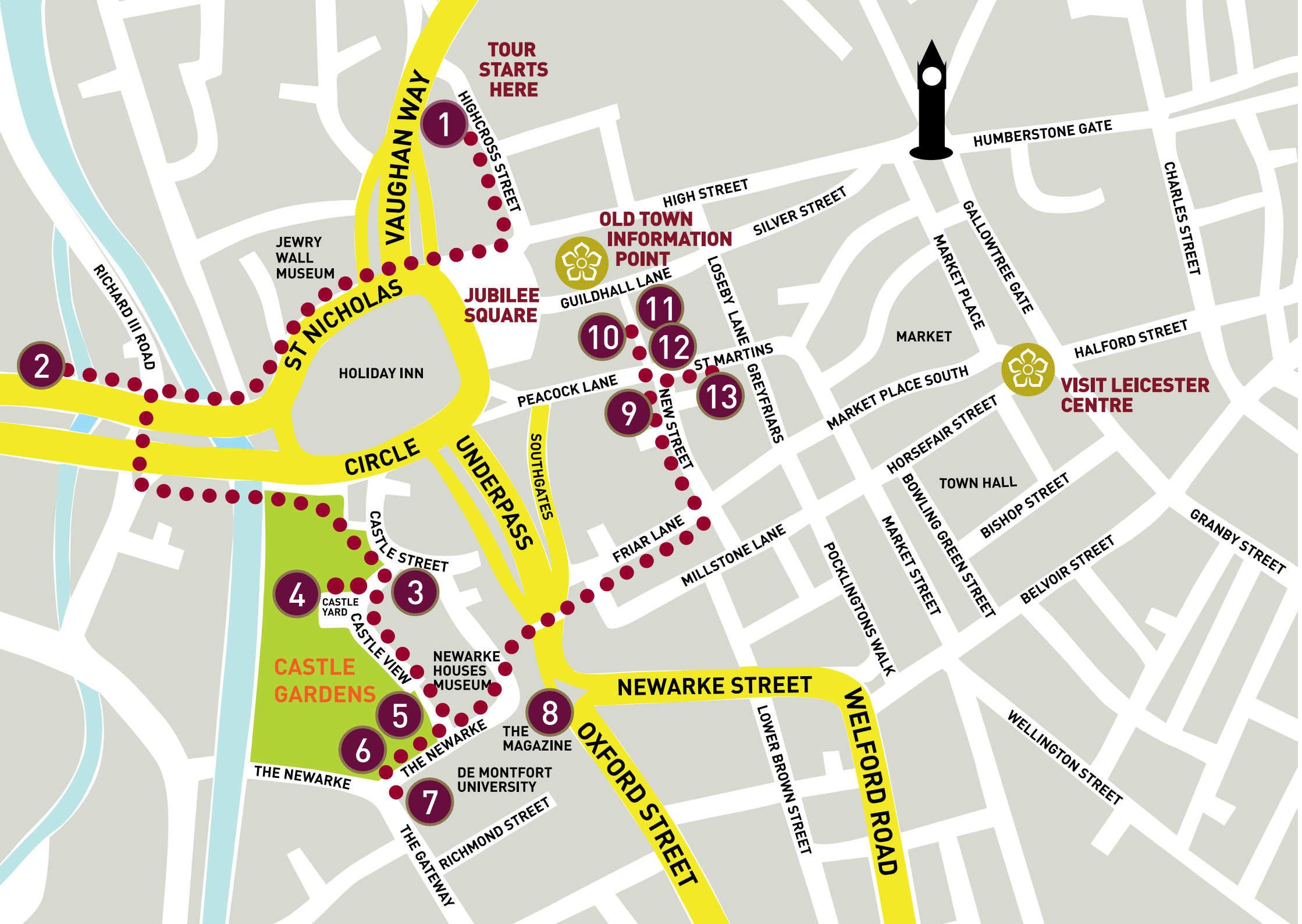


King Richard III WALKING TRAIL



Sculptor: James Butler MBE RA


RUI
LEICESTER



TOUR STARTS HERE

1

HIGHCROSS STREET

OLD TOWN INFORMATION POINT



10

11

12

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13

JUBILEE SQUARE



VISIT LEICESTER CENTRE

JEWRY WALL MUSEUM

ST NICHOLAS

HOLIDAY INN

CIRCLE

UNDERPASS

CASTLE GARDENS

4

CASTLE YARD

3

6

5

NEWARKE HOUSES MUSEUM

THE NEWARKE

7

DE MONTFORT UNIVERSITY

THE MAGAZINE

8

OXFORD STREET

NEWARKE STREET

WELLFORD ROAD

RICHARD III ROAD

VAUGHAN WAY

HIGH STREET

SILVER STREET

HUMBERSTONE GATE

CHARLES STREET

GALLOWTREE GATE

MARKET PLACE

MARKET

HALFORD STREET

GUILDHALL LANE

LOSEBY LANE

ST MARTINS

MARKET PLACE SOUTH

HORSEFAIR STREET

TOWN HALL

BISHOP STREET

GRANBY STREET

NEW STREET

PEACOCK LANE

SOUTHGATES

FRIAR LANE

MILLSTONE LANE

POCKLINGTONS WALK

MARKET STREET

BOWLING GREEN STREET

BELVOIR STREET

WELLINGTON STREET

LOWER BROWN STREET

THE GATEWAY

RICHMOND STREET



Richard III 1452-1485

Richard III was born in October 1452, during the troubled reign of King Henry VI. His childhood was overshadowed by the Wars of the Roses - the white rose of York against the red rose of Lancaster. Both sides were descendants of King Edward III and were fighting to claim the throne.

Richard belonged to the York side of the family, his elder brother was crowned King Edward IV after a Yorkist victory in 1461. Richard became the Duke of Gloucester and Edward's most loyal supporter.

Richard's first recorded visit to Leicester was on the 10th May 1464 at the age of eleven. He visited the city on various occasions as the Duke of Gloucester, staying at the castle on his journeys between the north and south of England.

In 1483, King Edward IV died. His eldest son Edward (Richard's nephew), was due to inherit the throne. However, a dramatic period followed, during which time Edward and his brother were declared illegitimate due to his father's previous marriage contract. Controversially, Richard was crowned King at Westminster Abbey on the 6th July.

Before becoming King, Richard had a strong power base in the north and his reliance on northerners during his reign increased resentment in the south. On 7th August 1485, Richard learnt that Henry Tudor had landed in Wales with an army of Lancastrian exiles and intended to claim the throne. Richard sent out letters ordering his northern supporters to join him in Nottingham and those from the south to meet him in Leicester.

