

= York =

York ( / ʔj??rk / ) is a historic walled city at the confluence of the rivers Ouse and Foss in North Yorkshire , England . The municipality is the traditional county town of Yorkshire to which it gives its name . The city has a rich heritage and has provided the backdrop to major political events in England throughout much of its two millennia of existence . The city offers a wealth of historic attractions , of which York Minster is the most prominent , and a variety of cultural and sporting activities making it a popular tourist destination for millions .

The city was founded by the Romans as Eboracum in 71 AD . It became the capital of the Roman province of Britannia Inferior , and later of the kingdoms of Northumbria and Jórvík . In the Middle Ages , York grew as a major wool trading centre and became the capital of the northern ecclesiastical province of the Church of England , a role it has retained .

In the 19th century , York became a hub of the railway network and a confectionery manufacturing centre . In recent decades , the economy of York has moved from being dominated by its confectionery and railway @-@ related industries to one that provides services . The University of York and health services have become major employers , whilst tourism has become an important element of the local economy .

From 1996 , the term City of York describes a unitary authority area which includes rural areas beyond the old city boundaries . In 2011 the urban area had a population of 153 @,@ 717 , while in 2010 the entire unitary authority had an estimated population of 202 @,@ 400 .

= = History = =

= = = Origin of the name = = =

The word York ( from Old Norse Jórvík , from the 9th century AD ) derives from the Latinised name for the city , variously rendered as Eboracum , Eburacum or Eburaci . The first mention of York by this name is dated to circa 95 ? 104 AD as an address on a wooden stylus tablet from the Roman fortress of Vindolanda in Northumberland .

The toponymy of Eboracum is uncertain because the language of the pre @-@ Roman indigenous population was never recorded . They are thought to have spoken a Celtic language related to modern Welsh . It is thought that Eboracum is derived from the Brythonic word Eborakon , a combination of eburos " yew @-@ tree " ( cf . Old Irish ibar " yew @-@ tree " , Welsh efwr " alder buckthorn " , Breton evor " alder buckthorn " ) and suffix \* -?ko ( n ) " place " ( cf . Welsh -og ) meaning either " place of the yew trees " ( cf . efrog in Welsh , eabhrac in Irish Gaelic and eabhraig in Scottish Gaelic , by which names the city is known in those languages ) ; or less probably , Eburos , ' property ' , which is a personal Celtic name mentioned in different documents as E?????? , Eburus and Eburius , and which , combined with the same suffix \* -?ko ( n ) , could denote a property . In his Historia Regum Britanniae the 12th century chronicler , Geoffrey of Monmouth , suggests the name derives from that of a pre @-@ Roman city founded by the legendary king Ebraucus .

The name Eboracum became the Anglian Eoforwic in the 7th century : a compound of Eofor- , from the old name , and -wic a village probably by conflation of the element Ebor- with a Germanic root \* eburaz ( boar ) ; by the 7th century the Old English for ' boar ' had become eofor . Alternatively , the word eofor already existed as an Old Saxon word for wild swine , which is a cognate of the current Low Saxon word eaver and Dutch ever . The Anglo @-@ Saxon newcomers probably interpreted the ebor part as eofor , and -rac as ric ( meaning rich ) , while -um was ( and is ) a common abbreviation of the Saxon -heem , meaning home . To them , it sounded as a ' home rich in boar ' . As is common in Saxon place names , the -um part gradually faded ; eoforic . When the Danish army conquered the city in 866 , its name became Jórvík .

Jórvík gradually reduced to York in the centuries following the Norman Conquest , moving from the Middle English Yerk in the 14th century through Yourke in the 16th century to Yarke in the 17th

century . The form York was first recorded in the 13th century . Many company and place names , such as the Ebor race meeting , refer to the Roman name . The Archbishop of York uses Ebor as his surname in his signature .

= = = Early history = = =

Archaeological evidence suggests that Mesolithic people settled in the region of York between 8000 and 7000 BC , although it is not known whether their settlements were permanent or temporary . By the time of the Roman conquest of Britain , the area was occupied by a tribe known to the Romans as the Brigantes . The Brigantian tribal area initially became a Roman client state , but , later its leaders became more hostile and the Roman Ninth Legion was sent north of the Humber into Brigantian territory .

The city was founded in 71 AD , when the Ninth Legion conquered the Brigantes and constructed a wooden military fortress on flat ground above the River Ouse close to its confluence with the River Foss . The fortress , which was later rebuilt in stone , covered an area of 50 acres ( 20 ha ) and was inhabited by 6 @, @ 000 soldiers . The site of the Roman fortress lies under the foundations of York Minster , and excavations in the undercroft have revealed some of the original walls .

The Emperors Hadrian , Septimius Severus and Constantius I all held court in York during their various campaigns . During his stay , the Emperor Severus proclaimed York capital of the province of Britannia Inferior , and it is likely that it was he who granted York the privileges of a colonia or city . Constantius I died in 306 AD during his stay in York , and his son Constantine the Great was proclaimed Emperor by the troops based in the fortress .

While the Roman colonia and fortress were located on high ground , by 400 AD the town was victim to periodic flooding from the Rivers Ouse and Foss and was abandoned . York declined in the post @-@ Roman era , and was taken and settled by the Angles in the 5th century .

