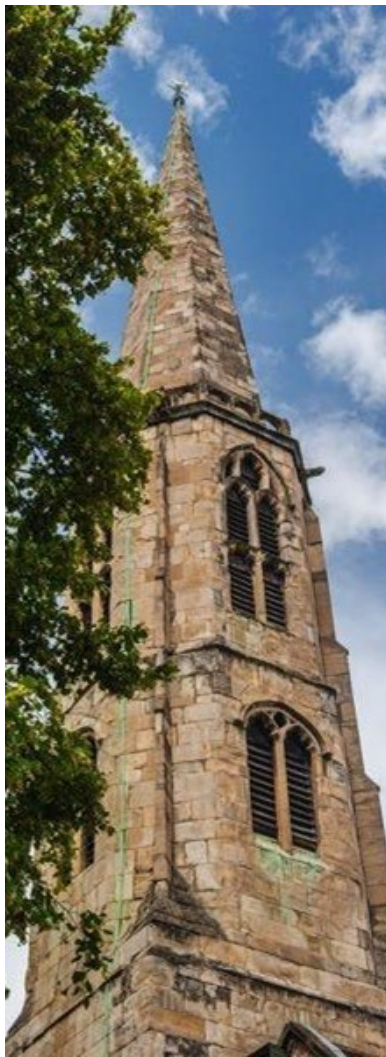


# YORK WORLD HERITAGE: a conversation

YORK WORLD HERITAGE  
STEERING GROUP

York Festival of Ideas 2020



York World Heritage Steering Group warmly welcomes you to this conversation around bidding for World Heritage status.

We want to hear your views about World Heritage for the City of York.

This presentation sets out our ideas about York and World Heritage.



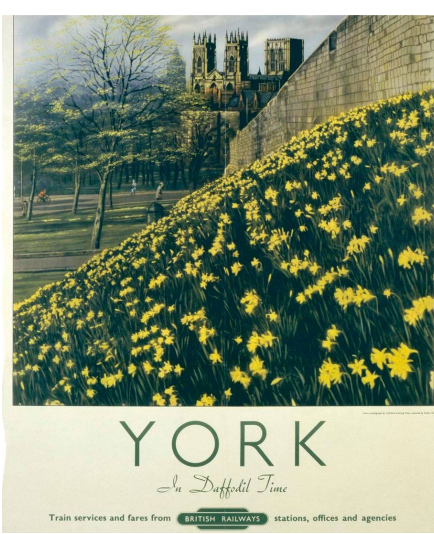
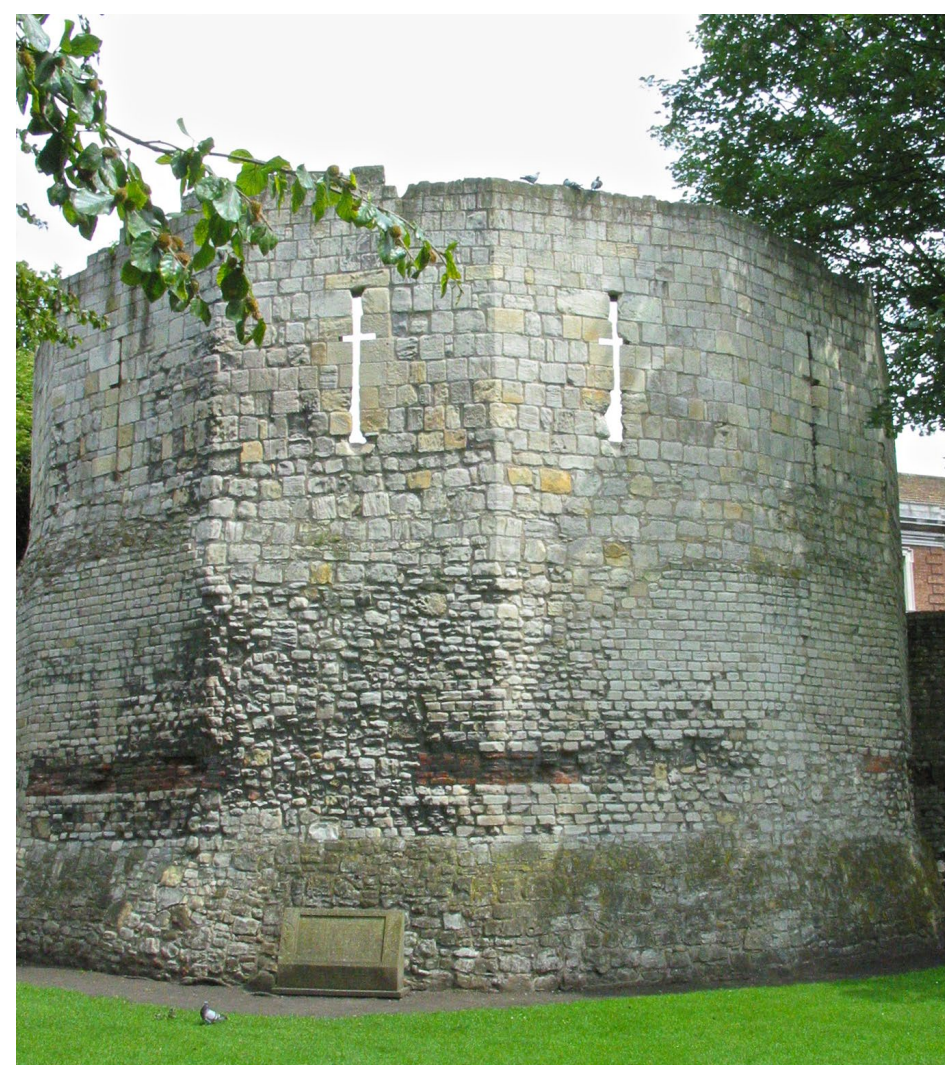
This conversation about York and World Heritage will continue through to autumn 2020.

