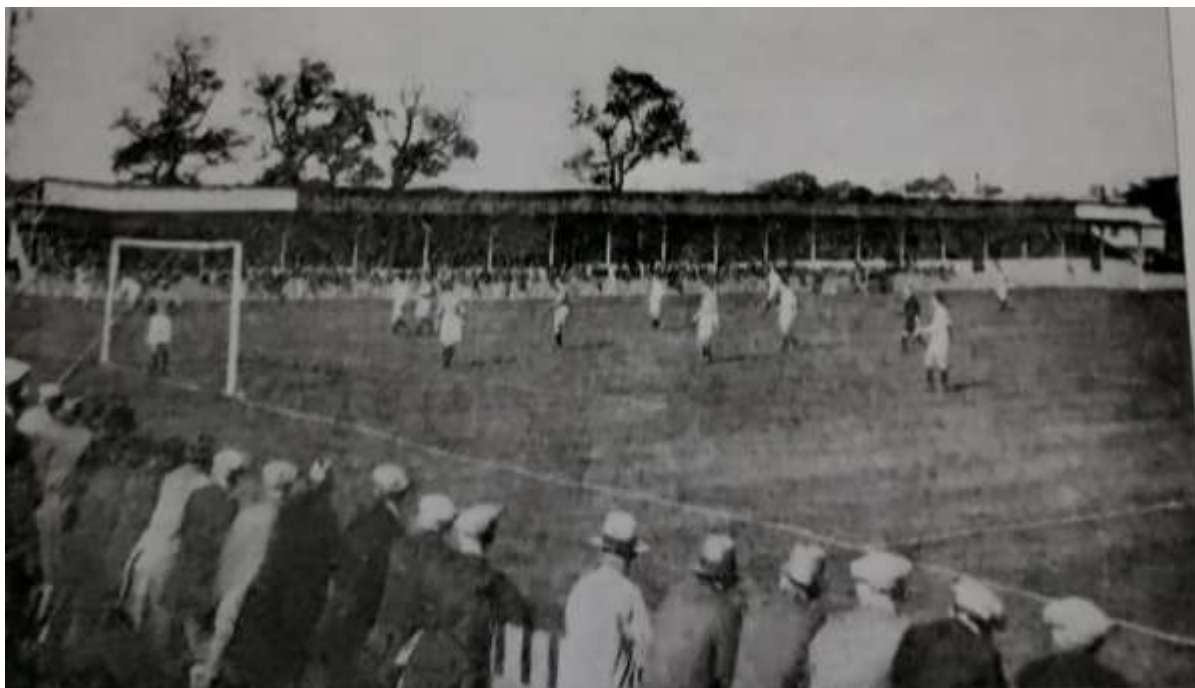


Football in Fulford

Article on Flickr by Andrew Gallon



Football Match on Gatefulford Ground - Image: YP&P Steve Lynn

Fulfordgate opened in 1922, upon the formation of York City, who laid it out on an eight-acre site. The name of the district was Gate Fulford. Between September 4 1927 and April 28 1932, Fulfordgate hosted 62 Football League Division Three (North) games. Wrexham were the first visitors, for a goalless draw, watched by 8,726; Halifax Town the last, with York 7-2 winners, in front of 2,000.

Those seven goals against Halifax were the most York scored in a single Football League game at Fulfordgate, whose record attendance - 12,721 - was set on January 1931, for an FA Cup third round tie against Sheffield United.

Fulfordgate's main stand was on the north side, adjacent to Heslington Lane. There was cover opposite and raised banking behind each goal. Capacity was estimated in 1929 to be 17,000.



Covered Stand at Gatefulford Ground – Image: YP&P Steve Lynn

Concerned by poor support at Fulfordgate during their third season in the Football League, York City decided, in 1932, to relocate to the more central Bootham Crescent, which had been vacated by York Cricket Club.

At the time, Fulfordgate was right on the edge of the city, at the end of a mostly single track tram line. It was, in effect, an out-of-town stadium. The club calculated 10 times - 30,000 against 3,000 - as many potential fans lived within a mile of Bootham Crescent, which was to be York's home ground from August 1932 until February 2021.

Fulfordgate was sold for housing - the same fate, coincidentally, that has befallen Bootham Crescent.