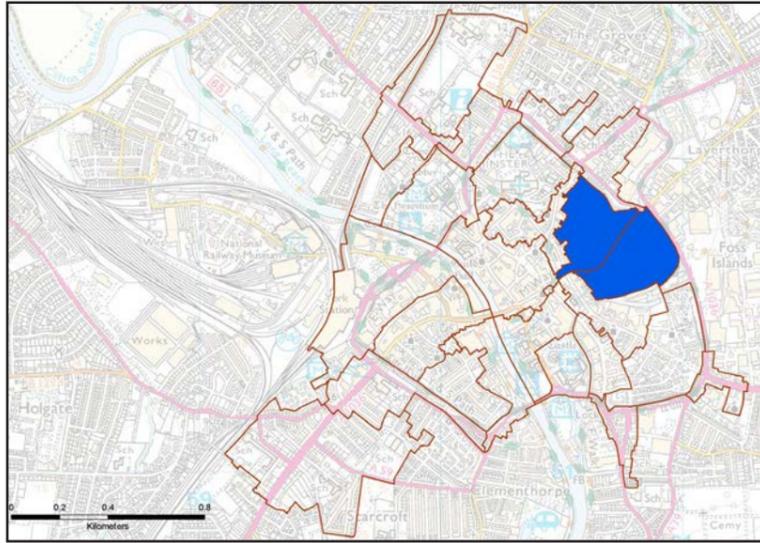


Character area 8: Aldwark and Hungate



The location of the character area within the historic core.

Description

Although ancient in origin, Aldwark is now the most modern suburb within the walls. From the 1970s, this quiet residential neighbourhood emerged from Aldwark's industrial past, urged on by Esher's vision of restoring inner-city living. The design of new development successfully compliments the 18th and 19th century houses that remain.

Aldwark is a pleasant place to live and surprisingly quiet during the day considering it is so close to the bustling city centre. However, there can be disruption in the evening from tour groups, one of the challenges of living in a historic city centre. Well organised traffic restrictions and off-street parking make it a haven for pedestrians and cyclists.

Historic Core Conservation Area Appraisal

Archaeological background

Aldwark

Prehistoric

Prehistoric evidence within this area is scarce. However a pre-Roman soil horizon was noted at 7-9 Aldwark (EYO2253-60). Natural levels were recorded at 7-9 Aldwark at 3m below ground level.

Roman

Aldwark lies adjacent the south-east side of the legionary fortress and occupies part of the higher ground overlooking the River Foss flood plain (now Peaseholme Green and Hungate). Extra-mural settlement and activity is to be expected but evidence is relatively sparse despite substantial re-development of the area in the 1970s and 1980s.

The south-east gate of the fortress aligns with High Petergate, King's Square and possibly the medieval Colliergate through to Fosgate and beyond, although evidence for the road beyond King's Square is lacking. The most substantial archaeological investigation during the 1970s in fact examined an area within the fortress but left Roman levels largely unexcavated (the Bedern Foundry excavations - EYO2148 to EYO2165). In one trench, demolition layers up to 0.5m in depth were found containing Roman pottery and painted wall plaster. Coins, glass and a statuette attest to relatively high-status activity within this area. Investigations on the site of St Helen's –on-the-Wall prior to the construction of Hunt Court located a building of domestic proportions and style with a mosaic floor to one room and two cobbled road surfaces, one of which pre-dated the building (EYO4874). An excavation at 36 Aldwark also uncovered evidence of a cobbled road.

The ground falls away from Aldwark to the present River Foss incorporating the Hungate area which has been subject to substantial archaeological investigations in advance of re-development in the early 21st century. Roman activity is present throughout comprising principally of cemetery evidence, industrial activity and a possible wharf.

Investigations close to the medieval church of St Cuthbert's uncovered evidence of a substantial pottery and tile production area evidenced by clay pits, kiln firing waste and pottery wasters (MYO2185).

A watching brief at the site of the Leeper Hare Offices on Peasholme Green revealed further deposits associated with pottery and tile production as well as a cobbled road surface (EYO151).

Anglian-Anglo-Scandinavian

The church of St. Helen's on the Walls was probably founded in the 10th century as burials from this period were identified through excavation. Evidence of the possible Werdyke was located to the rear of the church. This earthwork may represent an Anglo-Scandinavian extension to the legionary fortress defences. Investigations at 36 Aldwark found evidence that the earlier Roman road was sealed by levelling material of 10th century date (EYO2140-2146).

1970s excavations of the Bedern foundry also uncovered an Anglo-Scandinavian wattle-lined pit and traces of a timber building (EYO2148-2152). The Halifax Building Society investigations on St. Saviourgate have revealed the potential for extensive waterlogged deposits of Roman and Anglo-Scandinavian date. Considerable quantities of bone, horn and small timber twigs were identified (EYO3534). St Saviourgate also produced evidence including a hoard of ironwork (EYO66). A timber building, pit and cobbled surface were also noted during a watching brief in 1985 which may also date to this period.

Aldwark may derive from Old English implying a pre-Scandinavian origin for the name, and perhaps referencing the Werdyke, although it is not mentioned before about 1190AD. The earlier name for St Saviourgate was Ketmongergate from Old Norse, kiomangari or flesh-seller.

Medieval

By the medieval period this area was a thriving settlement within the city walls which contained many churches, including St. Andrews (MYO951), St. Cuthbert's (MYO986), St. Saviour's (MYO907), St. Helen's on the Walls and St. Crux (MYO3692 & 867). Burials relating to St. Saviour's Church were recorded c. 1m below ground level (EYO3432). Other extant Medieval buildings of note are the Merchant Taylors Hall and St Anthony Hall (MYO1881 & 987). Medieval buildings and deposits relating to domestic and industrial activity were excavated in the Aldwark and Bedern area, particularly during the 1970s and early 80s (e.g. EYO3788-93 and 2148-2165). The Bedern foundry site appears to have been continuously used for bronze working from the 13th to 16th centuries. Present day Bedern Hall is a surviving part of the former College of the Vicar's Choral. Interventions to depths of 1.5m below ground level in the area of Peasholme Green revealed modern deposits and part of the original Layerthorpe Postern (EYO3551-52) and on St. Andrewgate a 14th century a waterlogged timber structure and cobbled surface (EYO59). An excavation at Merchant Taylors Hall revealed a well preserved remains of a 14th century structure possibly an earlier guildhall at the bottom of a 1m deep trench (EYO21). The existing street pattern was well established by the 12th century and several late medieval burgage plot boundaries survive through to the present.

Post-medieval – Early modern

Post-Medieval deposits tend to survive at depths of c. 0-1.5m below ground level in the Aldwark area. St. Saviourgate interventions record 16th-17th century layers at 1.5m below ground level (EYO14). In some areas foundations for large industrial buildings such as a tannery on Aldwark and modern developments have removed post-medieval layers. Truncation was noted on Aldwark (EYO2140), St. Andrewgate (EYO59) and St Saviourgate (EYO66).

Hungate

Prehistoric

Archaeological evaluation and observation of development of the former Adams Hydraulics site on Peasholme Green revealed remains suggestive of possible prehistoric occupation, including a deposit containing charcoal and burnt clay (possible hearth) situated immediately above natural deposits and below clearly dated Roman features. Worked flint was also recovered re-deposited in Roman and later deposits (EYO12).

Roman

The Adams Hydraulics site (EYO2) also revealed extensive Roman deposits, including a well made cobble surface and further evidence of pottery manufacture presumably part of the extensive remains found by St Cuthbert's.

In the early 1950s an excavation at Garden Place revealed evidence of a possible Roman wharf area including cobbled surface and 1.2m high structure, possibly being the remains of a crane base as well as timber piles (Ottaway 2011:197). Part of a large Roman inhumation cemetery has been located through various evaluations, excavations and watching briefs off Stonebow.

