



## Our Vision

To pioneer new ways for people to enjoy and benefit from archaeology

Our Impact 1972-2023





## David Jennings

Chief Executive Officer

After more than half a century of work, we still retain the excitement and passion that drove the organisation's foundation in 1972. As an organisation, we have been committed to making great discoveries, enabling research and making sure that the public can get involved in exploring the past. Our Mission, while expressed in different ways over those five decades, remains essentially unchanged: we want you to discover, explore and experience your archaeology.

Part of the way we stay focussed is by adapting the way we engage and work with the ever-changing world. For us, we are re-branding all of our activities, from the digging to our attractions, under one name **York Archaeology**, to emphasise that we are working together across the whole organisation to deliver the Mission for everyone.

In this report, we present just some of our most recent projects against the backdrop of our half a century of work.



## Professor Anthony Robards

O.B.E., D.Sc. FRSB.

Chair of York Archaeology

As we continue to emerge from the impact of Covid, York Archaeology (the new operating brand name for the York Archaeological Trust) has put in another strong performance, including financially. Our developing strategy envisages archaeology and attractions working ever more closely together to provide enhanced public benefit, embracing important projects such as the highly successful 'Archaeology on Prescription'. While there are many challenges, including vastly escalating construction costs, we have several exciting opportunities in the pipeline to evaluate and take forward where appropriate. We are fortunate in having been able to strengthen our Board with the appointment of three new trustees: Sian Hoggett (Head of Membership and Customer Relationship Management at the British Museum), Katerina Vavaliou (Architect and Archaeological Researcher at the University of Oxford) and Dr Eva Mol (Lecturer in Roman Archaeology at the University of York). York Archaeology is increasingly well-placed to undertake top class archaeology and to convey the impact of this to a wide public audience in many different ways.



## Our strategic aims and objectives

York Archaeology (YA) is a self-funded educational charity and a leading professional archaeological organisation operating across the UK and abroad. Founded in 1972, we have a reputation for delivering high quality investigation, research and public engagement from our offices in York, Nottingham, Sheffield and Glasgow.

YA provides exceptional fieldwork and conservation services and curates one of the largest archaeological collections outside of London. We run five successful visitor attractions in York including the world famous JORVIK Viking centre, along with touring exhibitions to partner venues and one of the biggest Viking Festivals in Europe.

From Autumn 2023 what was York Archaeological Trust will trade as York Archaeology. This isn't just a re-naming but a re-brand intended to bring the whole organisation together so we work in a cohesive, unified way, which will ultimately make us stronger in the various markets we operate within.

As an umbrella key message for the whole organisation, we have a new strapline that combines our heritage, current mission and vision for the future: **"Pioneering new ways for people to discover, explore and experience archaeology for over 50 years."**

Here we showcase just a few examples of the ways in which we achieve our mission - Your Archaeology - **Discover, Explore, Experience**

For more information please visit our website - [www.yorkarchaeology.co.uk](http://www.yorkarchaeology.co.uk)

### Our strategic aims

- To discover archaeology from dig to display and beyond
- To work as one cohesive organisation
- To become economically, environmentally and socially sustainable and grow

### Our strategic objectives

- |  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Financial sustainability               | Being clear and effective         |
| Public benefit and archaeology         | Working with others               |
| Using core values to build the charity | A good employer doing social good |
| Future proofing                        |                                   |

### Our core values

- Making a difference in people's lives through open access to the past
- Being an open, collaborative, educational charity
- Illuminating the past's importance, advancing knowledge and protecting archaeology and heritage
- Working seamlessly from archaeological investigation through to compelling public attractions and events, creating authentic, interactive, exciting opportunities for engagement and enjoyment
- Delivering excellence and value to our clients, visitors and colleagues
- Being an exemplary employer
- Working sustainably and reducing our environmental impact.

## 1972 • YAT is formed

• York Archaeological Trust is set up to help  
• preserve the vast collection of archaeological  
• deposits that document 2,000 years of York's  
• history, in response to threats posed to the City's  
• archaeological heritage at the time.

• From 1972, YAT expands to four offices across  
• the UK, delivers over 400 excavations, conducts  
• in excess of 1,500 watching briefs, opens five  
• attractions that have welcomed over 20-million  
• visitors and develops an extensive and innovative  
• public engagement programme for audiences of  
• all ages.

1973 • The first YAT exhibitions  
• launch at Morrell Library  
• and the Yorkshire Museum  
• including "the Future of  
• York's Past".

• Excavations unearth the  
• Roman sewer below the  
• Roman bathhouse in York.



# 1972

..... 1973 ..... 1974 ..... 1975 .....

## 1972 • Lloyd's Bank rich organic deposits reveal evidence of the Viking-age occupation of York

• Discovered within the waterlogged deposits  
• underneath Lloyds Bank in York, a complete human  
• coprolite, dating to the Viking-age, contains pollen  
• grains, cereal bran and the eggs of the whipworm  
• & maw-worm. This extremely rare find is now on  
• display at JORVIK.





**1976** : **YAT launches an ambitious special development programme**

: A highly successful publicity and fund-raising campaign to support the Coppergate excavations draws an enormously positive response from the Scandinavian homeland, across the UK, and in the United States. The campaign provides donations towards a new Conservation laboratory, the acquisition of St Saviour's Church, and leads to the establishment of JORVIK Viking Centre.



1976

1977

1978

**1976 - 1981** : **Coppergate excavations uncover extensive remains of the Viking city of Jorvik**

: Five years of excavations at Coppergate in the centre of York reveal unprecedented remains of the Viking city of Jorvik. Over 40,000 individual objects, including wooden buildings, shoes, household objects, imported goods from across the Viking world and environmental evidence, paint a new and exciting vision of our Viking past.



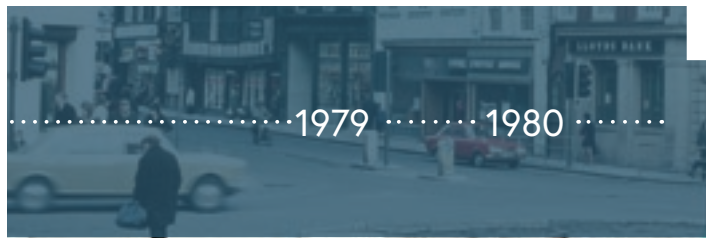


## 1981 The Coppergate helmet is discovered

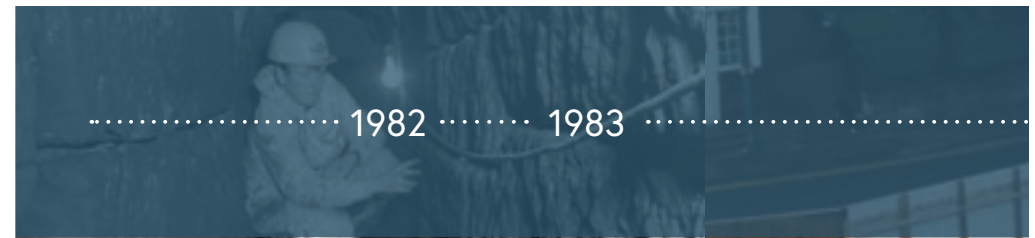
A remarkable survival story, this helmet is one of the most important Anglo-Saxon artefacts ever found. The skill shown in its construction and beauty of its decoration is revealed through painstaking and pioneering work at YAT's Conservation Laboratory. A lasting collaboration with the radiography department at York hospital is formed.

