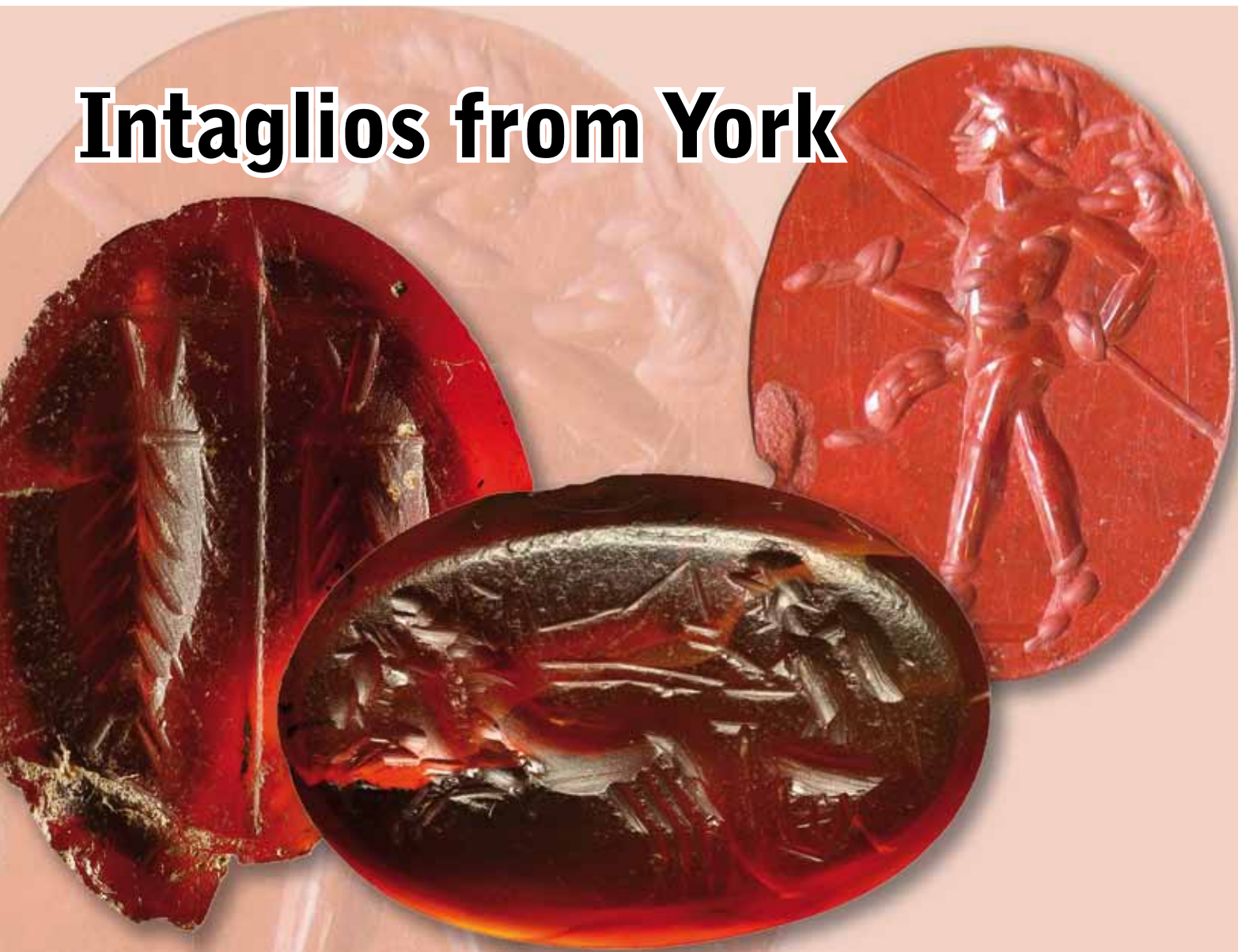


YORKSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY TODAY



No.20

Intaglios from York



Possibly the earliest Christian artefact from Roman Britain?

Inside:

Hungate Update

Conisbrough

Micklegate Bar and the Battle of Towton



YORK
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
TRUST



Contents

Hungate 2011	1
Intaglios from York	7
Micklegate Bar and the Battle of Towton	10
A Conundrum in Conisbrough	12
New Ways to Visualize the Past	16
People First: Community Archaeology for People with Learning Difficulties	18

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Cover Photos: Intaglios from Wellington Row, Coppergate and Hungate.

Photos: Mike Andrews



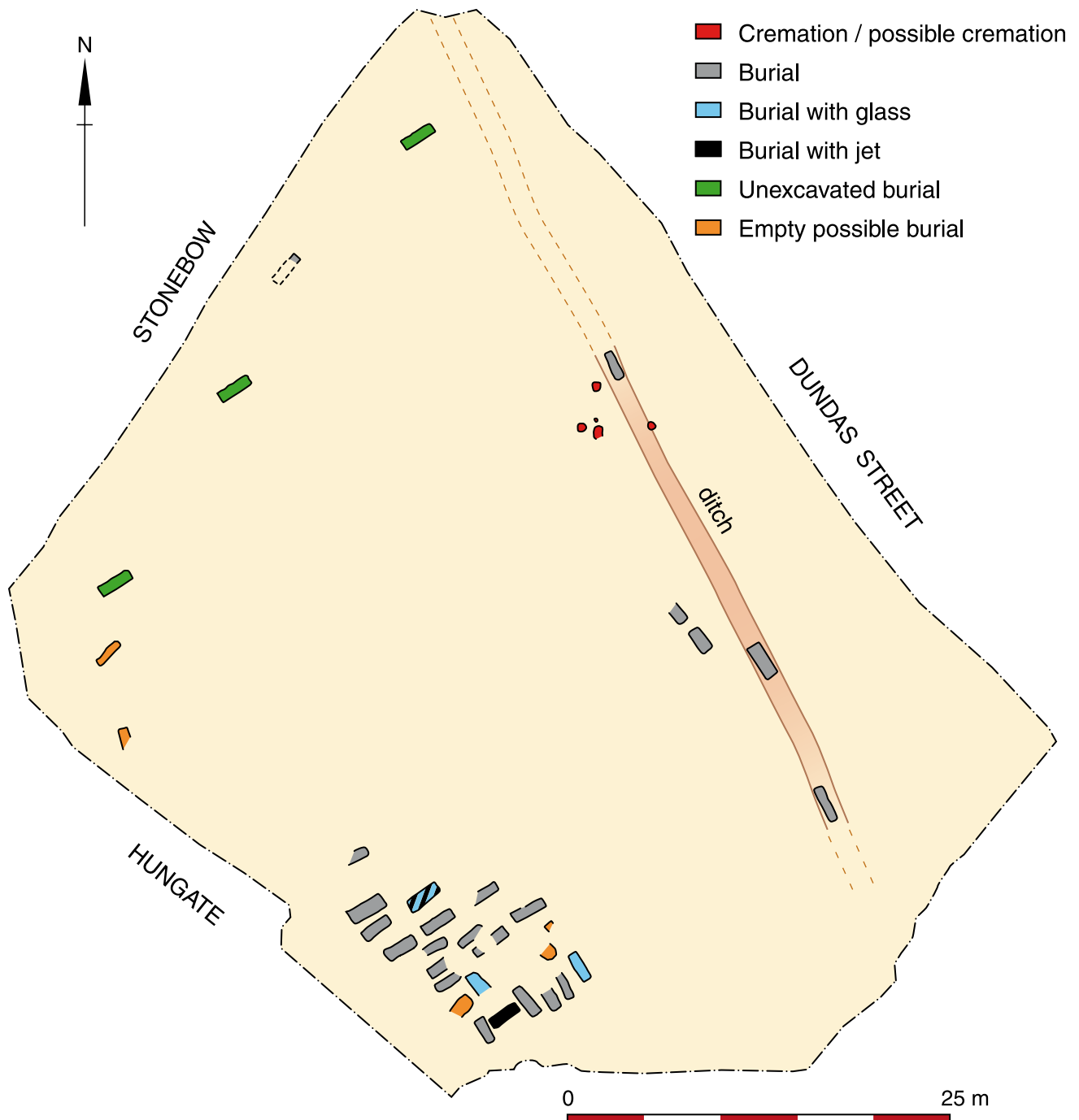
Looking East across a frozen Block H, December 2010

Hungate 2011: The Final Year!

