

Executive Summary

This Conservation Plan identifies the significance of the York City Walls, examines the issues and vulnerabilities and sets out policies for maintaining and enhancing the significance. The Plan is designed to inform management decisions especially regarding the development and use of the site.

The York City Walls are of **exceptional significance** on account of their long and unique history and their historic and continuing relevance to, and impact on, the culture, society, economy and environment of the City of York and its wider, universal context.

In summary, the significance of York City Walls is evaluated using the following overall values:

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| • <i>Aesthetic</i> | - <i>EXCEPTIONAL</i> |
| • <i>Archaeological / Historical</i> | - <i>EXCEPTIONAL</i> |
| • <i>Associational</i> | - <i>EXCEPTIONAL</i> |
| • <i>Community / Social / Cultural</i> | - <i>CONSIDERABLE</i> |
| • <i>Economic</i> | - <i>MODERATE</i> |
| • <i>Educational / Interpretive / Research potential</i> | - <i>EXCEPTIONAL</i> |
| • <i>Environmental</i> | - <i>CONSIDERABLE</i> |
| • <i>Group value</i> | - <i>EXCEPTIONAL</i> |
| • <i>Technological / Engineering</i> | - <i>CONSIDERABLE</i> |

Policies have been developed to address the identified vulnerabilities and issues and to achieve developed objectives. They cover the following broad areas:

Regular inspection, maintenance and repair

Historic buildings, structures and archaeology

Collections, archives, artefacts and research

Environment and landscape

Local ownership co-operation, community involvement and site management

Interpretation, access, outreach and education

A discussion section amplifies and expands the policy section to provide additional guidance for use of this Plan. Further information is provided in the appendices, including the results of the site audit, which includes a character assessment for each section, recommendations and opportunities.

The City Walls are an important component of the historic assets of York and a frequent backdrop to the historic city experience of many visitors. This Conservation Plan will be used to inform and guide the development of an Interpretation & Access Plan for the City Walls to ensure the development of appropriate proposals for development.

1 Introduction and Background

1.1 Introduction

"Yorkshire has a fascinating and intriguing history, with stories of romance, violence, heroism and adversity spanning over 2000 years. Monuments of centuries shaped by the hands of Roman and Viking invaders and medieval monks have been preserved to recount such tales.

Yorkshire has been witness to a great deal of national history, including Roman invasions, Viking settlements, Saxon successes, Monarchy changing battles, the foundation of Methodism, great aristocracy and the industrial revolution.

York, Roman stronghold and Viking capital, is one of Europe's greatest medieval cities....York is reputedly one of the most intriguing cities in England, no other English city offers the layers of history, beauty and sheer diversity of York. The superbly preserved walled city has witnessed more than 2000 years of vibrant history.¹"

York's City Walls are located just within the existing inner ringroad of York and encircle the historic core of the City (see Maps 1 and 2 overleaf).

York City Walls are part of the character of York, a defining feature in the cityscape. They are perhaps second only to the Minster in the identity they create for the City and in the recognition they generate among residents and tourists. The Walls and Bars have become much more than simply defensive structures, they have been powerful symbols of control, from the display of traitors' heads on Micklegate Bar to the symbolic march of triumph of the Parliamentarians through the gates, recorded in the 19th century painting of the surrender of the city. In addition they are indicative of social, cultural, economic and political developments throughout the centuries.

1.2 Authorship and Circumstances

The City of York Council appointed PLB Consulting Ltd to produce a Conservation Plan and Interpretation & Access Plan for the York City Walls. The City of York is the lead partner for the First Stop York tourism partnership, which includes York Tourism Bureau, Yorkshire Tourist Board, National Railway Museum, York Museum Trust and the York Archaeological Trust. The project has been supported by and made possible through grant aid from Yorkshire Forward (through York Tourism Investment Fund and City of York Council) and English Heritage.

The brief stated that the overall aim of the Conservation Plan and Interpretation & Access Plan is to:

"ensure that the conservation values of the monument are identified and policies adopted to maintain and enhance them and to develop an innovative interpretation experience for people visiting the City Walls."

¹ <http://www.ytb.org.uk>

Specifically, the Conservation Plan explains:

- What the monument is
- Why it is significant
- How that significance is vulnerable or sensitive to change and provides policies to address these issues

In addition the Conservation Plan will:

- Assist with the day to day management of the Walls
- Help prepare a detailed Management Plan for the City Walls
- Provide baseline data from which new proposals and developments can be evaluated
- Form part of the design brief for any initiatives which use or impact upon the City Walls
- Inform decision making, prioritise work and help create interpretive and educational strategies for the City Walls

1.3 Conservation Plan Structure and Methodology

The structure and methodology of this report is derived from *The Conservation Plan – A Guide to the Preparation of Conservation Plans for Places of European Cultural Significance* by James Semple Kerr, which expands and applies the principles of the Burra Charter. The methodology was adapted by the Heritage Lottery Fund in 1998, and this document follows the Heritage Lottery Fund guidelines for *Conservation Plans for Historic Places*.

Although the Plan does not form a part of statutory legislation, the principle of understanding a historic place as a basis for making conservation or site enhancement decisions is common in the UK, as demonstrated by Planning Policy Guidance 15 and 16. Consultation with the stakeholders throughout the study has resulted in the recommendation that this Plan be adopted as supplementary planning guidance by the City of York Council.

The Conservation Plan is in four main parts, with additional appendices:

- The first part sets out an understanding of the asset
- Secondly, the significance of the asset is assessed
- Thirdly, the factors affecting this significance are identified
- Finally, policies are developed to retain or enhance the significance
- The appendices contain important supporting information, including the results of the site audit

It is important to note that this document is not a strategy for specific developments. It should be regarded as a guidance document to be consulted when any development work is proposed, and to inform the suitability, scale and nature of potential proposals that respect the heritage assets. It will be used to inform and guide the Interpretation & Access Plan. It should also be seen as making a significant contribution to the York Pride Initiative.

To assist with the management of a large amount of complex information, the City Wall circuit has been divided into sections, with each major section of wall and each main structure being a different section, in order to allow the different issues relating to buildings and to standing monuments to be dealt with separately. A map showing the divisions of these has been included overleaf (Map 3).

The Conservation Plan has been produced as the result of documentary and desk-based research, an on-site audit of the monument, consultation with relevant people and organisations, and analysis and interpretation of the results. An extensive range of interested parties were formally consulted on the draft Plan and the relevant comments and suggestions incorporated into the final report. A list of the individuals and organisations that have been consulted is included in Appendix A. **It is important that this Plan is read in conjunction with the results of the site audit included in Appendix D.**

Much of the information used to develop this Plan has been provided by the results of the surveys undertaken by the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments England in 1962² and 1972³. It should be noted that there have been a large number of excavations that have been undertaken since this survey was produced that clarify and change some of the conclusions reached in the report. However, the brief for this project was to use the RCHME volume as the primary reference source as the vast majority of the excavations have yet to be fully published and have only been made available as brief summaries in 'Interim'⁴.

1.4 Ownership and Management

While there are no title deeds for the City Walls, the City of York Council has acquired ownership, almost by default. Historically various parts were owned and managed by a number of bodies in the city, predominantly the Church, the State and the Corporation of York. A map showing the land currently owned by the City of York Council, in connection with the City Walls is included overleaf (Map 4). A diagram illustrating the management structure involved with the City Walls is also included overleaf.

On behalf of the City of York Council, the City Engineer inspects the Walls once a month and prepares programmes of work as necessary for the City Council maintenance team. Large programmes of work are put out for tender to external companies. English Heritage, who provide a large amount of funding relating to works on the City Walls, has stipulated that tenders for works should be given over, for example a three year period, rather than on a year by year or project by project basis. This is to ensure that contractors develop an informed approach to the conservation of the Walls. If organised on a yearly contract basis different contractors may produce different quality of work in adjacent sections, affecting the overall character of the Walls and never proceeding beyond the 'learning curve'.

The Council Parks Department has responsibility for the management of the ramparts. The current management system typically includes a grass cut around June / July and another in late summer / early autumn.

² RCHME. 1962. *An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in the City of York: Volume I - Eburacum*

³ RCHME. 1972. *An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in the City of York: Volume II - The Defences*

⁴ Bulletin of the York Archaeological Trust: Archaeology in York

1.5 Statutory and Non-Statutory Designations and Related Planning Policies

This section reviews some of the national, regional and local policies that relate to the statutory and non-statutory designations, which apply to York City Walls, and therefore will have implications for the use and development of the site. Maps 5 & 6 overleaf show the extent of the statutory designations.

The City of York Local Plan states that " a high priority will be given to the protection of the historic character and setting of York" and "the most critical elements contributing to the historic character of York are the core of historic buildings within and immediately adjacent to the City Walls".

The Regional Planning Guidance is currently in the process of revision; a draft for Yorkshire is due by the end of 2004. A Regional Spatial Strategy is currently being developed and will be completed by December 2004.

1.5.1 Single Designation Pilot Project

In July 2003 the Department of Culture Media and Sport launched a consultation regarding reforms to the systems by which the historic environment is protected. The reviews were centred on legislation such as Listed Buildings and Scheduled Ancient Monuments.

The review consultation document advocates bringing together the different regimes for protecting historic buildings and ancient monuments into a single unified 'List' with a single designation regime; creating a unified consent regime for all items on the list; and establishment of statutory management agreements, which could provide an alternative to a consents regime in some circumstances.

In April 2004 fifteen pilot sites were announced to test and develop this system, comprising a range of different types of site. One of the pilot sites is York City Walls. The site under review includes the City Walls, the Minster precinct, St Mary's Abbey and the St Leonard's Place complex. The review will include the Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings and Areas of Archaeological Importance within this urban area. This Conservation Plan will provide input to this process.

1.5.2 Scheduled Monuments

A Scheduled Monument is a nationally important designated site under the provisions of the 1979 Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act. However, not all nationally important sites are designated because 'scheduling' is now considered to be a management tool and it may not be the most appropriate tool for all situations.

Scheduling is the system that gives legal protection to nationally important archaeological sites and monuments in England. A monument that has been scheduled is protected against disturbance or unlicensed metal detecting. The Secretary of State (DCMS) must give consent for any work that might affect a monument above or below ground, and English Heritage gives advice to the Government on each application. In assessing each application the Secretary of State will try to ensure that damage done to protected sites is kept to a minimum.

Written consent must always be obtained before any work can begin. Application forms are available from English Heritage's regional offices. Some development may also need planning permission. Some types of work generally related to agriculture or gardening, where these activities are already being carried out, are allowed to go ahead without consent. In the case of the City Walls this is likely to apply to the floral displays around the embankments, for example.

It is against the law to undertake any unauthorised works on a Scheduled Monument. Unauthorised work includes:

- Damage to a Scheduled Monument by carrying out works without consent
- Causing reckless or deliberate damage
- Use of a metal detector or remove an object found with one without a licence from English Heritage

Conviction for these offences can lead to fines.

The City Walls are scheduled as two monuments. Monument No.YO30 stretches from Monk Bar clockwise around the circuit to where the northern part of the Walls is cut through by St Leonard's Place. This monument includes the City Walls, gates, posterns, moats, mounds, Bayle (or Baile) Hill, St Leonard's Hospital and Merchant Taylor's Hall, Aldwark. The rest of the City Walls are scheduled as part of the York Minster cathedral precinct (Monument No.13280) and include Bootham Bar and the length of City Walls extending round the precinct up to, but not including, Monk Bar.

The National Planning Policy Guidance notes relating to archaeology and the historic environment include:

- PPG 15 'Planning and the Historic Environment', 1994
- PPG 16 'Archaeology and Planning', 1990

In line with national policies concerning sub-surface and extant archaeological remains, the City of York Council includes policies in the Local plan relating to Scheduled Monuments:

Policy HE2: Development in Historic Locations

Within or adjoining conservation areas, and in locations which affect the setting of listed buildings, scheduled monuments or nationally important archaeological remains (whether scheduled or not), development proposals must respect adjacent buildings, open spaces, landmarks and settings and have regard to local scale, proportion, detail and materials.

Policy HE9: Scheduled Ancient Monuments

Planning permission will not be granted for development which would adversely affect a scheduled ancient monument or its setting.

Appendix B contains a copy of the full scheduling descriptions.

1.5.3 Listed Buildings

When a building is listed, it is recognised as of special architectural or historical interest or both, and its details become part of a public record. Most significantly, the building is immediately protected by law, and any changes to it must first receive Listed Building Consent.

The owner of a Listed Building has to apply for Listed Building Consent to the local planning authority. At various stages in the process, English Heritage has the role of advising local planning authorities and the Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions on the most important applications, typically those applications relating to Grade I and II* Listed Buildings and some changes to Conservation Areas. Guidance regarding Listed Buildings is also provided at national level by PPG15.

The City Walls (including Bars and other structures) are currently Listed as ten separate entries, all at Grade I except Davy Tower, which is Grade II*. All are stated as having Group Value:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| LB No. 1112-1/27/2 | - City Wall from Lendal Hill House to The Lodge, Museum Gardens. |
| LB No. 1112-1/27/3 | - City Wall from Multangular Tower to rear of No.8 St Leonard's Place |
| LB No. 1112-1/13/4 | - City Wall from Bootham Bar to Layerthorpe, including Bootham Bar, Robin Hood Tower, Monks Bar, defensive walls, towers, gates and gatehouses. |
| LB No. 1112-1/22/5 | - City Wall from the Red Tower to Fishergate Postern Tower, including The Red Tower, Fishergate Bar, Walmgate Bar, Fishergate Postern Tower, defensive walls, towers, gates and gatehouses. |
| LB No. 1112-1/21/6 | - City Wall attached to Tower Place, including Davy Tower and defensive walls |
| LB No. 1112-1/15/7 | - City Wall from Baile Hill to Barker Tower, including Baile Hill Tower, Victoria Bar, Micklegate Bar, Barker Tower, North Street Postern, defensive walls, towers, gates and gatehouses. |
| LB No. 1112-1/21/1136 | - Davy Tower |
| LB No. 1112-1/27/943 | - Roman Wall at St Leonard's Place |
| LB No. 1112-1/15/792 | - Lendal Tower |
| LB No. 1112-1/15/775 | - Multangular Tower and wall attached to south east |

In addition related Listed structures include:

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| LB No. 1112-1/14/727 | - Ice house approx. 25 meters to rear of The Bay Horse Public House (Grade II) |
| LB No. 1112-1/14/19 | - Roman Wall and E Corner Tower approximately 20m south east of Monk Bar (Grade I) |
| LB No. 1112-1/27/774 | - Anglian Tower, Museum Gardens (Grade I) |

Map 5 shows the location of the Listed structures and Appendix B contains copies of the Listing descriptions.

The City of York Council Local Plan includes policies relating to the management and development of Listed Buildings, including HE2 above. There is a presumption in favour of the preservation of these structures, their character, appearance and setting:

Policy HE4: Listed Buildings

With regard to listed buildings, consent will only be granted for the following types of development where there is no adverse effect on the character, appearance or setting of the building:

- Development in the immediate vicinity of listed buildings
- Demolition
- Internal or external alterations
- Change of use
- Erection of satellite antenna

The Council intends to produce detailed supplementary guidance on repairs and recording alterations and extensions to historic buildings, meanwhile the Council expects alterations to be of an appropriate design, using traditional materials and skilled workmanship, while the replacement of fabric should be kept to a minimum.

1.5.4 Conservation Area

The streets and buildings of our towns and villages are part of the historic character of England. Each townscape tells the story of its unique development, and gives us a sense of place, continuity and cultural identity. Where these places are of special architectural or historic interest or deserve to receive careful protection, they can be designated as Conservation Areas.

Conservation Areas give broader protection than listing individual buildings: all the features, listed or otherwise, within the area, are recognised as part of its character. Local authorities have the power to designate as Conservation Areas any area of 'special architectural or historic interest' whose character or appearance is worth protecting or enhancing. This 'specialness' is judged against local and regional criteria, rather than national importance as is the case with listing. Within a Conservation Area the local authority has extra controls over:

- * Demolition
- * Minor developments
- * The protection of trees

Applications for consent to totally or substantially demolish any building within a Conservation Area must be made to the local planning authority. Generally there is a presumption in favour of retaining buildings that make a positive contribution to the character or appearance of the Conservation Area. Permission must also be obtained before making changes, such as certain types of cladding, inserting dormer windows, and putting up satellite dishes, to ensure that any alterations do not detract from the area's appearance.

The City Walls are within the designated York 'Conservation Area No.1: Central Historic Core'. The extent of the Conservation Area is shown on Map 5.

The current Local Plan for York describes the Conservation Area:

“The Conservation Area mainly defines the old City of Roman, Viking and Medieval York, for the most part contained inside the ancient City Walls. The Conservation Area was first designated in 1968 and extended in 1975 (after public consultation) to include the Bars and Walls themselves, their approaches and surroundings which contained Georgian, Regency and Victorian buildings⁵”

Policies HE2 and HE3 in the Local Plan sets out the policy regarding development within conservation areas in York. HE3 permits only development that has no adverse affect on the character and appearance of the area. In addition Policy HE5 relates to the demolition of Listed Buildings and Buildings in Conservation Areas.

1.5.5 Area of Archaeological Importance

The centre of York, under the 1979 Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act, is designated as being an Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI), one of only five historic centres so designated. Map 6 shows the extent of this area. This designation provides a statutory investigating authority (York Archaeological Trust) with statutory access to observe, record or undertake an investigation of archaeological remains that could be destroyed during development.

York’s Local Plan supports this designation with policy HE10:

HE10: Archaeology

Planning applications for development that involves the disturbance of existing ground levels on sites within York City Centre Area of Archaeological Importance will be granted provided:

- a) applicants permit a field evaluation, approved by the Council, to assess the extent and importance of any archaeological remains; and
- b) applicants can demonstrate that less than 5% of any archaeological deposits will be disturbed or destroyed

Outside York City Centre Area of Archaeological Importance, archaeological deposits of national importance must be preserved in situ.

Where physical preservation of the deposits in situ is not possible, applicants must make provision for the professional excavation and recording of the archaeology, in accordance with a detailed scheme approved prior to development commencing.

1.5.6 Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest

English Heritage also holds a national Register of Parks and Gardens that are of special historic interest in England. The purpose of this record is to recognise the existence of sites that are of particular historic importance. It will ensure that the features and qualities that make the landscapes of historic interest are safeguarded during ongoing management or change by raising awareness of their

⁵ City of York Council. Undated. *Draft Local Plan 1998: Third Set of Changes*

value and encouraging the people involved with them to recognise and protect this value.

The Museum Gardens, York are registered as Grade II (of national importance) on the Register. The extent of the site is shown on Map 6. The description of the site includes the stretch of Wall from St Leonard's Hospital to the Multangular Tower, the Tower itself and the parts of the City Walls within the Museum Gardens' boundary stretching to the north east towards St Leonard's Place.

Local authorities are required to make provision for the protection of the historic environment in their policies and their allocation of resources. Local planning authorities must, when determining whether or not to grant permission for development, take into account the historic interest of any site on the Register. York's Local Plan includes a policy regarding the protection of these sites:

Policy HE12: Historic Parks & Gardens

Proposals affecting historic parks & gardens will be permitted providing they have no adverse effect on the character, appearance, amenity, setting or enjoyment of the park or garden.

1.5.7 Policies Relating to the Natural Environment

Bats have been sighted at several places along and near to the Walls. Any repairs including timber treatment and re-tiling of roofs or pointing of walls could threaten bat roosts. All bats and their roosting places are legally protected. It is up to anyone doing work to satisfy themselves that bats will not be encountered during works. All bats and their roosts are fully protected by the *Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000)* and the *Conservation (Natural Habitats etc) Regulations 1994*. In addition *The Planning and Policy Guidelines (October 1994, Nature Conservation, DoE, PPG9)* make the presence of a protected species a material consideration when a local planning authority is considering a development proposal, which if carried out, would be likely to result in harm to the species or its habitat⁶. *The Town and Country Planning Act 1990* requires local plans to include policies in respect of the conservation of the natural beauty and amenity of the land and the improvement of the physical environment. The relevant local policies set out in the Local Plan include:

NE6: Species Protected by Law

Where a proposal may have a significant effect on protected species or habitats, applications will be expected to undertake an appropriate assessment demonstrating their proposed mitigation measures.

Planning permission will only be granted for development that would not cause demonstrable harm to animal or plant species protected by law, or their habitats. The translocation of species or habitats will be an approach of last resort.

⁶ <http://www.businessandbiodiversity.org>

NE7: Habitat Protection and Creation

Development proposals will be required to retain important natural habitats and, where possible, include measures to enhance or supplement these and to promote public awareness and enjoyment of them.

Within new development measures to encourage the establishment of new habitats should be included as part of the overall scheme.

NE8: Green Corridors

Planning permission will not be granted for development, which would destroy or impair the integrity of green corridors (e.g. river corridors, roads, railway lines, cycleways, etc).

1.5.8 Legal Covenants

Consultation with the City of York Council Property Services Department has established that there are no title deeds for the City Walls and Bars and therefore there are no legal restrictions or covenants relating to ownership.

2 Understanding

2.1 Summary of Historical Development

The history of the development of the City of York and the City Walls have been extensively described elsewhere⁷ and therefore only a summary is provided here.

