

The Festival of Writing York

9-11 April, 2010

Hosted by

The Writers' Workshop

www.writersworkshop.co.uk

**** Campus parking: please display a copy of this front page in your car window ****

*** This document contains all the essential information for you to enjoy the Festival.

Don't forget to print out a copy to bring with you.

*And mark which workshops you've booked to attend for your easy reference! ****

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1. Registration & location

When you arrive, please come first and register at the Festival Registration Desk in the foyer of the **Exhibition Centre**, University of York and collect your Festival badge which must be worn on campus at all times. (see pdf campus map – see link below.) On registration you will be advised of the location of your accomodation. Room keycards must be collected directly from college porters.

Friday arrivals

The Festival Registration Desk will be open from 1.30pm to 6.30pm. Room keys will be available from 2pm. If you are taking a mini course and arrive late, you can leave your luggage in the luggage store next to the Festival Registration Desk and check into your room during the tea break or before dinner. Should you plan to arrive after 6.30pm, please advise us in advance so we can make arrangements for you to collect your room keycard directly from the college porter. You should register for the Festival on Saturday morning.

We don't recommend you arrive earlier than 1.30pm but should you do so, there is an area with sofas, chairs and drinks/snacks machines in the Exhibition Centre foyer.

Saturday arrivals

The Festival Registration Desk will be open from 8.30am to 12.45pm and 2.15pm to 4.30pm. Room keys will be available from college porters from around 2pm. Luggage storage is available opposite the Registration Desk.

Sunday arrivals

The Festival Registration Desk will be open from 9am to 12.30pm. Luggage storage is available opposite the Registration Desk.

Departure

Rooms must be vacated by 9.30am on day of departure and keycards returned to the college porter. Luggage storage is available opposite the Registration Desk. Luggage must be collected promptly at Festival close, by 4.30pm at the latest. There will be no facilities to store luggage beyond 4.30pm.

Campus Map

A high-resolution map of the University campus can be found here:

<http://www.york.ac.uk/np/maps/pdf/hescampus.pdf>

Festival locations

Festival events all take place in the **Exhibition Centre, Central Hall** and **Roger Kirk Centre**. All meals, including breakfast, are in the Galleria restaurant in the **Roger Kirk Centre**.

Accommodation locations

The majority of the accommodation is in en-suite bedrooms in **James College**. The James College Porter is available 24 hours and located in the Roger Kirk Centre entrance facing the car park.

Should James College rooms be sold out you will be allocated an en suite bedroom of an equal standard elsewhere on campus.

2. Transport links

By Rail

York is on the main East Coast Line from London King's Cross to Edinburgh. There is also a direct service across the Pennines between York, Leeds and Manchester Airport. The University is two miles from the railway station and you will need to get a bus or taxi onto campus.

A journey by taxi from the railway station to the University will take approximately 15 minutes. There is a taxi rank just outside the station. The University's recommended taxi company is Ebor Taxis – 01904 641441.

The Number 4 bus from the railway station travels to Heslington Hall via University Road from Monday to Saturday approx every 10 minutes and on Sunday approx every 15 minutes. The scheduled journey time is 20 minutes. Alight on University Road and follow campus signs for the Exhibition Centre (5 minutes walk).

An [online rail timetable](#) is available to help you to plan your journey. If you are planning to arrive by train, then we recommend early booking of your rail ticket.

By Coach

National Express coaches stop at the railway station. More details are available from their [online coach timetable](#).

By Car or motorcycle

The easiest route to the University is to take the outer ring road (A64 on the south and east sides of the city, A1237 around the north and west) to the junction with the Hull/Bridlington roads (A1079/A166). Turn off at the exit marked **University** and follow the signs past Grimston Bar and down Field Lane to University Road. This route avoids the City centre and known traffic blackspots.

The nearest Park and Ride to the University is Grimston Bar, off the A1079.

