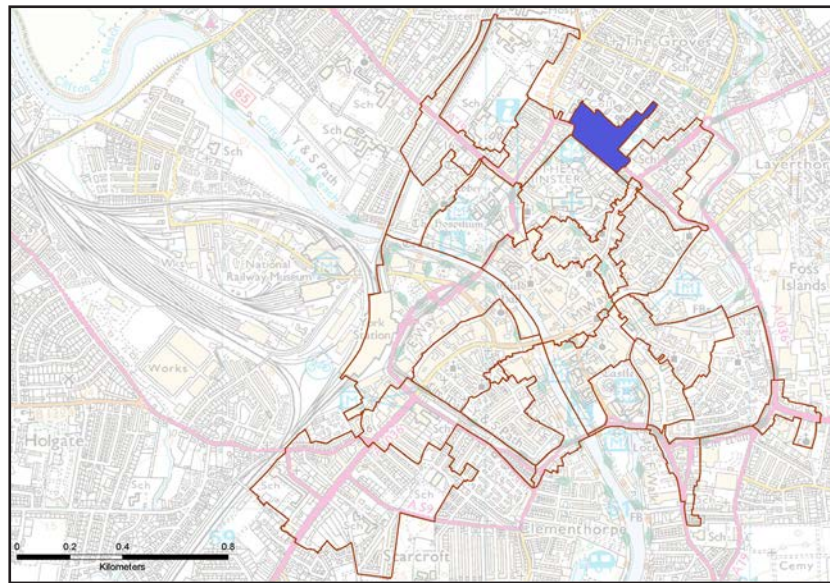


Character area 6: Lord Mayors Walk



The location of the character area within the historic core.

Description

Lord Mayor's Walk forms an important link with Gillygate/ Clarence Street and Monkgate/ Goodramgate at its western and eastern ends respectively. This area has been the site of continuous educational provision since the mid-19th century. St John's College, now part of York St John University, is the main feature of this linear area which runs along the northern side of the city wall. The green spaces of the College garden and ramparts sandwich a busy section of the inner ring road

Historic Core Conservation Area Appraisal

Archaeological background

Roman

Evidence for extra-mural Roman activity has been identified to the north-west in Character Area 42, St John's Campus, including cobbled surfaces and burials on Gillygate at depths of 0.6-0.7m below ground level (see EYO3666-71, EYO30) and Monkgate (see EYO3829, EYO3462, EYO56, EYO749 and Character Area 23, Monk Gate).

It can be assumed that some Roman deposits will exist within less disturbed parts of this area. A floor surface dating to the earliest phase of the legionary fortress was recorded during excavations ahead of the development of a car park at St. John's Campus (EYO3010). The Roman wall and associated ditches surrounding the northern boundary of the legionary fortress Eboracum ran along the south Lord Mayors Walk.

Anglian- Anglo-Scandinavian

There is virtually no evidence for the Anglian period in this area with the exception of an Anglian deposit related to the Roman walls which stood at this time. This was again recorded on a relatively undisturbed patch of land at St John's Campus (EYO3008 and in Character Area 42).

Medieval

Lord Mayors Walk (formerly known as Goose Lane) was largely undeveloped agricultural land during the medieval period. Archaeological evidence is abundant in the Gillygate and Monkgate area. The site of St. Maurice's Church (MYO3512) is located immediately to the east of this area alongside St. Michael-le-Belfrey chapel and burial ground.

The Minster Precinct is surrounded on its northern side by the medieval town wall stretching from Robin Hood's Tower to Monk Bar (MYO1733), this replaced the original Roman fortress wall.

Post-medieval

By the 17th century, cartographic evidence suggests that houses had been constructed between St Maurice's and Lord Mayors Walk.

The post-medieval period is quite well represented around St John's Campus with a building at the St Maurice's / Newbiggin site to the east and occupation deposits and the site of clay pipe firing at Moatside Court to the west. On St. John's Street a post-medieval cobbled surface was revealed just beneath the modern asphalt surface (EYO3616).

A watching brief at St. John's College by YAT (EYO804) revealed little else beside modern deposits. Natural was encountered in several of these trenches at 0.95-1.2m below ground level. It was concluded that despite this lack of evidence due to the construction of St. John's College, the area remains one of potential archaeological significance.

Visible character

The majority of buildings date to the 19th century and are two storey terraced houses and large educational structures

Continuous educational use of site since the mid 19th century

Lord Mayor's Walk – tree lined featuring grand buildings and views of medieval wall, set on Roman foundations

John Street follows the line of a thin track between garden plots shown on the 1852 ordnance survey plan. The Groves Lane has also been preserved as the line of Garden Street.

Few buildings of architectural or historical significance- listed buildings concentrated on Lord Mayor's Walk

Minster Precinct Walls visible, including section of Roman fortress wall

Sub surface character

Ove Arup Development & Archaeology Study Research Zone: 12

Deposit Depth (where known): The Ove Arup Study suggests a depth of natural at c.6.5m below ground level in this area and also suggests archaeological deposits at relatively shallow depths of up to 2m. YAT investigations in 2006 at York St John revealed natural subsoil in several areas at 0.95-1.2m below ground level.

Period Survival: Limited Roman and medieval evidence perhaps best preserved in the area of Clarence Street/Lord Mayor's Walk at St. John's Campus. Post-medieval and early modern evidence of occupation is abundant.

Interventions (recorded on HER April 2013): There are 11 interventions, including one of historic date, recorded on the City of York Historic Environment Record (HER). Few of the interventions are recorded in any detail. See Appendix 1 for brief summary.

Significance

Overview: Lord Mayor's walk is situated immediately north-east of the Roman legionary fortress and medieval. There is limited Roman and medieval evidence recorded on the HER possibly due to the 19th century development of part of the area which may have destroyed archaeological remains of this period.

However, excavations ahead of more recent developments have revealed that archaeological deposits do survive in undisturbed pockets of land around St. John's Campus and that the area is potentially significant for further archaeological research.

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

Lord Mayor's Walk contains few architecturally or historically significant buildings. Thirteen Grade II buildings, mostly relating to the 19th century educational buildings have been identified throughout this character area, however the rest of the buildings in the area (e.g. John Street) are identified as Buildings of Merit in the Historic Core Conservation Area Appraisal.

