



ENGLISH HERITAGE
EDUCATION

KS1-2

KS3

TEACHERS' KIT

Clifford's Tower

This kit helps teachers plan a visit to Clifford's Tower, the largest remaining part of York Castle, once the centre of government for the north of England. Use these resources before, during and after your visit to help students get the most out of their learning.



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Step into England's story

WELCOME

This Teachers' Kit for Clifford's Tower has been designed for teachers and group leaders to support a free self-led visit to the site. It includes a variety of materials suited to teaching a wide range of subjects and key stages, with practical information, activities for use on site and ideas to support follow-up learning.

We know that each class and study group is different, so we have collated our resources into one kit allowing you to decide which materials are best suited to your needs. Please use the contents page, which has been colour-coded to help you easily locate what you need, and view individual sections. All of our activities have clear guidance on the intended use for study so you can adapt them for your desired learning outcomes.

To further aid your planning, we have created Hazard Information guidance, which you can download from the Clifford's Tower **Schools page**. You can find more practical information about your booked visit to Clifford's Tower in the Education Visit Permit and the Site Information Pack which have been sent to you.

For KS4, we have produced a separate GCSE site proposal form, which may be helpful to use in your study of the historic environment at Clifford's Tower. You can download this from the Clifford's Tower **Schools page**.

We hope you enjoy your visit and find this Teachers' Kit useful. If you have any queries please don't hesitate to get in touch with a member of our team either via bookeducation@english-heritage.org.uk or on 0370 333 0606.

English Heritage Learning Team

ICON KEY

The icons below will help you quickly identify the types of activities and information presented.



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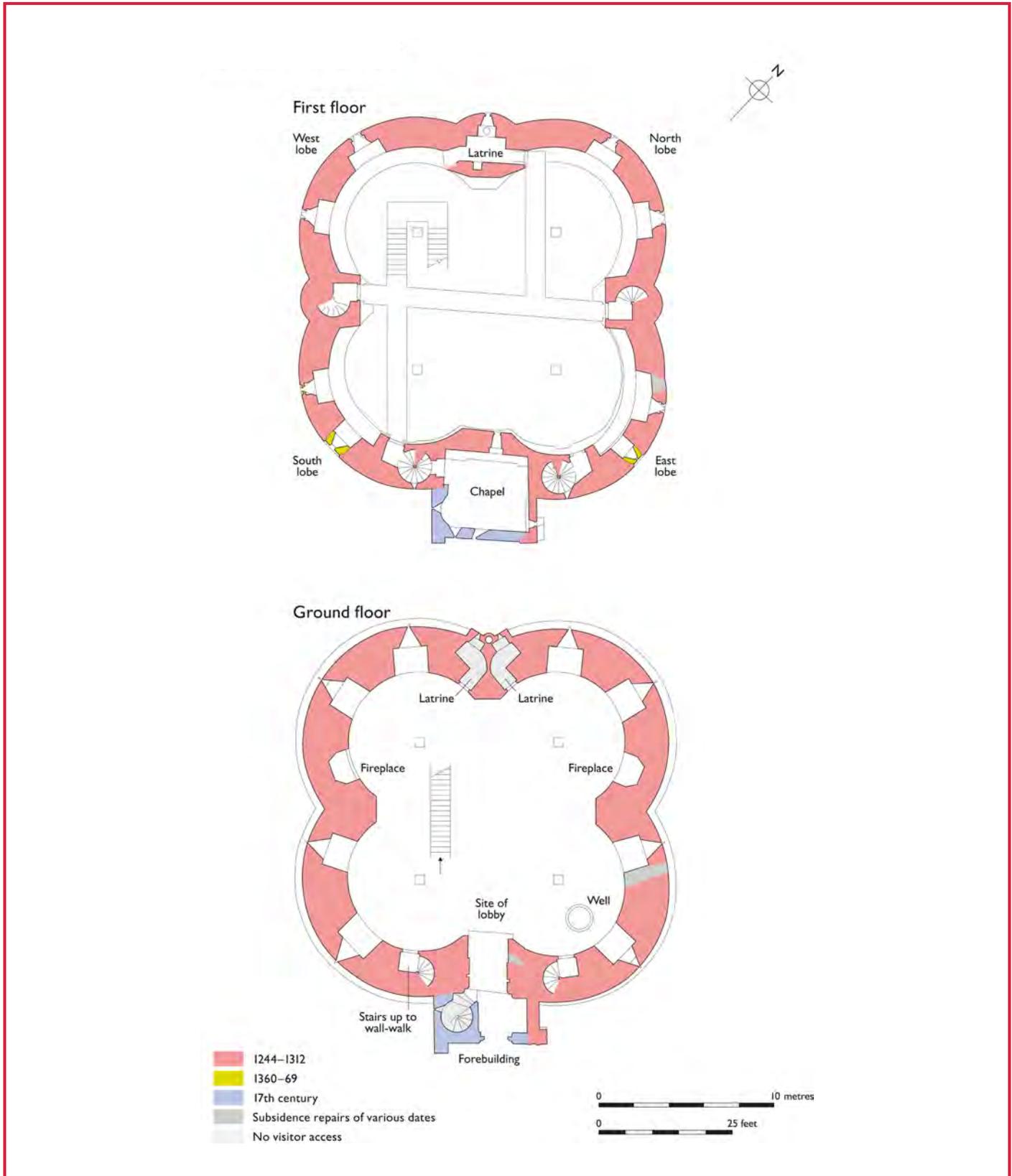


PRE-VISIT

Information and activities you can use in the classroom before your visit.

CLIFFORD'S TOWER

SITE PLAN



HISTORICAL INFORMATION

DISCOVER THE STORY OF
CLIFFORD'S TOWER

Below is a short history of Clifford's Tower. Use this information to learn how the site has changed over time. You'll find the definitions of the key words in the Glossary.

YORK BEFORE 1066

Flint tools and hand axes found in York suggest that people passed through the area in prehistoric times. During the Stone Age and the Bronze Age, features of the natural landscape around York formed a crossroads. The rivers Ouse and Fosse join at York and were probably used for transport. This, combined with the raised ridge that passes across the Vale of York, ensured that the city became an important place for transport and defence.

From AD 71, the Romans began to move further north to suppress tribal rebellions. **The Ninth Legion** advanced to York and built a timber fortress on the north side of the river Ouse. A civilian settlement (colonia) had developed on the south side of the river by the 2nd century. There were cemeteries lining the Roman roads into the city and a number of burials have been found in the area later used to build the medieval castle.

After the Romans withdrew from Britain in the 5th century, the area was claimed by an Anglian king, Edwin, who was baptised as a **Christian** in York (then known as Eoforwic) in 627. At this time there was a settlement close to the site of Clifford's Tower. Archaeological finds from the area suggest that the community in this settlement was heavily involved in trading and the city became wealthy due to its status as a major river trading centre. Vikings raided settlements along the east coast during the late 8th century, including Lindisfarne in 793. They captured York in 866, renaming it Jorvik. Between the 10th and 11th centuries, the city moved between **Viking** and English control.



A NORMAN CASTLE

William the Conqueror's (r.1066-87) invasion of England in 1066 and his victory at the Battle of Hastings marked a new era for the country. In summer 1068, a **revolt** broke out in the north against William's rule. This was based at York and led by the Earl of Northumbria, Gospatrick. William marched north to quash the rebellion. During this expedition, he ordered castles to be built, including one at York, to establish his authority in the north of England. The **motte** that Clifford's Tower sits on is part of the original castle that William commissioned. To further display his power, William wore his crown in **York Minster** on Christmas Day 1068.



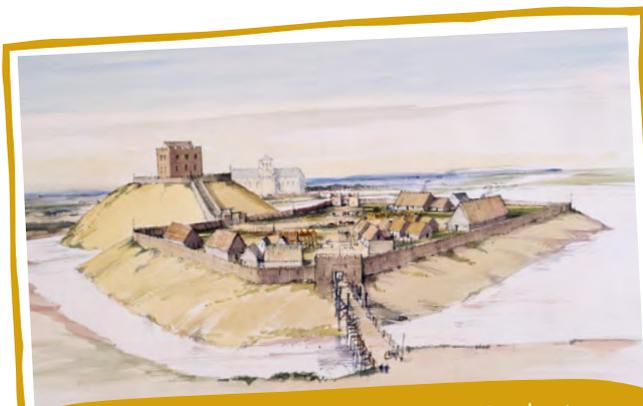
William the Conqueror commissioned the first castle in York to help establish his authority in the north of England.

In January 1069, Gospatrick led a rebellion once again, attacking York with Edgar Ætheling and killing the **castellan**, Robert fitz Richard, along with the new Earl of Northumbria, Robert of Commines. Merleswein, who had been **Harold Godwinson's** military commander in York, also took part in this rebellion. William returned to York to re-take the city and founded a new castle on the western bank of the river Ouse on Baile Hill – land previously belonging to the Archbishop of York. Another big rebellion began in summer 1069 across much of the north and west of England. A rising of York's population

attracted an invasion by King Sven of Denmark and Malcolm of Scotland. In September, the rebels recaptured York, destroying both of William's castles and killing the Norman **garrison** stationed there. The Norman defenders set fire to houses near the castles, starting a fire that burned for two days, almost reaching the Minster. King William returned to York a third time in the autumn of 1069. He re-founded both castles, putting William Percy in charge

of them. William **laid waste** to and plundered the surrounding region to severely punish the population. This action is now known as the **Harrying** of the North.

York Castle had two mottes – one on either side of the river Ouse. The one on the west bank, the 'Old Baile', still known today as Baile Hill, had a motte and **bailey**, while the other one on the east bank (where Clifford's Tower stands today) had a motte and two baileys linked by a gate.



An artist's interpretation of the Norman Castle at York, including a motte, bailey and wooden enclosure.

ANARCHY AND REBELLION

Not much is known about Clifford's Tower in the 60 years after 1072. Minor works were carried out during Stephen's reign (1135–54), a period known as 'the Anarchy' due to ongoing civil war between the king and his cousin, Matilda, daughter of Henry I. They were battling for the English throne – Matilda believed that as the daughter of the previous king, she should be crowned queen in her own right. In 1149, Henry of Anjou, Matilda's son (and later Henry II), met his great-uncle David, King of Scotland, and the Earl of Chester at Carlisle. They planned an attack against Stephen but the English king heard of the plan and travelled to York with a large army to thwart the invasion. The Earl of Chester failed to join with Henry and David and the plan was abandoned.

One hundred years after the founding of the castle at York, Henry II (r.1154-89) faced a rebellion orchestrated by his wife, Eleanor of Aquitaine, through her sons, with the support of Louis, King of France. The rebellion

prompted some building work at the goal in 1173 as well as the castle's main tower. William, King of Scotland, invaded England during the rebellion but was captured by Henry at Alnwick in Northumberland. William agreed to terms set by Henry to secure his release. These included William becoming a vassal to the English Crown (someone who swears their allegiance and support to the monarch), and after the suppression of the rebellion he paid homage to Henry at York.



Henry II developed the gaol and tower at York Castle when faced with rebellion in the 1170s.



Eleanor of Aquitaine supported her sons' rebellion against their father, Henry II, in the 1170s.

Find out more about Eleanor of Aquitaine by searching for her name on the English Heritage website.



1190: THE MASSACRE OF THE JEWS IN YORK

One of the worst **anti-Semitic** events of the Middle Ages took place in York in 1190. On the death of Henry III, rumours spread that his successor, Richard I, had ordered the death of all **Jews** when he left to crusade in the Holy Lands. During **the Third Crusade** (1189–92), **propaganda** against Muslims and Jews spread widely with some calling these communities 'infidels' because they were not Christians. People in York began to hear about attacks on Jewish people in King's Lynn, Colchester, Thetford and Ospringe in the south in 1189.

One of the most important Jews in York, a moneylender called Benedict, travelled to London for King Richard's coronation that year. Although he was not permitted to attend the ceremony, Benedict tried to present the new king with gifts afterwards while he was feasting with his nobles in Westminster Hall. Some people were superstitious about the presence of Jews at the celebrations and Benedict became a target in anti-Semitic riots surrounding the event. He was killed on his way home to York. A number of Yorkshire men saw Benedict's absence from York as a chance to wipe out the debts they owed to him and they raided his house, killing his family and servants.

Joceus, a Jewish leader in York, heard about anti-Semitic riots in Lincoln and asked the **constable** of York Castle to give York's Jewish community refuge inside its walls. His request was granted and, in the days that followed, any Jews found outside the castle were either **baptised** by force or killed.

While York's Jewish community sheltered inside the castle, the constable was called away on business. When he returned, the Jews worried that they would be betrayed and refused him entry. The constable called for other officials who brought troops to the castle. They were joined by an angry **mob** from York and a **siege** began.



York's Jewish community was the victim of a violent attack in 1190. Many took their own lives inside Clifford's Tower rather than be murdered by the angry mob outside.



Daffodils bloom on the mound each spring to commemorate the victims of the Massacre of the Jews in York. The flowers represent the Star of David, a key emblem of Judaism.

As the siege went on, those sheltering inside the castle realised that they would not be let out alive. Several accounts suggest that on Friday 16 March, the 'Great Sabbath' before the Jewish festival of Pesach or Passover, the Jews realised they could not hold out against the mob. They decided to meet death together by taking their own lives rather than be killed or forcibly baptised by the mob outside the castle walls. Just before their deaths, they set fire to their possessions; the fire spread to the wooden tower, which was destroyed. Any survivors left the castle the following morning, after being promised safe passage by the mob's ringleaders, providing they converted to Christianity. Despite this promise, the Jews were killed as they attempted to leave. It's not clear how many people perished but it's

currently thought that there were about 150 Jews sheltering inside the castle – between 20 and 40 families.

Today a plaque at the base of Clifford's Tower's mound commemorates the victims of this atrocity. In the spring, six-petalled daffodils (a species called February Golds) planted on the mound bloom to provide an annual memorial marking the anniversary of the massacre. They represent the Star of David in remembrance of the victims of this tragedy.



KS3 students can learn more about the Massacre of the Jews in York by listening to Episode 3 of the Speaking with Shadows podcast on the English Heritage website.



