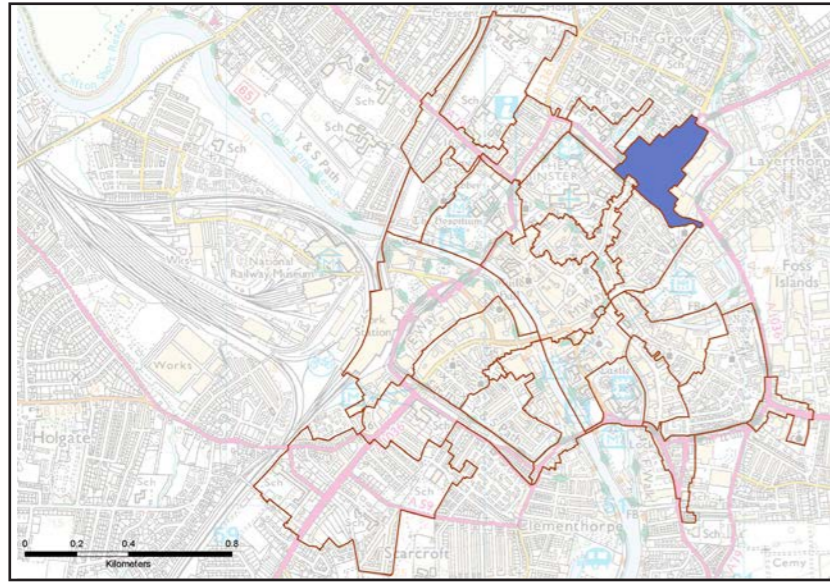


## Character area 7: Monkgate



## Archaeological background

### Roman

Evidence for the Roman period in this area is plentiful. Monk Bar lies 100 meters south-east of the Porta Decumana, or North-East gate of the Roman legionary fortress while the line of Monkgate runs close to that of the possible Roman road heading north-east. Historic excavations have revealed several inhumation burials near Monkgate, Monk Bar and Lord Mayor's Walk (EYO749). YATs report on investigations at 2 St Maurice Road (EYO38), mention a find of a portion of red tessellated pavement in 1911 within the nearby vicinity, possibly suggestive of a 'high status' building. Pottery, pits, postholes, cobbled surfaces, ditches have been recorded during investigations in the Monkgate area, in particular from excavations on the County Hospital Site, Monkgate/St. Maurice Street site, 50-52 and 40-48 Monkgate (EYO3829, EYO3462, EYO56, EYO749). Some of the Roman deposits at the County Hospital and St. Maurice Street site were heavily disturbed by the digging of 13th-17th century pits.

### Anglian-Anglo-Scandinavian

There is circumstantial and topographic evidence to suggest that the Roman Porta Decumana, was reused and rebuilt in the Anglian and Anglo-Scandinavian periods. The Roman road running north-east from the gate may also have continued in use. The southern alignment of Goodramgate aims directly for this Roman gate. Investigations on the site of the former County Hospital off Monkgate produced evidence of Anglo-Scandinavian textile manufacturing and metal working with a background of agricultural activity.

### Medieval

The earlier alignment of Goodramgate and the former Porta Decumana probably continued in use up to at least the 12th century when the city's stone defences were begun. Monk Bar itself was constructed in the early 14th century and presumably, the present Monkgate dates to this time.

The City Walls (MYO 2008) including Monk Bar run along the southern boundary of this character area, marking the edge of the medieval city. Monkgate is first mentioned in c.1075 as 'Muncagate', part of a pre-Conquest settlement of monks. The area appears to have been a large and thriving suburb by the late 13th century according to documentary records (EYO729). Archaeological remains of the medieval period are relatively common in the area and include pits, pottery, soils and wells found at the Monkgate/St. Maurice Street and County Hospital sites. St. Maurice's Church (MYO3512) on the corner of Monkgate and Lord Mayors Walk was constructed during the 12th century, it was replaced during the 19th century and eventually demolished in the 1960s. Near to this was the location of St. Michael-le-Belfrey burial ground and chapel. The date of the chapel is uncertain although the burial ground is believed to be medieval (Historic Towns Trust Map 2012).

Also a large 13th century Jewish cemetery (Jewbury) lay to the east of this area beneath the present multi storey car park, this has been partially excavated, revealing 500 from over 1000 burials many in wooden coffins in evenly spaced graves containing a few personal possessions <http://www.historyofyork.org.uk/themes/norman/jewbury-cemetery>.

Nothing remains visible of the medieval settlement within this area despite the lack of serious damage to Monkgate during the 1644 Siege of York.

## Description

Monkgate is one of the historic approaches to the city from the north east. Although developed during the Middle Ages, its heyday was during the 18th and 19th centuries when it was a prosperous suburb. However, its location next to the River Foss attracted industrial uses and it did not maintain its residential status in comparison with Bootham. Whilst Monkgate has retained its charm, the area is surrounded by the remnants of this industrial legacy as former works sites have been developed into a retail park.

*Historic Core Conservation Area Appraisal*

## Post-medieval – Early modern

During the post-medieval period, the Monkgate area was built up on both sides. The County Hospital (MYO1118) was founded in 1740 and occupied various small buildings in Monkgate until a competition was held for construction of a single building. This opened in 1851 and was closed in 1977 (Historic Core Conservation Area Appraisal 2011). Excavations on the hospital site identified post-medieval drains, lime kilns, ditches and structural remains prior to its redevelopment (EYO3829). A wooden water pipe noted on Monkgate in 1977 (YAT 1977.1031) and garden soils in several locations were also identified. Excavations at 50-52 Monkgate (EYO56) to a depth of 1.5m, revealed no evidence of Thomas Agar's Almshouses, known to have occupied the site from 1632.

### Visible character

Buildings 18th to 19th century, two to three storeys in height

Medieval walls and Monk Bar visible

High numbers of Grade II listed buildings

Gateway street

### Sub surface character

#### Ove Arup Development & Archaeology Study Research Zone: 12

**Deposit Depth (where known):** Archaeological investigations give an average depth of natural at c.1.5m although this can be between 0.9m to 2.6m in some areas. Roman levels appear to exist close to the depth of the natural layer, generally from c.1.3m below ground level.

**Period Survival:** Roman features and deposits survive fairly well in some areas although have been destroyed by medieval and later pit digging in others. Roman cobbled surfaces were recorded on the County Hospital Site (EYO3837 & 3831). Limited Anglo-Scandinavian archaeology but evidence of occupation and craft working activity recorded. Medieval and post-medieval deposits also survive well in places which haven't been truncated by later construction.

