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Discover Ancient Don Gorge

The story of Don Gorge from prehistoric to Anglo-Saxon times

August 2007

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Abstract

The Don Gorge is an area of the Magnesian limestone between Doncaster and Mexborough in South Yorkshire that has been a focus for amateur archaeologists and metal detectorists. Their finds range from the Mesolithic to Anglo-Saxon times but have never been the subject of comprehensive analysis or publication. Newspaper reports from over a century ago push the history of the Gorge back even further, relating tales of discovery of Pleistocene fauna during construction works. This paper combines specialist analysis of artefacts with documentary research into records held by the South Yorkshire SMR to present a summary of the history of the Don Gorge up to and including the early medieval period.

Early faunal remains include woolly mammoth and woolly rhinoceros bones from animals that roamed the area between 60,000 and 25,000 years ago, a time when Britain may have represented the western extreme of the Neanderthal world. Comparison with the internationally renowned limestone site of Creswell Crags some 25 kilometres south illustrates the hidden potential of the Don Gorge for Pleistocene and Palaeolithic research.

Flint tools and debitage from the mid/late Mesolithic suggest that the area may have been the location for temporary camps overlooking the River Don. Lithics from the Neolithic to the Early Bronze Age allude to settlements in the area with people adopting a subsistence strategy that included hunting. Apparent disposal of unused flint arrowheads and a broken polished axe in the area around Cadeby Cliffs are typical indicators of a ceremonial landscape during part of the Neolithic. Similarities can be drawn with other ceremonial landscapes such as Thornborough, Stonehenge and Avebury where there is also a close relationship with domestic settlement, usually on the fringes of the ceremonial landscape. The Iron Age is represented by a single but significant find, that of a sword chape and mouth guard from Pot Ridings Wood. This was probably linked to domestic settlement in the vicinity and again alludes to ceremonial practices with parallels for the votive deposition of late Iron Age material from the period of Conquest and several decades preceding it.

The Don Gorge was witness to human activity throughout most of the Roman period. Brooches and imported samian ware imply a relatively high status site in the early post-Conquest period but in the 2nd and 3rd centuries the styles of pottery indicate a low status rural site with little adoption of Roman eating habits. The 3rd century saw minting of coins in the area and burial of coin hoards may have been a response to the crisis that the Empire experienced from c. AD 235. An enclosure in Pot Ridings Wood may have analogy with a similar structure in Edlington Wood, which has been interpreted as a Romano-British farmstead. The 4th century sees greater use of non-local and fine ceramics, which implies a higher status site, but eating habits still had native elements such as use of communal bowls rather than service in individual wares.

Anglo-Saxon finds are of 9th century Northumbrian style and relate to a time when the area was within the southern border of Northumbria, which was under increasing threat from the Danes. The concentration of finds from this period in Pot Ridings Wood can be allied to contemporary elements from the vicinity to suggest that a

settlement was established nearby, possibly with defensive connotations, being situated at a strategically important place on the River Don.

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Illustrations

Location

The Don Gorge runs through an area of Magnesian limestone near Conisbrough in Doncaster. The limestone is part of the Magnesian Limestone Ridge, a geological feature that was formed at the edges of a shallow sea in the Permian era around 255 million years ago. The ridge is a relatively narrow belt of Magnesian limestone that stretches from Tynemouth to Nottingham.
It is situated 1KM southwest of Doncaster and 3KM east of Mexborough in South Yorkshire. The boundaries for the purpose of this study fall between the A1(M) bridge J36 (454695, 401643) and Conisbrough Viaduct (452561, 399314) (Illustration 1). The study area is affected by the Cadeby and Warmsworth aggregates quarries and comprises the four parishes of Cadeby, Conisbrough Parks, Sprotbrough and Warmsworth.

Introduction

The Don Gorge is an area that represents a rich archaeological resource. Aerial photography, surveys and finds by local collectors have served to assemble a disjointed record of archaeology that is potentially significant. Features and finds indicate activity through prehistoric, Roman and Anglo-Saxon periods. By analysis of aerial photography records and Sites and Monuments Records (SMR) held by South Yorkshire Archaeology Services, and by specialist analysis of finds held at Doncaster Museum, this report will present a picture of the history of human activity in the Don Gorge from prehistoric to Anglo-Saxon times. Records of finds have come from local metal detectorists, chance finds and from the collection of Mr A. Peace, a local amateur archaeologist who systematically fieldwalked and mapped part of the area between Pot Ridings Wood and the Cadeby Viaduct and whose collection was donated to Doncaster Museum in the early 1980s.