If you have booked car parking space, please leave the cover page of this document visible in your car windscreen when you register, so that staff know you are with the Festival. We recommend that you use the South Car Park – this will be close to your accommodation and the major locations used in the Festival.

By Bike

The University is well served with cycle paths. The City Council provides [free copies of cycle route maps](#) around the City of York.

3. Programme

The Festival programme is as follows. Key locations (Exhibition Centre, Roger Kirk, etc) can be located on the campus map. Individual seminar rooms (eg: P/T/005) will be easily located from signage within the Exhibition Centre.

Friday 9 April

13.30 – 18.30 *Registration – EXHIBITION CENTRE*

14.30 - 18.30 **Mini Courses – EXHIBITION CENTRE**

- Val Tyler & Julia Churchill
How to Write for Children and Young Adults - P/T/005
- Harry Bingham
How to get Published - P/L/001
- Debi Alper & Emma Darwin
Self-Edit your Work for Market – P/L/002

16.00 *Afternoon tea – ROGER KIRK*

18.30 **Literary Speed Networking – ROGER KIRK**

A literary ice-breaker. Come along to meet agents, editors and fellow writers.

19.15 *Dinner – ROGER KIRK*

20.30 - 21.30 **Authonomy Live – ROGER KIRK**

Your chance for a panel of experts to hear and evaluate your book proposal. Terrifying, but useful.

The bar will be open until 12.30am. Last orders: midnight.

Saturday 10 April

08.00

Breakfast – ROGER KIRK

08.30

Registration for Saturday arrivals – EXHIBITION CENTRE

9.00 - 10.00

Festival Welcome Keynote Address – CENTRAL HALL

Bestselling novelist, Katie Fforde, opens the Festival.

10.20 - 11.20

Workshops - Session 1 – EXHIBITION CENTRE

- Lesley Eames
Writing & selling short stories – P/L/005
- Debi Alper
Points of view, voice & style – P/L/001
- Sally Spedding
Safe As Houses: An Introduction to Horror – P/L/006
- Jeremy Sheldon
Creating a sense of place – P/L/002
- Adèle Geras
Do Young Adults really need Young Adult books? - P/T/007
- John Jarrold
The market for SF & Fantasy – P/T/005
- Lynne Patrick
Making Crime pay – P/T/006

11.20 - 11.50

Coffee break – ROGER KIRK

11.50 - 12.50

Workshops - Session 2 – EXHIBITION CENTRE

- Jeremy Sheldon
Show don't tell: a guide for dummies - P/L/001
- Toby Frost
Creating Worlds - P/T/005
- Imran Ahmad
Writing your life, then selling it – P/L/006
- Louise Berridge & Victoria Hobbs
The Path to Publication - P/L/002
- Oliver Munson
What every author should know about rights - P/T/006
- Claire Siemaszkiewicz
Are Ebooks the future of publishing? - P/T/007

- 12.45 *Lunch* – ROGER KIRK
- 14.15 - 15.15 **Key note address – CENTRAL HALL**
- Barry Cunningham & Simon Trewin**
Confessions of a Publisher, by Barry Cunningham, and *Confessions of a Literary Agent*, by Simon Trewin.
- 15.30 - 16.30 **Workshops - Session 3 – EXHIBITION CENTRE**
- Adèle Geras
Welcome to the Women's Fiction Ghetto - P/T/007
 - Julie Cohen
Creating character - P/L/005
 - Jane Johnson
Fact and fiction: the exotic and the realistic - P/T/005
 - Harry Bingham
Plotting for success - P/L/001
 - Val Tyler
Self-editing your children's fiction - P/T/006
 - Darley Anderson
How to be successfully published & make money - P/L/002
 - Miranda Dickinson & Sammia Rafique
From Authonomy to Publication – P/L/006
- 16.30 - 17.30 **Afternoon Tea - plus Q&A with Festival Speakers – ROGER KIRK**
Have a cup of tea, and also meet agents, editors & the [SWWJ Panel](#). Plus author booksignings.
- 18.00 - 18.45 **Meet the editor... - CENTRAL HALL**
- Annabel Wright** from HarperCollins/Authonomy will talk briefly about the editor's role in a modern publishing house. There will then be 30 minutes for a Q&A.
- 18.45 - 19.15 *Writers' Reception* – ROGER KIRK
- 19.15 *Gala Dinner* – ROGER KIRK
- 20.45 **Literary Death Match – ROGER KIRK**

Britain's Got Talent meets the Booker Prize.