**Interventions (recorded on HER April 2013):** There are approximately 22 interventions recorded on the City of York Historic Environment Record (HER). Few of the interventions are recorded in any detail and a brief examination of some grey literature suggests several interventions are yet to be recorded in the HER. See Appendix I for brief summary.

## Significance

**Overview:** Unlike each of the other main gateways into the city, Monk Bar and Monkgate appears to have a relatively late origin and yet St Maurice's Church dates back to at least the 12th century and there is strong evidence of Anglo-Scandinavian and Roman commercial and domestic activity in the Monkgate area. This is in contrast to the lack of similar evidence by the earlier, Porta Decumana, and roads leading from there.

Archaeological evidence suggests Roman layers may be encountered at depths of c.1.3m+ below ground level. Roman to post-medieval deposits survive fairly well in some relatively undisturbed areas although pit digging and development from the later medieval period onwards has destroyed evidence in others.

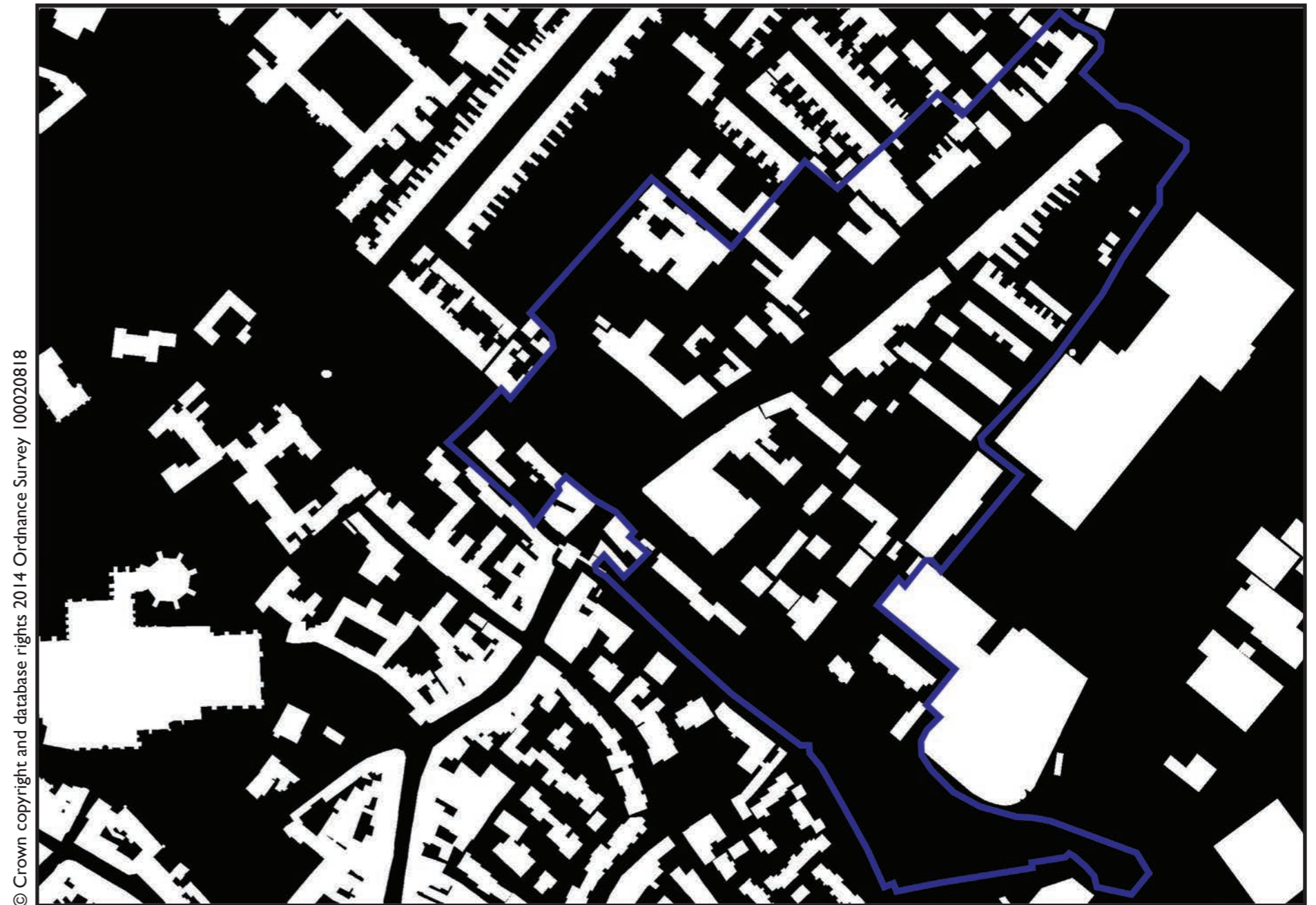
Notable excavations include the County Hospital Site, which revealed Roman, Anglo-Scandinavian and medieval deposits, and the Jewbury Jewish cemetery excavations. The cemetery is of national significance as the only medieval Jewish cemetery to have been extensively excavated.

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

Monkgate contains one Grade II\* listed buildings and 30 Grade II buildings. Several Buildings of Merit (as defined in the Historic Core Conservation Area Appraisal 2011) including Trinity Methodist Church and Monkgate Health Centre. The city walls, Jewbury to Monk Bar (30) are Grade I listed and also a designated Scheduled Ancient Monument. These remains form part of the landmark city walls. They are part of the medieval fabric of York and make a substantial contribution to York's collection of significant landmark monuments, one of the city's key significances.

**Streetscape Components:** 18th to 20th century buildings with the oldest structures predominantly on the line of Monkgate. Monk Bar is visible from this approach road into York. Monkgate contains predominantly modern street lighting and waste bins in Edinburgh style.

Telecoms boxes are also visible at the along the roadside. A thin stretch of cobbles survives on the east side of the street protected from cars by black bollards. These replaced grass verges at the side of approach roads into York formerly used for animal grazing on the way into market. On Monkgate the majority of these 18th to 19th century cobbles have been lost and the space used for on-street parking. The footpaths surrounding Monkgate are predominantly a mixture of pre-cast concrete flags and asphalt. There is limited use of natural stone.



