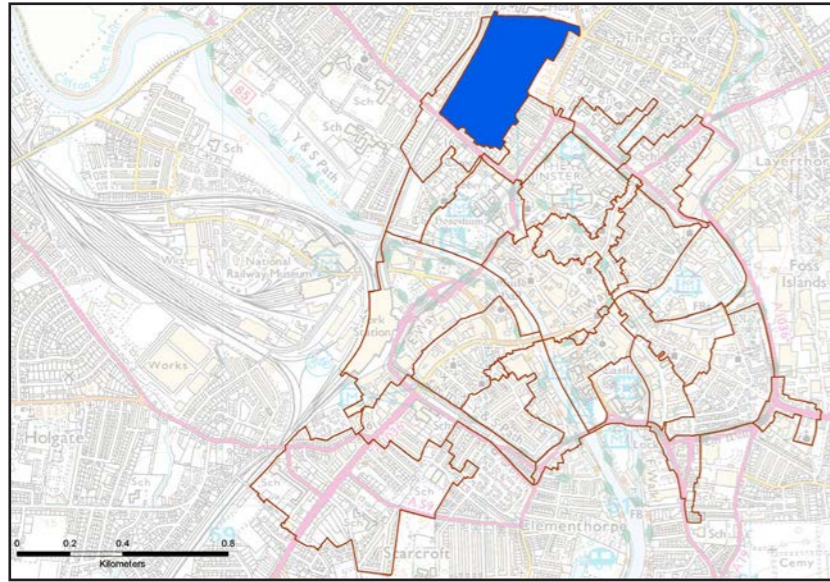


## Character area I: Bootham Park



The location of the character area within the historic core.

## Archaeological background

### Roman

Evidence for Roman activity is limited despite Bootham following the line of the main Roman road from York to Catterick that entered a gate (Porta Principalis Dextra) of Eboracum fortress where Bootham Bar is now. Roman archaeology has been truncated by medieval ploughing in some areas but may be represented in the form of cut features into natural (EYO4511). However, evidence for funerary activity, a floor and 2nd century AD occupation debris were excavated at the school in 1954, indicating the presence of extra-mural settlement in the vicinity (EYO2761). Pottery has also been located at Bootham School (EYO4511).

Limited archaeological interventions in this area have revealed that deposits dating to the Roman period appear to be well preserved in places.

### Anglian – Anglo-Scandinavian

There is no evidence of Anglian-Anglo-Scandinavian activity within this character area although the name Bootham may be of Anglo-Scandinavian origin (EYO70).

### Medieval

During this period, the properties along Bootham did not stretch far beyond Bootham Bar. Documentary evidence suggests that the majority of land was in use as gardens and fields (EYO70). York Archaeological Trust (YAT) recorded a lane (c.0.85m below ground level) pre-dating the 13th-14th century and earlier ditch, running north-east/south-west from Bootham. YAT suggested that ground works which go deeper than 0.75m should be subject to archaeological monitoring (EYO70). Pottery sherds dating to the medieval period were also found in the school area mixed into agricultural soils and ditch fills (EYO4511). Natural depths were recorded at Bootham School in 2011 at 1.65m below ground level.

### Post-medieval – Early modern

Along Bootham, houses lined the roadside by the early 17th century (EYO70).

In 1777, one of the first purpose built lunatic asylums (MYO1794) in the country was built on the open farm land to the north west of York (HCCAA). A school was constructed in 1846 in part of the grounds, now known as Bootham School.

Several boundaries, shown on the 1852 ordnance survey plan, remain readable within the hospital character area such as the area around the eastern school playing field and defining the line of terracing facing south on to the chapel site.

Historic boundaries in the southern half of the site have a higher survival rate due to the largely undeveloped nature of this area.

## Description

This is a unique character area consisting of a large institutional site - Bootham Park Hospital - created as an asylum in the 18th century on what was then the very edge of the city. Set in extensive landscaped grounds, it is still in use for NHS mental health services and is adjacent to York Hospital on Wigginton Road. Alongside the Bootham Park Hospital is Bootham School, a distinguished Quaker school.

*Historic Core Conservation Area Appraisal*

## Visible character

Buildings all either associated with hospital or school

Extensive landscaped grounds

The orientation of the asylum and later the school has largely dictated the current layout of this area.

Several boundaries, shown on the 1852 ordnance survey plan, remain readable

The area is bounded by historic roadways, likely medieval in date and the 19th century railway.

The green spaces and continuity of use for education and well-being all add to the value of this site

## Sub surface character

### Ove Arup Development & Archaeology Study Research Zone: 19

**Deposit Depth (where known):** Natural depths at Bootham School recorded at 1.65m below ground level. A medieval lane was also recorded at Bootham School at c.0.85m below ground level.