The bar will be open until 12.30am. Last orders: midnight.

Sunday 11 April

08.00 *Breakfast* – ROGER KIRK

09.00 Registration for Sunday arrivals – EXHIBITION CENTRE

9.30 - 10.30 Workshops - Session 4 – EXHIBITION CENTRE

- Emma Darwin
History into fiction - P/L/005
- Julie Cohen
More than shoes & shopping - P/T/006
- Veronica Henry
Keeping all your balls in the air - P/L/002
- Writers from the SWWJ
Writing groups to get you published - P/L/006
- Emily Diamand
Children in mind - P/T/005
- Genevieve Pegg
Publishing for success - P/L/001
- RJ Ellory
A day in the life: the truth about professional writers – P/T/007

10.30 - 11.20 *Coffee break* – ROGER KIRK

11.20 - 12.20 Workshops - Session 5 – EXHIBITION CENTRE

- Emma Darwin
Finding Voice - P/L/005
- Fiona Shaw
Finding the soul of your book - P/L/001
- Harry Bingham
The Prose Laboratory – P/L/002
- Lucy Gilmour & Meg Lewis
Doing it right - P/T/006
- RN (Roger) Morris
Constructing the perfect mystery - P/T/005
- Lorella Belli
How to be successfully published in today's market - P/T/007

- Sally Spedding
Time to Kill: how far dare you go? - P/L/006

12.30

Lunch – ROGER KIRK

13.00 - 13.30

Author booksignings – ROGER KIRK

13.50 - 14.50

Workshops - Session 6 – EXHIBITION CENTRE

- Matt Hilton
What is a crime thriller? - P/T/007
- Clare Alexander, Emma Darwin, Fiona Shaw
The business of publishing - P/L/001
- Sue Moorcroft
Who's your hero? - P/L/002
- Linda Jones
Think you can make money from writing? - P/T/005
- Beverley Birch
The end of the rainbow - P/T/006
- Kate Allan
Show me the money – P/L/006
- Robin Harvie
Using the media to promote your book – P/L/005

15.00 - 15.45

Keynote Address with RJ Ellory – CENTRAL HALL

Also Festival Speakers Q&A.

15.45 - 16.00

Wrap-up & farewells

4. One to one sessions

The One to One sessions will be held in the foyer of the Central Hall. Please note:

- a. You must be punctual for your appointment. Make yourself known to the coordinators desk in Central Hall foyer 2-3 minutes before your appointment time. If you are late, you will not be able to make the time up at the end.
- b. Most one to one sessions do coincide with talks or workshops being held elsewhere. *It is absolutely fine for you to enter and leave these workshops while they're running in order to get to/from your one-to-one session.* Try and enter / leave as quietly as possible. If you will be leaving a workshop early, sit yourself close to an exit to minimise any disturbance.
- c. When you meet your agent or book doctor, please begin by introducing yourself and giving a 1-2 minute pitch for your work.
- d. Please don't get anxious about this pitch. Whether an agent takes you on or not, will NOT depend on how eloquent your pitch is. The only thing that ever persuades an agent is the quality of your manuscript. Please think of the pitch simply as a way of introducing the rest of the discussion.
- e. Do also remember that no agent is going to agree to represent you on the basis of a ten minute slot alone. Any agent will need to see and consider your manuscript in full. At this stage your aim is to make contacts that could blossom down the road.
- f. Book doctors are there to give feedback, but will alert the Festival organisers if they come across material that might be ready to present to agents. In which case, the organisers will do what they can to get the material into the right hands.
- g. Please also be aware that agents and book doctors will adopt a variety of approaches. They may or may not have read your material beforehand. You should not expect to get detailed notes and comments on your work. A really successful session might give the writer 2-3 invaluable tips on their writing or their approach to market.
- h. Nine minutes into each session, a bell will be sounded to indicate the end of the session. You should wrap the session up at this point. You won't make a good impression if you try to overstay your welcome.
- i. Finally, please remember that a big part of the Festival is the opportunity to socialise with agents, authors and editors. The one to one sessions are the most formal part of proceedings, but we hope you will chat to agents etc over tea or in the evening. They are at the Festival to meet writers but they don't want to be monopolised.

