Anglo-Scandinavian Settlement South-west of the Ouse

Joan Moulden and Dominic Tweddle
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Contents

Introduction .................................................. 1
Settlement South-west of the Ouse by Dominic Tweddle .......... 4
Roman Settlement ............................................. 4
Anglian Settlement ........................................... 5
Anglo-Scandinavian Settlement .................................. 8
Conclusion .................................................... 13
The Nature of the Evidence by Joan Moulden ................. 14
The Sequence of Building Development ........................ 15
Antiquaries, Collectors and Archaeologists ..................... 18
Catalogue of the Anglo-Scandinavian Sites South-west of the
Ouse by Joan Moulden and Dominic Tweddle ............. 24
The Excavations ............................................... 37
   Anglo-Scandinavian Structures and Features at Skeldergate
   and Bishophill ............................................. 37
   58–9 Skeldergate by Sara Donaghey ...................... 37
   Discussion by R. A. Hall .................................. 48
   37 Bishophill Senior by Martin Carver ................... 53
A Pre-Conquest Structure at Clementhorpe by David Brinklow. 57

Introduction

Within the city of York (Fig. 1), south-west of the River Ouse and running roughly parallel
to it, is a ridge of morainic material rising from 8.8m OD on the river bank to a maximum
height of some 20.4m OD in a distance of just over 300m. To the south-west, it slopes down
more gently. At its south-east end, this ridge is separated by a deep gully from the area around
Clementhorpe (Fig. 2). The ridge lies within the circuit of York’s medieval walls and has
always formed an important part of the city as successively the site of the Roman civil town
Excavation
Observation
Church
Stone sculpture
Group of finds
Coin hoard
( o location uncertain )
Anglo-Scandinavian Settlement South-west of the Ouse

(opposite the legionary fortress on the north-east bank of the Ouse), the possible site of an early post-Roman urban nucleus (Palliser, 1984), and an important and flourishing part of the medieval and modern city. Despite its evident importance, however, the archaeology of this area has been little explored or understood.

Over the past twelve years the York Archaeological Trust has, therefore, taken several opportunities to conduct major excavations in the area south-west of the Ouse in the hope of elucidating its development. Results of the excavations relating to the Roman period are published in AY 4, for the Anglian period in AY 7, for the medieval period in AY 9 and for the post-medieval period in AY 13. This fascicule presents the evidence relating to the Anglo-Scandinavian occupation in this area (Fig. 2), including reports on the excavations at Skeldergate and Bishop Hill, and in Clementhorpe, just outside the walled area of the city to the south-east. Results of the survey work on the fabric of the tower of St Mary Bishop Hill Junior, and of the excavations to the north, conducted between 1961 and 1963 and in 1967, will be published in the next fascicule in this volume (AY 8/2), but are summarized below (pp. 24–5).

In order to place the results of these excavations in context, a survey has also been undertaken of the sites south-west of the Ouse which have produced material dating to the Anglo-Scandinavian period. These sites are catalogued below, pp. 24–36.

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Fig. 1 (facing) Anglo-Scandinavian sites in York. In the following list figures in parentheses refer to Andrews, 1984. Sites north-east of the Ouse will be considered in a later report in AY 8. Scale 1: 10,000

1 St Olave’s
2 St Mary’s Abbey
3 Anglican Tower (68)
4 Lendal Bridge
5 Museum Street/Lendal (21)
6 9 Blake Street (25)
7 York Minster (26)
8 65 Low Petergate (31)
9 Goodramgate
10 The Bedern (11)
11 St Andrew’s
12 Aldwark, adjacent to nos. 1–5 (29)
13 Monksgate
14–16 21–33 Aldwark (47, 71–2)
17 St Cuthbert’s
18 and 19 King’s Square (12 and 13)
20 Newgate
21 Davygate (18)
22 St Martin le Grand
23 Parliament Street, sewer trench (14)
24 Market Street, Feasegate (15)
25 Feasegate (16)
26 Market Street (now Tubergate)
27 Parliament Street
28 Pavement/Shambles
29 St Crux
30 St Saviour’s
31 Hungate (44)
32 Lloyds Bank, 6–8 Pavement (69)
33 2–4 Pavement (73)
34 Barclays Bank, 1–3 Parliament Street (74)
35 8 High Ousegate (49)
36 All Saints, Pavement
37 High Ousegate
38 25–7 High Ousegate (75)
39 St Michael, Spurriergate
40 Nessgate
41 5–7 Coppergate (76)
42 2–6 Coppergate (77)
43 16–22 Coppergate (47)
44 St Mary, Castlegate (78)
45 Clifford Street
46 St Denys’s
47 Walmgate
48 118–26 Walmgate (70)
49 Walmgate
50 Lead Mill Lane (46)
51 York Castle
52 5 Rouger Street
53 24–30 Tanner Row
54 St Martin-cum-Gregory
55 Holy Trinity Priory
56 Micklegate Bar
57 St Mary Bishop Hill Junior (60)
58 37 Bishop Hill
59 St Mary Bishop Hill
60 St Mary Bishop Hill Senior
61 Baile Hill
62 Clementhorpe (52)
63 46–54 Fishergate
Settlement South-west of the Ouse

By Dominic Tweddle

Roman settlement

In the Roman period the area south-west of the River Ouse formed the civil town or *colonia*, a status which the settlement probably achieved by AD 213 by which time York had become the capital of the province of *Britannia Inferior*. The sparse archaeological evidence for the nature and development of the *colonia* is summarized in RCHMY 1 and by Ottaway (1984a, 1984b), on which the following account is based.

The *colonia* is assumed to have coincided with the area enclosed by the surviving medieval city walls, although only in the north-west sector has a Roman defensive wall been recorded beneath the medieval rampart. Within the walls little is known of the street grid, although the earliest settlement, following the foundation of a legionary fortress on the north-east bank of the Ouse in AD 71, appears to have been on or near the main route from the south-west, as it approached the river crossing between the modern Lendal and Ouse Bridges. Evidence for substantial development in the late 2nd century has come from four sites, 58–9 Skeldergate and 37 Bishophill Senior (*AY* 4/1), St Mary Bishophill Senior (Ramm, 1976) and the General Accident extension site, 24–30 Tanner Row (*AY* 4/2, in prep.). At 58–9 Skeldergate (Fig. 2, 45), a riverside street was laid out and major artificial terraces were constructed to level out the steep slope down to the River Ouse for building; stone buildings were constructed on the Bishophill sites (I, 46). A late 2nd century riverside street similar to that recognized at Skeldergate has been encountered at 5 Rougier Street (47) where deliberate dumping of clay and cobbles raised the ground surface 1.20m in an operation comparable to the terracing in the Skeldergate/Bishophill area (ibid.). At the General Accident site, 24–30 Tanner Row (48), there was an initial phase of timber building dated to c. AD 125–50 followed by a stone building dating to c. AD 180.

There is little archaeological evidence for 3rd century activity within the area of the *colonia*. At Bishophill, 3rd century pottery indicated continuing occupation, but there was little pottery from 5 Rougier Street, and it has been suggested that this is to be explained by the pushing out of the river frontage to the north-east. Certainly there is abundant evidence for the continuation of occupation into the early 4th century both on the Bishophill and Skeldergate sites (*AY* 4/1) and on the site of St Mary Bishophill Senior where there was major rebuilding of the stone structure. Excavations to the north of St Mary Bishophill Junior in 1961–63 (2) also revealed the remains of a substantial stone building of the late 3rd or 4th century. In the mid 4th century, however, there are indications of decay. The riverside roads in Skeldergate and Rougier Street had apparently gone out of use by this time and at 27 Tanner Row excavations in 1971 revealed what are probably late Roman pits cut through the main road to the south-west (*AY* 4/2, in prep.). Occupation in the *colonia* must, however, have continued, as late 4th century pottery is abundant both from Rougier Street and from the Bishophill sites.
Anglo-Scandinavian Settlement South-west of the Ouse

Outside the presumed walled area of the *colonia*, suburban settlement has been revealed in excavations at 18 Blossom Street (RCHMY 1, 62–3) where there was a sequence of buildings dating from the late 1st to the 4th century close to the junction of the roads to Calcaria (Tadcaster) and Isurium (Aldborough). To the south near the junction of Cherry Street and Clementhorpe (7), excavation in 1976 and 1977 demonstrated that the west bank of the Ouse had been terraced during the 2nd century, an operation followed by the construction of a multi-roomed domestic stone building, one room of which had contained a tessellated pavement discovered during the 19th century (*AY* 6/1). Occupation of this building continued throughout the 3rd and 4th centuries. Building debris on The Mount may have come from a mason’s yard (RCHMY 1, 63) and industrial waste from the area of the Railway Station suggests that this area was used for the manufacture of pottery and jet and bone objects prior to its development as a cemetery (ibid.). Burials are also known from the site of the Railway Station (ibid., 76–92), along Blossom Street (ibid., 92–5), on The Mount (ibid., 95–101), and further out of the city at Trentholme Drive (Wenham, 1968). There were further small cemeteries near Baile Hill (RCHMY 1, 107) and in the Clementhorpe area (ibid., 107–8).

Anglian settlement

There is no clear archaeological evidence for the nature of settlement (if any) in the area of York south-west of the Ouse between the late 4th century and the arrival of Anglo-Saxon settlers in the region, probably in the late 5th century. A post-built structure discovered in 1983 during excavation at 24–30 Tanner Row may belong to the very late Roman or post-Roman period, and a wooden structure at Clementhorpe, close to the site of the Roman house, may be of similar date (*AY* 2/1, 5; *AY* 6/1). This comparative absence of archaeological evidence has been explained as a result of extensive flooding in the city (Ramm, 1971), following a Humber marine transgression at the end of the 4th century (Radley and Simms, 1971). Apparent flood deposits have been observed at Hungate on the River Foss, below High Ousegate and Coppergate and elsewhere in the city, and on this basis Ramm has suggested flooding up to a level of 10.6m OD. However, Hall (1978b, 36) has pointed out that the High Ousegate and Coppergate deposits at least are not alluvium but are typical early medieval rubbish layers, and no flood deposits were encountered either at 5 Rougier Street (Ottaway, 1984a) or at Skeldergate (see p. 37 below) and it seems that this theory must now be discarded.

Early Anglo-Saxon settlement in the vicinity of the *colonia* is demonstrated by the discovery of a cremation cemetery on The Mount during building works in 1859–60, relocated by excavations between 1951 and 1956. A study of the pottery suggests that the cemetery began in the late 5th century and continued in use into the 6th century (Stead, 1958). The existence of a second extra-mural cremation cemetery is perhaps suggested by the discovery of a single urn in the area of Severus Junction, Acomb, about 1 mile to the west of the walled area (*YPSAR for 1891*, 31). Inside the walls, however, there is no evidence of any early Anglo-Saxon settlement on this side of the river, and the only find from the period is a copper-alloy girdle hanger discovered, probably in 1881, near Micklegate Bar.
Fig. 2 Anglo-Scandinavian occupation and evidence of activity south-west of the Ouse. Numbers correspond to catalogue entries on pp. 24–36. Scale 1:5000
It is only in the middle Anglo-Saxon period, in the 8th and 9th centuries, that there is any substantial archaeological evidence for settlement inside the medieval walls. There are no structures or occupation levels from this period, but there are numerous finds both from controlled excavations, where they are residual in later levels, and from casual finds during building works (Cramp, 1967, fig. 1; to be published in AY7). These finds are fairly evenly distributed across the area although the number of finds from the northern part of the former colonia, and in particular from around the Roman bridgehead, may suggest that the Roman bridge or at least a crossing at the same point remained in use until late in the Anglian period. This distribution may, however, be entirely artificial (see p. 14–15). The majority of the finds are domestic in nature, but sherds of Tating ware from Skeldergate (AY16/1, 18, fig. 4) may hint at some trading activity, a possibility underlined by the large numbers of coins in 9th century hoards from Micklegate Bar (SCBI 21 Yorkshire Collections).

Anglian ecclesiastical sites within the area of the medieval walled city are as difficult to recognize as secular sites. Of the seven medieval parish churches, only the church of St Mary Bishophill Junior has produced evidence for an Anglian foundation in the form of stone sculpture, including three cross-shaft fragments, one datable to the late 8th or early 9th century (Collingwood, 1909, 170, 177, 270, figs. a, b, c), and a cross-head of 8th century date with a Latin pentameter in the centre (Haigh, 1881, 48; Okasha, 1971, no. 148). Its orientation, which could be related to the Roman street plan (Fig. 2), may also suggest an early origin (Palliser, 1984, 104). It is possible that the sculpture was brought to the site as building material at a later date, but the pieces are awkwardly shaped and would have been difficult to re-use without extensive dressing, so they are unlikely to have travelled far. However, it is possible that they came from the immediately adjacent Holy Trinity Priory, which is known to have been an important pre-Conquest foundation. An Anglian cross-head discovered in 1874 built into the city walls on the site of the arches which now admit Station Road to the city, may have come from the Toft Green area nearby, possibly from the site of the Royal Chapel of St Mary, which had an important administrative function in the pre-Conquest period (ibid., 103). However, a section of the north-west defences collapsed in 1603, and was repaired with stone brought from Holy Trinity Priory (Raine, 1955, 27-8; RCHMY 2, 105–6), so the cross-head may possibly have been brought to the site as part of these repairs. Apart from sites which have produced sculptures there is very slight evidence for the presence of Anglian graves on the site of the church of St Gregory in Barker Lane which was made redundant in 1548 (6, 51). Observations here in 1821 showed that there were three distinct strata of burials, the middle one of which produced coins of the ‘ancient British and Anglo-Saxon mint’ (Yorkshire Gazette, 1821). In addition the position of the church on the highest and most commanding point on Micklegate, and its dedication to St Gregory, may suggest an early date for its foundation (Palliser, 1984, 104), but arguments based on church dedications must be treated with caution.

Outside the area of the walled city there is little evidence for suburban settlement apart from a handful of casual finds. An Anglian cross-head from ‘the Mount’ (YPSAR for 1934, 44) may point to the site of an extra-mural church. Alternatively, it may have been some form of boundary cross like those known at a slightly later date around Beverley (Cox, 1911, 126–30; Kirby, n.d., 3, 5–8).
Anglo-Scandinavian settlement

**Topography** (Fig. 2)

In the Anglo-Scandinavian period as in the Anglian there is no archaeological evidence for the position and nature of any defences south-west of the Ouse, although they are assumed to have been on the line of the existing circuit of the medieval walls. Certainly given the scale of the Anglo-Scandinavian defences north-east of the Ouse (Hall, 1978b, 32–4) it is unlikely that the area to the south-west of the river was left undefended.

Within the area of the surviving medieval defences some estimate of the extent of Anglo-Scandinavian settlement can be formed from a study of the street names. Most of them were first recorded in the medieval period, but from their derivations a number have been demonstrated to have originated before the Norman Conquest, probably in the Anglo-Scandinavian period (Palliser, 1978, 3; 1984, 103; Fig. 3). The main axis of settlement appears to have been along Micklegate (ON Mikill, ‘great’ or ‘large’, and gata, ‘street’; Palliser, 1978, 12) which curves south to cross the river on the site of the modern Ouse bridge, a crossing point which is thought to have been established in the Anglo-Scandinavian period. To the north, running roughly parallel to Micklegate, was North Street (OE noro, ‘north’, and streat, ‘street’; ibid., 13), which at its lower end turned at right-angles to run along the river bank and join Micklegate.

To the south of Micklegate the riverside street continued as Skeldergate. The name is commonly thought to be derived from the ON Skialdari, ‘shieldmaker’, but an alternative derivation from the ON skelda, ‘shelf’, has been proposed, perhaps referring to the terracing of the slope (Palliser, 1978, 15), or even to the Roman terracing (p. 4) which would probably still have been visible in this area in the Anglo-Scandinavian period. Further up the slope and roughly parallel to Skeldergate was Littlegate (ON litill, ‘little’, and gata; ibid., 14) which followed the line of the modern Bishophill Senior and St Martin’s Lane (Palliser, 1984, 105). Parallel to Micklegate, Lounlithgate (ON logn, ‘sheltered’ or laun, ‘seclusion’ and hlio, ‘gateway’; Palliser, 1978, 12; 1984, 105) crossed Littlegate, and then probably continued down the slope to Skeldergate on the line of the present Carr’s Lane.

Palliser has postulated that these streets, possibly with the addition of Besingate, which ran parallel to Littlegate and Skeldergate, formed a distorted grid which might have been laid out in the Anglo-Scandinavian period, possibly sponsored by the Archbishop who had large land holdings in this area (Palliser, 1984, 101, 105). Whether or not this is the case, these street names of Anglo-Scandinavian derivation point to settlement in this period over most of the medieval walled area, although its density may have varied greatly.

Outside the medieval walls, only at Clementhorpe does the place name point to an area of pre-Conquest settlement, as the element ‘thorpe’ is of Danish origin and may refer to a secondary settlement (AY 2/1, 6–8). This settlement was probably linked to the walled area by an extension of Skeldergate running along the river bank, suggesting the probable presence of a gateway in the Anglo-Scandinavian defences in the vicinity of the medieval Skeldergate postern.
Anglo-Scandinavian Settlement South-west of the Ouse

Fig. 3. Street plan south-west of the Ouse, indicating streets possibly originating during the Anglo-Scandinavian period (after Palliser, 1984). Scale 1:5000
Ecclesiastical sites

Five of the nine medieval churches and chapels on the south-west bank of the Ouse are demonstrably of pre-Conquest origin. Four of them — St Mary Bishophill Senior (1), St Mary Bishophill Junior (2, 3), Holy Trinity Priory, Micklegate (4), and St Martin-cum-Gregory, Micklegate (5) — lie within the circuit of the medieval defences. Only Clementhorpe Nunnery lies outside (7). In addition there is slight evidence of a pre-Conquest origin for the church of St Gregory in Barker Lane (6), demolished after being made redundant in 1548, and for the medieval chapel of St Mary Magdalene on Toft Green (p. 7 above). No archaeological evidence has yet been found for pre-Conquest churches on the site of either All Saints, North Street, or St John’s, Ousebridge.

As noted above, of the five churches for which there is convincing evidence of a pre-Conquest existence, St Mary Bishophill Junior appears to be the oldest, perhaps founded as early as the 8th century. There is also substantial evidence for Anglo-Scandinavian activity on the site deriving from controlled excavation, from a study of the standing structure, and from the sculptured stones.

Excavations by Wenham in 1961–63 and 1967 in the area to the north of the church (2) revealed four Anglo-Saxon burials, two of which were accompanied by grave goods. The presence of a St Peter’s penny dated to c. 905–15 in one of the graves suggests that the burials belonged to the first generation following the Viking settlement of the area. It would certainly be surprising to find pagan burial practices such as the provision of grave goods at a much later date (AY 8/2, forthcoming).

The western tower of St Mary Bishophill Junior was regarded as of pre-Conquest date as early as 1840. A full survey in 1980–81 revealed that despite the differences in the stonework between the belfry stage and the rest of the tower (3) it was probably built in a single campaign in the 11th century. In addition the surviving walling through which the medieval north and south arcades are cut may be of pre-Conquest date. Re-used timbers with simple jointing in the nave roof have been radiocarbon dated to AD 1060 ± 70 (890 ± 70 bp, HAR – 5131), and may have come from one of the roofs of the pre-Conquest church (AY 8/2, forthcoming). During 19th and 20th century restoration, and in the survey work on the fabric of the church, nine fragments of sculptured stone of probable Anglo-Scandinavian date have been discovered (30–8). Only one, 35, is closely datable, its use of Jellinge-derived animal ornament placing it in the first half of the 10th century.

Despite its name, St Mary Bishophill Senior (1) appears to have been the later of the two foundations, but still of pre-Conquest date. Evidence of an Anglo-Scandinavian origin for the church derives from an examination of the standing structure, demolished in 1963, and from the excavations which followed in 1964 (Ramm, 1976). These demonstrated that the first Anglo-Scandinavian structure on the site was a small rectangular enclosure, apparently a burial ground. This was succeeded in the 11th century by a single-cell church. Successive later medieval additions and enlargements incorporated a large part of the pre-Conquest fabric (Taylor and Taylor, 1965, 699–700).

