

Early foundations

This church is first mentioned in a document in 1089. We believe All Saints was actually founded much earlier, well before the Norman Conquest of 1066. We have evidence in the building plan, its features and from recent archaeology.

How do you know the date?

This church sits within the area of the Roman city of Eboracum. Its position follows the Roman street plan instead of running east to west, which is usual for churches. It was probably built when there were still Roman



buildings, or their ruins, here. The oldest part of the church is laid out in rods, an Anglo-Saxon unit of measurement.

The Roman fortress of Eboracum on the north-east side of the Ouse, and the Colonia on the south-west

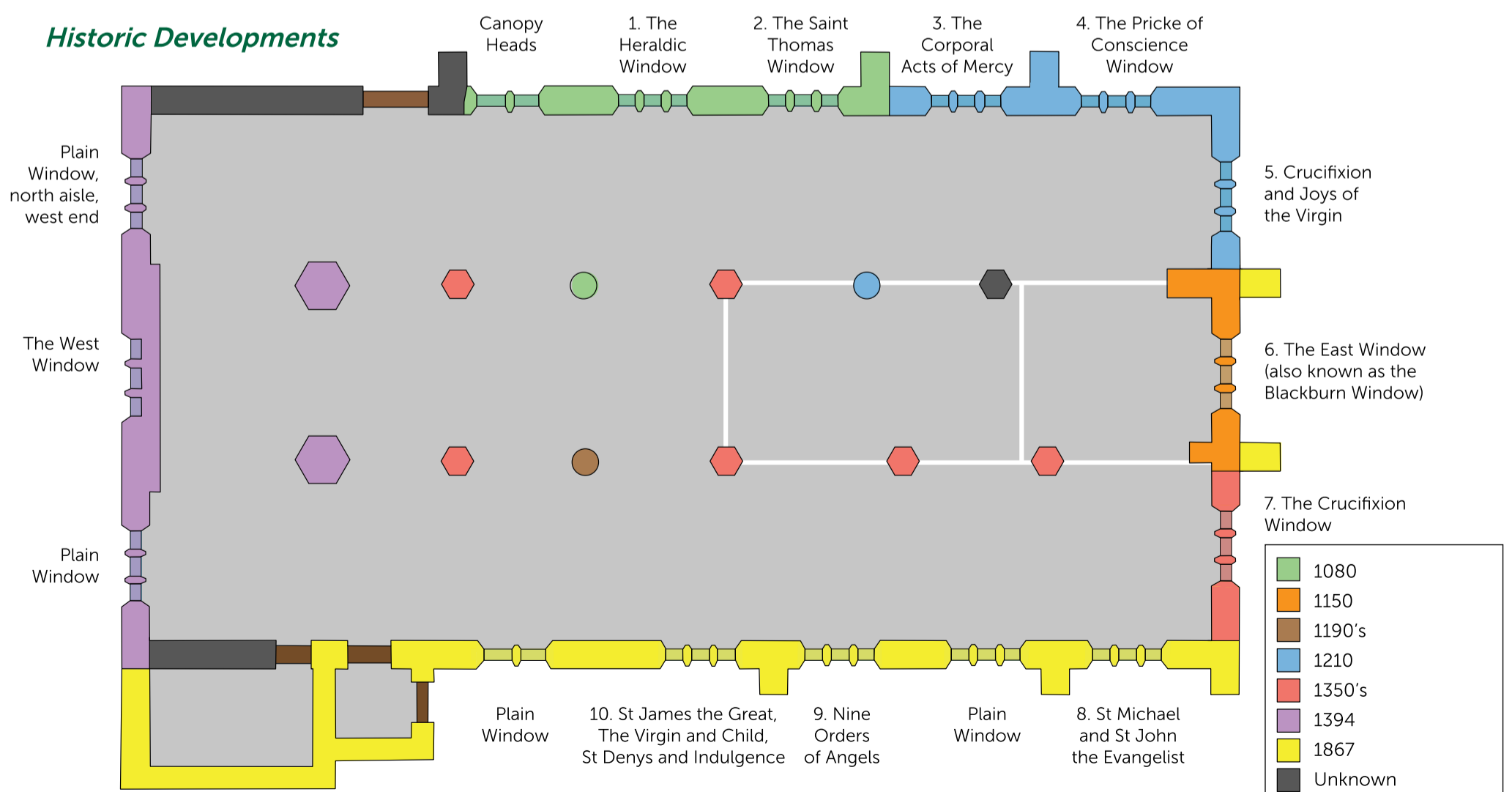
Are there any Roman remains?

One of the round columns in this church is reused from a Roman building. You can find it on the north side of the Chancel near the screen. Another round column has a Roman base and the church walls contain reused Roman stone. Pieces of other columns were found at the back of the churchyard in the 1890s.