Please, let us have your comments and thoughts after you have viewed this presentation.

There are 41 slides including a short video at the end. It will take about 10 minutes to view the whole presentation.

Details of how to contact us are at the end of this presentation.





“The history  
of York is the  
history of  
England”

George VI



**York has been a continuously inhabited centre of power for almost 2000 years, and at times a capital in the north, second in importance to London for much of this time.**





hair of a Roman woman,  
preserved in her coffin

*Eboracum*

Roman York

Capital of the  
North







*Eorforwic*

Anglian York

Golden age of  
Northumbria







*Jorvik*  
Viking York  
Only Viking  
capital in Britain







Medieval York  
Royal, religious,  
political,  
commercial  
centre of the north







16th & 17th  
century York

Administrative  
and judicial centre  
of the North

Above:  
halfcrown,  
1643 York  
Mint

Left and right:  
King's Manor,  
home to the  
Council of the  
North





# Georgian York

## Architectural and cultural elegance



Above: 18th century fireplace detail

Left: York Assembly Rooms

Right: York Mansion House





## Victorian York

### A city at the heart of the railway revolution

Left: York Railway  
Station, the largest in  
the world when it  
opened in 1877

Above: exhibit, National  
Railway Museum

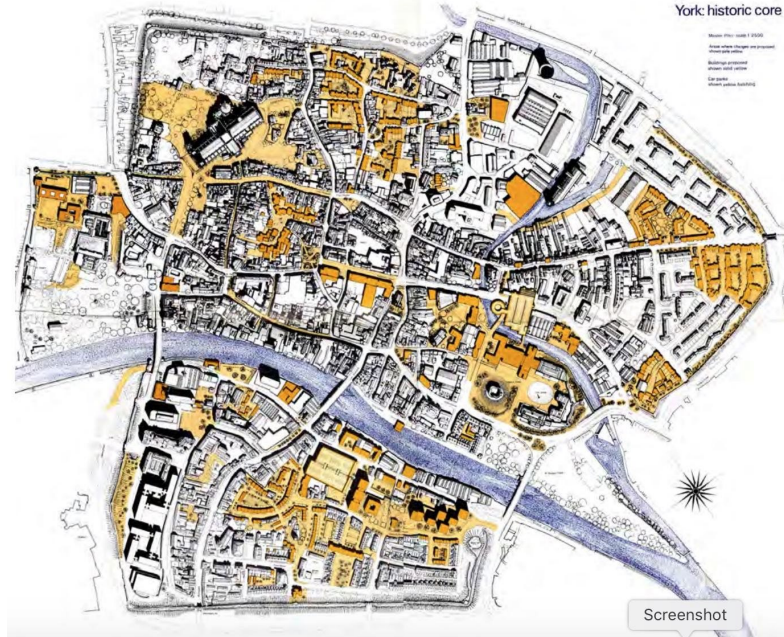
Right: George Hudson,  
the Railway King