Reclamation of the flooded parts of the town was initiated in the 7th century under King Edwin of Northumbria , and York became his chief city . The first minster church was built in York for the baptism of Edwin in 627 . Edwin ordered the small wooden church be rebuilt in stone but was killed in 633 and the task of completing the stone minster fell to his successor Oswald . In the following century Alcuin of York came to the cathedral school of York . He had a long career as a teacher and scholar , first at the school at York now known as St Peter 's School , founded in 627 AD , and later as Charlemagne 's leading advisor on ecclesiastical and educational affairs .

In 866 , Northumbria was in the midst of internecine struggles when the Vikings raided and captured York . Under Viking rule the city became a major river port , part of the extensive Viking trading routes throughout northern Europe . The last ruler of an independent Jór vík , Eric Bloodaxe , was driven from the city in 954 AD by King Eadred in his successful attempt to complete the unification of England .

= = = Post conquest = = =

In 1068 , two years after the Norman Conquest of England , the people of York rebelled . Initially the rebellion was successful but upon the arrival of William the Conqueror the rebellion was put down . William at once built a wooden fortress on a motte . In 1069 , after another rebellion , William built another timbered castle across the River Ouse . These were destroyed in 1069 and rebuilt by William about the time of his ravaging Northumbria in what is called the " Harrying of the North " where he destroyed everything from York to Durham . The remains of the rebuilt castles , now in stone , are visible on either side of the River Ouse . See Peter Rex 's The English Resistance , The Underground War Against the Normans , 2006 .

The first stone minster church was badly damaged by fire in the uprising and the Normans built a minster on a new site . Around the year 1080 Archbishop Thomas started building the cathedral that in time became the current Minster . In the 12th century York started to prosper . In 1190 , York Castle was the site of an infamous massacre of its Jewish inhabitants , in which at least 150 Jews died ( although some authorities put the figure as high as 500 ) .

The city , through its location on the River Ouse and its proximity to the Great North Road became a major trading centre . King John granted the city 's first charter in 1212 , confirming trading rights in England and Europe . During the later Middle Ages York merchants imported wine from France , cloth , wax , canvas , and oats from the Low Countries , timber and furs from the Baltic and exported grain to Gascony and grain and wool to the Low Countries . York became a major cloth manufacturing and trading centre . Edward I further stimulated the city 's economy by using the city as a base for his war in Scotland . The city was the location of significant unrest during the so @-@ called Peasants ' Revolt in 1381 . The city acquired an increasing degree of autonomy from central government including the privileges granted by a charter of Richard II in 1396 .

= = = 16th to 18th centuries = = =

The city underwent a period of economic decline during Tudor times . Under Henry VIII , the Dissolution of the Monasteries saw the end of York 's many monastic houses , including several orders of friars , the hospitals of St Nicholas and of St Leonard , the largest such institution in the north of England . This led to the Pilgrimage of Grace , an uprising of northern Catholics in Yorkshire and Lincolnshire opposed to religious reform . Henry VIII restored his authority by establishing the Council of the North in York in the dissolved St Mary 's Abbey . The city became a trading and service centre during this period .

Guy Fawkes , who was born and educated in York , was a member of a group of Roman Catholic restorationists that planned the Gunpowder Plot . Its aim was to displace Protestant rule by blowing up the Houses of Parliament while King James I , the entire Protestant , and even most of the Catholic aristocracy and nobility were inside .

In 1644 , during the Civil War , the Parliamentarians besieged York , and many medieval houses outside the city walls were lost . The barbican at Walmgate Bar was undermined and explosives laid , but , the plot was discovered . On the arrival of Prince Rupert , with an army of 15 @,@ 000 men , the siege was lifted . The Parliamentarians retreated some 6 miles ( 10 km ) from York with Rupert in pursuit , before turning on his army and soundly defeating it at the Battle of Marston Moor . Of Rupert 's 15 @,@ 000 troops , no fewer than 4 @,@ 000 were killed and 1 @,@ 500 captured . The siege was renewed but the city could not hold out for long , and on 15 July surrendered to Sir Thomas Fairfax .

Following the restoration of the monarchy in 1660 , and the removal of the garrison from York in 1688 , the city was dominated by the gentry and merchants , although the clergy were still important . Competition from Leeds and Hull , together with silting of the River Ouse , resulted in York losing its pre @-@ eminent position as a trading centre but the city 's role as the social and cultural centre for wealthy northerners was on the rise . York 's many elegant townhouses , such as the Lord Mayor 's Mansion House and Fairfax House date from this period , as do the Assembly Rooms , the Theatre Royal , and the racecourse .

During this general time period , the American city of New York and the colony that contained it were renamed after the Duke of York ( later King James II ) .

= = = Modern history = = =

mak all t 'railways cum to York

The railway promoter George Hudson was responsible for bringing the railway to York in 1839 . Although Hudson 's career as a railway entrepreneur ended in disgrace and bankruptcy , his promotion of his own railway company , the York and North Midland Railway and of York over Leeds , helped establish York as a major railway centre by the late 19th century .

