

HULL ROAD HERITAGE HUNTERS

2022



Image of a tram
1915, York Explore

WHAT IS HULL ROAD HERITAGE HUNTERS?



A thrift shop on Hull Road in the 1950s
York Explore Archives

Residents of Hull Road ward joined York Museums Trust to look back in time and find out more about the people who have lived in their area. This was not only a research project but a way to meet new people right next door.

Before we started we realised that Hull Road has been ignored in the general history of York but it has a long history that goes back to prehistoric times. Remains of roundhouses have been found near the University, Romans built the road which came from Brough and Siword's Hill was used during the Civil War to fire cannons at the city.

However, what wasn't known to us were real stories of real people who have lived in the area.

OUR TASK

Over seven sessions from January to March 2022 we dug in to the past of Hull Road. We used collections from York Museums Trust and York Explore to explore histories that haven't been sufficiently told.

We got together to first ask what we knew about the area already through living there.

*Houses built on
Green Dyke Lane -
mostly individual plots*

*When was
there an excavation
at Archies school -
Roman remains
found?*

*1954 site of
Roman Rd
located between
Rose & Crown and
Waggon & Horses*

After getting to know each other and realising some of us were very close neighbours we were given the opportunity to look in to the Archive at York Explore where the archivist brought out some fantastic collections including maps, council minutes, photographs and diaries relating to Hull Road. This gave us a great grounding in thinking about what we wanted to research!



WHO WAS INVOLVED?

We advertised for participants by posting leaflets in the area, working with local councillors by speaking at a ward meeting and getting in to the local press and YMT's social media. We had interest not only from Hull Road but past residents who have since moved as far as Australia! From this we had a core team of 8 people, ready to dig in to the past!

Sue P Sue D Cath Trisha
Alison Jane Ian Dan

"I have always been fascinated with what the Romans did, where they travelled to and why, how they organised themselves and how they lived."

The reason Sue wanted to research this part of the history of Hull Road

"I want to know who was walking up and down my road. Where were they coming from and going to? Did a Roman family live close to where I am living? What was life like for them?"

WHAT DID WE FIND?

Roman Hull Road

The Roman road headed east out of York, on its way to Brough but also to Bridlington. A lot of the route is proven, but some is uncertain. It was a very busy road bringing supplies and soldiers to York. It was later known as Ermine Street.

WHAT DID SUE FIND OUT?

The Route

Hull Road was a Roman road which approached York (Eboracum) from the east. It was built by the Roman army, who made their way from London (Londinium) via Lincoln (Lindum), crossing the River Humber (Abvs Fl) and landing at Brough (Petuaria) on the north bank. Petuaria was established as a civilian town and fort. At present day Barmby Moor it headed across country in a straight line towards Stamford Bridge (Derventio). Just south of Derventio it crossed the River Derwent and turned west towards Eboracum. Between Derventio and Eboracum it joined a road which came towards Eboracum from Bridlington.

From this point the Roman road headed west, and is followed closely by the present-day route of Hull Road and Lawrence Street as far as Walmgate Bar.



Source CC 3.0
Based on Jones & Mattingly's
Atlas of Roman
Britain



Why come to York?

The site of present-day York was chosen because it was suitably far north to be a base for conquest of the region, and because of its defensive position at the confluence of two rivers, Foss and Ouse. The fortress was built by the 9th legion (Hispana). It was started in A.D. 71. Eboracum became a provincial capital under Emperor Vespasian. From about A.D. 120 it was occupied by the 6th legion (Victrix). Eboracum remained a military base until the end of the Roman period 350 years later.

How was it built?

Surveyors and engineers were provided by the legion, with the heavy work done by the troops and local labour.

The stone above records the rebuilding of a gateway in York by the 9th Legion and is in the Yorkshire Museum

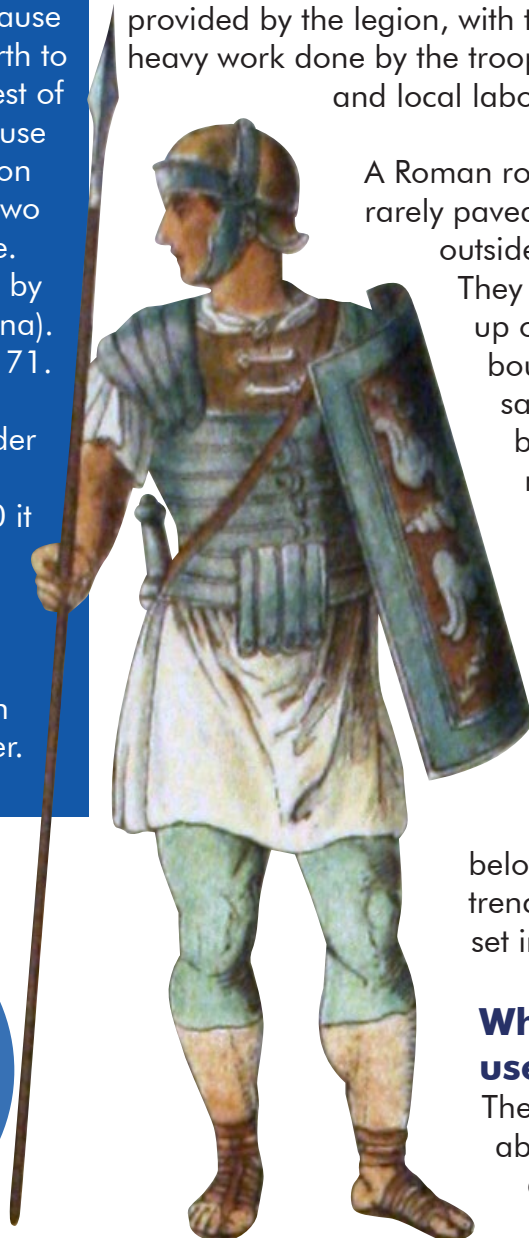
A Roman road was rarely paved or flagged outside of a town.