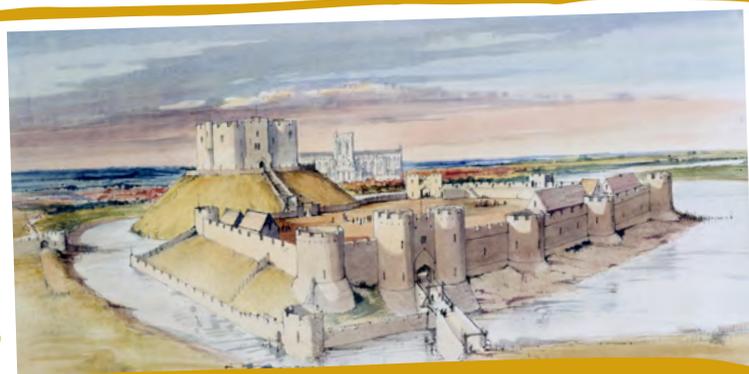
DID YOU KNOW?

Jewish people continued to face significant anti-Semitism in England after 1190. By the time the Jews were expelled from England by Edward I in 1290, there were only six Jewish families still living in York.



CONSTRUCTING CLIFFORD'S TOWER

The stone tower that we see today was first built during Henry III's reign (1216–72). He feared war with the Scots, which would make northern English cities like York vulnerable to attack. The king's visit to York in 1244 prompted building at York Castle. Henry sent a master carpenter, Simon, and a master **mason**, Henry, to York and told the sheriff to organise materials and other craftsmen to strengthen the castle's defences. Although no mention is made of a tower at this time, it's believed that this marks the beginning of Clifford's Tower's construction. The 'tower of York' was first mentioned by name in 1251.



An artist's interpretation of York Castle during the Middle Ages. Henry III strengthened York's defences in response to the threat of war with Scotland between the 1240s and the 1260s.

The design of the tower reflects architectural fashions in France at the time. Its unusual four-lobed plan is a close copy of the plan of a French royal castle south-west of Paris, Étampes, and was unlike any other buildings in England before or after the 13th century.

Construction began at York Castle in 1246 with between

£133 and £267 (about £71,000 and £142,000 today) allocated to the project each year. By 1250, some of the other towers on the inner bailey curtain wall were almost complete and oaks and lead were being brought in to construct the roof. Work at the castle slowed and was largely completed by 1262 at a total cost of more than £3,700 (over £2 million today). Although York wasn't attacked during Henry III's reign, it did come close to attack during the reigns of his successors, **Edward I** and Edward II (r.1307–27), during their on-going conflict with the Scots during the 14th century.

A MINI GUIDE TO MEDIEVAL CASTLES



Find out more about the development of medieval castles in this animation on the English Heritage YouTube channel (1 min 55 sec).



DID YOU KNOW?

Henry III's mason, Henry de Reyns, worked on a number of the king's building projects. He was also the master mason during the building of the King's Chapel at Windsor Castle (1239–43) and the master of the works during the rebuilding of Westminster Abbey.



EXCHEQUER, TREASURY AND GAOL

York Castle became **the Crown's** key centre of power in the north during the 14th century, playing an important role in conflicts with Scotland. The king's **Exchequer** was established at the castle by Edward I in 1298 and Clifford's Tower was used to receive taxes and store money to pay for the war. New doors, locks and 'other things which are lacking for the safeguarding of our **treasury** which we shall place there' were added. Kings of England transferred the royal treasury and courts from London to York a number of times between 1298 and 1392 because of on-going conflict with the Scots. Records show that a house used by Parliament inside the castle was repaired in 1304 and a chest was bought to store documents and items relating to the treasury. The king's Exchequer was removed from York to London in 1322 by Edward II (r.1307–27) only to be returned five years later in 1327 for 'so long as the king shall stay there for the expedition of the Scottish war in the north.'

Although we don't know exactly when the **mint** at York Castle was established, we know that it was rebuilt in 1353 and 1423, suggesting there were on-going problems with the buildings. In 1423, the mint, melting house, furnaces, treasury and the house for the moneyer (a person who mints money) and servants were all rebuilt. It's believed that the assaying process (checking the metal content of coins) may even have happened at Clifford's Tower. The tower could have provided a secure setting for this work to take place and the fireplaces may have been designed as hearths for the assaying process.

Clifford's Tower remained a prominent building in York during the Middle Ages. Edward II faced a lot of problems during his reign, many of them made worse by his decision to appoint his favourites to positions of authority. Sir Hugh Despenser's influence over the king provoked his **barons** to rebel against him, as they had done in 1312 in response to the power of Edward's favourite, Piers Gaveston. The two sides met in March 1322 at Boroughbridge in Aldbrough, Yorkshire.

The Earl of Lancaster led the barons who were captured by the king's forces. He was executed at Pontefract Castle but his fellow rebel, Roger de Clifford, was hung in chains from Clifford's Tower. It's been suggested that this may have been where the tower's current name originated. The tower was, however, referred to by many different names during the Middle Ages. The first written appearance of the name 'Clifford's Tower' dates from 1596.



The shape of the tower's fireplaces suggests that it may have been used as a mint during the Middle Ages.

A CRUMBLING TOWER?

The castle's position next to the rivers Ouse and Foss has meant that flooding has been a persistent problem throughout its history. A large section of the **curtain wall** collapsed in 1315 and the motte was softened by flood-water. Lots of repairs were made to the castle in the 1320s, including new lead for roofs, wooden fences around the tower, and the walls between the tower and the castle.



Flooding weakened the artificial mound and the tower's walls began to crack. Some parts of Clifford's Tower were close to collapse in the 1360s.

Reports in 1358 and 1360 record that Clifford's Tower was showing signs of **subsidence** (when the ground beneath a building sinks) but this had already been noted 40 years before. The tower had cracked in two places from top to bottom and one of the **lobes**, almost a quarter of the tower, was falling over. The **survey** of the castle in 1360 showed that many areas were damaged or un-useable.

Such reports prompted a **renovation** between 1360 and 1365. During this time, attempts were made to strengthen the banks of the river Foss with straw and rammed earth to try to prevent flooding at the castle. Despite these problems, York Castle remained an important political location and prominent local landmark. Richard III (r.1483–5) ordered further repairs to the castle during the late 1480s, employing many masons, smiths, carpenters, tillers, plasterers and labourers.

EXECUTIONS AND CRIMINAL DISMANTLING

Clifford's Tower was only really used for some public events, like executions, in the 15th and 16th centuries. In 1537, a leader of the **Pilgrimage of Grace**, **Robert Aske**, was punished for his role in the rising by being hung from the tower's walls to deter others. He had led a popular rebellion against Henry VIII's religious reforms, aiming to stop the **Suppression of the Monasteries**. Although Clifford's Tower was still a famous landmark, by 1540 John Leland, an **antiquary** was describing York Castle as a 'desolate ruin'.

In 1596, the tower's **gaoler**, Robert Redhead, was found to be gradually dismantling the building. He planned to re-use the stone and **lime** to build a cockpit (a place for cockfighting) in the city. Local people protested and the mayor of York petitioned the Crown to stop him. Redhead's workmen were seen again at the top of the tower in 1597, throwing stones down the motte from the parapet. We don't know why Redhead stopped dismantling the tower, but the damage he caused was probably fairly minor.

YORK AND THE ENGLISH CIVIL WAR

The tower was passed between various owners after James I (r.1603–25) sold many ruined properties to raise money. It doesn't seem to have been used again or repaired until the outbreak of the **English Civil War** in 1642. Charles I (r.1625–49) asked the Earl of Cumberland, whom he had appointed lieutenant-general of the Royalist forces in the North, to prepare the city of York for attack. A key part of the city's defences was its castle but the fortress had been in a poor state for many years. Clifford's Tower was not repaired until **Queen Henrietta Maria** arrived in York in 1643. She had been raising money and gathering arms in Holland to support the king's cause. The building work at Clifford's Tower included new floors, new storerooms and the digging of a deeper moat with a drawbridge and **palisades**. Cannon acquired by the queen in Holland were mounted on a new platform on top of the tower.



A painting of Queen Henrietta Maria, after Sir Anthony van Dyck, dated 1632-35. © National Portrait Gallery, London.



A square inner tower was built during the English Civil War. This was taller than the original tower and served as a gun platform during and after the conflict.

The conflict came to York in 1644 when the northern Royalist army, led by the Earl of Newcastle, retreated from Durham to York on 16 April. They were closely followed by Scottish armies who had joined with the Parliamentarians and, by 23 April, York was under siege. Several unsuccessful attempts were made to storm the castle and attackers frequently came under cannon fire from Clifford's Tower.

Negotiations between the two sides eventually broke down and the arrival of **Prince Rupert**, a royalist leader, caused the parliamentarians to stop the siege and concentrate their attention on **Marston Moor**. The Parliamentarians' victory at Marston Moor prompted the royalists to flee to the

castle and the siege began again. They surrendered the city on 16 July and marched out of York with full honours, being replaced with Parliamentary soldiers. Many areas of the city had experienced fire and cannon damage during the sieges.

In 1646, Parliament decreed that Clifford's Tower should remain garrisoned but it seems to have been mainly used as an armoury. Cannon and 3,000 muskets were transported from the tower in 1650 and 1652. After the war, records from 1662 show that it was used as a **magazine**, with 40 men stationed at the tower.

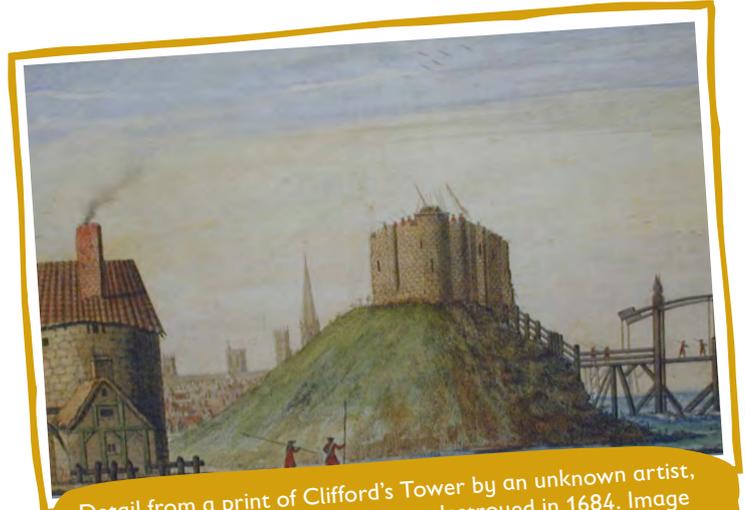
DESTRUCTION AND A PICTURESQUE RUIN

In 1683, a survey of Clifford's Tower recommended that it be de-garrisoned and perhaps demolished. This would have been popular with the people of York who drank toasts to 'the demolition of the Minced-Pie', a popular nickname for Clifford's Tower. The garrison had become unpopular in the city because of its immorality.

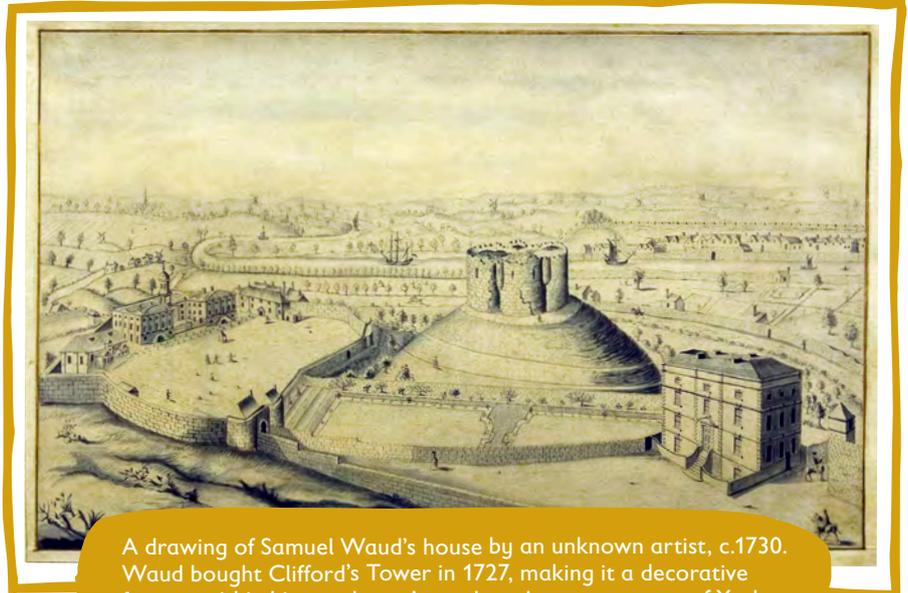
Rather than being demolished, the tower was reduced to a shell by an accidental fire in 1684. This

was started by a gun salute fired from the tower roof to celebrate **St George's Day**. The shell of the tower continued to be used for storage, including cannons, which were sometimes used to fire celebratory salutes in the final years of the 17th century. Within a few years, the interior of the tower was cleared out and all the military stores removed.

The tower passed through many different hands until it was bought by a local gentleman, Samuel Waud, in 1727. It stayed in the Waud family's possession until 1825. Shortly after he bought the tower, Samuel built a **mansion** on the east side of the motte. The tower acted as a **folly** in the garden of the house, a popular, fashionable feature of many upper-class properties in the 18th century.



Detail from a print of Clifford's Tower by an unknown artist, showing the building before it was destroyed in 1684. Image courtesy of York Museums Trust.