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



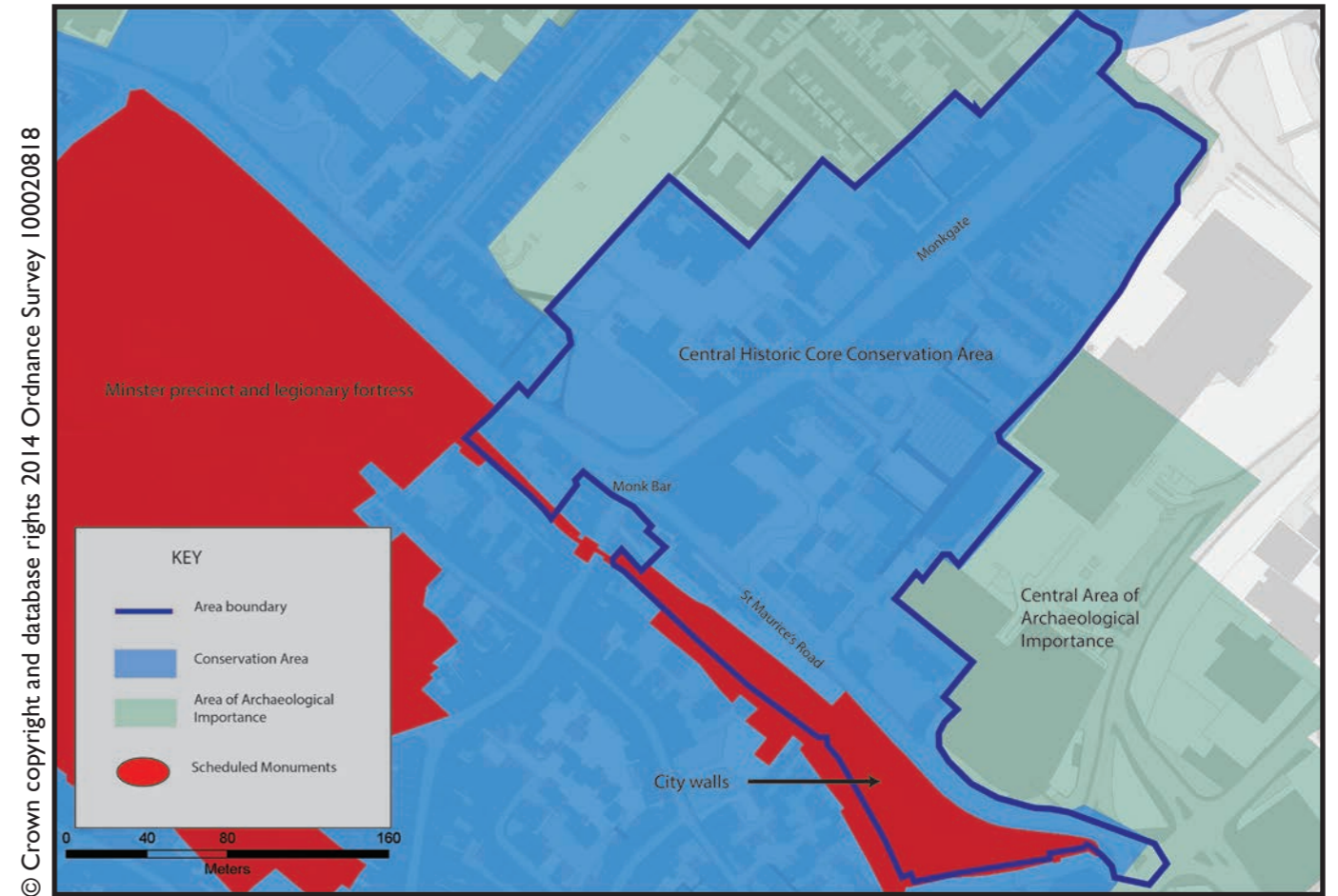
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Above: Plan showing the heights of the buildings within this character area.