They were usually, in Britain, made up of a drainage layer of rubble or boulders topped with compacted sand and gravel. Such roads were built, initially, by the army, then maintained by local towns and cities, and used by everyone. Roads were built on a slight camber to help water drain away.

In 1954, 300 ft from Walmgate Bar, on the north side of Lawrence Street the Roman road was seen 6 ft below the modern surface in a sewer trench. It was composed of cobbles set in clay.

What was the road used for?

The Roman fortress accommodated about 5,200 people. A vast amount of food and supplies was needed, especially beef,



A roman soldier. Public Domain Albert Kretschmer Costumes of All Nations 1882

cattle hides and pottery. Grain was moved from the south of the country and also from the Mediterranean, along with wine and olive oil. The road would have been busy with this commercial traffic. A large number of troops also used the road to and from Eboracum as did messengers.

Why does Hull Road bend in several places approaching York?

Roman roads were not always straight. The roads approaching Eboracum followed raised ground wherever possible, so a bend might have been necessary to avoid a marsh or other obstacle. There was a lot of marshy land near York so it may have been trying to avoid this.

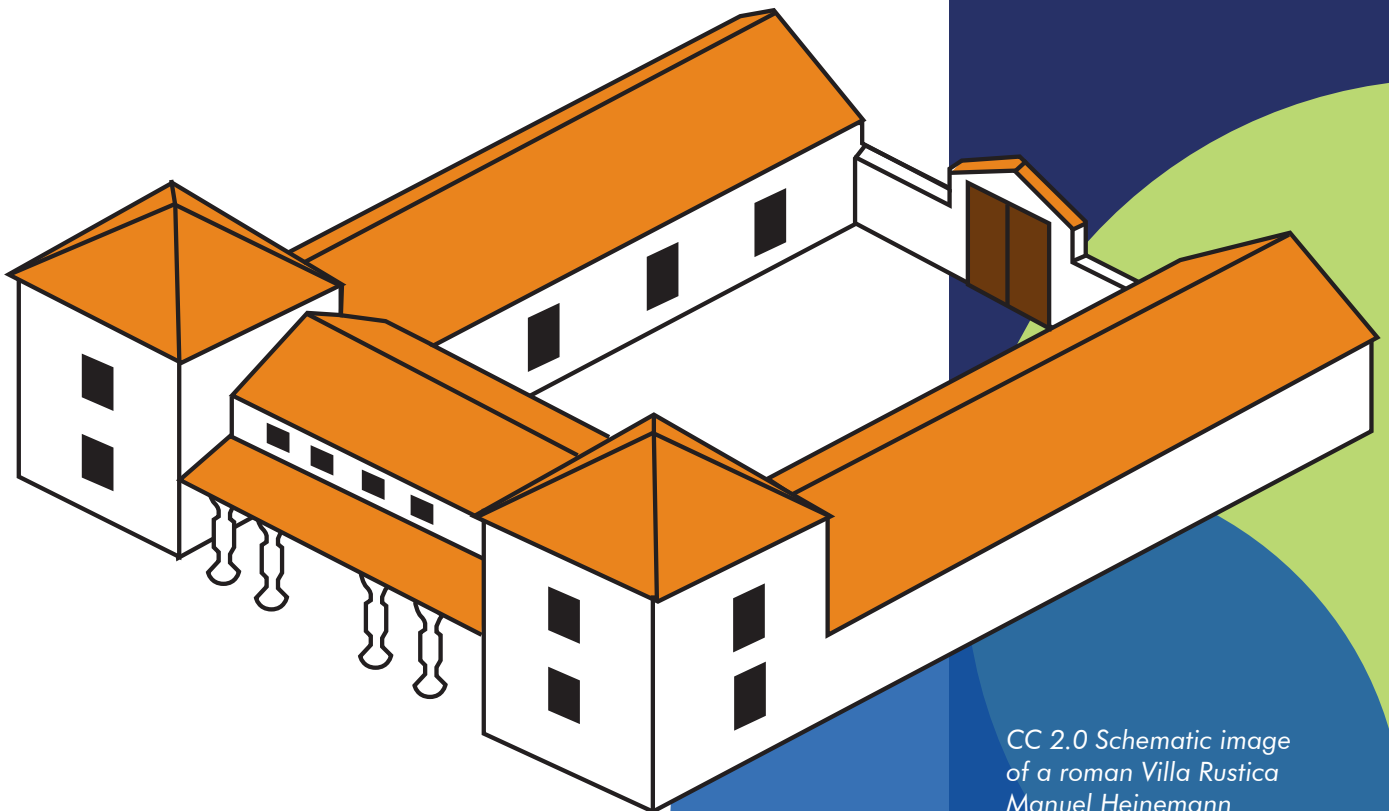
Evidence of Roman buildings along Lawrence Street or Hull Road, as far as Tang Hall Lane

There may have been buildings along the line of the Roman road, although none are known of as yet, but there is evidence for Roman ditched enclosures at the site of former Henly's garage and the former St. Joseph's Convent.

