

Towns in Transition in the First Millennium AD: York as a Case Study

FIGURES Chapters 5 & 6

All images © York Archaeological Trust unless otherwise stated

Please note that some images were discarded during production of the draft manuscript, but the figure numbers have not been revised to reflect this. Thus there are some figures numbers without images, listed as 'discarded' or 'not required'. The numbering is consistent with references in the text.



Fig.5.A

Locations of excavated sites in York relevant to the areas of research considered in Chapter 5. Those represented by red dots feature prominently in the discussion in this chapter; those located by grey dots are not referred to in the text, but are considered to be potentially relevant to the research under discussion. Sites listed alphabetically.

<i>Site #</i>	<i>Site name</i>	<i>Site #</i>	<i>Site name</i>	<i>Site #</i>	<i>Site name</i>
11	1-5 Aldwark	7	21-33 Aldwark	59	41 Piccadilly
19	7-9 Aldwark	10	Bedern NE	31	___, Piccadilly
6	37 Bishophill Snr	4	Bedern SW	50	Purey Cust Hospital
9	9 Blake St	67	House & Son, Blake St	70	St Leonard's Hospital
2	4-6 Church St	12	Clementhorpe	25	12-18 Swinegate
13	16-22 Coppergate	49	Friends' Burial Ground	66	37 Tanner Row
22	1-9 Micklegate	45	31-7 Gillygate	56	Ideal Laundry, Trinity Ln
16	5 Rougier St	37	3 Little Stonegate	1	York Minster
5	58-9 Skeldergate	64	Ks' Garage Micklegate		
17	24-30 Tanner Row	46	Museum St / Lendal		
28	Wellington Row	34	North St Pumping Stn		



Fig.5.B.i



Fig.5.B.ii



Fig.5.B.iii

Fig.5.B

Outstandingly well-preserved Roman timber buildings, apparently of the mid- / late-2nd century AD, at 24-30 Tanner Row, on the south-west bank of the river Ouse. Built primarily of oak, many of the timbers used in their construction betray signs of their having been re-used from earlier structures, and it seems likely that their source was dismantled wooden barracks and other buildings from the legionary fortress on the opposite bank of the river. The earliest wooden structure at Tanner Row, interpreted as a revetment, employed a range of tree species in its construction, in contrast to the near uniform use of oak in the later phases, perhaps suggesting an opportunistic approach to resourcing in the early phase of the Roman occupation. The exceptional level of timber preservation in the earliest horizons at this site may be related to the suggested existence of a pre-Roman palaeochannel, whose sediments would retain large quantities of water, beneath the site (see [2.6.4.5](#); [Fig.2.E](#)).



Fig.5.C

9 Blake Street – beam slots and postholes from Period 3 barracks, looking south-west; more typical archaeological traces of Roman-period timber buildings encountered in York. The broad, flat-based trenches visible in this photograph are actually the emptied-out *construction* cuts for the later, Period 4, stone-founded structures (see Fig.4.C.i, above, and Fig.5.D). The traces of timber buildings are restricted to the line of plaster visible to the right and top centre of the photograph, the former running almost from top to bottom of the frame, defined by the vestigial beam-slot and postholes immediately to the left of it. The broader linear feature visible to the left of that, with postholes at regular intervals along its edges, is the remains of a drain contemporary with the timber barracks. Contrast with the surviving evidence for probably comparable structures on the right-hand side of Fig.5.B.i.