1982 Conservation starts on the Coppergate collection.

Foss Bank/Jewbury excavation reveals a medieval Jewish cemetery.



.....1979 ..... 1980 .....



..... 1982 ..... 1983 .....

1979 York is declared an Area of Archaeological Importance by an Act of Parliament and YAT is named the investigating body.

1981 Rougier Street excavations take place in York creating a keyhole into York's Roman past

Excavations at 5, Rougier Street reveal a 7metre deep unbroken sequence of archaeological material from the Roman period onwards and shows for the first time the potential for organic preservation in this area.





**1984** **Jorvik Viking Centre is opened by Prince Charles**

- Based on the extensive Viking-age remains found at Coppergate, the ground-breaking JORVIK Viking Centre opens its doors for the first time in April 1984 to worldwide acclaim and record-breaking queues of visitors wanting to experience life in the Viking Age. JORVIK goes on to welcome 20-million visitors from across the globe.



1984

1985

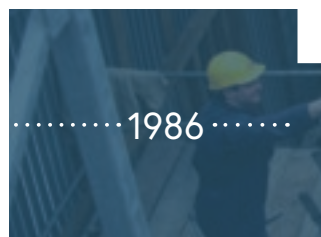


**The first JORVIK Viking Festival takes place**

- 1985**
- Celebrating everything Viking, YAT holds its first Viking Festival of Jobalot in February 1985.
  - Attracting visitors from across the world the Festival is now recognised as the largest of its kind in Europe.

**1987-1993** : **YAT purchases Barley Hall and starts its restoration**

- After purchasing Barley Hall in 1987, YAT, begins
- piecing together the medieval layout so they can
- start its reconstruction and open it to the public as a
- museum to tell the stories of its intriguing past.



**The Swinegate wax tablets are found in York**

- During the course of excavations by YAT, a number
- of pits located in the back yards of the medieval
- properties fronting onto 12-18, Swinegate are
- excavated. One of these pits, dating to the mid-
- late 14th century, produces a small leather pouch
- holding wood and wax writing tablets that contain
- a Chaucerian English poem and part of a legal
- document made in Latin.

**1989**



**1987-1991** · **Wellington Row excavations reveal the remains of the Roman city of Eboracum**

Excavations at Wellington Row, close to the south-west bank of the River Ouse reveal a glimpse into York's Roman past including, from the late 2nd century, the remains of a building destroyed by fire and a new street.



1990

.....1991.....1992.....1993.....

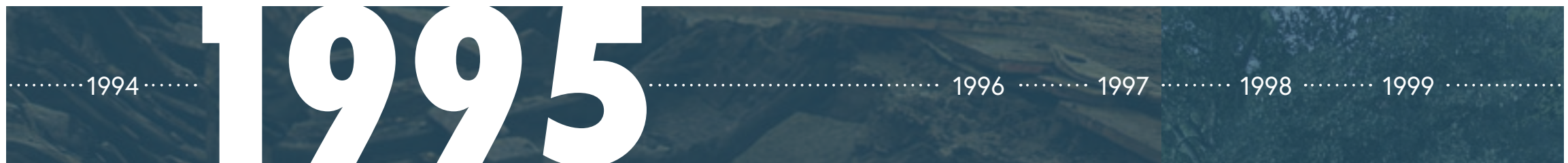
**1990** · **Jorvik Viking Centre and the Archaeological Resource Centre achieve Registered Museum status**

The Government quality assurance scheme recognises the high standards of YAT's governance, the quality of finds curation and its imaginative public and educational services.

**1992** · **Barley Hall gains Museum Registration status.**

**1995-1998** · **Barland's Farm Romano-Celtic ship conservation project takes place**

· Two years after the remains of a third century AD boat built in the "Romano-Celtic" tradition was uncovered during construction of a warehouse near Magor, South Wales, the timbers are sent to YAT for conservation and a 4metre freeze-dryer is commissioned specifically to dry the timbers following PEG wax immersion. Thus, begins YAT's large-scale commercial wood conservation operation, and with some TLC the 4metre dryer is still in operation some 22 years later.



**1996** · JORVIK Viking Centre welcomes its 10-millionth visitor.



**2001** **YAT's Archaeology Live! training dig launches on St Leonard's medieval hospital site in York**

YAT's inaugural Archaeology Live! training dig is established in the west corner of York's Roman legionary fortress, which later became the site of the medieval St Leonard's Hospital. This, and subsequent summer seasons located elsewhere in York and, more recently, in Nottingham, allow many hundreds of trainees of all ages to participate in YAT's work, learn new skills and gather lasting memories. The excavation and subsequent analysis and publication is entirely funded by the trainees.



..... 2000 .....

2001

..... 2002 .....

..... 2003 .....

**A new city arises as JORVIK mark II opens after a complete refit**

After 16 years of academic research into the Coppergate excavations, the results help YAT to update the JORVIK experience. Improvements include a time-machine transporting visitors back to AD975, a brand-new ride that offers 360-degree views of the reconstructed city and state-of-the-art gallery displays highlighting over 800 key finds from the excavations of Jorvik.



**2004-2005 : Driffield Terrace excavations reveal headless Romans**

Part of a large cemetery on the outskirts of the Roman town of Eboracum, reveals 82 inhumations of young male adults. Cuts to the necks of at least 50% of the individuals indicates that they had been decapitated. Several had their heads placed in their graves in usual positions, such as near the feet. Subsequent research enables YAT to create the popular touring exhibition - Gladiators - a cemetery of secrets'.

**2006-2012 : Roman, Viking, medieval and Victorian remains of York are unearthed at Hungate**

Through this five-year developer-led project YAT delivers community, outreach, education and public benefits that engage with all levels of society. Activity includes open days, special events, talks, training courses, community arts projects, school visits and workshops, outreach, exhibitions, oral histories, popular publications, online resources, a popular PR and social media campaign and a huge legacy of archaeological research, skills development and public involvement.