Various evaluations, excavations and watching briefs have been implemented between 2007 and 2011 as part of the Hungate redevelopment. These investigations have substantially examined the history of this area of relatively low lying riverside between the legionary fortress and the River Foss. Evidence of large defensive ditches have been found in several locations suggesting that Hungate played an important part in the defences of the Roman fortress and civil settlement. There is no evidence of domestic occupation beyond St Saviourgate and several slight linear ditches found in various locations suggests agricultural activity co-existing with industrial and defensive.

One of the watching briefs on the Hungate site revealed a Roman surface alongside a timber/wicker 11th-14th century waterfront revetment suggesting the course of the river hadn't changed much since that time. Beneath the Hostel car park a 3m wide Roman defensive ditch was excavated along with substantial medieval buildings by YAT in 2012 (EYO4617).

Excavations off Stonebow in 1986/7 revealed a clay extraction pit of Roman date (EYO2242-47).

Anglian-Anglo-Scandinavian

Up to the late 8th century the agricultural character of the Hungate area continued with little evidence of domestic or industrial activity. By this time however, the Hungate excavations revealed a complex system of land division and settlement had been organised. There has been substantial evidence of small scale industrial activity involving hearths and the production of ash and charcoal waste. No evidence of metal working however. Warehousing seems increasingly common later in the 10th and 11th centuries and one cellar building incorporated recycled timbers from an Anglian boat.

The Adams Hydraulic site produced some indication of Anglo-Scandinavian occupation in the form of a cess pit of this date but not as dense as the main Hungate excavations revealed.

Medieval

Two events dominate medieval use of the area, the establishment of the Carmelite Friary in 1295 (MYO2244) and creation of the King's Pool as part of the Norman defensive works associated with York Castle. Both these sites incorporate much of the area. Archaeological excavations have revealed that much of the remaining area was given over to clay extraction pits, rubbish and cess pits away from the frontages of Peasholme Green, St Saviourgate and Hungate. Even this activity ceased around the 14th century, superseded by the dumping of refuse and other material against the lower lying ground adjacent the Foss.

Investigations on the site of Adams Hydraulics produced evidence for 14th and 15th century timber buildings fronting the street and a contemporary cobble surface as well as wicker structures (possibly revetments) close to the present day River Foss (EYO12). The present Black Swan public house may well be of a contemporary date in part.

One of the city's main late medieval wool markets was held in St Anthony's Hall and Peasholme Green close to the site of All Saint's Church and cemetery (founded c.1200). The latter has been extensively investigated and the foundations of the church and extent of the burial ground have been identified (MYO2201).

Post-medieval – Early modern

During the post-medieval period the majority of the former fishpool land was backfilled and reclaimed, initially for agricultural purposes. Further dumping took place during canalisation of the river in the 18th century. The excavations on Adams Hydraulics site encountered a ditch and four pits dating to this period (EYO12).

Fragmentary remains of 19th century housing known to have existed along the eastern extents of Palmer Lane was revealed during the initial site strip of Hungate in 2006 (EYO825). This investigation revealed 1950s site-wide levelling, raising the ground by at least 1.5m. Hungate was one of the study areas that informed Seebohm Rowntree's important 1901 study, Poverty, a Study of Town Life.

A weighbridge associated with the 19th century hay market was recorded beneath the car park surface in 1986/7 (EYO2242-47) the market square was partially revealed during investigations in 2012 (EYO4617). Further Victorian levelling deposits located upon fishpond silt were identified to a depth of 0.85m below ground level (EYO3501).

Within some areas of Hungate, 19th century gas works, subsequent sawmill buildings and coachworks had severely truncated earlier deposits and features (YAT 2008.5)

Visible character

Buildings and monuments within this area range from the medieval to the 21st century

Residential areas are mainly late 20th century in date

Anglo-Scandinavian origins for the street pattern in Aldwark within general cluster of quiet streets in medieval layout

Bounded by City Wall to north

High concentration of religious buildings, churches and non-conformist chapels

The name Kings Pool is still in use as the name of the 2004 DEFRA office on Peasholme Green

Many streets pedestrianised and one way systems in operation reduce traffic flow considerably

Burgage plot survival is high on either side of St. Saviourgate and on the east side of St. Andrewgate

Sub surface character

Ove Arup Development & Archaeology Study Research Zone: 2, 5 and 6

Deposit Depth (where known): Varies across the area. Ove Arup Archaeology and Development Study suggest the survival of high quality, wet and dry Roman to medieval deposits at an average depth of 7m in the Hungate area. Natural ground in this area is noted in the same study at 6-9m at Hungate and between 1.4-14.8m below ground level closer to the fortress (recorded at 3m below ground level on Aldwark). Made-up ground in this area is recorded as c.3-4m thick in the Hungate area. Archaeological deposits also exist up to 2m in thickness near St. Andrewgate beneath a post-medieval layer of c.1m, MAP Archaeological Practice Ltd. recorded 14th century waterlogged deposits on St. Andrewgate at 1.5m below ground level. Post-medieval layers were recorded c.1.5m below ground level on St Saviourgate and at 1m at Merchant Taylors Hall. The 2007 to 2011 excavations at Hungate revealed depths of stratigraphy varying from 1.5m to 5.0m.

Period Survival: There has been some intriguing evidence of prehistoric activity and possible occupation close to the wetter areas. Evidence of Roman activity points strongly to the presence of a significant industrial zone, which includes pottery and tile production. The mosaic in Aldwark and evidence of a number of roads suggests that on the higher ground at least there was domestic scale settlement. The discovery of ditched defences on Hungate supports the idea that this area was important. Evidence for Anglian activity is sparse but an early foundation for St Helen's-on-the-Walls suggests there is more to be discovered. Later Anglo-Scandinavian activity is now well evidenced from the latest Hungate investigations and where waterlogged, survive well. Medieval building and occupation related deposits are well known in the Aldwark and Bedern area. Medieval remains relating to the Carmelite Friary may also be encountered in the Carmelite Street area. In some areas, most-medieval and later activity will have truncated deposits unless at sufficient depth.

Excavations on St. Saviourgate and St. Andrewgate revealed that modern activity had removed post-medieval and early modern deposits in some areas.

Interventions (recorded on HER April 2013): There are approximately 94 interventions recorded, including several of historic date, on the City of York Historic Environment Record (HER). Few of the interventions are recorded in any detail and a brief examination of some grey literature suggests many interventions are yet to be recorded in the HER. See Appendix I for brief summary.

Significance

Overview: The Aldwark area is situated on slightly higher ground sloping down towards the River Foss and the lower lying Hungate. It is located just outside the fortress Eboracum (MYO2015) and has been in heavy use since at least the Roman period. This occupation has continued to the present day. Ove Arup identified the Aldwark area as part of the Canabae (informal civilian settlement attached to a military site – usually traders and the like) containing one of three principal industrial and residential areas of Roman York.

The Hungate area, occupying land closer to the River Foss, has produced many significant, well preserved, archaeological deposits. There are strong indications from archaeological evidence that the River Foss was an important element in the commercial life of Roman and Anglo-Scandinavian York – until the creation of the King's Fishpool in the late 11th century. Well preserved, wet and dry archaeological remains dating from the Roman, and possibly prehistoric periods through to the post-medieval era are known throughout both areas. Roman and medieval deposits in the Hungate area exist at average depths of c.7m below ground level (Ove Arup). Medieval building and occupation deposits are well known in the Aldwark and Bedern area. Medieval remains relating to the Carmelite Friary may also be encountered in the Carmelite Street area. Evidence for the Anglo-Scandinavian period is particularly good from Hungate and illuminates the importance of town planning at these early periods.

