EXCAVATIONS BY YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST WITHIN THE WALLED AREA TO THE SOUTH-WEST OF THE RIVER OUSE, YORK

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WEB BASED REPORT

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1 INTRODUCTION
This report gives an overview of the walled area to the south-west of the river Ouse during the Roman and Anglian periods (c. AD 71-875). This area was the site of the Roman civilian settlement in York, which was sufficiently important by the early third century to have been made the capital of the province of Britannia Inferior, and to have attained the rank of colonia (the highest rank of Roman town). Quite what happened to the colonia in the immediate post-Roman period is uncertain, many sites were covered by an accumulation of soil, known as dark-earth, but the presence of a small number of Anglian structures, and of stray finds of artefacts suggests that there was some activity, though this may have been on a limited scale.

The report draws together the results of York Archaeological Trust’s investigations in this area, in particular the major excavations at 5 Rougier Street, the General Accident site at Tanner Row, Queen’s Hotel on Micklegate and Wellington Row. The report was prepared with a grant from The Museum Resilience Fund, and it aims to highlight the importance of these excavations and their potential for further research.

For brevity ‘the walled area south-west of the Ouse’ is referred to as either the study area, or the colonia, as appropriate from here on.

2 METHODOLOGY
The first task was to determine which archaeological investigations in the study area had yielded Roman and Anglian remains. This was done using a combination of the York Archaeological Trust Gazetteer, project code lists and associated archives. The gazetteer entries for the relevant sites are listed in Appendix 1, while summaries of the sites excavated since 2000 are given in Appendix 2. Either a detailed archive report or a grey-literature report is available for all of the sites listed in the appendices. In addition, the stratigraphic sequences of two excavations in Bishophill are fully published (Carver et al., 1978), while remains uncovered at several of the sites in the study area are summarised in Ottaway’s (1993) publication on Roman York. There are also a number of publications relating to the artefacts and ecofacts recovered from these excavations, or summaries of the evidence for various periods (Holdsworth 1978, MacGregor 1978, Hall et al. 1980, Moulden and Tweddle 1986, Hall and Kenward 1990, O’Connor 1984, O’Connor 1988, Perrin 1981, Perrin 1990 and Monaghan 1997, and Tweddle et al. 1999). The text of section 4 is based on a combination of the York Archaeological Trust gazetteer entries and archive reports, together with information from published material.

Thirty-five sites investigated by York Archaeological Trust in the study area have yielded Roman and Anglian remains (Figures 1-2). Fourteen of these comprised the observation of bore-holes, or were archaeological watching briefs. It is difficult to interpret the results from such sites, as the remains are usually observed in limited areas, and often lack clear dating evidence. The remaining 21 sites were excavations or evaluations, but many of these comprised small trenches, again hampering interpretation of the results. For example, at the site of the former Presto’s Supermarket, on George Hudson Street, the Roman deposits were observed in a trench that was only 3.2m x 3.25m in size. The few larger scale excavations in the study area were:
3 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The following summary of the history of York in the Roman and Anglian periods (3.1) and of previously observed archaeological remains (3.2) is given to provide the context for the various excavations by York Archaeological Trust undertaken in the study area.

3.1 The history of York in the Roman and Anglian periods

The Legio IX Hispana built a fortress in York, the generally accepted foundation date being AD 71 (RCHM 1962, xxix). The fortress would originally have comprised a temporary encampment, but this was gradually replaced with timber, then stone buildings (McComish 2012, 39-40). Despite this rebuilding, timber structures were still present within the fortress in the early second century (Ottaway 1996, 291). The area between the fortress and the rivers Ouse and Foss was used for activities relating to military provisioning, including a grain warehouse, and the legionary kilns (McComish 2012, 41-2). Relatively little evidence of civilian activity relating to the period of Legio IX occupation has been recovered; though some timber structures of this date are known north-west of the fortress (Brinklow et al. 1986, 53).

The Legio IX was replaced by the Legio VI c. AD 120, and this legion was based in York for the remainder of the Roman occupation (Ottaway 1993, 11). The sixth legion undertook further construction works within the fortress, and by AD 200 the fortress had been largely rebuilt in stone (Roskams 1999, 60). There is evidence for the development of mid-second century civilian settlements to the south-west of the Ouse (see section 4 below).

From AD 209-11 the emperor Septimius Severus undertook military campaigns in northern Britain and, on his death at York in AD 211, power passed to his son Caracalla (Ottaway 1993, 11). Caracalla split the province of Britain into two, making York the capital of the new province of Lower Britain, Britannia Inferior (ibid., 66). By AD 237 York had been raised to the rank of colonia, which was the highest rank of settlement in the Roman system (ibid., 64). The area between the river Ouse and the fortress was re-planned in the late second or early third century (Ottaway 1999, 140). In addition, there is archaeological evidence for a major building campaign on the south-western bank of the river Ouse at this stage (see section 4 below).

In AD 260 Britain was part of the breakaway empire of the Gallic provinces, which were recaptured in AD 274 by the emperor Aurelian; Britain rebelled again c. AD 286-296, with the British legions again supporting the losing side (Ottaway 1993, 96, 101). The emperor Constantius Chlorus visited York in AD 306, and on his death in the city, his son Constantine I was proclaimed emperor in York (RCHM 1962, xxxiv). The last known reference to York is that a bishop from the city attended the Council of Arles in AD 314 (Rollason 1999, 118). Despite the political upheavals of the late third century, affluent housing of late third or early fourth
A century date was present in the *colonia* (see section 4 below), around the fortress, and to the south-east of the *colonia* (RCHM 1962, 59, 65; Brinklow et al. 1986, 40, 57). Some internal fortress roads were resurfaced in the early fourth century, suggesting that there was a functioning military presence, though it may have been a small one (Ottaway 1996, 181, 295; Monaghan 1997, 847).

The mid-fourth to early fifth centuries marks the decline of Roman Britain. The political situation with constant rebellions, incursions by barbarians and civil wars, weakened the western empire beyond repair, and left Britain increasingly isolated. The number of troops stationed in Britain in this period is unclear (Millett 1990, 215-16). There was clearly still activity within the fortress at York at this time, as evidenced by a late 4th century hypocaust in a centurion’s quarters (Phillips and Heywood 1995, 116).

The traditional date for the end of Roman Britain is AD 410 (Ottaway 1993, 111), but a sub-Roman culture continued in many parts of Britain, though its precise nature is unclear. The monk Gildas, writing in the 6th century, stated that the Britons asked the Roman patrician in charge of Gaul, Agitius, for help against the ‘people of the north’, but the request was refused. The Britons then invited in three ship-loads of Anglo-Saxon mercenaries to aid the defence of Britain. More Anglo-Saxons followed, leading to conflict, which resulted in the Anglo-Saxons taking over much of what had been Roman Britain (Rollason 1999, 117). Gildas stated ‘the cities of our land are not populated even now as they once were; right to the present they are deserted, in ruins and unkempt’ (ibid., 117).

There are no documentary references to York prior to the early 7th century so the precise nature of events in York in the immediate post-Roman period is impossible to determine. There clearly was activity in the vicinity of the former *colonia*, as an Anglian cemetery of 5th to 6th century date is known at the Mount (Tweddle et al. 1999, 167-72). There is a range of interpretations as to the nature of York in the immediate post-Roman period, best summed up by Carver (in Phillips and Heywood 1995, 194-5), who proposed three alternative models for late Roman York: the first being that there was no fifth to eighth century activity beyond pillaging derelict buildings, some cultivation and the stray losses of pottery and artefacts; the second model suggesting no early Anglian activity, but the re-establishment of the area in the 9th-10th centuries; while the third model proposed continuous activity. The archaeological evidence can be used to support all three of these models. Whichever model is correct, it is clear that some Roman buildings in York remained standing for a considerable time; Alcuin wrote of the grant of lofty walls to St Cuthbert in AD 685 and talked of a great west gate in the town, while William of Malmesbury writing in the 12th century noted that York showed traces of its former Roman elegance (ibid., 9, 69).

Bede states that Edwin, the first Christian king of Northumbria, was baptised in York in AD 627, in the ‘church of St Peter the Apostle which he had hastily built of wood’ (Rollason 1999, 119, 122). This implies that no earlier churches survived in the city; had a church been present Edwin would surely have been baptised there, instead of building a church from scratch. The dedication to St Peter would suggest that Edwin’s church was the precursor of the present Minster, and this is also suggested by the presence of Anglian graves under the present Minster church. Rollason (ibid., 122) has suggested on the basis of the description of this event that Edwin’s church was probably in the courtyard of the former *principia* of the fortress.

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Edwin’s successor Oswald (who ruled from AD 634-42), rebuilt Edwin’s church in stone, but Oswald’s church had to be restored by St Wilfrid when he became bishop of York c. 669 (ibid., 122). The fact Oswald’s church was allowed to decay may suggest that York was not a regularly used centre of royal power at this time. Despite this, there may have been a mint at York producing coinage from the late 7th century (ibid., 127).

York clearly became more important during the 8th century. The bishopric was elevated to an archdiocese in AD 735 (ibid., 124), and from then on the church became the dominant force in the life of the city. By the end of the 8th century there were several churches in York including St Peter’s, Holy Wisdom (Alma Sophia), a cell of St Stephen, and a church or chapel to St Mary; there is also a possible reference to All Saints Pavement (ibid., 137). It should be noted, however, that there may have been other churches for which no records survive. There was also an impressive library in York, widely used by the scholar Alcuin, and this may have been housed in a specific building (ibid., 137). York was also a centre of trade at this time, and it is known from documentary sources that there was a colony of Frisian merchants in York in the late 8th century (ibid., 138).

York became a Viking city in 867, and in 927 it became part of a united England (Rees Jones 2013, 10). It is thought that following the creation of the kingdom of England there was only a limited royal presence in the city, with the Minster representing the dominant authority in the settlement (Rees Jones 2013, 25).

3.2 Roman and Anglian remains observed/found from the 18th to mid-20th century

Deposits and structures of Roman date were observed in the study area on numerous occasions from the 18th to the mid-20th centuries. These finds were observed during building works, they were often reported on only briefly, with no clear indication as to the precise date of the remains in question. The finds are summarised here to provide the context for York Archaeological Trust’s excavations in the area.

Portions of walling were seen beneath the present city walls on the north-western side of the colonia, during construction works in 1839, 1874 and 1939 (RCHM 1962, 49). This walling was interpreted as being Roman, but its precise date is unclear.