The introduction of the railways established engineering in the city . At the turn of the 20th century , the railway accommodated the headquarters and works of the North Eastern Railway , which employed more than 5 @,@ 500 people . The railway was instrumental in the expansion of Rowntree 's Cocoa Works . It was founded in 1862 by Henry Isaac Rowntree , who was joined in 1869 by his brother the philanthropist Joseph . Another chocolate manufacturer , Terry 's of York

was a major employer . By 1900 the railways and confectionery had become the city 's two major industries .

With the emergence of tourism , the historic core of York became one of the city 's major assets , and in 1968 it was designated a conservation area . The existing tourist attractions were supplemented by the establishment of the National Railway Museum in York in 1975 and the Jorvik Viking Centre in 1984 . The opening of the University of York in 1963 added to the prosperity of the city .

In 2010 , the former headquarters on the North Eastern Railway were refurbished and opened as York 's first , and still only , 5 @-@ star hotel - currently known as The Grand Hotel & Spa .

York was voted European Tourism City of the Year by European Cities Marketing in June 2007 beating 130 other European cities to gain first place , surpassing Gothenburg in Sweden ( second ) and Valencia in Spain ( third ) . York was also voted safest place to visit in the 2010 conde nast readers traveller awards .

= = = Early photography = = =

York was a centre of early photography . Photographers who had studios in York included William Hayes , and Augustus Mahalski who operated on Davygate and Low Petergate in the 19th century and who had come to England from Austria after a year of serving in the Austro @-@ Hungarian Army .

= = Governance = =

= = = Parliamentary constituencies = = =

From 1997 to 2010 the central part of the district was covered by the City of York constituency , while the remainder was split between the constituencies of Ryedale , Selby , and Vale of York . These constituencies were represented by Hugh Bayley , John Greenway , John Grogan , and Anne McIntosh respectively .

Following their review in 2003 of parliamentary representation in North Yorkshire , the Boundary Commission for England recommended the creation of two new seats for the City of York , in time for the general election in 2010 . These are York Central , which covers the inner urban area , and is entirely surrounded by the York Outer constituency .

The whole of the city and local council area lies within the Yorkshire and the Humber constituency of the European Parliament .

= = = Local government = = =

York is the traditional county town of Yorkshire , yet it did not form part of any of its three historic ridings , or divisions . York is an ancient borough , and was reformed by the Municipal Corporations Act 1835 to form a municipal borough . It gained the status of a county borough in 1889 , under the Local Government Act 1888 , and existed so until 1974 , when , under the Local Government Act 1972 , it became a non @-@ metropolitan district in the county of North Yorkshire .

As a result of 1990s UK local government reform , York regained unitary status and saw a substantial alteration in its borders , taking in parts of Selby and Harrogate districts , and about half the population of the Ryedale district . The new boundary was imposed after central government rejected the former city council 's own proposal .

The City of York Council has 47 councillors . As a result of the 2015 local elections the Labour Party was reduced to 15 seats . The Liberal Democrats had twelve councillors . The Conservative Party had 14 councillors and the Greens had four with two Independents .

City of York Council operates on a leader and Cabinet style of governance . Councillors are appointed to the cabinet by the full council of 47 members . Cabinet members make decisions on

their portfolio areas individually .

York 's Right Honourable Lord Mayor for 2014 ? 15 is Councillor Ian Gillies . The Sheriff is John Kenny . Both appointments are made each May for a period of one year . Although York 's Sheriff office is the oldest in England it is now a purely ceremonial post . The Lord Mayor carries out civic and ceremonial duties in addition to chairing full meetings of the council .

The York Youth Council consists of several young people who negotiate with the councillors to get better facilities for York 's young people .

= = Geography = =

= = = Location = = =

The city is 21 miles ( 34 km ) from Leeds .

York lies in the Vale of York , a flat area of fertile arable land bordered by the Pennines , the North York Moors and the Yorkshire Wolds The city was built at the confluence of the Rivers Ouse and Foss on a terminal moraine left by the last Ice Age .

During Roman times , the land surrounding the rivers Ouse and Foss was marshy , making the site easy to defend . The city is prone to flooding from the River Ouse , and has an extensive ( and until 2015 mostly effective ) network of flood defences with walls along the river , and a liftable barrier across the River Foss where it joins the Ouse at the ' Blue Bridge ' . In October and November 2000 York experienced the worst flooding in 375 years with more than 300 homes flooded . In December 2015 the flooding was more extensive and caused major disruption . The extreme impact led to a personal visit by Prime Minister David Cameron . Much land in and around the city is on flood plains too flood @-@ prone for development other than agriculture . The ings are flood meadows along the Ouse , while the strays are open common grassland in various locations around the city .

= = = Architecture = = =

York Minster , the largest Gothic cathedral in Northern Europe , dominates the city .

York Castle , a complex of buildings ranging from the medieval Clifford 's Tower to the 20th century entrance to the York Castle Museum ( formerly a prison ) has had a chequered history .

York 's centre is enclosed by the city 's medieval walls , which are a popular walk . These defences are the most complete in England . They have the only walls set on high ramparts and they retain all their principal gateways . They incorporate part of the walls of the Roman fortress and some Norman and medieval work , as well as 19th- and 20th @-@ century renovations . The entire circuit is approximately 2 @.@ 5 miles ( 4 km ) , and encloses an area of 263 acres ( 106 ha ) . The north @-@ east section includes a part where walls never existed , because the Norman moat of York Castle , formed by damming the River Foss , also created a lake which acted as a city defence . This lake was later called the King 's Fishpond , as the rights to fish belonged to the Crown .

