

York Museums Trust

Our Impact

York Art Gallery York Castle Museum Yorkshire Museum

York Museum Gardens York St Marys



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



York UNESCO
City of Media Arts

Who We Are

York Museums Trust cares for York Art Gallery, York Castle Museum, the Yorkshire Museum, York Museum Gardens and the associated collections on behalf of the people of York and North Yorkshire.

Our Vision

Connecting and inspiring people with the stories, history, art and culture of York and North Yorkshire.

Our Mission

Championing curiosity, inspiring creativity and creating opportunities for people to flourish as we collaborate to tell stories about our collections and places.



Photography York Museums Trust



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Photography Ravage Productions

In Numbers

York Museums Trust is a major cultural and creative provider in York and North Yorkshire.

We welcomed 392,000 visitors in 2024/25:

56,000 were children (excluding schools) and **33,000** young adults aged 17 – 24.

12,700 children came on **392** school visits.

Our visitors came from:

80,000 from York and North Yorkshire

312,000 national visitors, from outside the region.

58,000 international visitors.

79,000 visitors were from 'levelling up' areas across the North and Midlands, including 3,300 from Selby.

1.3 million visitors enjoyed our gardens for free.

15,000 people enjoyed Live at York Museum Gardens concerts.



Photography Ravage Productions



Photography Anthony Chappel-Ross

Impact on Visitors

Our visitors have a positive experience when they come to our museums and gallery.

9/10 visitors felt their visit sparked curiosity.

9/10 felt more engaged with art at York Art Gallery.

9/10 felt more engaged with history and life in the past at both museums.

8/10 felt their visit improved their wellbeing.

100% of teachers would recommend a school visit.

"Fantastic museum with an interesting collection of Roman and Viking history. Loved that you can actually stand on a genuine Roman floor. Definitely worth a visit and lovely gardens too."

Visitor to Yorkshire Museum

"I spent a lovely time with my sister and mum. I really love York Art Gallery as it's light and not too overwhelming."

Visitor to York Art Gallery

"Kirkgate is fantastic and a must-see for anyone visiting York!! It really brings history to life."

Visitor to York Castle Museum

"My favourite place in all of York. So much to see and explore. Sit watching the boats on the river, read about the history of the monastery, visit the museum, walk the gardens. On the right day it's easy to spend a couple of hours enjoying the sunshine and watching the world go by."

Visitor to York Museum Gardens



Photography Anthony Chappel-Ross

Economic Impact

We have a positive impact upon the local economy through spending, jobs and procurement. Our volunteers also provide invaluable support to the work we undertake.

£17.9m (gross) economic impact.

£14.7m visitor spend onsite and locally.

£3.3m procurement spend
(50% locally).

155 staff (127 full time equivalent).

73 volunteers providing over **11,000 hours** of invaluable support.

"The reason I volunteer is I like to be out doing things, and it also needs to be something I enjoy doing. You get to see other people and talk to others. Volunteering also gives me something to talk about in my daily life.

My husband and I always used to visit the museum, I thought I'd give volunteering a go. I was prepared to do something out of my comfort zone. I've always enjoyed it and will continue to."

Kirkgate Volunteer, York Castle Museum

"Lovely hands-on experience and chance to handle real Roman artefacts - super! ... Thank you to the lovely staff for your expertise, energy and enthusiasm".

School visit feedback – Yorkshire Museum

"The Harland Miller exhibition, and its interactive space, was fantastically clever, challenging, and Thought-provoking."

Visitor to York Art Gallery



Photography Ravage Productions



Photography Anthony Chappel-Ross

Reach

Our reach extends well beyond our sites.

31 loans from our collections seen by **3.4m people** in six countries.

Over half a million engagements on social media (reactions and comments).

1.25 million website visitors.

500+ pieces of media coverage from BBC Breakfast to The New York Times.

Winner of the Visit York Tourism Award 2025 for the National Gallery's **National Treasures: Monet in York 'The Water-Lily Pond'**.