Various stretches of Roman road surface have been recorded, including north-east to south-west aligned road surfaces beneath Micklegate Bar, close to the junction between Micklegate and Barker Lane, and on Tanner Row, close to the junction with George Hudson Street (ibid., Figure 38). A north-west to south-east aligned road was observed between Tanner Row and the City walls, and a further Roman road surface was seen on North Street, but the alignment of this road was unclear (ibid., 51). A Roman street fountain was also found in Bishophill in 1906 (ibid., 51). The observed portions of roads have been interpreted in a number of ways over the years (ibid., 48-51; Ordnance Survey 1988), with the most recent interpretation being that the main Roman road through the colonia ran on a south-west to north-east alignment, from beneath the present Micklegate Bar directly towards the gate on the south-western side of the fortress (Ottaway 1993, Figure 33).

Roman buildings observed in the area from the 18th to the early 20th centuries are listed in RCHM (1962, 51-58) and these include evidence of early timber buildings, an extensive public baths complex, a building housing altars, a temple of Serapis, houses with mosaic pavements,
colonnaded buildings, buildings with hypocausts, other remains interpreted as houses, and a pit lined by three-foot long oak planks.

A number of burials are known from within the walled area south-west of the Ouse. Four tombstones and a stone coffin have been found in the Micklegate area. One of these, found near Holy Trinity church on Micklegate, was of Duccius, the standard bearer of the ninth legion (RCHM 1962, 92). It is unclear if these tombstones were in their original locations or whether they were brought into the area as building materials in the post-Roman period. In addition to the tombstones, some 2nd to 3rd century pottery described as sepulchral was found in Priory Street in the 19th century, though neither cremated bone nor a skeleton was mentioned in connection with this find (ibid., 92). Four tile tombs and a cremation burial were found in the late 19th century in the area of Baile Hill, Kyme Street and Newton Terrace (ibid., 107). Three of the tile tombs contained tiles produced and stamped by the sixth legion, and a burial inside one of these tombs was associated with a coin of Trajan who was emperor from 98 AD until his death in 117 AD.

Evidence for the Anglian period is sparse in the study area and largely relates to objects rather than structures. Stray finds of Anglian date include coins from near Micklegate Bar found in 1745 and 1827, coins and a coin hoard found during construction of the Old Railway Station in the 1840s, a coin found in Tanner Row in 1924, coins from the Baile Hill area found before 1929, two strap ends and a coin found on Tanner Row in 1961, and a copper alloy pin found on Micklegate before 1963 (Tweddle et al. 1999, 268-9, 275, 284, 286, 288).

Anglian graves were present at the site of the former church of St Gregory on Barker Lane (Moulden and Tweddle 1986, 7). At St Mary Bishophill Junior there are six fragments of Anglian sculptures, including five cross-shafts and a cross-head. This church is aligned either to the Roman street system or to an earlier Roman building on the site (Tweddle et al. 1999, 187), implying that Roman buildings were still present above ground level at the time of its foundation. Excavations to the north of St Mary Bishophill Junior in 1961-3 and 1967 found early 10th century burials, while the construction of the lower part of the church tower was dated to the third quarter of the 11th century (Wenham et al. 1987, 80, 146). Fragments of crossshafts are also known from St Martin-cum-Gregory, which may suggest that this was the St Martin’s church mentioned in the Domesday Book (Wilson and Mee 1998, 102). The city walls were repaired at some stage with stones from Holy Trinity, and it is possible that an Anglian cross-head found in the walls in 1874 may originally have come from this church (Tweddle et al. 1999, 187). At the site of the former church of St Mary Bishophill Senior, fragments of crossshafts were built into the foundations of an 11th century church, but nothing of pre-10th century date was found (Ramm 1976, 45-6). On the basis of this evidence it is possible that there were at least five churches within the study area by the time of the Norman Conquest.

4 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE FOR THE CIVILIAN SETTLEMENT

The following text is based on existing documents within the York Archaeological Trust archives, most of which were prepared immediately after the site in question was excavated, usually by the person or persons who had directed the excavation in question. For ease the
sites are referenced with their York Archaeological Trust site code number (also given in Appendices 1 and 2) or the relevant reference from a grey-literature report.

4.1 The founding of the fortress to c. AD 120

The first phase of Roman activity relates to the founding of the fortress of Ebvracvm in c. AD 71 and to its occupation by the ninth legion until c. AD 120 (Figure 3). Roman activity of this date is concentrated on the area of the fortress, to the north-west of the Ouse. It is highly probable that much of the area surrounding the fortress was deliberately kept clear of buildings to avoid providing any cover for enemy attackers.

The only remains of this date from any of York Archaeological Trust’s excavations in the study area were recovered at Wellington Row (site code 1988-9.24). A road dating to c. AD 71-120 was present, together with an associated drainage ditch. This road was aligned south-west to north-east, and sloped gently downwards towards the river Ouse, and the fortress beyond. The road connected the fortress of Ebvracvm to Calcaria, modern Tadcaster, and once established, this remained the major road in the area throughout the Roman period, with the surface being repeatedly re-metalled (Ottaway 1993, 39-40). The original road surface rested on a brushwood base, was 10m wide, and had a camber on each side to allow drainage. No evidence was found of a continuation of this Roman road in boreholes on the adjacent North Street (site code 1992.1), suggesting that the river channel was wider than at present. Ottaway (ibid., 40) suggested that the river was crossed by a ferry at this stage. The early road surface was sealed by a clean silt deposit suggestive of flooding, after which the Romans raised the level of the road by about 1m, building a new road above a mound of cobbles and hard packed gravel (ibid., 40).

There is only limited evidence for settlement south-west of the Ouse at this time, all of which was found in the 19th century, but this evidence is problematic. Two bronze plaques dedicated by a man called Scribonius Demetrius were found at the site of the Old Railway Station, in 1840; these were written in Greek and dedicated to the gods Ocean and his consort Thetys (ibid., 133). Scribonius Demetrius has been identified as a Roman teacher who met Plutarch at Delphi in AD 83-4 and described to him his visits to the western isles beyond the ocean (ibid., 133). While these objects could have originally been displayed at a shrine (Ottaway 1993, 72), this is by no means certain. If they did indeed originate from a shrine it would represent early activity in the area.

RCHM (1962, 54) states that timber buildings of late first century date were present in the area of the Old Station, to the north of Station Rise, but the precise form of these structures is unclear, the dating evidence is not specified, and the relationship of the structures to nearby Roman burials is also unclear.

Roman law stipulated that the dead had to be buried outside areas inhabited by the living, and as a result Roman burials were typically placed in cemeteries that lined the main roads approaching settlements (ibid., 91). The tombstone of the ninth legion standard bearer Lucius Duccius Rufinius was found at Holy Trinity Priory church on Micklegate, close to the Roman road to Tadcaster (RCHM 1962, 122); this suggests that the area surrounding the south-western end of Micklegate lay outside the settled area at this time.
A bath-house on Fetter Lane, found in 1852, had a floor of Legio IX stamped tiles (ibid., 52). While this could be evidence of an early bath-house, it is equally likely to represent the re-use of earlier tiles in a late Roman building. Such re-use is known from other sites across Britain (McComish 2012, 65, 87, 364). For example, the fourth century legionary baths building in York contained both ninth and sixth legion tiles (RCHM 1962, 43); the re-used Legio IX tiles would have been 200 years old when re-used in these baths. Given that the area south-west of the river Ouse did not develop, structurally at least, until the later second or early third century, it is perhaps more likely that the Fetter Lane bath house is of later Roman date.

Given the problematic nature of the evidence recorded in the 19th century, it is possible, therefore that there was no settlement south-west of the Ouse during the period of ninth legion occupation, but that the area was used for burial.

4.2 c. AD 120 to the third quarter of the 2nd century

This period covers the replacement of the ninth legion by the sixth legion, and their occupation of York up to, but not including, the time of the Severan dynasty, who ruled from AD 193-235 (Figure 4). Remains of this period have been found on seven York Archaeological Trust excavations, all of which lie within 175m of the modern river channel, i.e. the area closest to the fortress.

There is evidence of the upgrading of the road system in the area. At Wellington Row (site code 1988-9.24) a new drainage ditch was dug in the mid-2nd century, which contained a timber structure that may have controlled the flow of water. The main Tadcaster road was upgraded c. AD 120 or later, being resurfaced with crushed magnesian limestone. This surface had a camber on the north-western side, while on the south-eastern side there was a lead water pipe capped by large limestone blocks (Ottaway 1993, 72; Plate 1). Water-supplies of this type were usually sited down the centre of roads, suggesting that the entire south-eastern carriageway of the road lay beyond the limit of excavation (ibid., 72).

The settlement also saw the establishment of a new riverside road, seen at the Bishophill I excavations, where there was evidence of ‘slash and burn’ land clearance, after which a riverside road was inserted; this was dated by pottery to c. AD 130-180 (Carver et al. 1978, 11-13). Once established this road remained in use throughout the Roman period. A street running parallel to the River Ouse was also identified at Wellington Row (site code 1988-9.24).

At the Pumping Station site on, North Street (site code 1993.1) the earliest features dated to the 2nd century, and included the remains of a deeply piled foundation trench and three associated sandstone blocks. These remains were badly damaged by later robbing, but the foundation trench may have been for a riverside retaining wall. Three sandstone blocks parallel to the wall may have been associated with this wall, but they could also have been part of a replacement waterfront structure. Two larger blocks found nearby may have been part of a riverside building.
The Wellington Row site (site code 1988-9.24) saw the construction of a major stone building (Plate 2), sometime after AD 150-60 (Monaghan 1997, 1110). To accommodate this building the riverside road was moved slightly closer to the river. This large rectangular stone building utilised the riverside street and the edge of the main road as the foundation for its walls on two sides, but elsewhere it had substantial foundation trenches with deep timber piles. Four central roof supports were located down the spine of the building.
The earliest surface inside the building was cobbled, and showed no internal division, indicating the building’s primary function was to provide a large covered space. This suggests that the building may have been used as a store place, or warehouse. An oven was constructed on the western wall of the building. Charcoal-rich ashy deposits were found within the building which presumably relate to the use of the oven. A cobbled surface at the north-west end of the building may have been a courtyard. A trench slightly to the north-west of the main building showed that this area was open ground used for the digging of rubbish pits.

The excavations at the Queen’s Hotel site on Micklegate (site code 1988-9.17) uncovered an early second century ditch close to Fetter Lane, which was cut into the underlying natural clay. This was backfilled with organic material that contained quantities of leatherwork and legionary style pottery. There were also earth floor deposits of 2nd century date at the site.