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



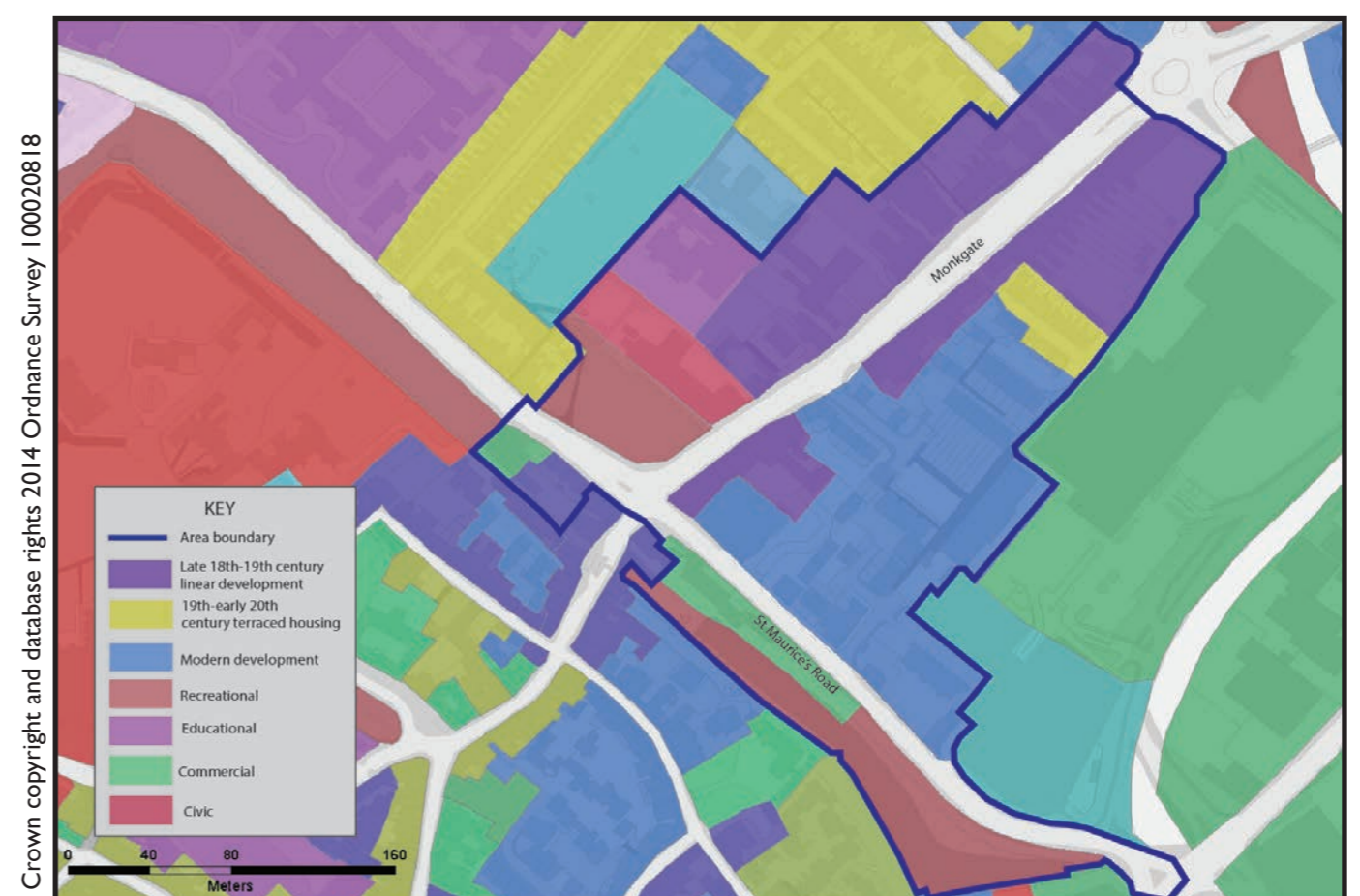
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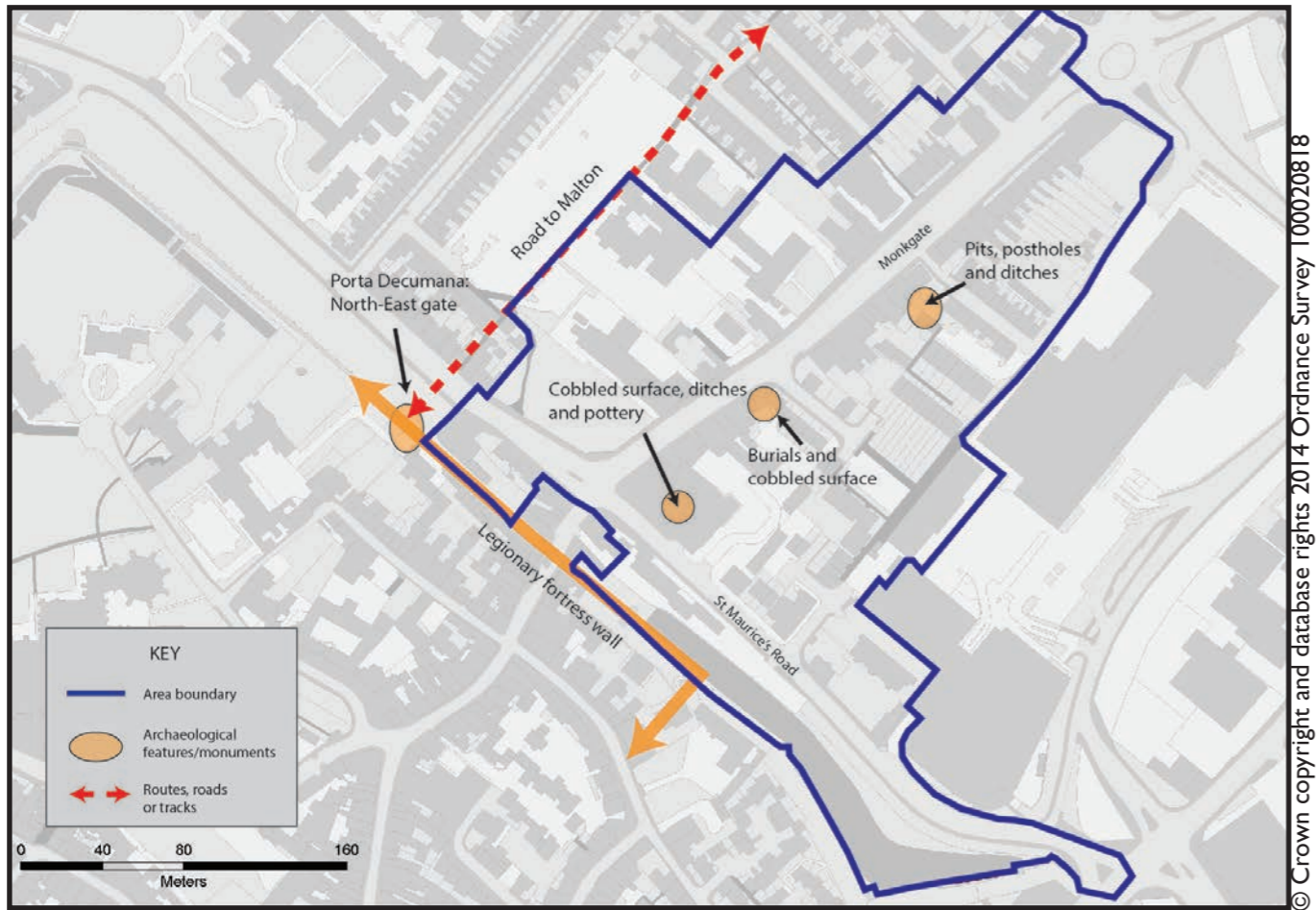
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Above: Plan showing designated heritage assets within this character area.

Below: Plan showing the Broad Type characterisation of the area.