2.1.1 Later Prehistoric (4000 BC-AD 43)

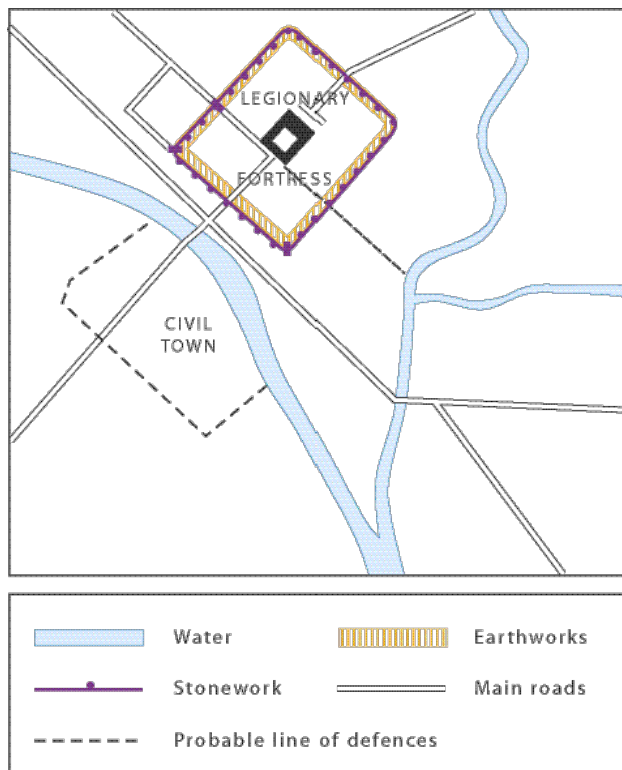
Little is known about the area of York in the prehistoric era, there is, however, evidence for human presence and activity in the late Neolithic and Bronze Age in the Vale of York. Aerial photography has revealed the presence of the remains of Iron-Age farmsteads all around the City of York, but to date nothing substantial has been found under the City itself⁸. During the Iron Age the area was within the tribal territory of the Brigantes, a wide-ranging territory in the north of England.

2.1.2 Roman (AD 43-410)⁹

The 9th Legion, stationed at Lincoln, was sent to the North to calm the troublesome indigenous populations. Around AD71-74 a new fort, *Eboracum*, was built at the junction of the rivers Foss and Ouse and protected from the north by thick forest. The first fort's defences were probably earth mounds, covered in turf with wooden ramparts. Around AD107-8 these were replaced with stone walls and around AD300 the Walls were again re-built or strengthened and polygonal bastions and multangular towers were added. The earth ramparts were added in the mid-fourth century. The *vicus* (civilian settlement) developed to the south west of the fort, on the other side of the River Ouse and also had defences.

Eboracum was an important place in Roman times: it was capital of the northern province when Severus divided Britannia into two around the turn of the third century; by the early third century it had become a *colonia*, the highest grade of self-governing Roman city; and in the early years of the fourth century the Emperor Constantine died there with his son, also Constantine, being proclaimed Emperor by the troops. This son became Constantine the Great and with Diocletian he divided Britain into four provinces, with *Eboracum* ruling the northern province and being headquarters for the forces defending Hadrian's Wall, as well as Constantine's Imperial capital for a time.

York c.AD 400¹⁰



⁷ Amongst others: RCHME. 1972. *An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in the City of York: Volume II - The Defences* and York Archaeological Trust. 1978. *2000 Years of York*

⁸ York Archaeological Trust. 1978. *2000 Years of York*

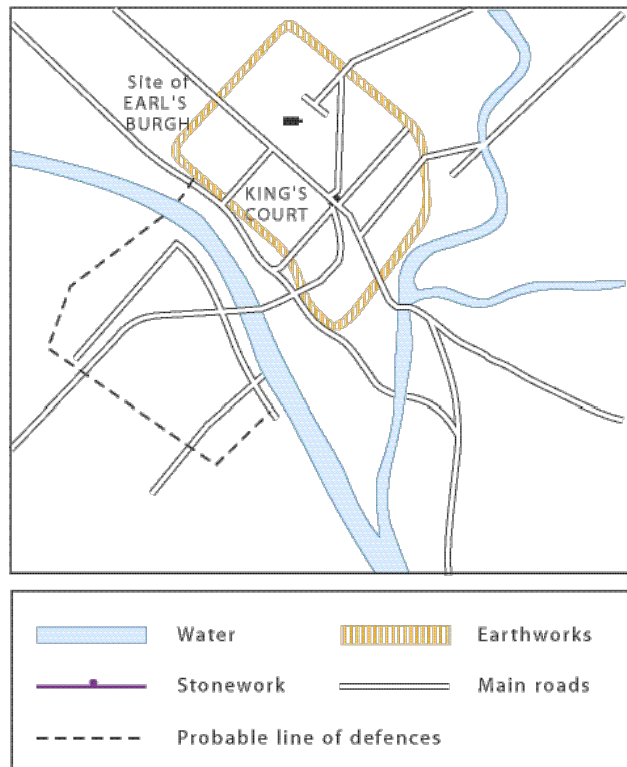
⁹ See also RCHME. 1962. *An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in the City of York: Volume I - Eboracum*

2.1.3 Anglian and Early Medieval (AD 410-1066)¹¹

By 410 the Roman army had been withdrawn to defend Rome. The early part of this period saw a succession of invaders from the North and Europe. In the seventh century, under the Angles, the City became *Eoforwic* and the chief city of King Edwin of the kingdom of Northumbria. Christianity came to the north, with Edwin being baptised in AD627 in a church at York, the predecessor of the Minster. This saw a period of relative calm for the City and in 735 the Pope granted York an Archbishopric.

In the mid ninth century the Vikings were raiding the Northumbrian coast north of *Eoforwic*. They captured the City in 867, made it their capital (*Jorvik*) and covered the ruined Roman Walls with massive earth ramparts. These were later extended to include the suburbs.

During the Norman Conquest, William the Conqueror built two castles at York (Baile Hill and York Castle - site of Clifford's Tower) to provide protection against the Viking raids. However, both castles were destroyed by a combined force of Anglo-Danes. William re-built them and to reinforce the Norman grip on the north he laid waste to large areas of land around York. It is likely that the city defences were also heightened and strengthened at this time, and the principal bar structures built (except Monk Bar).



York c.AD 950

2.1.4 Medieval (AD 1066-1540)¹²

It should be noted that the relationship between the position of the Medieval Walls and their Roman predecessors is not fully understood, although the lines of some of the surviving walls are certainly constructed along very similar orientations to parts of the Roman city defences.

The Domesday Book, 1086, records that half of York was owned by the King and the other half by influential Normans. York prospered at this time and the rebuilding of the Minster was begun.

Over the next 300 years York grew to become the second largest city in the country and was the northern capital of England. The City Walls were re-built in

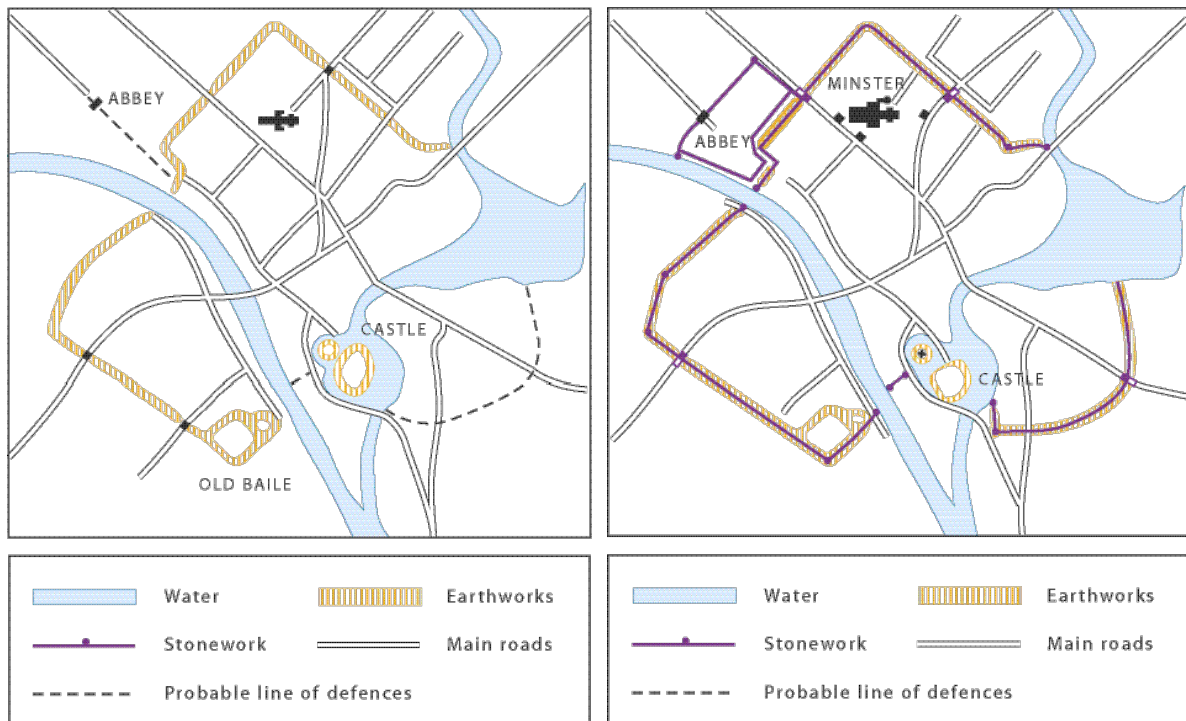
¹⁰ All development maps adapted from RCHME. 1972. *An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in the City of York: Volume II - The Defences*

¹¹ See also RCHME. 1972. p7-9

¹² See also RCHME. 1972. p9-20

stone in the period from the mid-thirteenth to the early fourteenth century. However, during the 1400s, the population began to decline, the important wool industry was moving elsewhere, and between 1453 and 1487 the Wars of the Roses occurred, fought between the houses of York and Lancaster. The City of York did not play a huge role in these wars but at several points had Lancastrian sympathies including becoming Queen Margaret's headquarters at one point. When he came to power Edward IV did not forget its Lancastrian sympathies.

In 1536, Henry VIII began the Dissolution of the Monasteries. York, as a major religious centre, suffered greatly. All the monasteries and friaries were suppressed. Half of the buildings in York that were formerly owned by the churches, were seized by the Crown and sold to royal officials and London merchants. The first surviving account of the Walls, by John Leland dates from around this time. However, Henry did strengthen the Council of the North, basing it in York (at the King's Manor) and thus helped York to regain its title as the second city of England.



York c.AD 1200

York c.AD 1350

2.1.5 Post Medieval – Post Jacobite (AD 1540-1746)¹³

The City records contain much information about repairs and alterations to the City Walls in the later sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries. In the seventeenth century Charles I moved the royal court from London to York. During the Civil War, York was the principal base of the Royal army assembled to fight the Scots. York withstood eleven weeks of siege by the Parliamentarians in 1644 and the Royalists only surrendered following defeat at Marston Moor. The City Walls were greatly damaged during the conflict. The central fort, a redoubt built on the Mount to the west of Micklegate, held out until the end of the siege. However, all buildings between it and the Bar were demolished by the Royalists,

¹³ See also RCHME. 1972. p20-29

as part of their destruction of the suburbs to the north, west and east, after the loss of most of their outer defences.

It was first contemplated that the Walls could be used as a pleasure walk in the mid seventeenth century. The mid eighteenth century saw the transference of use from defensive to recreational purposes. A city charter meant the Walls were kept in good repair during the later seventeenth and the eighteenth centuries. During repair work (1736 to 1741) between Lendal and Monk Bar consideration was given to providing a brick pavement, while new leases had conditions that allowed walking on the Walls.

The final time the Walls were considered for use for military defensive purposes was during the last of the Jacobite rebellions. The Walls were overhauled and repaired in 1745 in preparation but it was doubted that they would be strong enough to hold. However, the rebels retreated, returned to Scotland and were defeated at Culloden in April 1746.

2.1.6 Post Jacobite - Modern (AD 1746 – present)¹⁴

In the Georgian period York became prominent as the centre for social, sporting and intellectual life in the North. Many eminent people came to York and the City was immortalised in many celebrated works. Parts of the Walls were regularly used as a walk in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. York grew rapidly throughout the Victorian period and by 1850 was the centre of a large and expanding railway network. The coming of the railways had a significant impact on the Walls when the railway station was constructed inside the City Wall circuit and arches were made in the Walls to allow trains through. The railway pioneer, George Hudson, was involved with the creation of Victoria Bar and the large railway buildings greatly contribute to the character and setting of Section 5.

The City Walls had two narrow escapes in the nineteenth century, when in 1800 the Corporation of York resolved to demolish the Walls and, despite refusal of permission from George III, a number of stretches of Wall, posterns and parts of other structures were taken down. This led to supporters for the retention of the Walls forming the York Footpath Association. This group raised money and restored sections of the Walls. In 1855, the Board of Health Committee proposed to demolish a large part of the Walls between the Red Tower and Walmgate Bar to improve the locality. They argued that the Walls prevented the free circulation of air and were therefore a health hazard. Thankfully, this proposal was never carried through. The Corporation of York also restored much of the Walls and Bars during this period.

The industry in York that had developed during the Victorian period changed little in the first half of the twentieth century. The latter part of the century saw the growth in tourism and the decline of industry that has continued into the first years of the twenty-first century.

Today the Walls are a key heritage attraction for the City and are visited by an estimated over 1 million people a year¹⁵. The City Council has a programme of repair and maintenance and is supported in this by English Heritage and other key heritage bodies within the City. The most complete and up-to-date gazetteer of the Walls was produced by the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments

¹⁴ See also RCHME. 1972. *p29-34*

¹⁵ <http://www.york.gov.uk/walls/index.html>

England in 1972. An up-date of the work completed since this date was produced by the City Engineer in 2004 and is included in Appendix C.

2.2 Chronology

The following table provides a general chronology of major events relating to the City Walls and Bars. While the relationship of the surviving Walls with the Roman remains is uncertain in many areas, the principal developments in this period are included here for reference.

71-2	First Roman Fortress built for the Ninth legion ('Corduroy' green wood foundation with clay or sand rampart and turf front)
79-85	Fortress levelled and re-built (Oak strapping foundation carrying stiff clay rampart with turf front. Timber towers.)
107-8	Fortress rebuilt in stone
c.122	Ninth Legion replaced by the Sixth Legion
197	Fortress reconstructed after destruction by Maeatae (Scottish tribes)
208-13	Court of Severus at York, 211 Severus died at York, by 213 capital of lower Britain: civil town becomes a <i>colonia</i>
c.300	Walls again re-built or strengthened and polygonal bastions and multangular towers added
306	Death of Constantius I at York, Constantine proclaimed emperor
c.650	Tower 19 built
867	York captured by the Danes. Earth ramparts added
c.930	Athelstan destroys a Danish Fort
1068	William I builds two castles (York Castle and the Old Baile) King's Fishpond constructed
1069	Danes destroy the two castles and William I rebuilds them
c.1100-1200	Stone gates erected, replacing timber gates Micklegate and Walmgate Bars first mentioned
1154	Archbishop welcomed at Micklegate Bar
1190	Castle burnt in anti-Jewish riot
1215	Geoffrey de Neville strengthens city defences on the east and south-west
1245-70	Henry III rebuilds Castle in stone, including Clifford's Tower
1250-70	Stone walls built in central and Micklegate areas
1266	St. Mary's Abbey walls begun
14 th century	Bootham Bar was heightened to house a portcullis and a barbican was added Barbican added to Walmgate Bar
1315	Fishergate Bar first mentioned
1315-40	Archbishop Melton fortifies Old Baile
1318-c.1325	St. Mary's Abbey walls heightened and strengthened with towers
1345	Thomas de Staunton contracted to build walls from Fishergate Bar to Foss
c.1350	Monk Bar built
1380	Tower 32 described as 'new'
1405	Thomas Mowbray's severed head displayed on Bootham Bar
c.1440	Circular gunport added to Tower 23 near the base
1466	Old Baile in hands of citizens
1483-5	Richard III dismantles Castle in preparation for rebuilding
1487	Sir William Todd restores wall near Fishergate Bar The Lords Scrope unsuccessfully attack Bootham Bar

1489	Rebels burn Walmgate and Fishergate Bars (latter blocked until 1827)
1490	Red Tower being built
1502	Wall between Walmgate Bar and Foss rebuilt
c.1505	Fishergate Postern Tower built
1569	Walls prepared for siege
1581-6	Rear facades of Bootham, Micklegate, and Walmgate Bars rebuilt
1596-7	Robert Redhead partially demolished Clifford's Tower and Castle outer wall
16 th century	Fishergate Postern reroofed
1616	Lendal Tower first used as waterworks
1642	Walls prepared for siege: all postern gates blocked up, canon mounted on the four main gates and Baile Hill. Clifford's Tower restored by the Earl of Cumberland
1644	Siege by three Parliamentary armies. Walmgate Bar damaged and Bootham Bar bombarded
1645-69	Tofts and Layerthorpe Towers rebuilt Walls restored
1651	Bootham Bar restored
1667-8	Grand Jury House in Castle rebuilt
1674-5	Moothall or Sessions House in Castle built
1677	Lendal Tower leased for 500 years as waterworks
1684	Clifford's Tower gutted by fire
1701-5	Debtor's Prison in Castle built
1719	Rear façade of Bootham Bar rebuilt
1722	Top of Old Baile levelled and planted with trees
1731	New postern made at Davy Tower
1745	Walls prepared for seige
1753	New passage made at Micklegate Bar
1771	New pedestrian passageway made at Bootham Bar
1773-7	Assize Courts in Castle built, replacing Grand Jury House
1780	Female prison in Castle built, replacing Moothall
1792	Canalization of the River Foss by Foss Navigation Company destroys King's Fishpond
1793	Artist John Browne born in Walmgate Bar
1800	Corporation of York applied for Act of Parliament to demolish the Walls
1807-8	Skeldergate Postern demolished
1808	Archbishop awarded damages against city for demolition of Skeldergate Postern
1811	Archbishop and Dean & Chapter seek injunction to prevent demolition of walls
1825	Monk Bar barbican demolished and new passage made there
1826	Castlegate Postern and Micklegate Bar barbican demolished
1826-35	New outer wall and prison built at Castle
1827	Rear façade of Micklegate Bar rebuilt in stone
1829	Layerthorpe Postern demolished
1831	St. Leonard's Place pierced through walls. Bootham Bar barbican partly demolished
1831-2	Walls in Micklegate area restored
1834	Walls from Fishergate Postern to Fishergate Bar were restored Rear façade of Bootham Bar rebuilt
1835	Bootham Bar restored and barbican demolished

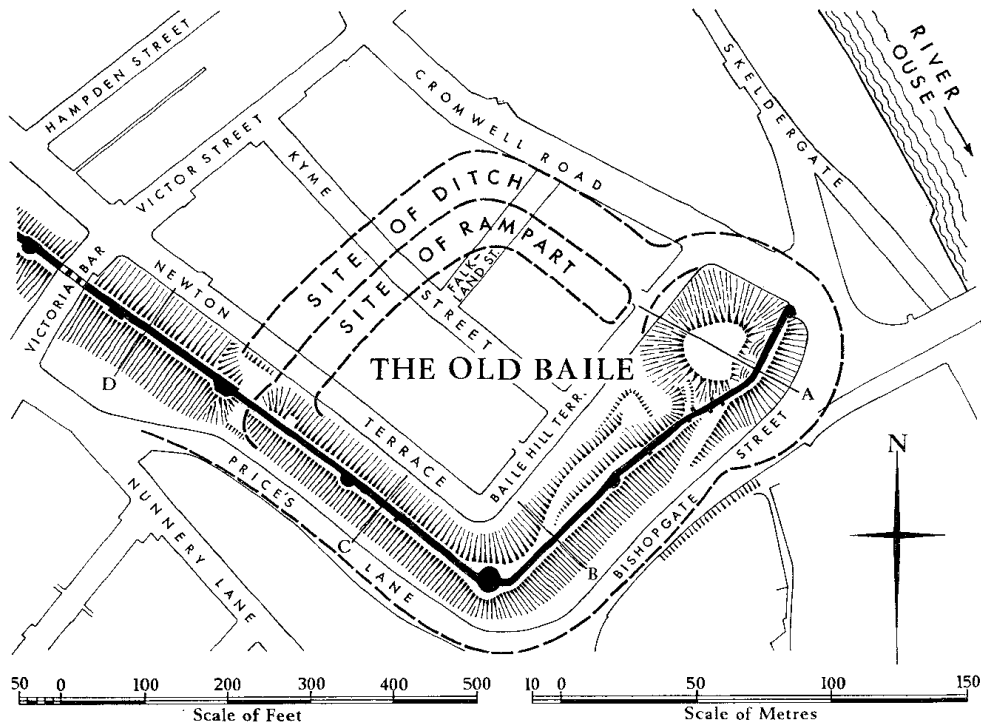
1838	Victoria Bar pierced through walls and Lounlith gate discovered there
1839	North railway arch pierced through walls
1840	Walmgate Bar and barbican restored. North Street Postern rebuilt
1844	Bootham Bar repaired and restored
1845	Monk Bar restored and another passage made there South railway arch pierced through walls
1853	Foss Islands Road laid out
1855	Board of Health Committee proposed to remove walls between Red Tower and Walmgate Bar
1857	Red Tower partly reconstructed and reroofed
1864	Walls from Walmgate Bar to Red Tower were restored
1871-2	Walls from Layerthorpe Postern to Monk Bar were restored
1874 & 1876	Road arches to new station pierced through walls
1878	Walls from Baile Hill to Ouse were demolished Walls from Layerthorpe Postern to Monk Bar were restored Tower 1 built by G. Styan
1886-9	Walls from Bootham Bar to Monk Bar were restored, battlements added, walkway provided and supporting arches, and Robin Hood Tower constructed
1894	Small figures on Bootham Bar parapet carved to replace older figures
1914	Monk Bar restored
1950-5	Bootham, Monk and Micklegate Bars restored
1965-6	Road arches rebuilt
1969-70	Bootham Bar underpinned, strengthened and cleaned
1970-1	Tower 19 restored
1972	Cattle pens removed and rampart restored where it had been truncated (east of Walmgate Bar)
1989	Renovation of Tower 1
1991?	Strengthening of Saddler Tower

2.2.1 Detailed Chronology by Section

Section 1: Tower 1 to Bitchdaughter Tower (walls and interval towers etc.)