Archaeological deposits are likely to have been destroyed and unrecorded during the construction of 18th- 19th century industrial building and 19th- mid 20th century development. Modern activity in some areas, such as St. Saviourgate and St. Andrewgate, has removed post-medieval and early modern deposits.

Designations: The site falls within the Central Area of Archaeological Importance and the Historic Core Conservation Area.

The area contains a high number of architecturally or historically significant buildings. Four Grade I and seventeen II* listed buildings as well as thirty-four Grade II buildings have been identified throughout this character area.

The section of city walls stretching from Monk Bar to Layerthorpe (30) is also a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

Streetscape Components: Paving includes a mixture of concrete flagging (e.g. St. Andrewgate, St. Saviourgate, St. Saviour Place, Aldwark and Stonebow), Yorkstone paving (e.g. in patches on Stonebow, Aldwark and Bartle Garth) and tarmac surfaces such as on Dundas Street.

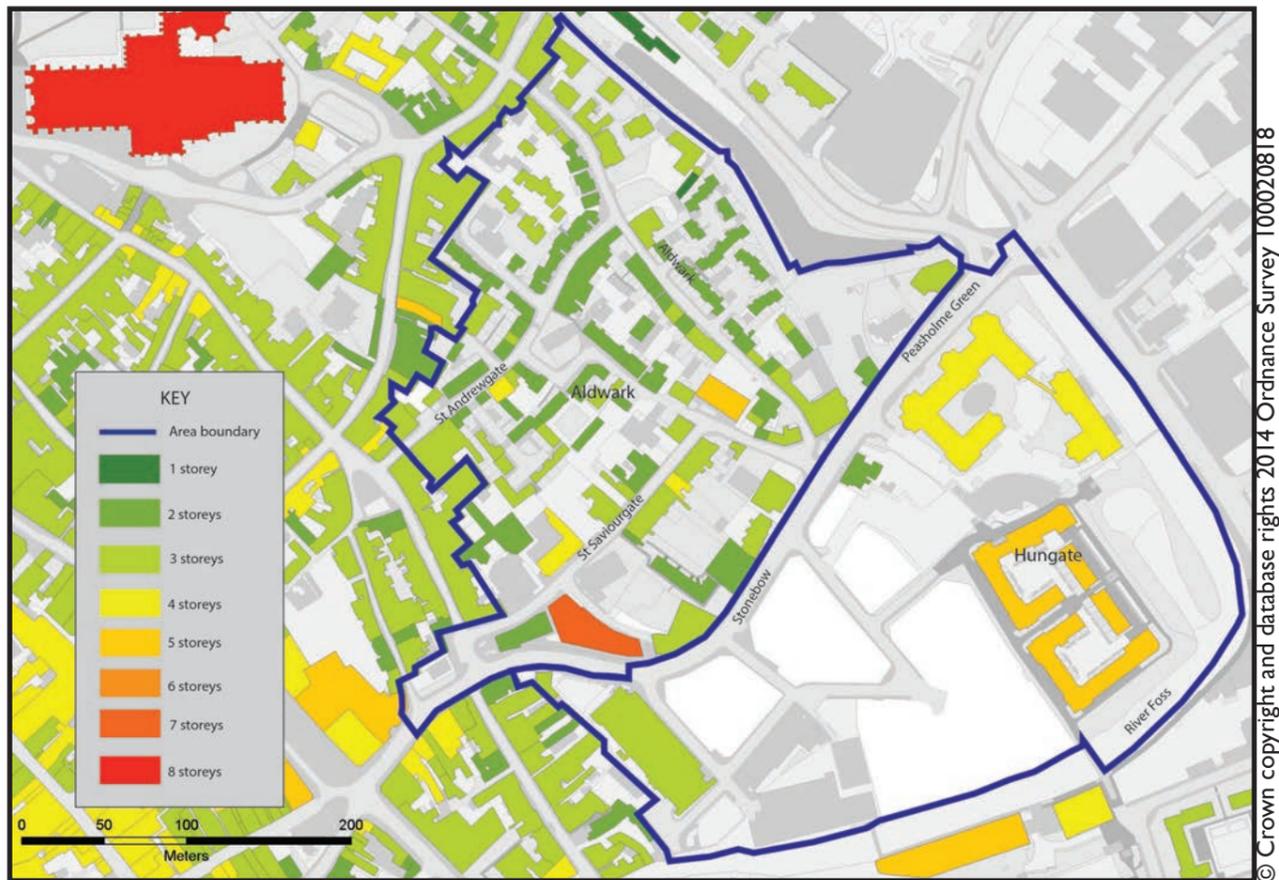
Street lighting within this crowded area is generally attached to the side of buildings. Aldwark and St. Andrewgate contain predominantly modern street lighting in a period style attached to the side of late 20th century housing. At the junction with St. Andrewgate is a free standing post in the same period style.

Several small blue cycle route signs are attached to this post. Black iron bollards are strategically placed around this area to stop traffic from entering certain streets and to restrict parking and kerb clipping. Lighting on St. Saviourgate is more historic in nature. Modern traffic signage and street signage is scattered throughout the areas some of which is attached to street light units. Stonebow, a 1950s creation, is a busy through road and features a mixture of early to late 20th century lighting, modern bus stops, telecoms boxes and traffic signage. Cobbles survive on the east side in the Peasholme Green area. These replaced grass verges at the side of approach roads into York formerly used for animal grazing on the way into market. In this case the Wool Market at the junction with St. Saviours Place.

Figure ground map with built environment shown as white on black.