At sunset on the 20th August 1485, Richard arrived in Leicester with his army. He stayed overnight at the Blue Boar Inn, the site of which was on Highcross Street. The following morning, he rode out of the city over the old Bow Bridge on his way to fight in what became known as the Battle of Bosworth - the last battle of the Wars of the Roses. Legend has it that his spur hit a stone on the bridge as he crossed it and an old wise woman among the crowd predicted that his head would strike the same stone on the way back.

On August 22nd, after fighting bravely to defend his crown, Richard was killed in battle and Henry Tudor became King of England. Richard's naked body was slung over a horse and brought back to Leicester, entering the city across Bow Bridge. His head allegedly struck the stone as the old woman had predicted.

Richard III 1452-1485 (continued)

Once in Leicester, Richard's body was displayed, perhaps in one of the churches in the Newarke such as St Mary of the Annunciation, which was located where De Montfort University's Hawthorn Building now stands. He was eventually buried in the church of the Greyfriars Friary. Some years later, King Henry VII contributed money towards a tomb. The whereabouts of this monument is unknown and it may have been destroyed shortly after the monastery was dissolved by King Henry VIII in 1538.

Richard III was 32 years old when he died – he had been King for two years. He was known to be a brilliant and courageous soldier and a fair-minded administrator. However, after his death, his reputation suffered at the hands of the Tudors, whose slender claim to the throne made it necessary to blacken Richard's character.

By far the most damning accusation against Richard concerns the fate of the Princes in the Tower, one of the most famous mysteries in our history. After Richard took the crown from Edward V, Edward and his brother were locked in the Tower of London. When they died in suspicious circumstances, it was Richard who stood accused of their murder for centuries. There are, however, other suspects in the case and we shall probably never know who

was responsible for their deaths.