This section includes the site of Baile Hill, the remains of the motte and bailey castle built by William I and whose ownership and defence was often disputed between city and church. The castle had a rampart and ditch defence (see below¹⁶) enclosing this southern corner of the City Walls for around 800 years before it was built over, the ramparts along this section and bearing north west towards Victoria Bar are the remains of the bailey rampart. Of the ditch, only a slight depression can be seen in the rampart to the west near Tower 5. The Walls themselves appear to have at first been wooden plank defences, re-built in stone by the Archbishop in the early fourteenth century. This section of the Walls once extended as far as the River Ouse to the east, where a Tower (Skeldergate) and postern gate (both now demolished) were also situated. The Walls no longer extend beyond Cromwell Road (Tower 1).

¹⁶ RCHME. 1972. *An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in the City of York: Volume II - The Defences*



Roman period	Area inside Walls in area of Old Baile is the site of a cemetery, probably relating to the Sixth Legion
Roman - 1066	Artefacts from this period have been found at the site, it is positioned to the south east of the known <i>colonia</i>
1068 or 1069	William the Conqueror has a motte and bailey castle built (The Old Baile or Baile Hill)
1069	Danes destroy the Old Baile
c. 1069	The Normans re-build the Old Baile
1268	Possible site of battle over pasture land between local townships
Prior to 1300 (1194-8?)	The Old Baile passes into archbishops' possession
1308	Citizens break down gates and Archbishop Greenfield orders their excommunication
1309	Archbishop Greenfield orders payment for making and planting of a foss at Baile Hill site
1315	First mention of gate at Skeldergate Postern
1322	Agreement reached between Archbishop Melton and the citizens for mutual defence of the Old Baile during war
1327	Disagreement between Archbishop and citizens over defence of the castle while the Royal family was in the city
Early C 14	Archbishop Melton built wooden defences at the castle
After 1327- c.1340	Stone walls erected at the Old Baile site (Tower 1 - Tower 5)
1380	First mention of chain stretching across the river from Skeldergate Postern Tower to Davy Tower
1403	Skeldergate Postern (or Crane Tower) first mentioned
1423	City Walls at Old Baile site in poor repair
c.1466	Citizens granted possession of the Old Baile
1466	Old Baile site leased for grazing by the city

From 1487 (and C16 and C17)	Site used for musters ¹⁷
1581	Archbishop Sandys unsuccessfully tried to reclaim the Old Baile from the city
1601	New door made for Skeldergate Postern
1609	Annual 'view of artillery' held at the Old Baile site Skeldergate Postern enlarged for Archbishop's coach
1628	Ash trees on hill blown down
1629	Skeldergate Postern reduced to previous size
c.1640	House built over Skeldergate Postern
1642-1644	Alterations made to Baile Hill mound (SE side) to accommodate two cannon placed on it during the Civil War. Palisades placed in the river to stop passage of enemy boats (removed 1645). Skeldergate Postern blocked up (re-opened 1645 or 1648).
1722	Henry Pawson levelled the top of the hill and planted trees
1757	Watch house built at Skeldergate Postern
1802-7	Prison, designed by Peter Atkinson erected in north part of bailey
1806	Part of Skeldergate Postern collapsed
1807	Skeldergate Postern demolished
1831	New Arch built to allow access to the now named Cromwell Road
1868	Prison closed
1878	Wall from Baile Hill to river demolished, including New Arch Tower 1 built by G. Styan
1880	Prison demolished
1882	Most of bailey area sold to builders, who probably erected the houses now standing on this site
C18 and C19	Bailey (or 'the Hollow') used for Shrovetide games. Ferry ran across the river from Skeldergate Tower to Davy Tower till 1881.
1968-9	Archaeological excavations carried out on the mound found, amongst other things, that a flight of steps, cut into clay and probably faced with wood, had existed on the south west face

Section 2: Bitchdaughter Tower

1451-2	City paid for repairs to the King's gaol: 'le bydoutre'
1566	Mention of 'Biche Doughter tower' being in poor repair
1645	Watch house built here and tower probably re-built at same time
1676	Chimney from fireplace in small internal room appears to be shown in use ¹⁸
1845	Described as a cow house

Section 3: Bitchdaughter Tower to Micklegate Bar (walls and interval towers etc.)

Roman period	Area inside of Walls site of <i>colonia</i>
1330-1340	Tower 4 probably built
1380	'Sadlertower' (Tower 7) first mentioned
C17	Probable date for brick repairs to inner wall

¹⁷ The bringing together a group of people or soldiers for a particular reason, for example, inspection, rebellion or war

¹⁸ Panoramic view of the City of York by F.Place. 1676

1736	Parapet recorded as being levelled
1831-2	Walls restored and most of existing wallwalk and parapet created, ornate roof of internal room of Tower 9 discovered
1838	Victoria Bar created and Lounelith Gate discovered
1852	Carving of head in profile at Tower 10 added
1864	Side arch to the south of Victoria Bar added
1877	Side arch to the north of Victoria Bar added

Section 4: Micklegate Bar

Formally 'Micklelith' or 'the great gate' this is the traditional entrance of monarchs to the city. It was also the traditional place to display the severed heads of traitors and rebels. Many repairs and alterations have been made over the years and the rooms above the Bar have had many uses, including as a prison, as a police house, for a fencing club, for storage and, currently, as a museum. The remains of a minor Roman road have been found just within the gate. The current tenant, Mr D Mason, is researching the previous occupiers and uses of the Bar and has detailed information regarding these. Originally having a barbican and inner façade similar to those remaining at Walmgate, this Bar remains an architectural and historical gem, and arguably still the 'great gate' of York.

Roman period	Site of <i>colonia</i> inside Bar, unsure where limits lay but some evidence of burials internally may indicate a Roman settlement expanding over existing cemetery
Early C12	Outer arch and passage built
1154	Archbishop welcomed at Micklegate Bar
1196	House built over Micklelith gate
C14 (possibly 1350-1375)	Upper external stories built to house a portcullis, barbican also constructed
1403	Head of Sir Henry Percy displayed on Bar
1405	Head of Sir William Plumpton displayed on Bar
1415	Head of Lord Scrope displayed on Bar
1460	Head of the Duke of York displayed on Bar
1461	Head of the Earl of Devon displayed on Bar
1486	Henry VII was elaborately received at the Bar
1511	Two guns received for the Bar
1541	Elaborate preparations for entrance of Henry VIII (he finally entered through Walmgate)
1572	Head of the Earl of Northumberland displayed on Bar
1585	Façade of Bar re-built (probably resembled the timber framed façade at Walmgate)
1603	Statue erected on Bar
1617	Gateway painted and gilded for royal visit
1635	Gateway painted and gilded for royal visit
c.1644	Royal arms on Bar replaced by Commonwealth's
1650	Gates renewed
1660	Commonwealth arms 'blotted out'
1663	Heads of four of the Farnley Wood conspirators displayed on Bar
1670	Reconstruction of outer arch (probably of the barbican), Bar gilded
1716	Bar restored
1729	Room over Bar used for prisoners
1737	Arms of Lord Mayor added
1746	Heads of William Conolly and James Mayne displayed on Bar (two of the Jacobite rebels captured at the Battle of Culloden)

1753	Arched passageway made through rampart to the north
1797	Keys to gates lost
1810	Part of barbican side wall collapsed
1826	Barbican removed
1827	Inner façade and rear half of Bar re-built, foot passage made to the south, battlements of adjoining walls lowered, stairs built to wallwalk on north side
1863	Two arches replace single arch on north side
1918-1952	Bar used for storage
1950	Small statues on top of the Bar replaced
1952	Bar restored
1968	Repairs to Bar after vehicle damage
1985	Micklegate Bar Museum opened

Section 5: Micklegate Bar to Barker Tower (walls and interval towers etc.)

This stretch of Wall looks comparatively modern and has certainly been re-built many times. Many of the most dramatic changes were due to the coming and expansion of the railways, and this area still retains views of the current railway station and the 'old' railway buildings. Within the inner ramparts, air raid shelters exist. This is one of the few stretches of wallwalk that comes down to pavement level.

Roman period	Cemetery in area of new railway station. Site of Roman <i>colonia</i> internally. The City Wall, roughly between interval Towers 14 and 17, is likely to be close to or overlying the Roman <i>colonia</i> wall. Main <i>colonia</i> road (from Tadcaster, <i>Calcaria</i> ,) crosses line of Walls approximately 40m north west of Micklegate Bar. Possible access road to cemetery from <i>colonia</i> in region of Station Road (and therefore likely to cross line of City Wall around Tower 16).
C8 or C11	Possible stone walls
1380 & 1403	Tower 13 called 'Tower of the Tofts'
C14	Tower 16 probably built
1494	Tower to north of Micklegate (probably 12) in ruins
1577	Original North Street Postern enlarged
1603	Section of wall collapses north of Tower 18
1644	Tower 13 (probably) severely damaged by the Scots
1645	Tofts Tower and adjoining wall rebuilt with a guard house
1750 & 1772	Maps show now missing tower at point between Tower 12 and Tofts Tower
1831-2	Section of collapsed wall restored near Tower 17 and parapet at Tower 17 re-built
1832	Cholera burial ground created in part of outer ditch towards Barker Tower
1839	First railway station opened outside the Walls
1839-40	Northern of the two railway arches built
1840	North Street Postern built, replacing previous postern
1841	New railway station and offices opened inside the Walls
1845	Southern of the two railway arches built. Tower 14 and adjoining wall re-built.
1874	Just north of Tower 17 arch made for road
1876	Tower 18 removed and second road arch made
1906	Second road arch heightened
1965-6	Second road arch with side passageway replaced by single arch

Section 6: Barker Tower

Also known as the North Street Postern Tower. A chain was stretched from Barker to Lendal Tower to block the passage of boats. Until the opening of Lendal Bridge in 1863 a ferry ran across the river, the Tower was usually let to the ferryman.

Roman period	Site of <i>colonia</i> internally
1376	Tower first mentioned in this position
1380 1403 c.1420	'Barkertowre' mentioned
1569	Bulwarks made here to protect against attack
By 1806	Brick house added to the south of the Tower
1840	Brick house removed and external stone steps added
After 1863	Stone chimney replaces brick chimney
From 1879	Tower used as a mortuary
1930	Restored
1930-1970	Used as a store by the Parks department
1970	Restored, ceiling and partition on top floor removed revealing roof timbers

Section 7: Lendal Tower

Originally resembling Barker Tower, Lendal Tower has been much extended and altered. An important landing place, the Tower was one of the first in the country to be used as a water tower and this use continued for hundreds of years, nearly until the present day. The fabric and interior of the Tower has been extensively altered several times. An alternative use as residential accommodation is currently being discussed. The Tower fabric includes much re-used stone, probably from St Mary's Abbey.

1315	Lendal Tower first mentioned as the Tower of St Leonard
1460	Tower described as the stone tower at St Leonard's Landing
1569	Bulwarks made here to protect against attack
1584-5	Tower and adjoining Walls repaired
1598	Tenant agreed to tile the roof and create a 'chambre floor'
1616-1632	First attempt at providing a piped water supply for the City from the tower
1631	Tower first called 'the waterhouse', the City takes a share in the enterprise
1646	Tower described as ruinous, used as a warehouse around this period
1654	Wall built beside tower to block passage along the riverbank
1674	New scheme proposed for providing water by H Whistler
1677	Whistler granted 500 year lease for use of tower as waterworks. Tower enlarged and heightened (rectangular addition to the east and destruction of the rounded east and north walls) and waterwheel provided
1684	Waterwheel replaced by horse powered wheel in tower
c.1756	Newcomen steam engine installed. Hot & cold baths installed in adjoining tower (Lendal Hill House)
1779	Waterworks sold to J Dring and J Smeaton
1781-4	Smeaton re-built steam engine
1784	New boiler installed

1836	Engine removed
1846	New York Waterworks Company incorporated, waterworks moved to Acomb Landing, tower lowered by 10ft and given a 'medieval' appearance (parapet added)
1864	Walkway on cast iron arches added to river side
1932	Tower restored as offices, lift inserted
2004	Tower and associated Lendal hill House and the engine house / payments hall purchased by the Helmsley Group for re-development

Section 8: Lendal Tower to Bootham Bar (walls and interval towers etc.)

This section of walls includes the largest visible remains, probably of the Constantian rebuilding (c.300), of the Roman fort and probably the largest area where the Wall has been demolished (for St Leonard's Place). The section behind the library includes three parallel walls: the Roman Wall and Anglian Tower (19); the Medieval Wall on top of the rampart; and another, probably the wall of St Leonard's Hospital precinct. The visible remains here probably best demonstrate the complicated development of the city defences and associated precinct walls over time. St Mary's Abbey precinct lies in the area of the Museum gardens to the north west of this section and provided additional defences for the City.

71-2	First Roman Fortress built for the Ninth legion ('Corduoy' green wood foundation with clay or sand rampart and turf front)
79-85	Fortress levelled and re-built (Oak strapping foundation carrying stiff clay rampart with turf front. Timber towers.)
107-8	Fortress rebuilt in stone
197	Fortress reconstructed after destruction by Maeatae (Scottish tribes)
c.300	Walls again re-built or strengthened and polygonal bastions and multangular towers added
Roman period	Fortified enclosure in area of St Mary's Abbey, Kings Manor and Art Gallery
Between 400 and 870 (C7?)	Anglian Tower (19) built.
c. 900	Danish ramparts covered Roman Wall and Anglian Tower
c.1080	Ramparts enlarged by Normans
1266	Building of stone wall around St Mary's Abbey precinct started
C13	Anglian Tower revealed and filled in again, ramparts enlarged again
1315 & 1505	Roman corner tower called 'Elrondyng'
1316	Roman Wall possibly uncovered when ramparts removed and new ditch dug
1601	Wall from Lendal Tower to St Leonard's Hospital repaired and ditch scoured
1683	Roman corner tower first called Multangular Tower
1830	Buildings internally adjoining stretch of Wall between St Leonard's Hospital to the Multangular Tower were removed
1831	Yorkshire Philosophical Society cleared the interior of the Multangular Tower of earth from base of Medieval Wall to approx. current levels
1832-5	Wall demolished, probably including Towers 20 & 21, and Roman remains excavated and destroyed for St Leonard's Place. Wall

	adjoining Bootham Bar to the south west demolished and replaced by existing Wall.
1839	Anglian Tower rediscovered during the building of a tunnel, partly excavated and vault re-built in brick forming part of the tunnel
1874	Stretch of Wall from Lendal Tower to St Leonard's Hospital re-built 5ft lower and lodge to the Museum Gardens built
1927	Excavation of interior of Multangular Tower continued
1960	Multangular Tower restored
1968	Plaque giving brief history unveiled at Multangular Tower
1969-71	Anglian Tower excavated, consolidated and opened to the public

Section 9: Bootham Bar

Previously called Galmanlith, Galmonelid or Galmouelid (the gate of Galmou – the hill where the Abbey was built) and replacing the *porta principalis dextra* of the Roman fortress, Bootham represents the city gate site with the oldest continuous history. The name Bootham, meaning 'the bar at the booths', may come from the meaning of the roman *canabae* (the booths): the area where traders and merchants sold their goods and services to the Roman fortress. Alternatively it may relate to the weekly market held here by St Mary's Abbey. The back of the Bar is built over the remains of the Roman gate, *porta principalis dextra*.

71-2	Roman Fortress built
107-8	Fortress rebuilt in stone
c.300	Walls again re-built or strengthened and polygonal bastions and multangular towers added
C11	Earliest parts of present structure built: jambs and inner order of outer archway
c.1200	Name 'Bootham' first known to be used
By 1376	House existing over the Bar
C14	Bar heightened to house portcullis and barbican added
1405	Head of Thomas Mowbray displayed on the Bar
1488/9	Bootham mentioned as having great gates and a wicket
1511	Two guns delivered for the Bar
1581-3	Probable re-building of rear façade
1603	Bar repaired, gilded and painted prior to royal visit
1633	Bar painted and gilded prior to royal visit
1644	Bar damaged in siege
1645	Bar repaired and bartizans and upper part of façade probably added
1647	King's arms and city arms added to Bar ¹⁹
1719	Inner façade re-built in stone probably replacing a previous timber framed façade
1738	Statue of Ebrauk (the mythical founder of the city) placed in niche
1748	Gates replaced
1771	Passageway made to north east side of Bar
1789	Decayed gates removed
1831-5	Barbican removed and wall adjoining Bootham Bar to the south west demolished and replaced by existing wall. Inner façade re-built and sides re-faced. Passageway made to south east and northern passageway re-built.
1844	Bar repaired

¹⁹ York City Archives: House Books, 1476-1835 (referenced in RCHME. 1972. p116)

1889	Exterior steps added
1894	3 statues on outer façade renewed
1951	Bar restored
1969-70	Extensive restoration of Bar including removal of C19 second floor and replacement in timber of third floor
1997	Bar re-gilded

Section 10: Bootham Bar to Monk Bar (walls and interval towers etc.)

This section of wall is often cited as the most picturesque and overlooks many back gardens and the Minster precinct. It is built more or less along the line of the Roman fortress wall. The ditch along Lord Mayor's Walk is the best preserved of any section along the Walls.

71-2	Roman Fortress built
107-8	Fortress rebuilt in stone
197	Fortress reconstructed after destruction by Maeatae (Scottish tribes)
c.300	Walls again re-built or strengthened and polygonal bastions and multangular towers added
c.900	Danes covered Roman walls with earth ramparts
c.1080	Ramparts enlarged by Normans
C13	Stone wall built
1370	Tower 27 referred to as Bawing Tower
1477	Tower in region of demolished T29 referred to as 'Talkard Tower'
1622 & 1629	Tower 27 referred to as Robin Hood Tower
1822	Last time Tower 29 appears on a map
1888-9	Wall restored, including parapet, upper part of external wall, wallwalk, Robin Hood Tower, upper parts of interval towers, and series of supporting arches.
1957	Tower 26 collapsed and re-built

Section 11: Monk Bar

This four storey Bar is a 'self-contained fortress' in that each floor is separately defensible. No trace has been found of the earlier medieval gate, which was probably situated on the site of the Roman *porta decumana*, somewhere in the region of the demolished Tower 29 to the north west. Therefore all references prior to the early fourteenth century relate to this previous gate. The name relates to the community of monks of the pre-Conquest Minster. It has been suggested that when the stone defences were built the old gate was replaced by one on the present site. Due to its later date, the rear façade is the only one of all the major Bars to be originally built in stone. This is the only Bar to retain the mechanism for raising and lowering the portcullis.

71-2	Roman Fortress built
107-8	Fortress rebuilt in stone
c.900	Danes covered Roman Walls with earth ramparts
c.1075	Street called <i>Monkgate</i> mentioned
1280	Record of tolls being collected at Monk Gate
Early C14	Bar built in stone on current site
1370	First mention of <i>Monk Bar</i>

1435/6 1440/1 c.1450 1476	House above Bar rented to: T. Pak W. Croft Lord Scrope M. Metcalf
Late C15	Fourth storey added (by Richard III?)
C16	Windows renewed
1511	Hand guns delivered for this Bar
1541	Bar cleaned for royal visit
1563, 1577, 1583, 1594, 1598	Mention of Bar being used as a prison
1671 & 1707	Gates renewed
1815	Part of barbican removed
1825	Footway made to the south east Watch house and barbican demolished Gates removed
1845	Side passage made through to City Wall on north west side Bar restored Bar used as a police house
1861	Existing large arch, to south east under footway, made
1913-14	Bar restored, including portcullis Use as house discontinued
1952-3	Extensive restoration
1966	Vehicle damage caused the voussoirs of the inner arches and passage vaults to be replaced
1971	Upper floors used by the Scouts
1992	Opened as the Richard III Museum

Section 12: Monk Bar to Layerthorpe Postern (walls and interval towers etc.)

An excavated stretch of the Severan Roman Fortress Wall, an interval tower and the East Angle Tower (197) can be seen just inside and partially under the existing City Walls. The Tower appears to overlie the foundations of an earlier Trajanic Tower (107-8). This stretch of wall also runs past the impressive timber-framed Merchant Taylor's Hall, this and the Roman remains are not included within the scope of this study but are included within SAM YO30. Also included in the SAM is an early nineteenth century brick built ice house built into the exterior rampart, just south east of Monk Bar. This section of wall extends eastwards to the Foss and the site of Layerthorpe Postern and the medieval Layerthorpe Bridge, both now demolished. This was where the City Walls met the area without walls, defended by means of the King's Fishpond.