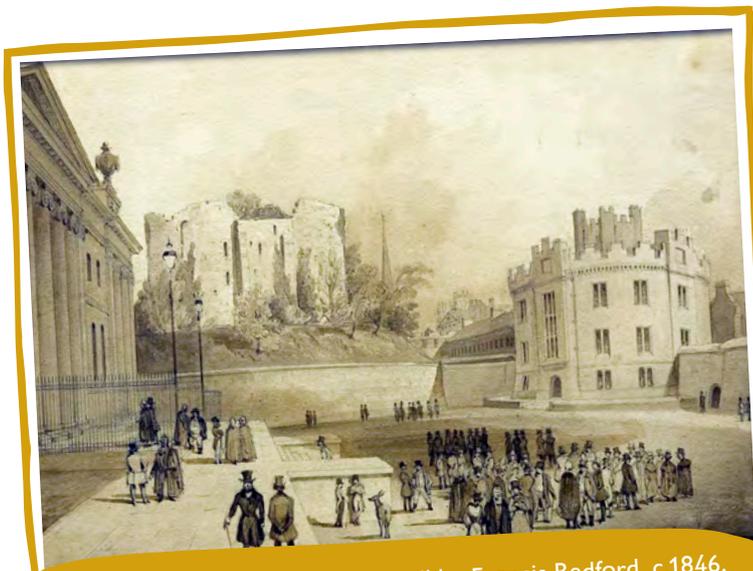


A drawing of Samuel Waud's house by an unknown artist, c.1730. Waud bought Clifford's Tower in 1727, making it a decorative feature within his new house's gardens. Image courtesy of York Museums Trust.

CRIME, PUNISHMENT AND ELECTIONS

York Castle has been an important centre for local government, courts and punishment from its earliest history. Prisoners were held in towers on the curtain wall of the inner bailey from the 14th century until the 18th century. Some of the castle's most notable prisoners included Robert Aske, a rebel and leader of the Pilgrimage of Grace in 1537, and George Fox, founder of the **Society of Friends** (Quakers) in 1665. During the 1700s, a number of new buildings were constructed to house prisoners. The County Gaol (now known as the Debtors' Prison) was built between 1701 and 1715. The new **Assize Courts** were built between 1733 and 1777, and the Female Prison was built between 1780 and 1783.

Stricter regulations about living conditions meant that the prison buildings were improved during the 19th century. In 1824, the prison was enlarged and from 1826–35 a new governor's house with prison blocks leading from it was built. To build a road leading from the gatehouse to the new prison it was necessary to cut into the base of the motte underneath Clifford's Tower. Although a lot of repair work was done to the tower in the 19th century, including the insertion of iron rods to bind the building together, it was probably at its highest risk of collapse by the turn of the 20th century.



An engraving of 'The Castle Yard' by Francis Bedford, c.1846. Clifford's Tower was incorporated into a growing complex of prison buildings during the 18th and 19th centuries. Image courtesy of York Museums Trust

York Castle was also used as a place of severe punishment. In 1802, the place of execution at York Castle was moved from York Tyburn on the Knavesmire to a site outside the castle walls called the 'New Drop', then to the back of the Assize Courts. This was used until 1868 when executions were moved inside the prison walls at the north end of the Female Prison. Executions finally ended in York in 1896.

The castle remained an important centre for local politics and the central area of the castle

yard (known as the Eye of York) was used for Yorkshire's county elections until 1831. William Wilberforce, the famous **abolitionist**, stood for election to Parliament there in 1807.

SECURING THE TOWER

In 1900, the castle transitioned from a civil prison to a military one and the poor condition of the building became increasingly clear. A report by the Prison Commission in 1901 indicates that the forebuilding and east lobe of the tower were sinking as the motte below them collapsed. It also found that the forebuilding was moving away from the tower.

Clifford's Tower was returned to the city of York in August 1902 on the understanding that it would be repaired. The **engineer** Sir Basil Mott supervised the underpinning of the tower. Concrete and five large **flying buttresses** were inserted into the motte to secure the tower above.

The tower was placed into state guardianship in 1915. Although the **Office of Works** carried out a detailed survey in 1914, which recommended extensive repairs, nothing was done during the First World War. In 1919, the tower's masonry was reinforced with metal rods and major tears in the walls were rebuilt and filled in with sandstone and grout.

The site's role as a prison finally ended in 1929 and five years later the prison buildings were sold to the city of York. The original profile of the motte was restored as part of a project to demolish all buildings in the area built after 1824.



This architectural drawing made by the Office of Works in 1913 shows how the surviving shell of Clifford's Tower had seriously decayed by the 20th century.

CLIFFORD'S TOWER AS A MONUMENT

Even when the prison was still standing, Clifford's Tower was visited by people interested in the site's history. It's not clear when the Office of Works first opened the tower to the wider public, but it's possible that this happened shortly after conservation works were completed in the 1920s.

English Heritage has cared for Clifford's Tower since the 1980s. Today, it's a monument visited by people from all over the world.

In 2021, English Heritage completed a project to stabilise the tower and build new walkways and platforms inside it, providing more information about the site, its history and its relationship with the city of York.

GLOSSARY

TRICKY TERMS AND
WHAT THEY MEAN

Below is a list of words you might come across while exploring Clifford's Tower. Use this Glossary to find out what they mean.

abolitionist – someone who wants to put an end to a particular practice or institution. The abolitionist movement was focused on bringing an end to transatlantic slavery.

aldermen – members of an English county or borough council, just below the status of a mayor

Anglo-Saxons – the groups of people who came from mainland Europe to live in Britain in the 5th century. The first group came from tribes in Germany. Anglo-Saxon kings ruled different areas of Britain until the Norman Conquest England, from 1066.

antiquary – a person who studies or collects antiques or antiquities

anti-Semitic – being discriminatory, hostile and prejudiced towards Jewish people as a cultural, ethnic or racial group

assize courts – courts held in main county towns. Visiting judges from higher courts based in London would travel to preside over cases in the assizes.

bailey – the strongly defended area at the centre of a castle, often surrounded by a stone curtain wall or wooden palisade. Some castles have an inner and outer bailey.

baptised – to formally admit someone into the Christian faith

baron(s) – a land-holding nobleman who was granted land by the king for loyal service

Battle of Marston Moor – one of the major battles of the English Civil War. The Parliamentary defeat of the Royalists on 2 July 1644 near York signified the end of their power in the north of England.

castellan – the governor of a castle



Visiting judges from London presided over assize courts like the one in York. Photograph by Tim Green, © CC-BY 2.0.



Royalists (also known as Cavaliers) held Clifford's Tower during the English Civil War until their defeat at the Battle of Marston Moor.

Cavalier – a name used by Parliamentarians as a derogatory description of Charles I's Royalist supporters during the English Civil War. The name was later adopted by the Royalists themselves.

Christian – a person who is baptised into or/and is a believer in Christianity. The religion is based on the person and teachings of Jesus Christ.

the Crown – the monarchy; the ruling king or queen

crusades – a series of medieval military expeditions made by Europeans to the Holy Land in the eastern Mediterranean

constable – the governor of a castle

curtain wall – a fortified wall around a medieval castle or abbey, often linking towers together

Edward I – also known as 'Edward Longshanks', a King of England famous for his campaigns against Scotland during which he earned the nickname the 'Hammer of the Scots'

engineer – someone who designs, builds or maintains structures or machines

English Civil War (1642–51)

– a series of armed conflicts between the Parliamentarians and the Royalists. They were disputing the way in which England was governed. The Parliamentarians believed the monarchy was corrupt and England should be ruled by Parliament instead.

Exchequer – a national or royal treasury

flying buttress – a feature of Gothic architecture, they are built to support large heavy walls, projecting from buildings in a half-arched shape

folly – an ornamental building or ruin within private or public gardens and parks. They were especially fashionable in the 18th century and could take many forms including towers or mock-Gothic ruins.

gaoler – someone with responsibility for a gaol and the prisoners held inside it

garrison – a group of troops stationed in a particular place to defend it

Harold Godwinson – (r. Jan 1066–Oct 1066) the last Anglo-Saxon king of England. Harold was named as Edward the Confessor's successor and reigned until he was killed at the Battle of Hastings on 14 October 1066, fighting the Norman invaders led by William the Conqueror.



Harold Godwinson's defeat at the Battle of Hastings led to Norman rule in England under William the Conqueror.

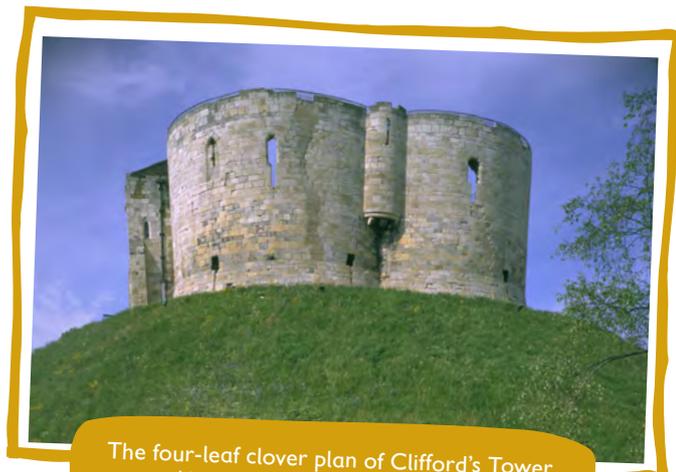
harrying – attacking an enemy or an enemy’s territory repeatedly, plundering and laying waste to land and settlements. The Harrying of the North (1069–70) was an extremely harsh campaign to subdue the north of England ordered by William the Conqueror. Villages and farmland were destroyed and many people were killed. Others starved after their herds of animals were killed, crops were burnt and the land was salted to prevent crops from growing. 75 per cent of the population perished.

Jew – a person who belongs to the Jewish religion. The religion is characterised by a belief in a single omnipotent God who revealed himself to Abraham, Moses and the Hebrew prophets.

laid waste – to have completely destroyed an area or settlement

lime – an inorganic mineral containing oxides and hydroxides, usually calcium oxide or calcium hydroxide. Lime was often used in developing building mortar.

lobes – (of a castle) parts of a castle wall, usually making up a curved or four-leafed clover shape



The four-leaf clover plan of Clifford's Tower was unlike any other building in England.

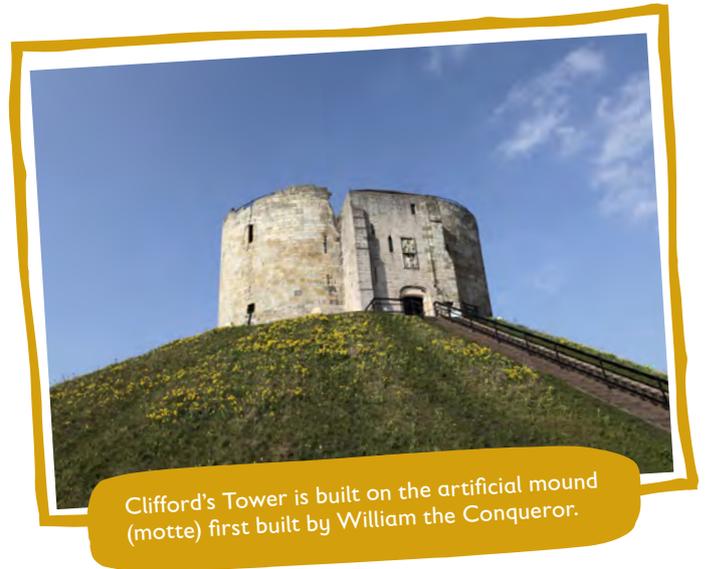
mansion – a large, impressive house occupied by an important, powerful family

mason – a person skilled in carving and laying stone for building

mint – a place where money is coined (made by stamping metal)

mob – a large crowd of people, often disorderly and aiming to cause violence

motte – a raised earthwork mound



Clifford's Tower is built on the artificial mound (motte) first built by William the Conqueror.

The Ninth Legion – a legion of the Imperial Roman army that existed from the 1st century BC until at least AD 120

Office of Works – a department of the English state from around 1378 until the mid-20th century, which looked after the building of the royal castles and homes. Today, many of the places it cared for are looked after by English Heritage.

palisade – a defensive wooden fence that wraps around a castle or enclosure

Pilgrimage of Grace – an uprising led by Robert Aske in 1536 protesting against Henry VIII's break with the Roman Catholic Church and the Suppression of the Monasteries. At first, the king's advisors negotiated with the protestors, but when a second uprising broke out, the leaders were charged with treason and executed.

Prince Rupert of the Rhine – (1619–82) a German-English army officer, admiral, scientist and colonial governor who first came to prominence in the English Civil War as a Royalist cavalry commander. He was a nephew of Charles I and a grandson of James I.

propaganda – information used to promote a particular point of view or political cause

Queen Henrietta Maria – (1609–69) French princess and, from 1625, queen consort of England, Scotland and Ireland as the wife of Charles I. She was the mother of Charles II and James II. Henrietta Maria was heavily involved in raising money and sourcing weapons to support the Royalist cause during the English Civil War.

renovation – to restore a building to make it appear new again

revolt – an illegal and often violent attempt by a group of people to change the way the country is ruled or to remove its ruler (e.g. the king)

Robert Aske – (c.1500–37) an English lawyer who became a rebel leader. He led the Pilgrimage of Grace, an uprising protesting against the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1536. Aske was executed for his role in the rebellion in York in 1537.

siege – a military tactic in which an army surrounds a place in order to cut off essential supplies (e.g. food and weapons) and force the people inside to surrender

Society of Friends – a Christian movement founded by George Fox in around 1650 whose members are called Quakers. Quakers are devoted to creating and keeping peace.

St George's Day – occurring on 23 April each year and also known as the Feast of St George, a day celebrating the patron saint of England

subsidence – the sinking of ground beneath a building, causing its walls to sink, crack and collapse

Suppression of the Monasteries (1536–40) – when the Roman Catholic Church refused to give Henry VIII (r.1509–47) a divorce from his first wife, Catherine of Aragon, King Henry broke away and set up his own church in England, with the king as its spiritual head. Henry then ordered over 800 monasteries be closed and either broken up for building materials, sold off or reclaimed for the Church of England.

survey – a general view or examination, or description of someone or something; a study

The Third Crusade (1189–92) – an attempt by Christian powers (England, France and the Holy Roman Empire) to reclaim the Holy Land after the capture of Jerusalem by Saladin in 1187

treasury – a government department dealing with finance and taxes

Vikings – warriors from northern Europe who attacked England from the sea between the 8th and 10th centuries. They were given the name 'Viking' which means 'pirate'.

William the Conqueror (r.1066–87) – the leader of the Norman Conquest. He won the Battle of Hastings in 1066 and became the first Norman king of England.