There is currently no evidence of Roman villas along this part of Lawrence Street or Hull Road but that just means they haven't been found!

Where did Sue find her research?

1. **The British Historic Towns Atlas**
Vol.5 Ch.2 p.9
P. Ottaway pub. 2015
2. **O.S. Roman Britain**
2011
3. **The Archaeology of Roman York**
p.67 Adam Parker
pub. 2019
4. **British History Online** at
www.british-history.ac.uk
5. **Archaeology and Landscape in the Vale of York**
p.26 M. Whyman &
A. J. Howard
6. **Email request to P. Ottaway**



CC 2.0 Schematic image
of a roman Villa Rustica
Manuel Heinemann

PHASES OF THE HULL ROAD

Sue was really interested in the development of buildings along Hull Road so ventured in to the archive to look at a series of maps and here is what she found. To access the maps, contact York Explore.



1832
Robert Cooper
plan of York
 St Nicholas's church is on the opposite side to St Lawrence church

1850
Tallis' Map of York
 St Lawrence Street now marked on the map. St Lawrence church still shown but not St Nicholas.

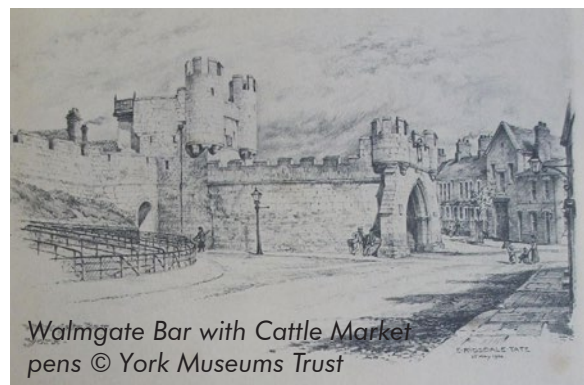
1785
Reprint of Drakes' map
 You can see Walmgate Bar but very little except fields beyond. St Lawrence's Church is shown as well as the hospital of St Lawrence. The road is called The Road to Hull.

1822
Edward Baines Yorkshire Directory Plan of York
 Now we have a small area of development just beyond the Bar. Some houses and gardens are shown where previously there were just fields. Also some premises on the edge of the road we call Barbican Road.

1847
Henry Bellerby Strangers' Guide, 8th edition.
 Cattle market shown off Fishergate towards Barbican Road. Lawrence Street still called the Road to Hull, but more development is shown along it stretching out from the Bar.

Did you know?

1644 – The Civil War. City besieged by Parliamentarians. Batteries on high points round York – Lamel Hill, St Lawrence's churchyard from which Walmgate Bar and Lawrence Street were bombarded and the parish church formerly attached to St Nicholas church in Lawrence St may have destroyed.



Walmgate Bar with Cattle Market pens © York Museums Trust

1860s**Plan of York by Abel Heywood**

Shows Lawrence Street leading to Bridlington Road. St Nicholas' House has now appeared.

From the Parish of St Nicholas 1864/5

Residents shown in Lawrence Street, Bull Lane, Hull Road. Occupiers shown in Monkgate, Hull Road, St Nicholas Lane (not sure where that was?), Lawrence Street, Old Brickyard Lane.

Parish of St Lawrence – Freeman shown in Regent Street, St John Terrace, Fulford Road, Lawrence Street, Walmgate Bar, Cemetery Lane, Elmwood Street.

1872**Directory of the City of York Johnson and Teneyman.**

Lots more development shown adjacent to Walmgate Bar but no detail. Some streets beginning to develop with housing alongside. Lawrence Street leading to Hull Road shown, first time I've seen it named Hull Road rather than Bridlington Road. Millfield House shown and named.

1884**Plan of the City of York showing the new boundaries and several Wards.**

Nicholas Street, Arthur Street and Herbert Street now shown and named. James Street – a bit nearer to the Bar – now shown and named and with several streets leading off it. (I'd like to know why these names were chosen). Housing continuing to be developed along Lawrence Street and further in off the road.

Millfield House

HULL ROAD

HULL ROAD

Did you know?

The church of St Nicholas stood in Lawrence Street, about where the jet garage is now. In the Civil War, during the siege of York in 1664 it was destroyed by canon fire. Old St Lawrence was also badly damaged. St Lawrence was repaired but St Nicholas wasn't and it remained in ruins up until as late as the 1850s. The Norman doorway of St Nicholas still exists and was taken to St Margaret's Walmgate, now the National Centre for Early Music, and the bells went to St John Ousebridge, now Jalou Bar.

