

KING RICHARD III

# FROM CAR PARK TO CATHEDRAL — A KING'S JOURNEY THAT TOOK 530 YEARS

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# **WELCOME TO A NEW APPROACH IN TELLING OUR STORIES.**

In August 1485 King Richard III was killed at the Battle of Bosworth, brought back to Leicester and after a lying in state for a few days was buried by the Grey Friars, a Franciscan Holy order, in their friary church.

In August 2012, 527 years to the day that King Richard III was killed at the Battle of Bosworth, Leicester City Council, the University of Leicester, and the Richard III Society began the archaeological dig for the 'Looking for Richard' project, a search underneath a council car park in Leicester, to find King Richard III's remains and the Grey Friars Church.

The archaeologists uncovered not only the old Greyfriars church, but a skeleton with battle wounds and a curved spine. After careful scientific examination of the remains the University announced to the World Press in February 2013 that the skeleton found was indeed Richard III.



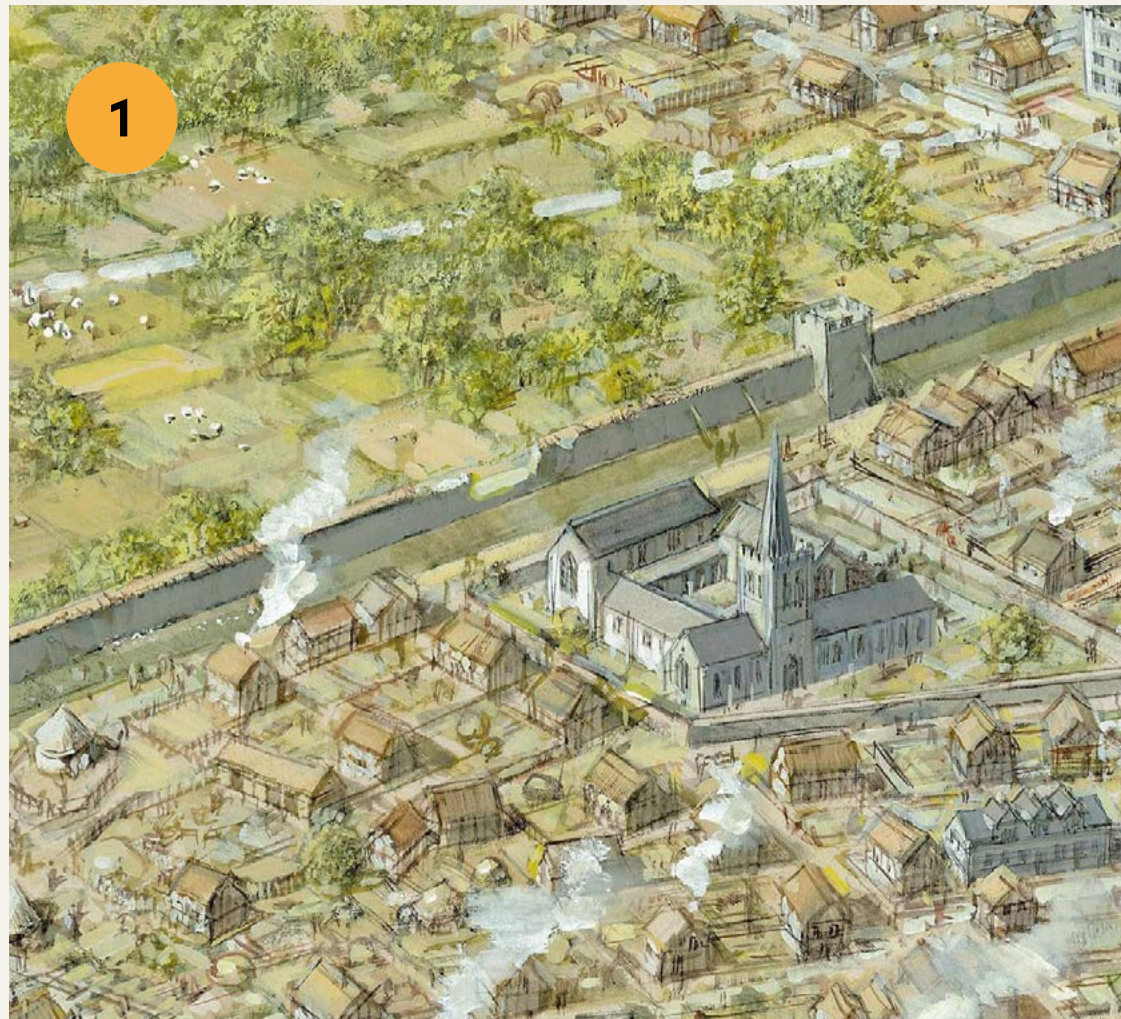
**JOIN US ON THIS  
FASCINATING TOUR  
TO FIND OUT MORE.**

# POINTS OF INTEREST

1. **Greyfriars Friary (heritage panels 156 and 157\*)**  
New Street / Greyfriars
2. **The Magazine Gateway and The Newarke**  
Magazine Square, DMU campus
3. **Church of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary**  
The Newarke, DMU Campus
4. **Trinity Hospital**  
The Newarke, DMU campus
5. **Turret Gateway**  
Castle View
6. **Leicester Castle**  
Castle Yard
7. **St Mary de Castro**  
Castle View
8. **Bow Bridge**  
St Augustine Road
9. **The Blue Boar Inn**  
Highcross Street
10. **The Guildhall**  
Guildhall Lane
11. **King Richard III Statue**  
Cathedral Gardens
12. **King Richard III Visitor Centre**  
4A St Martins
- ★ **Leicester Cathedral (closed until Autumn 2023)**  
2 Peacock Lane

\*Pick up a copy of The Leicester Heritage Trail brochure at Visit Leicester Information Centre for a full directory of city centre and historic village panel locations.





Artist impression of Greyfriars site, from 'Visions of Ancient Leicester' © University of Leicester

## GREYFRIARS FRIARY

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.

All the remains visible of the Friary today is a small piece of grey stone wall which is situated in a private car park off New Street.



## THE MAGAZINE GATEWAY AND THE NEWARKE

Built around 1410 the gateway would have one been the entrance to the religious precinct known at 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 the 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 King Richard III's body would have passed through this gateway on his final journey to Greyfriars, where he was buried.



## 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 by 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 De Montfort University Heritage Centre.

[dmu.ac.uk/about-dmu/heritage-centre](http://dmu.ac.uk/about-dmu/heritage-centre)



## 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.



## 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.



## LEICESTER CASTLE

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.

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

The building now holds Leicester Castle Business School, part of De Montfort University.