Exciting times down at Hungate! This is the last year of the large Block H excavation. It is hard to believe that four years have already passed and that there is less than a year left on this core part of the project. It seems like only six months since we published *Yorkshire Archaeology Today* 12, within which we laid out our five year plan for the project, as time has passed so quickly. This quickening of time may seem even more acute for the staff involved in the Hungate project as the first four years of the excavation have appeared to pass in the blink of an eye. This is a rather peculiar phenomenon for archaeologists to deal with when considering that we are used to experiencing hundreds, if not thousands, of years on our excavations. This certainly makes us sit up and think about perceptions

of time, not just within the context of our daily lives but also within our understanding of archaeological time. However, before we get misty-eyed about the passing of time let's turn to what Hungate has in store for the YAT team during 2011.

Anyone with even half an eye on the weather will have noticed that the past winter was far from kind to us and the same can be said about the effects of the deep freeze on the excavation process at Hungate. The end of 2010 and the start of 2011 saw Hungate caught in a twilight world of what started to appear like permafrost where the ground was frozen to such a depth that the best efforts to reach an excavation position below the frost line was thwarted by the weather at nearly every turn.



Known Roman burials within Block H as of the end of 2010. More burials have now been found in the northern corner of the site

It was only with the coming of the JORVIK Viking Festival in February that the site started to pick up again. The free Hungate Open Day held as part of the Viking Festival saw 680 visitors pass through our doors during five hours which was a fillip to everyone. Upon the crest of this wave of public enthusiasm for the work that YAT does, the project continued with a renewed forward momentum into the spring.

A period of careful and delicate machine excavation was carried out in early March

leaving the Block H set for a thorough clean, and by expending a good piece of TLC on the trench the rest of the year ahead has been set up for the conclusion of the Block H excavation. And what does the rest of the year hold? Well, it certainly looks like 2011 will be dominated by the archaeology of the 1st millennium AD.

In *Yorkshire Archaeology Today* 19 we reported on part of a 3rd century AD Roman cemetery that had been found within the southern part of the Block H excavation



Looking East into the interior of Building 4. The entrance into this building can be seen on the right of this image and some of the structural postholes within the building can easily be seen to the left of centre



A detailed interior shot of Building 4, looking south. What relationship the large pit in the middle of this image has to Building 4 is still not understood as this article goes to press

area. Further excavation through the autumn of 2010 revealed more Roman burials and cremations within the eastern part of the site, and with the removal of large post-Roman dumped and terraced deposits more of this

Roman cemetery has been found within the northern corner of the site. As this article goes to press at least another six burials have been found in the northern part of the trench, another four probable burials have



Interior of Building 5, looking south-west. The two stone foundations at the south-west end of the building that appear to form the entrance to Building 5 may have also related to an earlier feature

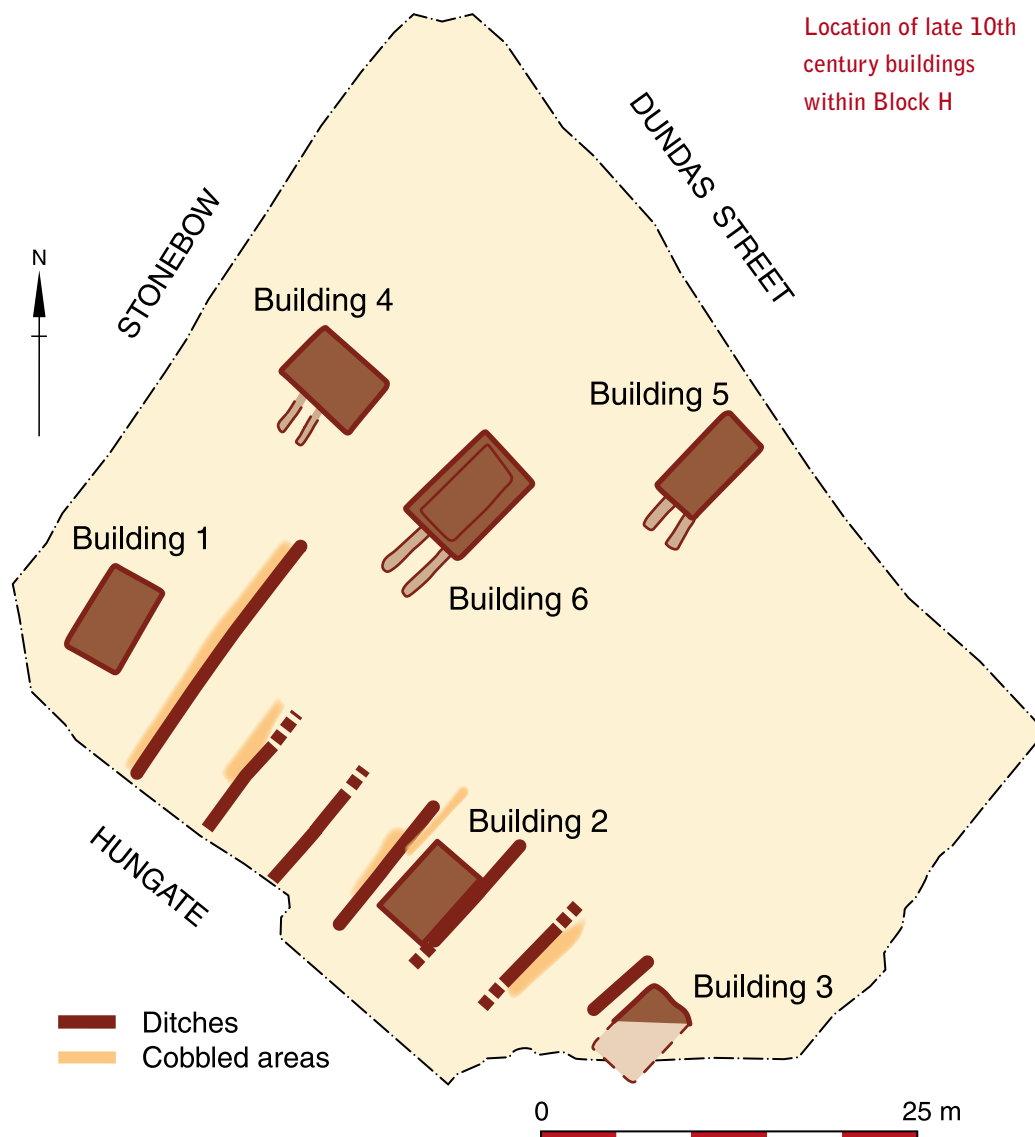
been located within the eastern part of the site and there are hints and suggestion that there will be more to come.