Twenty-two fragments of sculptured stone were recovered during the demolition and from the excavations of the church (8–29). The majority are now incorporated into the fabric of the
Anglo-Scandinavian Settlement South-west of the Ouse

church of the Holy Redeemer, Boroughbridge Road (8–25). All of them are clearly of Anglo-Scandinavian date.

There have been a number of attempts to relate either St Mary Bishophill Senior or St Mary Bishophill Junior with the ‘aula’ dedicated to St Mary recorded by Alcuin (Godman, 1982, lx–lxi, lines 1602–6). On purely archaeological grounds, of these two sites St Mary Bishophill Junior is clearly the more likely candidate, but another possible location is the church of St Mary Castlegate, on the north-east side of the Ouse, where a number of large capitals and bases were discovered in 1976 re-used in the footings of the chancel arch of a late pre-Conquest church (AY 8/2, forthcoming). It is possible that these date to as early as the 7th century, and they suggest the presence of a large and architecturally complex structure on the site at this early date.

For the remaining two pre-Conquest churches within the walled area there is slight but conclusive documentary evidence for a pre-Conquest date. Archaeological evidence is, however, slim.

Holy Trinity Priory, Micklegate (4), is mentioned in Domesday Book, usually by its earlier name of Christ Church. Confirmation of a pre-Conquest origin for the foundation comes from a Charter of Ralph Paynell of 1089 which established a cell of the Benedictine Abbey of Marmoutier at Christ Church, a foundation described as ‘formerly adorned with Canons and rents of farms and ecclesiastical ornaments’ but which by 1089 was ‘almost reduced to nothing’. It has recently been suggested that this is the site of the church of the Holy Wisdom, built by Archbishop Æthelbert in the 8th century (Morris, 1986). There is virtually no archaeological evidence for this pre-Conquest foundation. Excavations at the end of the 19th century revealed a cobbled foundation which was identified for no very good reason as part of the footings of Christ Church, but two sculptures from the site (39–40), one of which is now lost, appear to be of Anglo-Scandinavian date.

Domesday Book also confirms the existence of a pre-Conquest church on the site of St Martin-cum-Gregory in Micklegate (5). Again archaeological evidence is thin. Indications of a former single-cell structure of supposed 11th century date have been noted in the existing fabric of the nave by the RCHM, but their dating is based solely upon the nature of the rubble walls through which the north and south arcades of the nave were cut in the early 13th century. Such arguments based solely upon the character of walling without architectural features must be regarded with scepticism. More significant is the presence of three sculptures. Two, part of a cross-shaft and part of a grave slab, are plastered over, but drawings in the RCHM archive suggest a pre-Conquest date (41–2). The third fragment (43) is built into the base of the north-west quoin of the tower and is a fragment of an Anglo-Scandinavian cross-shaft.

Outside the walls there is both historical and archaeological evidence for the existence of a pre-Conquest church on the site of the medieval nunnery of Clementhorpe (7). The historical evidence, which consists principally of a number of early post-Conquest references, together with the unusual dedication of the church, is surveyed briefly in AY 2/1. Examination of part of the site in 1976 and 1977 revealed indications of a massive structure overlying a Roman town house, and underlying part of the medieval nunnery. It consisted of a cobbled layer with three massive blocks of masonry at one corner. The size suggests that this was a public building, probably a church. The full report appears on pp. 57–61.
Secular sites

Excavations on five secular sites within the circuit of the medieval walls (44–8) have produced evidence of Anglo-Scandinavian activity: Baile Hill, Skeldergate, Bishophill, Rougier Street, and Tanner Row.

South of Micklegate only 58–9 Skeldergate (45), published fully below (pp. 37–52), has revealed major evidence for Anglo-Scandinavian occupation including four rectangular timber buildings. Nearby at 37 Bishophill Senior (46), evidence for Anglo-Scandinavian settlement was confined to one or more rubbish pits, two burials, and a scatter of Anglo-Scandinavian finds, mostly residual in later levels (pp. 53–5). At Baile Hill (44), occupation deposits containing Anglo-Scandinavian finds and pottery were recorded overlying the natural ground surface and below the Norman motte. A narrow trench on the site of the Friends’ Burial Ground, Bishophill, in 1973 revealed no evidence for Anglo-Scandinavian occupation.

North of Micklegate the excavated evidence for Anglo-Scandinavian settlement is even more insubstantial. The Rougier Street site (47) produced Anglo-Scandinavian finds from a number of 12th and 13th century pits, while nearby at Tanner Row (48) the foundation of a major Roman stone building may have been robbed at this period. The site has also produced a small number of Anglo-Scandinavian finds.

The slight evidence for Anglo-Scandinavian occupation from these sites presumably reflects more the limited nature of the work undertaken than the actual nature and extent of the settlement. Only on 58–9 Skeldergate and 37 Bishophill were larger scale, open area excavations undertaken, while at 5 Rougier Street, 24–30 Tanner Row, and in the Friends’ Burial Ground, restricted areas were examined.

Casual finds

The distribution map of sites south-west of the Ouse yielding Anglo-Scandinavian material (Fig. 2) is largely one of casual finds, which comprise 14 out of the 23 sites within the circuit of the medieval walls. Taking these sites alone, there is a strong concentration of this material to the north of Micklegate, and another concentration in the extreme south of the walled area around the Old Baile and Skeldergate Bridge.

This distribution pattern of finds, however, provides little information about the pattern of Anglo-Scandinavian settlement south-west of the Ouse, since it exactly reflects the areas where there were major building works, involving deep foundations or major earth movement, in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Finds to the north of Micklegate cluster on the site of the Old Railway Station, built between 1836 and 1854, and on the line of Rougier Street, laid down in 1800. To the south finds are concentrated in the Old Baile, developed for the City Gaol (later known as the County Gaol and, still later, the House of Correction after the demolition of the old House of Correction in Toft Green; Figs. 5 and 6) in 1802, and redeveloped for housing from 1881, and on the site of Skeldergate Bridge, built in 1879–81. In contrast, the whole length of Micklegate, which from its name and layout was the principal Anglo-Scandinavian street in this area (see p. 8), has produced only one group of finds simply
because little building has taken place along the street frontage in modern times and that which has taken place — notably the York Co-operative Society’s store — was evidently not watched archaeologically.

A corrective to this misleading distribution pattern of casual finds is provided by the ecclesiastical sites which have produced Anglo-Scandinavian sculpture or evidence for Anglo-Scandinavian structures. These are concentrated along Micklegate and in the Bishophill area. In addition, modern controlled excavations at both ecclesiastical and secular sites have bridged the gap between the scatters of casual finds at the northern and southern ends of the walled area, and demonstrate that there was probably some Anglo-Scandinavian settlement across the whole of this area, although its density may have varied considerably.

A study of the casual finds from within the medieval walled area casts little light on the nature of this Anglo-Scandinavian settlement but, with the exception of the coin hoards from the area of Baile Hill, the bulk of the finds are of a domestic nature, and as yet there is little of the evidence for crafts which is so abundant north-east of the River Ouse, particularly from the area of the Ouse bridgehead.

In the area outside the medieval walls there are few Anglo-Scandinavian casual finds, although there is a concentration in the area outside Micklegate Bar. This may suggest the existence here of a smaller extra-mural settlement, in the same way that excavation and place name evidence points to the existence of an Anglo-Scandinavian extra-mural settlement in the Clementhorpe area. The single find at Dringhouses (95) may suggest that this satellite village to the south-west originated in the Anglo-Scandinavian period as the place-name (ON Drengr) would indicate.

Conclusion

Palliser (1984) has suggested that the area south-west of the Ouse may have been an important pre-Conquest urban nucleus, the wic or trading settlement complementing the ceastre or fortified centre on the site of the Roman legionary fortress on the north-east bank of the Ouse, a hypothesis based on documentary sources, largely of a post-Conquest date. The documentary sources must be given their due weight, but they are tantalizing in that they suggest possibilities which they are incapable of proving.

Archaeology as yet provides little support for Palliser’s hypothesis, although it should be stressed that little large-scale modern archaeological work has been conducted south-west of the Ouse. The importance of the south-west bank in the Roman period is clear, but there is no evidence for any continuity of settlement between the Roman and early Anglo-Saxon periods. Only in the 8th and 9th centuries does a substantial number of finds appear, largely divorced from any contemporary archaeological context. In addition there are Anglian sculptures from St Mary Bishophill Junior, Toft Green and The Mount. These finds suggest that there was settlement on the south-west bank of the Ouse, but are unable to define its extent or density. The small objects are largely of domestic character. Only the sherds of Tating ware from Skeldergate are exotic and possibly indicate trading activity, although there are very few of them, and such sherds are found on Middle Saxon domestic sites such as Wharram Percy. Evidence for Anglian settlement elsewhere in the city is equally scarce, and only on the east
bank of the River Foss, close to the confluence with the Ouse, where excavation at 46–54 Fishergate began in 1985, has substantial structural evidence for Anglian settlement been discovered.

In the Anglo-Scandinavian period archaeological evidence of settlement south-west of the Ouse is more abundant, deriving from a standing structure (the west tower of St Mary Bishophill Junior), stone sculptures, controlled excavations, and casual finds. Taken together, these indicate settlement along the Micklegate axis, in the vicinity of North Street and Tanner Row, in the Bishophill area, and along the landward side of Skeldergate, with suburban settlement in Clementhorpe, and perhaps outside Micklegate Bar. Although settlement may have been extensive, and in some places dense, little is yet known of its character. The only major controlled excavation on a secular site, in Skeldergate, has revealed Anglo-Scandinavian timber structures but the finds are poor both in quality and quantity compared with those from north-east of the Ouse, and the extensive manufacturing debris and evidence for trade recorded in the deep deposits at 16–22 Coppergate and other sites on the opposite bank of the Ouse is almost totally absent. This must in part result from the fact that the soil conditions on the Skeldergate site were less favourable to the survival of objects than in the Coppergate area, where Anglo-Scandinavian deposits are waterlogged, but it may also reflect a difference in the nature of settlement between the two areas. It should, however, be stressed that more areas need to be excavated on both sides of the river before much weight can be put on the results of such a comparison.

For the future, excavation policy must be directed towards tackling the possibilities raised by Palliser; in particular, excavation on the Anglian and Anglo-Scandinavian waterfront might establish whether the area south-west of the Ouse played an important role in the city's trade, while proper excavation of the defences would allow some estimate to be made of the size of the pre-Conquest defended area, even if the density of settlement within the defences was by no means uniform. Excavation at the site of Holy Trinity Priory is essential to settle the vexed questions of its origin and importance, and the complete excavation of St Mary Bishophill Junior is equally desirable. Until those excavations are undertaken, Palliser's hypotheses remain unproven and unprovable.

The Nature of the Evidence

By Joan Moulden

The catalogue (pp. 24–36) lists all known sites south-west of the Ouse which have produced evidence for Anglo-Scandinavian activity, including controlled excavations, casual finds made during building works, and sculptures discovered during works on the standing medieval churches of the area. It draws on a large number of sources, both published and unpublished, covering a period of nearly 200 years, and the information it contains probably reflects more the sequence of 19th and 20th century building development in the area, and the
work of antiquaries and collectors, than the realities of the Anglo-Scandinavian situation. These biases are difficult to comprehend without an understanding of the sequence of building development in the area, and of the various antiquaries and collectors, official and unofficial, who were at work.

The sequence of building development

In 1750, when Peter Chassereau published his map of York (Fig. 4), the walled area south-west of the Ouse was predominantly open, with building concentrated along Micklegate, Skeldergate, Tanner Row and in the area of Bishophill. By 1822, when Edward Baines’ map appeared (Fig. 5), the first broad phase of development had begun, with the construction of the City Gaol north of Baile Hill (1802–7), and of the House of Correction on Toft Green (1814). By 1864, when R. H. Skaife produced his map (Fig. 6) based on the first Ordnance Survey map of York in 1851, there had been more extensive development. In 1826, the barbican of Micklegate Bar was demolished, and in the following year its interior wall was rebuilt: these works produced a number of significant finds. Between 1823 and 1830 houses were built along the southern end of Nunnery Lane and streets of small houses were constructed both outside and inside the walls. In 1838 a passage was constructed beneath the city walls to link the two areas; it was enlarged and opened as Victoria Bar in 1840. The works revealed the remains of the earlier postern, Lounlith.

Mid 19th century development south-west of the Ouse was dominated by the construction of the Old Railway Station and its approaches (1836–54). The station and its adjuncts were barely complete when the cramped and inconvenient nature of the site for such a fast-developing industry became apparent, and soon after 1860 a new station was being planned outside the city walls; it was built between 1871 and 1877. The Old Station remained in use.

In the Toft Green area the building of the Old Station involved the demolition in c. 1838 of the House of Correction, and of Lady Hewley’s Almshouses, a 17th century foundation based on buildings of the former Dominican Friary. Much of the ground surface was levelled before building began. In addition, two archways were made through the ramparts in 1839 and 1845 to admit railway lines to the walled area, and in 1840 a roadway was cut through the city wall near the North Street postern; in 1843 Hudson Street (later Railway Street), an entirely new approach road, was built.

In 1874, during the construction of the new station, a road was cut through the defences to link it with Lendal Bridge, and three arches were built to carry the city wall above. An Anglian cross-head and remains of earlier defences were found during the works (p. 7). Other new approaches were the roads Station Rise, Station Road and Station Avenue.

In 1850, Trinity Gardens, open land formerly belonging to Holy Trinity Priory, was sold for development, and in 1854 the medieval Priory Gateway was demolished to provide access to the newly laid-out Priory Street. Building development along the new street was slow, but was complete by the end of the century. In 1880, near Baile Hill, the City Gaol, disused since 1869, was demolished and the land was redeveloped for housing, involving the construction of further streets: Baile Hill Terrace, Newton Terrace, Kyme Street, and Falkland Street.
Fig. 4. Development south-west of the Ouse in 1750, after Peter Chassereau. Scale 1:5000
Fig. 5 Development south-west of the Ouse in 1822, after Edward Baines. Scale 1:5000
During these works, coin hoards of Edward the Confessor and William I were found (88 and 89). Adjacent to Baile Hill, Skeldergate Postern, demolished in 1807, was replaced in 1878 by a polygonal tower, and work began on the building of Skeldergate Bridge, which opened to traffic in 1881. Various finds were made here at this time (83-6).

The century was rounded off by two major building projects: the construction of the York Co-operative Society’s headquarters and store in Railway Street, begun in 1897, and of the North Eastern Railway (NER) Company’s office buildings in Station Rise, between 1900 and 1906.

In the 20th century further major redevelopment has taken place. In Rougier Street, office blocks have been constructed adjacent to Leedham’s Garage, and for the General Accident Company opposite. A new supermarket and multi-storey car park have been built, and on the corner with Micklegate the Co-operative Society’s store has been extended. In North Street, the Viking Hotel and annexe have been constructed. To the south of Micklegate there has been housing development adjacent to St Mary Bishophill Junior, and much of Bishophill has been demolished prior to re-development. The redundant church of St Mary Bishophill Senior was demolished in 1963, and the adjacent Friends’ Burial Ground has been redeveloped for housing. Skeldergate has witnessed major rebuilding, again mostly for housing, and this is still in progress.

In general, archaeological discoveries have been made during the larger building schemes when foundations for the structures have been deep and extensive. These operations have been confined largely to the area north of Micklegate. The only equivalent work south of Micklegate was for the City Gaol. Apart from this, building in the area has largely been for housing, involving only shallow foundations with little disturbance to the Anglo-Scandinavian levels.

Antiquaries, collectors and archaeologists

Archaeological finds from the period before the First World War were recovered by individuals who belonged to one of three broad categories: labourers, private individuals, or museum officials. The first and largest of these groups was that of workmen involved in construction work within the area, and on their activities hinged those of the other two. The second group consisted of casual observers and collectors of curiosities, and of individuals engaged in collecting for themselves or for others. The third group comprised persons acting in an official capacity, collecting for the museum of the Yorkshire Philosophical Society or for a society such as the Yorkshire Antiquarian Club; they were not infrequently engaged at the same time in adding to their own collections.

Organized archaeological excavation, recovery and preservation of finds began in York with the excavation of the site of St Mary’s Abbey, under the guidance of the Rev. Charles Wellbeloved, from 1828, before the preparation of the site for the foundation of the Yorkshire Philosophical Society’s new building in the Abbey grounds. The collection of finds for the newly founded museum was given added stimulus by the excavations occasioned by the building of the first railway station, begun in the late 1830s. The museum of the Yorkshire Philosophical Society was the first publicly available repository for finds.
Fig. 6 Development south-west of the Ouse in 1864, after R. H. Skaife, based on the Ordnance Survey map of 1851. Scale 1:5000
At the same time, a different group of antiquaries — 'ecclesiologists' — was taking advantage of the century's vigorous programme of church repair and rebuilding to identify and record architectural features of pre-Norman origin, and to describe and list sculptured stone bearing traces of 'Anglo-Saxon' decoration. Included in their ranks were architects, art historians, clergymen and miscellaneous antiquaries engaged usually in observation rather than physical collection.

Contemporary descriptions of activities at excavation sites provide insight into interaction between workmen and collectors and into instances of rivalry or co-operation between individuals or groups. There is no means of knowing how much material was appropriated by workmen, or how much fell into the hands of casual bystanders, never to find its way either into private collections or into museums.

A description by William Hargrove of the breaking open of a Roman sarcophagus on the site of the first railway station describes what he notes as the normal procedure:

According to the usual custom the head was searched for ear-rings or ornaments — then the finger-bones for golden bangles. But the search was fruitless, and a discovery was made [concerning the skeleton] of no importance to the workmen, but of great interest to the Antiquary. (Hargrove MS, 31st August 1840)

Over the excavation sites hovered the predatory spectator. A contemporary report on the digging of foundations for the Co-operative Society's building in George Hudson Street, as late in the century as 1897-98, hints at the reason for the lack of recorded finds from the site in the Yorkshire Museum:

... but very few of these [finds] found their way to the Museum. There is, unfortunately, always a crowd of private collectors or dealers ready to intercept such treasure. (YPSAR for 1898)

Barter between workmen and members of the public and general audience participation on the first station site in 1846 was temporarily disrupted by an attempt to restore orderly working conditions. A letter from James Cook records:

Since I last wrote to you some very severe restrictions have been laid on the excavators at the walls they are not allowed to take up any-thing not even to speak to anyone. The prohibition is given by the Chief Engineer himself who went to the workmen on purpose and Mr. Hogg was to see the same informed he being now an onlooker. I however informed the men where I resided and by promising ale and tobacco I have obtained a many antiquities. (Bateman Corresp., James Cook to Thomas Bateman, 27th March 1846)

James and Robert Cook were important 19th century collectors with involvement in excavations south-west of the Ouse and a recorded interest in Anglo-Scandinavian finds. James Cook (1785–1872) retired from his hardware business in 1838, handing it into the care of his nephews, James Cook Jr, and Robert Cook (James Jr died in 1846). James Cook Sr must have devoted much of his remaining time to the recovery of 'antiquities'. His collections of archaeological finds and of fossils were given to the Yorkshire Museum in 1872, together with his illustrated manuscript catalogue of artefacts. In addition, he was a collecting agent for the Derbyshire antiquary, Thomas Bateman, and some of his collection had already been sold to Bateman in 1857. He is best remembered as a general collector, but from his letters to Bateman was clearly interested in coins.
His nephew, Robert, is remembered principally as a coin collector. Robert was also interested in general antiquities and acted as an agent for Bateman, as attested by their correspondence, and by his published report on a bone implement found in what was then Hudson Street in 1851 (77). His coin collection was maintained and augmented by his son, Robert Bielby Cook, and was given to the Yorkshire Museum after the latter’s death in 1919.

