Yorkshire

A Very Peculiar

History

Labor

Omnia

Paratus

Yorkshire

A Very Peculiar

History

"See all, hear all, say nowt,
Eat up, sup up, pay nowt,
An if tha does owt for nowt
Allus do it for thysen."

Yorkshire proverb, 'The Tyke's Motto'

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Yorkshire

A Very Peculiar

History

Written by
John Malam

Hatch

'Everything they think soon gets to the tongue, and out it comes, heads and tails, as fast as they can pour it.'
William Cobbett, 1830, describing the outspoken nature of Yorkshire folk

❀

"My living in Yorkshire was so far out of the way that it was actually twelve miles from a lemon."
Sydney Smith, 1855, vicar at Foston-le-Clay, grumbling about having to travel to York, the nearest big town

❀

"I've never found a Yorkshire accent a disadvantage. A Yorkshire accent is taken as a mark of having lived in the real world."
Sir Bernard Ingham, 1999, Yorkshireman and civil servant

❀

"Yorkshire born and Yorkshire bred, strong in the arm and weak in the head."
Yorkshire proverb

Contents

Putting Yorkshire on the map

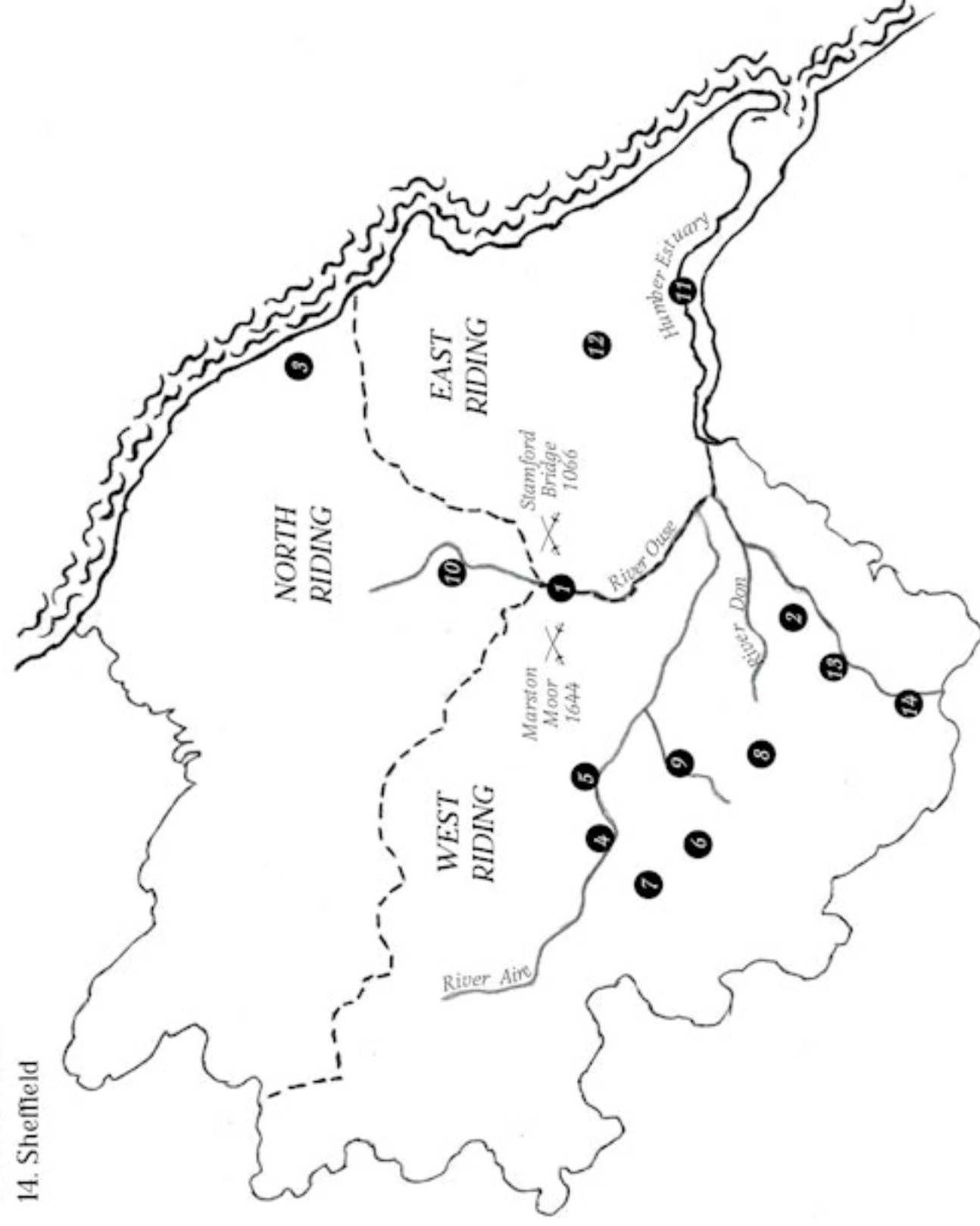*A map of Yorkshire showing pre–1974 boundaries of the Ridings and significant towns and cities.*

1. York
2. Doncaster
3. Scarborough
4. Bradford
5. Leeds
6. Huddersfield
7. Halifax
8. Barnsley
9. Wakefield
10. Knaresborough
11. Hull
12. Beverley
13. Rotherham
14. Sheffield

✕ = Battle site

╌ = Ridings border

NORTH RIDING

EAST RIDING

WEST RIDING

Humber Estuary

Stamford Bridge 1066

Marston Moor 1644

River Ouse

River Don

River Aire

Map of Great Britain showing the location of Yorkshire, the largest county in England.

Where the 'eck is Yorkshire?

s it possible there are people in the world – or even in Britain – who do not know where Yorkshire is? Apparently there are, and if you happen to be one of them, you need to read the next few pages.

There was a time, not so very long ago, when British schools displayed huge roll-down maps of the British Isles on classroom walls, and school atlases had pages, usually at the front, devoted to British geography. This was how children learned about the nation's rivers, mountains, towns, transport networks and counties. Show them a map with the outlines of the counties,

and they'd be able to name a good number of them, especially those close to where they lived.

It's different today, and children can sail through their school years without learning that the Severn is Britain's longest river (354 km / 220 miles), that Ben Nevis is the highest mountain (1,344 m / 4,409 ft), or that there are 86 historic or traditional counties.[1] Give today's youngsters an outline map of British counties to name, and many would be left blank, or misplaced (counties, that is, not children).

Could you do any better? Could you pick out, say, Derbyshire from Nottinghamshire, Brecknockshire from Radnorshire, or Morayshire from Banffshire? Could you be certain of pointing to Yorkshire and – heaven forbid – not its arch-rival Lancashire?

So, for the benefit of the geographically-challenged, here are a few basic facts to help you locate the fine county of Yorkshire on your mental map of the British Isles.

1. 39 in England, 34 in Scotland, 13 in Wales.

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Location, Location, Location

- Yorkshire is in the north of England.[1]

- To put it another way, Yorkshire is half-way up the map of Britain, on the right-hand side.

- York, the county town, is closer to Edinburgh, capital of Scotland, than it is to London, capital of England. A straight line to Edinburgh is 259 km (161 miles), but the line to London is an extra 21 km (13 miles). It's not much, but it's more than enough to make the point that Yorkshirefolk are true northerners (and proud of it). The fact that London and the south are a long way from God's Own County, as they call it, suits them just fine.

- Yorkshire almost splits Britain in two, reaching from the North Sea east coast to within touching distance of the Irish Sea west coast. The county's most westerly place, Low Bentham, is a mere 24 km (15 miles) from the sea, and it's only a lump of Lancashire that stops Yorkshire stretching from coast to coast.

1. There's no firm line to divide England's north from south. Some say the north begins at the Watford Gap – a break in the hills in the county of Northamptonshire. Others say it begins further up the country at Crewe, in Cheshire, a railway town hailed by travellers as the 'gateway to the north'.

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Hopefully, this has fixed Yorkshire 'up north' in your mind, and you should have the idea that it's big. In fact, it's Britain's biggest county. From north to south Yorkshire is about 152 km (95 miles), and west to east 183 km (114 miles).

Yorkshire is so big that when the Vikings arrived in the AD 800s, they carved it up into three pieces which eventually became known as the Ridings of Yorkshire. The North, West and East Ridings served the county well for more than one thousand years. Civil wars and world wars came

Ridings of Yorkshire

Why Ridings? Because the Viking word for the three pieces was 'thrithjungr', which became the Old English word 'thriding'. Try saying it – what does it sound like? Thriding became the modern English word 'riding'. It simply means 'thirds'.

and went, and the Yorkshire Ridings survived the lot until, on 1st April 1974, the government scrapped centuries of heritage across England and Wales.

It might have been April Fool's Day, but no-one was laughing. When the Local Government Act of 1972 came into force in 1974, Yorkshirefolk woke up to a new-look county. Their ancient Ridings had gone, and were replaced by the new counties of North Yorkshire, West Yorkshire and South Yorkshire. But it was more than a change of a few old names. Civil servants had redrawn the county boundaries, and in a stroke of their pens did more to change the shape of Yorkshire than at any time since the Vikings.

What's it like today? Well, for most Yorkshirefolk, Yorkshire means the historic county of Yorkshire – the county as it was before the government tinkered around with it in 1974. It's that definition that this book will try and stick to, and as you turn the pages you'll be given an insight into the long, and sometimes peculiar, history of Yorkshire.