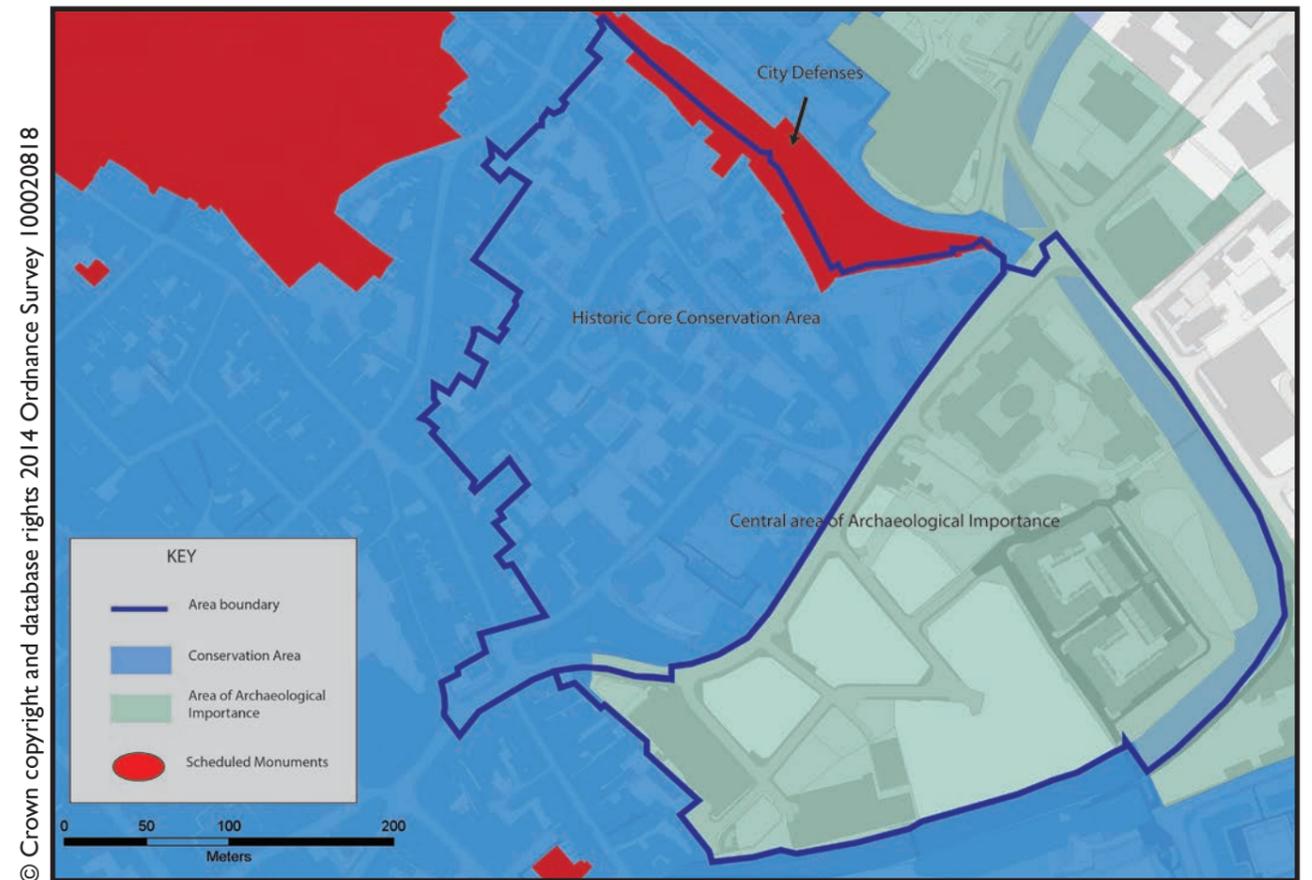
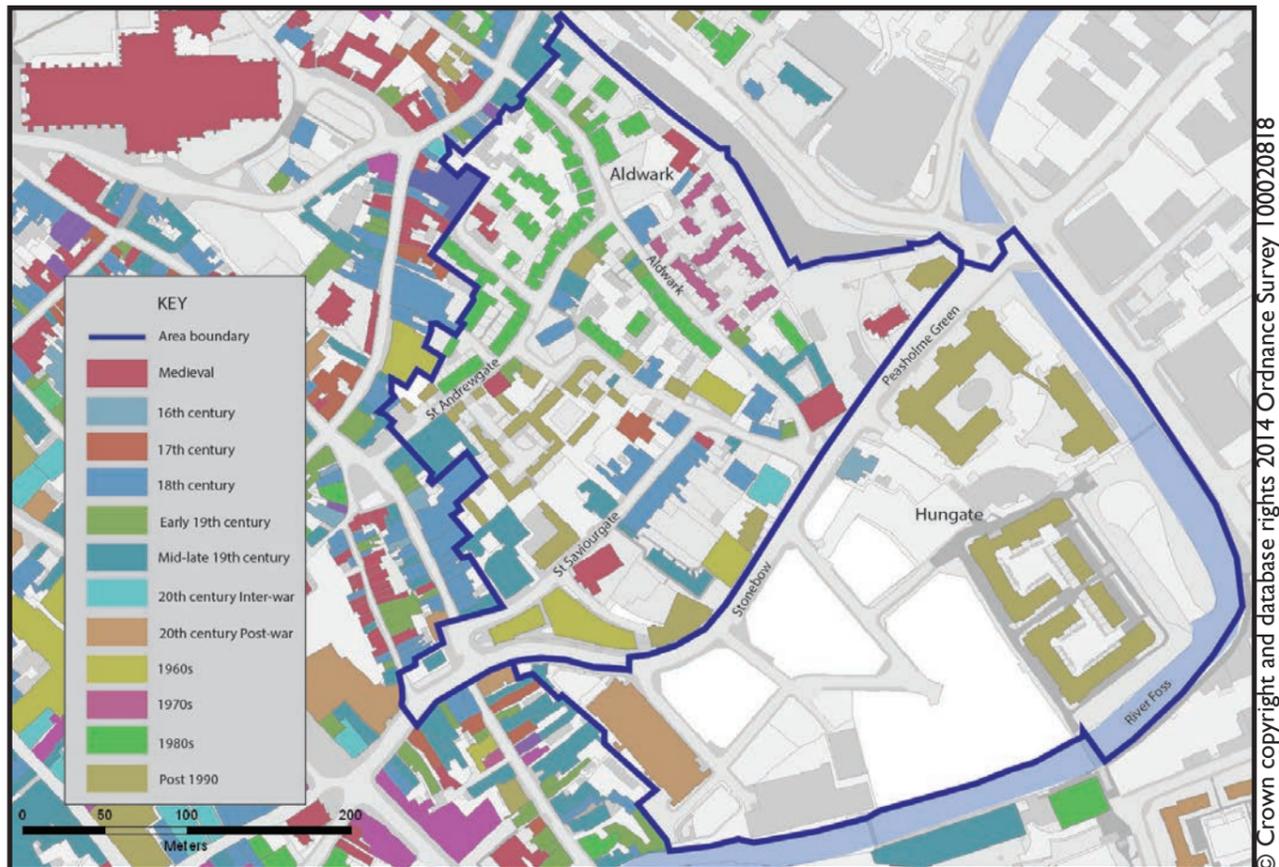


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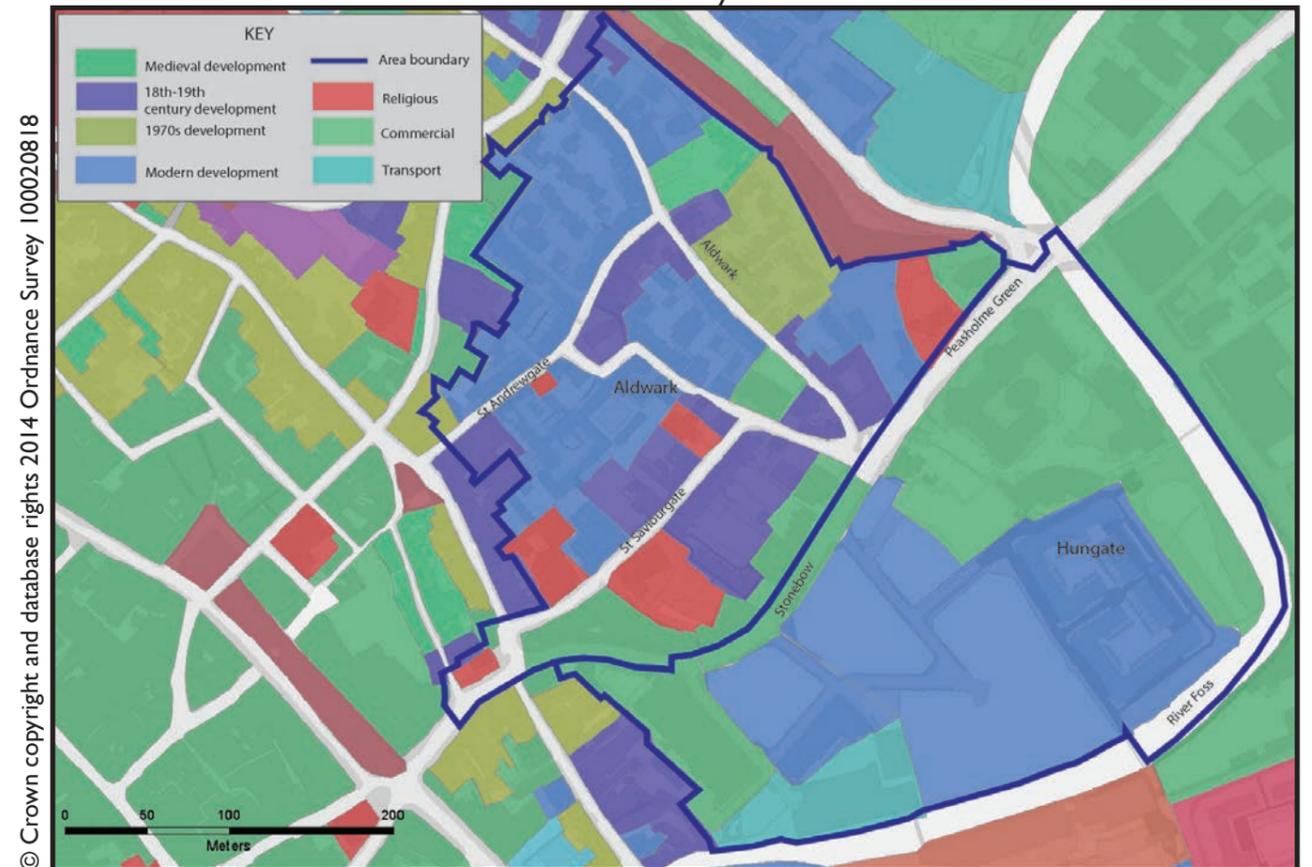
Above: Plan showing the heights of the buildings within this character area.

