

# Cycle Rides

All routes:

- Use York's quiet country roads, or riverside paths with a stony or earthen surface.
- Are Easy and suitable for most leisure or mountain bikes, most fitness levels and family use.
- Take special care when crossing the main Northam-York Rd.
- Can also be walked but some sections have no footpaths, or only earthen verges.
- Riverside routes are shared use paths; frequent encounters are likely with other cyclists, walkers and runners. Cyclists should give way to users on foot.
- On roads, most rules applying to car drivers also apply to cyclists.
- Find out more about many of these sites on Wikipedia.

## Before you head out, have you considered:

A helmet - legally necessary for cycling  
Suitable footwear  
Water bottle  
Sun protection (hat, sunglasses, sunscreen)  
A mobile phone  
Letting someone know where you are going

Please dispose of rubbish in bins provided or take your rubbish with you.

PHOTO CREDITS **West Side Story**: 1-Karina Leonhardt; 7, 10, 13-Debbie Matthews; 12-heritageintelligencewa.com.au; National Library of Australia, Trove Newspapers 5-Eastern Districts Chronicle 05051888, 6-Eastern Districts Chronicle 30061906; York Residency Museum 4-P02.208, 9-P98.050 Donor J. Ashbolt, 15-P10.29 Donor W. Bennett **Heron's Highway**: 1-Karina Leonhardt; 14-Debbie Matthews; 12-Gerry Gerard; 4, 5, 8, 9-heritageintelligencewa.com.au; 15-Liam Barrett; 11-State Records Office of Western Australia, Cons. 3850/46a, 1851 F. Gregory; 6-York Residency Museum, P09.298 Donor J. Parker.



## SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES

#YORKWA #SHIREOFYORK

Ngala Kaaditj Ballardong Noongar Moort Keyen Kaadak Nidja Boodja  
We acknowledge the Ballardong Noongar People as the Traditional Custodians of the land in this area.



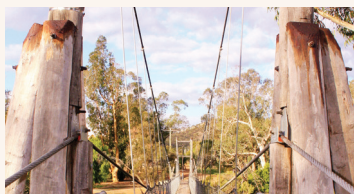
York Visitor Centre  
81 Avon Terrace, York, Western Australia  
p: (08) 9641 1301 e: info@york.wa.gov.au  
www.visit.york.wa.gov.au

SHIRE OF  
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## Avon River Trail The West Side Story

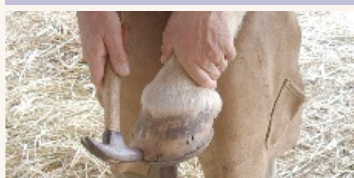
A wander along the west bank of the Avon River.



**1 SUSPENSION BRIDGE**  
(1988, REPLACING ORIGINAL 1888 AND LATER REPLACEMENTS)  
**Warning: Unstable surface - it swings! Cyclists dismount.**

This links the West Side Story Trail with the Heron's Highway Trail on the east bank.

Save that adventure for later and proceed down the west bank.



**2 PEACOCK'S FORGE SITE (c.1900)**  
The forge run by the Peacock brothers was well positioned to take advantage of passing trade in repairs of horse-drawn vehicles and shoeing horses.

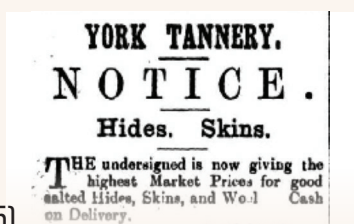
**5 MCKAY'S TANNERY (1888-1905)**  
Ronald McKay ran a flourishing Tannery near here. As well as cattle and sheep hides, kangaroo, possum and many other types of skins were processed into leather for saddlery, footwear and fancy leathergoods.



**3 BILYA - THE AVON RIVER**  
Site of Noongar significance  
Bilya means bellybutton - the umbilical cord, the source of life. For thousands of years a rich source of food and water for the Ballardong people.



**4 STEWART'S BRICKYARD SITE (c.1890s)**  
Andrew Stewart, builder, established a brickworks on the land between Avon Terrace and the river.



**J. MOSLEY,**  
AERATED WATER,  
CORDIAL, & VINEGAR  
Manufacturer,  
- YORK, - WA -

**6 MOSLEY'S CORDIAL FACTORY SITE (1901-1907)**  
James Mosley operated a cordial and pickle factory, producing 'Swallow' Brand Aerated Waters. The bottles were stoppered with a round glass ball, eagerly collected by small children as 'marbles'.



