

WOMEN AND DIVERSITY IN ANCIENT AND TUDOR YORK.

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YORK
TRAILBLAZERS

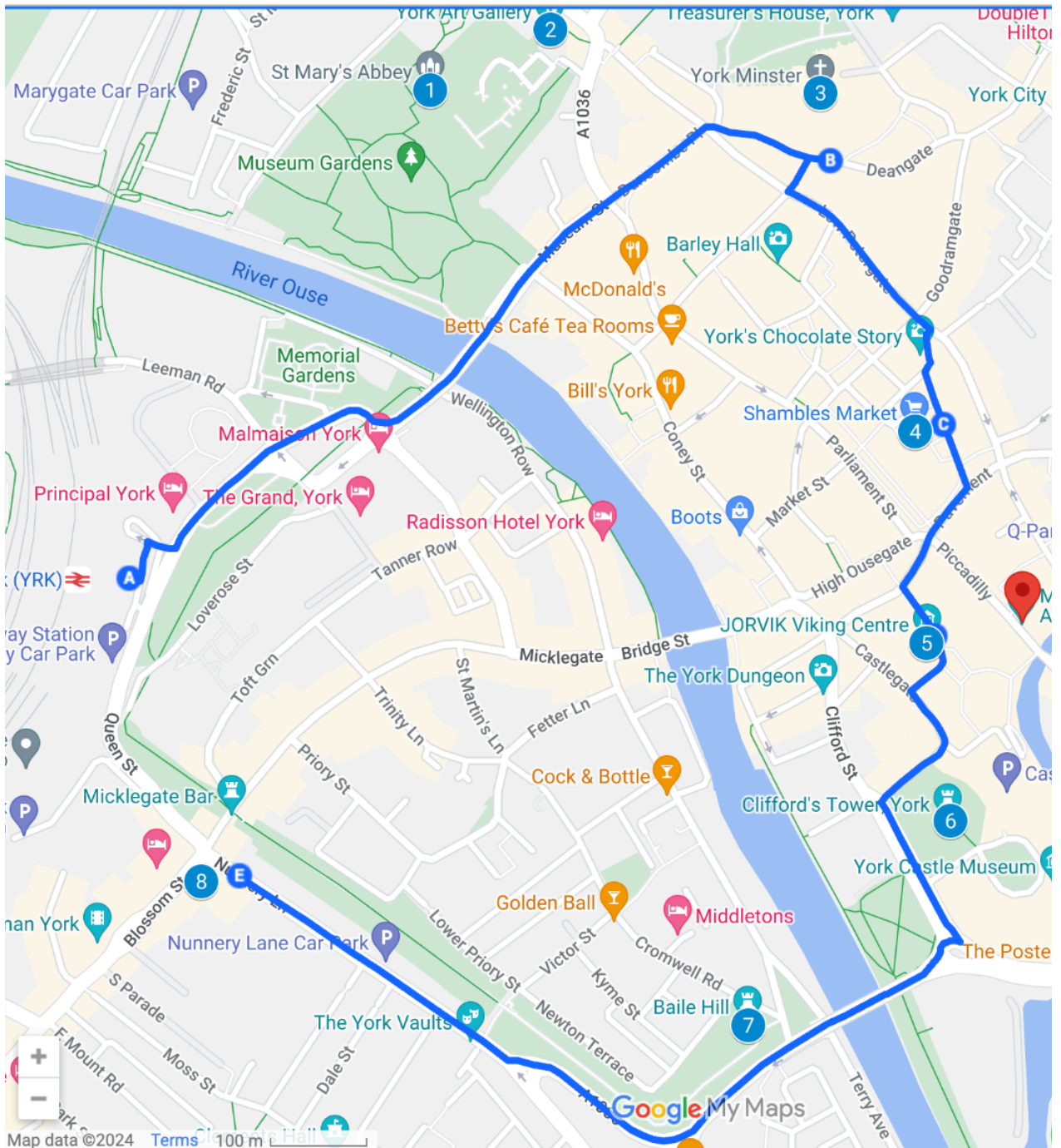


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This map can also be followed using Google Maps

[Google maps - WOMEN AND DIVERSITY IN ANCIENT AND TUDOR YORK.](#)

We are privileged to live times that not only celebrate women, but women of all ethnicities, disabilities and religions and it is because of the women like those stated here who did not allow their diversity to be an obstacle but something they valued and used to their advantage.

