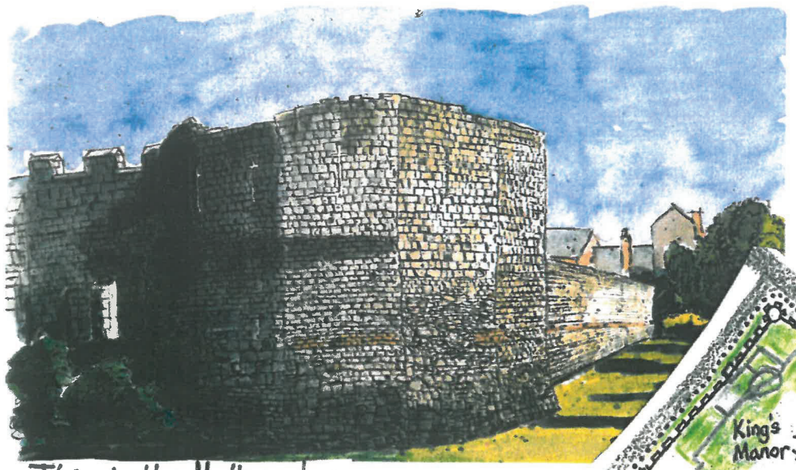
CITY WALLS TRAIL

"...splendid sketch-map-guide"
JOHN OXLEY, CITY ARCHAEOLOGIST



This is the Multangular Tower in the Museum Gardens. It is a corner tower in the City Walls – and a good place to start walking the trail. Its lower half is Roman, probably built about 100 A.D. Its top half was added about 1200 years later when most of the walls on the trail were being built.

A spur off the main trail goes through the small gate shown to the left of the tower, this lets you see what was once under the earth ramparts.

Just north of the corner a sign points to where signals once let trains go under the Walls to & from the old railway station (where York council offices are now)

HOLES TO SHOOT THROUGH

As well as battlements, you can see arrow-slits, musket loops (from Civil War times) and holes for cannon (with sighting holes above) as you walk the City Walls Trail.

In the corner tower a sign points to the Minster – but views of it are better 20 m. each way along the wall-walk

These are the City Walls north of Monk Bar. There was once a ditch, deeper than this, all round the Walls. Under the earth of the ramparts here are the walls of the Roman fort. Towers on this section of the Walls were rebuilt around 1880 – with impractical arrow slits in many cases.

A short spur leaves the main trail to go under the medieval arch at Monk Bar; this lets you look at a mason's mark, portcullis spikes & 'murder-holes'.

Just south of Monk Bar a sign points to the brick dome of a store for ice, this was dug around 1800

Almost 200 m. south of Monk Bar a sign points to the site of the medieval Jewish cemetery – under the carpark

Brass studs like this mark the trail if it's not upon the Walls

200 m. east of Micklegate Bar a sign points to the tower of St Mary, this was built before the Norman conquest re-using stone the Romans cut

In the corner tower a sign points to the 2 hills Norman conquerors built for castles around 1068

STEPS UP TO THE WALL-WALK
These are at the 6 named bars and the 5 other places the trail is shown joining the wall-walk

KEY

- = trail on wall-walk*
- = trail where not on wall-walk
- = city or castle walls [where trail is not on them]
- = major tower on the Walls
- = minor tower on the Walls
- = selected buildings
- = route of "Off-trail extra"
- = roads and paths
- = Church mentioned in guide
- T = public toilets
- = usually accessible spaces eg. parks, squares
- cars = car parks
- = defensive walls around St Mary's Abbey
- to = explanation of signs set into the paving of the wall-walk

* The wall-walk opens at about 8.00 am and is closed for ice, snow and dark, for details see https://www.york.gov.uk

FOR MORE INFORMATION USE 'A Walking Guide to York's City Walls' by Simon Mattam 2014 [but updated on facebook] ISBN 978 0 9929002 0 5
A version of this is free on the Friends of York Walls website (http://yorkwalls.org.uk)
DAVID PATRICK FREELY HELPED ME USE HIS PICTURES (To see them better please go to www.davidpatrick-art.com)

Simon Mattam 2025 for Friends of York Walls

Boothams Bar · Minster Library · Treasurers House · Grays Court · Monk Bar · King's Manor · Museum · Museum Gardens · Library [R] · the Minster · Merchant Taylors Hall · Cars Jewbury · chimney · River Ouse · Tourist Information · Railway Station · steps up to wall-walk · Red Tower · River Foss · Rowntree Wharf · St Mary, Castlegate · Fairfax House · Clifford's Tower · cars · Castle Museum · Fishergate Postern Tower · Walmgate Bar · Micklegate Bar · St Mary Bishophill Junior · Bar Convent · cars · Baile Hill · Victoria Bar · River Ouse · River Foss · Fishergate Bar · N · 0 100 200 metres