



Gisborough Priory and woodland gardens

The Priory of St Mary at Gisborough was founded in 1119 by Robert de Brus, the most important lord in north-east Yorkshire, his principal castle being at Skelton (8 miles east of Guisborough). The Priory was generously endowed and grew in wealth and power until it dominated the town and the local economy. This situation became threatened as Henry VIII's commissioners toured the country assessing the monetary worth of each religious house. Gisborough Priory was finally dissolved in 1540.

Ten years later the former Priory land was sold to Sir Thomas Chaloner. Eventually in the late 17th century the Chaloner family built a grand house on the site and laid out impressive gardens behind it in the fashion of the period. The gardens extended as far as the great east end of the ruined Priory which framed the charming view of the hills beyond the bounds of the gardens.

Points of interest around the site



Norman Arch

The oldest surviving part of the Priory it dates from the 12th century and was the original main entrance to the site. It was a two storey building and in the west facing wall the remains of a garderobe (waste shaft from a toilet) can be seen. To the east of the gateway you will see a medicinal herb garden. This has been planted here as we believe that this area is where the infirmary stood.



Nave

As you walk towards the magnificent East End of the church you will first pass a small room with a fireplace, probably a kind of greeting place or office for people calling at the Priory. Continuing along the nave of the church you can see pillar bases alongside, as well as the remains of three burials. These would have been the burial places of important people who probably endowed the Priory in their lifetimes.



East End

This is what remains of the 13th century church. There would have been a huge stained glass window set in intricate tracery in what is now the central arch. The coats of arms of the patrons' families De Brus, Thweng and Fauconberg (although badly weathered) can be seen on the window jambs. The doorways on each side led to spiral staircases giving access to the upper storeys of the church and the roof. The centre of the wall was knocked out in the early 18th century to improve the view of the hills beyond.





Woodland gardens

Here you will see a great many stones laid out on the ground. These were mostly excavated in the 19th century after an archaeological excavation conducted by the Chaloners. More recent examination by English Heritage archaeologists revealed much more about them and it was found that some of them composed the Rose window which was above the west entrance door to the church.

Moving further into the woodland you will notice an impressive kite shaped walk between two lines of venerable lime trees. This walk first appears on the estate maps in 1773. The trees are later and are believed to be between 200 and 250 years old.

The gardens contain the remains of the former Edwardian potting sheds. You will see a stone wall that formed the back of the lean-to range, the glasshouses themselves being on the far side of the wall.



Kitchen passage

This stone vaulted passageway is likely to have provided a route to communicate between the kitchens and the refectory. Archaeological work has shown that the building continues in a south easterly direction into the edge of the woodland area.



The Dovecot

This probably dates from the 14th century and does not form part of the English Heritage site. It cannot be visited.

Please be sure to call in to the visitor reception pavilion where you will find one of our volunteers who will be happy to offer you more information.



Become a volunteer

Gisborough Priory Project began to clear and revive parts of the former garden area in 2007. In 2015 a partnership agreement was signed between Gisborough Priory Project and English Heritage to manage the Priory ruins and grounds as well as the restored woodland gardens. Our volunteers now welcome visitors to enjoy the whole site, as well as continuing to work hard in the gardens.

We depend entirely on income from events, donations, sales of items made by our volunteers and local craftspeople, grants and membership fees.



For more details of how to support us either by becoming a volunteer or member see contact details below.



**GISBOROUGH
PRIORY
PROJECT**

Working in
partnership with:



ENGLISH HERITAGE

Gisborough Priory, Church Street, Guisborough TS14 6HG
email: gisboroughprioryproject@gmail.com

