



Preface to the Application

The following document is the application submitted by Doncaster Council for the Platinum Jubilee Civic Honours competition, which will bestow city status on one or more UK localities in 2022. We have added this preface to the publicly available version of the application to help readers and residents better understand the competition, giving context to the presentation and production of this bid.

There are **no specific entry criteria** that a locality must meet to be considered for city status. In bygone times, for example, cities had to have a cathedral to attain city status. This is no longer the case, and there are several UK cities today which don't have cathedrals. In effect, any UK locality that is not already a city can put itself forward for consideration. This also means that it is down to each entrant to ultimately make their own case as to why they are deserving of city status.

Entrants for the 2022 competition were provided with **guidelines** to follow in preparing their applications, which included the issue of a prescribed application template. Doncaster's application has followed and adhered to this. The template required the submission of a 1-page summary, 8-page introduction, and 10-page local profile. For each of these sections, the guidelines indicated several specific points and headings to

be addressed, which the Doncaster bid has also sequentially followed.

The **introduction** had to address the headings of distinct identity; civic pride; cultural infrastructure, interesting heritage, history, and traditions; vibrant and welcoming community; record of innovation; sound governance and administration; associations with royalty; and other particularly distinctive features, age, residents, or communities who have made widely recognised significant contributions to society and cultural infrastructure.

The **local profile** section had to address the headings of the resident population of the area; economic activity, including the number of people who work (but do not reside) in the area; information on public green spaces, sport and leisure facilities, and shopping centres; and information on local authority support (of any kind) for the voluntary sector. In this section, a few additional headings were added at the discretion of Doncaster's bid team, where they felt this enriched and added relevant value to the final document.

Applicants were also asked to submit up to **50 photographs of permanent features** of the area (rather than events or people), with brief captions describing what is shown. The guidelines asked for emphasis on giving a representative and reasonably comprehensive impression of the area, especially the part that constitutes or would constitute 'the city centre', rather than photographic artistry. The photographs, with captions, were required to be submitted two to a page on A4.

Applicants were finally asked to provide **a detailed map** of the area showing the main tourist, leisure, and entertainment sites and publicly accessible green spaces. Main transport routes, with an indication of services' frequency, could either be shown on the map, or listed separately.

Doncaster has worked to adhere to, and meet, all the above requirements, whilst at the same time building a compelling case for city status within its submission.

Name of place applying:

Borough of Doncaster

City status / Lord Mayor or Provost status:

Doncaster is applying for City Status

Local authority:

Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council (DMBC)

Contact details of applicant:

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a) Summary

Please provide a summary of the application comprising no more than 1 A4 page.

We believe Doncaster is already a city in all but name. With a **current population of 312,800**, Doncaster would be the **15th largest city in the UK**, and the **11th largest city in England**. We already conform to what many would already recognise a city to be. We have a thriving central business and retail district and a strong city economy with a local **GDP of £6.97bn** and **121,000 local jobs**.

We are the gateway to Yorkshire and the North. Originally a Roman settlement, Doncaster is almost **2000 years old**, growing in significance as a key market town on the medieval **Great North Road** from London to Edinburgh. Our industrial heritage is built on rail and coal, with **The Flying Scotsman** and **The Mallard**, the world's fastest steam locomotive, both having been built here. We are synonymous with the **St. Leger**, the oldest classic horse race in the world. Our cultural assets include historic castles and stately homes, as well as city standard theatres and museums.

Doncaster today is a major travel, logistics and distribution hub in the heart of Britain. We have **an international airport**, a **major rail freight terminal**, one of the **UK's busiest interchange rail stations**, and a strategic position on the motorway network. Our key economic sectors include rail engineering, manufacturing, healthcare, and low carbon. We have several city standard education institutions, including **Doncaster College & University Centre**, our **University Technical College**, and **The National College for Advanced Transport and Infrastructure**.

We are a network of communities, defined as much by our green spaces as by our urban centre, with a mix of parks, nature reserves, country parks, canals, and walkways. Alongside **Doncaster Racecourse**, our sports venues include the 15,000 capacity **Keepmoat Stadium**, and 5,000 capacity **Castle Park Stadium**, both having hosted international fixtures. The **UCI Road Cycling World Championship** was staged here in 2019, and we are a **2021 Rugby League World Cup** host city.

We have long associations with Royalty, from our first Royal Charter granted by **King Richard the Lionheart** right up to **Queen Elizabeth II's** own visits and close association with the St. Leger festival. Our civic pride is epitomised by our 18th century civic **Mansion House**, one of only three to still survive in the UK, alongside our prestigious public artworks, our military heritage, and our worthy list of local citizens awarded the **Freedom of the Borough**.

Doncaster's bid has been formally backed by the **Lord Lieutenant of South Yorkshire**, **The Bishop of Sheffield**, and **The Yorkshire Leader's Board** (representing all of Yorkshire's local authorities), whose letter of support notes that: *"Doncaster has a strong vision to become a sustainable city, capitalising on its existing strengths and major development opportunities to improve skills, diversify its economy and close the productivity gap. By doing so, it will improve the lives and livelihoods of its residents and add many more billions to the regional and national economy."*

Residents, including businesspeople, market traders, young advisors, and sportspersons, have appeared in our **#GoingFortDN** videos in recent weeks, sharing personal reasons why Doncaster should be a city. The videos have been viewed a total of **39,939** times so far. The campaign has been seen **373,108** times across Twitter and Facebook and engaged with **22,685** times (as at 3/12/21). Our recent resident's survey has shown a strong base of support for city status, with residents identifying *history and heritage; green spaces and parks; and being a borough of places*, as the phrases that they most popularly associate with, and love about, Doncaster.

Doncaster has never been better positioned to benefit from city status than now. Over **£150m** has been invested over the past decade in our civil and cultural facilities, education institutions, and transport infrastructure. We have a clear mission for thriving people, places, and planet. We have great green spaces, innovative industry clusters and fantastic connections across the UK and beyond. Our assets will ensure we make the most out of the benefits that city status will bring. People here already recognise these strengths and our case for city status is compelling, not just for Doncaster but also for Yorkshire and the North of England.

b) Introduction

Comprising no more than eight A4 pages of text, highlighting why the area deserves city status, with particular reference to the area's:

- Distinct identity;
- Civic pride;
- Cultural infrastructure, interesting heritage, history and traditions
- Vibrant and welcoming community;
- Record of innovation;
- Sound governance and administration;
- Associations with Royalty; and
- Other particularly distinctive features, age, residents or communities who have made widely recognised significant contributions to society and cultural infrastructure.

Why Doncaster Deserves City Status

We believe Doncaster is already a city in all but name. Our bid for city status has been developed by people from Doncaster, for the people of Doncaster. Whilst the bid has been formally tabled by **Doncaster Council**, it has been shaped by **Team Doncaster**, a strategic partnership of organisations and individuals that spans the public, private, voluntary and community sectors. When we talk about “our” bid, we really do mean Doncaster as a collective community.

Our case for city status is compelling:

- Doncaster has been an historically important and significant settlement since Roman times.
- We are home to **312,800** people; around **1 in every 220 people** in the UK live in Doncaster.
- There has been no new city established in Yorkshire, the UK's largest county, since the 1880s.
- The last two English towns to attain city status were both in the South East - it is high time for a new city in the North, dovetailing with the national levelling up agenda.
- The **Yorkshire Leader's Board**, comprised of the leaders of all of Yorkshire's local authorities, and representing **5.4m people**, have provided a letter of support backing our bid!

Doncaster has been transformed since **HRH Princess Margaret** opened the former Doncaster Museum in 1964, when the town was criticised as being a place all about “*Beer, Bop, and Bingo*”, and unworthy of homing cultural institutions. Today, Doncaster is place that gets things done! We do not view city status as an entitlement for investment hand-outs, but rather as the means to capitalise further on our own ambitions, efforts, and the northern grit which defines us.

Despite not achieving city status when we last bid in the Diamond Jubilee competition of 2012, we have nevertheless still delivered multiple city standard achievements and developments, further strengthening our credentials to finally become a city in 2022.

2012: **Marr Wind Farm** and **Tween Bridge Wind Farm** commence generating renewable energy, followed by **Hampole Wind Farm** in 2015, collectively with 30 onshore turbines.

2013: £20m **Civic & Cultural Quarter** opens, housing 1,600 Council staff under one roof in the new civic office, as well as the new state-of-the-art **CAST Theatre**.

2017: £25m **National College for Advanced Transport & Infrastructure** opens.

2018: £56m **Great Yorkshire Way** linking M18 to **Doncaster Sheffield Airport (DSA)** opens.

2019: Successful host city bid to stage games at the **2021 Rugby League World Cup**.

2020: £13.5m **University Technical College** opens with capacity for 750 students.

2021: £14m regenerated **Danum Library, Museum and Gallery** opens.

2021: £7m redevelopment of **Doncaster Station** forecourt, upgraded to city standard.

2021: £18.6m Levelling Up Funding secured to help develop our **Waterfront** site.

The last four of these were all completed during, and despite of, the Covid-19 pandemic.

Whilst we take enormous pride in these achievements, we are not resting on our laurels. There is still so much more we want to get done, and which the added strength of city status can help us to make a reality more readily. Our bold ambitions include:

- Bidding to bring the new **Great British Railways HQ** to the home of the UK rail sector.
- Plans to build a **major new hospital** and **film studios** at Doncaster's Waterfront site.
- Ambitions for a **new station** at DSA Airport linking directly to the East Coast Mainline.
- Plans to develop innovation clusters linked to our **University City Centres of Excellence**.
- Plans to complete **The Vulcan Experience**, home to the RAF's legendary Vulcan jet bomber.
- Becoming a **Sustainable and Regenerative City** – we aim to be a carbon neutral by 2040.

A Distinct Identity

Doncaster has a proud Yorkshire culture and identity, nested in “**God's Own County**”. We are where

Yorkshire begins and the gateway to the North. **Number 1 Yorkshire**, a Grade II 18th Century house, is the first address as you cross the border on the old Great North Road from Nottinghamshire.

Our industrial heritage is built on the rail and coal industries, and we are still the heart of the UK's railway engineering sector today. Doncaster today is also a major travel, logistics and distribution hub in the heart of Britain. Through our position on the East Coast Mainline, our proximity to the Humber ports, our motorway connectivity, and the presence of our fast-growing international airport, you are never very far away from Doncaster.

Doncaster is positioned as a national and regional growth point, a “networked city”, both regionally and nationally. We have historically been at the forefront of innovation, from pre-industrial land reclamation to the invention of butterscotch, and we will continue to be so in the future. Our focus on the well-being of our people, place, and planet is epitomised through our developments in sustainable transport, aviation, land management, and asset-based community development

Doncaster conforms to what many would already recognise a city to be. We are **the largest metropolitan borough in the UK** by geographical area (219 sq. miles), a substantive conurbation in both scale and population. We have a thriving business and retail “city centre” district, and we are surrounded by an agricultural green belt that distinguishes and separates us from neighbouring boroughs. We are a city of interconnected places and communities. Our outlying towns and villages are just as integral to our identity as is Doncaster's centre.

Furthermore, we are a city of stories. Whilst Doncaster is perhaps best known for its association with horse racing, and is synonymous with the St Leger Festival, there is so much more to our identity. We are a place of industry and invention, of markets and museums, and of education and engineering. We hope this proposal aptly shares a full sense of the place that we proudly call home.

Doncaster's Civic Pride

People from Yorkshire are well-known for their sense of local pride, and that is more than evident when it comes to Doncaster's civic pride. This has been demonstrated in many ways.

- **The Freedom of the Borough** is the highest honour that our Council can bestow, giving public recognition to recipients who are held in the highest esteem by the people of Doncaster. Notable recipients of the Freedom of the Borough of Doncaster include:
 - 1829: **The Duke of Wellington**, victor of the **Battle of Waterloo** and **British Prime Minister**.
 - 2000: **Jeannette Fish MBE**, fundraising champion and campaigner who raised £10m for local cancer support and co-founded the **Doncaster Cancer Detection Trust (DCDT)**.
 - 2017: **Ben Parkinson MBE**, double leg amputee and severely brain injured from the Afghanistan War, who carried the **Olympic Flame** through Doncaster in 2012.
 - 2021: **James Coppinger**, who played football for **Doncaster Rovers** for 17 seasons from 2004 to 2021, the only player ever to make over 600 appearances for Doncaster.

We look forward to bestowing the “**Freedom of the City**” for the first time to a similarly worthy candidate, making this part of our city status celebrations.