1895**Bacon's plan of York – much more detailed**

Chaucer Street and Herbert Street going off Nicholas Street now shown, also Milton Street. Obviously poets favoured here!

Corp Auction Mart shown adjacent to Walmgate Bar – just off James Street but not very clear. Thomas Street, leading to Brickyard Lane shown just before Granville Street and Landsdown Terrace. Elvington Terrace and Brinkworth Street shown – I think these went when James Street was redeveloped in the 1970s/1980s.

Where St Nick's is now is marked as St Nicholas' Brick and Tile works and Brickyard.

Green Dykes Lane shown with the Tannery just before it.

Convent shown almost opposite Nicholas Street with Farrar Street and Regent Street shown next to it. St Lawrence Church shown with a school just behind it.

Did you know?

Ellen Wilson's 1894 Almshouses next to St Lawrence Church (still there!) were opened for women. In 2010 the charity was merged with Dorothy Wilson's Almshouse on Foss Bridge. Although the same name there is no relationship. Ellen Wilson's were built by Dr John Sykes, a physician in Doncaster in memory of his mother. She had been born in the parish of St Lawrence. On the death of Dr Sykes in 1901 his residuary estate was passed to the charity – much of it consisting of railway stock.

The architect A. S. Ellis of Westminster built six cottages in three pairs of red brick. When the merger happened with the Dorothy Wilson homes the money from that was used to modernise and refurbish the houses. They each face a garden and have a main door and entrance hall. By 1946 they had a living area, with bed recess, small kitchen, hot and cold taps, gas and electric but no bath. Residents received 8 shillings a week. Originally intended for aged or infirm women born or resident in St Lawrence parish, later they were for the benefit of Anglican widows and single women of the parish. They are now available for men and women.



Google Street view

Did you know?

St Nicholas hospital, founded in the 11th Century was the largest leper hospital in York and was located to the East of St Lawrence's church in the vicinity of no 148 Lawrence Street and under the Bootham Engineering Works. The hospital and church is where we get the name for St Nicholas' Gardens and Field. Part of the site was excavated in 1992/3. The main structure was aisled with a large hearth. Cubicles with their own hearths were found where lepers or brethren may have lived. The hospital's church was used as a parish church and survived the Reformation but was destroyed in the Civil War.

Where did Sue find her research?

- **York Explore Archives**
- **The Almshouses of York, page 19 and 45** by Carole Smith (Explore Library)
- **Parish of St Nicholas 1864/5** (Explore Library)

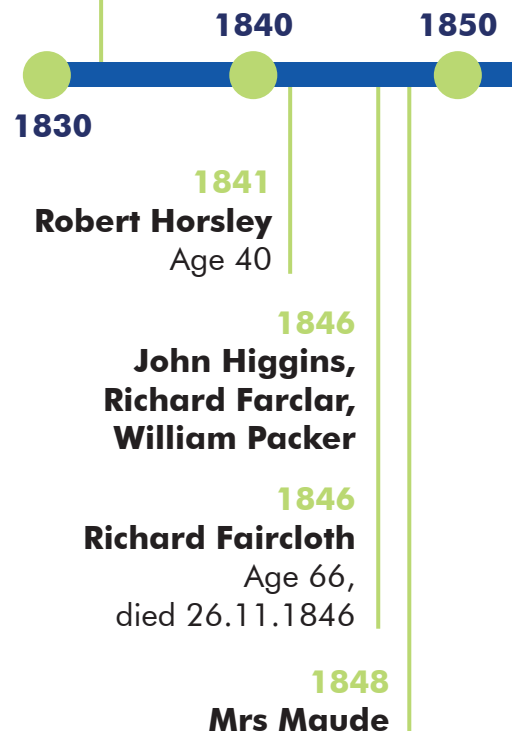
MILLFIELD HOUSE

When the group met, they found out that some of them live close by to Millfield House, a famous grand house near Tang Hall Lane. Although they knew some of it's history, Trisha was keen to find out who had lived there over the years. This is what she found from researching newspapers, censuses and local records.

1830s

Richard Faircloth Esq

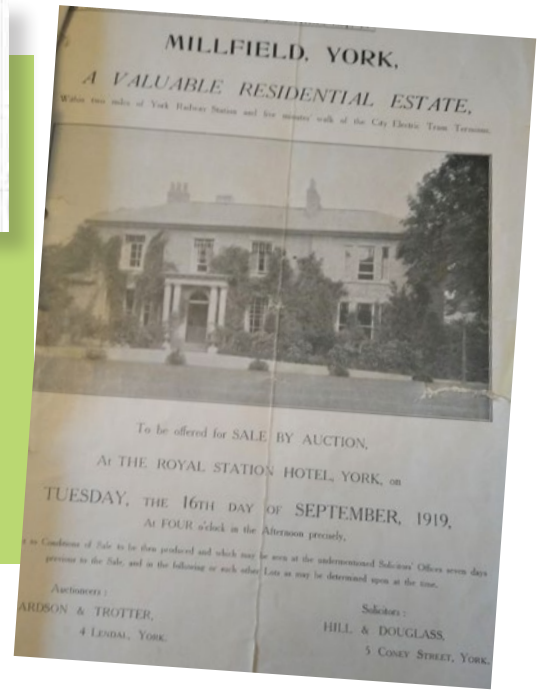
Built around this time and first occupier was a tax collector