Through the Cook connection with Thomas Bateman, Anglo-Scandinavian finds from York, together with finds from other periods, were incorporated into the Bateman Collection, now in the Sheffield City Museum. The catalogue of this collection, the correspondence between the two York collectors and Bateman, and James Cook’s manuscript catalogue of his own collection, together provide illuminating evidence of the practice of antiquarian collecting in 19th century York. Re-examination of their content has led to the revised classification of many finds recorded as other than Anglo-Scandinavian (particularly the series 52–72 below), and has supplied evidence of how a group of finds was made in Micklegate in July, 1852 (78–80).

Letters from James and Robert Cook to Thomas Bateman shed much light on relations not only between workmen and collectors but between individual collectors. Of the excavations through the ramparts for a second railway arch (1845–46), James Cook wrote:

... the prices which the workmen ask for are most extravagant... I have often wished for reinforcements for the worthy Sub Curator of the Museum goes once a day, and with him have had a contest for a Bronze pin which he threatened he would have to the Museum in a short time. But he shall know when I give up that which was freely offered to the highest bidder at the time. The contest is likely to continue some time... But am determined not to be frightened out of the field. [Mr R.] Cook with two or three others are still opponents. (Bateman Corresp., James Cook to Thomas Bateman, 17th Feb. 1846)

Bateman received a similar complaint from Robert Cook:

P.S. There is likely to be a great deal of excavating in the suburbs of York in the ensuing Spring and I fear whatever may be found will have to be dearly purchased. My uncle having I am sorry to say, acted towards me in a very ungentlemanly manner. Only yesterday he went to the men, who he thought I had got the bone pin of and told them that he would have given them ‘half-a-crown’ for it, and that he also would give that sum for as many as they might find, ‘that he was sure I would give them up such prices for what they might find.’ A many other such like acts he has done to me within the last few weeks, so that some of the men are difficult to deal, saying they have now got to know the value of what they find. (Bateman Corresp., Robert Cook to Thomas Bateman, 16th March 1851)

Yet there was clearly co-operation as well as rivalry between uncle and nephew, and on more than one occasion James prepared drawings of Robert’s finds for him to send on to Bateman. And there was slightly uneasy co-operation between Robert and Henry Baines — the above mentioned ‘Sub Curator’:

... in the early part of the year I called at the Museum, and Mr. Baines... shewed me a great many human antiquities, all of which had been found in York last year, of course I could not expect him to tell me precisely the places. (Bateman Corresp., Robert Cook to Thomas Bateman, 24th June 1853)
The Cooks are outstanding representatives of the second group of the three noted above — individuals acting on their own or someone else’s behalf. Notable representatives of the third group — collectors acting in an official capacity — whose work has particular relevance to Anglo-Scandinavian finds from south-west of the Ouse are the Rev. Charles Wellbeloved (1769–1858), Curator of Antiquities and Numismatics to the museum of the Yorkshire Philosophical Society, his Sub-curator, Henry Baines, and his eventual successor, James Raine (1830–96).

Wellbeloved was actively concerned in promoting archaeological excavation and the collecting of finds to add to the museum; he was responsible for the publishing of the first guide to its contents, in 1852. Baines clearly had a ‘watching-brief’ over excavations on the first station site, and was evidently provided with ample funds to compete with rival collectors. James Raine, from his notes and from the lists of donations to the Yorkshire Museum appended to the Yorkshire Philosophical Society’s annual reports, was a vigorous collector who gave much of what he acquired to the museum. His diary notes of finds made in or near York, 1872–82 (J. Raine, notes), provided a valuable record of finds and purchases made on the new station site and in Skeldergate (84–6), and fascinating detail of the eclectic nature of antiquarian collecting at this time. The notes from September–December, 1879, for instance, record two ‘Cyprian’ vases, a New Zealand grave god, an Emu’s egg, a York Grandstand ticket, and two stay-bones, as well as some conventional finds.

From contemporary records, then, the main features of 19th century archaeological practice emerge. To the average antiquarian collector the find itself is of paramount importance, its provenance and context are often only vaguely defined or altogether omitted. He is more accustomed to, and therefore more skilled in, recognizing Roman or late medieval finds than those of the interim period, which are often described as Romano-British, Celtic, Saxon, Dano-Saxon or Viking (53, 58). A natural bias towards the acquisition of ‘valuable’ finds, and coin collecting, is tempered by an interest in ‘curiosities’, in skeletal remains as a source of anthropological knowledge, and by a growing interest in the possible significance of small finds related to everyday life, as seen in James Cook’s meticulous cataloguing of fragments of combs, pins, and knives.

In parallel with this zeal for collecting objects, sculptured stone within the churches south-west of the Ouse, and miscellaneous pieces presented to the Yorkshire Museum, were recorded from the early years of the 19th century. As in the collecting of objects, this activity was unsystematic and uncoordinated, but systematic comparative work began in the first decade of the 20th century, with the studies of W. G. Collingwood, the former secretary to Ruskin; his detailed observations were first published in the *Yorkshire Archaeological Journal*, and were finally distilled into his magnum opus, *Northumbrian Crosses of the Pre-Norman Age*, 1927, which includes most of the material known from York, much of it from the area south-west of the Ouse.

The work of the ecclesiologists in York was given a fillip by the annual meeting of the Archaeological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland, held in the city in 1846. The Proceedings contain the first published illustrated notes on pre-Conquest features of the tower of St Mary Bishophill Junior, information later included in George Baldwin Brown’s comparative studies: *Anglo-Saxon Architecture*, 1925, Volume 2 of *The Arts in Early England*. 
Subsequently, the tower appeared in most of the standard accounts of Anglo-Saxon architecture (e.g. Fisher, 1965, 143-4), and was re-examined in detail in H. M. and J. Taylor's *Anglo-Saxon Architecture*. This comprehensive survey also recorded the pre-Conquest features of the church of St Mary Bishophill Senior before its demolition in 1963-64.

Excavations in the inter-war years were mainly devoted to intensive study of Roman York on the fortress side of the Ouse; a series of excavations was led by archaeologists of local and national repute, assisted by amateur labour. The site of the former *colonia* was regarded as a depressed area, and little opportunity for systematic excavation was taken. It was not until the 1960s that the first controlled excavations were undertaken by L. P. Wenham at St Mary Bishophill Junior in 1961-63 and by H. G. Ramm for RCHM at St Mary Bishophill Senior in 1964. In 1968-69, P. V. Addyman was able to undertake the excavation of Baile Hill (44) on behalf of the Royal Archaeological Institute. All of these sites yielded some evidence of Anglo-Scandinavian activity.

Since 1972, systematic sampling, albeit circumscribed by the limitations of purely rescue archaeology, has been undertaken by the York Archaeological Trust, and for the first time there have been excavations and post-excavation work equipped to take into account environmental evidence of Anglo-Scandinavian life on this side of the Ouse, as well as to conserve and study artefacts of metal, timber, leather and textiles of a kind which may well have been found in the 19th century, but must have frequently deteriorated or perished within a short time. The results of some of this work are published below, pp. 37-61.
Catalogue of the Anglo-Scandinavian Sites
South-west of the Ouse

By Joan Moulden and Dominic Tweddle

The sites are divided into four categories: ecclesiastical sites, stone sculptures, secular sites and casual finds. Entries are numbered sequentially. Secular sites, which are in practice all modern controlled excavations, and casual finds are placed in date order. The introductory note to each entry includes the present location of the find or finds, with museum accession numbers where known; for YAT sites the Yorkshire Museum accession number is the same as the site reference number. Thereafter, each entry consists of a short description of what was found, references, and a discussion of any particular problems which the discovery raised. In the references, manuscript sources are given first, followed by published works; each section is in date order. Where dimensions are given, the following abbreviations are used: D. — diameter, H. — height, L. — length, T. — thickness, W. — width.

Ecclesiastical sites

1 St Mary Bishophill Senior
Excavations by H. G. Ramm for RCHM on the site of the church of St Mary Bishophill Senior revealed a sequence of Roman occupation beginning with a 2nd century metalworker’s workshop, and ending with a 4th century town house. In the post-Roman period one wall of this range of buildings was re-used as the wall of a pre-11th century rectangular enclosure. This was superseded by a single-cell late 11th century church. Additions were made to this in the early Norman period, but after damage by fire in 1137 an entirely new church was built. The excavations produced two important pieces of metalwork, a copper-alloy strap-end decorated in the Borre style, and an object made of two closely plaited strands of silver wire. Two fragments of sculptured stone (26 and 28) were also found.


It has been suggested that this church can be identified as the ‘aula’ of St Mary, referred to by Alcuin as existing in the 8th century (Godman, 1982, lines 1602–6); however, no evidence was found for an ecclesiastical use of the site before the 10th century. Indeed no firm evidence was found for any occupation of the site between the late 4th and 10th centuries with the possible exception of a number of sherds of pottery, of uncertain date.

2 St Mary Bishophill Junior
Controlled excavation 1961–63 and 1967 SE 5998544 SE 59995147 Yorkshire Museum 1975.27
Controlled excavation by L. P. Wenham in the vicarage garden to the north of the church, and in Florence Row, revealed a sequence of Roman structures, beginning with a 2nd century floor of opus signinum and ending with an apsidal building of the 4th century. Between the late Roman period and c. AD 900 within the area of the apsidal building, a compacted layer of bones of between 1,000 and 2,000 herring was deposited. To the east, four east-west burials, two with associated grave goods, were found. One grave-group contained a schist whetstone, an iron knife, a copper-alloy buckle plate and a St Peter’s penny; another a silver armlet and ring. A number of other Anglo-Scandinavian artefacts including several fragments of antler combs was recovered.


The fish bones appear to be the remains of stored or discarded fish rather than the remains of fish processing, as has been suggested, since processing would normally occur where the catch was landed. The burials are dated by the St Peter’s penny to the early 10th century and are the only accompanied Anglo-Scandinavian burials found so far in York.
3 St Mary Bishophill Junior
Survey of west tower by YAT/York Univ. 1980.12
SE 600515
Survey by YAT prior to restoration indicated that,
despite clear differences in the stonework between
the belfry stage and the rest of the tower, it had
been built in a single campaign. Three pieces of
pre-Conquest sculpture (35–7) were recovered. A
further fragment (38) was recognized but remains
in situ.
Paley, 1843, 190–2; 1846, 37, 41; Parker, 1847,
17–18; 1848; Brown, G. B., 1925, 2, 69–70, 398,
403–4, 489; Taylor and Taylor, 1965, 2, 697–9, pl.
636–8; RCHMY 3, xlii, xlv; YPSAR for 1980,
42–3; Addyman, 1981, 68; Briden, 1981, 20, fig.
4; Yorkshire Archaeol. J. 53, 1981, 140; Palliser,
1984, 104; AY 8/2, forthcoming.

4 Holy Trinity Priory, Micklegate
Controlled excavation 1899 SE 598515
Excavation by W. Harvey Brook in 1899 on the site
of the chancel revealed a cobbled footing under the
south arcade, which he identified as pre-Conquest
in date.
Brook MS, illus. facing p. 31
The only evidence for this discovery is a section in
Brook's notebooks showing the cobblestones,
which are labelled 'Remains of Saxon Church'.
They apparently abutted a fragment of Roman
walling. There is no clear evidence for the
interpretation proposed by Brook.

5 St Martin-cum-Gregory
Structural remains SE 600516
Rubble walling through which are pierced the
arcades of the nave.
RCHMY 3, 20
The RCHM has identified the rubble walling as
11th century, and has suggested that it constitutes
the remains of the first church, which was a simple
cell, 10m x 5.5m, coterminous with the present
nave. The judgement is based on the appearance of
the walling, which lacks architectural features, and
must, therefore, be treated with caution.

6 St Gregory
No structural remains have been recorded of the
church of St Gregory, which stood in Gregory
(now Barker) Lane until its demolition in the mid
16th century; it was made redundant in 1548 and
subsequently demolished and its parish was
combined with that of St Martin, Micklegate, in
1586. Part of a burial ground, in all probability
relating to the church, was found in 1821 during
building excavations. Contemporary accounts
describe skeletal remains and other finds from
three distinct strata. The lowest was identified on
the evidence of associated coins as Roman, the
middle as possibly pre-Conquest on the evidence of
an associated 'British or Saxon' coin, and the top
layer as medieval.
Yorkshire Gazette, 24 Nov. 1821, 3, col. 2; 8 Dec.
1821, 3, cols. 2–3; VCHY, 382; RCHMY 1, 52–3,
fig. 42; Palliser, 1984, 104
The evidence of a single coin, which was not clearly
identified at the time, and which no longer
survives, is not sufficient for any firm conclusion as
to the dating of the cemetery to be made. It does,
however, provide a tantalizing hint.

7 Clementhorpe
Controlled excavation, YAT 1976–77.3 SE 60315018
Yorkshire Museum
Excavation in 1976 by YAT revealed parts of a
Roman mosaic first discovered in 1851. Further
excavation in 1977 produced evidence for
occupation from the 2nd to the 4th centuries,
including part of an elaborate 4th century house.
In the post-Roman period the major structural
feature was a layer of cobbles aligned east-west
across the remains of a Roman building, and
measuring over 30m x 1.5–2.0m; on the west and
east ends the cobbles appeared to return to the
north. Three large limestone blocks of masonry
stood at the south-east corner of the feature.
Pre-Conquest small finds from the site include
three coins: a fragmentary styca of Osberht
(862–6), a silver penny of Ethelwulf of Wessex, c.
838/9–856/9, a silver penny of Edward the
Confessor, minted York, 1062–65; a lead weight
with an enamel inset top; part of a composite
single-sided antler comb; and pottery sherds.
Structural evidence of the post-Conquest period
was also discovered, presumably representing part
of the nunery which occupied the site after AD
1130. The Anglo-Scandinavian levels are
described below (pp. 57–61).
Webster and Cherry, 1977, 216; Yorkshire
Archaeol. J. 50, 1978, 16; Roesdahl et al., 1981,
131, 135–6 (YTC29, 54); Andrews, 1984, 180,
201, no. 52; Brinklow in AY 2/1, 5–8, figs. 1–3;
Palliser, 1984, 104
It has been suggested that the name Clementhorpe
derives from a pre-Conquest church dedicated to
St Clement, preceding that associated with the
nunery. The cobbled area is tentatively interpreted
as the foundation of this structure, but it
was not possible to excavate more than a small
fraction of the site, so that the complete plan of
the presumed structure could not be established.

Stone sculptures
St Mary Bishophill Senior
Twenty-one sculptured stones from the church
(8–29) are now to be found inside the church of the
Holy Redeemer, Boroughbridge Road, mostly
incorporated into the fabric.

8 Two cross-shaft fragments
The larger fragment (a) is incorporated into the
altar cross at Holy Redeemer; the smaller (b) is
loose in the church beneath the altar.
Two adjoining fragments of a gritstone cross-shaft,
of square section, roughly broken above and
below. On each of the angles of the shaft is a plain
frame within a cabled arris. Face A is decorated
with two figures, one above the other. Of the upper
figure, only the legs, viewed in profile, and part of
a sword, to the left of the figure, survive. The lower
figure, placed frontally, is robed and nimbed, and holds an object, possibly a chalice. On the chest is a rectangular feature decorated with six pellets, arranged in two rows, representing a book satchel, morse, or tablet. Face B has a plain frame within the cabled arrises and is decorated with an undulating ribbon-like animal involved in median-incised interlace. The animal has an incised line contouring the body. The legs are median-incised and end in expanding feet with short incised lines indicating the toes. The legs interface with the body. Face C has a plain frame inside the cabled arrises. It is decorated with a backward-looking animal placed vertically and enmeshed in interlace. The body is contoured with an incised line, and has spiral hips. Above it are the hind quarters of a second animal. The interstices between the animals are filled with pellets. Face D has plain frames inside the cabled arrises. It is decorated with an undulating animal. In each of the fields thus created is a median-incised interface knot. These are linked together across the animal’s body. (a) H.457, W.250, T.225mm; (b) H.252, W.253, T.230mm RCHM Archive; Yorkshire Archaeol. J. 41, 1963–66, 177, 335; Cramp, 1967, 19; Ramm, 1972, fig. p. 249; RCHMY 3, 33, pl. 25, stone 1; Wilkins, 1972, 22–3, 69, fig. p. 36; Pattison, 1973, 217, pl. XLV a–d

The fragments were discovered together, built into the inner face of the south wall of the post-Conquest church below floor level. It has been suggested that B is part of the same shaft since it is of the same gritstone and has similar cabled arrises. The debased Jellinge-style decoration on the shaft suggests an early to mid 10th century date.

9 Cross-shaft fragment
Built into the south face of the north wall of the lectern
Gritstone cross-shaft fragment of square section, roughly broken above and below. Only Face A is now visible. It is framed on the upper left and right hand edges with heavily damaged cable mouldings. These enclose a pair of roll-mouldings describing the arc of a circle. H.140, W.207mm RCHM Archive; RCHMY 3, 33, stone 2
It has been suggested that the curved mouldings form either part of an interlace pattern, or part of a nimbus.

10 Headstone
Built into the south-west corner of the lectern
Headstone of yellow gritstone. It is of flat rectangular section with a square head. The upper right-hand corner is broken away. The upper two-thirds of Face A is decorated with a rectangular field, having a cabled frame above and to the left. Inside this a pelleted frame enclosing two pointed ovoids arranged as a saltire and interlacing where they cross. The strands are median-incised and in the interstices are several loose pellets. The lower part of the face is roughly dressed. The upper part of Face B has been broken away, but the lower part of a rectangular field decorated with median-incised interlace survives; below this the remaining third of the face has been roughly dressed. The upper part of Face C has been broken away but the lower part of a rectangular field survives decorated with interlace within a pelleted border. Below this the lower third of the face is dressed roughly flat. The upper three-quarters of Face D is decorated with 4-strand median-incised interlace plait confined to the left and right within simple cabled frames. Above is a triple, and below a double, cabled frame. The lower part of the face is roughly dressed. H.530, W.300, T.159mm RCHM Archive; RCHMY 3, 33, pl. 25, stone 3
The stone has been compared stylistically with one from Parliament Street now in the Yorkshire Museum (Yorkshire Archaeol. J. 20, 1908, 162).

11 Cross-shaft fragment
Built into the south face of the south side of the pulpit
Cross-shaft fragment of yellow gritstone. It is of square section and is roughly broken above but dressed flat below. It has cabled arrises. Face A has a plain raised frame containing a 4-strand interlace plait. Faces B and C are not visible. Face D has a plain raised frame containing the lower end of a 4-strand median-incised interlace. H.430, W.340, T.220mm RCHM Archive; RCHMY 3, 33; RCHMY 5, xxxviii, stone 4
The stone exhibits signs of dressing for re-use. Red pigment, probably haematite, survives on both of the exposed faces.

12 Cross-shaft fragment
Built into the south wall
Fragmentary gritstone cross-shaft of square section roughly broken above and below. Only Face A is now visible. It has plain raised frames flanking an incomplete 8-strand interlace plait. The strands are broad and without interstices. H.265, W.343mm RCHM Archive; RCHMY, 3, 33, stone 5

13 Grave slab
Built into the jamb at the left-hand side of a window in the south wall
Sub-rectangular fragment of gritstone grave slab. Only one original edge survives. The remaining edges are roughly broken. The upper surface of the slab has been roughly dressed, but to the right, near the surviving original edge, are the marginal remains of a median-incised interlace plait, contained by a plain relief frame inside a cabled arris. H.245, W.430, T.190mm RCHM Archive; RCHMY 3, 33, stone 6

14 Gritstone fragment
Built into south wall, near left-hand window jamb
Sub-rectangular gritstone fragment. No original edge survives. It is decorated on the front face with part of a median-incised 8-strand interlace plait. H.175, W.205mm RCHM Archive; RCHMY 3, 33, stone 7
15 Grave cover?
   Built into south wall
   Sub-rectangular yellow gritstone or sandstone fragment, possibly part of a grave cover. Only one original edge, with a cabled arris, survives. The remaining edges are roughly broken. The face is decorated with a multiple strand median-incised interlace plait. The strands are broad, undulate, and lack interstices. W.550, H.315mm
   RCHM Archive; RCHMY 3, 33-4, stone 9
   The stone may have formed part of a flat or hog-back grave cover.

