



## 2,000 YEARS OF YORK'S HISTORICAL LANDSCAPE EXPOSED

Once the site of a Roman cemetery; a lively district of Viking Age Jorvik; a medieval city dump; Post-Medieval market gardens; a tight-knit working class community; and now a 21<sup>st</sup> century eco-friendly neighbourhood – Hungate York's 2,000 year story is now being told at an exciting new exhibition in the city.

From the autumn of 2006 to the end of 2011 a team from York Archaeological Trust investigate the archaeology of the Hungate area of York, as part of the regeneration of an often overlooked corner of the city.

What the archaeologist discovered during their investigation was a rich and changing story, reflecting how people adapted the use of this low lying parcel of land that sits within an elbow of the River Foss.

A rare and unique collection of artefacts excavated from York's largest ever developer-funded archaeological excavation, Hungate York, is now on public display. Never before has such an archaeologically rich collection of Roman, Viking, medieval and Post-Medieval artefacts taken from one site been on public display within the city.

York Archaeological Trust, the charity responsible for the Hungate excavation funded by Hungate (York) Regeneration Ltd, has launched the Looking Back at Hungate exhibition at the Trust's DIG attraction. It brings together artefacts unearthed by archaeologists over the five-year excavation including Roman, Viking, medieval and Post-Medieval periods.

The public will see items from the Roman era, including skeletons and rare Roman jet jewellery – the first of its kind to be found in York for over a century; Viking Age and Medieval pottery and jewellery demonstrating highly skilled workmanship; an exquisitely carved 14<sup>th</sup> Century stone corbel; the remains of Viking Age cellar buildings; 1000-year-old

ice skates made from bone; and a tiny Middle Eastern glass bead traded across thousands of miles at the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> millennium AD.

Peter Connelly, Project Director for Hungate Excavations at York Archaeological Trust, says “Looking Back at Hungate is an archaeological treasure trove of information, which tell the story of a constantly evolving landscape. The exhibition shows how modern and traditional archaeological techniques and research tools were used to carefully extract and identify the many items found on site.

“The Hungate excavation has been a once in a lifetime archaeological opportunity. Had it not been for the Hungate regeneration programme, these important historical jigsaw pieces would have remained part of York’s hidden secrets. And now, while a new Hungate community is coming together, we have a better understanding of how the past Hungate communities lived their lives and adapted the landscape to suit their needs. It is important that as we push on into the future we understand where we have come from and how the past has moulded the city within which we live.”

Looking Back at Hungate will run until April 2013.