71-2	Roman Fortress built
107-8	Fortress rebuilt in stone
197	Fortress reconstructed after destruction by Maeatae (Scottish tribes)
c.900	Danes covered Roman Walls with earth ramparts and probably extended defences from east corner of Roman fortress to the river
1280	First mention of Layerthorpe Postern
1370	Mention of 'Lathorp Towre' possibly Tower 34

1380 & 1403	Tower 31 referred to as ' <i>turrim super Herlothill juxta Petrehall</i> ' Tower 32 referred to as ' <i>novam turrim super cornerium versus le Jubiry</i> '
1453-4	Layerthorpe Postern gates repaired
1568	Repairs to Layerthorpe Postern and Layerthorpe Bridge
1579	Wall repaired
1580	Repairs to Layerthorpe Postern and Layerthorpe Bridge
1604-5	House built over Layerthorpe Postern
1666	Wall repaired
Between 1682 and 1717	Tower 34 altered from square to irregular in plan
1723	Layerthorpe Postern narrowed
By 1812	Tower 30 removed
1820	Layerthorpe Postern dilapidated and dangerous, gates, floors and roof removed
1822	Tower 34 shown with gabled brick building on top
1829-30	Layerthorpe Postern demolished and bridge re-built
1851	Rear of Tower 32 closed, remains of half-timbered building on top demolished
1858	Wall described as ruinous
1860	Excavation of Roman Wall
1871	Wall restored
1875	Excavation of Roman Wall
1877-8	Wall restored. Wallwalk added where it was missing. Parapet, Tower 31 platform and bartizans added.
1925-6	Roman East Angle Tower, Wall and interval tower (partly) excavated
1950	Concrete roofs added to Tower 31 and 32
1953	Roman interval tower exposed again
1957	Wall partly collapsed near Monk Bar

Section 13: Layerthorpe Postern to the Red Tower (King's Fishpond area)

The King's Fishpond once filled the current gap in the defences from Layerthorpe Postern / Bridge to the Red Tower, negating the need for a wall. William I created this as an eastern defence for York Castle. The level was kept through use of dams and sluices, but as centuries passed the extent of the pond decreased and it became simply a marshy area.

c.1068	During the Norman period William I had the Foss dammed to create the King's Pool or Fishpond
1314	Carmelites granted permission to build a quay
1545	Pond and fishery granted to the Neville family of Sheriff Hutton
1685	Pond and fishery granted to the Ingram family
1694	Map shows the Foss Islands in existence
1792	Foss Navigation Company formed and some stretches of river made navigable
1853	York Corporation buys the Company and Foss Islands with fishing and fowling rights
C19	Last traces of marsh disappear as Corporation encourages dumping of rubbish to raise land level

Section 14: The Red Tower

It seems likely from written sources that the Red Tower was originally built within the marshy land next to the King's Fishpond or on a promontory or island. The surrounding ground level has been raised by about 2m, concealing the stone footings and it is thought to have once had a crenellated parapet. The Tower was also known as Brimstone House, possibly due to its use as a manufactory of brimstone. It is currently used as a store.

1490	Tower probably constructed
1511	Tower first mentioned by name. Artillery assigned to Tower
1541 & 1545	Tower repaired
1645	Ditch around Tower re-dug
C17	Shown with a flat roof
c.1700	Tower shown with pyramidal tiled roof
By 1767 or perhaps 1736	Tower in ruins
By 1800	Tower restored with gabled roof, used as a cowshed
1857-8	Tower restored to its present appearance, including most of external detailing and inside re-facing may also be of this date
C19	Last traces of marsh disappear as Corporation encourages dumping of rubbish to raise land level
1958	Tower restored

Section 15: The Red Tower to Walmgate Bar (walls and interval towers etc.)

This section of wallwalk is carried on large medieval foundation arches, clearly visible in the inner wall. Much brickwork along this stretch was replaced by stone when the parapet and wallwalk were re-built in the mid nineteenth century. The rampart starts approximately 40m south of the Red Tower, probably approximately where the edge of the water was at the time of building.

C14	Wall built
1834	Two short flights of steps at Tower 36 are in use (now blocked but show in inner face)
1852	OS Map shows the external ditch holding water (where Foss Islands Road is now)
1857-8	Most of existing wall for c.45m south of Red Tower built in stone replacing brickwork
1864	Upper part of wall between Tower 35 and 36 re-built. Tower 36 ruinous and re-built
1889	Part of external rampart cut away to form cattle pen

Section 16: Walmgate Bar

This is the only Bar to retain its barbican (to which public access can still be gained on occasion) its wooden gate and its timber framed inner façade. The earliest surviving masonry, the inner arch of the main gate, is from the twelfth century. This Bar saw the heaviest action during the Civil War and has survived several suggestions to take it down. The most serious threat today is from repeated vehicle strikes to the oldest parts of the fabric. The Bar is currently

leased by a Christian charity and the rooms above the Bar have been converted for use as a coffee shop and private library.

Mid C12	Walmgate Bar first mentioned
C13	First floor (possibly) built
1376	House over Bar is rented out
C14	Completion of the façade, addition of barbican
1469	Head of Robert Hillyard displayed on Bar
1489	Rebels burn the Bar
1511	Guns assigned to the Bar delivered
1584-6	Bar repaired and timber framed façade added (may have replaced a medieval timber framed façade)
1603	Portcullis repaired
1631 & 1635	Iron gates repaired
1644	Severely damaged in Civil War siege
1644-48	Bar restored, second floor façade and parapets (and possibly bartizans) replaced and watch house built
1712	Bar repaired
1790	Lean-to buildings against barbican
1793	John Browne (artist and historian) born in the Bar
1804	Foot passage constructed to the north east
1810 onwards	Sides of barbican gradually became more ruinous, doors to barbican top blocked (till 1840)
1827	External rampart from Walmgate Bar to Fishergate Bar cut back for cattle pens
1840	Corporation thoroughly restored Bar, barbican sides and wooden balustrade, removed lean-to houses, removed watch house
1840-41	Side arch made to the south west
1862	Arch to north west replaced by large vehicular arch
1953	Bar restored
1960	Bar restored
1972	Wooden balustrade renewed
1990	Bar restored
1998-2004	Repairs made due to vehicle strikes

Section 17: Walmgate Bar to Fishergate Postern Tower (walls and interval towers etc.)

This section of wall includes Fishergate Bar, which was blocked up for a very long period after damage. This Bar has a notorious history of use. It is currently only open to pedestrians and cyclists. Fishergate Postern is the oldest surviving postern gate along the Wall and retains its portcullis slot. The wall from Tower 37 was built or was re-built at a different time than the preceding section.

1315	Fishergate Bar first mentioned
1345	Wall erected between the Foss and Fishergate Bar (probably the stretch from the Bar to Tower 39)
1422	West passage at Fishergate Bar mentioned
1440	House mentioned over Fishergate Bar Fishergate Postern mentioned as 'posternam iuxta Skarletpit'
1442/3	Existing Fishergate Bar probably built
1449/50	Bar has new iron bound wooden gate
1487	Stretch of wall east of Fishergate possibly re-built
1489	Rebels burn the Bar and Bar blocked up

1494	Woman of 'loose character' occupying tower at Bar
1548	Fishergate Postern mentioned by name
1584	House above Bar to be used as a 'howse of correction' (prison)
1598-1633	Prison used for possible plague victims or lunatics
After 1644	Interior of Tower 39 created
c. 1675	Bar flanked by a tower on each side
1827	External rampart from Walmgate Bar to Fishergate Bar cut back for cattle pens, Bar unblocked and restored, parapet and steps to wallwalk added
1829	60yrds of wall rebuilt between Tower 39 and Fishergate Postern Tower
C19	Inner wall from Tower 39 to Fishergate Postern Tower probably re-built
1961	Bar restored

Section 18: Fishergate Postern Tower

This Tower seems to have been built on the site of a previous tower but has possibly been less altered than most of the other structures around the Wall circuit. It is currently used as an artist's studio and exhibition space.

1388	Possible mention of Talkan Tower
1453-4	Talkan Tower repaired
1476	Talkan Tower mentioned at this site
1504-7	Existing Tower built replacing Talkan Tower
1610	Map shows Tower with a roof
By 1636	Tower used as a dovecot
1676	Roof shown in its present form Tower labelled 'Edward's Tower'
Before 1818	Second floor replaced with gallery
1838	Tower restored
1960	Tower restored, internal staircase at S end removed

Section 19: Fishergate Postern to Tower 1 (walls and interval towers etc.)

The Castle and the River Foss protect the area between Fishergate Tower and Tower Street so this last section of City Wall actually runs from the demolished Castlegate Postern, which stood where Tower Street now lies, to the west to Davy Tower, from whence a chain was stretched across the Ouse to Skeldergate Postern. This section of wall is entirely without ramparts and retains the original wallwalk on the inner face. Davy Tower was also known as the Tower of or near to the Friars Minor (The Grey Friars) whose Friary lay to the north.

c.1290	Wall running north from Davy Tower to enclose Friary built
1315	Davy Tower first mentioned
1380	Postern (Castlegate) first mentioned
1454	Ditch made along this stretch of wall
From 1494	Known as Castlegate Postern Postern ruinous Chamber and dovecot over Postern mentioned
1511	Gun delivered for the Postern
1553	Chains sold

1569, 1610-1625	Ditch scoured
1634	Enlargement of Tower considered
1642-45	Postern shut and blocked up
1699	Postern enlarged
1732	Friargate Postern created and City Wall extended (Between Davy Tower and the river - now demolished)
c.1732	Summerhouse built on Davy Tower
1826	Castlegate Postern demolished
1835-50	Summerhouse extended
c.1840	Friargate Postern demolished

2.3 Site Audit

As part of the research and preparation for this Plan a site audit was conducted during April 2004 and provides an assessment of the monument at one moment in time. The size of the monument (and each section) has required that an overall description be provided for each section of the monument, based on a typicality or average rather than on specific detail. A summary of the results of the audit is provided below, with the audit sheets for each section of the Walls being provided in Appendix D, with explanatory notes, brief character assessment and potential opportunities provided where appropriate.

2.3.1 Criteria for Assessment

The condition factors have been developed primarily from the Survey conducted in 1991 and assessed by a visual inspection of the City Walls in April 2004. The necessity of condensing this section for this report and not repeating work that has been undertaken elsewhere has resulted in an assessment that does not go to the level of detail contained in the 1991 survey. However, a regular programme of condition survey and updating of the 1991 record should maintain this level of detail and prove a useful tool for planning maintenance and repair. This section is therefore included here to provide an overview of the condition of each section of the Walls as divided up for this Plan and enhance the understanding of the monument. The scheduled monument descriptions describe the Walls as being in "very good" and "fair" condition (updated 2001) and between 80%-100% complete.

The mortar on the City Walls has been patched up regularly with many different types of mortar mixtures. This makes it impossible to provide an overall assessment for each wall section regarding type of mortar. Therefore the mortar assessment relates to condition rather than appropriate type. A member of the City Maintenance Team confirmed this and described how they had been instructed to use mortar harder than stone on occasion, have been using a hard cement mortar for the last seven years, and have only recently been instructed to return to the use of lime mortar.

The assessment also includes an element of intangible condition such as aesthetic appeal, views and providing an opinion regarding existing signage, orientation or interpretation. This will provide an indication of the opportunities available for future enhancement of the City Walls. Assessments regarding physical and intellectual access are included in addition to some indication of the level of visitor facilities currently provided. It should be noted that the entire length of the Wall can be seen via a virtual website, which would classify the entire Wall

circuit as at least S2 (based on the criteria below). However, as this website is a private individual's website and not provided by the City Council or as an official tourism site this virtual access has been ignored for the purposes of the audit. It has been discussed, however, in the section on interpretation. In addition all of the wall sections and main features are mentioned, at least briefly, in the main City Walls Trail leaflet. As one is never far from a museum in York, only those visitor facilities and museums that directly relate to the City Walls or the Bars have been included.

2.3.2 Explanation of Audit Abbreviations

Masonry

M1	Masonry sound with no significant decay or loss of fabric
M2	Some decay, but not to the extent that replacement will be required in the relatively near future
M3	Distinct signs of decay, life of blocks limited (c.20-50 years)
M4	Very significant decay with renewal needed in relatively near future (c.0-20 years)

Mortar pointing

P1	Mortar pointing flush with surface, sound mortar of appropriate mix
P2	Mortar pointing slightly weathered, fairly sound mortar
P3	Mortar pointing showing noticeable loss of mortar or use of inappropriate mortar requiring attention within c.15 years
P4	Mortar pointing severely decayed with almost total loss of mortar resulting in instability of masonry or use of inappropriate mortar causing significant loss of masonry

Flagstones

F1	Flags sound with no significant decay, loss of fabric, cracking or wear
F2	Some decay of flags or minor cracking or wear, but not to the extent that replacement will be required in the relatively near future
F3	Distinct signs of decay or more severe cracking or wear, life of flags limited
F4	Very significant decay, cracking or wear with renewal needed in relatively near future or immediately due to hazard

Ramparts

R1	Ramparts in good condition, well maintained with full public access
R2	Ramparts in fairly good condition, some public access
R3	Ramparts showing signs of wear and tear, obvious truncation or in private use with no public access

Other factors

SFD	Significant feature in danger of collapse, near total decay or destruction of significance due to decay
IVT	Inappropriate / damaging vegetation or tree in vicinity of Walls, appears to be exacerbating decay or creating problems

Signage, orientation, interpretation

S1	Signage, orientation, interpretation in good condition, appropriate to setting, intellectually accessible or enhances monument, a main feature in current general leaflet interpretation
S2	Signage, orientation, interpretation in fair condition or provided by secondary means (leaflet, website, guided tour stopping point and so

	on), appropriate to setting, mostly intellectually accessible or does not particularly detract or enhance monument, minor feature of current general leaflet
S3	Signage, orientation, interpretation in poor condition, inappropriate to setting, intellectually inaccessible, significantly detracts from significance of monument, no interpretive provision known of

Significant view / feature

SV1	Significant view, opportunity for fixed interpretation of nearby feature, aesthetically significant
SV2	Attractive view, nearby features of some interest, possible opportunity for secondary interpretation
SV3	Of minor interest, nearby features of little interest without intrusive / extensive interpretation, little opportunity for interpretation except perhaps for specialists
SV4	View intrusive to monument, inappropriate development nearby, aesthetically intrusive

Physical Access

A1	Physical access good, slopes rather than steps, flat surfaces, access from ground level, wide walkways, railings
A2	Some physical access issues, a few steps, occasional access from ground level, reasonably wide walkways, railings in places
A3	Physical access poor, only for people with full mobility, many steps, no access from ground level except via another section of Walls, narrow walkways, no railings

Visitor facilities

VF1	Major visitor facilities, such as museum, toilets, facilities enhance monument
VF2	Some visitor facilities, such as seating, litter bins, orientation, signage
VF3	No visitor facilities, facilities provided are intrusive to significance of monument or damaging to fabric

2.3.3 General

The 1991 survey of the City Walls reports on the condition of the Walls:

“In...1980...it was stated that ‘on the whole the walls are not in a good state of repair’. The current survey confirms that this is still true, with significant lengths of masonry showing signs of long-term deterioration²⁰.”

This report also sets out the various forms of deterioration to which the Walls are subject and divides them into two groups, those that are the result of poor design or construction and those that are caused by weathering, in its broadest sense. These are as follows:

Poor design / construction

- Foundation defects
- The ‘spreading’ defect (widespread)
- Bodily tilting of the Wall
- Unstable ramparts

²⁰ Pywell, D. 1991. *City of York Survey of City Walls*. p4

Weathering

- Effects of trees (also have beneficial effects)
- Water ingress
- Temperature fluctuations
- Chemical attack due to atmospheric pollution
- Vibration
- Loss of masonry jointing (secondary factor but a problem of considerable scale)
- Loss of jointing to walkway paving (secondary factor but with considerable implications)

It should, however, be remembered that the City Walls are an outdoor monument and as such will always be subject to continual decay leading to the need for continual maintenance.

2.3.4 Summary of Audit by Section

Section 1: Tower 1 to Bitchdaughter Tower (walls and minor towers etc.)

M1, P1, F2, R1, S2, SV1, A2, VF3

Section 2: Bitchdaughter Tower

M1, P1, F1, R1, S3, SV2/SV3, A2, VF3

Section 3: Bitchdaughter Tower to Micklegate Bar (walls and minor towers etc.)

M2/M3, P3, F1/F3, R1, IVT, S3, SV2, A3, VF3

Section 4: Micklegate Bar

M1/M2, P2, F1, S2, SV1, A3, VF1

Section 5: Micklegate Bar to Barker Tower (walls and minor towers etc.)

M2/M3, P1/P2, F3, R1/R3, SFD, S2, SV1, A2, VF2

Section 6: Barker Tower

M2, P2, S3, SV1, A3, VF3

Section 7: Lendal Tower

M2, P3, S3, SV1, A1/A3, VF3

Section 8: Lendal Tower to Bootham Bar (walls and minor towers etc.)

M3, P2, R3, IVT, S1, SV1, A1, VF2

Section 9: Bootham Bar

M2, P1/P2, F2, S2, SV1, A3, VF3

Section 10: Bootham Bar to Monk Bar (walls and minor towers etc.)

Mostly M1/some M3, Mostly P1/some P4, F1/F2, R3, SFD, IVT, S1, SV1, A3, VF2

Section 11: Monk Bar

M2/M3(inside), P1, F1, S2, SV1, A3, VF1

Section 12: Monk Bar to Layerthorpe Postern (walls and minor towers etc.)

Mostly M2/ some M3, P1, F1, R2/R3, IVT, S2, SV1, SV4, A3, VF2

Section 13: Layerthorpe Postern to the Red Tower (King's Fishpond area)

S3, SV1/ SV4, A1, VF3

Section 14: The Red Tower

Mostly M2/ roof M4, P2/P3, S3, SV1, A1, VF3

Section 15: The Red Tower to Walmgate Bar (walls and minor towers etc.)

M2, P2, F2, R1 (but truncated), IVT, S2, SV3/SV4, A2/A3, VF3

Section 16: Walmgate Bar

M2, P2, F2, S2, SV1, A2/A3, VF1

Section 17: Walmgate Bar to Fishergate Postern Tower (walls and minor towers etc.)

M2/M3, P3, F2 (mostly), R3, S3, SV2, A2, VF2

Section 18: Fishergate Postern Tower

M1externally/ M4 internally in places, P1, SFD (staircase), S2, SV2/SV4, A1/A3, VF2

Section 19: Fishergate Postern to Tower 1 (walls and minor towers etc.)

M2, P2/P3, F1, IVT, S3, SV2, A1

2.4 Interpretation and Visitor Facilities

Seating along the Walls is a mixture of plain timber 'municipal park' benches and steel framed timber slatted seats. These are provided at several places along the City Walls: 1 at Tofts Tower; 3 near to Barker Tower / Lendal Bridge; 1 in Tower 24; 5 on Robin Hood Tower; 1 in Tower 28; 1 in Tower 37; and 1 in Tower 39. In addition there is one outside Fishergate Tower at pavement level and several seats are provided in the Museum Gardens and in the small riverside park to the south of Tower Place.

Three rubbish bins are provided at intervals along the Walls: 1 at Tofts Tower, 1 on Robin Hood Tower, 1 in Tower 39. These bins are large square constructions using the City Walls as two sides with the other two sides made from stone blockwork. While these meet basic good practice design guidelines (blend in with the colour of the Wall, minimal intervention, appropriate materials) the opportunity could have been taken to design street furniture as functional pieces of artwork to add to the visitor's experience of walking the Walls. There are also interpretive opportunities when designing street furniture.

Two leaflets are available for a small fee from the Tourist Information Centre. One is a 'trail' leaflet and the other a simple map of the wallwalk with key features marked.



There are two museums along the City Walls, one situated in Micklegate Bar and one in Monk Bar. Monk Bar contains the Richard III Museum, which has reconstructions and a theatre, inviting visitors to decide for themselves if Richard was a monster or an innocent victim of misrepresentation and a great king and leader. It is open daily and charges a small entry fee. Access to the museum is up a steep flight of steps in a small, narrow passageway on one side of the gate. The Micklegate Bar Museum provides a civil and social insight into the city's history and also charges a small entry fee. Access is from the walk way level, again up a flight of steps.

A guidebook to the Bars and Walls of York can be purchased from the Tourist Information Centre. While providing a fairly comprehensive coverage of the Walls and Bars, it has not been updated since it was written in 1974 and cannot be considered accessible for all.

There are a substantial number of websites providing visitor information on York City Walls. The majority of these have been written by individuals or companies who have an interest in promoting visitor facilities in the area. Most of the websites provide a brief reference about the age of the Walls, although two different dates are commonly given: Roman and Norman. A number of websites describe the circuit as being 'incomplete' due to the gap between the Layerthorpe Postern and the Red Tower.

The information provided about the experience of walking the Walls varies considerably. Some sites provide detailed descriptions of the various sections of the Walls, focusing upon their history, others highlight key attractions, such as the Monk Bar Museum. Not all of the sites provide access information, but it is widely considered that the Walls provide some of the best views across the city. A number of sites stress that the most interesting section of the Walls is that between Bootham Bar and Monk Bar. The majority of websites providing information on the Walls are primarily text based. There are only a limited number of sites that provide detailed visual information on what visitors can expect to experience on their tour around the Walls. Confusingly, the City Council's website advertises a 'virtual tour' of the Walls, which is actually a timeline of their development but does provide 360 degree panoramas on a different page and a link to an alternative tour for visually impaired people. A more complete 'virtual tour' is provided on a separate website by a supplier of panoramic photography equipment, presumably as an advertisement for their products. It includes many 360 degree panoramas, interactive maps and unique views.

At most points where access can be gained to the wallwalk a small map of the City Walls is provided. These have recently been re-cased in wooden box frames. At points of interest, such as the main structures (Bars and towers) interpretive panels have been provided. These have also been newly replaced. While the replacement of these elements has certainly helped to improve the environment and provision for visitors to the Walls, the panels are still limited in their accessibility and the quality of interpretation. The text is not very accessible intellectually and not well typeset although the large font size assists with visual access. The opportunities for orientation and interpretation of the City have not been utilised within the maps. Both the maps and panels are not providing for all access needs. A signage survey of the Walls was conducted in 2002, the results are accessible via the Environment & Development Service department of the City of York Council.

A public toilet is provided within the café at Walmgate Bar and another is set into the Walls at the base of the steps leading up to Bootham Bar. Other toilets that are easily accessible from the Walls are situated in Nunnery Lane car park, the Museum Gardens and the St George's Fields car park.