- Doncaster's **Mansion House**, a focus for civic pride, has dominated the **High Street** for 270 years. The Grade 1 listed building, one of only three surviving civic Mansion Houses in Britain, was built between 1745 and 1749. It served as the residence of the **Mayor of Doncaster** until 1922; its stature reflecting the importance and tradition of the office of the *First Citizen of the Borough*. The Mansion House has hosted Royal Visits by both **Queen Victoria** (who had a WC specifically installed for her visit) and **King George VI** and is still used by the **Lord Lieutenant of South Yorkshire** for public honours ceremonies.
- With the largest regimental membership outside of London, Doncaster has a long association with the **Coldstream Guards**, granting the regiment the **Freedom of Entry of the Borough** in 2001. In 1660 the Regiment marched from Coldstream to London to assist in the restoration

of **King Charles II** to the throne, stopping off to rest in Doncaster. History has it that the first “*Donny Lads*” then followed the drum. A Doncaster man has served in the Regiment in every conflict since the Boer War (1899-01). The **Coldstream Guards Band** performs here regularly, most recently at **Doncaster Minister** in September 2021.

- Doncaster’s civic and military pride are interconnected in many other ways. Another regiment strongly associated with the town is the **King’s Own Yorkshire Light Infantry** whose Regimental Gallery is housed at the **Danum Gallery, Library & Museum**. Doncaster’s **Hyde Park** and **Rose Hill** cemeteries also contain over **150 Commonwealth War Graves** from both World Wars. Doncaster Council also holds the **MoD Defence Employer Recognition Scheme - Gold Award**.
- Doncaster is twinned with **Camden** (London), **Herten** (Germany), **Gliwice** (Poland) and **Wilmington** (North Carolina, USA). Several roads in the Lakeside area of Doncaster are named after our twin towns (Gliwice Way, Herten Way, Wilmington Drive and Carolina Way). The Doncaster name has also been adopted by several other countries. Alongside the original in South Yorkshire, you will also find a Doncaster in **Australia, Jamaica, and the USA**.

Our civic pride is further demonstrated in our **statues and public art**.

- A massive mural, titled **Future’s Past and Present**, by internationally acclaimed street art muralists **Nomad Clan**, was unveiled in 2021 opposite Doncaster Station. At 108 metres long, it is the **UK’s longest mural**, and celebrates Doncaster’s heritages through a montage of images, including a coal miner, an NHS nurse, the St. Leger Festival, and Conisbrough Castle.
- **The Yorkshire Gateway**, affectionately known as **The Big Yellow Y**, is an 8.6m high landmark feature of the letter Y, commemorating the completion of the **Great Yorkshire Way**, and its significant position on the southern gateway point into Yorkshire. The structure was installed in time for Stage 1 of the **2018 Tour de Yorkshire** cycle race, featuring on the route.
- **The Rich Seam** monument, completed in 2021, stands in the heart of Doncaster. Celebrating our mining heritage, the sculpture features a 6-foot-tall bronze miner stood between two walls, featuring real-life faces of **forty local miners, support staff (e.g., nurses), and their descendants** who worked in the pits across our borough.

Doncaster’s civic pride will be further evident in marking and celebrating the **Platinum Jubilee**.

- **Doncaster Racecourse**, home of the St. Leger, will host racing on the **Jubilee Bank Holiday Friday**, with Yorkshire band the **Kaiser Chiefs** playing live after the race card concludes.
- **The Delicious Doncaster Food & Drink Festival** coincides with the Jubilee and includes a **Big Jubilee Lunch** event on 5th June as part of our street party celebrations across the borough.
- **Conisbrough Castle** is one of our venues taking part if the **Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Beacons**, hosting one of many beacons that will be lit across the UK on the evening of 2nd June 2022.
- If our city status bid is successful, we will develop a “**City Festival**” and an annual commemoration of “**Doncaster Day**” to celebrate our elevation to city status.

We will also be lighting up key historic and civic buildings across Doncaster on 8th December in Platinum Purple, to celebrate and take pride in the submission of our city status bid.

Cultural Infrastructure, Heritage, History, and Traditions

Heritage & History: Notable dates in the history of Doncaster include:

- **71 AD:** A Roman settlement, originally known as Danum, is first established.
- **633:** Battle of Hatfield Chase - Northumbrians defeated by an alliance of Gwynedd and Mercia.
- **828:** The *Historia Brittonum* lists Doncaster (or Cair Daun) as one of the 33 Anglo Saxon cities.
- **868:** The Battle of Doncaster - King Aethelred defeats Viking Lord Ivar the Boneless.
- **1136:** Doncaster is annexed by King David I of Scotland under the Treaty of Durham.

- **1190:** Conisbrough Castle, the inspiration for Sir Walter Scott's *Ivanhoe*, is completed.
- **1194:** Doncaster is granted its first Royal Charter by King Richard the Lionheart.
- **1248:** Doncaster receives its first Royal Markets Charter from King Henry III.
- **1664:** Charles I confers Free Borough status for loyalty to the crown during the Civil War.
- **1776:** The St Leger Stakes, the oldest Classic race in the UK, is run for the first time.
- **1848:** Doncaster Station opens, and the East Coast Mainline is completed in 1850.
- **1856 to 1916:** The Heyday of Coal - 18 coal pits open across Doncaster.
- **1909:** Britain's first Aviation Race Meeting was staged at Doncaster Racecourse.
- **1923:** The Flying Scotsman, built in Doncaster, is completed, and goes into service.
- **1973 to 1976:** Classic BBC sitcom *Open All Hours* is filmed in Doncaster (the sequel *Still Open All Hours* has been filmed here since 2013, with the seventh series airing in 2021).
- **2004:** St George's Church is given Minster status by the Bishop of Sheffield.

Cultural Infrastructure: Doncaster is a place of growing cultural significance, epitomised by our role as **The Booker Prize for Fiction's** partner for regional events in 2020. This involved a series of co-hosted events for local people to interact with the Booker Prize finalists and judges. Our wide array of city standard cultural assets is second to none, and includes the following:

- At 170ft tall, **St. George's Minster**, also known as **Doncaster Minster**, dominates Doncaster's skyline. Built in 1858 on the site of the former Norman church, the Grade 1 structure was described by Sir John Betjeman as "*Victorian Gothic at its very best*". Many people wrongly believe the Minster is a cathedral, an easy mistake given its imposing scale and size. Within its grounds are remnants of a wall which formed part of Doncaster's original **Roman Forts**.
- Doncaster's new state-of-the-art **Danum Gallery, Library and Museum** houses an **Art Gallery, Rail Heritage Centre**, and the **King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry Museum**. Permanent displays include two locomotive engines, the **No.251** and the **Green Arrow**. As a fully insurable gallery space, the development has brought city standard collections to Doncaster for the first time, such as the **British Museum Touring Exhibition** featuring works by **Picasso** and **Matisse**.
- **Conisbrough Castle** is a medieval fortress initially built in the 11th century by William de Warenne, the Earl of Surrey, after the Norman conquest of 1066. Hamelin Plantagenet, half-brother of King Henry II, completed the castle as it stands today in 1202. The castle, which is widely believed to have inspired Sir Walter Scott's *Ivanhoe*, is now managed by **English Heritage** which has added a visitors' centre and historical displays.
- **Cusworth Hall** is an 18th-century Grade I listed country house set in the landscaped parklands of **Cusworth Park**. Previously the home of the Battie-Wrightson family for over 200 years, the Hall is now owned by Doncaster Council. Extensive refurbishments between 2002 and 2007 restored the building to its former glory before being re-opened as a museum.
- **CAST Theatre** is our state-of-the art performance venue, opened in 2013 within the Cultural & Civic Quarter. With a main theatre capacity of 620, a secondary performance space with a capacity of 136, and further performance, rehearsal and hospitality areas, CAST hosts a diverse program of quality theatre, music, dance, drama, and comedy. This includes production partnerships with both the **National Theatre** and **Royal Ballet**.
- **Brodsworth Hall**, managed by **English Heritage**, is one of England's most complete surviving examples of a Victorian country house. Built in 1863, the Grade 1 listed property has more than 30 rooms and is surrounded by Victorian period gardens. Two notable follies, an Eyecatcher 'ruin' and an unusual Swiss-style Target House, are among the garden's features.
- At 1,527 feet in length and consisting of more than 15 million bricks, the magnificent **Conisbrough Viaduct** across the **River Don** is impossible to overlook. It has 21 arches and a 150-foot lattice iron girder span across the river. Opened in 1909, it served the railway network

up to 1965, and is now used by walkers and cyclists as part of the **Trans Pennine Trail**.

- **Tickhill Castle** was originally an 11th century fortress, and the focal point of several historic altercations given its strategic significance on Yorkshire's border with Nottinghamshire. Damaged during the Civil War, the main hall was rebuilt in the 17th century, and the castle is today part of the Duchy of Lancaster, opening to the public to visit for a single day each year.

Traditions: Alongside our history and heritage, we also have several distinct traditions.

- **Yorkshire Day** is held annually on 1st August to celebrate everything about our great county. Doncaster hosts a range of Yorkshire Day activities across the borough. In 2021 this included live music events, a young market traders' competition and a Steampunk Spectacular.
- **The St Leger Festival**, the world's oldest classic horserace founded in 1776, is the highlight of our calendar, attracting 60,000 racegoers every year. **Ladies Day** is a social staple event for locals and visitors alike, defined by its sea of stunning outfits, array of stylish hats, and a hotly contested best-dressed racegoer competition.
- Our coal mining history has influenced many local traditions. Whilst the pits are now closed, the **Hatfield & Askern Colliery Band** survives as a leading local brass band. Local miners' welfare groups still play a vital role in the community, and many non-league football sides (e.g., **Rossington Main FC** and **Armthorpe Welfare FC**) began as local colliery teams.
- Doncaster was the home of the first and only UK factory to make **Paddington Bear** soft toys. **Shirley Clarkson**, mother of TV presenter Jeremy, was first inspired to make the toys for her children in 1971. **Michael Bond**, author of Paddington, saw the toys, and was so impressed that it led to Mrs Clarkson starting a factory to make thousands more. Paddington Bears were made here until 1998, and you can still buy one today in our **Tourist Information Centre**.

Vibrant and Welcoming Community

Doncaster embodies the welcoming spirit of Yorkshire, a place where front doors were historically always left open, where the kettle is on and neighbours are always welcome, and where the local community looks out for its own. This community spirit and resilience could not have been better demonstrated than during the nationally reported **Doncaster Floods** in 2019, when the River Don burst its banks, flooding over 700 homes, and evacuating over 1000 residents. The community rallied and, in just a few days, over £300,000 was raised for the relief appeal. Much more was given in terms of food, clothes, and essential items donated by ordinary members of the public.

Doncaster has more than 70 places of worship and spirituality across all faiths and denominations, including two Mosques, three Gurdwaras (Sikh Temples), and **Gomde Lindholme Hall**, an international centre and retreat for the study and practice of Tibetan Buddhism. Our mosques and gurdwaras served as **pop-up vaccination centres** during the Covid-19 pandemic and were instrumental in increasing vaccination uptake within the local Muslim and Sikh communities. Doncaster is also welcoming of refugees and migrant workers, with just under 2,780 arriving in 2019 from more than a dozen different countries, the largest contingent being Romanian (1,533).

Thousands of sports, culture, arts, and community events are staged in Doncaster every year.

- **The Budgerigar Society's World Championship Show**, known as the "Crufts" of the Budgerigar world, with around 2,000 birds exhibited, takes place each year at the Doncaster Dome.
- **Doncaster Creates** was a world class public arts programme staged in 2020.
- Our vibrant annual **Doncaster Pride Festival** and procession was first staged in 2007.
- Our **Eid in The Park** event and funfair, held at Sandall Park, has growing annual popularity.
- The annual **DN Festival of Light** transforms **Doncaster Minster** with an immersive light show.
- We have a growing program celebrating **Black History Month** each year, including exhibitions and arts performances, supported by key institutions like **St Leger Homes** and the **NHS**.

Our many venues, including a 3,000-seat conference and exhibition facility at the racecourse and our 15,000-seat sports stadium, have provided a stage for the best know performers, including **Sir Elton John** and **Bryan Adams**. **Buddy Holly** (1958), **The Beatles** (1963), **David Bowie** (1973), **Bob Marley** (1973), **The Sex Pistols** (1977) and **Ed Sheeran** (2012) have all also performed in Doncaster.

The diversity of our community is reflected in our many cafes and restaurants, including Indian, Thai, Chinese, Polish, Romanian, Turkish, and Italian establishments. There are also plenty of places too where you can enjoy a traditional local Sunday Roast with Yorkshire Puddings!