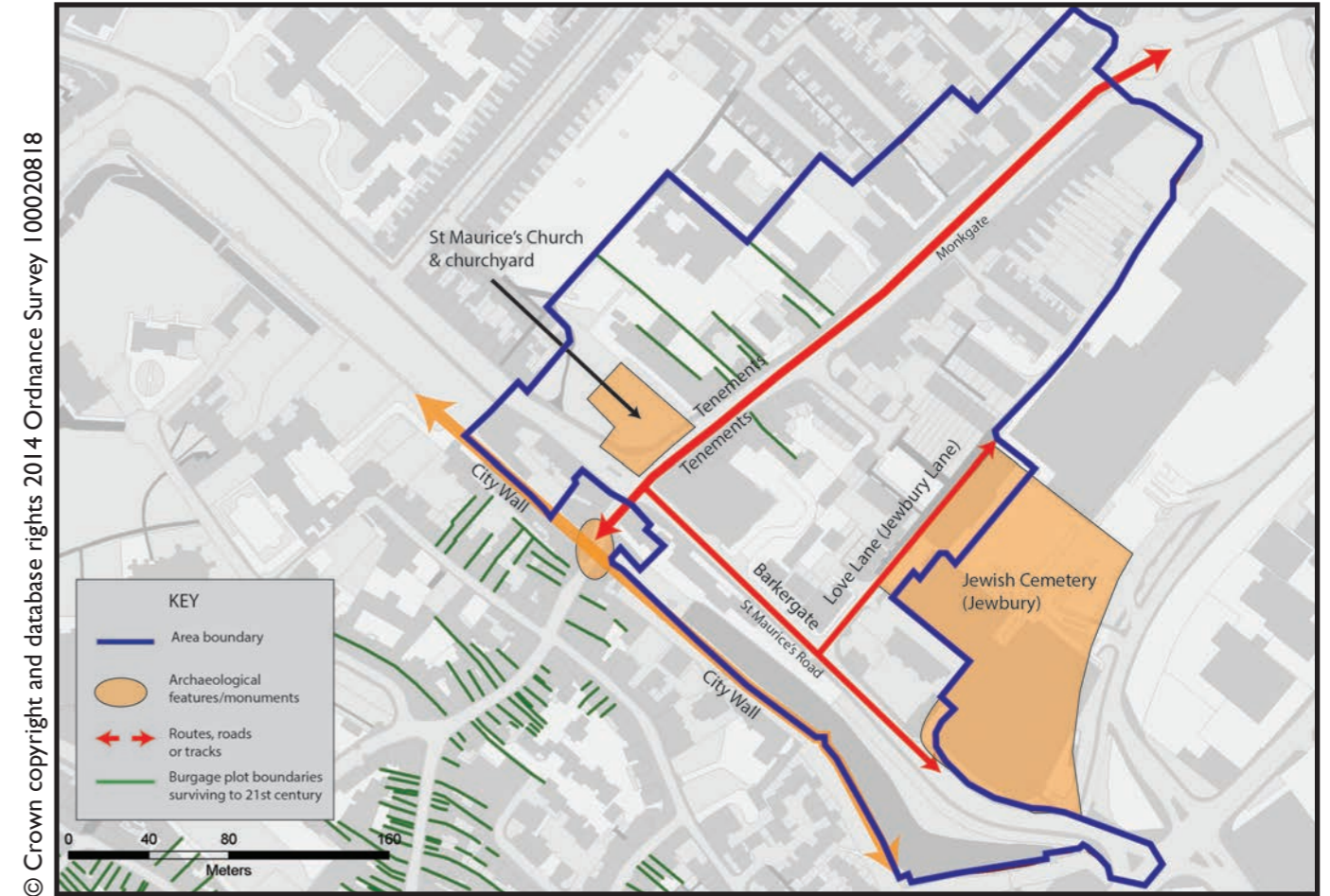
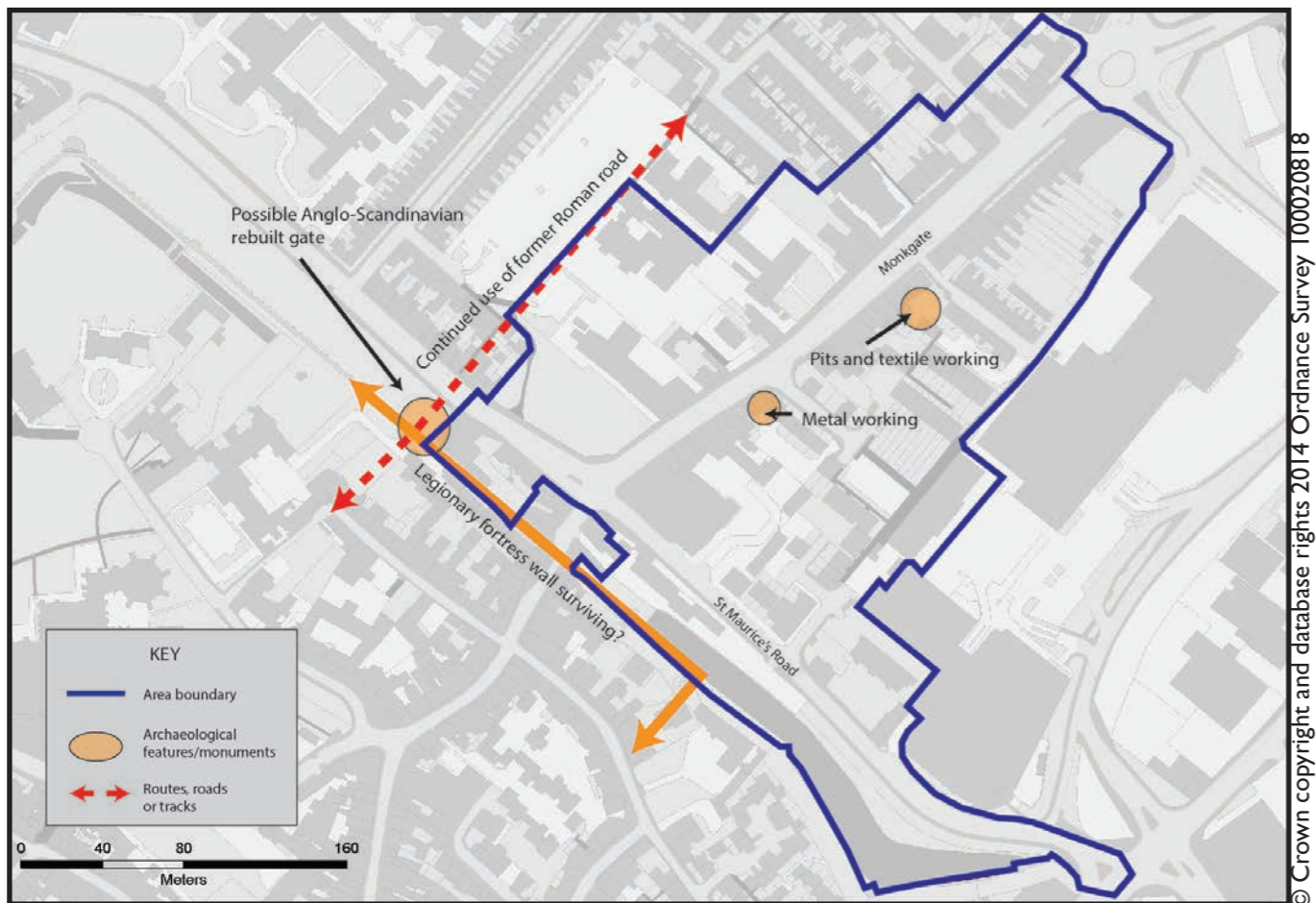