A feature of central York is the Snickelways , narrow pedestrian routes , many of which led towards the former market @-@ places in Pavement and St Sampson 's Square . The Shambles is a narrow medieval street , lined with shops , boutiques and tea rooms . Most of these premises were once butchers ' shops , and the hooks from which carcasses were hung and the shelves on which meat was laid out can still be seen outside some of them . The street also contains the Shrine of Margaret Clitherow , although it is not located in the house where she lived . Goodramgate has many medieval houses including the early 14th century Lady Row built to finance a Chantry , at the edge of the churchyard of Holy Trinity church .

As well as the Castle Museum , the city contains numerous other museums and historic buildings such as the Yorkshire Museum and its Museum Gardens , Jorvik Viking Centre , the York Art Gallery , the Richard III Museum , the Merchant Adventurers ' Hall , the reconstructed medieval house Barley Hall ( owned by the York Archaeological Trust ) , the 18th century Fairfax House , the Mansion House ( the historic home of the Lord Mayor ) , and the so @-@ called Treasurer 's House

( owned by the National Trust ) . The National Railway Museum is situated just beyond the station , and is home to a vast range of transport material and the largest collection of railway locomotives in the world . Included in this collection are the world 's fastest steam locomotive LNER Class A4 4468 Mallard and the world famous LNER Class A3 4472 Flying Scotsman , which has been overhauled in the Museum . Although noted for its Medieval history , visitors can also gain an understanding of the Cold War through visiting York Cold War Bunker , former headquarters of No 20 Group of the Royal Observer Corps .

York is noted for its numerous churches and pubs . Most of the remaining churches in York are from the medieval period . St William 's College behind the Minster , and Bedern Hall , off Goodramgate , are former dwelling places of the canons of the Minster .

#### == Climate ==

York has a temperate climate with four distinct seasons . As with the rest of the Vale of York the city 's climate is drier and warmer than the rest of the Yorkshire and Humberside region . Because of its lowland location York is prone to frosts , fog , and cold winds during winter , spring and very early summer . Snow can fall in winter from December onwards to as late as April but quickly melts . From May to July , York experiences the most sunshine , an average of six hours per day . Extremes recorded at the University of York campus between 1998 and 2010 include a highest temperature of 34 @. 5 ° C ( 94 @. 1 ° F ) ( Monday 17 July 2006 ) and a lowest temperature of 16 @. 3 ° C ( 2 @. 7 ° F ) ( Monday 6 December 2010 ) . The most rainfall in one day was 88 @. 4 millimetres ( 3 @. 5 in ) .

#### == Demography ==

The York urban area had a population of 137 @, 505 comprising 66 @, 142 males and 71 @, 363 females in 2001 . The urban area 's population increased to 153 @, 717 by the time of the 2011 UK census . Also at the time of the 2001 UK census , the City of York had a total population of 181 @, 094 of whom 93 @, 957 were female and 87 @, 137 were male . Of the 76 @, 920 households in York , 36 @. 0 % were married couples living together , 31 @. 3 % were one @- person households , 8 @. 7 % were co @- habiting couples and 8 @. 0 % were lone parents . The figures for lone parent households were below the national average of 9 @. 5 % , and the percentage of married couples was also close to the national average of 36 @. 5 % ; the proportion of one person households was slightly higher than the national average of 30 @. 1 % .

In 2001 , the population density was 4 @, 368 / km<sup>2</sup> ( 11 @, 310 / sq mi ) . Of those aged 16 ? 74 in York , 24 @. 6 % had no academic qualifications , a little lower than 28 @. 9 % in all of England . Of York 's residents , 5 @. 1 % were born outside the United Kingdom , significantly lower than the national average of 9 @. 2 % . White British form 95 % of the population , the largest single minority group was recorded as Asian , at 1 @. 9 % of the population .

The number of theft @- from @- a @- vehicle offences and theft of a vehicle per 1 @, 000 of the population was 8 @. 8 and 2 @. 7 , compared to the English national average of 6 @. 9 and 2 @. 7 respectively . The number of sexual offences was 0 @. 9 , in line with the national average . The national average of violence against another person was 16 @. 2 compared to the York average of 17 @. 5 . The figures for crime statistics were all recorded during the 2006 ? 07 financial year .

At the time of the 2011 UK census the population of York was 198 @, 051 and its ethnic composition was 94 @. 3 % white , compared with the English average of 85 @. 5 % . York 's population has a slightly higher elderly population than the national average .

#### == Population change ==

The table below details the population change since 1801 .

## == Religion ==

Christianity is the religion with the largest following in York , with 59 % residents reporting themselves as Christian in the 2011 census . The percentages following each non-Christian religion were all below the national average for England , but those responding as " No Religion " was higher than the national average .

There are 33 active Anglican churches in York , which is home to the Archbishop of York and the Mother Church , York Minster , and administrative centre of the northern province of the Church of England and the Diocese of York . York is in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Middlesbrough , has eight Roman Catholic churches and a number of different Catholic religious orders .

