

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

FIGURES Chapters 7 to 9

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Fig.7.A

Locations of excavated sites in York relevant to the areas of research considered in Chapter 7. 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>
9	9 Blake St	4	Bedern SW	48	Interval Tower SW5
37	3 Little Stonegate	6	37 Bishophill Snr	64	Ks' Garage Micklegate
22	1-9 Micklegate	67	House & Son, Blake St	50	Purey Cust Hospital
28	Wellington Row	24	35-41 Blossom St	16	5 Rougier St
1	York Minster	2	4-6 Church St	70	St Leonard's Hospital
		12	Clementhorpe	5	58-9 Skeldergate
11	1-5 Aldwark	8	39-41 Coney St	25	12-18 Swinegate
19	7-9 Aldwark	13	16-22 Coppergate	17	24-30 Tanner Row
7	21-33 Aldwark	63	Fetter Lane sub-stn	66	37 Tanner Row
10	Bedern NE	49	Friends' Burial Ground	56	Ideal Laundry, Trinity Ln

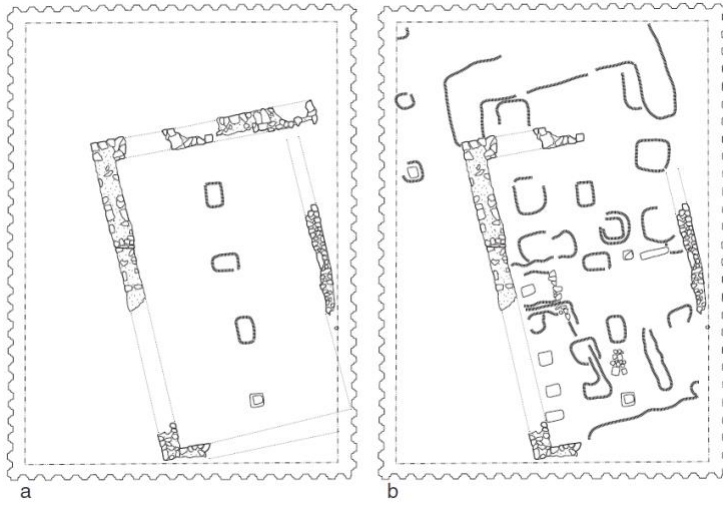


Fig. 7.B.a-b

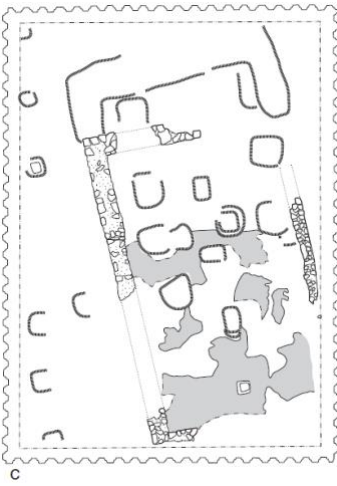


Fig. 7.B.c

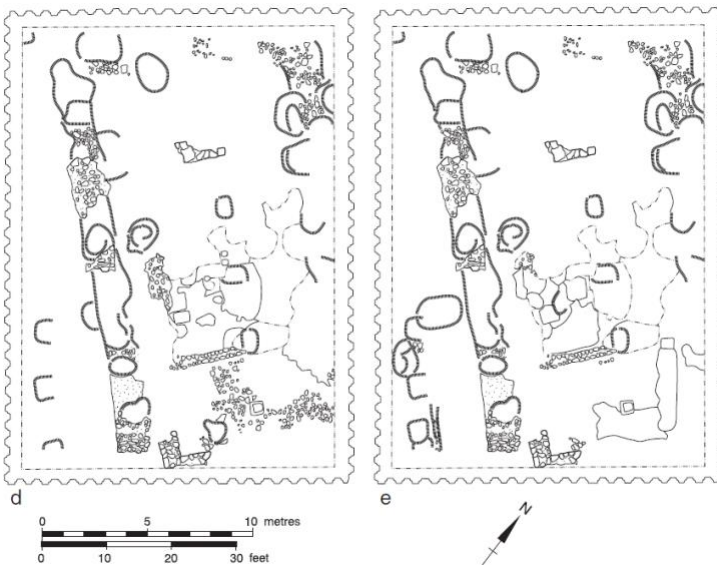


Fig. 7.B.d-e

Fig. 7.B

Wellington Row Area 7, development of masonry building, ?mid- / ?late-2nd century – 5th century. The original building (7.B.a), apparently constructed in the mid- or late-2nd century, has been presented in earlier published notes (e.g. Monaghan 1997, fig.429, p.1112) as a free-standing, south-east / north-west aligned structure, although from the plan it seems highly probable that it in fact originally formed the south-western chamber of a building aligned south-west/ north-east, extending beyond the north-eastern limit of the excavation. This structure underwent substantial adaptation, including its extension to the north-west (see Fig.5.E) – from which point it *does* appear to have become a free-standing, south-east / north-west aligned building – and the creation of a hypocausted room, one of whose flues was replaced during its lifetime (7.B.b). The date of this major adaptation is uncertain, but coin evidence seems to indicate that the hypocaust was still in use, or at least intact, in the 360s. This phase saw the first use of monolithic padstones in construction, apparently creating some form of ‘verandah’ around the building on its south-western side. The hypocaust was subsequently dismantled, and what had been the internal ground level *below* the raised, hypocausted floor used as the new internal floor surface (shaded grey on 7.B.c). Make-up layers beneath this new floor surface contained four coins of the House of Theodosius, minted between AD 388-402; a (conservative) *terminus post-quem* for this phase of AD 388. The next modification of the building, post-dating the laying of this floor surface, saw the widespread use of monolithic padstones (represented by their robbed-out voids), and the dismantling of a c.7 m length of the south-western wall of the building and the creation, using monolithic padstones, of a new south-western ‘annex’, measuring c.8 m x 4 m within the excavated area (7.B.c). The next phase was the most dramatic in the entire structural history of the building; a transformation amounting to the total reconstruction of the building into a wholly new form around the mid-4th century ‘footprint’ of 7.B.b. As