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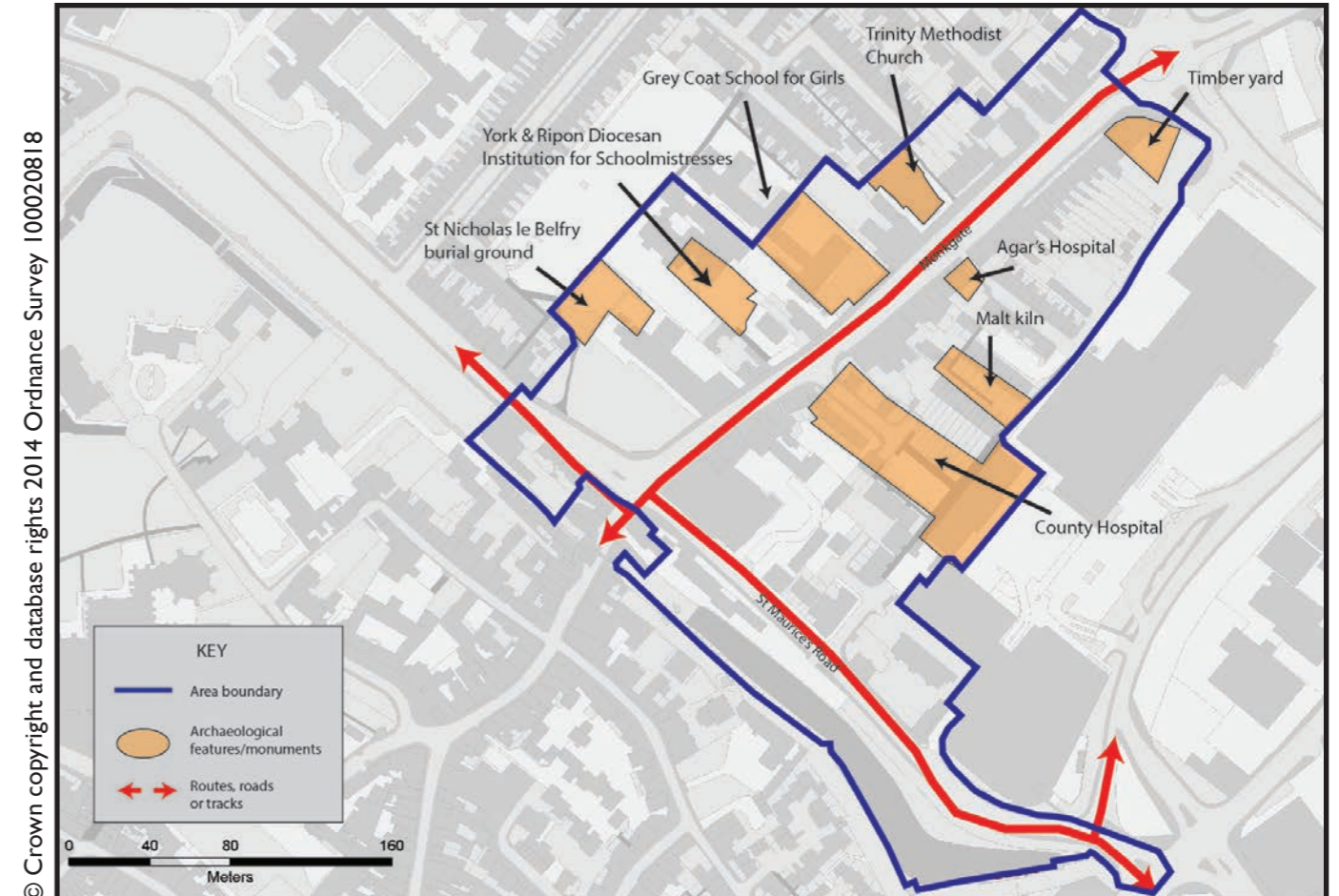
Above: The Roman landscape.

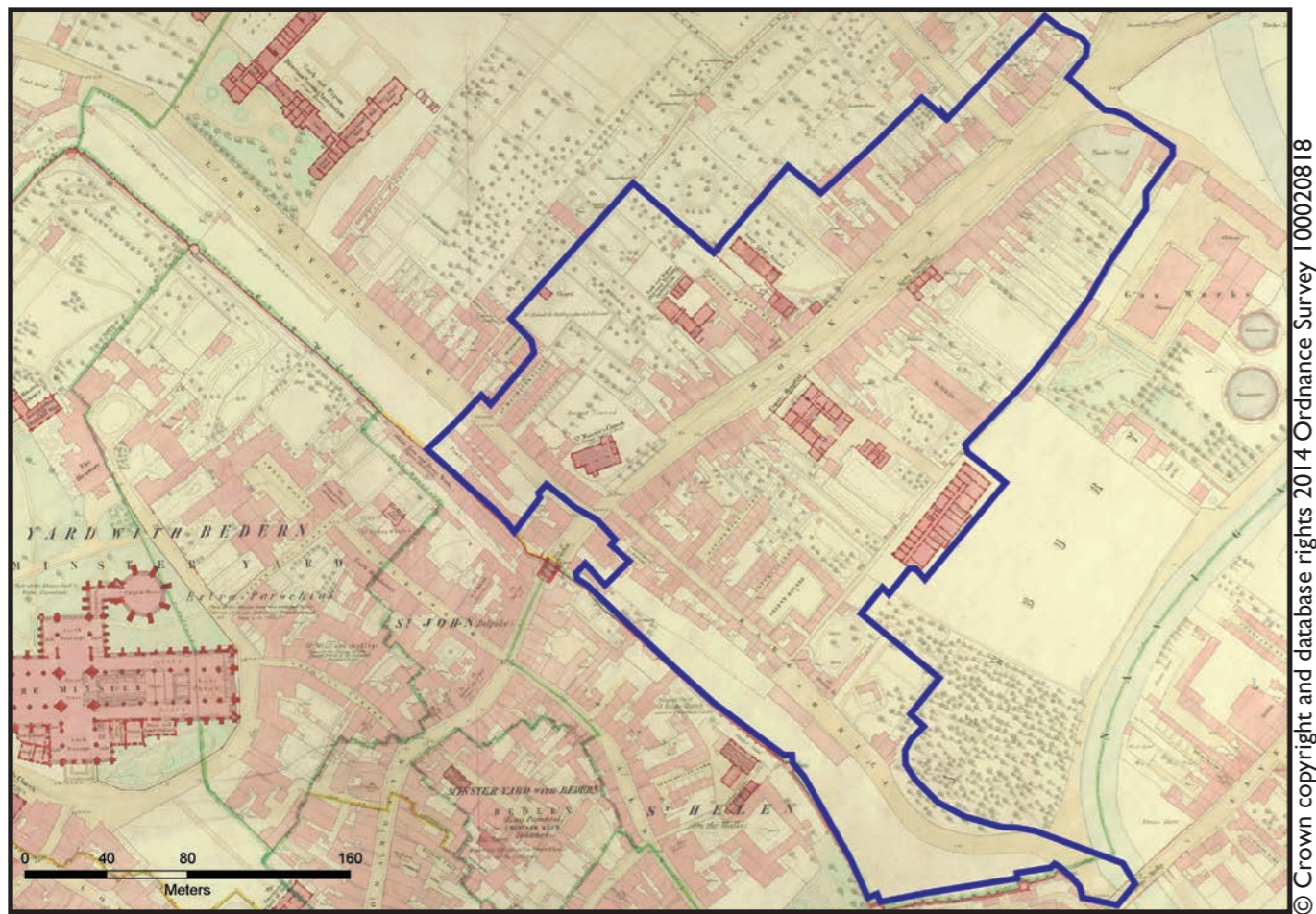
Below: The Anglo-Scandinavian landscape.



