

About the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies

The School is a one-of-a-kind centre of excellence in clinical activity, teaching and research. Our purpose-built campus, set against the backdrop of the beautiful Pentland Hills Regional Park, represents the largest concentration of animal science-related expertise in Europe. It impacts local, regional, national and international communities in terms of economic growth, the provision of clinical services and the advancement of scientific knowledge.

The School comprises:

- The Roslin Institute
- The Global Academy of Agriculture and Food Systems
- The Roslin Innovation Centre
- The Hospital for Small Animals
- Equine Veterinary Services
- Farm Animal Services
- Easter Bush Pathology
- The Jameel Observatory
- The Jeanne Marchig International Centre for Animal Welfare Education

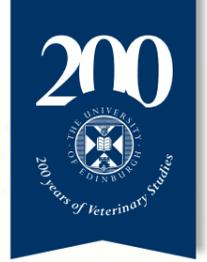
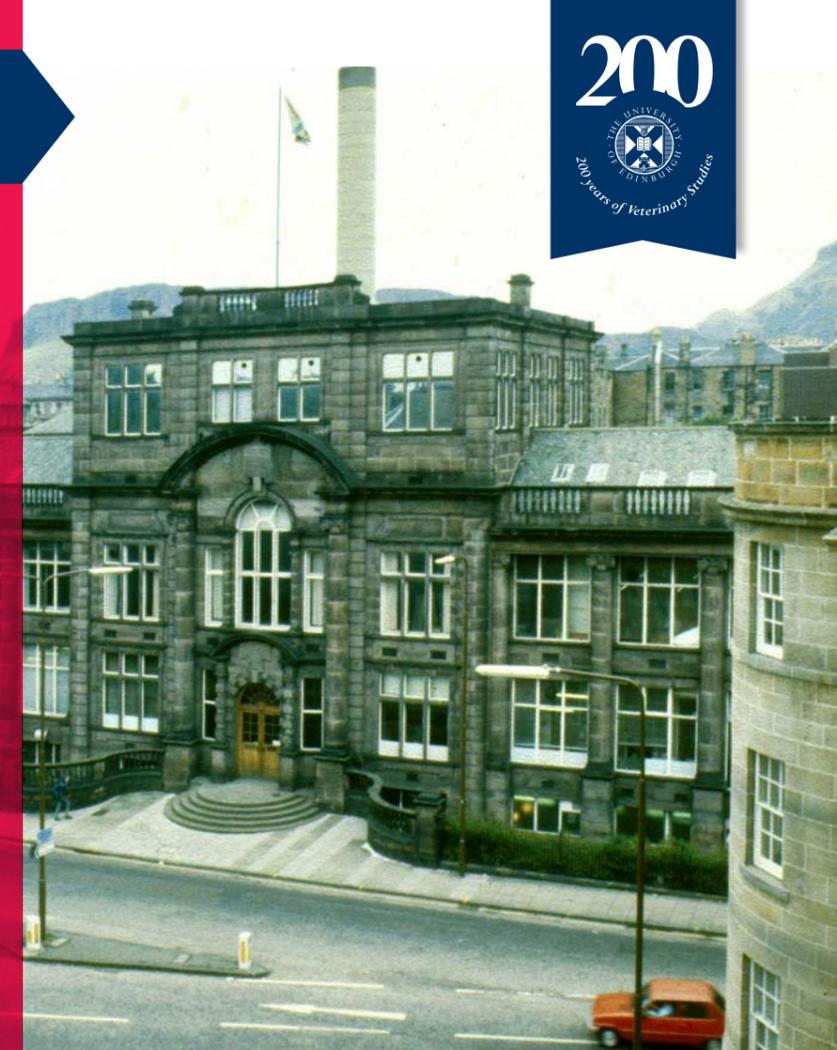


The Dick Vet Way

The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies is one of the oldest veterinary schools in the world. Founded by William Dick in 1823, it celebrated its bicentenary in 2023 - marking 200 years of veterinary teaching.

In the School's first 200 years, it has moved location twice and graduated over 8,000 veterinary surgeons, a number of whom went on to launch new vet schools across the globe. It is now located at Easter Bush, approximately seven miles outside the city centre.

This tour takes you through some of the historical sites associated with the School (often fondly referred to as 'the Dick Vet'), in the city of Edinburgh.