Method and objectives

The methods adopted involved research of SMR and aerial photography records held in the South Yorkshire SMR, combined with investigation of historical documents relating to Pleistocene finds, and specialist analysis of Roman pottery, flints and small finds from the region held in Doncaster Museum. A total of one hundred and thirty four SMR records were identified as within the study area and probably of prehistoric, Roman or Anglo-Saxon age. Analysis of these records identified forty eight as being prehistoric, sixty six Roman, nine Anglo-Saxon and eleven indeterminate. Aerial photographs identified only four features in the study area that may be pertinent. Specialist finds analysis focussed on 2960 flints, 106 of which were subject to detailed analysis, 1136 sherds of Roman pottery, 2 coin hoard reports and 28 small find records. The following sections are period specific and will combine results from all sources of analysis. More

detailed reports from specialist analysis of artefacts and from documentary research are contained in appendices 1 – 5.

This document aims to raise awareness of the historic environment of the Don Gorge and will support community outreach projects including artists' workshops for young people, talks to local community groups, school activity handling sessions, a travelling exhibition, and publication of comics/graphic novels.

The prehistory of the Don Gorge

Background

British prehistory is nominally divided into the Palaeolithic, the Mesolithic, the Neolithic, the Bronze Age, and the Iron Age. Each of these is subject to further sub-division resulting in terminology such as the Early Neolithic, the Mid Neolithic, the Late Neolithic, and the Early Bronze Age. However, whilst these terms are valuable they only remain valid if it is recognised that these divisions are relatively arbitrary. The Mesolithic was long held to be a period where mobile bands ranged across the landscape gathering and hunting, whilst the Neolithic was the time when people became sedentary farmers but still used stone tools. Research has shown that this was an oversimplification and that some Mesolithic people adapted the landscape, clearing areas of forest and probably carrying out animal husbandry, in effect anticipating the introduction of farming. Stone and metal tool typologies also cross over temporal boundaries. It is essential to recognise that technology and social action were not bound by the terminology and temporality established by archaeologists thousands of years later. Similarly the dates marking the start and end of a division or sub-division are not exact. Different texts can have the start of a period differing by hundreds of year.

For ease of recognition the following analysis will retain the traditional divisions and sub-divisions but at times will be obliged to combine different periods simply because it is impossible to retain them as separate entities.

The archaeological record

Ice Age

The early prehistory of the Don Gorge remains relatively unresearched but recent work by Colin Howes (see appendix 2) illustrates the interest shown in the late 19th and early 20th century into discoveries of Pleistocene mammals in the limestone of the Don Gorge. In 1878 workers cutting tunnels for water pipes at Conisbrough found remains of *Elephas primigenius* (woolly mammoth), *Rhinoceros tichornus* (woolly rhinoceros) and *Equus* (horse), some bones carrying scars from gnawing by hyena. In 1906 workers excavating a railway cutting found antler from *Cervus elephas* (red deer), and *Rhinoceros tichornus*, with the latter again displaying evidence of gnawing by hyena. The Pleistocene period lasted from 1.8 million years ago to 10,000 years ago and was marked by a series of cold glacial periods and warm interglacials. Between 75,000 and 13,000 years ago Britain experienced glacial conditions that varied in degrees of intensity with extremes of cold occurring during the early and last stages. The middle stage was a time when cold, dry conditions prevailed and arid grasslands supported what is known as *Coygan*-type fauna (Barton, 2000). This includes horse, mammoth, woolly rhinoceros and hyena, comparable with the documented Pleistocene faunal remains from Don Gorge and hence giving a possible date of between 60,000 and 25,000 years ago for their deposition.

Significantly, there is often association between *Coygan*-type fauna and Neanderthal Mousterian tools when the latter are found in Britain (ibid.). This serves to illustrate the tremendous archaeological potential of any surviving Pleistocene remains in the Don Gorge.