19.08.1876
Mr. Smelder
Cadman
Magistrate

William Cadman,
 Born 31.05.74 Heslington Parish Church, died aged 43.
 Captain of York Rowing Club.
 11.12.1880 (York Gazette). Cadman got £5 piece of plate for "best pen of three Wethers, either, Leiceshires, South Downs, Horned Scotch, white faced or down cross, or Scotch or Mountain Cross" for "The Yorkshire Society for the Christmas Exhibition of Stock, Poultry, Roots, etc."

ALLEGED THEFT FROM A GENTLEMAN'S CARRIAGE.— Mr. Haley applied that Thomas Goston, of Peaseholms-green, cab driver, who was charged with stealing two suits of boy's clothes, and four pairs of boots, from a carriage in the Black Swan Hotel yard, the property of Mr. W. S. Cadman, J.P., of Millfield House, Hull-road, should be discharged, as there was not sufficient evidence to go on with the case. The prisoner was accordingly set at liberty.



1865
George
Johnston
 died 1871

1868
Mr. R.
Spoffrths

1898

John Richard Hill

Family put house up for auction at Royal Station Hotel York after his death on 16.09.19

Kind permission from paperwork courtesy of John Richardson

1928
Order of Charity
Commissioners

Added to the Trustees



4.5.1872
Harland & Cawford
v Flowers

COURT OF PROBATE AND DIVORCE, APRIL 27.
 (Before Lord Penzance.)
HARLAND AND CAWFORD V. FLOWER AND ANOTHER.
 This was a probate suit in which the plaintiffs propounded the draft will of the late Mr. George Johnson, of Brompton, near Northallerton, who died on the 21st April, 1871. The will was executed on the 20th October, 1866, and the draft of it now propounded is opposed by the defendants on the ground that the original will was destroyed by the testator for the purpose of revoking it.
 Mr. Digby Seymour, Q.C., Dr. Spinks, Q.C., and Mr. Bohn were counsel for the plaintiffs; and Dr. Deane, Q.C., Mr. Henry James, Q.C., and Mr. Searle for the defendants.
 It appeared that the testator was a self-made man. He was of humble origin, but by persevering industry, integrity, and good conduct had amassed a considerable fortune. In early life he went to America, and it was there he got together the fortune of which he died possessed. That fortune consisted of 85,000l. of real property in America, and 35,000l. of the same description of property in England, with personal property to the amount of about 5,000l. He left America and came to England in 1865, where, with the exception of two or three visits to America, he remained up to his death. On coming to England in 1865 he took up his residence at Millfield-house, in the city of York, and while there in the following year, he executed the will the draft of which was now propounded. He appeared to have had a large number of relatives, some of whom were very poor, and his desire seemed to be to benefit the whole of them by his will. Among them was George Johnson, the son of his deceased brother, who, if he died intestate, would have been his heir-at-law; but it was stated that this young man had so misconducted himself that the testator had cut him off, and that the principal reason for his making his will was to prevent him obtaining his real property that was situated in England.

1891
Mr William
Wilkinson
Wilberforce

Born 1828. 8 children: 6 daughters, 2 sons.
 Was Lord Mayor of York 1879-1880. Vice president of North & East Riding of Yorks. County Cricket Club 18.7.1890

Not
Wilberforce
the
abolitionist!

A WHEELING CUSTOMER.—A tall, able-bodied man, of respectable appearance, named John Walker, described as a labourer, of Richmond, was charged on remand with collecting alms under false pretences. Mr Wilberforce, of Millfield House, Hull-road, said that one day in the second week in January the prisoner came to his house, and, when he went to the door, said that an accident had occurred on the railway to an engine driver, a mate of his, and who had been taken to the Hospital. He represented that as the man's family were in great distress he was collecting for them. Witness believed his story, and gave him 2s. 6d. Prisoner had also visited Mr Walker's house, and there received 1s. Martin Waller, of 12, Clarence-street, also said that the prisoner, by means of his piteous tale, had swindled him out of a shilling. The Bench sentenced him to two months' imprisonment with hard labour.

1928

Sold to unknown
buyer by the The Retreat to fund their Garrow Hill Estate.

1919

Part of The Retreat and named Home of Rest for Nervous Disorder

Owners were a consortium on behalf of The Retreat – William Sewell King, Joseph Rowntree, John William Proctor, William Dent Priestman, John Watson Rowntree, Robert Firther Crosland, William Harvey, William Henry Thorp, Edward Priestman and Jarvis William Barber.

HISTORY OF THE TANG HALL ESTATE

Cath wanted to know about the pre-development and uses of the Tang Hall and Hull Road area.