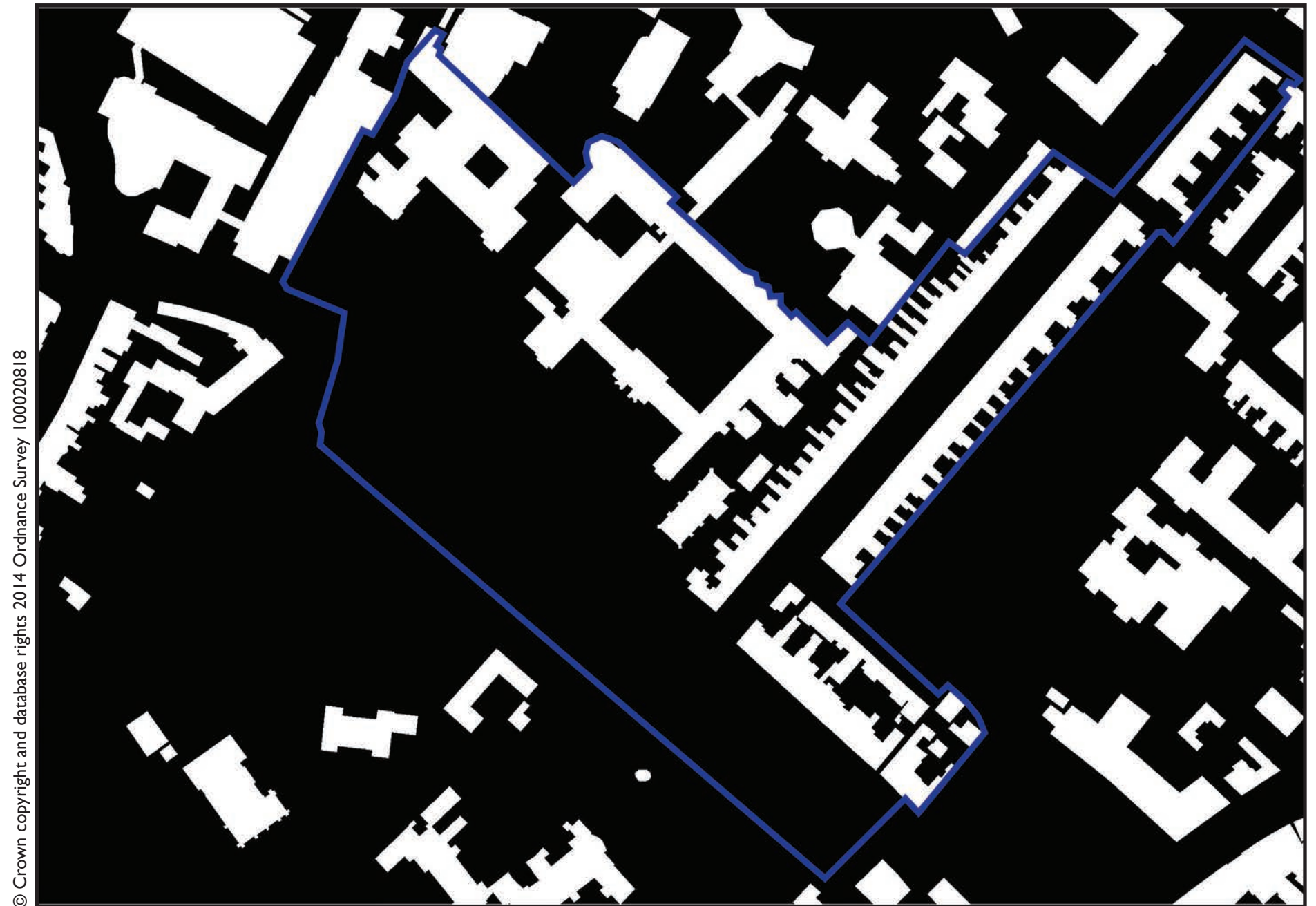
The York Minster Precinct Wall is also Grade I listed and a Scheduled Ancient Monument. These walls make a substantial contribution to York's collection of significant landmark monuments, one of the city's key significances.

Streetscape components: Paving within this area comprises of asphalt (slurry sealing and black bituminous) and riven English Pennine Sandstone flags on Lord Mayor's Walk, asphalt surfaces on St. John Street and riven English Pennine Sandstone flags on a small lane between Lord Mayor's Walk and Waverley Street. Pre-cast concrete flags have replaced older surfaces in the gates snickets to the rear of St. John's Crescent.

Mid-late 20th century street lighting units are prominent in the area, along with green telecoms boxes and on-street parking signage on Lord Mayor's Walk. Trees line Lord Mayor's Walk and parts of St. John's Crescent.