Other Christian denominations that are active in York include the Religious Society of Friends who have a number of meeting houses , Methodists within the York Circuit of The Methodist Church York and Hull District , and Unitarians . St Columba 's United Reformed Church in Priory Street , originally built for the Presbyterians , dates from 1879 . There is one mosque in York and the city also has a UK Islamic Mission Islamic centre . Various Buddhist traditions are represented in the city and around York .

## == Economy ==

York 's economy is based on the service industry , which in 2000 was responsible for 88 % of employment in the city . The service industries include public sector employment , health , education , finance , information technology ( IT ) and tourism that accounts for 10 % of employment . Tourism has become an important element of the economy , with the city offering a wealth of historic attractions , of which York Minster is the most prominent , and a variety of cultural activities . In 2009 , York was the 7th most visited city by UK residents and the 13th most visited by overseas visitors .

Unemployment in York was low at 4 % in 2008 compared to the United Kingdom national average of 5 % . The biggest employer in York is the City of York Council , with over 7 , 500 employees . Employers with more than 2 , 000 staff include Aviva ( formerly Norwich Union Life ) , Network Rail , Northern , York Hospitals NHS Trust and the University of York . Other major employers include British Telecom , CPP Group , Nestlé , NFU Mutual and a number of railway companies .

Today 's economic position is very different from the 1950s , when its prosperity was based on chocolate manufacturing and the railways . This position continued until the early 1980s when 30 % of the workforce were employed by just five employers and 75 % of manufacturing jobs were in four companies . Most industry around the railway has gone , including the carriage works ( known as Asea Brown Boveri or ABB at the time of closure ) , which at its height in the 1880s employed 5 , 500 people but closed in the mid-1990s . York is the headquarters of the confectionery manufacturer Nestlé York ( formerly Nestlé Rowntrees ) and home to the KitKat and eponymous Yorkie bar chocolate brands . Terry 's chocolate factory , makers of the Chocolate Orange , was located in the city ; but it closed on 30 September 2005 , when production was moved by its owners , Kraft Foods , to Poland . The historic factory building is situated next to the Knavesmire racecourse .

It was announced on 20 September 2006 that Nestlé would cut 645 jobs at the Rowntree 's chocolate factory in York . This came after a number of other job losses in the city at Aviva , British Sugar and Terry 's chocolate factory . Despite this , the employment situation in York remained fairly buoyant until the effects of the late 2000s recession began to be felt .

Since the closure of the carriage works , the site has been developed into offices . York 's economy has been developing in the areas of science , technology and the creative industries . The city has become a founding National Science City with the creation of a science park near the University of York . Between 1998 and 2008 York gained 80 new technology companies and 2 , 800 new jobs in the sector .

Regional gross value added figures for York , at 2005 basic prices in pounds sterling , are :

= = = Public services = = =

Under the requirements of the Municipal Corporations Act 1835 , York City Council appointed a watch committee which established a police force and appointed a chief constable . On 1 June 1968 the York City , East Riding of Yorkshire and North Riding of Yorkshire police forces were amalgamated to form the York and North East Yorkshire Police . Since 1974 , Home Office policing in York has been provided by the North Yorkshire Police . The force 's central headquarters for policing York and nearby Selby in Fulford . Statutory emergency fire and rescue service is provided by the North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service , whose headquarters is at Northallerton .

The city 's first hospital , York County Hospital , opened in 1740 in Monkgate funded by public subscription . It closed in 1976 when it was replaced by York Hospital , which opened the same year and gained Foundation status in April 2007 . It has 524 adult inpatient beds and 127 special purpose beds providing general healthcare and some specialist inpatient , daycase and outpatient services . It is also known as York District Hospital and YDH .

The Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust was formed on 1 July 2006 bringing together South Yorkshire Ambulance Service , West Yorkshire Metropolitan Ambulance Service and the North and East Yorkshire parts of Tees , East and North Yorkshire Ambulance Service to provide patient transport . Other forms of health care are provided for locally by clinics and surgeries .

The city 's first subscription library opened in 1794 . In 1893 the first free public library , the York Library , was built to mark Queen Victoria 's jubilee . The library was on Clifford Street but a new building was erected on Museum Street in 1927 and is still the library today . The library was extended in 1934 and 1938 .

Since 1998 waste management has been co @-@ ordinated via the York and North Yorkshire Waste Partnership . York 's Distribution Network Operator for electricity is CE Electric UK ; there are no power stations in the city . Yorkshire Water , which has a local water extraction plant on the River Derwent at Elvington , manages York 's drinking and waste water .

The city has a Magistrates ' Court , and a Crown Court and County Court too . The Crown Court House was designed by the architect John Carr , next to the then prison ( including execution area ) .

Between 1773 and 1777 , the Grand Jury House was replaced by John Carr 's elegant Court House for the Assizes of the whole county . The Female Prison was built opposite and mirrors the court building positioned around a circular lawn which became known as the " Eye of the Ridings " , or the " Eye of York " .