..... 2004 ..... 2005 ..... 2006 .....



**DIG - An Archaeological Adventure, launches to the public**

After receiving almost £1-million from the Millennium Commission, DIG opens to the public in March 2006. Building on its previous incarnation as The Archaeological Resource Centre, DIG places hands-on discovery at the centre of its offer and has goes on to welcome more than 50,000 visitors every year, over half of whom are primary school children.



**2008-2009** : **Heslington East, University of York excavations unearth the Heslington brain**

: During the excavation of an Iron Age landscape at University of York, a skull, with the jaw and two vertebrae still attached is discovered face down in a pit, without any evidence of what had happened to the rest of its body. When the top of the skull is removed it reveals an astonishingly well-preserved human brain.



# 2008 2009

**2007**

: Barley Hall medieval townhouse becomes YAT's third attraction.



**2009**

**YAT launches ArcHeritage**

: ArcHeritage is established in Sheffield to extend the scope and reach of YAT's services. It brings in a wealth of experience to enable YAT to offer enhanced archaeological and heritage services to local authorities, government agencies, commercial developers and community groups.

2010

- Micklegate Bar becomes YAT's fourth attraction in York.
- JORVIK mark III launches with 'Artefacts Alive'
- The Octon Farmhouse project restores a unique cruck-framed farm house in the Yorkshire Wolds.

2012

### ArchHeritage carry out a ground-breaking analysis of laser scan data of Stonehenge

- For, perhaps, the world's most famous prehistoric monument, ArchHeritage develops innovative luminance lensing techniques to examine the surfaces of the stones for new prehistoric rock carvings, and discover information about the working of the stones during construction and development of the monument.



2010

2011

2012

2011

- East Moor rural landscape survey is carried out by ArchHeritage.

### YAT adds Trent & Peak and Northlight Heritage to their portfolio

- Established in 1967 as an offshoot of the Department of Archaeology at the University of Nottingham, Trent & Peak Archaeology finds a new home as part of York Archaeological Trust, bringing with it a full range of heritage services with particular expertise in flood defence infrastructure, the minerals sector and high-definition survey.

2012





## 2014 - 2019 **The Follow the Vikings Roadshow tours Europe**

This €4-million, five-year transnational project 'Follow the Vikings' is funded by Creative Europe with the objective to make Viking heritage accessible and understandable to a world-wide audience. Leading the delivery of the main component of the project, YAT develops and tours a unique Viking Roadshow using international contemporary artists commissioned to provide performance, film, music, poetry and stunning art works, to 11 significant Viking sites across eight different countries, culminating in a spectacular finale in York in 2019.

# 2013 ..... 2014

## **YAT establishes a new collection store & conservation facility in York**

The purchase of the new building emphasises YAT's continued commitment to the preservation and investigation of the archaeology of York revealed over decades of YAT excavations. Public tours are hosted by curatorial staff for visitors wanting a glimpse into York's remarkable past.

## **The Richard III Experience launches at Monk Bar and the Henry VII Experience opens at Micklegate Bar**

Having acquired the management of both Micklegate and Monk Bar, YAT launches two dynamic new attractions to explore the 26 turbulent years of rule by Richard III and Henry VII and the impact that these two successive monarchs had on York and its people.

**2015** · **Trent & Peak deliver the Water and Environment Management Framework**

· Commissioned in July 2015 for extensive excavation and monitoring at the Scheduled Monument of Little Chester Roman fort (Derby), TPA successfully delivers the complete excavation programme within 13 months. Completion to budget and on time allows smooth progression within the scheme, as part of the construction of flood defences within the City of Derby.

**2016** · **Skeffling excavations take place on the East Yorkshire coast**

· YAT undertakes extensive fieldwork in advance of a major proposed coastal realignment and flood-defence scheme on the North Humber foreshore. Evidence for the extensive medieval occupation and subsequent abandonment of the foreshore illustrate a constant battle with climate and weather that continues to this day.

2015 2016

**YAT delivers the first of its new touring exhibitions**

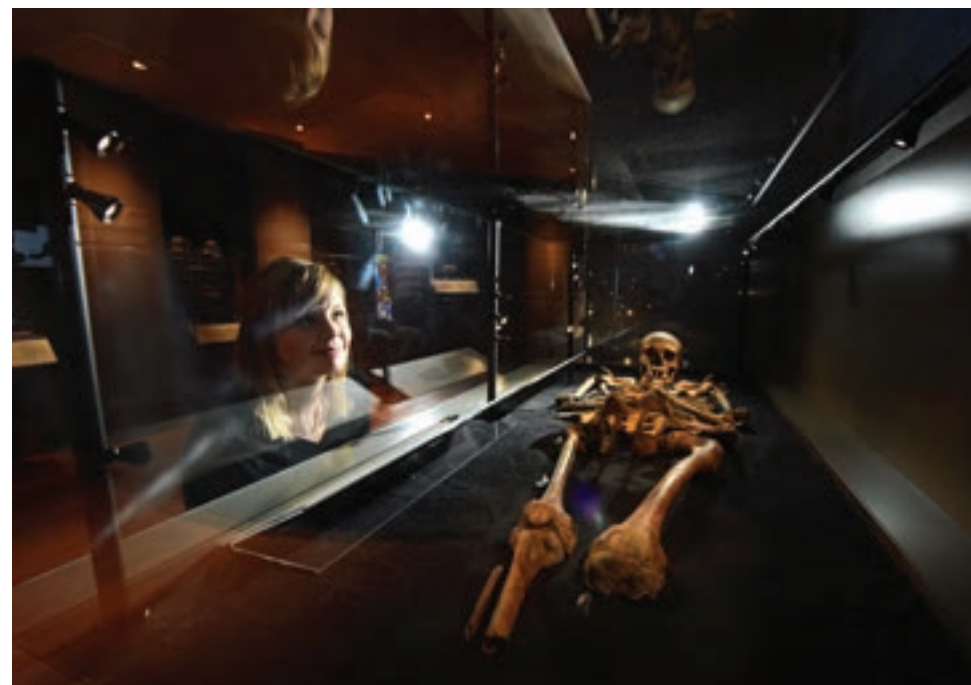
**2015** · Evolving from two of its in-house exhibitions, 'Hamlet to Hollywood' and 'Heroes' are re-developed as touring exhibitions and installed in St. Peter's Abbey, Ghent, and The Manx Museum, in Douglas, the Isle of Man. YAT continues to develop its touring exhibitions offer, working with numerous partner venues throughout the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland.