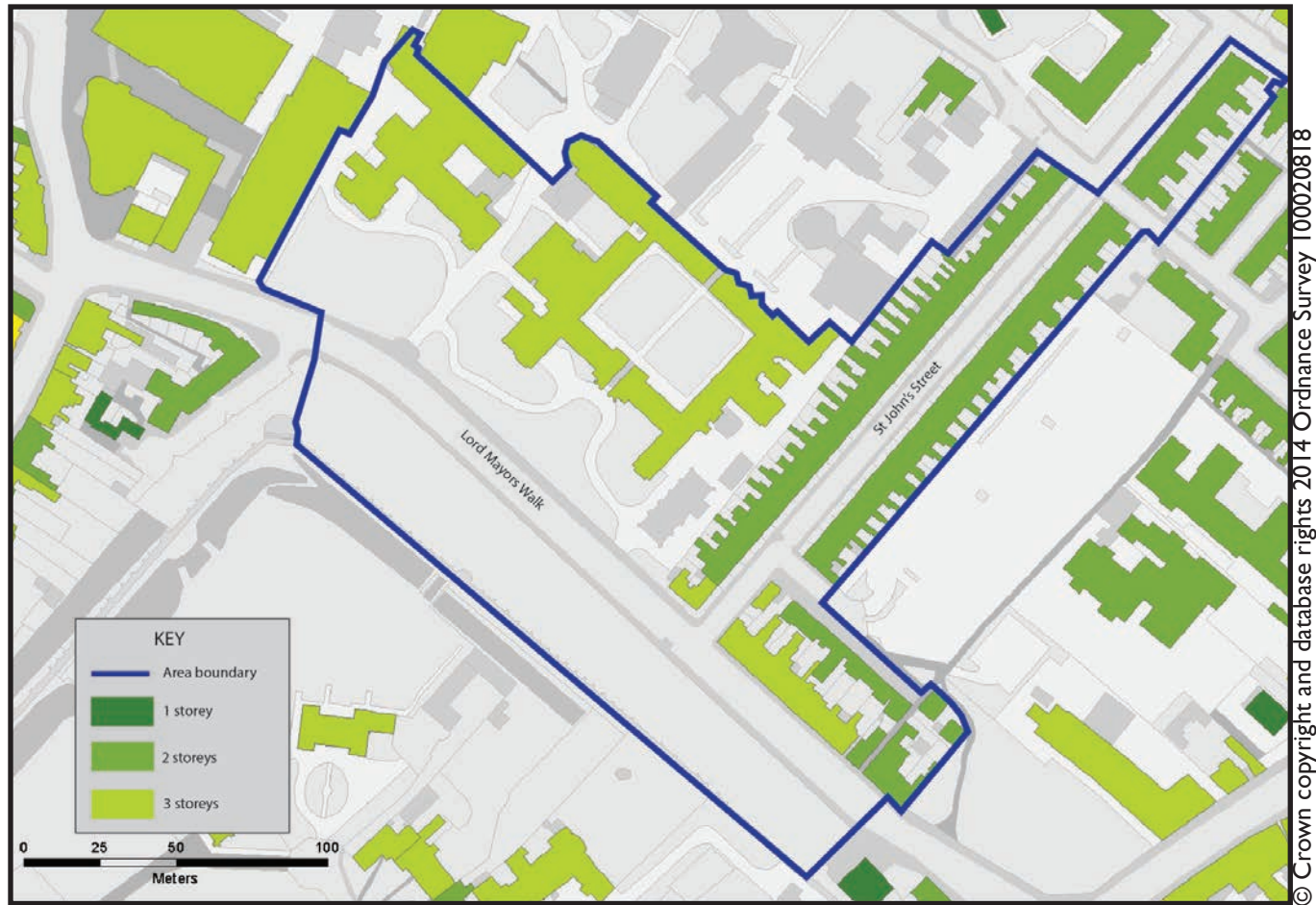
The Bile Beans advert, a local landmark, is visible on the side of a building on Lord Mayor's Walk. The student accommodation and buildings to the rear of Lord Mayor's Walk contains relatively generous green spaces and are in many cases are bounded by hedgerows.

The view of the Minster from St. John's Crescent including its late 20th century buildings and streetscape, 19th century educational buildings and the city walls visible from Lord Mayor's Walk.



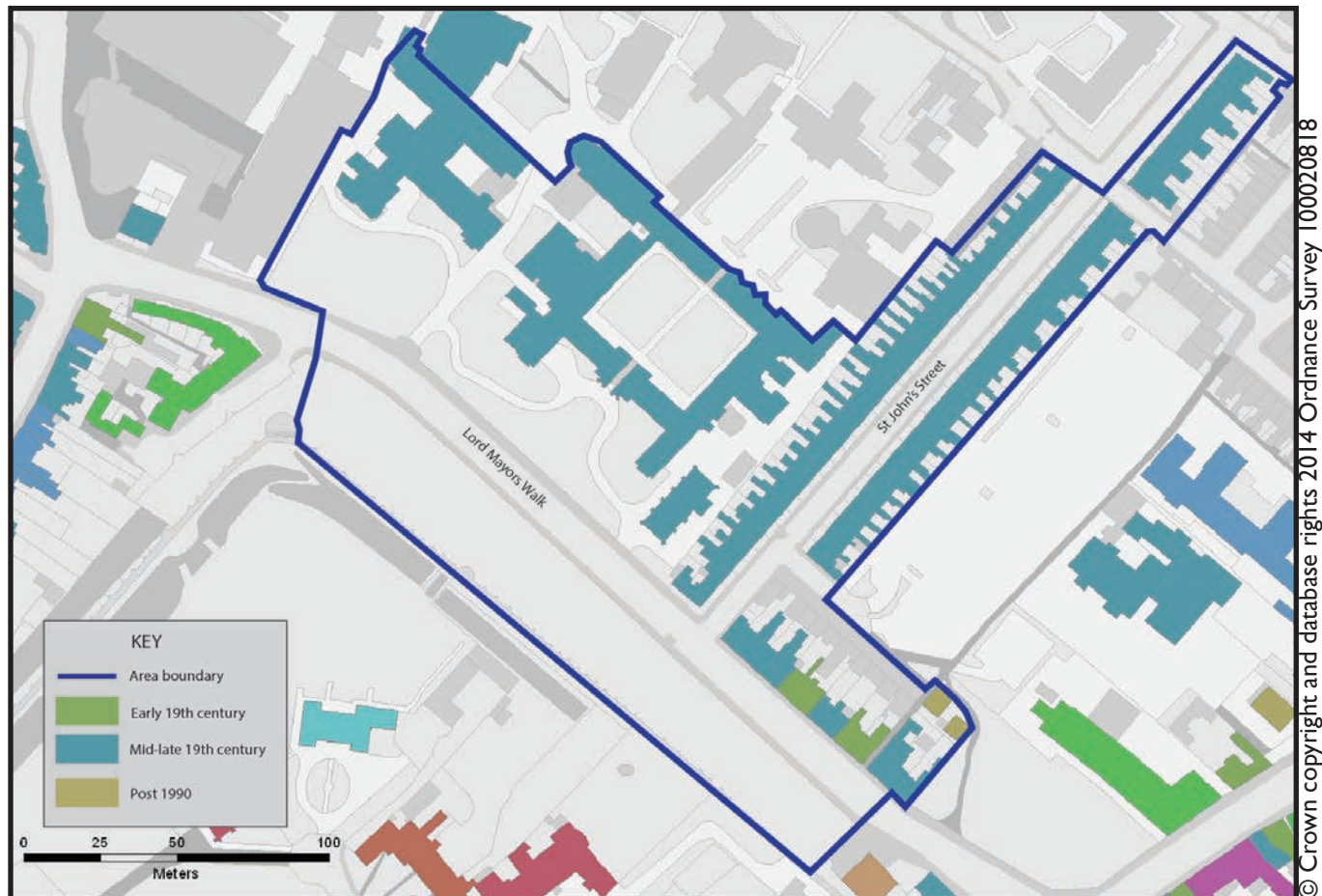
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Figure ground map with built environment shown as white on black.



