

A Palace for the People

1818

1881

1907

2014

1818 Parts of the Palace were used as a courthouse for the 'Soke of Southwell', rented out as a residence, and used as a girls' school – a Respectable Seminary for young ladies.



1881 The Palace was bought by Edward Trollope, Suffragan (assistant) Bishop of Nottingham, who arranged for the restoration of the State Chamber, the building of the grand staircase and the Bishop's Chapel – now the Song School for choristers, just to the left of the entrance. Trollope hoped it would be the residence of the first Bishop of Southwell, but when Bishop Ridding was enthroned in 1884 he chose to live in nearby Thurgaton.

1907 Bishop's Manor (architect William Caroe) was skilfully incorporated within the old ruins. The second Bishop, Sir Edwin Hoskyns, did come to live here. This continues to be the residence of the Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham.

2014 A Heritage Lottery-funded project to carry out improvements and restoration at the Palace was completed.

Today... the Palace is used for meetings, events, and as a community and education facility. It is also the home of the Cathedral Choir.

PALACE GARDENS

Once you have enjoyed the magnificent State Chamber, make sure to visit the Palace Gardens. Nestled in the shadow of the majestic Palace ruins you'll find a garden bursting with beauty.



Once part of the wider hunting grounds that would have been enjoyed by the Archbishops and their guests, the Gardens now provide a unique opportunity to see living examples of the 13th-century carved stone leaves of the Minster's famous Chapter House. Many species can be viewed alongside whimsical sculptures depicting some of the characters that are hidden in the Chapter House – including our very own dragon, Oskytel.

TOURS OF THE ARCHBISHOP'S PALACE

Delve deeper into the history of the Cathedral, Palace and Gardens. Book a tour at www.southwellminster.org/tours/



Welcome to

The Archbishop's Palace and Gardens



The first residence for the Archbishops of York in Southwell was probably a 10th-century manor house made of wood, possibly using further material from the large Roman villa that lies underneath the site. In 1360, work on a new stone Palace began and by the 1460s it had taken the form we see today.

The path up to the Palace is inscribed with decorative symbols and words written in Roman, Anglo-Saxon and modern English, the languages of three groups who have occupied this site. The words continue as you ascend the grand staircase to the State Chamber. The words themselves refer to the importance of place, conveying a sense of tranquillity and peace.

The State Chamber on the first floor is believed to be where the Archbishops would entertain Monarchs and hold formal meetings.

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gemynd
memory*

The Archbishops Arrive

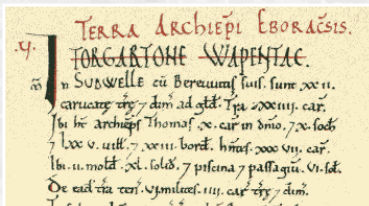
956

956 King Eadwig gave a large estate including legal powers for it, centred around Southwell, to Bishop Oskytel, who later became Archbishop of York.

1060

1060s Archbishop Aeldred established a refectory (dining hall) for the use of the canons. He is also reported to have purchased several estates in Nottinghamshire with his private wealth, founding several prebends (now known as parishes) for the Minster. He was the last Anglo-Saxon Archbishop of York and crowned William the Conqueror on Christmas Day in 1066.

1086 The entry in Domesday Book states that the Archbishop had three priests, two Englishmen and six soldiers here.



The Archbishops of York needed a place to break their journeys between London and York. Many were the second most powerful men in England, working, travelling and even going into battle with the medieval kings.

1108 Archbishop Gerard was found dead in his chair in the garden. When his body was moved, a book on astrology was found under the pillow – considered by some to be heretical studies. He was buried in the churchyard of York Minster as the canons refused to bury him inside the Minster.

1108

Medieval Grandeur

1194

1194 to 1447 Medieval kings Richard I, John, Edward I, Edward III, Richard II and Henry VI stayed in the Palace as guests of the Archbishops.

Richard the Lionheart and King John were among the kings who stayed here

1360 to 1452 A new Palace was built in stone which included the State Chamber and a four-seater garderobe (toilets). This Archbishop's Palace was now a grand building.



1530 A disgraced Cardinal Wolsey spent the last few months of his life here, trying in vain to appease Henry VIII for his failure to secure a divorce from Catherine of Aragon. He is said to have brought 160 servants with him. He was fond of his time at Southwell. In a letter to Thomas Cromwell he signed off: *"Thus with wepyng terys I byd you farewell. At Southwell with a trembling hande."*



1530

A Palace in Ruins

1603

1603 King James VI of Scotland admired the Minster and Palace as he travelled to London to be crowned James I of England, upon the death of Elizabeth I. He asked to buy the Archbishop's Palace as a hunting lodge and stopping off point, but the Archbishop of York refused.



1642 to 1646 King Charles I, the son of James I, came here several times during the Civil War. He spent his last hours of freedom, in disguise, at the Saracen's Head inn and surrendered there to Scots who had their headquarters in the Palace. During the war, townsfolk and soldiers plundered the Palace, removing stone and roofing, causing the extensive damage you see in the ruined section today. The magnificent State Chamber on the first floor survived, thanks to the efforts of the Archbishop's Steward (estate manager) to defend it. However, the Archbishops never used the Palace again.