## 2017 JORVIK mark IV launches

JORVIK Viking Centre re-opens on Saturday, 8th April 2017, 16 months after closure due to flooding; on time, on budget and having raised almost £1.2 million towards the £4.5 million rebuilding costs. Over the opening weekend alone JORVIK welcomes almost 4,000 visitors - all keen to experience the newly re-imagined sights, sounds and smells of Viking-age York.



# 2017/2018

## Inherit is launched

YAT forms Inherit as its institute for research, policy advocacy and development practice; designed to support people to use their cultural heritage to improve their lives and the places in which they live.

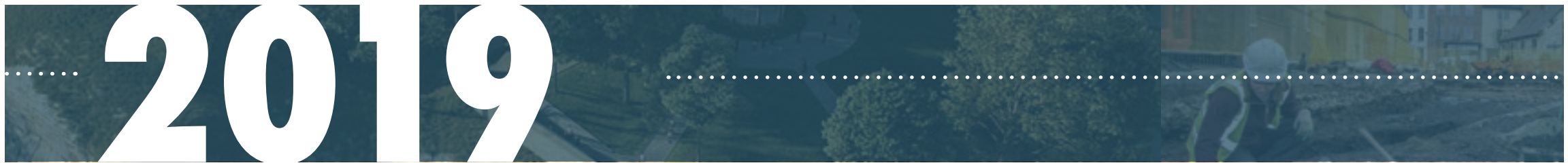
## 'Food For Thought' is created

YAT's Historic England funded project 'Food for Thought' develops a new approach for regional research strategies that seeks to define research interests and priorities from the local population and stakeholders within a broad academic framework. A series of innovative public events and creative initiatives are designed to engage with a wide range of audiences from across the Yorkshire Wolds.

2018

## 2019 : Secrets of Stonebow are revealed

An archaeological programme undertaken for the City of York Council during a programme of road resurfacing at Stonebow, Pavement and Fossgate in York unearths post medieval and modern buildings as well as backyard deposits, structures and features dating from the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> century.



## 2019 : Trent & Peak dig castles

A five-year project by Trent and Peak provides commercial archaeological and heritage services to Nottingham City Council during the £29.4 million redevelopment of Nottingham Castle. Works include major archaeological excavations on the site of a new visitor centre and 'Robin Hood' gallery, and the development of a bespoke 'We Dig Castles' training and community excavation offer for the site focussing on an annual summer excavation in the Outer Bailey.





## 2020 The Romans Were Here

Deposits from York's Guildhall reveal painted plaster, roof tiles and mosaic pieces; all part of deeply buried evidence of the Roman occupation of York.

## 2020 "Conserving "one of the most important ancient finds of this millennium"

Excavations in Pocklington, East Yorkshire, unearth a rare chariot burial, which includes a wooden shield which our conservation team 'micro-excavate, analyse and consolidate using the wealth of their skills.

# 2020

## 2019 YAT receives £1.9million from Arts Council England

The Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 presents a huge challenge to the Trust, with its attractions closed for three separate lockdowns, and significant levels of its income affected.





## 2021 :: **Archaeology on Prescription begins**

Our Community Engagement and Fieldwork teams deliver the first pilot of YAT's new social prescribing project, Archaeology on Prescription, aiming to engage the City of York and all its residents in archaeology to improve health and wellbeing, foster meaningful social connections and build self-esteem and confidence.

# 2021

## 2021 :: **That JORVIK Viking Thing is created**

Featuring a host of video on demand and livestreamed events, from 'Meet the Viking' sessions exploring various Viking skills and pastimes, to 'An Evening with Einar Selvik' streamed live from Norway, our newest all digital festival is launched





## 2022 **Barley Hall Coffee Shop opens**

Modelled as a Georgian coffee shop, Barley Hall Coffee Shop has been popular since opening and has hosted a number of events over Festival and, more recently, Pride month where it was transformed into a Molly House. Day to day it features a selection of artefacts, as well as locally sourced produce and our own coffee blend from York Emporium!



# 2022

Read on for case studies of our impact in 2023



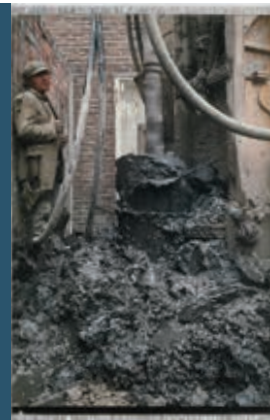
## **The launch of Peter Addyman's book and 50th Anniversary**

30th September saw the launch of "50 Years of YAT" by Peter Addyman CBE at a Gala Dinner, held at the Merchant Adventurers Hall. This celebratory event brought together Trustees, Friends of YAT, YAT staff and special guests, including the Lord Mayor, and after dinner speech by TV historian, Michael Wood OBE.

## Imaging the past - our first thirty years depicted in 60,000 slides

Five decades of excavation by York Archaeology, formerly, York Archaeological Trust has recovered a vast array of things left behind by people living in York over two millennia. These archaeological finds help us glimpse past lives, identities and connections. Alongside this collection, however, is another rich resource. York Archaeology's archive holds crucial documentation from 3,000 excavations but its importance extends beyond the archaeological record. It charts the rapid evolution of York Archaeology to the highly successful and unique organisation it is today, and it records the contribution of hundreds of people vividly captured on film by its photographers. Their images are often works of art in their own right, recording the scenes of excavations, people at work, informal down-time moments, and the concept design and development of our Attractions. Tangentially, these images also capture the changing streetscapes, citizens, and sky lines of York and are a vulnerable resource in need of preserving.

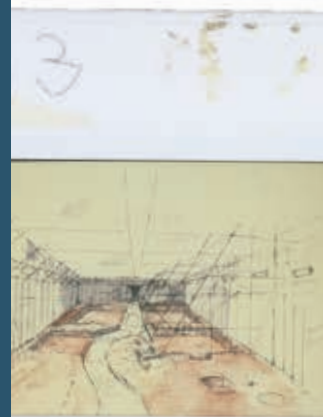
Over the course of 2023, the Collections & Archives team have catalogued, indexed, and digitally photographed over 60,000 slides in the York Archaeology collection with the intention of sharing this important visual resource through an accessible online collection website.