THE NEW PLOUGH MADE SHORT WORK OF THE VILLAGE FIELD.

'Urry up, or we'll 'ave you for us dinner!

Prehistoric Yorkshire

Yorkshire's story begins a very long time ago. So long ago, you've got to go back to the end of the last Ice Age, which was about 10,000 years before the present day.

It's hard to say where Yorkshire's first people came from. There's a good chance they came from far away, perhaps from the mainland of Europe. If they did, they wouldn't have needed boats to make the long journey – they could have walked all the way. That was only possible because at the end of the last Ice Age the eastern side of Britain was joined to Europe by a land bridge – a big chunk of low-lying land

that archaeologists call Doggerland. It spread out from present-day East Anglia all the way down to Kent, then pushed east to join up with Holland, Germany and Denmark.

Today, the North Sea divides Britain from Europe, but in the time we are talking about the sea level was lower. People and animals were able to wander across Doggerland, back and forth between Britain and Europe.

--- = movement of people and animals

It may have been herds of migrating red deer and elk that led hunter-gatherers to cross Doggerland, tracking their prey northwards and up into Yorkshire. We know they came here because in 1947 archaeologists found a place where these early people set up camp.

Living by a lake

The ancient camp was discovered close to the villages of Flixton and Staxton, about 8 km (5 miles) south of Scarborough. Archaeologists have given it the name Star Carr[1], and their discoveries rewrote the history of early people not just in Yorkshire, but in Britain.

It was around 8,700 BC that a group of hunter-gatherers arrived. Archaeologists call this period the Mesolithic, which means Middle Stone Age. The group came to the northern shore of a shallow lake, which spread across what is today the Vale of Pickering. Although the lake dried up long ago, its extent can be traced in the landscape of Yorkshire. It has even been given a name – Lake Pickering.

1. Carr is a Yorkshire dialect word meaning 'marshy'.

The Star Carr camp was in use for about three hundred years. Throughout this time small bands of people came to the site, possibly each summer. They stayed a while, before moving to the next camp. From bones found at the site it's clear they hunted red deer and other wild animals, including hares and hedgehogs. Even though they were living at the edge of a lake, fish was off the menu as no fish bones were found by the archaeologists.

Fires were deliberately started along the shore of the lake, perhaps to burn away water reeds. It was a cunning trap. As new reeds grew, animals came to the edge of the lake to graze on the tasty shoots, and when they did, the hunters attacked them with spears and arrows.

Several masks were found at Star Carr, made from the front parts of red deer skulls with antlers still attached. Perhaps Yorkshire's Stone Age hunters wore the masks during hunts – either as disguises to help them creep up close to their prey, or as magical devices which they hoped would bring them good luck in the hunt.

The people who came to the Star Carr camp – the most famous Mesolithic site in Britain – were not alone. Archaeologists returned to dig along the shores of the extinct Lake Pickering in the 1980s, and found more places where people had camped, some 10,000 years ago. They were back again in 2010, and this time found a 'house' – the oldest house ever found in Britain.

By around 6,500 BC, sea levels had risen and the low-lying Doggerland had been flooded. It had disappeared beneath the North Sea, making Britain an island for the first time, no longer joined to Europe by a land bridge.

"Stop lewkin' at me!"

It was a bad antler day for the hunter.

The Mesolithic was followed by the Neolithic, or New Stone Age, which began around 4,500 BC. It was a time of major changes, when people switched from a nomadic hunter-gatherer way of life and settled down to live in farming communities. The people of the Neolithic period were the first farmers.

Stonehenge of the North, in Yorkshire[1]

One of Britain's greatest Neolithic monuments is at Thornborough, near Ripon, North Yorkshire. There is little to be seen at ground level. To appreciate the monument it has to be seen from above, and only then do the banks and ditches of three huge circles come into view. These are the Thornborough Henges – earthworks from 3,500 BC, a thousand years older than the pyramids of Giza, Egypt. They have been dubbed the 'Stonehenge of the North' except, unlike the real Stonehenge 435 km (270 miles) to the south, there are no giant stones to be seen.

1. As distinct from Arbor Low, the Staffordshire 'Stonehenge of the North'.

Each circle measures 240 m (790 ft) across, with earth banks that once stood at least 1.5 m (5 ft) high. When new, the banks were covered in gypsum crystals, making them stand out as three shining white rings, visible from a long way off. The henges are spaced evenly apart, separated from each other by a distance of about 500 m (1,650 ft).

Henges were one of the major structures of Neolithic Britain, and are found across much of the country. Usually circular, they are composed of an earth bank with a ditch on the inside (the soil dug out from the ditch was piled up to make the bank). One or two entrances were cut through the bank, allowing access to the space inside. Some, such as Stonehenge, had a circle of stones inside them, or around the outside.

The big question is: what were henges for? They have been called the 'cathedrals of their day', so perhaps they were sacred places were priests, elders and pilgrims came together to perform ceremonies and offer gifts to gods, spirits and ancestors. Is that what happened at Thornborough? You decide!

Bring on the Bronze Age

Around 2,000 BC the first metal tools and weapons appeared, made from copper and bronze. The Bronze Age had begun.

Yorkshire is rich in Bronze Age sites, especially burial mounds known as barrows. Many have names, such as Shunner Howe, Lilla Howe and Swarth Howe.[1] However, some of Yorkshire's best Bronze Age relics have been found not on dry land, but stuck in the mud of the River Humber, at North Ferriby, East Yorkshire. Three ancient wooden boats have been found here, and the Ferriby site has been described as the 'world's oldest boatyard'.

The men who paddled the Ferriby boats must have been some of the bravest sailors in history. They sailed along Britain's rivers, such as the Yorkshire Humber, and crossed the sea. Think of the boats as cargo vessels, lugging loads back and forth across the North Sea, shifting goods to and from Yorkshire.

1. Howe is a Yorkshire dialect word meaning 'hill'.

Ferriby boat number 1

- The first, and best preserved, of the Ferriby boats (Ferriby 1) was found in 1937.

- It dates to about 1,800 BC, making it almost four thousand years old.

- Enough of the ship survived to show that it had been more than 13 m (42 ft) long and 1.7 m (5 ft 6 in) wide.

- It was made from thick planks of oak, joined together with lengths of twisted yew, which literally stitched one plank to the next, as if they were pieces of fabric.

- To make the boat watertight, the gaps between the planks were stuffed with moss, and strips of oak were fixed over them.

- It was a paddle boat, and would have been moved through the water by a team using wooden paddles.

Tribes and chariots

Around 700 BC metal-workers began using iron for tools and weapons. The Iron Age had begun. Now, for the first time in the history of Yorkshire, names can be given to the prehistoric people who lived there in the Iron Age – and that's because the Romans wrote them down (thank you, Romans!).

Iron Age Britain was a tribal nation, and three tribes lived in Yorkshire. East Yorkshire was the homeland of the Parisii tribe, the Gabrantovices occupied North Yorkshire, but the tribe that controlled the most land, from the River Humber all the way up to Scotland, was the Brigantes.

The territory of the Brigantes, known as Brigantia, was the largest of all Britain's Iron Age tribes. The Brigantes had several major settlements in Yorkshire, some of which are mentioned by Roman writers. They included Catterick, Aldborough, Ilkley and York.

It's what's under the Yorkshire soil that makes the county's Iron Age unique in Britain. In East

Yorkshire, at Wetwang Slack, Driffield, Arras, Eastburn and elsewhere, are hundreds of small burial barrows surrounded by square ditches. Why square and not round, no-one knows, and they're only found in this one small area of Britain. Dug into the ground beneath the barrows are the graves of Yorkshire's Iron Age inhabitants.

Most were buried with a few grave goods – a clay pot, a joint of meat, bracelets, beads, a knife, sword and shield. But some were clearly the graves of important people, who were buried with two-wheeled vehicles. Usually referred to as 'chariots', they may have been carts or carriages – personal transport to carry the dead person to the next world.

Life (and death) for Iron Age people in Yorkshire probably seemed pretty good. There might have been the odd falling out with a nearby tribe, and every so often a poor harvest would come along – but it wasn't the end of the world. The end actually came from far away and over the sea, and the days of the Brigantes, and all the other Iron Age tribes, were numbered.
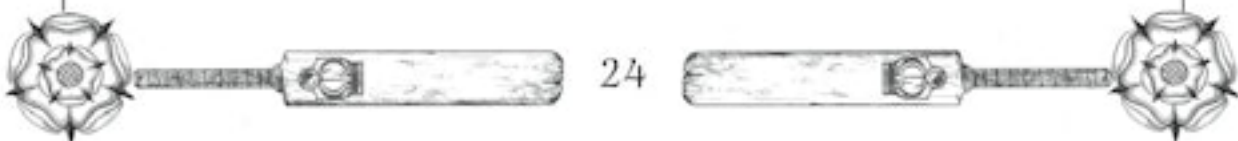
Ten Things You Didn't Know About Prehistoric Yorkshire

1. The oldest signs of human activity in Yorkshire come from Victoria Cave, about 3 km (2 miles) north of Settle. A harpoon point made from deer antler was found here, dated to about 11,000 years ago.

2. Skeletons of two dogs were found at the Star Carr hunter-gatherer site. At around 10,000 years old, they are among the oldest dogs found in Europe.