Along with the burials a Roman ditch that was first traced through the Block H1 area back in 2008 and picked up last year to the north in Block H2 has now been found to continue right through to the northern corner of the site. Over the last few seasons at least four burials have been recovered from this ditch line, cut into the backfill of the ditch after it had fallen out of use, and it is expected that this similar pattern may continue along the newly uncovered length of this ditch. Other intriguing probable Roman features have also now been uncovered and some of these features may be associated with the ditch. By the end of 2011 a better understanding of this Roman burial landscape will be one of the main achievements of the project.

But of course the excitement of new discoveries cannot be left to the Romans and further Viking Age discoveries have come thick and fast from late February to early

April this year. The first of these discoveries came with the realisation that the Hungate team had uncovered at least two more late 10th century AD Sunken Featured Buildings (SFBs), Buildings 4 and 5, that lay to the rear of similar buildings that had been found close to the eastern edge of Hungate (see *Yorkshire Archaeology Today* 16).

There are some intriguing differences between Buildings 4 and 5 and those that were excavated during 2008–2009. Firstly the entrances to the two new buildings face towards Hungate whereas all the previous buildings had back entrances facing away from Hungate. Also, these entrances appear to be more substantial in their construction than had been seen with Buildings 1 to 3. Another striking difference is that Building 4 (located nearest the northern corner of the site) is oriented northwest–southeast where as all of the other buildings are oriented southwest–northeast, including the newly discovered Building 5. In addition, and taking into consideration that no anoxic waterlogged conditions have been encountered, the team



has revealed that Buildings 4 and 5 were subject to more extensive removal and robbing of timbers after they had fallen out of use than had been seen elsewhere.

If two, and possibly three, new SFBs weren't enough, a new type of building (Building 6) has also been found within the central part of the site. The first thing that is apparent with Building 6 is that although it had been badly truncated during development within the area carried out in the 1950s, there is enough left to reveal that it had not been cut deep into the terrain like the surrounding buildings. Secondly, Building 6 apparently had substantial stone-filled foundations which were later robbed out, and it also had a substantial stone-founded entrance, which had survived the robbing

event due to subsidence into earlier cess pits. Building 6 measures 7.40m southwest–northeast by 5.10m southeast–northwest and, taking into consideration the thickness of the foundations, probably had a single interior room that measured 6.30m southwest–northeast by 3.20m southeast–northwest. Based on the surviving foundations the entrance passage leading into this building would have been at least 4m long and 1.4m wide with walls up to 0.8m thick. Thus, Building 6 would appear to be a substantial well-built structure very different in nature to the surrounding buildings.

Another striking difference between Building 6 and the surrounding SFBs is the fact that it straddles two of the plots that had been excavated during the 2009 and



The substantial stone foundations of Building 6, looking north-east

2010 seasons whereas the other buildings all lie within plot boundaries. By the late 10th century these plot boundaries were defined by cobbled pathways leading from Hungate, and it is one of these cobbled surfaces that leads straight to the entrance into Building 6.

Although still within the early stages of excavation it appears that Building 6 is probably contemporary with the surrounding late 10th century buildings. Further work over the next few months may reveal what this building represents and even if it doesn't, when taken in conjunction with

other five or six buildings that have already been discovered, it goes to reveal just how developed this low lying part of Jorvik was by the late 10th century AD.

So, exciting times indeed! It seems that 2011 will see a fascinating end to our five-year excavation, concluding with a better understanding of the Roman cemetery that had been sited in this part of the landscape 1,700 years ago, and how the Hungate landscape developed a mere 1000 years ago. Oh, how the time flies!

Peter Connelly

The badly truncated and robbed out remains of Building 6, looking south-west. The robbed out foundation trench for the northwest side of the building can be clearly seen on the right of this image, with a few traces of stone still surviving within the cut. The stone founded entrance to the building can just be made out above the centre of the image.

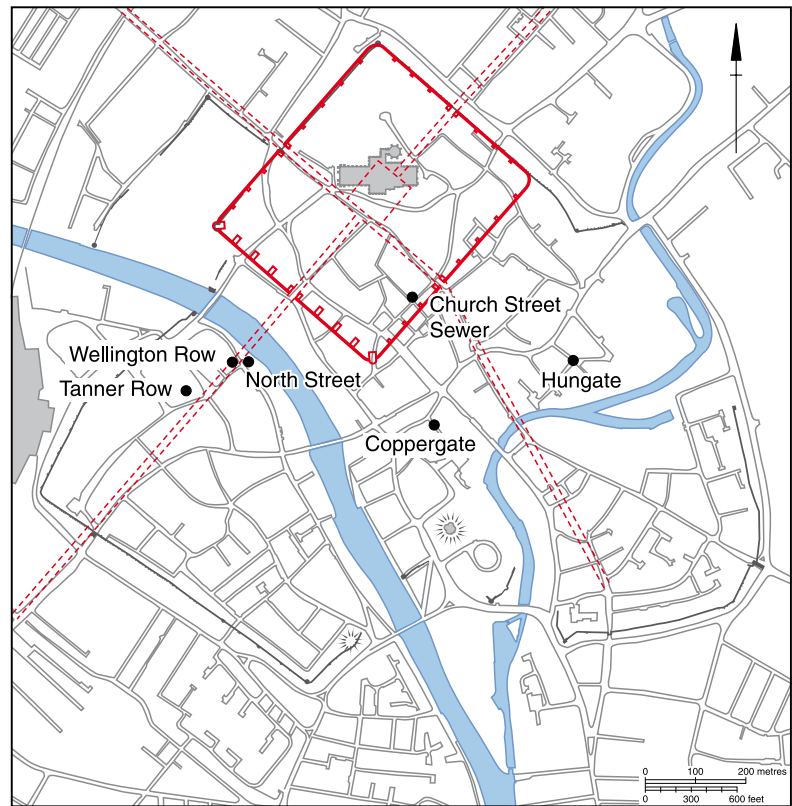


SEALED IN STONE

Roman gem stones excavated in York by YAT

Signet rings played a very important part in the lives of the Romans for they were essential equipment for signing letters and validating documents. They were carved in reverse (intaglio) on small oval blanks of a suitable gemstone, which was generally a variety of chalcedony, commonly translucent orange cornelian or opaque red jasper. Cornelian and jasper are both found in Iran, just outside the empire's boundaries; cornelian is also found in Turkey, and jasper in Egypt, both within the Empire.

It is, perhaps, surprising that only 39 such intaglios are recorded as having been found in York but twenty-one of these, over half, come from excavations conducted by the York Archaeological Trust. Eight of them were found in the 1970s in a sewer (Church Street) leading from a bath-house in the Fortress but the rest have been found on various excavations since then. All would have been set in finger rings of gold, silver, copper alloy or iron, but although these often survive only one of the examples discussed here is set in a ring (although a few of the old finds, in the Yorkshire Museum, are still set in gold rings).



Many of the gems depict deities and personifications throwing light on the religious and ethical ideals of the wearers. As one might expect, Mars, the god of war, was especially important and two intaglios, from Church Street and Coppergate, depict him

Above: Location of sites mentioned in the text. Roman roads and fortress shown in red.



Depictions of Mars on intaglios from (left to right) Church Street, Coppergate, Hungate and Wellington Row. Scale 4:1



Intaglios depicting Minerva (a, b), Victory (c), Equity (d), and the moon and stars (e).
Scale 4:1

standing fully armed with spear and shield, just like the well-known statue of the god in the Yorkshire Museum. Three others portray him marching and holding a trophy of arms signifying the invincibility of Rome's legions, the best of them a beautifully engraved example from the Hungate excavations.