2.5 Physical Access

The City Walls wallwalk is, for the main part, only physically accessible via several sets of stone steps. A photographic survey was conducted in 2000 of all the steps and gates along the City Walls, this resource can be accessed via the Environment & Development Service department. The panoramas provided on the websites mentioned above do offer some additional access. The width of the wallwalk varies and in some areas is quite narrow. Severe weather conditions often affect the accessibility of the wallwalk, especially ice, snow or wind and the Council closes the wallwalk at such times. Railings are provided in several areas



The damage that can be caused from railings can be seen here where the railings have been removed and in the picture to the right where railings are still in place near Micklegate Bar

along the inside of the Wall, although these provide security for those who are nervous of the height of the Walls and provide some form of health and safety provision they are often thought to detract from the appearance of the Walls and in some cases can cause damage to the fabric.



2.6 The Natural Environmental

The City Wall embankments cover at least six hectares of grassland or woodland, which is potentially a significant habitat and wildlife resource for York's urban area. They are considered to be of high local importance as an area of accessible green space within the highly urbanised setting of York city centre. The Walls can also be considered as a 'green corridor' for wildlife and it can be argued that the sights and sounds of birds, trees, grass and wildflowers in an urban centre greatly enhances one's experience and enjoyment.

2.6.1 Bats

The North Yorkshire Bat Group was consulted regarding the likelihood of there being a bat presence along the City Walls. It was their opinion that they were likely to be present and "the various structures (gates, museums, York Water Works, etc.) may have bats in the roof spaces in summer. During the winter,

some bats might be expected to hibernate in the Walls.²¹ Confirmed sightings of bats have been recorded at the Museum Gardens and York Water Works (Lendal Tower) and at many points close to the Walls. English Nature identified that the Walls and particularly the areas with trees such as those around Gillygate are likely to be used as commuting and foraging routes by bats. A list of recorded sightings is included in Appendix E.

2.6.2 Botany

A survey of the embankments records around 75 different herbaceous plant species including: *upright brome* and *bee orchid* which are very rare in the City of York (*bee orchid* is a nationally uncommon species); *spiked sedge* and *crow garlic*, which are rare in the local area; and possibly *sand leek* which is nationally scarce. The most botanically interesting sections include the outer bank between Rougier Street and Micklegate Bar, the inner and outer banks between Micklegate Bar and Victoria Bar and the outer bank at Paragon Street. The conclusion of a survey conducted in 2003 was that the embankments are of significant local nature conservation interest.

The outside of the ramparts from Micklegate towards the station is semi-natural calcareous grassland (probably due to leaching from the limestone City Walls), which is rare to find in the region and therefore supports a number of interesting botanical species including the *upright brome*. There are some mature elm trees at Nunnery Lane and Baile Hill, which are nationally an extremely rare resource. Other interesting factors include the presence of *alexanders*, which occur infrequently inland. They are likely to have been introduced to Britain by the Romans and have been recorded in the same area since at least the 1780s. *Deadly nightshade* was frequently recorded in the past but has now been removed from accessible areas, this plant was used historically for medicinal properties and may be associated with monastic cultivation.

2.6.3 Other Factors



It has been noted that the embankments are likely to have been used for grazing in past centuries and a large cattle market was regularly held from 1827 until 1970 along the exterior side of Sections 15 & 17, with the ramparts being cut away to make space for the cattle pens.

The creation of the cow pens for the cattle market in Paragon St involved the truncation of the City Wall ramparts²²

Cutting away of the ramparts has occurred at several other places both inside and outside the Walls, for example in 1923 to allow room for the Lutyens war memorial (Section 5) and in many places to allow for the erection of buildings.

²¹ Drewett, J. 2004. pers.comm

²² Photograph reproduced from:

http://library.york.gov.uk/uhtbin/cgisirsi/0/0/57/49?user_id=YORKIMAGES

This part of the embankments of the City Walls was removed in 1923 to allow for the siting of a war memorial to the railwaymen who had died in the First World War. It was the site of the fire engine shed at the end of the Scarborough platform of the old railway station (which was inside the City Walls)²³



2.7 Management

During the late medieval and post-medieval periods²⁴ Muremasters were elected to look after the Walls. These were supported by a number of masons and 'Common Husbands'²⁵. From the eighteenth century City Stewards were elected and from the nineteenth century Corporation Surveyors. A list of known city officials responsible for the Walls from c.1448 to 1971 is included in the RCHME volume²⁶, which provides a comprehensive gazetteer of the monument.

The Walls are opened every day at 8.00am except when there is a risk of ice resulting in slippery conditions. They are closed at around dusk.

There is a £15,000 annual repair and maintenance budget allocated for the City Walls and a £100,000 per annum budget allocated for capital works. The budget for capital works can be spent by various departments including Structural Works, City Centre Manager, Environment & Development Services and others. Once a month the City Engineer inspects the Walls. Monthly Health & Safety audits are also undertaken with the resulting proposed list of repairs being passed to the works department. The on-going programme for repair and maintenance is that which is set out in the three volume condition survey of the Walls undertaken in 1991 by the City Council. All work is preceded and accompanied by an appropriate level of archaeological recording and is recorded in the master copy of the condition survey kept in the City Council Engineering Department. An update of the work completed since this date was produced by the City Engineer in 2004 and is included in Appendix C.

Management of the embankments typically includes a grass cut around June / July and another in late summer / early autumn. In addition opportunities are currently being explored by the City Council regarding the creation of new wildflower areas and enhancements to the existing daffodil display. Map 7 overleaf shows the areas initially identified for these improvements.

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Definitions taken from Lee, E (ed). 2000. *MIDAS (A Manual and Data Standard for Monument Inventories)*

²⁵ In effect a Town Manager

²⁶ RCHME. 1972. *An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in the City of York: Volume II - The Defences*

2.8 Literature, Maps, Pictorial and other sources

There are a large number of primary sources for research and understanding relating to York City Walls and the associated buildings and structures (literature, maps, paintings, photographs, illustrations, postcards, correspondence and so on). As it would be inappropriate and impractical to reproduce them as part of this document, a list of those identified during this study can be found in Appendix F, which also includes the Bibliography of sources used in the preparation of this study. It should not be assumed that these lists are exhaustive or complete but merely provide a starting point for further research. It was not possible to obtain catalogues of some additional known collections and to attain these would be a good starting point for further research projects or revisions of this Plan.

2.9 The Research Agenda

The archaeological research framework as set out in the most recent report on the subject²⁷ was designed for the decade of the 1990s and to "...set priorities for future archaeological investigation in York...". Since then further information and knowledge have become available, bringing new ideas and priorities resulting in the need for a redefined framework. The Yorkshire Archaeological Research Frameworks Forum is currently in the process of developing this new framework. An initial draft resource assessment was due out in June 2004 but has been delayed and therefore it has not been possible to define the research priorities that are relevant to the City Walls, but these should be considered in revisions of this Plan.

²⁷ Ove Arup et al. 1991. *York Development & Archaeological Study*

3 Assessment of Significance

"The walls of York are the longest in England – 2 3/4m. long – and the best maintained. Moreover, there is nothing in the country to emulate its gates or bars."²⁸

3.1 Criteria for Assessment and Methodology

In order to draw up policies for York City Walls, it is first necessary to establish the significance and value of the site. This means balancing an understanding of the importance of individual elements of the site with that of the site as a whole.

Significance has been measured and quantified in a variety of ways in the past, most often through a system of grading, e.g. Listed Buildings, Monuments Protection Programme analysis and frequently in Conservation Plans / Statements where structures are graded A to E, 1 to 5 or internationally significant to intrusive. While seeing the merits of such an approach, these grading systems can be potentially damaging to the heritage assets, because certain elements graded as low or of lesser significance could be regarded as dispensable and in effect marked for removal or unsympathetic alteration. Nevertheless, some indications regarding levels of significance are useful. A system has been devised to indicate this, as set out in the table below, and where an element is negative or intrusive this is also stated.

Exceptional	Universal significance, for features that demonstrate global relevance or are significant in a global context.
Considerable	National significance, for features that are important at national level (including Grade I and II* Listed Buildings and Scheduled Monuments). They should demonstrate specific or unique relevance to British history, architecture, archaeology, ecology, industrial or social heritage.
Moderate	Regional significance, as for national but demonstrating regional relevance and fulfilling several criteria at a regional level (see below for criteria). Regional in this instance refers to York as capital of the region, to Yorkshire & Humberside and in some cases to the North of England.
Some	Of limited or narrow cultural significance, as for regional but demonstrating relevance for a narrower section of society, but being capable of enhancement.
Negative or Intrusive	Features that detract from or adversely affect the significance or value of the site, its context or setting or a particular feature.

²⁸ Pevsner, N and Neave, D. 1999. *The Buildings of England. Yorkshire: York and the East Riding*

These classifications may also assist with deciding the administrative level at which strategy and policy should be implemented in order to protect and allow the enhancement of the site.

In treating significance, this Conservation Statement states in what way the City Walls are of significance and substantiates it with a short explanation of the relative values. There follows an evaluation of each key element and section of the Walls in terms of how these contribute to the overall significance of the monument. The following types of value have been considered appropriate for this site:

- *Aesthetic*
- *Archaeological / Historical*
- *Associational*
- *Community / Social / Cultural*
- *Economic*
- *Educational / Interpretive / Research potential*
- *Environmental*
- *Group value*
- *Technological / Engineering*

A certain type of value cannot automatically be regarded as being 'superior' to another and where an element is regarded as being detrimental to the significance or value of the site or building this is stated. A lower designation of significance does not imply that a feature is expendable.

Aesthetic

This relates to the visual appearance of a building, landscape or feature. It is linked to the character of a place (and the "sense of place") and its component parts and to the overall character and context of the site. It is important for group value and adds to the visitor experience. It may also be applied to works of art or other aesthetically valuable structures or items.

Archaeological / Historical

Archaeological value implies that a structure or feature has elements of value that are hidden and should only be investigated or need interpretation by an archaeological professional. The physical remains of these structures or features will have relevance to our understanding of the past. It also applies to those features that require a watching brief during intrusive investigation. These features are likely to contribute to the archaeological understanding of the site, an area or a specific feature. Historical value implies those elements of the site that were important in or affected the course of history or are representative of an important historical event or occasion.

Associational

Associational value is when a part or the whole of the site can be directly related to events or living traditions, ideas, beliefs, or artistic and literary works of significance. This may also include an important historic figure or group of figures, another place, building or site, or an event. These may be relevant to the local area, regionally, nationally or globally.

Community / Social / Cultural

This addresses the elements that make or have made the site of value as a community or visitor resource or is a reference to the social and cultural value placed on the site by the community. This aspect is very much part of the wider importance of city defences and the people who manned them. It also includes the site's value as a recreational facility and leisure attraction.

Economic

This type of value is related to the economic impact or benefits that have been, are, or may be generated by the site.

Educational / Interpretive / Research Potential

Any part of the site including artefacts and associational links could be particularly important in providing interpretive opportunities for aspects of the site's history and its wider relevance. This type of value also indicates where the site or parts of the site are relevant to the current research agenda or may be able to assist with answering specific research questions. Education in its widest sense incorporates not only those aspects that have relevance for schools and the national curriculum but also for Life Long Learning, adult education, enabling intellectual access, increasing understanding and meeting the needs of local communities as well as visitors. While these types of values overlap in some areas it should be born in mind that they also can have very different meanings and inform different agendas, only for expediency have they been brought together in this Plan.

Environmental

Environmental value includes geological, natural and ecological values at a local, national or European level, this may be due to rarity, typicality or attractiveness. Aspects of landscape and setting are also included in this type of value.

Group Value

Where a site is made up of a variety of features or can be associated with a number of other sites this may give it added value due to an unusual mix of features or its value as part of the larger historical landscape and resource.

Technological / Engineering

This applies to features or structures that can demonstrate a particular engineering achievement, construction technique or process. It may also indicate the development of any of these together or separately over time, the unique or rare survival of plant or machinery, or evidence of the development or use of particular crafts, disciplines or designs associated with the overall significance of the site or building.

All negative or intrusive elements provide opportunities for **enhancing** the significance of the monument.

3.2 Comparator Sites

The RCHME survey briefly compares the Walls of York with other surviving city walls in England and Wales and as part of preparing this Plan a brief comparison was made with other city walls in Europe. This is not meant to be an exhaustive list but simply a demonstration of how the monument at York compares with other sites. It is recommended that a more robust and thorough study be undertaken to further inform the understanding of the significance of both this and other sites. A summary of the results of this brief comparison follows overleaf.

3.3 Overall Statement of Significance

The York City Walls are of **exceptional significance** on account of their long and unique history and their historic and continuing relevance to, and impact on, the culture, society, economy and environment of the City of York and its wider, universal context.

The **aesthetic** value of York City Walls is of **exceptional** significance as demonstrated by the numerous representations of them that have been produced over hundreds of years, many of which form parts of collections that are valued universally. In addition the number of international visitors that come to view, appreciate and photograph the Walls is testimony to the contribution that the Walls make to the character of the City and their place as a visual amenity of global status. The Walls are iconic in relation to the character and 'sense of place' of the City of York. Sadly, there are instances where cluttered signage, an inappropriately sited modern amenity or lack of good design **negatively** affects this outstanding aesthetic value.

As one of the most complex and best preserved examples of City Walls and their associated structures, York City Walls are of **universal archaeological and historical** relevance. The number of periods and features, both upstanding and buried, relating to the monument provides a unique resource for the study of the past. The variety of built heritage, represented within the monument reflects its long and unique history. Its visibility and state of preservation greatly contribute to this value. The potential for archaeological study and research is considerable. The alterations and additions made over the centuries may be seen as a precious biographical record and significant in their own right, telling their own story about the monument²⁹.

The **exceptional associational** value of the Walls is due to their associations with numerous monarchs, globally renowned names such as Shakespeare, and their association with events and races that helped to shape global history such as the Roman Empire, the Vikings and the Norman conquest. The historical and current links with the Christian church are of considerable value. The poor interpretive provision and lack of intellectual access severely limits the associational value as only one or two characters and events are explained, this is **intrusive** to their value.

Community / Social / Cultural³⁰. Historically, for defence and amenity purposes, the City Walls had relevance to the communities living near them and their social development. The alteration and development of the circuit demonstrates the role the Walls played in various conflicts and the reliance placed on the defences by the citizens of York, reciprocated by the citizens' role in manning the defences. The development of an autonomous city authority becoming divorced from royal or ecclesiastical control is also embodied within the history of the Walls. The historically developed 'political' Ward system within the City also defined the community groups responsible for manning and repairing each section of the Walls. There is also evidence for the part the Walls have played in controlling movement into and out of the City, for example during times

²⁹ Earl. J. 2003. *Building Conservation Philosophy*

³⁰ With advice from: Roskams, S. 2004. *Interpreting York's 13th Century Walls: the material roots of ideology* (unpublished article)

of plague, and their role in ceremonial activities. The Walls also played their part in the success of Georgian York as a social centre, with their first use as an amenity resource. In addition a number of nationally famous cultural figures flocked to York from this time and immortalised the Walls in literature and art.

In today's society, for economic and amenity reasons, the City Walls have continuing relevance and value for local people and still play a role socially and culturally. The Walls also physically define communities such as the Rowntree estate and the area near Victoria Bar as well as marking the difference between those communities within the Walls and those outside. A perceived lack of community support and awareness of the City Walls' importance is **negative** to their community value, however the regular use of the Walls as a 'short cut' is significant. The lack of physical and intellectual access is a **negative** aspect as is the anti-social behaviour that is frequent around the Walls.

There is potential for **enhancement** of the **economic** value of the City Walls. While they are one of the key defining features of York as a tourism destination and part of the character of York that brings inward investment by attracting businesses to within the City by providing a nice environment for employees, they mostly provide indirect economic benefits apart from minor economic income from the leasing of the spaces within the Bars and the sale of souvenirs. Despite this all sections of the Walls certainly contribute to the economic value by representing the past prosperity of the City and its expansion (and decline) in various periods and for regulating the collection of taxes on goods. The lack of opportunities currently exploited in relation to the City Walls is **negative** to them gaining their real economic value and anti-social behaviour is also a barrier. The lack of physical and intellectual access also has a **negative** effect on the Walls' economic impact.

Educational / Interpretive / Research potential. The learning opportunities afforded by the Walls through their educational and interpretive uses places them as **exceptionally** significant due to their incomparability in a global context. The Walls still have the power to relate dramatically the events and achievements of 2000 years of history and past civilisations. The lack of accessible interpretive material relating to the Walls and the poor orientation and signage is **negative** to these types of value. The poor physical access and health and safety issues are also **intrusive** to the Walls fulfilling their true significance in this area.

The natural **environment** of the site includes nationally scarce mature elm trees, nationally protected bats and regionally scarce botanical species in addition to providing a locally important green corridor and wildlife area, while enhancing the urban environment for visitors and local communities. Lack of knowledge amongst the various groups that manage the City Walls regarding the value of the ecology on and around the setting of the Walls is likely to be **intrusive** to its ecological value as damage may occur due to lack of understanding.

The **group value** of the City Walls can be demonstrated in many ways: through the variety of features and periods represented and also in its association with the many other significant sites that characterise York, such as the Minster, the Museum Gardens, and St Mary's Abbey. The group value of all the historic elements of York are likely to be of **exceptional** significance, however, the other elements would need further study to establish their combined level of significance as a whole, although part of this further study is currently being undertaken. To have a surviving medieval gate is rare, but to have four in good condition in association with other major features and an almost complete circuit of associated Walls is extremely unusual. The destruction of any of the Bars

(currently an issue due to traffic impacts and fire risk), major features or Wall sections would have an extremely **negative** effect on this significance.

The potential for **technological / engineering**³¹ value regarding the Walls is considerable; but little work appears to have been done on researching, for example, the comparison of various forms of construction with the norms prevailing in particular historical periods (this lack of research and therefore understanding is **intrusive**). The Railway Arches may or may not represent mainstream mid-nineteenth century railway practice, and Robin Hood Tower probably includes very early features in the development of reinforced concrete when experimentation was in progress. Even the 'poor' foundations to the Walls will contain information about medieval practice in the construction of defensive artefacts, and the large Bars must offer insights into the history of the structural use of timber. In summary, the potential engineering significance of the Walls is **considerable** and work in this field is required to develop the subject.

Overall summary

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| • <i>Aesthetic</i> | - <i>EXCEPTIONAL</i> |
| • <i>Archaeological / Historical</i> | - <i>EXCEPTIONAL</i> |
| • <i>Associational</i> | - <i>EXCEPTIONAL</i> |
| • <i>Community / Social / Cultural</i> | - <i>CONSIDERABLE</i> |
| • <i>Economic</i> | - <i>MODERATE</i> |
| • <i>Educational / Interpretive / Research potential</i> | - <i>EXCEPTIONAL</i> |
| • <i>Environmental</i> | - <i>CONSIDERABLE</i> |
| • <i>Group value</i> | - <i>EXCEPTIONAL</i> |
| • <i>Technological / Engineering</i> | - <i>CONSIDERABLE</i> |

3.4 Key Elements and Sections

Section 1: Tower 1 to Bitchdaughter Tower (walls and interval towers etc.)

Aesthetically, the attractive residential character of the area has been described on the site audit sheets and has value to residents and visitors. This area visually demonstrates the Victorian expansion of York, while the visual impact of Baile Hill provides a reminder of the development of York from the Norman Conquest to the present day. Views and vistas over the City provide opportunities for appreciating numerous other monuments and this aspect could be enhanced. The **archaeological / historical** value of the area has already been demonstrated by the results of several excavations and the time period and number of significant events covered by the material remains is considerable. The continuous wear and tear over time is potentially **intrusive** to this value. From individuals such as William the Conqueror to institutions such as the Christian church the **associations** with notable historical people are numerous. The area has also played a significant part in many historical events and had a variety of uses. This value is **negatively** affected by the lack of information generally available regarding these associations.

As noted above the **social** value of the Walls and this area are related to the development of autonomous towns and the conflict between church and state. This area in particular can demonstrate this and the inter-reliance of citizens and

³¹ With advice from Peter Little, City of York Engineer. pers. comm

governing authorities, with numerous disagreements over ownership, maintenance and repair, manning and responsibility. These intangible relationships had tangible **economic** effects on all parties, while many of the disagreements were related to financial responsibility. The richness and breadth of history related to this area has exceptional potential for **educational / interpretive and research** purposes, though to date this has not been fully exploited, which is **intrusive**.

Although the natural **environment** of this area is not as diverse and interesting as some other sections of the Walls, there are a number of nationally scarce mature elm trees and the remnants of designed eighteenth century landscape features. The contribution this area makes to the **group value** of the monument as a whole is exceptional, for example: being one of the castle sites within a rare example of a 'two castle town'; the range of periods present, both buried and visible; as part of the almost complete wall circuit; and the range of characters and events with which it is related. As has been discussed above, it is difficult to assess the **technological** value of any part of the monument without further study, although the range of building periods and features present indicates that this could be considerable.

- *Aesthetic* - *SOME*
- *Archaeological / Historical* - *CONSIDERABLE*
- *Associational* - *CONSIDERABLE*
- *Community / Social / Cultural* - *MODERATE*
- *Economic* - *MODERATE*
- *Educational / Interpretive / Research potential* - *EXCEPTIONAL*
- *Environmental* - *CONSIDERABLE*
- *Group value* - *EXCEPTIONAL*
- *Technological / Engineering* - *CONSIDERABLE (potentially)*

Section 2: Bitchdaughter Tower

Aesthetic value as above for Section 1 and this Tower also provides views out into the suburbs and has potential to act as a small viewing area. Investigation into the **historical** naming and development of this Tower could prove rewarding, while there is minor potential for excavation of the internal room. Further research may provide additional evidence for **associational** value, meanwhile references to the King's gaol may indicate noteworthy 'residents'. Previously used as one of the many watch towers relied on by the citizens to warn of attack or observe hostilities, this Tower has some historical **social** significance. As a part of the monument the Tower contributes generally to the **economic and group** values. There may be potential to contribute to our understanding of the building of medieval towers along walls.