3. Britain's tallest standing stone is in Yorkshire, at Rudston, East Yorkshire. Known as the Rudston Monolith, it is 1.8 m (6 ft) wide and 7.9 m (26 ft) tall, and dates from about 1,600 BC.

4. The three henges at Thornborough line up with the three central stars in the belt of Orion, which appears in the night sky. Was this planned, or just a coincidence?

5. In 2003, a fire destroyed part of Fylingdales Moor, North Yorkshire. With the heather gone, archaeologists were able to spot hundreds of examples of Neolithic and Bronze Age rock art (stones decorated with patterns).

6. Superstitious people used to think Yorkshire's round barrows were the homes of irritating hobgoblins.

7. The Devil's Arrows are three Bronze Age standing stones at Boroughbridge, North Yorkshire. A local legend says the Devil threw them at the town of Aldborough, but they fell short and landed at Boroughbridge.

8. The Scamridge Dykes, a huge series of earthworks cutting across the countryside near Scalby, North Yorkshire, may be a Bronze Age or Iron Age boundary separating rival tribes.

9. The Iron Age hillfort[1] at Ingleborough, West Yorkshire, is one of the highest in Britain, 716 m (2,350 ft) above sea level.

10. An Iron Age log boat almost 13 m (42 ft) long was found at Hasholme, East Yorkshire, in 1984. It was made from a hollowed-out oak tree in about 300 BC, and sank carrying a cargo of beef and timber.

1. Hillforts were sited on the tops of hills, and were surrounded by deep ditches and tall banks. Inside were houses and storage places for food, and it's thought they provided safe havens for local communities in times of trouble.

VENERUNT, VIDERUNT, VICERUNT... REGRESSI SUNT AD DOMUM. (THEY CAME, THEY SAW, THEY CONQUERED... THEN THEY WENT HOME.)

Roman yorkshire

The year AD 43 was a good one for the Romans, but not for the native peoples of Britain. That was the year an invasion force of some 40,000 Roman soldiers crossed the *Oceanus Britannicus* (the British Sea, which we call the English Channel). They set about making Britain a province of the Roman Empire.

The Roman army landed in east Kent, possibly at Richborough, which became the gateway to Britain. From there they headed to Camulodunum (modern Colchester), the capital of the Trinovantes tribe. The fall of Camulodunum in the summer of AD 43 was the

start of the Roman conquest of Britain. Some tribes fought the Romans. However, others were friendly. Among the friendly tribes was the Brigantes – the tribe whose territory covered much of northern England, including Yorkshire. The Romans claimed eleven British rulers had surrendered to them at Camulodunum, and it's thought that Queen Cartimandua, ruler of the Brigantes, was one.

Cartimandua, Queen of the Brigantes

Date of birth: Unknown
Date of death: Unknown
Famous for: Last ruler of the Brigantes
Reigned: AD 50s and 60s
What she did:
- Made a treaty with the Romans.
- Handed over British resistance fighter Caratacus.
- Fell out with her – husband, Venutius.
- Had to be rescued by the Romans.

Cartimandua showed her support for the Romans in AD 51, when she gave them Caratacus. He was a British leader who had fought the Romans, and had fled north to the kingdom of the Brigantes where he hoped Cartimandua would shelter him. Big mistake for Caratacus and for Cartimandua.

Caratacus wasn't the only Briton to feel betrayed by Cartimandua. Her husband, King Venutius, fell out with her, and the couple were divorced. It was only a matter of time before civil war broke out amongst the Brigantes – Venutius versus Cartimandua.

Things came to a head in AD 68 or 69, when Venutius tried to overthrow Cartimandua. This was a headache for the Romans. The last thing they wanted was for Venutius to start a rebellion of the British tribes.

The Romans sent a task force of cavalry and foot soldiers into Brigantian territory. They rescued Cartimandua, leaving Venutius in control of the Brigantes. The tribe was now hostile to the Romans – their one-time friend had become the enemy of Rome.

The Romans conquer Yorkshire

In AD 71 a new governor was put in charge of Britain. He was Quintus Petillius Cerialis, and he decided to sort out the Brigantes. The way to do this was to conquer them. Unfortunately, not a lot is known about the military campaign of Cerialis in Yorkshire. However, a Roman writer called Tacitus said this about it:

"Cerialis at once struck terror into their hearts by attacking the state of the Brigantes, which is said to be the most populous tribe in the whole province. After a series of battles - some of them bloody - Cerialis had conquered the major part of their territory."

It's known that Cerialis headed north into Brigantia from his base at Lindum (modern Lincoln) with the 6,000 men of the Ninth Legion (IX Hispana). Once inside enemy territory, he set up a temporary military camp at a place where two rivers met, the Ouse and its tributary, the Foss. The camp grew into a fort known to the Romans as Eboracum, which, in time,

became the city of York. To conquer the unruly Brigantes, the Roman battle plan was to attack the tribe's capital at Stanwick, North Yorkshire.

As the Roman force approached Stanwick, Venutius was forced out in an attempt to halt the attack. Britons and Romans clashed somewhere in the vicinity of Scotch Corner, a short distance south of the Brigantian capital. It was the last stand of Venutius. The British king was defeated, and he fled to the western edge of Brigantian territory in Lancashire and Cumbria. The Romans took control of most of Brigantia,

"Clear off, you wretched Brits!"

and to make sure it stayed that way, Governor Cerialis stationed the Ninth Legion at the fort of Eboracum. Roads were built, such as Icknield Street, which brought traffic from the south, and Dere Street, which took travellers north from Eboracum.

More forts were built across Brigantia, and the ones at Piercebridge, just outside North Yorkshire, and at Ilkley, West Yorkshire, were positioned to protect routes from the north and the west – routes which the native British might have used to attack the Romans.

By around AD 80 the threat from the Brigantes was over. They had been pacified, and the Roman conquest of their territory – Yorkshire and beyond – was complete.

"Who wants to play Brit in the middle?"

York under the Romans

The first Roman fort at Eboracum was a cluster of wooden barracks, officers' quarters and stores surrounded by an earth rampart (wall). Along the top of the rampart was a timber palisade (fence), and there were also timber watchtowers.

By the AD 100s the buildings and rampart had been rebuilt in stone. The fort had become a fortress, and for the next three hundred years Eboracum was the headquarters of the Roman army in northern Britain.

Eboracum

Roman name:	Eboracum
Meaning:	Place of the yew trees
Founded:	About AD 71
Status:	From about AD 71, military capital of northern Britain
	From about AD 214, capital of Britannia Inferior (Lower Britain)
	From about AD 293, capital of Britannia Secunda (Lesser Britain)

It didn't take long for civilians to come to Eboracum, and a thriving settlement grew up outside the fortress and on the opposite bank of the River Ouse. In the AD 200s the settlement became a *colonia* (colony) – an honour bestowed on only three other Roman towns in Britain.[1] It was a way of marking Eboracum out as a Roman town in every sense – the best sort of town in the Roman world, where Roman citizens lived and where Roman soldiers settled after they had left the army.

Eboracum was a far-flung outpost of the Roman Empire, about as far away from the city of Rome as it was possible to be (about 1675 km / 1042 miles). Despite the great distance from the capital of the Roman Empire, Eboracum played an important part in Roman history, and several Roman emperors were linked with it. In fact, two emperors actually died in Eboracum.

1. *Camulodunum (Colchester), Lindum (Lincoln) and Glevum (Gloucester).*

Roman emperors connected with York

Hadrian	Visited York, AD 122
Severus	Died in York, AD 211
Constantius I	Died in York, AD 306
Constantine	Son of Constantius, proclaimed emperor in York, AD 306

The end of Roman Yorkshire

Eboracum went into decline in the AD 300s. The population shrank, buildings were abandoned and roads were not looked after. The same was happening in towns across Roman Britain. Then, in the early AD 400s, the Roman legions in Britain were withdrawn in order to protect other parts of the Roman Empire. From then on, a new chapter in the history of Yorkshire was about to begin.

Ten Things You Didn't Know About Roman Yorkshire

1. There's a Roman sewer under York, at the corner of Church Street and Swinegate. It's 1 m (3 ft) high and 45 cm (18 in) wide, and has been traced for 52 m (170 ft). It carried water away from a Roman bath-house.

2. A grain store in Coney Street, York, became infested with beetles. The Romans knocked it down, covered it with clay to seal in the bugs, then built a new store on top.

3. When York railway station was built in 1875, workmen cleared a Roman cemetery out of the way. Inside a stone coffin they found the skeleton of a girl. Her hair had not rotted away. You can see the girl's hair in the Yorkshire Museum, just as it was 1,600 years ago, still tied in bun.

4. In 1941 a large floor mosaic was found at a Roman villa at Brantingham, near Brough, East Yorkshire. In 1948, the mosaic was stolen. It has never been recovered. A second mosaic from the villa is in Hull Museum.

5. In 2007, David and Andrew Whelan (father and son) used metal detectors to search a field near the Roman town of Aldborough, North Yorkshire. They found a lead coffin with a woman's skeleton inside. She had died 1,800 years ago.

6. Stonegate and Petergate are two main streets in York, which cross at right-angles. They began as roads through the Roman fortress of Eboracum. Petergate was the Via Principalis, and Stonegate was the Via Praetoria. Another street, Chapter House Lane, was the Via Decumana.