Richard was the last English King to die in battle. The Battle of Bosworth was the last charge of knights in full medieval armour. Richard was the last of the Plantagenet Kings – Henry was the first of the Tudor dynasty. His death signalled the end of the medieval period; the beginning of the Renaissance was dawning.



Richard III at Bosworth, by Graham Turner. For more information about his work, visit www.studio88.co.uk

The Search for Richard III



In August 2012 the University of Leicester, Leicester City Council and the Richard III Society joined forces in a search for King Richard III's remains. The archaeological search for his final resting place began on Saturday 25th August 2012, which was the 527th anniversary of the date King Richard III was buried in Leicester. Over a period of weeks the excavation made many new, exciting discoveries which advanced knowledge of the Greyfriars site. Excavations revealed remains of the Greyfriars complex of buildings including a cloister walk, a chapter house and the church. As well as providing information about the Greyfriars buildings, the trenches also contained human remains. One adult male skeleton found in the choir of the church was subsequently identified as King Richard III. Whilst it was generally in good condition, the skeleton did have signs of a traumatic death with ten wounds identified, eight of them being found on the skull. All of the wounds occurred at, or shortly after, the point of death. Two of the wounds on the base of the skull at the back, probably caused by bladed weapons, were sufficient for either of them to have caused death. The skeleton also showed evidence of spinal curvature, which would have made the right shoulder appear visibly higher than the left shoulder. This is consistent with contemporary accounts of Richard's appearance. The conclusive piece of evidence for identifying the skeleton as being King Richard III was the matching of the body's DNA with the DNA of descendants of Richard's family alive today.

Richard III Walking Trail

The Richard III Walking Trail, which lasts approximately an hour, takes you around key sites in the city centre that are connected to the last Plantagenet King and the medieval Leicester he would have known. If you are interested in finding out more about the areas included in this walking trail, look out for the heritage panels which will give further information about some of the sites. The trail begins at the site of the Blue Boar Inn on Highcross Street. Please refer to the map at the back of this leaflet to guide you to each site.

1 The Blue Boar Inn



The site of the Blue Boar Inn on Highcross Street is now Leicester Central Travelodge. According to tradition, on 20th August 1485, King Richard III spent his final night in Leicester at the Blue Boar before riding out towards Bosworth to engage the forces of Henry Tudor in battle.

Legend has it that the inn was originally called the White Boar, which was Richard's emblem. After the battle, it is alleged that the landlord hastily painted the sign blue, a blue boar being the emblem of the Earl of Oxford, Henry Tudor's chief supporter.

Nothing remains of the inn today, however the University of Leicester have reconstructed a 3D model of what it would have looked like from detailed plans found in a 19th century notebook.

For more information about the Blue Boar Inn, look for the heritage information panel attached to the Leicester Central Travelodge building.

2 Bow Bridge



This bridge, built in 1863, replaced the original Bow Bridge that existed in medieval times. When the old bridge was demolished in 1861, the new bridge was designed by the city as a memorial to King Richard III. The ironwork of the new bridge depicts the white rose of York, the Tudor rose, Richard's white boar emblem and his motto "Loyaulte me Lie" (Loyalty Binds Me).

King Richard III crossed the old Bow Bridge when leaving Leicester on his way to do battle at Bosworth and his corpse was brought back by the same route following his defeat. Plaques around the bridge recall the legends associated with the king, including the old woman and her prophesy and the myth that the king's body was thrown into the River Soar.

For more information about Bow Bridge, look for the heritage information panel attached to the wall of a nearby building, on the right as you approach the bridge from St Nicholas Circle.

3

St Mary de Castro



St Mary de Castro means St Mary of the Castle, reflecting the church's origins as a place of worship built within the fortified enclosure of Leicester Castle.

We know that the future King Henry VI was knighted here as a young boy and it is thought that Geoffrey Chaucer, author of the "Canterbury Tales," married his second wife here in the 1360s.

It is likely that Richard III would have heard Holy Mass and worshipped here whenever visiting Leicester Castle. He may even have prayed here the day before setting off to face his enemy at Bosworth.

St Mary de Castro is currently undergoing restoration and opening times might vary.