York Minster – also known as The Cathedral and Metropolitan Church of St Peter in York. It is the seat of the Archbishop of York, the third highest position in the Church of England, and was built between c.1230 and 1472 in the Gothic style.

ROMANS

ANGLO-SAXONS, VIKINGS & BRITONS

EVENTS IN BRITISH HISTORY

AD 43

The Romans arrive to conquer Britain.

AD 122-128

Emperor Hadrian builds a wall to defend northern Roman-occupied Britain from invasion by Pict tribes.

AD 410

The Romans leave Britain.



AD 1

AD 400

HISTORY OF CLIFFORD'S TOWER



AD 627

The area around York is claimed by an Anglian king, Edwin, who is baptised as a Christian in York (known as Eoforwic).



1ST-4TH CENTURIES

5TH-7TH CENTURIES



ANGLO-SAXONS, VIKINGS & BRITONS

NORMANS
1066–1154

793

Vikings raid Lindisfarne on the Northumbrian coast. They continue to carry out raids along the east coast of northern Britain into the 9th century.

1066

William the Conqueror is victorious at the Battle of Hastings. The Norman Conquest of England begins.

865

An invading 'Great Army' from northern Europe begins to plunder kingdoms in northern England and extort protection money from them. Northumbria, Mercia and East Anglia fall leaving only Wessex to fight on.

1086

Domesday Book is completed.



1087

William dies. His son, William Rufus, is crowned King William II.

AD 700

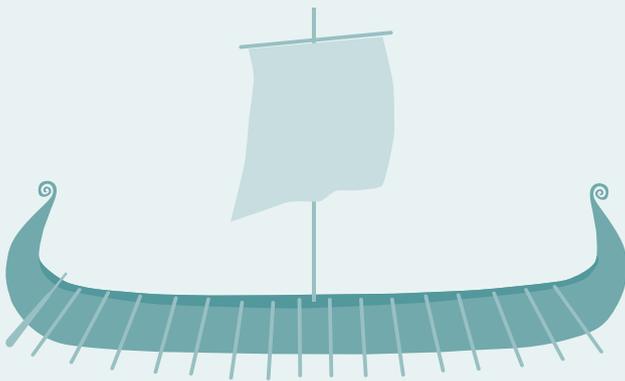
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866

Vikings capture York and rename it Jorvik.

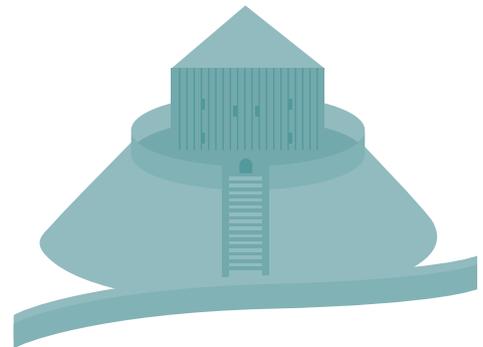
1068–9

William the Conqueror builds two motte and bailey castles in York, one of them where Clifford's Tower now stands.



1069

Both Norman castles are burnt by Danish invaders supported by the people of York. William rebuilds them and lays waste to wide areas of northern England as punishment.



8TH–10TH CENTURIES

11TH CENTURY

PLANTAGENETS
1154–1485

PLANTAGENETS
1154–1485

1154

Henry II is crowned king of England.

1189

Richard I is crowned king of England and prepares to depart for a crusade in the Holy Land.



1215

King John agrees to Magna Carta at Runnymede.

1216

King John dies. His son, Henry III, is crowned at nine years old.

1290

Edward I expels all Jews from England. Their exile lasts until the 17th century.

1100

1200

1174

William, King of Scotland, is taken prisoner after attempting an invasion. He becomes a vassal to the king of England and pays homage to Henry II at York.

1190

York's Jewish community shelters inside the tower from a mob. They're unable to escape and many decide to take their own lives. A fire spreads to the wooden tower and any survivors the following day are massacred.

1245–72

The present stone tower is built in an unusual four-lobed design.

1298

The king's Exchequer is established in York Castle and Clifford's Tower acts as a treasury, storing taxes and funds for the ongoing conflict with Scotland.



12TH CENTURY

13TH CENTURY

PLANTAGENETS
1154–1485

TUDORS
1485–1603

1307

Edward I dies and his son, Edward II becomes king.

1327

Edward II is forced to give up his crown. His son, Edward III, becomes king.

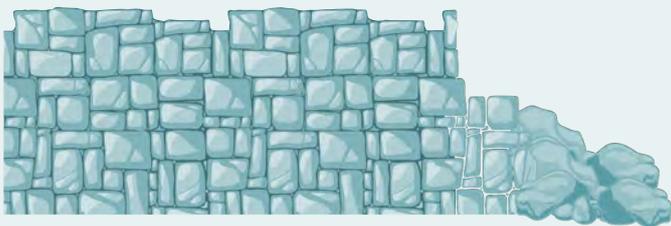
1377

Richard II is crowned king.

1300

1358 and 1360

Surveys indicate that the tower is showing serious signs of subsidence caused by the river Ouse flooding.



14TH–15TH CENTURIES

1534

The Acts of Supremacy recognise Henry VIII as head of the church in England.

1536–41

Monasteries in England are dissolved on the orders of Henry VIII.



1500

1537

The rebel leader, Robert Aske, is hanged in chains from the tower walls, following the northern Pilgrimage of Grace against Henry VIII's religious reforms.

1540

John Leland describes York Castle as 'a desolate ruin'.

1596–7

The tower's gaoler begins to dismantle it to sell its materials. The aldermen of York stop him and save the tower.

16TH CENTURY

STUARTS
1603–1714

GEORGIANS
1714–1837

1603

England makes peace with France and Spain following the union of English and Scottish Crowns under King James I (r.1603–25).

1642–49

The English Civil War between King Charles I (r.1625–49) and Parliament.

1649

Charles is tried, convicted and executed for high treason. The monarchy is abolished and the Commonwealth of England is declared.



1600

1643

Money raised by Queen Henrietta Maria in Holland funds a deeper moat, drawbridge, palisades, and a refurbishment of the tower as an emplacement for cannon.

1644

Royalists garrison the tower to defend York during the Civil War siege.

1665

George Fox, founder of the Society of Friends, is imprisoned inside Clifford's Tower.

1684

An explosion and fire destroy the interior of the tower and end its military use.

17TH CENTURY

1775–83

The American War of Independence between Britain and its American colonies.

1789–99

The French Revolution leads to the end of the monarchy. Napoleon Bonaparte (r.1804–14 and 1815) takes power and begins France's aggressive campaign to become a world power.

1793

Britain declares war with France.

1700

1700s

Much of York Castle's stonework is replaced, leaving little from the Middle Ages apart from Clifford's Tower.

1727

Samuel Waud, a local gentleman, builds a mansion on the east side of the motte and the tower becomes a folly in his garden.

1731

The wet ditch on the west side of the tower is drained.



18TH CENTURY

GEORGIANS
1714-1837

VICTORIANS
1837-1901

WW1
1914-18

WW2
1939-45

1815

The Duke of Wellington defeats Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo.

1830-37

Reign of William IV.

1837-1901

Reign of Queen Victoria.



1800

1820

A prison is housed within the whole castle area and a high wall is built round the base of the mound.

1826

Building work begins to improve and expand the prison. The base of the motte is cut away and a high wall is built around it as part of this work, which is completed in 1835.



19TH CENTURY

1910-36

Reign of George V.

20 January 1936-11 December 1936

Reign of Edward VIII. Edward abdicates the throne.

1936-52

Reign of George VI.



1900

1900

York Castle becomes a military prison.

1901

The Prison Commission finds the forebuilding and east lobe rapidly sinking as the motte beneath them collapses.

1902

Sir Basil Mott is commissioned to supervise the stabilisation of the tower.

1915

Clifford's Tower is placed in the guardianship of the Office of Works.

1935

The prison walls are demolished. Clifford's Tower becomes visible and is re-opened to the public with new stairs leading straight up the mound.

20TH CENTURY

1953

Coronation of HM Queen Elizabeth II.

2002

Elizabeth II celebrates her Golden Jubilee.

2012

London hosts the Olympic Games, officially known as the Games of the XXX Olympiad.

1950

2000

1978

A plaque is installed to commemorate the victims of the Jewish Massacre in 1190.

2021

A project to stabilise and reinterpret the tower, creating new viewing platforms and walkways, is completed by English Heritage.

1991

English Heritage and the American Jewish Foundation plant daffodils on the mound. These represent the Star of David, blooming as an annual memorial to the victims of the Jewish Massacre.

20TH CENTURY

21ST CENTURY

CLIFFORD'S TOWER TIMELINE

SELF-LED ACTIVITY

WHY BUILD A TOWER HERE?



Recommended for

KS2–3 (Geography, History)

Learning objectives

- Investigate the physical geography of the area around Clifford's Tower (and York Castle).
- Use vocabulary to describe key physical features of the landscape around Clifford's Tower.
- Understand the strategic significance of York Castle's position.

Time to complete

Approx. 30 minutes



A view of Clifford's Tower from the southwest.

SUMMARY

This activity will help students understand the geographical and strategic location of Clifford's Tower; why the Normans built a castle here and how the city of York developed over time.

Start by watching the 'Mini Guide to Medieval Castles' video (1 min 55 secs) on our YouTube channel.

Students should record the key considerations for the Normans when building castles. These include:

- building on high ground, so the castle can be seen by everyone in the area, sending a clear message that the Normans are in charge of the area
- building on high ground, with a clear view of the landscape around it so that approaching enemies can be seen
- making use of natural defensive features in the landscape that will prevent enemies attacking the castle, i.e. rivers
- building close to a water source
- building near to land that can be used for farming and growing crops.

Discuss how far York Castle fits this general model of Norman castle-building. Clifford's Tower is built on an artificial mound which gave good visibility over the local area. One of the main reasons for the castle's location includes its position in-between two rivers and York's use as a crossroads and trading centre.

Students should identify key reasons for building a castle at York using the Ordnance Survey (OS) maps of the surrounding area and York City Centre on p.35. They should identify key geographical features around York that made the Clifford's Tower site the ideal place for a castle (i.e. rivers, high ground) by annotating them on the first map. Then, they should use both maps to complete the questions on the sheet to show their understanding of why fortifications were built in York.

TOP TIP

When studying these modern maps, students should be cautioned to distinguish modern features from those that existed in the 11th century. For instance, geographical physical features like hills and rivers may remain the same but there were no main 'A' roads.

KEY FEATURES AND CONSIDERATIONS

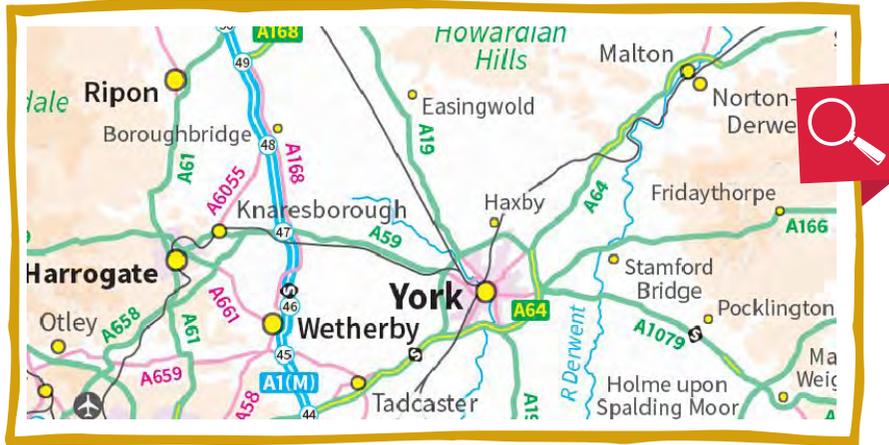
[for discussion once students have identified features on the maps]

- The rivers were important trade routes during the Anglo-Saxon and Norman periods and the Middle Ages, and helped York become a large and important trading centre.
- Two major Roman roads linked York with other settlements in England, making it an important strategic location. Ermine Street ran from London to Lincoln and York. Dere Street ran northwards from York, crossing the Stanegate at Corbridge near Hadrian's Wall and continuing up to what is now Scotland.
- York Castle sits in-between the river Ouse and the river Foss. This was important for the defence of the castle as river crossings acted as key areas of control. Whoever controlled the crossings could control who moved through the area and collect tolls (payment for crossing) from them.
- The city had a large population which needed to be controlled. William I needed castles in the north of England where his authority was more vulnerable to challenge (by foreign invaders or English rebels). York was also the seat of one of the two archbishops in England. The archbishop's authority had to be balanced against the power of the Crown.
- The river Ouse crosses a raised ridge that passes across the Vale of York.
- William I flooded some of the land to the east of York Castle to create the King's Pond (which no longer exists). He took land belonging to the minster to build a second castle on the opposite bank to the original structure.

MORE LEARNING IDEAS

Use the modern map in this activity alongside the 16th century map by John Speed on page 49, Source 7, to highlight how the city of York has grown and developed. Ask students to locate key features and chart how they have changed over time. They should pay special attention to buildings like York Castle, Clifford's Tower, York Minster, the city walls and natural elements like rivers. Students should detail what they notice about the development of these features over time and explain why they think this was.

WHY BUILD A TOWER HERE?