5. Special Events

• Speed Networking

Friday, 18.30 Roger Kirk

Taking place in the Roger Kirk before dinner on Friday, our Literary Speed Networking is a fun ice-breaker so you can meet some fellow writers, agents and publishers. You just need to bring yourself, but if you have a brain live a sieve and want to note down the names of people you meet, bring a pen and paper. You can also bring business cards or make up some bits of paper with your own details on to give out if you would like.

What will happen is that you'll be allocated into small groups for a bit of a chat with a writerly/literary theme, and then we rotate around the room so you can meet and get to know some new people. All very relaxed. Attendance is optional but we hope to see you there.

NB If you are on a Friday mini-course, please come straight to the Roger Kirk afterwards so we can start promptly.

• Authonomy Live

Friday, 20.30 Roger Kirk

Taking place in the Roger Kirk after dinner on Friday, Authonomy Live is a bit of fun. Attendance is optional but as it's in the same room as the bar we expect you'll be there! It works like this:-

- a. If you want to put yourself up for Authonomy Live, then please let us know by sending an email to info@festivalofwriting.com. The email should have AUTHONOMY LIVE as its subject line, and your email should include (a) your name, (b) your booking reference, (c) a one para summary of the manuscript, and (d) a 300-500 word chunk of your material. If you need to introduce that chunk with a 1-2 sentence summary of the plot / character situation at that point in the MS, then please feel free to do so, but not more than a sentence or two please. Your email will be acknowledged, but will not be responded to in detail.
- b. We will not be able to accommodate every request for inclusion, but we'll be seeking to include a good spread of well-written work at the event. Decisions will be made very close to the Festival date itself, so please do not ask us beforehand for a list of the chosen – that'll be available on the day, not before.

- c. Each piece will be read out loud to the assembled audience. If you are a strong and confident public speaker, then we suggest that you do the reading yourself. If you are not confident of declaiming in front of a large audience, then we suggest that you opt to use one of our readers instead. (We'll have both a man and a woman available, so if your piece is first-person in a woman's voice, you won't be having it read by a burly 6' 4" rugby playing type.)
- d. *Each piece will last an absolute maximum of five minutes.* A signal will be given at the four minute point to help you time yourself. At the five minute point, the performance will be cut off, no matter whether you have finished or not.
- e. After each declamation, we'll have an expert on-the-spot verdict given by an expert panel, that will include a pro author and a pro agent. Marks will be awarded by the panel – plus there'll be an audience vote very roughly calculated from a show of hands.
- f. At the end of the session, which will last approx one hour, the writer with the highest overall marks will be awarded a bottle of champagne and the adulation of the Festival.

• **Afternoon Tea with...**

Saturday, 16.30 Roger Kirk

You won't want to miss Afternoon Tea on Saturday as this will be a great opportunity to informally network with our visiting agents and publishers, get books signed by our Festival authors and if that wasn't enough, the Society of Women Writers and Journalists (SWWJ) will be hosting a panel to answer your questions.

• **Literary Death Match**

Saturday, 20.30 approx. Roger Kirk

The Literary Death Match is a punked-up version of Authonomy Live. It's as much about performance skills as quality writing, so if you're a shy and retiring type, then we'd gently suggest that this event is probably best enjoyed from the safety of the audience. It'll be after the gala dinner on Saturday, and the bar will be open during the event. If you do wish to come and go from the bar, then feel free, but please be as quiet as you can, particularly during the performances themselves.

