



PRESS RELEASE

11 June 2008

NEW YORK MAZE TAKES SHAPE

York Maze is on the move and preparing to open at its new location in July. To mark the move to a 'New' York Maze site farmer and Maze Master Tom Percy has designed this year's maze in the shape of New York's Statue of Liberty.

Says Tom Percy, "We will be opening York Maze in July this year in a new location with lots of new attractions, a new café and new shop. As a new maze it seemed sensible to base this year's design on New York. The Statue of Liberty is an instantly recognisable image and will make a great maze."

Tom Percy has been using the latest GPS satellite technology to plot out the maze shape, and has this week been cutting out the Statue of Liberty design from the 1.5 million maze plants in the 30 acre field.

Planning permission was granted at the end of last year for York Maze to open at the new farm site on Elvington Lane near the Air Museum. York Maze was forced to move from its old site next to Grimston Bar Park and Ride, to make way for the University of York's £500 million expansion.

Since gaining planning approval Tom Percy has been hard at work investing over £1 million in refurbishing the old farm buildings to create a new café and shop, and installing a massive new children's sand and water play zone.

"It has been a lot of work to bring the derelict farm back into use and install all the new visitor facilities. We still have the farm animal pens to put in, and work to do on building the loading platforms for our new interactive tractor and trailer ride, which will now be included in the admission price. Apart from that by the end of this week the hard work in planting the maze and cutting out the shape will have been done, now we just let nature do the rest and grow the maize plants to their 2m height."

More...

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The New York Maze opens to the public on Saturday 19 July and will be open every day until Sunday 7 September.

ENDS

Photo Call

When: Thursday 12 June 11am

Where: York Maze, Dunnington Lodge, Elvington Lane York

What: Farmer Tom Percy with a cardboard cut-out of the Statue of Liberty in the field with his GPS equipment cutting out the shape of the Maze.

Also revealed for the first time the massive new sand and water play area with the opportunity to photograph children at play.

Editors Notes

Farmer Tom Percy started York Maze five years ago as a means of farm diversification following the foot and mouth crisis. It has grown to become one of York's most popular tourist attractions welcoming over 50,000 visitors in the eight weeks it is open. It has won a number of awards including best newcomer in the York Tourism Bureau awards, and was runner-up in Yorkshire Tourist Board's 'Tourism Experience' of the year category.

Previous designs:

2002 Viking Longship
2003 Spiders Web
2004 Flying Scotsman
2005 Big Ben
2006 Star Trek
2007 James Bond

In 2008 York Maze will be open on Elvington Lane (B1228), York, YO19 5LT, just off the A1079 Hull Road. Sat Nav reference YO19 5LT. It will be open daily from Saturday 19 July to Sunday 7 September from 10am to 6.30pm (last admission 4.30pm). 2008 admission prices: Adult £7.95, Senior £7.45, Children (3-15) £6.95, Under 3s Free, Family (2 adults and 2 children) £28.00. Free parking.

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