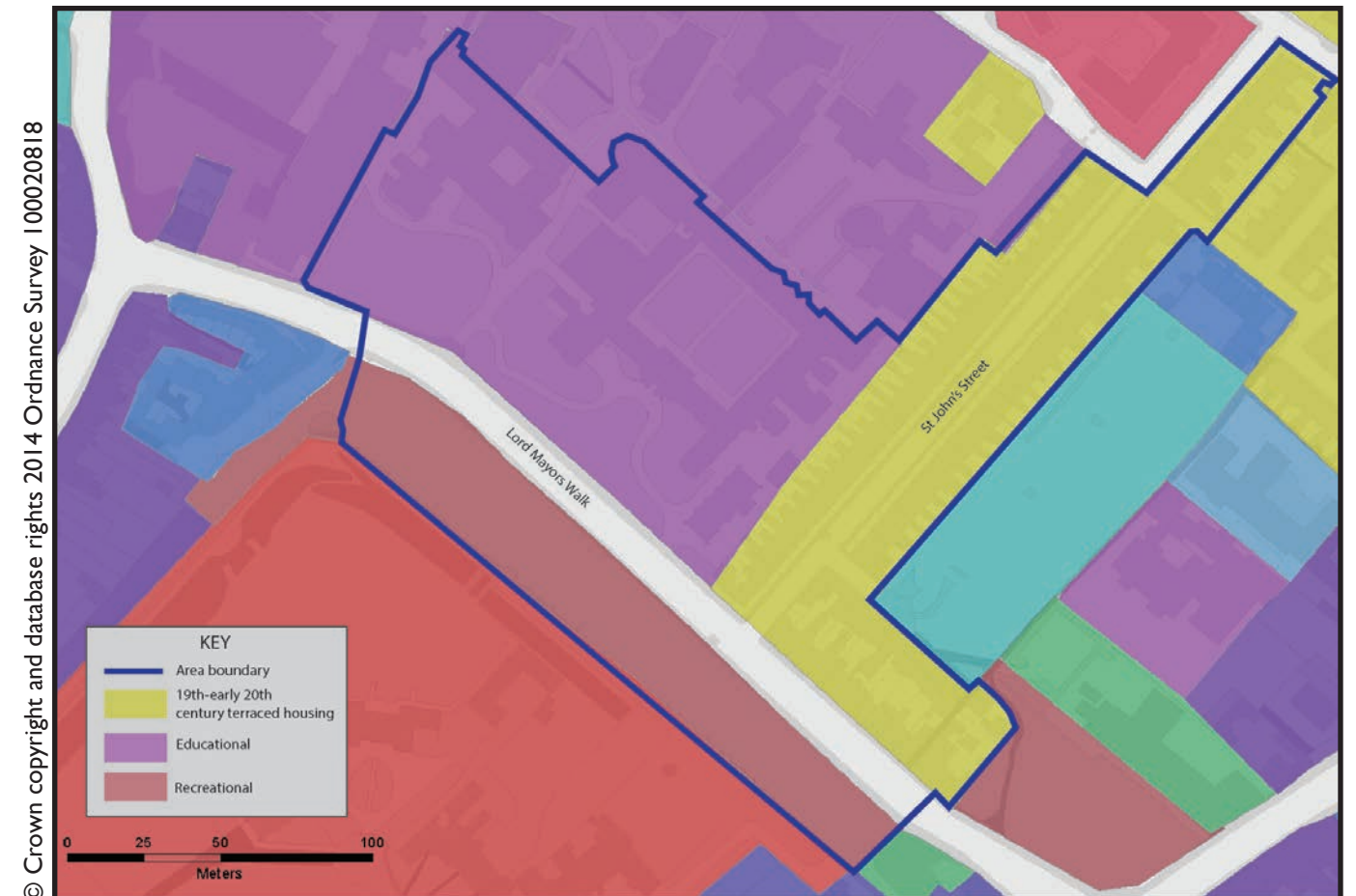
Above: Plan showing the heights of the buildings within this character area.

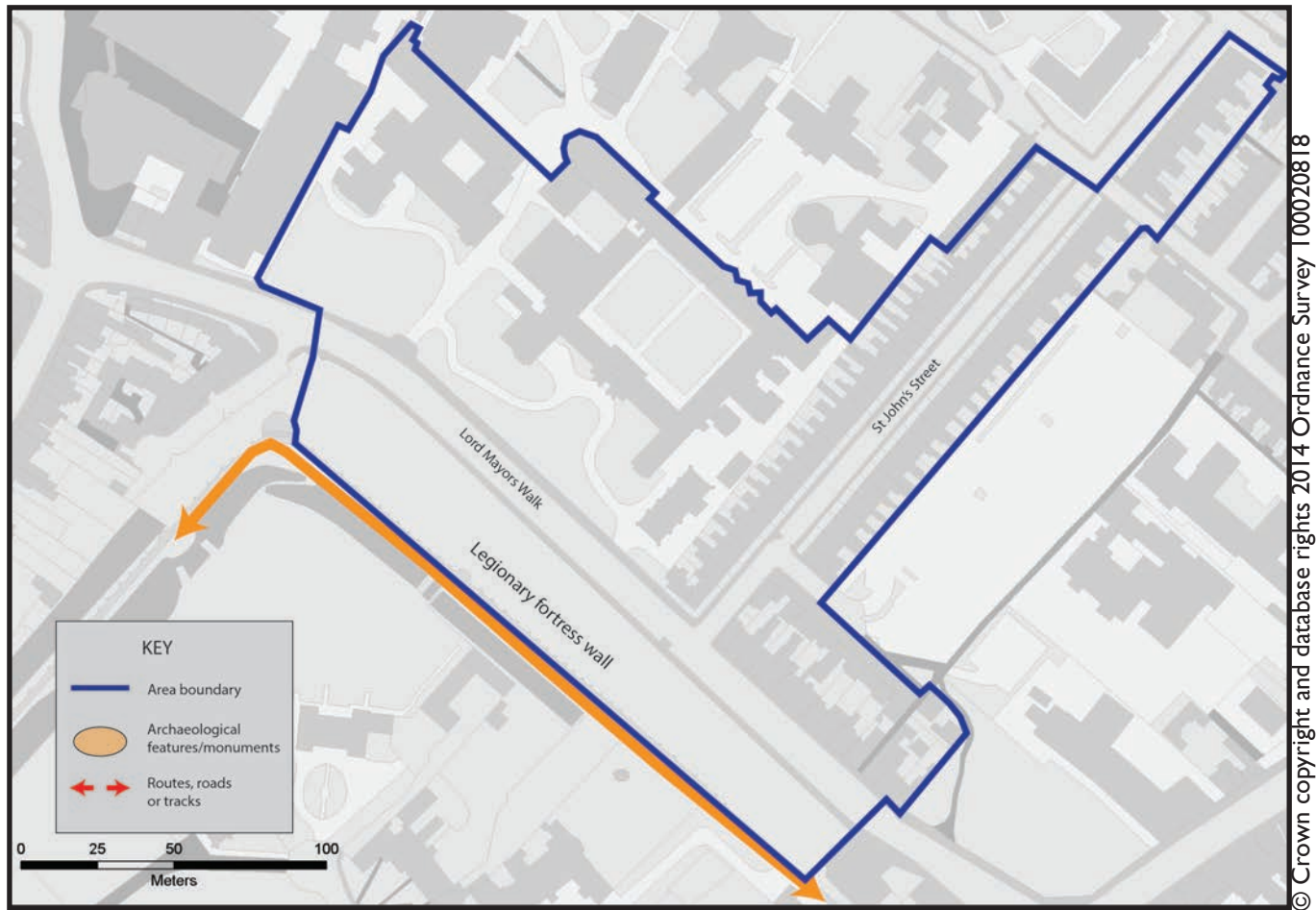
Below: Plan showing the construction dates of the buildings within the area.