1776 saw the last recorded instance of a wife hanged and burnt for poisoning her husband . Horse theft was a capital offence . The culprits of lesser crimes were brought to court by the city constables and would face a fine . The corporation employed a " common informer " whose task was to bring criminals to justice .

The former prison is now the Castle Museum but still contains the cells .

= = Transport = =

York 's location on the River Ouse and in the centre of the Vale of York means that it has always had a significant position in the nation 's transport system . The city grew up as a river port at the confluence of the River Ouse and the River Foss . The Ouse was originally a tidal river , accessible to seagoing ships of the time . Today both of these rivers remain navigable , although the Foss is only navigable for a short distance above the confluence . A lock at Naburn on the Ouse to the south of York means that the river in York is no longer tidal .

Until the end of the 20th century , the Ouse was used by barges to carry freight between York and the port of Hull . The last significant traffic was the supply of newsprint to the local newspaper 's Foss @-@ side print works , which continued until 1997 . Today navigation is almost exclusively leisure @-@ oriented .



Like most cities founded by the Romans , York is well served by long distance trunk roads . The city lies at the intersection of the A19 road from Doncaster to Tyneside , the A59 road from Liverpool to York , the A64 road from Leeds to Scarborough , and the A1079 road from York to Hull . The A64 road provides the principal link to the motorway network , linking York to both the A1 ( M ) and the M1 motorways at a distance of about 10 miles ( 15 km ) from the city . The transpennine M62 motorway is less than 20 miles ( 30 km ) away providing links to Manchester and Liverpool .

The city is surrounded on all sides by an outer ring road , at a distance of some 3 miles ( 5 km ) from the centre of the city , which allows through traffic to by @-@ pass the city . The street plan of the historic core of the city dates from medieval times and is not suitable for modern traffic . As a consequence many of the routes inside the city walls are designated as car free during business hours or restrict traffic entirely . To alleviate this situation , five bus based park and ride sites operate in York . The sites are located towards the edge of the urban area , with easy access from the ring road , and allow out of town visitors to complete their journey into the city centre by bus .

York has been a major railway centre since the first line arrived in 1839 at the beginning of the railway age . For many years the city hosted the headquarters and works of the North Eastern Railway . York railway station is a principal stop on the East Coast Main Line from London to Newcastle and Edinburgh . It takes less than two hours to get to York from London by rail , with at least 25 direct trains each weekday . The station is also served by long distance trains on CrossCountry services linking Edinburgh and Newcastle with destinations in south and west England via Birmingham . TransPennine Express provide a frequent service of semi @-@ fast trains linking York to Newcastle , Scarborough , Leeds , Manchester , Manchester Airport , and Liverpool . Local stopping services by Northern connect York to Bridlington , Harrogate , Hull , Leeds , Sheffield and many intermediate points , as well as many other stations across Greater Manchester and Lancashire .

York has an airfield at the former RAF Elvington , some 7 miles ( 11 km ) south @-@ east of the city centre , which is the home of the Yorkshire Air Museum . Elvington is used for private aviation . Plans have been drafted to expand the site for business aviation or a full commercial service .

York is linked to Manchester Airport by an hourly direct TransPennine Express train , giving access to the principal airport serving the north of England , with connections to many destinations in Europe , North America , Africa , and Asia . Leeds Bradford Airport is closer to York but the hourly York Air Coach service operated by First York was withdrawn as of April 2009 . Leeds Bradford Airport provides connections to most major European and North African airports as well as Pakistan and New York City .

Public transport within the city is largely bus based . First York operates the majority of the city 's local bus services , as well as the York park and ride services . York was the location of the first implementation of FirstGroup 's experimental , and controversial , ftr bus concept , which sought to confer the advantages of a modern tramway system at a lower cost . The service was withdrawn following an election manifesto pledge by the Labour Group at the 2011 local government election . Transdev York and also operate a large number of local bus services . Open top tourist and sightseeing buses are operated by Transdev York on behalf of City Sightseeing .

Rural services , linking local towns and villages with York , are provided by a number of companies with Transdev York , EYMS , Reliance & Stephonsons of Easingwold Operating most of them . Longer distance bus services are provided by a number of operators including , Arriva Yorkshire services to Selby , East Yorkshire Motor Services on routes to Hull , Beverley , Pocklington , Transdev in Harrogate services to Knaresborough and Harrogate . Yorkshire Coastliner links Leeds via York with Scarborough , Filey , Bridlington and Whitby .

= = = Local Transport Plan 2006 = = =

English local authorities are required to produce Local Transport Plans ( LTPs ) , strategies for developing local integrated transport as part of a longer @-@ term vision . LTPs are used by central government to allocate funding for transport schemes . The final Local Transport Plan 2006 ? 2011 for York was submitted to central government in March 2006 . The plan addresses the fact that

traffic in York is predicted to grow considerably over the coming years . The key aims of the plan are to ease congestion and improve accessibility , air quality and safety . Major funding allocations earmarked for the first five years of the plan 's life span include outer ring road improvements , improved management of the highway network , improvements to the bus network including park and ride services , provision of off @-@ road walking and cycling routes , air quality improvements and safety measures .

