

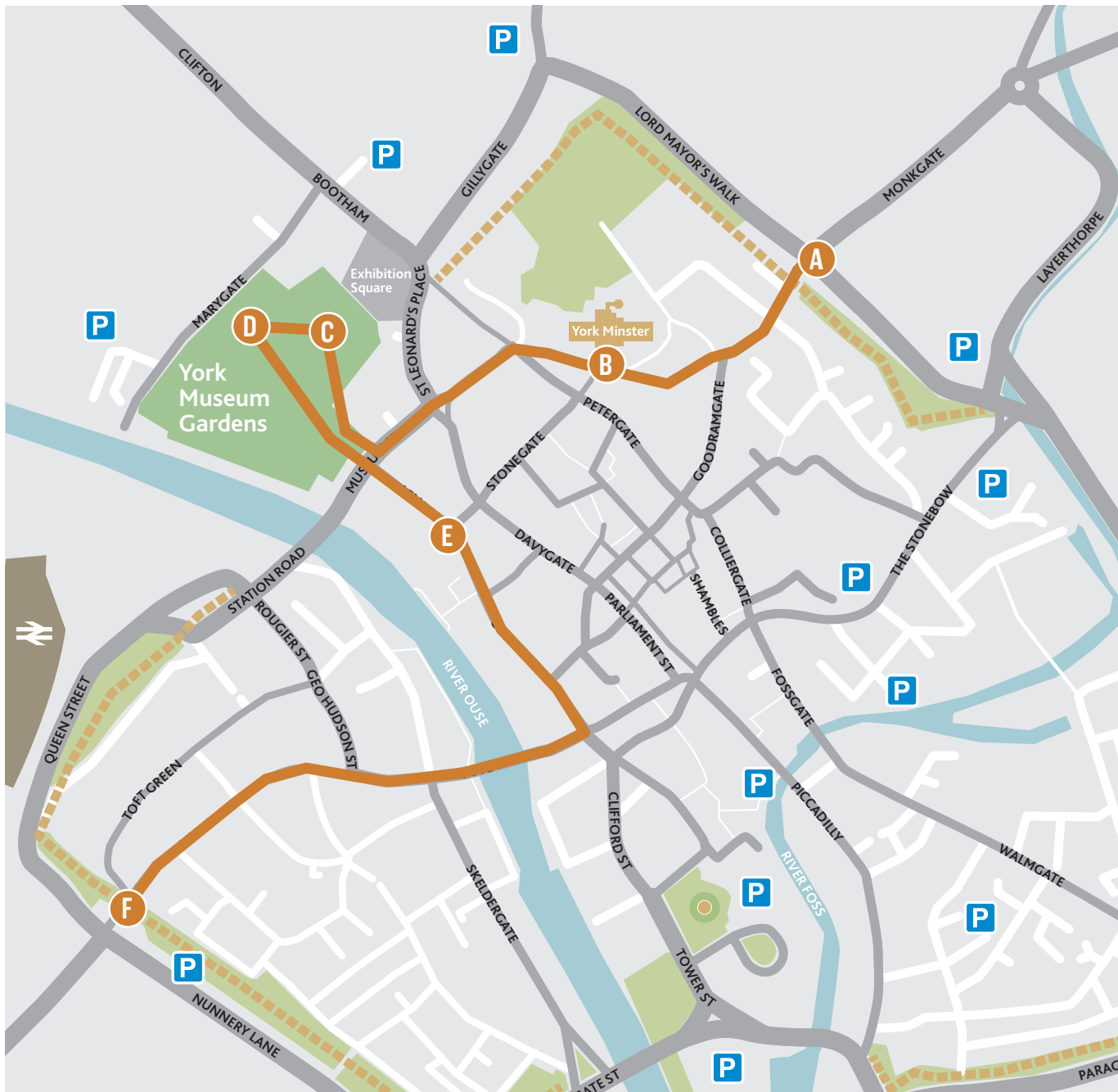
# RICHARD III

## WALKING TOUR

Richard III had strong ties with the city of York. Born in 1452, Richard spent some of his childhood in Yorkshire, staying at Middleham Castle. During this time he visited York; becoming acquainted with the city and its people. As Richard's power and influence grew, he became a useful ally of York. Richard took the city's side in numerous civil cases, and was in turn rewarded with gifts and loyalty by the people. As King, Richard visited York to celebrate his coronation and the investiture of his son as Prince of Wales. The city guarded their relationship with the king closely and mourned his death. The strength of this relationship is still felt today, as people continue to celebrate and commemorate Richard's ties to York.

Explore Richard III and his connections to the city of York. Take part in this walking tour, designed to guide visitors to the locations and museums which illustrate the life of the controversial monarch who reigned from 1483 to 1485. Explore the places visited by Richard III and his contemporaries. View the objects that reveal more about the man behind the myth.

This unique guide provides a map and location summaries, allowing you to explore Richard's York at your own pace.