illustrated on 7.B.d, the original, 2nd-century walls were all but completely dismantled to the contemporary ground level, with a new wall ‘encasing’ the mid-4th century building’s ‘footprint’, employing a foundation technique itself employing monumental blocks of masonry, this wall surviving for the most part only as a robbing trench and the fragmentary survival of the lowest components of its irregular stone footings. Only the south-western corner of the original building, and its south-easternmost internal pillar, were retained in this massive new building, although the south-western ‘annex’ from 7.B.c appears to have been retained and incorporated. Internally, wall 7664 (see Fig.7.G.i) was the best-preserved structural element which had formed part of the 7.B.d building. The building underwent at least two further episodes of substantial alterations to the interior and modifications to the south-western ‘annex’, of which one (7.B.e) is illustrated here; this included the apparently complete enclosure of the south-western ‘annex’ through the insertion of further monolithic padstones into the spaces between those which had seemingly been in place since 7.B.c. Since the made-ground which pre-dated the *original* 7.B.c construction of the annex itself has a *tpq* of AD 388, the lifetime of this building, and its extensive and repeated reconstruction, must surely extend deep into the 5th century.



Fig. 7.C.i

Fig. 7.C.ii





Fig. 7.C.iii

Fig.7.C

Wellington Row Area 7; 7.C.i, large masonry building as originally constructed in the ?late-2nd century, looking due east, ground plan shown in Fig.7.B.a; note floor joists and surviving pillar supporting roof / upper storey at south-eastern end of building in right of photograph. 7.C.ii, looking south-eastwards, addition of north-western masonry extension constructed on timber piles (see also Fig.5.E) and extensive re-organisation of interior (see ground plan in Fig.7.B.b), ?early- / ?mid-4th century. 7.C.iii, looking south-eastwards, latest deposits within interior partly excavated, still *in situ* in south-western corner of building, the robbing trench extending across the entire length of excavated area indicating the line of the new south-west wall of 5th-century date, constructed immediately outside the original structure (see ground plan in Fig.7.B.d). Compare the visible height of the south-eastern pillar in the successive photographs; the internal floor level of the building rose by over one metre in the course of its successive reconstructions and continuous use between the late-2nd century and its eventual demolition in the later 5th century, 6th century or possibly even the 7th. Some of the numerous 'pits' which are here argued as indicating the positions of large robbed-out padstones relating to late structural modifications are clearly visible (see Figs 7.B.b-e).

Fig. 7.D – DISCARDED



Fig.7.E.i



Fig.7.E.ii

Fig.7.E

Calcite-gritted ware forms, sherds (7.E.i) and selected fabric variants (7.E.ii) from Wellington Row. The fabric variants illustrated in 7.E.ii arranged with those from late-4th century horizons towards the left of the frame, those from 5th-century contexts on the right.