7. York Minster, York's great medieval cathedral, was built on top of the Roman military headquarters building (the principia). Parts of the Roman building can be seen in the Minster's undercroft, 4.5 m (15 ft) below the present-day ground level.

8. Roman York was a multicultural town. For example, the skeleton of a woman from North Africa has been found. She is known as the Ivory Bangle Lady, because she was buried with an elephant ivory bangle.

9. In the AD 100s, the Romans established a pottery industry at Cantley, near Doncaster, South Yorkshire. The potters who worked there made pots for the kitchen. Some of the potters' names are known, such as Sarrius, who worked there in about AD 170.

10. A cemetery found in the back gardens of Driffield Terrace, York, may be a gladiators' graveyard. Many of the skeletons were headless, as if they had been executed. One had bite marks from a lion, tiger or bear. The man might have died fighting wild animals in an arena.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT, THEY THOUGHT THIS WAS PROGRESS.

If only those Romans could thatch a roof, eh?

Put a sock in it, Egbert.

Between the romans and the vikings

A new period in Yorkshire's history began in the early AD 400s. It spanned about four hundred years, from the departure of the Romans to the arrival of the Vikings in the AD 800s. This period used to be called the Dark Ages. It was a way of saying that after the Romans left, Britain became an uncivilised, unsafe place, as if society had broken down and had taken a step backwards to a darker, dangerous time.

Today's archaeologists and historians don't like calling this period the 'Dark Ages'. They say it was not 'dark' at all, but a time when the future

of Britain was shaped. They prefer to call the bit between the Romans and the Vikings the 'Early Middle Ages'. It's not such a catchy label, but it is a fairer one to use.

The kingdom of Deira

After the Romans left, a struggle began for control of Britain. The country was split into kingdoms. It's thought that most of Yorkshire fell under control of the kingdom of Ebrauc, a name that came from Eboracum, the Roman name for York. However, Ebrauc was soon replaced by the kingdom of Deira, which was founded by settlers called Angles (it's not clear where the name Deira comes from).

The Angles came from Denmark and North Germany, and while they were settling in Yorkshire, other Germanic peoples (Saxons and Jutes) were forming rival kingdoms to the south. Together, these are known as Anglo-Saxon kingdoms, from which the country of England[1] was eventually created.

1. *The Angles gave their name to England, which means 'land of the Angles'.*

At first, the Anglian kingdom of Deira was small. It started in East Yorkshire in the AD 450s (or even before), and by the early AD 600s Deira covered the whole of Yorkshire. York was the capital of Deira, and the Angles called it Eoforwic, meaning 'wild-boar town'.

Archaeologists know when they have dug down to Eoforwic, as they come across a deep layer of what they call 'dark earth'. It's a soil layer that lies on top of the Roman levels – a clear sign that the buildings and roads of Roman York were not cared for after the Romans left. Only the headquarters building of the old Roman fortress was kept in use by the Anglian settlers.

The Angles were not used to living in towns as the Romans had done. Instead, they were used to living in villages, one of which has been found at West Heslerton, North Yorkshire. Excavations there have uncovered the outlines of about two hundred wooden buildings, making it one of the largest digs of an Anglo-Saxon village anywhere in England. The village, which was spread out over a large area, had houses, workshops and stores. It was occupied for about five hundred years,

until it was deserted around AD 850. Villages like this were dotted across the Yorkshire landscape.

Places

1. Eoforwic
2. West Heslerton
3. Lindisfarne

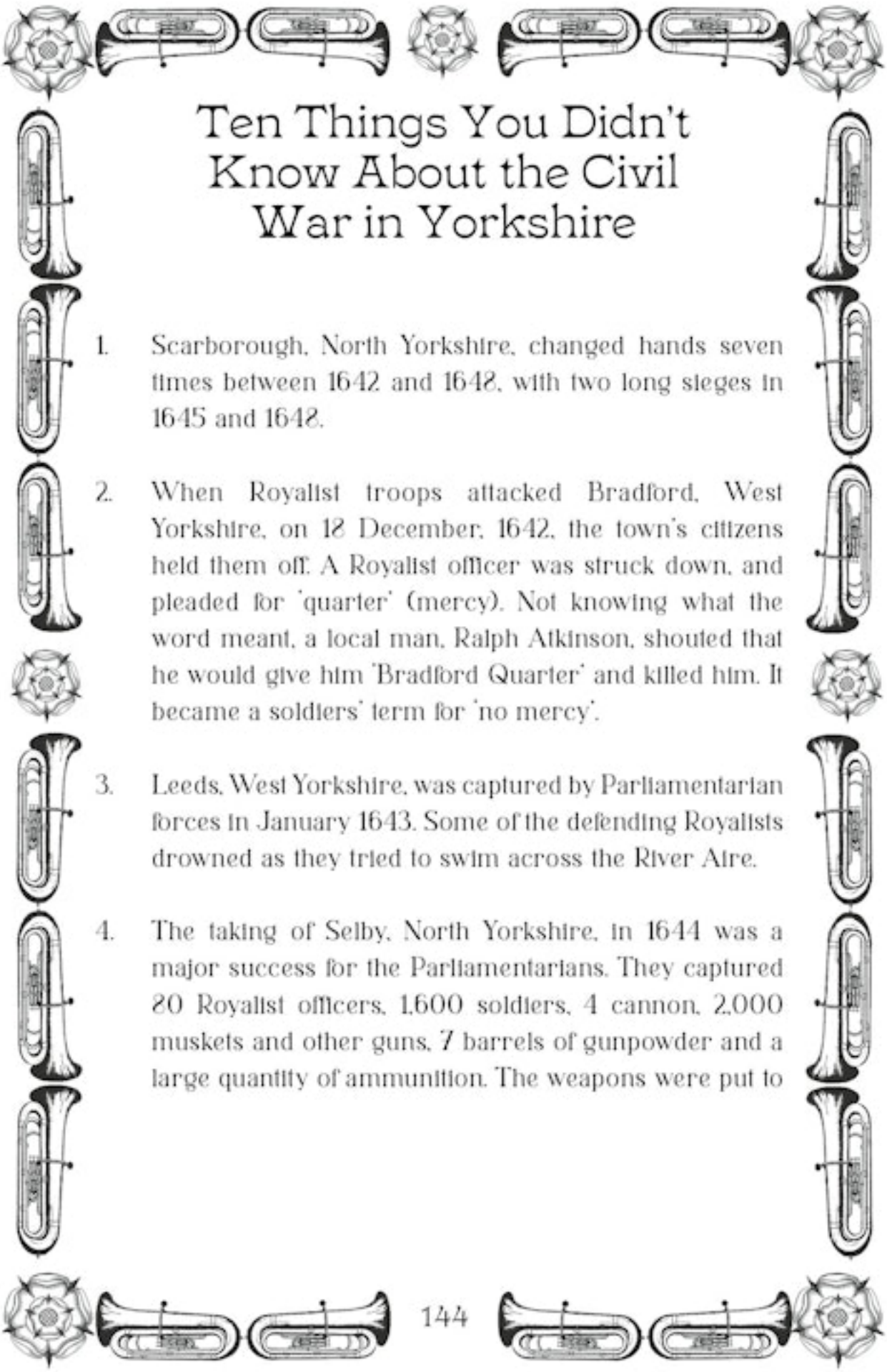## Battle sites

4. Catterick
5. Hatfield Chase
6. Winwidfield

The kingdom of Northumbria

The Angles were incomers to Yorkshire. The locals were the native British, who weren't too keen on sharing their land with the settlers, invaders, outsiders – call them what you will. Battles were fought across Britain between native British and Germanic peoples. In Yorkshire, the Battle of Catterick was fought in about AD 600, between British and Angles. It was a victory for the Angles.

A few years later, the Anglian kingdom of Deira joined with the neighbouring Anglian kingdom of Bernicia to form Northumbria – a vast Anglo-Saxon kingdom which covered much of northern England and southern Scotland. Eoforwic, the capital of Deira, now became the capital of Northumbria. On Easter Day, AD 627, King Edwin of Northumbria was baptised at Eoforwic by Paulinus, the first Bishop of York. This was a big step for Edwin to take. His baptism was a sign of his conversion from paganism to Christianity. What was good for the king was also good for the people of Northumbria, and many followed his example.

Ten Things You Didn't Know About the Civil War in Yorkshire

1. Scarborough, North Yorkshire, changed hands seven times between 1642 and 1648, with two long sieges in 1645 and 1648.

2. When Royalist troops attacked Bradford, West Yorkshire, on 18 December, 1642, the town's citizens held them off. A Royalist officer was struck down, and pleaded for 'quarter' (mercy). Not knowing what the word meant, a local man, Ralph Atkinson, shouted that he would give him 'Bradford Quarter' and killed him. It became a soldiers' term for 'no mercy'.

3. Leeds, West Yorkshire, was captured by Parliamentarian forces in January 1643. Some of the defending Royalists drowned as they tried to swim across the River Aire.

4. The taking of Selby, North Yorkshire, in 1644 was a major success for the Parliamentarians. They captured 80 Royalist officers, 1,600 soldiers, 4 cannon, 2,000 muskets and other guns, 7 barrels of gunpowder and a large quantity of ammunition. The weapons were put to use by the Parliamentarians.

5. At the start of the siege of York, the Royalist defenders tried to burn down buildings outside Bootham Bar, but the Parliamentarians captured the fire-raisers.

6. The Parliamentarians put two mines under the walls of York, but only one exploded. The other bomb failed to go off because the chamber it was in filled up with water.