**A RICHARD III EXPERIENCE AT MONK BAR**

**C YORKSHIRE MUSEUM**

**E YORK GUILDHALL**

**B YORK MINSTER**

**D ST MARY'S ABBEY**

**F HENRY VII EXPERIENCE AT MICKLEGATE BAR**

York Museums Trust

THE JORVIK GROUP

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Institute for the Public Understanding of the Past

York Museums Trust is an independent charity which manages York Art Gallery, Yorkshire Museum, York Museum Gardens, York Castle Museum and York St Mary's. Charity number: 1092466

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## A RICHARD III EXPERIENCE AT MONK BAR

Begin your tour of the city of York at its walls and learn of the life and legacy of Richard III at Monk Bar Museum. Located in the city wall itself, Monk Bar was once a fortress. Today, it provides an atmospheric introduction to the life of Richard III.

Open 7 days a week, The Richard III Experience at Monk Bar costs £3.50 (Adult ticket), £2 (Child ticket). If you would also like to visit the Henry VII Experience at Micklegate Bar, which is the last stop on this tour, you can pay £5 for entry into both museums. The tickets are valid for 12 months so you can visit as many times as you would like!

## B YORK MINSTER

Look up and be prepared to marvel at the awe-inspiring wonder that is York Minster.

Richard visited the site for the first time as Duke of Gloucester in 1465, aged thirteen, to witness the investiture of George Neville as Archbishop of York.

After he became King in 1483, Richard III made a tour of England. He arrived in York in September and stayed for three weeks. Many feasts, plays and religious services were held in his honour. The highlight of the events was the investiture of Richard's son Edward as Prince of Wales at the Archbishop's Palace, located just behind York Minster. Richard and his wife Anne also led the procession to celebrate mass at the Minster.

## C YORKSHIRE MUSEUM

There are few surviving objects that provide evidence for the life of Richard III. Those that do have been brought together at the Yorkshire Museum, where you can view them and decide for yourself – Richard III, hero or villain?

Key objects include the fantastic Middleham Jewel (perhaps owned by Richard's wife or mother), a number of boar badges worn by Richard's most loyal supporters and rare documents from the City's Archives detailing Richard's dealings with York and its people.

## D ST MARY'S ABBEY

Set in York Museum Gardens are the romantic ruins of what was once the most wealthy and powerful abbey in the North of England. The remnants of St. Mary's Abbey stand as a striking reminder of the importance of York during the time of Richard III. The monarch's dedication to the North was shown here, when his bills to form colleges at Middleham and Barnard Castle were read out in 1482.

Despite the significance of St Mary's Abbey, Richard chose to stay at York's Augustinian Friary when he visited the city. Another important religious house in York, it was located near our next stop, the York Guildhall.

## E YORK GUILDHALL

This building dates from the 15th century, representing a hub of the city, where council meetings were held and crucial events took place.

As Lord of the North, Richard helped maintain the prosperity of the city. In return, the people of York gave Richard their loyalty. Gifts of gold and food were lavished upon him, and many celebrations and festivities held in his honour.

The York House Books were held in the Guildhall. These books hold important information about their relationship with Richard III. From their council office in the Guildhall, York's leading men made decisions about which gifts to send Richard, how best to court him. They even drafted letters to him, asking for support in city matters. The most famous document is a letter expressing the council's regret at the death of Richard III. Written on 23 August 1485, the letter proclaims:

*"...that King Richard late mercifully reigning upon us was through grete treason of the duc of Northfolk and many other that turned ayenst hyme, with many other lords and nobilles of this north parties, was pitiously slane and mured to the grete hevynesse of this citie, the names of whome foloweth hereafter..."*

The plaque at York Guildhall positioned in 1985 by the Society of Friends of Richard III, emphasises the importance of the building to his reign and presence in the North.

## F THE HENRY VII EXPERIENCE AT MICKLEGATE BAR

Micklegate Bar was the original official entrance to York for southern visitors. Richard passed through here on his arrival into the city in 1483.

Richard and his royal party were met on 29 August 1483 at the church of St. James outside of the city walls. The King was then brought through Micklegate to the Minster where he received a joyous welcome by the citizens and dignitaries of York.

Micklegate Bar is now a museum to Richard III's successor Henry VII. Learn about Henry VII on the final stop of your tour.

Open seven days a week, the Henry VII Experience at Micklegate Bar costs £3.50 (Adult ticket), £2 (Child ticket). Remember, a £5 ticket enables you to visit both the Richard III Experience at Monk Bar and the Henry VII Experience at Micklegate Bar as many times as you like for 12 months.

## EXTRA: OUTSIDE THE CITY WALLS

- Continue to explore the life of Richard III by visiting his former residence and the birthplace of his son, Middleham Castle.
- Richard inherited Sheriff Hutton Castle from his wife's family. It has often been thought that Richard's only son, Edward was buried here. A cenotaph of Edward resides at the church of St Helen and the Holy Cross in Sheriff Hutton.



A boar badge (top) and the Middleham Jewel (below) can be seen at the Yorkshire Museum. St Mary's Abbey (right) is set in York Museum Gardens.