**Period Survival:** Evidence of Roman to early modern activity has been found within the area. All periods have the potential to survive here but the depth and level of disturbance is variable. Roman funerary and occupational deposits survive in places but have been truncated in some areas by medieval agricultural activity.

**Interventions (recorded on HER April 2013):** There are 7 interventions recorded on the City of York Historic Environment Record (HER). Few of the interventions are recorded in any detail. See Appendix I for brief summary.

## Significance

**Overview:** Bootham lies on a ridge of higher ground and is likely to be the line of a principle Roman route into the legionary fortress from the north. As with other Roman roads into York, funerary deposits are known in the area. Towards the hospital site, away from Bootham, the topography drops away to slightly lower ground.

Medieval ploughing and the creation of the school and hospital buildings will have had a negative effect on any surviving archaeology within the area. Archaeological evidence suggests that in some areas, relatively undisturbed deposits remain including those dating to the Roman and medieval period.

**Designations:** The site falls partly within the Central Area of Archaeological Importance and fully within the Historic Core Conservation Area.

The area contains predominantly institutional and ecclesiastical buildings spanning over 200 years. This has led to a cluster of buildings created to individual designs and changing trends.

There are a relatively high number of listed buildings within the site, including the original hospital building (1777), Wesleyan Chapel (1883) and Assembly Hall (1965). Union Terrace (c.1840s) has been identified as Buildings of Merit. The 18th century hospital building (Grade I), still stands in an attractive landscaped setting. It was one of the first purpose built asylums in the country and was designed by York architect, John Carr.

**Streetscape Components:** The footpath surfaces are a mixture of concrete flags at the access road from Union Terrace and tarmac (slurry sealing) such as on Bridge Lane.

Street lighting is provided by a variety of mid-late 20th century units. Mature trees form a grand avenue leading from Bootham and surround the grounds to create a pleasant secluded setting, and act as a screen for the present hospital car park.

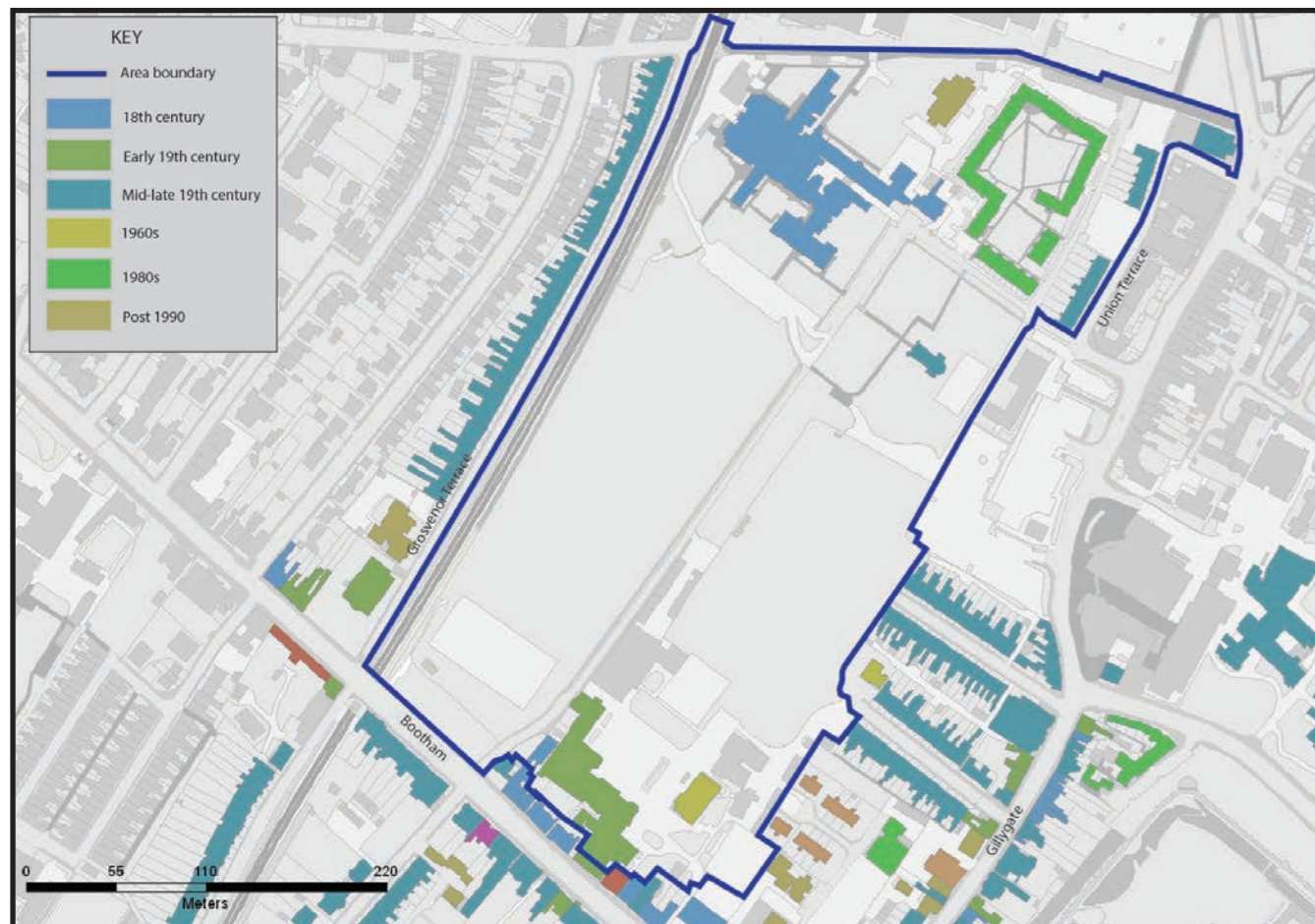
Other green spaces can be found around the modern patient accommodation and chapel at Bootham Park Hospital.