Evidence of settlement of this date was recovered from the General Accident Tanner Row site (site code 1983-4.32). The earliest feature was a drainage cut, dating to c. AD 125-150. Beside this was a turf and loam platform on which two timber buildings were erected (Plate 3). These buildings incorporated re-used timbers that probably originated from the fortress, which was being heavily rebuilt at the time (Ottaway 1999, 142). One substantial timber building had front and rear walls of squared posts set in pits, to which horizontal planks were nailed, while the cross-walls were based on socketed sleeper-beams. Rectangular bases of millstone grit were present beside the walls and these may have supported a floor.

Plate 3 The Roman timber buildings at the General Accident Tanner Row site, York

Outside this building were a plank-lined drain and a cobbled surface, both of which were directly above naturally occurring clay. These features were sealed by organic silts, before being replaced by a cambered cobbled surface, which could represent a yard or road. This surface was in turn sealed by a deep build-up of organic material, including horse manure. The buildings were reconstructed in the late 2nd century, with one having a ‘cavity wall’ of planks nailed to either side of upright posts (Ottaway 1993, 80).
There was abundant evidence of craft activity associated with these timber buildings, in the form of iron-smithing, copper-working, leatherworking and the repair or recycling of weapons (ibid., 80). One of the leather finds was a complete panel of a military leather tent (ibid., 80). There were also large quantities of cattle bones, presumably to produce both meat and leather, with evidence of two breeds of cattle being present (ibid., 82). The Tanner Row site also provided evidence of the importation of foodstuffs in the form of crabs and herring from the Yorkshire coast, and figs, grapes, olives, wine and pottery from other provinces of the empire (ibid., 84-5).

At 5 Rougier Street (site code 1981.12) the earliest feature was a ditch filled with waterlain silts dating to the 2nd century. A structure incorporating a gritstone wall of mid-2nd century date was present. This was interpreted in the original archive as a granary, largely because a deposit of burnt grain infilled the upper portions of the nearby ditch. Monaghan (1997, 1107), however, argues that this may have been a public building.

At the Bishophill II site there was evidence of 2nd century occupation in the form of a sequence of rectilinear ditch systems and scattered post-holes; this was suggestive of sporadic settlement on the hillside (Carver et al. 1978, 37). A cobbled surface of 2nd century date was also present at the nearby Friends’ Burial Ground (site code 1973.6).

Excavations at St Mary Bishophill Senior in 1964 uncovered evidence of 2nd century metalworking, which was the first activity at the site (Ramm 1976, 36).

A number of burials were found in the study area in the 19th century. The first group were located close to the rampart in the area of the Old Station (RCHM 1962, 80). These were poorly recorded at the time of discovery, but included seven inhumations, one of which was coated with gypsum, two were in lead coffins, one was in a tomb of edge-set tiles, one was in a brick tomb, one was in a stone coffin, one was buried with a coin dating to the reign of Hadrian (AD 117-138) and two were cremation burials in urns. Burials were also uncovered during the levelling of the city-wall rampart for the construction of a railway arch in 1839, these included a burial of a man and horse together (ibid., 80). Further grave goods were found when the southern railway arch was constructed in 1845-6 (ibid., 80). Four tile tombs and a cremation burial were found in the late 19th century in the area of Baile Hill, Kyme Street and Newton Terrace (ibid., 107). Three of these tile tombs contained stamped sixth legion tiles, and the burial inside one of these tombs was associated with a coin of Trajan who reigned from AD 98-117. The presence of burials of this date does, however, clearly show that the settlement did not extend across the entire walled area south-west of the Ouse at this stage.

No large-scale modern archaeological investigations have taken place in the area to either side of the south-western half of Micklegate. It is impossible, therefore, to determine whether this early settlement was largely confined to the riverside, or was in the form of two ribbon-developments, one along the river and one to either side of the main road to Tadcaster. The evidence from Tanner Row clearly shows craft activity was taking place, but the military nature of the goods produced at this site (leather tents and weaponry), have led Whyman (2001, 195) to conclude that this settlement was under direct military control, with production being geared to the needs of the military. The grain at 5 Rougier Street and various imported foods at Tanner Row could also represent military provisioning rather than trade.
4.3 The late 2\textsuperscript{nd} to mid-3\textsuperscript{rd} centuries

There is archaeological evidence for a major building campaign on the south-western bank of the river Ouse in the late 2\textsuperscript{nd} to mid-3\textsuperscript{rd} centuries (Figure 5), which Whyman (2001, 199-202) links to the granting of \textit{colonia} status. York was a \textit{colonia} by AD 237, but the precise date at which this status was obtained is unclear. It has been suggested that either Septimius Severus granted this during his stay at York in AD 211 (Carver 1978, 38), or that his son Caracalla granted this when making York the capital of the new province of \textit{Britannia Inferior} (Ottaway 1993, 65).

It is thought probable that the \textit{colonia} was walled, with the medieval city walls following the line of earlier Roman walling beneath, though conclusive evidence of this has only been seen on the north-western side of the \textit{colonia} (Ottaway 1999, 145). Monaghan (1997, 1127) has suggested, on the basis of pottery evidence, that there was a 3\textsuperscript{rd} century defensive circuit beneath the present city wall.

A timber seen at 23-8 Skeldergate may represent part of a waterfront structure, and this was associated with early 3\textsuperscript{rd} century pottery (ibid., 1127).

The existing roads were well-maintained during this period, and new roads were constructed. Evidence of repeated resurfacing of the existing riverside road was seen at Bishophill I (Carver et al. 1978, 11-13). A new metalled road of late 2\textsuperscript{nd} century date was seen at 5 Rougier Street (site code 1981.12); this was remetalled several times throughout this period. A street of late 2\textsuperscript{nd} century date was also seen in excavations undertaken in 1961-2 at Bishophill Junior (Monaghan 1997, 1126). The riverside road at Wellington Road was moved slightly in the late 2\textsuperscript{nd} century to accommodate new buildings.

Evidence of a major episode of terracing was seen at several York Archaeological Trust excavations; this activity aimed to increase the area of useful building land overlooking the river. At Bishophill II (site code 1973.15) a massive artificial terrace was constructed at the end of the 2\textsuperscript{nd} century or the start of the 3\textsuperscript{rd} century. At the site of the Former Presto’s Supermarket, George Hudson Street, there was dumping to raise the ground level dating from the 2\textsuperscript{nd} century (McComish 2001, 14). A series of undated dumps and build-up deposits above natural clay at the nearby sites of 19-29 Bishophill Senior (site code 1987.9), 64-74 Skeldergate (site code 671) and 20 Fetter Lane (Evans 2008, 20) may also represent part of this terracing operation. A limestone revetment and clay terrace were also seen at the nearby Friends’ Burial Ground (site code 1973.6; Monaghan 1997, 1125). This terrace, together with a retaining wall was noted in excavations at St Mary Bishophill Senior in 1964, where the works were dated to c. AD 200 (Ramm 1976, 36). While the retaining wall was not seen at the Bishophill II site, it would have been outside the limit of excavation (Carver et al. 1978, 37-8). Such a large civil engineering project suggests deliberate town planning, rather than private enterprise, and it may relate to the creation of the \textit{colonia} (ibid., 38).

Major buildings were constructed within the \textit{colonia}, some of which may have been public buildings. Structures of this date have been found on several York Archaeological Trust excavations. Taking these in turn:

At General Accident, Tanner Row (site code 1983-84.32) the earlier timber buildings at the site were replaced in the mid-3\textsuperscript{rd} century by a stone building (Monaghan 1997, 1106), which was
set at right angles to the nearby Roman Street. The building was founded on clay and cobbles footings above deep timber piles, and it was substantial enough to have served as a public building. A second parallel building contained a length of plaster wall.

The Queen’s Hotel site on Micklegate saw the construction of a substantial building in the later 2nd century (ibid., 1099), but the form of this building is unclear as it was demolished in the mid-late 3rd century.

The major stone building at Wellington Row (site code 1988-9.24) was altered with the insertion of a mortar floor, after which timber floors and partitions were built in the south-eastern portion of the building (Plate 4). In addition, there was some dumping within the building (ibid., 1109). The building was seriously damaged by fire, c. AD 220. Following the fire the building was lengthened, a thick layer of rubble was used to level up the floor, and four stone blocks were present which Ottaway (1997, 76) interpreted as seats.

Plate 4 Evidence of timber flooring within the major stone building at Wellington Row, York.

It should be noted that Whyman (2001) has radically re-interpreted this building, being sceptical that an oven was present in the buildings first incarnation. He interpreted the major rebuilding as having an extension on the north-western side only, together with an internal hypocaust. The evidence for a hypocaust is compelling, comprising the low stone pillars, interpreted as the basal supports for pilae, together with the robbed out remains of further pilae and two successive flues. Whyman argues that the burnt clay in the earliest incarnation of the building, seen by Ottaway as an oven, was in fact scorching due to a fire in this hypocaust flue.

At the site of the Former Presto’s Supermarket on George Hudson Street, a stone building was constructed comprising a large wall and an associated minor internal wall footing. The building was adapted in the 2nd to 3rd century, possibly following fire-damage, with new beams and floors being inserted. An isolated post-hole may comprise the last phase of alterations to this structure (McComish 2001, 17).
A Roman wall was observed in sewer repairs at Tanner Row, Toft Green (Evans 2011, 3). This wall ran parallel to, and approximately 5m south of a building, with an apsed room and mosaic, which was seen in the 1770s and 1840s (RCHM 1962, 54-5). When uncovered in the 1770s a dedication stone was found, that identified the building as a temple of Serapis; this stone was interpreted as being of late 2nd to early 3rd century date (ibid., 54, 119). It was impossible to be sure if the wall seen in the sewer repair and this building were connected, but potentially it could have formed the south-west wall of an associated room or range of rooms (Evans 2011, 6).

A range of buildings were present above the artificial terrace at Bishophill II. The builders used heavy wooden piles driven into the underlying clay to prevent movement of the foundations (Carver et al. 1978, 38-9). Though heavily robbed, the structure clearly comprised an apsed building with a hypocaust, and two other ranges of buildings. The apsed building was interpreted as the caldarium of a bath-house, which probably represents part of an elaborate town house, but it could easily have been a public bath (ibid., 38). An oven was also found which may have been for the hypocaust, or for some other industrial purpose such as corn drying. These buildings underwent several phases of internal development (ibid., 39). Large quantities of 3rd and 4th century pottery show that the buildings on the site continued in use until the end of the Roman period (ibid., 39).