Then follow the trail to discover more about Roman York, onto Viking York and finally Tudor York. On this trail you'll learn about York through the different time periods which defined this ancient city, uncover the secret gems which are scattered across the trail and most importantly find out more about the iconic women who lived during these times.

Trailblazers who have defied common belief that if you were a woman and a person of diversity during these periods of history you were someone who was at a disadvantage, but these women are just a small example who have proven this to be wrong and caused historians and archeologists to re-think how we should perceive the past.

A.

Sculpture for The Ivory Bangle Lady

Our first sculpture can be found in York Train Station. You can find the Trailblazer Sculpture at Platform 3 of the station, outside the First Class Lounge

The trail begins at York Train Station with our first Trailblazer, York's famous The Ivory Bangle Lady.

Roman York:

The Roman Empire, claimed by many to be the greatest civilisations of all time! From North Africa to Western Asia spreading into Europe, including England, its expansion saw no limit. After the Roman invasion of England, which became Britannia under the Empire in 43 AD, many Romans came and settled in York and stayed for 3 centuries, known to them as Eboracum. To a certain extent it can be argued that it was the Romans who created the city, becoming a vital epicentre not only within England but holding importance on global scale.

Labelled by *British Vogue* as one of the “7 Remarkable Black Women Who Shaped British History”, the mystery of The Ivory Bangle Lady has become a topic of intrigue for archeologists and historians in the U.K. Believed to have lived during the 4th Century, her skeleton was discovered 1901 near Sycamore Terrace (see map) and was given this nickname due to the

riches which were enclosed with her body. The burial objects found alongside her body include jet and elephant ivory bracelets, earrings, pendants, beads, a blue glass jug and a glass mirror. She is thought to have been a lady of incredible wealth and high status, not just because of these objects, which you can see for yourself at the Yorkshire Museum (see map) but also due to her non-disturbed grave. 100 years after she was found more information was unfolded about her story, as scientific research has concluded that she was probably of North African descent. This suggests that the society she lived in was possibly a lot more ethnically diverse and inclusive than what has previously been thought about of Roman York. Her legacy continues to this day. Not only is she seen as an important historical figure to archeologists and historians who has given a different picture of what Britannia looked like all those years ago, but she is often mentioned in relation for the need for Black History to be added to the national curriculum and The Ivory Bangle Lady is just one of many people of diversity who need to be discussed and taught in schools.

A.

Julia Domna (TRAIL Marker B):

At York Minster by the Roman column

(Julia does not have a beetle with the York Trailblazers but you can find out more about her at the Yorkshire Museum and how she and others lived during Roman period in York. This stop takes us outside York Minister - highlighted on your trail- where there is a statue of Constantine and a surviving Roman Column outside and more information about the Minsters role through the periods inside).

From modern-day Syria, Julia Domna became Empress of Rome through her marriage to Septimius Severus (who is thought to be the first non-European Emperor of the Roman

Empire and ruled for 17 years). After hearing of an astrologer's predication of their marriage Septimius went in search for Julia and the two were happily married for more than 20 years and had two children, both of whom became co-emperors after their father's death under the guidance of their mother. Julia accompanied her husband on military campaigns, which was very rare amongst imperial wives and after arriving in Britannia, Julia and Septimius set-up their Royal Court in York. She was named Mater Castrorum (Mother of the Camp), her influence in court was not only social but philosophical and political as well. Due to her active role in all matters, she was seen almost as an equal to her husband. Julia remained in the city with her youngest child whilst Septimius travelled to other areas of the country and so her presence as his deputy was clearly recognised and respected. While there is very little written about her, her importance is recognised with the surviving evidence of the Face Urn. Discovered in 1888, it is believed to be of Julia's image, the urn further cements the presumed notion that her influence in York was significant, immortalising her in the same way as Emperors and other significant male figures of the time. The Face Urn is currently on display at the British Museum, but you can visit the *Roman York - Meet the people of the Empire* exhibition at the Yorkshire Museum to discover more about Romans and their love for York.