On Union Terrace the small front gardens are bounded by black iron railings many of which contain the same ornate pattern on the gate piers. There is no trace of stable paviour cobbling, and only one iron drain cover across the footpath at the northern end of the street.



Above: Plan showing the heights of the buildings within this character area.

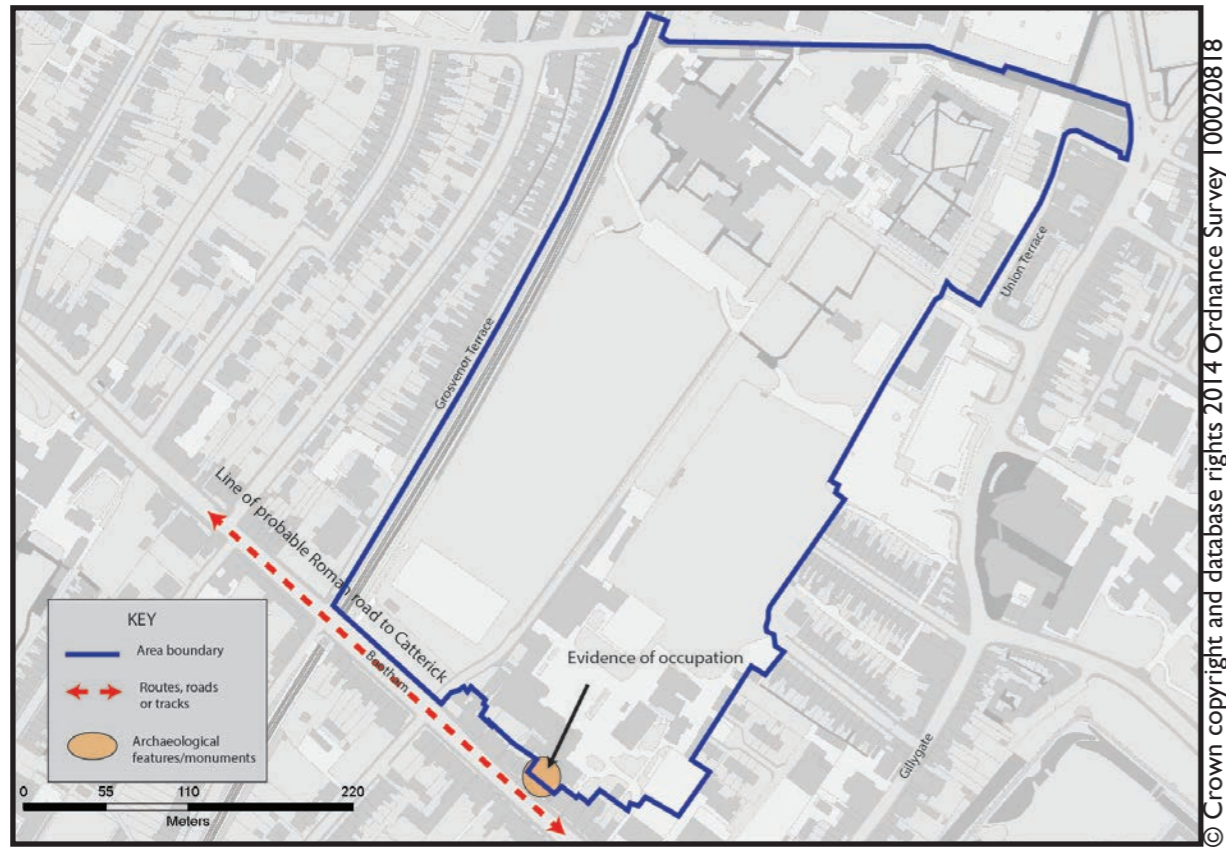
Below: Plan showing the construction dates of the buildings within the area.