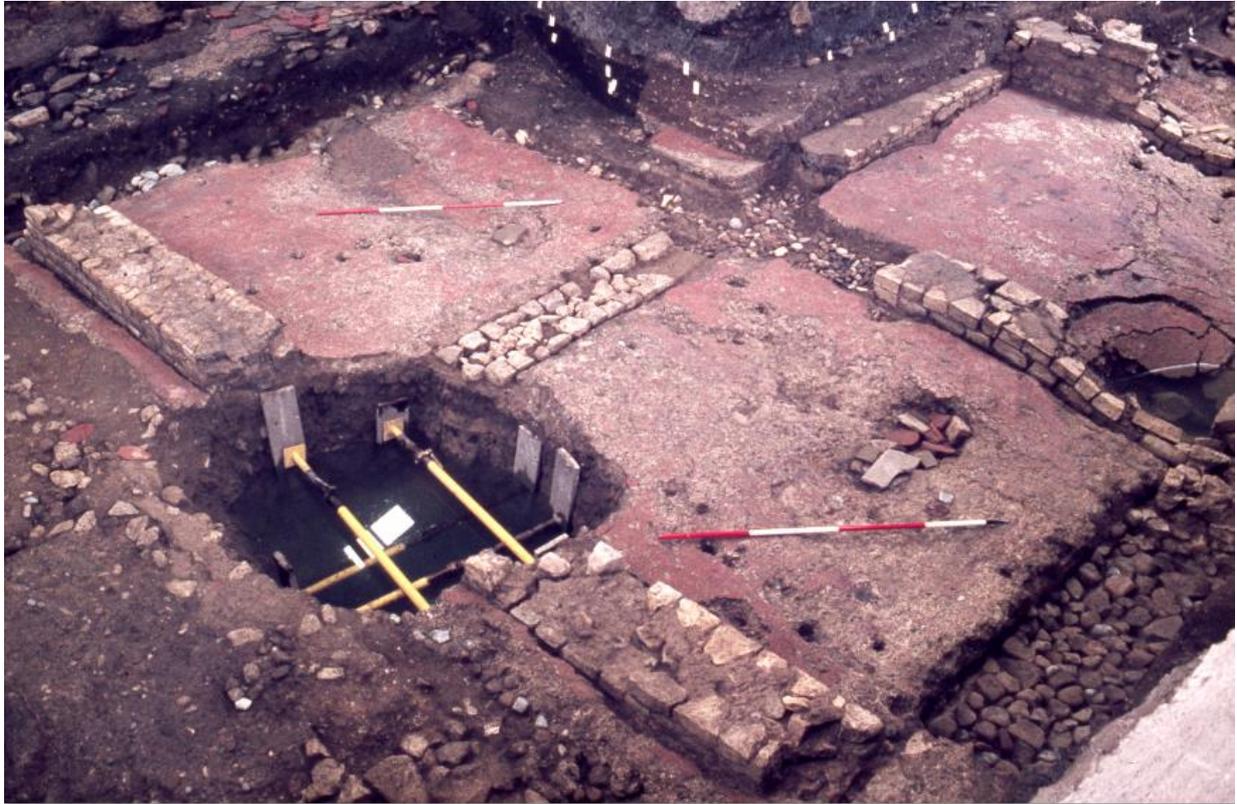


Fig.5.D

9 Blake Street – Period 4 stone footings for (modified) barrack block, original construction attributed to the second half of the 2nd century, looking towards the north-west. Originally a single room with a floor of *opus signinum*, the wall footings forming the ‘cruciform’ plan with its centre towards the centre-top of the photograph are later insertions, their construction trenches cut through the *opus signinum*. This evidence for substantial structural adaptation – which may parallel those identified in the barrack blocks excavated beneath York Minster (Phillips & Heywood 1995) is evidence of the type relevant to the issues addressed in Chapter 6. See also Fig.4.C.i.



Fig.5.E

Wellington Row Area 7, oak piles beneath (robbed) foundation of major extension to masonry building (see Figs.7.B.i.b, 7.C.ii), date at present unconfirmed but probably of the late-3rd or first quarter of the 4th century. Unfortunately the 80+ roundwood oak piles were from tree which had not grown to sufficient maturity to allow dendrochronological calibration. Note the 'natural' sediments into which the wall construction trench was cut and the timber piles rammed, which could be either late-Pleistocene lacustrine deposits or early Holocene alluvium. The former is perhaps more likely, as the Wellington Row site seems to have been on the putative 'island' formed by a palaeochannel of the river Ouse flowing to the south-west of its main channel. This location – contrasting with the position of the buildings at 24-30 Tanner Row, which seem to have been constructed directly on the line of that palaeochannel – may help to explain the contrasting degree of preservation of timber between the two sites, some 80 metres apart within the floodplain of the Ouse.



Fig.5.F

The eastern corner tower of the Roman legionary fortress, of the mid- / late-2nd century AD, looking due north; constructed in magnesian limestone procured from the extensive exposure of this rock to the west of the Vale of York, c.25 kms distant.