Land use, 1814 – 1910s

The earliest map¹ I found in the City of York Archives of the Tang Hall area dates from 1814-1820. This shows the junction of Bad Bargain Lane and Tang Hall Lane and the Tang Hall bridge that crossed the beck. The land north of the bridge was owned by Mr Allen (left side) and Mrs Bond (right side). The land south of the bridge was owned by Tang Hall house and the Corporation of York.

The only house on this map is Tang Hall. Bad Bargain Lane is labelled as the route to Osbaldwick. A fence is marked which defines the 'division of the townships of Heworth and Osbaldwick'.

Another map² of the area, dated early 20th century, shows that the land between the Derwent Valley Light Railway (construction started in 1911) and Heworth was largely used for agricultural purposes. At this time, the only buildings in the south of the area were Millfield House and the Beeswing pub. The area that we know today as Tang Hall was fields.

At this point, housing appears to the east with Hallfield Road, Webster St, Richmond St, Morley St and Rymer St shown. Only Hallfield Road remains today.

Housing for working people in York, 1900 – 1908

The population of York in 1831 was 26,2603. This number increased to 36,303 by 1851 due in part to the arrival of families from Ireland due to the Great Famine (1845- 1849). The city also expanded because of the development of the national railways and urbanisation. By 1901 the population was 77,914. Many poor families lived in the back-to-back houses and overcrowded lodging houses found in the Walmgate and Hungate wards of the city.

In 1910, no. 85 Walmgate housed 39 male lodgers. By 1911 this number had increased to 47.

Prior to 1909, the local government had no responsibility to provide housing for working people and subsequently there were major public health problems association with inadequate sanitation and poorly maintained buildings. The minutes of the Corporation of York meetings give details about the inadequate housing and the health problems this caused. Buildings were regularly being demolished because of their poor condition in the Hungate and Walmgate wards.

The impact of the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909⁴

This Act was passed by the UK Parliament and it prevented the building of "back-to-back" houses. The Act required builders to limit the number of houses per acre and gave a minimum distance between the frontage of houses. For the first time local authorities had to introduce systems of town planning and homes had to be built to certain legal standards.

The Corporation of York seems to have first discussed the new Act formally in July 1910. Minutes from meetings held between 1908 and the 1920's show that the City Medical Officer and the ratepayers of the city were regularly complaining about the dreadful housing conditions in Walmgate.

Finally in July 1913, the Corporation instructed its Housing Sub-Committee "to consider the question of a formulation of a housing scheme"⁵.



Early plans for the Tang Hall Estate

WW1 had a major impact on the Corporation of York's plans, with men, resources and money being in short supply. The council minutes from 1916 show that the council wanted to purchase the land for the Tang Hall estate from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners but couldn't raise the money. The Local Government Board in Westminster was "unable to sanction a loan for the acquisition of Tang Hall Lane for housing purposes".⁶

On 1st October 1917, the City Engineer wrote quite a grumpy letter to the York Health committee saying how overworked his department was. He didn't have the manpower to deal with such a large project.

With all these problems it isn't surprising that a motion to build the housing on Tang Hall Lane was lost at a vote of the Corporation. 3 councillors voted for, 34 against and 2 neutral.

The Housing, Town Planning, &c. Act 1919

The end of WW1 created a huge demand for working class housing in towns across Britain. The 1919 Act promised government subsidies to help finance the construction of council housing. The Act made housing a national responsibility and gave local health authorities the task of developing housing and rented accommodation for working people.

Building starts, late 1920s

In York, from 1919 the building of the Tang Hall estate seems to have become a priority for the Corporation. A detailed map⁷, produced by the City Engineer in 1925 shows the streets from the DVL in the south to north of Fourth Avenue. The new road of Melrosegate appears, as does the proposed Catholic Church (St Aelred's) in two acres of land; this reflects the number of Irish Catholics who lived in the slum areas of York at this time.

The Corporation-owned housing consisted of terraced housing in the west and the south of

the area. Larger semi-detached houses are in the north. The houses from Asquith Avenue to Bad Bargain Lane were built for private sale.

Looking at Plumer Avenue today, you can see that the houses at the east end of the street are slightly different in style and size to the rest. This is because the boundary of the new estate stopped halfway down. Housing spread to the east of Tang Hall Lane during the 1930s and beyond.



© City of York Council/Explore York Libraries and Archives Mutual Ltd

Where did Cath find her research?

1. **Map reference** Y/PPT/6/5/297 York Explore
2. **Map reference** Y/PPT/6/5/67 York Explore
3. **<https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/yorks/city-of-york/pp254-256>**
4. **<https://archive.org/details/housingtownplann00bent/page/n19/mode/2up?view=theater>**
5. **Minute book of the York Council meetings**, 7th July 1913, p. 823. York Explore
6. **Minute book of the York Council meetings**, 3rd January 1916, p. 98. York Explore
7. **Map reference** Y/PPT/6/1/2906 York Explore

JANE AND DAN'S FAMILY HISTORY

Jane's family has lived in the area for over 100 years and were really interested in finding out more about their lives.