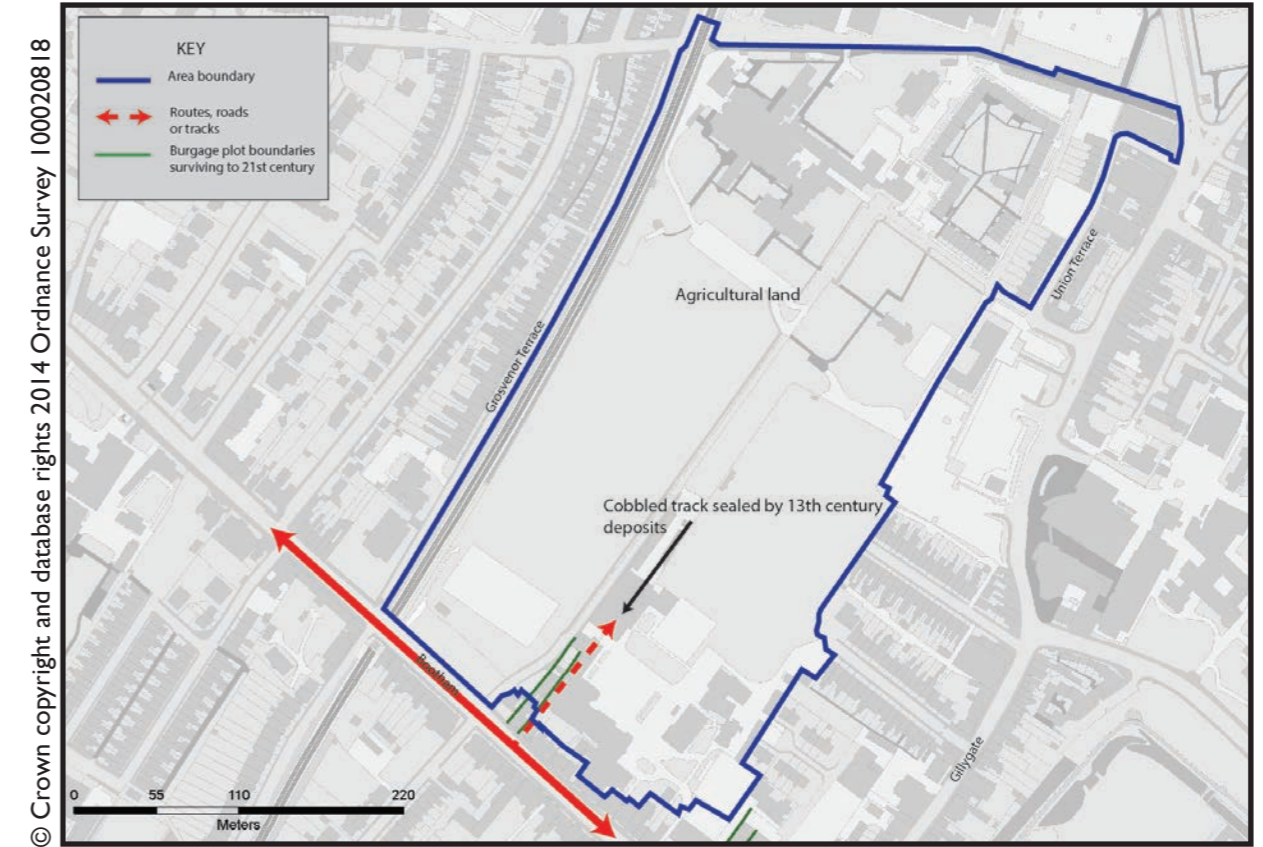
Above: Figure ground map with built environment shown as white on black.

Below: Plan showing the Broad Type characterisation of the area. White roadways indicate roads or lanes visible on the 1852 Ordnance Survey Plan.