16 Grave cover
   Built into south wall
   Sub-rectangular gritstone fragment of a grave cover. No original edge survives. The front face is divided into two by a cabled moulding along the vertical axis. The remains of the fields to either side are decorated with beast chains. L..450, W.320mm
   RCHM Archive; Waterman, 1959, 67; RCHMY 3, 34, pl. 25, stone 10

17 Grave marker
   Built into left-hand edge of window in south wall
   Fragment of a gritstone grave marker. The fragment is parallel-sided, with a semicircular head. The front face has a plain raised frame — except along the lower edge which is roughly broken — inside which is a beaded border, containing the end of a median-incised interlace 3-strand plait. H.230, W.235, T.145mm
   RCHM Archive; RCHMY 3, 34, stone 11

18 Cross-shaft fragment
   Built into east edge of window in south wall
   Gritstone cross-shaft fragment of square section, roughly broken above and below. Face A has to the right a plain moulded arris, but is roughly broken to the left. It is decorated with a simple incised fret. Face B has to the left a moulded arris shared with Face A, but to the right is roughly broken away. It is also decorated with a simple incised fret. Faces C and D are built into the wall. H.242, W.228, T.165mm
   RCHM Archive; RCHMY 3, 34, stone 12

19 Cross-shaft fragment
   Built into recess in south wall
   Fragmentary gritstone cross-shaft with cabled arrises. Face A is decorated, within a pelleted frame, with a flaccid median-incised 7-strand plait. Face B is roughly broken to the right. It is framed like Face A and decorated with an incomplete median-incised interlace plait. Face C is roughly broken away. Face D is roughly broken to the left, and framed like Face A. It is decorated with a heavily worn interlace plait. H.580, W.340, T.200mm
   RCHM Archive; RCHMY 3, 34, stone 13; Pattison, 1973, 217
   It has been suggested that this fragment forms part of the same cross-shaft as 8, since it is of the same gritstone and has similar cabled arrises.

20 Gritstone fragment
   Built into north face of wall above south arcade
   Sub-rectangular gritstone fragment. No original edge survives. Only one face is now visible; it is decorated with the indecipherable remains of interlace, largely destroyed. L.300, W.200mm
   RCHM Archive; RCHMY 3, 34, stone 14

21 Gritstone fragment
   Built into north face of westernmost pier of south arcade
   Sub-rectangular gritstone fragment. It is roughly broken on three edges; the remaining edge has a plain raised frame. The only face now visible is decorated with closed circuit interface. The strands are thick and without interstices. L.430, W.355mm
   RCHM Archive; RCHMY 3, 34, stone 15

22 Gritstone fragment
   Built into north face of third pier from east of south arcade
   Sub-rectangular gritstone fragment. It is roughly broken on three edges; the remaining edge has a plain raised frame. The other edges are roughly broken. The front face is convex. H.270, W.325mm
   Unpublished
   This may be part of a rectangular grave cover.

23 Gritstone fragment
   Built into south wall immediately to the left of 15
   Sub-rectangular yellow gritstone fragment, with on one edge a plain raised frame. The other edges are roughly broken. The front face is convex. H.270, W.325mm
   Unpublished

24 Sandstone fragment (Pl. Ila)
   Built into south face of south arcade over westernmost pier
   Sub-triangular sandstone fragment with a pair of median mouldings, the left-hand one cabled and the right-hand one plain. On each side of these mouldings is the margin of a field containing interlace. L..330, W.252mm
   Unpublished

25 Stone fragment (Pl. IIb)
   Built into south face of south arcade over second pier from the east
   Sub-rectangular fragment roughly broken along each edge. On the lower, the left and right-hand edges, parts of plain raised frames survive enclosing a field decorated with part of a 3-strand median-incised interface plait. L.385, W. c. 145mm
   Unpublished

26 Grave cover
   Private possession
   One end of a hog-back grave cover of magnesian limestone. It has a double cabled ridge, with, on either side, a median-incised 3-strand interlace plait. At the surviving end are the remains of an animal terminal.
The grave cover was clearly visible before the demolition of St Mary Bishophill Senior in 1963–64. It was built, first, into the south wall of the church, and, later, into the interior wall of the porch.

31 Hog-back grave cover
Yorkshire Museum
Gritstone fragment of a hog-back grave cover, cut down for re-use. The ridge of the tegulated roof has been dressed flat. The front face is decorated with a horizontal zone of debased vinescroll, with a berry bunch within each volute, above a zone of interlace. The rear face is similarly decorated, but the interface zone has been cut back. L.700, H.510, T.250mm
RCHM Archive; YPS Acc. Reg., 5 March 1861; YMH, 1891, 76; Collingwood, 1909, 170–1; Benson, 1911, 53; Collingwood, 1912, 123; 1927, 131; Benson, 1929, unnumbered; Waterman, 1959, 67; VCHY, 333; Yorkshire Evening Press, 18 March 1963, 4; RCHMY 3, 28–9, pl. 26, stone 3; Tweddle, inAY 8/2, forthcoming.
Discovered ‘in the wall of the church’ (YMH, 1891, 76) and presented to the Yorkshire Museum in 1861 by the then vicar the Rev. C. J. Buncombe.

32 Gritstone fragment
Interior of tower, to west of south window
Gritstone fragment having a convex upper edge and decorated with an incised circle with six rays. L.815, H.410mm
RCHM Archive; Collingwood, 1909, 207; Benson, 1911, 33; Collingwood, 1912, 123; Yorkshire Evening Press, 18 March 1963, 4; Ramm, 1972, 247; RCHMY 3, 29, stone 5; Tweddle, inAY 8/2, forthcoming.
No longer visible during the survey of the tower by YAT in 1980. Since none of the rays was vertical or horizontal, and there is no hole for a gnomon, it seems unlikely that the piece served as a sundial.
33 Grave marker
In the church
Gritstone corner fragment of grave marker. On the front face, the two original edges have a double plain raised frame, containing part of a panel decorated with a ribbon-like animal. The edges and face are undecorated. L. 380, W. 305, T. 100mm
RCHM Archive; RCHMY 3, 29; RCHMY 5, 1981, xxxvii, stone 7; Tweddle, in *AY* 8/2, forthcoming

34 Gritstone fragment
Tower; built into the inner wall, below the level of the bells, and to the west of a window
Gritstone fragment, possibly part of a grave slab. The visible face is decorated with a pair of incised parallel lines. No measurements recorded.
RCHM Archive, stone 8; Tweddle, in *AY* 8/2, forthcoming
This piece was not observed during the survey of the tower by YAT in 1980.

35 Cross-shaft fragment
*AY* 1980.12.12
In the church
Incomplete limestone cross-shaft (*AY* 8/2, forthcoming). It is of rectangular section, tapers towards the upper end, and is roughly broken above and to the rear. Below, it is dressed flat, with the remains of a dowel hole in the middle of the broken rear edge. The shaft was originally stepped near the base, but on *Faces A* and *B* this stepping has been dressed flat. *Face C* is destroyed, and *Face D* is so heavily weathered that this feature is completely obscured. *Face A* has plain corner mouldings inside each of which is a plain frame. There is a boss on the vertical axis of the face near the upper edge, and below this the field is decorated with a heavily weathered, vertically placed, backward-looking quadruped involved in flattened interlace. The animal's hind-quarters are in the lower left-hand corner of the field with the rear leg, folded under the body, running into the lower right-hand corner. The animal's ribbon-like body curves across the field towards the upper right-hand corner where there is a spiral hip. The foreleg is placed horizontally below the boss. *Face B* has the plain corner moulding to the left returned above the step of the base. The plain frame inside it is not returned, and is enriched with two pairs of incised transverse lines. The frame and corner moulding to the right are lost. Only one edge of the main field survives; its decoration is undecipherable. *Face C* is completely destroyed. *Face D* has a plain corner moulding to the right, with a plain frame inside it. The corner moulding and frame to the left are lost. Near the upper edge is an irregular relief area, below which the face is decorated with an interlace whose pattern is not recoverable. H. 475, W. 365, T. 165mm
The fragment was found built into the east face of the tower, just below and to the south of the belfry window. It was recovered after the survey of 1980.

36 Gritstone fragment
*AY* 1980.12
In the church
Incomplete rectangular panel of Millstone Grit. The fragment is roughly broken to one side but the remaining edges are dressed flat. The front and rear faces each have a double plain frame, as does one of the edges. H. 590, W. 400, T. 135mm
*YPSAR for 1980*, 42; Briden, 1981, 20; Tweddle, in *AY* 8/2, forthcoming, stone 3
The panel was found built into the ground floor chamber of the tower, at the east end of the north wall. It apparently forms part of the same feature as 37, and may be part of a closure slab.

37 Gritstone fragment
*AY* 1980.12
In the church
Corner fragment of a rectangular panel of Millstone Grit. The surviving original edges are dressed flat. Of the remaining edges one is broken and the other roughly dressed. The front and rear faces both have a double plain frame. H. 420, W. 370, T. 95mm
*YPSAR for 1980*, 42; Briden, 1981, 20; Tweddle, in *AY* 8/2, forthcoming, stone 4
The panel was found built into the east wall of the ground floor chamber of the tower, north of the arch. For further discussion see 36.

38 Cross-shaft fragment
Re-used as lintel to high-level doorway in the east face of the tower
Cross-shaft fragment of sandstone. It is of square section, tapers towards the upper end and is roughly broken at either end. On *Face A* there are several small half-rounds standing in relief at the point where the stone is bedded into the north and south jambs. *Face C* is built into the wall, and *Faces B* and *D* are dressed flat.
Tweddle, in *AY* 8/2, forthcoming, stone 5
Found during the survey of the tower by YAT in 1980.

**Holy Trinity, Micklegate**

39 Gritstone fragment
Lost
L-shaped gritstone fragment. *Face A* was decorated to the left with an inward-facing volute, and to the right of this by debased pelleted interface. *Face B* was decorated with a volute or spiral joint of an animal within a roughly semi-circular field. L. 250, W. 195, T. 100mm
Collingwood, 1909, 208, 213, figs. a, b; *VCHY*, 344; RCHMY 3, 15, stone 2

40 Limestone fragment (Pl. Ib)
East wall of St Nicholas' chapel
Fragment of limestone. It is roughly rhomboidal. The lower edge is original; the remaining edges are roughly broken. Along the lower edge is a plain raised frame. Above is a downward-facing animal head. It has a long snout with two nose lappets, a
high forehead, and a lentoid eye. The open jaws bite on a leg which is roughly parallel to the frame, and ends, to the left, in a triangular foot. The toes are indicated by incised lines. The head develops from the coil of a ribbon-like body along the upper edge of the fragment. Both the head and body are contoured with an incised line. Another animal leg similar to the first develops from the upper left. 

H.280, W.275mm

RCHM Archive; Collingwood, 1909, 213, and fig.; Solloway, 1910, facing p. 56; Benson, 1928, unnumbered; RCHMY 3, 14-15, pl. 26, stone 1

In Collingwood's view the style of decoration suggests post-Conquest use of a Scandinavian theme, but an Anglo-Scandinavian date is possible.

St Martin-cum-Gregory

41 Grave cover

Interior face of west wall to north of tower

Sandstone grave cover tapering slightly towards either end, and broken into two unequal parts. The front face is decorated with a median groove, which bifurcates towards either end. The bifurcations run into the corners of the slab. H.1.22m, W.355mm

RCHM Archive; RCHMY 3, 24, stone 1

It was discovered during building works in 1978, and is now plastered over.

42 Cross-shaft fragments

Store-room, in north wall of tower: plastered over

Two fragments of a red sandstone cross-shaft. Both taper towards the upper end, and are of square section. There is no decoration visible. H.940, W.180mm, and H.900, W.215mm

RCHM Archive; RCHMY 3, 24, stone 2

See note for 41

43 Cross-shaft fragment

Exterior west wall of tower, above plinth

Fragment of gritstone cross-shaft. It is of square section and tapers towards the upper end, which is roughly broken. The lower end is dressed flat. H.780, W.385, T.300mm

RCHM Archive; Wellbeloved, 1842, 116; Parker, 1847, 16; Benson, 1904, 37, plan, pl. I, fig. 1; Cramp, 1967, 11; RCHMY 3, 24, pl. 26, stone 3; Palliser, 1984, 104

The Roman date proposed for the fragment by Parker and Benson is now considered to be too early.

Secular sites

44 Baile Hill

Controlled excavations 1968–69 SE 602512
Yorkshire Museum 1977.51

Excerations directed by P. V. Addyman for the Royal Archaeological Institute in 1968 and 1969 established that the motte of York's second castle overlay a ground surface containing 11th century occupation debris, including sherds of Saxon-Norman pottery. Three sherds of Middle Saxon pottery were also discovered. An iron axe-head belonged stratigraphically to the Anglo-Scandinavian or early post-Conquest period.


45 58–9 Skeldergate

Controlled excavation YAT 1973–75.14
SE 60195144
Yorkshire Museum

Excavations on the site of a new electricity substation revealed evidence of occupation from the Roman period onwards, including four Anglo-Scandinavian rectangular timber structures with their associated occupation levels, discussed fully below pp. 37–52. The Anglo-Scandinavian finds included a Borre-style terminal, antler combs, a bone skate, and an abundance of 9th–11th century pottery.

Addyman, 1973, 16; 1974, 23–4, 27; Webster, 1975, 230; Yorkshire Archaeol. J. 47, 1975, 6, 9; EY Int. Rep. 2, 2–8, 12–13, 17, 19, 29–30, figs. 1, 2–4, 8, 10, 16; Hall, 1978b, 34, 36; Kenward et al., 1978, 70; MacGregor, 1978, 37, 42, figs. 22.5; 24.4; 26.2; 27.2; 29.7, 9; 30.4; Roedahl et al., 1981, 108, 126, 131 (YD 35, YTC 2, YTC 30, YTC 32); Andrews, 1984, 180–1, 201–2, 204, no. 56; Ay 15/1, 4–5, 10–19, 24–9, 56; Palliser, 1984, 103

46 37 Bishophill Senior

Controlled excavation YAT 1973.15 SE 60145144
Yorkshire Museum

Excavations close to the former church of St Mary Bishophill Senior revealed traces of extensive Roman structures of the 3rd and 4th centuries. These included a range of buildings flanking a structure with an apsidal north end, parts of which apparently survived into the Anglo-Saxon period. There were numerous pits of Anglian, Anglo-Scandinavian and later date. Finds included three sherds of Middle Saxon pottery. Anglo-Scandinavian finds included a silver ring, a glass bead, a cast lead-alloy disc brooch and a fragment of a coin (1038–40). The excavation is published in summary below, pp. 53–5.

Addyman, 1973, 16–19; Webster and Cherry, 1974, 185; Webster, 1975, 230; Yorkshire Archaeol. J. 47, 1975, 5–6, 9; EY Int. Rep. 2, 5, 12–13, fig. 8.1; Roedahl et al., 1981, 105, 135 (YD9, YTC 53); Andrews, 1984, 181, 202, no. 57; Palliser, 1984, 103

47 5 Rougier Street

Controlled excavation YAT 1981–82.12 SE 600518
Yorkshire Museum

Excavations at 5 Rougier Street revealed a datable sequence of Roman deposits, including the remains of warehouses, a plasterer's workshop and road surfaces which were remetalled six times between the late 3rd and early 4th centuries. Overlying the latest surface was 0.8m of black soil
Casual finds

Near Baile Hill, City Gaol

49 Coin hoard, 1802
Yorkshire Museum

Coins: 3 silver pennies of William I; Bonnet (BMC type ii). Deposited: 1068/9
J. Raine add. notes, 66; York Courant, 28 June 1802; Hargrove and Hargrove, 1838, 26–7; Raine, J., 1893, 54; Cooper, 1904, 235; Benson, 1913, 97; 1929, unnumbered; Knight, 1944, 583–4; Raine, A., 1955, 23; Dolley, 1960, 48; Metcalfe, 1960, 101; Dolley, 1966, 39; SCBI 8 British Museum, 44, 53, no. 188; RCHMY 2, 87; SCBI 21 Yorkshire Collections, xxxv (15); Addyman and Priestley, 1977, 118

The coins were found during excavations in the north part of the bailey for a prison, which was built between 1802 and 1807. The press report of 1802 mentions only ‘several’ coins, and indicates that they were minted in York. Hargrove repeats the press account almost verbatim in his Guide to York, published in 1838, but the ‘several’ coins have been transmuted into ‘about one hundred’. This version persists into the SCBI listing of 1975, although Pirie was able to list only three. The three listed coins were acquired by the Yorkshire Museum in 1873.

50 Gold objects, 1802
Two gold objects
Lost
York Courant, 28 June 1802; Hargrove and Hargrove, 1838, 26–7

The objects do not survive and were already lost by the time Hargrove published his guide to York in 1838. They are described as ‘two gold ornaments, anciently worn on the breast as gorgets’. It is not clear from the published sources whether they were found with the coins 49 or separately.

51 Barker Lane
Coin, 1821
Lost
See 6, above
Yorkshire Gazette, 24 Nov. 1821, 3, col. 2; 8 Dec. 1821, 3, cols. 2–3; RCHMY 1, 52–3, fig. 42

Old Railway Station

52–72 form a series of casual finds recorded by James Cook as coming from ‘within’ or ‘outside’ the City Walls between 1845 and 1856. From 1845 to 1855 major operations connected with the Old Railway Station and its approaches were in progress, and it is likely that this is where the finds were made; all others recorded in Cook’s MS volume cited below are specifically provenanced. 52 and 66 are now within the Bateman Collection in Sheffield Museum.

52 Comb, 1845
Sheffield City Museum J93–640
Incomplete single-sided composite antler comb. Parts of two connecting plates and two tooth plates survive held in place by four iron rivets. There are two other rivet holes with the rivets lost. The connecting plates are decorated with incised geometrical ornament. L.101, W.33mm

Bateman Collection, 1899, 197
The fragment was found ‘in cutting through the ramparts’ in 1845, and was presented to Bateman by James Cook. Bateman describes it as Roman.

53 Ringed pin, 1845–47
Yorkshire Museum
Copper-alloy ringed pin with a polyhedral head and loose stirrup ring. The lower part of the shank is flattened and decorated with incised geometrical ornament. The head is ornamented with conventionalized interlace, and the ring has three equally spaced zones consisting of three transverse incised lines.

Cook’s Antiquities, 145, pl. III.61; Waterman, 1959, 78–9, fig. 11, no. 14
The pin is noted among finds made in ‘Excavation within and outside the city walls, 1845 – 1847’ and described as Romano-British.

54 Balance arm 1845–47
Yorkshire Museum
Copper-alloy balance arm from a pair of folding scales
Cook’s Antiquities, 145, pl. III.66
The object, described by Cook as a ‘portion of a weighing machine’, is noted among finds made in ‘Excavations within and outside the City Walls, 1845 to 1847’. It is described by Cook as Romano-British, but closely resembles Anglo-Scandinavian examples found elsewhere in the city.

55 Shears, 1845–48
Yorkshire Museum
Iron shears with an almost circular loop, and long blades with slightly concave shoulders.
Cook’s Antiquities, 146, pl. IV.78
The shears, and an almost identical pair (56), are noted among finds made in 'Excavations within and outside the City Walls... 1845 to 1848'. Cook describes the shears as Roman but they are more probably of Anglo-Scandinavian or early pre-Conquest date.

56 Shears, 1845–48
Yorkshire Museum
Iron shears: a similar pair to 55
Cook's Antiquities, 146, pl. IV.79
See 55

57 Spearhead, 1845–48
Yorkshire Museum
Iron spearhead with a long narrow blade of lozenge-shaped section, and with slightly concave shoulders.
Cook's Antiquities, 146, pl. IV.75
The spearhead is included by Cook among finds made in 'Excavations within and outside the City Walls, 1845 to 1848'.