Our visitors have a choice from over 100 different places to stay, catering for all tastes and budgets, including hotels, B&Bs, Airbnb homes, campsites, and caravan parks.

Record of Innovation

History of Inventions and Innovations: Doncaster has a rich history of innovations.

- Our **Plant Railway Works** built the iconic locomotives **The Flying Scotsman** and **The Mallard**, the latter being the fastest ever recorded steam train achieving 126 mph in 1936. A 7-foot-tall bronze statue of **Sir Nigel Gresley**, the engineer behind these legendary trains, was unveiled at **London's Kings Cross Station** in 2016. A square in Doncaster is also named after him.
- Local confectioner **Samuel Parkinson** invented **butterscotch**. Its popularity grew after it was cannily presented to **Queen Victoria** when she opened the St Leger Festival in 1851.
- Doncaster born plumber, entrepreneur and impresario **Thomas Crapper** is credited with inventing the **floating ballcock** and other features of **toilet cisterns** in the late 19th century.
- **Sir Cornelius Vermuyden**, the Dutch engineer, was commissioned by the Crown to drain the **Hatfield Chase** wetlands in the 1620s, applying land reclamation and flood protection methods years ahead of their time, resulting in his knighthood and granting of English citizenship.
- The **DFS** furniture empire began as a single store in Doncaster in 1969. Still with its head office in Doncaster, it has grown today to be a **£900m** turnover business with **119 UK branches**.

Current Day Innovations: Doncaster continues to demonstrate variety of new inventions, best practice industry developments, and environmental innovations year on year.

- The **Yorkshire Wildlife Park** is a world leading centre for **Polar Bear** rescue, welfare, research, and conservation. The Park houses the second largest polar bear centre in the world, and the only one in England, currently home to 8 bears, the largest captive group outside of Canada.
- Doncaster engineering firm, **AgemaSpark**, have designed and built parts for the **International Space Station** as well as apparatus currently on a **33-million-mile trip to Mars**. The business won the Innovation Award at **2021 Make UK Manufacturing Awards** for their 3D printing work.
- The **UK Rail Research & Innovation Network**, a £92m partnership between academia and industry, has established a new **Technology & Innovation Hub** at **Unipart Rail's** HQ in Doncaster. The facility will develop new technologies to solve strategic rail industry challenges.
- **Syngenta Ryegrass Innovation Centre**, part of a national network of trial sites, studies the impacts of different cultural and chemical grass weed control practices in modern farming.
- The **Innovation Challenge** is Doncaster's inter-school enterprise competition run by **Doncaster Chamber**. Challenges in recent years have included designing a Doncaster app for the **Rugby League World Cup** and a **Special Educational Needs & Disability (SEND) artwork challenge**.
- Doncaster Council's **social media feeds** have an innovative reputation for sharing public information in a quirky, alternative, and engaging style, resulting almost double the number of Twitter followers (**44,000**) than the next highest candidate town applying for city status.

Doncaster has also produced multiple **Queen's Award** recipients, recognising outstanding achievements in business and voluntary services, including: **Tickhill Engineering**, Queens' Award for

Innovation 2010; **Transdek**, Queen's Award for Innovation 2003, 2012 & 2018; **Highfield Group**, Queen's Award for Enterprise 2016; **Rossington Hall - Riding for the Disabled**, Queen's Award for Voluntary Service 2019, and **The Sleep Charity**, Queen's Award for Voluntary Service 2020.

Sound Governance and Administration

The city of Doncaster would be co-terminus with the current borough, fully governed under the remit of **Doncaster Council**, ensuring full clarity of governance and administrative oversight.

- The current Doncaster Borough was created in 1974, under the Local Government Act 1972.
- We have had a directly Elected Mayor since 2002, established by public referendum in 2001. Doncaster is one of only 12 current boroughs in the UK to have a directly Elected Mayor.
- Our Council comprises of the Elected Mayor and 55 Elected Councillors across 21 Wards. It is highly representative, being 46% Female and 5% Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic.
- The Council is managed by a Chief Executive and 5 Executive Directors.
- Majid Khan became our first Muslim Councillor in 2015 and first Muslim Civic Mayor in 2018.
- Doncaster has an active Youth Parliament and Youth Council, including 15-year-old Samuel Finn, who sat on our City Status Project Board and attended/presented at COP26 in Glasgow.
- Launched this year, Doncaster Delivering Together is the Council's new 10-year Borough Strategy, focused on the core themes of thriving people, places and planet.
- We are part of the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority, with its own metro mayor first elected in 2018, and the South Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership.
- We are covered by 3 Parliamentary Constituencies (currently 2 Labour, 1 Conservative).

Associations with Royalty

The Royals and the St Leger: There is an implicit link between the Royal Family and horseracing, and this has been central to the relationship between Doncaster and Buckingham Palace, with regular attendance and involvement in the St Leger Festival by the Royal Family.

- **Queen Elizabeth II** has owned many horses which have run at Doncaster over the years, including **Dunfermline**, the winner of the 1977 St Leger Stakes, ridden by jockey Willie Carson. This coincided with the Queen's **Silver Jubilee** visit to Doncaster in that year.
- In 1806 The Prince of Wales (later **King George IV**) and his brother The Duke of Clarence (later **King William IV**) both received the **Freedom of Doncaster** on a visit to the St Leger.
- **Queen Victoria**, **King Edward VII**, **King George VI** and **Queen Elizabeth - The Queen Mother** are amongst the many Royals who have attended the St Leger Festival over the years.

Wider Associations with Royalty: Doncaster has many wider associations with Royalty.

- **Queen Elizabeth II** is a current Doncaster homeowner! **Tickhill Castle**, which dates to the 11th century, is part of **The Duchy of Lancaster**, the private estate of the British sovereign.
- **DB Cargo** are not only one of UK's leading rail freight companies, but the Doncaster based firm also holds the warrant to operate and maintain the **Royal Train** on behalf of Her Majesty.
- During her 1977 Silver Jubilee visit, **Queen Elizabeth II** reviewed the Royal Air Force at **RAF Finningley**, presenting a new Queen's Colour which was slow-marched past the Royal Dais, with **HRH's The Duke of Edinburgh**, **Prince Charles** and **Prince Edward** also being present.
- **Prince William of Hatfield**, son of **King Edward III**, was born in 1337 at **Hatfield Palace** in Doncaster, which at that time was a **Royal Hunting Lodge**.
- **King George V** and **Queen Mary** visited in 1912 in the aftermath of the **Cadeby Main Pit Disaster** explosion which cost the lives of 91 local miners. The King had visited Conisbrough the day before, with many miners taking the day off to witness his visit. If it had not been for this, many more would have been in the pit when disaster hit and would also have perished.
- **King John**, **King Henry VIII**, and **King Charles I** all also visited Doncaster during their reigns.

- The **Doncaster Youth Jazz Orchestra** has played at both Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle, including at **HRH The Duke of Edinburgh's 70th Birthday Party** in 1991.

We have a long tradition of regular **Royal Visits**, especially during **Queen Elizabeth II's** reign.

- **HRH The Earl of Wessex** visited Danum Library Gallery and Museum and opened Point Lomos, the world's largest filtrated sea lion complex, at the Yorkshire Wildlife Park in 2021.
- **HRH The Prince of Wales** visited Fishlake in Doncaster in 2019 to see the impact of the severe and nationally reported local floods which affected over 900 homes and businesses.
- **HRH The Princess Royal** opened the iPort strategic rail freight terminal in 2018.
- **HRH Diana, Princess of Wales**, opened the Dome Leisure Centre in 1989.

The Royal Family have also committed patronage and support to Doncaster's charities:

- **HRH The Duke of Edinburgh** was Royal Patron of Doncaster based charity **The Conservation Volunteers (TCV)** from 1970 up to his death in 2021.
- **HRH The Princess Royal** is both Patron and President of **Riding for the Disabled (RDA)** and opened their indoor riding arena at **Rossington Hall** in Doncaster in 2016.

Significant Contributions to Society and Cultural Infrastructure

Many ordinary Doncaster residents are recognised each year in the Birthday and New Year Honour's Lists for their contributions to the local community. For example, in 2020 **Samantha Siddall** received an MBE whilst **Bridget Clark**, **Michael Hart** and **Elaine Spencer** each received British Empire Medals, all for valued services to our local communities during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Widely recognised and significant contributors who were born or lived in Doncaster include:

- **Ted Hughes** – Poet Laureate from 1984 to 1998.
- **Sir Nigel Gresley CBE** – Engineer and designer of *The Mallard* steam locomotive.
- **William Bradford** – Mayflower Pilgrim Father and Governor of Plymouth Colony.
- **Kevin Keegan OBE** – 63 England Football Caps, 21 Goals, and England Captain for 31 Games.
- **Dame Diana Rigg** – BAFTA and Emmy Award Winning Actress.
- **Lesley Garrett CBE** – Internationally established Soprano Singer.
- **Louis Tomlinson** – Singer with 70m record sales with *One Direction*, wining 5 Brit Awards.
- **Jeremy Clarkson** – Broadcaster and Presenter of BBC's *Top Gear* for 27 years.
- **Roy Clarke OBE** – Writer and Creator of *Last of The Summer Wine* and *Open All Hours*.
- **Arthur Wharton** – Widely considered to be the world's first ever black professional footballer.
- **Donald Pleasance OBE** – BAFTA Award winning actor, with 4 Tony Award nominations.
- **Brian Blessed OBE** – Actor credited in 200 Film and TV performances.
- **Donald Watson** – Founder of *The Vegan Society* and first to coin the term "vegan."
- **Lord Kirkham** – Founder and Chairman of the DFS furniture empire.
- **Tony Christie** – Singer with a career spanning 40 years, and over 10m record sales.
- **Sir Douglas Bader CBE** – Double leg amputee Battle of Britain pilot and disability champion.
- **Dominic Harrison**, aka **Yungblud** - NME Award and MTV Europe Award winning musician.

Doncaster's recent homegrown sporting **World Champions** include:

- **Jamie McDonnell**, Bantamweight Boxing - IBF 2013 and WBA 2014-18.
- **Terri Harper**, Women's Super-Featherweight Boxing - IBO 2019-21, WBC 2020-21.
- **Maxi Hughes**, Lightweight Boxing - IBO since 2021.
- **Sarah Stevenson MBE**, Taekwondo 2001 and 2011, and Olympic Bronze Medalist 2008.
- **Bradly Sinden**, Taekwondo 2019, and Olympic Silver Medalist 2020.
- **James Toseland**, World Superbike 2004 and 2007.
- **Dennis Priestley**, Darts - BDO and WDC 1991 and 1994.

c) Profile

Please provide details of the profile of the area, including statistics, to assist understanding of the area and its bid in comparison to the bids of other applicants. Information which it would be helpful to include would be:

- The resident population of the area;
- Economic activity, including the number of people who work (but do not reside) in the area;
- Information on public green spaces, sport and leisure facilities, and shopping centres; and
- Information on local authority support (of any kind) for the voluntary sector.

The profile should comprise no more than ten A4 pages (including numbers, any tables and graphics).

Resident Population of Doncaster

The borough has a **current population of 312,800** (*NOMIS, 2020*). In terms of population, this would make Doncaster the **15th largest city in the UK**, and the **11th largest city in England**. By population, it ranks above the likes of Newcastle, Hull, Derby, and Nottingham.

Around a 110,000 reside in Doncaster's central wards, what might in other words be considered as the heart of the city. The rest live in the surrounding towns and suburbs of the borough, including the communities of Conisbrough, Mexborough, Bawtry, and Thorne. ONS Population Projections 2014-39, indicate that Doncaster's population will grow by 2.3% by 2039.

Age: Doncaster's age profile is broadly like the national picture, with a slightly higher proportion of older people (65+) and slightly lower proportion of working age (16-64). The number of younger people (0-15) from the ONS 2020 Population Estimates was 60,581 (19.4% of population), working aged people (16-64) was 191,880 (61.3%) and older people (65+) was 60,321 (19.3%).

Ethnicity: 91.8% of Doncaster residents identify as being White British, with the next largest groups being Other White 3.4% and Asian 2.5% (*Census, 2011*). The Census further indicated that 963 residents were born in the Republic of Ireland, 8,780 were born in other EU countries, and 8,926 were born in counties outside of the EU. Around 4,500 are Polish, the largest minority, and around 1.5% of the total population. There are also key Pakistani and Indian communities. 95% of people speak English as their main language; other main languages are Polish, Urdu, and Punjabi. Minority ethnic groups tend to be concentrated around the town centre and surrounding areas.