Recent research into Nearcliff Quarry (SK 5285 9985) has identified fissures and features in the limestone that it was felt could contain Pleistocene or Palaeolithic remains (Davies, 2005). As an example of what may remain undiscovered it is only necessary to look at the impact of discoveries from Creswell Crags 25 kilometres to the south. Here we have evidence for cave art, mobile art, Neanderthal tools, and Pleistocene fauna at a site that has an international reputation, being the type site for the late Upper Palaeolithic Creswellian stone tool industry (Stringer, 2006).

Mesolithic to early Bronze Age

The later prehistory of the Don Gorge is represented by an extensive collection of worked flint and debitage. Appendix 3 summarises the initial research into the flint collection from two locations within the study area, Cadeby/River Don Viaduct and Cadeby Cliffs (Illustration 2). The periods represented by diagnostic material fall between the early Mesolithic and the early Bronze Age.

A broad blade made from Wolds flint and dated to between the late 10th and mid 8th millennium BC is the only artefact from the early Mesolithic. This represents a tool from the very start of the British Mesolithic, when temperatures rose rapidly following the final retreat of glacial ice from Scotland following the Loch Lomond Stadial (Wymer, 1991). At this time Britain was still part of mainland Europe and it is feasible that the owner of the blade was part of a mobile group with an extensive hunting/gathering territory that extended to the plains of Europe (ibid.).

All other Mesolithic flints are from the mid/late Mesolithic ranging in date between c.7500 to c.4700 BC. They comprise 25 microlith bladelets that may have been components of arrows (Illustration 3). Analysis of associated debitage would be necessary to identify whether these bladelets are indicative of some form of settlement in the study area, rather than just hunting activity, but it is worthy of note that Mr. A. Peace collected two sets of microliths and debitage from the bank of the River Don (SMR 01930/01 and 01931/01). Three other collections of Mesolithic tools and debitage were collected from ploughed fields overlooking the River Don near to Conisbrough Viaduct (SMR 02420/01. 02421/01 and 02422/01). Mesolithic settlements are notoriously difficult to identify, the impermanence of living structures leaving little or no trace in the landscape, and it is feasible that the grouping of microliths and waste material on the bank of the River Don mark the locations of temporary camps in the late Mesolithic.

Early Neolithic material is in the form of 12 leaf-shaped arrowheads (Illustration 4), 6 scrapers and 1 piercer. Eleven of the leaf-shaped arrowheads are from Cadeby Cliffs and display evidence of careful working and most are undamaged, leading to speculation that

they were never used but were instead deliberately deposited. Five scrapers are also from the Cadeby Cliffs area and further suggest that there may have been some form of settlement nearby. By comparison early Neolithic material from the Cadeby/River Don viaduct area is limited to a single arrowhead, a piercer and a scraper, which would suggest casual loss or possibly a temporary camp.

The presence of late Mesolithic and early Neolithic material in the Don Gorge is particularly noteworthy in terms of the transition from hunter-gathering to farming. The transition would have been a slow process, Mike Parker Pearson (2005:22) considering that, "For half a millennium farming practices may have overlapped with gathering and hunting". Evidence for forest clearance in the late Mesolithic has been interpreted as a way of both promoting new growth to attract game, and stimulating the growth of seed and fruit bearing plants (Wymer, 1991; Bevan, 2004). Castleden (1998) considers early Neolithic farming to have been focused on easily cultivated, open ecological boundary zones which enabled hunting, fishing and gathering to be carried out alongside the cultivation of small garden plots. The sites of Cadeby Cliffs and the River Don Viaduct are ideally situated close to the river whilst clearances by a late Mesolithic population would have created easily cultivated areas. The implication from Mesolithic flint scatters is that areas close to the river may have been temporary camps in a hunting/gathering circuit. As farming culture became familiar through contact with other people, so elements would be gradually incorporated into everyday life. Over generations this would have led to gradual adoption of Neolithic culture, its implementation in a familiar and favourable location, and establishment of more permanent settlement.

The location at Cadeby Cliffs of early Neolithic material that may display ceremonial elements is interesting when allied to reports of the 'Cadeby Henge', located near Cadeby Cliffs (illustration 5). Cadeby Henge (SMR 01968/01 grid reference SK 515 997) was first observed in July 1975 when aerial photographs from the Doncaster Museum Flight showed a crop mark of a circle-ditch broken in two places. Initial suggestions were that this was a henge monument but later interpretations were less certain, suggesting that it could be a post medieval feature associated with quarrying (see SMR 01902/01 in Appendix 1 of this paper, which probably relates to the same feature).