- *Aesthetic* - *SOME*
- *Archaeological / Historical* - *MODERATE (potentially)*
- *Associational* - *MODERATE (potentially)*
- *Community / Social / Cultural* - *SOME*
- *Economic* - *SOME*
- *Educational / Interpretive / Research potential* - *MODERATE (potentially)*
- *Group value* - *MODERATE*
- *Technological / Engineering* - *SOME*

Section 3: Bitchdaughter Tower to Micklegate Bar (walls and interval towers etc.)

Aesthetically, value comes from the attractive residential areas and for the potential for motorists viewing the Walls from the surrounding roads, while the car park **detracts** from the view out from the Walls. Section 3 includes some very early towers and therefore has potential for enhancing our understanding of medieval defensive **engineering**, this also contributes to the **archaeological** value and the discovery of a previously unknown gate at Victoria Bar may demonstrate a potential that applies to the Walls as a whole. The notorious George Hudson's association with the opening of Victoria Bar due to the expanding Victorian population brings **associational** and **social** connections. The elm trees mentioned previously are also present along parts of this section and the outer rampart between Victoria Bar and Micklegate is one of the most botanically interesting sections. The contribution Section 3 makes to the overall **group value** is considerable, as a long stretch of early wall with an impressive presence visually and historically.

- *Aesthetic* - *SOME*
- *Archaeological / Historical* - *CONSIDERABLE*
- *Associational* - *MODERATE*
- *Community / Social / Cultural* - *MODERATE*
- *Economic* - *SOME*
- *Educational / Interpretive / Research potential* - *MODERATE / CONSIDERABLE*
- *Environmental* - *CONSIDERABLE*
- *Group value* - *CONSIDERABLE*
- *Technological / Engineering* - *CONSIDERABLE (potentially)*

Section 4: Micklegate Bar

It is impossible to deny the **aesthetic** appeal of Micklegate Bar, although the presence of homeless people can be discouraging, there is probably historical precedence for seeking alms from well-off visitors entering the City. **Culturally** the most important of York's gateways it was (and sometimes still is) the focus for civic events, such as greeting a monarch and for displaying the severed heads of traitors. **Economic** income has been derived throughout its lifetime by leasing of the rooms over the Bar, a high percentage of tourist souvenirs display its image, many visitors are encouraged to visit because of its reputation and it has the potential to contribute to the regeneration of the Micklegate area. While a great amount is known about the life of this Bar and the museum provides a vehicle for communicating this, there are opportunities for increasing access to information and for new **research** to be undertaken, particularly in relation to **engineering**. As one of the four great medieval gates at York the contribution this Bar makes to the **group value** of the monument is exceptional. The significance of this structure, and therefore the whole monument, is **threatened** by further vehicle strikes and the possibility of arson. The use of the Bar as a museum gives it **educational and interpretive** value but the quality of the signage within the museum **detracts** from this.

- *Aesthetic* - *SOME*
- *Archaeological / Historical* - *CONSIDERABLE*
- *Associational* - *CONSIDERABLE*
- *Community / Social / Cultural* - *MODERATE*
- *Economic* - *SOME*
- *Educational / Interpretive / Research potential* - *CONSIDERABLE*
- *Group value* - *EXCEPTIONAL*
- *Technological / Engineering* - *CONSIDERABLE (potentially)*

Section 5: Micklegate Bar to Barker Tower (walls and interval towers etc.)

The **view** of this stretch of Wall with the Minster behind is one of the most photographed and reproduced views in the country and recognised worldwide. Enhancing this are views of impressive Victorian buildings such as the North Eastern Railway Headquarters, the Old Railway Station and the magnificent curved train shed of the new station. The railway arches and other Victorian re-building provides opportunities for understanding the **engineering** techniques used and **historically** links this section to the massive changes happening all over the country with the arrival of the rail system and the significant **social, economic and cultural** changes that occurred. Links to modern history are also provided through the presence of the air raid shelters, although the lack of interpretation and public access to these is **intrusive**. The semi-natural calcareous grassland in this area supports plants that are rare in the region and the outer rampart between Micklegate Bar and Rougier Street is one of the most botanically interesting sections along the Walls. The range of periods and features potentially present contribute to Section 5's **archaeological group value**, including: Roman cemetery; King's Toft; Anglian, Norman, Medieval and late Medieval Walls; cholera cemetery; tannery; air raid shelters.

- *Aesthetic* - *CONSIDERABLE*
- *Archaeological / Historical* - *CONSIDERABLE*
- *Associational* - *MODERATE / CONSIDERABLE*
- *Community / Social / Cultural* - *MODERATE*
- *Economic* - *SOME*
- *Educational / Interpretive / Research potential* - *EXCEPTIONAL*
- *Environmental* - *MODERATE*
- *Group value* - *EXCEPTIONAL*
- *Technological / Engineering* - *CONSIDERABLE*

Section 6: Barker Tower

This Tower is one of the most attractive structures along the City Walls, the patina of the roof tiles is often commented upon and it has an architecturally interesting interior. **Archaeologically**, the historic fabric of the Tower is fascinating and is not properly understood, there is also potential for excavation and **research**. The range of features and alterations, from gun loops, internal arches, and waterspouts to the re-used timber in the roof give this structure **group value** of its own. As one of the three surviving 'chain' Towers and having been altered much less than its counterparts, it considerably contributes to the group value of the monument. The Tower's role in controlling the river to protect

the City and its use for the ferryman, living accommodation and artist's studio demonstrate its **social, cultural** and **economic** role over time. Constant damp and flooding may in time prove to be **intrusive** to the overall significance of the structure, although the fabric appears to be surviving comparatively well. Its recent use as an artist's studio allowed some degree of public access, which enhanced its value and should be considered as part of future uses.

- *Aesthetic* - MODERATE
- *Archaeological / Historical* - CONSIDERABLE
- *Associational* - SOME
- *Community / Social / Cultural* - SOME
- *Economic* - SOME
- *Educational / Interpretive / Research potential* - CONSIDERABLE
- *Group value* - CONSIDERABLE
- *Technological / Engineering* - CONSIDERABLE

Section 7: Lendal Tower

With the same original function as Barker Tower, Lendal's additional use as an early and long-lived waterworks gives added **social and community** value and **technical / engineering** value (especially given the different methods of power), as does its position at an important landing place, which has continued in use till today. While Lendal's appearance has changed much more dramatically than Barker Tower's it is still of great **aesthetic** value and greatly contributes to the character of the City. The utilisation of much re-used stone and the early and continued alterations make this Tower **archaeologically** interesting, while more **research** could be done into the origins of some of the fabric and the Tower's development. The first mention of the Tower and its **historical association** with St Leonard's Hospital, and therefore St Mary's Abbey, are interesting historically and important as part of the history of the City and may have wider links. The associations with York Waterworks and the artefacts remaining in the Tower that relate to the history of this company also have an **associational** value. The associated buildings of Lendal Hill House and the engine house / payments hall, while not included within this study, gives this site **group value**, as they assist with demonstrating the changes of use relating to the site. As one of the most potentially accessible structures along the Walls and with interesting links to the history and development of the City, this Tower provides potentially high **interpretative and educational** opportunities. An appropriate re-use for some or all of the buildings in this group could **enhance** the interpretive / educational / community value further. A private re-use for the Tower, restricting public access, would be **intrusive** to the significance and potential of this feature. Bats have been recorded as present here, giving the Tower an **environmental** value.

- *Aesthetic* - MODERATE
- *Archaeological / Historical* - CONSIDERABLE
- *Associational* - MODERATE
- *Community / Social / Cultural* - MODERATE
- *Economic* - SOME
- *Educational / Interpretive / Research potential* - MODERATE
- *Environment* - CONSIDERABLE
- *Group value* - CONSIDERABLE
- *Technological / Engineering* - CONSIDERABLE

Section 8: Lendal Tower to Bootham Bar (walls and interval towers etc.)

As the only substantial standing Roman remains, and retaining a complicated mixture of features relating to many periods, Section 8 has considerable **archaeological, historical, engineering, research and group value**. The rampart between Lendal Hill House and the Museum Gardens entrance could enhance the **archaeological** value, if, as suspected, it has been altered less than other sections of rampart. The area within St Leonard's precinct is quiet and contemplative and a walk in the Museum Gardens provides a nineteenth century 'picturesque' or 'romantic' experience of the ruins. This contributes to and enhances the national significance implied by the Garden's designation as a Park / Garden of Special Historic Interest and increases its **amenity / community** value as well as providing an added dimension to its **cultural** influence. This aspect also gives Section 8 an **aesthetic** and **environmental** value. The conceptual and physical links here with St Leonard's Hospital, St Mary's Abbey, the Museum Gardens designed landscape, The Yorkshire Philosophical Society, and the insertion of St Leonard's Place increase the **group value** of this section beyond that for the Walls as an important group of archaeological features. The three sections of wall behind the library and the interior of the Multangular Tower are difficult to find, poorly signposted and the feeling of privacy discourages exploration, this is intrusive to its **interpretive** value. However, the representation of the different banks and therefore the periods represented by the Walls near the Anglian Tower is probably the best example of interpretation to be found along the Walls (see front cover), although it may need to be revised in light of recent excavations. The lack of orientation and access to the Anglian Tower is **intrusive** to its interpretive and educational value. The Conservation Management Plan for the Museum Gardens³² should be consulted regarding further information about this section.

- | | |
|--|---|
| • <i>Aesthetic</i> | - <i>CONSIDERABLE</i> |
| • <i>Archaeological / Historical</i> | - <i>CONSIDERABLE / EXCEPTIONAL</i> |
| • <i>Associational</i> | - <i>CONSIDERABLE</i> |
| • <i>Community / Social / Cultural</i> | - <i>MODERATE</i> |
| • <i>Economic</i> | - <i>SOME</i> |
| • <i>Educational / Interpretive / Research potential</i> | - <i>CONSIDERABLE / EXCEPTIONAL (potential)</i> |
| • <i>Environmental</i> | - <i>MODERATE</i> |
| • <i>Group value</i> | - <i>CONSIDERABLE / EXCEPTIONAL</i> |
| • <i>Technological / Engineering</i> | - <i>CONSIDERABLE</i> |

Section 9: Bootham Bar

Bootham Bar is perhaps plainer than the other main medieval Bars, but nevertheless is a crucial part of the character of Exhibition Square and provides a highly appropriate focal point for the view up High Petergate. The signs and clutter of the junction and pedestrian crossings external to the gate **deduct** from this **aesthetic** value. However, it is a key access point for the Walls due to the many bus stops here.

³² Currently in progress at time of writing, due out by end 2004



Street clutter at Bootham Bar

The Bar does, despite extensive later restoration, contain some of the earliest medieval stonework on the Walls and it has been extensively documented in early photographs, which

assists with the study of the Victorian and more recent work. The restoration work itself has a **historical / archaeological / technical** value for the examples it provides of the method of repairs and philosophy behind restoration in the Victorian period and the significance of the historic environment and its amenity value at this time. There has been a gateway on this site for over 1900 years and the evidence of changes throughout the centuries relating to the changing uses and meanings concerning city gates and the **social**, political and **cultural** development of towns gives it **interpretive / educational** value, **research potential** and **group value**. This is also demonstrated by it being one of the four surviving main Medieval Bars of York and due to the historical links with St Mary's Abbey and the Roman fortress. Bootham also contributes to the moderate **economic** value of the Wall as a whole. In addition to the above **associations**, Thomas Mowbray's severed head was fixed here in 1405 after he had joined Archbishop Scrope's rebellion against Henry IV and was executed in a cornfield under the City Walls. Mowbray (1385-1405) was Duke of Norfolk, Marshall of England, descended from Edward I through his grandmother and a member of one of the richest families in England. The toilets next to the Bar provide much needed visitor facilities but detract from the character and **aesthetic** appeal.

- *Aesthetic* - MODERATE / CONSIDERABLE
- *Archaeological / Historical* - CONSIDERABLE
- *Associational* - CONSIDERABLE
- *Community / Social / Cultural* - CONSIDERABLE
- *Economic* - SOME
- *Educational / Interpretive / Research potential* - CONSIDERABLE
- *Environmental* - MODERATE
- *Group value* - EXCEPTIONAL
- *Technological / Engineering* - MODERATE (Potential)

Section 10: Bootham Bar to Monk Bar (walls and interval towers etc.)

This Section is often cited as *the* part of Walls to walk and as such attracts tourists, thereby having some indirect **economic** impact. **Aesthetically** one of the most attractive sections, views of the famous York Minster are spectacular from here (this also gives it **group value**) and many attractive gardens can also be seen. Probably due to the late Victorian re-building of most of the tops of the

Walls, the stone and design of this section has a character of its own relating to Victorian ideas of what a medieval defensive wall and towers should look like, and probably coinciding closely with most people's ideas of this today. As most of this section is railed, it is more suitable for children, those with vertigo, or people unsteady on their feet. Robin Hood Tower probably provides an example of the early **engineering** use of re-enforced concrete. Being built above or close to the line of the Roman fortress wall, retaining the most clearly defined section of outer ditch, and the existence of an unexcavated ice-house within the ramparts means this section has considerable **archaeological** potential and **interpretive / educational** value. The comments above regarding Victorian restoration are also applicable here. The **environment** is potentially important for bats.

- *Aesthetic* - *CONSIDERABLE*
- *Archaeological / Historical* - *MODERATE*
- *Associational* - *CONSIDERABLE*
- *Community / Social / Cultural* - *MODERATE*
- *Economic* - *SOME*
- *Educational / Interpretive / Research potential* - *CONSIDERABLE*
- *Environmental* - *CONSIDERABLE (potential)*
- *Group value* - *CONSIDERABLE*
- *Technological / Engineering* - *MODERATE (Potential)*

Section 11: Monk Bar

Monk Bar is considered by some to be the most elaborate and ornate of the surviving gates. **Technically** it is extremely interesting as it can function as a self-contained fortress with each floor capable of being defended. As a self-contained structure it contains a number of **archaeologically** important features, as one of the surviving four main medieval gates, and as an integral part of the **group value** of the Wall circuit, its value is extremely high. As with Bootham, Monk Bar enhances its environment by providing a focal point for the view down Goodramgate. The Bar has **associational** values relating to the pre-conquest Minster, the historical tenants, and the possibility that Richard II had the top storey built. Previous uses by the police, the scouts, as a prison and currently as a museum / small theatre indicates **social and cultural** impact, as well as the previously mentioned relationships of city gates to town development.

Economically, the lease of the Bar has provided an income for the City authorities for many years. The control of goods and taxes on goods at city gates give a historic economic value. As with Micklegate, the current use as a Museum gives the Bar **interpretive and educational** value but the quality of this provision detracts from its value.

- *Aesthetic* - *CONSIDERABLE*
- *Archaeological / Historical* - *CONSIDERABLE*
- *Associational* - *CONSIDERABLE*
- *Community / Social / Cultural* - *CONSIDERABLE*
- *Economic* - *SOME/ MODERATE*
- *Educational / Interpretive / Research potential* - *CONSIDERABLE*
- *Environmental* - *MODERATE*
- *Group value* - *EXCEPTIONAL*
- *Technological / Engineering* - *CONSIDERABLE (Potential)*

Section 12: Monk Bar to Layerthorpe Postern (walls and interval towers etc.)

As well as the **archaeological** and **historical** value of the Walls, towers and ramparts of Section 12 itself, nearby features such as the ice-house, the Merchant Taylor's Hall, the consolidated remains of the Roman fortress wall and corner tower, and the variety of periods of habitation they represent contribute to this. They also increase the **aesthetic** appeal and contribute to the character of the **environment** and **group value** of this area. The clutter of signage at Layerthorpe Bridge is negative to the Walls **aesthetic** and **environmental** value. The removal of Layerthorpe Postern has **negatively** affected the historical and group value of the entire monument. The **interpretive and educational** potential of this section is increased due to the nearby features. The **research** and **archaeological** value has been confirmed by the results of excavations in the area.

- *Aesthetic* - *CONSIDERABLE*
- *Archaeological / Historical* - *CONSIDERABLE*
- *Associational* - *MODERATE*
- *Community / Social / Cultural* - *SOME*
- *Economic* - *SOME*
- *Educational / Interpretive / Research potential* - *CONSIDERABLE*
- *Environmental* - *SOME*
- *Group value* - *EXCEPTIONAL*
- *Technological / Engineering* - *CONSIDERABLE (Potential)*

Section 13: Layerthorpe Postern to the Red Tower (King's Fishpond area)

Archaeologically, the existence of the Fishpond and the gradual raising of land level with rubbish is likely to provide a rich **archaeological** resource providing recent development has not destroyed this. The **interpretive and educational** potential here is relatively high, as many visitors consider this to be a 'gap' in the defences. Current interpretive provision and lack of orientation is **negative** to the value of this area. As an additional feature to the vast variety of defensive structures used by the City it greatly contributes to the **group value** of the monument and the understanding of the historical development of York. The Fishpond's association with William I, other important archaeological sites in York (such as the mill site by the Castle), the Christian church, and the network of ponds and dams indicate **associational** and **technical** value. The poor quality of the light industrial units, the intrusion of the busy road, the unkempt appearance of the river area, and the lack of sense of personal security **negatively** affect the aesthetic value of this section but provide opportunities for enhancement. The existence of the Rowntree Wharf, linking with Rowntree's long association with York and the Rowntree community / residents and thereby the philanthropic philosophy of the era gives this area some **community** value.

- *Aesthetic* - *SOME*
- *Archaeological / Historical* - *MODERATE*
- *Associational* - *MODERATE*
- *Community / Social / Cultural* - *SOME*
- *Economic* - *SOME*
- *Educational / Interpretive / Research potential* - *MODERATE (potential)*
- *Group value* - *EXCEPTIONAL*
- *Technological / Engineering* - *MODERATE*

Section 14: The Red Tower

Aesthetically this is a very attractive structure, which enhances the environment in this area, although the approach from the north somewhat **detracts** from this. Its construction in brick rather than stone is also significant **historically**. The raising of the ground level around this structure has similar implications for **archaeological** potential as Section 13. The lack of understanding regarding the low wall surrounding the western side of the Tower provides opportunities for non-intrusive community archaeology. The Tower's possible use as a brimstone (sulphur) manufactory has **technological** / scientific interest and relates to previous economic value and links with York's industrial history, it also provides an interesting **educational** opportunity and gives it **cultural** value. Sulphur has many historical uses but it's regular use as an insecticide / fumigator may indicate associations with **social** issues of the time. Further research could be conducted regarding the historical use of sulphur in Yorkshire. The Tower is likely to have a value for the local **community** of the Rowntree Estate. The potential for re-use of the Tower, possibly as an **interpretive** space gives it added values.

- *Aesthetic* - MODERATE
- *Archaeological / Historical* - MODERATE
- *Associational* - SOME
- *Community / Social / Cultural* - SOME
- *Economic* - SOME
- *Educational / Interpretive / Research potential* - MODERATE
- *Environmental* - SOME
- *Group value* - CONSIDERABLE
- *Technological / Engineering* - SOME

Section 15: The Red Tower to Walmgate Bar (walls and interval towers etc.)

The use of foundation arches to resolve the 'watry situation' demonstrates medieval **engineering** techniques and gives Section 15 a different character. The Victorian re-building demonstrates **historical** conservation techniques, as mentioned above. The defining of the Rowntree community by the Wall adds to Section 15's **community / social** value, also of value is the **association** with Joseph Rowntree and his connections with the industrial, **economic** and **social** development of York. Development cutting into the ramparts is **intrusive** to the significance of the Walls. Recent, unpublished excavations may provide further information regarding the foundations and building of the Wall but the public inaccessibility of this information **detracts** from its usefulness.

- *Aesthetic* - SOME
- *Archaeological / Historical* - SOME
- *Associational* - SOME
- *Community / Social / Cultural* - SOME
- *Economic* - SOME
- *Educational / Interpretive / Research potential* - SOME
- *Group value* - MODERATE
- *Technological / Engineering* - MODERATE

Section 16: Walmgate Bar

The values mentioned above relating to the importance of the Medieval Bars in general apply equally to Walmgate Bar. **Archaeological / historical** value is provided by: Walmgate being the only Medieval gate in the country to retain its barbican; the survival of the inner timber façade (aiding understanding of the other Bars); and some nice architectural features, such as the window with loophole, corbels and portcullis. There is also evidence of former attacks on the Bar from potential bullet holes to the sagging of the barbican wall being probably due to a Civil War mine. The current use by a local community church and coffee shop, its previous use for local celebration of national events (illumination of Bar for Edward and Alexandra in 1901 and in again 1911) and its role in the Civil War indicates **community / social** value and also enhances its **associational** value. The **aesthetic** appeal of this Bar is obvious and it greatly contributes to enhancing the **environment** in this area of the City. However, the current drab streetscape and difficult crossing point for pedestrians **detract** from the Bar's value, as does the lack of interpretive links / orientation into the City. The frequent damage and resulting repair and replacement of fabric also **detracts** heavily from its value and may result in near destruction of this structure at some point, which would **negatively** affect the overall significance of the monument.

- *Aesthetic* - *CONSIDERABLE*
- *Archaeological / Historical* - *CONSIDERABLE*
- *Associational* - *CONSIDERABLE*
- *Community / Social / Cultural* - *MODERATE*
- *Economic* - *MODERATE*
- *Educational / Interpretive / Research potential* - *CONSIDERABLE*
- *Environmental* - *SOME*
- *Group value* - *EXCEPTIONAL*
- *Technological / Engineering* - *CONSIDERABLE*

Section 17: Walmgate Bar to Fishergate Postern Tower (walls and interval towers etc.)