Above and centre: Lord Esher and his 1968 landmark report on conservation in York



Right: Conservation expert Sir Bernard Feilden in the King's Manor, York University's internationally renowned centre for conservation studies

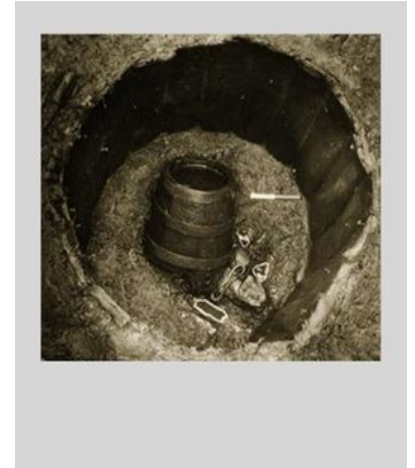
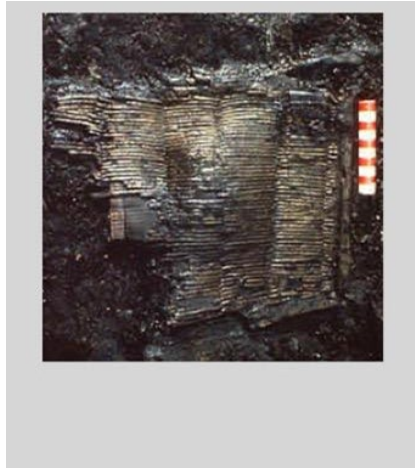
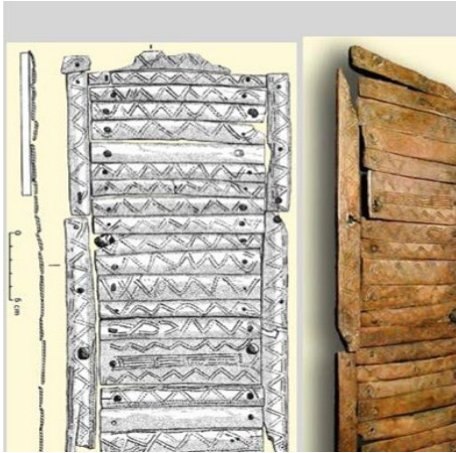
## York in the 20th century

## Conservation in practice





*Archaeological  
objects and deposits  
underpin York's World  
Heritage bid.*





# York and World Heritage: a brief history

- Early 1990's political opposition, so no application.
- 2006 Lord Mayor, Janet Hopton MBE, raises question "Should York be a World Heritage Site?"
- 2006 York World Heritage Steering Group formed.

- 2010 York applies for admission to the UK Tentative List of World Heritage Sites on basis of deep wet archaeological deposits
- 2011 Application refused but City of York advised to come back next time with a revised, holistic application for the city to include both above and below ground heritage
- 2019 York Cultural Strategy adopts ambition to be a World Heritage site by 2025
- 2020 York World Heritage Steering Group has produced a revised bid proposal for World Heritage for York



**To achieve World Heritage status,  
York must**

**1) demonstrate**

**that its heritage has**

**Outstanding Universal Value**

**and**

**2) show what York can contribute to the World  
Heritage List which is not already inscribed on  
the list.**

Outstanding Universal Value is defined by UNESCO as:

*cultural and/or natural significance which is so exceptional as to transcend national boundaries and to be of common importance for present and future generations of all humanity. As such, the permanent protection of this heritage is of the highest importance to the international community as a whole*



UNESCO has set out 6 criteria (opens in new tab)  
for  
Outstanding Universal Value.

Cultural sites such as York must meet 1 or more of  
these criteria.

We believe York meets 4 of these criteria.