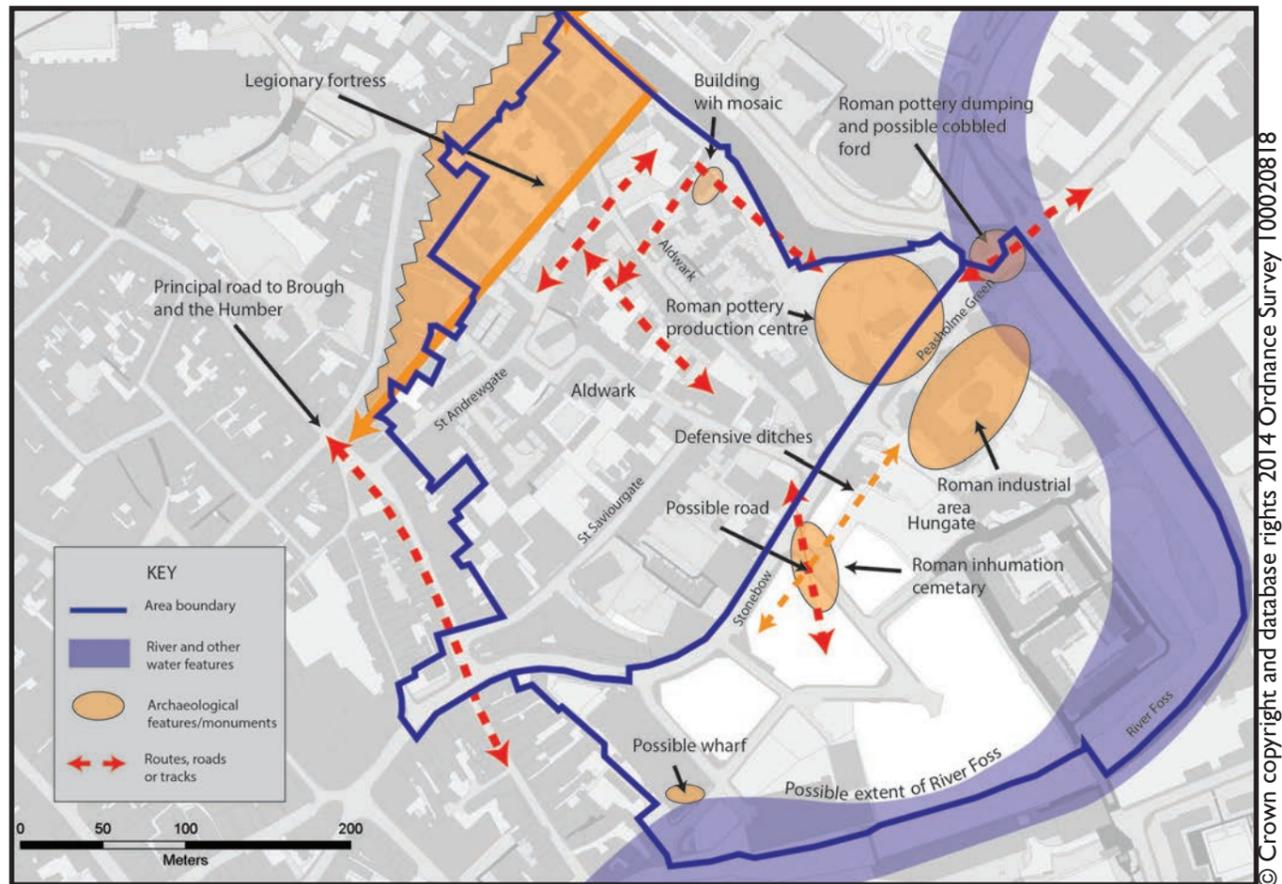
Below: Plan showing the construction dates of the buildings within the area.



Above: Plan showing designated heritage assets within this character area.