Above: The medieval landscape.

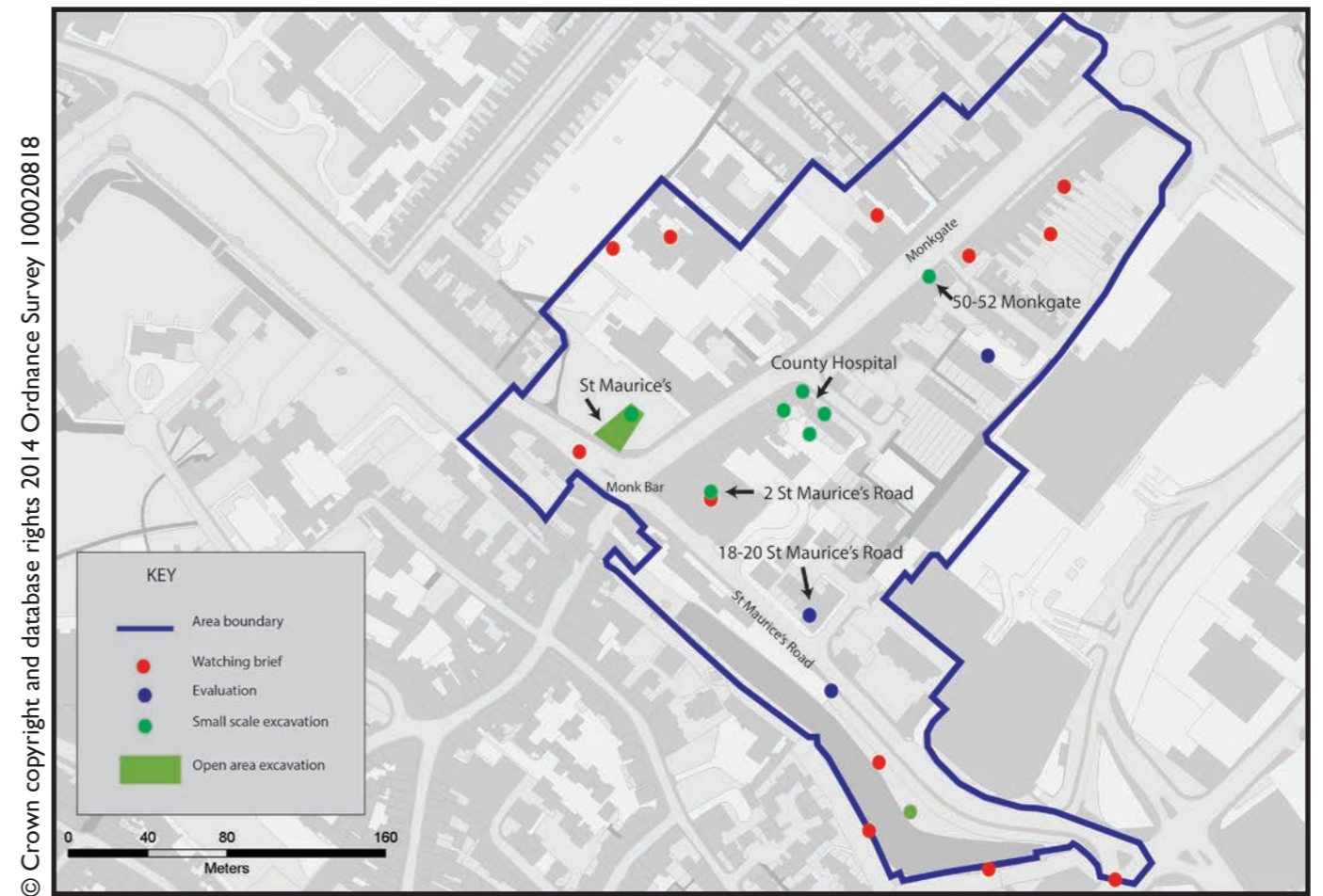
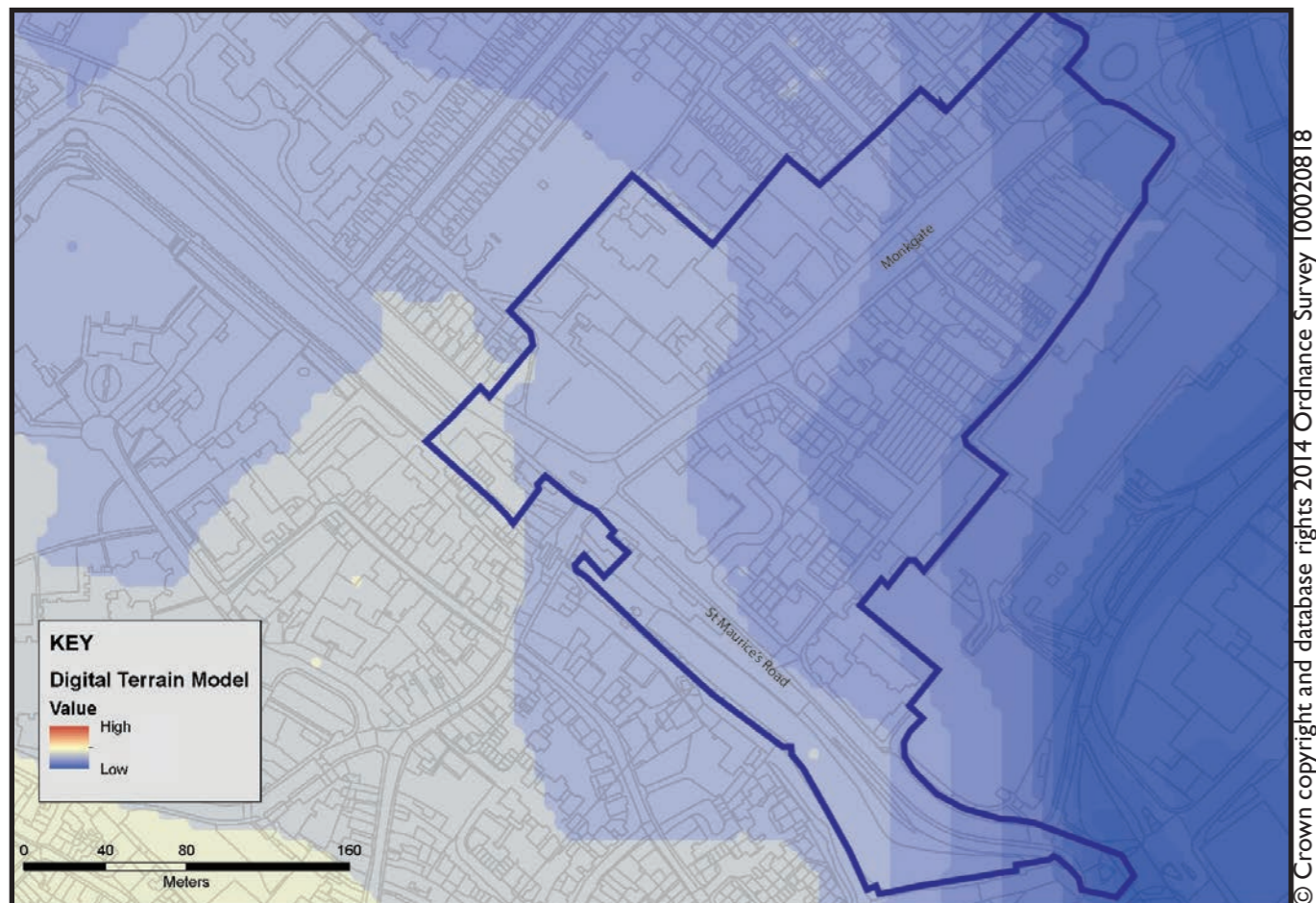
Below: The post-medieval landscape.





