UNIVERSITY of York

Department of Physics

UNIVERSITY OF YORK SOLAR SYSTEM

TOUR THE PLANETS ON FOOT

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Department of Physics

OUR SOLAR SYSTEM MODEL

The University of York Solar System was created by the University's Astronomy Society, AstroSoc, bringing together expertise from the mechanical workshops on site at the University and a group of professional prop designers, NYPD (North Yorkshire Props Dept).

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British ESA Astronaut Tim Peake tours the University of York Solar System.

YuFund

ASTRO CAMPUS

TOUR THE SOLAR SYSTEM

Your mission is to journey through the Solar System, using the map to guide you. Fill in the table below as you find the answers at each planet. Good luck, astronauts!

Planet	Symbol	Distance from Sun (km)	Length of day (hours)
Mercury			
Venus			
Earth			
Mars			
Jupiter			
Saturn			
Uranus			
Neptune			
Pluto (Dwarf Planet)			

THE PLANETS

Our Solar System is made up of eight planets, including the Earth, as well as dwarf planets such as Pluto.

Mercury is the smallest planet in the Solar System. Mercury rotates on its axis so slowly, its day is twice the length of its year!

Venus is the hottest planet in the Solar System with an average temperature of 462°C. This is due to its thick atmosphere which traps heat, like a greenhouse.

Earth is the only planet in the Solar System with liquid water on its surface, making it perfect for life as we know it.

Mars is the only planet where we have sent rovers to explore its surface. Evidence suggests that the planet was once home to oceans of liquid water and may have been able to support simple life.

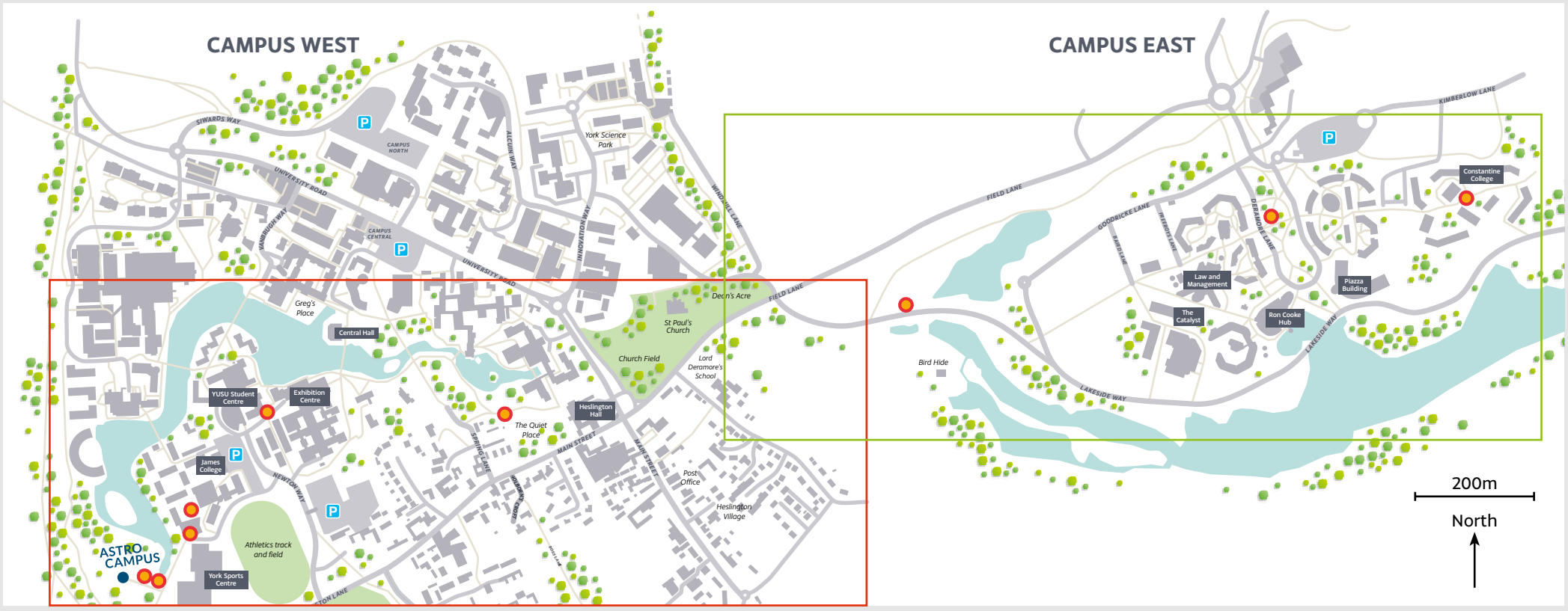
Jupiter is the first of the gas giants and is the largest planet in the Solar System. It is also home to the great red spot, a storm that has been raging for over a century.