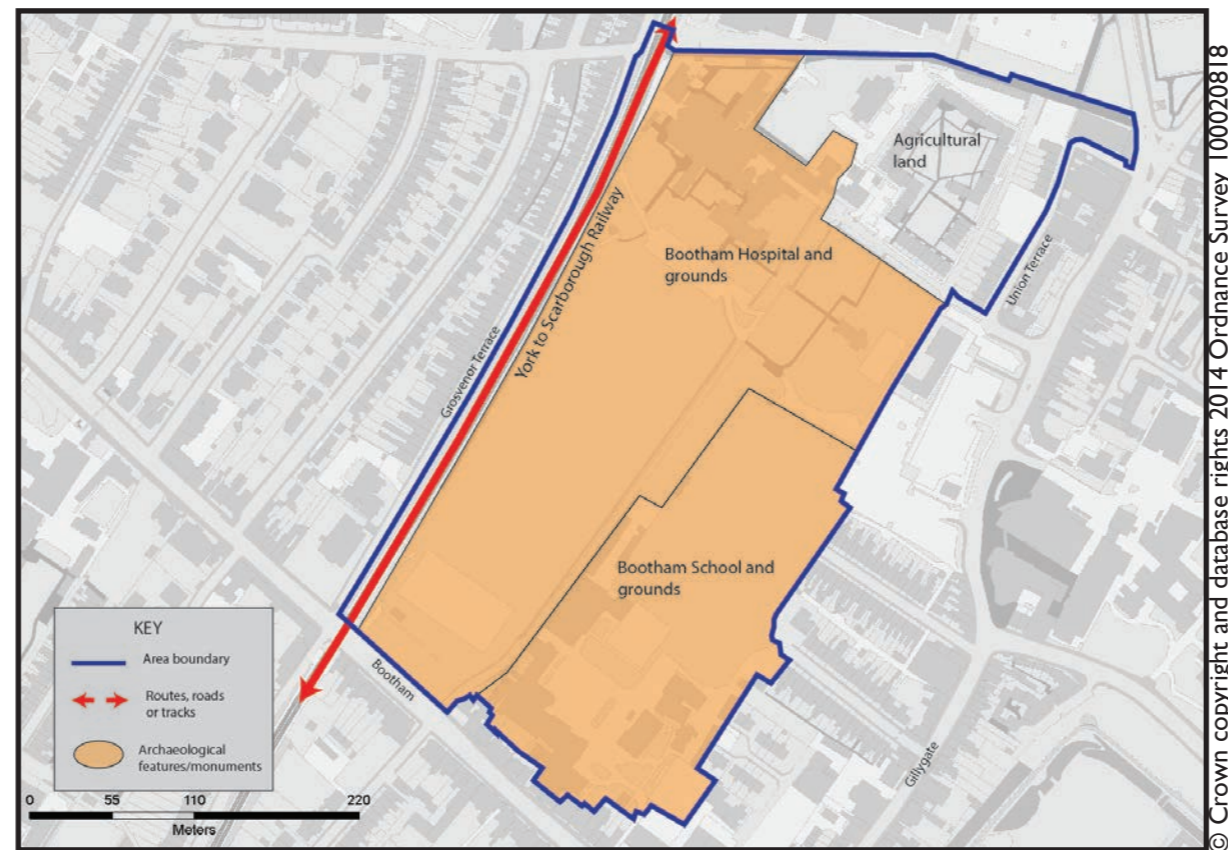




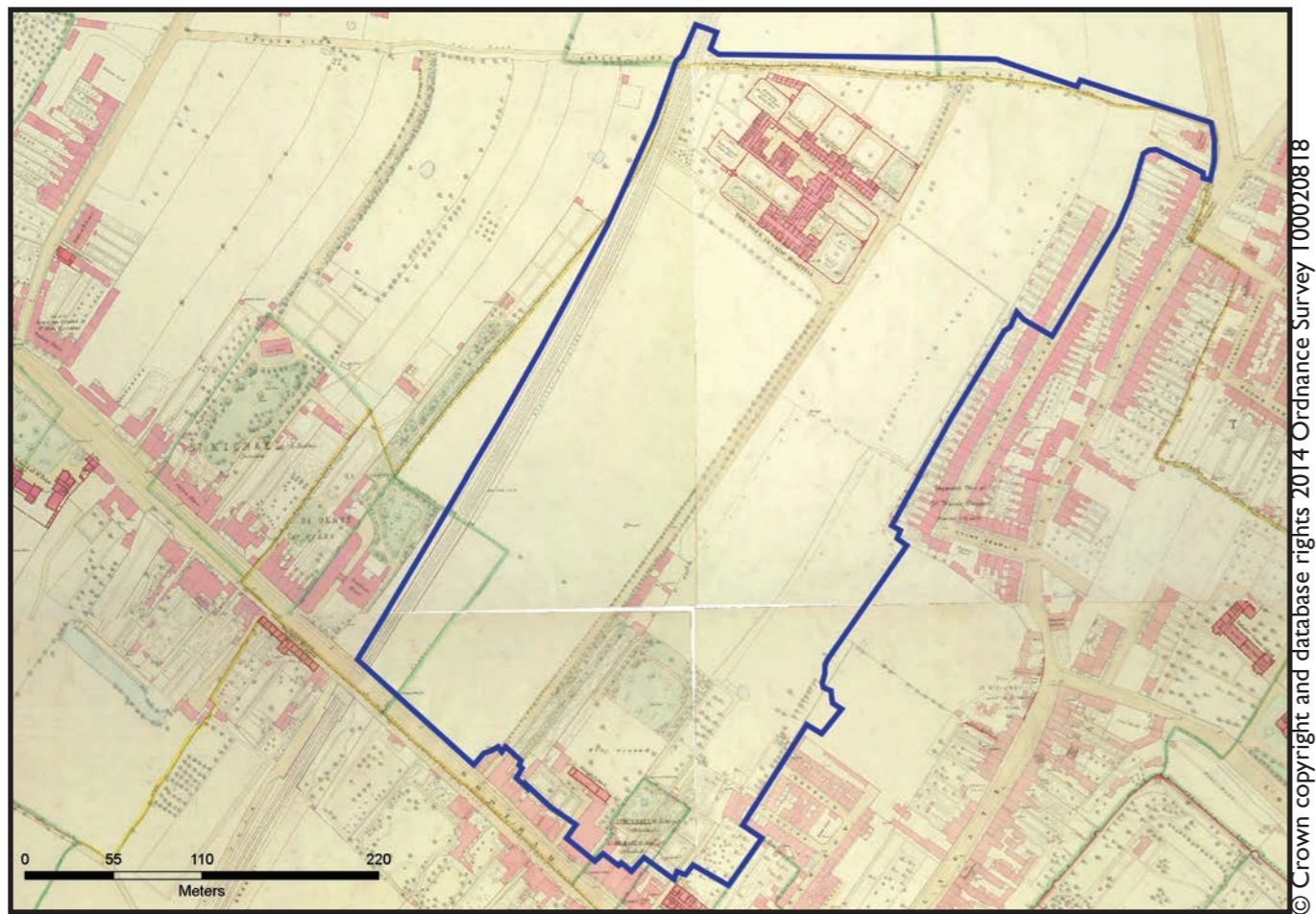
The Roman landscape.



The medieval landscape.

