POST SCRIPT

## Shades of a spectacular autumn

Abundant acorns, conkers and berries are more likely to feature this month

PAGE 9

PEOPLE

## Adapting to that big life challenge

PAGE 13

SPORT

## Hull KR seek Final glory on big stage

PAGE 23

OPINION

**SARAH TODD**

*'Our local supermarket has shelves stacked with steak from Australia for heaven's sake.'*

PAGE 11

*Yorkshire's National Newspaper* NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

# THE YORKSHIRE POST

**£1.80** (£1.44 to subscribers) • yorkshirepost.co.uk • @yorkshirepost • Founded 1754 • Wednesday October 08 2025

# EU threat to future of UK steel industry

## Unions say bloc's 50pc tariffs will have catastrophic impact

**Ralph Blackburn**
WESTMINSTER CORRESPONDENT

THE British steel industry is facing an "existential threat" after the European Union announced it would hit the UK with 50 per cent tariffs, unions have said.

Yesterday, the European Commission announced it was cutting the amount of tax-free steel that can be imported into the bloc, and also doubling its tariff rate to protect the European steel industry.

However, this could have a catastrophic effect on the British steel sector, which exports 78 per cent of its goods to the EU.

The Community Union, which represents workers at British Steel in Scunthorpe, described this as an "existential threat".

Assistant general secretary Alasdair McDiarmid said: "The new measures proposed by the EU represent an existential threat to our steel industry.

"Europe is by far the largest destination for UK steel exports, and losing access to this market would have a catastrophic impact on British jobs.

"Steel is the lifeblood of communities across the UK: it provides well-paid employment and supports regional economies.

"Losing these vital jobs would wreak devastation on some of the areas which can least afford it, and which have already borne the scars of damaging deindustrialisation."

The EU has been heavily hit by President Donald Trump's 50 per cent steel tariffs on all countries apart from the UK.

This has meant Chinese steel has been diverted from the US and has flooded the European market.

Mr McDiarmid added: "Global overcapacity is a shared challenge and it is in both the UK and the EU's interests to work together to find a solution.

"A trade war, at what is already a turbulent time for the global steel industry, would be incredibly damaging for everyone involved, with workers in the UK and Europe paying the heaviest price.

"The stakes could not be higher, and time is of the essence.

"We would urge the UK and EU to begin urgent negotiations and do everything possible to prevent the crushing impact these proposals would have on our steel industry."

The move comes not long after the Government took control of the British Steel plant in Scunthorpe over the summer.

This is the only site in the UK which can produce virgin steel, and was on the verge of being shut by its Chinese owners Jingye.

Sir Keir Starmer said it would have been a national security risk to lose the British Steel plant, and the Government took control to ensure the raw materials were purchased to keep the blast furnaces online.

However, now the EU tariffs look set to put the UK's entire steel industry at risk.

The sector has been teetering on the edge, with the US tariffs already affecting trade.

However, the amount of steel exported to Europe dwarfs that which crosses the Atlantic.

Gareth Stace, inset, director-general of the trade body UK Steel, said the Government has "go all out to leverage our trading relationship with the EU to secure UK country quotas or potentially face disaster".