Following the trail, you will walk through the beautiful Shambles. Hidden amongst the myriads of unique shops there is a hidden shrine in memory of Margaret Clitherow, *The Pearl of York* (read below to find out more), see if you can find this tranquil place of remembrance amongst the bustle and noise of the Shambles (*TRAIL #3*). Once you have come out of the Shambles the trail takes you to the next Trailblazer. Dedicated

to a woman who lived during York's most exciting and interesting time, The Viking Age.

C.

Margaret Clitherow

The shrine to Maragret Clitherow, The Shambles

(Margaret does not have a beetle with the York Trailblazers but you can find out more about her at Bar Convent).

Tudor York:

With the reign of King Henry VIII came decades of religious strife in England. With each new wife and queen there was a new state religion and despite the reformation, the religious unrest continued into the reigns of his 3 children. For two hundred years (starting in 1559) it was illegal to practice Roman Catholicism in England, this caused many devout Catholics to leave out the country out of fear of persecution. If you wish to learn more about the religious timeline of York, you can visit the Minister (see map).

Margaret Clitherow

Margaret Clitherow was a devout Catholic and despite being brought up in Protestant household and married to her husband who responsible for reporting known Catholics to the authorities she chose to convert to Catholicism at a very dangerous time. While she was imprisoned twice at York

Castle, this did not deter Margaret as her loyalty and determination for her faith only grew. After her release she went on a pilgrimage to the gallows where 5 priests had been hung, afterwards Margaret felt a need and desire to help priests in this country and to conceal their true identity to avoid this terrible fate. This led to her creating a Priest Hole in her home on the Shambles (see map), which is unusual to come across in a house so small as they were more common in large houses belonging to the nobility. Unfortunately, her secret was discovered, her home was raided by authorities in 1586 and under the Act of Parliament 1581 her crimes were punishable by death. Her legacy continued through her son Henry who left England to become a priest and he returned as a missionary, in 1970 Margaret was canonised as a martyr by Pope Paul VI who named her *The Pearl of York* and there is a trust set-up in her name to help marginalised groups within the community. You can visit 2 of her plaques in York (one which is close to her home in the Shambles and the other on the Ouse Bridge) you can also pay respects to her relic at Bar Convent.

D.

The Coppergate Woman

Sculpture to the Coppergate Woman

Coppergate Centre, opposite the Viking Museum

Viking York:

The Vikings enjoyed a life of travel, exploration, trade and when they decided to settle in the U.K they had a profound and lasting impact on the country's history. Seeing York as their greatest victory it became known as Jorvik where many

of them remained for a number of decades. We often picture Vikings as big, burly men who liked to pillage villages, fight in great battles and die with a sword in their hand so they could travel to Valhalla in the afterlife. Yet not much is known about Viking women and the challenges they were forced to overcome.