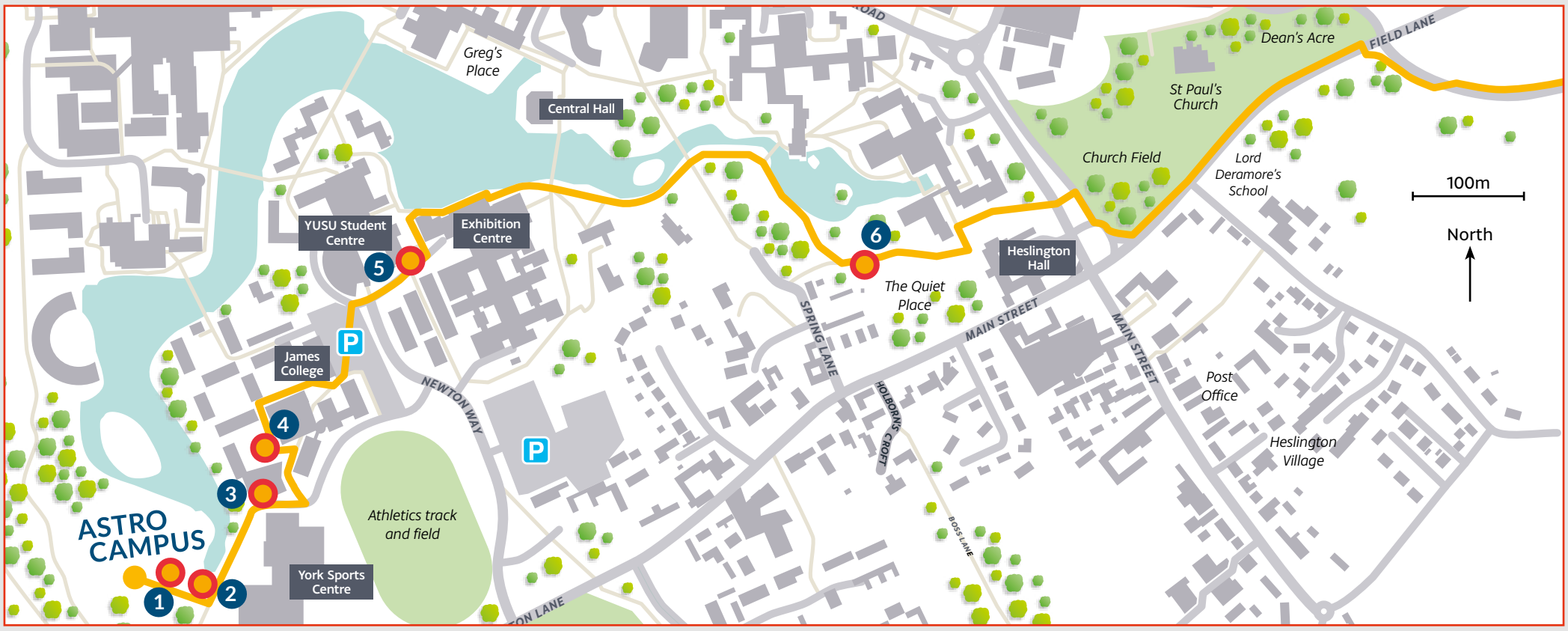
Saturn's density is less than the density of water, so it would float in a large enough bathtub! Its rings are made of small chunks of ice and rock.