**7 MILE POOL CORROBOREE SITE**  
Site of Noongar significance  
Corroborees (important social and spiritual gatherings) were held in this area beside the deep 'Mile Pool' - a highly significant place for the Ballardong Noongar people.

Turn left to emerge on Avon Terrace. You'll see quaint nineteenth century cottages on your route back, which was a thriving industrial area over one hundred years ago.

**8 GOVERNMENT WELL SITE (c.1877)**  
The well was in this area, exact location unknown. In early 1878, a newspaper report said: "...there is a great traffic to and from it all the day through, and altogether it is a blessing in the absence of rain....".



**9 AMOS BRADSHAW'S WHEELWRIGHTS SITE (c.1880s)**  
Ex-convict Amos Bradshaw established a flourishing business on this site, which ran until at least 1916. He made coffins as well as horse drawn vehicles and offered a funeral service with a horse-drawn hearse 'available at the shortest notice'.



**10 BRICKWORKS SITE (c.1917)**  
Run by Mr. A. Slocombe throughout the 1920's. Mrs. Slocombe's claim to fame was newspaper advertisements that quoted her praising 'Doans Backache Kidney Pills'. Did she get the backache from lifting bricks, we wonder?



**11 SANDALWOOD YARDS (c.1850s)**  
Here, J.H. Monger ran a thriving trade in sandalwood, a fragrant timber known as 'the poor man's moneybox' during the nineteenth century. Only the stable block now remains, along with the relocated Tipperary schoolhouse and York Society's Archives Centre.



**12 YORK HOTEL'S BILLIARD ROOM (c.1884)**  
Private home, please respect the privacy of owners  
On this site, Joseph Monger built a replica of Faversham House owned by his brother John Henry Monger Jnr., supposedly just to irritate him. All that remains now is the stone-built billiard room.



Between Monger's Store and the Sandalwood yards look left for a great view of:

**13 FAVERSHAM HOUSE (c.1840-1868 WITH LATER EXTENSIONS)**  
John Henry Monger built his home with the assistance of convict labour. Extended by successive generations of the Monger family and used as a convalescent hospital for servicemen during WW2.



**14 RSL GARDENS (EST. 2008)**  
Memorial rose garden, created by the York Branch of the RSL to commemorate those who served in two World Wars. Lest We Forget.



**15 MONGER'S STORE (1879)**  
Now missing its once-grand façade, it's hard to imagine the flourishing store opened by John Henry Monger. This area became known as 'Monger's Town', as his 'empire' extended to the nearby Sandalwood Yards.

Turn back down Christie Retreat to return to the Suspension Bridge.



# Avon River Trail

## The Heron's Highway

Follow the flight path of the herons that live beside the river. We can't make you airborne but there are fabulous views of the two mountains for those who venture furthest!



### 1 SUSPENSION BRIDGE (1988, REPLACING ORIGINAL 1888 AND LATER REPLACEMENTS)

**Warning: Unstable surface - it swings! Cyclists dismount.**

*This section of walk is classified Grade 3.*

This is a replacement of the first suspension bridge erected in 1888 nearer to the current South Street bridge.

Turn left into Newcastle St. to start the whole trail or ahead into Pool St. to visit the Cemetery.



### 2 HOLY TRINITY RECTORY (1853 KITCHEN, REMAINDER 1875)

Made famous by Janet Millett, wife of the Rev Edward Millett, chaplain at York 1863-1869. Her book, 'An Australian Parsonage' found at [https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/An\\_Australian\\_Parsonage](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/An_Australian_Parsonage) gives a lively personal view of life in York during the convict era. Only the Rectory kitchen remains from her day.



### 3 HOLY TRINITY (1854)

Consecrated in 1858, the tower and other additions were added between 1891 and 1905. It contains a magnificent Alfred Pease pipe organ and windows designed by Robert Juniper.

#### CAN YOU SPOT?

Another Church, now disguised!



Answer: St. John's Church and forms the present York's central crossroads.



### 4 COTTAGE (c.1890)

Private property, please respect the privacy of the owners.

A lovely example of Flemish Bond brickwork; alternating headers (ends) and stretchers (long sides) of bricks in patterned rows.



### 5 KAIREY COTTAGE (1858/9)

Private home, please respect the privacy of owners.