Fig.5.G

Piles made from alder roundwood beneath the southern footings of the southern tower of the Roman legionary fortress, the 'Multangular Tower', looking towards the south. The piles support part of the projecting foundation of the tower, and so are undeniably part of its construction, and not from an earlier phase of defences incorporated within a later re-modelling. The Multangular Tower was long regarded as having been constructed in the early 4th century on the strength of known parallels from elsewhere in the Roman Empire. A revision to the late-2nd / early-3rd century was then proposed. Radiocarbon determination on one of the piles produced a date in the first half of the 2nd century; given that the retention of felled roundwood alder for 50+ years, perhaps much longer, seems improbable, the case for a much earlier date than has previously been suggested for this structure, and for the elaborate south-western facade of the legionary fortress as a whole, gains strength. This re-attribution does, however, bring the use of magnesian limestone in the construction of the south-west frontage into line with what is observed elsewhere across Roman York.

Fig.5.H – DISCARDED



Fig.5.J

Wellington Row, Area 7, north-eastern wall of major masonry building (see Figs 7.B.i.a, 7..C.i), originally constructed in the second half of the 2nd century (although there are some indications that this wall may be a later insertion), oolitic limestone, in all probability procured from the Howardian Hills district, some 20 kms to the north-east . There are increasing hints that Roman York's entire stone supply may have switched from the western to the eastern margins of the Vale of York in the later-2nd and early-3rd centuries, in a pattern which has some resonance with ceramic supply (see 9.6a.i).

Fig. 5.K-P – DISCARDED



Fig.5.R

4-6 Church Street, Roman bath-house within the legionary fortress; re-use of large blocks of crudely-mortared gritstone (dark stone in left side of picture) used to infill a large void in magnesian limestone masonry, below which can be seen the tile voussoirs forming the top of a hypocaust flue. The gritstone may have been re-used from a stretch of the nearby Roman sewer, and the blocking it was employed for may have occurred when the bath complex had ceased to function for its original purpose – such a scenario has been suggested for adaptations to the nearby bath-house remains (which may have formed part of the same complex) beneath the Roman Bath pub in St Samson’s Square (R.C.H.M.(E) 1962, 43 © Historic England). For the treatment of the right-hand corner of the building as seen in this photograph, see Fig.7.J.



Fig.5.S.i



Fig.5.S.ii

Fig.5.S

9 Blake Street; 5.S.i, possible mass walling with plaster facing, set on a mortar bedding layer on a stone footing, internal wall of modified barrack block (see Fig.5.D), ?3rd century. The footings have very evidently subsided into an earlier, underlying feature (which would appear to be the large pit 3892; see Fig.3.K.i), presumably for the most part centuries after the buildings had been abandoned, when their surviving remains were already buried. 5.S.ii shows a detail of the *in situ* plaster facing. (The soil visible *above* the plaster in this image post-dates the demolition of the wall, and is not considered part of the suggested mass walling; refer back to 5.S.i.)



Fig.5.T.i



Fig.5.T.ii

Fig.5.T

24-30 Tanner Row, the lower wattles of a collapsed ?late-2nd century wattle wall (beneath photographic scale, fallen away from the camera), set in a timber sill-beam which in turn rests on two small, re-used stone columns, set about two metres apart (5.T.i). The latter seems likely to be another aspect of the re-use of material from structures dismantled within the legionary fortress (see Fig.5.B) in the construction of these buildings in the late-2nd century. The construction technique involving the use of individual stone blocks to carry a superstructure in timber sill-beams (detail, 5.T.ii) seems highly relevant in consideration of the constructional techniques proposed and discussed with reference to the continued adaptation and re-use of Roman buildings in York into the 5th century and perhaps beyond; 5.3d.7; 7.3.3; 7.6.2-3; Fig. 7.G.ii.



Fig.6.A

Locations of excavated sites in York relevant to the areas of research considered in Chapter 6. Those represented by red dots feature prominently in the discussion in this chapter; those located by grey dots are not referred to in the text, but are considered to be potentially relevant to the research under discussion. Sites listed alphabetically.