The interesting uses of the tower / room at Fishergate Bar provide indications regarding the way certain areas of society were perceived and treated, giving this feature **historical, social and cultural** value (enhanced by the survival of a description by a prisoner of conditions in the prison). This Bar, although not a main entranceway and less elaborate than the four main Bars, has considerable survival of historic fabric, which is probably due to it being blocked up for a long period of time and suffering less damage and decay than many other sections of Wall. Also of value is the survival of Fishergate Postern with its portcullis slot. The outer rampart along Paragon Street is one of the most botanically interesting sections (**environmental**). There appear to be many records relating to expenditure and price of certain services and articles relating to this stretch of wall, one relating to the re-building of a stretch funded by a local benefactor (**associational / economic**).

- *Aesthetic* - *MODERATE*
- *Archaeological / Historical* - *MODERATE*
- *Associational* - *SOME*
- *Community / Social / Cultural* - *MODERATE*
- *Economic* - *SOME*

- *Educational / Interpretive / Research potential* - MODERATE
- *Environmental* - MODERATE
- *Group value* - MODERATE
- *Technological / Engineering* - MODERATE (potential)

Section 18: Fishergate Postern Tower

Although, this Tower is impressive and imposing in its size, the massing of modern developments close by overshadow the Tower itself and **negatively** affect this **aesthetic** and **environmental** value. This modern development, and the busy road, prevent visitors from viewing the Tower from the distance that is needed to appreciate its size and structural bulk. The presence of roosting pigeons on the Tower is also **negative** to the environmental and community value due to health & safety issues. The provision of some public access, its use by local artists and the contribution their exhibitions make to the **community** are all positive features. **Intrusive** to this is: the lack of publicity relating to public access to the Tower; fire officer restricts general public access to the lower two floors; a need to book on the York Walk tour; and a lack of essential services.

Externally the Tower appears to be in good condition and many interesting **historic / archaeological** features survive including the watch tower, spiral staircase, guarderobe and many blocked up features. However, severe decay of the interior stone, especially on the spiral staircase and adjoining wall near the window on the first floor level is **negative** to this value and could result in loss of significant features and structural safety issues.

- *Aesthetic* - SOME (potentially MODERATE)
- *Archaeological / Historical* - CONSIDERABLE
- *Associational*
- *Community / Social / Cultural* - SOME
- *Economic* - SOME
- *Educational / Interpretive / Research potential* - SOME
- *Environmental* - NEGATIVE
- *Group value* - CONSIDERABLE
- *Technological / Engineering* - SOME

Section 19: Fishergate Postern to Tower 1 (walls and minor towers etc.)

The **group and associational** value of Section 19 is greatly increased by the presence of the river, the Friary walls (and historically the Friary), Cliffords Tower and York Castle. Due to these elements there is also considerable potential for **interpretive and educational** provision but this is currently not being fulfilled. **Aesthetically** this stretch of wall is very attractive and provides a backdrop of character for the lane and houses behind. Between Fishergate Postern Tower and Tower 1 there is an **intrusion** from the modern road network and associated paraphernalia, which detracts from its aesthetic appearance. The small public park to the south of this stretch of Wall is of poor design, unkempt appearance (possibly due to the constant flooding) and does nothing to enhance, interpret or promote the City Wall but does provide an opportunity for doing so.

This section provides one of the few examples of the original stretches of wallwalk and along with Davy Tower is potentially interesting **archaeologically / historically**. Davy Tower is now a private residence and public access is not possible, it has also not been possible to gain access to the Tower to inform this study. This is **negative** to its value as is its isolation from the other parts of the Walls and lack of orientation, interpretation and signage resulting in a lack of understanding of this being part of the walled circuit by many people.

- *Aesthetic* - MODERATE
- *Archaeological / Historical* - CONSIDERABLE (potential)
- *Associational* - CONSIDERABLE
- *Community / Social / Cultural* - SOME
- *Educational / Interpretive / Research potential* - CONSIDERABLE (potential)
- *Environmental* - SOME
- *Group value* - MODERATE
- *Technological / Engineering* - SOME

4 Vulnerability / Conservation Issues

In order to progress from establishing why aspects of the site are significant to formulating policies to retain or enhance their significance and value, it is first necessary to identify the threats and vulnerabilities that affect the site. The following vulnerabilities have been identified as those most appropriate to the site for the present and future. The subsequent policies have been developed following an understanding of the significance and value of the York City Walls and by addressing the vulnerabilities of these aspects.

4.1 General Vulnerabilities and Risks Relating to the Site as a Whole and Particular Aspects of the Site

4.1.1 General

- *Natural erosion.* All historic sites suffer from natural erosion caused by the weather, vegetation, and animals. Many of these factors can be solved through land management or physical protection of the site but some erosion is inevitable. The natural propensity for 'rapid' decay of much of the stone used for construction is also an issue.
- *Physical access.* Provision for people with impaired mobility, with pushchairs, or sensory impairment is inadequate for most of the site. The nature of the structures means that full access in the future is unlikely to be possible. This is likely to affect the future development of the site as a heritage attraction and may result in some loss of business or limitations on income. By 2004 every site and place of work must be compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) where reasonably possible to do so (Listing or Scheduling value will take precedence). There are many elements of the City Walls that would be very difficult to make accessible, but reasonable attempts should be made regarding providing access for all or appropriate alternative access. This must also be considered within all future plans for development and interpretation.
- *Intellectual access³³ (also covered by the DDA).* Intellectual access and interaction is at present limited in many areas. This will restrict optimising the economic and tourism potential of the site, while past history has shown that the support of the local community is vital for protecting and ensuring the future of the Walls.

4.1.2 Structures

- *Inadvertent damage.* This study has shown that particular elements and much of the development of the complex structure of the City Walls is not fully understood. There is a danger that significant features may be inadvertently damaged through inappropriate maintenance or management strategies. In addition, the damage caused by traffic through the Bars and the piecemeal removal of the ramparts will have serious impacts on the significance of the monument.
- *Loss of resource / natural erosion.* Continuing erosion and development leading to loss of resource poses a threat to the survival of some of the

³³ Intellectual access is about providing the information people want regardless of any prior knowledge, educational attainment, physical or sensory impairment, mental health needs, learning difficulties and allowing people to learn at their own pace and set their own agenda.

buildings and structures, as well as the few fixtures and fittings left relating to the function of the Walls and structures (e.g. portcullis' and their mechanisms). They are of considerable importance in demonstrating the function and historical development of the site to visitors. Although managed, benign neglect may at times be desirable, this needs to be managed in order to prevent structures from becoming hazardous, unstable or structurally unsound. While development and enhancement of the monument is also desirable this must be appropriate and guided by the policies set out in Section 5 of this Plan.

- *Lack of resources for maintenance and repair / economic constraints.* The resources, financial and physical, needed to ensure regular maintenance and repair can be considerable. While a great amount of maintenance and repair is regularly undertaken, lack of adequate resources, dissemination of good conservation practice, time commitment and the lack of a single point of decision making and co-ordination may result in the site becoming neglected in the future or inappropriate actions being taken.
- *Insensitive repair and alteration*³⁴. All historic buildings are prone to insensitive repair, particularly with regard to inappropriate repointing, paint and mortar mixes. It is also common for roofs to be repaired or replaced with inappropriate or non-traditional materials. This issue is particularly important as the conservation principles relating to the historic fabric are poorly disseminated and a wide range of parties are involved, especially with larger projects. Alterations such as the blocking of windows, insertion of services or inappropriate additions will alter the value of the asset as well as possibly destroying or hiding archaeological and historical evidence. They will also affect the aesthetic significance of the site through loss of character and thus all proposed alterations should be considered in the light of the impact upon the building and character of the area, while all repair work must respect the historic integrity of the fabric. Alterations are inevitably necessary in buildings that are changing their use, particularly when adapting to enable public access. Special consideration should be taken to ensure that the installation of essential visitor services (such as water, electricity and toilets) respects the historic character of the site and does not diminish the site's historic significance and authenticity. Maintenance must be a priority before further intervention.
- *Inappropriate re-use.* In many cases adaptive re-use of historic buildings or sites is preferable to no use at all and subsequent dereliction and loss. However, it should be recognised that many uses require considerable alteration and the installation of services, while building regulations will require alterations such as new access points or fire escapes that may seriously damage the historical significance and destroy surviving fabric. English Heritage can provide guidelines on the re-use of historic buildings. Any decisions regarding re-use should always choose the option that provides a sustainable use whilst retaining the building's historical integrity, authenticity, and context.
- *Inappropriate development, reconstruction or restoration.* The complex nature of the monument and the many changes and alterations that have taken place historically are such that unless care is taken it may become difficult for the public to differentiate between restored and 'original' fabric

³⁴ Brereton, C. 1995. *The Repair of Historic Buildings: Advice on Principles and Methods*

and so retain the authenticity of the experience. It should be considered that many of the past alterations are now of great historic significance in their own right and can be vulnerable to inappropriate development. Inappropriate development in the close vicinity will also affect the significance of the site and may damage archaeological remains. Current physical links are also important (the network of streets inside the Walls, for example, because of their connection to the history and development of the City and its walls) but new links may be inappropriate.

- *Lack of recording.* Recent work that has been undertaken on site has followed a commendable programme of recording. This must be continued by means of detailed recording through photogrammetry, drawing, photographs, samples and descriptions. It is important that any structures not yet recorded are fully recorded as soon as possible and certainly before any alteration, and that the development of any areas of archaeological importance follow recommendations for investigations as detailed in PPG 15 and 16 and in the Policy Section below.

4.1.3 Historical Range

- *Lack of understanding.* It has been noted earlier in this study that the complex nature of the monument and its development are still not fully understood. The relationships between phases of development, in particular, are often debated and in doubt. This may lead to uninformed decisions regarding the conservation, alteration and re-use of structures. The lack of research agenda or knowledge regarding the value of the monument in engineering terms may also lead to the unwitting destruction of valuable evidence.
- *Cumulative loss of building fabric and architectural detail.* Historic sites and structures frequently suffer damage caused by the incremental loss of small elements. This can be as destructive as demolishing an entire building, as the historic merit of a building that still stands but has lost all evidence of its former use is severely reduced. This is particularly important for a monument such as this where the whole is made up from a vast number of elements and its significance is greatly increased by the survival of these as a group. This could affect the group value of the site, which is vital to the City Wall's overall significance. Cumulative loss may also result from destruction through intrusive archaeological investigation. Another area of particular relevance for the monument is the cumulative loss of material from the ramparts.

4.1.4 Research Potential and Opportunities, Collections and Archives

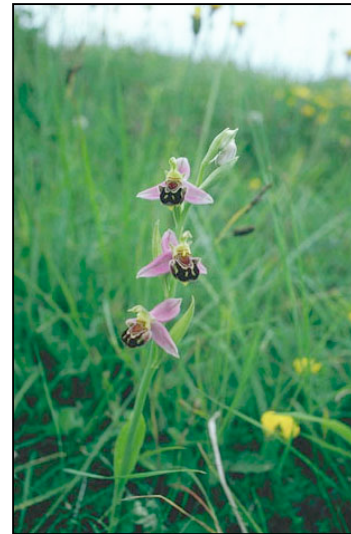
- *Cataloguing / inventory.* Access to the many collections relating to the City Walls and the usefulness of the resource are both seriously affected by the lack of a comprehensive catalogue or inventory. While the forthcoming book by the York Archaeological Trust³⁵ will go some way to rectify this it will only cover the pictorial resources. Without a comprehensive knowledge of the extent and condition of the resource, appropriate policies for its protection, storage and further research will be difficult to draw up.

³⁵ Wilson, B and Mee, F. Forthcoming. *The Archaeology of York Supplementary Series: The Medieval Buildings of York. The Pictorial Evidence*

- *Lack of resources.* There is considerable research potential relating to the monument and to individual features. The lack of resources available to undertake this could be intrusive to its significance as collections may decay or become dispersed over time and alterations to the fabric takes place destroying former evidence. Piecemeal research is being undertaken but a co-ordinated and prioritised approach to an agreed research agenda would be more appropriate and effective. (See also 4.1.3 Lack of understanding)
- *Access to results.* While a large number of excavations and other research work have been undertaken in recent years the vast majority of this has yet to be fully published and has only been made available as brief summaries in 'Interim'³⁶. This restricts access to detailed information about recent work on the Walls and the impact of new findings.

4.1.5 Archaeology and Historic Fabric

- *Loss of earlier deposits.* The development and alteration of the monument throughout its history has removed many of the contexts relating to the early workings of the site. Further work must be guided, preceded, and accompanied by professional archaeological evaluation, assessment and investigation, with widely published results. This is also a concern when considering the cumulative loss of material from the ramparts.
- *Inappropriate archaeological investigation.* Intrusive archaeological research is an unrepeatable exercise. Well-intentioned archaeological investigation can cause irreversible damage to a site if it is not undertaken in the appropriate manner and following national and regional research agendas and guidelines. This applies to both sub-surface remains and standing structures. However, there are many opportunities for non-intrusive and intrusive community archaeology under the guidance of qualified, experienced, professional archaeologists.
- *Inappropriate development.* Re-use or new development need not be incompatible with the continued significance of the site. Inappropriate buildings, facilities, and activities on the site that have an impact upon on the site and its setting have the potential to damage both the archaeology and the historic planned layout of the site.



Bee Orchid

4.1.6 Environment and Landscape

- *Lack of awareness of ecological importance.* The significance of the natural environment of the area is considerable but many visitors may not be aware of this. This is an opportunity for interpretive provision. Lack of awareness amongst the many different groups involved with management and development and differing priorities may lead to removal of important elements or inadvertent disturbance.

³⁶ Bulletin of the York Archaeological Trust: Archaeology in York

- *Visitor erosion.* Large numbers of visitors accessing any form of archaeological remains or area of environmental significance will cause some level of erosion. This will be particularly pronounced for earthworks in the wetter shoulder months (March / April and September / October) or when large numbers of people are involved, such as at events. Erosion can occur as visitors create and follow desire lines, sit or climb on historic fabric and create hollows at interpretation panels, features and structures.
- *Inappropriate development.* Although re-use and development is not incompatible with the significance of the site, inappropriate buildings or facilities on the site or impacting upon its setting have the potential to damage the significance of the site and therefore reduce its value. This may be particularly relevant where English Nature is not consulted prior to development. The size and impact of development near to the Walls is also of concern as massing or poor design would be detrimental to the context and setting of the Walls. The 'sense of place' is an abstract concept but one that is extremely important for a monument such as this. The long history and visual attractiveness of the remains and their historic townscape setting are clearly fundamental to their significance. It is vital that this 'sense of place' is protected, sustained and enhanced so that future generations can enjoy and appreciate the site and its surroundings.
- *Inappropriate landscaping or habitat recreation.* The context and setting of the site varies throughout the length of the monument. It is important that the current character of the monument and setting is maintained and that a formal 'municipal' appearance does not become uniform around the Walls. Areas designated for habitat improvement should be carefully assessed, as the type of ecology that is significant at this site is not always immediately obvious. Historic precedent (e.g. the use of ramparts by local communities for grazing and other purposes) can be used to inspire opportunities for enhancing the diversity of the ramparts but equally lessons should be learnt from history (e.g. cutting back of ramparts for cattle pens) to avoid cumulative destruction of the resource.
- *Context and setting.* The size and physical nature of the monument dictates that it is often viewed from a distance and that views out from the monument are integral to its historical purpose and current significance. In some instances the clutter of street signage, inappropriately sited modern amenities and the lack of good design for modern structures has an impact on views of or out of the monument.



The street clutter at Layerthorpe Bridge affects views of and views from the City Walls

'Mr Sparkle' is indicative of the poor design of new light industrial units along Foss Islands Road



4.1.7 Local Ownership and Involvement

- *Raising awareness and creating 'pride of place'.* The historic inter-dependency between the communities of York and the Walls and the resulting social, political and cultural connotations are in danger of being undermined and becoming irrelevant in today's society. Methods to combat this include increasing community involvement with and use of the Walls, thereby raising awareness of their significance and creating 'pride of place'. Continuing public and community support is vital to the sustainability and long-term survival of the site.

4.1.8 Management

- *Interpretation.* Some level of interpretation is necessary and desirable at any site that attracts visitors. This is particularly true of complicated archaeological remains where function and use can be difficult to understand. The level and quality of interpretation available for York City Walls is particularly poor for a site of this significance and potential interest. Interpretation has many benefits in terms of visitor / site management, increasing access, developing new audiences, encouraging 'pride of place' and so on. However, it should also be acknowledged that excessive or overly intrusive physical installations could detract from the character and intrude into the 'sense of place'.
- *Anti-social Behaviour.* The site currently suffers from a variety of anti-social behaviour, which has resulted in health & safety issues, potential fire risks and damage to buildings and fixtures, and impacts on visitors' enjoyment of their visit. A range of mitigation strategies needs to be considered during and following any development process, perhaps with a combination of physical measures and community initiatives.
- *A Quality Experience.* York City Walls are currently not fulfilling their potential as a tourist attraction, despite their obvious advantages over other attractions in York, such as free entry, an attractive outdoor green space, a wide range of experiences, views and the potential to tell a wider story regionally, nationally and globally. As such, the Walls are not contributing fully to the overall York experience and the group value of the historic attractions and monuments in the City. The management groups involved must be careful to preserve the authenticity of the experience and to further develop its Unique Selling Points to become a destination of global reputation, distinctive yet complementary to the other attractions of

York. The Walls will also be vulnerable to over commercialisation and branding that will be detrimental to the experience.

- *Physical Access and Health & Safety.* The significance of the site is currently compromised due to the difficulties of physical access to the site. This will also affect its ability to attract sufficient numbers of visitors to ensure its sustainability in the future. There are sections and features that are or could be made physically accessible and opportunities should be explored to provide alternative access for those areas where it is not feasible to provide access. Health & Safety along the Walls is a constant issue, particularly at the time of writing, with an insurance claim being made against the Council. The physical properties of the structures mean that tripping or falling from height are constant issues. Today's compensation culture means that these issues cannot be ignored or people simply warned through signage.
- *Statutory and Non-statutory protection.* There is a wide range of statutory and non-statutory protection for the site. The range of protection is wide-ranging and confusing and despite the extensive designations the emphasis is on protection rather than good management and enhancement. The protection of important views and vistas should also be considered. The division of the wall circuit between two separate Scheduled Monuments is detrimental to its value and several of the listing descriptions are inaccurate or not complete. Several features are both Listed and Scheduled and some appear to be included in two different SAMs (such as the Multangular Tower and Walls around Museum Gardens). However, a review of the protection of the historic environment, and therefore of the designations, is currently underway. This review only covers national designations. The level of protection provided by the Local Plan leaves a monument of this significance, size and complexity vulnerable to inappropriate development.
- *Vision for the Future.* The sheer number and mixture of bodies involved with the management, protection and development of the site has meant the development of a number of different (and sometimes conflicting) visions for the future of the City Walls. Roles and responsibilities are perhaps not fully defined and understood. Decision making is drawn out and complicated. There is a lack of a single point of contact with the knowledge and time resources available to ensure the appropriateness, co-ordination and complementarity of all schemes. There is therefore a need to invest resources into strategic planning and co-ordination, understanding and policy making, periodic review and revision.

5 Policies

5.1 Introduction

The objectives and policies have been developed following an understanding of the site's significance and by establishing how this is vulnerable. The objectives and policies have been categorised under specific themes and categories and include general recommendations and others that are feature specific. The policies are designed to promote conservation and enhancement of the special qualities of the site and are intended to provide the framework within which this can be taken forward for the benefit of the site, the local community and the wider public.

The Conservation Framework sets out key philosophies and an introduction to conservation good practice through identifying existing standards and guidance for future management of the monument. The policies in this section will be implemented within this framework. A discussion and statements setting out the reasoning or principles that underlie or explain particular key policies is also included here.

5.2 The Conservation Framework

The policies assume that all work undertaken on the site will be carried out with, the appropriate consents, approval from the appropriate statutory bodies and stakeholder groups and that formal planning consent has been granted.

It is difficult to define a Conservation Philosophy for the entire monument as the number of different circumstances that may arise will require a number of different approaches. Different types of structure will require different kinds of care. As Powys wrote: "*It is wise not to lay down dogmatic rules, for when they are made one is apt to be confronted by a case where they do not work*³⁷". It is therefore useful to summarise some philosophical points that will assist with the decision of how and when to interfere with or 'conserve' the historic fabric. These will be used in association with the principles and guidelines set out in the documents and charters below to guide decision making in respect to the conservation and management of the monument.