# Medieval stained glass in York

UNESCO criterion (i)

“to represent a masterpiece  
of human creative genius”

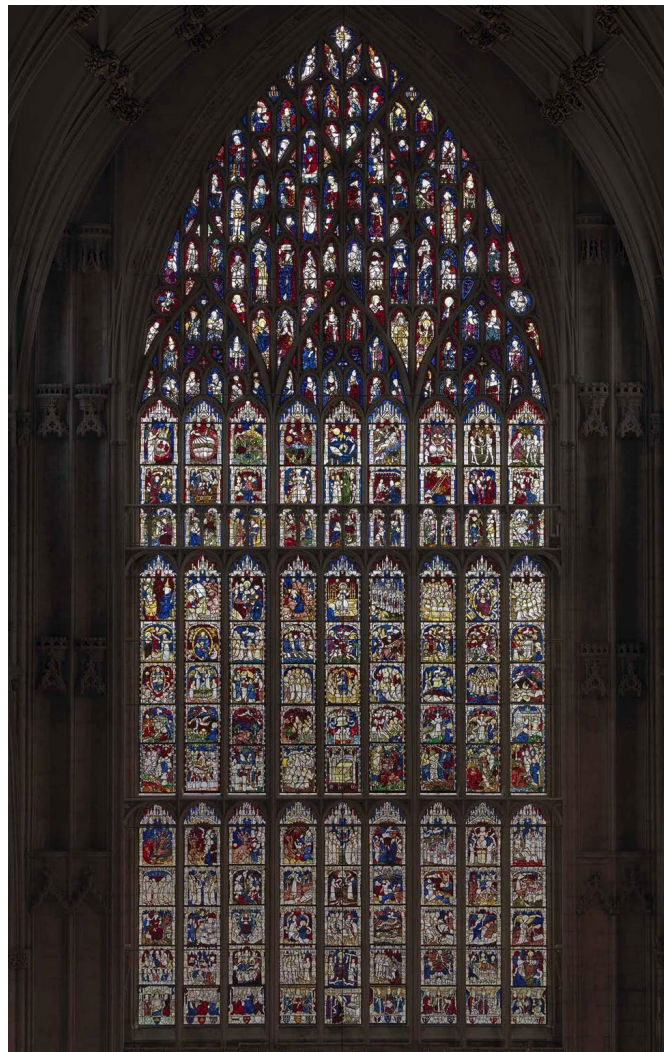




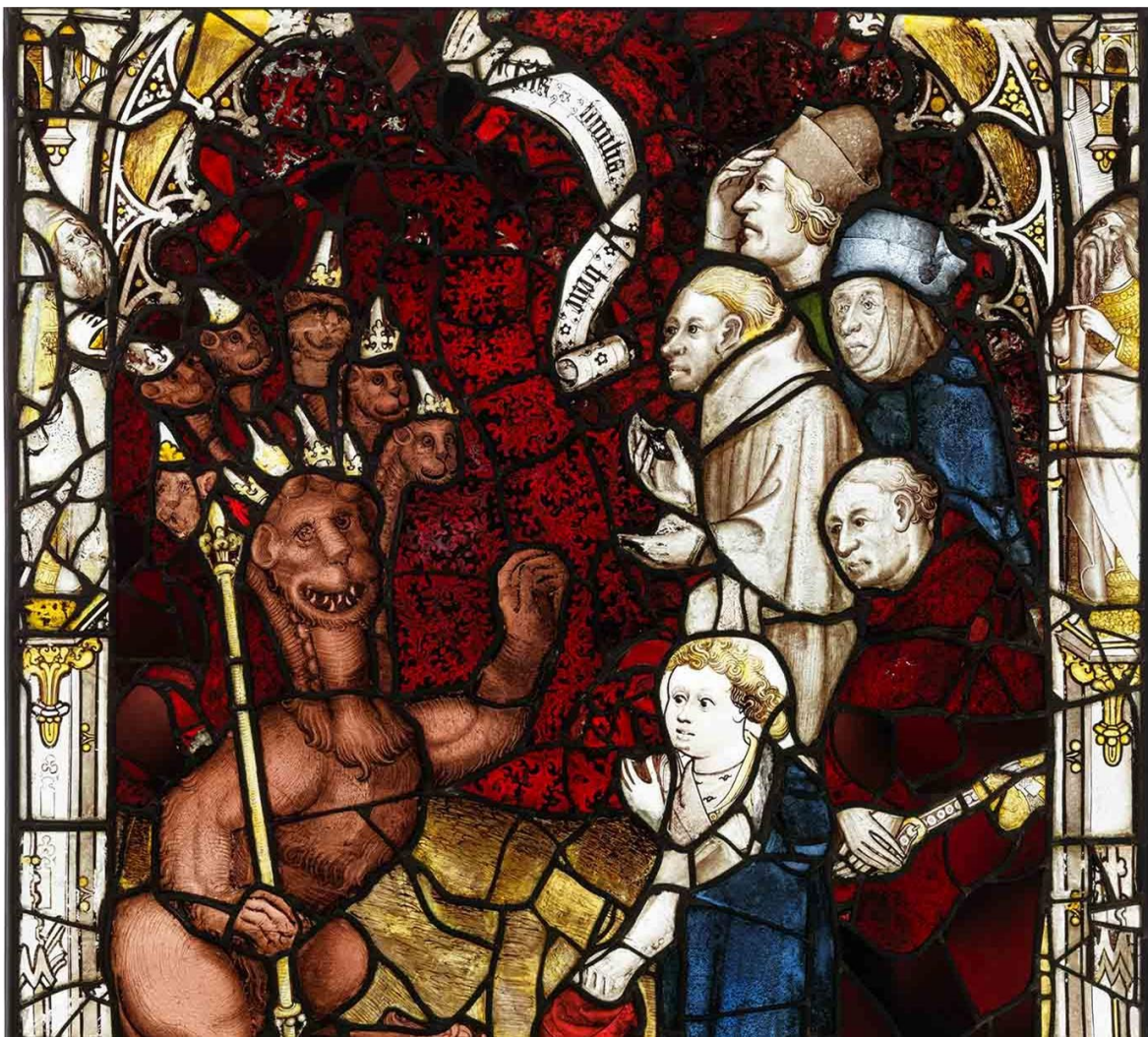
# Great East Window

Executed in 1405-08, the window is the largest expanse of medieval stained glass in Britain, with over 300 glazed panels, and is one of the most ambitious windows ever to have been made in the Middle Ages.

[Click here to explore the Great East window in detail](#) (opens in a new tab).



This glazing scheme stands as one of the most monumental and significant of medieval artworks, and is the work of celebrated Coventry glazier John Thornton. The window contains two biblical cycles, Creation and Revelation, the beginning and the end of all things.





# Stained glass in York's medieval parish churches

All Saints North Street is just one of York's medieval parish churches that has exemplary medieval stained glass.

The Corporal Acts of Mercy window (opposite) shows a wealthy man (possibly Nicholas Blackburn, a merchant and mayor of York) visiting the sick, clothing the naked and feeding the hungry.



# Evolution of York's urban form

UNESCO criterion (ii)

“to exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time ... on developments in ... town-planning”



John Speed's Map of York, 1611



# The urban form

The layout and layering of streets, buildings, and river crossings almost entirely contained within the complete circuit of defences, preserves the impact and influence of successive groups of people with different cultural values.

These include:

- Roman: military and administrative
- Anglian: ecclesiastical
- Viking: trade, craft and urban expansion
- Norman: political and ecclesiastical
- Georgian: architecture
- Victorian: railway and travel.



Left: York town plan in 1846

Below: aerial view of York  
2007



# York's ensemble of buildings

## UNESCO criterion (iv)

“An outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble ... which illustrates ... significant stages in human history.”





# York's ensemble of buildings

The City's buildings illustrate the development and evolution of architecture over 2000 years from the archaeological evidence for Roman, Anglian and Viking buildings to the early 20th century garden village of New Earswick. The ensemble includes domestic, civic, religious, administrative and commercial buildings that:

- signify Crown Authority and National government
- reflect the status of the City as the County Town of Yorkshire and social capital of the North
- signify 2000 years of military presence and defence
- demonstrate the Christian history of the City

# People and traditions

## UNESCO criterion (vi)

To be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance.