We have a small but growing community of around **200 Gurkha families**, first established in around 2000 by ex-servicemen of the Royal Gurkha Rifles regiment settling in Doncaster, and who are active participants in the annual Armed Forces Day and other local military ceremonies.

Faith & Religion: 199,320 people in Doncaster identify as being Christian (*Census, 2011*). Other religious groups include Muslims (4,990), Sikhs (1,140), Hindus (881), Buddhists (683), and Jewish (79). The rest of the population identify with other religions or as having no religion.

LGBT+: There was no specific question on the 2011 Census regarding sexual orientation, however in 2010 the ONS received responses on their *Integrated Housing Survey* that suggested that around 1.4% of the UK population considered themselves as LGBT+. If this was applied to Doncaster's population this would equate to approximately 4,223 residents.

Disability: 21.7% of people in Doncaster have some form of disability or long-term health condition, slightly higher than the national average of 17.9% (*Census, 2011*).

Housing: Doncaster has a Housing Stock of 137,784 properties (*Centre for Cities, 2019*) and 65.76% of householders own or part own their own home (*Centre for Cities, 2011*). The average property price is £148,000, around 50% lower than the national average. New developments are planned, with a growth target of over 18,400 new homes to be built by 2035.

People who work, but do not reside, in Doncaster: Doncaster has a wide labour market catchment area, with around 1.6 million people living within 30 miles. We draw commuters in from our seven bordering authorities of Nottinghamshire, North Lincolnshire, East Riding of Yorkshire, North Yorkshire, Wakefield, Barnsley, and Rotherham. **26,494** people from these localities commute into Doncaster for work (*Census, 2011*).

Education & Skills

Doncaster is striving to be the most child friendly borough in the UK. We have 69 day nurseries, 82 Primary Schools, 19 Secondary Schools, 6 Specialist / Alternative Schools, and a variety of Post-16 and Further Education facilities. Our 2020/21 pupil population comprises **47,000 children and young people**. Over 90 of our institutions are rated as either Outstanding (Grade 1) or Good

(Grade 2) by Ofsted. Our city standard educational institutions include:

- **Doncaster College and University Centre** is the largest local provider of Apprenticeships and Further Education programmes and winner of the **Best Further Education College 2019** in the *What Uni, Student Choice Awards*. The University Centre has over 1200 students per year studying a range of Foundation Degrees, HNDs, Degrees, MAs, and professional courses. The main campus opened in 2006 and includes state-of-the-art IT facilities, a 100-seat lecture theatre, a 200-seat drama studio and a huge two-floor Learning Resource Centre
- **Doncaster University Technical College (UTC)**, sponsored by the *University of Sheffield* and *Sheffield Hallam University*, opened in 2020. The UTC specialises in engineering and creative / digital technologies, particularly railway engineering. It offers a mix of general and specialist teaching spaces, including digital resources for coding and specialist engineering equipment. The newly constructed town centre building has capacity for 750 students aged 13 to 19. The UTC won the Prestige Global Awards **UK New Educational Institution of the Year Award 2021**.
- **The National College for Advanced Transport and Infrastructure (NCATI)**, part of the *University of Birmingham*, provides sector specific courses from its purpose-built facility to train and skill the next generation of high-speed railway practitioners. The college's facilities include a full-size high-speed engine and track section to learn real skills first-hand.
- **Doncaster School for the Deaf**, part of the **Doncaster Deaf Trust**, is one of the UK's oldest specialist Deaf schools. Established in 1829, the school and communication specialist college provide education and training for hearing impaired pupils aged from 4 to 19 years. It caters for both residential and day pupils, including an early-years nursery facility.
- **The Club Doncaster Sports College** is based at the **Keepmoat Stadium**. The College utilises Club Doncaster's sporting assets to offer a range Level 2 and 3 industry focused courses in sport, fitness, and active leisure. Higher Education courses offered by the college include a BSc in Sport Exercise & Health Sciences and a BA in Physical Education & Coaching.
- **The National Horseracing College** at **Rossington Hall** provides a wide range of courses specifically catering for the staffing needs of the UK horse racing industry. This includes Foundation Diplomas and Apprenticeships in jockeying and horse training.
- **XP School** opened in 2014, adopting the practices of High-Tech High Schools in the USA. It uses flexibilities as a free school to pioneer an Expeditionary Learning style curriculum, where pupils complete challenging projects, or learning expeditions, that cross over different subjects.

Around **2,300 people start apprenticeships** in Doncaster each year (*ESFA, 2020*). Around 53% are aged 24 or under, and 47% aged 25 or over. The most popular subjects by area of participation are Business Administration, Engineering & Manufacturing, and Health & Social Care.

The **£4m South Yorkshire Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP) Trailblazer Pilot**, secured in 2021, is led by **Doncaster Chamber** working alongside South Yorkshire's other Chambers and wider partners including the region's colleges and the **Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre (AMRC)**. The initiative provides skills solutions to train and place skilled workers in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) related industries.

Doncaster is one of 12 areas in England chosen by the Department of Education as an **Opportunity Area**, designed to unlock the potential of disadvantaged young people through education. The initiative is Government funded but led locally. The initiative aims to narrow attainment gaps in literacy and numeracy; help more young people to find the right academic and vocational routes; and take active steps to help the most vulnerable to access opportunities.

Opportunities Doncaster LIVE is our annual business and education showcase, and the biggest in South Yorkshire, with **100+ local businesses exhibiting** at Doncaster Racecourse, and **4,000 young people attending**. Organised by **Doncaster Chamber**, and targeting schools and colleges across

the borough, the annual event gives students the chance to meet professionals from a variety of industries and get advice on how to kick start their career. By the end of the day, students leave with a wealth of information on local career opportunities and further study options.

Doncaster is within a 1-hour drive of 10 different universities, helping to make access to Higher Education convenient and affordable for our young adults. We also have our own **University City** and centres of excellence agenda to align the work of our educational establishments to the needs of the economy with the aim of, expanding a city standard HE offer within Doncaster.

Economic Activity

Doncaster is one of the fastest growing economies in the North of England. We are the best in the region for business growth performance, second only to Manchester for the whole of the UK over the last 5 years. Economic headlines, based on recent data, include:

- We have an estimated local **GDP of £6.97 billion** (ONS, 2021).
- We have **9,670 registered businesses**, 99.5% of which are SMEs (NOMIS, 2021)
- We have **121,000 jobs**, split 78% / 22% between the private and public sectors (ONS, 2019)
- We have an employment rate of **70.1%**, slightly below the national average (NOMIS, 2021).
- We have **58.19 business start-ups** per 10,000 population (Centre for Cities, 2019)
- We have **£5,790 goods exports per job** (Centre for Cities, 2017)

Doncaster's **Inclusive Growth Plan** is the focal strategy for inward investment and regeneration. This has already delivered several multi-million-pound redevelopments, including the flagship **Civic & Cultural Quarter**. Key sites for further development include:

- The **City Gateway** around Doncaster's train station and the **Waterfront** site on the River Don.
- **Gateway East** at Doncaster Sheffield Airport, offering 650 ha of commercial space.
- **Project Unity** at Junction 5 of the M18, one of the UKs largest mixed-use regeneration schemes, combining residential, commercial, industrial, manufacturing and logistics developments, with 100+ acres of employment land.

The local economy is assisted by **Business Doncaster**, supporting inward investment, **Visit Doncaster**, promoting the local visitor economy, and **Doncaster Chamber of Commerce**, the local representative body of the business sector and winner of the prestigious British Chambers of Commerce's **Chamber of the Year Award in 2019**.

Key Industries & Sectors

Rail: As the birthplace of *The Mallard* and *Flying Scotsman* locomotives, the rail industry is synonymous with Doncaster, with a current local workforce of around 8,000. For over 150 years we have been at the forefront of national and international railway engineering and operational excellence. More than 50 leading rail-related companies operate from Doncaster, including **Network Rail, Hitachi, Unipart Rail, iPort Rail, Volker Rail** and **SPL/Engie**, specialising in traction, rolling stock, advanced manufacturing, infrastructure, and power supply / distribution. We have two rail freight terminals including iPort, the UK's biggest intermodal rail freight facility.

Doncaster rail has been identified as a **High Potential Opportunity** by the Department for International Trade. Rail engineers from Doncaster are involved every day in maintaining, upgrading, and expanding the UKs railway network. This includes the design and build of **HS2**, the UKs major new high speed railway network connecting London with Birmingham and the North.

Transport, Distribution & Logistics: Doncaster's **iPort**, a 420-acre intermodal rail terminal, including 120 acres of warehousing space, is the largest rail terminal in Yorkshire. 2.5 million sq. ft. are already occupied by **Amazon, Fellowes, CEVA Logistics, Lidl, Kingsbury Press**, and **Maritime**, and 1,000+ people are already employed on the site. The site receives one container train per day from Southampton, and two per day from each of Felixstowe and Teesport.

Beyond the iPort, household-name brands with major distribution bases in Doncaster also include **Next, Asda, The Range, B&Q, and BMW**. **Ikea's** Doncaster distribution centre is its largest premises in the UK, at 1.3 million sq. ft., equivalent to 17 football pitches. There is also a thriving local network of logistics and freight companies including **Wincanton, DHL, Armstrong Logistics, XPO logistics, Carlton Forest Group, DB Cargo, and Pass Logistics**.

Manufacturing & Engineering: Over 3,000 manufacturing and engineering companies, employing over 11,000 people play a vital role in the local economy. This includes businesses specialising in advanced manufacturing, aerospace, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, food and drink production, and packaging. Key local employers include **Polypipe** (piping and underfloor heating), **Ardagh Glass** (bottles and jars), **Bridon Bekaert** (steel and synthetic ropes), **Pegler** (heating and plumbing), **Montracon** (commercial trailer production) and **Wavin** (plastic piping).

Health & Social Care: Health & Social Care is a key sector, accounting for around 20,000 jobs across Doncaster, with two local NHS Trusts, 5 hospitals, 54 residential care facilities, and 38 local GP practices collectively employing a full spectrum of healthcare practitioners:

- **The Doncaster & Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (DBTH)** runs the key sites of **Doncaster's Royal Infirmary** and the **Montagu Hospital** in Mexborough. With 5,500 staff, it is Doncaster's biggest individual employer.
- **The Rotherham Doncaster & South Humber NHS Foundation Trust (RDaSH)** is based at **Tickhill Road Hospital** in the southwest of Doncaster, employing 3,400 staff.
- **Cheswold Park Hospital** is a secure hospital which works with the NHS to provide care for men with mental illness, personality disorder, autism, and intellectual disabilities.
- **Parkhill Hospital** is one of Yorkshire's leading private hospitals.

Professional & Business Services: Doncaster's thriving business services sector accounts for 10,000 jobs. **One Call Insurance, British Telecom, Next, and Direct Line** all have major customer service centres here, collectively employing over 2,000 people. Several co-working venues and fully serviced business centres support our small and start-up service companies, including the **Doncaster Business Innovation Centre, HELM, Workwhere, BizSpace Doncaster, and Apex**.

Digital & Creative Media: Plans are advanced to bring a **World Engine Studios Site** to Doncaster, with four cutting edge production studios, generating 300+ new jobs. Studios will partner with local education providers as part of our University City and Creative & Digital Centre of Excellence ambitions. Local business **Prox & Reverie** has already built a major studio that blends cinema, digital and virtual reality storytelling, featuring art digital production, post-production and VFX studios. More broadly, we have 60 companies involved in website design and development.

Public Services: The public sector is a major employer in Doncaster, with 6,000 jobs in public administration. Alongside local employees of Doncaster MBC, the NHS, and our network of schools and colleges, other key public sector employers include the **County Court at Doncaster, HMRC, South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue, and South Yorkshire Police**. We are also home to **four prisons** (HMP & YOI Hatfield, HMP Moorland, HMP Lindholme, and HMP & YOI Doncaster), playing a key role in rehabilitating and resettling offenders from across the country.