7. The Battle of Marston Moor began at about 7 o'clock in the evening, and lasted for about two hours.

8. A condition of the surrender of York was that the city would be occupied only by Yorkshiremen, which is what happened. They respected their 'mother city', and although many buildings were destroyed, the city's magnificent churches were not looted by the Parliamentarian troops.

9. Skipton Castle, North Yorkshire, was the last Royalist stronghold in Yorkshire. It surrendered to the Parliamentarians on 21 December 1645, and then the whole of Yorkshire was under their control.

10. And finally ... at the trial of King Charles I in 1649, fifteen Yorkshiremen were amongst the judges, and six were present at his execution.

George wished that they would hurry up and change the law so he could go to school.

It's a dirty job, and someone's got to do it...

...but does it have to be me?

Made in yorkshire and proud of it !

When the dust had settled after the bitter Civil War of the 1640s, peace finally returned to Yorkshire. However, an even bigger conflict was about to begin – the 'battle' between town and country. Over the course of the next two hundred years, Yorkshire changed from an agricultural county to an industrial one. Farmers moved off the land and into the growing towns and factories in search of work and new lifestyles. Britain was entering the industrial age, and Yorkshire was never the same again.

The population boom

In the 1670s, Yorkshire's population was between 350,000 and 430,000, and of these, half lived in the West Riding of Yorkshire.[1] The county town, York, had a population of around 12,000, and Leeds, the second largest town, about 6,000.

In 1801, when the first census was taken of the population of England and Wales, 859,133 people were recorded as living in Yorkshire. In a little over a century, the county's population had doubled.

It then took only fifty years to double again, so that by 1851 there were 1,797,995 people in the whole of Yorkshire. The West Riding still claimed the lion's share of the population, but now it had three out of every four Yorkshirefolk living in and around its thriving towns of Leeds, Bradford and Sheffield.

Yorkshire's population grew rapidly throughout

1. The West Riding of Yorkshire was roughly the area covered by present-day West Yorkshire, South Yorkshire and parts of North Yorkshire, Lancashire, Cumbria and Greater Manchester. It was abolished in 1974 (see page 13).

the nineteenth century, and by 1901 the county's population stood at 3,489,559.

This was the period of the Industrial Revolution, when Britain was the 'workshop of the world', and when the industries of Yorkshire were second-to-none.

Where they lived in 1851

The census of 1851 found that Yorkshire had twelve towns with more than 10,000 inhabitants. Nine of the towns were in the West Riding.

Town	Population	Riding
Leeds	101,343	West
Sheffield	83,447	West
Bradford	52,493	West
Hull	50,670	East
York	36,622	East
Huddersfield	30,880	West
Scarborough	25,830	North
Halifax	25,159	West
Wakefield	16,989	West
Barnsley	14,913	West
Dewsbury	14,049	West
Doncaster	12,052	West

The textile industry

Of Yorkshire's industries, the textile industry (wool, worsted[1] and, to a lesser extent, cotton and silk) has always been the most important.

The Yorkshire countryside is ideally suited to sheep farming, with a plentiful supply of pasture for sheep to graze. In the Middle Ages, the county's monks kept huge flocks of sheep, whose wool they sold to merchants (a flock of 14,000 was kept by the monks of Rievaulx Abbey, North Yorkshire).

Smaller flocks were kept by individual farmers. Many farmers processed the fleeces themselves, weaving woollen yarn into cloth on handlooms. They took the finished cloth, known as a 'piece' (a 27 m / 30 yard length), to a nearby town for sale at a 'piece hall'. Halifax Piece Hall, which opened in 1779, was one of Yorkshire's largest, with 300 separate rooms set around a courtyard.

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1. *Woollen cloth made from best-quality yarn. It has a smoother, less whiskery texture than other types of woollen cloth. Named after the Norfolk village of Worstead, where the cloth was produced in the Middle Ages, long before it was made in the West Riding.*

A handweaver's life

Corneltus Ashworth (1752-1821) was a farmer and handloom weaver from Ovenden, near Halifax. He wrote a diary in which he recorded his daily work, the weather (very important for farmers then, as now), and events he'd been to. Here are some of his entries.

1 November 1782 *A fine frosty clear drafty day. Sized a warp* [soaked woollen threads] *and churned* [made butter] *in the forenoon. Wove 5 yards.*

4 November 1782 *Wove 6 3/4 yards.*

2 July 1783 *A dull day very hot with a good deal of thunder and a little rain in the afternoon. I carried my piece* [a length of woven cloth] *to Halifax. In the afternoon weeded garden and other jobs.*

16 August 1783 *I churned, sized a warp in the morning. Went to Halifax and saw two men hanged on Becon Hill, sentenced at York for activity in riot.*

11 July 1784 *Employed in filling up the part of the dam and other work. Went to Halifax and bought a new hat at twelve shillings. Had a new wheelbarrow brought home.*

For centuries, farmer-weavers like Cornelius Ashworth (see page 151) had woven woollen cloth at home on handlooms. It was a cottage industry, and it was wiped out by the factory system.

In the 1770s, factories powered by water had started to transform the cotton industry in Lancashire. By the 1790s, steam-power was replacing water-power.

The factory system spread into the West Riding of Yorkshire from neighbouring Lancashire, and the county's first textile factories were built at Keighley and Addingham in the 1790s. They sped up the process of spinning cotton.

After Yorkshire's cotton industry, it was the county's worsted industry that took up the new technology of the industrial age, but the woollen industry lagged behind.

Although mills with machines for spinning wool into yarn were built in the 1820s, the age-old practice of weaving it into cloth by hand carried on for many years.

Trouble at t'mill

The factory system wasn't to everyone's liking because machines were doing people out of their jobs. In 1812, mills and machines in Leeds and Huddersfield were damaged by men who feared losing their jobs. They were known as Luddites.

William Horsfall, the owner of a mill at Ottiwells, near Huddersfield, was shot and killed by George Mellor. Mellor was arrested, and together with 16 fellow Luddites was hanged at York. Seven others were transported to Australia.

The pace of industrial change was remarkable. In just five years, between 1833 and 1838, the number of West Riding mills jumped from 129 to 606 – a rate of 95 new mills being opened each year. By 1850, the area had 880 mills. Ultimately there were nearly 2,000 mills in the West Riding.

One of the most famous mills was Salt's Mill, near Bradford. It was built in the 1850s by Titus Salt (1803–76), who even built a village for the mill's workers to live in. The village was

named Saltaire – a combination of the founder's surname with the name of the local river, the River Aire.

Saltaire was a great improvement on the slum housing many of the workers were used to. It had wash-houses with running water, a hospital, library, concert hall, billiard room, gymnasium and a school.

Yorkshire slavery

Richard Oastler (1789-1861), a factory reformer from Leeds, was shocked that children worked in Yorkshire's mills. He wrote a letter to the Leeds Mercury (16 October 1830) describing them as places of slavery. Here's part of his letter:

'Thousands of little children, both male and female, but principally female, from seven to fourteen years of age, are daily compelled to labour from six o'clock in the morning to seven in the evening, with only – Britons, blush while you read it! – with only thirty minutes allowed for eating and recreation.'

Five Things You Didn't Know About Yorkshire's textile industry

1. Lister's Mill, Bradford, built in 1871, was the largest silk factory in the world. During World War II, it produced 2,140 km (1,330 miles) of parachute silk.

2. In 1813, Benjamin Law invented shoddy – a type of soft woollen cloth made from shredded rags, old woollen goods and waste from spinning and weaving. It was mainly made in the mills of Dewsbury, Ossett and Batley. Today, 'shoddy' has come to mean anything that is poor quality.

3. Mungo was invented at a similar time as shoddy. A tougher cloth, also made from waste, it was used for army greatcoats. Its name might come from the Yorkshire word for a mongrel dog – a mungo. Like the dog, the cloth was also the result of a mixture.

4. By 1850, the West Riding produced 90 per cent of all Britain's worsted goods.

5. Today, cloth woven by A W Hainsworth & Sons at Pudsey, West Yorkshire, is supplied to the British Army for parade uniforms. They also make the fastest snooker cloth in the world!

The steel industry

Yorkshire's steel industry was centred on the south of the county, and one town more than any other: Sheffield. Steel was first made in the Sheffield area in the 1640s, and as the raw materials of the industry – coal and iron ore – were in plentiful supply nearby, many forges and furnaces were set up.

By the 1740s, Sheffield was becoming known for the manufacture of steel cutlery – and then a Sheffield steel-maker invented a new type of steel that eventually made Sheffield world famous.

He was Benjamin Huntsman (1704–76), a clockmaker from Doncaster. He thought the steel he used for his clock springs wasn't good enough. Huntsman was sure it could be improved, so he began experimenting to find a way of making a harder type of steel. He succeeded, and by 1751 Huntsman was working in Sheffield as a steel-maker.

Huntsman's invention could have made him a fortune. Instead, his secret method of making cast-steel was stolen by a rival who, according to a story, pretended to be a homeless beggar in need of somewhere to sleep.

Helpful Huntsman took pity on the fake beggar and, believing his story, invited him into his workshop where he discovered the inventor's secret.

It's impossible to say if the beggar story is true or not, but the fact is that Huntsman's method of cast-steel production was eventually copied by Sheffield's steel-makers, and the town was on its way to earning its nickname: Steel City.

