



**DARK SHADOWS IN THE SKIES OF YORK:  
THE ZEPPELIN RAIDS, 1916 – PEASHOLME GREEN**

Walk along Peasholme Green until you reach the entrance to The New School House Gallery, where you'll find a garden. In May 1916 the skies of York darkened with the distinctive shadow of the Zeppelin airship. Here, at Peasholme Green, some of the worst casualties were inflicted. In total nine people were killed and twenty-seven injured in these air-raids.



**ARMISTICE AND  
AFTERMATH – DEAN'S PARK**

Alongside the Minster, continue across Dean's Park towards the war memorial: a series of stone arches. At the announcement of the War's end in 1918, the Minster's bells rang out for the first time in five

years. Cheering crowds gathered here to celebrate, and a service of thanksgiving was held. The price paid by the city and its citizens was high. Thousands never returned, and for those that did, the scars were to last them for the rest of their lives. For those that stayed, their family lives had been shattered. York, and the world, had changed forever.



5th Battalion York and Lancaster soldiers

**'Experiencing The Great War: York in World War One' is a walking trail around historic York which explores a series of locations within the ancient city walls and the stories they can tell us about York and the people who lived here during The Great War.**

We usually think about this conflict as one that happened overseas, in the trenches of Flanders, but this trail will illustrate how the war had an impact on York and its citizens. Along the trail we will discover stories of war horses, Zeppelin air raids, wounded soldiers back from the front, enemy aliens, and conscientious objectors.

The stories on the trail are the result of intensive research into York's First World War history by researchers across academic disciplines, joining together material drawn from archives, alongside insights from artefacts in York Castle Museum's collection, and York's historic centre to tell the global story of The Great War from a local perspective.

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

- Jewish History and Roman 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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FREE Audio Tour

## Experiencing The Great War: York in World War One

### A Walking Trail

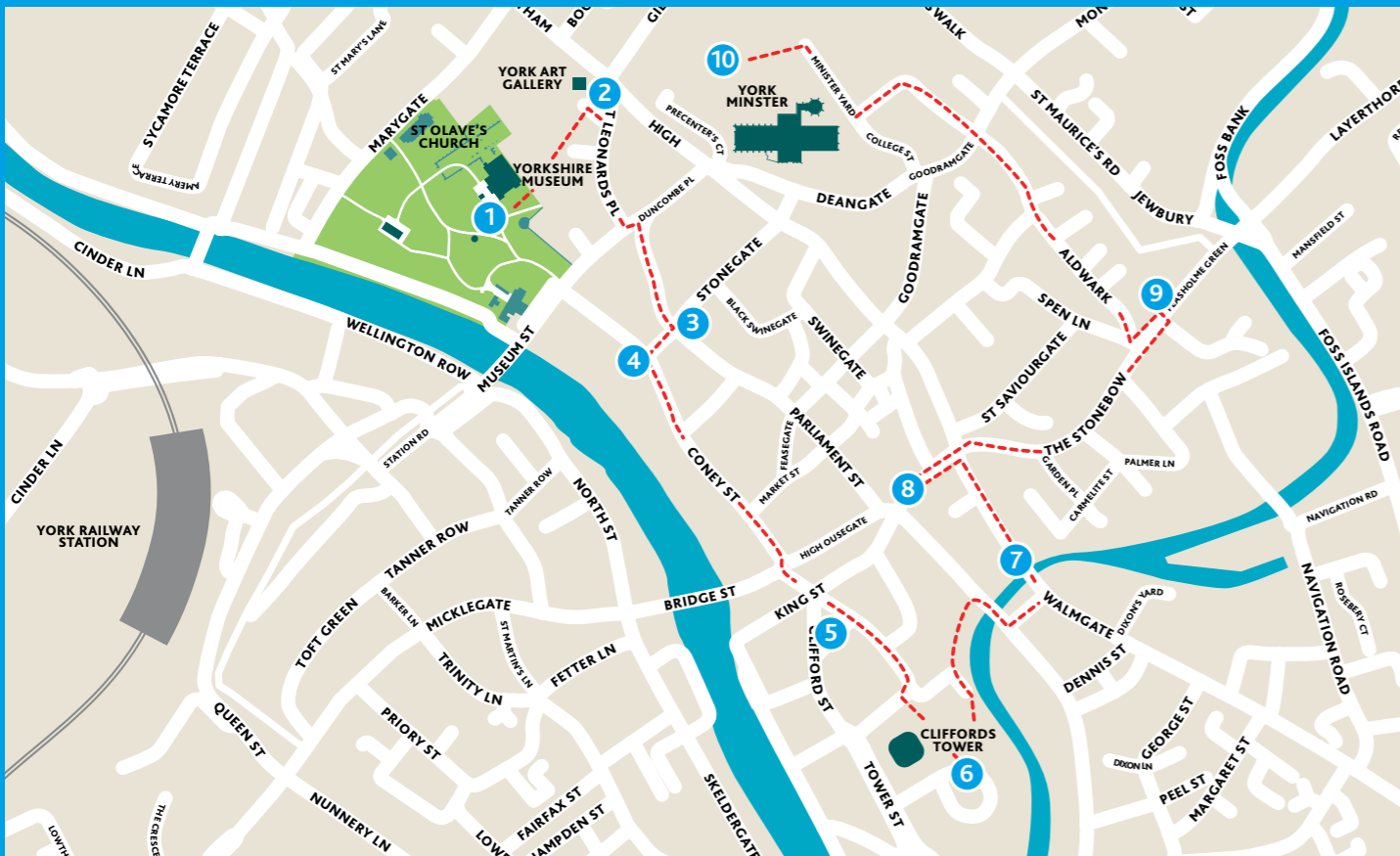
Discover How This Global  
Conflict Affected Local Lives



