

## British Historic Towns Atlas



### Volume V

## YORK

### CD OF ORIGINAL MAPS

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#### A NOTE ON THE CARTOGRAPHY

THIS CD contains the maps which have been specially researched and commissioned for the atlas, along with a reproduction of the Ordnance Survey one-inch map. They are presented as PDF files.

The maps are as follows:

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|--------|---|
| Map 1  | York <i>c.</i> 1850 — the principal map showing major medieval and post-medieval features |
| Map 2  | York <i>c.</i> 200  |
| Map 3  | York 6th to 9th centuries   |
| Map 4  | York <i>c.</i> 900–1066   |
| Map 5  | York <i>c.</i> 1100   |
| Map 6  | York <i>c.</i> 1300   |
| Map 7  | York <i>c.</i> 1500   |
| Map 8  | York <i>c.</i> 1600   |
| Map 9  | York <i>c.</i> 1700   |
| Map 10 | York <i>c.</i> 1800   |
| Map 11 | York <i>c.</i> 1836   |
| Map 12 | York's parishes in 1852   |
| Map 13 | York's wards after the Municipal Corporations Act 1835                                    |
| Map 18 | Ordnance Survey one-inch maps, second edition, assembled from four map sheets             |

There is also a legend to accompany Map 1.

## Map 1

Map 1, the principal map of the atlas, is a summary map showing major medieval and post-medieval features against the background of York around the year 1850. The map is the result of the selective digitising of the first edition Ordnance Survey (OS) plan at the scale of 1:1056 (5 ft. to 1 mile or about 94.7cm to 1 km). The original plan is available to view on-line at [yorkmaps.net/1852](http://yorkmaps.net/1852). The area was surveyed between 1849 and 1851 and the plan was published in September and October 1852 on 21 separate sheets.

Ordnance Survey map sheets were converted to vector digital data by the capture of the majority of the features shown on them. Principal features (including buildings, yards, roads and paths, trees, property and field boundaries, water features, and labels) were digitised but minor features (such as kerbs, benchmarks, post boxes, etc.) were omitted. The maps were then joined into a seamless map database. A grid at 250 m interval has been added to the map, based on the point 460000 452000 (near Museum Street). Due to distortion in the original map sheets, the grid lines shown on the maps may not match the modern National Grid and may vary by up to 10 m.

The map is designed to be used at a scale of 1:2500. Blue map grid lines are 100 mm apart at 1:2500 (equivalent to 250 m on the ground).

After digitising, Map 1 has undergone a process to add information on the sites of the major medieval and post-medieval buildings of York. These buildings have been added to the map and labelled. Where the plan-form and location of buildings is known (through archaeology, documentary research or because they still exist) they are shown in their correct position and shape; where the information is less certain, buildings are shown with a pecked (dashed) outline to indicate uncertainty, and their shape is indicative. A distinction is made between buildings which still existed in 1850 and those which no longer existed.

Medieval is defined as before c.1540, and post-medieval from c.1540 until c.1850. The scale of mapping allows to some extent the subdivision of large buildings (such as the Castle) into the two phases of existence. The map also shows in both periods those buildings which existed before 1540 but which were subject to re-building (for example Holy Trinity (Christ Church) Micklegate).

Map 1 is not intended to replicate the OS map, but to complement it and provide a summary of the complex and lengthy topographic history of York. The major buildings which have been picked out as being of interest are buildings which fulfilled some public function, and private houses are not highlighted, although their outlines are clearly to be seen. Whilst there is no strict definition of *public*, they are largely buildings which fulfilled a religious (e.g. the Minster), civic (Mansion House), royal (the King's Manor), legal (the Assize Courts), charitable or medical (almshouses, hospitals), educational (St Peter's School), commercial (Market Crosses), or community (the Assembly Rooms) function. Buildings which had an industrial use or were related to transport are shown as a separate category.

The names used on Map 1 for roads, fields, water and other topographical features are mostly those used at the date of survey of the OS map, corrected or altered where the editor believes the OS surveyors to have been in error. On Map 1, the streets coloured yellow are those which were probably in use in medieval times, although the exact course of them may have varied in time.