Doncaster's Green, Sustainable & Regenerative Economy

Our economy is becoming increasingly sustainable, establishing more green jobs, and contributing to our ambition to be carbon neutral by 2040. We have the highest level of installed solar and wind energy generation in South Yorkshire, and are **8th placed** amongst UK local authorities for the level of installed capacity of solar photovoltaics (PV) with 24 MW of generating capacity from panels on 7,049 homes. We are already home to many environmental businesses including **Energise Energy Solutions** (electric vehicle charging points), **Go Green** (waste management and recycling), and **Ivoltz** (solar panelling). Our key low carbon projects include:

- Doncaster has a growing number of solar farms, in many cases repurposing former coal mining

colliery sites, such as in the communities of Thorne and Askern. A £2m solar farm has also been built at **Doncaster Sheffield Airport**, aiming to generate as much as 25% of the airport's energy and drastically reduce its carbon footprint. **Doncaster Rovers** was also the first football league club to install solar panels on its stadium in 2013, reducing the club's carbon footprint by negating the omission of 23 tonnes of CO2 every year.

- **Skanska**, the civil engineering group, redeveloped its 5,000 sqm Doncaster facility in 2015 to the highest environmental standards, reducing energy usage by 40%. Features included natural lighting and cooling; solar panelling; and dual-fuel heating using biomass and waste oil. It was the first Skanska development to achieve zero carbon, BREEAM Outstanding, and to meet Skanska's own stretching *Deep Green* criteria in the UK, as well as winning the **Low Carbon Leader Award** at the **New Civil Engineer's 100 Companies of the Year Awards** in 2016.
- **Clean Power Hydrogen (CPH2)** is a leading developer of electrolyzers designed to produce green hydrogen renewable energy in a simple, safe, sustainable, and scalable manner. The firm opened a new 29,000sq ft research, development, and production facility in Doncaster in 2021.
- We have three wind farms, at **Marr Farm**, **Hampole** and **Tween Bridge**, which collectively have 30 turbines, and generate a combined output to power around 40,000 homes each year. Tween Bridge is one the UK's largest onshore wind farms generating 44MW. 14% of all electricity consumption in Doncaster is supplied by locally generated solar and wind energy.
- The **UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology** has recently received a share of funding from the Government's **£86m Net Zero Innovation Portfolio** to manage and restore peatlands at a demonstrator site in Doncaster to test and maximise their greenhouse gas removal potential.
- **St Leger Homes**, which manages Doncaster Council's stock of **20,000 social housing units**, won **SHIFT (Sustainable Homes Index for Tomorrow) Gold Accreditation** in 2020. This independent recognition of environmental performance identified that 96% of housing stock was at low risk of overheating and resilient to climate change, 100% of office waste was recycled or diverted from landfill, and a 96% recycling rate was achieved from refurbishment of homes.
- **The Woodland Group**, one of the UK's largest logistics companies, opened a major new carbon-conscious fulfilment and distribution facility at Doncaster's **iPort** in 2021. Features at the facility include state of the art low energy lighting with movement sensors which control lighting based on available daylight and need by movement; lithium-ion forklift trucks; a plastic and packaging free warehouse; and optimised truck and rail ground transport.

Travel & Transportation

Road Connections: Doncaster is strategically nested within a triangle of the M62, A1(M), and M18; effectively the crossroads between the arterial North South A1(M) corridor and the Northern Powerhouse East West M62 corridor. All road freight heading South from, or North to, the Ports of Immingham and Hull will pass through Doncaster. It is no wonder then that we are a hub location for the distribution sector. The Great Yorkshire Way is our latest road addition, a dual carriageway link from the M18 to Doncaster Sheffield Airport.

Doncaster Sheffield Airport: DSA Airport currently operates passenger flights from Doncaster to more than 40 destinations across 14 different countries. The primary passenger operators are TUI and Wizz Air, catering to the short haul market. The airport had a passenger throughput of 1.29 million in 2020; the only UK airport with over 1m passengers not to be in a city. As a major freight hub, the airport also had a cargo tonnage throughput of 17,156 in 2020. Formerly the site of **RAF Finningley**, the airport turned commercial in 2005. It has one of the longest runways in Northern England, capable of landing the Antonov 225 and Airbus A380, two of the world's largest commercial planes. The airport topped the **Which? Magazine Best UK Airports** survey for three consecutive years in 2017, 2018 and 2019.

Rail Connections: Doncaster Station has both local and national significance, as a primary

interchange on the **East Coast Mainline** and **Trans Pennine Express** routes. It has 3,022 scheduled services per week (2019-20), making it Great Britain's **59th busiest railway station**. Doncaster has the highest number of train operating companies serving a single station (seven) equalled only by Crewe and Liverpool Lime Street. In 2019-20 the station had 3.94m passenger entries and exits, 1.7 million passenger interchanges, and 10,812 daily average passenger start/end journey points. Doncaster has direct rail connections with London, Birmingham, Newcastle, Edinburgh, Manchester, Sheffield, Leeds, Bradford, and Hull. More broadly, Doncaster has a total of 9 train stations serving its communities, collectively with 5m+ total station entries and exits in 2019/20.

Bus & Coach Network: Doncaster has an extensive network of bus services, with more than 60 different service routes connecting its outlying communities with each other, to the city centre, and to neighbouring localities such as Pontefract, Worksop, Selby, and Scunthorpe. Doncaster is served by the **National Express** coach service from Newcastle to London, as well as **MegaBus** direct services to Birmingham, Nottingham, London, Bristol, Cardiff, Leicester, and Sheffield.

Public Green Spaces

Doncaster has 5,000 hectares of publicly accessible green spaces, with over 100 public parks and playing fields, as well as 65 woodlands, and 76 allotment sites. We have over 200 play areas, 19 skate parks, 56 Multi Use Games Areas, 17 outdoor gym areas, and 20 teen shelters. The diversity of our green space is second to none, and all residents live within 0.5 miles of a public green space.

- **Town Fields** is one of our largest open spaces, close to Doncaster's centre, and a dedicated Conservation Area. The 90-acre site is home to the annual **Townfield Gala**, Doncaster's biggest free entry community event featuring a funfair, live music, food and drink, and charity stalls. The Park also hosts **Cancer Research UK's** annual 5K and 10K **Race for Life** events.
- **Lakeside Lake** is part of an 80-acre public green space bordered by the Lakeside Village Shopping Outlet and Keepmoat Stadium. The outdoor amphitheater hosted a series of live concerts in 2021, and the 52-acre lake itself is the venue for Doncaster's annual charity **Dragon Boat Race**. The 1.5 mile walk around the circumference of the lake itself is always popular.
- **Elmfield Park** was Doncaster's first public park, opened in 1923. The **Bennethorpe War Memorial**, our central cenotaph unveiled on the same day that the park opened, stands at the park's gate, and the park plays a leading role in our annual **Armistice Day** remembrance.
- Doncaster has **5 Green Flag Award** parks, the accreditation for publicly accessible parks and open spaces, recognising standards of good management and best practice. Our Green Flag locations are **Campsall Park, Sandall Park, Bentley Park, Cusworth Park, and Quarry Park Dunsville**. Notably, several of our country parks are repurposed coal colliery locations.
- 25 miles of the **Trans Pennine Trail** passes through Doncaster, across our woodlands, farmlands, and villages. This includes the towpath of the **New Junction Canal** and part of **The Dearne Way**, along the **River Dearne** to its junction with the **River Don**. **The Stainforth & Keadby Canal** also passes-through our boundaries, adding further miles of waterway walks. The Trans Pennine Trail through Doncaster also forms part of **National Cycle Route 62**.
- **Potteric Carr Nature Reserve**, less than 2 miles from the centre of Doncaster, is the flagship site of the **Yorkshire Wildlife Trust (YWT)**, with 500 acres of wetland, woodland, and grassland. The reserve has a visitors' centre, café, gift shop, birdwatching hides, and a full events program.
- **Sprotbrough Flash Nature Reserve**, another YWT site, sits on the north bank of the River Don, and is named after its main feature, a long, water-filled depression parallel to the river, caused by collapsed coal mines. Defined by its magnesian limestone cliffs, the **Sprotbrough Gorge Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)**, also known as **Don Gorge**, is adjacent to the reserve.
- **Thorne and Hatfield Moors**, to the north-east of Doncaster, form part of the **Humberhead Peatlands National Nature Reserve**, the largest area of lowland raised peat bog in the UK.

William Bunting, a local environmentalist, is credited with saving this habitat in the 1960s from peat-cutting, drainage, and the planned dumping of 32m tons of fuel-ash.

Sport Facilities & Events

Doncaster already has several city standard spectator sports venues:

Venue	Main Sport / Teams & Clubs	Capacity
Doncaster Racecourse	Horse Racing, home of the St. Leger	50,000+
Keepmoat Stadium	Football (Doncaster Rovers FC). Rugby (Doncaster Rugby League FC)	15,231
Castle Park	Rugby Union (Doncaster Knights)	5000
Doncaster Dome	Boxing, Darts, Snooker, Martial Arts	2000
Meadow Court Stadium	Greyhound Racing	1500
Doncaster Athletics Stadium	Athletics (Doncaster Athletics Club) Football (Doncaster Rovers Belles LFC)	500

- The **Keepmoat Stadium** has hosted three **Rugby League Challenge Cup Semi-Finals**, a **Rugby League international** between England and France, and **England Women's Football Internationals**, most recently the record-breaking **World Cup** qualifier against Latvia in 2021, where the Lionesses won 20-0 and Ellen White became England's all-time top goal scorer.
- Doncaster boxer **Jamie McDonnell** won the **IBF Bantamweight World Champion title** in a bout at the Keepmoat Stadium in 2013, defeating Mexican opponent Julio Ceja.
- The stadium is also due to host three group stage games at the postponed **2021 Rugby League World Cup**. The **Samoa** national team will also be based in Doncaster during the tournament.
- **Castle Park** has hosted **England Women's Rugby Union Team (The Red Roses) internationals**, including the **England vs. France Six Nations** tournament game in 2021.
- Doncaster has also hosted stages of the **Tour de Yorkshire** cycle race in 2016 and 2018 and the **Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) Road World Championships** in 2019.
- Snooker's **World Matchplay** tournament, featuring the 12 highest ranked world players, was staged at the **Doncaster Dome** in 1991 and 1992. The Dome has also hosted qualifying rounds of the **Shanghai Masters** world ranking event and **European Tour** events.
- Doncaster's recently secured **Levelling Up Fund** investment will be used in part to regenerate the abandoned **St James Baths Building** as a new **spa and leisure facility**. The Grade II listed swimming pool and Turkish baths, built in 1932, had fallen into disrepair and closed in 2013. In its heyday, the pool could be covered by a sprung floor, allowing it to also serve as a dance and concert hall for 1,500 people. Those who performed there included **The Beatles** in 1963.

Doncaster Culture & Leisure Trust (DCLT), a registered charity, manages and operates the 10 current principal leisure and fitness centre venues across Doncaster. DCLT sites include:

- **Doncaster Dome** is a premier sports, leisure, and entertainment facility, including a 7-pool water park, the UK's only split-level ice rink with interconnecting ramps, a cycle track, a soft play zone, table tennis, and squash courts. The Dome has over 1m visitors per year, making it a **UK Top 5 Sports and Leisure Attraction**.
- **Hatfield Outdoor Activity Centre**, based at Hatfield Lakes on the outskirts of Doncaster, offers a range of activities including paddleboarding, kayaking, canoeing, and climbing, as well as camping, raft building, and an inflatable aquapark.
- The DCLT **Fitness Village at Balby** features a 139-station gym packed with equipment, a cycling and fitness studio, and a sauna, steam, and beauty room. DCLT leisure facilities in **Adwick, Armthorpe, Askern, and Thorne** all have fitness centres and 25m community swimming pools.

A full spectrum of grass roots sport is played more widely across Doncaster, with dozens of

amateur sports clubs and facilities for adults and young people alike, and for all levels of ability.

We have **30+ full size public football pitches, 20+ bowling greens, 16 cricket fields, 12 golf courses, and 3 tennis clubs**. We have clubs and facilities for angling, badminton, American football, gymnastics, basketball, snooker, boxing, netball, and clay pigeon shooting, to name but a few. Some of these notable additional facilities include: **The Goals Soccer Centre**, housing 10 synthetic turf 5-a-side pitches; **Doncaster Moto Parc**, home to a motocross racetrack and minibike track, and the **Doncaster Air Gun Rage**, with 18 indoor shooting lanes, from 38 yards to 45 yards.

Doncaster has a culture of sports participation. *Sport England's Active Peoples Survey* (Nov-20) shows that **55% of Doncaster residents are active**, engaging in at least 150 minutes of physically related activity per week, and 38% are also active members of a sports club. An average of around **400 runners** take part in Doncaster's free to participate in **5k Park Run** events every week. Similarly, **1,200 runners** took part in the last **Doncaster Half Marathon** in 2019 (prior to Covid-19).

We have a variety of initiatives which support **inclusive and accessible sport**.