- a. If you want to put yourself up for Literary Death Match, then please let us know by sending an email to info@festivalofwriting.com. The email should have LITERARY DEATH MATCH as its subject line, and your email should include (a) your name, (b) your booking reference, (c) a one para summary of the manuscript, and (d) a 500-600 word chunk of your material. If you need to introduce that chunk with a 1-2 sentence summary of the plot / character situation at that point in the MS, then please feel free to do so, but not more than a sentence or two please. Your email will be acknowledged, but will not be responded to in detail.
- b. If you want to send your work in to both the *Death Match* and *Authonomy Live*, then feel free – but please send us two emails, not one, even if the content is almost identical.
- c. We will not be able to accommodate every request for inclusion. We are looking for pieces that will perform well – things that are loud, funny, outrageous, touching, ingenious etc are likely to do better than things that are subtle but quiet. This ain't a quiet sort of event.
- d. Decisions on which pieces to include will be made very close to the Festival date itself, so please do not ask us beforehand for a list of the chosen – that'll be available on the day, not before.
- e. *Authonomy Live* is an event for first time writers only. *Literary Death Match* will include some published authors, so that they can taste what it feels like.
- f. Unlike *Authonomy Live*, where we will have third party speakers available, the *Death Match* requires that you read your piece out yourself. Props are permitted, as are costumes, funny voices, sound effects and anything else that's vaguely lawful and mostly decent. The whole point of the *Death Match* is to entertain – so feel free to go for it.
- g. The maximum timings for the *Death Match* will be seven minutes not five. Really outrageous and entertaining performances may be permitted to last longer, if the judges feel like it. Performances that don't entertain may well be ended by a hail of rotting fruit. The risk is entirely yours.
- h. After each declamation, we'll have an expert on-the-spot verdict given by an expert panel. You'll get one mark for content. Another for performance. Another for the overall package. A show of hands from the audience will also be taken. The panel (subject to change) will be: Jane Johnson, Jane Judd, Emma Darwin and Kate Allan.

- i. The two writers to emerge with the highest overall marks, will go through to a Death Match Final. That final will involve both writers declaiming a second piece (ideally from the same manuscript). **You will therefore need to have this piece with you at the event, as the organisers will not have it.** At the end of the Final, the experts will give their comments, but no marks. Instead, the winner will be determined by audience vote.
- j. At the end of the session, which will last approx 1.5 hours, the winning writer will be given a bath tub of gold, instant introduction to the Booker Prize shortlist, a seven figure movie deal, and/or a bottle of bubbly.

6. Festival Book Shop and author signings

Blackwells are running the Festival Book Shop which will be open during the whole Festival, Friday afternoon through to Sunday afternoon, in the Exhibition Centre Foyer and will stock books by all the authors speaking at the Festival.

Authors will be delighted to sign copies of their books for you at any time, but to make it easier we have times on both Saturday and Sunday when you can buy books and get them signed:

- Saturday, 16.30 Roger Kirk
- Sunday, 13.30 Roger Kirk

7. Meals & dress code

Most meals will be buffet style and there will be no seating plans drawn up. Although you will certainly want to spend time with your friends, do make sure that you meet and socialise with as many people as possible. Make sure that you don't monopolise any key individuals either – they won't enjoy it and you'll be depriving fellow writers of the opportunity.

There is no formal dress code for the Festival – though it'll be early April in Yorkshire, so we'd suggest that you bring some clothes suitable for cold / wet weather.

At the gala dinner on Saturday evening, we would welcome a rather more formal, festive feel. No one will be turned away if they're looking scruffy, but cocktail dresses / jackets would set the tone just right. Tiaras and medals may definitely be worn.