Site #	Site name	Site #	Site name	Site #	Site name
11	1-5 Aldwark	22	1-9 Micklegate	67	House & Son, Blake St
7	21-33 Aldwark	64	Ks' Garage Micklegate	54	14-20 Blossom St
10	Bedern NE	37	3 Little Stonegate	2	4-6 Church St
4	Bedern SW	50	Purey Cust Hospital	45	31-7 Gillygate
6	37 Bishophill Snr	70	St Leonard's Hospital	44	Hungate
9	9 Blake St	5	58-9 Skeldergate	27	Adams' Hydraul's, Layerthorpe
24	35-41 Blossom St	25	12-18 Swinegate	57	26-28 Marygate

12	Clementhorpe	56	Ideal Laundry, Trinity Ln	46	Museum St / Lendal
8	39-41 Coney St	1	York Minster	34	North St Pumping Stn
13	16-22 Coppergate			47	St Maurice's / Newbiggin
63	Fetter Lane sub-stn	19	7-9 Aldwark	58	2, St Maurice's Rd
				66	37 Tanner Row

Fig. 6.B – DISCARDED

Fig.6.C

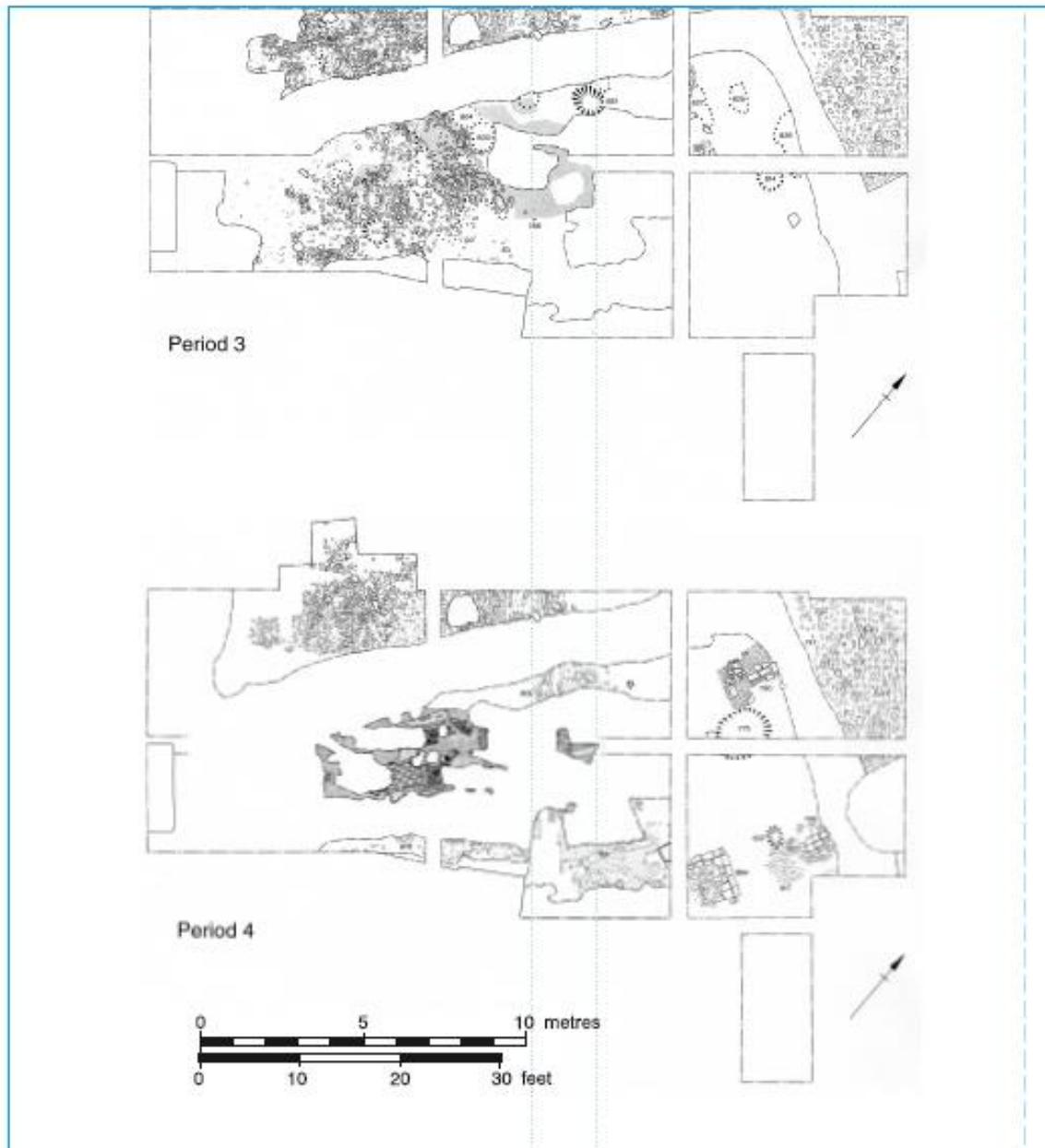


Fig. 6.C

21-33 Aldwark, Romano-British urban development in the environs of the legionary fortress. From 3rd-century (?military) manufactory (Period 3) to 4th-century town house (Period 4); 6.2.1 .

