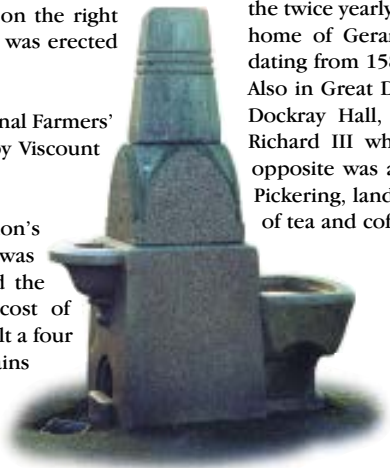


# THE CASTLE

- allow minimum 30 minutes

- 1 At the end of the 19th century the Black Bull (now the Board and Elbow) in Penrith's Cornmarket had become a temperance hotel and the gas lamp in front of the inn had developed an ornate drinking fountain and horse trough. In its place now is the present 'bandstand'. Across the road from the Black Bull was the Fish Hotel which was very old, being mentioned as early as 1790. Like all the other Corn Market inns, it was eventually closed, being demolished and replaced by Poets Walk in comparatively recent years.
- 2 In the 1930's Mr "Tom" Dayson, a local farmer, built up a national reputation for the quality of his ice-cream. 1000 gallons of ice cream per week were produced at Crossfield, a 50 acre holding between the A6 and the old Wigton road where Mr Dayson built a new farmstead and a small factory. A coffee bar at the foot of Castlegate was opened soon after the last war. Dayson's ices were a delicacy for the Penrith youngsters of that era.
- 3 Penrith Players, moved from premises on Castlegate into converted furniture auction rooms in 1998, with a first production of the musical 'Annie'. The Players were founded in 1922 by Mr Horace Page, the new Manager of Barclays Bank. The first event was a comedy 'Uncle Ned' on 10 April 1923. In 1935 they won the Northern section of the British Drama Week Festival.
- 4 The former Stalkers foundry and steam museum has recently been converted into housing, part of the foundry being incorporated into the courtyard design.
- 5 The Agricultural Hotel, formerly owned by the Auction Company, provided food and drink to the farming community visiting the very extensive farm stock auction premises now largely occupied by the present supermarket. There was a direct connection from the bar to one of the sale rings directly to the left of the Hotel. The somewhat inconspicuous building in the yard on the right hand side of Auction Mart Lane, now a glass depot, was erected in 1847 as a Board School.
- 6 Penrith is the centre of operations for Cumbria National Farmers' Union and the new building was opened in 1986 by Viscount Whitelaw.
- 7 The Railway line was completed in 1846 and the Station's architect was Sir William Tite. Joseph Locke was engineer of the line which at the time represented the largest single railway contract ever placed at a cost of £1,200,000. To save time on construction Locke built a four mile gradient at 1 in 75 at Shap meaning all heavy trains required assistance up the bank. Almost 10,000 navvies and over 1,000 horses were employed in



building the line. The labour force was 1/3 Irish, 1/3 Scottish and 1/3 English, a combination which caused many disturbances. The 'Penrith Click' was the last in operation in the country. History was made on 1 October 1971, when the pouches of the mail were snatched from the line-side apparatus by the London-bound 'up special' travelling post office, watched by a crowd of sightseers. The system was introduced in 1838 and there were 240 collection points throughout Britain.

- 8 The War Memorial Gateway leads to Penrith's Castle Park, opened in 1923, it drew a bigger gathering than possibly any other function Penrith had witnessed, with the crowd put at 6000. The Cumberland and Westmorland Herald reporter noted that "The scene was unparalleled in the modern history of Penrith for the crowd which assembled in the Station Square was by far the biggest seen in the town for years." The day started with the judging of fancy dress competitors, decorated bicycles, motors and horse drawn vehicles before a procession through the main streets, headed by the Sons of Temperance Band.
- 9 The former drinking trough and fountain was originally surmounted by a gas street light when it was located in Cornmarket.
- 10 The 'Black Angel' memorial to the Boer War was originally located in Corney Square in front of the Town Hall. This is the Memorial to the South Africa War 1899-1902.
- 11 Cross the dry moat to Penrith Castle. The castle was begun in 1399, when William Strickland, later Bishop of Carlisle and Archbishop of Canterbury, added a stone curtain wall to the original pele tower. It was improved and added to over the next 70 years, finally to become a royal fortress for Richard, Duke of Gloucester as 'Guardian of the west march towards Scotland'. Although Governor of Carlisle Castle, he often resided in Penrith.
- 12 Great Dockray, largest of Penrith's market spaces, is still used every Tuesday as a street market. In the past it was used also for the twice yearly Hiring Fairs. The Two Lions Inn was formerly the home of Gerard Lowther, a forbear of the Earls of Lonsdale, dating from 1585. Also in Great Dockray is a row of listed cottages and the former Dockray Hall, now the Gloucester Arms. It is reputed that Richard III when Duke of Gloucester resided here. Directly opposite was another old inn, The Duke of Cumberland. Ann Pickering, landlady in the 19th century, also carried on the trade of tea and coffee dealer.