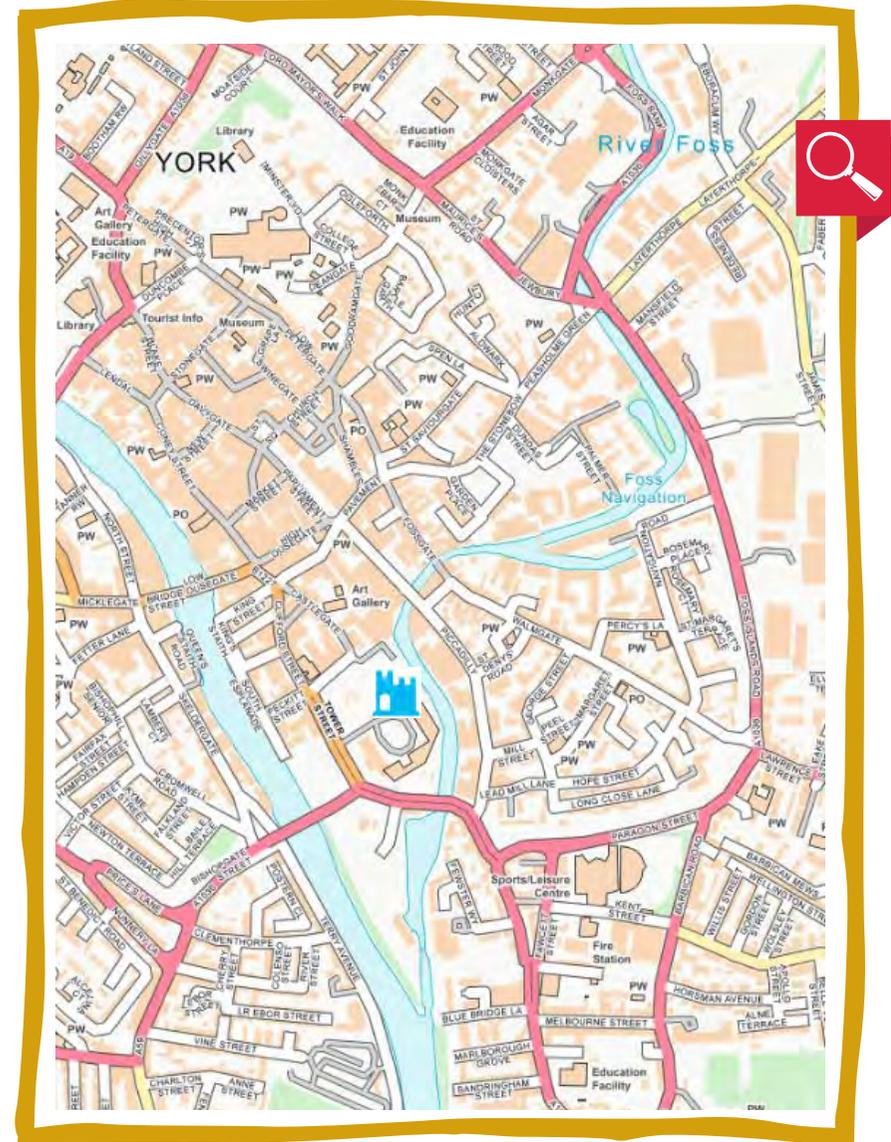


1 **Annotate** the physical features of the landscape around York that you can identify on the map above (e.g. rivers, high ground).

Tip: This map uses shading to show high ground.

2 **Use** the map above and the map of York City Centre on the right to give three reasons why the Normans chose to build a castle here in the 11th century.

Tip: Consider hills, rivers and roads in your answer.





AT THE TOWER

Activities for students to do at Clifford's Tower to help them get the most out of their learning.

SELF-LED ACTIVITY

SURVEYING THE SKYLINE



KS2

Recommended for

KS2 (History, Geography)

Learning objectives

- Explore some of the key features of Clifford's Tower and the view from its roof to learn about the building and its environment using physical evidence.
- Understand how Clifford's Tower has changed over time.
- Consider how and why the area around Clifford's Tower has developed over time.

Time to complete

Approx. 20 minutes



A photograph of York taken from the wall-walk at Clifford's Tower.

SUMMARY

There has been a tower within the York Castle site since the first castle was founded by William the Conqueror in 1068. The different iterations of the castle's central tower have provided a lookout point across York. After Clifford's Tower's construction in the 13th century, guards used the wall walk to survey the surrounding area for threats and defend the castle from attack.

Today, the tower's roof provides a perfect vantage point for students to survey the city skyline and consider how and why it has changed and developed over time. They should use the physical evidence they can see to discover how Clifford's Tower's role within the local landscape has changed since it was first built.

Use the teachers' notes (on pages 34–39) to introduce students to some of the key features they can see across the city of York from the top of Clifford's Tower. Set the challenges in the teachers' notes to help students consider the development of Clifford's Tower and its surrounding environment over time. Photocopy enough checklists (on page 40) for your class. Students should record their progress by ticking off each thing as they find it.

You might also find it helpful to print off the Sources section in this kit (pages 45–53) to use as additional points of reference as you explore the views from Clifford's Tower.

MORE LEARNING IDEAS

Compare Clifford's Tower with other castle keeps located in towns and cities like York. Explore similarities and differences in terms of their design and the layout of settlements around them. Consider the positioning of these buildings and how this contributed to the castles' effectiveness in terms of defence. You might want to compare the artificial mound at Pickering Castle and the natural cliff-top defences at Scarborough Castle for example.

Please be aware of other visitors as you do the activities. Supervise students at all times and take care going up and down stairs and moving around the roof area.

SURVEYING THE SKYLINE

TEACHERS' NOTES

FEATURE	DID YOU KNOW?	CHALLENGE
<p>I. River Ouse and River Foss</p> 	<p>William the Conqueror was responsible for building the first castle at York in the 1060s. This was attacked and destroyed twice in 1068 and 1069 during rebellions against William's rule. After putting down the rebellions, William immediately rebuilt his castles as enduring symbols of his authority in the north of England.</p> <p>By the early 1070s, William had created two castles at York; one on either side of the river Ouse. The castle on the western bank was made up of a motte and bailey (an exterior enclosure) while the castle on the eastern bank had a motte and two baileys linked by a gate.</p> <p>Much of the area beyond the river Foss, now a built-up part of the city, was a large pool of water called the King's Fishpond or King's Pool. This was created by damming the river Foss, probably during the 12th century. The king often used the fish caught in the pool as gifts for local dignitaries. Fish from the King's Pool was served at the wedding banquet of Henry III's eldest daughter in 1251.</p>	<p>Q. Why was it so important to William that he build a castle at York?</p> <p>A. William wanted to build and maintain a castle at York to establish his authority in the north of England. York had a large population that needed to be controlled and was the seat of the Archbishop of York who was a very powerful figure.</p> <p>Q. Why do you think William I decided to build his castle between two rivers?</p> <p>A. Castles were normally built in areas that were strategically important with natural defences in the landscapes around them. Rivers provided ideal natural defences for fortresses like York Castle. Crossings like the river Foss and the river Ouse were controlled by the nearby castle, which could collect tolls and manage the movement of people and goods in the area.</p> <p>Q. How many bridges can you spot crossing the river Ouse and the river Foss today? Do you think these existed during William I's lifetime?</p> <p>A. Today, there are three bridges across the river Ouse and two across the river Foss in York City Centre. It's unlikely that there was more than one in the Norman period.</p>

		<p>Q. Why was it important for York Castle to have sources of food, like the King's Pool nearby?</p> <p>A. The inhabitants of castles relied on the land around them for food so this was an important factor in castle construction. The land around York was used for farming and the rivers for fish. The creation of the King's Pool in York was a way to secure a reliable food source for the castle.</p>
<p>2. York Skyline</p> 	<p>Clifford's Tower sits on a high artificial mound that was originally created by the Normans in the 1060s. This height, and the height of the tower itself, combines to ensure that anyone at the top of the tower can survey the surrounding area. Clifford's Tower sat at the centre of a large and powerful fortress, surrounded by an outer curtain wall with towers and gatehouses. Clifford's Tower was one of the tallest structures in York in the Norman period and during the Middle Ages. The tallest building in York is the Minster, built between c.1230 and 1472. The central tower is 72 metres (235 feet) tall.</p>	<p>Q. What are the tallest buildings you can see in the York skyline? Is there anything that these buildings have in common?</p> <p>A. The majority of the tall buildings in York are churches, like St Mary Castlegate and York Minster. York Minster is the tallest building in York. Even today, no building in the city is allowed to be built taller than the Minster.</p>

3. St Mary Castlegate



In the 11th and 12th centuries, there was an outer bailey to the north-east of Clifford's Tower. The outer bailey gate was on the line of Castlegate, near where you can see St Mary Castlegate Church today.

St Mary Castlegate was originally a Saxon church, though only a small amount of its original stonework survives. The majority of the building is medieval with mostly 13th century elements and 14th and 15th century alterations. It has the tallest steeple in York at 47 metres.

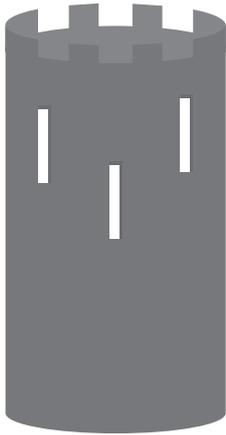
Q. How many churches can you see within York's skyline?

Why do you think there are so many churches still visible in the York cityscape today?

A. Religion was a very important part of daily life in the past and the majority of people attended church services regularly in the Middle Ages. This included the residents of York Castle and there was a chapel inside the tower for the king and important visitors to use. At this time, there was also a synagogue (a Jewish place of worship) on Coney Street that is no longer visible.

Today, churches are both working religious buildings and often historic monuments. Some, like St Mary Castlegate, have been repurposed to become heritage centres, arts venues or even indoor markets. People of other faiths also continue to worship in the city. Although there is no longer a permanent synagogue in York, the York Liberal Synagogue (congregation) continues to meet regularly. There is also a modern mosque on Bull Lane that you may be able to spot to the west of Clifford's Tower in the Layerthorpe area.

4. Arrow Loops



The wall-walk at Clifford's Tower was used by the tower's guards to look out for potential threats (like incoming attacks) and protect the castle. This function was fairly constant throughout the Middle Ages and during the tower's use during the English Civil War in the 17th century. The outer wall had lots of arrow loops used by archers to shoot at attackers. You can still see the bases of some of these openings.

In the 17th century, a platform was added to the roof of Clifford's Tower so that cannon could be positioned here.

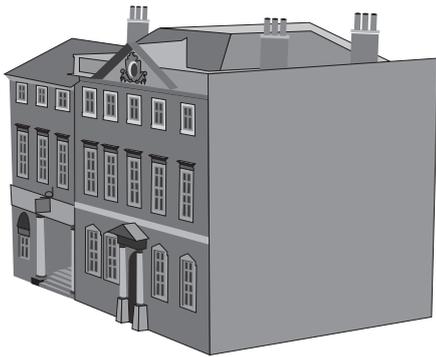
Look closely at the edges of the wall-walk – can you spot where some stones jut out of the walls?

This gives us an idea of the original height of the wall-walk (about 60cm higher than today). It's believed that the parapet wall would have been at least a metre taller than survives today.

Q. Can you spot the remains of any damaged arrow loops at the top of the Tower?

A big fire caused by a cannon in 1684 largely destroyed the interior of Clifford's Tower, reducing it to the shell you see today. The arrow loops at the top of the tower were possibly damaged at this time making them very difficult to see.

5. Fairfax House



By the 18th century, York was no longer under the threat of attack and had become a cultural centre for middle class and upper class visitors. Lord Fairfax rebuilt Fairfax House in 1759 to create a luxury townhouse full of rich ornamentation and neoclassical architectural features, which were fashionable at the time. Castlegate was one of the principal streets in York during the 18th century and the house provided an ideal place for a city residence. The Fairfaxes stayed here during the busy winter season of social events and the summer racing season.

Q. What does the development of luxury buildings like Fairfax House suggest about how York had changed since the Middle Ages?

A. By the 18th century, York was becoming an important cultural centre for the northern gentry. The development of the Assembly Rooms, the races and the Theatre Royal all helped to make York a natural place for the gentry to meet and entertain each other during the winter social season, rather than travel 200 miles to London.

6. Eye of York

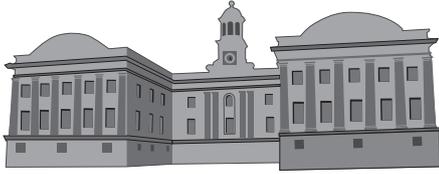


The area of grass you can see in front of the 18th century court and prison buildings (now the York Castle Museum and York Crown Court) was originally known as the 'Eye of the Ridings'. There were three Ridings (derived from a Viking term equivalent to third-ing) making up the county of Yorkshire. The Eye was where county elections were held until 1831. It remained an important location for local politics and the North Riding elections. Results were declared here until 1882. Today this spot is known as the 'Eye of York'.

Q. Why do you think this location was so important for local government? What was special about the Eye of York that meant it was used for important events like local elections?

A. The castle site continued to be an important political location after the medieval castle was replaced by the prison and court buildings in the 18th century. The site remained important because of its strong links to local government, law and order.

7. Prison Buildings

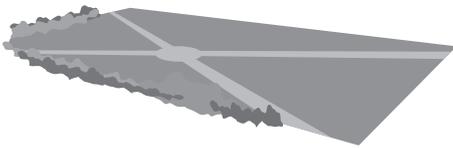


The prison buildings opposite Clifford's Tower were developed in the 18th and 19th centuries. The Assize Courts, to the west of the Eye of York, were built between 1773 and 1777. They were designed by one of Yorkshire's leading architects of the time, John Carr, who was also the city's Lord Mayor. To the south is the Debtors' Prison, originally built as the county gaol and completed by 1705. The Debtors' Prison and the Female Prison, built to reflect the Assize Courts in the 1780s, now form part of the York Castle Museum.

Q. What can you tell about 18th century architecture by looking at the court and prison buildings opposite Clifford's Tower? Are there any common features between the buildings that you can spot? How do these compare with the design of Clifford's Tower?

A. The use of triangular pediments and columns are key features of neoclassical design, which was popular in the 18th century. Symmetry was also important to architectural design during this period. Although the four-leafed clover shape of Clifford's Tower is symmetrical, the tower does not have many decorative features as it was mainly built for defence.