A mudbrick walled and shingle-roofed cottage built on the land originally allocated to Pensioner Guard John Kairey. Pensioner Guards were granted land in York for services guarding convicts on the voyage to Australia.

Turn towards the Avon river and you can meander along the east bank, retracing your steps to either cross at the ford or continue the Heron's Highway via Newcastle St.

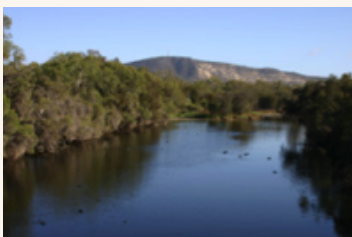


### 6 SITE OF MONGER'S BRIDGE (FORD CROSSING)

*This section of walk is classified Grade 3.*

The ancient ford crossing is usually passable in summer from October through to April. Your safety is our concern but your responsibility. Cyclists dismount. Uneven, unstable path surface. Take great care if there is water flowing.

**Do not use in winter months or at any time if water is more than ankle deep.**



### 7 BILYA - THE AVON RIVER

Site of Noongar significance

Bilya means bellybutton - the umbilical cord, the source of life. For thousands of years a rich source of food and water for the Ballardong people.



THE HERON'S HIGHWAY Total distance: 7km

#### MAP KEY

1 Points of Interest

THE HERON'S HIGHWAY

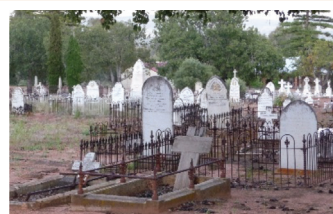
Total distance: 7km

Cut through at cnr. of Lewis & Newcastle Sts 4.5km

Short riverside route 2.8km

Cemetery loop 2.6km

Picnic Area BBQ Area Play Equipment  
Public Toilets Dog Exercise Great Views  
Grade 3 Walk Parking RV Parking



### 14 CEMETERY

High Victorian Gothic at its best! Discover tragic tales amongst the tombstones and some of the most impressive examples of C19th sculptural monuments in W.A. A Cemetery walk trail booklet is available from the Visitor Centre in the York Town Hall.

#### CAN YOU SPOT?

The grave of the first owners of the Castle Hotel? - clue: it's one of the largest!

Answer: Samuel Smale Craig and his wife Mary are commemorated on this grand obelisk.

At end of Herbert Rd, turn left to return via Lincoln St.

Experienced cyclists may like to turn right into Steere Rd. to ascend Wongborel/ Mt Brown; route includes steep gradients. Special care must be taken going downhill as there is no dedicated cycle path, the road is also used by motor vehicles and has some sharp bends.



### 15 WONGBOREL (MT BROWN)

Site of Noongar significance



You'll be rewarded for your efforts to reach the Lookout at the top by amazing views over York and the Avon Valley.



### 8 MARWICK'S SHED (c.1876)

A rare example of C19th vernacular commercial architecture, built as a depot for early settler William Marwick's farming and horsedrawn haulage business.



### 9 STONE GRANGE (c.1865)

Private property, please respect the privacy of the owners.

The builder was Pensioner Guard Stephen Hogan, an Irishman from the 17th Regiment, who arrived in 1856. He prospered enough to buy several parcels of land from 1860 onwards and built this fine stone house on one.

### 11 SMITHIES MISSION SITE (1851)

Numerous private properties, please respect the privacy of the owners

Site of Noongar significance

One hundred acres of land on the east river bank was the site of the 'Gerald Mission' a short lived, failed project led by Wesleyan missionary Rev. Smithies.



### 10 CANDICE BATEMAN MEMORIAL PARK

Site of Noongar significance

Named after Candice Bateman, a young Ballardong Noongar teenager who died in a tragic accident in 2001.

For riverside route turn left at Cowan St. After 1km turn right down a grassy laneway with granite boulders to emerge at the cnr. of Newcastle & Lewis Sts. for a shorter option of 4.5km or continue the full length of the trail [7km] for scenic views as you return to York.



### 12 WALWALYING

(MT. BAKEWELL) VIEW ONLY  
Site of Noongar significance

Walwalying means 'The Hill that Cries' and is a site of immense cultural significance to the Ballardong Noongar people.



### 13 WONGBOREL (MT. BROWN) VIEW ONLY

Site of Noongar significance

A site of immense cultural significance to the Ballardong Noongar people, 'Wongborel' means 'Sleeping Woman'.