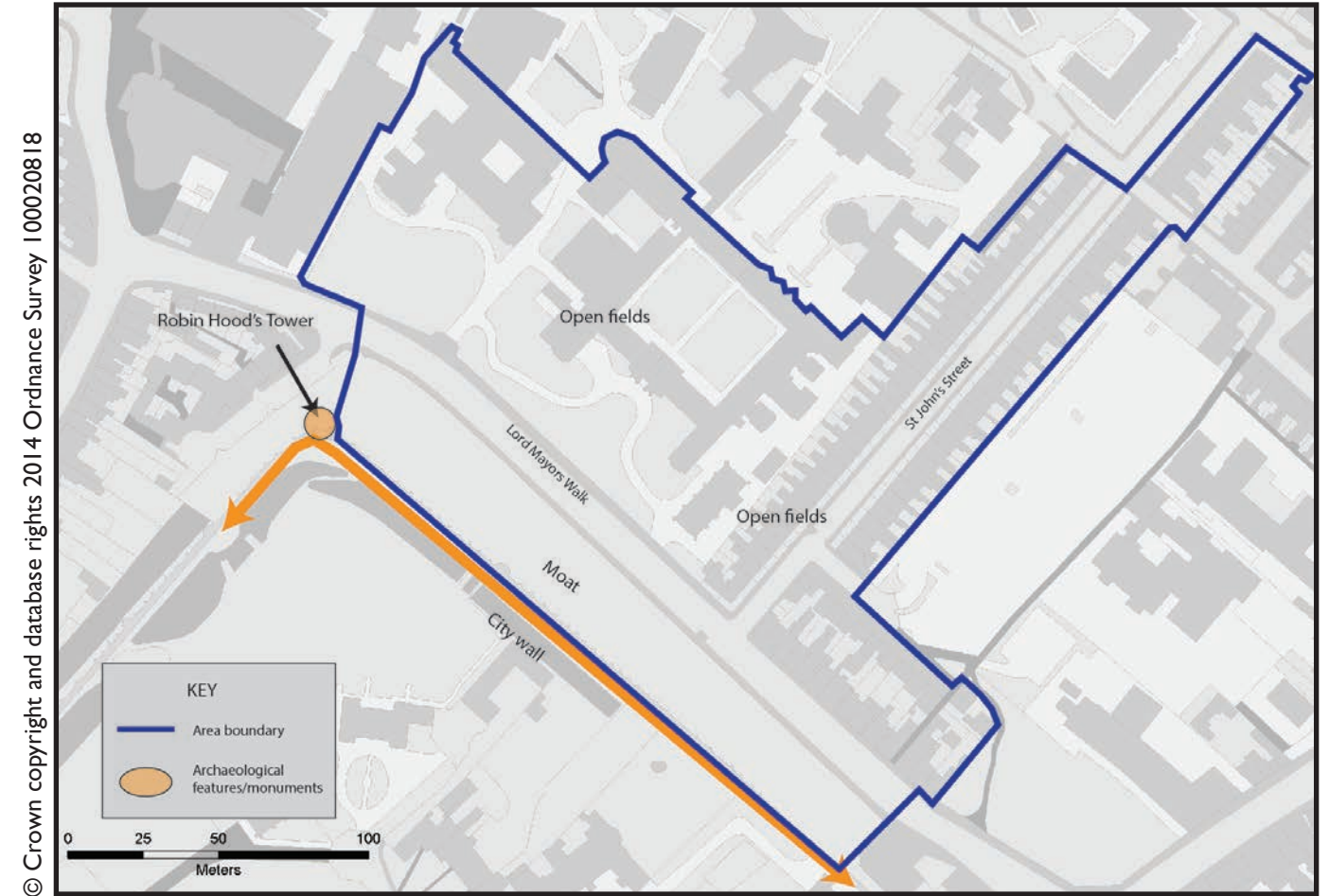
Above: Plan showing designated heritage assets within this character area.