## 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 King Richard III would have heard Holy Mass and worshipped here whenever visiting Leicester Castle.



## BOW BRIDGE

Built in 1863, the bridge replaced the original Bow Bridge that existed in medieval times. When the 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, King Richard III'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.



'Blue Boar Inn' by T Brown Chapman, 1840

## THE BLUE BOAR INN

The Site of the Blue Boar Inn on Highcross Street is now Leicester Central Travelodge. The commonly held belief is that, 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 force of Henry Tudor in battle.

Nothing remains of the inn today, but there are many artworks that depict this building.



## THE GUILDHALL

The Guildhall dates 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.

[leicestermuseums.org/leicester-guildhall](https://leicestermuseums.org/leicester-guildhall)



## KING RICHARD III STATUE IN CATHEDRAL GARDENS

Sitting between Leicester Cathedral and the King Richard III Visitor Centre, lies Cathedral Gardens, a tranquil space in the heart of the city and home to the King Richard III statue. The iconic bronze statue by James Walter Butler was commissioned in 1980 by the Richard III Society. It was first unveiled on 31 July 1980 by Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester.

Another sculpture by Dallas Pierce entitled Towards Stillness is located in the gardens in front of St Martins House. The sculpture represents a timeline made of twelve vertical steel plates capturing King Richard III in battle, the death of the king, the moving of his mortal remains to Leicester, the burial in Greyfriars and finally the rediscovery. The artwork is oriented towards Bosworth Battlefield.



## KING RICHARD III VISITOR CENTRE

The award-winning King Richard III Visitor Centre was created around the car park where the king's remains were buried for over 500 years.

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

Leicester Cathedral is closed until Autumn 2023 but The Pall is on display at the King Richard III Visitor Centre and Cathedral Guides offer a free talk to groups on the "King's Reinternment and Tomb" at the Visitor Centre.

[kriii.com/king-richard-iiis-reinternment-pall-and-crown](https://kriii.com/king-richard-iiis-reinternment-pall-and-crown)

[kriii.com](https://kriii.com)



© Leicester Cathedral / Beth Walsh

## LEICESTER CATHEDRAL

Leicester Cathedral sits upon a site that had been used for religious worship for over 900 years when the Normans began the construction of the original St Martin's church. During the Victorian period St Martin's Church was magnificently restored and a 220-foot spire was added. It was hallowed in 1927 when the Diocese of Leicester was re-established.

Adjacent to the altar lies the ambulatory, a space created in 2014 to house the tomb of King Richard III below which the mortal remains rest. The tomb is carved from Kilkenny Limestone and Swaledale fossil stone from North Yorkshire.

St Katharine's Chapel houses The Redemption Windows designed by Thomas Deny, installed in April 2016 showing people, places and themes relating to the life and death of King Richard III.

Leicester Cathedral is currently closed until Autumn 2023 during the development of the Leicester Cathedral Revealed project. The Pall is on display at the King Richard III Visitor Centre.

### OTHER TOURS

# HERITAGE

# THE NEWARKE

# OLD TOWN

# NEW WALK

# KING RICHARD III

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Uncover the Story of our city at [visitleicester.info/uncoverthestory](https://visitleicester.info/uncoverthestory)

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