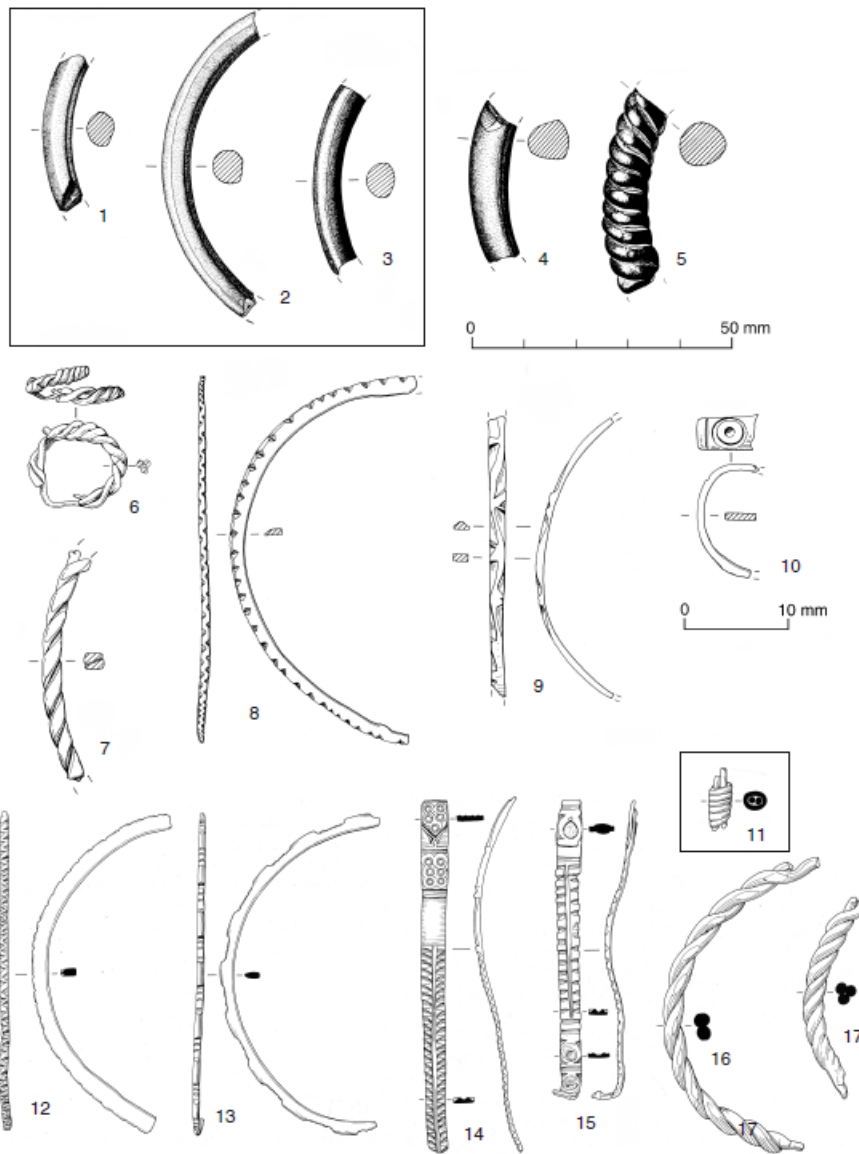


Fig. 7-F Late Roman artefacts from Blake St (nos 1-10) and York Minster (11-17); boxed items are those identified by Cool as 5th century. Scale 1:1 except 10, 2:1

Fig.7.F

9 Blake St (1-5) and York Minster (6-17); bangles and bracelets – late-Roman and ?early post-Roman. The objects outlined in boxes (1-3; 11) have been identified by Dr Hilary Cool as deriving from ‘very-late’ Roman contexts, however that might be specifically defined in terms of chronology, and as being sufficiently distinctive to be regarded as diagnostic of that ‘very-late’ period (7.4.4; 7.5.3). Cool selected artefacts from layers identified as ‘latest Roman’ by the excavators / authors of these sites. The point made here is that the artefacts illustrated which were *not* selected by Cool for her study derive from contexts, at both sites, which have every probability of themselves being attributed to the ‘latest Roman’ or early post-Roman phases – rather than being ‘residual’ in very much later contexts, as the reports on the two excavations suggest. It is worth remarking that parallels for nos 15 and 17 are found at the sites of Lydney *Gloucs*, Shakenoak *Oxon* and Dinorben *Conwy*, all sites with long-recognised early post-Roman occupation.