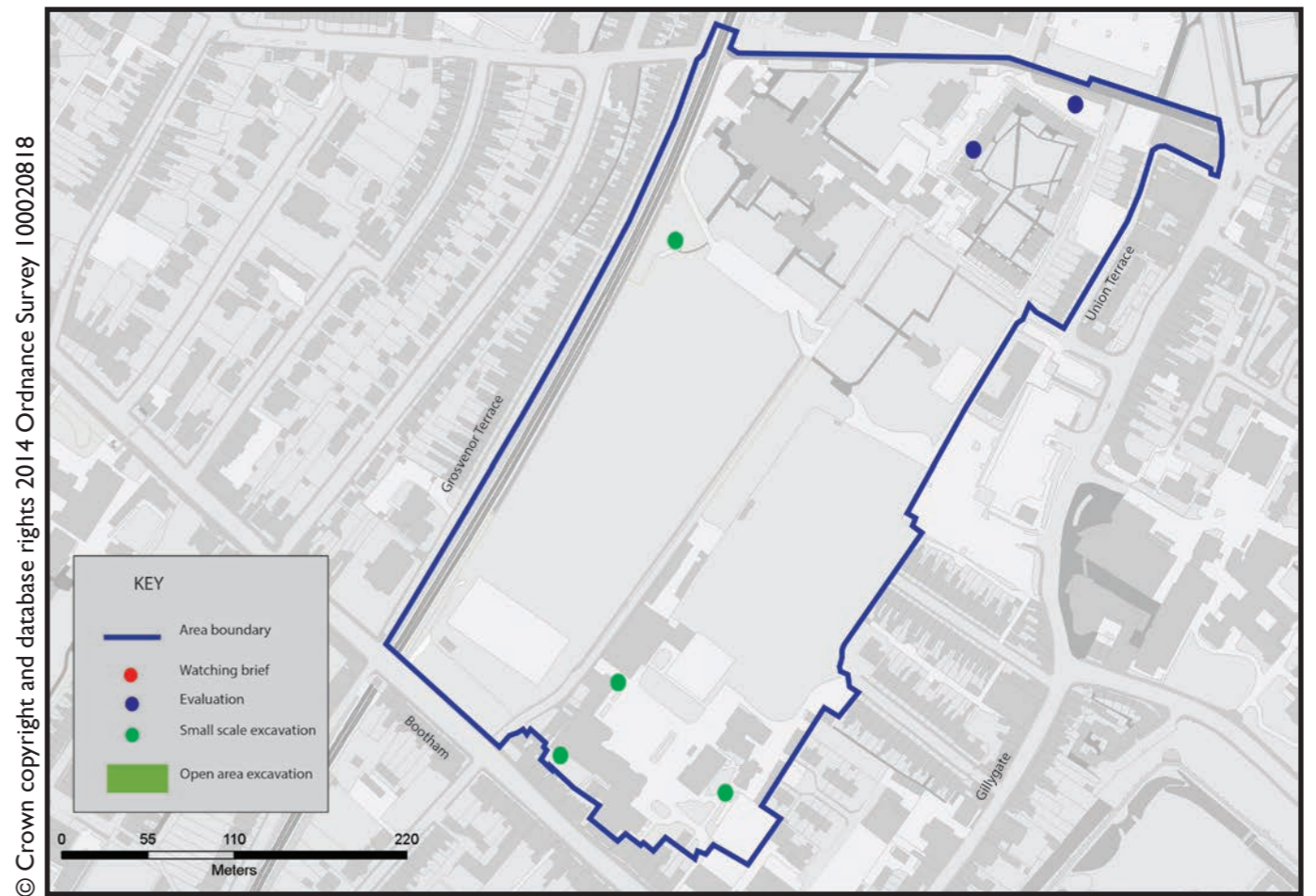