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

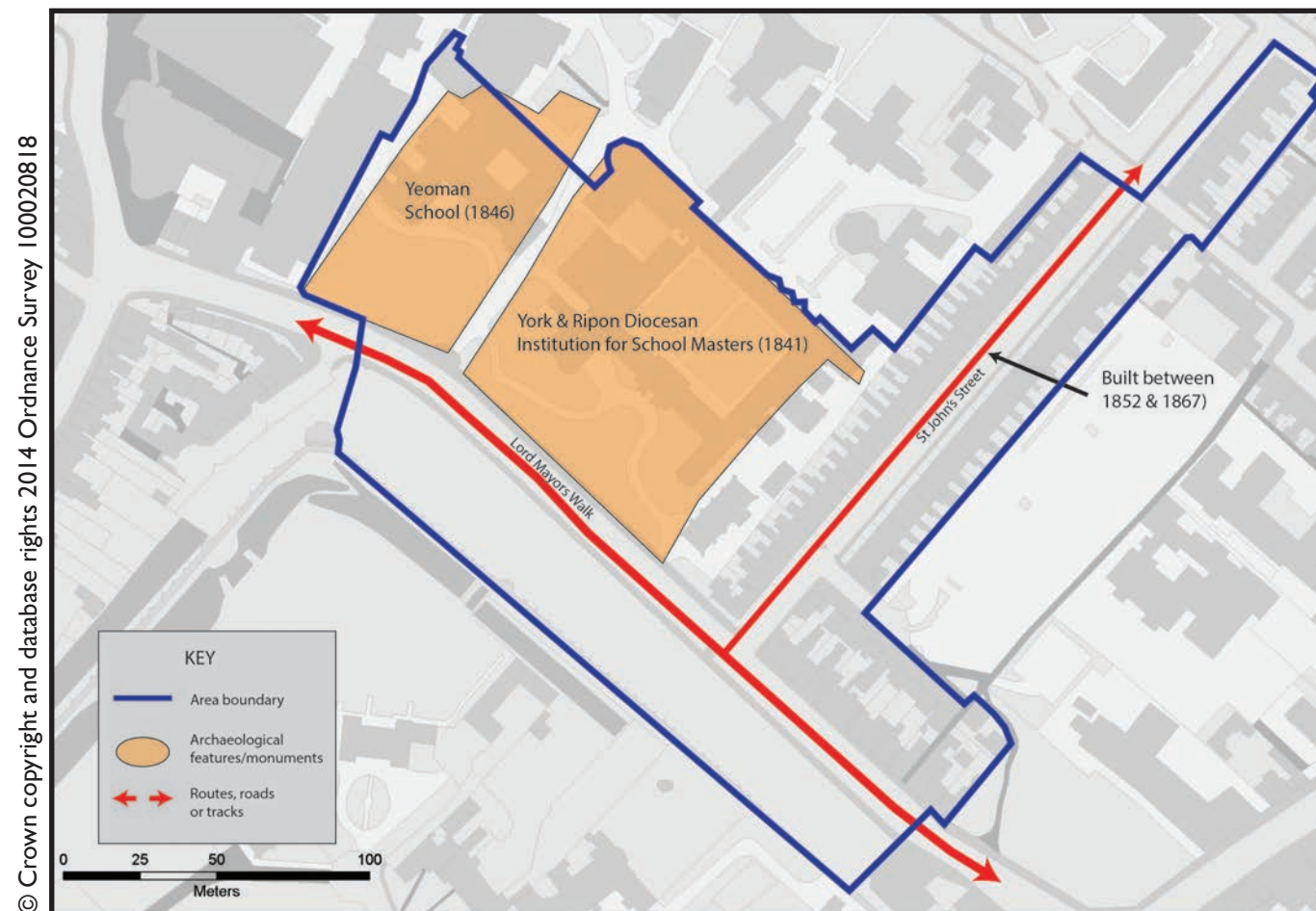




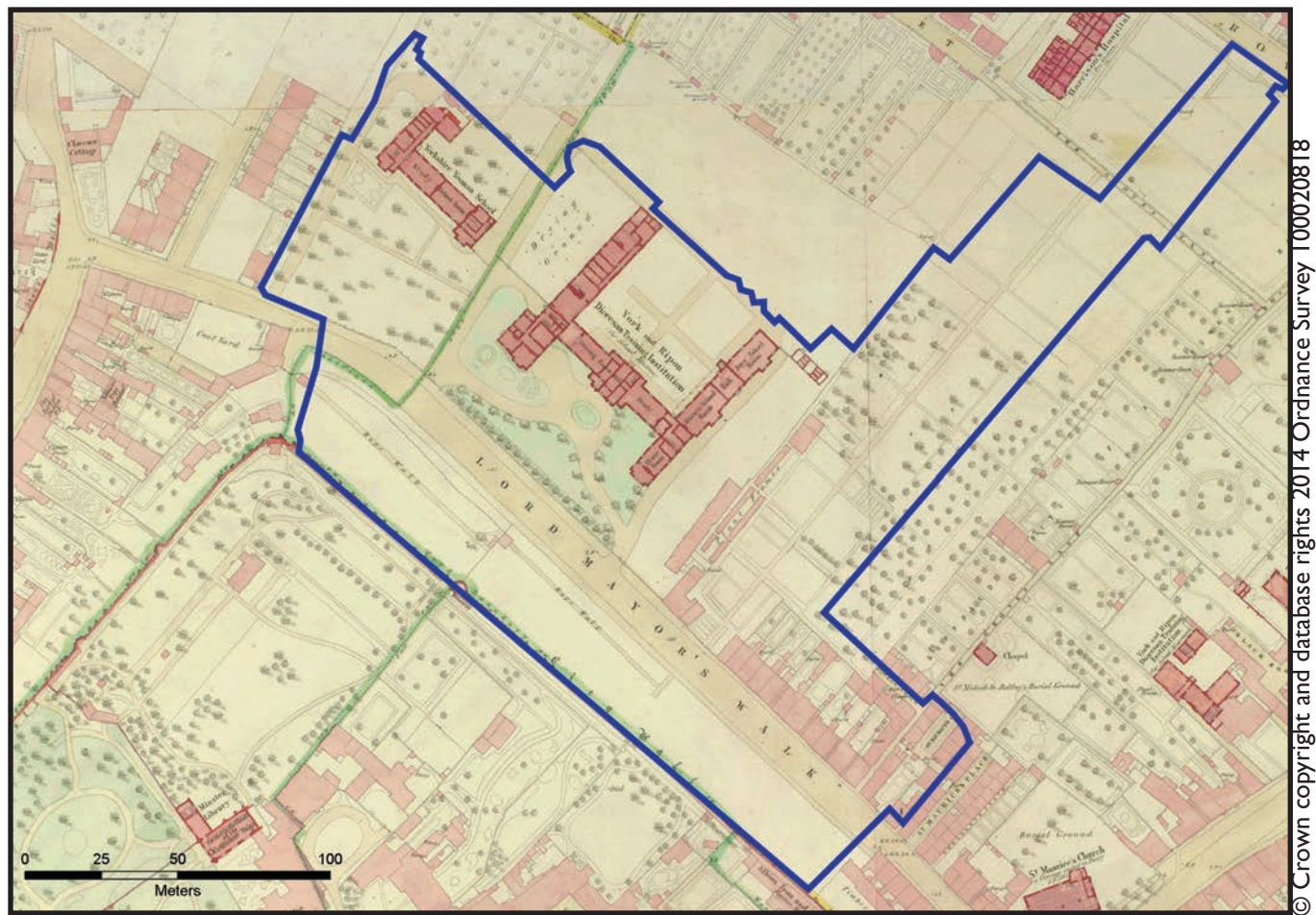
The Roman landscape.