8. Tower Gardens

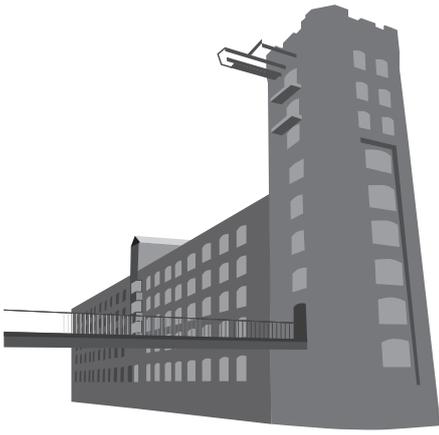


The Tower Gardens, just across the road from Clifford's Tower, were the first public gardens in York. In 1800, the Corporation of York applied to Parliament for permission to tear down parts of the city's walls. The walls had not been needed for defence for over a century and in many places they were in poor condition. The narrow gateways (bars) were inconvenient for busy traffic (horses and carts) and the walls were preventing the city from expanding. Removing sections of the city's walls made way for new developments like public green spaces, which were increasingly important to the Victorians. The Tower Gardens were laid out in their current form in 1880–81 at the same time as the Skeldergate Bridge was being built.

Q. Why do you think the Victorians wanted to create public gardens in York?

A. People became concerned about overcrowding and poor living conditions for the poor during the Victorian period. Parks in urban places like York were created to provide open spaces for the public to enjoy. They often featured facilities like bandstands and tea houses. During the 19th century, Sunday was usually the only day in the week when people weren't expected to work because it was considered a holy day. They would take this opportunity to enjoy local spaces like the Town Gardens. There was also a strong tradition of local holidays when all the factories in a town would close down for a short period, allowing workers to go on short holidays. Bank holidays were introduced in the late 19th century and increasingly offered people more opportunities to visit attractions in cities like York.

9. Industrial Buildings



York became a well-connected cultural centre during the 19th century due to the growth of rail travel. Despite this, it never expanded to become a major industrial city like Leeds, Wakefield or Bradford. The development of the railways meant that hubs like York needed factories to build and maintain engines and carriages. A new railway works was built in York in the 1880s by the North Eastern Railway.

It was also during the 19th century that sweet production came to York. Joseph Terry, Joseph Rowntree and Mary Craven all produced chocolate and sweets in York. Raw ingredients like cocoa beans, sugar and fruit rinds were brought into the city by river and later by rail. Before the abolition of slavery in the British Empire in 1834 and the abolition of slavery in the United States in 1865, most sugar consumed in Britain was produced by enslaved people on plantations in the United States and the Caribbean. Even in the early 1900s, people were urging sweet producers like Cadbury's to stop buying cocoa beans from what was Portuguese West Africa (now Angola) because of the continued use of slave labour on plantations there.

The sweets produced in York with these raw ingredients could be transported easily to other parts of England and beyond. Like the railways, the confectionary industry employed lots of people in York. Unlike the railways, the confectionary factories were a major employer of local women.

There are still some factories in and around York producing chocolate and sweets today.

Q. Where do you think the railway buildings in York were located?

The railway buildings were always kept to the northern side of the city. The small repair shop on Queen Street, next to York Station, that opened in 1839 grew into a much larger operation during the 19th century. Work continued on engines in York until around 1905. The city is still a major rail hub today for travellers journeying between London, the north of England and Scotland.

Q. How many industrial buildings can you spot around York today?

A. Today, some of the confectionary warehouses and factory buildings have been repurposed as homes or offices. One of these is Rowntree Wharf on the river Foss.

TOP THINGS TO SEE

SURVEYING THE SKYLINE AT CLIFFORD'S TOWER

See if you can find all of these things. Tick each one off as you find it.



1 RIVER OUSE & RIVER FOSS

How many bridges can you spot?



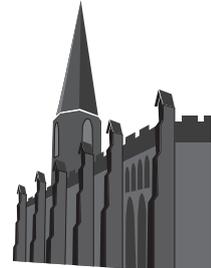
2 YORK SKYLINE

York Minster



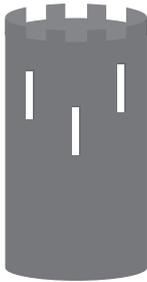
3 ST MARY CASTLEGATE

How many churches can you see?

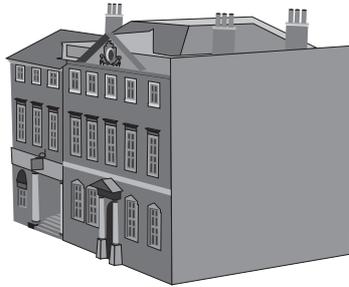


4 ARROW LOOPS

How many arrow loops can you find?



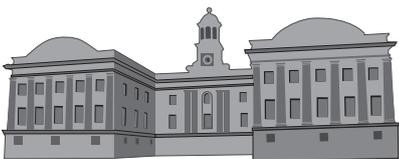
5 FAIRFAX HOUSE



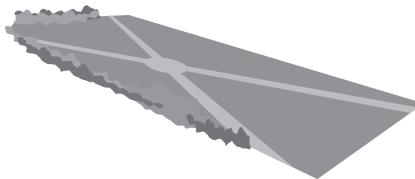
6 EYE OF YORKSHIRE



7 PRISON BUILDINGS

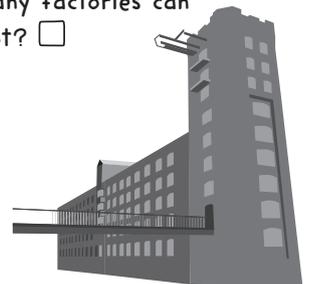


8 TOWER GARDENS

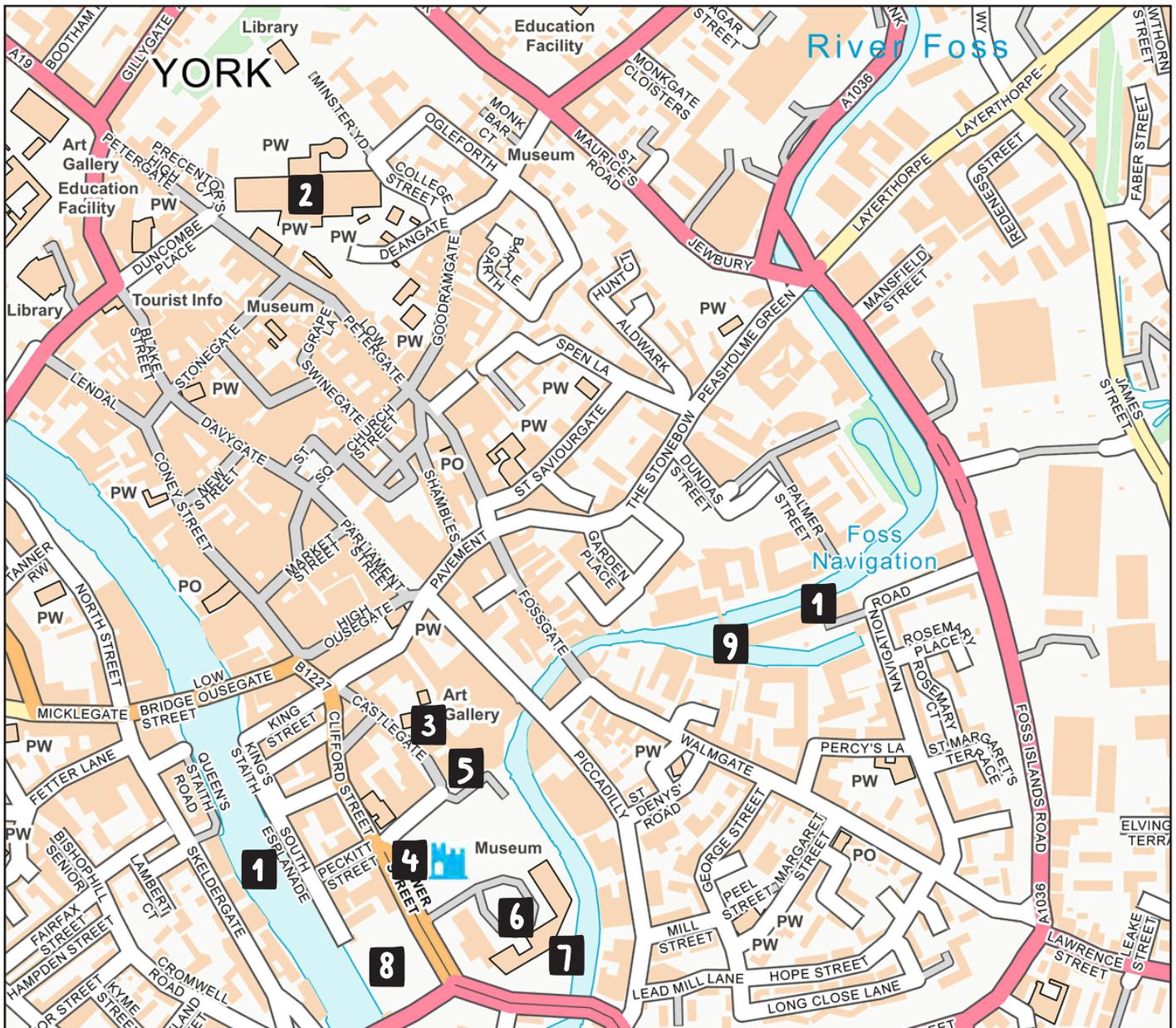


9 INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS

How many factories can you spot?



TOP THINGS TO SEE MAP



- | | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 RIVER OUSE AND RIVER FOSS | 4 ARROW LOOPS* | 7 PRISON BUILDINGS |
| 2 YORK SKYLINE | 5 FAIRFAX HOUSE | 8 TOWER GARDENS |
| 3 ST MARY CASTLEGATE | 6 EYE OF YORK | 9 INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS |

* Search for arrow loops on Clifford's Tower. How many can you spot?

SELF-LED ACTIVITY

SKETCHING THE SKYLINE



Recommended for

KS3 (History, Geography, Art)

Learning objectives

- Consider how the skyline of York has changed since the castle was first built.
- Identify buildings and features from different time periods within the York skyline.
- Understand why the area around Clifford's Tower has developed over time.

Time to complete

Approx. 20 minutes



A photographic view of York from the roof at Clifford's Tower.

SUMMARY

The city of York has changed and developed over hundreds of years and Clifford's Tower has been at the heart of its story (see Teachers' Notes on page 43). From the tower's roof you can see a variety of structures that illustrate how the city has grown and adapted over time. This activity can be used alongside the 'Surveying the Skyline' activity on page 33.

AT THE TOWER

Ask students to survey York's skyline from the roof of Clifford's Tower. We suggest that they explore the interpretation panels to discover more about the features they can see. Some of the most prominent features visible from Clifford's Tower include:

- York Minster
- St Mary Castlegate
- River Ouse
- Female Prison and Debtors' Prison (now York Castle Museum)
- York Crown Court
- Bridges (e.g. Skeldergate Bridge).

Students should choose a spot to stand and sketch the skyline in their notebooks or on paper. Choose places where they can see a variety of buildings and landscape features. Assign students to particular sections of the skyline and set short time limits to focus their drawing to quick line sketches – please ask them to be considerate of their proximity to other visitors while sketching. Encourage students to label their drawings with construction materials and styles they can identify, along with any facts they know about the buildings they can see.

Next, discuss what they've depicted as a class or in smaller groups. What have they drawn and how does this differ between students? What are the oldest buildings and features that they've depicted? Are there any patterns in the kinds of buildings that have survived over time? What might this tell us about the importance of these kinds of buildings throughout history?

MORE LEARNING IDEAS

Use the sketches made at Clifford's Tower to create colour-coded illustrated timelines of buildings and features in York. Encourage students to research local buildings to learn more about their development (Historic England's online aerial photograph archive will help with this).

SKETCHING THE SKYLINE

TEACHERS' NOTES

KEY CHANGES IN YORK'S CITYSCAPE

Use the prompts below to provide context for key changes in York's cityscape and guide discussion among students:

- The Normans built the first castle in York. It was developed by successive kings of England over the centuries but suffered from subsidence damage. The last time the castle was used as a fortification was during the English Civil War. After this, it was badly damaged and continued to decay during the 18th and 19th centuries. Today, Clifford's Tower is the only surviving part of the stone medieval castle built by Henry III.
- The river Foss was flooded by William the Conqueror in the 11th century to create the 'King's Pool' to the east of the city. It's unclear when this was drained.
- York Minster as we see it today was built over a period of more than 200 years between 1220 and 1472. There has been a religious centre on the site of York Minster since the 7th century.
- Many churches have been built in York over the centuries due to the city's growing population and the importance of religion to everyday life in the past. Some of these have since been demolished due to the Dissolution of the Monasteries, the combining of parishes and/or the gradual decay of some church buildings over time.
- York received rights for Crenellation and Murage in 1251. This permitted the development of stone city walls. The walls we see today were built in stages during the 13th and 14th centuries.
- The area around Clifford's Tower was developed to include prisons and courts during the 18th and 19th centuries once the castle had been largely dismantled. York Crown Court is still housed in this area.
- Over time, bridges were developed across the river Ouse and the river Foss. This improved travel and trade routes through the city.
- A few factories can be seen on the outskirts of the city, though York was never a major centre of manufacturing like Leeds, Bradford and Wakefield.
- A few modern towers can be seen within York's skyline today but it is largely a low-rise city. No building in the city is permitted to be taller than York Minster.



POST-VISIT

Activities and information to help you extend your students' learning back in the classroom.

SOURCES

PEER INTO THE PAST

A historical source is something that tells us about life in the past, such as a document, a picture or an object. It may be a primary source, from the time, or a secondary source, created later. Our experts have chosen these sources to help you learn the history of Clifford's Tower.

SOURCE 1



An artist interpretation of York Castle during the Norman period, showing a motte, bailey and early wooden buildings, drawn by Terry Ball.