For the gala dinner only, we will issue vegetarian tickets to those who have chosen the vegetarian option on the booking form. These tickets will be collected by waiters on the day, so they know how many vegetarian meals to bring to each table.

8. Follow-up materials

Following the event, we will be doing all we can to put seminar materials etc online. Do note, however, that some speakers will have little or nothing to provide by way of such material, while other speakers may have more extensive notes. If you have made particularly useful notes of a particular session and would like to share them, then please get in touch with us after the event and we'll see what we can do.

Also, you will certainly make friends with people at the Festival and may well want to keep in touch. One of the best ways of doing this will be via the Word Cloud (www.thewordcloud.org) which is the social networking site created by the Writers' Workshop, the Festival organisers. Membership of this site is completely free, and it's a terrific place to get critiques and advice when not at the Festival.

9. Accommodation, dietary & mobility issues

All events will be on campus. All the dining and accommodation facilities are likewise on the central campus.

Accommodation is in single en-suite bedrooms. Bed linen and 2 bath towels are provided, along with complimentary toiletries, tea/coffee making facilities and hairdryers. If you have any problems at all with your room on arrival, please let the conference staff know so that the issue can be remedied straight away.

Mobility issues

All lecture theatres and the vast majority of seminar rooms have hearing loops. Most buildings have an accessible lavatory, and there are disabled refuges throughout the campus with an 'intercom'. All public access buildings on the campus have lifts.

York University is highly experienced at running large, complex events. If you have particular concerns and have mentioned these on your booking form, York University will be aware of these in advance and will do their best to accommodate you.

Dietary issues

We will do everything we can to accommodate specific dietary needs. Most meals are buffet service so please ask staff if you need clarification about ingredients. For the Saturday gala dinner, if you are vegetarian or have alerted us to a food allergy, we will give you a small card to display next to you on the table to help the waiting staff identify you. Note: you must inform us in advance of any dietary issues or we cannot promise to accommodate you on the day.

10. Other useful info

Cash machines

The nearest cash machine is on the walkway between the Exhibition Centre and Roger Kirk Centre. Others closeby are:

Market Square, Central Campus
Vanbrugh Walkway, Central Campus
Barclays Bank, Heslington Road, Heslington
HSBC, Heslington Road, Heslington
Lloyds TSB, Heslington Road Heslington

Chemists

There are no pharmacies on campus. The closest are:

Whitworth Chemists 275 Melrosegate. Mon-Fri 9am-6pm, and Sat 9am-4pm.
Moss Chemists 153a Tang Hall Lane. Mon-Fri 9am-1pm and 2-6pm, Sat just 9am-1pm.
Badger Hill Pharmacy 35 Yarbrugh Way Hull Road Mon-Fri 9am-5:30pm Sat 9am-2pm

Shops

There is a small Costcutter supermarket on campus in Market Square which is open on Friday 8am to 6pm, and Saturday 10am until 2pm. Closed Sunday.

Heslington Village (2 minutes walk from Derwent College) has a post office and village shop selling a small range of groceries.

Churches and prayer facilities

Heslington Church in Heslington village holds a Anglican/Methodist joint service on Sundays at 8am (Holy Communion) and 11am (Morning Service).

St George's Church (Catholic), York, Sunday mass is at 10.30am and 6.30pm.

There is a prayer room in Wentworth College primarily used by members of the Islamic faith. To access, please enquire at Wentworth College reception.

What do I do in an emergency?

Each college reception has a first aid kit and porters are trained in first aid. Should the reception be unmanned there is a red telephone for emergency use only. Should the emergency be serious, do not hesitate to call 999 immediately. Do not call the Festival of Writing phone (0845 459 9560) during the Festival, as your call will not be answered.

