

However, they left few remains connected with river navigation. Stone would have been required for both civil and military buildings and corn would have been the most important part of the river's trade. Fragments of structures associated with this trade have been found.

Up to the coming of the Normans little is known.

The Anglo-Saxon and (later) Danish people penetrated the region, coming successively as marauders and settlers. York certainly emerged from post-Roman obscurity as the capital of Saxon Northumbria

A.D. 601 Augustine is instructed that York should be the seat of the northern province of the Roman church. This was fulfilled over a century later in 735.

A.D. 627 Paulinus baptises Edwin and York becomes Christian.

Alcuin, the Christian Saxon monk and scholar first referred to the river and its trade:-

‘From the most distant lands ships did arrive,
And safe in port lay there, tow'd up to shore.
Where, after hardships of a toilsome voyage,
The sailor finds a safe retreat from sea.
By flow'ry meads, on each side of its banks,
The Ouse, well stored with fish, runs through the town.’

Danish Kingdom 875-954 York is a thriving commercial community.

Norman Conquest - York, nominally Saxon, has a vigorous trade in corn, wool, fish and possibly cloth. The local attitude would depend on how far the river could be used as a fishery - The legal nature of pre-conquest fishing rights is little known.