Fig.7.G.i

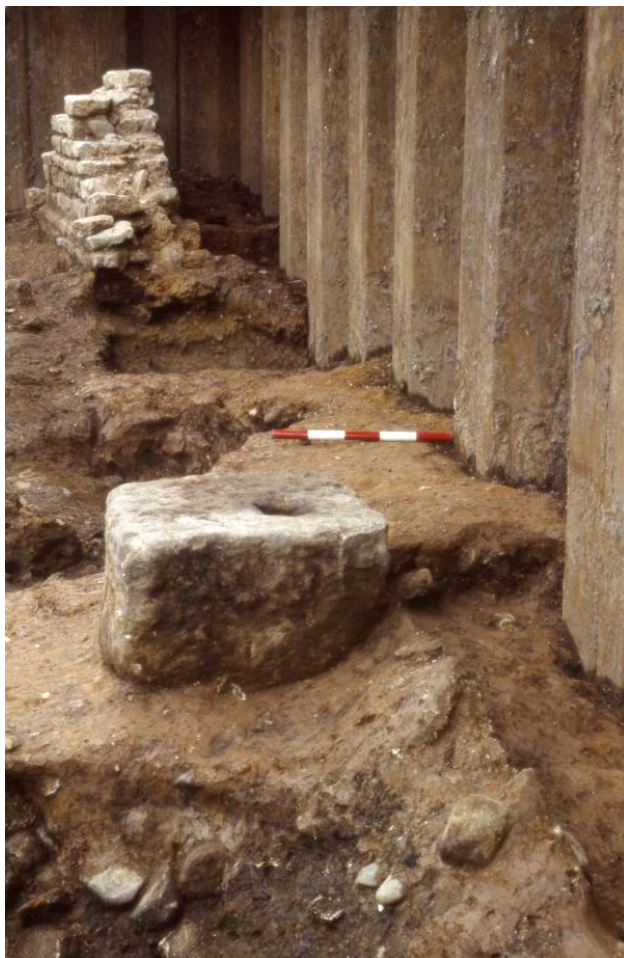


Fig.7.G.ii



Fig.7.G.iii



Fig.7.G.iv

Fig.7.G

Wellington Row Area 7; early post-Roman structures and stratigraphy. 7.G.i shows the south-west / north-east aligned dry-stone rubble wall 7664, the early post-Roman structural element which was most readily apparent as the excavation of the site was in progress. 7.G.ii shows an *in situ* gritstone block of the type here argued to have provided padstones for timber uprights in late adaptations of Roman masonry buildings, frequently represented by voids left by their subsequent removal from the ground. Compare with Figs 7.B.b and 7.B.d, though the actual padstone illustrated in 7.G.ii does not appear on these Figs, apparently not having been mapped on any field plan located in the course of this research, perhaps as a result of having been subject to very rapid excavation and recording towards the end of the excavation. 7.G.iii, wall 7664 under excavation; 7.G.iv, excavation and recording of deposits immediately underlying 7664. The string grid in this photograph was established for purposes of three-dimensional recording of *all* artefacts, including potsherds and animal bone fragments from these early post-Roman horizons. To the right of the green finds trays, underneath the opened notebook, the uppermost twenty centimetres or so of the *in situ* south-eastern internal pillar can be seen.



Fig.7.H

1-9 Micklegate, latest phase of massive Roman masonry structure. The wall visible in the centre left of the 7.H.i is the uppermost surviving walling of what appears to be a very large hypocausted building, possibly a bath-house (inset 7.H.ii). Note the irregular, undulating, linear depression immediately to the right of the wall, particularly against the end furthest from the camera position, and the similarity with 7.B.d and 7.C.iii; these features may indicate a rebuilding of the 1-9 Micklegate building, after its hypocaust chambers had been filled in, in a similar manner to that proposed for Wellington Row. The postholes visible in the centre of 7.H.i, interpreted by the excavator as representing individual timbers of a post-Roman building, appear more likely to represent the voids left by decayed piles, possibly inserted to support the weight of large stone blocks similar to those discovered *in situ* at Wellington Row; these pile voids do appear to suggest a right-angled foundation turning away from the original masonry wall. The entire surface to the right of the wall appears to be indented and pitted with similar voids to those recorded at Wellington Row; again compare with Figs 7.b.c-e and 7.C.iii. It should be borne in mind, however, that at 1-9 Micklegate, to a much greater extent than at Wellington Row, the impacts intrusions into later Roman levels from the densely-packed Anglo-Scandinavian settlement along Micklegate must be taken into account; the depression visible within the Roman masonry building, which has hacked out a curvilinear shape from the extremely solidly-mortared stonework, may be an instance of this.



Fig.7.J.i



Fig.7.J.ii



Fig.7.J.iii

Fig.7.J

9 Blake Street; Period 5, 'late-/ post-Roman activity' (Hall 1997, 356 *et seq*). 7.J.i, looking north-westwards across the south-westerly barracks (centre and left of photograph) and the 'narrow range' (right of photograph). 7.J.ii, view to the north-east across the south-westerly barracks, 'narrow range' and street; at the top of the photograph the main, northerly range can be glimpsed, an area where the Period 5 horizons had been truncated. Both of these views show that the Period 5 horizon at this site appears to share many characteristics with the early post-Roman strata at Wellington Row (compare with Figs 7.G.i and 7.G.iv); again there are fragments of walling retained from earlier periods, spreads of rubble which may suggest the former presence of slighted dry-stone walls similar to 7664, and in particular a number of shallow 'pits' which may be argued to mark the positions of robbed-out padstones which would have supported timber uprights. In this connection 7.J.iii, a detail from the north-western end of the main range, illustrates two such features on and adjacent to the north-eastern corner of that building. These are in that area of the site where truncation removed most of the relevant soil horizons, and as neither are referred to in the Period 5 discussion in the published report it must be assumed that they fall into the category of 'features cut into the yellow clay dump' (*ibid.*; see Fig.4.C), and may well have contained Anglo-Scandinavian or later pottery. However, the locations of these features in relation to the north-eastern corner of the building, their shapes and depth, and the fact that one (on the right of the photograph) still contains what appears to be a packing deposit within it, strongly indicates that these are indeed the settings for robbed-out padstones. As the feature on the right also cuts right through and severs the stone-lined drain which had run along the north-eastern side of the original stone-founded building, they seem to belong to an episode of structural modification in which the original structural

organisation and probably function of the building had undergone radical change. The parallels with the evidence from Wellington Row are again detailed and striking. It is a near-certainty that the remains of many other Roman masonry buildings in York bear similar, as-yet unrecognised traces of the 'late' adaptation and modification of structures; Fig.5.R may be one example, where in the right of the photograph a large chunk (a robbing void?) of the corner of the structure has been removed, perhaps a close parallel with the configuration illustrated by 7.J.iii, but in this instance manifest in a much more solid, and more completely surviving, masonry structure.