58 Comb, 1845–55
Yorkshire Museum 556.48
Composite single-sided bone or antler comb. The connecting plates are secured by six rivets. On one side of the comb they are decorated with vertical incised lines; on the other, with ring and dot within a frame of three incised lines. One tooth plate remains; it is decorated with ring and dot.
Cook's Antiquities, 152, pl. X.145–6; MacGregor, 1975, 195, fig. 76, no. 1
The comb is recorded by Cook among finds 'From excavations within and outside the City Walls...'; and is described as Roman.

59 Comb, 1845–55
Yorkshire Museum
Fragment of bone comb. It is decorated with incised lines enclosing a pattern of ring and dot.
Cook's Antiquities, 152, pl. X.153
The comb is recorded by Cook among finds 'From excavations within and outside the City Walls...'; and is described as Roman.

60 Comb, 1845–55
Yorkshire Museum
Composite single-sided bone or antler comb. The connecting plates and an indeterminate number of tooth plates survive held together by three rivets. Along the back, the tooth plates project beyond the connecting plates to yield an elaborate sinuous profile.
Cook's Antiquities, 155, pl. XIII.214
The comb is recorded by Cook among finds 'From excavations in the City...'; and is described as Roman.

61 Buckle, 1845–55
Yorkshire Museum 617.48
Bone buckle with a sub-rectangular loop and parallel-sided plate, made as a single piece. The strap fitted into a split in the end of the plate and was held in place by two copper-alloy rivets. The whole is dyed green. L.42, W.27mm
Cook's Antiquities, 155, pl. XIII.216; Waterman, 1959, 91–2, fig. 19.7; Roesdahl et al., 1981, 100, 108 (YD33)
The buckle is noted by Cook among finds 'From excavations in the City...'; and is described as Romano-British.

62–5 Combs, 1845–55
Lost
Incomplete composite single-sided antler or bone combs. On one connecting plate (64) is a group of five transverse incised lines; another (65) is decorated with hatching and cross-hatching.
Cook's Antiquities, 157, pl. XV.217–20
The combs are noted by Cook among finds 'From excavations in the City...'; and are described as Romano-British.

66 Axe head, 1846
Sheffield City Museum J93–1196
Iron axe head with a slightly asymmetrically-expanding blade and convex cutting edge. L.165, W.102mm
Bateman Collection, 1899, 245
The axe was 'found in removing the ramparts to enlarge the railway station' i.e. the Old Railway Station. This phrase may refer to the cutting through of the rampart to admit the railway lines, but a different phraseology is used for discoveries made during this operation, see 52. Alternatively it may refer to the cutting back of the tail of the rampart to accommodate the buildings. The axe forms part of the collection made by James Cook during excavations in and around York between 1844 and 1871; part of this collection was purchased by Thomas Bateman and is now in Sheffield City Museum.

67 Comb, 1846–56
Yorkshire Museum 586.48
An incomplete single-sided bone or antler comb. Five out of the original seven tooth plates survive, and the two connecting plates, held together by six iron rivets. The end tooth plates are greatly extended beyond the comb back and are treated as upturned ends with a sinuous profile. L.168, W.46mm
Cook's Antiquities, 150, pl. VIII.108; Waterman 1959, 87, pl. XVIII, no. 5; Roesdahl et al., 1981, 100 (wrongly numbered YAB 13), 113 (YAB 7)
The comb is noted by Cook among finds made 'From excavations outside the City, 1846 to 1856', and is described as Roman.

68 Comb, 1846–56
Yorkshire Museum
Incomplete composite single-sided bone comb. One end only, with one rivet, survives. It is decorated with cross-hatching, hatching, and ring and dot.
Cook's Antiquities, 150, pl. VIII.110
The comb was noted by Cook among finds 'From excavations outside the City, 1846 to 1856', and is described as Roman.
69 Comb, 1848–55
Yorkshire Museum
Composite single-sided bone or antler comb. The connecting plates and an unknown number of tooth plates survive, held together by five rivets. The connecting plates are decorated with incised hatching and cross-hatching.
Cook’s Antiquities, 153, pl. XI.181
The comb is noted by Cook among finds ‘From excavations within and outside the City Walls . . .’, and is described as Roman.

70 Comb, 1848–55
Yorkshire Museum
Incomplete single-sided bone or antler comb. The connecting plates and an unknown number of tooth plates survive, held together by four rivets. They are decorated in the middle and on the surviving original end by incised hatching.
Cook’s Antiquities, 153, pl.XI.182
The comb is noted by Cook among finds ‘From within and outside the City Walls . . .’, and is described as Roman.

71 Pin, 1848–55
Yorkshire Museum
Bone pin. The head is fundamentally of double hour-glass shape with a bulbous projection in each of the angles. It is perforated.
Cook’s Antiquities, 153, pl. XI.187
The pin is noted by Cook among finds ‘From within and outside the City Walls . . .’, and is described as Roman.

72 Comb case, 1848–55
Yorkshire Museum
Composite bone or antler case for a single-sided comb. The connecting plates are decorated with elaborate incised geometrical ornament. They are held in place by four rivets. One of the end plates has a double perforation for suspension.
Cook’s Antiquities, 153, pl. XI.184; Waterman, 1959, 90, pl. XIX, no. 8, fig. 18
The comb case is noted by Cook among finds ‘From within and outside the City Walls . . .’ and is described as Roman.

Railway Street
73 Two iron knives, 1849
Yorkshire Museum
Two iron knives: each has a whittle tang with the blade and back tapering to a point.
Cook’s Antiquities, 154, pl. XII.198
Nothing is known of the circumstances of their discovery. Cook describes them as Roman, but an Anglo-Scandinavian or early post-Conquest date is more likely.

74 Shears, 1849
Yorkshire Museum
Iron shears. The loop is lost, and the long blades have concave shoulders.
Cook’s Antiquities, 154, pl. XII.201
Nothing is known of the circumstances of the find. Cook describes the shears as Romano-British. The blade shape and the form of the shoulders more closely resemble Anglo-Scandinavian or early post-Conquest types.

75 Severus’ Hills, Acomb
Spear-socket, pre–1849
Private collection
Spear-socket. It is made of copper-alloy, and is cylindrical, tapering toward the upper end, where fragments of the blade survive. On each side is a flat outcurved lug. That to the left terminates in a conventionalized animal head; the end of that to the right is roughly broken away. The body of the socket and the lugs are decorated with incised ornament in the Ringerike style. L.90, W.78, T.25mm
Wardell, 1849, 401–2; Kendrick, 1949, 102, pl. L.XIX, no. 1; Rice, 1952, 228–9; Waterman, 1959, 72; Fuglesang, 1980, 39, 44, 133, 139, pl. 79A; Lang, 1981, 157–60, pl. xv
The socket, together with other objects found in the York area, originally formed part of the collection of a private museum in Leeds, probably that opened by John Calvert at 10 Commercial Street, Leeds, in 1827, which was closed c. 1855. The only extant record of its contents — Companion to the Leeds Museum of Natural Curiosities — was published in 1829; it does not list the socket, which was acquired by James Wardell of Leeds, together with some other objects found in the York area, when the contents of Calvert’s museum were dispersed. In 1849, the socket was lent by Wardell to a Royal Archaeological Institute exhibition of antiquities and works of art. It later formed part of the Pitt-Rivers collection at Farnham, but was sold to a private collector in the 1970s.

The socket was found, together with an object described as ‘a boss of mixed metal . . . of cinque-cento design’, on Severus’ Hills, ‘outside the city walls at York’ (about two miles to the west). It has been suggested that the discovery took place in 1847 or 1848, during the excavation of a reservoir in the area, but this would imply a rapid sequence of acquisitions, first by the Leeds Museum, then by Wardell, before its recorded display in 1849. A date between 1828 or 1829 — the publication date of the catalogue — and the mid-1840s may be surmised.

Lang has suggested that the socket and other objects may have formed part of a grave group, and has pointed out that the name ‘Howe Hill’ (ON haugr) was applied to one of the natural glacial mounds forming the Severus’ Hills. Lang, noting some Jellinge-style features in the decoration of the socket, has dated it to the early 10th century, but Fuglesang’s placing of the piece in the overlap of the Ringerike and Urnes styles seems preferable.

76 Blossom Street
Comb, 1851
Sheffield City Museum J93–615
Incomplete single-sided bone or antler comb. An indeterminate number of tooth-plates are held in place by five rivets, four of which survive. One connecting plate is decorated in the centre with
cross-hatching, and at each end with transverse incised lines. L. 140, W.35mm
Bateman Collection, 1899, 192
The comb forms part of the Bateman, formerly the Cook, collection of Sheffield City Museum. It was found in Blossom Street in November, 1851, but nothing further is known of the circumstances of the find. Bateman describes it as Roman.

77 Hudson Street
Handle, 1851
Sheffield City Museum J93–719
Bone handle. It is of circular section, curved along its outer edge, and tapers towards a terminal in the form of an animal head. At the broad end is a socket with rivet holes on each side. The body of the object is decorated with interlace. L.93mm
Cook, 1855, 9; Bateman Collection, 1899, 226; VCH Yorkshire 2, 1912, 106; Waterman, 1959, 90; VCHY, 335; Roedsahl et al., 1981, 115 (YAB 47).
The handle was found 'with other relics of antiquity' in September, 1851, when foundations for a house were being dug in Hudson Street (afterwards Railway Street, now George Hudson Street). It formed part of the Cook collection, purchased by Bateman, and now in Sheffield City Museum.

Micklegate
78 Lamp, 1852
Sheffield City Museum J93–1205
A lamp, in the form of a cylindrical column of stone, with a hollowed top. Bateman Corresp., 9 July 1852; Bateman Collection, 1899, 246
The lamp forms part of the Bateman, formerly the Cook, collection in Sheffield City Museum. It was found on July 6th, 1852, at the same time as shears and a lamp (see 78 and 79). From Cook's drawing, it is clear that the ring was originally attached to the handle of the shears, presumably so that it could be used to hang them.

81 New Railway Station Site
Pendant, 1874
Yorkshire Museum 110
Jet pendant. It is circular, and takes the form of a coiled snake. The snake's head, with open jaws and bulging eyes, is at the centre of the pendant. Its tail loops twice around the cylindrical suspension loop. The reverse is flat and undecorated. D.45, H.52mm
YPS Acc. Reg., July 1878; YMH, 1891, 125–6, i, lv; Shetelig, 1944, 14; Waterman, 1959, 94, fig. 21.3; RCHMY I, 142–3; MacGregor, 1978, 41; Graham-Cambell, 1980, no. 175; Roedsahl et al., 1981, 137 (YAJG9).
The pendant was found 'in the Railway Excavations' in 1874, i.e. in excavations connected with the building of the New Railway Station. It was bought from a Mr Dutton in 1878 by the Yorkshire Museum, together with other jet ornaments. Three of these are recorded with it in the YMH (1891). It was originally assumed to be of Roman date, since the Railway Station was built on the site of a Roman cemetery which produced numerous finds of jet. There are, however, Scandinavian parallels for its style, and it is now considered likely to be of Anglo-Scandinavian date.

82 Railway Gas Works
Bone object, pre-1878
Yorkshire Museum
Circular bone object. YPS Acc. Reg., April 1878
The object which is recorded as a 'Saxon brooch' or 'boutton' was found near the Railway Gas Works, and purchased for the Yorkshire Museum in April, 1878.

83 Under Skeldergate Bridge
Coin, 1878
Yorkshire Museum 106
Silver penny of Edward the Confessor: Trefoil Quadrilateral.
J. Raine add. notes, 64; YPS Acc. Reg., Oct. 1878; YPSAR for 1878, 24; Waterman, 1959, 69; SCBI 21 Yorkshire Collections, xxxix (16), 253
The coin was presented to the YPS in 1878 by a Mr Newton of Tower Street. It is one of possibly three coins found in this area between 1878 and 1880, presumably during the building of Skeldergate Bridge. The foundation stone of the bridge was laid in 1878, and building was completed in 1881.

Skeldergate
84 Coin, 1879
Yorkshire Museum 18
Coin: Cunetti.
SCBI 21 Yorkshire Collections, xxxix (8), 25
There is apparently some confusion between this coin and the coin that was found in 1880 near Skeldergate Bridge, 85. The coin found in 1880 is recorded by James Raine and the YPS Accessions Register as a 'Cunetti', but later records transform it into a 'St Peter penny'.

85 Coin, 1880
Yorkshire Museum 26
St Peter penny, without sword, c. 915.
J. Raine notes, 1872–82, 19; YPS Acc. Reg., March 1880; YPSAR for 1880, 37; YMH, 1891, 161–2; Waterman 1959, 69, 101–2, fig. 24.17; SCBI 21 Yorkshire Collections, xxxix (9), 45
The find was made near Skeldergate Bridge, presumably during its construction. James Raine purchased the coin at the same time as a pottery vessel, 86, in March, 1880 and presented both objects to the YPS. The often-repeated statement there found were found in association is not supported by Raine's manuscript notes.

86 Vessel, 1880
Yorkshire Museum
Pottery vessel. It is hand-made, and unglazed, with a broad, flat everted rim and a straight-sided body, which then tapers abruptly towards the flat base. Its outer surface is decorated with incised cross-hatched lines in one area, apparently made with a comb.
J. Raine notes, 1872–82, 19; YPS Acc. Reg., March 1880; YPSAR for 1880, 37; YMH, 1891, 161–2; Waterman 1959, 69, 101–2, fig. 24.17; SCBI 21 Yorkshire Collections, xxxix (9), 45
Raine’s notes record only that the vessel and a coin (85) were found near Skeldergate Bridge, and were bought by him for four shillings. There is no indication that the two objects were found together. The pot bears no resemblance to any Roman, pre-Conquest or medieval pottery yet found in York, but it may be of pre-Conquest date.

87 Micklegate Bar
Coin hoard, 1882
Yorkshire Museum 39, 41, 45, 615
Less than 30 silver pennies of Æthelred II. Long cross (BMC type iia).
J. Raine add. notes, 63; YMH, 1891, 162c; Wakefield, 1916, 1–8, nos. 17, 19, 20, 22, 24; Waterman, 1959, 69; Dolley, 1960, 48; Dolley and Metcalf, 1961, 164; Dolley, 1966, 39, 52, no. 142; Mossop, 1970, X (18); SCBI 21 Yorkshire Collections, xxxiii (11), nos. 87, 92, 99, 1036, M112
The coins were found in a garden outside Micklegate Bar and were purchased by the YM in 1886. There appears to be no documentary evidence for the accepted opinion that these coins were found in 1882, a statement which appears to originate with Waterman (1959).

88 Bishophill I
Coin hoard, 1882
Yorkshire Museum; British Museum; Nottingham Museum; Mack Collection; others dispersed
Coins: c. 600 pennies and half-pennies of Edward the Confessor, found in an earthenware vessel of crucible shape. Fully catalogued in SCBI 21 Yorkshire Collections.
British Museum, manuscript minutes of the Department of Coins and Medals, Vol. 5, 1882–85, f. 125r; 1883, ff. 27r and 29r; British Museum Register of Coins; YPSAR for 1882, 9; Sotheby Sale Catalogue 1: V:1891, Lots 115 and 116, Lots 117 and 119 (?); 1/2: V:1919, Lot 280; YMH, 1891, 162d, 217; Raine, J., 1893, 54; Carlyon-Britton, 1905, 115; Wakefield, 1910, 1–12, and pl.; Benson, 1913, 16, 99; Brooke, 1916, vii, cxi–cii; YPSAR for 1919, vii; Benson, 1929, un-numbered; Thompson, 1956, 151 (386); Waterman, 1959, 69, 101–2, fig. 24, no. 18; Dolley, 1960, 48–9; Dolley and Metcalf, 1961, 165; Dolley, 1966, 37, 39; SCBI & British Museum, 43, 33, (no. 175); Dolley, 1971, 88–101; Pirie, 1971, 101–2; RCHMY 2, 87; SCBI 21 Yorkshire Collections, 113–5, xvi–xxi, xxxiii–iv (12)
Nothing is known of the circumstances of the find, other than that it was made on 'the platform on which Baile Hill looks down' (Raine, 1893); i.e. within the bailey area roughly to the north of Baile Hill. The coins were apparently not reported as treasure trove.
The first notice of the find (YPSAR for 1882) refers only to 'a large number of silver pennies of Edward the Confessor and William the Conqueror' — no specific quantity is mentioned. The YM (1891) records that the cup in which theConfessor coins were found 'contained some hundreds of silver pennies of Edward . . . The best of these coins are in the Museum.' In February 1883, the British Museum acquired 25 pence of Edward the Confessor from Canon Raine: 14 were purchased, 11 came as a gift. In 1891, 45 coins of Edward the Confessor 'from the York Find' were sold by Sotheby — Lots 115 and 116 — and possibly a further 66 in Lots 117 and 119. The first listing of the Confessor coins in the Yorkshire Museum was made by Wakefield in 1910. Among these he included 172 pence and 2 cut half pence: 'part of a small hoard said to have been found on Bishophill' (Wakefield, 1910). 162 coins with the same provenance were purchased, through Sotheby, from Wakefield’s private collection after his death in 1919. Details of only 160 of these were given in Sotheby’s sale catalogue. Nottingham Museum lists a penny of Edward the Confessor of the Nottingham mint, acquired from Canon Raine and marked as 'fd. in York, 1882'. Confusion has arisen over the date of the find, which is occasionally given as 1881, but appears in the key documents as 1882. The confusion has probably been the result of the dating of the first account of the find in YPSAR for 1882, in which Raine mentions that it was made 'last summer', which appears to make it 1881. However, the annual report for 1882 was not presented until February, 1883, which makes it more likely the find was made in 1882. Greater doubt lies over the question of whether the coins of William I reported in YPSAR for 1882 were part of the same hoard of coins as those of Edward the Confessor. The text of the YPSAR makes it appear...
that they were found at the same time, and possibly in the same place, since they are quoted in conjunction as the most notable find of the year. Recent examination of the patination of coins of each kind suggests that they were found in the same general area.

89 Bishophill
Coin hoard, 1882
Yorkshire Museum
c. 50–60 silver pennies of William I, found in "two or three purses" (Raine, 1893). Fully catalogued in SCBI 21 Yorkshire Collections.
YPSAR for 1882, 9; Raine, J., 1893, 54; Carlyon-Britton, 1905, 115; Benson, 1913, 99; Brooke, 1916, viii; Thompson, 1956, 151 (386); Waterman, 1959, 69, 101–2; Dolley, 1971, 88–101; Pirie, 1971, 101–2; Pirie, 1972, 33–8; SCBI 21 Yorkshire Collections, xviii, xix–xxi, xxxvi (17)
Nothing is known of the circumstances of the find, other than that it was made on "the platform on which Baile Hill looks down" (Raine, 1893), in the summer of 1882 (YPSAR for 1882). Carlyon-Britton was unable to distinguish the 1882 coins of William I from others when he listed the total collection of Norman coins in the YM in 1905. It was suggested, later, that there were in fact no coins of William I found in 1882; either that their listing was a mistaken reference to the finding of William I coins, apparently those from Baile Hill.

90 Near Baile Hill
Two spearheads, 1884
Lost

91 Two comb cases, 1884
Yorkshire Museum 571.48
Two cases for single-sided composite combs.
YMH, 1891, 211 K; Addyman and Priestley, 1977, 118

92 Near Baile Hill
Lead and bronze ornaments, 1884
Lost

93 Nunnery Lane
Bone object, 1910
Yorkshire Museum 574.48
Unidentified bone object: it is L-shaped, with one element broader than the other, and pierced at one corner. On the broader element, there is a grid of eight perforations. Elsewhere the object is decorated with ring and dot.