Open March-October, Wed-Sun (and Bank Holidays) 10am-4pm



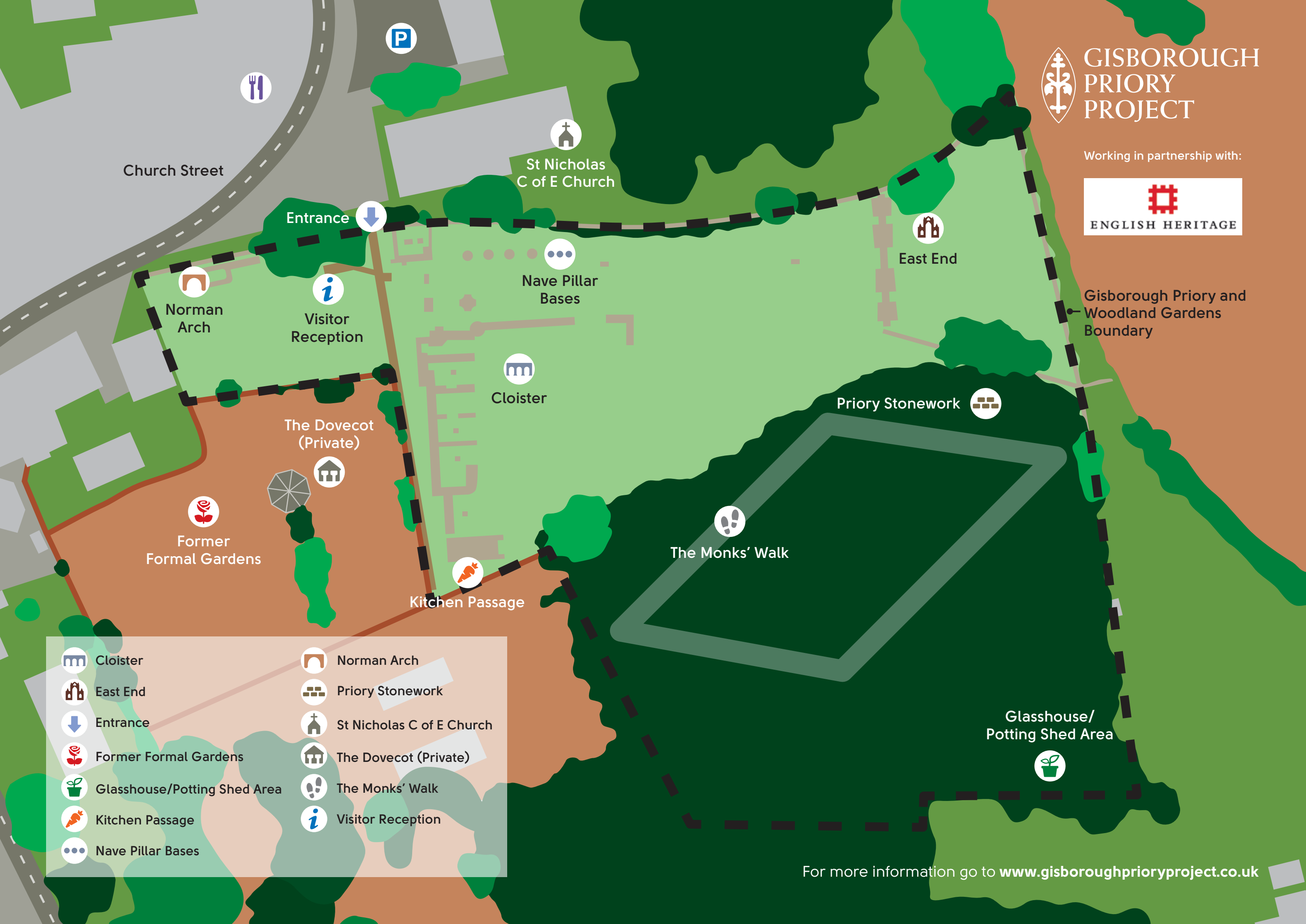
GisboroughPrioryProject

www.gisboroughprioryproject.co.uk

Working in partnership with:



Gisborough Priory and
Woodland Gardens
Boundary



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|--|---|
|  Cloister |  Norman Arch |
|  East End |  Priory Stonework |
|  Entrance |  St Nicholas C of E Church |
|  Former Formal Gardens |  The Dovecot (Private) |
|  Glasshouse/Potting Shed Area |  The Monks' Walk |
|  Kitchen Passage |  Visitor Reception |
|  Nave Pillar Bases | |