## Maps 2 to 11

Map 1 has been used as a background to ten maps at a scale of 1:5000 which show the city of York at indicative years in its development: c.200, Anglian York (sixth to ninth centuries), Anglo-Scandinavian York (c.900 to 1066), 1100, 1300, 1500, 1600, 1700, 1800 and 1836. These town-development maps aim to convey the extent of settlement and the position of the most important structures, buildings and earthworks at the time.

Maps 2 to 11 attempt to show the **function of the buildings** depicted. A distinction is made between buildings primarily in ecclesiastical or church-related use and those in secular use. Inevitably there is an arbitrary distinction between these two functions and in some cases, especially before the Reformation, buildings were owned and controlled by the Church but fulfilled essentially secular functions.

**Settlement** (essentially the built-up area) is shown on Maps 2 to 11. As a general principle, the earlier the date of the map, the less certainty there is as to the boundaries of the settled area. Evidence for settlement at these times is essentially archaeological, and an attempt has been made to interpolate or extrapolate the boundaries of probable or possible settlement from known sites. The period from the end of the Roman occupation to the Norman invasion is the least certain in York's history and hence the patterns of settlement which we have shown on Maps 3 and 4 are the most speculative. Whilst the discovery of finds or buildings is clearly evidence of settlement at a point, the lack of such discoveries is not evidence that an area was not settled at that time. From 1100 (Map 5) until 1600 (Map 8), an indicative band of tone has been used against street fronts to denote that the frontage was built up. The width of the tone is symbolic only and the extent of development back from the street front should not be inferred. For example, where three or four streets form a polygon, it may appear that the centre of the polygon on the maps was not built up, but in practice the whole block may well have been built on. From 1700 (Map 9), the existence of contemporary maps which show the built-up area has aided the compilation of more informative maps and an attempt has been made to show the actual extent of the built-up area. Gardens, yards and enclosed private spaces are deemed to be built-up. The inclusion of maps of the city by John Speed (1610), Benedict Horsley (1694), John Cossins (1722), Peter Chassereau (1750), Thomas Jefferys (1771), and Alfred Smith (1822) as illustrations in the volume will allow readers to form their own judgement about the extent of the built-up area at those periods.

Other symbols on the maps vary slightly according to the degree of knowledge of the features of the period. **Streets** are shown at a standard, symbolic width on Maps 2 to 6 (c.200 to 1300), but after that date the streets are shown at approximately their actual width. The exact course and extent of streets, especially between about 400 and 1100, is often not known, but the routes shown are based on archaeological, historical, street-name or other evidence, combined with informed opinion on what is likely to have been there.

**Churches** are shown by two different symbols: with a solid outline and with a pecked (dashed) outline. For the majority of the maps (from Map 5 of 1100 onwards) the solid outline represents the known or likely outline of the church, whereas a pecked outline indicates that the church's planform is unknown. On Maps 3 and 4 however, the solid outline indicates that the church *probably* existed at the time of the map whilst a pecked outline indicates that church *may* have existed.

The **width of rivers** and the depiction of their banks on Maps 2 to 10 are indicative. The width of the River Ouse in the past is not known, and it may have been wider at points than its modern-day dimensions. The dimensions of the King's Pool and the lower reaches of the River Foss varied historically. By the nineteenth century and Maps 10 and 11, map sources allow for the more detailed depiction of the banks of the rivers.

The principle of **naming streets and roads** on Maps 2 to 11 varies. Map 2 shows the Roman names for the streets, where known; Maps 3 to 5 use modern names for streets as their names at that time are not often known; Maps 6 onward use the names for the streets contemporary to the map.

### Maps 12 and 13

The same base map used for Maps 2 to 11 has been used to compile maps of the Parishes of York in 1852 (Map 12) and the Wards of the city after the 1835 Municipal Corporations Act (Map 13). The parishes of York are especially complicated and the map ensures that, where a parish is divided into separate, non-contiguous areas, the same colour is used for all parts of the parish.

### Map 18

Map 18 has been assembled from four OS second edition one-inch (1:63,360) map sheets, published in 1858, with later revision of railways.

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