94 The Mount
Brooch, pre-1932
Yorkshire Museum 1921.21
Disc brooch of lead alloy. It has a plain frame enclosing an equal-armed cross with expanding arms and a central boss. D.43mm

95 Dringhouses
Pottery sherds, 1986

96 Tanner Row
Pottery sherds, 1956
Yorkshire Museum
Pottery sherds. One is a reddish rim sherd of thin gritty ware from a pot of between c. 12in and 15in in diameter. The others are black sandy ware rim sherds.

RCHM notes
Bagged with Roman material from the same site in the Yorkshire Museum.
Anglo-Scandinavian Settlement South-west of the Ouse

The Excavations

Anglo-Scandinavian Structures and Features at Skeldergate and Bishophill

Rescue excavations were undertaken between 1973 and 1975 when York City Council proposed to build a multi-storey car park and an electricity substation on two sites, 37 Bishophill Senior and 58–9 Skeldergate. The sites lie south-west of the Ouse on the river terrace (Fig. 7). The Skeldergate site lies some 30m from the Ouse, south-west of the street Skeldergate and below the ridge on which 37 Bishophill is situated. The two excavations were planned to investigate areas at the top of the river terrace and at the base of the scarp.

The part of the river terrace on which the sites are located is formed mainly of drift deposits over red Bunter sandstone. Borings in and near the sites encountered the sandstone at a depth of 3.5m below the modern surface. The drift deposits, of varying thickness, were of fairly stiff grey to red-brown boulder-clay with a high proportion of sand and silt containing traces of fine to medium gravel. In Skeldergate a buried soil was found over the drift, but elsewhere all the remaining deposits were the result of human occupation and there was no evidence that periodic flooding by the nearby river led to the accumulation of alluvium. The present normal summer level of the river in the city is 4.95m OD, but the excavation of Roman levels at a greater depth indicates that there has been a fundamental change in river regime since Roman times.

58–9 Skeldergate

By Sara Donaghey

Below structures and features of post-medieval and medieval date, Anglo-Scandinavian features were located (Fig. 8). These areas were excavated by the open area method, as described more fully in AY 4/1, 4–5. Interpretation of the Anglo-Scandinavian levels was complicated by later stone robbing and by the extensive intrusion of medieval pits and building foundations. Roman levels were reached only in a deep trench running north-east/south-west, in a small area excavation at the south corner of the site and in a trial trench in the west corner of the excavated area. The Roman features (described in AY 4/1) comprised a sequence of roads at the north-east (riverside) end of the site and a well in the southern corner, with evidence of associated structures. Roman pottery and finds are described in AY 16/2 and AY 17/2. Post-Roman pottery and coins will be found in AY 16 and AY 18/1. Medieval and later levels will be described in AY 9 and AY 13. The finds and archive are located in the Yorkshire Museum, under the accession numbers 1973.14, 1974.14, 1975.14.
**Description**

The trial trench

In the trial trench (Fig. 8) two deposits lay between Roman features and 11th to 12th century layers. The lower was 1144, a soil containing ash and charcoal fragments, above which was 1102, a thick layer of ‘greasy soil’. Although the pottery from layers 1102 and 1144 was purely Roman their stratigraphic position suggests an Anglian or Anglo-Scandinavian date.
The main area

In the north-east end of the excavated area, overlying the latest Roman road, VII (AY 4/1), a series of built up deposits of similar description (2330, 2335, 2339, 2343) up to 0.5m in depth was located. The deposits contained charcoal flecks, bone and later 4th century pottery (AY 16/2). With the exception of a single piece of mid to late 9th century pottery, the only dating evidence for 2339 is its relative stratigraphic position. Above it lay presumed Anglian or Anglo-Scandinavian levels.

Structure A

Three contiguous trenches (2340–2) (Pl. IIIa) outlining Structure A were cut into 2339 (Figs. 10, 11a). The excavation boundary ran across the north-eastern and south-western trenches, allowing only their partial exposure; the excavated portion of the structure measured 1.3m wide by 2.6m long. The trenches varied in depth from 0.15m to 0.35m and in width from 0.3m to 0.5m. Trench 2341 contained three post-holes and trench 2340 four post-holes, each measuring approximately 0.2m in diameter. The trenches had been roughly packed with limestone and cobbles: some of the limestone and cobbles in trench 2340 showed signs of burning. Trench 2341 which apparently continued into the side of the excavation was not recognized in the section (A–C, Fig. 9) owing to the homogeneity of the trench fill and surrounding soils. Trench 2340 terminated 0.1m short of section A–C; this suggests that there may have been an entrance to the structure at this point, but the limited extent of excavation precluded verification. Trench 2341 produced an iron knife (sf 1098) possibly of Anglo-Scandinavian date and trench 2342 a Roman coin dated AD 270–73 (AY 17/2, 303). All the pottery recovered from the trenches was Roman (AY 16/2). No floor levels were recognized.

Structure A appears to have been sealed by 2310 and 2323, which separated it from later features in this area. These soil and rubble deposits contained Roman and 9th–10th century pottery, sherds of imported Tating ware (AY 16/1, 3–4, 6), an Anglian pin (sf 1092) and a copper-alloy buckle (sf 1090). Animal bone recovered from and above Structure A included a high frequency of those skeletal parts which would be deposited at a site of secondary butchery, rather than at slaughter or in a domestic deposit (AY 15/1, 16), but the setting for such activity could not be discerned in the confines of the excavation. 2310 and 2323 were associated with two features, possibly hearths (Fig. 11b): 2334, an area of burnt clay and ash in the northern corner of the excavation, and 2345, an apparently unburnt clay area 20mm in thickness, located approximately 2m south of feature 2334.

Structure B

Structure B, built on the same alignment and directly above Structure A, was delineated by twelve post-holes (2311–19, 2321, 2326–7) (Pl. IIIb, Figs. 10, 11c). 2324 and 2325 were slots associated with post-holes 2319, and 2321 and 2327 respectively. The post-holes appeared to form two principal, parallel alignments with approximately 0.6m between the rows and may
Structures
Post-holes and beam slots
Intrusions
Areas excavated at Anglo-Scandinavian levels
Anglo-Scandinavian pits

Fig. 8 58–9 Skeldergate. Location plan of main Anglo-Scandinavian features. Scale 1:160
Fig. 9  58-9 Sheldegate. Section A–C through Anglo-Scandinavian Structures A and B and stone wall 2332, above the latest Roman feature, Road VII (see NY 4/1, fig. 5). Scale 1:40
Fig. 10 58-9 Skeldergate. Section A-B through Structures A and B and robber trench 2608, and section D-E through Structure C. Scale 1:40
indicate either a double wall or a second building phase. The sections do not, however, show any difference in the levels from which the post-holes were dug nor the depth to which they were cut, and it is likely they are all contemporary.

Two additional post-holes (2320, 2322) were excavated at the north-western perimeter of the site on a line parallel to, and 1m from, the other two rows; they may indicate an internal dividing wall or some other internal feature within Structure B. All post-holes were between 0.1 and 0.2m in both diameter and depth, and had the decayed remains of posts in their bases.

A partially burnt clay surface, 2307, outlined by the post-holes, covered the interior of Structure B. Associated with this surface and around the post-holes were patches of ash and charcoal (2308, 2328, 2329). Scaling this structure was the deposit 2305 which yielded an Anglo-Scandinavian iron key (sf 1082), a spindle whorl (sf 1087) and three antler tines (sf 1105, 1106, 1110). Above 2305 was a thin layer of mixed charcoal and ash, 5001, covered by 5000, a deposit of mixed brown soil containing clay, ash and charcoal. (Contexts 5000 and 5001 were unnumbered deposits seen and described only on site drawings.) Further to the south-east were various spreads of sand and clay (Fig. 10, section A–B). Overlying these deposits was a series of clay, ash and charcoal layers (2303, 2304, 2302). These deposits, associated with the destruction of B, yielded a bone skate (sf 880). Pottery associated with Structure B is of late 9th–10th century date.

Structure C

Structure(s) C, the earliest excavated south-east of Structures A and B, was represented by a beam slot and a parallel alignment of pits and post-holes (Figs. 10, section D–E, 12, Pl. IVa). All features associated with it were constructed on thick underlying layers (1677 and 1682), the lower limits of which were unexcavated, although the exploratory machine trench located Roman Roads I, II, III and VII below them (AY 4/1, 4). Deposit 1677 covered the central area between the line of features and the beam slot and 1682 occurred in the area to the south-east of the beam slot. Among the artefacts recovered from 1677 were an Anglo-Scandinavian composite, single-sided antler comb (sf 1039) and a polygonal-headed copper-alloy pin (sf 1033). 1682 contained decayed wood as well as a composite, single-sided comb (sf 1012), an iron arrowhead (sf 1032), a stone hone (sf 1015) and a silver penny of Burgred of Mercia, 852–74 (AY 18/1, 38).

The beam slot (1648) (Pl. IVa) was clay-lined, and was 5m long by 0.5m wide by 0.1–0.2m deep; traces of wood survived at its south-west end. It was cut on its north-west edge by later medieval wall foundations (495) belonging to Structure E.

Parallel to and approximately 3m north-west of this beam slot was a series of post-holes, pits and depressions (1650, 1654, 1673), some of which contained fragments of decayed wood and daub. Patches of ash and burnt clay surrounded them and the overall impression was that they were individual components of a single feature. 1650 was a long shallow pit measuring 0.90m in length, 0.25m in width and with a depth of 0.08m. It was filled with burnt orange clay. 1654 was also a shallow pit, filled with a dark brown sticky soil and containing decayed wood. 1673, a slot-like feature, sloped from 0.1m deep at its northern end to 0.27m at its southern end. It measured 1.20m in length and 0.5m in width. Its fill was light brown sandy
Fig. 11 58-9 Skeldergate. Plan of north-eastern area of excavation: (a) Structure A, (b) hearths 2334 and 2335; footings of stone wall 2332 and robber trench 2608, (c) Structure B, and (d) latest Anglo-Scandinavian deposits, possibly destruction levels. For location within the excavated area, see Fig. 8. Scale 1:80
Fig. 12 58-9 Skeldergate. Plan of Structure C. For location within excavated area, see Fig. 8. Scale 1:80
A piece of decorated antler (sf 935), probably part of a composite single-sided comb of the Anglo-Scandinavian period, but the associated pottery included an assortment of 10th–12th century sherds. The totality of dating evidence suggests, however, that the 12th century material was intrusive.

The relationship between the beam slot and the series of pits and post-holes was unclear, and no occupation levels clearly associated with either of them could be recognized. They could represent different walls of the same building or walls of two different buildings — one extending beyond the south-eastern boundary of the excavation, the other beyond the north-western boundary. The problem was compounded by the cutting of foundation trenches for Structure E in the medieval phase of occupation on the same alignment as the two possible walls.

To the north-west of the alignment of pits and post-holes was a surface of compacted ash layers (1684), sloping down to the south-west and appearing as a build-up 0.3m thick. A circular clay hearth (1685) was constructed within these ash layers. To the south of this feature and next to the alignment was a small circular ash-filled pit (1630).

Above layer 1677 were mixed layers containing ash, charcoal and daub (1629–35, 1681). Layer 1635 extended across the line of pits and post-holes, and these layers were later than the occupation of Structure C. They contained an iron knife (sf 889), a perforated bone toggle (sf 943), an iron clench nail (sf 989), a coin of Archbishop Wigmund of York dated to 837–54 (AY 18/1, 32), and pottery of the 10th–11th century.

Overlying these layers and continuing north-west over the hearth and ash deposits was a series of contexts containing Anglo-Scandinavian objects and pottery of the 9th–12th century: 1624 contained a green glass tubular bead (sf 848), a horn plaque from a casket (sf 901), an iron hook (sf 860), a stone hone (sf 805), and residual pottery of the 9th century; 1625 contained a clay spindle whorl (sf 933) and a 10th century, Borre-style, copper-alloy strap terminal (sf 823) with a loop cast in one piece with a plate in the form of a head flanked by two birds and pierced by six holes (MacGregor, 1978, 43); 1642 contained a spherical green glass bead (sf 904), and 1668 contained an iron ring (sf 1070). Layer 1647, south-east of the beam slot, contained a coin of Archbishop Wulfhere of York dated to c. 854–900 (AY 18/1, 34). The material in these layers was probably displaced by medieval foundation trenches 495 and 492 which cut down into earlier levels.

Faunal remains from deposits associated with Structure C indicate a higher content of domestic waste than in the sample from Structure A. This probably represents secondary deposition, however, and may only indicate more diverse origins for the bones in the sample (AY 15/1, 17).

**Structure D**

Structure D was encountered at the south-westernmost limit of the excavation. Four trenches (2042, 2057, 2052, 2133) outlined a rectangular building 6m long x 5.5m wide that was constructed over and partially cut into underlying Roman structures and a Roman well (Fig. 13, Pl. V, see also AY 4/1). The structure in turn was heavily cut by medieval pits.
An oak beam (2046) occupied the north-western trench (2057); it measured 5.6m long x 0.2m wide x 50mm thick and lacked any evidence of carpentry marks except for a badly preserved shallow groove of 80mm wide running longitudinally along its upper surface for a distance of 1.2m from its north end. The beam provided a short tree-ring sequence and therefore could not be matched with contemporary dendrochronological data (R. Morgan, pers. comm.). Radiocarbon determinations dated it to AD 990 ± 70 (960 ± 70bp, HAR–1728). A compact black clayey soil (2099) containing numerous charcoal and limestone fragments filled this beam trench and contained a coin of Eadberht of Northumbria, 737–58 (AY 18/1, II). Capping the fill and beam itself was 2045, a slightly greasy compact soil with clay lumps, charcoal and scattered sandstone and limestone fragments.

There was no evidence of timbers in the remaining three trenches and it is therefore likely that they had deliberately been removed. The south-western trench (2042) was cut deeply into the natural deposits of the slope. The north-east trench (2133) had cut through layers interpreted as internal floor surfaces and overlying soil layers, suggesting that it may have been a robber trench, but only a short length of the trench survived, for the rest was destroyed by later intrusions. The south-east trench (2052) had also largely been destroyed by later intrusions. Two post-holes (2053–4) were situated in the south corner of the building within 2052. Each was approximately 0.2m in diameter. These were the only post-holes located along the wall lines, but the other corners of the building were disturbed and post-holes in similar positions would not have survived.

Within the building was a compact surface (1975) of small gravel, pebbles and stones rammed into dark brown soil, constructed on a foundation of mixed sandy clay (1976). Under this, in layer 2055, was a stone hone (sf 886). To the west a depression (2051) in 1975 was caused by subsidence into an underlying pit (2087), and there were three post-holes (2048) grouped around the perimeter of the depression. Overlying surface 1975 was a 5–10mm thick layer of mixed occupation deposit (2040) containing fish bone, charcoal, wood and metal fragments. It was from this deposit that a radiocarbon sample was taken, resulting in a determination of AD 720 ± 80 (1230 ± 80bp, HAR–1412). The charcoal derived from fairly large timbers of oak (Quercus sp.) and, predominantly, willow (Salix sp.). Pottery from this deposit was of 10th century date.

An examination of the fish bones by P. Spencer revealed that most of the identifiably species (represented by vertebral and head fragments) were freshwater, including common eel and members of the Cyprididae family: bleak, trout, pike and rudd. All were very small, no more than 150–200mm in length. Two sea-water specimens were also recovered: cod, and a shark represented by one tooth.

Above this occupation deposit was a deposit of ash, mortar, small cobbles, tiles and fragments of sandstone slabs (2028) possibly associated with a destruction phase. This mixed deposit also filled the three beamless trenches and covered the area outside the building. It contained a bone toggle (sf 973).

Outside the structure and to the south was an area of broken sandstone slabs embedded in clay (2063) and to the south-east was a cobbled surface (2058, 2059) also set in clay. North-west of the building was a deposit of mortar, plaster and tile fragments (1920, 1855).
Fig. 13  58–9 Skeldergate. Plan of Structure D and pits. For location within excavated area, see Fig. 8. Scale 1:80
Feature 2035 (Pl. IVb), north-west of Structure D, was interpreted as a soakaway. It was constructed from fragments of a large Roman grey-ware pot (AY 16/2, fig. 36, 482) with sandstone and limestone blocks. It sloped down at an angle of 45 degrees and was a minimum of 0.35m long; its south-west end was unexcavated. The precise relationship, if any, which 2035 had with Structure D, was not determined, although it was below levels 1920 and 1855, generally associated with the occupation of Structure D. However, its stratigraphic position related it to the Anglo-Scandinavian period, although it was undated in absolute terms.

Two pits (2103 and 2104) (Fig. 13) around Structure D have been identified from their pottery as being of Anglo-Saxon date. Pit 2103 (Pl. VIa), located to the east of Structure D, had been used for the disposal of animal bone. It measured 1.40m in diameter, and contained mostly cattle bones, with sheep, pig, horse, goat and cat also represented. Cut marks on the bone indicated a systematic butchering procedure (AY 15/1, 19–20), and the waste is interpreted as debris from the primary stages of slaughter and butchery. This pit is dated to the 9th–10th centuries on the basis of its associated pottery.

Pit 2104 (Fig. 13) was located to the north end of Structure D and is interpreted as a possible cess pit. Oval in plan, it measured 1.9m x 1.4m x 0.55m deep. It had steeply sloping sides and limestones formed its base which sloped from the north-east to the south-west. Above the limestones was a layer of decayed wood underlying cess-like material. The pit was later filled and sealed with clay. Pottery in this pit indicates a 10th century date.

Stone wall (2332)

A stone wall (2332) (Fig. 11), positioned south-west of Structures A and B and north-east of Structure C, lay stratigraphically directly above the latest Roman riverside road, VII (Fig. 9), and ran parallel to the River Ouse. It measured 1m in width at its base. Although later robbing (2301), cutting down from at least the latest Anglo-Scandinavian levels, if not the earliest medieval levels, had destroyed most of the wall, two courses of footings remained to indicate its method of construction. Small limestone rubble and cobbles formed an upper layer above larger pieces of limestone rubble which were up to 0.3m in length. They had been packed in soil with tile fragments wedged in between. The amount of mortar in the robbing trench indicated that the wall was originally mortared. No construction trench was apparent, and it is therefore impossible to determine from what level this wall was constructed, though it is probably later than the earliest post-Roman level, and later than Structure A, and it had certainly gone out of use by the 11th–12th centuries. At the south-east end of the exposed wall was a pit (2333) with decayed wood remains in its base. The excavated portion of the hole was square and measured approximately 0.4m by 0.6m. Given the dimensions of this feature, it may represent a robbing pit cut deeper than the remaining robbed area.

Traces of a robber trench, just over 1m wide and deep, may mark the line of a second wall (2608) (Fig. 11) running north-east/south-west. It lay along the southern edge of Structure B, and was cut through to the earliest post-Roman levels. This wall would have met wall 2332 at right-angles if they were contemporary. The robbing, which destroyed all evidence of construction, except for scattered limestone rubble in the robber trench, apparently took place during the mid 11th to early 12th centuries. Associated with the robber trench 2608 were spreads of limestones (1687, 1698) and ash (1697), all containing 11th century pottery.
South-west of stone wall 2332 was a spread of cobbles, limestones, mortar and tile (1659). This spread was composed of the same materials as those found at the base of feature 2332 and was interpreted as remains of the robbed wall or as an intentionally spread deposit, laid for some specific, yet unknown, function. This feature relates to the robbing of 2332 and 2608 and is later than the underlying Structure C (Fig. 12).

Discussion

By R. A. Hall

The principal importance of the excavation at 58–9 Skeldergate is that it has provided the first evidence, albeit limited, for the development of this waterfront locale south-west of the River Ouse in the post-Roman period. After refurbishment of Roman waterside roads or hards had ceased, and they had been covered by a 0.5m deep build-up of soil, Structure A was erected over their line. Like them, it had an axis parallel to the River Ouse. Trenches, incorporating post-holes of 0.2m diameter, had been packed with rubble and cobbles. Pottery from these trenches was exclusively Roman. No contemporary occupation deposits were distinguished within the fragment of this structure which lay within the excavated area.