William Dick's legacy



From the time he established Scotland's first veterinary school in 1823 to his death in 1866, William Dick committed his life to the pursuit of the extraordinary.



Our extensive accreditation enables our veterinary graduates to practise across the globe, and our online learning environment is connecting an international community of postgraduates with our foremost experts in veterinary and animal-aligned theory and practice.

What would he see if he visited his school today?

Modern, innovative facilities on a purpose-built campus support and complement our world-leading research and clinical practice, as well as providing our students with the exceptional learning experience they can expect from one of the world's top veterinary schools.



William Dick wanted to change the world. We are changing it still.



If you'd like to view a more detailed version of this tour, visit

www.edin.ac/dick-vet-way

The University of Edinburgh is a charitable body, registered in Scotland, with registration number SC005336.



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies

The

Dick Vet

Way

Tour Map

01. Clyde Street (site of)



Take the escalator down from the bus station entrance on North St Andrew Street to view a commemorative plaque describing William Dick's veterinary college.

02. Calton Convening Rooms



On Monday 24 November 1823, Dick gave the first lecture under the auspices of his newly founded veterinary school. The site is now Howie's restaurant.

03. New Calton Burial Ground



Take the second path on the right from the main path into the burial ground and follow it along for about 80 metres. The Dick family monument is a pinkish coloured stone.

04. White Horse Close



William Dick was born here in 1793. He died on 4 April 1866 after an arduous journey to London to investigate cattle plague. It is touching that he was laid to rest in New Calton Burial Ground, a mere 100 metres away from his birthplace.

05. Canongate Kirk

Facing the church entrance, turn right and go through the wall under the trees. Turn left at the chimaera statue and walk down the gravel path into the graveyard. Continue to follow the path straight ahead, down the slope, and descend a short flight of steps. Walk for a further 15 paces then turn to your left to see James Clark's grave.



James Clark was a highly regarded 18th century farrier who was a pivotal figure between farriery and veterinary medicine. He studied human and comparative anatomy at the University of Edinburgh and published textbooks on equine care. His plans to set up a vet school in Edinburgh did not come to fruition, paving the way for Dick.

06. Chessel's Court



James Clark operated a hotel in Chessel's Court. It was not unusual for farriers and livery stable owners to run hotels, in much the same way that modern hotels are often sited beside transport hubs. Clark's Hotel later became part of the Excise Office and the site of Deacon Brodie's last robbery. Deacon Brodie inspired Robert Louis Stevenson's famous story *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*.

07. Surgeon Square



Dr John Barclay lived and worked here, in what is now High School Yards and had a huge influence on Dick, who attended Barclay's lectures at No. 10 Surgeon Square and was inspired. Barclay recommended The Highland Society support Dick to set up a veterinary school.

08. The School of Arts at Freemason's Hall

The present-day St Cecilia's Hall is the University's museum of musical instruments and is situated opposite the bottom of Robertson's Close in the Cowgate.



Dick lectured here in 1821-22 and again in 1822-23. The School of Arts later merged with the Watt Institute to eventually become Heriot-Watt University.