Right: statue of Constantine the Great



# People and traditions

The historic city of York has over the period of 2000 years been associated with significant people, events and literary works of outstanding universal significance. These include:

- Constantine was acclaimed Emperor in York
- Alcuin established York as a centre of learning and liberal teaching in the 8<sup>th</sup> century
- York Cycle of medieval mystery plays and their revival in the 20<sup>th</sup> century
- Printing of Wycliffe English Bible translation in York
- Seebohm Rowntree's landmark study of poverty in York



# Alcuin's York poem

## *Alcuin d. 804*

“My heart is set to praise my home  
And briefly tell the ancient cradling  
Of York's famed city through the charms of verse.  
It was a Roman army built it first ,  
High-walled and towered, and made the native tribes  
Of Britain allied partners in the task –  
For then a prosperous Britain rightly bore  
The rule of Rome whose sceptre ruled the world –  
To be a merchant-town of land and sea,  
A mighty stonghold for their governors,  
An Empire's pride and terror to its foes,

A haven for the ships from distant ports  
Across the ocean, where the sailor hastes  
To cast his rope ashore and stay to rest.  
The city is watered by the fish-rich Ouse  
Which flows past flowery plains on every side;  
And hills and forests beautify the earth  
And make a lovely dwelling-place, whose health  
And richness soon will fill it full of men.  
The best of realms and people round came there  
In hope of gain, to seek in that rich earth  
For riches, there to make both home and gain.”

In summary, York's bid is based on its:  
medieval stained glass;  
assimilation and layering of cultures;  
buildings, archaeology, people.

# Archives and Documentation

York's heritage is documented in unusually rich, varied and complete civic ecclesiastical and private archives, and in exemplary published inventories. These materials include written documentation, paintings, lithographs, photographs, and oral histories. The archives include:

- City of York Archives held by York Explore
- Archive and Library of York Minster
- York Diocesan Archive, held at the Borthwick Institute
- Archive of the Merchant Adventurers



**Bidding for World Heritage status will be a three  
stage process**

# York World Heritage Stage One

York decides that it will make an application for designation as a World Heritage Site.

*Who makes the decision?*

City of York Council

*When will the decision be made?*

Possibly late 2020 though Covid-19 may delay a decision

## York World Heritage Stage Two

City of York Council will make an application to be placed on the UK's Tentative List of World Heritage Sites when the list is next reviewed.

*When will UK Tentative List be reviewed?*

Probably in 2021

*Who makes the decision?*

The UK Government advised by an expert panel

*When will decision be made? Probably in 2022*



# York World Heritage Stage Three

UK Government will nominate York to UNESCO World Heritage Committee for designation as World Heritage Site

*When will York be nominated to UNESCO?*

Probably in 2025 or 2027

*Who makes the decision?*

UNESCO World Heritage Committee

*When will decision be made by UNESCO?*

2026 or 2028

# World Heritage for York - why?

- Confirm York as a world-class city
- help to conserve what makes York special
- promote and celebrate contribution of residents in caring for and managing York and its heritage
- improve the quality and enjoyment of life for residents and visitors
- increase inward investment and business development
- encourage a diverse and thriving economy
- Recognise York`s contribution globally to education in conservation management
- Post Covid-19 build on and safeguard York`s tourism successes

Please tell us what you think

Email us at: [yorkworldheritage@gmail.com](mailto:yorkworldheritage@gmail.com)

Tweet us at: @world\_york

Find us on Facebook:

[https://www.facebook.com/YorkWorld Heritage](https://www.facebook.com/YorkWorldHeritage)

Write to us at: York World Heritage Steering Group,  
% City of York Council, West Offices, Station Rise,  
York, YO1 6GA



Jonathan Malory at Skyfilming.com for permission to use his video of York

For use of text and imagery:

Dean and Chapter of York Minster

National Railway Museum

York Archaeological Trust

York Civic Trust

York Explore Library and Archive

York Glaziers Trust

York Minster Fund

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Music: <https://www.bensound.com/royalty-free-music>

# Thank you!



And finally, to all at York Festival of Ideas for giving us the opportunity to start this conversation.

*York World Heritage Steering Group May 2020*



# **York Streets Under Quarantine**

**20 April 2020 Simulated Fly Through**

**Filmed with a bicycle and 360 Camera on a Pole**