11. Maps

Campus map

A high-resolution map of the university campus can be found here:

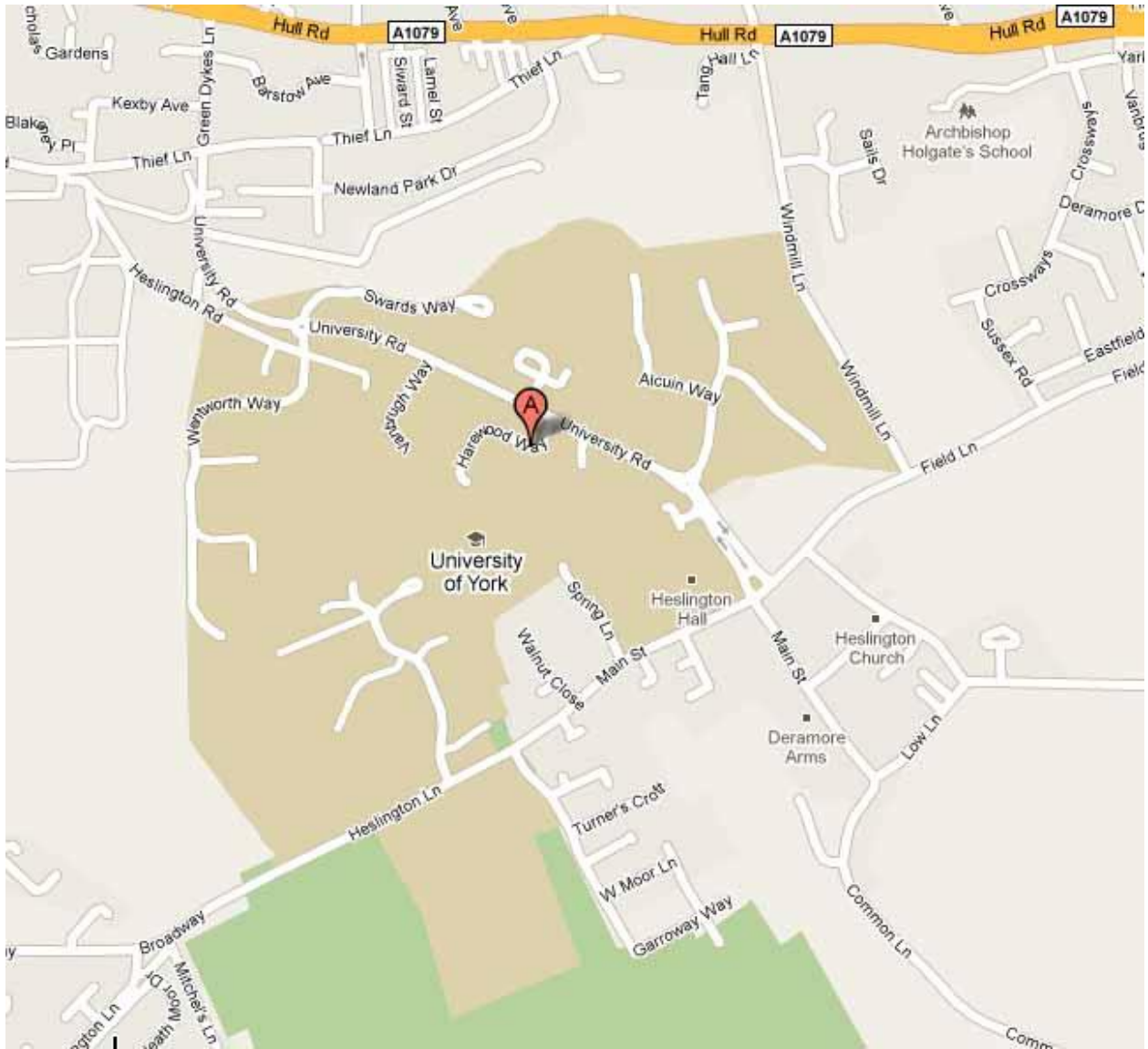
<http://www.york.ac.uk/np/maps/pdf/hescampus.pdf>.

We recommend that you print off and retain this map for orientation on your arrival – it's the single most useful map that we're able to provide.

Other maps

You may also find the maps below useful.

Location of Campus



City Map