The female equivalent of Mars as darling of the Roman legionary was Minerva, renowned as the protector of Hercules. A beautifully cut bust of Minerva on a red jasper from Tanner Row clearly depicts the Medusa head with its writhing snakes on her breast-plate, a protective device which is, of course, the subject of several jet medallions, carved in York. A similar representation of a Minerva bust is the subject of a moulded glass intaglio from Wellington Row, still set in its original late 2nd or early 3rd century copper-alloy ring. Another intaglio, from the Church Street sewer, depicts Minerva holding the rudder associated with Fortuna. Here she is shown with the wings of Victory.

Among other subjects, a mottled jasper intaglio from North Street depicts Victory with a trophy, while a cornelian intaglio from the Church Street sewer depicted the personification of Equity (*Aequitas*) with her scales, a figure familiar to us from

the statue standing atop the Law Courts in London. Loyalty to Rome is emphasized by a representation of the goddess Roma, on a cornelian likewise from Church Street. The unity of the gods as protectors of the Roman state is encapsulated by another Church Street intaglio, a milky chalcedony engraved with a crescent moon and six stars, whose appearance recalls the cloud-capped heavens, home of Jupiter.

These gems are mostly 2nd-century in date and are probably to be associated with soldiers serving in *Legio VI Victrix*. In most cases they can be compared with gems from other military stations in Britain, such as Caerleon, Fortress of *Legio II Augusta*. A few other gems from YAT excavations, however, have a more particular interest.

A large cornelian intaglio from Coppergate, of elongated shape characteristic of the 3rd century, is engraved in a highly distinctive manner. The coarse, deep grooves of the lap-wheel impart a lively sense of movement to the device of a cupid standing in his racing chariot and urging forward a pair of horses. The shape, size and, above all, style of cutting is matched on another cornelian from the Church Street sewer depicting Cupid riding on a hippocamp, as well as on a gem set



Top, a charioteer from Coppergate, and below, Cupid riding a hippocamp, from Church Street

in a gold ring found in the 19th century on the site of the railway station and figuring a winged hippocamp. It is very tempting to ascribe all three gems to the same workshop. At the time they were cut we know that the jet industry was in full swing at York so it is not surprising that other varieties of jewellery were being made.

If less distinctive in form, two other intaglios are of interest and, indeed, importance. One from North Street is simply moulded in glass and is closely matched by similar mass-produced intaglios from Aquileia in Italy and Carnuntum in Austria. It shows a herdsman leaning on a staff. On either side of him is a tree and, beyond each tree, three sheep. It is tempting to interpret the device as the Good Shepherd, the type of Christ. Admittedly the Good Shepherd normally carries a sheep over his shoulder, as on the only example of the standard Good Shepherd type so far found in Britain, a glass gem from the villa at Barnsley Park, Gloucestershire.

However there can be no doubt about the cornelian intaglio from Wellington Row. Although broken, it clearly depicts two fish

hanging from the cross-bar of an anchor. The anchor was a subject recommended to Christians as a signet device by Bishop Clement of Alexandria around AD 200, as recalling the hope of salvation from God, while the fish recalled the Christian mission to be 'fishers of men' and each of the letters of the Greek word for 'fish', *ichthys*, was employed as the first letter of a mnemonic for 'Jesus Christ, son of God, Saviour'. Unfortunately our gem is not inscribed, nor was it found in a dated Roman context, but we can be fairly sure that it was worn by a Christian, perhaps as early as the 3rd century, which could not only make it earlier than Constantine's edict of toleration and the appearance of Eborius, bishop of York, at the Council of Arles in 314, but arguably make it the earliest Christian artifact from



0 5 mm

Roman Britain. After all, Christianity did not begin in Britain with Constantine, and the martyrdom of Alban at Verulamium and of Julius and Aaron at the 'City of the Legions', probably Caerleon, suggests the presence of Christians in the 3rd century and, in the case of Julius and Aaron, in the ambit of the Roman army. Moreover, the *Colonia* at York, thronged with traders, was, we know, the home of many exotic cults.

Martin Henig

Glass intaglio on the left from North Street shows a herdsman leaning against a tree: on the right, from Wellington Row, two fish suspended from an anchor. Scale 4:1

Further Reading: M.Henig, *A Corpus of Roman Engraved Gemstones from British Sites* (BAR 8, 3rd edition, Archaeopress, Oxford, 2007).

Micklegate Bar Museum and the Battle of Towton

YAT's newest museum at Micklegate Bar opened to the public in the spring of 2010. Since this time it has welcomed over 7,000 visitors who have been able to enjoy a series of exhibitions housed over its three floors. Through the new exhibitions, Micklegate Bar Museum recognises its place in history as the greatest of York's gateways in times of siege and conflict, yet observes its role as a location for ritual and celebration; it remains the official point of entry for any monarch visiting the city. The exhibitions also recall that the Bar served as a home for generations, and was intermittently occupied between the last decades of the twelfth century and the first decades of the twentieth century, often by the city's law-enforcement officials.

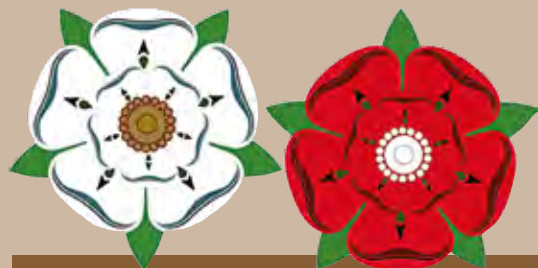
In 2011 the Bar Museum will build on this success and commemorate one of the best known battles in English history – the Battle of Towton.

'This conflict was [...] unnatural, for in it the son fought against the father, the brother against the brother, the nephew against his uncle, and the tenant against his lord.'

It was in these words that the Tudor historian Edward Hall described the Battle of Towton, which took place on Palm Sunday, 29th March, 1461, and which may have been the single bloodiest battle ever fought on British soil. The triumphs and the tragedies of Towton, the greatest conflict of the Wars of the Roses, in which rival families and their supporters contested the throne of England, will be remembered in a new exhibition opening at Micklegate Bar Museum on 9th April 2011. This year is the 550th anniversary of the battle between the Yorkists, with their white rose emblem, and the supporters of the House of Lancaster who had adopted the red rose.



The Battle of Towton was fought in a snowstorm on Palm Sunday, 1461. Above, Lancastrian forces led by the Earl of Devon prepare to advance (Figures by Perry Miniatures; painted by Steve Allen)



Micklegate Bar is open seven days a week from 10am to 4pm, February – September.

Go to www.micklegatebar.com for further details or call 01904 615505 to make a booking.



Micklegate Bar had an infamous role to play in the events leading up to Towton and in its aftermath; the victorious Edward IV entered York after the battle to find the heads of his father, brother and other prominent Yorkists displayed there and in various places around the city walls. In the flurry of executions that followed the battle, the heads of the Earl of Devon and three other Lancastrians were exposed on the Bar as revenge.

Even before the turbulent years of the Wars of the Roses, Micklegate Bar had an especially blood-soaked history. Rebels found guilty of high treason in the medieval period were subjected to a punishment known as 'hanging, drawing and quartering'. This sentence was sometimes carried out at the Tyburn on York Knavesmire; as the condemned were taken from York Castle, their last glimpse of the city was Micklegate Bar, through which they passed on their way to the gallows.