At Bishophill I there was a timber lined well of late 2nd century date, the construction of which was of an exceptionally high standard which would have involved considerable expense and labour (ibid., 15, 28). This well continued in use throughout the 3rd century (ibid., 15). Traces of a 3rd century stone building, directly above terracing were also present at the nearby Friends’ Burial Ground (site code 1973.6; Monaghan 1997, 1125).

A building was present at the junction of St Martin’s Lane and Trinity Lane. This was first seen in 1947, when a fragment of a wall set with box tiles and a concrete floor were uncovered. The floor post-dated earlier layers dating to the second half of the second century (RCHM 1962, 52). This building has subsequently been seen in two watching briefs at 12 St Martin’s Lane (site codes 1993.18 and 1994.1083), where opus signinum floors, limestone walls and post-pads were observed.

The sites excavated by York Archaeological Trust add to a picture of widespread construction in the late 2nd to mid-3rd centuries, which have led Ottaway (1993, 73) to describe the settlement as a ‘boom town’. A site at 27 Tanner Row, excavated in 1973, contained evidence of a building dating to the 2nd century, this was remodelled in the late 2nd to early 3rd centuries (Monaghan 1997, 1102). At Bishophill Junior two buildings were seen in excavations undertaken in 1961-2; these buildings dated to the early 3rd century (Monaghan 1997, 1126). At St Mary Bishophill Senior (excavated in 1964) there was a group of buildings including four rooms, three of which were heated, together with furnaces (Ramm 1976, 36). Although dated in the original report as c. AD 350, Monaghan (1997, 1126) has since reassessed the pottery and places this structure in the 3rd century.

Other public buildings are known from earlier discoveries within the colonia, but many of these structures lack precise dating. Given that the modern excavations suggest that this period represents the most intensive phase of building within the colonia, it is most likely that the earlier discoveries also relate to this period of York’s history. These remains included a
major baths complex, uncovered in the 1840s, which was associated with an inscription dedicated by the wife of a sixth legion commander (RCHM 1962, 54-7, 116). A statue of Arimanius, the Mithraic god of evil, indicates that there was a Mithraeum in the extreme northern end of the public baths site (ibid., 57, 120). A building containing altars was found on Micklegate in 1752, one of which was dedicated by a [river] pilot of the sixth legion (ibid., 52, 116). An altar to the Emperor and the genius (presiding deity) of York was found on George Hudson Street, and this may have been associated with a heavy gritstone façade seen nearby (ibid., 52-7, 116).

The increasing population levels within the settlement were also reflected in the growth of cemeteries surrounding the *colonia*, and these contain tombstones indicative of a cosmopolitan population (Monaghan 1997, 842).

4.4 The mid-3rd century to the mid-4th century

Despite this being a period of political upheaval, there is evidence of continued occupation within the *colonia* (Figure 6). There is little evidence for manufacturing in the area at this stage, suggesting that the town was surviving as an administrative centre (Ottaway 1999, 147).

Monaghan (1997, 1127) has suggested that the Roman defences were remodelled in the 4th century. The road system seems to have been maintained into the 4th century. The road at 5 Rougier Street (site code 1981.12) was remetalled in the 4th century, as was the riverside road at Bishophill I, though the last surface was of poorer quality than earlier surfaces (Carver et al. 1978, 11-13).

A robber trench seen at Bishophill I may represent the remains of a riverside structure built sometime in the 3rd century; this would have blocked access to the river at this point, which may indicate that the character of the area was changing, either to provide defence, or to limit the number of access points on the waterfront (ibid., 11).

Occupation deposits in the major stone building at Tanner Row (site code 1983-4.32) were associated with pottery dating to AD 280-360 (Monaghan 1997, 1106), showing that the building remained in use throughout this period. The pottery evidence suggests that activity at the major public baths on the site of the Old Station peaked in the 3rd century (ibid., 1124).

The major stone building at Wellington Row (site code 1988-9.24) underwent numerous complicated alterations during the mid-3rd to the mid-4th centuries. Floors and dumps accumulated within the building, before light structures were constructed within it. These structures later went out of use, being replaced by further floors and pits, one of which included a sheep skeleton (ibid., 1114). There seems to have been some ritual activity within the building at this stage, in the form of deliberately buried complete pottery jars (ibid., 114). Evidence was also found for a complex series of timber structures, associated with pottery dating to AD 225-280, in the area to the north-west of the main building at Wellington Row (ibid., 108).

At the Queen’s Hotel site (1988-9.17) a major earlier stone building was demolished and the area was then levelled-up using dumped layers of clay and rubble. A second major building was then constructed at the site, which was dated by pottery to AD 225-80 (Monaghan 1997, 1100). The walls of this building survived to a height of 3.5m above their foundations, were up to 2.2m thick and incorporated three tile-lined arched openings (Plate 5). A drain crossed
the building immediately below the level of the arched openings. Evidence for a succession of opus signinum floor deposits survived above the level of the drain, and these dated to AD 280 or later (ibid., 1102). The function of the building is uncertain, but it may represent the basement of a bath complex. The construction of a major public building at this date is rare in Britain as a whole (Ottaway 1997, 102).

At least one new high status house was constructed at Toft Green in the colonia. This house was seen during building works in 1853, and it had two phases of construction. The first phase comprised a concrete floor associated with a posthumous coin of Claudius II (AD 268-270). The second phase comprised a building containing three mosaics of fourth century date (RCHM 1962, 57-8; Ling 1991, 153). The other affluent houses in the colonia remained in use. The building at 27 Tanner Row underwent a third phase of alterations, with an opus signinum floor being laid. Although the floor itself could not be closely dated, it was sealed by deposits dating from c. AD 360-410 (Monaghan 1997, 1102). At Bishophill II large quantities of pottery show that the elaborate buildings on the site continued in use well into the 4th century (Carver et al. 1978, 39; Monaghan 1997, 1126). At St Mary Bishophill Junior a 3rd century house was extended at this time (Monaghan 1997, 1126).

There were, however, some signs of decay within the colonia. The building at 27 Tanner Row went out of use in the early 4th century (ibid., 1102). In addition, the possible timber waterfront at 23-8 Skeldergate (site code 1989.1) decayed and was sealed by silts containing 3rd century pottery (ibid., 1127).

4.5 The late 4th to early 5th centuries
From the mid-late 4th century onwards there was a change in the character of the civilian settlements around York (Figure 7). While some buildings remained in use, others fell into dereliction and decay (Ottaway 1999, 147). The road system fell into disrepair and in some
parts of the colonia earth accumulated above the Roman buildings structures, indicating abandonment.

Evidence of continued structural activity or use was seen at four sites. At Queen’s Hotel (site code 1988-89.17) the major stone building was adapted structurally c. 360 or later, with the blocking of the tile lined arches and alterations to the walling (Monaghan 1997, 1102). A pit dating to AD 350-410 and a late Roman culvert were seen at Bishophill Junior in excavations undertaken in 1961-2 ibid., 1126). At Bishophill II there was an alignment of posts and a floor within one of the Roman buildings, and a number of pits containing late Roman pottery were also seen (Carver et al. 1978, 39-40). At Wellington Row (site code 1988-9.24) there was a timber lined channel, which may have represented a replacement of the earlier water-supply to the area. If so, this suggests that the water supply of Roman York may have continued into the early fifth century (Ottaway 1993, 115). At St Mary Bishophill Senior (excavated in 1964) earlier furnaces were dismantled and small rooms were built above them which were tentatively dated as 5th century (Ramm 1976, 36).

Other buildings had clearly fallen into dereliction, or were replaced by smaller timber structures. At Bishophill I the late 2nd century timber lined well was infilled with rubbish (Carver et al. 1978, 15). There was a robber trench at Bishophill II containing late Roman pottery (ibid., 39-40). The stone building at Tanner Row seems to have fallen out of use in the late 4th century (site code 1983-4.32; Monaghan 1997, 1106), while the 3rd century stone building at the Friends’ Burial Ground was replaced by timber structures of late 4th to 5th century date (site code 1973.6; Monaghan 1997, 1125). The major building at Wellington Row became derelict and roofless, and it was used for the dumping of rubbish (site code 1988-9.24; Monaghan 1997, 1117). This rubbish included several hundred small bronze coins of mid-4th century date. While these coins could represent stray losses, it is also possible they formed part of an earlier hoard that was disturbed during this period (Ottaway 1993, 112). Although there is abundant fourth century pottery within the Wellington Row dumps, it is unclear if this represents a substantial surviving population within the colonia, or the breakdown of civic organisation leading to rubbish disposal within derelict buildings (Ottaway 1999, 147).

The road system decayed, with the riverside road at Bishophill I going out of use (Carver et al. 1978, 12), while a timber building was constructed above part of the main Tadcaster road at Wellington Row (Ottaway 1993, 115). Dark-earth accumulated in parts of the colonia, being seen at the Ideal Laundry site (site code 1991.5), at 5 Rougier Street (site code 1981.12) and above the major public baths where it accumulated from AD 360-410 onwards (Monaghan 1997, 1124-5).

4.6 Roman features that could not be closely dated

Undated deposits and features that were interpreted as being of Roman date have been seen in numerous watching briefs and bore-hole surveys in the study area. These remains are often difficult to interpret, as they were observed in very limited areas.

Road surfaces interpreted as being from the main Roman road to Tadcaster were seen in a Sewer Repair Trench on Micklegate (site code 1992.1002). Other road surfaces interpreted as being of Roman date were seen at 6 Tanner Row, Bishophill Junior/Priory Street/Prospect Terrace (site codes 1994.516 and 1993.1048 respectively).
Traces of the possible Roman waterfront are known at four sites. At 26-34 Skeldergate (site code 1999.1) a blockage in a bore-hole at a considerable depth was thought to represent the line of a Roman wharf. A substantial timber pile, possibly up to 3.6m long, was found in a borehole at a depth of approximately 5m below the present ground level at the Bonding Warehouse, Skeldergate (Evans 2008b, 3); the depth of this find being suggestive of a Roman date. Timbers driven in to the upper surface of natural sands at 14 Skeldergate (site code 1991.14) were sealed by layers of laminated clays and cobbles which possibly represented Roman riverside surfaces.

