



The Norman House

## The history of the Jewish community in York is a fascinating, if often overlooked, chapter in the city's long and colourful past.

Whilst attention is usually focused on the tragic event at the site now called Clifford's Tower, there are stories to be told about the resilience of the Medieval Jewish community and of commemoration and revival of Jewish life in the more recent past.

Along the trail, we will discover the sites of synagogues both ancient and more recent, meet prominent historical Jews such as Aaron of York and the unfortunate Benedict, explore the remains of a 12th century house and the place of a significant Medieval Jewish burial ground, and finally reflect on murder and remembrance at Clifford's Tower itself, where Jewish families tragically died on 16th March 1190.

Download the free app to find an audio guide, interactive map, and photographs of archaeological and historical artefacts from sites along the trail!

## User Guide

This walking trail will lead you around York's historic cityscape, exploring some of its forgotten stories. At each of the stops along the trail, listen along to the audio narrative provided. These can be accessed via an app or a podcast. This trail lasts approximately 90 minutes.

### The App

- The Web App created to use en route can be accessed via your web-enabled mobile phone, for either iPhone or Android. Details are available on the web at: [www.historyofyork.org.uk](http://www.historyofyork.org.uk)

### The Podcast

- Podcast downloadable in MP3 format available on the web at: [www.audioboo.fm/historyworks](http://www.audioboo.fm/historyworks)

This leaflet and audio podcast are also available at: [www.youtube.com/user/historyworks/videos](http://www.youtube.com/user/historyworks/videos)

### The Leaflet & More Information

- To find this leaflet, more information on the Trail, or if you would like to access the scripts, go to [www.historyworks.tv](http://www.historyworks.tv) © Historyworks 2012.

### Further Trails

- Roman and Great War trails also available.
- Viking, Medieval, and Georgian trails coming soon.

This trail and accompanying podcast have been devised and produced by Helen Weinstein, IPUP Director, The Institute for the Public Understanding of the Past, to whom all suggestions for revisions should be directed ([ipupinfo@gmail.com](mailto:ipupinfo@gmail.com)). Expertise and Narration of the trails by the York City Archaeologist, John Oxley.

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## York's Jewish History: Community and Identity Through the Centuries