Photography Charlotte Graham Photography

"What a fantastic museum. So interesting, we spent about 4 hours in there but could've stayed longer. We thought that Kirkgate Street, decorated for Christmas was brilliant and the people in their Victorian clothes and their stories made it feel a very special place."

Visitor to York Castle Museum

"My partner and I visited the York Art Gallery on our day out to York, and I must say it was a beautiful and varied collection of works in various mediums, including sculpture, installations and exhibitions, paintings, ceramics and more!"

Visitor to York Art Gallery

"Gorgeous, peaceful, tranquil and overall calming gardens open for free to the public with plenty of benches, bins, floral areas, walks and places to stop. Outside of the Yorkshire Museum, it still has the original walls and parts of an old historic building, clearly well looked after and treasured."

Visitor to York Museum Gardens



Photography Ravage Productions

How We Are Financed

It costs £17,000 a day to look after our museums, gallery, gardens and collections.

We raise **75%** of our income through ticket sales and commercial activity.

We are an Arts Council England NPO, receiving **£1.1m** per year.

We receive **£307,000** from City of York Council.

We also receive support from Friends of York Art Gallery, York Philosophical Society and through many varied sponsors, trusts and foundations, patrons and donors.

In 2025 we received **£192,000** from the National Heritage Memorial Fund and a total of **£310,00** to date from an active crowdfunding campaign, and other donation sources to fund the acquisition of the Iron Age Melsonby Hoard.



Photography Gareth Buddo, Furmoto Photography

A Dynamic Programme

We deliver a rich and varied programme working in partnership with others:

York Art Gallery

- National Gallery's **National Treasures: Monet in York 'The Water-Lily Pond'**.
- **William Morris: The Art of Wallpaper** with Sanderson and Dovecot Gallery in Edinburgh.
- **Harland Miller: XXX** with White Cube, London plus first National Saturday Club for young people tied into the exhibition.
- **Aesthetica Art Prize** 2024 and 2025 and **Future Tense**.
- **Not a Pot** ceramics display 2025.
- **Harold Gosney: Materials and Making** 2025.

And coming soon:

- **Making Waves: The Art of Japanese Woodblock Print** opening February 2026.

"The tutors and making friends are my standout moments, as everyone is very kind and friendly. They provide help and space, which helps you to discover more of your skills."

National Saturday Club participant



Photography Eloise Ross



Photography Ravage Productions

A Dynamic Programme

We deliver a rich and varied programme working in partnership with others:

Yorkshire Museum

- **Star Carr: Life After the Ice Age** in collaboration with University of York opened in March 2024.
- **Viking North** opened July 2025.
- A series of spotlight displays.

And coming soon:

- Showing our groundbreaking Iron Age **Melsonby Hoard** as a main exhibition for the first time ever opening May 2026.

York Castle Museum

- **70 Objeks & Tings** with MuseumAnd, the National Caribbean Heritage Museum – a community exhibition.
- **Christmas at the Castle** 2024 and 2025.
- **Secrets of Dress** display 2025.
- **Summer at the Castle: The Language of Flowers** 2025.
- **Sugar, Skill & Shiftwork: York's Confectionery Workers** 2025 – a community exhibition.
- **Art of Motion Gallery** 2025.



Photography Anthony Chappel-Ross



Photography Gareth Buddo, Furmoto Photography

Working in Partnership

Supporting UNESCO City of Media Arts

- **Echoes of Yorkshire** by Luxmuralis 2025, a creative light and sound show which brought our collections to light in York Museum Gardens.
- **Future Tense** at York Art Gallery to accompany **Aesthetica Art Prize 2025**.
- Digital interactive for **Monet in York**, engaged with by 50% of all visitors.
- VR and AR in the **Jurassic World** gallery at the Yorkshire Museum engaging families and adults.
- Working with the University of York and XR Stories in a funded project to deliver large-scale, ever-changing digital scenes for **Star Carr** and **Viking North** exhibitions.