Structural remains relating to Roman buildings are known from several watching briefs. At Bishophill Senior Car Park (site code 1990.16) the remains of two walls at right angles were present, but these had been so heavily robbed in the post-Roman period that the original date of construction was unclear (McComish 1990, 6). A mortar floor of possible Roman date was seen at 47-55 Tanner Row (site code 1993.3) and a north-west to south-east aligned, tile lined drain was present at the Sewer Discharge Chamber in North Street (site code 1993.10). At 20 Fetter Lane obstructions encountered at depth within pile holes may also be parts of Roman stone structures (Evans 2008a, 9). At 18A-19 Fetter Lane, although no Roman levels were uncovered the presence of large quantities of opus signinum suggested that Roman structures were present at a greater depth (Evans 1997, 25).

A sequence of deposits including evidence of structural activity was recorded in boreholes on North Street (site code 1992.1), and this was interpreted as probably Roman on the basis of the depth at which the deposits occurred. Deposits thought to be of Roman date were also seen in a contractor's trench at Tanner Row (site code 1992.17).

4.6 The Anglian period
Sites with activity of this date are shown on Figure 8. In many parts of the former colonia there is no evidence of Anglian activity, with the Roman levels being sealed by a build-up of soil, usually referred to as ‘dark-earth’, before being reoccupied in the Anglo-Scandinavian period. This was the case at Tanner Row (site code 1983-84.32), Leedhams Garage Wellington Row (site code 1987.24), Wellington Row (site code 1988-9.24; Ottaway 1993, 113), 14 Skeldergate (site code 1991.14), the North Street Boreholes (site code 1992.1) and 64-74 Skeldergate (site code 671). While at 23-28 Skeldergate (site code 1989.1) there was an accumulation of material laid down in waterlogged conditions, separated by episodes of flooding. Similar deposits were present at the site of the Pumping Station on North Street (site code 1993.1), suggesting that the riverside area was marginal land during the Anglian period.

In the case of Wellington Row (1988-9.24) the central portion of the site seemed to show evidence of agriculture, in the form of dark-earth that had been reworked, and this process was dated to the Anglian period on the basis of the artefactual evidence (Tweddle et al. 1999, 266). Various finds of this date from the Wellington Row site included 9th century strap ends, a pennannular brooch, bone or antler combs, and coins relating to Eadbert (c. 737-58), Aethelred I (c. 774-9) and Aethelred II (c. 840-8), these are described in Tweddle (et al. 1999, 266).

At Bishophill II, although no Anglian structures were present there were three sherds of Anglian pottery (Holdsworth 1978, 3), while at the Friend's Burial Ground a stray find of an Anglian copper alloy pin was recovered (site code 1973.6; Tweddle et al. 199, 252).
Some new timber buildings of Anglian date are known from within the area of the former *colonia*. At Bishophill I the earlier Roman well was sealed by deposits associated with the construction of an Anglian timber building (Carver et al. 1978, 50). The major building at the Queen’s Hotel site (site code 1988-9.17) was partially demolished and levelled up with its own rubble. This rubble served as a platform for post-Roman activity, including a timber building that was at least 10m long, which was associated with pits containing Anglian pottery; there were also four burials two of which were accompanied by knives (Tweddle et al 1999, 193, 267).

It should be noted that this Anglian building followed the alignment of the earlier Roman buildings on the site, suggesting that the original Roman road to Tadcaster, and possibly also the Roman bridge over the Ouse, survived until the end of the Anglian period (Tweddle et al. 1999, 157). In contrast, the later Anglo-Scandinavian buildings at the Queen’s Hotel site fronted onto the present street. This clearly shows that a distinct change in the road layout occurred at the start of the Anglo-Scandinavian period, with the eastern end of the main Tadcaster road deflecting to the south, towards the present Ouse Bridge (Tweddle et al. 1999, 156).

4.7  The eventual disappearance of the Roman buildings

The Roman buildings in the area were either sealed by dark-earth (as described above) or were robbed out in the post-Roman period. The date at which the robbing occurred varied, ranging from the Anglo-Scandinavian period and the 10th-13th centuries at Bishophill II (Carver et al., 1978, 40), to the 10th-11th centuries at 5 Rougier Street (site code 1981.12), Tanner Row (site code 1983-4.32) and the site of the Former Presto’s Supermarket on George Street (McComish 2001, 18). Roman stonework was still available in the mid-11th century for the construction of the tower at Mary Bishophill Junior church (Tweddle et al. 1999, 157). Some Roman walls survived slightly longer, with a Roman wall being visible at the site of St Mary Bishophill Senior in the 12th century (Tweddle et al. 1999, 157).

5  CONCLUDING REMARKS

Archaeological discoveries mirror the pattern of redevelopment in a town, and as Figure 2 shows, most of the discoveries in the 18th and 19th centuries were made in the northernmost portion of the former *colonia*. The site of the Old Railway Station, just inside the city walls on the north-western side of the former *colonia*, is of particular importance for the sheer scale of the discoveries made. By contrast, the various York Archaeological Trust excavations, which largely took place in the 1970s to 1990s, were concentrated on the area closest to the river, neatly complementing the observations of the 18th-19th century. These excavations have therefore contributed greatly to the understanding of the development of the settlement south-west of the Ouse, filling in the overall picture greatly.

For the period from AD 120 to the third quarter of the 2nd century, the excavations at Tanner Row (site code 1983-4.32) are of particular importance, due to the outstanding preservation of organic materials at the site. Not only were well preserved timber buildings of this date present, but a wealth of information relating to diet and leatherworking was also preserved.

Evidence for activity of late 2nd to mid-3rd centuries has been found on numerous excavations, which have confirmed the presence of a major terracing operation and large-scale building
campaign of this date. In addition, evidence for the construction of fine town-houses has also been uncovered. Arguably the most important site for remains of this date is Wellington Row (site code 1988-9.24), where the sheer size of the area excavated enabled the ground-plan of an entire large-scale Roman building of this date to be uncovered.

The various excavations have shown continued use of existing buildings into the mid-3rd to the mid-4th century, with the sites at Wellington Row and Tanner Row yielding a full sequence of deposits relating to this period. It is the Queen’s Hotel site, however, that is of most interest for this period, being a rare example nationally of a mid-late 3rd century public building.

The late Roman period and the Anglian periods are little understood, as very few remains of this date have been excavated across York. The excavations at Wellington Row and Queen’s Hotel, however, both offer great potential for further research into this period of York’s history.

There is clearly a great deal of information available within the YAT archives and grey-literature reports, but these are not full publications. There is clearly a strong case for an overarching publication, detailing the stratigraphic sequences from the various unpublished sites (in particular the major excavations at 5 Rougier Street, Tanner Row, Queen’s Hotel and Wellington Row), and summarising the overall development of the settlement south-west of the Ouse. Such a publication could highlight the early Roman wooden buildings at Tanner Row, together with information on the carpentry techniques used in their construction; the survival of Roman wooden buildings is exceptionally rare nationally, and these structures should be fully published. A synthetic publication could also show the development of the late 2nd century ‘boom town’, including the evidence of extensive terracing, and the number of large-scale buildings constructed at that time. Producing plans of these structures would greatly enhance knowledge of where these buildings were located and how they were built. The mid-late 3rd century building at Queen’s Hotel should also be published in full as it was clearly of some importance. Both the Queen’s Hotel and Wellington Row sites offer great potential for research into the immediate post-Roman period. Whyman (2001) has looked in detail at the deposits of this date from Wellington Row and the results of his research deserve to be more widely known.

For such a publication to happen, the stratigraphic sequences of the various sites would have to be re-examined and checked. Such detailed checking would be a large and complicated task, and as such it was beyond the scope of the present report. It is highly likely that new authors would interpret the stratigraphic sequences from these sites differently to the interpretations given in the original archive reports. For example, both M. Whyman (2001) and J. M. McComish (2012, 264) examined aspects of the Stakis site on Wellington Row, long after the original archive report was prepared; both researchers independently suggested that a hypocaust had been present at the site, but this is not an interpretation given in the original archive report. Future research may therefore invalidate some of the interpretations given here.

5.1 The case for further excavation

Although the excavations described above have undoubtedly helped to interpret the development of the settlement south-west of the river Ouse, it is staggering how little of the walled area has actually been excavated down to Roman levels. There is clearly a need for
further targeted-excavation work in this area to answer an important number of research questions, though it has to be said that there is little land available for such excavations, particularly in the south-westernmost half of the *colonia* which is largely covered by 19th century terraced housing, or along the riverfront, which was largely redeveloped in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

There is still much to learn of the settlement south-west of the Ouse. Firstly there is the question of how the settlement in this area expanded over time. The presence of burials inside the walls on the north-western and southern sides clearly indicates that the entire area cannot have been used for settlement until the mid-2nd century at the very earliest. The southernmost portion of the walled area offers very little opportunity for further investigation of this question, as there is little space available for excavation. A targeted-excavation beneath the city wall rampart on the north-western side, however, may uncover further burials, hopefully confirming their date. Excavation in this area would also offer the potential to locate Roman timber buildings and further portions of the Roman public baths, both of which were seen in the area in the 1840s. If such structures could be found both the date of the buildings and their relationship to the burials, could hopefully be clarified. Any such excavation would have to be carefully sited to avoid both Victorian and World War II trenches in the area.

Secondly, there is the question of whether or not the *colonia* was walled, and if so at what date such defences were constructed. Ideally a series of trenches should be excavated through the city wall ramparts, on all sides of the settlement, to answer this question. Excavation work of this type would, of course, necessitate engineering work to support the existing city wall while any such excavation was on-going. There would also be a need for careful reinstatement once the excavation was completed. In addition, the necessary scheduled monument consent would be required. Because of the logistics involved, targeted research-excavation work on the city wall and rampart is unlikely to happen. Further careful observation of any future engineering works on the wall, and in particular the rampart, may however provide some answers to the question of *colonia* defences.

It is clear that very little is known about the Roman waterfront, either in terms of the structures present or the date at which they were built. Given that the river would have been wider than at present, a small deep trench to the south-west of Terry Avenue might offer some potential for a research excavation, but again this would have to avoid any known Victorian or modern intrusions in the area.

Another potential research topic is to determine the Roman road layout within the *colonia*, which is currently unknown. The careful observation of any service-trenches or road repairs may offer the best opportunity to determine when the various streets originated.