- The **Club Doncaster Titans**, based at the Keepmoat Stadium, is our disability football club, which has over 100 players starting from as young as 5 years old.
- The **National Horseracing College** in Doncaster also homes **Riding for the Disabled**, a charity which delivers riding and carriage driving opportunities for therapy, achievement, and fun.
- We have several walking-football teams for older and less mobile players, including **Club Doncaster, Doncaster Dynamo, and Armthorpe Wolves**.
- The Doncaster Dome has previously hosted the **Great Britain Wheelchair Rugby Nationals**.

Leisure & Visitor Attractions

Doncaster receives **6.4 million day-visits per year**. Our tourism sector is worth **£223 million per year**, more than that of Bradford, Canterbury, and Peterborough. We also receive more day visitors than Harrogate, Lincoln, Oxford, or Windsor. Our accompanying introduction section has already described our many popular historical and cultural attractions, including **Cusworth Hall, Conisbrough Castle, and Brodsworth Hall**. Doncaster offers many more leisure and visitor attractions over and above these though, including:

- **The Yorkshire Wildlife Park**, housing **475 animals** and **60+ different species**, including polar bears, tigers, sea lions, rhinos, and giraffes. Now the **UK's No.1 walk-through wildlife adventure**, it attracts **800,000 visitors per year**. The Park has a reputation for rehoming animals living in poor welfare, such as its pride of lions rescued from Romania. The Park also hosts summer concerts, with **Ronan Keating** and **Katherine Jenkins** performing in 2021.
- **The Vulcan Experience** preserves and displays the RAF's iconic **Avro Vulcan XH558** jet bomber aircraft, which served from 1960 to 1992 at the height of the Cold War. After 15 years on the ground, it was restored to flight at Doncaster's airport by Dr Robert Pleming in 2007. It flew for the final time in 2012 and is now permanently retired in Doncaster as a visitor attraction. Plans are in place to add a state-of-the-art **visitor facility** including a major **national memorial** and a **Green Technology Hub** to help explain the environmental challenges faced by aviation.
- **The South Yorkshire Aircraft Museum** has a wide range of aircraft on display from the earliest days of aviation through to modern day military jets. It is home to the largest permanent display honouring the men and women who fought during the **Falklands War**.
- **The Trolleybus Museum at Sandtoft** is home to the world's largest collection of preserved trolleybuses. It celebrates Doncaster's heritage of trolleybuses which operated in the town between 1928 and 1963 and supports the preservation of this bygone means of transport.
- The second phase of Doncaster's **Waterfront Project** includes a newly built **90-berth marina**, providing pleasure boaters with a perfect base to explore the 43 miles of navigations around the River Don from Sheffield to the River Trent at Keadby. **Doncaster Wharf** is an additional

small off-line mooring situated in the centre of Doncaster, and further moorings are available at **The Blue Water Marina** in Thorne in the northeast of the borough.

- **The Herten Triangle** is home to **Vue Doncaster**, a modern cinema multiplex with 11 screens and 1,386 seats, and **Tenpin Doncaster**, a 24-lane indoor bowling alley attraction. The site offers a range of popular restaurants including TGI Fridays and Pizza Express.
- **The Civic & Cultural Quarter** features a new 6 screen **Savoy Cinema** and **restaurant complex**.
- **Bawtry Paintball Fields** is Europe's largest paintball centre with 16 zones spanning 385 acres. Activities include a rifle range, archery range, axe throwing, climbing wall and a zip park.
- Our many garden centres for green fingered visitors include **Taylor's Clematis** in Askern and **Walkers Nurseries** in Blaxton, both former **Chelsea Flower Show Gold Medal Winners**.
- We have a wider range of trampoline parks, farm parks, nightclubs, escape rooms, soft play centres, and tea rooms, appealing to a broad spectrum of visitors.

Doncaster has also hosted several strategic conferences attracting business visitors and policymakers. This includes a **Global Education Leaders Partnership (GELP)** conference in 2021, geared to inform Doncaster's Education & Skills strategy, whilst **TEDx Doncaster** brought together thinkers and innovators, offering a platform for local improvement through shared learning.

Doncaster has **8 Changing Places** specialist public toilets, with more planned, designed for people with complex disabilities, their families, and carers. Larger than a standard accessible toilet, they include an adult-sized changing bed and hoist, increasing accessibility for our disabled visitors.

Shopping Centres & Markets

Doncaster has a distinct city centre shopping and retail district. This is centred around The Frenchgate Shopping Centre, Doncaster's markets, and the primary shopping streets of St. Sepulchre Gate, The High Street, and Baxter Gate. Collectively this district offers around **1.6 million sq. ft.** of retail, catering, and hospitality space.

The Frenchgate Centre has been at the heart of Doncaster for over 50 years. It is one of the largest town centre shopping centres in the UK, and currently attracts 40,000 shoppers per day. It underwent a £200m upgrade in 1988 to become the country's first shopping centre with an integrated public transport interchange with both Doncaster's bus and rail stations. The centre has 800,000 sq. ft. of retail space, 120 units, and employs over 1,000 people. Flagship stores include *TK Maxx*, *H&M*, *River Island*, *Sports Direct*, *Boots*, *Next*, and *Waterstones*. The centre is also redefining how retail space is used as consumer tastes change, with *Flip Out*, the trampoline park chain, now occupying the key unit formerly occupied by *BHS*.

Doncaster Markets won the **Best Food Market Award** in 2015 at the prestigious *BBC Food and Farming Awards*. Whilst many traditional market halls have been given over to general goods, at Doncaster we're proud to boast one of Britain's finest dedicated food markets. Our award-winning butchers, sausage specialists and pie makers have won a multitude of awards between them. Our dedicated **Fish Market** has more than a dozen fishmongers selling a huge array of the finest fresh seafood and shellfish. **Jay Rayner**, the renowned food critic, notably gave the **Clam & Cork**, a bistro seafood café within the Fish Market, a glowing review in *The Guardian* in 2018.

Our market is made up of over 400 stalls across a variety of settings. **The Wool Market**, a glass fronted Grade II Victorian building, has recently re-opened after a £5m renovation in 2019, attracting 75,000 visitors in the first week. It provides a bustling home for 37 small, high-end independent retailers and artisan food vendors, and hosts live music and entertainment.

The Corn Exchange is another of our iconic, restored Victorian Grade II listed buildings, originally built in 1870, now housing 26 shop units, a café, and craft area. The building will shortly be further restored and enhanced with new investment from the national **Levelling Up Fund**.

Our central market offering also includes an **International Food Hall**, traditional **Outdoor Market**,

and a weekly **Antique & Bric-a-Brac Market**.

Doncaster's central shopping, retail and market district is supported by 2,300 Council owned, public parking spaces. Furthermore, Doncaster has 10 outlying **Park & Ride Sites**, collectively providing 1,400 more parking spaces, with convenient bus and rail links to the city centre.

Other key shopping destinations in Doncaster include:

- **Lakeside Village** is an outdoor outlet destination, first opened in 1996 and re-modelled in 2003. It houses 53 retail units, with 147,000 sq. ft of retail space, and an estimated 2m visitors per year. Flagship stores include *Marks & Spencer Outlet*, *Next Clearance* and *Clarks*.
- **The Wheatley Centre** shopping park is located around 2 miles north of Doncaster's centre on Wheatley Hall Road, a key arterial route. The Centre has 21 primarily larger out-of-town units. Flagship stores include *JD Sports*, *Argos*, *Boots*, *Wilko*, and *Matalan*.
- Doncaster's satellite towns, including **Armthorpe**, **Conisbrough**, **Mexborough**, **Thorne**, and **Bawtry**, all have popular local high street shopping areas, with a mix of independent retailers, restaurants, and local branches of larger retailers such as *B&M*, *Greggs*, and *Co-op*. Mexborough also has its own weekly outdoor market with over 90 stalls.

Local Authority Support for the Voluntary Sector

Doncaster considers, cares for, and supports our most vulnerable communities and citizens. Whether its children at risk, the homeless, mental health, learning disabilities, the disabled or the many other vulnerable groups, we take action to address their needs effectively. According to the Charity Commission, there are 774 registered charities whose work and activity specifically includes services in Doncaster. **Doncaster Council** provides a range of support to these vital groups, working closely with **Voluntary Action Doncaster**, our local VCSE sector cooperative.

- The Council has secured **£3.2m in National Lottery Funding** since 2004. Community projects funded include a World War II Celebratory Service & Parade, a Play Portfolio Programme for 8,000 children, and new facilities and accommodation at DCLT's Hatfield Water Park site.
- The Council provided **£875,000** in core grant support to the VCSE sector in 2020/21, supporting several key charities, including **Doncaster Community Arts**, **Age UK**, **Social Isolation Alliance**, **Woodlands Speaks**, **EXPECT Youth**, and **Citizens Advice Doncaster**.
- **The Doncaster Community Fund** supports small groups, who may not be eligible for other funding, to make a positive community impact. **£165,000** is available p/a (£3k per Elected Member), tackling social isolation, boosting essential services, and keeping people connected.
- **Doncaster Movement** is a crowdfunding site supported by the Council, helping community projects to raise funds, with the potential of a £5k funding Council match. 27 projects have been fully funded through the project so far, collectively raising over **£330,000**.
- The **Community Wealth Builder** is an ERDF project facilitated locally by the Council and **Doncaster Chamber**, providing a web platform for social enterprises geared to reinvesting wealth back into communities through local procurement good practice.
- Doncaster has **21 Community Libraries** that are opened, maintained, and managed by a collective group of more than **400 volunteers**. The Council supports these libraries by providing all the book stock; providing computers, internet connections, and software packages for library users; and by meeting most of the running costs of the library buildings.
- The Council has funded **10 Community Connectors**, trusted local people hosted by VCSE groups across Doncaster, whose work involves supporting the most vulnerable, building community cohesion, increasing participation, and breaking down social isolation.
- The Council's **website** is a key community resource in providing information about available voluntary support. Accessible directories provide details of charities offering key services, such as food banks, mental health services, and social isolation support.

Part D) Photographs of Permanent Features of the Area



1) Doncaster Council Office, Civic & Cultural Quarter: The modern and distinctively designed five-story office complex, opened in 2013, houses most of the Council's services on one central site and includes a purpose-built customer service centre.

Map Ref:

3



2) CAST Theatre, Civic & Cultural Quarter: With a main theatre capacity of 620, and further performance, rehearsal and hospitality areas, CAST hosts a diverse program of quality theatre, music, dance, drama, and comedy.

Map Ref:

2

Part D) Photographs of Permanent Features of the Area (Continued)



3) Danum Gallery, Library and Museum (DGLAM): Built around the frontage of the historic Doncaster High School for Girls, the state-of-the-art venue houses an Art Gallery, Rail Heritage Centre, and the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry Museum.

Map Ref:

7



4) Danum Library, Gallery and Museum - Locomotives: Celebrating Doncaster's railway heritage, and the golden era of steam, DGLAM's Rail Heritage Centre features two Doncaster built steam locomotives; The Golden Arrow and the No. 251.

Map Ref:

7

Part D) Photographs of Permanent Features of the Area (Continued)



5) Frenchgate Shopping Centre: One of the largest town centre shopping centres in the UK, The Frenchgate Centre attracts 40,000 shoppers daily, and has been at the heart of Doncaster for over 50 years.

Map Ref:

16



6) Frenchgate Shopping Centre: The centre has 800,000 sq. ft. of retail space, 120 units, and employs over 1,000 people. Flagship stores include *TK Maxx*, *H&M*, *River Island*, *Sports Direct*, *Boots*, *Next*, and *Waterstones*.

Map Ref:

16

Part D) Photographs of Permanent Features of the Area (Continued)



7) Doncaster Minster: At 170ft tall, the Minster dominates Doncaster’s skyline. Built in 1858 on the site of the former Norman church, the Grade 1 structure was described by Sir John Betjeman as "*Victorian Gothic at its very best*".

Map Ref:

47



8) Doncaster Minster: Many people wrongly believe the Minster is a cathedral, an easy mistake given its imposing scale and size. Within its grounds are remnants of a wall which formed part of Doncaster’s original Roman Forts.

Map Ref:

47

Part D) Photographs of Permanent Features of the Area (Continued)



9) The Mansion House: The 18th century civic Mansion House, one of only three to still survive in the UK, has dominated the High Street for 270 years. The Grade 1 listed building, built between 1745-1749, served as the residence of the Mayor until 1922.

