

# YORK

YORK is an ancient city, municipal and parliamentary and county borough, head of an archiepiscopal see, union and county court district, and the second city in England in point of rank; it is situated in a rich valley at the confluence of the rivers Ouse and Foss, near the junction of the North, East and West Ridings, and locally in the North Riding, but is independent of all three, being a city and county in itself, and the capital of the great county of York, to which it gives its name; it is distant by rail from Aberdeen 320 miles, Ashton 61, Alnwick 121½, Barnsley 37, Batley 33½, Blackburn 75½, Berwick 150½, Beverley 34, Birmingham 130, Bridlington 53, Boston 100, Burton 98½, Bristol 217½, Bradford 35½, Brighton 245, Burslem 100, Bolton 81½, Burnley 71½, Carlisle 127, Chester 104½, Coventry 138½, Darlington 44, Dewsbury 34½, Derby 87½, Doncaster 32½, Driffield 41½, Dudley 128½, Dundee 264, Durham 67, Dunbar 179, Dumfries 160, Edinburgh 208½, Exeter 293½, Glasgow 231, Grantham 82½, Gloucester 181, Greenock 250½, Halifax 42, Hartlepool 60, Harrogate 18½, Holyhead 188½, Huddersfield 42½, Hull 42, Huntingdon 129½, Keighley 42½, Knaresborough 16½, Lancaster 91, Leeds 25½, Leicester 110½, Lichfield 119½, Lincoln 68½, Liverpool 99½, London 188½, Macclesfield 80½, Manchester 69½, Middlesbrough 51, Morpeth 100½, Montrose 297, Newark 68, Newcastle 84, Northallerton 30, Normanton 24½, Northampton 155, Nottingham 94½, Norwich 194½, Oxford 188½, Perth 258, Peterborough 112½, Plymouth 346½, Pontefract 22, Preston 86, Reading 216½, Richmond 48½, Rochdale 64½, Rugby 130½, Salisbury 263½, Scarborough 42, Selby 13½, Settle 67, Shrewsbury 126, Sheffield 62½, Skipton 51½, Southampton 268½, Southport 103½, Stoke 100, Stockton 48, Stockport 68½, Stafford 118, Sunderland 77, Tadcaster 15½, Thirsk 22½, Todmorden 56½, Wakefield 27½, Walsall 137, Whitby 56, Wigan 86, Wolverhampton 130½, Worcester 155, Worksop 57½.

The history of York begins with the Roman occupation, although the existence of an early British settlement here has been demonstrated both from the discovery of undoubted British burials below those of English and Roman date, and from the fact that the name "Eboracum," which the Romans bestowed on this colony, was not a new appellation, but the Latinised form of the name "Evrawe" or "Eurewic," already in use, from its situation on the river Ure or Eure, now called the Ouse, "wic" signifying a settlement or town.

The Roman station occupied a tolerably level site between the rivers Ouse and Foss, and near their confluence, and stood from 25 to 30 feet above the former, and about 100 yards from its left or eastern bank, the military or fortified part being confined to the left bank, while the suburbs, crossing the stream, extended to the south-west and to the north; the former was inclosed by walls, measuring 469 yards from north-west to south-east, and 550 yards from north-east to south-west, the area, at first square, having been extended northwards

at some period subsequent to the foundation of the city; in the walls were four main gates, one of which, on the west, occupied the site of Bootham bar; the northern gate was near the church of St. Maurice; the eastern, in Low Petergate, near Trinity church; and the southern gate, at the bottom of Stonegate, opposite the Mansion house; at each angle of the wall was a tower, and a portion of one of these, now called "the Multangular tower," is still standing in the grounds of the Yorkshire Philosophical Society, near Lendal bridge; this tower is a decagonal structure of rubble, faced with ashlar, 42 feet in exterior diameter, and about 33 feet 6 inches within, the walls being on an average 5 feet thick; the Roman part of the work is about 15 feet in height, and above this is an upper storey of ashlar, erected in the Early English or Decorated period, and pierced in nine faces with cruciform loopholes; some other fragments of the northern section of the Roman wall have been met with at two points near Monkbar, but the wall extending south-east from the tower is mediæval; both Roman and English coins were found within the tower on its excavation, and it now contains five stone coffins, recovered from different Roman cemeteries; remains of Roman buildings and works have also been traced beyond the river, outside the fortified area, including a pavement discovered within Micklegate bar and cemeteries at Clementhorpe and elsewhere. On the withdrawal of the Romans from Britain, A.D. 426-30, the inhabitants appear to have made an effort to maintain and complete the defences of the city by the construction of earthworks, built up, in part, on the Roman work, and of these fortifications an extent of nearly 3,000 yards, situated on both sides of the river Ouse, still remains; the Castle hill and the Bail hill, on the south of the Ouse, are later defensive works raised against the Danes, and were both originally surrounded by a moat.

King Harold visited York, and at the time of the Norman Conquest York had become a place of some importance, and the Conqueror, on visiting the city, ordered the erection of a stronghold on the Castle hill, and placed it in charge of William Malet; in Sept. 1066, it was attacked and taken by the combined Danes and insurgent English, but was retaken by the king, who kept his Christmas here in 1069-70. In 1138 David, King of Scotland, laid siege to York, but was repulsed with considerable loss; Henry II. held a parliament here (1169) at which Malcolm King of Scotland did homage, and in 1252 Alexander III. King of Scotland celebrated his marriage here with Margaret, daughter of Henry III.; after the battle of Bannockburn (1315) Edward II. came to York and held a council; Edward III. was married to Philippa of Hainault, Jan. 24, 1328, and after the battle of Halidown Hill (1333) arrived at York, and in 1335 took up his residence at the monastery of Holy Trinity and held a council; in 1346 David Bruce, King of Scotland, was a prisoner here; Richard II. visited the