The new exhibitions recall such moments in history and highlight some of the traitors who found their last resting place to be a spike on Micklegate Bar. Tradition has it that the head of Henry Percy (Harry Hotspur) was displayed on the Bar after his death at the Battle of Shrewsbury (1403); the display came about in response to rumours that he was still alive. Henry IV, the king against whom Hotspur had rebelled, ordered the body to be exhumed from its grave at Whitchurch and displayed between two millstones in the market place at Shrewsbury, before finally dismembering it. The head was sent to York, where it remained on top of the Bar for several months before being given to Hotspur's widow for burial.



A conundrum in Conisbrough



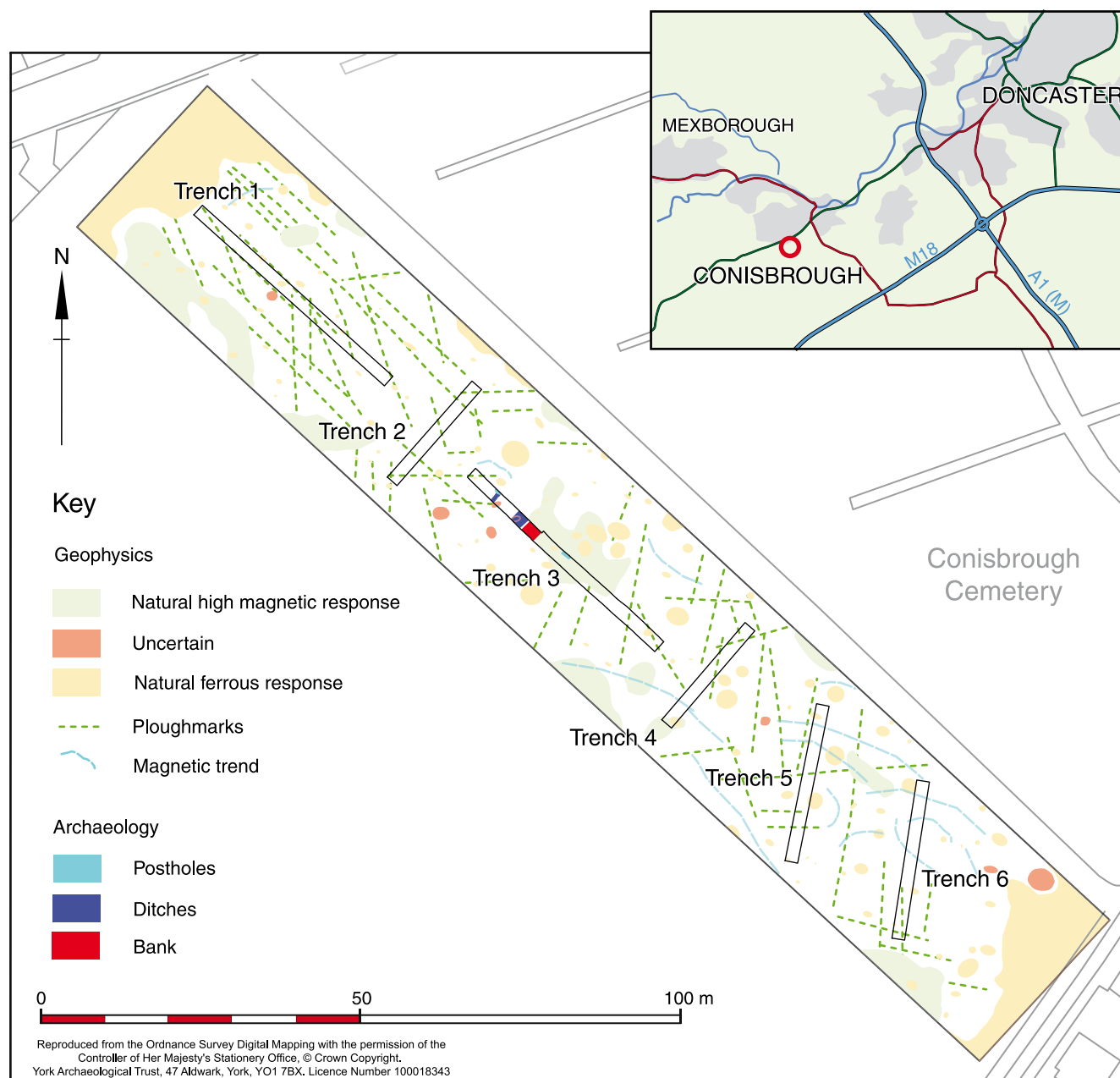
General view of the site looking north

As the ground slowly began to thaw towards the end of another unusually hard winter, ArcHeritage (YAT's Sheffield office) was busy working on behalf of Doncaster Metropolitan Council, conducting a machine-dug evaluation of a piece of farmland adjacent to the soon-to-be-extended Conisbrough Cemetery.

Conisbrough's origins lie at least in the Anglian period, if not even earlier. The name derives from the Old Norse *konungr* for 'king' and Old English *burb* for 'stronghold'; the Norse element may in turn reflect the Old English *cýning*, hinting at pre-Viking origins. An earthwork castle was built here soon after the Norman conquest by the de Warenne family, to be replaced in the late 12th century by the impressive and unusual stone keep which still stands. Also still surviving in the parish church of St Peter, which the de Warennes gave to the Cluniac Priory of Lewes in Sussex, is a fine mid 12th-century Anglo-Norman tombstone or memorial stone covered in decorative carving including

foliage, a bishop, a knight and a dragon, described in more detail by Rita Wood in *Yorkshire Archaeological Journal* 73 (2001). So there is plenty of evidence for Conisbrough in the medieval period as a place of considerable importance.

Research by Mark Stenton of ArcHeritage revealed the presence of prehistoric ditches in the vicinity of the cemetery, as well as records of a feature called 'Park Balk' running straight through the area in question, and thought to relate to the boundary of Conisbrough's medieval deer park. If proven, this would be of interest, as the deer park known to have existed here in the later medieval period is thought to have unusually early origins, predating the Crown's 13th-century appropriation of the right of 'free warren' (a grant allowing an individual to kill game of certain species within a defined area). A typical deer park boundary would consist of an embankment surmounted by a 'pale' or fence, in this case enclosing the land to the east of the area under investigation.



In January 2011 six trenches, 2m wide and ranging from 20m to 40m long, were excavated using a 360 degree tracked excavator. The underlying natural deposits varied considerably, as the ground level rose to a ridge in the centre, creating considerable deposits of hill-wash to either side of it. Five of the trenches contained nothing of archaeological interest, but Trench 3, near the top of the north-western slope of the ridge, was quite different.

The earliest, unfortunately undated, features consisted of a shallow ditch running south-west/north-east, dug into which was

a large stone-packed pit. Nearby, a second similar pit suggested that what we had uncovered were two structural postholes along the line of the ditch. No post-voids taking the form of the original upright timber were observed, which led the excavator to conclude that the stone packing must have provided a pad for a timber at least 1m wide to sit upon. It seems unlikely that these represent a fence-line, and so the current interpretation is that further postholes must lie beyond the area excavated. It may be that the edge of a major enclosure exists here, but further speculation is not possible without further fieldwork.