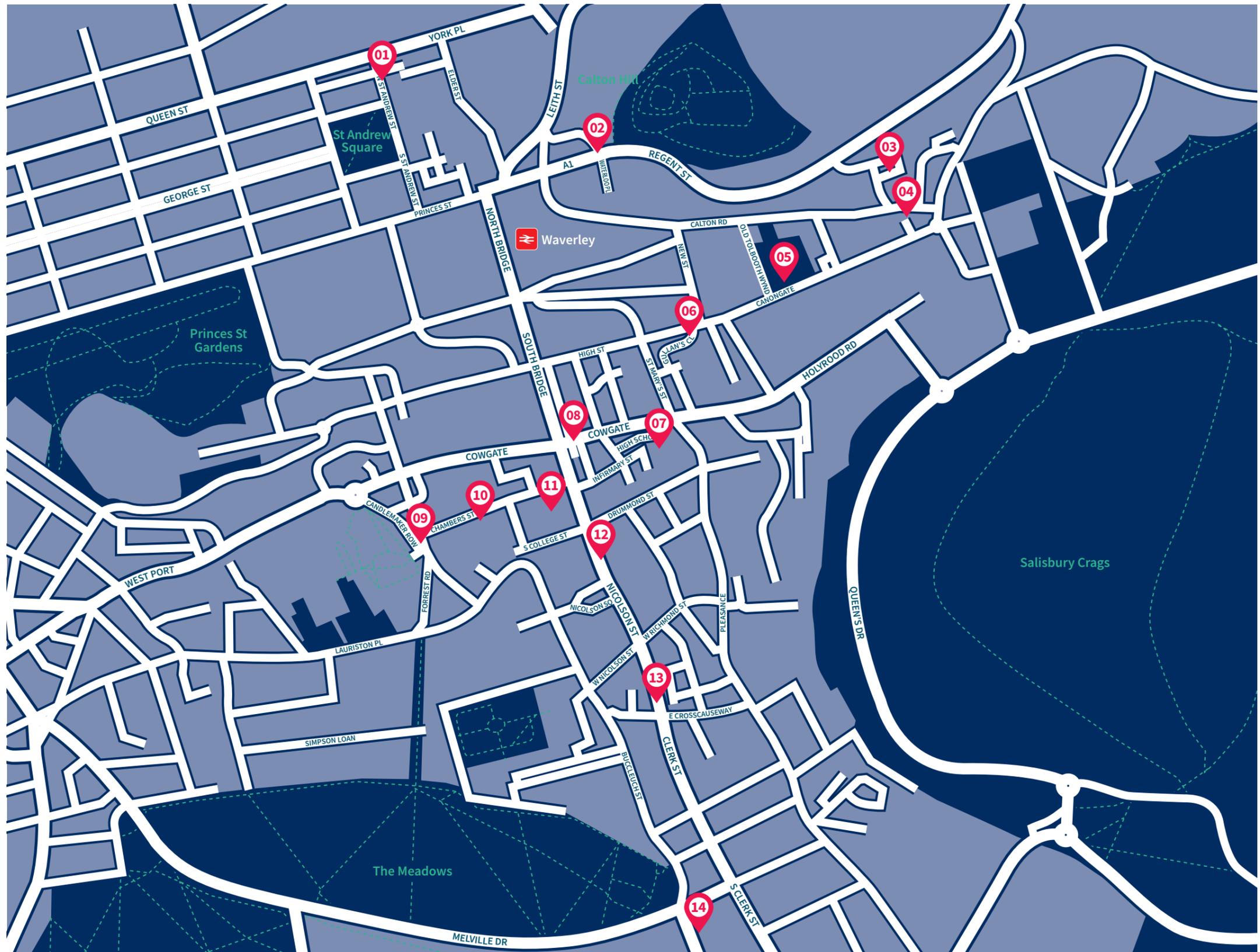
09. Greyfriar's Bobby



The cause of Bobby's death was given as cancer of the jaw by Thomas Walley, Principal of the Dick Vet from 1874-94. Walley helped discover the link between human and bovine tuberculosis through milk consumption, but evidently was a competent small animal vet.



Mortsafe in Greyfriar's Kirk.



10. National Museum of Scotland



Dolly the cloned sheep made history when she was born at the Roslin Institute in 1996. In 2008 the Institute became part of the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies.

11. Old College



The University of Edinburgh was established by Royal Charter in 1582 and took its first students a year later. In 1821, the University declined to establish a Chair in Comparative Anatomy and Veterinary Physic and Surgery. William Dick's Veterinary College was funded largely by Dick himself.

12. Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, Surgeon's Hall



The Quincentenary Hall sits on the site of one of Edinburgh's other veterinary colleges - that started by John Gamgee in 1857 at No. 6 Drummond Street. In 1862, the so-called Edinburgh New Veterinary College transferred across town to a site on Lothian Road, and in 1865 (the year of the great cattle plague) it moved to London and opened as Albert Veterinary College, closing three years later.

13. All4Paws



In 2023, the vet school took over the lease of an ex-veterinary premises on Nicolson Street to provide a permanent base for All4Paws, a veterinary outreach project for homeless people which started in 2009. William Dick treated the animals of paupers for free from 1830.

14. Summerhall



Construction work at Summerhall started in 1913 but was delayed because of the war. Students and staff moved in during 1916 but building work continued. An extension to Summerhall was completed in 1940 and in 1972 a six-storey modernist tower block was added at the north together with a three-storey block at

the south of the site. The vet school moved out of Summerhall in 2011.

Today Summerhall hosts The Royal Dick bar and the whole site is a major venue of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