SOURCE 2



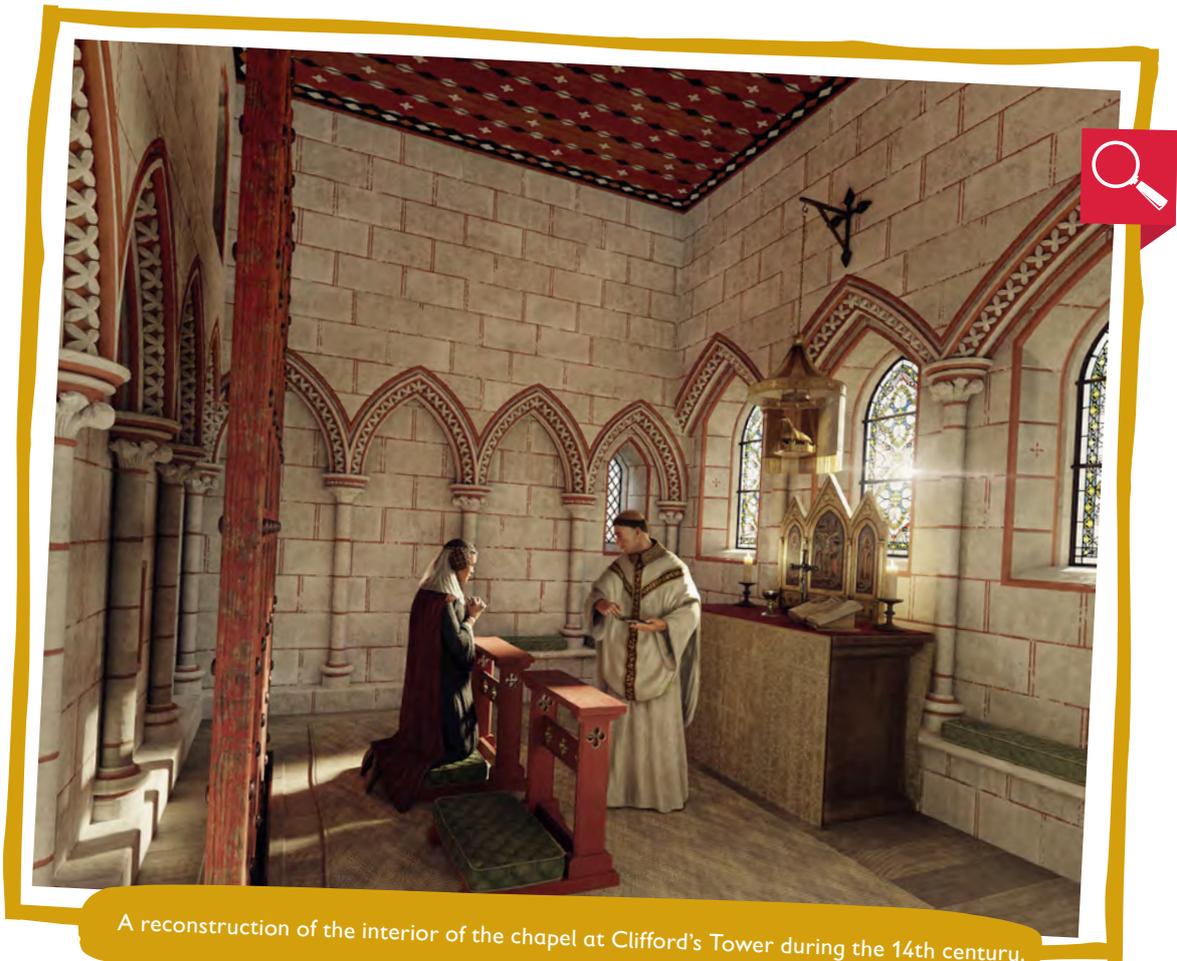
An artist interpretation of the medieval stone castle at York after works ordered by Henry III in the 1240s and 1250s. Drawn by Terry Ball.

SOURCE 3

‘But after the King had decided on his crusade overseas, many Yorkshiremen began to conspire against the York Jews. Many of the conspirators had fallen on hard times: they acted not out of any Christian motive but thirst for the blood of the infidel and the lust for plunder. The ring-leaders of this plot were a group of noblemen, owing huge sums to these wicked money-lenders. Several of them had pledged their estates for the money and were now hard-pressed by debts. Some were bound by their own arrangements, and were being pressed to settle with the King’s creditors by the tax-gatherers. Others of them had taken the Cross to embark for Jerusalem, and were afraid that it would be much easier to swell their resources for the Lord’s business by taking plunder from the same Lord’s enemies, than it would be once they had set off. Thus it was that either by chance or, as I think likely, through some scheme of the conspirators, one stormy night, a substantial part of the city caught fire. The citizens were so busy keeping the fire from their own houses that they did nothing to stop the looters, and a gang of armed men from among the conspirators took crowbars and broke into the house of Benedict (miserably killed, as I have already said) in which his wife and children, and other Jews were living. They killed everyone in the house and set fire to the roof.’

An extract from *Chronicles of the Reigns of Stephen, Henry II and Richard I, Rolls Series 82, volume 1* by William of Newburgh, describing the events leading up to the Jewish Massacre in York in 1190.

SOURCE 4



A reconstruction of the interior of the chapel at Clifford's Tower during the 14th century.

SOURCE 5

‘The great tower of the castle is split in two places, including a quarter of the tower, from top to bottom, mainly from decay of the foundations; it cannot be saved from ruin except by pulling down and rebuilding, which is estimated to cost not less than 200 marks; these defects began to impend more than 40 years ago, but in whose keepership the jurors do not know ... The leaden-roofed buildings in the tower are greatly damaged and the timber decayed, because 90 stone of lead from the roof, worth 46 s 8 d, have been taken away and the rest so damaged that the timber and roofing cannot be repaired for less than 40 l, but the exact damage cannot be ascertained unless the roof is completely stripped. These defects began in the year 27 of Edward III for want of attention, after Peter de Nuttle, late sheriff of York, undertook the keeping of the castle. Lead worth 13 s 4 d in the furnace of the tower was taken away by the servants of the said Peter and by his order. Divers locks, staples (slottes) and bars of iron found on divers doorways and gates in the tower were taken away for want of attention ...’

An extract from a 14th century manuscript that describes the dire condition of York Castle and Clifford's Tower in 1360.

SOURCE 6

‘(The tower is) not used for habitation for any other needful or necessary house for lodging nor for safe-keeping of any prisoners ... we are informed and persuaded that (Redhead) doth intend to deface and pull down the residue of the same tower to beat and burn the stones thereof into lime, which if he should so do would in respect of the want of the same tower be a great defacing and disgrace to the beauty and sow of this city in that part thereof ...’

The city aldermen of York writing to Sir William Cecil, Lord Burghley (Elizabeth I's Lord Treasurer) in 1596. They are concerned about the actions of Robert Redhead, gaoler at York Castle, who has been dismantling the topmost section of Clifford's Tower and a flanking wall to the castle.

‘We have viewed the round tower of freestone, called Clifford's Tower, and examined some of the aldermen of York, as also Robert Redhead, gaoler of the castle, as to their reasons for wishing it to stand. We found the aldermen, on behalf of the citizens, very desirous to have it continued, and not defaced, as standing a great height, and upon a very rare mount, it is an exceeding ornament to the city. Mr Redhead did not disagree, if it might be repaired and employed for a gaol, being a place of great strength, and to this the citizens agreed. We think for the reasons stated, and it being Her Majesty's house, that the pulling of it down will cause great discomfort to all the city.’

The Archbishop of York also writes to Lord Burghley having inspected the building the same year. This is the first known appearance of the name ‘Clifford's Tower’.

‘... now one Robert Redhead ... hath of late got a commission to certain of his friends, for what purpose certain we cannot perfectly learn, but, as we hear, to view the same (Clifford's Tower) and to certify of the decay thereof ... which licence if he should obtain, he would, as we think, use some part of the stone thereof he would sell in stone or beat into pieces and burn into lime for his own benefit, which, if he should do, would greatly deface the beauty of this city.’

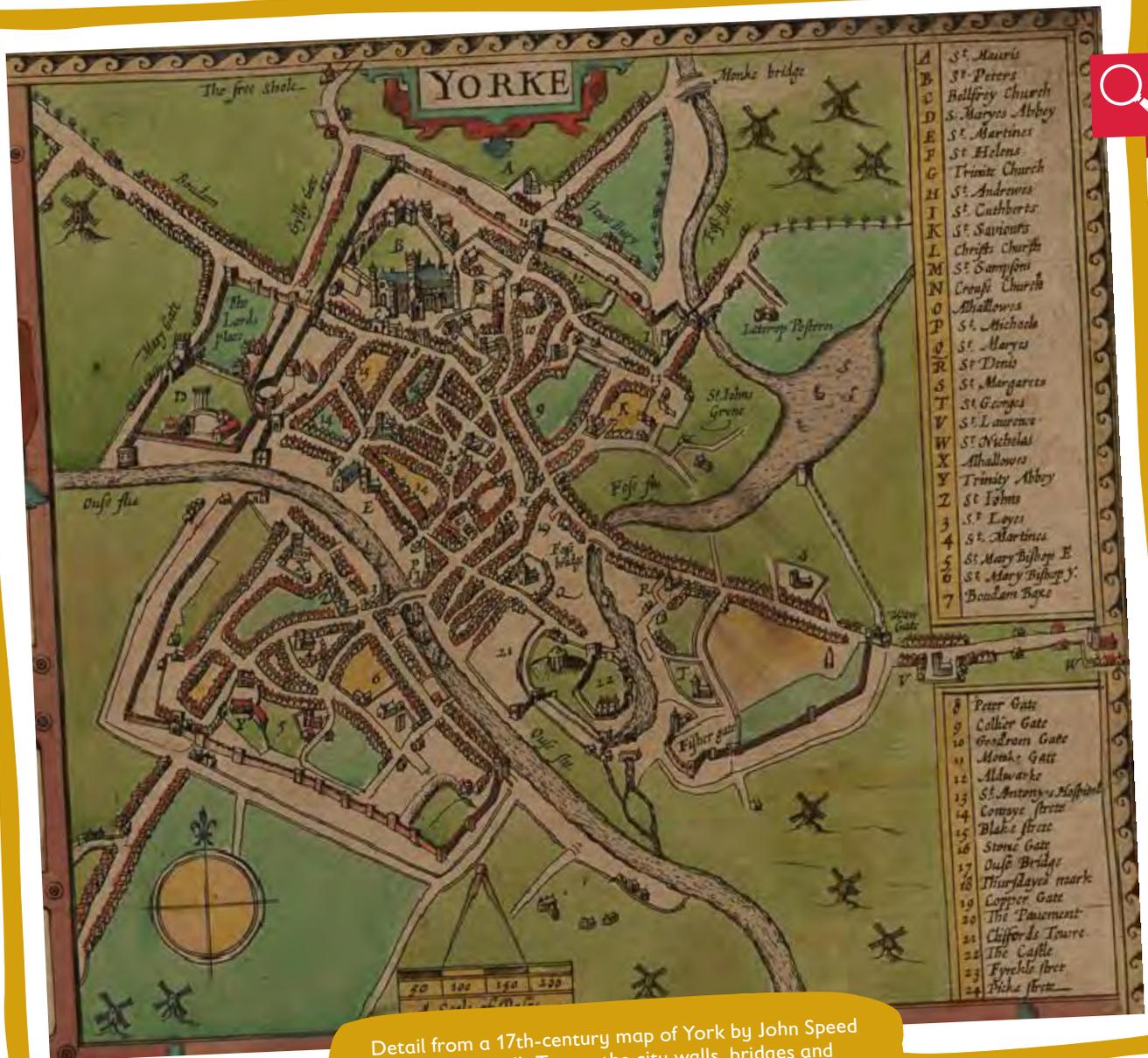
The Corporation of York complains about Redhead again by writing to Lord Burghley, John Fortescue and the Earl of Cumberland (Lord Clifford) in October 1596.

‘... we fear that little and little he will either deface or pull down the tower, or use such means by pulling or picking the stones forth of the inside of the same, or undermining of the same tower with conies, or other policies, that the tower will in short time of itself, by is deceitful devices, fall down, which, if so be, will be to the great defacing of this city.’

The Corporation of York records in its Minute Book in December 1597 that Redhead's workmen have been seen removing stone from the top of Clifford's Tower. The Corporation petitions the Archbishop to stop him.



SOURCE 7



Detail from a 17th-century map of York by John Speed showing Clifford's Tower, the city walls, bridges and major roads. © Cambridge University Library

SOURCE 8



A cut-away reconstruction of Clifford's Tower during the 1680s. This reconstruction is based on plans and views of the tower at this time, as well as a detailed inventory undertaken in 1682 by Sir Charles Musgrave. He recorded that there were 16 guns, over 1,000 muskets and ammunition at the tower.

SOURCE 9

‘1684 April the 23rd Cliffords Tower at York has burnt down on the inside, onely the shell remaining, and some of the canon standing on the top. A piece of timber was thrown by the blast of some barrels of powder taking it upon the Postern house in Castlegate which cost my Lady Williamson much money in repairing it. The cause never known but imagined to be done by Red Letter Villains.’

A description of the fire at Clifford’s Tower in 1684 that reduced the building to a shell.