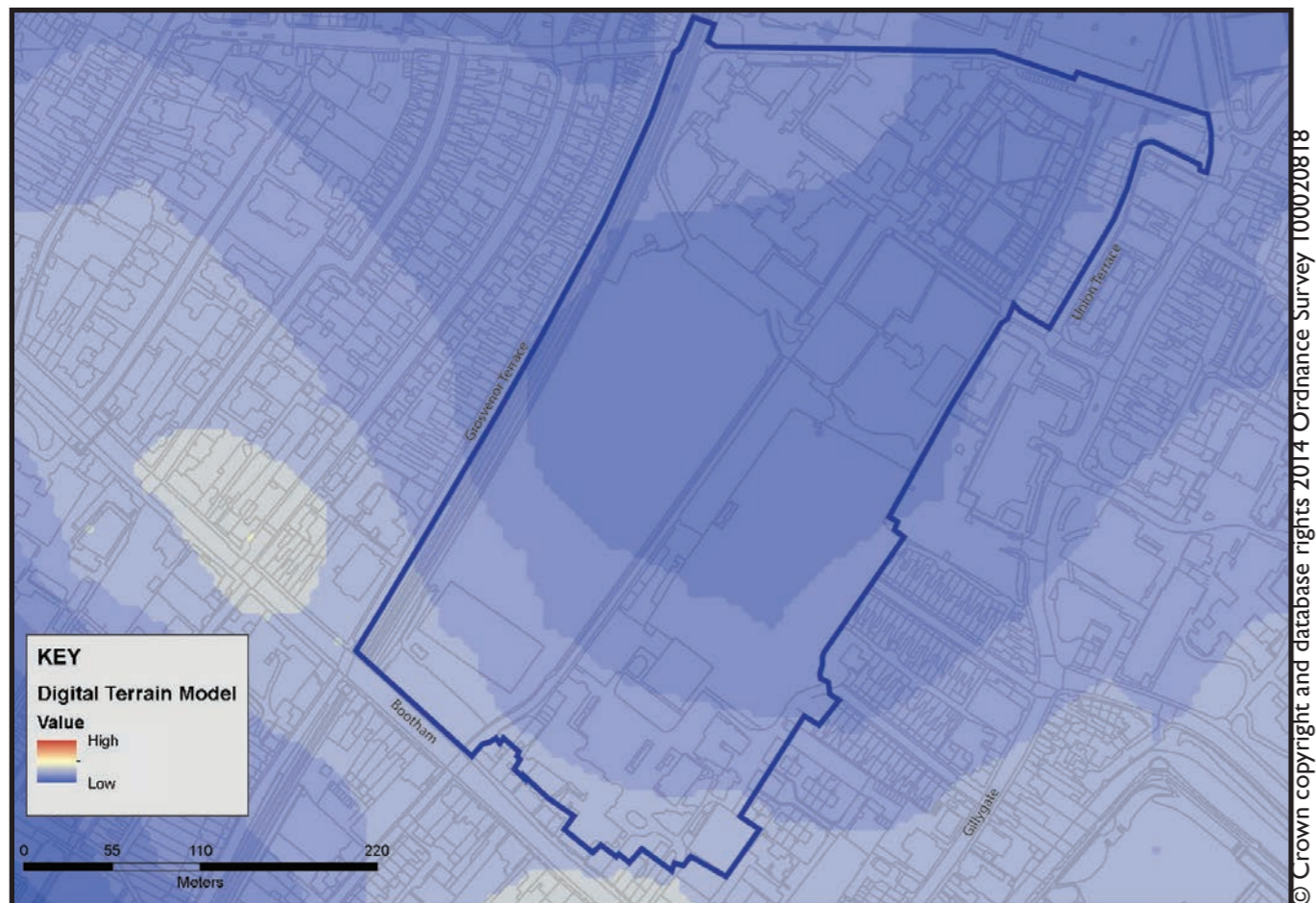


The post-medieval landscape.