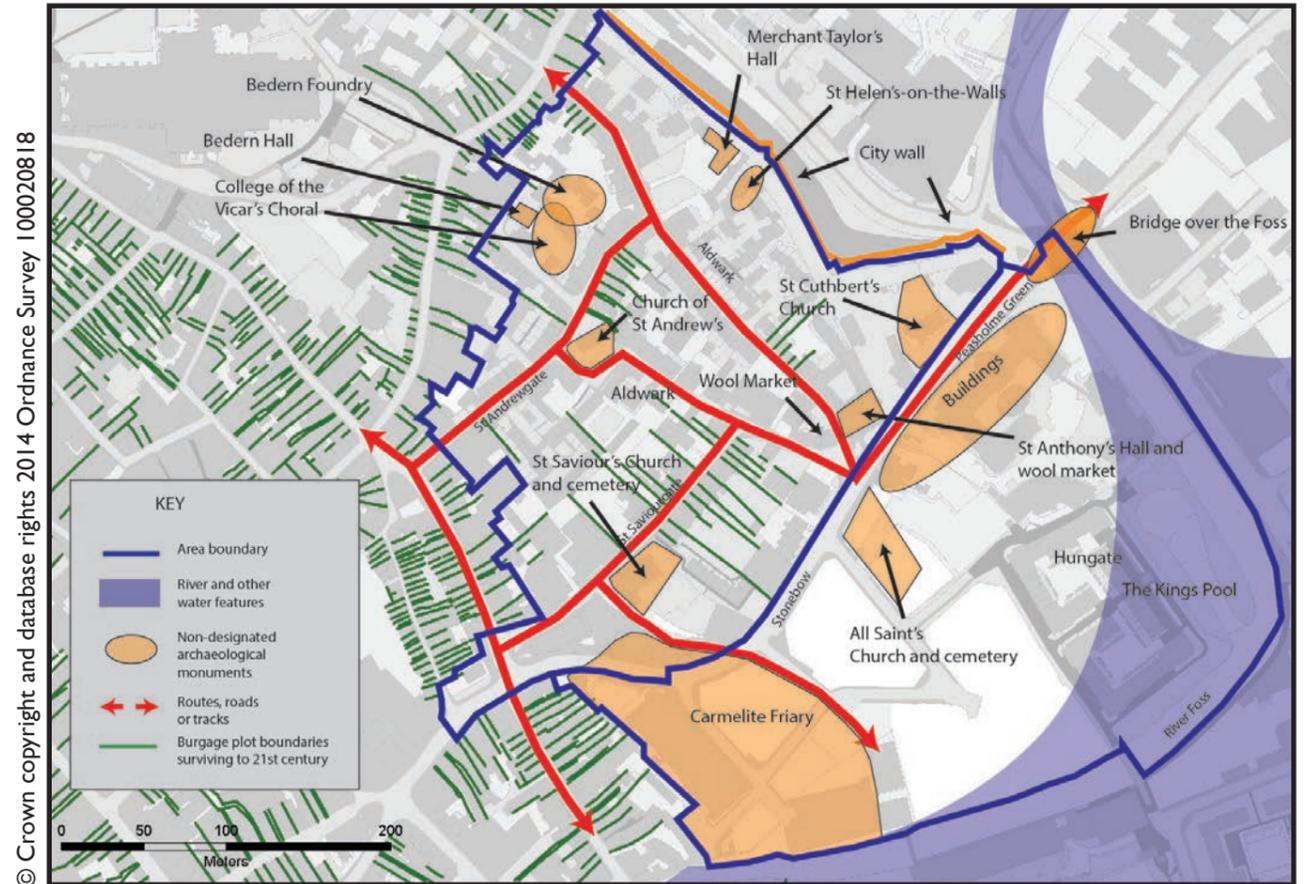
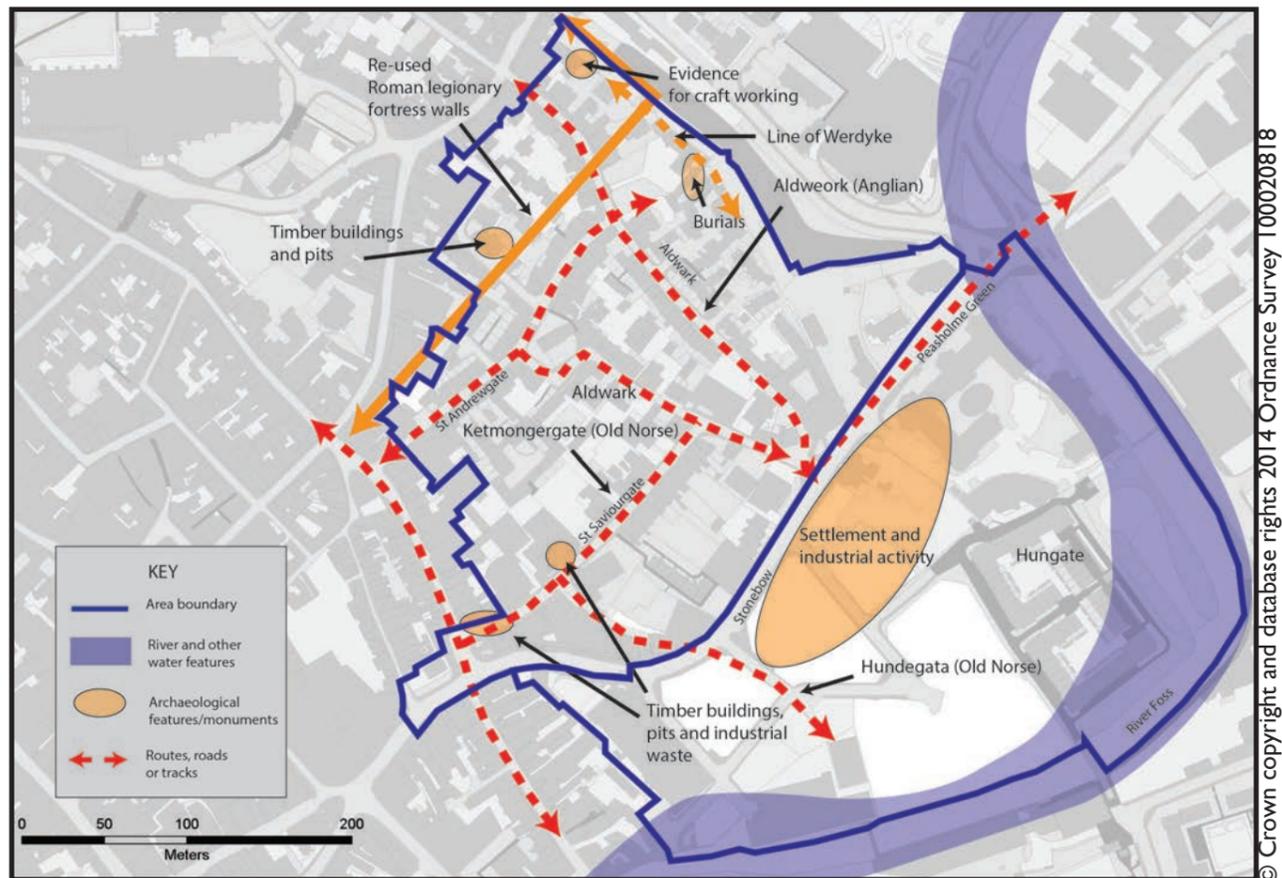
Below: Plan showing the Broad Type characterisation of the area. White roadways indicate roads or lanes visible on the 1852 Ordnance Survey Plan





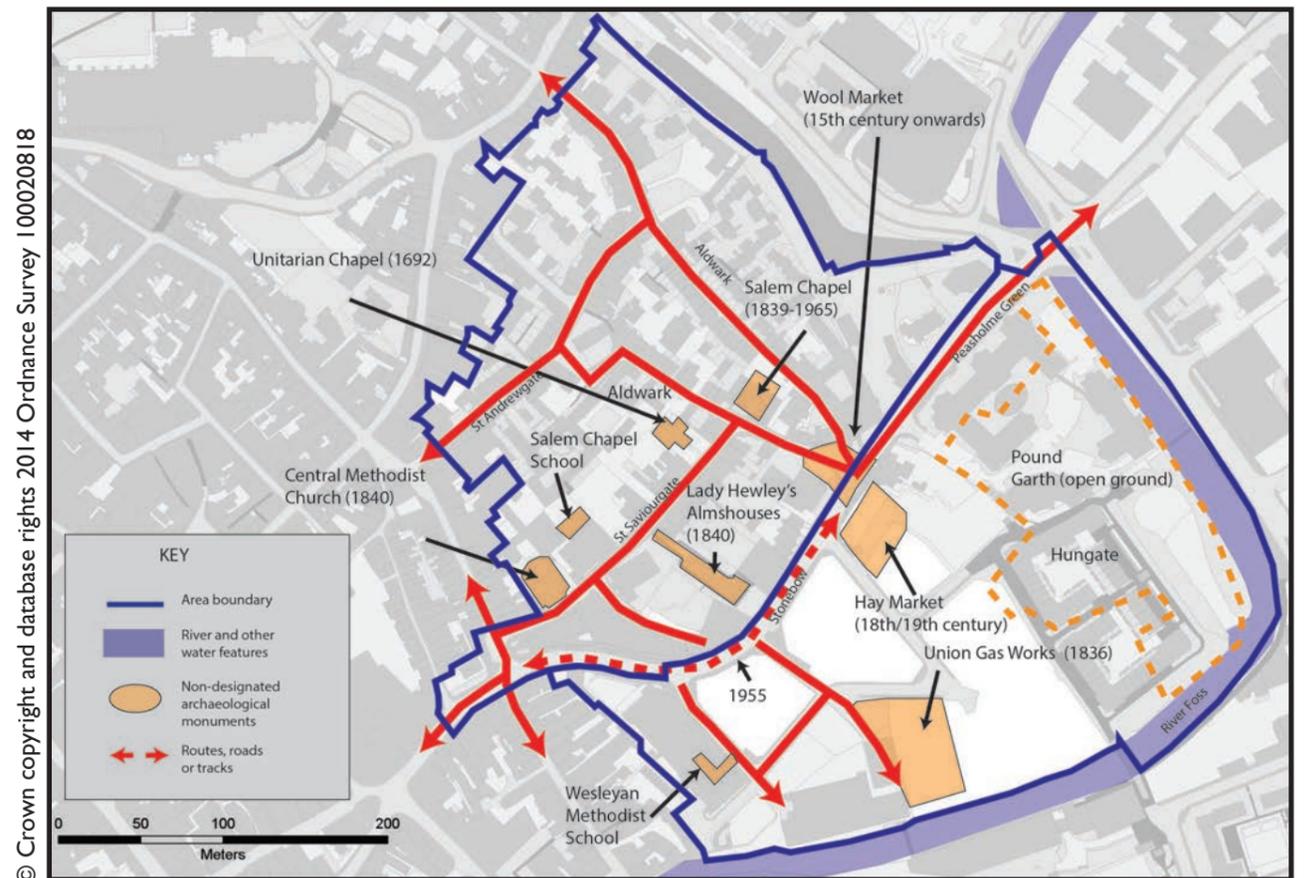
Above: The Roman landscape.

