

# Ancient Monuments

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Micklegate Ward Committee  
Meeting



**YORK WALLS  
IN BLOOM**

# Walls in Bloom objectives

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- Stunning visuals
- Increased sustainability
- Improved habitat
- Create a more natural environment
- Funded by the Green Corridors project, the National Lottery Community Fund and sponsored by local businesses,





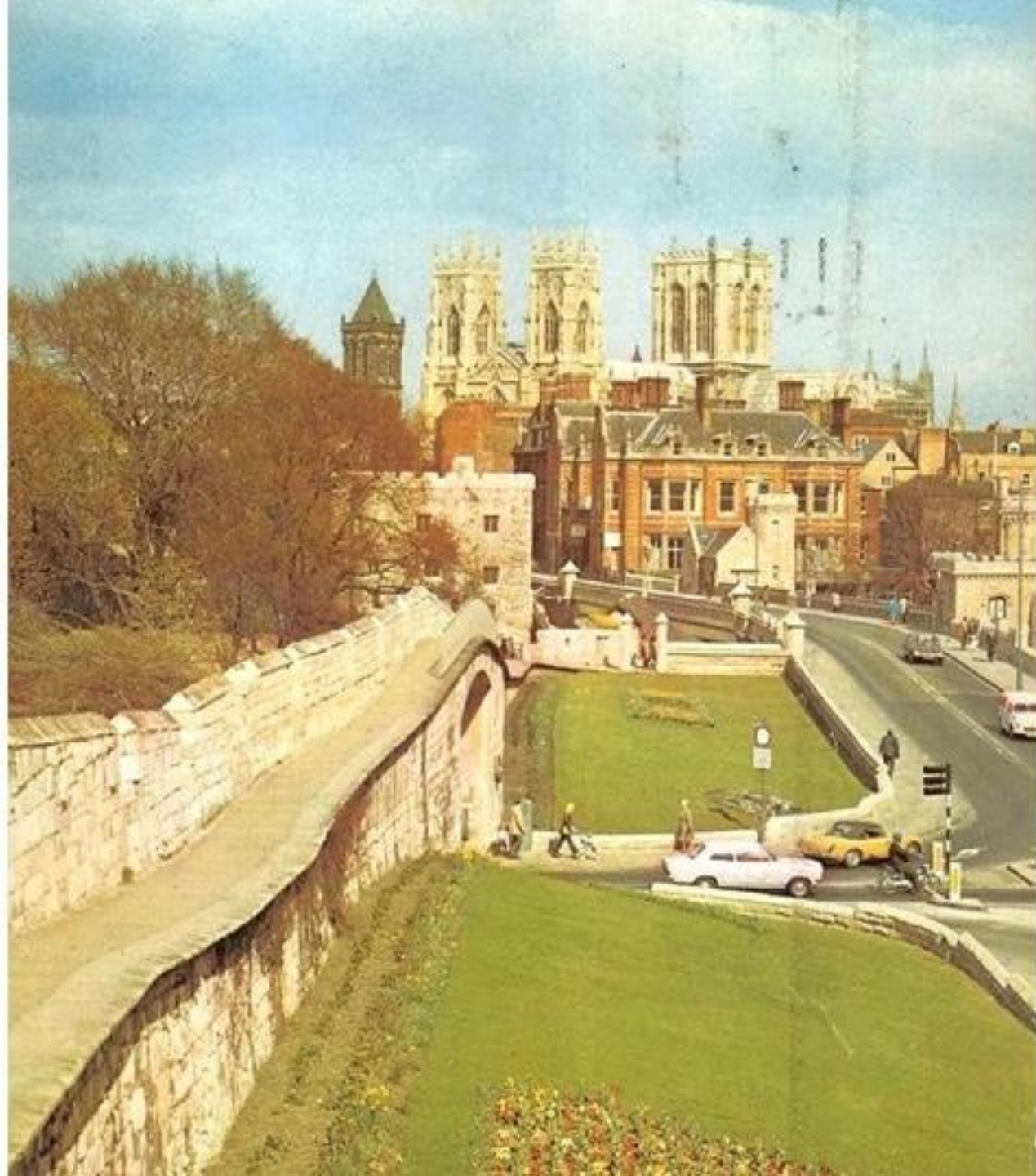
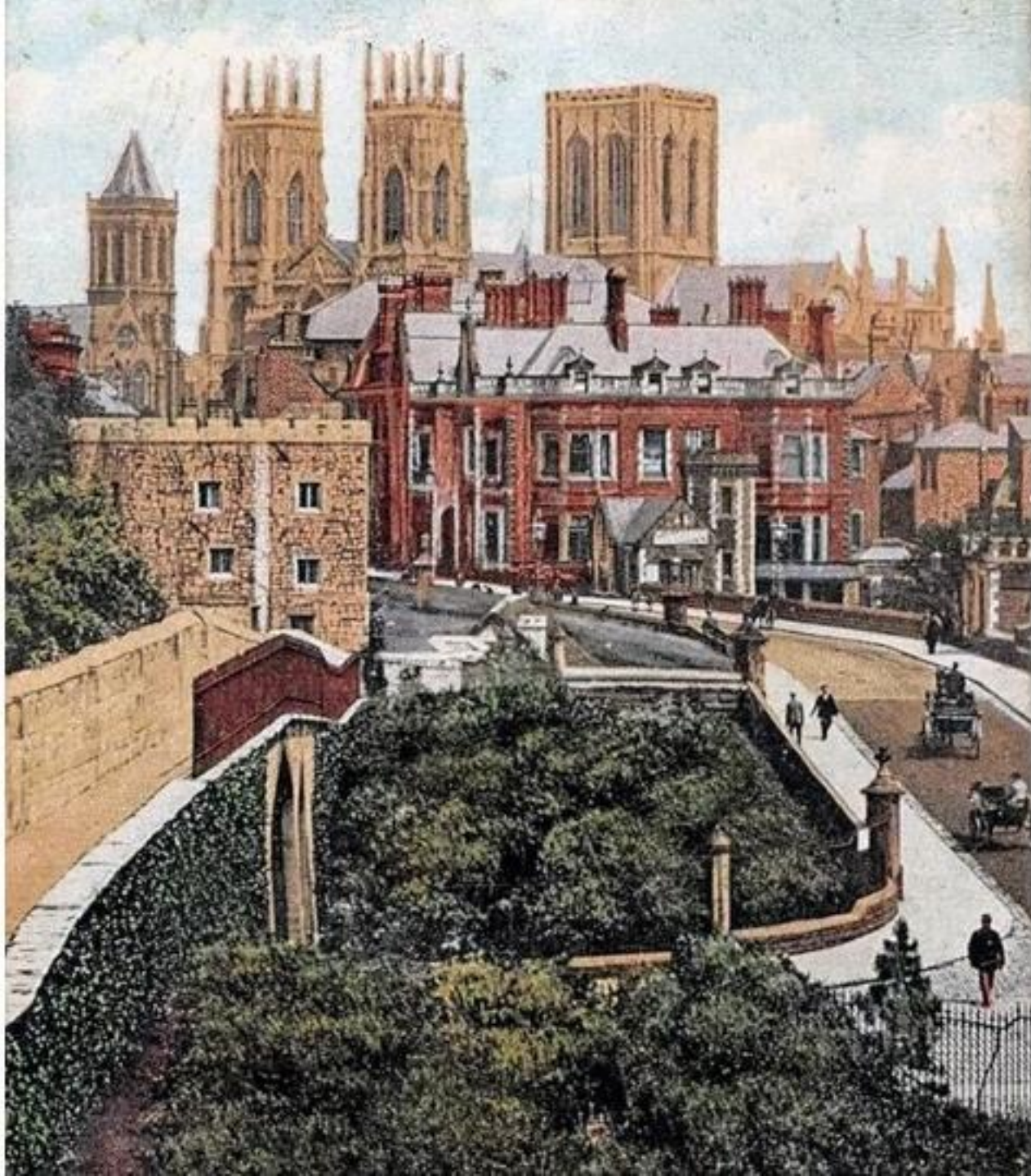
# Station Road- Changes through the ages

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- City walls photo- 1868- York Explore
- Source: J. Britton, 1836.
- J. Valentine. 1886. Souvenir Postcard
- Postcard 1950c.