The Roman column and chancel screen

Historic Developments



Tracing time

Reading the changes in this church is a bit like a working out a puzzle or a good detective story. They tell us about when changes happened, and also hint at how the area around the church may have developed.

What are the clues?

Look at the arches either side of the Chancel (east end). Did you notice that the opposite columns don't line up with each other? This is because the chapels on either side of the Chancel were added at different times. The Lady Chapel, on the north (left) side, was built in 1200-1210. The one on the south was added around 1340, over 100 years later.

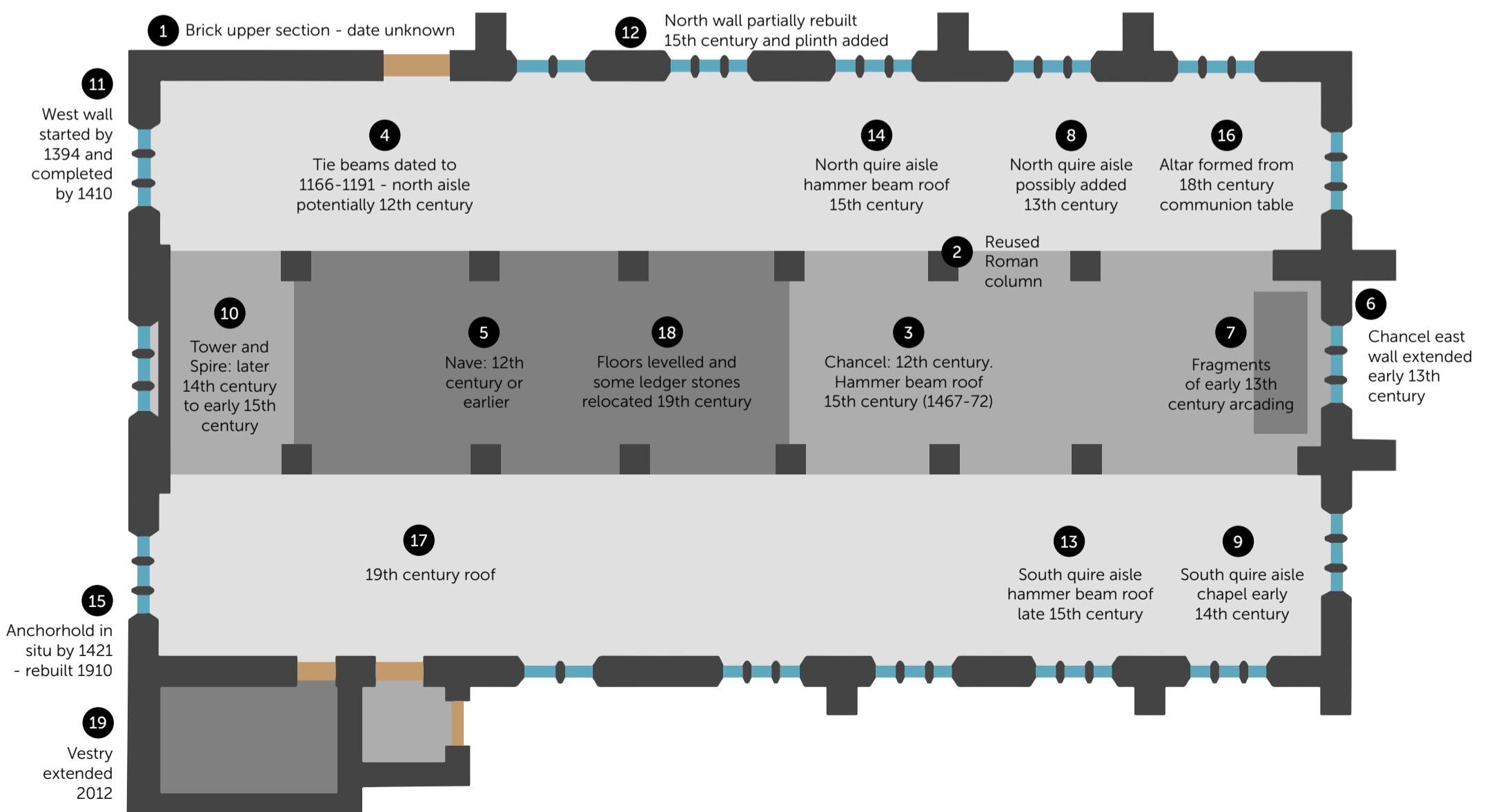
What can we discover?

There is evidence that flooding in York is not a new problem. Look for the remaining section of arches (Early English Arcade) in the south east corner of the Chancel, behind the High



The highest 20th century flood

Altar. They were designed for a much lower floor level than the current one. The base of this church was probably filled in around 1180 to protect against floods from the river.



Did you know...? All Saints is a common Anglo-Saxon name for a church.