Site location,
geophysics results and
excavated trenches



Double ditch 3017
looking north-east

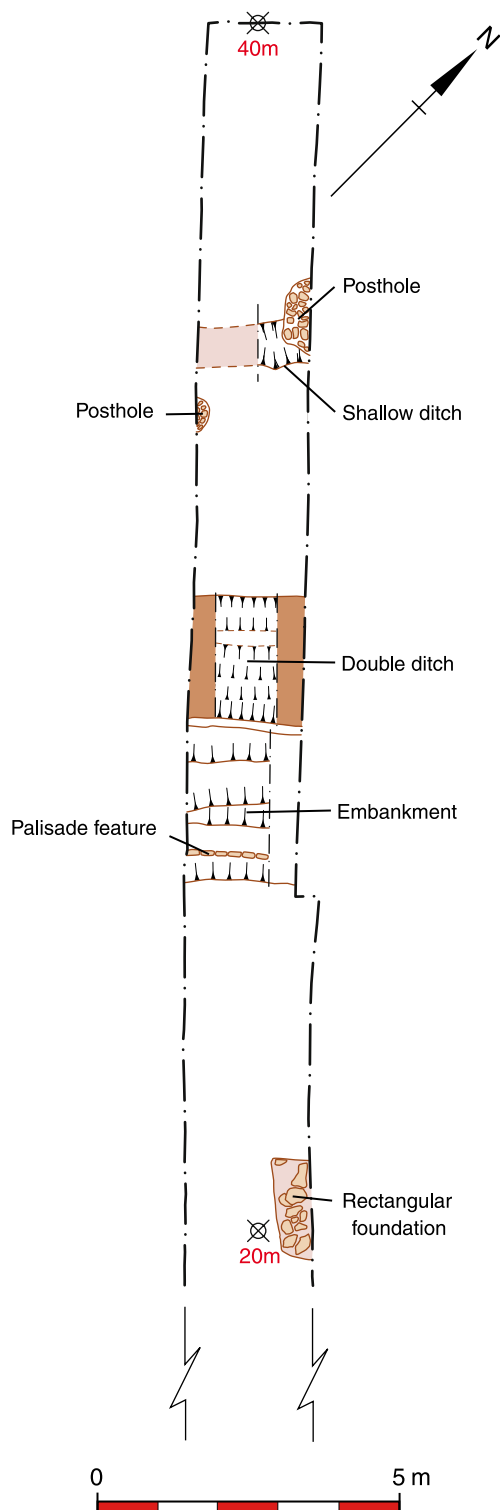
Up-slope from here, 35m from the top of the ridge on its north-west side, a 2.2m wide double-ditch running south-west/north-east was found, alongside a 2.4m wide clay and stone embankment on the same alignment just up-slope to the south-east. Together, these seemed to form a significant boundary feature, which when overlaid on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map correlated fairly closely with the plough-flattened remains of 'Park Balk', the possible deer-park boundary identified during the historical research. Once again, no dating evidence was retrieved from these features, but it was clear that much of the bank had been pushed into the double-ditch, and that later ploughing had removed a substantial amount of it. At the top of the remains of the bank a narrow row of rough-hewn limestone blocks was found in the base of a truncated slot that was interpreted as the remains of a possible palisade trench, and on this basis it is currently believed that the double-ditch and bank represent the remains of the deer park boundary. If correct, it probably relates to the later deer park for which records survive, rather than any earlier version of it, but if a park existed prior to the



Posthole packing looking north-east

13th century then the features identified here probably re-used the earlier boundary.

The size of the bank would have made it a significant feature in the landscape over quite a long period. A 'balk' usually refers to an unploughed strip of land, and deer park boundaries were often re-used as field



Plan of excavated features in Trench 3



Trench 3 looking north-west

borders, property divisions and even sometimes parish boundaries. The clear evidence for plough-damage suggests such a fate for the probable deer park boundary, following the disemparkment thought to have occurred in the mid 17th century. As the ditch and bank's original purpose faded from memory, so the feature itself faded from the landscape, surviving only as a name on maps into the twentieth century.

Some 2.5m further up-slope from the bank, a broad, cobble-packed rectangular feature was found and interpreted as a foundation for an unknown structure. Like the postholes found down-slope, this remains a mystery that only further fieldwork can solve. The lack of dating evidence from the site is frustrating, but it is entirely possible that land boundaries existed before the creation of the deer park, which may simply have re-used or formalised existing features.

Ian Milsted

NEW WAYS TO VISUALIZE THE PAST

ArcHeritage, YAT's companion office in Sheffield, has just completed an interactive visualisation project for Sheffield Manor, a Tudor hunting lodge which subsequently fell into disrepair. Later it became an industrial hamlet; the ruins were populated with makeshift structures providing homes for the local workers during the late 18th century. The gatehouse of the hunting lodge was extended and converted into a farm. A small hive of industrial activity developed in the immediate area; the ramshackle community even had a local pub housed within the ruins of the old Tudor kitchens. The site was eventually cleared and 'tidied up' in the early 20th century with much of the historic structure being demolished to create the site as it exists today.

The visualisation project involved creating a 3D model of the manor site as it would have looked in the late 18th century. A laser scan survey of the site was undertaken, and the data gathered in the field was combined with historic photographs, maps and drawings to create the 3D model. The laser scan data enabled old photographs of the manor to be located on a metric base for the 3D reconstruction. The site had long been a source of curiosity for local artists and later photographers, so the amount of material available was quite substantial. Many of these images are available on www.picturesheffield.com and the examples shown here have been reproduced courtesy of Picture Sheffield.

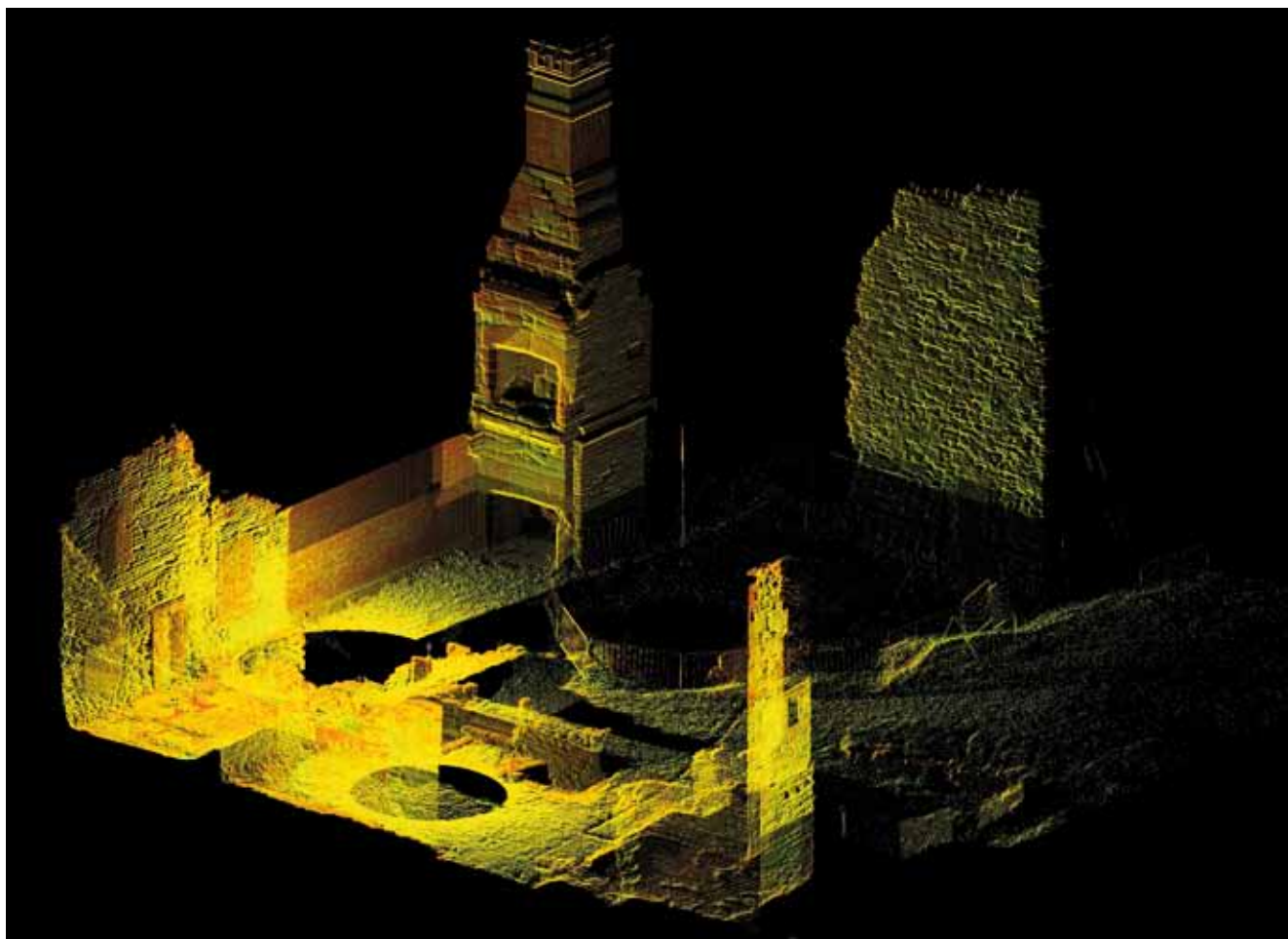
Using a basic 3D model created from the laser scan survey, it was possible to ascertain the viewpoint locations where each photograph had been taken. This was then used as a guide to create the reconstruction. For the earlier structures, historic drawings of the site were used; again these were quite plentiful, although not always metrically accurate. Where there was a conflict of position, size or scale between information sources, the laser scan information was used in conjunction with the results of more