For more information about St. Mary de Castro, look for the heritage information panel attached to the railings outside.

4

Leicester Castle



Leicester Castle, from Braunstone Gate Bridge

It is known from a letter dated 18th August, 1483, that King Richard III made his way to Leicester just weeks after being crowned King of England; he signed, "from my castle of Leicester." The King would probably have visited the castle on several occasions and during these visits, it would have seen great pageantry and entertainment.

Today, a late 17th century brick entrance conceals the 12th century structure that Richard III would have been familiar with.

Richard III wasn't the only King to stay here; others included Edward I, Edward II and Henry IV.

Leicester Castle is open to the public on the last Sunday of the month from 11.00am – 3.00pm, from February to November. For details of guided tours, contact Visit Leicester on 0116 299 4444. For more information about Leicester Castle, look for the heritage information panel attached to the wall on Castle View, to the left of the Castle.

5

Turret Gateway

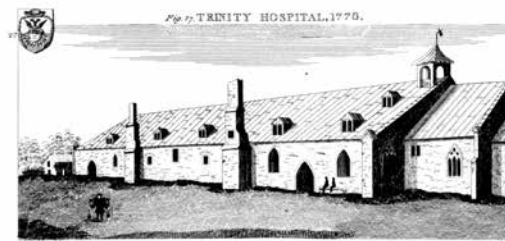


The Turret Gateway, probably built in 1423, was one of two entrances to the enclosed Newarke area. It separated the Newarke religious precinct from Leicester Castle. As a visitor to the Castle, King Richard III may have used this gateway to access the north entrance of the inner bailey. It is possible that following his death at the Battle of Bosworth, his body could have been brought into the precinct through this gateway.

For more information about the Turret Gateway, look for the heritage information panel attached to the railings.

6

Trinity Hospital



As a visitor to Leicester Castle in the early 1480s, King Richard III would have been familiar with the activities of the neighbouring Newarke religious precinct, including its church and the Hospital of the Honour of God and the Glorious Virgin and All Saints.

Founded in 1330 by Henry, 3rd Earl of Lancaster and Leicester, the Hospital had been providing care for 150 years by the time Richard III became King.

The hospital was rebuilt in 1776. The medieval stone chapel still survives and forms part of De Montfort University's Trinity Building.

For more information about Trinity Hospital, look for the heritage information panel fixed to the railings outside.

7

The Church of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary



The Hawthorn Building of De Montfort University is built on the site of the former Church of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The church and associated college were founded by Henry, 4th Earl of Leicester and 1st Duke of Lancaster, in 1353.

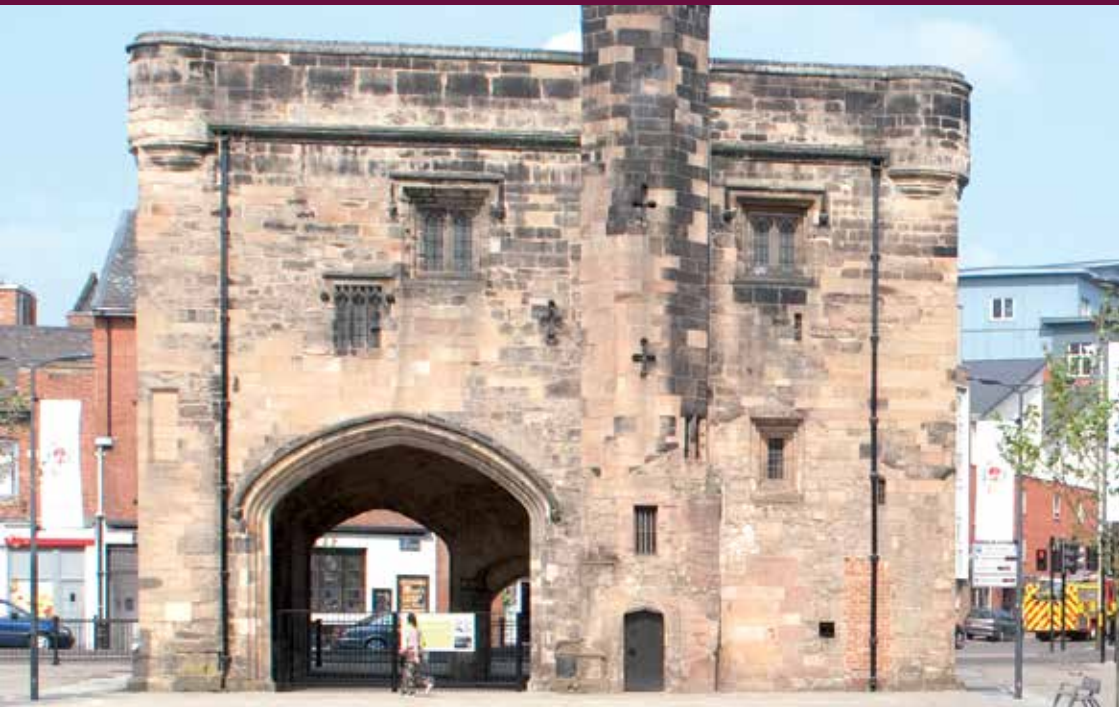
Following his defeat at the Battle of Bosworth, King Richard III's corpse was brought back to Leicester. It is traditionally suggested that his body was put on public display for three days in the precincts of the Church of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary by the victorious Henry Tudor, as indisputable proof that the king was dead.