By 1820, Sheffield was known nationally and internationally for its steel, and for its cutlery. By the 1850s, Sheffield and the surrounding area made 90 per cent of all the steel in Britain.
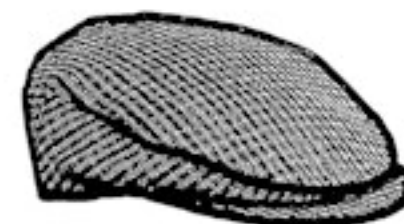
The coal industry

Coal was the fuel of the Industrial Revolution, and the colliers of Yorkshire went deep beneath the county to dig for this 'black gold'.

The Yorkshire coalfield, covering a large chunk of south Yorkshire from Leeds and Bradford down to Sheffield and Rotherham, became one of Britain's major producers. In 1851, together with the Midland coalfield which it joined onto, some eight million tons of coal was mined.

By the 1860s, there were almost 400 pits working the Yorkshire coalfield, each with its own name. Who knows what was going through the minds of Mr Crawshaw and Mr Blackeley when they named their Dewsbury pit 'Babes in the Wood'! As for the Balaklava pit at Leeds, it was named after the Battle of Balaclava, fought in the Crimea, Russia, in 1854. Pits in the Barnsley area took the name Main, such as Blacker Main,

Denaby Main and Edmund's Main. Halifax had pits called Bottom – Bank Bottom, Binns Bottom and Harp Bottom.

In 1913, Yorkshire's pits produced 27 million tons of coal – a bit under 10 per cent of all the coal mined in Britain that year (this was the peak year for coal production in Britain). In 1929, Yorkshire supplied 33.5 million tons of coal – 13 per cent of all the coal mined in Britain.

Coal – the 'black gold' of Yorkshire
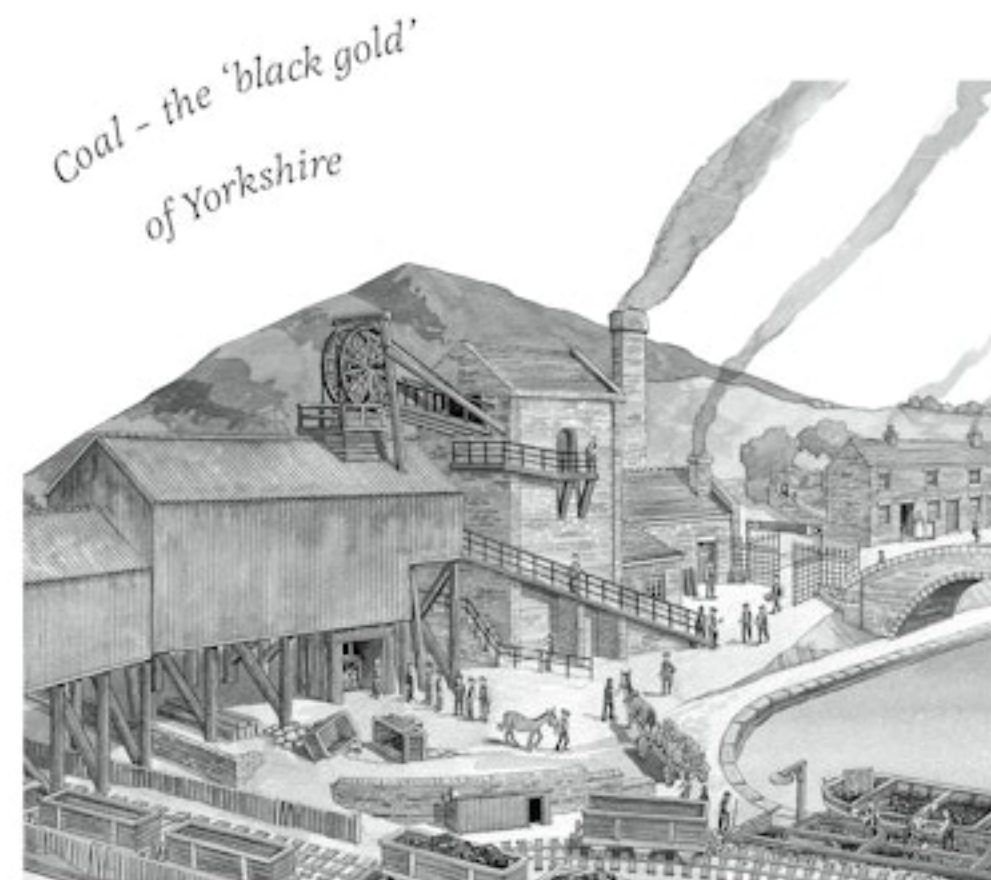
Yorkshire pit disasters

- **Huskar Pit, Silkstone, 1838**
  The pit flooded and many children drowned (James Burkinshaw, 7, Sarah Jukes, 8, Catherine Garnet, 8, and 23 others). This disaster led to the banning of female and child labour underground.

- **Warren Vale, Rawmarsh, 1851**
  An explosion killed 52 miners.

- **Lower Elsecar, Barnsley, 1852**
  An explosion killed 12 miners. In response, the first underground fan was fitted to improve ventilation and stop dangerous gases from building up.

- **Lundhill, Barnsley, 1857**
  An explosion killed 189 men and boys. The Kellett family lost seven sons.

- **The Oaks, Barnsley, 1866**
  An explosion killed 361 men and boys. A second explosion killed 27 more, sent down in a rescue party. This was the worst colliery disaster in England, and the second worst in Britain (a disaster at a Welsh colliery killed more).

Yorkshire pits of the past

In 1984, Yorkshire had 56 working collieries, but when Cortonwood colliery was threatened with closure, the county's mineworkers (and others across Britain) went on a long and bitter strike. The miners lost, and the government got on with the painful business of shutting down the pits.[1]

Here are some of the many Yorkshire pits that have closed in recent years.

Pit	Town	Closed
Elsecar Main	Barnsley	1983 Acton
Hall	Wakefield	1985
Brookhouse	Rotherham	1985
Cortonwood	Barnsley	1985
Yorkshire Main	Doncaster	1985
Woolley	Wakefield	1987
Barnsley Main	Barnsley	1991
Dinnington	Rotherham	1991
Thurcroft	Rotherham	1991
Grimethorpe	Barnsley	1992
North Selby	Selby	1999
Stillingfleet	Selby	2004
Rossington	Doncaster	2006

1. Today, there are only three collieries left working in Yorkshire, at Kellingley (Knottingley), Maltby (Rotherham) and Hatfield (Doncaster).

FACT: *A company in Hull can make 20 million frozen Yorkshire puddings a week.*

Coo! Coo!

FACT:

In 1998, a racing pigeon was given away by his Skipton owner to a friend in Spain. In 2008, the pigeon flew back to its old loft in Skipton. The bird's name was Boomerang!

FACT: *Black pudding, pig's pudding, blood pudding – it's a sausage eaten at breakfast.*

Yorkshire factfile

id you know that there are more chickens in Yorkshire than people? Or that there are more people than sheep? That in Yorkshire they put custard on their Christmas tusky, and gravy on their pudding? It's a county of surprises, a county of firsts, and a county to explore.

Summat ter eyt or sup?[1]

At the start of a meal, Yorkshirefolk might be heard saying their very own grace:

God bless us all,
An' mak us able,
Ta eyt all t' stuff 'at's on this table.

A Yorkshire Sunday roast dinner (the meal between breakfast and tea) wouldn't be complete without Yorkshire pudding. Made from eggs, flour, milk, water and a little salt and pepper, the ingredients are blended into a batter which is then cooked in a baking tin. Traditionally, the tin was placed under a joint of beef as it roasted. The meat's juices dripped into the pudding mix and were absorbed by it.

Authentic Yorkshire pudding is served *before* the main course, not *with it*. It should be served with beef or onion gravy.

1. Something to eat or drink?

Christmas tusky

An area between Wakefield, Morley and Rothwell is known as the Rhubarb Triangle. Farmers here produce forced rhubarb (known as tusky), made to grow out of season and be ready at Christmas.

Here are some of Yorkshire's other claims to food fame:

- **Black pudding**
Thick black sausages made from pigs' blood.

- **Cheese**
Swaledale, Wensleydale, Cotherstone and Coverdale are traditional cheeses.

- **Turkey**
Britain's first turkeys came to Boynton, near Bridlington, from North America in the 1550s.

- **Fat rascals**
Small, round cakes, similar to scones.

- **Fish and chips**
Britain's national dish, 'reinvented' by Yorkshireman Harry Ramsden in the 1920s.

The Cawood Feast

On 15 January, 1464, George Neville held a feast for 2,500 guests at Cawood Castle, near Selby, North Yorkshire, in celebration of becoming Archbishop of York. It became known as the Great Feast of Cawood due to its belly-bursting size. On the menu were:

Meat and fish
- 4,000 pigeons · 4,000 rabbits
- 4,000 pasties and cold venison
- 2,000 geese · 2,000 chickens
- 1,000 sheep · 1,000 capons (cockerels)
- 608 pikes and breams (freshwater fish)
- 500 stags, bucks and roes
- 500 partridges
- 400 mallards and teals (ducks)
- 400 woodcocks (wild birds)
- 400 plovers (wild birds)
- 304 pigs · 304 veals (calves)
- 200 pheasants · 104 oxen
- 104 peacocks · 12 porpoises and seals
- 6 wild bulls

Dessert
- 4,000 cold tarts · 3,000 cold custards
- 2,000 hot custards · 1,000 jellies

Drinks
- 300 casks of ale · 100 casks of wine

Claims to fame

Yorkshire has its fair share of unusual people.