traditional archaeological techniques to help resolve the issue; or at least to prove that there was some artistic licence used in the positioning of the structures within the historic depictions.

The reconstruction was combined with a 3D model already created by Marcus Abbott whilst working for ArcHeritage's predecessor, ARCUS. This model of the Tudor hunting lodge phase was commissioned by Green Estate, the custodians of the manor site. The two models were combined into a single interface designed by the Humanities Research Institute (HRI) at the University of Sheffield. The interface and second model were commissioned by the University of Sheffield as part of their project on the manor, funded by the Higher Education Innovation Fund.

Top: Drawing of Sheffield Manor from the north, c. 1900
Below: Photograph of the Manor buildings taken in 1865
(Courtesy of Picture Sheffield)



Two separate Quicktime Virtual Reality presentations for each phase were produced. Within these a map was created to allow navigation of the site and hotspots (clickable areas within the model) which link to information about particular features within the site. A Quicktime VR presentation is based on an equirectangular image created from a camera within the 3D model. This image is projected around the position of the viewer and fills the full sphere of view. QuickTime VR allows the user to pan and zoom a virtual camera as if standing at the original camera location.

When the Quicktime presentation is combined with the interface created by the HRI, the user can pick a location within the reconstruction using the map view and look around all 360 degrees of it, zoom in and out, and select a structure of interest. The user's selection will bring up information and further images about the history and archaeology of that structure.

Presenting archaeological reconstructions in this way rather than using traditional static images creates a dynamic interactive way of viewing a site. It also allows us to explain why certain features exist within the reconstruction, and provides a contextual basis for the interpretation within the reconstruction interface. The flexibility of the digital model allows the interpretive representation of the site to evolve as new information comes to light and understanding of the site changes. The level of editorial control is ideal for testing new hypotheses and combining new discoveries with the existing 3D data. This is a fascinating way of presenting archaeology and has great potential for future sites. Since creating the manor project visualisation ArcHeritage has been commissioned to produce similar visualisation products for community-led projects.

For more information on this project visit the Department of Archaeology, University of Sheffield Manor Project web page at <http://manor-lodge.dept.shef.ac.uk/>

Marcus Abbott

3D laser scan of the site



PEOPLE FIRST

Community Archaeology for People with Learning Difficulties

In the early 1990s I worked for a housing Association in Cambridge. As part of my work I worked with a warden-supported housing scheme for people with learning difficulties. This scheme gave people supported accommodation but encouraged them to live independently, looking to be part of the local community and even finding work. At the time this was seen as a ground-breaking project, as most people with learning difficulties were still cared for by family or in institutions. It was only in the late 80s that the idea of 'care in the community' was introduced and was only truly introduced by the National Health Service and Community Care Act in 1990. Despite later rejection of the concept of 'care in the community' the broader movement away from institutional care had begun, although many institutions carried on until much more recently. As the institutions close it has become increasingly important for people with learning difficulties to find interesting and challenging activity

that builds confidence and underpins a sense of local identity. This is where my work as York Archaeological Trust Community Archaeologist plays its part.

York Archaeological Trust has always made a contribution to the community through its educational outreach work, and this has included visits to institutions where many people with learning difficulties lived. Over the last five years YAT has developed a relationship with two groups of people with learning difficulties, seeking to use history and archaeology in York to inspire and help develop people who may not have thought that these things could be for them.

In 2008 I started to work with York People First. People First is part of the self-advocacy movement. The movement began in Sweden in 1968 when a Swedish parent's organization for children with learning difficulties held a meeting. The organization had the motto,

York People First
group visiting Eden
Camp

“We speak for them,” meaning parents speaking for their children. The people at the meeting decided they wanted to speak for themselves and made a list of changes they wanted made to their services. Over the next five years meetings like this took place in England, Canada and the USA. On January 8, 1974, the People First movement began in Salem, Oregon, with the purpose of organizing a convention where people with learning difficulties could speak for themselves and share ideas, friendship and information. In the course of planning the convention, the small group of planners decided they needed a name for themselves. A number of suggestions had been made when someone said, “I’m tired of being called retarded – we are people first.” The name People First was chosen and the People First self-advocacy movement began. The York People First group began in 2000 and carries out many activities including running workshops at schools on hate crime.

Since 2008 I have run an archaeology and history club for them, meeting once a month.

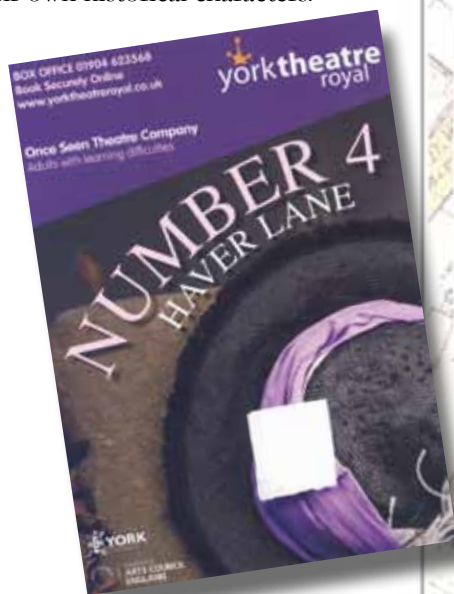
This is an opportunity for people to visit places they wouldn’t normally get to and to develop day-to-day skills such as obtaining the correct passes to gain free entry to York’s heritage sites. We have studied the Romans in York, culminating in cooking our own Roman feast. We have studied all kinds of Medieval history in York where we are blessed with so many places to visit. We have also been on day trips beyond the confines of the City; last summer we looked at the history of World War 2 at Eden Camp.