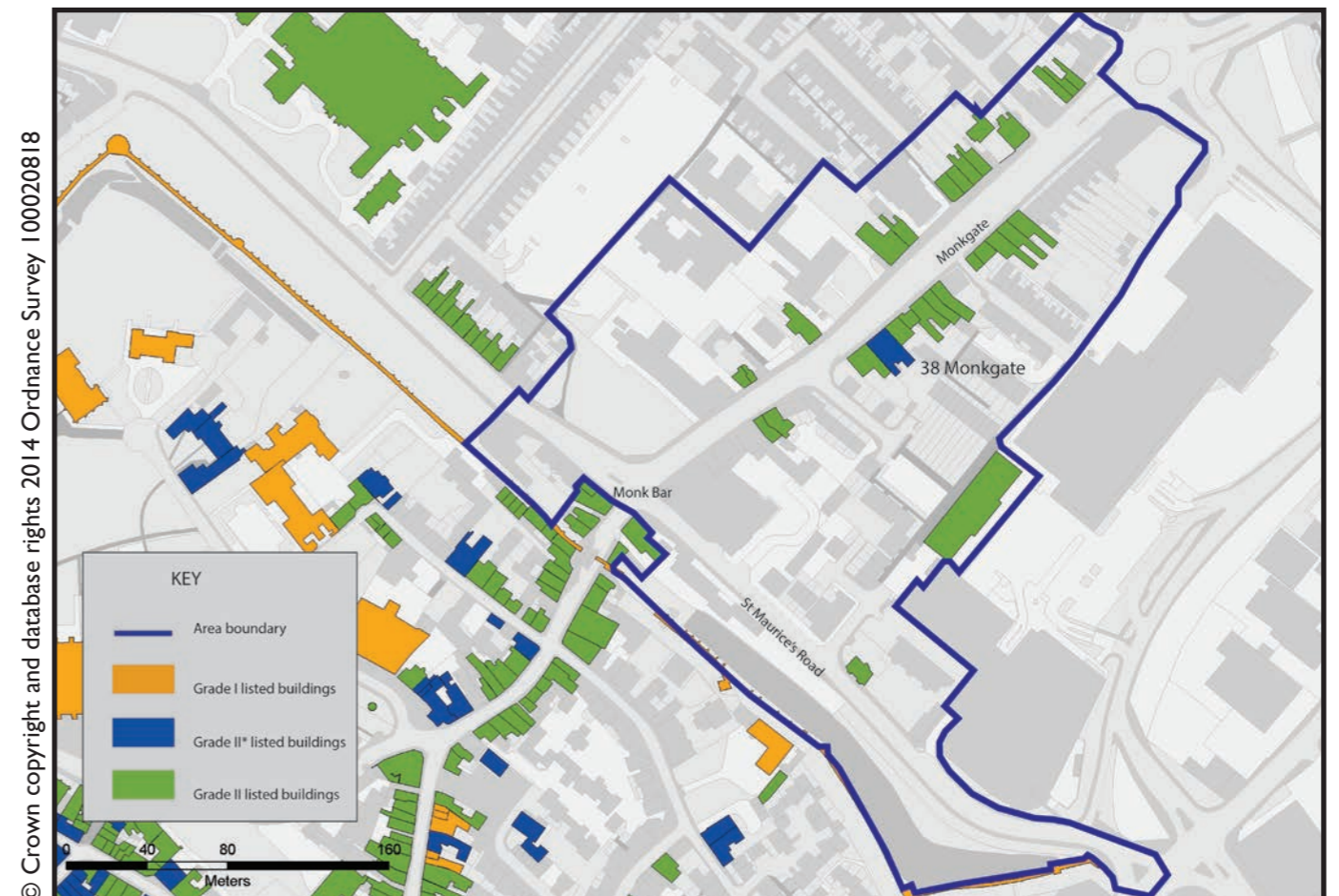
Above: The 1852 landscape.

Below: The general topography of the area showing higher land towards St. Maurice's Road.



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

Below: Location of listed buildings.



## Main Sources

Hall, R.A. Et.Al., 2004, Aspects of Anglo-Scandinavian York, Council for British Archaeology

Historic Towns Trust Map 2012

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 EYO38, 729 and 749)

York City Historic Core Conservation Area Appraisal- 7: Monkgate

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