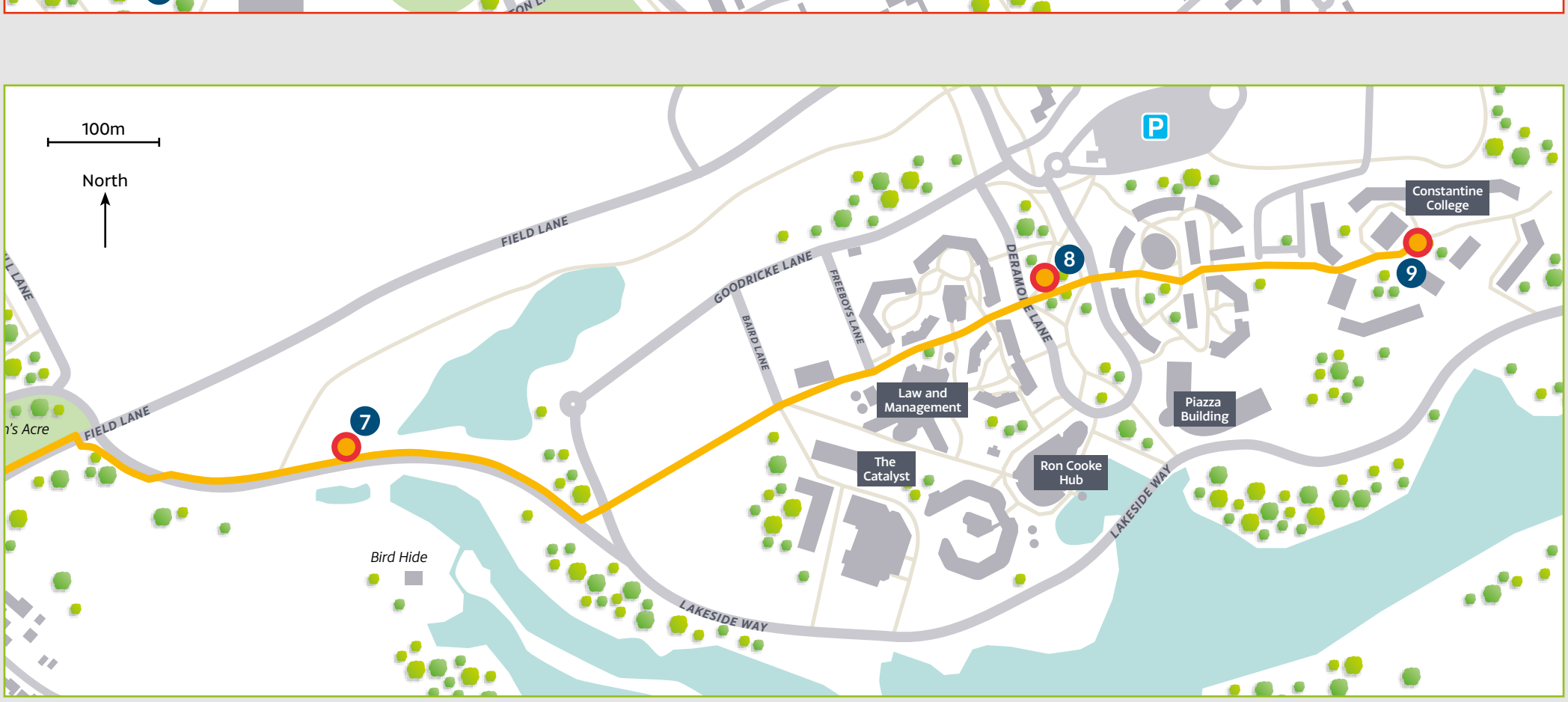
Uranus is the only planet to rotate on its side. This unusual rotation could be the result of a massive collision in its early life. Its unique rotation leads to Uranus having some very strange seasons.

Neptune's existence was predicted by Physicists before it was discovered in 1846. It has the fastest winds in the Solar System – up to 2000km/hr.

Pluto is no longer a planet. It was renamed a dwarf planet in 2006. It would take 457 Plutos to make the mass of the Earth.







1 MERCURY
2 VENUS
3 EARTH
4 MARS
5 JUPITER
6 SATURN
7 URANUS
8 NEPTUNE
9 PLUTO

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