There is also the question of when churches in the area developed. As noted above (page 8) there were potentially five churches in the area of the former *colonia* during the Anglian period, but conclusive evidence of Anglian activity has only been found at the site of the former church of St Gregory. The site of St Mary Bishophill Senior has already been fully excavated. It would be really interesting, however, to excavate adjacent to the walls of, or inside, the three surviving churches of St Mary Bishophill Junior, Holy Trinity, Micklegate, or St Martin-cum-Gregory, Micklegate, to determine if any of these churches can be traced back as far as the Anglian period. This is especially the case for St Mary Bishophill Junior which aligns...
to the Roman street pattern, perhaps suggesting an early foundation date. Whether it is deemed acceptable to disturb the peace and tranquillity of these churches, and of the people buried there, purely to answer archaeological questions, is of course another matter.

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APPENDIX 1 YAT GAZETTEER ENTRIES FOR SITES WITHIN THE WALLED AREA TO THE SOUTH-WEST OF THE OUSE WITH ROMAN AND ANGLIAN REMAINS

The gazetteer of all York Archaeological Trust’s excavations was prepared in 1997 to give an account of each of YATs excavations, the author was R. Finlayson.

The gazetteer entries for those sites with Roman or Anglian remains are listed below in chronological order. It should be noted that some of the sites (such as 1973.6, 1973-75.14 and 1983.15) have been fully published, but the majority have been written up as ‘Level III’ archive reports, or as grey literature reports.

Numerous watching briefs and small excavations have taken place within the walled area to the south-west of the Ouse that have revealed evidence of deposits of Anglo-Scandinavian, later medieval, post-medieval and modern remains. These were not examined for the present report, given that this focussed on the Roman and Anglian periods.

Friend’s Burial Ground, Bishophill, site code 1973.6, Gazetteer ref. 41.

The site had a cobbled surface of possible 2nd century date. In the 3rd century a limestone revetment supported a clay terrace. There are suggestions of a stone building of 3rd century date. This building was replaced in the 4th or 5th centuries by a timber structure (this description is based on Monaghan 1997, 1125).


This excavation revealed late Roman buildings located to the rear of the site, away from Skeldergate. A timber-framed well of Roman date was also present. A riverside hard standing was sealed by silts which may date to the Anglian period.

A long narrow tenement plot alignment with a building to the rear of the plot was found to date to the Anglo-Scandinavian period. The tenement layout remained constant and continuously occupied throughout the medieval period when a stone and post-and-sill building was constructed and underwent various phases of development. Cess pits and other pits associated with domestic and commercial occupation were also encountered.


The earliest features seen in this excavation were a sequence of rectilinear ditch systems was located on the natural terrace and found to be of 2nd century date. 3rd century demolition deposits and a rubbish pit were identified. The robbed foundations of two ranges of buildings at right angles to each other were found. They had undergone several phases of internal development and a furnace and its flue were noted. The two ranges of buildings flanked a more massive structure. A hypocaust was found in the main apse.

This building appeared to have been robbed in the Anglo-Scandinavian period. Occupation deposits and rubbish pits of the Anglo-Scandinavian period were found to be superseded by further pit digging activity which continued through to the 14th century. Traces of buildings dating to the 12th and 14th century were also located. The foundations and cellars of Buckingham House built c.1660 were located. A 19th century instrument factory was built on the site.
5 Rougier Street, site code 1981.12, Gazetteer ref. 639.

The earliest feature uncovered in this excavation was a ditch filled with waterlain silts dating to the 2nd century. Burnt material containing quantities of charred grain was recovered and may indicate the remains of a warehouse destroyed by fire. General re-organisation of the area appeared to follow, with the establishment of a street of late 2nd century date, which was remetalled several times through to the 4th century.

General Accident, Tanner Row, site code 1983-84.32, Gazetteer ref. 768.

This excavation revealed deposits of Roman to 15th century date. The earliest Roman feature, dating to c.125-150, was a drainage cut. Beside it was a turf and loam platform on which timber buildings were erected. One substantial building had front and rear walls of squared posts set in pits to which horizontal planks were nailed. Cross-walls were based on socketed sleeper-beams. Rectangular bases of millstone grit stood beside the walls, possibly having supported a floor.

Outside was a plank-lined drain, also a cobble surface was found immediately above natural clay. Above this were found organic silts; then a cambered cobble surface, perhaps a yard or a road. This was sealed by a deep build-up of organic material, including horse manure.

These deposits were superseded in the 2nd century by a stone building, set at right angles to the nearby Roman Street. The building was founded on clay and cobble footings above deep timber piles and may have been substantial enough to have served as a public building. In a parallel building a length of plaster wall and a bench were found.

The large late Roman colonia buildings were robbed in the 10th century. Contemporary occupation is indicated in the vicinity. Occupation resumed in the 12th century and a sequence of pits, and occupation deposits suggest intensive occupation through until the 15th century.

Bishophill Junior/Priory Street/Prospect Terrace, site code 1983.1048, Gazetteer ref. 708.

A borehole core revealed approximately 1m depth of 19th century terraced house building material, beneath which was seen a cobble surface, 2m below ground. This surface was presumed to be Roman, and was presumed to be a part of the same road excavated by P. Wenham close by.

19-29 Bishophill Senior, site code 1987.9, Gazetteer ref. 37.

Three 1m x 1m trenches were excavated. Natural clay was encountered in one at approximately 2.20m below ground. In all three, dump and build-up deposits were interpreted as part of terracing dating to the Roman period. A pit, thought to be of medieval date cut through this, and was sealed by post-medieval dump, including a dump of tiles.

Leedhams Garage, Wellington Row, site code 1987.24, Gazetteer ref. 818.

Three trial pits were excavated through deeply stratified deposits. Substantial stone structures from the Roman period were encountered. Anglo-Scandinavian and medieval pits were found in an area behind properties on Tanner Row.
Queen’s Hotel, site code 1988-89.17 and 1988.1039, Gazetteer ref. 452.

Test pits (1988.1039) were dug to establish the depth below ground at which Anglo-Scandinavian and Roman deposits might be encountered.

The excavation (1988-89.17) concentrated on the investigation of Roman deposits in two areas threatened by clusters of piles for the proposed development. In one deep trench close to Fetter Lane an early 2nd century drainage ditch running approximately east-west down towards the River Ouse was found 8m below the modern ground level. It was cut into the underlying natural clay and had been backfilled with organic midden material. This contained quantities of leatherwork and pottery which may be associated with the legionary occupation of the fortress.

Above were earth floor deposits also of 2nd century date, which were cut by a 2.5m deep stone wall foundation, clearly for a substantial building. Foundations presumed to be for the same structure were also found in excavation trenches further towards Micklegate. The walls above these foundations had been completely robbed and the area levelled with dumped layers of clay and rubble prior to a second phase of construction, also dated by pottery to the mid-2nd to early 3rd century. Walls of this phase of the building survived to a height of 3.5m above their foundations and were up to 2.2m thick. Three tile-lined arched openings, two of which had been blocked in the 4th century, had been incorporated in these substantial walls. Their function is uncertain, as is that of the building itself, although there may have been large flues within the basement of a bath complex.

Evidence for a succession of opus signinum floor deposits survived above the level of a drain which crossed the building immediately below the level of the arched openings. The majority of the floor had been robbed in the 4th century prior to the laying of stone paving within the building. The paving was sealed by a layer of building rubble 1.5m thick which contained a few sherds of 4th century pottery and represented the deliberate infilling of the building following its demolition. In the top of the infill were found human burials which it is hoped to date by radiocarbon. Regularly spaced post-holes, 1.3m apart, cut into the upper surface of one of the demolished walls, are assumed to have been for a timber building at least 10m long and orientated on the Roman street plan. These produced no dating evidence although nearby pits cut from the same level contained pottery sherds of Anglian date.

Structures of the 9th-10th century, orientated on the modern street plan of York, sealed the surviving tops of the Roman walls.

Stakis, Wellington Row, site code 1988-89.24, Gazetteer ref. 818.

The earliest deposits encountered on this site, situated close to the River Ouse, were at least 1.60m depth of silts which probably primarily derived from river deposition. The area may have been waterlogged and the subject of periodic flooding. A road, originally founded on a brushwood base, running from the south-west leading towards the River Ouse was dated to c.71-120. A large drainage ditch perhaps associated with the construction of the road gradually silted up after c.125. This drainage ditch was sealed by what may have been a flood deposit. A further drainage ditch, dating to the mid 2nd century indicated continued attempts at land management. The remains of a timber structure within this ditch may have controlled the flow of water.
A stone-lined trench containing a lead water pipe ran along the main road, and this road was widened c.120 or later. Another street, running parallel to the River Ouse, was identified as part of the early layout of the area. Its position was altered, moving closer to the river, after the construction of a stone building in the later 2nd century.

This large rectangular stone building utilised the riverside street and the edge of the main road as foundation for its walls where they coincided with these roads; substantial foundation trenches with deep timber piles were required elsewhere. Four central roof supports were located down the spine of the building. Three of these had been robbed and one remained standing. A cobbled surface at the north-west end of the building may have been a courtyard. The earliest surface inside the building was cobbled and showed no internal division, indicating the building's primary function was to provide a covered space that may have been used as a store place, or warehouse. Traces of a contemporary building to the west of the main building were also encountered, although here the area of excavation was not large enough to allow the form and function of this building to be revealed.

An oven was constructed on the western wall of the building and cut through the earliest floor. Charcoal-rich ashy deposits were found within the building, alternating with thin sand layers, and may relate to the use of the oven. Evidence of a timber structure associated with the oven was also found, followed by a build-up of further use deposits. These were distributed widely within the building and suggest that the use of the building was, at this stage, dominated by the oven. Evidence from a trench to the north-west suggests that the contemporary use of this area was as one of open ground where rubbish pits were cut.

In the early 3rd century the oven was sealed and a long series of changes in the internal layout of the building occurred. Internal walls were erected and a mortar floor was laid in part of the building. A major internal alteration was preceded by a levelling deposit, above which was evidence of a timber floor, superseded by a mortar floor in one area of the building. A small area was also defined by limestone flags.

The next phase of development was found in the south-western part of the building where timber flooring had been constructed. It would appear that the building was divided centrally at this time. This floor was seriously damaged by fire, c.220; subsequent deposits may be interpreted either as the remains of floors or as levelling prior to redevelopment of the building.