· Oldest Briton
Henry Jenkins, buried in Bolton-on-Swale, near Catterick, North Yorkshire, is said to have been 169 years old when he died in 1670.

· The Yorkshire Giant
Henry Alexander Cooper (known as Harry), an iron-ore miner from South Skelton, East Yorkshire, was 2.63 m (8 ft 7.75 in) tall. He ended up in a circus, and died in 1899.

Fortune-teller

Ursula Southeil (c. 1488-1561), better known as Mother Shipton, was born in a cave at Knaresborough, North Yorkshire.

She is famous for allegedly being able to predict the future. Her prophecies are said to have included the defeat of the Spanish Armada (1588), the Civil War (1642-1651), the Fire of London (1666), the motor car, the telephone and even space exploration.

Yorkshire inventors

From a 'flat-pack' bridge designed to move troops across rivers, to the Little Nipper mousetrap. From a road stud that reflects the light of car headlights, to steel that never rusts – Yorkshire has given them to the world.

Who	What	When
John Harrison	Marine clocks	1700s
George Dunhill	Liquorice sweets	1760
Joseph Bramah	Ballcock	1778
Joseph Hansom	Hansom cab	1834
John Kilner	Glass jars	1842
George Cayley	Glider	1853
James Atkinson	Mousetrap	1897
Percy Shaw	Road cat's eyes	1934
Donald Bailey	Portable bridge	1942

Stainless steel

In 1913, Harry Brearley (1871-1948) invented 'rustless steel' while working at the Brown-Firth Research Laboratory in Sheffield. It became known as 'stainless steel' because it did not rust or tarnish.

Famous sons and daughters

Alan Bennett (born 1934)
Playwright and actor, born in Leeds.

James Cook (1728-79)
Sea captain, born in Marton.

Frederick Delius (1862-1934)
Composer, born in Bradford.

Judi Dench (born 1934)
Actress, born in York.

David Hockney (born 1937)
Artist, born in Bradford.

Leonard Hutton (1916-90)
Ashes-winning cricket captain, born in Pudsey.

Amy Johnson (1903-41)
Pioneer flier, born in Hull.

Henry Moore (1898-1986)
Sculptor, born in Castleford.

Helen Sharman (born 1963)
First British astronaut, born in Sheffield.

William Wilberforce (1759-1833)
Anti-slavery campaigner, born in Hull.

The Brontë sisters

In the 1800s, three sisters, who lived at Haworth, near Bradford, wrote some of the most famous books in the English language:

• Anne Brontë wrote Agnes Grey.
• Emily Brontë wrote Wuthering Heights.
• Charlotte Brontë wrote Jane Eyre.

On the farm

Every year, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs counts the animals on Britain's farms. In 2009, Yorkshire had:

Animal	Total
Chickens	13,057,261
Sheep	2,116,969
Pigs	1,255,562
Cattle	568,343
Ducks	538,612
Turkeys	399,061
Horses	26,662
Goats	14,424
Geese	11,551

Where to see sea birds

Britain's largest gathering of sea birds is at Bempton Cliffs, East Yorkshire. Between April and August the cliffs are home to 200,000 noisy gannets, fulmars, guillemots, razorbills, kittiwakes and puffins.

Counting sheep

Wensleydale shepherds once had their own peculiar way of counting sheep:

1	yan	11	yan-dick
2	tean	12	tean-dick
3	tither	13	tither-dick
4	mither	14	mither-dick
5	pip	15	bumper
6	teaser	16	yan-a-bum
7	leaser	17	tean-a-bum
8	catra	18	tither-a-bum
9	horna	19	mither-a-bum
10	dick	20	jigger ... and so on

What the 'eck is 'e on about?

No idea, mate.

Fur and feather

Sheep on the moors, birds on the cliffs, and man's best friend – they're all in Yorkshire.

• Swaledale sheep
A hardy breed with off-white wool and curled horns. Able to live on the Yorkshire uplands in all weathers. A symbol of the Yorkshire Dales.

• Yorkshire Terrier and Airedale Terrier
The little dog known as a Yorkie was developed in the 1800s by coal miners. The Airedale came from Barnsley in the 1860s.

• Whippet
A long dog, like a greyhound but smaller, once used by Yorkshire coal miners for racing.

• Ferret-legging
Ferret-legging was popular among coal miners in Yorkshire, who competed to see who could keep a wriggling ferret down their trousers the longest. For 29 years, the world record was 5 hrs 26 mins, set by Reg Mellor. It was beaten in 2010 by a retired headmaster from Staffordshire.

Cricket

Cricket has been played in Yorkshire since at least 1751. Sheffield Cricket Club, which began around this time, is the ancestor of Yorkshire County Cricket Club. Some of YCCC's records are:

County titles won

31 including 1 shared (most by any club)

Highest score

887 against Warwickshire (1896)

Most runs in a career

38,561 by Herbert Sutcliffe (1919–45)

Most runs in one season

2,883 by Herbert Sutcliffe (1932)

Most wickets

3,608 by Wilfred Rhodes (1898–1930)

FACT: From 1863 to1992, YCCC was famous for insisting that its players must have been born in Yorkshire. The rule was dropped in 1992.

Rugby

Yorkshire is the birthplace of rugby league. It came about in 1895, when twenty-two Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire clubs broke away from the Rugby Union and set up the Northern Rugby Football Union. They agreed to do this at a meeting held in Huddersfield. In 1922, the NRFU changed its name to the Rugby Football League.

Yorkshire clubs who formed the Northern Union in 1895

- Batley FC   • Bradford FC
- Brighouse Rovers FC
- Broughton Rangers FC
- Halifax FC   • Huddersfield FC
- Hull FC   • Hunslet FC
- Leeds FC   • Liversedge FC
- Manningham FC
- Wakefield Trinity FC

FACT: The biggest attendance at a rugby league game was in 1954, when 102,569 supporters squeezed into Odsal Stadium, Bradford, to watch Halifax vs. Warrington.

Football

Yorkshire's place in footballing history starts with Sheffield Football Club[1]. It is the world's oldest football club, founded in 1857, and began life when players from the town's cricket club started playing football after their cricket season had ended for the year.

Two of the Sheffield FC players (Nathaniel Creswick and William Prest) devised a set of rules for the new club, known as the Sheffield Rules. As more clubs were formed in the Sheffield area, they agreed to follow the same rules. These northern rules became the basis of the Football Association's rules (the Laws of the Game) when they were created in 1863.

What Sheffield Rules have given to football:

- Free kicks for fouls
- Corners
- Throw-ins
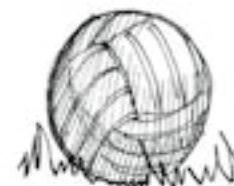
1. Not to be confused with other football clubs named Sheffield – Sheffield Wednesday Football Club (founded in 1867) or Sheffield United Football Club (founded in 1889).

Yorkshire dictionary

Yorkshire	Definition
allus	always
aye	yes
babby	baby
baggin	packed lunch
cack-'anded	left-handed, clumsy
chuffed	pleased, excited
dale	valley
dursn't	dare not
eee-by-gum!	oh, my word!
ey up!	look out!
fantickles	freckles
fatther	father
gander	look at
gerr away!	get away!
hast ta?	have you?
hutch up	move over
in't	in the
jiggered	very tired
kecks	trousers or underwear
lass	girl
lewk	look
manky	not nice, rotten
mardy	moody, sulky
nouse	sense
nowt	nothing
'ow do	how are you, hello
owt	anything
parkin	gingerbread
parky	chilly
reet	right
rift	to burp
scran	food
sithee	goodbye
thissen	yourself
thosty	thirsty
uggrum	pig
urchin	hedgehog
wang	throw
watter	water
yam	home
yed	head

Some Yorkshire sayings

- "Put t'wood in t'oil.": Put the wood in the hole (close the door).

- "Sit thissen dahn an' tell me abaht it.": Sit yourself down and tell me about it.

- "Tha' can allus tell a Yorkshireman, but tha' can't tell 'im much.": You can always tell a Yorkshireman, but you can't tell him much.

Highest, longest, deepest

Highest mountain: Mickle Fell, 788 m (2,585 ft), North Pennines, and just within the historic county of Yorkshire.

Largest natural lake: Hornsea Mere, west of Hornsea, East Yorkshire, 189 hectares (467 acres).

Highest waterfall above ground: Hardraw Force, Yorkshire Dales, 30 m (100 ft).

Highest waterfall below ground: Inside Gaping Gill cave system, North Yorkshire, 102 m (335 ft).

Highest earth filled dam: Scammonden, near Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, 73.76 m (242 ft).

Highest sea-cliff: Boulby, North Yorkshire, 203 m (666 ft).

Deepest well: In St. James's Square, Boroughbridge, North Yorkshire, 78 m (256 ft).

Longest place-name in England: Sutton-under-Whitestonecliffe, North Yorkshire (27 letters).

Largest natural underground chamber: Gaping Gill, North Yorkshire, 140 m long, 27 m wide, 34 m high (460 ft by 89 ft by 112 ft).

Longest river: River Aire, 142 km (88 miles).

Deepest cave: Gaping Gill, North Yorkshire, 197.5 m (648 ft) deep.