A Walking Trail

A Journey Through York's Hidden Past

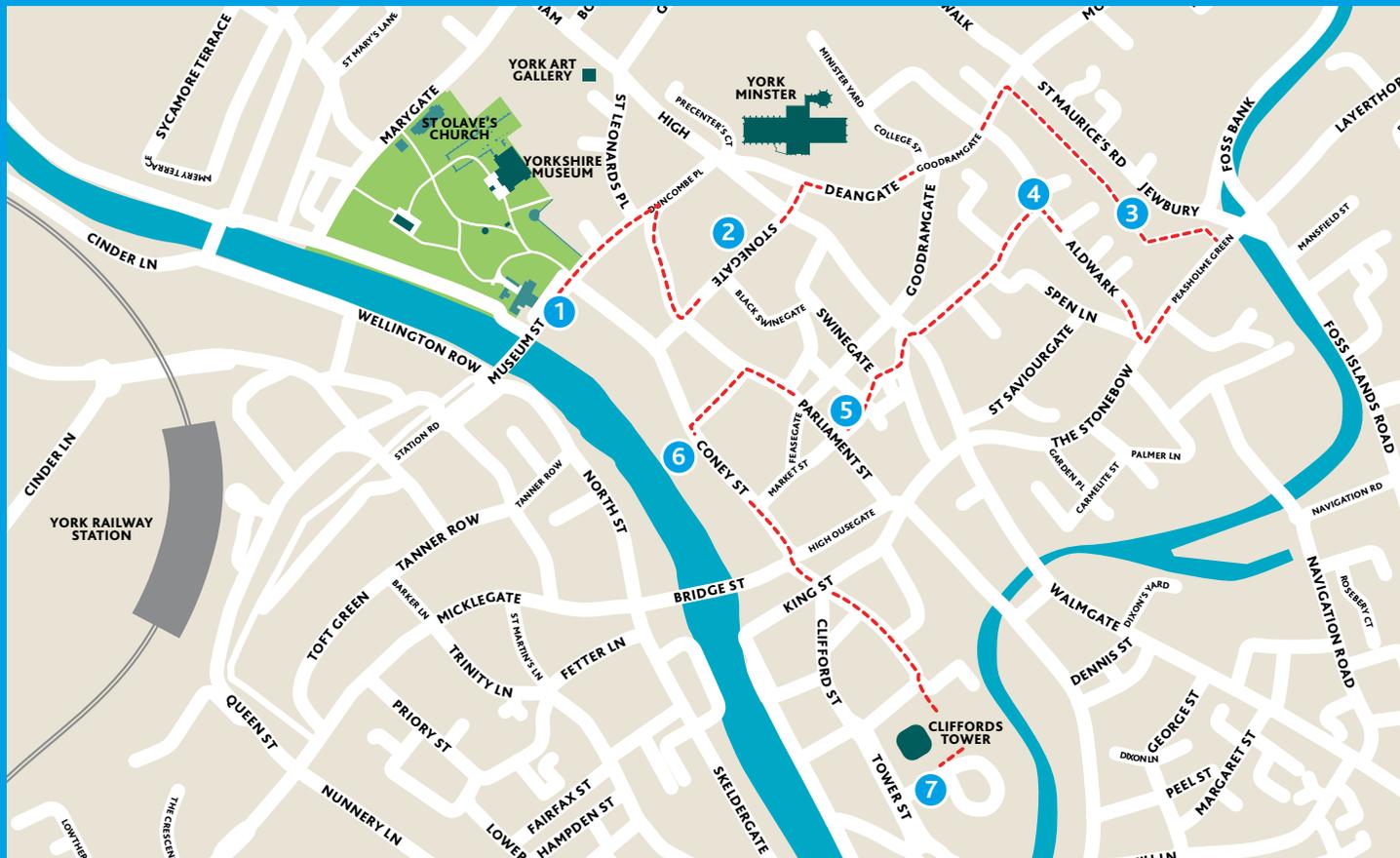


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1

**MUSEUM GATES**

Begin the trail on Museum Street, at the gates of the Yorkshire Museum.

Jewish Communities first came to Britain from Normandy in significant numbers after 1066 and the invasion of William the Conqueror. Anti-semitism was widespread and all Jews were expelled by Edward I in 1290, not to return in numbers until the 19th century. Jews only gained legal equality in 1890.

2



3



**NORMAN HOUSE**

Enter door at 52A Stonegate. If locked, obtain key from the Church of St. Michael le Belfrey's office, on Deangate opposite York Minster. The Jewish Community numbered upwards of 150 by the 1170s. Benedict and Joceus were major financiers working in York on behalf of the renowned Aaron of Lincoln. Wealthy members of the Jewish community lived in stone houses in Lincoln and in York. This house was built between 1170 and 1180.

**JEWBURY CEMETERY**

Walking along the walls, stop at the Star of David embedded in the walkway marked "Jewbury". Look across to the carpark opposite and you'll see this plaque. The cemetery was in use from around 1177 until 1290, and the plot was extended in 1230 beyond its previous bounds showing that the Jewish community was renewed after the 1190 massacre.

4



**ALDWARK SYNAGOGUE**

Look for the building housing the RAF Association on Aldwark. This residential location, above a former joiner's shop, is the unusual site of the 19th and 20th century synagogue, hosted by the Bowman family who ran the business below.

5



**JUBBERGATE**

Stop at the fountain in Parliament Street.

Jubbergate, formerly known as Jewe Bretagate, is at the entrance to a bustling market. As the name suggests this may once have been the location of Jewish homes and businesses and Jews lived in several locations across the city, not in a ghetto.

6



**MEDIEVAL SYNAGOGUE**

On Coney Street, look towards the building housing the Next clothing store.

The earliest known synagogue in York stood here. Nearby, members of the Medieval Jewish community had their homes, including Aaron of York, who, between 1236 and 1243 held the office of Archpresbyter, the leader of the English Jewish community.

7



**CLIFFORDS TOWER**

Walk across the car park towards the stone keep on the mound, which was once part of a much larger castle complex.

The site of York's shame. Here in 1190 nearly all the members of the Jewish community were massacred, allegedly by a York mob. The stone structure here replaced the original wooden royal castle which was destroyed by fire. Now a commemorative plaque marks the massacre of 16th March 1190 and special six-petal daffodils, representing the Star of David, were planted to bloom on this date.