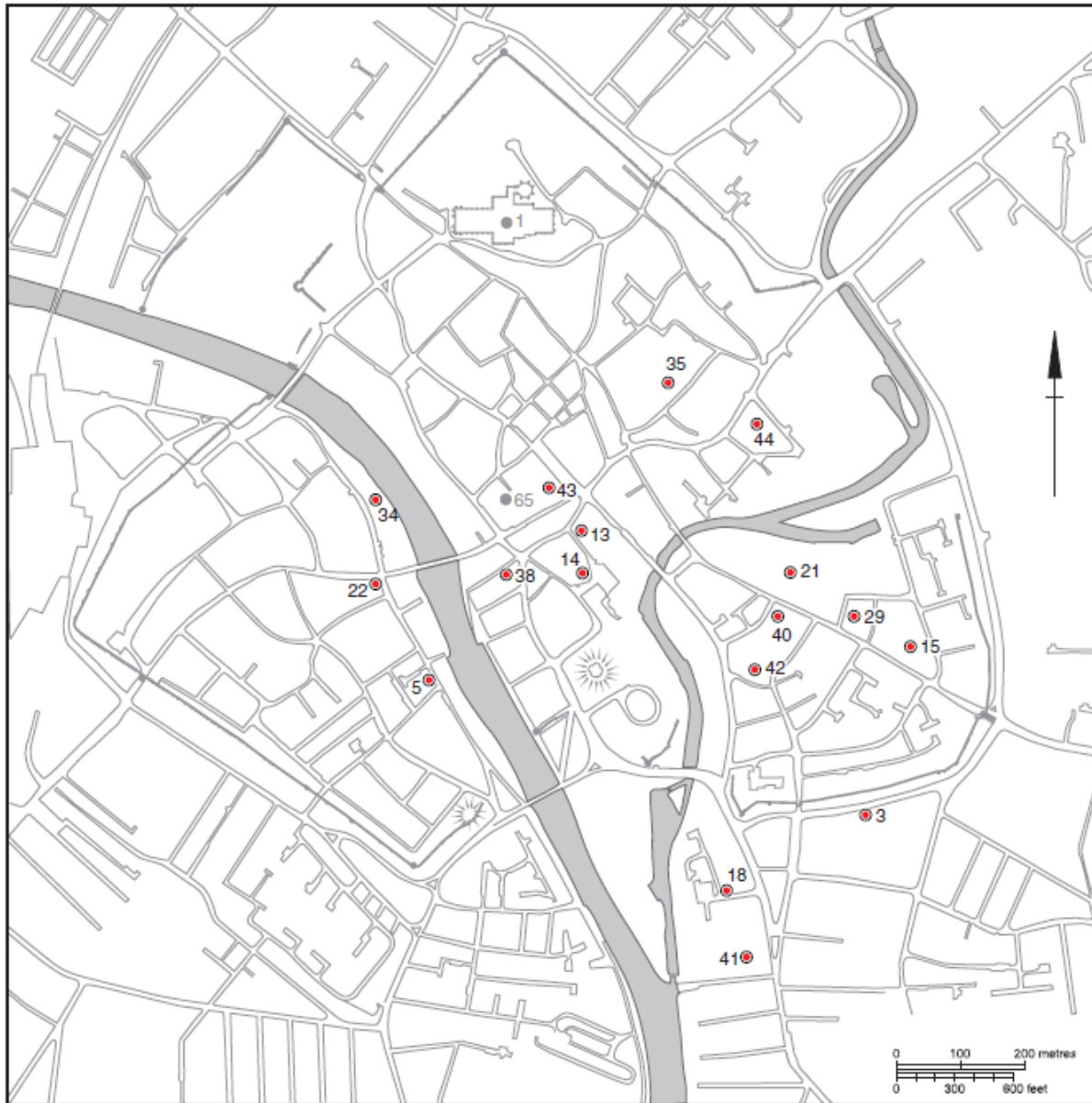


Fig.8.A

Locations of excavated sites in York relevant to the areas of research considered in Chapter 8. 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>
41	Blue Bridge Lane	14	St Mary Castlegate
13	16-22 Coppergate	35	9 St Saviourgate
18	46-54 Fishergate	5	58-9 Skeldergate
42	George St / Dixon Ln	40	41-49 Walmgate
44	Hungate	21	76-82 Walmgate
22	1-9 Micklegate	29	104-112 Walmgate