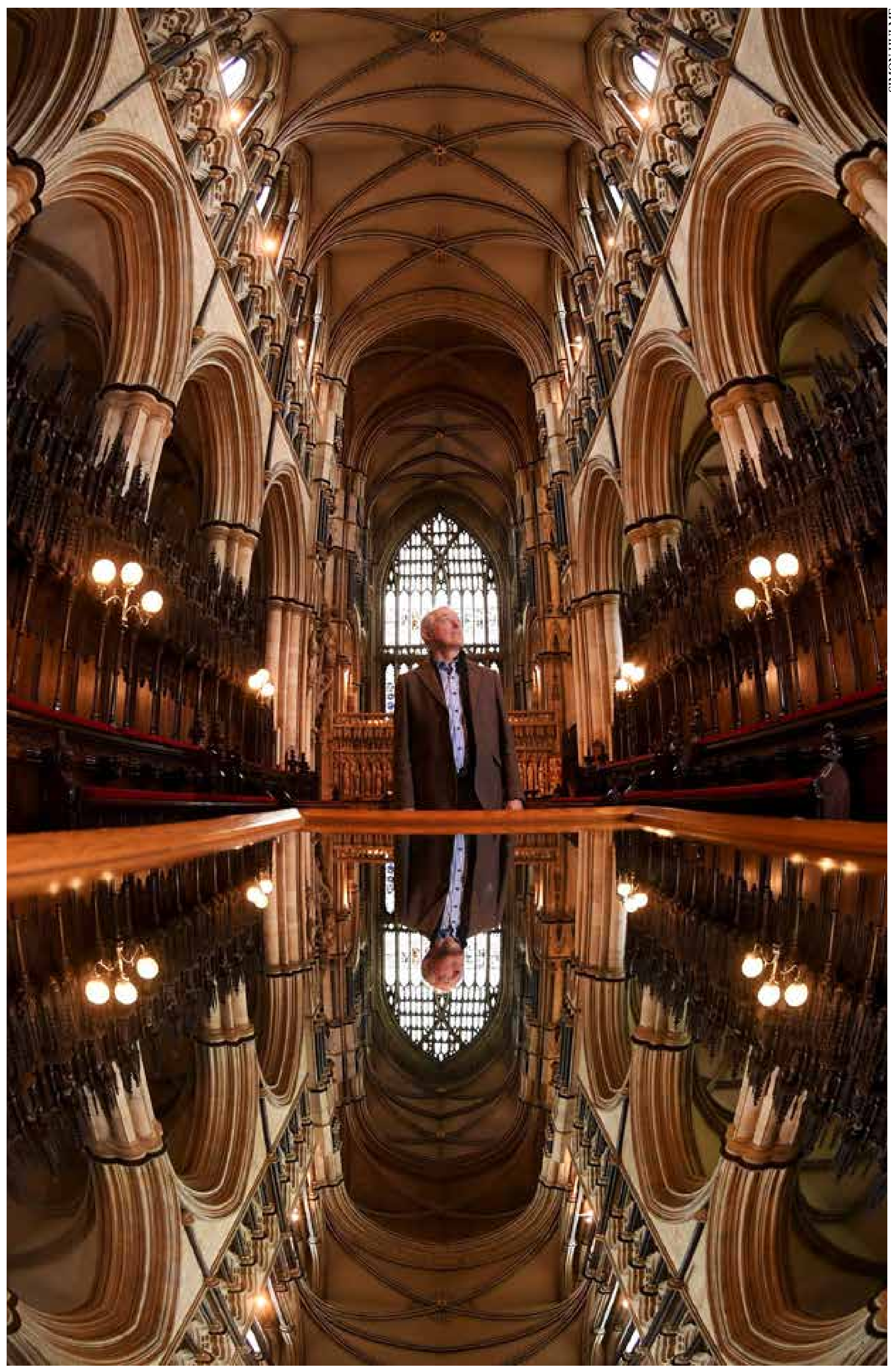
He said: "This is perhaps the biggest crisis the UK steel industry has ever faced.

"The UK government must now recognise the urgent need to put in place its own measures to defend against a flood of imports."

A government spokesman said: "We continue to work closely with EU partners as we await the full details of these plans from and their impact on UK businesses.

"The government will continue to fully back the British steel industry, protecting skilled jobs and supporting economic growth, as part of our Plan for Change. That is why we have committed up to £2.5 billion of investment to rebuild the industry, and are exploring stronger trade measures to protect UK steel producers from unfair behaviours."

## *Reflecting on Minster's Lottery award*



SIMON HULME

**Two Churches One Town charity trustee Tim Carlisle in Beverley Minster, which received initial support from The National Lottery Heritage Fund for its 'Destinations' Project. Some £244,203 has been awarded to help the Minster in plans to apply for a National Lottery grant of £4.3m for repairs. Full story: Page 3.**

# Warning over effects of 'tourist tax'

THE chairman of UKHospitality has hit out at the prospect of tourism taxes in England, warning that rural businesses would be "taxed out of existence".

All three of Yorkshire's Labour mayors have been lobbying the Government for powers to introduce a European-style visitors' levy in their region.

York and North Yorkshire Mayor David Skaith cited both York and Scarborough where this could be brought in, promising to invest any funds back into the local area.

