



DIG - FACTS AND FIGURES

- In 1975, St Saviour's Church was acquired by York Archaeological Trust for storage of finds. In 1990, York Archaeological Trust set up the Archaeological Resource Centre (ARC)
- DIG opened its doors for the first time on 25th March 2006. Funded by the Millennium Lottery Commission, DIG is a £1 million development that combines an exciting visitor experience with an innovative corporate event offer.
- DIG was awarded the 'York Tourism Attraction of the Year' at the York Tourism Awards on 10th November 2006.
- The four dig pits are based on four iconic excavations undertaken by the Trust in recent times: the Roman fortress at Blake Street, the Viking settlement of Jorvik at Coppergate, the medieval priory at Fishergate, the Victorian slum dwellings at Hungate, York.
- DIG includes workshops, demonstrations, and presentations that can be tailor-made to the audience's ability. School group activities cater for pupils from key stages 1 to 4 with cross-curricular links in history and science plus key elements of English, maths, geography, citizenship and art and design.
- York Archaeological Trust owns the centre and is an independent educational charity based in York [Registered charity in England & Wales (No. 509060) and Scotland (No. SCO42846)].

The logo for 'Jorvik DIG' features the word 'JORVIK' in a smaller, orange, serif font to the left of the word 'DIG'. The 'D' and 'I' are large and stylized, with a gradient from orange to brown. The 'G' is also large and stylized, with a brown shadow underneath it. Below the logo, the text 'ATTRACTION WALK-THROUGH' is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

JORVIK DIG

ATTRACTION WALK-THROUGH

Visitors to DIG will be able to take part in a simulated excavation, discover 'real' artefacts from York's history and also understand how archaeologists recreate the past.

The intrepid explorers will start their experience in the briefing room where they will get the inside track on digging for archaeological finds and be kitted out with a trowel, one of the essential tools of the archaeology trade.

They then walk into the actual trench area. Four archaeological layers are exposed for visitors to dig through and discover exciting finds as discovered by the real archaeologists of York Archaeological Trust. In each different dig area, evidence and information can be discovered about various eras of the past, from the Roman to the Victorian period.

Fascinating facts will be discovered every time! What will tell us that the Roman soldiers were keen gamblers? What did the Romans use to clean their ears? What types of food were the Vikings eating? What grave goods can be found with the monk buried on the Fishergate site? What can be found in the remains of the Victorian 'privy'?

The archaeologists-in-training have a chance to study Viking soil samples, from Coppergate, in detail. Here they have an opportunity to study environmental sciences by examining all of the insects and beetles which give an indication of the ecosystem and climate during the Viking period. Visitors can also try zooarchaeology and examine the animal bones which were left in the Viking rubbish pits.

Once finished in the dig area, visitors will then head to the *Looking Back at Hungate* exhibition to explore real archaeological techniques and finds through a variety of hands-on activities.

Looking Back at Hungate

What the archaeologist discovered during their investigation was a rich and changing story, reflecting how people adapted the use of this low lying parcel of land that sits within an elbow of the River Foss.



The logo for DIG JORVIK features the word "DIG" in a large, stylized, orange-to-brown gradient font. The letter "I" is replaced by a silhouette of a shovel. To the left of "DIG", the word "JORVIK" is written in a smaller, orange, serif font. Below the logo, the text "ATTRACTION WALK-THROUGH" is centered in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

ATTRACTION WALK-THROUGH

Roman Hungate

Visitors discover the story of Skeleton 58 who died in Roman Hungate and was selected for further osteological analysis. They will also get a feel for Roman burial practices, cemeteries, and afterlife as well as learn about the extravagant glass and jet artefacts associated with this skeleton.

Medieval Hungate

Learn about the everyday objects produced and used within medieval life. Displayed are examples of trade and craftsmanship from the Viking period such as antler pieces and items used for textile work through to the pottery and stonework from the medieval era.

Victorian Hungate

Meet Benjamin Seebohrn Rowntree and many more people who lived and worked in Victorian York. Learn of their different occupations, their personal lifestyles and the different people who made up the Hungate community.

The grand 'York reveal' at DIG is an impressive 3D audiovisual show that takes the newly-trained archaeologists on a tour of the original digs on which the trenches at DIG are based and reveals what the area would have looked like during the periods studied. Visitors can then view the actual artefacts that have been found by the York Archaeological Trust, which show what life has been like in York since the Roman times.

DIG also offers visitors a chance to get a look at the most recent excavation carried out by the York Archaeological Trust. The continuing excavation at Hungate is explained in a audio-visual presentation and recent finds are on display. As archaeologists dig deeper into York's history, it is possible to examine some of the treasures which are being unearthed.



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NOTE TO EDITORS:

DIG is open every day except 24/25/26th December. DIG recommends allowing an hour and a half for a visit.

For more information, please contact Karen Nixon or Hannah Trinder at The Partners Group on 01904 610077, or email karen@partners-group.co.uk or hannah@partners-group.co.uk.

For further information on all things DIG visit www.digyork.co.uk

JORVIK, DIG, Barley Hall and Micklegate Bar Museum are owned by York Archaeological Trust, an independent, educational charity that provides and promotes archaeology of the highest possible standards in York, its region and beyond.

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