The medieval landscape.

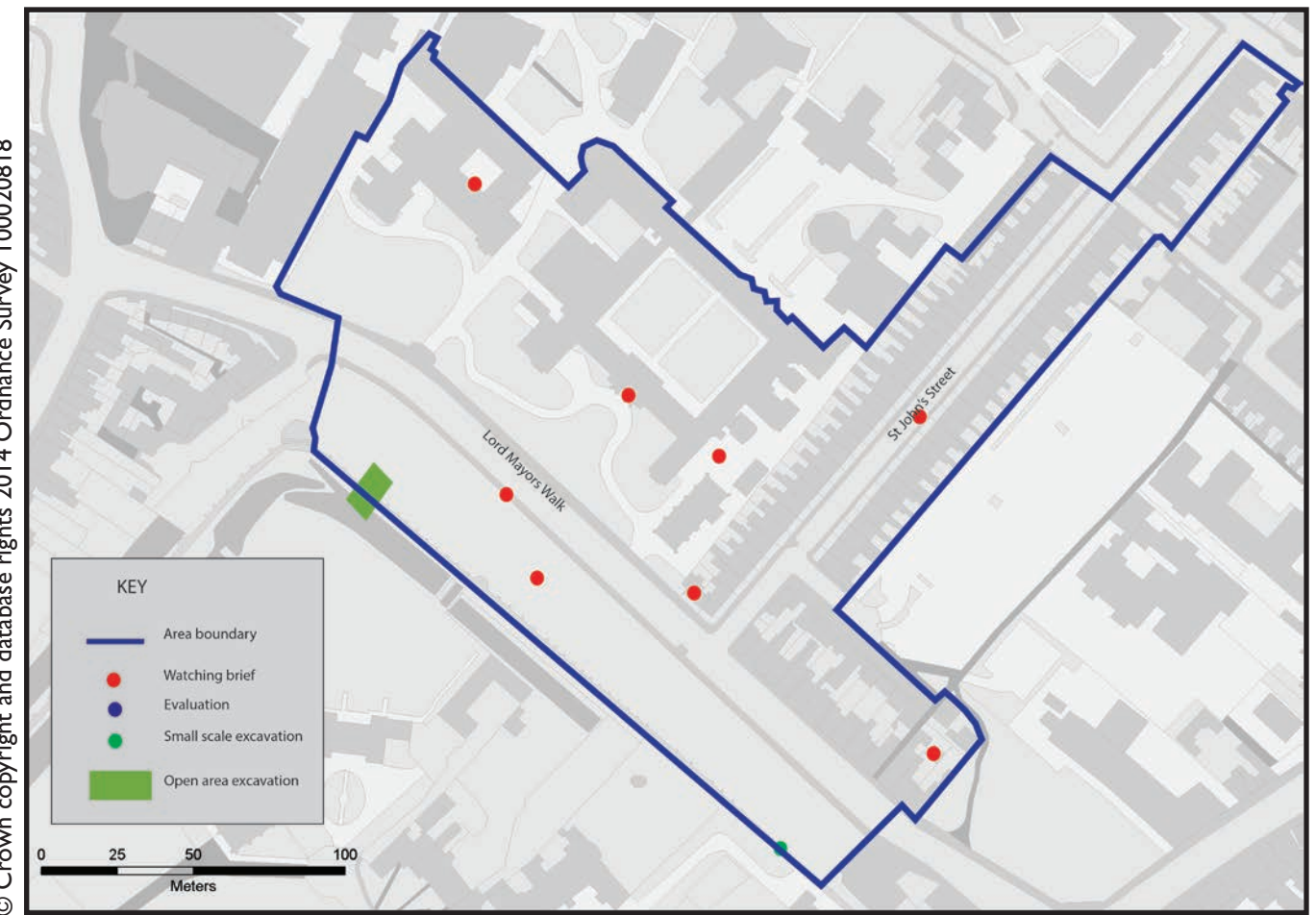
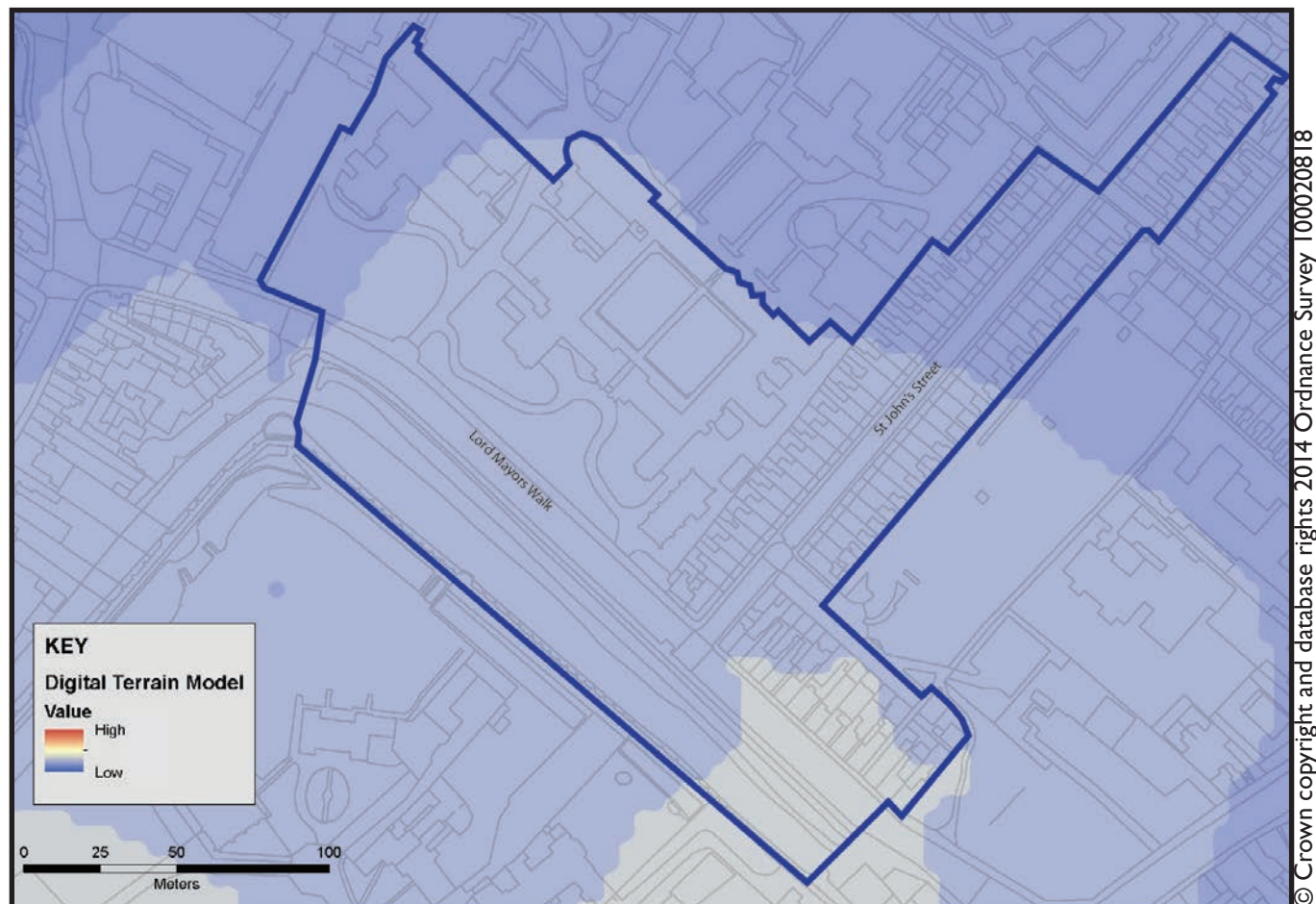