In 2009 we set about looking at Edwardian and Victorian Hungate, inspired by a visit to the YAT excavations. Our club meetings began to centre on learning as much as we could about this period, and what life might have been like for people in Hungate then. We visited the Castle Museum, the City Archives and library. We found real people in the 1891 and 1901 census for Hungate and began to build a story based on these people, particularly a family living at number 4 Haver Lane in 1891. Reading stories from local newspapers allowed us to develop storylines

Visit to York Castle
Museum



as well as characters. Our work was then taken on by a theatre company, the 'Once Seen' company, and was developed into a play performed to much acclaim in March 2010. This was a truly inspiring moment for the people who did the research and played the parts of their own historical characters.



Life with York People First History and Archaeology group has carried on since then, but it is clear over a year later that members are still inspired by their experience. Indeed the group are now talking about a sequel! The current project is focussed on the history of care for people with learning difficulties in York, we have visited the Borthwick Institute to read documents about people who lived there and we have taken an archaeologist's view on institutions around York, that had a very distinctive institutional landscape of accommodation and activities such as farms typified by Whixley Hospital that closed in 1993. This has been a very brave topic for the group to work with as some of them experienced life in institutions such as this.

Since 2010 I have also offered a history and archaeology club at the Community Base at Tang Hall community centre. Here I work with people who are not quite so independent as those at York People First. We still get out and about though, and archaeology and history have really proved themselves as interesting areas in which people can learn confidence and life skills that we do not always recognise. We have used our craft



skills to construct a stratigraphy wall, now on display at the community centre. We have cooked our own medieval meal and of course got out and about visiting museums and York's best known and less well known sites.

The work I have carried out as Community Archaeologist has been inspiring for the people I work with and myself too. Especially as I now have a son with Downs Syndrome myself, an honorary member of York People First already. My work has been core to the YAT commitment to reaching everyone we can in the community and represents the continuation of work carried out by the Trust over many years.

Jon Kenny

Members of York People First with Once Seen theatre company in the production of 'Number 4 Haver Lane' at York Theatre Royal. Photos: Chris Rock



JOIN THE FRIENDS OF YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

FRIENDS OF YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST receive:

- YORKSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY TODAY and YAT Annual Report
- Free, unlimited entry to YAT attractions
- 10% discount in the DIG shop and on the training dig
- 30% discount on all the Trust's academic publications when purchased direct (one of each publication per person)
- A programme of visits, day schools, lectures, site tours and social events.

By joining you will be contributing directly to the work of York Archaeological Trust. The Friends donate every penny of profit directly to the Trust to further its important work.

Membership rates

Adult	£19.00 pa
Joint Adult (2 adults at same address)	£27.00 pa
Family (2 adults and all children at same address)	£31.00 pa
Over 60s	£17.00 pa
Joint over 60s	£23.00 pa
Student in full-time education	£17.00 pa
Overseas member (sterling)	£30.00 pa
Life membership (single)	£200.00
Life membership (couple)	£250.00

To join The Friends, send a cheque payable to FOYAT to:

The Friends, York Archaeological Trust, 47 Aldwark, York YO1 7BX

Battlefield Walks

Friday 1st July

Marston Moor – The Battle That Lost a Kingdom

Join archaeologist and re-enactor Russell Marwood for an evening visit to this Civil War battlefield, where five armies clashed on a stormy summer night in 1644. Pre-booking essential: 01904 615505

7pm: meet at the monument on the Tockwith Road, Long Marston, £4 adult, £3 conc

Sunday 21st August

The Battles of Boroughbridge (1322) and Myton (1319)

Please be aware: you will be required to drive from Boroughbridge to Myton for the second part of the tour. Pre-booking essential: 01904 615505. 2pm, meet opposite the Black Bull Inn, Boroughbridge, £4 adult, £3 conc.

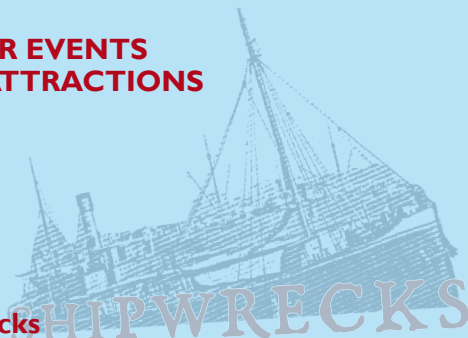
Sunday 18th September

The Battle of Old Byland (1322)

Visit the scene of one of Robert the Bruce's greatest victories over Edward II, and enjoy stunning views over the Yorkshire countryside. Pre-booking essential: 01904 615505. 2pm, meet outside the Sutton Bank Visitor Centre (YO7 2EH), £4 adult, £3 conc



SUMMER EVENTS at YAT ATTRACTIONS



Shipwrecks

All spring and summer

Visit DIG to see the amazing remains of the Swash Channel Wreck which dates from the Tudor era, and find out how archaeologists uncovered an amazing 400-year-old merman. Plus find out how marine archaeologists find and preserve discoveries from under the sea at sites around Britain.

10.00 – 17.00, DIG, St Saviourgate, normal admission prices apply.

The Battle of Towton

April - October

A new exhibition to tell the triumphant and tragic story of Britain's bloodiest battle, which decided the fate of a kingdom and left thousands dead. 10.00 – 16.00, Micklegate Bar Museum, normal admission prices apply.

From Hamlet to Hollywood

Saturday 28th May onwards

From Hamlet to Hollywood

10.00 – 17.00, Barley Hall, normal admission prices apply.

Explore the fascinating changes in fashion from the Tudors to the early twentieth century through this display of film and television costume.

Festival of British Archaeology

16th – 31st July 2011

Investigating Coppergate

Every weekday during the Festival

11.00, JORVIK, normal admission prices apply

Behind the Scenes at Conservation

Sunday 17th July 11.00, 47 Aldwark (YO1 7BX), FREE!

Find out what happens to artefacts after archaeologists have unearthed them with this exclusive behind-the-scenes tour of YAT's Conservation Department. Places are limited: pre-booking required (01904 615505). Meet at YAT front gate at 11am.

Marine Archaeology

Sunday 17th July 18.30, DIG, St Saviourgate, £4 adult, £3 conc

An introduction to the principles and practice of marine archaeology, and an after-hours chance to view the fascinating new Swash Channel Wreck exhibition. Pre-booking essential: 01904 615505. A Festival of British Archaeology event.

Hungate Open Day

Saturday 23rd July 10.00 – 15.00, Hungate, FREE!

Find out more about the discoveries at this major excavation with archaeologists from YAT. Recent finds will be on show, with experts on hand to interpret them.

Medicine through the Ages Festival

Medieval Medicine

Saturday 30th July 10.30 – 16.00, Coppergate Square, FREE!

A colourful encampment in Coppergate Square, featuring displays of medical skills, tools and techniques from 1000 years of English history. A Festival of British Archaeology event.

Medicine on the Front Line

Sunday 31st July 10.30 – 16.00, Merchant Adventurers' Hall £6 adult, £5 conc, children free

Once a hospital and dispensary, the Hall will once more host medical practitioners from throughout history, all of whom have their own methods for dealing with the sick and with soldiers injured in battle.

In this issue...