Tallest tree: A lime tree at Duncombe Park near Helmsley, North Yorkshire, 47 m (154 ft).

Longest station seat in Europe: A wooden bench at Scarborough Station is 139 m (456 ft) long. It seats 228 passengers.

Longest, deepest and highest canal tunnel: Standedge Tunnel, West Yorkshire, on the Huddersfield Narrow Canal. It is 5,029 m (16,499 ft) long, 194 m (636 ft) underground at the deepest point, and 196 m (643 ft) above sea level.

Yorkshire Day - 1 August

The shake-up to the historic county of Yorkshire in 1974, which did away with the Ridings and brought in the new counties of North, West and South Yorkshire (see page 13), did something else as well.

The following year, the Yorkshire Ridings Society created Yorkshire Day – a day to celebrate the historic county of Yorkshire. The date chosen was 1 August.
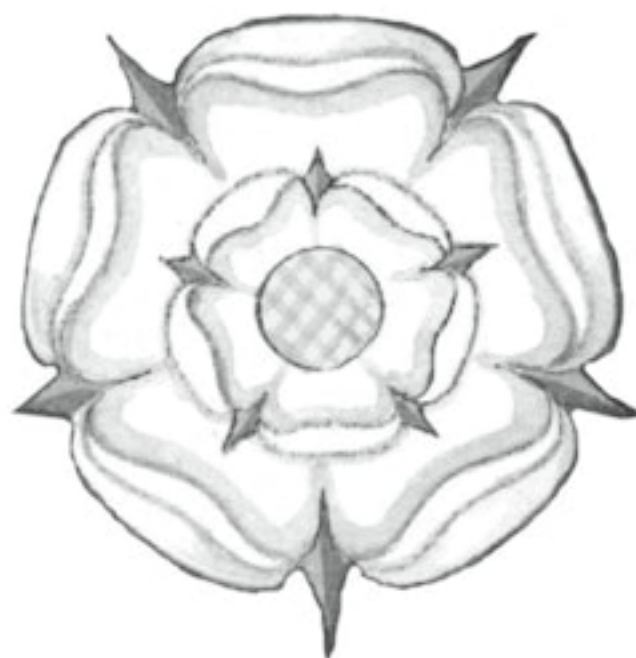
Acknowledgements

Glossary

abbot The head person of a monastery.

amber Fossilised resin from ancient trees, usually found washed up on beaches.

bailey An area at the foot of a motte where buildings stood. It was surrounded by a rampart.

barrow A prehistoric burial mound.

Brigantes An Iron Age British tribe whose homeland was centred on Yorkshire.

cloister A covered walkway in a monastery, open along one side.

cottage industry When something is made on a small-scale, often from a person's home.

handloom A machine used to weave cloth, operated by hand.

Luddite A person who destroyed factory machines because they were causing workers to lose their jobs. Named after **Ned Ludd**, a weaver from Leicestershire.

minster An early church built as a missionary teaching church, from where Christianity could spread.

monastery The place where a community of monks live, often built in a secluded, quiet place.

moneyer A person whose job was to produce coins.

motte A mound of soil on which a small timber castle was built.

mungo A type of tough woollen cloth made from waste or old wool.

palisade A timber fence; a defensive structure.

Parliamentarian A soldier in the English Civil War who supported Parliament. Also known as a Roundhead.

pestilence An epidemic disease; plague.

pewter A soft grey metal made from tin and lead, used for kitchen utensils and tableware.

piece A length of woven woollen cloth.

rampart An embankment of earth built around a fort or a castle; a defensive structure.

refectory The dining area of a monastery.

Riding Yorkshire used to be divided into three parts called Ridings, from an Old English word meaning 'thirds'.

Royalist A soldier in the English Civil War who supported the king. Also known as a Cavalier.

shoddy A type of soft woollen cloth made from waste or old wool.

slum A very poor type of house.

transported A punishment once used in Britain in which people were sent (transported) to lands overseas, such as Australia.

tusky Rhubarb.

tyke A nickname for a person from Yorkshire.

worsted A type of smooth woollen cloth made from best quality yarn.

yarn Fine thread used for weaving.

Timeline of Yorkshire history

c.9,000 BC	The oldest known evidence of human activity in Yorkshire, from Victoria Cave, near Settle.
c.8,700 BC	Mesolithic hunter-gatherers set up Star Carr campsite at the edge of Lake Pickering, near Scarborough.
c.3,500 BC	Three Neolithic henges built at Thornborough, near Ripon.
c.1,800 BC	The Ferriby Bronze Age boat was made.
c.1,600 BC	The Rudston Monolith, a standing stone, was set up.
c.500s BC	Yorkshire becomes the homeland of the Brigantes tribe.
c.300 BC	An Iron Age log boat found at Hasholme was made.
AD 50s–60s	Reign of Queen Cartimandua, last ruler of the Brigantes.
68/69	King Venutius tried to overthrow Queen Cartimandua.
71	Eboracum (York) is founded by Roman Ninth Legion. Becomes military capital of northern Britain.
70s	Romans defeat the Brigantes, somewhere near Scotch Corner.
80s	Yorkshire is pacified and becomes part of Roman Britain.
100s	Roman fort at York rebuilt in stone; pottery industry established at Cantley, near Doncaster.
122	Emperor Hadrian visits York.

211	Emperor Severus dies in York.
214	York becomes the capital of Britannia Inferior (Lower Britain).
293	York becomes the capital of Britannia Secunda (Lesser Britain).
306	Emperor Constantius I dies in York.
306	Constantine is declared emperor in York.
300s	Roman York declines.
450s	Start of the Anglian kingdom of Deira, East Yorkshire.
c.600	Battle of Catterick, between British and Angles.
600s	Kingdom of Deira covers all Yorkshire, with Eoforwic (York) as its capital. Joins with Anglian kingdom of Bernicia to form the Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Northumbria. York is capital of Northumbria.
627	King Edwin of Northumbria is baptised in York.
633	Battle of Hatfield Chase, near Doncaster, between Northumbrians and Mercians. King Edwin is killed.
655	Battle of Winwidfield, near Leeds, between Northumbrians and Mercians. Mercian King Penda is killed.
866	Vikings capture York, which they name Jorvik.
876	Halfdan becomes the first Viking king of Jorvik.
927	Athelstan, Anglo-Saxon king of Wessex, seizes Jorvik from the Vikings.
937	Battle of Brunanburgh, possibly somewhere in the Rotherham/Sheffield area, between Anglo-Saxons and Vikings and their British allies.
954	Battle of Stainmore. Eric Bloodaxe, the last Viking king of York, is killed. Yorkshire is absorbed into the emerging kingdom of England.
1065	First recorded use of the name 'Yorkshire'.

1066	Battle of Fulford Bridge, near York, between Vikings and English. York is captured by Vikings. Battle of Stamford Bridge, near York, between Vikings and English. Viking king is killed.
1068	Norman King William I (the Conqueror) arrives in York. A motte-and-bailey castle is built.
1068	A second motte-and-bailey castle is built in York.
1069	Yorkshire's first monastery, Selby Abbey, is founded.
1069–70	The Harrying of the North, in which much of northern England was laid to waste by the Normans.
1138	Battle of the Standard, Northallerton. A Norman army defeats a Scottish army.
1190	Massacre of Jews at York Castle.
1220s	Work begins on building York Minster.
1328	King Edward III marries Philippa of Hainault in York Minster.
1349	Black Death plague reaches Yorkshire.
1400	King Richard II dies at Pontefract Castle.
1472	York Minster completed.
1455	Wars of the Roses begin.
1460	Battle of Wakefield, West Yorkshire; Richard, Duke of York, is killed.
1461	Battle of Towton, North Yorkshire; Edward, Duke of York, crowned King Edward IV.
1483	Council of the North established in York.
1536	Dissolution of the Monasteries begins; Pilgrimage of Grace; rebels seize York.
1568	Mary, Queen of Scots, is imprisoned at Bolton Castle.
1570	Guy Fawkes born in York.
1586	Margaret Clitherow executed in York.

1641	Council of the North closed down.
1642	King Charles I makes York his capital; First Siege of Hull, in the English Civil War.
1643	Battles of Seacroft Moor and Adwalton Moor, West Yorkshire.
1644	Siege of York; Battle of Marston Moor, North Yorkshire.
1645	Surrender of Skipton Castle to Parliamentarians.
1740s	Rise of the Sheffield cutlery industry.
1779	Halifax Piece Hall built.
1790s	Factory system comes to Yorkshire, with cotton mills built at Keighley and Addingham.
1812	Textile machines damaged in Huddersfield by Luddites.
1850s	Salt's Mill built at Saltaire, near Bradford; Sheffield produces 90 per cent of all Britain's steel.
1860s	400 collieries working in Yorkshire.
1895	Rugby league established at a meeting in Huddersfield.
1913	Stainless steel invented in Sheffield.
1929	Yorkshire collieries produce 13 per cent of all coal mined in Britain.
1942	York is bombed by the German Luftwaffe.
1974	Local government reorganisation abolishes the Yorkshire Ridings and replaces them with new counties.
1976–81	The Coppergate Viking dig, in York.
1984	York Minster damaged by fire; Jorvik Viking Centre opens, in York.
2007	Vale of York Viking Hoard discovered.
2012	Major exhibition of landscape paintings by Bradford-born David Hockney at the Royal Academy, London.

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