

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 resiliency 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 the medieval Jewish burial ground, and finally reflect on tragedy and remembrance at Clifford's Tower itself, where Jewish families tragically died on 16th March 1190.



*The Norman House*

**CREDITS:**

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## *A few details...*

This trail and accompanying podcast have been devised by Professor Helen Weinstein, Director of the University of York's Institute for the Public Understanding of the Past (IPUP), to whom all suggestions for revisions should be directed.

You can find this leaflet and more information on the Trail at: [www.york.ac.uk/ipup/](http://www.york.ac.uk/ipup/)

### *IPUP offers the Trail as:*

- Web App to use en route via your mobile phone available on the web at:  
[www.historyofyork.org.uk](http://www.historyofyork.org.uk)
- Podcast downloadable in MP3 format available on the web at:  
[www.audioboo.fm/historyworks](http://www.audioboo.fm/historyworks)

#### Directions for use:

1. launch iTunes on your PC/MAC and then
2. press the iTunes button on the audioboo page
3. dock your iPad/iPod/iPhone to transfer the audio for portable use

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



# *York Jewish History Trail*



## **A Journey Through York's Hidden Past with York City Archaeologist, John Oxley**

**Produced by IPUP Director, Helen Weinstein,  
Institute for the Public Understanding  
of the Past**

**For further information see IPUP's website:  
[www.york.ac.uk/ipup](http://www.york.ac.uk/ipup)**

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# Jewish History Trail Stops



## Stop 1: Norman House

Enter door at 52A Stonegate. If locked, obtain key from the Church of St. Michael le Belfrey's office, on Deangate opposite entrance to York Minster gift-shop.

This medieval house mirrors The Jew's House in Lincoln, the type of building Jews would have inhabited.

## Stop 5: Medieval Synagogue

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

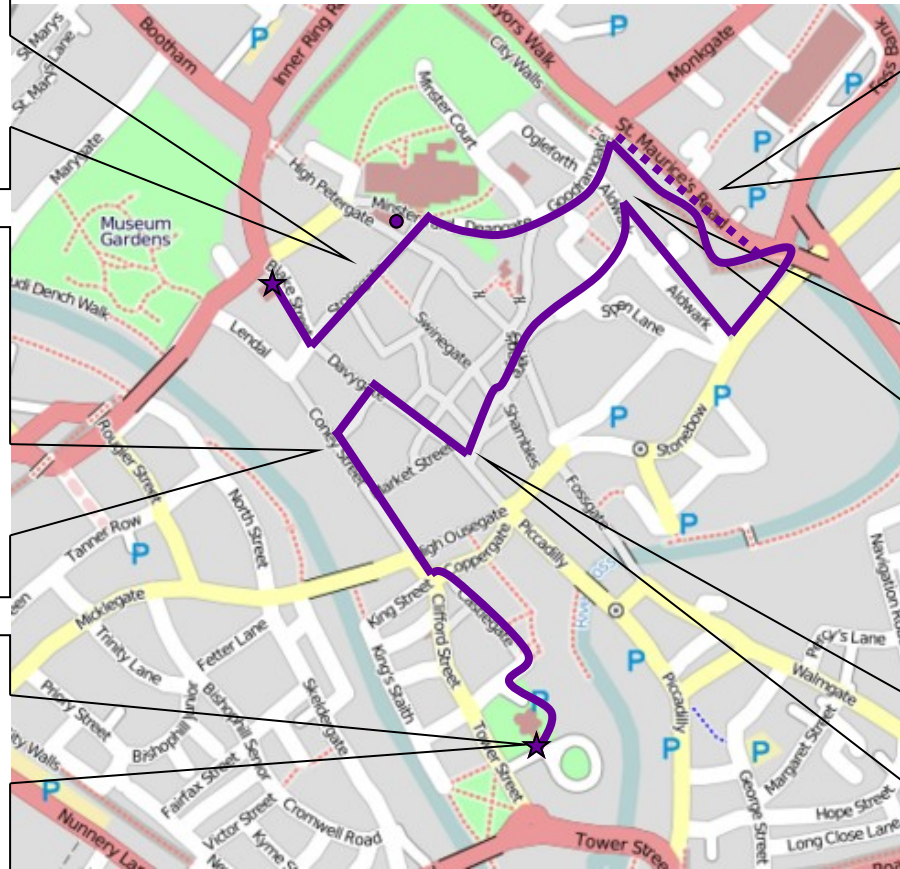
The earliest known synagogue in York stood here. Nearby, prominent members of the medieval Jewish community had their homes.



## Stop 6: Clifford's Tower

The site of York's shame. Here, in 1190, a York mob massacred nearly all the members of the Jewish Community.

The stone structure replaced the original wooden royal castle keep, which was destroyed by fire in 1190.



- = Trail route
- - - = Alternate route for the mobility impaired
- ★ = Trail Start and End
- = St. Michael le Belfrey Church Office

## Stop 2: Jewbury Cemetery

Walking along the walls stop at the Star of David embedded in the walkway, marked "Jewbury". Look across to the car-park opposite and you'll see this plaque.



Initial archaeological evidence suggested this burial site was not a Jewish Cemetery; then people changed their minds - why?

## Stop 3: Aldwark Synagogue

Look for the building housing the RAF Association. In Aldwark

This residential location, above a former joiner's shop, is the unusual site of the 19th and 20th century synagogue.



## Stop 4: 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.