The church was demolished in 1548 as part of the Reformation. Two of its original arches still survive in the basement of this building.

For more information about the Church of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, look for the heritage information panel attached to railings outside the Hawthorn Building.

8

The Magazine Gateway and the Newarke



This gateway, built around 1410, would have once been the entrance to the religious precinct known as the Newarke and was called the Newarke Gateway. Today it is known as the Magazine Gateway, in reference to its use during the English Civil War as a gunpowder and weapons store.

After his defeat at the Battle of Bosworth, King Richard III's corpse was brought back to Leicester and put on public display in the Newarke religious precinct. It is likely that Richard's body would have passed through this gateway on his final journey to Greyfriars, where he was buried.

The Magazine Gateway is open to the public on the last Sunday of the month from 11.00am – 3.00pm, from February to November. For details of guided tours, contact Visit Leicester on 0116 299 4444. For more information about the Magazine Gateway, look for the heritage information panel attached to railings of the Magazine.



Map of Greyfriars site, taken from "Visions of Ancient Leicester" © University of Leicester



Established in Leicester in the 12th century, the Friary was home to the Franciscan order, also known as Grey Friars after the colour of their habits.

Following his death at the Battle of Bosworth, King Richard III's body was taken by the Franciscan friars to be given a simple Christian burial in the choir of their church.

In August 2012, the site was subject to an archaeological excavation by the University of Leicester, Leicester City Council and the Richard III Society. The excavation provided information about the Greyfriars site and revealed the final resting place of the king.

All that remains of the Friary today is a small piece of grey stone wall, which can be seen in one of the car parks on New Street. For more information about Greyfriars Friary, look for the heritage information panel attached to the wooden entry gate of the car park on New Street.



The Guildhall dates back to medieval times and would have been a building of importance during the time of King Richard III. The Great Hall, built in 1390, was a meeting place for the Guild of Corpus Christi, a select group of influential businessmen and gentry. By 1563, the building had become Leicester's Town Hall and the ground floor of the West Wing became known as the Mayor's Parlour. After narrowly escaping demolition in 1876, the building was completely restored and opened to the public in 1926.

For more information about the Guildhall, look for the heritage information panel attached to the railings outside.