The post-medieval landscape.



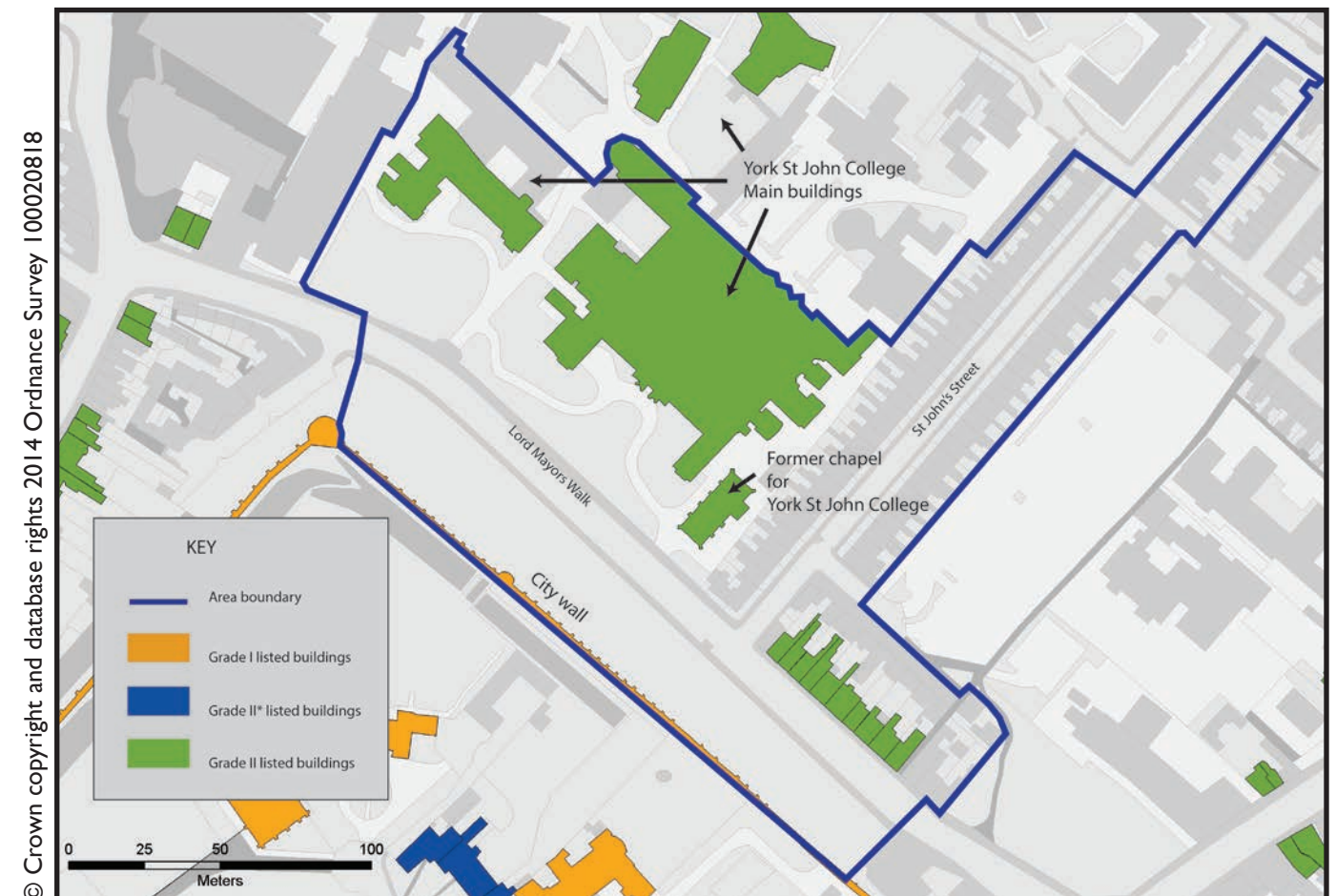
Above: The 1852 landscape.

Below: The general topography of Lord Mayor's Walk.



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

Below: Location of listed buildings.



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 report EYO804)

York City Historic Core Conservation Area Appraisal- 6: Lord Mayor's Walk

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