Ceremonial activities at Cadeby Cliffs could also be evidenced by the discovery of 9 fragments of a Group VI polished stone axe that may have been deliberately smashed and buried (SMR 03766/01 grid reference SK 513 996). A second middle Neolithic stone axe, a Group I Cornish Greenstone type 4b/c, was also found in the area of Cadeby Cliffs (SMR 03765/01 SK513 997), although this one was whole.

Although uncertainty surrounds the validity of 'Cadeby Henge' the deposition of unused or deliberately broken stone tools implies some ceremonial activities took place on Cadeby Cliffs in the early/middle Neolithic. There is also evidence for other ceremonial activity in the vicinity of the study area. Immediately north is the Scheduled Ancient Monument of King Hengist Rein (SM 13238, grid reference SE 527 021). This is a Neolithic long barrow, dated between 3400 and 2400 BC, which was excavated in 1864 to reveal at least two chambers. The discovery of a bronze sword during the excavation indicates Bronze Age re-use of the earlier monument (ibid.). Just south of King Hengist

Rein, and immediately north of the study area is Scabba Wood, where excavation of a rock shelter has produced middle Neolithic human remains, and broken arrowheads and Neolithic pottery that appear to have been deliberately deposited around a hearth area (Buckland *et al*, 1998). There are parallels between the Don Gorge and other ceremonial and domestic landscapes such as those at Thornborough, Avebury and Stonehenge, the latter two also incorporating rivers as important elements within the ritual environment.

Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age flints in the study area comprise 4 tanged or barbed and tanged arrowheads, 4 oblique/hollow based arrowheads, 17 scrapers and a plano-convex knife. Cadeby Cliffs again has the majority of the material examined with 10 scrapers and all but a single tanged arrowhead coming from that location. In addition there are 13+ gracile scrapers that are broadly late Neolithic/early Bronze Age types. This implies a continuity of settlement here throughout the Neolithic and into the Bronze Age. There is less material from the River Don/viaduct area but the 2 thumbnail scrapers, a tanged arrowhead and a plano-convex knife are Early Bronze Age. The overall assemblage, including debitage, is still sufficient to infer some sort of settlement in the vicinity at that time. The presence of utilitarian arrowheads in the assemblages from both sites implies that hunting of animals such as deer was still an important subsistence exercise in the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age. Wild animal remains from excavated habitation sites from this period are usually few in comparison to domesticates, which may indicate that hunting usually played only a minor subsistence role (Pollard, 2002). Alternatively, the butchery of wild animals may usually have taken place away from areas of permanent habitation (ibid.).

The Iron Age is the prehistoric period that is least represented in the study area. From Pot Ridings Wood came a late Iron Age cast copper sword chape and mouth guard from an organic scabbard, dated to between c. 100 BC and AD 100 (Illustration 6). It is feasible that this was a votive offering, the Iron Age being noted for deliberate deposition of high status goods, including weapons, in pits or in water (Cunliffe, 2004: 106). SMR records also indicate that 2 beehive gritstone quern top stones were found at Sprotbrough (SMR 01069/01). However, the use of beehive querns in northern England spanned both the Iron Age and Roman periods with a periodic distinction for quernstones not becoming apparent until disc querns appeared after the Roman Conquest (Pearson and Oswald, 2000). This makes it difficult to be certain that the quernstones from Sprotbrough are definitely Iron Age or to draw valid interpretation for late prehistoric land use.

Summary

Historical documents detail finds of Pleistocene fauna including mammoth and woolly rhino from limestone fissures and caves and it is likely that there remain Palaeolithic archaeological resources untapped. There are few finds from the earliest phase of the Mesolithic, which would suggest that the area was part of a broader landscape of human exploitation rather than a focus for temporary or seasonal camps.

The study area has evidence for intense human activity from the mid Mesolithic through to the early Bronze Age. The Iron Age is less well represented and at one time it was thought that in South Yorkshire there was, "...virtually no late Iron Age pottery .." (Buckland, 1986:6), leading many to consider the Iron Age/early post Conquest period to be aceramic. However, recent excavations at Pickburn Leys (Sydes, 1993) and Sykehouse (Roberts, 2003) have discovered quantities of Iron Age pottery and it may be the case that its low firing and porosity contribute to poor survival and/or difficult recognition. Additionally some artefacts, such as beehive quernstones, were used both pre- and post-Conquest. This means that the Iron Age is less visible in the archaeological record than many other periods and that, with the absence of absolute dating material, many sites may be unrecognisable, particularly where there is continuity into Roman times where later material culture may be more dominant.