11

Leicester Cathedral



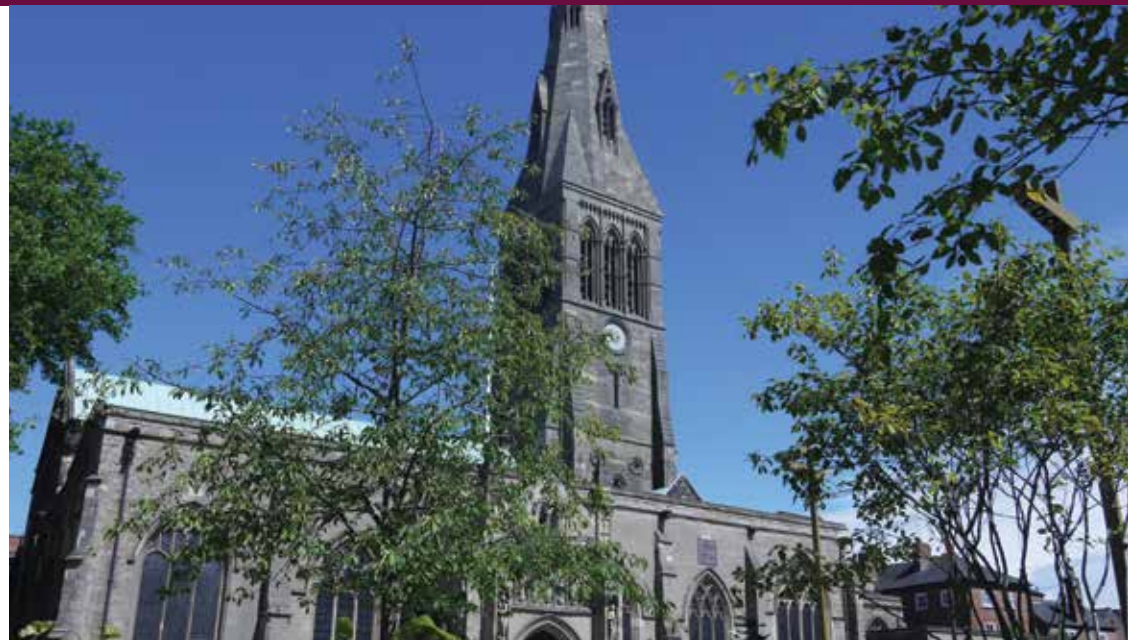
Image © Leicester Cathedral Chapter

The Normans began the construction of the original church of St Martins around 900 years ago. The church was enlarged between the 13th and 15th centuries and became the 'Civic Church.' In the late 19th century the architect Raphael Brandon magnificently restored the church and rebuilt the tower, including the addition of a 220ft spire. When the Diocese of Leicester was re-established in 1926, the Church of St. Martin was hallowed in 1927 as Leicester Cathedral. A memorial tablet in the chancel of the Cathedral is dedicated to King Richard III. This was engraved by David Kindersley and installed in 1982 with the support of the Richard III Society.

Leicester Cathedral is preparing to reinter King Richard III. It is open to visitors Monday to Saturday 8.30am - 6.00pm and Sunday 8.00am - 4.00pm.

12

Cathedral Gardens



Cathedral Gardens is a tranquil space in the heart of the city. Sitting between Leicester Cathedral and the King Richard III Visitor Centre, the attractive public space is made up of areas of lawn, trees and flowerbeds, as well as seating and a water feature.

The iconic statue of King Richard III, which once resided in nearby Castle Gardens, now stands opposite the new King Richard III Visitor Centre within the gardens. The bronze statue was commissioned in 1980 by the Richard III Society. The statue, by James Walter Butler, was first unveiled on 31st July 1980 by Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester.

A sculpture by Dallas Pierce Quintero entitled 'Towards Stillness' can also be found in the gardens. The sculpture represents a timeline, made of twelve vertical steel plates, capturing the death of the king, the moving of his body to Leicester, its burial and finally its rediscovery. The artwork is oriented towards Bosworth Field and evokes the terrain the battlefield.




The King Richard III Visitor Centre has been created around the poignant place where King Richard III's remains were buried for more than half a millennia – one of the most fascinating and intriguing historic sites in England.