Family
photograph



The Villa, Lawrence Street

First found on 1888 map and next to St Lawrence's Vicarage. My Great Grandfather Arthur Langstaff lived there from 1913-1943 with various family members living there during these years. Arthur seems to have been an interesting character first found on 1881 census aged 11 living at The Admiral Hawke Pub in Walmgate (his father was the publican), Still there on the 1891 census aged 20. On the 1901 census he is a butcher at 40 Walmgate and in 1911 still a butcher at 54A Petergate. (Couldn't find him at 2 The Shambles where we were always told they lived!)

When he lived at The Villa his occupation was shown as a Commission Agent on a couple of documents. Family think he was basically a bookmaker and I found a Leeds Mercury newspaper article April 17th 1931 under the headline *Defying the Law – Ready-Money betting Rampant in York* reporting him being fined £15 and £5 for using two premises for 'ready-money' betting! In 1932 he was fined £50 for the same offence! Arthur was the head of a large extended family who seemed to move in and out of The Villa over the years including my grandparents John William (Jack) & Dorothy

Ellen (Dolly) Fairburn (Arthur's stepdaughter). My Granny had fond memories of the house and often talked of parties in the garden which we have photos of. My father Paul Fairburn was born there in July 1922. Sarah Ellen, my great grandmother died at The Villa in 1943 aged 83 after which Arthur must have left The Villa because he died in 1953 aged 85 at 87 Lawrence Street (just down the road).

In the 1970's I got a summer job with a Veterinary Drug Co. at The Villa and I am ashamed to say showed no interest in my family connection at all – what a waste!

Today the plot is a block of flats called Tradewinds built in 2003.



Gordon Hatton/
The Beeswing,
Hull Road/CC
BY-SA 2.0

The Beeswing Public House – Hull Road

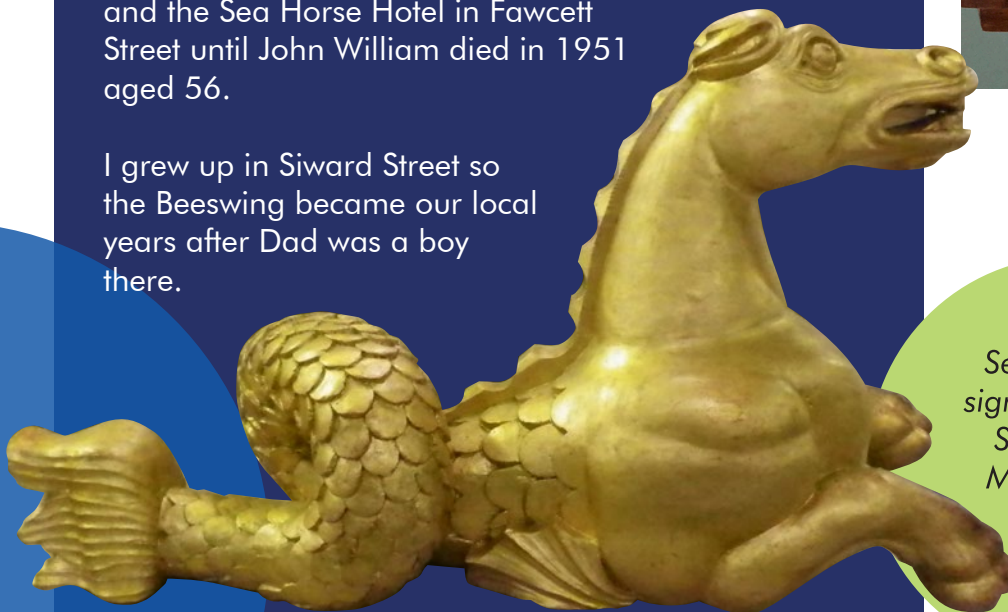
This appears on the 1846 OS map with very few buildings nearby. I would love to know when the pub was first built & why. I think it's named after a famous racehorse born in 1833 which won 51 of it's 64 races. From 1913-1920's the landlady was a Sarah Lockwood. In 1916 the Beeswing Hotel became the terminus for a tramline – the fact that they could build this new line (and a Haxby Road extension) in war time strongly suggests the route served vital war industries. In the 1920's the landlord was a Charles Sage Bowman. In 1929 my grandfather John (Jack) William Fairburn took over the pub with his wife Dorothy (Doll) Ellen having previously run The Albert Hotel in Skeldergate. My brother has a grandmother clock given to Jack and Dolly by the regulars in 1937. Jack, Dolly and my Dad Paul lived there for 9 years and left in 1938 when they went on to run the Old White Swan in Goodramgate and the Sea Horse Hotel in Fawcett Street until John William died in 1951 aged 56.

I grew up in Siward Street so the Beeswing became our local years after Dad was a boy there.