The mid/late Mesolithic is well represented in the study area and five locations next to the River Don were focal points for finds of microliths (SK 523 995, SK 524 995). Throughout the whole of the Mesolithic there is a tendency for sites to occur next to lakes or rivers (Wymer, 1991), and it is tempting to see those next to the river Don as temporary camps:

"…. a group of lithics has been found in one location, where a variety of types of tool such as scrapers, blades and points lie amongst the waste from their production. These are places where people spent more time … suggesting places where camps were set up...." (Bevan, 2004: 29).

The stone tool record from the early Neolithic to the early Bronze Age presents a picture of fairly intense activity at the locations of Cadeby Cliffs and Cadeby River Don/viaduct. It seems likely that there were one or more settlements in the immediate vicinity of both sites for a period of at least 3000 years from c.4700 BC, although it is impossible to say whether or not the settlements would have been permanent throughout that timescale. The presence of potential late Mesolithic temporary camps and evidence for an early Neolithic settlement in the vicinity reflects the gradual transition from a hunter-gatherer to a farming lifestyle and intimates that Cadeby was a favourable location for both patterns of existence. Early small-scale cultivation may have been relatively temporary and exhaustion of soil would have led to further episodes of clearance and cultivation, leaving original land to regenerate and recover before being cleared and cultivated again.

The late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age sees continuity of settlement in the vicinity with the primary area for settlement likely to have been close to Cadeby Cliffs. As farming developed so settlement is likely to have become more permanent, and the nearby long barrow of King Hengist Rein infers deliberate and long-term alteration of the landscape after c.3400 BC. However, the presence of flint arrowheads implies that hunting was still an important part of the subsistence strategy adopted.

The area around Cadeby Cliffs also seems to have been the focus for Neolithic ceremonial activity, possibly including the construction of a henge or enclosure. Fine stone leaf-shaped arrowheads and a polished stone axe appear to have been deliberately

buried, the former in pristine condition and the latter after being intentionally broken. This ceremonial aspect of the landscape at Cadeby Cliffs is reflected in the wider landscape, at the long barrow of King Hengist Rein, and the rock shelter in Scabba Woods, the latter also having evidence of deliberate breakage and deposition of stone tools.

Finally, despite the near invisibility of much of the Iron Age in the region the study area has produced a significant late Iron Age/early post-Conquest artefact in the form of a sword chape and mouth guard, a high status object that may have been a votive offering. Its presence in Pot Ridings Wood may indicate multiple phases of use for the enclosure in Pot Ridings Wood, usually considered to be Romano-British. Recent excavation of some enclosures and field systems in South Yorkshire have provided evidence of continuity from the Iron Age through to the Roman period, for example at Barnsdale Bar (Burgess, 2001) and Pickburn Leys (Sydes, 1993).

The Roman Period

Background

The Romans made a successful invasion of Britain in AD 43 and established a province in the south east of England with the earliest boundary along the Fosse Way, running between Devon and North Lincolnshire (Wacher, 1979). At the northern edge of the province the River Don is considered to mark the boundary between the Iron Age tribes of the Corieltauvi to the south and the Brigantes to the north. The Brigantian Queen Cartimandua was an ally of Rome but was opposed by her former consort Venutius, which led to forts being built at Derby and Templebrough in AD 54 in order to offer her support (Hey, 1979). Her overthrow by Venutius in AD 69 led to further advancement north and the eventual defeat of Venutius, resulting in the establishment of a permanent Roman presence in South Yorkshire and the building of the fort of *Danum* (Doncaster) soon after AD 70 (ibid.).