However, speaking at the Conservative Party Conference, Kate Nicholls, UKHospitality chairman, said that these taxes would put holidaymakers off certain destinations.

She said: "We cannot afford to have our rural businesses taxed out of existence.

"Across too many parts of the country, in Wales and in Scotland, and even in England, we've had tourism taxes."

Ms Nicholls cited figures that show 100,000 jobs in hospitality have been lost since last year's budget, with the increase in taxes on business.

"Tourism businesses account for 25 per cent of jobs in rural economies," Ms Nicholls explained, "people won't come and stay if you have a tourism tax.

"People won't come to the holiday park, they won't come to the caravan, they won't come to the pub and they certainly won't spend in the rural economy if you tax them to stay and do it.

**Continued on Page 2.**

# Yorkshire Water gets another 17 drought permits

YORKSHIRE Water has been granted another 17 drought permits by the Environment Agency amid the ongoing hosepipe ban, despite the recent wet weather.

This will mean the firm will have to release less water from its reservoirs into rivers, including the River Calder, River Colne and River Holme.

The orders will apply for six months, and come on top of a further 20 drought permits to try and tackle the ongoing water shortages.

Drought was declared across Yorkshire in June, after the driest and hottest spring on record.

Yorkshire Water then brought a hosepipe ban in July, and the company recently indicated they could last into the winter, despite the wet weather.

Recent wet weather has seen reservoir stocks increase to 45.6 per cent last month, up almost 15 percentage points over that time.

However, the stocks still remain well below the average for September, which is 70 per cent.

The Environment Agency hopes that the drought permits will mean the hosepipe restrictions can be lifted sooner.

Claire Barrow, EA Yorkshire drought manager, said: "Although we expect to see more wet weather over the autumn and winter it will take significant rain over several months to refill rivers and reservoirs, without which water supplies will continue to decline.

"These additional permits will allow Yorkshire Water to retain their reservoir stocks for longer, so protecting that level of public supply. We only issue a permit if we are content that there are clear plans in place to mitigate any impact on the environment, along with strong evidence from Yorkshire Water of their ongoing commitment to reduce leaks and improve water efficiency.

"Over the autumn and winter, we will continue to work closely with Yorkshire Water as it develops the long-term solutions necessary to protect water resources while drought conditions continue across Yorkshire."

## Ilkley 'heritage asset' to undergo major repairs

ONE of the district's most "precious heritage assets" will soon undergo major repairs to help secure its future.

Ilkley Manor House is one of the most protected historic buildings in the Bradford district.

The house is Grade I-listed and dates back to the 1390s – and was built on the site of a Roman Fort.

The building is currently one of the town's major tourist attractions, operating as a gallery and museum.

Last year, a tile fell off the Manor House's roof, leading to it being listed as a dangerous building.

A survey by the Ilkley Manor House Trust found that major repairs were needed to the roof to secure it's future – works that would cost around £100,000.

A listed building application for the work has now been submitted by owners Bradford Council, and details the works that are needed to fix the roof.

It also lays out the the significance of the building to the district's history.

WEATHER

Cloudy with possible rain showers and breezy.

Full forecast: Back Page

ISSN 0963-1496 £1.80

DIGEST – LIVE NEWS UPDATES AT WWW.YORKSHIREPOST.CO.UK

### Arrests in old case

POLICE have made arrests over the death of a man who was feared murdered more than 30 years ago. Two people have been held on suspicion of murder in connection with the disappearance of Doncaster man John Bowkett.

**Full story: Page 3.**

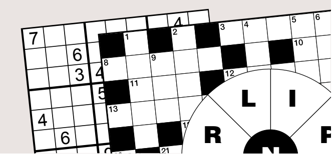
### Tories accused

BEN Houchen, the most senior elected Tory in the North, has accused the Conservatives of "retreating back into the shires in the South East" under Kemi Badenoch. The Tees Valley Mayor asked whether his party hoped to represent the "Red Wall".

**Full story: Page 4.**

### Puzzles Post

**16 daily crosswords and puzzles: Pages 2 and 16.**



### Markets cancelled

A string of food markets in Malton have been cancelled, including a two-day Christmas market, with organisers citing rising operating costs over the last few years. Malton is widely known across the region as Yorkshire's food capital.

**Full story: Page 17.**