

Wyvern weathervane

One of Exeter's lesser known landmarks is once again flying above the city skyline.

A replica of the historic Wyvern weathervane has been erected at the Iron Bridge near the City Gate Hotel.

The 200-year-old original was taken down and removed to the Royal Albert Memorial Museum a few years ago after its fixing came adrift and it was decided it was too fragile to be put back up. People will be able to see it once again next year when the Museum reopens to the public.

The replica was erected thanks to a partnership

between the City Council and the Exeter Civic Society.

The Wyvern is a mythical beast in the shape of a winged two-legged dragon with a barbed tail. It was a common medieval heraldic symbol and was symbolic of the historic kingdom and earldom of Wessex.

The original Exeter Wyvern was set on top of the city's North Gate until this was demolished in 1769, after which it was moved to the Quay. It was brought back to the site of the North Gate in 1897 as part of the celebrations of Queen Victoria's Jubilee, as commemorated on a stone plaque at the base of the pole.

The replica Wyvern, faithfully reproduced in copper by Neil Bollen, is now swinging on top of

the pole opposite the City Gate, where hopefully it will stay for another 200 years.