Map Ref:

10



10) The Mansion House: The Mansion House has hosted Royal Visits by Queen Victoria and King George VI and is still used by the Lord Lieutenant of South Yorkshire for public honours ceremonies. The image shows the imposing staircase.

Map Ref:

10

Part D) Photographs of Permanent Features of the Area (Continued)



11) Doncaster Station Civic Gateway: Doncaster Station’s forecourt underwent a £7m redevelopment in 2021 to provide a city standard welcome point. The ‘Building Speed’ artwork in the foreground celebrates our rich history of rail and horseracing.

Map Ref:

30



12) Future’s Past & Present Mural: At 108 metres long, it is the UK’s longest mural. Unveiled in 2021 opposite Doncaster Station, it celebrates Doncaster’s heritage through a montage of locally pertinent images.

Map Ref:

8

Part D) Photographs of Permanent Features of the Area (Continued)



13) Doncaster Markets: Doncaster is proud to boast one of Britain's finest dedicated food markets, winner of the Best Food Market Award in 2015 at the prestigious BBC Food and Farming Awards. The image shows a stall at our famous Fish Market.

Map Ref:

15



14) Sunny Bar, Market Gateway: The 8m tall gateway, created in 2003, forms an imposing entrance to the main market area. It is made from hand-pressed and fired brick, with granite plinths topped with a bronze sheep and pig, and a steel arch.

Map Ref:

18

Part D) Photographs of Permanent Features of the Area (Continued)



15) The Wool Market: Located in the heart of Doncaster’s market area, this glass-fronted, Grade II Victorian building, reopened in 2019 after a £5m refurbishment, attracting 75,000 visitors in the first week.

Map Ref:

15



16) Wool Market Food Court: The Wool Market houses a range of eateries, live music and entertainment, and high-end independent retailers, creating a warm and lively atmosphere for visitors to enjoy.

Map Ref:

15

Part D) Photographs of Permanent Features of the Area (Continued)



17) The Corn Exchange: Another of our iconic, restored Victorian Grade II listed market buildings, originally built in 1870, now housing 26 shop units, a café, and craft area. Doncaster’s outdoor market is positioned in front of it.

Map Ref:

15



18) High Street Shopping Area: Alongside the Frenchgate Centre, Doncaster has a vibrant central pedestrianised shopping area, clustered around the High Street (pictured), St Sepulchre Gate, Baxter Gate, French Gate, and The Marketplace.

Map Ref:

10

Part D) Photographs of Permanent Features of the Area (Continued)



19) Doncaster Racecourse: Home of the St Leger Festival, this image shows the £32m five storey Main Grandstand opened in 2008 (centre), the Leger Stand (left), and Clock Tower Stand, built in 1881, (far right) with horses approaching the finish post.

Map Ref:

32



20) Keepmoat Stadium: Opened in 2007, and costing £20m to construct, the stadium has a capacity of 15,231. It is the home of Doncaster Rovers FC and Doncaster Rugby League FC and is a host city stadium for the postponed 2021 Rugby League World Cup.

Map Ref:

35

Part D) Photographs of Permanent Features of the Area (Continued)



21) The Bennetthorpe War Memorial: Doncaster’s central cenotaph, the Grade II listed monument was sculpted in 1923. It commemorates the First and Second World Wars, including plaques depicting the three branches of the armed forces.

Map Ref:

22



22) Rich Seam Statue: Celebrating our mining heritage, the sculpture features a 6-foot-tall bronze miner stood between two walls, featuring real-life faces of 40 local people, including miners, with an association with the pits across our borough.

Map Ref:

11

Part D) Photographs of Permanent Features of the Area (Continued)



23) Cusworth Hall & Park: An 18th-century Grade I listed country house is set in 20 acres of landscaped parklands. Previously the home of the Battie-Wrightson family for 200 years, the Hall is now owned by Doncaster Council and operated as a museum.

Map Ref:

6



24) Brodsworth Hall: Managed by English Heritage, it is one of England's most complete surviving examples of a Victorian country house. Built in 1863, the Grade 1 listed property has over 30 rooms and is surrounded by Victorian period gardens.

Map Ref:

1

Part D) Photographs of Permanent Features of the Area (Continued)



25) Doncaster College & University Centre: The main campus, opened in 2006, includes state-of-the-art IT facilities, a 100-seat lecture theatre, a 200-seat drama studio, and a two-floor Learning Resource Centre.

Map Ref:

54



26) Doncaster University Technical College: The award-winning UTC specialises in engineering and creative / digital technologies. The newly constructed town centre building has capacity for 750 students aged 13 to 19.

Map Ref:

58

Part D) Photographs of Permanent Features of the Area (Continued)



27) Doncaster Sheffield Airport, Terminal Building: The airport operates passenger flights to more than 40 destinations across 14 different countries, with a passenger throughput of 1.29m in 2020; the only UK airport with 1m+ passengers not in a city!

Map Ref:



28) Yorkshire Gateway (The Big Yellow Y): The 8.6m high landmark feature of the letter Y commemorates the completion of the Great Yorkshire Way, linking the M18 and the airport, and our significant position as the southern gateway to Yorkshire.

Map Ref:



Part D) Photographs of Permanent Features of the Area (Continued)



29) Jamia Masjid Sultania: The mosque is one of two in central Doncaster, as well as being a Pakistani Cultural Centre, offering space for prayer and community support, and serving recently as a Covid-19 pop-up vaccination centre.

Map Ref:

51



30) Guru Kalgidhar Gurdwara: The principal Gurdwara in Doncaster for assembly and worship by the Sikh community. The Nishan Sahib, the Sikh holy triangular flag depicting a double-edged sword called a Khanda, stands proudly by the entrance.

Map Ref:

49

Part D) Photographs of Permanent Features of the Area (Continued)



31) Lakeside Village Shopping Outlet: A retail outlet destination, first opened in 1996 and re-modelled in 2003. It houses 53 retail units, with 147,000 sq. ft of retail space, and an estimated 2 million visitors per year.

Map Ref:

17



32) Lakeside Lake: Part of an 80-acre public green space bordered by the Lakeside Village Shopping Outlet and Keepmoat Stadium. The 1.5 mile walk around the circumference of the lake itself is always popular.

Map Ref:

24

Part D) Photographs of Permanent Features of the Area (Continued)



33) Yorkshire Wildlife Park: Housing 400+ animals, it is the UK's No.1 walk-through wildlife adventure, attracting 800,000 annual visitors. The Park is England's only polar bear centre, with 8 bears, the largest captive group outside of Canada.

Map Ref:

44



34) The Vulcan Experience: The iconic Avro Vulcan XH558 jet bomber aircraft, which served at the height of the Cold War, is now retired at Doncaster Airport. Specialist tours allow visitors and aviation enthusiasts to experience the plane up close.

Map Ref:

42

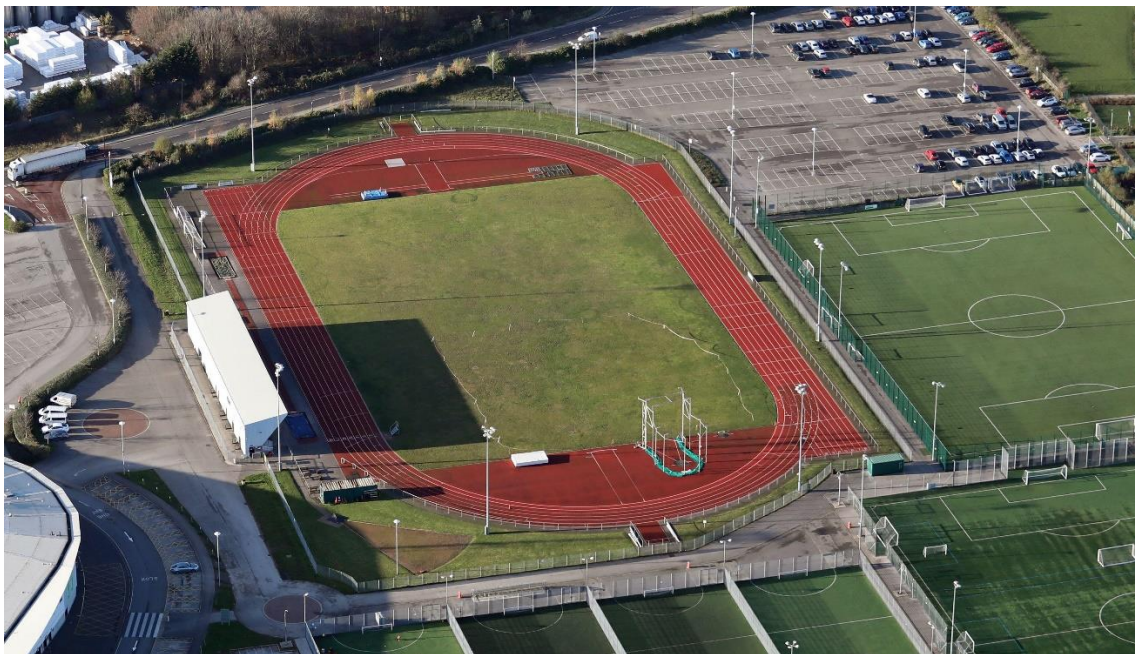
Part D) Photographs of Permanent Features of the Area (Continued)



35) Castle Park Stadium: Home of Doncaster Knights Rugby League Football Club, the main stand has a seating capacity for 3,000, with an overall stadium capacity of 5,000. The Stadium has also hosted England women’s internationals and Six Nations fixtures.

Map Ref:

31



36) Keepmoat Athletics Stadium: The Stadium is part of the Lakeside Sports village, adjacent to the main football and rugby stadium. With a seated stand accommodating 500, the Stadium is home to Doncaster Athletics Club and Doncaster Belles FC.

Map Ref:

34

Part D) Photographs of Permanent Features of the Area (Continued)



37) Doncaster iPort: A 420-acre intermodal rail terminal, with 120 acres of warehousing space, it is the largest rail terminal in Yorkshire. 2.5 million sq. ft. are occupied by Amazon, Fellowes, CEVA Logistics, Lidl, Kingsbury Press, and Maritime.

Map Ref:



38) Marr Wind Farm: The £10m development which opened in 2012 has a capacity of more than 8MW and can generate enough power to meet the energy requirements of up to 4,700 homes. It is one of three wind farms in Doncaster.

Map Ref:



Part D) Photographs of Permanent Features of the Area (Continued)



39) Conisbrough Castle: A medieval fortress initially built in the 11th century, the castle was the inspiration for Sir Walter Scott's *Ivanhoe*, and is now owned by Doncaster Council and managed by English Heritage.

Map Ref:

4



40) Conisbrough Viaduct: At 1,527 feet in length, with 21 arches and a 150-foot lattice iron girder span across the River Don, the magnificent viaduct served the railway network up to 1965 and is now part of the Trans Pennine Trail.

Map Ref:

5

Part D) Photographs of Permanent Features of the Area (Continued)



41) The National College for Advanced Transport & Infrastructure: A purpose-built facility to train the next generation of high-speed railway practitioners. Facilities include a full-size high-speed engine and track section to learn first-hand skills.

Map Ref:

56



42) Doncaster Station, East Coast Mainline: Great Britain's 59th busiest railway station, one of only 3 in the UK served by 7 different train operating companies, including LNER Azuma direct high-speed intercity services to London and Edinburgh.

Map Ref:

30

Part D) Photographs of Permanent Features of the Area (Continued)



43) Potteric Carr Nature Reserve: The flagship site of the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, with 500 acres of wetland, woodland, and grassland habitat, within 2 miles of the centre of Doncaster. The image shows the visitor's centre.

Map Ref:

25



44) Hatfield and Thorne Moors: Part of the Humberhead Peatlands National Nature Reserve, the moors form the largest area of lowland raised peat bog in the UK and are a designated biological Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

Map Ref:

23

Part D) Photographs of Permanent Features of the Area (Continued)



45) Doncaster Dome Leisure Centre: A premier sports, leisure, and entertainment facility, including a 7-pool water park, the UK's only split-level ice rink with interconnecting ramps, a cycle track, a soft play zone, table tennis, and squash courts.

Map Ref:

37



46) Rossington Hall: Originally built in 1883, the hall today is a luxury hotel, wedding, conference, and dining venue. The stables and grounds of Rossington Hall are also the home of The National Horseracing College.

Map Ref:

40

Part D) Photographs of Permanent Features of the Area (Continued)



47) Ted Hughes Blue Plaque: Commemorating our own Poet Laureate, this plaque is mounted at the former home of Ted Hughes in Mexborough, where he wrote his early poems. Hughes is one of our many cultural icons celebrated across the borough.

