



Middle Ages England



The walled city - York

MONK BAR

Monk Bar was built in several stages, beginning in the early 14th century. Its top storey was added in 1484 during the reign of Richard III.

When first built, Monk Bar had a gated barbican, a roofless walled enclosure to guard the approach to the main gateway (removed in 1825). The gateway contained a portcullis, which remains in place to this day. A series of 'murder holes' overhead allowed missiles to be dropped onto any attackers drawing too close.

As well as being part of the city's defences, Monk Bar has also been used as a temporary prison and a police house. It retains two of its medieval toilets (known as 'garderobes'). The figures on top of the bar represent men hurling boulders.

It is now houses the Richard III Experience visitor attraction, managed by the JORVIK Group.





