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C-DESIGN



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JORVIK VIKING CENTRE,  
GATE, YORK YO1 9WT



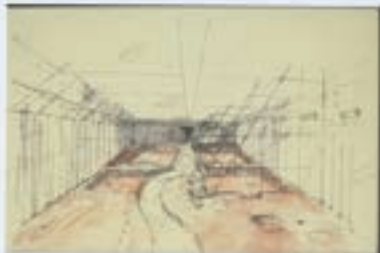
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VIEW FROM THIS SIDE



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JVC - DESIGN

YORK 1969 - TEA BREAK



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VIEW FROM THIS SIDE  
MADE IN ENGLAND

Photography C/G (hand)



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Return to: JORVIK VIKING CENTRE,  
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Barbican - Kn Quarry pit -  
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JORVIK VIKING  
CENTRE



HEARTH & HOME  
IN A.D. 948

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FUJICHROME



23

## A Bridge Abutment in Salford...

In 2021, Salford Archaeology excavated a moated site at Lower Farington Hall, Lancashire. Steve Allen from our Conservation Lab was called in to report on the wood and timbers and one group was of especial interest. Dated by dendrochronology to 1565-1590, this was an arrangement of plates and staves in front of the stone bridge abutment. Nothing quite like this has been published and its purpose was initially a mystery. It was clearly not a normal fixed bridge. Our study shows this is the timber-clad abutment of a lifting bridge, intended to create an impressive and secure entrance to the moated enclosure.

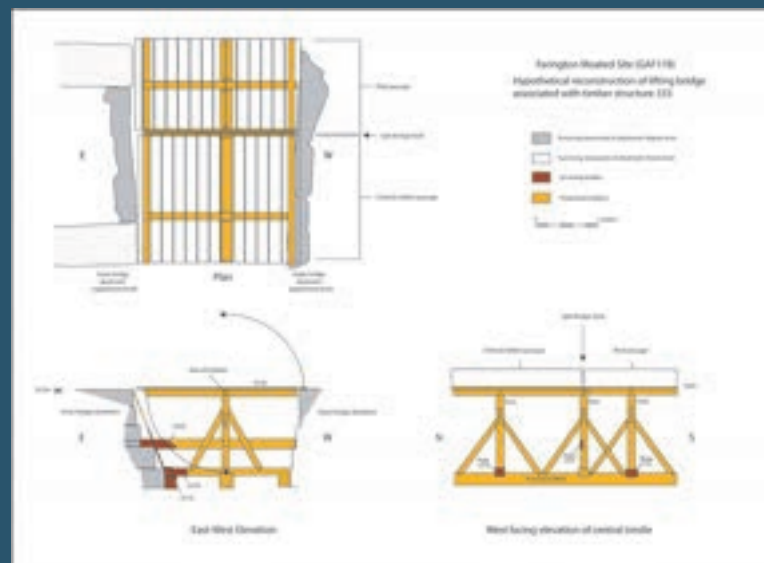
This is not a traditional 'drawbridge'. A lifting bridge has a trestle halfway across the span of the moat, over which the bridge deck pivots. The operation was controlled from the gate on the enclosure side of the bridge. Levers and counterweights would allow the end of the deck nearest the gatehouse to drop into the moat while correspondingly raising the end outermost from the gate into the air, the whole deck pivoting into a near-vertical plane. The end of the wooden deck nearest the gate could be damaged by a rapid downwards swing, especially if it caught on exposed stonework- here the staves act as 'skids', cushioning any violent impact and preventing it from snagging on the edges of the stonework. Repeated low-level impact and abrasion would account for the damage and loss of those staves missing from the structure as found.

The drawing shows a possible arrangement of the timberwork. The shores or braces are here shown as straight lengths of timber but some late medieval bridge trestles such as Kirby Muxloe, Leicestershire incorporate curved shores. There do not appear to have been any posts fastened to the surviving timbers at the abutment end. Counterweights at the inner, eastern end of the bridge deck may have facilitated the turning of the deck. The exact width of the deck is unknown and it could have been significantly narrower.

Lifting bridges such as this are often made in two parallel sections- a narrower walkway for everyday pedestrian/foot traffic and a wider deck for ridden transport, such as a horse or small cart. The division between these two sections could be marked by the horizontal plate located roughly one-third of the width across the bridge.

The deck frame would need to have pivoted over a trestle set halfway across the moat- such a trestle would have been robbed when the bridge was later replaced by a solid causeway and a drainage pipe. The suggested reconstruction of the missing trestle is based on other medieval examples, being stabilized in two directions to cope with the shock of repeated bridge movement.

This was a sophisticated, well-planned construction- as shown by carpenters marks on the staves which form three numerical sequences. Such a structure added status and prestige to the main entrance to the moated enclosure (and to its owners), at the same time providing a moderate level of security.











## Helping to Preserve Norfolk's "Mary Rose"

The conservation team have been kept busy conserving an amazing collection of artefacts recovered from a shipwreck that sheds light on life in 17th Century high society. The Gloucester, a third-rate warship, was sailing to Scotland when it hit a sandbank off Yarmouth and sank on the 6th May 1682, with the loss of almost 250 seamen and passengers. Also onboard was the then Duke of York, who survived the wrecking to become James II of England and VII of Scotland in 1685.

Discovered in 2007 by Lincoln and Julian Barnwell, and James Little, three avocational divers based in Norfolk, the identity of the wreck was kept secret until 2022 when news finally broke after the ship's identity was confirmed. York Archaeology's involvement began back in 2017 when we were approached by the Barnwell brothers to take on the preservation of several items including a timber cask/barrel stave, metal rimmed glass spectacles complete with wooden case, and several leather book covers, one of which had traces of paper surviving inside.



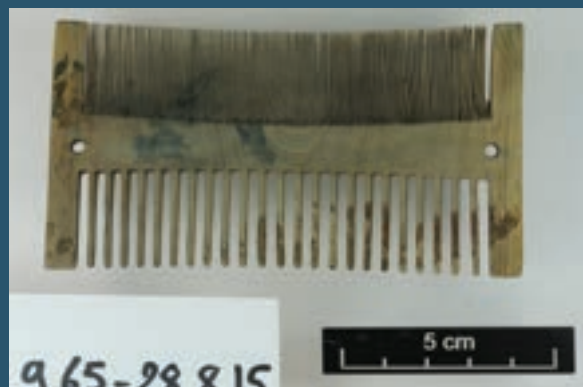




Our next task was conserving some 400 artefacts from the wreck, many of which were required for an exhibition that opened in the Castle Museum, Norwich, in February 2023. Artefacts worked on included leather shoes, female silk clothing, numerous clay tobacco pipes, bronze navigational equipment, double sided horn combs and several iron cannon balls (one of which may be the distress shot fired off to warn the rest of the flotilla). Many of the personal items had been found stashed away for safe keeping in a wooden trunk.

Also recovered were over 100 glass wine bottles, of which almost 50% had intact corks with liquid inside – potentially 17th Century wine! More importantly though, several bottles had personal seals attached, including one bearing the family coat of arms of the Washington/Legge family, belonging to Colonel George Legge (c. 1647-91), Master General of Ordnance and 1st Baron Dartmouth. Legge has been described as one of the wealthiest, powerful and well-connected individuals sailing on the Gloucester that day. It is not often in archaeology that we are able to identify the owner of a particular artefact – this is one of the joys of maritime archaeology.