From Jane's
brother who
now owns the
clock

Seahorse Pub
sign from Fawcett
Street © York
Museums Trust



Yorkshire Printing Company – Hull Road

In 1901-1902 this was the site of the British Power Traction & Lighting Company. They acquired exclusive licence for Gardner-Serpollet steam vehicles employing 335 people and used to make steam-driven motor cars and cycles - the nearby Cycle Street records this association. In 1903 a receiver was appointed. The Yorkshire Printing Works was established in 1910 and in the 1920s the factory was mainly concerned with producing paperback books. In later years one million paperbacks a month were being despatched to London publishers for circulation around the world. During the First World War half the factory was requisitioned and occupied by the Army including German prisoners. According to an article in the York Press from an old employee part of the building was previously used as a tram shed works and used to house trams. This and the army connection might explain the link with the tram line being built in war time. A long and close association began between the Yorkshire Printing Works and the headquarters of Northern Command, because from that time until the closure of the factory Northern Command Orders were printed there, as well as a great deal of the Army's other printing requirements. According to one employee during the Second World War, an armed soldier stood guard by the machine while the orders were being printed to make sure no unauthorised person read them.

In 1952 Thomas James, my father's brother-in-law took over as chairman and managing



director and remained until his death in 1952. One memory in the article was on the last day before the Christmas holiday most of them went across the road to the Beeswing at dinnertime for a drink – the boss taking them to his father-in-law's pub! My own memory is that one of York's air raid sirens was on the roof of the building and was occasionally tested – much to our delight! They were also on the Rowntree's and Terry's factories and I think they were removed in the 1990's. The Yorkshire Printing Company closed in October 1968 and is now where the Co-op stands.

Our house research on Hull Road

In 1989 Dan and I bought a house on Hull Road. The house was built in the early 1920s around the same time as the Tang Hall development as the photograph shows. Before this we think the land was used by market gardeners. The deeds show some link to the Tadcaster Tower Brewery (think that might be in Walmgate). According to the deeds there have been 6 tenants over the years staying between 3-19 years until us - currently standing at 33 years!

LAND USES AND OWNERS

Alison has been looking into the history of land owners in the area around The Elms and Millfield House.

Chicory

The fields around Dunnington Parish were enclosed in 1750. In 1851 6.5 % of York population worked in farming, in 1911 it was 1.4 %. Thomas Smith aka 'Chicory Smith' introduced this crop to Yorkshire in 1839 around 1,000 acres were grown mostly around Dunnington. Smith had a monopoly on chicory growing and was well known in the city.

Up to 400 people came to York to support the industry, further research may be able to see individuals in the 1851 census, including Irish immigrant to Walmgate who were involved in the digging.

Chicory processing

Roots were dried in up to 12 kilns in Dunnington, roasted at Layerthorpe, then sold to grocers for grinding and blending to coffee. The Government applied plenty of excise duty to this crop.

As tea consumption rose the acreage dropped to 74 by 1884, then production moved abroad.

The 'other' William Wilberforce, which Trisha researched too, was in the chicory industry and moved from Millfield House on to Dunnington Hall and then possibly then to The Hermitage Stockton on Forest he had 8 children and buried in St Lawrence churchyard.



Image © York Museums Trust

The Bone and Oil works

This would have been making use of every part of the animals brought to cattle market and tannery. I couldn't find out where it was located on Hull Road but is mentioned in council minutes held at York Explore. In the council minutes 1919-1920 there are some lovely records about the nuisance to locals caused by the bone works. The Retreat had complained to council about the nuisance and smell. The Leeds Dripping Co was allowed to perform fat melting there, but edible fats only.

A prosecution was reported by the town clerk in June 1920 so it seems they were not behaving themselves!

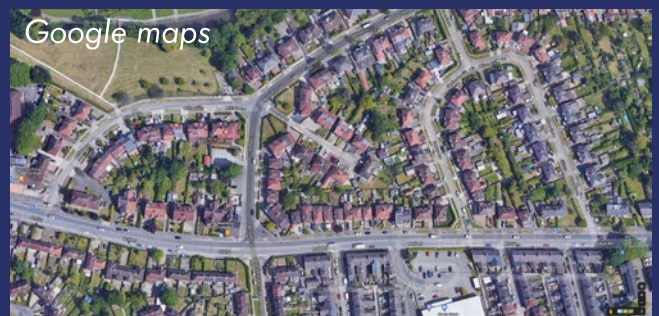
Footpath drama and land asset

Thomas Harrison appears to have owned land in the York area and has also been named in council minutes to have sold land on Piccadilly for the Tramway car shed. Also he was involved with the others as follows in the sale of land in 1923 to build what were originally named Elm Villas, now 115-133 Hull Road by way of conveyance in 1923.

These are the consortium of influential York movers and shakers of the time that we have discussed.

Hotham and Co brewery of George St York which sold to local Aristocrats in 1875 and then moved and named Tadcaster Tower Brewery in 1882.

In 1922 council agreed to move a footpath between Hull Road and Millfield Lane which was 7 feet wide on a proposed new street – I think this could be Milson Grove because there is evidence of a dotted path on some of the old



maps. In 1923 there was a 'footpath diversion order' issued to do this.

In 1924 Percy Bowes sold some land to allow for road widening.

The council insisted on purchasing land for widening the corner of Millfield Lane and Hull Rd (where the scooters are now located) to make the junction safe.

In 1926 Mr Thomas Harrison sold another 190 square yards of land for £10 to allow for widening of the road.

WHERE NEXT?

This has been a pilot for York Museums Trust and would like to make this an annual project with other parts of the city.



THANK YOU

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Walmgate Bar with Cattle Market pens © York Museums Trust