Coppergate Woman

During the 1970s archeologists were conducting the Coppergate Dig in York, now the JORVIK museum (see map) and this dig was able to tell us more about the Vikings who occupied this city for so long. The dig uncovered a vast wealth which indicates to a large global trading network reaching as far as Central Asia, which proves how far the Vikings were travelling. Artefacts from the dig include games, musical instruments, ice skates, spears, swords and thought of as the worlds best preserved human faeces, all of which points to a large and thriving Viking community in York. However, one of the most interesting discoveries is the finding of the The Coppergate Woman. Unlike The Ivory Bangle Lady, she is not known for a hoard of ancient goods with her burial, a lot of the mystery of The Coppergate Woman lies within her bones. Viking remains are a rare discovery. The Coppergate Woman was found outside Christian burial grounds, isolated, away from any other burial sites, and while the skeleton is incomplete with her lower legs missing, there was still a lot learnt from the remains which were found. Her teeth for instant, reveal that she was not originally from York, and it is possible that she travelled down from Scotland or even Norway. However, the most intriguing discovery was that she likely suffered from hip dysplasia, which would have been a constant pain and forced her to rely on the use of a crutch, which is indicated by her arms which appear to be more robust. It is believed that she lived to the age of 46, this is generally considered as a good and “old” age during the Viking

period. Moreover, because of her age it is speculated that she could have been a person of high status, and her disability was in fact not seen as weakness but marked her as someone special. The Coppergate Woman has become one of Yorks' most iconic historical figures and you can visit her remains and learn more about Vikings at the JORVIK museum (see map).

Moving on with trail, after passing the Trailblazer Beetle dedicated to The Coppergate Woman you will walk past Clifford's Tower, which has an interesting history itself as one of the oldest landmarks in the U.K with a beautiful view of York at the very top of the tower. After crossing the bridge, you can then walk along part of the city wall. Take in the beautiful scenery, see if you can spot Bar Convent's secret chapel dome.

E.

Mary Ward

Sculpture to Mary Ward, at the Bar Convent Museum, in the Garden, to find the sculpture, go through the cafe and out the back.

Our trail takes us back to Tudor York to discover more, this time about Mary Ward. Desiring a greater purpose in life Mary Ward chose not to marry and become a nun, however it was still dangerous to practice Catholicism on England, so she left and joined a convent in Europe. Yet the nuns there lived an isolated existence and as Mary saw the lack of education and opportunities available to young girls, she felt compelled to change this narrative. So, with a small group Mary began to

travel around Europe and open schools where she could. Teaching the 7 values of Freedom, Justice, Sincerity, Verity and Felicity. However, Mary was met with many challenges along the way and was even imprisoned for her actions by the Pope Urban VIII who called for all her schools to be closed down. Finally given a chance to talk to the Pope, Mary was able to plead her case and was released. In her final years she returned to York and is buried at St. Thomas' Church in Osbaldwick. Her legacy continues to be remembered within the Catholic community as her work led to the founding of the Congregation of Jesus and the Sisters of Loreto and she was named the *Venerable Mary Ward* by Pope Benedict XVI in 2009. You can learn more about Mary, the challenges she and the Catholic community in York faced at The Bar Convent (see map).

“There is no such difference between men and women that women may not do great matters.” - Mary Ward, 1617.

Extra spots key:

(Extra spots and hidden gems along the trail are numbered).

1. St Mary's Abbey. Placed within the Museum Gardens is a lovely place to take photographs and hopefully take in the beautiful sunshine.
2. The Yorkshire Museum. Currently has an interesting exhibition on Romans living in York.
3. The York Art Gallery. Currently housing Monet's famous 'The Water- Lily Pond' painting, alongside other beautiful art pieces.
4. The York Minister. A beautiful piece of architecture, religious history, also holds the historical landmark of Emperor Constantine outside.
5. Shambles Market. Unique shops and great food stalls, but can you find Margaret Clitherow's shrine?
6. JORVIK Viking Centre. A Museum dedicated to the Vikings who lived in York.
7. Clifford's Tower. A recent conservation project, take a look inside and take in the roof-top views of the city.
8. Baile Hill. The start of the city wall walk, see how the Romans protected the city from other invaders and see if you can find the secret dome to the Bar Convent (Hint: Dewsbury Terrace).
9. The Bar Convent. Living Heritage Centre which still holds sermons in the chapel and is open to all, it also

a beautiful museum telling the story of the convent over the years. Enjoy the convents café at the end of the trail.

References/Further Reading:

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