34	North St Pumping Stn	15	118-126 Walmgate
3	Paragon St		
43	4-7 Parliament St	65	7-15 Spurriergate

Fig. 8.B, 8.C – DISCARDED



Fig.8.D

Period 3, 46-54 Fishergate and Period 3, 16-22 Coppergate. (These 'Period 3s' are site-specific and were attributed in post-excavation analysis by different researchers working separately and several years apart; they do not represent a 'city-wide' periodisation). As currently understood Period 3 at Coppergate, commencing in the mid-/ late-9th century, succeeds that at Fishergate, which appears to have been abandoned at around the same time (8.2.1-2). It is possible, however, that embedded within Coppergate Period 3 is a phase of occupation which equates to that at Fishergate, suggested by detectable similarities in disposition of features at the two sites. At Coppergate, two areas of 'unpitted' ground are recognisable, and it is argued that these might define the locations of buildings, as was the case at Fishergate (8.2.4). It has been suggested that many of the Period 3 'pits' at Coppergate may in fact be voids left by the robbing of large (in some cases monolithic) padstones which supported such buildings. which in turn has implications for understanding the chronology of the site (8.4.1-2). Whilst such an interpretation has not been advanced for Fishergate, comparison of the plans suggests that it might also be worth exploring there. Period 3 at both sites also produced traces of large enclosing features (in red), whose significance is discussed in 8.5.1-3.

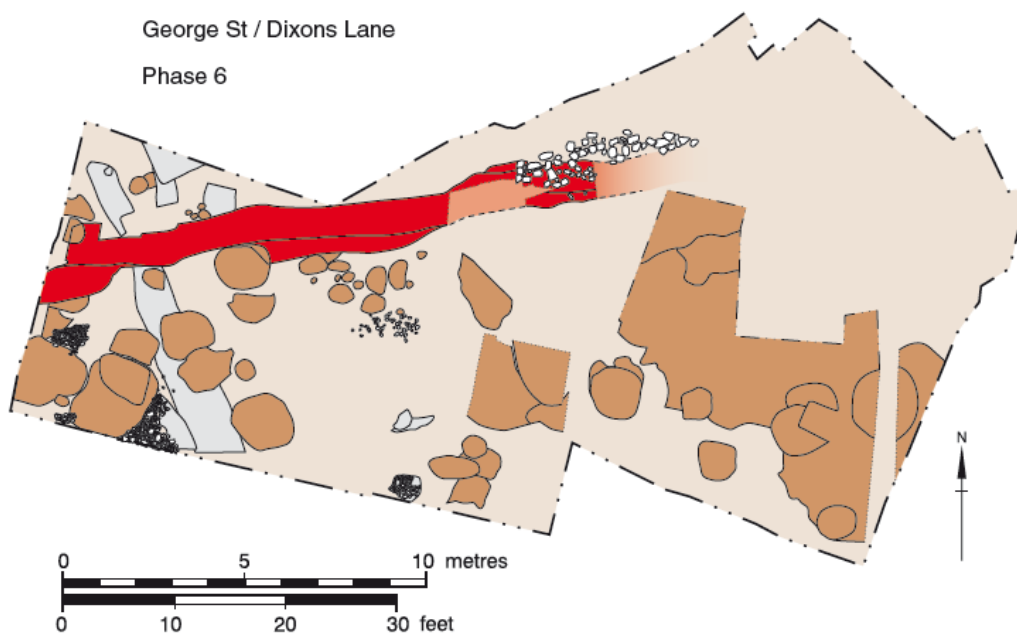


Fig.8.E

George St / Dixon Lane, Anglian features (8.5.1). Note similarities to 46-54 Fishergate and 16-22 Coppergate (Fig.8.D).