Evidence for the date of Structure A is largely derived from the material overlying it. Sealing layers immediately above contained 9th/10th century pottery as well as Tating ware sherds, and they in turn predated Structure B, also associated with 9th/10th century pottery. Taking account of the relative stratigraphy, it is possible that Structure A itself dates to the 9th or earlier 10th century, although whether it was erected in the Anglo-Scandinavian rather than the Anglian period is not clear.

No Anglian or Anglo-Scandinavian building remains of this type have been found in excavation by York Archaeological Trust, and the only published instance of rubble-packed trench foundations of these periods is that examined by Radley at Barclays Bank, 1–3 Parliament Street (Radley, 1971, 42, fig. 9). That example, however, did not have evidence for upright timbers penetrating the rubble: instead, a horizontal plank lay over the stone-filled trench. Furthermore, the date of that structure is uncertain: although Anglo-Scandinavian pottery and artefacts were recovered on the site, their relationship to the structure is not known. At present, therefore, the Skeldergate Structure A stands as the sole reasonably well-dated example of its building type in pre-Norman York. Unfortunately, the small area of it uncovered did not allow further identification of its form or function.

Superficially the presence of imported Tating ware sherds in the deposit sealing Structure A indicates mercantile activity hereabouts at the river frontage, but there is no other supporting evidence for this suggestion, and the sherds could have reached the site for a wide variety of reasons. Equally intriguing is the debris from secondary butchery also recovered from layers sealing Structure A, but again the context for this could not be discovered within the confines of the excavation.

Over the layer sealing Structure A was erected a second building of very different construction, Structure B. The fragment of it within the excavated area occupied the same
position and alignment as the remains of Structure A. It was represented by a number of post-holes which apparently formed two parallel rows, 0.6m apart. To the north-west was a burned clay surface, 2307, and in conjunction the north-western row of post-holes and clay surface may be interpreted as the south-east wall and floor of a building. Associated with the structure was 9th/10th century pottery and a number of Anglo-Scandinavian artefacts which, however, give no indication of the building’s function.

In constructional detail it is again not possible to cite close parallels for Structure B in York’s corpus of Anglo-Scandinavian buildings. Walls in which upright posts played a principal load-bearing role are known, for example, from mid 10th century levels at 16–22 Coppergate, but in conjunction with stake and wattle wall cladding, of which there was no sign in Structure B. The two rows of posts, so widely spaced, may not, however, have been parts of a single wall construction — it is not a technique noted elsewhere in York — and it is possible that the south-easternmost alignment served as a property division. Indeed, the 1852 Ordnance Survey map of York, the first accurate record of the town’s plan, records a tenement boundary almost exactly along this line. Clay floors have also not been excavated in York Archaeological Trust’s excavations of Viking Age structures, and there must again be some doubt whether the examples investigated by Radley can be dated with certainty to the pre-Norman period.

Further away from the river, and separated from the remains of Structures A and B by the presence of wall 2332 (see below) were found traces of another building or buildings designated Structure C. The principal components in the construction were a clay-lined beam slot measuring 5m x 0.5m x 0.1–0.2m, and a parallel series of pits and post-holes and depressions, some 3m west of the beam slot, which are interpreted as representing a wall in this or an adjacent building.

Layers pre-dating Structure C contained a penny of Burgred of Mercia (852–74) in addition to a group of Anglo-Scandinavian period objects, and layers associated with the structural features contained pottery of the 10th–12th centuries. Layers apparently immediately sealing the building contained 10th/11th century pottery and a 9th century Northumbrian coin, while overlying deposits contained Anglo-Scandinavian objects including a strap-end dated on stylistic grounds to the 10th century, as well as pottery of the 9th–11th century and another 9th century coin. As noted above, the 12th century pottery is believed to be intrusive, from the overlying medieval Structure E. In all, the dating evidence suggests that Structure C may have been erected at any date from the mid/late 9th century onwards, and was most probably in use at some time in the 10th/11th centuries.

The truncation of associated levels by Structure E and the uncertainty over the interpretation of Structure C allows little to be said of it in structural and functional terms. A critical point, however, is the alignment of Structure C, for instead of sharing the axis adopted by Structures A and B, which had followed that of Roman activity and was ultimately related to the river’s edge, it was aligned at a slight but distinct angle to the river. This alignment apparently reflects the course of Carr’s Lane, the southern limit of this block of land and formerly part of Lounlithgate, which may have been one of the main streets in this part of Viking Age York (Fig. 3; Palliser, 1984, 105). The early modern line of Carr’s Lane is shown on the 1852 edition of the Ordnance Survey map of York; the excavated beam slot forming
part of Structure C lay one tenement back from the lane, separated from it by a tenement boundary which itself in 1852 respected the slightly angled course of the thoroughfare.

The tenement boundaries of 1852 prompt further questions concerning Structure C, for at that date, as noted above (p. 49), there was another tenement boundary on the line taken by one of the post-hole alignments associated with Structure B. If in the pre-Norman period this ran back south-westward beyond the line later taken by wall 2332 (see below, p. 51), it would have divided the beam slot (1648) from the post-holes and other features interpreted as another wall line, and would support the interpretation of these features as parts of two distinct structures, separated by this hypothetical division. Since, however, there was no division on this line south of 2332 in the 12th century, when Structure E straddled it, its existence in the pre-Norman period is speculative.

Yet further from the river frontage, at the south-western limit of the excavation, were found the remains of a fourth pre-Norman building, Structure D. This was represented by traces of four beam slots, enclosing a floor area which measured 6m x 5.5m. A decayed timber beam, with a possible shallow groove 80mm wide along part of its upper surface, survived in one trench, but there were no such traces of similar beams in the other three, badly disturbed, trenches, and it is possible that timbers in them had been deliberately removed. Grooved beams have been uncovered in other Anglo-Scandinavian contexts in York, at Lloyds Bank, 6–8 Pavement (Addyman, in AY 8, in prep.) and also at 16–22 Coppergate where, however, it was part of a sunken-featured structure (Hall, in AY 8, in prep.). The presumption is that such grooves held pre-fabricated wattle hurdles, but the decayed state of the beam was such that the supposed groove may have been no more than a natural product of decay. In any event, the form of the remainder of the wall, beyond the 1.2m length of groove, is hypothetical — presumably the beam acted as a foundation beam/ground sill, underpinning upright members, but their disposition can only be conjectural. Two post-holes in the south corner of the structure may be contemporary, and indicate earth-fast uprights, but there were no corresponding post-holes in the undisturbed portion of the north corner of the building; the other two corners had both been destroyed by later intrusions.

The floor of Structure D (1975) is of interest for its composition of gravel, pebbles and stone in a soil matrix. Most excavated Anglo-Scandinavian floor surfaces in York have consisted of trampled earth; there were single instances of re-used and crushed opus signinum and timber floors discovered at 16–22 Coppergate (Hall, in AY 8, in prep.) but, this apart, carefully laid floors which are certainly of Anglo-Scandinavian date are not known. It is not clear if the nature of Structure D's floor was a product of the building's function, since the deposits above it were mixed occupation debris, and did not contain an assemblage characteristic of any particular use except, perhaps, domestic occupation. The animal bone content of an adjacent pit (2103) seemed, however, to indicate that cattle were slaughtered in the vicinity, and another pit (2104) to the north of D apparently served as a broadly contemporary cess-pit.

Structure D was erected after the mid 8th century, for a coin of Eadberht (737–58) was recovered from the backfill of beam slot 2057. The beam itself was radiocarbon dated to AD 990 ± 70 (HAR–1728) but, as noted, this sample may have been contaminated. Charcoal from 2040, the mixed occupation debris over floor 1975, yielded a radiocarbon determination
of ad 720 ± 80, a date which could reflect the age of the burnt timber rather than the time of its burning. The pottery from this layer seems the most reliable guide to the period of the building's use, and the assemblage may be dated to the 10th century, a date which is broadly comparable with that for assemblages from adjacent pits 2103 and 2104.

Structure D shared the alignment of Structure C; it straddled a line projecting south-west of the possible property boundary discussed above (p. 49), which therefore could not have run so far to the south-west at the date of D’s construction.

The feature which may help to explain the variant alignments of Structures A and B when compared with C and D is the wall footing 2332. This ran parallel to the River Ouse, on the same alignment as Structures A and B, and both separated and divorced them stratigraphically from C and D. Two courses of footings survived, 1m wide at their base, while the remainder of what had clearly been a mortared wall had been robbed. The robbing trench had obliterated any sign of the level from which the construction trench had been cut, but 10th–11th century pottery in the foundation indicated the approximate date of construction.

A second trench (2608), 1m wide and 1m deep, ran north-eastward from 2332 at 90 degrees to it as far as the north-east limit of excavation; it may have been dug to rob a wall which formed an integral part of the structure or feature represented by 2332. 2608 occupied the same line as the underlying row of post-holes associated with Structure B, which has been tentatively identified as a tenement boundary (see above).

The scale of construction implied by the footings and robber trenches suggests that the structure was a substantial one, and it seems unlikely that the walls represented by 2332 and 2306 were only property divisions. They may rather have been part of a stone building occupying the Skeldergate frontage, although buildings of this type in York have not been found in Anglo-Scandinavian contexts but belong to the Norman period, i.e. the end of the time range suggested for this structure by the pottery among the footings and in the robbing trench; the building, if such it was, would thus have had a relatively short lifespan of perhaps half a century. The absence of recognizable floor deposits does not allow the function of the structure to be identified.

The back wall of this structure, represented by 2332, may have perpetuated an earlier north-east/south-west division here, while obliterating tangible signs of it; such a division would help to account for the varied alignments of Structures A and B as opposed to C and D, although it would negate the hypothesis concerning the sub-division of Structure C’s remains into two separate buildings (above, p. 50).

Various possibilities for the layout of the excavated area and its immediate surrounds have been proposed above, all ultimately dependent on the interpolation of conjectural boundary lines on to the evidence recovered. If these hypotheses are all eschewed, the relative positions of Structures B–D are a little difficult to explain convincingly — was access to C and D solely from the line of Skeldergate, or could there have been lanes running out from Carr's Lane/Lounlithgate, for example below the line of the modern Albion Street? It seems improbable that the whole depth of the river terrace, from Bishophill Senior down to Skeldergate, had access only from those two streets, particularly when Carr’s Lane/ Lounlithgate may itself have been of considerable importance.
The question of contemporaneity between Structures B, C and D is also difficult to assess. C and D are the most likely to have co-existed, and it is possible that B was standing simultaneously. B, however, which may have predated C and D, is not likely to have had a lifespan extending beyond a half century, and it seems probable that this part at least of the front of the excavated area was unoccupied during the later Anglo-Scandinavian period. Too much should not be read into this, since the area investigated was too small to allow full understanding of tenement layout; it is not certain, for example, that Structures A and B fronted directly on to a precursor of the present Skeldergate, and their position in relation to the waterfront is equally unclear. Structures C and D are not likely to have been in use for a longer period than that postulated for B, but since their date of erection cannot be estimated with any precision, interpretations which involve the growth and subsequent decline of intense occupation or activity within the Anglo-Scandinavian period are best avoided. It is clear, however, that in the 12th century the area formerly occupied by Structure D reverted to open ground, and was used for rubbish disposal.

None of the structures yielded any evidence for manufacturing activity in situ, and the presumption is that they were primarily domestic. In structural terms, too, they contrast with the buildings occupied by 10th–11th century artisans at 16–22 Coppergate, but the sample of excavated structures from Anglo-Scandinavian York is too small for further comment on the inter-relationships of form and function to be made. Stone wall 2332 and robber trench 2608 may represent a secular stone structure, but the interpretation and chronology of these features are too ambiguous for their significance to be assessed.

In conclusion, the excavation has demonstrated the existence of a high density of structures on this part of the Ouse terrace in the Anglo-Scandinavian period, and has provided information about their form and, to a lesser extent, their function. It has indicated in particular that elements in the topography of the area, as represented by tenement boundaries and their alignments, originated during the Anglo-Scandinavian period, perhaps in the 10th century: this equates with the crystallization of property boundaries at 16–22 Coppergate, which occurred c. 925, and there is also evidence from other areas, for example in Walmgate, across the River Foss, that similar developments took place there at broadly the same time, emphasizing the resurgence of occupation and activity which York enjoyed at this period.

At present, however, the Anglo-Scandinavian sequence for 58–9 Skeldergate remains virtually the only sizeable body of evidence for occupation at this time within the former Roman colonia south of the Ouse. Extensive later medieval, post-medieval and modern disturbance had destroyed most of the evidence for this period on the site further up the river terrace at Bishophill Senior (see below), and subsequent excavation further west in the colonia, at 5 Rougier Street and at 24–30 Tanner Row, did not locate structures or substantial deposits of this era. The only other investigations have been those following the demolition of the pre-Conquest church of St Mary Bishophill Senior (Ramm, 1976) and work in and around the probably pre-Conquest structure of St Mary Bishophill Junior (Wenham and Hall, and Briden, in AY 8/2, forthcoming). Palliser (1984) has highlighted the great potential importance of this whole area in the development of York, but until there is a concerted campaign of further excavation on sites throughout the colonia, it will remain impossible to do more than hypothesize about its role in the Anglo-Scandinavian period.
During 1973 and 1974, excavations on the river terrace and valley slope at Bishophill (Fig. 7) took place in advance of the proposed construction of a multi-storey car park. The site has since been surfaced with tarmac and is used as a car park. The site was excavated under the auspices of the York Archaeological Trust and directed by M. O. H. Carver.

Unfortunately, field records were lost after the completion of reports on the Roman levels. The following represents a description of Anglo-Scandinavian activity based on M. O. H. Carver’s field notes and accounts for all the Anglo-Scandinavian remains noted during excavation. The finds and the surviving excavation records are stored under the accession number 1973.15 in the Yorkshire Museum.

The deposits were extensively disturbed by the 19th century instrument factory of Cooke, Troughton and Sims, whose foundations cut all levels and lay in the natural boulder-clay. In the latter part of the Roman period two ranges of buildings and an apsidal structure occupied the south-western half of the site. These structures are described in AY 4/1. They are related to those excavated under the church of St Mary Bishophill Senior by Ramm in 1964 (Ramm, 1976). The walls of the apsidal building survived to be robbed between the 9th and 11th centuries.

No structures could be assigned to the Anglian or Anglo-Scandinavian period, although three unstratified sherds of pottery, probably of Anglian date (described in AY 16/1, 3), were found in the disturbed black layers which overlay the latest Roman deposits. Among the extensive pitting that occurred on the site, one pit can be clearly dated to the Anglo-Scandinavian period. Most of the pits were eventually filled with rubbish and were probably associated with nearby occupation, although no traces of structures were found.

Description of features

Robber trenches in the Roman levels were extensive throughout the site (AY 4/1, 33–7). Pottery ranging in date from the 10th to 13th centuries was found in the robber trenches of the principal walls of Roman Ranges 1 and 3 suggesting that some of this robbing occurred during the Anglo-Scandinavian period. Within the parallel walls of Range 2 and next to the south-west wall was Roman drain 10747 (AY 4/1, pls. XVIIIa, b). The stones composing this drain were similar to those in the lowest courses of the tower of St Mary Bishophill Junior, which was apparently largely built of re-used Roman stones (AY 8/2, forthcoming).

Range 2 was also the focus of pit digging. This was not confined to any one area nor was there any regularity of distribution. In this area, pits were dug through Roman floors and through late pits of the Roman period.
Fig. 14  37 Bishophill Senio. Location of Anglo-Scandinavian features in relation to Roman ranges 1–3 and other features. Scale 1:200
Pit 10428 (Fig. 14, Pl. VIb) was one of the few well-defined contexts. This pit cut through the Roman floor 10477. The material from it was sieved and produced a quantity of bone, sherds of St Neots-type, Torksey-type and Stamford ware (AY 16/1, 10–11 and 24–5, 110–19), a number of Roman coins, a glass bead, a ring of twisted silver wire and a penny of Harold I, 1038–40 (AY 18/1, 66). A lead-alloy disc brooch decorated with bosses and a central cross came from another pit, 10491.

Two further features possibly associated with the Anglo-Scandinavian period are burials located at the south-easternmost excavation boundary of Range 3. A Roman drain, 10635, had been cut by one burial, the larger part of which had, however, been removed by a later pit, leaving only the skull (described in AY 12) lodged against the fragmented end of the drain (Pl. VIIb). Roman debris was recovered from over the skull but residual Roman material is found in most deposits in this area. The burial may therefore have occurred at any time after the destruction of the drain in the early 4th century. The second burial (12000) occurred in a grave-shaped pit aligned north-east/south-west, and had a layer of charcoal surviving in the base of the feature (Pl. VIIa). This may have been a charcoal burial of the type found by Ramm in the adjacent churchyard of St Mary Bishophill Senior and assigned to a date before the 11th century (Ramm, 1976, 45). The practice has been recorded at other sites in the city and dated examples include a group found in excavations below York Minster, which have radiocarbon determinations centred on the late 8th and 9th centuries (Phillips, 1985, 44–6), and one from the churchyard of St Helen-on-the-Walls, Aldwark, with a radiocarbon determination of 1140 ± 80 (AY 12/1, 15–16, AY 10/1, 18).

Both of these burials were located at the extreme south-east side of the excavation and are probably outliers of the churchyard. The churchyard may have been extended to include part of the Bishophill site in Anglo-Scandinavian times.

Interpretation

There is no evidence on the Bishophill site for Anglian or Anglo-Scandinavian structures, nor definite evidence for re-use of Roman buildings, although an apsidal structure may have survived until at least the 9th century. The area was most likely waste land from the end of the Roman period in the 4th century to the later part of the Anglo-Scandinavian period. Evidence from 58–9 Skeldergate shows that there was occupation close to the river in the Anglo-Scandinavian period, and the robbing of Roman structures on this site may have been carried out to provide materials for buildings in neighbouring areas. At that time, the only activity for which there is evidence was pit digging and rubbish disposal. This denotes occupation nearby, but if there were structures of this period all traces had been destroyed by the many later intrusions, or were unrecognizable. The burials, if they are from this period, would suggest that the churchyard of St Mary Bishophill Senior extended further north-west than the present churchyard.
Fig. 15 Location plan of the excavation site at Clementhorpe. Scale 1:1250
A Pre-Conquest Structure at Clementhorpe

By David Brinklow

Introduction

Excavations at Clementhorpe (Fig. 15) in the summer of 1976 and early in 1977, which were largely concerned with the recovery of evidence relating to a complex Roman building (AY 6/1) and a Benedictine nunnery of post-Conquest date (AY 12) also discovered indications of a pre-Conquest structure on the same site. The area excavated, part of a York City Council housing development, lay some 140m south-east of the medieval city walls on the upper slopes of the west bank of the River Ouse. Historians have speculated (most recently in AY 2/1) about the origin of the name Clementhorpe and the dedication of the nunnery to St Clement, but no archaeological evidence for settlement between the Roman and medieval periods existed prior to these excavations.

Acknowledgement is due to York City Council (owners of the site) for permission to excavate, and in particular to the City Engineer’s Department for assistance with a number of technical problems. All finds and excavation records are deposited with the Yorkshire Museum, York, under the Trust and Museum accession numbers 1976.3 and 1977.3.

Excavated evidence

The single significant feature which may be attributed to Period VI, between the abandonment of the Roman building on the site and the construction of the nunnery, was a substantial alignment of cobbles. It was oriented east-west, was 1.5–2.0m wide, and extended for a distance of at least 30m (Fig. 16). It ran across the Roman building immediately south of the north wall of the apsidal room C. At its western end all trace had been removed by the intrusion of a Victorian cellar. Removal of the northern wall of this cellar against the northern edge of the excavation permitted the observation in section of a closely similar feature apparently aligned north-south. This was presumed to be a northerly return to the east-west feature, the junction between the two having been removed by the cellar. A further northerly return, at the eastern extremity of the site, was also recognized but only partially investigated owing to the proximity of a dangerously unstable vertical section. Immediately to the west of this area the feature had been heavily disturbed by the intrusion of a post-medieval lime kiln (27) (AY 13) and the robber trench (56) of the main Roman east wall (134). The lower levels of cobbles remained beneath the base of the flue and firing chamber of the kiln. Upstanding masonry was limited to three large limestone blocks (179) in the section at the east end of the feature (Pl. VIII).