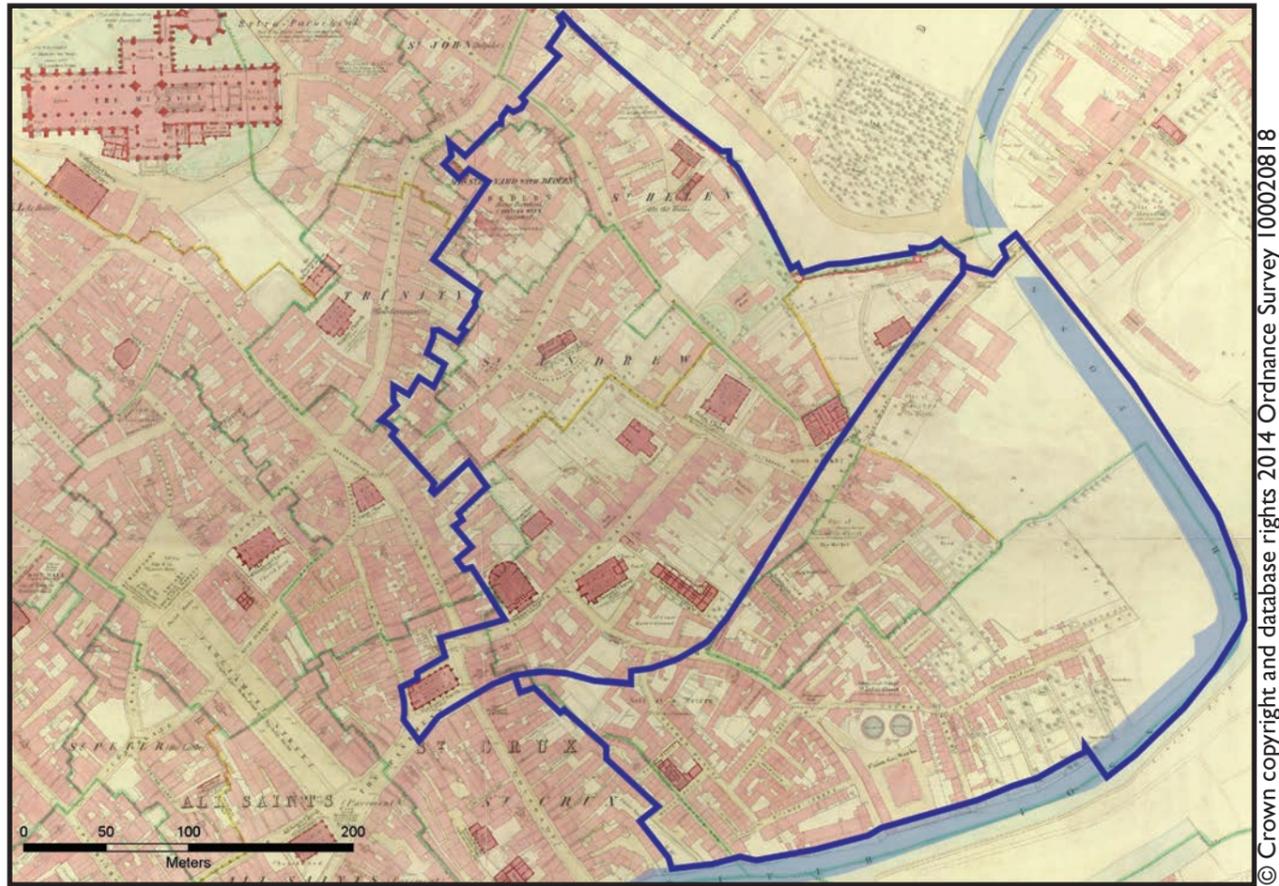
Below: The Anglo-Scandinavian landscape.



Above: The medieval landscape.

Below: The post-medieval landscape.