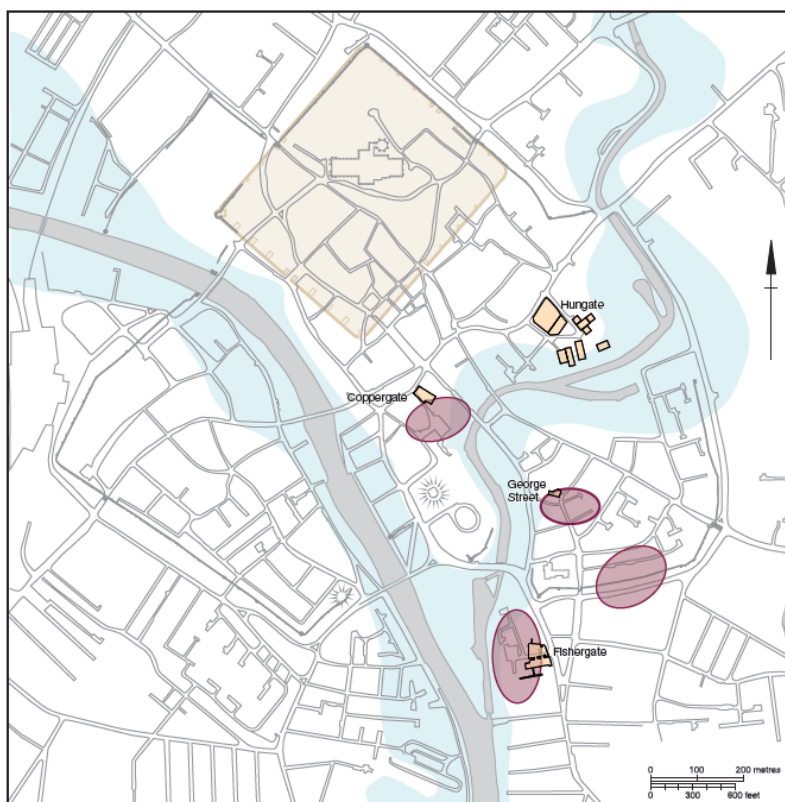


Fig.8.F.i



Fig.8.F.ii



Fig.8.G.i

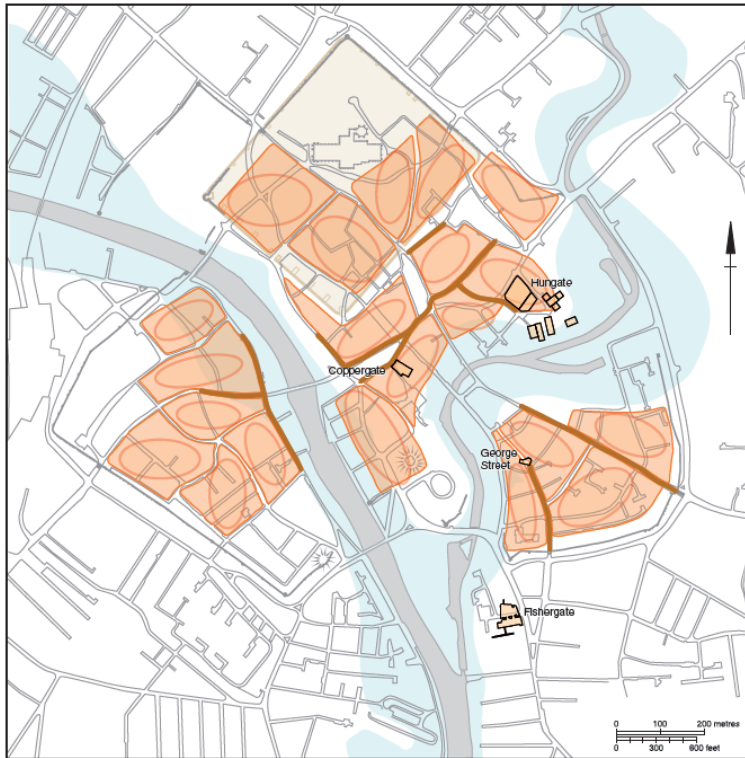


Fig.8.G.ii

Fig.8.F/G

A spatial model for the transition from Anglian *Eofofowic* to Anglo-Scandinavian *Jorvik*, mid-9th to mid-10th centuries. Fig.F.i shows the locations and projected extents – the latter obviously hypothetical – of the enclosing palisades of 8th-9th century date at 46-54 Fishergate, George St / Dixon Lane, Paragon St and 16-22 Coppergate (8.5.1). It is suggested that there would have been several more such enclosures of this date around the wider margins of the former Roman urban settlement, and possibly within it, perhaps representing the enceintes of distinct élite groups and their retinues, perhaps used and inhabited on a seasonal basis (8.5.3, 9.5.1). In F.ii these enclosures have been moved to, and cluster much more closely within, the area of the Roman urban settlement, in the middle- and later-9th century. From the 10th century onwards these curvilinear enclosures, and the interstices between them, begin to crystallise into the land-blocks (and properties ?) and street-pattern still recognisable today (G.i-ii), the land units in this period still perhaps representing the holdings of distinct seigneurial groups (8.6.2-4). Built-up street frontages enclosing behind them open ground for the holding of livestock would make these land-blocks very similar in functional terms to their Anglian predecessors. Streets which may, on the basis of current archaeological evidence, be reasonably regarded as having had built-up frontages by the 10th century have been highlighted on G.ii. In all cases, of course, the precise extents of the proposed enclosures are completely hypothetical (although some correspondence between them and the later land-blocks and street pattern is obviously integral to the argument); the intention is to illustrate the proposed model.

Fig. 8.H, 8.J – DISCARDED



Fig.8.K.i



Fig.8.K.ii

Fig.8.K.