**PENRITH**  
The Heart of Cumbria

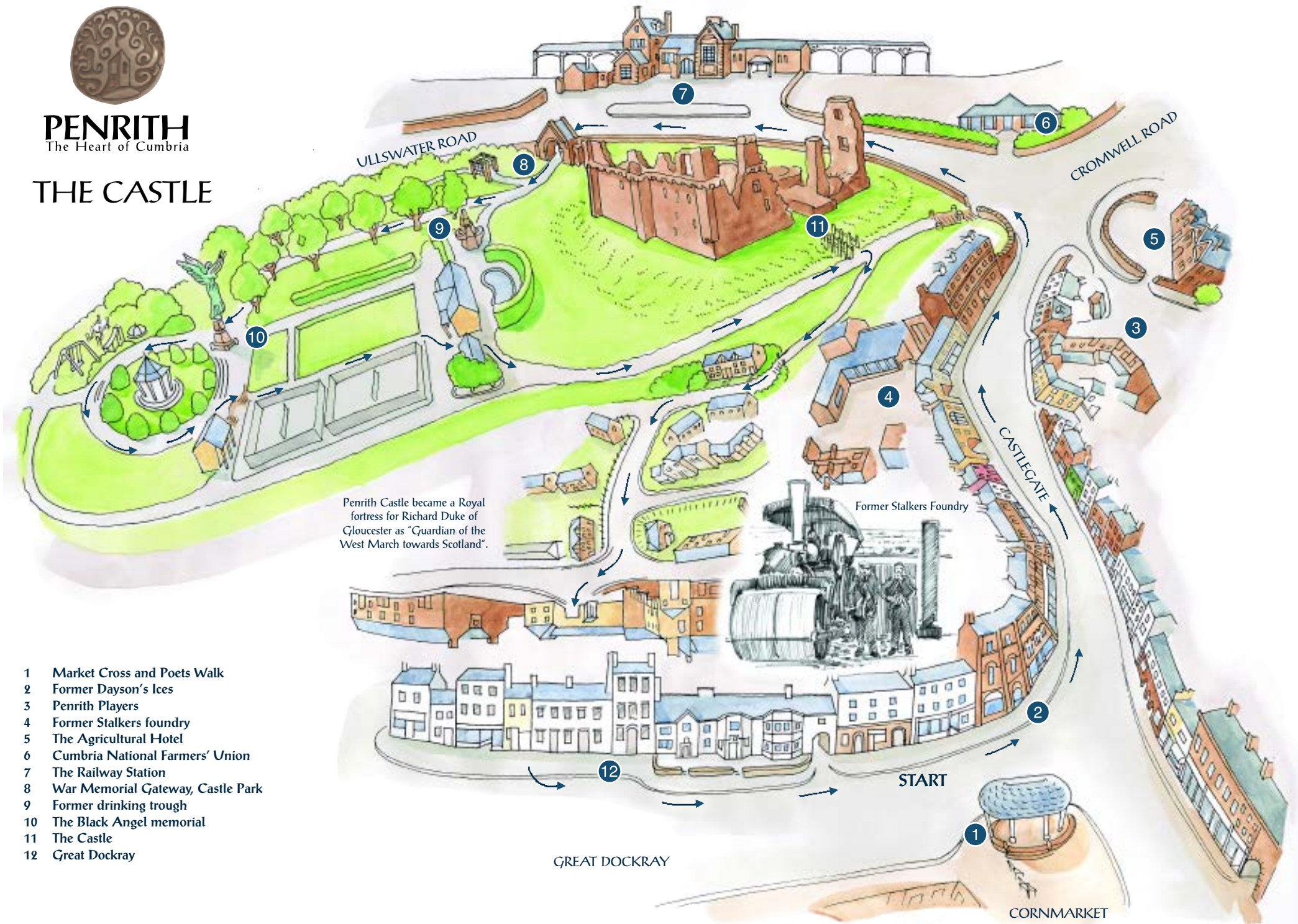
## THE CASTLE





**PENRITH**  
The Heart of Cumbria

# THE CASTLE



Penrith Castle became a Royal fortress for Richard Duke of Gloucester as "Guardian of the West March towards Scotland".

Former Stalkers Foundry

- 1 Market Cross and Poets Walk
- 2 Former Dayson's Ices
- 3 Penrith Players
- 4 Former Stalkers foundry
- 5 The Agricultural Hotel
- 6 Cumbria National Farmers' Union
- 7 The Railway Station
- 8 War Memorial Gateway, Castle Park
- 9 Former drinking trough
- 10 The Black Angel memorial
- 11 The Castle
- 12 Great Dockray

GREAT DOCKRAY

START

CORNMARKET