Looking to the future, we are now advising the newly formed Gloucester 1682 Trust regarding long-term storage and conservation of the finds and wreck remains, and hope to be involved in this exciting project for many years to come.





## Learning through Loan Boxes: Promoting the Power of Objects

Object-based learning has long been a core tenet of our learning strategy and our loan box service has supported this in classrooms for more than 15 years. We are now expanding our provision in this area, drawing on the successful model of our KS2-orientated boxes to develop new ways to engage with our tactile resources and sharing best practice with others.

One aspect of this has been our loan box-themed workshops for the White Rose College of the Arts and Humanities 'Knowledge Exchange' programme, in which early career academics explore creative methods of sharing their research with wider audiences. We were invited to attend for a second year running and feedback was highly positive. It was particularly gratifying to see participants embrace our model and collaborate with us on new ideas.

Our new Loan Boxes Live! hybrid offer, pairing a loan box with a live virtual outreach session, has also entered its second year. We have started to build a new audience for this offer and have received some useful feedback to develop it further.

This innovative approach featured in a Group for Education in Museums (GEM) publication in March 2023, and we were invited to present on the topic at GEM's Yorkshire and Humberside online training event in May too.



"Using the live loan box with the children was such a positive experience. The children had the opportunity to become proper historians and immerse themselves in the learning. It made the history become less of just a "narrative" and more of an exploration of the past by using key history skills." - Year 5 teacher, West Yorkshire





## 10th annual Bloodaxe Book Challenge

In November 2022 we launched our 10th annual Bloodaxe Book Challenge, in conjunction with York Explore Library and Archive. Over the last ten years the Interpretation and Learning department has run this literacy initiative, encouraging the young readers of York to access their local library service and to read for pleasure. We have enlisted some big names in children's fiction to help us, including Cressida Cowell and Jeremy Strong, and this year saw the return of Francesca Simon, author of the hugely successful Horrid Henry series, as our Bloodaxe Book Challenge author. As in previous years, participants were rewarded with a sticker for each book they completed over the three months of the challenge, collecting them all on a special bookmark, incorporating artwork from Francesca's Two Terrible Vikings books. All those who completed the Challenge were invited to attend a free event with Francesca at Tang Hall library on the opening Saturday of the JORVIK Viking Festival, and received a free child's ticket to visit JORVIK (with discounted admission for an accompanying adult). An amazing 336 children took part this year: an increase of 8.5% on last year, with 11% more completing the challenge than last year. A total of 36 children joined the library to take part in the challenge, and 17 parents or carers joined at the same time.



## | Magic & Mystery comes to Monk Bar

After a period of closure, the first floor of Monk Bar re-opened to the public in July as a gift shop. But, not any old gift shop (well, it is old to be fair), this houses merchandise from the popular Magic & Mystery exhibition from Barley Hall.

As well as some unique souvenirs our Digital Engagement team have created some bespoke content which means visitors can find out more about science, divination and magical protection. There's also a special video about Richard III and alterations he made to Monk Bar during his reign as well as "York Archaeology: Who Are We?".







## York Pride at Barley Hall

June is Pride month and a variety of colleagues from across the business wanted to be involved and create some events and activity that supported Pride month in a none tokenistic way. The aim was to explore the history of this community and educate visitors as primarily, that is what we strive to do each day.

A lot of the activity took place at the Barley Hall coffee Shop, which was transformed into a Molly House, with specially curated content, accessible through QR codes, told the history of these types of venues and the LGBTQ+ community.

Alongside this we ran 2 main events - Anne Lister in the House and Shakespeare Shorts: Twelfth Night.

Anne Lister in the House was a monologue performed live in the coffee shop and told the stories that later inspired the TV show "Gentleman Jack".

Shakespeare Shorts: Twelfth Night were child friendly, 15 min performances where the history of cross dressing in the arts and theatre was explored.





'Thank you very much for making it happen, I had a lovely time'

'I have had a wonderful time during the volunteering sessions and would like to do this again...'

'It's been great fun and I hope to volunteer with you again in the near future'

## Viking Volunteers

Working collaboratively with both the University of York Student Archaeological Society and York St John University 'Student Opportunities' team, 2023 saw us enjoy one of our most successful years for volunteer engagement at the annual JORVIK Viking Festival.

Volunteers joined us to run a dedicated, volunteer-led information stand as well as offering invaluable assistance to staff running the family crafts and activities.

Working collaboratively with these groups allowed us to build on existing partnerships with the two Universities, reaching more students by linking the volunteering to their study needs and personal interests. With Student Volunteering Week also running over this year's Festival we were also able to provide a way for students to be a part of this annual event via short-term, flexible opportunities that allowed them to get involved with and contribute to the Festival.

The partnered nature of the volunteering allowed us to take the training and welcome sessions out to the students, offering University-based welcome sessions and virtual training options that provided flexible, accessible ways to get involved.

This pilot way of working resulted in a team of 39 volunteers, made-up from existing volunteer team members and new student volunteers, donating over 349 hours of time over the Festival week to offer services and support that would not have been possible without them.

In an end of volunteering survey, 100% of respondents noted that they would 'recommend volunteering at the Viking Festival to their friends and family' with some great feedback about their experience volunteering with us.



# THAT JORVIK VIKING THING PODCAST



## | Podcast

### **Have you tuned into That JORVIK Viking Thing Podcast?**

This year has been a big one for the podcast. Created during lockdown it has now had 70,000 downloads!

It is very much a labour of love for Miranda Schneiderer and Lucas Norton who write, edit and present it, alongside their full time roles.

Whilst it has primarily focused on Vikings, they do cover a wide range of topics including Shakespeare and Theatre in Elizabethan York, the use of Eels as currency and Archaeology Mythbusting (a bonus episode).

We have also entered two awards: Podcast Awards – People's Choice category, which is an international award; and the British Podcast Awards.

**The results should be announced  
in September 2023.**

# Community Engagement

## Archaeology on Prescription

Archaeology on Prescription is a social prescribing project designed to improve health and wellbeing, foster meaningful social connections and build self-esteem and confidence through the development of new skills and knowledge.

Following a successful 9-week pilot in 2021, we returned to our site in Walmgate in April 2022 and ran 24 weeks of accessible archaeological activities, including excavation, finds washing and processing, and recording. We welcomed 69 participants from local partner charities such as Changing Lives and Converge, and from the NHS via Social Prescribing Linkworkers. 10 of our participants progressed to our training excavation via bursaries covered by our funding.

