Headland.

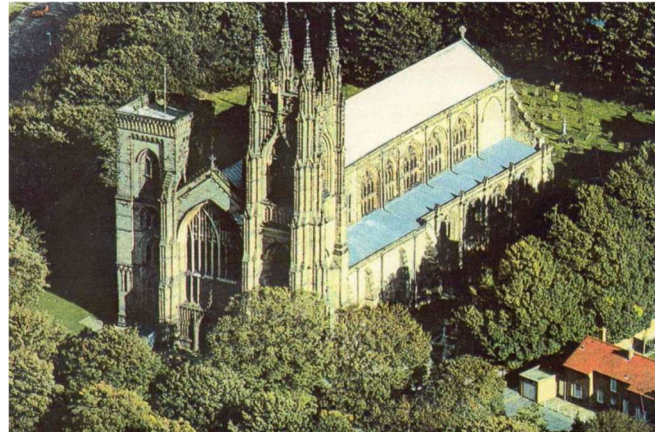
The bank was constructed from earth, stacked turfs and chalk rubble, much of which would have come from the ditch.

Despite its name, Danes Dyke has no known association with the Vikings and is generally thought to be of prehistoric date, although comparisons with post-Roman earthworks have also been noted.



The Priory Church of St Mary, Bridlington

The priory for Augustinian Canons Regular was founded c.1113 by Walter de Gant and is one of the earliest Augustinian houses in England. The site had formerly been a Saxon church and nunnery, and the newly formed priory had an adjoining convent.



The priory was favoured by royalty and nobility and soon owned lands across Yorkshire. King Stephen granted that the priory should have the right to have the property of felons and fugitives within the town and proceeds from the harbour.

The priory was dissolved in 1538 and the church is now the parish church.

Cawthorn Roman Camp

The monument includes the remains of two Roman forts, one of which has an attached annexe, a Roman camp and a section of medieval trackway. The whole complex is visible as a series of well preserved earthworks.



There are three major elements to the site: a camp of unusual polygonal design overlain by a later fort which is probably datable to the late first century AD and, to the east, a simple fort with an eastern annexe. The westernmost fort is typically square in shape with rounded corners and measures 175m across overall and is orientated north-east by south-west.

Selby Abbey

Selby Abbey was founded by Benedict of Auxerre in 1069, and was constructed by the de Lacy family.

In 1256 the Abbey was bestowed with the grant of a Mitre by Pope Alexander IV and thus became a "Mitred Abbey".

This meant that the abbot was papally privileged to wear a mitre and in pre-Reformation England entitled to sit and vote in the House of Lords.

It lost this distinction a number of times, but its status was confirmed by Archbishop William Greenfield, and Selby remained a "Mitred Abbey" until the Dissolution of the Monasteries.

Selby Abbey now functions as the Parish church and is thus one of the relatively few surviving abbey churches of the medieval period.



St Mary Magdalene Church, Geddington

The church shows evidence of two phases of Anglo-Saxon build.

The first phase consists of a blind triangular arcade. This was later pierced by a single splay window.

In the late 12th century, the Anglo-Saxon north wall was opened up to create a north aisle. The Norman arch cut through the single splay window, removing its west jamb.



The south aisle was added in the 13th century.

The chancel was rebuilt in the 14th century and the tower, possibly originally built in the 12th century, was heightened in the 15th century. There are other 15th century alterations - mainly windows, and the church was partly restored in the 19th century and 1904-6.

Eleanor Cross, Geddinton

The Eleanor Crosses were built between 1291 and 1295 by Edward I in memory of his wife Eleanor of Castile who died in November 1290.

When Eleanor died Edward spent three days in mourning, unable to leave the Nottinghamshire village of Harby where she died. He then led her funeral procession, travelling some 200 miles to London over many days.

Edward commissioned twelve stone crosses built to mark each place where her body rested overnight on its final journey to Westminster Abbey.

Only three of the crosses survive more or less intact - those at Geddington, Hardingstone and Waltham Cross. The others, apart from a few fragments, are lost.

The spectacular Geddington cross is the best of the surviving crosses, and it is the only triangular one.