= = Education = =

The University of York 's main campus is on the southern edge of the city at Heslington and is currently undergoing significant expansion with new buildings and departments including Management , Law , Theatre , Film , and Television at Heslington East . The Department of Archaeology and the graduate Centres for Eighteenth Century Studies and Medieval Studies are located in the historic King 's Manor in the city centre . It was York 's only institution with university status until 2006 , when the more centrally located York St John University , formerly an autonomous college of the University of Leeds , attained full university status . The city also hosts a branch of The University of Law . The University of York also has a highly rated medical school , Hull York Medical School .

The city has two major further education institutions . York College is an amalgamation of York Technical College and York Sixth Form College . Students there study a very wide range of academic and vocational courses , and range from school leavers and sixth formers to people training to make career moves . Askham Bryan College offers further education courses , foundation and honours degrees , specialising in more vocational subjects such as horticulture , agriculture , animal management and even golf course management .

There are 70 local council schools with over 24 @,@ 000 pupils in the City of York Council area . The City of York Council manages most primary and secondary schools within the city . Primary schools cover education from ages 5 ? 11 , with some offering early years education from age 3 . From 11 ? 16 education is provided by 10 secondary schools , four of which offer additional education up to the age of 18 . In 2007 Oaklands Sports College and Lowfield Comprehensive School merged to become one school known as York High School .

York also has several private schools . St Peter 's School was founded in 627 . The scholar Alcuin , who went on to serve Charlemagne , taught there . It was also the school attended by Guy Fawkes . Two schools have Quaker origins : Bootham School is co @-@ educational and The Mount School is all @-@ girls . On the outskirts of the city is Queen Margaret 's School . Pupils from The Minster School , York sing in York Minster choir .

= = Culture = =

= = = Theatre = = =

The Theatre Royal , which was established in 1744 , produces an annual pantomime which attracts loyal audiences from around the country to see its veteran star , Berwick Kaler . The Grand Opera House and Joseph Rowntree Theatre also offer a variety of productions . The city is home to the Riding Lights Theatre Company , which as well as operating a busy national touring department , also operates a busy youth theatre and educational departments . York is also home to a number of amateur dramatic groups . The Department of Theatre , Film and Television , and Student Societies of the University of York put on public drama performances .

The York Mystery Plays are performed in public at intervals , using texts based on the original medieval plays of this type that were performed by the guilds ? often with specific connections to the subject matter of each play . ( For instance the Shipwrights ' Play is the Building of Noah 's Ark and the fish @-@ sellers and mariners the Landing of Noah 's Ark ) . The York Cycle of Mystery Plays or Pageants is the most complete in England . Originally performed from wagons at various locations

around the city from the fourteenth century until 1570 , they were revived in 1951 during the Festival of Britain , when York was one of the cities with a regional festival . They became part of the York City Festival every three years and later four years . They were mostly produced in a temporary open @-@ air theatre within the ruins of St. Mary 's Abbey , using some professional but mostly amateur actors . Lead actors have included Christopher Timothy and Robson Green ( in the role of Christ ) and Dame Judi Dench as a school girl , in 1951 , 1954 and 1957 . ( She remains a Patron of the plays ) . The cycle was presented in the Theatre Royal in 1992 and 1996 , within York Minster in 2000 and in 2002 , 2006 and 2010 by Guild groups from wagons in the squares , in the Dean 's Park , or at the Eye of York . They go around the streets , recreating the original productions . In 2012 , the York Mystery Plays were performed between 2 and 27 August at St. Mary 's Abbey in the York Museum Gardens .

= = = Music = = =

The Academy of St Olave 's , a chamber orchestra which gives concerts in St Olave 's Church , Marygate , is one of the music groups that perform regularly in York . A former church , St Margaret 's , Walmgate , is the National Centre for Early Music , which hosts concerts , broadcasts , competitions and events including the York Early Music Festival . Students , staff and visiting artists of York St John University music department regularly perform lunchtime concerts in the University chapel . The staff and students of the University of York also perform in the city .

= = = Gastronomy = = =

Each September since 1997 , York holds an annual Festival of Food and Drink . The aim of the festival is to spotlight food culture in York and North Yorkshire by promoting local food production . The Festival attracts up to 150 @,@ 000 visitors over 10 days , from all over the country . One of the notable local products is York ham , a mild @-@ flavoured ham with delicate pink colouring . It is traditionally served with Madeira Sauce . As a lightly smoked , dry @-@ cured ham , York ham is saltier but milder in flavour than other European dry @-@ cured hams . Folklore has it that the oak construction for York Minster provided the sawdust for smoking the ham . Robert Burrow Atkinson 's butchery shop , in Blossom Street , is the birthplace of the original " York Ham " and the reason why the premises became famous .

In the centre of York , in St Helen 's Square , there is the York branch of Bettys Café Tea Rooms . Bettys founder , Frederick Belmont , travelled on the maiden voyage of the Queen Mary in 1936 . He was so impressed by the splendour of the ship that he employed the Queen Mary 's designers and craftsmen to turn a dilapidated furniture store in York into an elegant café in St Helen 's Square . A few years after Bettys opened in York war broke out , and the basement ' Bettys Bar ' became a favourite haunt of the thousands of airmen stationed around York . ' Bettys Mirror ' , on which many of them engraved their signatures with a diamond pen , remains on display today as a tribute to them .