In September we were awarded a grant from the National Heritage Lottery Fund to support the project until March 2025.

In 2023 we have increased the number of local partner charities and have welcomed more people from the NHS, and expect to have over 70 participants taking part. We have made improvements to the project's accessibility, including a trench extension that allows participants to excavate while standing or sitting, rather than kneeling, and a new set of accessibility guides for new participants.

## We Dig

In 2023 our public training excavation, We Dig, returned to Willow House, working alongside the Archaeology on Prescription team. The excavation was on a smaller-scale than 2022 due to reduced space available, but we continued to explore the 19th century landscape and earlier backyard activities, welcoming around 30 new trainees.

This year we also ran a very successful family Training Dig during May half-term called Kids Dig York, which we will expand next year alongside colleagues in DIG. We also ran new training weekend events, for people who weren't able to do the full week-long course.

Finally, we welcomed another cohort of Archaeology on Prescription Graduates via bursaries funded by that project. This was adapted to reflect additional needs and represents an important part of our mission to reduce barriers to participation.

The We Dig... Wollaton Park archaeological training scheme conducted by our office in Nottingham in partnership with Nottingham City Council (NCC), and the University of Nottingham, continues in 2023 following a National Lottery funded geophysical survey in 2021 and a walkover and auger survey, both conducted with Nottingham University students. The aim of the project was to continue investigating the landscape of Wollaton Park, Nottingham, and its changes from a 16th century farm to an 18th century designed pleasure landscape, to a modern community space.

Excavations started at the Hall in 2019, and targeted the possible location for an Orangery located on a lower garden terrace visible in the foreground of Jan Siberechts' paintings of Wollaton Hall from 1697. Excavations to-date have uncovered a rock cut terrace, 18th century re-landscaping layers and an earlier series of deposits suggesting that borders of planting, lawned areas and pathways were once present on a lower formal garden terrace. A stone wall was also revealed, and thought to be the wall of the 17th Century Orangery.

A number of hexagonal pits found to the north-east of the wall, thought to be the internal space of the Orangery, could have been for fruit trees or similar, which would have been planted straight into the ground within the Orangery rather than in pots.

The project to-date has provided training to approximately 100 trainees and 15 volunteers since 2019. Training included the basics of the archaeological process, find identification, archaeobotany, public outreach and geophysical survey. Bookings in 2023 were already c.45% full in June and were selling fast.









## Archaeological Services

Our archaeological services have gone from strength to strength in the past year, and our team, spanning three fieldwork offices, now comprises almost 100 archaeologists. Last year we achieved a profitable turnover of well over £4 million, and delivered excellence and value on around 350 projects, for a range of clients; from small, private developers to multinational firms. Particularly significant areas of work for us in 2022 once again included the water industry in the East Midlands and urban archaeology in York.

### Discovering Archaeology: from Dig to Display

Archaeological excavations along the route of the Anglian Water SPA Pipeline, have dominated the portfolio of our Nottingham office this year, with over 30 sites identified along the 160km route designed to carry water from the Humber in the North to Cambridgeshire and beyond in the south. Working with our delivery partners, Oxford Archaeology and Pre-Construct Archaeology, a range of important discoveries have been made, most notably from Peterborough, where finds have ranged in date from the Mesolithic to the Post-medieval period, in the form of lithic blades, axes, thumb scrapers and microliths, early medieval pin beaters and loom weights, and dense later Iron Age and Romano-British occupational activity. Personal effects such as jewellery, shoe remnants (hobnails) have also been identified as grave goods and within features in close proximity to inhumation and cremation burials. To the northern end of the scheme, early Roman pottery production sites, crafting waste (worked antler), and a mid-late Saxon cemetery remain the most notable identified features thus far. An excavation at 105-111 Micklegate has kept the majority of our York team busy over seven months in 2022-2023. One of the largest deeply stratified excavations seen in York in recent years, the site was a fascinating one which revealed part of the precinct of the medieval Holy Trinity Priory and Roman remains relating to the Roman Colonia. Structures related to the Holy Trinity Priory included walls, floor surfaces and tiled hearths. These provide important insights into the development of the precinct. The site also

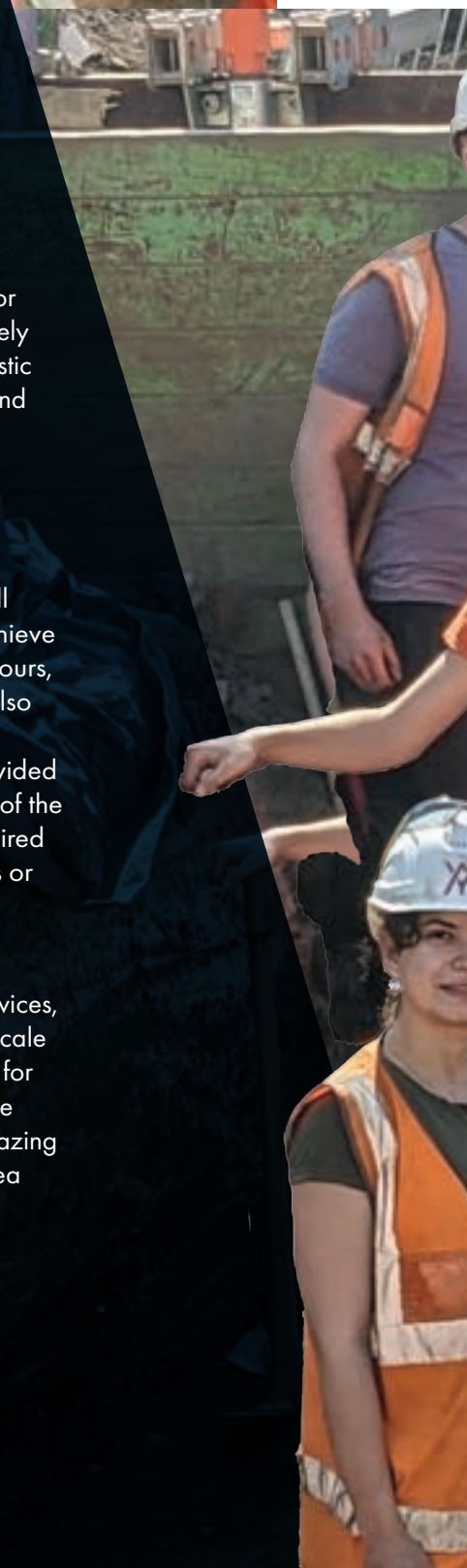
yielded a vast quantity of Roman deposits and artefacts, including floor surfaces, beam slots, wall footings, hearths and stone supports. It is likely these relate to a number of different structures with evidence for domestic activity and some small-scale craft activity. Exciting artefacts were found such as jet jewellery, bone pins, brooches and an intaglio. These will provide a flavour of the quality and variety of life in this part of York almost two thousand years ago.