Large partnership events

- **Live at York Museum Gardens** with Futuresound 2024, 2025 and 2026.
- **Ghosts After Dark 2024** with York Bid.
- **Eboracum Roman Festival 2025** with University of York, York Archaeology, York Civic Trust and York Minster.
- Hosted **York Health and Arts Mela** with NHS and other providers 2024, 2025 and 2026.



Photography Luxmuralis



Photography courtesy of Futuresound



Photography Gareth Buddo, Furmoto Photography

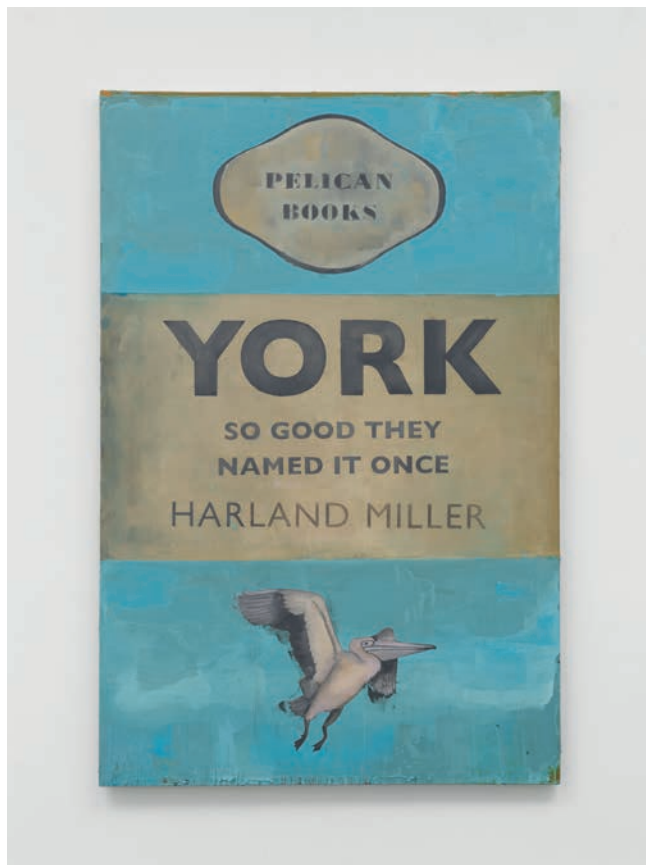
Research and Acquisitions

Recent highlight acquisitions:

- Once in a lifetime acquisition of the late Iron Age Melsonby Hoard, the largest Iron Age Hoard ever found in England.
- Acquisition of a major fossil collection – Wright's ammonites.
- Newly acquired Thor's Viking Hammer, now on display at the Yorkshire Museum in the **Viking North** exhibition.
- Donation of collection of Harland Miller's **Bad Weather Paintings**, including the much-loved **York So Good They Named it Once**.

Research highlight collaborations:

- Crick 1000 ancient Genomes (Wellcome £1.7m)
- Medieval Ritual Landscapes (AHRC £757K)
- Seeing the Dead (AHRC £917K)
- Age Old Stories (AHRC £1.58m)
- Melsonby Hoard scoping work for next stage research (AHRC £1.58m)
- RICHeS (UKRI)
- We host the regional Portable Antiquities Scheme on behalf of the British Museum.



Photography courtesy of White Cube



Photography Gareth Buddo, Furmoto Photography

Sustainability

York Museums Trust is working towards a more sustainable future in our operations, our programme and the way in which we welcome visitors.

- Introduction of a Trust-wide group to develop strategy and help to spearhead change.
- Increasing biodiversity in the gardens through planting and development of wildlife friendly spaces.
- Capturing rainwater for reuse.
- Carbon literacy training for staff with local action plans.
- Engaging visitors with our sustainability activities.
- Reducing transport journeys of loans.
- Supporting reuse of exhibition materials and sourcing new materials ethically and sustainably.
- Introduction of new sustainable lines into retail, including increased local sourcing.
- Updating lighting to more environmentally friendly solutions.



Photography Anthony Chappel-Ross