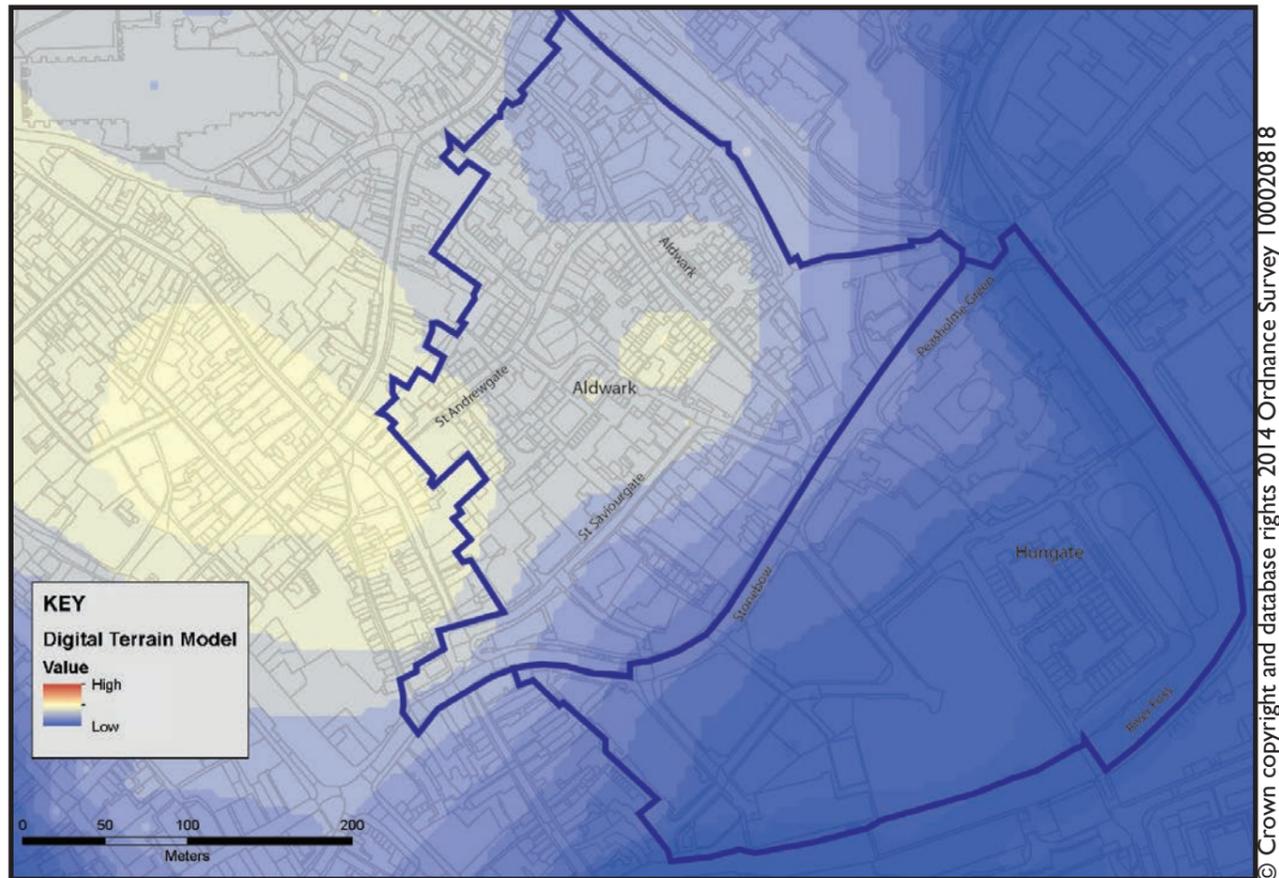




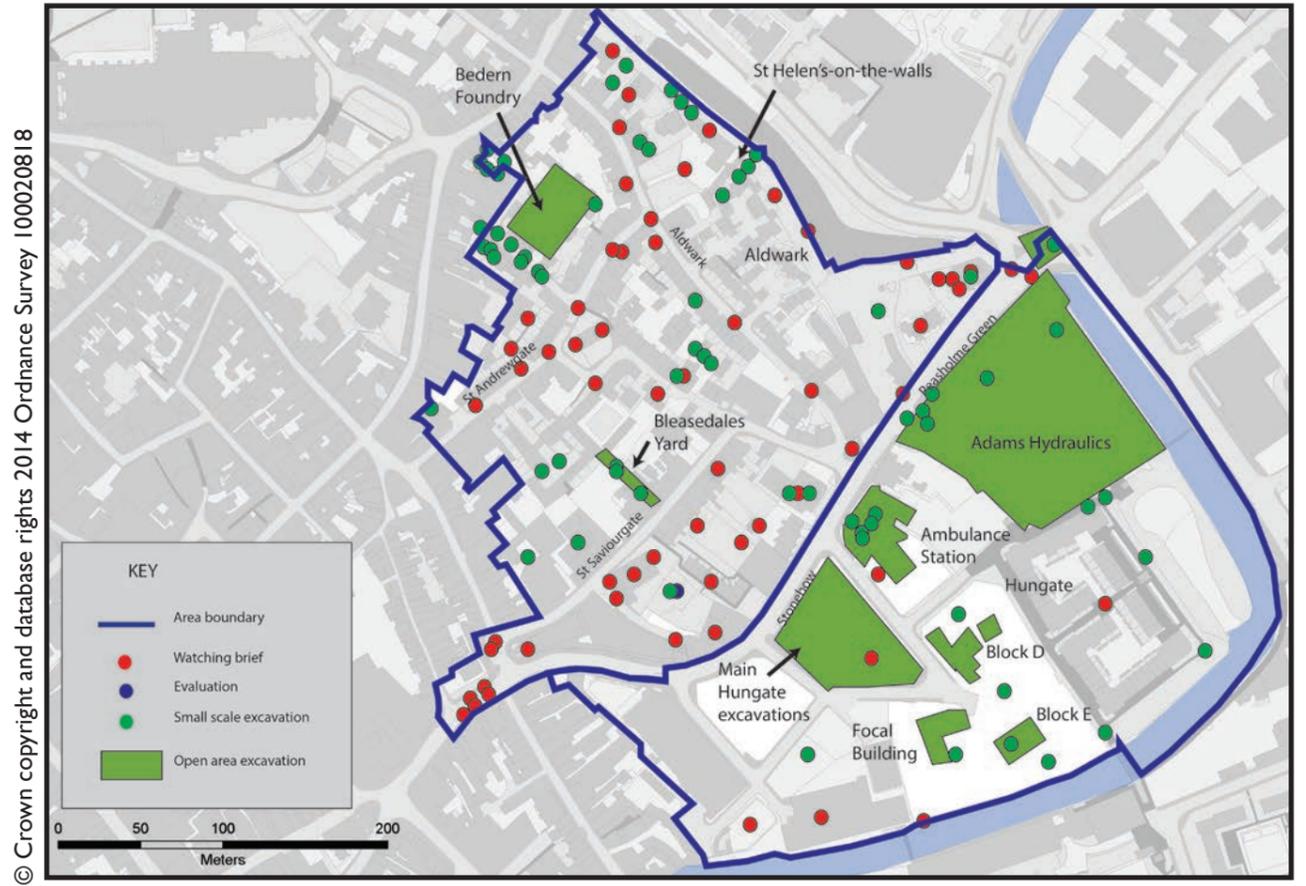
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Above: The 1852 landscape.

Below: The general topography of the area showing higher land in Aldwark area.



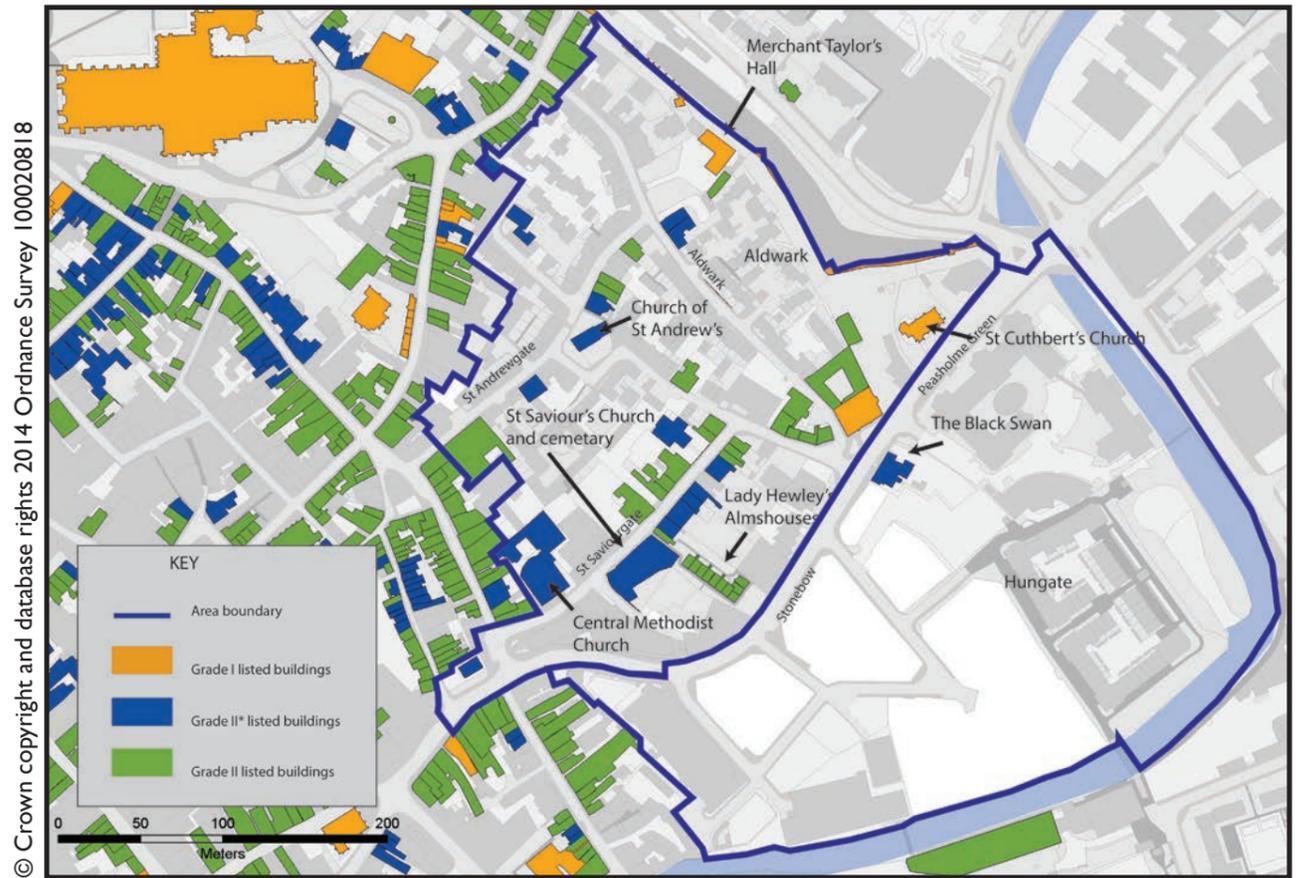
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Above: The location of archaeological interventions recorded on the City of York Historic Environment Record.

Below: Location of listed buildings.



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Main Sources

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Hall, R.A. Et.Al., 2004, Aspects of Anglo-Scandinavian York, Council for British Archaeology

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