### Public benefit and archaeology

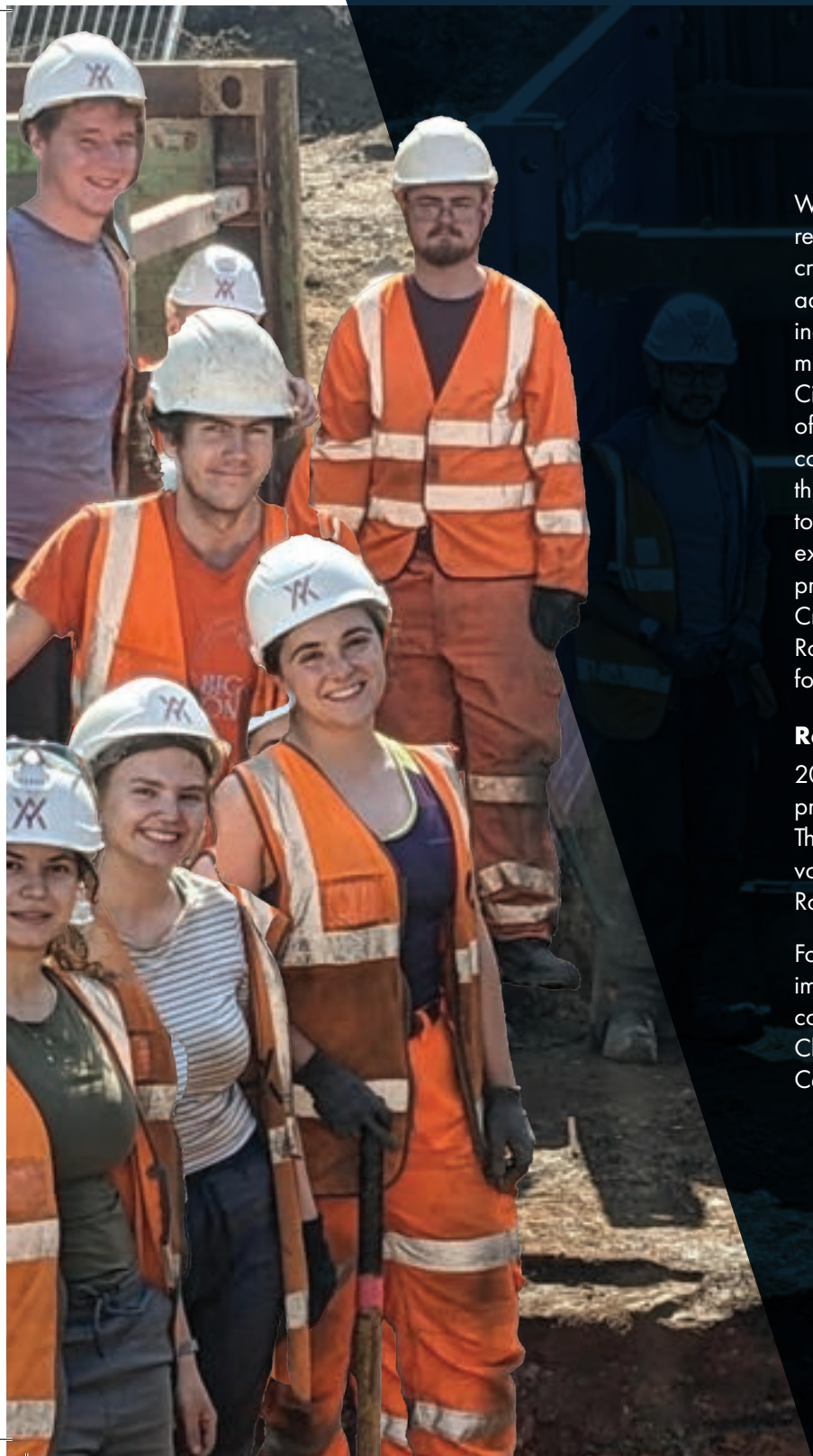
At Micklegate, as well as uncovering the story of the site - which will lead to a significant research publication - we were also able to achieve significant public benefit for our client, by providing a series of site tours, open days and social media outputs. Another site where we were also able to provide a range of public benefit services was the National Railway Museum in York. There, redevelopment of the Museum provided an opportunity for our archaeologists to tell the story of the coming of the railways to York. Maximising these opportunities for our clients required us to work as one cohesive organization with our colleagues across our Communications and Digital Attractions teams.

### Future proofing

A key growth area this year has been within our Geoarchaeology services, which now provides market leading specialist-services on a national scale for commercial clients, as well as resource management opportunities for the public sector. Important commercial work this year has included the prospection and recording of Mesolithic remains - including some amazing preserved human footprints - in advance of the installation of a new sea wall at Rhyl in North Wales.







We are also increasingly asked to model deposits for the purposes of resource management by clients concerned with the impact of the climate crisis. Along the River Stiffkey, Norfolk we investigated the deposits in advance of a river restoration scheme located within a landscape that included Warham Camp, an Iron Age fort and designated ancient monument. An important ongoing resource management project is the York City deposit model, which is seeking to compile the first city-wide model of below-ground strata for the City Council's heritage managers, since commercial archaeology started well over 30 years ago. Once complete this work will represent a vital resource for the city, and will also be used to generate and answer important new research questions. One early example of the benefit of this work is the key contribution to the research project, *Roman York Beneath the Streets*, led by Martin Millet and John Creighton. This aims to use largely non-invasive techniques to map the Roman remains within the modern road network of the city to identify areas for further work.

### Research and publications

2022 has seen further important developments in our publication programme with the initiation of a York Archaeology Monograph series. This series aims to modernize our archaeological publications, and an initial volume has been published detailing the findings of excavations at a Roman and Iron Age site at Wingerworth, Derbyshire.

Forthcoming publications for 2023 include long-awaited volumes on important sites, such as the Hungate excavations in York (which will commence with the publication of the Roman cemetery remains), Little Chester Roman Fort in Derby, and excavations undertaken at Nottingham Castle in advance of its redevelopment.



ETTABW context (7902)  
Copper alloy Roman ring with traces of enamel



ETT AAA Context (7003)  
Roman copper alloy pin



ETT ABW Context (7902)  
Roman miniature vessel, probably votive or burial. 3rd century Nene valley form



HRO SF13 Context (10190) (10191)  
Roman mortaria stamp, possibly mancetter  
Hartshills 2nd-4th century

















# Our Mission 2022 - 27

## Your Archaeology - Discover, Explore, Experience

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