The Roman presence in South Yorkshire is well documented with known forts at Templebrough, Burghwallis, Rossington Bridge and Doncaster (*Danum*). A local pottery industry had started to be established by the mid-2nd century and pottery kilns have been found at Auckley, Blaxton, Cantley and Rossington Bridge, producing dishes, jars, bowls, cooking pots, colanders and mixing bowls or *mortaria* (Bevan, 2006). The aerial photographic research programme by Derrick Riley illustrated the potential for significant Roman remains in rural areas (Riley, 1980) and developer-funded excavations and surveys in recent years have supplemented his data to show a multitude of 'brickwork' pattern field systems and enclosures in South Yorkshire. Recent research in the Magnesian limestone areas threatened by quarrying has produced evidence of a bath house at the Hazel Lane Quarry (Pine, 2002), enclosures and kilns at Holme Hall Quarry (O'Neill, 2005), and enclosures and field systems at Barnsdale Bar Quarry (Burgess, 2001). The field system at the latter displayed evidence of significant expansion over several centuries (ibid.), and this may demonstrate the practicalities of indigenous people being faced with the *annona*, which was compulsory requisition of supplies for the non-food producers associated with the Roman army (Wacher, 1979).

The archaeological record

The number of artefacts found and features identified for the Roman period in the Don Gorge is very high and indicates an intense level of activity from at least the mid 2nd century through to the late 4th century. Possible Romano-British features identified comprise an enclosure in Pot Ridings Wood, a trackway and ditch system adjacent to Butterbusk Farm and two enclosures and a field boundary immediately north of Warmsworth village.

The artefacts result from systematic fieldwalking, metal detecting and chance finds. They comprise 1136 sherds of pottery, 7 brooches, a glass bead, 2185 coins, 4 silver

bracelets, 2 lead weights, tile fragments, a whetstone and several pieces of quernstones. The age range of the material represented is between the 1st century and 4th century AD.

The quernstones comprise three fragments found close to some grey ware pottery in Warmsworth and a gritstone beehive quern top stone found at Cadeby. The description of the fragments does not state the type of quernstone from which they came; as described above, beehive querns span late prehistory and the Roman period in northern England (Pearson and Oswald, 2000). This makes it impossible to make a valid interpretation other than to say there is evidence in the area of grinding cereal crops in the Iron Age and/or Romano-British periods.

Two lead weights were found, both in Pot Ridings Wood. The description of one weight as circular in section with a distinct waist and weighing c.5 ounces gives some comparison to a half-libra weight found amongst a series of twelve in the Commandant's dwelling at Templeborough fort. The report from Templeborough describes the half libra or *Semis* as weighing 5 ounces 4 drams and the illustration (Illustration 7, no. 4) matches the SMR description of the weight from Pot Ridings Wood (May, 1922). The Commandant's dwelling is thought to be part of the second phase at Templeborough (Buckland, 1986), which would suggest a 2nd century date for the weight from Pot Ridings Wood.

Thirty eight of the SMR records for the Roman period were finds of coins, the earliest being a *denarius* of Vespasian dated to AD 72 – 73 and the latest an ae 22mm of Constantine II, dated between AD 346 and AD 350. Whilst 14 of the coins are 4th century and indicate a continued presence in the area the majority is 3rd century implying a strong presence during that period. Notable amongst these are three large hoards with associated pottery.

From Pot Ridings Wood came a hoard of 1681 *antoniniani* with an associated wheel-made coarse jar. The coins are likely to have been deposited circa AD 273/4. A second large hoard from Pot Ridings Wood comprised 103 denarii and 9 antoniniani in a globular red coarse ware pedestal beaker. Associated with the hoard were two silver penannular bracelets with snakes-head terminals, and two hinged bracelets with carnelian settings (Illustration 8). The coins date between AD 194 and AD 251 and imply a date of deposition in the second half of the 3rd century. From Sprotbrough Plantation came a hoard of 313 barbarous radiates with associated blanks and metalwork indicative of localised minting. The small size of the coins indicates a late phase of production analagous with hoards from Veralium and Worthing, giving a date ca AD284 (Mattingley and Dolby, 1982).

An interesting contrast is evident between the small metalwork finds and the coinage. Whilst coinage is predominantly 3rd century, the small finds tend to be earlier. Seven brooches were identified from the study area:
Pennanular brooch (Fowler type A3) dated c85 -100 AD
Bow brooch 1st century AD
Colchester type, two piece Brooch, tinned 1st century AD

Two trumpet headed derivative Brooches 1st – 2nd century AD
Umbonate type plate brooch 2nd century AD (Illustration 9)
Penannular Brooch c200 – 400 AD

Six of the seven brooches are from the 1st or 2nd centuries AD and only one spans the 3rd century. Similarly, a blue annular glass bead is also from the 1st or 2nd century. This could imply that the use during the early Roman period is higher status than later use.