- *To obtain as full an understanding of the resource as possible in order to be able to decide on an appropriate course of action*
- *To restrain the process of decay without damaging the character of the buildings or monuments, altering the features which give them historic or architectural importance or unnecessarily disturbing or destroying fabric*³⁸
- *To limit the degree of intervention to the minimum needed to produce the desired effect and to use non-reversible change only as a last resort*
- *Not to use preservation philosophies to justify an approach already decided upon*
- *The monument will not have an indefinite life, instead it will be utilised to honour the past and for pleasure and instruction now and in the future*³⁹

³⁷ Powys, A.R. 1929. *Repairs of Ancient Buildings*

³⁸ English Heritage. undated. *Principles of Repair*

³⁹ After Thompson, M.W. 1981. *Ruins: Their Preservation and Display*

- *To recognise that there are circumstances where no action is required to achieve conservation*
- *The historic structure should tell an honest story but historical truth need not be 'shouted from the rooftops'*

Key Documents and Charters

ICOMOS Australia. 1999. *The Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance (The Burra Charter)*

at: http://www.icomos.org/burra_charter.html

UNESCO. 1994. *The Nara Document on Authenticity*

at: <http://www.unesco.org/archive/nara94.htm>

ICOMOS. 1964. *The Venice Charter: International Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites*

At: http://www.icomos.org/venice_charter.html

Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings. 1877. *The Manifesto*

at: http://www.spab.org.uk/whatis_manifesto.html

Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA). 1999. *Standards and Guidance*
at:

http://www.archaeologists.net/index.php?module=documents&JAS_DocumentManager_op=viewDocument&JAS_Document_id=13

Canadian Association for Conservation of Cultural Property (CAC and of the Canadian Association of Professional Conservators (CAPC). 2000 (3rd edition). *Code of Ethics and Guidance for Practice*

at: <http://www.cac-accr.ca/ehome.html>

Department of the Environment. 1990. *Planning Policy Guidance Note: Archaeology and Planning (PPG16)**

Department of the Environment. 1994. *Planning Policy Guidance Note: Planning and the Historic Environment (PPG15)**

*1979 Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act**

* and any future revision of these guidelines

5.3 Policies

5.3.1 Primary Objectives

- To maintain and enhance the historical, cultural and environmental significance and values of the site
- To provide for the security, maintenance, access to and interpretation of the site
- To ensure that any work is based on a full understanding of the impact of proposals on the significance and historic character of the site
- To improve public appreciation of the site without diminishing its significance
- To provide a site that enhances the economy and social well-being of York and the wider community
- To provide a site which is part of the wider global walled town heritage

5.3.2 Regular Inspection, Maintenance and Repair

5.3.2.1 Objectives

- To preserve the sense of place
- To provide a philosophical framework within which conservation decisions can be made
- To provide a suitable environment for volunteers, staff and visitors to ensure personal and public safety
- To save money through regular modest investment in maintenance
- Ensure sustainability through recognising and not wasting the 'embodied energy' contained within the building resource

5.3.2.2 Policies

POLICY MAIN01: A regular programme of inspection will continue to be carried out for all the historic buildings and structures that make up the City Walls, this inspection will consider not only structural and health & safety but also conservation issues. It is recommended this inspection continue on a monthly basis.

POLICY MAIN02: The current maintenance regime for large scale projects (see section 1.4) will continue to be implemented and resources will be made available to achieve this. A programme of regular routine checks and maintenance, such as the clearing of gutters, painting of metalwork and woodwork will be implemented as part of the monthly inspection.

POLICY MAIN03: Appropriate craftspeople and professionals will be utilised for all work where feasible. Appropriate training will be provided to maintenance staff to ensure their competence in using and working with historic materials.

POLICY MAIN04: Where materials cannot be salvaged from the site or building and re-used, new materials made in a traditional way will be sourced. Salvaged materials from other sites will not be utilised except when the materials stated above are unavailable. Salvaged materials will only be considered from other sites due for re-development if the use and provenance of such materials is known and recorded.

POLICY MAIN05: Cracks in structures will be monitored carefully over at least a year to establish if they are 'historical' cracks or still moving. Where cracks are highlighted as being a structural problem, where feasible the cause of the movement should be remedied before considering whether to re-build sections.

POLICY MAIN06: Detrimental vegetation on or near to the Walls will be removed as part of the regular maintenance programme.

POLICY MAIN07: Appropriate mortar mixes will be used for all works relating to the City Walls. Where hard cement mortar exists it will be removed during repair works, where it can be removed without damage to the monument and in accordance with the policies in this section.

5.3.3 Historic Buildings, Structures and Archaeology

5.3.3.1 Objectives

- To ensure the survival and authenticity of the built and archaeological heritage of the site
- To conserve, enhance and record the built and archaeological heritage within current international and national conservation and spatial planning guidelines
- To ensure the appropriate use of buildings and areas
- To facilitate the understanding of the historic environment of the site
- To ensure the survival *in situ* of archaeological deposits

5.3.3.2 Policies

POLICY ARCH01: There will be a presumption in favour of retaining and conserving *in situ* all buildings, historic structures and archaeological sites where they are of significance or value and contribute to the character of the site. There will be a presumption against demolition of any of the structures or features on site. This also extends to features and parts of buildings such as the creation of new openings in walls.

POLICY ARCH02: All works to the site will be based on a sound understanding of the site and its significance. Prior to any works being undertaken a full understanding of the features and structures to be affected will be achieved.

POLICY ARCH03: Ensure the protection of York City Walls' invaluable archaeological and historical resource by allowing archaeological investigation only where this is deemed to be necessary, justifiable and appropriate and where such work will contribute to a better understanding of the monument or the City. Any work must be in accordance with an explicit research framework.

POLICY ARCH04: In no circumstances shall any archaeological work be allowed without agreed and approved provision for research, recording, analysis,

publication and archiving. Copies will be stored with the York Sites and Monuments Record and a copy with English Heritage for Scheduled structures.

POLICY ARCH05: Any intrusion to the historic fabric will pay particular attention to preserving pieces of archaeological evidence relating to the building's, feature's or site's original and historical use. This should help prevent the cumulative loss of features and retain the character of the site.

POLICY ARCH06: Reconstruction *in situ* is appropriate only where a feature is incomplete through damage or modern alteration, and only where there is sufficient documentary evidence to reproduce an earlier state of the fabric. Reconstruction will only be considered in order to stabilise a feature, or if there is a clear case that understanding, interpretation and safety will be significantly enhanced. Reconstruction work will be fully documented.

POLICY ARCH07: There is a presumption against removal of materials from their historical location. This requires consideration in favour of repair rather than replacement.

POLICY ARCH08: New uses for historic buildings and structures will be encouraged only where they respect the authenticity, cultural values, values relating to the natural environment, associations, meaning and sustainability of the site. Such uses will require minimal alteration to the fabric and ensure a sustainable future for the buildings. The character of the site should be reflected or acknowledged in the future use of the buildings. Preference will be given to uses that: are sympathetic to the public enjoyment of the site; provide demonstrable economic and social benefits to the site and local community; contribute to the cultural or natural significance of the feature or site.

POLICY ARCH09: Where a building or area has been identified as suitable for appropriate re-use, future occupiers (owners and leasees) will be contractually obliged to adopt the Conservation Plan and its policies in full.

POLICY ARCH10: Full support will be given where opportunities are identified for the minimisation of the physical impact and pollution of traffic on the monument (e.g. at Walmgate Bar) and all options explored to mitigate any perceived negative outcomes of these opportunities in order to achieve implementation. In addition, where possible heavy traffic near to the Walls will be reduced and road surfaces will be as smooth as possible near to the Walls.

POLICY ARCH11: During any site works and development, information and interpretation will be provided to explain what is happening and increase understanding.

5.3.4 Collections, Archives, Artefacts and Research

5.3.4.1 Objectives

- The proper care, storage, documentation and display of all artefacts and archives
- To increase public access, understanding and appreciation of the collections, archives, artefacts and research associated with the site and its wider context
- To enable a full understanding of all aspects of the City Walls and their significance

5.3.4.2 Policies

POLICY COL01: A comprehensive catalogue or inventory of primary sources relating to the City Walls will be produced and made publicly accessible in order to increase public awareness, provide educational opportunities and encourage further research.

POLICY COL02: A co-ordinated and prioritised approach to future research will be facilitated through the development of an explicit research framework and agenda, to be developed and approved in association with English Heritage, the City Archaeologist and other relevant archaeological organisations and individuals.

POLICY COL03: Encouragement, resources and support will be provided for:

- Nationwide research regarding historical engineering techniques and practices relating to the construction and adaptation of City Walls and associated structures
- Continuation and extension of the comparator study presented in Section 3 of this Plan.

POLICY COL04: The backlog of excavation reports and other research undertaken regarding the City Walls will be fully published and archived.

POLICY COL05: Public access will be provided to information, archives and research relating to the City Walls. This will include investigating the potential of increasing access through using new technologies.

5.3.5 Environment and Landscape

5.3.5.1 Objectives

- To ensure the protection and enhancement of the natural environment, context and setting of the monument
- To manage the landscape in a way that sustains the natural environmental significance of York City Walls and environs
- To document and understand the natural environment of York City Walls and environs
- To encourage awareness of the environment of York City Walls and environs

5.3.5.2 Policies

POLICY ENV01: All environmental criteria will be given full consideration in the design and implementation of all future works and projects.

POLICY ENV02: Where currently unavailable to firmly establish an understanding of the environmental value and natural history of the site, the Stakeholders will produce / commission a Habitat Management Plan. This Plan will also look at ways of enhancing the site. For any sites of significance identified by this Plan, Environmental Impact Assessments will be commissioned in relation to any future use, development or changes in management.

POLICY ENV03: A suitably qualified ecological consultant will be commissioned to undertake an initial survey to identify areas where it is likely bats may be present or encouraged. For these identified areas an ecological consultant will be commissioned to undertake further bat surveys in advance of any works or re-use. English Nature will be consulted regarding anything that might affect bats or their roosts.

POLICY ENV04: All employees, suppliers, contractors and tenants will meet nationally agreed standards of environmental awareness and performance.

POLICY ENV05: Projects will be supported and implemented to achieve the enhancement of the environmental aspects and biodiversity of the embankments. Management and enhancement of the embankments from an environmental viewpoint will be targeted on the more botanically interesting sections mentioned previously.

POLICY ENV06: Visitor management techniques will be employed to combat current visitor erosion issues and those arising from increased visitor numbers.

POLICY ENV07: Any alterations or development that will impact on the context or setting of the monument, including impacts on views of and from the monument will be in accordance with the policies set out in this Plan and will be considered only where they are appropriate in terms of scale, character, materials, quality of design and impact on the significance of the monument. The desire to open up views and create new links will be equally carefully considered, especially where they may have an effect on the mature elm trees.

5.3.6 Local Ownership Co-operation, Community Involvement and Site Management

5.3.6.1 Objectives

- To encourage and maintain community involvement, support and interest for York City Walls
- To enable the sustainable use, management and development of the site
- To maintain and enhance partnership management of York City Walls

5.3.6.2 Policies

POLICY MAN01: Develop an agreed strategic vision for the site between all partners and stakeholders.

POLICY MAN02: An appropriately qualified and experienced 'Walls Manager' or single point of contact will be appointed to ensure sustainable resources are available for the management of the monument. This person will have responsibility for managing the site, undertaking and co-ordinating projects directly relating to the site including all aspects of use, conservation, interpretation, development, consultation and community involvement to achieve the strategic vision. This person will also ensure that the best interests of the monument are taken into account at all times and that the protection and enhancement of its cultural significances are adequately provided for.

POLICY MAN03: All decision makers will have regard for any impact to the monument, its context and setting in respect to all development and planning initiatives. To facilitate this there will be a review of local government conservation legislation (e.g. in the Local Plan) and this document will be adopted as supplementary planning guidance.

POLICY MAN04: Develop a programme of community involvement and further strengthen links with the community to ensure that the value of the site and the benefits from the use and potential development of the site are recognised, supported and enjoyed by local people, engendering a sense of local ownership and pride.

POLICY MAN05: Develop a programme of training for local volunteers to develop and learn appropriate skills in order that they can assist with the management, maintenance and use of the monument, especially where they already have experience in a specific area.

POLICY MAN06: Parties involved with site management will strive for the inclusion of all stakeholder and community voices in the use, management and conservation of the site.

POLICY MAN07: Promote a close working relationship between all professionals involved with the site to foster an integrated approach to site management, use and development that includes research, conservation, archaeology, management, interpretation of the site and associated features and collections.

POLICY MAN08: Recognise and support the continuing need for resources to ensure the appropriate management, use and development of York City Walls, including:

- Financial
- Skills and training
- Facilities
- Time

POLICY MAN09: During and following any development process develop a range of mitigation strategies to combat issues relating to anti-social behaviour in conjunction with initiatives for the city centre, looking to combine physical measures and community initiatives.

POLICY MAN10: Where parts of the City Walls, associated buildings and ramparts, are not in Council ownership, the City of York Council will work towards achieving a co-ordinated approach to management and the adoption of the Conservation Plan by all parties.

POLICY MAN11: There will be a presumption against the disposal or sale of any land parcels or structures related to the City Walls.

5.3.7 Interpretation, Access, Outreach and Education

5.3.7.1 Objectives

- To develop and enhance physical, sensory and intellectual access opportunities in line with local and national policies

- To enable greater understanding of the history, environment, historical development and use of York City Walls and associated structures
- To improve the information provision, orientation and welcome to the site
- To ensure a quality experience for all and develop an attraction that contributes to York's global reputation
- To encourage access to information

5.3.7.2 Access Policies

POLICY ACC01: Ensure compliance, as far as possible, with the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) and establish a forward-looking access strategy that considers both physical and intellectual access to the site.

POLICY ACC02: Facilitate the use of sustainable forms of transport by providing information regarding using sustainable forms of transport, secure storage, benefits, links to the public transport system to encourage volunteers, visitors, property occupiers and potential members of staff to use sustainable forms of transport for access to the site.

POLICY ACC03: Retain and enhance visitor satisfaction, perception of place, and the sense of arrival, welcome and means of circulation at the site, for example by increasing the quantity and quality of orientation and interpretation.

POLICY ACC04: The provision of any physical barriers, such as railings, gates and so on will be guided by principles and guidance set out in the Conservation Framework above and will be implemented in accordance with the policies in this section. In accordance with the recognition of the significance of previous alterations and uses, all existing railings will be retained and appropriately maintained in order to ensure no further damage is caused through their decay.

5.3.7.3 Interpretive, Outreach and Education Policies

POLICY ED01: Interpretive provision will be holistic, through inclusion of the history, natural history, social and cultural histories of the site and extend beyond the formal site boundary to provide insight into the wider context of the City Walls.

POLICY ED02: Initiatives will be developed to enable and encourage access for all and lifelong learning.

POLICY ED03: Intrusive development relating to interpretation, outreach or education, permanent public art and fixed on site interpretive media such as graphic panels will be kept to a minimum except where they enhance the character or understanding of the site and are introduced under guidance of the policies set out in this section.

POLICY ED04: Schemes will be implemented to develop new audiences and links with local groups and schools.

5.4 Statements and Discussion Relating to Policies

5.4.1 Use of Professionals and Craftspeople

Appropriate professional consultation will be necessary for individual projects and to develop detailed schedules of work. Relevant bodies and organisations that are likely to be consulted will include: English Heritage, the City Archaeologist, City Conservation staff, English Nature, North Yorkshire Bat Group, City Planners, City Engineers, CABI and so on.

All archaeological works, buildings conservation and ecological works should be undertaken by suitably qualified professionals with demonstrable previous experience in all aspects of the required on-site investigation, conservation and recording. The use of inexperienced or amateur workers can cause irreversible damage to the historic fabric, as can well intentioned restoration. Well meaning restoration can contribute to increasing damage to the site and can only be undertaken if English Heritage approval has been sought and the guidelines in sections 5.2 and 5.3 followed. Any person who undertakes or commissions work on the site must understand the difference between conservation and restoration and always aim to achieve conservation of the asset. Appropriate crafts and professional workers / training will include:

- The use of lime mortars, lime wash and plaster where appropriate
- An archaeologist for all intrusive work to buildings, structures or below ground
- A timber professional experienced in dealing with historic buildings for all timber repairs, infestations or replacements
- A structural surveyor, with training in building conservation, for monitoring cracks and other structural issues
- A stone mason experienced in dealing with historic buildings for selecting, cutting and piecing in new stonework
- Environmental experts for issues relating to the natural significance of the Walls

5.4.2 Research and Understanding

It will be necessary to continue to work towards a detailed archaeological and historical architectural survey and a history of the buildings and structures to firmly establish an understanding of the use and chronology of the site. This will influence future significance assessments, interpretation policies and management strategies and works.

English Heritage, the City Archaeologist and other archaeological stakeholders will be able to assist with the development and approval of a research framework in advance of any archaeological works (see Policy MAN02 for potential resources for producing this research agenda).

5.4.3 Nature Conservation

The commissioning of bat surveys in advance of works can not only avoid parties inadvertently committing an offence, but minimise the risk of delays should bats be discovered part way through works. Training and guidance on the levels of environmental awareness and performance necessary at the City Walls may be supplied through bodies such as English Nature or Yorkshire Wildlife Trust.

The management and enhancement of the environmental aspects of the embankments might include:

- Introducing locally native / locally sourced wildflower and grass mix to add colour and increase invertebrate diversity with scope for involving community groups in the project
- An additional cut in early April where daffodils have not been planted to curb vigorous grasses and encourage less competitive flowers
- The prompt removal of cuttings from the upper slope, within two or three days in specific areas, to enhance the nitrogen content and thereby the botanical diversity of these areas
- Protection of areas where locally or nationally rare species occur

5.4.4 Visitor and Site Management

In relation to visitor management and increasing access some physical development may be appropriate (e.g. opportunities identified at Baile Hill) provided that any development is planned and implemented in accordance with the policies in this Plan and the framework above.

Mitigation strategies that combat anti-social behaviour may include: monitoring and identification; wall wardens; CCTV; employment and training opportunities; social inclusion initiatives; lighting; gating.

Salvaged materials from other sites will not be utilised as this can encourage the unnecessary stripping or demolition of historic buildings in order to supply the architectural salvage market. Examples at York City Walls will include roofing tiles, flooring timbers, and window glass. Exceptionally, salvaged materials could be considered from other sites due for re-development, provided that the use and provenance of such materials is known and recorded.

5.4.5 Involvement of Local Communities

There are many opportunities for engaging local communities with the maintenance, management and use of the City Walls. Appropriate training can be provided to increase the skill sets available from volunteer workers. For example:

- The positioning and surveying of markers relating to monitoring structural movement could be conducted as a community project under the supervision of appropriately qualified person.
- Recording prior to works could provide opportunities for the involvement of local community groups under the supervision of an experienced archaeologist or buildings conservator
- The provision of information and interpretation during any site works and development, to explain what is happening and increase understanding. These works, especially archaeological investigation, can often provide unexpected benefits with regard to increased awareness and community support

Further opportunities for involving local people are explored in the Interpretation and Access Plan⁴⁰.

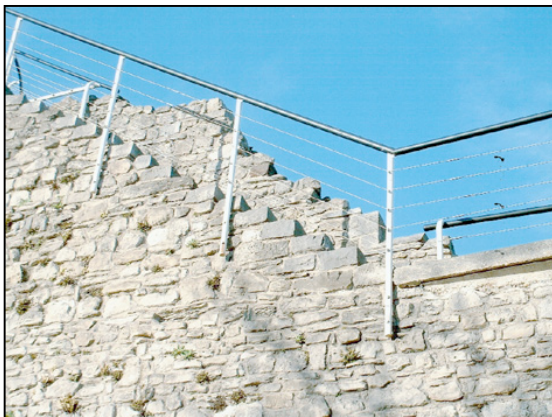
⁴⁰ PLB Consulting Ltd. 2004. *York City Walls Interpretation and Access Plan*

5.4.6 Physical Barriers

The provision of physical barriers or items relating to physical safety in relation to the use of the Walls, would, in an ideal world, be restricted to the provision of warning notices and reliance on common sense. However, as has been mentioned, the current compensation culture dictates that these issues must be explored and guidance provided for best practice.

Retention and maintenance of the physical barriers, which are of historic interest and value, will assist with this provision. It is likely that these railings are made of cast iron, corrosion of iron is caused by the presence of oxygen and water. Good detailing, regular maintenance and quality paint application are essential to keep corrosion under control. The heat of the traditional use of lead to socket in metalwork can damage the paint system on the iron, therefore a compatible epoxy resin should be considered.

Good practice examples of appropriate physical barriers can be seen along Southampton City Walls and at Whitby Abbey, but there are also opportunities for using interpretive public art. There is a historical precedence for using local artisans for producing the small decorative sculptures on the Bars, which could be followed when commissioning new pieces.



Railings along Southampton City Walls



Physical barriers at Whitby Abbey



Barriers utilising interpretive public art, Swinegate, York (above) and in Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter (left)

6 Implementation and Review

6.1 Consultation

The development of this Conservation Plan has included consultation with a number of interested individuals and parties; a list of these is included in Appendix A. To ensure the support of all stakeholders and interested parties a number of people and bodies were sent draft copies of the Conservation Plan and comments requested, which, where appropriate, have been incorporated into the final Plan. A number of Appendices, that provide more details and background information, support the Plan. The results of the site audit will be particularly useful and are included as Appendix D.

It is recommended that the Council continue to hold additional events and undertake consultation both with stakeholders and the local communities in relation to the adoption and implementation of this Plan and its policies.

6.2 Adoption and Implementation

As development of the site progresses it is likely that this document will need to be updated to address any new issues and vulnerabilities that arise, the specific policies that relate to these and any new priorities for the stakeholders and landowners. For example, a substantial increase in visitors may have implications for conservation due to higher levels of visitor erosion, access issues and interpretive provision while new uses for the buildings could increase the vulnerability of certain features of significance. Depending on the rate of development relating to the monument, ***it is recommended that this plan be reviewed:***

- ***Once the Pilot Project for reviewing designations has been completed or new legislative changes are introduced regarding statutory protection of the monument***
- ***In 2/3 years time once the current allocation Tourism Investment Fund money has been spent and implemented***
- ***Every five years after this implementation***

The adoption of a Conservation Plan by all interested parties is essential for its success. It is recommended that the policies in this document should be adopted by the City of York Council and other stakeholders and used to direct and guide appropriate development proposals for the site. It has also been recommended that the Plan become supplementary planning guidance. A site management and development programme should be based on and arise from the Conservation Plan policies – the Conservation Plan can be used to develop practical and sustainable heritage led solutions.