In the area approximately 20m to the north-west of the building post-holes and post-pads provided evidence for another building, erected c.225. To the south-west, part of one wall of another building, located largely outside the area of excavation, was found. Additionally, a long wall of indeterminate function, running close to the south-west wall of the main building, was recorded. Later robbing made the dating of this construction difficult to establish on stratigraphic grounds or on the basis of ceramic dating. The wall and the building have been interpreted as possibly contemporary with the re-development of the main building. This took the form of demolishing the north-western end wall and extending the building a further 4m to the north-west. A crushed limestone floor was found throughout the extended building with indications that this surface was kept clean. Stone blocks located along the south western edge of the building were the remains of structural entities contemporary with the installation of this floor.
Pit cuts of unknown function were made in this surface and an alignment of post-holes was found in the centre of the building. Deposits in the south-eastern half of the building indicate that it was again divided or that different activities took place in parts of the building. Ceramic evidence suggests that these build-up deposits may have included accumulated dumped stock or cargo, reflecting the waterfront location. This material was cut through to bury a wooden box which was subsequently sealed by further dump and build-up.

A ditch to the north-west of the building was backfilled in what was likely to have been a single episode of specialist rubbish disposal, incorporating glass and fine pottery wares dating to the 3rd century, possibly also indicating disposal of dumped stock or cargo.

Use of the building becomes more diverse with separate structures erected within the shell of the building, possibly incorporating the standing walls. In the south-east of the building a beam slot and a buried pot, and a storage pit covered with limestone, illustrate the occupation of this part of the building, and were followed by another phase of construction and occupation. Similarly, in the south-west corner of the building a phase of occupation and construction are represented by stake-holes and build-up. In the north-west of the building a sandy floor and several phases of stake-holes representing slight timber constructions, followed by a further sandy surface in which a pot was buried. Fragmentary remains of several surfaces, mortar, pebble, sandstone and a possible beam slot indicated further occupation in this part of the building.

In the area to the north-west of the main building evidence was found for a complex series of timber structures dating to the 3rd century. In the same area, parts of a later stone building, possibly dating to the late 3rd century, may have had a covered courtyard. A pottery jar was recovered from silt beneath a floor level in this building. A demolition deposit within the building dated to c.360 or later.

The character of the next series of deposits suggests that the main building had become derelict and roofless. Several processes of deposition are involved and they collectively combine to create a depth of material amounting to approximately 0.50m widespread within the area of the building. It sealed several structural elements and was banked up against standing masonry and had uneven surfaces. It appeared to constitute dumped material which showed some signs of compaction as though it had been walked on at various levels. Some of the material from its inclusions was likely to have been demolition derived and some had derived from the decay of the standing building. Ash and charcoally dumps indicate waste from possible industrial processes and dumps including a large number of animal bones may indicate the disposal of domestic, or butchery waste. Domestic occupation was clearly in the vicinity. Ceramic evidence suggests that there was some reworking of the dumped material, particularly latterly. The area was used over a period of time as an area for dumping and the building decayed and was partially demolished during this time. Ceramic evidence dates this to the period c.360-410. Provisional coin dates place the latest as c.388.

The remains of an un-mortared counter-pitched wall and the indication that there may have been another similar parallel wall, both respecting the alignment of the standing building, indicate a phase of construction which may have incorporated parts of the standing building. Ceramic evidence suggests this was dated to the 5th century and was associated with late/sub-Roman pot forms. It was superseded by a further series of dumped deposits of similar
nature to those preceding it, ceramic evidence suggesting reworking, and the main Roman building underwent further decay and demolition. There was an increased amount of demolition-derived material within the dumps and a few isolated cuts. The demolition of the building continued over a long period and similar processes occur in the building to the south-west.

A more active phase of robbing occurs with the digging of specific robbing trenches. The robbing appears to be of a spasmodic and piecemeal nature. The area became one of pit digging. These pits contained organic fills and building debris and were sealed by a layer of demolition derived material which was in turn cut by further pits, some of which had timber linings. A building represented by post-holes and a hearth was located in the north-west of the site. A further phase of pit digging including cess pits and rubbish pits was confined to the northern corner of the site. Further structural activity was shown by a tile-edged hearth and associated brick structure. Later features found on the site were a late medieval edged hearth and two brick-lined wells of Victorian and modern date.

**Albion Wharf, 23-28 Skeldergate, site code 1989.1, Gazetteer ref. 653.**

A deep 3m square shaft sited over a proposed pile cluster was excavated to natural sub-soil, encountering a maximum of 9m of archaeological deposits. Evidence was found of structural activity on the river bank in the Roman period. Above this was a build-up of material, organic lenses interleaved with alluvial silts, suggesting the accumulation of material in waterlogged conditions separated by episodes of flooding and pointing to marginal use in the Anglian period. Anglian pottery was found on site.

A timber revetment, dating to the Anglo-Scandinavian period was revealed. A mixture of dumping and build-up in the 11th and 12th centuries was then succeeded by the construction of a substantial limestone wall of 12th century date, running parallel to the river. There appeared to be no deposits contemporary with the use of this river wall. A large robbing cut broke through the body of the wall. Demolition and dumped deposits dated this episode to the 14th century. Dumping continued in this area through the 15th century.

Some attempt to drain the land was made in the 16th century. Garden deposits, also found in a larger excavation were encountered approximately 1m below ground surface. These gardens, garden features and buildings, documentary sources suggest, belonged to the house of the 18th century York architect John Carr. A later phase of building was likely to represent a 19th century warehouse.

**Bishophill Senior Car Park, site code 1990.16, Gazetteer ref. 38.**

Three excavation trenches fronting on to Buckingham Street demonstrated that archaeological deposits had been truncated by modern cellaring to a depth of 1.70m. Immediately behind this area a fourth trench encountered post-medieval garden soil. In the south east corner of the site, the furthest distance from Buckingham Street, a fifth trench encountered demolition deposits and the robbed remains of a Roman building, comprising two walls at 90 degrees to each other. This material was sealed beneath approximately 1m depth of post-medieval garden soil.
Stakis, Wellington Row, YAT site code 1990.24, Gazetteer ref. 820.

This site was an excavation. The later surface of the main Roman road to the south-west was encountered. Post-dating the abandonment of part of this road a number of cut features were interpreted as evidence of a timber building, with associated floors and possibly associated pit. Other development included the digging and later infilling of a water channel. Later build-up was interpreted as cultivated soil. Pit digging, possibly associated with a building fronting on to Tanner Row, and robbing activities characterised the further use of the site.

26-34 Skeldergate, site code 1991.1, Gazetteer ref. 653

Three excavation trenches were excavated to determine the level of survival of archaeological deposits. Stone structures of medieval date were found to survive close to the Skeldergate street front and beneath the cobbled river lane exposed in a previous phase of trial work. An impenetrable masonry feature located at depth in a borehole may represent the line of a Roman wharf.

Ideal Laundry, Trinity Lane, site code 1991.5, Gazetteer ref. 796.

Two excavation trenches revealed evidence of a complex sequence of occupation in the late Roman period represented by dumping of large amounts of building demolition debris and pit digging. Shallow pits and a possible cemetery demonstrate activity on the site in the Anglo-Scandinavian period. A series of medieval pits and post-medieval garden soil indicate activity behind houses fronting on to Trinity Lane in this period.

14 Skeldergate, site code 1991.14, Gazetteer ref. 646

A borehole transect indicating a complex sequence of well stratified deposition up to 7m deep was present, dating from Roman to the modern period. The excavation of three 3 x 3m trenches located well-preserved medieval structural remains with only slight modern disturbance. Edge-set tile hearths were found close to the Skeldergate street frontage with a massive limestone wall founded on a raft of large timbers aligned at right angles to the street closer to the river.

Tanner Row/Wellington Row, site code 1991.24, Gazetteer ref. 820.

This was a watching brief. A machined section was recorded. Limestone blocks were interpreted as part of a stone-lined and capped drain. This feature and road metalling were of Roman date and had already been recorded in the main excavation carried out on this site. Floor deposits and pit cuts were interpreted as associated with timber structures constructed on the north-west side of the road.

North Street Boreholes, site code 1992.1, Gazetteer ref. 552.

Two series of boreholes in advance of the design of a flood prevention scheme identified a complex depositional sequence up to 11m deep adjacent to the Moat House Hotel slipway (the medieval Divinstonayned). A sequence of Roman deposits was identified, including evidence of structural activity. No evidence was found of a continuation of the Roman road located on the Wellington Road site nearby.

Above the Roman deposits was a series of well-preserved organic deposits. These demonstrated that the river bank continued to be developed in the Anglo-Scandinavian and
medieval periods. Post-medieval dumps and modern garden soil represented the most recent use of the site.

**Tanner Row York, site code 1992.17, Gazetteer ref. 771.**

This was a watching brief. Deposits thought to be of Roman date were seen in a contractor’s trench.

**Sewer Repair Trench, Micklegate, site code 1992.1002, Gazetteer ref. 467.**

This was a watching brief. Earlier road surfaces were observed and several distinct surfaces were recorded but no dating evidence was recovered. The road was believed to be the main Roman road from Tadcaster.

**Pumping Station, North Street, site code 1993.1, Gazetteer ref. 550.**

The excavation, within a 6m diameter shaft to house a pumping station for the River Ouse flood alleviation scheme, provided a well stratified closely dated sequence demonstrating changes in river/land management and waterfront activities from the 2nd century to the 15th century.

The earliest features dated to the 2nd century, the most significant of which was a robbed deeply piled foundation trench for a river retaining wall. Three sandstone blocks parallel to the wall may have been associated with or have formed part of a replacement waterfront structure. Two larger blocks may have been part of a riverside building. All the Roman structural elements were completely sealed by a substantial deposit of alluvium, 0.20m - 0.70m deep. This may represent a single large flood event, or several smaller episodes.

A long series of land management strategies using wattle hurdle fences and revetment timbers was revealed in the post-Roman period. The earliest wattle structure, a fence line running parallel to the River Ouse, was found collapsed under dumped deposits which dated to the 8th century. The sequence of dumped deposits was found interleaved with alluvial deposits. These deposits were highly organic and contained domestic debris, industrial waste and the redeposited demolition debris. They were cut by a terrace and wattle was used to consolidate the surface of the plateau of the terrace and wattle hurdles were used to revet the bank. Material appears to have quickly accumulated on the terrace, filling it and sealing the wattle structure, continuing the dumping activity and dating to the 9th century. The most elaborate wattle revetment structure was constructed on a pebble and stone surface and comprised five lines of wattle hurdles which each closely followed the river bank and horizontal wattle held in position at the base of the slope by larger revetting timbers. Two further phases of structural activity using wattle were identified.