Map Ref:

9



48) Bawtry: One of our bustling outlying towns at the entry point to the borough and, more broadly, to Yorkshire itself on the old Great North Road. Bawtry is packed with independent retailers, charismatic eateries, and its own historic marketplace.

Map Ref:

14

Part D) Photographs of Permanent Features of the Area (Continued)



49) Sandall Park: One of our 5 Green Flag Parks, the park covers 69 acres. The Friends of Sandall Park, a charity helping to manage the park, won a Duke of York Community Initiative Award in 2013 and The Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service in 2011.

Map Ref:

27

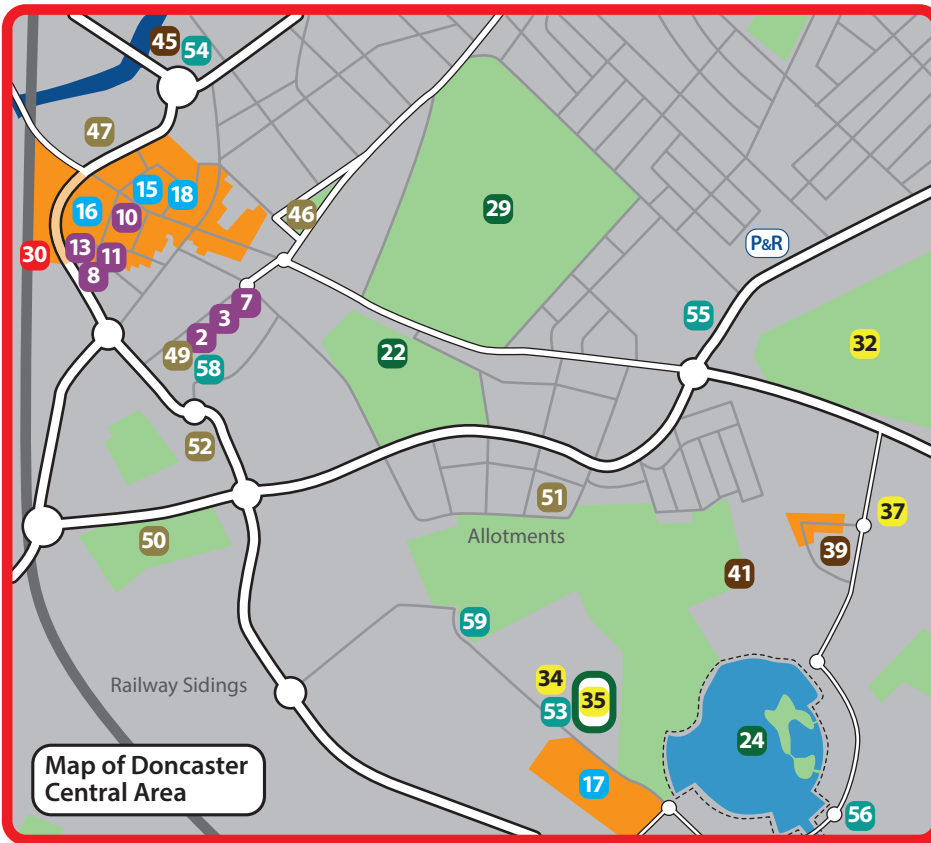


50) The Minster & River Don: Doncaster’s position on the River Don, and its canal network, are integral to both its natural and industrial identity. This image shows canal boats at Doncaster Wharf in the heart of Doncaster, overlooked by the Minster.

Map Ref:

47

Map of Doncaster



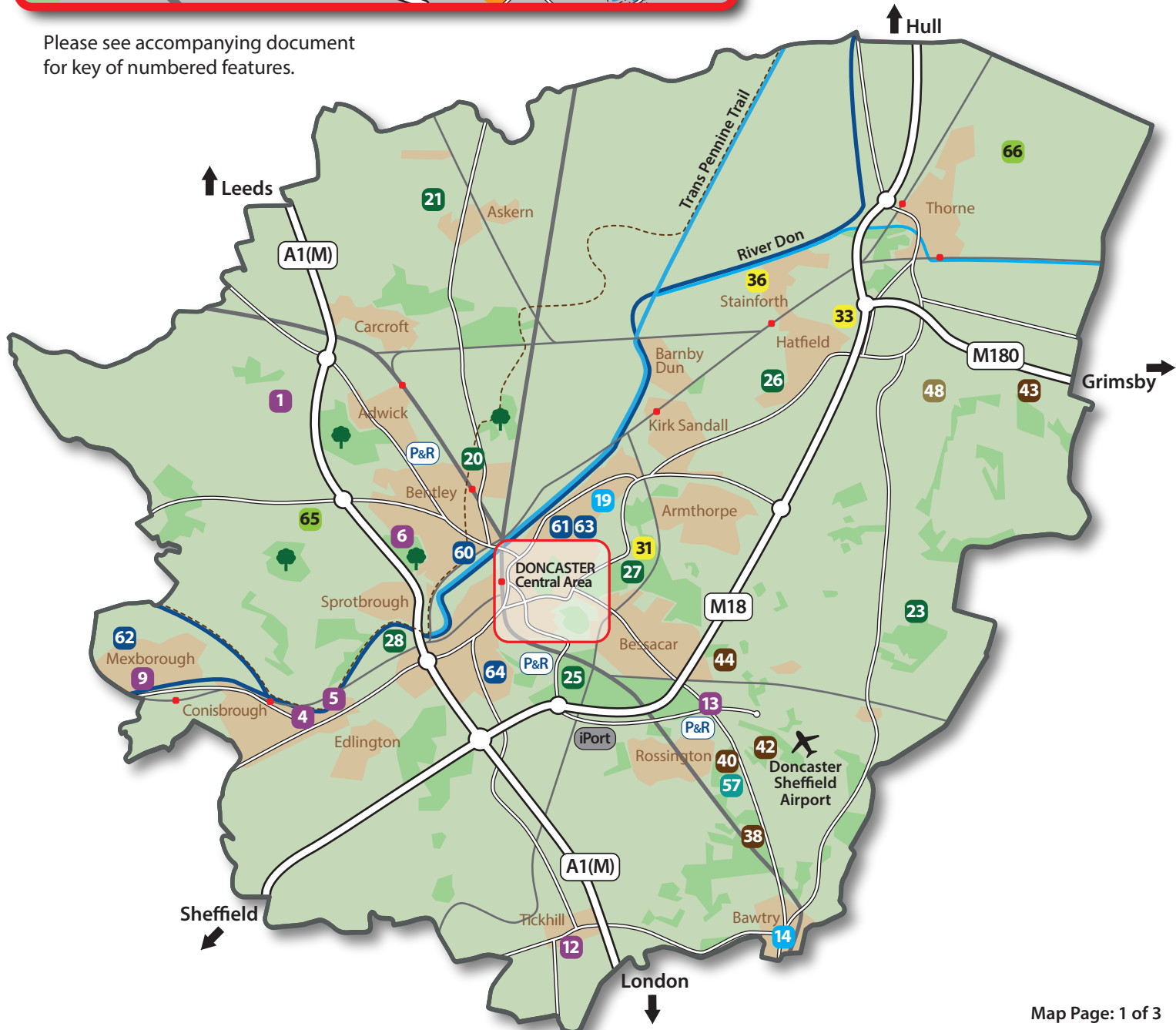
Main Map

- Trans Pennine Trail
- East Coast Main Line
- Rail Line
- == Motorway
- A Road
- Canal
- River
- Parks, Woods & Green Spaces
- Country Park
- Urban Space
- Rail Station
- Ⓟ Primary Park & Ride Site

Central Area Map

- Foot Path
- East Coast Main
- == Main Road
- Secondary Road
- Minor Road
- Shopping Area
- River Don

Please see accompanying document for key of numbered features.



Key to Numbered Sites on Map

Civic, Cultural & Heritage

- 1 Brodsworth Hall
- 2 CAST Theatre
- 3 Civic Office, Waterdale
- 4 Conisbrough Castle
- 5 Conisbrough Viaduct
- 6 Cusworth Hall & Park (*Green Flag Award*)
- 7 Doncaster Gallery Library & Museum
- 8 Future's Past and Present Mural
- 9 Ted Hughes Blue Plaque
- 10 The Mansion House & High Street
- 11 The Rich Seam – Mining Statue
- 12 Tickhill Castle
- 13 Yorkshire Gateway (*The Big Yellow Y*)

Shopping & Markets

- 14 Bawtry High Street & Market
- 15 Corn Exchange & Markets
- 16 Frenchgate Shopping Centre
- 17 Lakeside Village
- 18 Sunny Bar Market Gateway
- 19 Wheatley Centre Shopping Park

Parks & Green Spaces

- 20 Bentley Park (*Green Flag Award*)
- 21 Campsall Park (*Green Flag Award*)
- 22 Elmfield Park and Cenotaph
- 23 Humberhead Peatlands National Nature Reserve
- 24 Lakeside Lake
- 25 Potteric Carr Nature Reserve
- 26 Quarry Park Dunsville (*Green Flag Award*)
- 27 Sandall Park (*Green Flag Award*)
- 28 Sprotbrough Flash Nature Reserve
- 29 Town Fields

Travel & Transport

- 30 Doncaster Train Station / Frenchgate Interchange

Sports Venues

- 31 Castle Park (*Rugby Union*)
- 32 Doncaster Racecourse
- 33 Hatfield Outdoor Activity Centre
- 34 Keepmoat Athletics Stadium
- 35 Keepmoat Stadium (*Football / Rugby League*)
- 36 Meadow Court Stadium (*Greyhound Racing*)
- 37 The Dome Leisure Centre

Visitor & Leisure Attractions

- 38 Bawtry Paintball Fields
- 39 Herten Triangle Restaurants, Cinema & Bowling
- 40 Rossington Hall
- 41 South Yorkshire Aircraft Museum
- 42 The Vulcan Experience
- 43 Trolleybus Museum at Sandtoft
- 44 Yorkshire Wildlife Park
- 45 Waterfront Marina

Worship & Faith

- 46 Christ Church
- 47 Doncaster Minster
- 48 Gomde Lindholme Hall (*Buddist Retreat*)
- 49 Guru Kalgidhar Gurdwara (*Sikh Temple*)
- 50 Hyde Park Cemetary
- 51 Jamia Masjid Sultania (*Mosque*)
- 52 Jamia Mosque

Key Education Sites

- 53 Club Doncaster Sports College
- 54 Doncaster College & University Centre
- 55 Doncaster School for the Deaf
- 56 National College for Advanced Transport & Infrastructure
- 57 National Horseracing College
- 58 University Technical College
- 59 XP School

Hospitals

- 60 Cheswold Park Hospital
- 61 Doncaster Royal Infirmary
- 62 Montagu Hospital
- 63 Parkhill Hospital
- 64 Tickhill Road Hospital

Green Economy

- 65 Marr Wind Farm
- 66 Tween Bridge Wind Farm

Connections to Doncaster

Distances to Doncaster by Road

Destination	Mileage	Approx. Duration
Sheffield	23	40 mins
Leeds	33	50 mins
Port of Hull	47	1 hour
Port of Immingham	48	1 hour
Manchester	60	1 hour 10 mins
Birmingham	94	1 hour 40 mins
Newcastle	114	2 hours
A1(M)/M25 Interchange	148	2 hours 40 mins
London	170	3 hours 20 mins
Channel Tunnel	230	3 hours 50 mins

Direct Train Services from Doncaster Station to other Cities

Destination	Approximate No. of Weekday Trains		Ave. Journey Duration
	To Destination	From Destination	
Birmingham	21	28	1 hour 50 mins
Durham	32	28	1 hour 20 mins
Edinburgh	36	23	3 hours 25 mins
Hull	29	40	50 mins
Leeds	43	48	40 mins
Lincoln	12	20	1 hour 20 mins
London	70	67	1 hour 50 mins
Manchester	29	46	1 hour 40 mins
Newcastle	32	28	1 hour 50 mins
Peterborough	46	41	1 hour
Sheffield	60	61	30 mins
Wakefield	42	49	20 mins
York	34	31	30 mins

Direct Train Services to Doncaster Station within the Borough

Destination	Approximate No. of Weekday Trains		Ave. Journey Duration
	To Destination	From Destination	
Adwick	36	34	8 mins
Bentley	36	34	3 mins
Conisborough	20	21	9 mins
Hatfield & Stainforth	21	24	11 mins
Kirk Sandall	21	23	6 mins
Mexborough	20	21	11 mins
Thorne North	14	14	15 mins
Thorne South	8	10	15 mins