These foundations were composed of a series of layers of cobbles of various sizes (51, 78, 89, 92, 116, 131, 151, 263 and 282). The lowest level was cut to a depth of 0.45m in places into the greasy red-brown clay (190) which had formed the ground surface from which Roman
Fig. 16 Excavation plan of the Clementhorpe site indicating the cobble foundation and other Anglo-Scandinavian features of Period VI in relation to the Roman building. Scale 1:200
construction had taken place. Elsewhere the foundation cut was shallower, c. 0.1m, merely removing the tessellated floor of the Roman building (110) and underlying opus signinum (207); where the feature passed over the west end wall of the Roman apse (239) there was no cut at all. The cobbles varied in size from 0.06 to 0.3m in diameter and were set in discrete layers, apparently all laid at the same time; they showed no evidence of wear and the lower layers contained so little interstitial material that they can have been exposed to the elements for only a very short time. In places, in the lower levels, was a dark brown sandy silt (155) which contained one of the two closely datable finds from the feature, a Roman bronze coin of mid 4th century date (sf 119). Nearby, in the cobbles (151) was a further bronze coin of the late 4th century (sf94). Occasional sherds of abraded Roman pottery were also found between the cobbles. The upper cobbles were scattered and were mixed with a fine brown sandy silt containing medieval and Roman pottery together with scattered human remains, animal bone and iron nails.

Where the foundations crossed the Roman building they were aligned on and butted closely against the southern side of the upstanding portion of the northern wall for room C (88) which stood to a height of five courses (Fig. 17). No floor or occupation level contemporary with the foundations survived in their vicinity; this suggests that the area had been substantially cleared before the construction of the nunnery.

In 1977 the site was extended to the west, but the opportunity to examine the relationship of the cobble feature to surrounding levels in this area was missed when for technical reasons it was cleared to a pre-determined depth. The sloping topography of the site was such that this resulted in the removal of all material but the immediate post-Roman at the western extremity, whilst in the east, nunnery destruction levels remained for archaeological excavation. Close examination of the north-facing section revealed that above the post-Roman levels described in AY 6/1 was a considerable build up — as much as 0.40m — of grey-brown sandy silt (291) before medieval building activity was represented. It is apparent from the same section that further east this entire level had been removed during the construction of a medieval building.

A pit (221) was the only other feature of pre-Conquest date to be examined on this site. Vertical sided, even slightly undercut in places, it had a diameter of 2.0m, was roughly circular (Fig. 16) and was approximately 0.50m deep. It contained an upper fill of dark brown sand and a lower fill of dark grey-olive silt, but no finds. Stratigraphically it must belong to roughly the same period as the cobble feature, its upper levels being cut by the lower limits of medieval grave digging whilst it cut the Roman terrace edge below.

**Interpretation and discussion**

Interpretation of the Period VI cobble feature is difficult, as the lack of associated levels leaves it in isolation. It was built at a time when remnants of the Roman building stood above ground level, and was presumably destroyed at some time during the life of the nunnery since it is cut by both nunnery walls and burials. The fact that most burials avoided it may be a consequence of the difficulty of digging graves into river cobbles rather than any significance of the feature in terms of a boundary. It was cut into the Roman ground surface, if only
Fig. 17 Clementhorpe. Section G¹-H¹ (part of section G-H from the Roman levels, AY 6/1, fig. 36) showing the cobble foundation in relation to Roman features. Scale 1:40
shallowly in places, and showed no evidence of wear or use. This, together with the two returns and the stonework above, suggest that it was the foundation for part of a large rectangular building.

Although the coins from the foundation were both Roman, the feature itself was more likely to be post-Roman. Three coins were found on the site which do not fit well with other periods of occupation recognized here and whose contexts are inconsistent with their date. Half a styca of Osberht (862–66) (AY 18/1, 33), a silver penny of Ethelwulf (838/9–856/8) (ibid., 39) and a silver penny of Edward the Confessor (1062–65) (ibid., 68) all point to occupation or activity here at a period from which no other features have been recognized. A 9th century lead weight with an enamelled insert (sf 4) was also recovered from an inconsistent context, one relating to the demolition of the nunnery. The date range of the coins and the weight provides some evidence, tenuous though it is, that the feature may have been constructed some time in the mid 9th century and still have been standing at the time of the Norman Conquest.

As far as the form and function of the building represented by these foundations are concerned, all that can be said is very speculative. The three large limestone blocks resting on the cobbles at the south-eastern corner of the feature suggest that some, at least, of the superstructure was of stone. However, they were unmortared and roughly cut and may have been merely a flat sill for a timber structure above. Whatever structure was carried was evidently of considerable size, with internal dimensions of at least 32 x 5m.

The presumed returns at each end would preclude this from being a boundary wall whilst its distance from and height above the river seems to rule out any connection with storage or wharfage. In the absence of any contradictory evidence, it is tempting to suggest that it may represent the pre-Conquest church of St Clement around which the later nunnery was founded.
Acknowledgements

York Archaeological Trust and the authors are grateful to the contributors named in the text and to the following people who gave specialist advice and valuable suggestions on the catalogue and the excavation reports: P. Beswick, Keeper of Archaeology, Sheffield City Museum; R. Friedman, of the York City Archives; Elizabeth Hartley, Senior Keeper, Yorkshire Museum; the staff of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, York Office, particularly I. L. Pattison for help and access to his notes on sculptured stone from churches; H. G. Ramm, formerly of the RCHM York Office, for access to information on Anglo-Scandinavian sites and, in particular, St Mary Bishophill Senior; also to P. C. Buckland, the late C. H. M. Clarke, Dr F. G. Grimes, Professor S. S. Frere, J. P. Holdsworth, H. K. Kenward, A. G. MacGregor, A. Mainman, R. Morgan, P. Ottaway, N. Pearson, D. Phillips, E. J. E. Pirie, D. J. Rackham, Dr E. G. Smith, P. Spencer, J. A. Spriggs, Professor H. C. Versey, L. P. Wenham, D. Williams, and J. B. Whitwell.

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The Trust also wishes to thank all those who took part in the excavations, often under extreme weather conditions. Sara Donaghey directed the excavation at 58–9 Skeldergate and initially supervised the Clementhorpe fieldwork, which was later directed by D. A. Brinklow. 37 Bishophill Senior was excavated under the direction of M. O. H. Carver. Special thanks are due to the area supervisors, student volunteers, trainee excavators, finds assistants, photographers, draughtsmen and surveyors, particularly R. Bartkowiak, D. R. Evans, A. Haynes, J. MacIlroy, B. Murphy and J. B. Whitwell.

Figures for this fascicule have been prepared by H. Humphreys (Figs. 7–14), D. Patrick (Figs. 2–6, 15–17) and T. Finnemore (Fig. 1). The photographs were taken as follows: Pls. I and II by M. S. Duffy, Pls. III–VII by J. Bailey and A. G. MacGregor, and Pl. VIII by R. Bartkowiak. The cover photograph is reproduced by permission of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England). The summary was translated into French by B. Randoin and into German by K. Aberg. The report has been under the editorial supervision of G. Turner and, more recently, R. Gould-Zvelebil. It is published with a grant from the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England.
Summary

The ridge of land running parallel to and south-west of the River Ouse has always formed an important part of the City of York. In the Roman period it was the site of the civil town (opposite the legionary fortress which was on the north-east bank of the river), a settlement which by AD 213 had achieved the status of a colonia and was the capital of the Province of Britannia Inferior. There is little evidence for continued occupation in the area of the colonia in the immediately post-Roman period. The first indication of Anglo-Saxon settlement in the vicinity comes from a cremation cemetery on The Mount dating to the late 5th and 6th centuries, but it is not until the 8th and 9th centuries that Anglo-Saxon objects become relatively abundant within the area of the former colonia. Surviving sculpture of this period suggests that the church of St Mary Bishophill Junior was in existence at this time.

In the Anglo-Scandinavian period, settlement within the area of the former colonia is indicated by the street names, many of which contain Old Norse elements, and which form a distorted grid, possibly laid out under the supervision of the Archbishop of York who had important landholdings in this area. The extent of the settlement is confirmed by the number of churches that have yielded archaeological evidence for existence in this period, notably St Mary Bishophill Junior, St Mary Bishophill Senior, and St Clement's Nunnery at Clementhorpe outside the circuit of the medieval walls of the city. There is only slight archaeological evidence for the existence of Holy Trinity Priory and St Martin-cum-Gregory, but both are mentioned in Domesday Book. More slender threads of evidence also point to the existence of the church of St Gregory and of the chapel of St Mary Magdalene in this period.

In addition to the topographical and ecclesiastical evidence, there are nearly a hundred individual finds or sites which have produced material dating to the Anglo-Scandinavian period (catalogued on pp. 24–36). Taken together these confirm that there was considerable activity across the whole of the area of the former colonia.

Excavations have produced important evidence for settlement both inside and outside the area of the Roman colonia. At 58–9 Skeldergate, an open area excavation revealed the remains of four rectangular timber buildings, dating to the pre-Conquest period. The earliest structure, Structure A, lay to the north-east of the excavated area and fell largely outside it. The structure was post-built, with the posts placed in cobble-packed foundation trenches, and was subsequently demolished and replaced by Structure B. Structure B was also post-built, but with the posts placed in individual post-holes. Structure C, lying to the south-west of Structures A and B, was stratigraphically the next structure on the site and consisted of a beam slot oriented north-east/south-west, parallel to which was a series of pits and post-holes. These features can be interpreted either as two walls of a single structure or as the outer walls of two different structures. A conclusive interpretation was made impossible by the scale and nature of later disturbances, and by the fact that if there were originally two structures the remaining walls lay outside the area of the excavation. The next building on the site, in the south-west of the excavated area, appears to have been Structure D, again a rectangular building, but constructed using a sill-beam technique; one beam survived in situ. This produced a radiocarbon date of ad 990 ± 70, but the sample may have been
contaminated. South-west of Structures A and B and north-east of Structure C lay the foundation for a stone wall which may also date to the Anglo-Scandinavian period.

At 37 Bishophill Senior, immediately adjacent to 58–9 Skeldergate, no structures dating to the Anglo-Scandinavian period were discovered. However, one pit and two burials were probably of this date.

In 1976 and 1977 excavations on the site of Clementhorpe Nunnery, just outside the circuit of the medieval walls, revealed a substantial alignment of cobbles oriented east-west and 1.5–2.0m wide by 30m long. At its west and east ends this cobbled foundation returned to the north. At the southern corner of the feature were three large limestone blocks. These cobbles can be interpreted as the foundation of a large structure, possibly having a superstructure of stone, which existed on the site after the end of the Roman occupation, and which was destroyed at some time before or during the life of the medieval nunnery. It may represent a pre-Conquest church of St Clement around which the later nunnery was founded. Two 9th century coins and a coin of King Edward the Confessor point to pre-Conquest activity on the site as does the discovery of a small lead weight with an enamelled insert, probably of 9th century date.
Résumé

La crête parallèle à la rivière Ouse au sud-ouest a toujours constitué une partie importante de la ville de York, puisqu’à l’époque romaine c’est là qu’est située la partie civile de la ville (en face de la forteresse de la Légion qui se trouve sur la rive nord-est de la rivière), établissement qui, en 213 ap. J.-C. avait accédé au statut de colonia et se trouvait être la capitale de la province de Britannie Inférieure. On ne dispose que de peu d’informations quant à la continuité de l’occupation sur le site de la colonia juste à la fin de la période romaine. Le premier témoin d’un établissement anglo-saxon dans les environs est fourni par la présence d’un cimetière à incinérations sur The Mount, daté de la fin du Ve et du VIe siècle, mais les découvertes d’objets anglo-saxons antérieurs aux VIIe et IXe siècles sur le site de la colonia sont extrêmement rares. Quelques éléments de sculpture conservés de cette période suggèrent que l’église de St Mary Bishophill Junior existait déjà à cette époque.

L’occupation du site de la colonia à la période anglo-scandinave transparaît dans le nom des rues dont beaucoup contiennent des éléments de norvégien ancien et qui dessinent une maille tourmentée, peut-être mise en place sous le contrôle de l’Archevêque de York qui avait dans cette zone d’importantes propriétés foncières. L’étendue de cette occupation est confirmée par les nombreuses églises dont l’existence est attestée, pour cette époque, par des découvertes archéologiques, et notamment: St Mary Bishophill Junior, St Mary Bishophill Senior, et le couvent de St Clement à Clementhorpe, en dehors du périmètre de l’enceinte médiévale de la ville. Le prieuré de Holy Trinity et St Martin-cum-Gregory ne sont attestés que par de minces indices archéologiques mais ils sont mentionnés dans le Domesday Book. Des traces encore plus ténues suggèrent l’existence, à cette période, de l’église de St Gregory et de la chapelle de St Mary Magdalene.

Viennent s’ajouter à ces données topographiques et religieuses, environ une centaine de sites ou découvertes isolées contenant du matériel anglo-scandinave (catalogue pp. 24–36). L’ensemble de ces éléments montre bien une activité considérable à l’emplacement de l’ancienne colonia.

Les fouilles ont livré des traces importantes d’occupation tant à l’intérieur qu’à l’extérieur de la colonia romaine. Au 58–9 Skeldergate, une fouille en aire ouverte a permis l’étude des restes de quatre bâtiments en bois rectangulaires antérieurs à la conquête normande. La structure A, la plus ancienne, se trouve au nord-est du site, la plus grande partie de cette structure étant à l’extérieur de la zone fouillée. Elle a été construite en poteaux de bois implantés dans des tranchées de fondations comblées par un blocage de cailloux, puis a été démolie et remplacée par la structure B. La structure B a également été construite en poteaux de bois, mais ceux-ci sont implantés dans des trous de poteaux individuels. La structure C, au sud-est des structures A et B, est stratigraphiquement la suivante sur le site et elle est constituée d’une sablière de fondations orientée nord-est sud-ouest, avec une série parallèle de fosses et de trous de poteau. Ces structures peuvent aussi bien être interprétées comme les deux murs d’un même ensemble ou les murs extérieurs de deux ensembles différents; il est impossible de trancher en raison de la nature et de l’importance des perturbations postérieures, et du fait que, s’il s’agit bien de deux structures distinctes, les autres murs se
trouvent à l'extérieur de la zone fouillée. La structure D, au sud-ouest de la fouille, semble avoir été le bâtiment suivant. Elle est également de forme rectangulaire, mais elle est construite sur sablières en bois, dont l'une est conservée en place. Sa datation au radio-carbone indique 990 ± 70 ap. J. C., il est toutefois possible que l'échantillon ait été contaminé. Au sud-ouest des structures A et B et au nord-est de la structure C se trouvait la fondation d'un mur de pierres qui peut aussi appartenir à l'époque anglo-scandinave.

La fouille du 37 Bishophill, jouxtant le 58-9 Skeldergate, n'a livré aucune structure anglo-scandinave, cependant une fosse et deux sépultures peuvent dater de cette période.

Les fouilles, en 1976 et 1977, sur le site du couvent de Clementhorpe immédiatement à l'extérieur du périmètre de l'enceinte médiévale ont révélé un important alignement de cailloutis orienté d'est en ouest, d'une largeur de 1,50m à 2m et d'une longueur de 30m. À l'est et à l'ouest, cette fondation de cailloutis retourne vers le nord. Dans l'angle sud de la structure ont été découverts trois grands blocs de calcaire. Ces cailloutis peuvent être interprétés comme la fondation d'une vaste structure, peut-être munie d'une superstructure en pierre, construite sur le site après la fin de l'occupation romaine et démolie soit avant, soit pendant l'occupation du couvent médiéval. Il peut s'agir d'une église de St Clement antérieure à la conquête normande autour de laquelle le couvent postérieur a été fondé. Deux monnaies du IXe siècle et une monnaie d'Édouard le Confesseur, ainsi qu'un petit poids en plomb avec un insert émaillé, probablement du IXe siècle, découverts sur le site attestent une activité antérieure à la conquête normande.
Zusammenfassung


Zusätzlich zu den topographischen und ekklesiastischen Beweisen kommen beinahe ein hundert Einzelfunde und Fundstellen, die Material aus der anglo-skandinavischen Zeit ergeben haben (katalogisiert auf Seite 24ff.). Zusammengenommen bestätigen diese, daß beträchtliche Siedlungsaktivität sich über das ganze Areal der früheren Colonia erstreckte.

Anglo-Scandinavian York


Im Grundstück 37 Bishophill, unmittelbar neben 58–9 Skeldergate, wurden keine Bauten, die in die anglo-schandinavische Zeit datieren, gefunden. Eine Grube und zwei Gräber gehören möglicherweise in diese Zeit.


Notes

1 We are grateful to D. A. Stocker for pointing out the existence of these notebooks.
2 In previous publications the features at Skeldergate have been given a variety of differing designations and interpretations. This fascicule represents the definitive work on Skeldergate and supersedes any previous articles or publications.
3 This profile was stepped in at the north-west end by 300–400 mm during excavation at approximately the division between Anglo-Scandinavian levels and medieval deposits. The section drawn is, therefore, a composite.
4 The sample could, however, possibly be contaminated by humates in the later levels and therefore the date should be viewed with caution (H. K. Kenward, pers. comm.).
Anglo-Scandinavian Settlement South-west of the Ouse

Abbreviations

Other abbreviations used in bibliographical references in the text are explained in the Bibliography below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BMC</td>
<td>British Museum Catalogue</td>
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<tr>
<td>RCHM</td>
<td>Royal Commission on Historical Monuments</td>
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<tr>
<td>SCBI</td>
<td>Sylloge of Coins of the British Isles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sf</td>
<td>Prefix to small find numbers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YAT</td>
<td>York Archaeological Trust</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YAYAS</td>
<td>Yorkshire Architectural and York Archaeological Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YM</td>
<td>Yorkshire Museum</td>
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<tr>
<td>YMH</td>
<td>Yorkshire Museum Handbook</td>
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<tr>
<td>YPS Acc. Reg.</td>
<td>Yorkshire Philosophical Society Accessions Register</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YPSAR</td>
<td>Yorkshire Philosophical Society Annual Report</td>
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Plate 1a  Grave cover (29), from St Mary Bishophill Senior, now at St Clement's, Scarcroft Road. Length 1.2m

Plate 1b  Sculptured fragment (40), at Holy Trinity, Micklegate. Height 280mm
Plate II  Sculptured stones from St Mary Bishophill Senior, now at Holy Redeemer, Boroughbridge Road
Structure A, looking north-west

Structure B, looking west-north-west

Plate III 58-9 Skeldergate. Anglo-Scandinavian structures. Scale unit 0.1m
Plate IV 58-9 Skeldergate. Anglo-Scandinavian structures. Scale unit 0.1m

a Structure C, showing beam slot 1648, looking south-west

b Soakaway 2035, north-west of Structure D
Plate V  58-9 Skeldergate. Structure D, with beam in situ, looking south-west. Scale unit 0.1m
Plate VIa  58-9 Skeldergate. Pit 2103, east of Structure D, containing animal bones. Scale unit 0.1m

Plate VIb  37 Bishophill Senior. Anglo-Scandinavian pit, 10428, looking east. Scale unit 0.1m
a Charcoal burial, 12000, in section, looking south

b Disturbed burial, near Roman drain 10635

Plate VII 37 Bishophill Senior. Anglo-Scandinavian burials. Scale unit 0.1m
Plate VIII  Clemethorpe. Section through Anglo-Scandinavian foundation, showing layers of cobbles with limestone blocks above, looking east. Scale unit 0.5m
The Archaeology of York

General Editor P. V. Addyman

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8 Anglo-Scandinavian York (AD 876–1066) (AY 8)
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