

Freckleton used to be in Yorkshire!

The **Shire of York** (later known as Yorkshire) covered a significantly larger area than the modern ceremonial county of Yorkshire. At its historical peak (before the creation of new counties like Lancashire and Cumbria in the 12th–19th centuries), it stretched from the **Humber Estuary** in the south all the way to the **Scottish border** in the north, and from the **Pennines** in the west to the **North Sea** in the east.

Core Geographic Extent

The Shire of York essentially encompassed the entire **Kingdom of Deira** (the southern part of the old Kingdom of Northumbria) and later expanded to include parts of the former Kingdom of Bernicia before those areas were carved into separate entities.

- **Southern Boundary:** The **River Humber** (separating it from Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire).
- **Northern Boundary:** Originally the **Scottish border** (near Berwick-upon-Tweed and the River Tweed). This meant it included what is now **Northumberland** and **County Durham** (until those became separate counties in the 10th–12th centuries).
- **Western Boundary:** The **Pennine hills**. Crucially, this boundary extended much further west than today. It included:
 - **The Forest of Bowland** (now in Lancashire).
 - **Lancashire** (including the Fylde, where **Freckleton** is located).
 - **Cumbria** (including Furness and Cartmel).
 - **Westmorland** and **North Lancashire**.
- **Eastern Boundary:** The **North Sea** coast from the Humber up to the Scottish border.

Key Areas Included (Historical vs. Modern)

The Shire of York was the administrative parent of what are now distinct counties. Here is a breakdown of the key regions that were once part of the Shire of York:

Historical Area (Part of Shire of York)	Modern County Status
Yorkshire (East, North, West Ridings)	Still part of Yorkshire (West, North, East, and parts of South)
Lancashire (including Freckleton, Fylde, Bowland)	Now a separate ceremonial county
Cumbria (Westmorland, Furness, Cartmel)	Now a separate ceremonial county
Northumberland & County Durham	Now separate ceremonial counties
Skipton, Craven, and parts of the Pennines	Now in North Yorkshire
Manchester, Salford, and the Mersey Valley	Now in Greater Manchester (historically part of Lancashire/Yorkshire borders)

The Separation of Lancashire and Cumbria

The most critical point regarding your previous questions is that **Lancashire** (including Freckleton) and **Cumbria** were once part of the Shire of York.

- **Lancashire** was carved out of the **western part of the Shire of York** in the **12th century** (specifically around **1182** when Henry II created the County Palatine of Lancaster). Before this, the land west of the Pennines (including the Fylde and Freckleton) was administered as part of the **West Riding of Yorkshire**.
- **Cumbria** (including Westmorland and Furness) was also part of the Shire of York until it was separated into its own administrative units in the **12th and 13th centuries**.

Why the Confusion?

The term "Yorkshire" has been used in two ways:

1. **The Ancient Shire:** The massive medieval shire that included modern Yorkshire, Lancashire, Cumbria, Northumberland, and Durham.
2. **The Modern County:** The much smaller ceremonial county created after the 1974 local government reforms.

When historians refer to the "Shire of York" in the 10th–12th centuries, they are referring to the **ancient, vast territory**. This is why Freckleton, while never part of the *administrative* County of Yorkshire in the modern sense, was technically within the **jurisdictional bounds** of the ancient Shire of York before being carved out to form Lancashire.

In short: The Shire of York once covered **Northern England** from the Humber to the Scottish border, including **all of modern Lancashire, Cumbria, Northumberland, and Durham**, as well as the modern Yorkshire ridings.

The **county of Yorkshire** evolved gradually from the **Kingdom of Northumbria** and the **Danelaw Kingdom of York** into a shire (county) during the **10th and 11th centuries**.

Here is the breakdown of its formation:

- **Pre-County Era (7th–9th Centuries):** The area was part of the **Kingdom of Northumbria** (specifically the sub-kingdoms of **Bernicia** and **Deira**). After the Viking invasions in the 9th century, the southern part (Deira) became the **Kingdom of York** (Jorvik) within the Danelaw.
- **Anglo-Saxon Shiring (10th Century):** As the Kingdom of England unified under the West Saxon kings, the area was gradually organized into shires (counties) for administrative and judicial purposes. By the reign of **Edward the Elder** (early 10th century) and certainly by the time of **Aethelstan** (924–939), the area was being administered as part of the **Shire of York** (or Yorkshire).
- **Domesday Book (1086):** By the time of the **Domesday Survey**, **Yorkshire was a well-established and distinct county**. It was recorded as a major shire, divided into **Ridings** (East, North, and West), a system that likely dates back to at least the 11th century.
- **Formalization:** The county became fully defined with its boundaries, shrievalty (office of the Sheriff), and Hundred system in place by the late 11th century.

Key Timeline:

Period	Status of Yorkshire Area
7th–8th Century	Part of the Kingdom of Northumbria (Bernicia & Deira)
9th–10th Century	Viking Kingdom of York (Danelaw)
Early 10th Century	Absorbed into the English Kingdom; early "shire" organization begins
c. 924–939	Administered as the Shire of York under Edward the Elder and Aethelstan
1086 (Domesday)	Fully established as the County of Yorkshire

Important Distinction: While the *name* "Yorkshire" and the concept of the shire emerged in the 10th century, the **administrative divisions** (Ridings and Hundreds) were solidified over time. The modern ceremonial and administrative boundaries have changed significantly since then (especially in 1974), but the *county* itself has existed continuously since the Anglo-Saxon period.

So, while there is no single "founding date," the **10th century** (specifically the reigns of Edward the Elder and Aethelstan, c. 920–939) marks the transition from a Viking kingdom to an English shire, and by **1086**, it was a firmly established county.

The counties of England were largely fixed by the **12th century**. Prior to 1974, the last **new county** created in England was **Lancashire** in 1182. The last major *addition* to the list of counties was the creation of **Cumberland** and **Westmorland** as separate administrative shires in the **12th century** (Cumberland in **1157** and Westmorland in **1226**).

Conclusion

Freckleton was in Yorkshire from sometime in the 10th century, prior to the Domesday book/survey (1086) and the creation of Lancashire in 1182.