Some support for this perspective may be gained from the pottery assemblage, which comprises1136 sherds found by fieldwalking, 1121 of which were from within the study area or its immediate vicinity. The age range of the pottery was from the mid 2nd century to the late 4th century, with the predominant pottery represented being local grey ware from the mid 2nd to the mid 3rd century. The absence of pottery from the mid 1st to mid 2nd century could reflect small scale use of the area. However, it is recognised that the Iron Age and early Roman period in the area were largely aceramic and pottery is not found in quantity before the mid 2nd century, following the establishment of local pottery industries (Buckland, 1986). Antonine period samian ware (AD 150/160 – 185) from Pot Ridings Wood though, is contemporary with some of the brooches and may reflect an early immigrant presence or the acquisition of Roman objects by important local families who had business with the Romans. A further consideration is that the strategic location of Pot Ridings Wood could indicate an early military presence.

Another relatively early element in the study area is the cinerary urn (SMR 04170/01) recorded as being found in Warmsworth in 1909. At the time of the Roman Conquest, cremation and inhumation were both practised by the indigenous population of Britain and the immigrants to the country, with cremation being more popular amongst the latter (Wacher, 1978). From the middle 2nd century there was a move towards inhumation and by the late 3rd century little cremation was carried out (ibid). This could indicate that the find from Warmsworth was relatively early in the history of the Roman presence in the Don Gorge.

The area of Cadeby Ridding (map reference SE 511 007 – Group 2 and 3, Appendix 4) produced a large collection of over 550 sherds, dominated by locally made jars dating from the mid-2nd to mid-3rd centuries. Fine vessels are not present. The medium-necked cooking jars and wide-mouthed jars that are present are indicative of a low status rural settlement where food was eaten directly from tureen-style kitchen ware. This suggests adoption of the use of pottery by an existing community. The presence of a globular amphora handle in the assemblage does imply that the community had access to some luxury goods.

Pottery such as Crambeck and Huntcliff ware was present in three locations (Cadeby Field, and two sites on Cadeby Cliffs at SK 512 998 & SK 515 998) and indicated a presence up to the mid/late 4th century. The Cadeby Field location(Group 11, Appendix 4) was also notable for having a larger proportion of tablewares than other locations, and relatively high numbers of imported pottery including Mancetter/Harthill mortaria and Nene Valley colour-coated ware. A reduction in local grey ware at this location may

reflect diminishing local pottery supplies by the late 4th century. The vessel types reflect a slightly higher status and more Romanised character. While the presence of tablewares and traded pottery suggest a family interacting with the local Roman economy and acquiring new forms of serving vessels, dishes and bowls are poorly represented suggesting serving and dining was still centred round a central serving bowl or jar, rather than individually served portions. One settlement location at Cadeby Cliffs (Group 23, Appendix 4) does have a higher proportion of bowls and dishes and here we may be seeing more Romanised dining activity. In South Yorkshire, wide-mouthed jars and deep subconical bowls seem to have become increasingly important in the third and fourth century at the expense of bowls and dishes, which may reflect a return to native dining habits. The evidence from Don Gorge suggests native eating habits were retained throughout the Roman Period.

The fieldwalked groups cover a period stretching from the late second century to the late fourth century. Most of the groups comprised pottery common to rural farmsteads in South Yorkshire. Some groups included wares and vessel forms suggesting more romanised and perhaps, wealthier settlements. The concentration of samian at Pot Ridings Wood (Groups 9 and 19, Appendix 4), and the fine and traded wares from the later assemblages at Cadeby Field and Cadeby Cliff may indicate settlements that were of higher social status with occupants more closely linked to the Roman economy.

A walled enclosure in Pot Ridings Wood is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SM 1221, SMR 01803/01, grid reference SE 528 007) that is thought to be Romano-British. Two groups of Roman pottery are identified as being from Pot Ridings Wood, although no grid reference is given on the pottery report. However, reference to SMR records identifies finds of grey ware pottery, samian pottery, a whetstone and tile fragments associated with the enclosure (SMR 02353/01 and 02, SMR 02366/01 and 02, 02369/01, 02 and 03). Cross-referencing these with the pottery report gives a date range of mid 2nd – mid 3rd century.