Bedern South-West; medieval robbing of Roman masonry frozen in time. 8.K.i shows two large blocks of gritstone abandoned in the robbing trench of the south-eastern wall of the legionary fortress. These had presumably formed part of the wall; perhaps, given their level deep in the robbing trench, part of its footings, which would suggest the re-use of building stone in its construction). In the foreground, towards the bottom of the picture, three wooden levers can be seen, left in place when the attempt to remove the blocks was abandoned; one wedged against the side of the robbing cut, behind the block on the left, one with its point embedded in the soil in the base of the cut beneath the same block (at the base of the photographic scale), the point of the third protruding from behind the block on the right (visible immediately below the horizontal shoring prop). 8.K.ii shows a detail of this tableau. This particular episode seems to date from the 12th century, but it graphically illustrates the robbing of large stone blocks from Roman structures, central to the interpretative issues considered in 8.4.1-3 and 7.6.2-4. At 16-22 Coppergate excavation records describe a comparable situation with reference to a Period 3 pit containing a large block of limestone, a wooden lever again abandoned behind the block and against the side of the pit cut, in this case the robbing episode apparently dating from the later 9th or 10th centuries. Returning to 8.K.i, the block on the right is of the sort of dimension anticipated for many of the padstones employed in late- and early post-Roman adaptations of masonry buildings (compare with Fig.7.G.ii, the *in situ* padstones visible in 7.B.b, and the stone-voids on 7.B.c-d); the block on the left, largely buried in the trench section, seems likely to be of similar size.

Fig.9.A – NOT REQUIRED

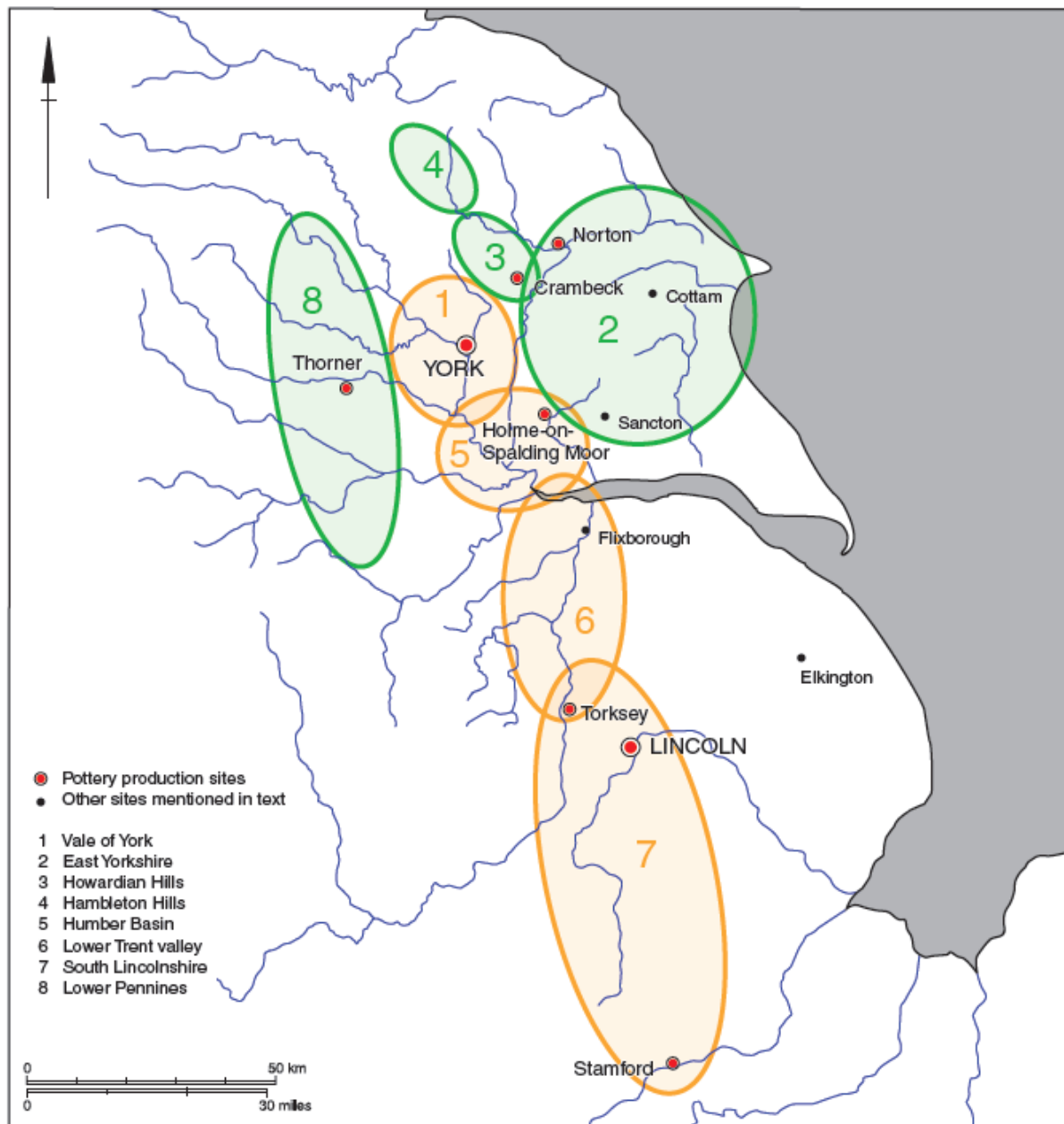


Fig.9.B

Ceramic production sites, broad production areas and other sites referred to in chapters 8 and 9.