= = = Beer and pubs = = =

The Assize of Ale is an annual event in the city where people in medieval costume take part in a pub crawl to raise money for local charities . It has its origins in the 13th century , when an Assize of Bread and Ale was used to regulate the quality of goods . The current version was resurrected in the 1990s by the Sheriff of York and is led by the Guild of Scriveners . In June 2015 York CAMRA listed 101 pubs on its map of the city centre , some of which are hundreds of years old . These include the Golden Fleece , Ye Olde Starre Inne , noted for its sign which has spanned the street since 1733 , and The Kings Arms , often photographed during floods .

= = = UNESCO status bids = = =

In 2010 York 's city council and a number of heritage organisations submitted a bid for York 's entire city centre to become a UNESCO World Heritage Site . This nomination , to the UK 's Department for Culture , Media and Sport would have included York on a list of tentative sites to be reviewed by UNESCO itself . York 's bid failed , leading to ' disappointment ' from the team involved . This indirectly led to the city making a successful bid to be part of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network as a city of Media Arts . It is the fourth of these cities , following Lyon , France ; Enghien @-@ les @-@ Bains , France ; and Sapporo , Japan .

= = Media = =

The York area is served by a local newspaper , The Press ( known as the Evening Press until April 2006 ) , The York Advertiser newspaper ( based at The Press on Walmgate ) , and two local radio stations Minster FM and BBC Radio York . Local arts , culture news and events are covered by community media start @-@ up ; and social enterprise ; One & Other . One & Other was founded in September 2011 .

On 27 November 2013 , Ofcom awarded the 12 @-@ year local TV licence for the York area to a consortium entitled The York Channel , with the channel due to be on air in spring 2015 .

York St John University has a Film and Television Production department with links to many major industrial partners . The department hosts an annual festival of student work and a showcase of other regional films .

The University of York has its own television station York Student Television ( YSTV ) and two campus newspapers Nouse and York Vision . Its radio station URY is the longest running legal independent radio station in the UK , and was voted BBC Radio 1 Student Radio Station of the Year 2005 .

= = Sport = =

The city 's football team is York City who are competing in National League as of the 2016 ? 17 season . York have played as high as the old Second Division but are best known for their " giant killing " status in cup competitions , having reached the FA Cup semi @-@ final in 1955 and beaten Manchester United 3 ? 0 during the 1995 ? 96 League Cup . Their matches are played at Bootham Crescent .

York also has a strong rugby league history . York FC , later known as York Wasps , formed in 1901 , were one of the oldest rugby league clubs in the country but the effects of a move to the out of town Huntington Stadium , poor results and falling attendances led to their bankruptcy in 2002 . The supporters formed a new club , York City Knights , who now play at the same stadium in Championship 1 . There are three amateur rugby league teams in York , New Earswick All Blacks , York Acorn and Heworth . York International 9s is a rugby league nines tournament which takes place in York each year . Amateur side York Lokomotive compete in the Rugby League Conference .

An open rowing club York City Rowing Club is located underneath Lendal Bridge . The rowing clubs of The University of York , York St John University Rowing Club and Leeds University Boat Club as well as York City RC use the Ouse for training . There are two sailing clubs close to York , both of which sail dinghies on the River Ouse . The York RI ( Railway Institute ) Sailing Club has a club bouse and boat park on the outskirts of Bishopthorpe , a village 3 miles ( 4 @.@ 8 km ) to the south of York . The Yorkshire Ouse Sailing Club has a club house in the village of Naburn , 5 miles ( 8 @.@ 0 km ) south of York .

York Racecourse was established in 1731 and from 1990 has been awarded Northern Racecourse of the Year for 17 years running . This major horseracing venue is located on the Knavesmire and sees thousands flocking to the city every year for the 15 race meetings . The Knavesmire Racecourse also hosted Royal Ascot in 2005 . In August racing takes place over the four @-@ day Ebor Festival that includes the Ebor Handicap dating from 1843 .

Motorbike speedway once took place at York . The track in the Burnholme Estate was completed in

1930 and a demonstration event staged . In 1931 the track staged team and open events and the York team took part in the National Trophy .

York has also hosted the UK Snooker Championship , which is the second biggest ranking tournament in the sport , at the York Barbican Centre .

On 6 July 2014 , York hosted the start of Stage 2 of the 2014 Tour de France . Starting the Départ Fictif from York Racecourse , the riders travelled through the city centre to the Départ Actuel on the A59 just beyond the junction with the Outer Ring Road heading towards Knaresborough . In 2015 , the inaugural Tour de Yorkshire was held as a legacy event to build on the popularity of the previous year , with the Day 2 stage finishing in York .

The most notable sportsmen to come from York in recent years are footballer Marco Gabbiadini and former England manager Steve McClaren , who both attended Nunthorpe Grammar School ( now called Millthorpe School ) .

= = Geodesy = =

York Minster was the origin ( meridian ) of the 6 inch and 1 : 2500 Ordnance Survey maps for Yorkshire .

= = Twin cities = =

York is twinned with Dijon , France ( 1953 ) , Münster , Germany ( 1957 ) and on 22 October 2014 , it announced the first ' temporal twinning ' with Jórdík , the Viking city from 866 to 1066 .