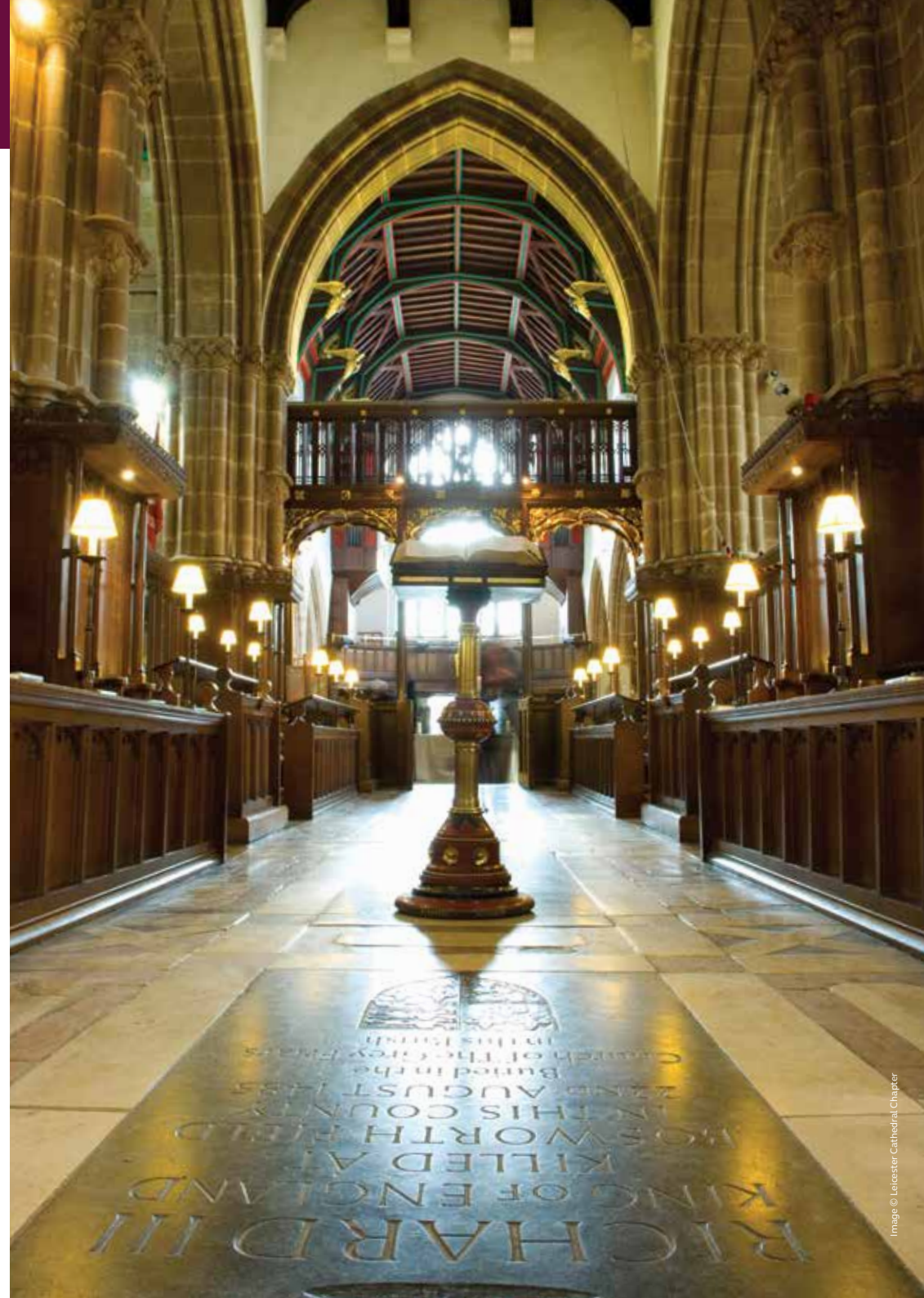
Using great storytelling, beautiful design and 21st century technology, the Centre tells the fascinating and moving story of the King's life and death, and reveals one of the greatest archaeological detective stories ever told.

Keep up to date with the King Richard III Visitor Centre:

W: www.kriii.com

 /kriiicentre

 @kriiicentre





For further details about King Richard III in Leicester and Leicestershire, including the King Richard III Visitor Centre, events and short breaks, visit our website or contact:

Visit Leicester

51 Gallowtree Gate
Leicester LE1 5AD

Tel: 0116 299 4444

E: info@visitleicester.info

www.visitleicester.info/kriii

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All details are correct at the time of going to print; we apologise for any changes to this walking trail which may be necessary due to road works or other unforeseen circumstances. Please check opening times, tour dates, etc. with venues before visiting.

Opening Times:

Monday to Saturday
9.30am – 5.30pm

Sundays & Bank Holidays
11.00am – 5.00pm

Open every day
throughout the year,
except Christmas Day
and New Year's Day.

SCAN ME



WITH YOUR PHONE

