Experiencing The Great War:
York in World War One

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

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

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

Download the free app to find an audio guide, interactive map, and photographs of archaeological and historical artefacts from sites along the trail!
York Press reported on the same day that “everywhere today
one saw soldiers in uniform about the city. They were to be
met with at every street corner”.

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