

KIRKBYMOORSIDE AN HISTORIC MARKET TOWN

Evolution of the town's name

It was the Vikings who gave Kirkby its name, which means 'a place with a church'. The "Moorside" suffix was added long after the Viking era to distinguish the town from other Kirkbys, like Kirkby Stephen or Kirkby Lonsdale. Historically, the spelling varied between one or two words, sometimes omitting the middle "k."

A brief history of Kirkbymoorside

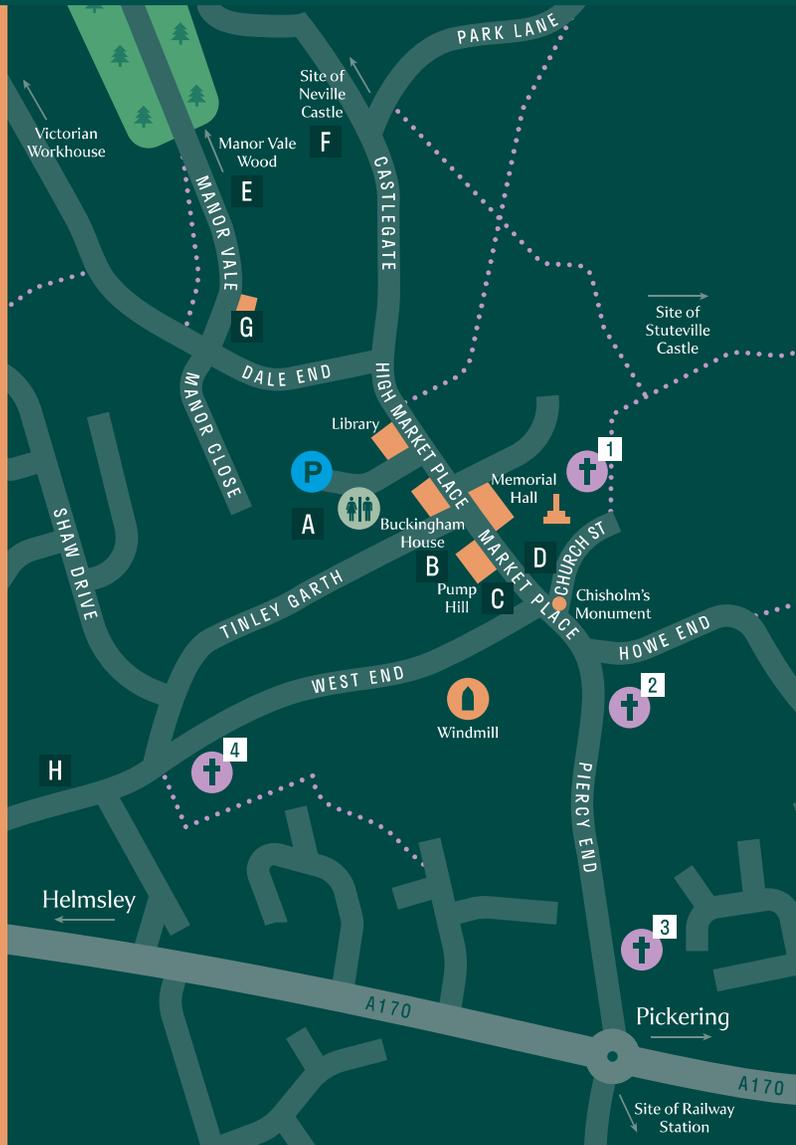
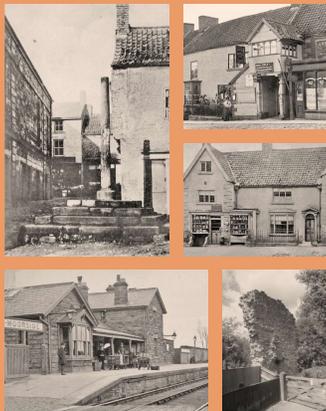
From Ancient Settlement to Market Town

Archaeological evidence shows Ancient Britons lived around Kirkbymoorside 4,000 years ago, followed by Roman occupation at nearby Beadlam. During the Anglo-Saxon and Viking eras, a village formed around a stone church, leaving behind evidence of their presence in ornately carved stones. After the 1066 Norman Conquest, the Stuteville and Neville families built fortified manors, and All Saints' Church was rebuilt in the medieval style. In 1254, the settlement officially became a town when King Henry III granted its Market Charter.



Prosperity and Industrial Change

Market success brought lasting wealth through the Tudor and Georgian periods, evidenced today by the Black Swan pub and the Tollbooth (now Memorial Hall). The 19th-century Victorian railway transformed the townscape, importing brick and slate while fuelling new industries like foundries and gas works. Although these industries and the railway vanished during the 20th Century, Kirkbymoorside has continued to expand with modern housing. Today, it remains a vibrant town that carefully preserves traces of its long, varied history.



Key

- Car park
- Public toilets
- Information panels
- Historic town centre
- Upper town centre
- Lower town centre
- Chisholm's Monument
- Manor Vale Wood
- Neville Castle
- Pinfold (animal pound)
- Children's Orthopaedic Hospital
- Places of interest
- Buttercross
- Places of worship
- 1 All Saints, C of E
- 2 Methodist Chapel
- 3 St. Chad's, RC
- 4 Friends Meeting House

Find out more

More detailed information on the town's history can be found on the other seven information panels around the town (see map for locations) and on the 'Kirkbymoorside Town History Trail' leaflet available free from the Kirkbymoorside Library and from the SPAR shop in Market Place.



Scan this QR code to learn more information about the town's history at kirkbymoorsidetown.co.uk/town-history



Scan this QR code to access the Kirkbymoorside History Group website for more fascinating information. kirkbymoorsidehistorygroup.org



DAVID SKAITH MAYOR



Kirkbymoorside