“”

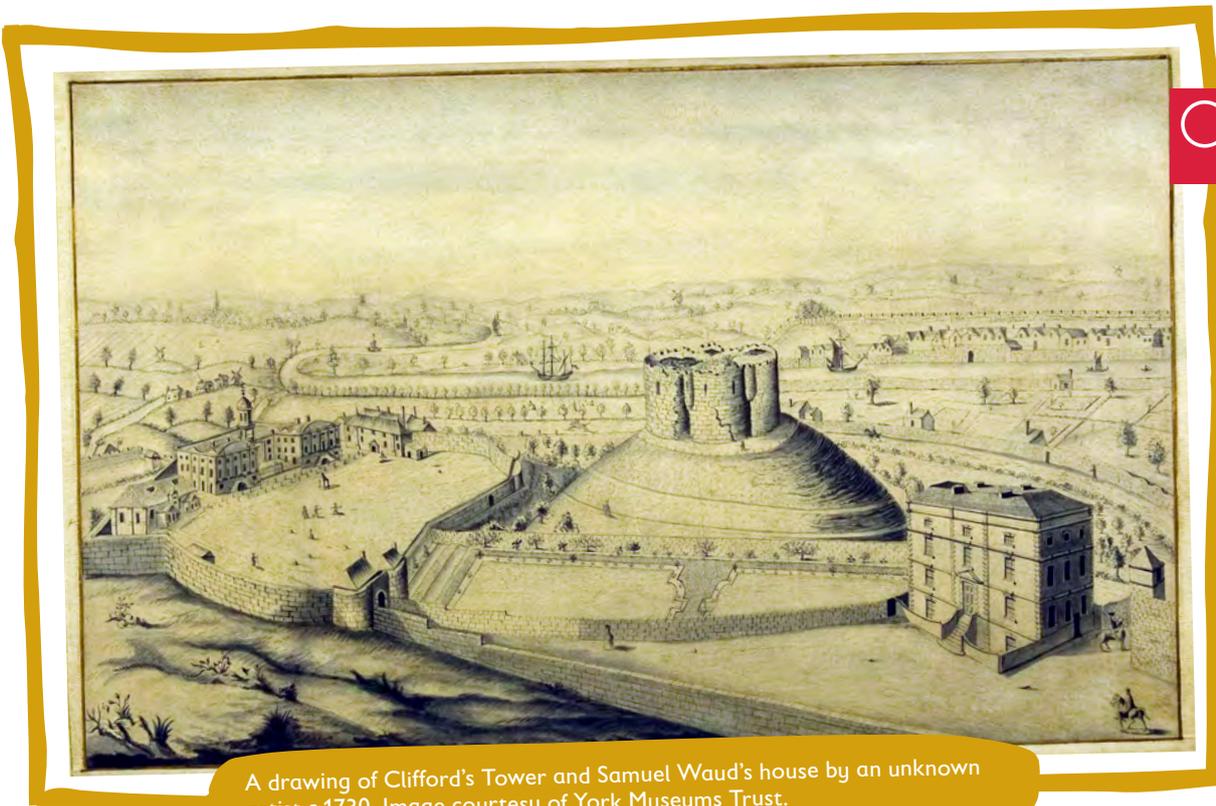
SOURCE 10

‘Not far from the castle (with which it has communication by a Draw-Bridge) is a famous Round Tower, seated upon a Hill, which by Art and Nature excels most in England, and tho’ by an unfortunate Fire in the late Reign, it was rendered an unfit Receptacle for Swords-men, yet, said my Friend, the noble uniform Figure of this Hill, and the Shell of the Building upon’t was an Honour and Ornament to the City, till an Old Crabbed Humourist, defaced the Mount to enlarge his Gardens, and would not desist prosecuting his design, though it proved fatal to two Workmen, who had the misfortune to be employed in that unlucky undertaking.’

A description of Clifford’s Tower in 1710.

“”

SOURCE 11



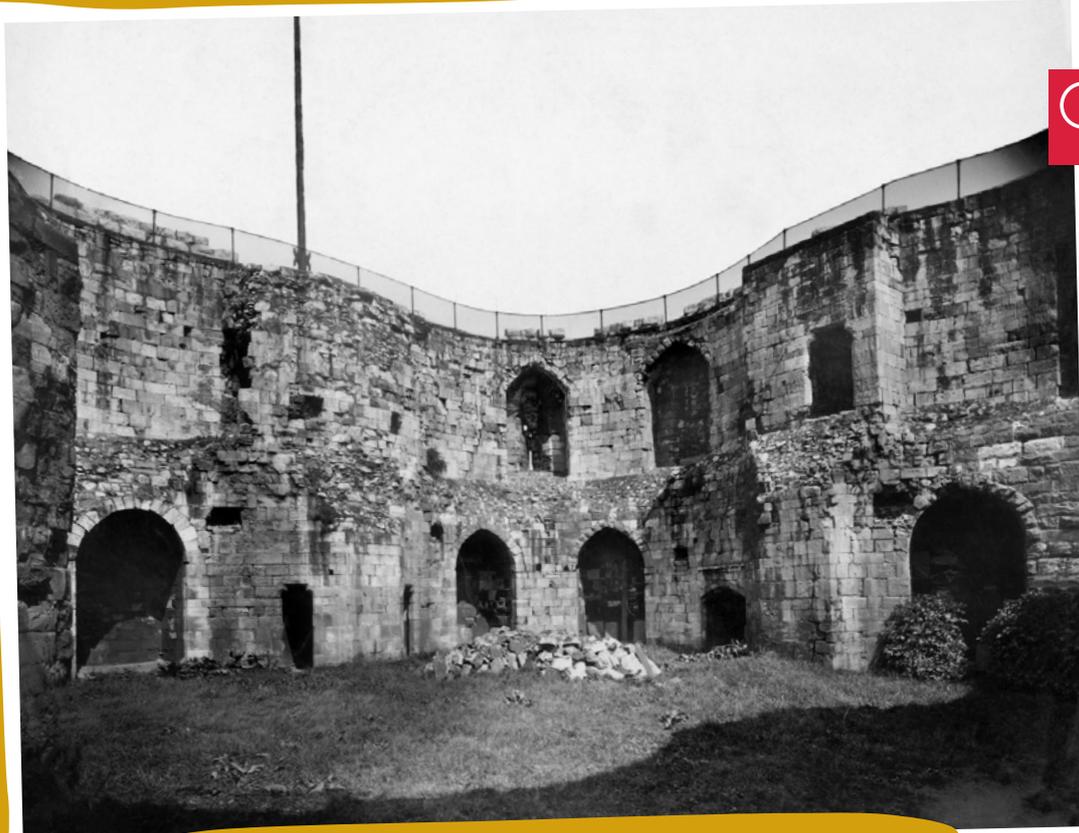
A drawing of Clifford's Tower and Samuel Waud's house by an unknown artist c.1730. Image courtesy of York Museums Trust.

SOURCE 12



An engraving of 'The Castle Yard' by Francis Bedford c.1846, showing Clifford's Tower within a growing prison complex. Image courtesy of York Museums Trust

SOURCE 13



A photograph of the interior of Clifford's Tower as it appeared in 1913.

SOURCE 14



A plaque installed at the base of Clifford's Tower's mound in 1978 to commemorate the victims of the Jewish Massacre in 1190. The Hebrew quote is from Isaiah 42:12 and translates to 'Let them do honour [or respect] [to the Lord], and tell His glory in the coastlands [or islands].'

SELF-LED ACTIVITY

LIVING TIMELINE



Recommended for

KS2–3 (History, Drama)

Learning objectives

- Use character cards to explore the stories of people who lived and worked at Clifford's Tower.
- Investigate the periods that these characters lived in to discover how Clifford's Tower was used during their lifetimes.
- Take on the roles of the characters to compare and contrast their experiences of life in York over time.

Time to complete

Approx. 45-50 minutes



A medieval mason working on the construction of Clifford's Tower.

SUMMARY

Clifford's Tower has witnessed important events in local and national history for the last thousand years. In this activity, students will consider how these events have influenced Clifford's Tower and the history of York.

Organise students into small groups (4 to 6 students) and give each group a character card. Ask students to prepare a short narrated performance using the card they've been given as inspiration. KS2 students may need additional support with pronunciation and definitions of key vocabulary, which can be found in the Glossary on page 18. We've suggested character parts on each card (highlighted in bold) but you may wish to assign parts within groups.

- The Norman Soldier and Stuart Cavalier cards have a minimum of six parts
- The Medieval Mason and Victorian Prison Guard cards have a minimum of five parts
- The Tudor Constable and 20th-Century Engineer cards have a minimum of four parts

Groups should perform their segments in chronological order to create a living timeline.

SUCCESS CRITERIA FOR PERFORMANCES

We suggest the following success criteria for students' living timeline performances:

- Everyone in the group has taken an active role in preparing and delivering the group's performance.
- Students show clear character through tone, expression, movement and gestures.
- Students have considered the use of props, or imagined props, to support their performance.

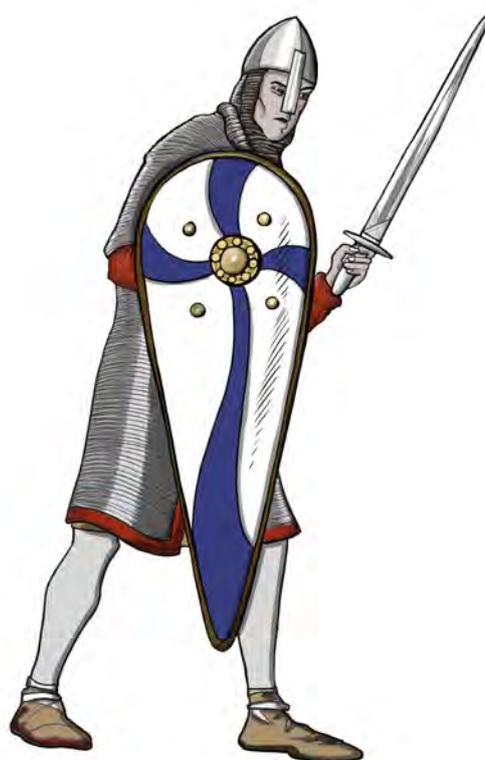
MORE LEARNING IDEAS

Discuss which period students consider to be the most significant in the tower's history. They could debate or write persuasively to explain their decision.



NORMAN SOLDIER

'Norman rule wasn't very popular in the north of England after the Battle of Hastings in 1066. In the summer of 1068, **Gospatrick, Earl of Northumbria**, led a rebellion in York against our Norman king, **William the Conqueror**. William heard about it and ordered that we travel north to put down the revolt. He founded a castle at York to establish his authority. We thought that would be the end of it, but in 1069, Gospatrick joined forces with **Edgar Ætheling** to attack York. We had to return to York once again to re-take the city. William founded another castle on the opposite bank of the river Ouse on Baile Hill to strengthen his control. That summer, there was another big rebellion across the north and west of England. A rising in York attracted the attention of **King Sven of Denmark** and **Malcolm of Scotland** of all people! In September, the rebels captured York and destroyed both of King William's castles. He was not best pleased and we returned a third time in autumn 1069 to stamp out the rebellions once and for all. William wasted no time in rebuilding both of his castles. He put **William Percy** in charge and punished the whole region by destroying and plundering. This is being called the "harrying of the north".'



MEDIEVAL MASON

'**Henry III** ordered us to start building works at York Castle during the 1240s. He feared that a war against the Scots was on the horizon and wanted to make sure his northern defences were up to scratch. King Henry sent **Henry the mason** and **Simon the carpenter** to York to take a look at the castle and work out how best to reinforce it. At the same time, he ordered the **sheriff of York** to bring together **other masters** skilled in the same trades, that's where I came in.

We copied the French fashion for curved lobes, like at the French royal castle Étampes, south-west of Paris. It's very different to anything seen in England before and is drawing lots of attention. Work to rebuild York Castle has gone on for almost 20 years and at great expense. We hear that King Henry has spent more than £3,700 on improving his castle!'



TUDOR CONSTABLE

'Nowadays, York Castle is mostly used for public events like executions, not as a fortress. **Henry VIII's** break with the Church in Rome in the 1530s has not been popular with everyone in England. People are angry about the Dissolution of the Monasteries and want the king to stop his religious reforms. A rebellion sprang up in the north in 1536 led by a lawyer, **Robert Aske**. He led the rebels in a protest against the king's reforms, now known as 'the Pilgrimage of Grace'. Word spread and soon other risings began all over the north, from Yorkshire to Lincolnshire, Cumberland, Northumberland and Lancashire. The **rebels** carried large banners so that people could see that they were pilgrims in the service of God and the Church.

Although the **royal government** told the rebels that they would listen to their concerns if they disbanded, the rebel leaders were arrested and punished. Robert Aske was hung at Clifford's Tower as a warning to others. Although the "dungeon", as we call it, is not what it once was and is falling into disrepair, the tower remains a famous landmark in the city.'



STUART CAVALIER

'We brought Clifford's Tower back into military use in 1642 to support **King Charles I's** fight against the **Parliamentarians** during the English Civil War. His wife, **Queen Henrietta Maria**, supported our cause by travelling to Holland to gather arms and money to fund the king's Royalist army. She brought much-needed cannon and materials to York to improve the fortifications. **Henry Clifford, Earl of Cumberland and governor of York**, directed lots of repairs to the tower – it could never have withstood an attack before. The top of the tower was boarded over to create a platform for cannon and in June 1644 we saw direct action.

Parliamentarians besieged the city and we Royalists were successful at stopping their advance at first. Unfortunately for us, the Parliamentarians' victory at Marston Moor on 2 July 1644 secured their victory in the area. Not even **Prince Rupert**, the king's nephew, could stop them. We were forced to surrender the city of York on 16 July but were allowed to march out honourably to continue fighting in other places.'



VICTORIAN PRISON GUARD

‘For a hundred years, Clifford’s Tower has been sealed away inside a working prison. The only way in is by getting permission from a magistrate. Good luck trying to get that! Even if you did get to see inside the tower, all you’d find are walls covered with ivy. There’s nothing much up there except crumbling walls and overgrown plants.

It’s all about the prison these days. The Female Prison was designed by **Thomas Wilkinson** and **John Prince** to match the Assize Courts. **John Carr**, an architect, supervised the building work between 1780 and 1783. Their original prison was much smaller than you can see today. By the 1800s, extensions and outbuildings were needed to accommodate the growing number of prisoners.

Then came stricter regulations about living conditions for prisoners. This was in the 1820s and meant even more building at York prison! There was a competition to design the improvements. Two architects, **P F Robinson** and **G T Andrews**, won with a Tudor-inspired Gothic design in 1826. By the time the building work was completed in 1835, the 10-metre high wall around the prison with its dark gritstone, battlements and gatehouse made the place look very forbidding. You can hardly see Clifford’s Tower behind those high walls.’



20TH-CENTURY ENGINEER

‘Clifford’s Tower was in a very sorry state when **Sir Basil Mott** came to York to draw up plans to stabilise it in 1902. Even with Sir Basil’s repairs, by 1914, it was clear that there was much more work to do. **Frank Baines** at the Office of Works inspected the tower and recorded that the walls had been badly damaged by movement in the mound below. The structure was still really unstable but gaining access to it was difficult because of the prison walls surrounding it. In 1914, there were **German prisoners of war** held at York prison.

We **engineers** got to work with extensive repairs to the tower in 1919 once the war was over. We reinforced the walls with metal rods and filled in the cracks and tears in the stonework. The prison closed in 1929 and after that many of the prison buildings constructed after 1824 were demolished. Clifford’s Tower opened properly to the public once the works were complete in 1936. Now everyone can enjoy Clifford’s Tower and the views across York from its walls.’