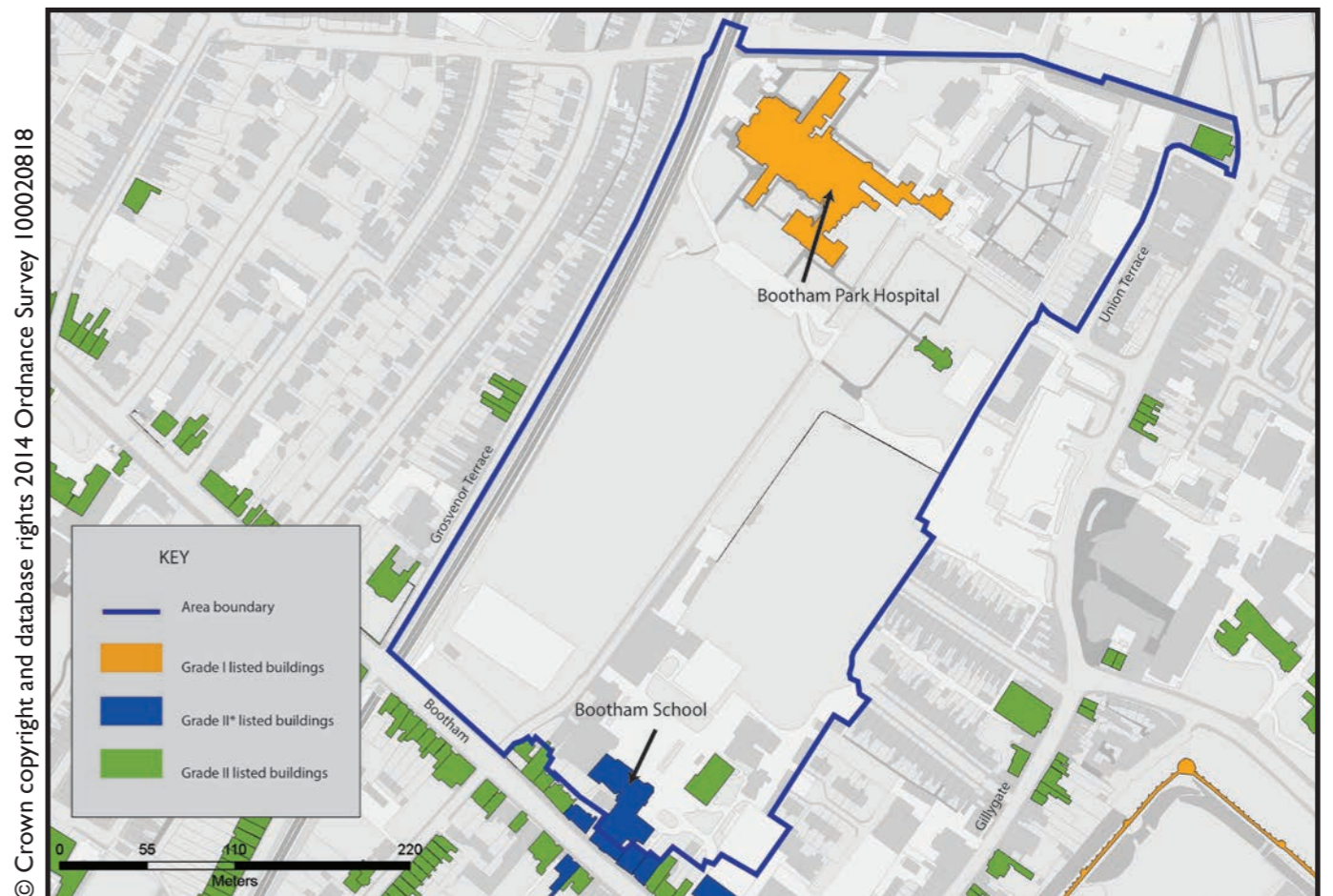
Above: The 1852 landscape.

Below: The general topography showing the relatively low lying nature of the hospital site.



Above: The location of archaeological interventions recorded on the City of York Historic Environment Record.

Below: Location of listed buildings. Note the Grade I hospital building.



## Main Sources

Ottaway, P. 2011, Archaeology in the Environs of Roman York, CBA, York

Ove Arup, 1991, Archaeology and Development Study, York

York City Council Historic Environment Record (and grey literature reports EYO70 and EYO4511)

York City Historic Core Conservation Area Appraisal- 1: Bootham Park

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