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1



**SOLDIERS ON EVERY STREET CORNER: THE WAR IS ANNOUNCED IN YORK – YORKSHIRE MUSEUM**

Stand in front of the Yorkshire Museum, on the steps looking out into the Gardens. The outbreak of The Great War was announced to the citizens of York on 5th August 1914. The city sprang into action immediately: the York Press reported on the same day that “everywhere today one saw soldiers in uniform about the city. They were to be met with at every street corner”.

2



**“YORK’S ROLL OF HONOUR”: RECRUITMENT, RAILWAYS AND THE REQUISITION OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS – YORK ART GALLERY**

Stop in front of the York Art Gallery, by the statue of William Etty and the fountain. Following the announcement of war, the gallery was requisitioned as a military HQ and a post office. Men from all over the city came here to enlist, and thousands of letters to loved ones at the front were sent from here: this was York’s gateway to the world at war. On the first floor of York Art Gallery, find the painting by war artist Richard Jack titled ‘Return to the Front’, depicting the commotion of soldiers embarking at Victoria Station. York’s railways played a crucial role in the transportation of troops, munitions, food and other resources.

3



**CONKERS AND COURIERS: YORK CHILDREN IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR – ST HELEN’S SQUARE**

Stop in front of St Helen’s Church, and look at the next-door building, right on the corner of Stonegate.

During the Great War this was a toyshop called Holgate & Sons. Children in York, although far from the front, were often involved in the war effort. The War Office offered money to them for collecting conkers, which were used as a component of shells and bullets.

4



**COWARDICE OR COURAGE? YORK’S CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS – THE GUILDHALL**

Walk towards The Mansion House, the large red building at the end of the square. Walk beneath the Mansion House, through the archway, to reach the Guildhall.

Although many of York’s men enlisted, others chose to take a non-violent stance. York Guildhall served as a local tribunal in the War, and was the place where Conscientious Objectors came to plead their case.

5



**BROKEN BODIES, MUDDLED MINDS: YORK’S WAR HOSPITALS-QUAKER MEETING HOUSE, FRIARGATE**

Walking down Castlegate, turn right into Friargate and look for the Quaker Meeting House at the white-painted porch. York’s hospitals

were soon struggling to cope with the numbers of casualties from the front. The building behind the Meeting House was the site of an auxiliary hospital, established to help with the care of the wounded.

6



**INTERMENT OF POWS & ‘ENEMY ALIENS’ – CASTLE GREEN**

After walking past Clifford’s Tower towards the Castle Museum, stand under the tree in the centre of the grass. Anti-German sentiment spread after war broke out: German civilians living in the UK were at risk of losing their jobs or being attacked. In York, people of German origin were rounded up and detained in tented encampments here by the Castle Prison built to accommodate these so-called ‘enemy aliens’.

7



**LIFE ON THE HOME FRONT: YORK’S WAR HORSES & WALMGATE IN THE WAR – MERCHANTGATE**

Cross Piccadilly by the Red Lion pub and look for the painted sign advertising F.R. Stubbs’ Ironmongers.

During the time of The Great War, the Walmgate area was one of the city’s worst slum districts. Plans for improving the area were shelved in 1914 to focus on the war effort. Along with men to fight at the front, horses were also requisitioned from all over Yorkshire, and brought to a depot at the Barbican Road Cattle Market, sited at the end of Walmgate, before they were sent to war.

8



**CONFECTIONERY & HOSPITALITY: THE ROWNTREE’S STORY – PAVEMENT**

Cross Pavement and walk towards the entrance to the Shambles, and opposite you can see the building at number 35, now housing a Pizza Hut.

This building was the site of Rowntree’s first grocer’s shop, which opened in 1840. It was also the home of Arnold Rowntree, who was York’s Liberal MP during the Great War, a fierce champion of the rights of conscientious objectors. During the war, Rowntree’s sent numerous packages of chocolate to soldiers.