An interesting departure in the form of revetment occurred in the 11th century, and may be considered an attempt at land reclamation. Timbers were used to define three sides of a rectangle, and material was used to deliberately infill the rectangle. The nature of the material dumped on the river bank maintained a similar character through the 11th and 12th century. Timbers were used to stabilise the river bank in this period. Dumping, interspersed with alluvial deposits, continued to build up during the 13th century with the surface of the ground gradually becoming level. At this point, it can be surmised that from the change in use of the land, a riverside wall had been constructed to the east of the excavated trench. Part of the
foundations of a building and associated floors, and contemporary build-up outside the building were recorded and a later wall foundation also dated to the 13th century. It is not possible to interpret the precise form of these buildings from the available evidence, but they appeared to be of modest scale. Three large post-pits and a robbed wall foundation indicated the construction of a larger building on the site, which was covered by shallow build-up and a night-soil pit feature which dated to the 14th/15th century. All later material was truncated by 19th century development of the site.

Sewer Discharge Chamber, North Street, site code 1993.10, Gazetteer ref. 542.

This was a watching brief. At approximately 3.70m below ground surface a timber-lined sewer was observed. Between 3.80m and 5.70m below ground surface the associated culvert or drain was located; it was lined with a layer of floor tiles and thought to be of Roman date. It was aligned north-west/south-east, orientated along the line of the Roman buildings located on the opposite side of Micklegate. The drain, 0.70m wide and c. 0.90m high, appeared to have been backfilled in the Roman period.

12 St Martin's Lane, site code 1993.18, Gazetteer ref. 708.

This was a watching brief. An opus signinum floor and associated Roman deposits were observed approximately 1.30m below ground. Above this was a thin layer of medieval build-up and modern levelling.

6 Tanner Row, site code 1994.516, Gazetteer ref. 767.

This was a watching brief. Cobble road surface, from which no dating evidence was recovered, was interpreted as Roman. It showed evidence of robbing. A limestone pad-stone indicated the presence of a structure. Pit cuts likely to be of medieval date were also observed.

12 St Martin's Lane, site code 1994.1083 Gazetteer ref. 708.

This was a watching brief. Beneath the modern concrete approximately 0.70m of build-up well preserved, well stratified deposits, relating to a Roman building, possibly a townhouse, with opus signinum floors, limestone walls and post-pads were observed in a contractor's trench.

47-55 Tanner Row, site code 1997.3, Gazetteer ref. 772.

An evaluation and drilling of a bore-hole took place at the site. The earliest deposit encountered in this excavation was an area of mortar floor, which could be of Roman date. Build-up and dumped material, including a tile dump was dated to the medieval period. A brick-lined cess pit was probably of post-medieval date.

14 Skeldergate, site code 1999.97, Gazetteer ref. 646.

Three boreholes and six test pits demonstrated that archaeological deposits on the site survived to a height of c. 1m - 1.50m below ground surface. Sandy silts deposited in the medieval period were recorded in two of the test pits. Brick walls, probably of 19th century date, were also encountered.

A watching brief observed the excavation of thirteen trenches dug to underpin a wall of a property to the southern edge of the site together with a series of pile trenches. In these trenches there was evidence that an undisturbed sequence of deposits dating from the Roman, Anglo-Scandinavian and medieval periods survived on the site. The quality of evidence
recoverable from pile trenches was compromised by the method of excavation. Little dating evidence was recoverable and it was difficult to make comparisons between the stratigraphy in each pile trench. Since the quality and archaeological potential of these deposits had already been established by evaluation work carried out in 1991 it is surprising that only a watching brief with limited recording was specified as the requirement for this site.

Timbers driven into the upper surface of natural sands were observed to be sealed by layers of laminated clays and cobbles possibly representing surfaces. These are likely to date from the Roman period. Anglo-Scandinavian pottery was recovered from some of the material interpreted as occupation deposits but it was not possible to determine the scale of activity in this period. Deep deposits of organic build-up were dated to the medieval period. Two massive limestone walls were recorded. The exact relationship between the two walls was not possible to determine due to disturbance from the piling operations, but they were bonded with identical mortar indicating they had formed parts of the same structure which could have been a riverside building or a series of retaining walls. Part of the wall aligned east west had already been excavated in 1991 and was founded on a raft of horizontal timbers and dated to the 12th-early 13th century. Deposits accumulated to the north of the wall indicated intensive occupation, and comprised a culvert and a series of dumps. Those to the south of the wall represented a series of build-up deposits. Further walls were recorded and interpreted as internal walls of a separate structure. A substantial wall was built directly above this second structure and this wall was interpreted as the eastern wall of a riverside building, possibly a warehouse. A series of sand deposits dating to the 13th-14th century sealed all the structural elements. Further dumps were recorded and appeared to derive from demolition sources. A hearth and floors together with a robbed wall indicated continued occupation of the area. In the 14th-15th century there was a change in the type of hearth constructed on the site. Four almost identical circular brick lined ovens or furnaces were constructed and suggest industrial activity. Structural elements and occupation deposits continued to be represented into the 15th-16th century.

Relatively little post medieval material was recorded on the site and any found was on the lower terrace of the site. A number of brick cellars or cellar infills were seen across the site and dated to the 19th or 20th century.
APPENDIX 2 YAT EXCAVATIONS SINCE 1997 WITHIN THE WALLED AREA TO THE SOUTH-WEST OF THE OUSE WITH ROMAN AND ANGLIAN REMAINS

The following site summaries are based on grey literature reports within the YAT archives. Only the Roman and Anglian deposits are reported on here.

18A-19 Fetter Lane, site codes 506 and 527


An evaluation and watching brief took place at the site. Evidence of occupation on the site from the Roman to the modern period was found. A metalled Roman surface at a depth of only 1.10m below the modern street was identified with the suggestion of significant Roman deposits below. Post-medieval cellars had truncated some of the deposits.

64-74 Skeldergate, site code 671

Text based on ‘NCP Car Park, 64-74 Skeldergate, York, YAT Watching Brief Report’ 1999/44, by K. Hunter-Mann

Eight boreholes and three trial pits were observed, and well preserved organic deposits were recorded in all of the boreholes and one of the trial pits. The deposits were dated from the Roman to the medieval periods. Evidence of natural terraces lying parallel to the River Ouse was noted. These terraces had been enhanced with thick levelling deposits in the Roman period and there was evidence that substantial Roman buildings may have stood on these terraces. In addition, there appears to have been a valley along the north-west side of the area indicating the presence of a tributary stream that ran down to the River Ouse.

Further deep, complex and well stratified deposits were encountered in all nine evaluation trenches and included waterlogged organic remains. Very intensive occupation of the site was recorded for the period 11th-15th/16th centuries. Deposits related to structural remains of buildings fronting Skeldergate together with back yards where pit digging and dumping had occurred.

Former Presto Supermarket, George Hudson Street, YAT site code 817

Text based on ‘Former Presto’s Supermarket, George Hudson Street, York’ YAT Evaluation Report 2001/14, by J. M. McComish

Significant Roman remains were present in a Trench that measured just 3.2m x 3.25m in size. These included dumping to raise the ground level dating from the 2nd century, followed by the construction of a major stone building with an associated minor wall footing and burnt deposits dating to the 2nd to 3rd century. The building was adapted in the 2nd to 3rd century possibly following fire-damage, with new beams and floors being inserted. An isolated post-hole may comprise the last phase of alterations to this structure. An undated series of dumps and a hearth sealed the Roman deposits and predated those of the 10-11th centuries.

20 Fetter Lane York, YAT site code 5130

Text based on ‘20 Fetter Lane, York’, YAT Watching Brief Report 2008/73, by D. T. Evans
The watching brief involved monitoring building works and piling operations. Evidence of Roman terracing, known from nearby work at 18A-19 Fetter Lane, may also be present on the current site and some of the deeper obstructions encountered within the pile holes may be parts of Roman stone structures, also well known in the general area. Nothing of definitely 5th century date was recorded, though this would be difficult to recognise from bore-holes.

The Bonding Warehouse, Skeldergate, YAT site code 5161


A borehole was observed. A substantial timber pile, possibly up to 3.6m long, was found in one borehole at a depth of approximately 5m BGL, which may indicate it is of Roman date. If so, it is an indication of the location of the Roman riverfront.

Sewer Repair, Tanner Row, Toft Green, YAT site code 5568

Text based on ‘Sewer Repair, Tanner Row, Toft Green, York’, YAT Watching Brief Report 2011/78, by D. T. Evans

A Roman wall was observed, which ran parallel to and approximately 5m south of a wall and a structure with an apsed room and mosaic (RCHM Monument 32) seen during construction work associated with the old Railway Station in the 1840s. It is impossible to be sure if the current wall is also part of that building, but potentially it may from the south-west wall of a room or range of rooms separated by a 3m wide corridor from the apsed room with mosaic.
1. Friends Burial Ground
2. Bishophill 1
3. Bishophill 2
4. 5 Rougier Street
5. General Accident, Tanner Row
6. Bishophill Jnr/Priory St/Prospect Terr.
7. 19-29 Bishophill Senior
8. Leedhams Garage, Wellington Row/
   Stakis, Wellington Row/Tanner Row/
   Wellington Row
9. Queen’s Hotel
10. Albion Wharf, 23-28 Skeldergate
11. Bishophill Snr Car Park
12. 26-34 Skeldergate
13. Ideal Laundry, Trinity Lane
14. 14 Skeldergate
15. North Street bore holes
16. Tanner Row
17. Sewer Repair trench, Micklegate
18. Pumping Station, North Street
19. Sewer discharge chamber, North Street
20. 12 St Martin’s Lane
21. 6 Tanner Row
22. 147-55 Tanner Row
23. 18A-19 Fetter Lane/20 Fetter Lane
24. 64-74 Skeldergate
25. Former Prerto’s Supermarket, George
   Hudson Street
26. Sewer repair, Tanner Row

Figure 1: List of sites
Pre-Conquest Churches

YAT excavation
Roman Structures observed in 18th - mid 20th c
Roman Burials observed in 18th - mid 20th c
Roman Roads

Figure 2: All Features

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Figure 3: c.AD 71 - 120

YAT excavation

Roman Structures observed in 18th - mid 20th c

Roman Roads

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Figure 4: AD 120 to the third quarter of the 2nd century

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Figure 5: Late 2nd to mid-3rd centuries
Figure 6: Mid-3rd to mid-4th century
Evidence of decay or dereliction

Evidence of structural activity

Roman Roads

Figure 7: Late 4th to early 5th century
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Figure 8: Anglian