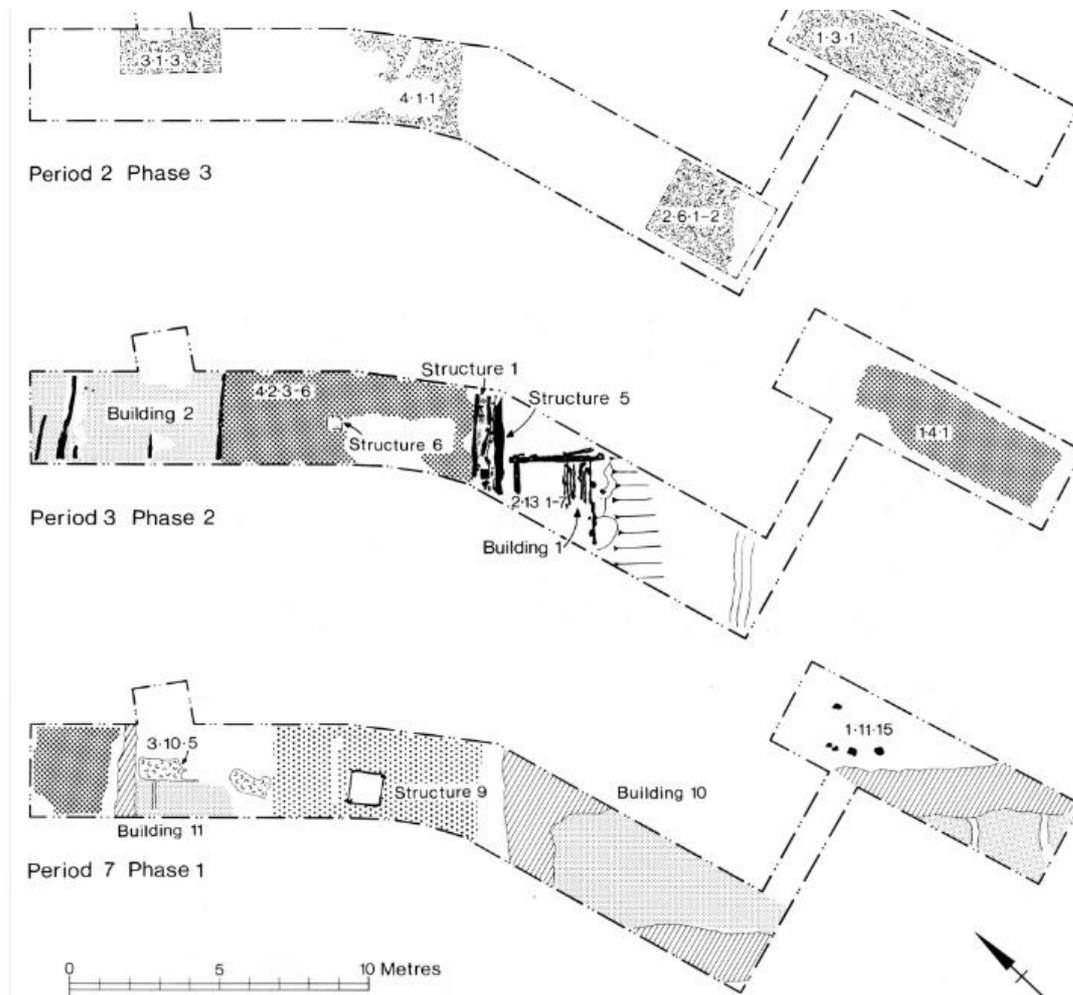


Fig. 6.D

24-30 Tanner Row, Romano-British urban development on the south-west bank of the Ouse. Floodplain sediments and 2nd-century land-reclamation (Period 2, Phase 3; 2.6.4.5-7; 4.3.1-3; 4.3.6), late 2nd-century building in timber (Period 3, Phase 2; 5.1.2, 6.2.2), ?4th-century building in stone (Period 7, Phase 1; 5.1.2, 6.2.2).