Credit: J. Valentine 06236 c.1886

## Evolving Landscape

Since the City Walls were built in the mid-13th century, the embankments at Station Road have seen some of the most dramatic changes visible anywhere on York's walls. Over the years, this area of the walls has had many uses including shelters for defences during the war, scrubland and was used for sheep and cattle to graze. A series of archways were knocked through between 1839 and 1847 to allow railway access into the city. After the railway station was moved outside the walls in the late 1870s, Tower 18 was demolished to allow two road archways to be built. The internal embankments were then reinstated and planted with shrubs and trees, an arrangement that remained until the mid-20th century, when the now familiar formal beds were introduced.



Credit: Pictorial Meadows Ltd

## Introducing Floral Meadows

In recent years, many people will be familiar with seasonal bedding displays, which have featured interesting and unique designs. However, this approach is not without its downsides. It is resource intensive in terms of water and carbon used in the growing, transporting, planting, watering, weeding and removing bedding plants each year, making the practice increasingly unsustainable for the city and the planet. We need to move away from this, while ensuring that we keep these ramparts looking special, so that we can all continue to enjoy them for years to come. We want to improve how we conserve the walls and the ground beneath, so that we can prevent soil erosion and ensure the walls are protected in the very best way. **The York Walls in Bloom project** will see a spectacular transformation of sections of the ramparts into beautiful flower displays in summer 2025, which over the following years will be carefully managed into a sustainable natural floral meadow.



## Working together

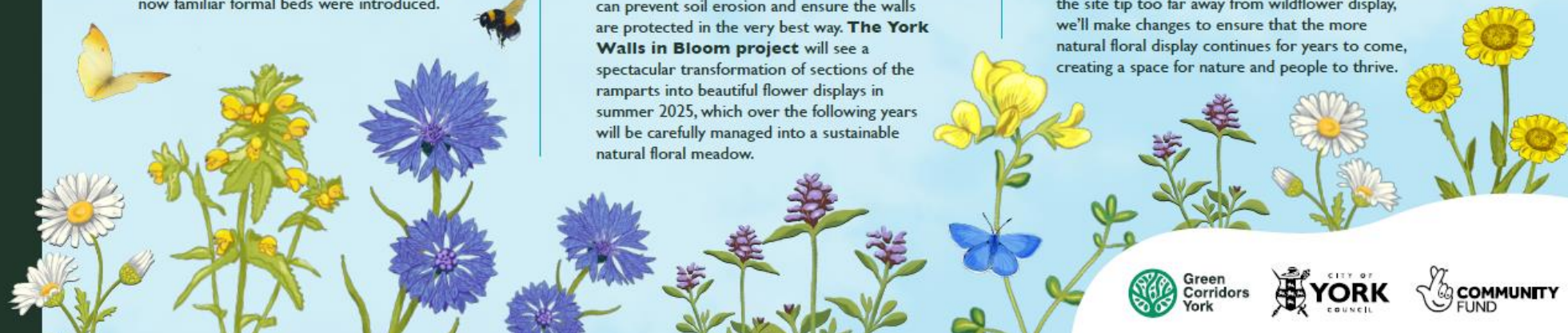
We're working closely with partners across the city on **York Walls in Bloom** including Historic England and the Green Corridors Project. We've carried out important archaeological assessments so no harm will come to our precious medieval walls. While next year (2025) will see the most spectacular floral display, the area will still be very carefully managed after this to balance the ecology of the site with its visual appeal. While we expect a more sustainable, natural environment to develop in the coming years, a change in management techniques, including a suitably balanced cutting regime along with the removal of cutting to keep soil nutrient levels lower and promote flower growth, will be introduced. Should the balance on the site tip too far away from wildflower display, we'll make changes to ensure that the more natural floral display continues for years to come, creating a space for nature and people to thrive.



[www.york.gov.uk/YorkWallsInBloom](http://www.york.gov.uk/YorkWallsInBloom)

#YorkWallsInBloom

Design and Illustration: Digiscap







Superbloom at the Tower of London | Photo by  
Amanda David

Nigel Dunnett tower of  
London superbloom



# What's next?

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- Results from biodiversity trials, Fishergate Postern Tower
- Improve the aesthetic, habitat and biodiversity of the lower ramparts.
- Improve usability , diversity and aesthetic of areas such as Lord Mayors Walk and Bitchdaughter Tower
- <https://www.york.gov.uk/york-city-centre/city-walls>