Similar enclosures exist at Scabba Wood immediately north of the study area and at Edlington Wood 3 kilometres south east. Two enclosures exist at Scabba Wood, the larger having an associated field system and trackway (Chadwick and Robbins, 1998). Within the study area aerial photographs have also identified two potential enclosures and a field boundary immediately north of Warmsworth and west of the Doncaster by-pass (grid reference centred on SE 545 012), and a trackway and a ditch immediately east of Butterbusk Farm (centred on SK 532 998). The enclosure at Warmsworth may have particular significance given the find of a Roman cinerary urn in 1909 from the same grid reference (SMR 04170/01). No SMR records exist for Roman finds from Butterbusk Farm but reference has been made to finds from there "... at Butterbusk in the Parish of Conisbrough, metal detector prospection has recently produced a field scatter of third- and fourth-century bronze coins, three Roman brooches, and a quantity of roman coarse pottery ..." (Mattingley and Dolby, 1982: 30).

The concentration of finds of Roman artefacts from the immediate vicinity of the enclosure in Pot Ridings Wood is analagous with the enclosures at Edlington Wood

(Illustration 10), where a series of walled enclosures containing hut platforms have produced finds of pottery, coins and a fibula brooch that give a date of between the 2nd and 4th centuries (Ramm, 1973). Interestingly three Roman coin hoards have been identified within 30 metres of the Edlington Wood enclosures, dated to the mid third century AD (ibid). Excavation within one of the enclosures produced nails and *tegulae* (tiles) that have been interpreted as indicating the presence of timber buildings with tiled roofs (Sumpter, 1973). A single SMR record of Roman tile fragments from Pot Ridings Wood (SMR 02369/02 – grid reference SE 527 008) further enhances the similarity between the enclosure there and at Edlington Wood.

The pottery at Edlington Wood was dominated by locally manufactured domestic ware with only slight evidence of imported wares (ibid.). The nature of the material and the scarcity of *mortaria* (mixing bowls) led to an interpretation of a low status site where Roman dietary habits had not been adopted (ibid.). It seems likely that the enclosure at Pot Ridings Wood represents a similar level of society and further illustrates the extent of such habitation and land use in the landscape of South Yorkshire.

Summary

Some small scale minting of barbarous radiate coins appears to have taken place in the Don Gorge area. The deliberate burial of the three large coin hoards in the second half of the third century may reflect a response to the upheaval that occurred during what is often referred to as the 3rd century crisis. Between AD 235 and 284 the Roman Empire was ruled by between 20 and 25 individuals, was subject to external attack, and suffered civil war. Assassination of short reigning emperors became commonplace and the empire came under threat from groups to the East and West (Salway, 2000). In AD 260 Germany, Gaul, Spain and Britain became an independent empire, the *Imperium Galliarum*, a situation that was to last until AD 274 when Emperor Aurelian restored the control of the central government (ibid.).

The pottery record shows the highest level of activity in the Don Gorge between the mid 2nd and mid 3rd centuries. It is most likely that the increase in pottery from the 2nd century is directly related to the development of the local pottery industry, leading to increased pottery usage. This would make existing settlements more archaeologically visible rather than indicating new occupation. The majority of the pottery is local coarse ware, indicating a low status rural community with little adoption of Roman table manners, although access to higher status goods was possible. Comparisons between the enclosure in Pot Ridings Wood and those at nearby Edlington Wood further supports the interpretation of the former as a low status farmstead, possibly incorporating wooden buildings with tiled roofs. The scarcity of Iron Age artefacts or features in the study area may reflect the results from Edlington Wood, which Ramm (1980) considered indicative of settlement onto marginal land during the Roman period. However, the 1st/2nd century brooches and samian ware does not support this oversimplified interpretation. Instead, it seems likely that a higher status immigrant population or important indigenous family in close contact with Romans occupied the Pot Ridings settlement in the 1st century, but that

it became a low status farmstead in the 2nd century, before reverting to higher status in the 4th century.

Local grey ware reduces in the 4th century, which may reflect a reduction in its supply. The 4th century also witnesses greater Romanisation, with finer table wares and increased amounts of non-local pottery, but dining was still dominated by communally shared meals taken from central serving bowls or jars. This further supports the suggestion that the settlements identified by the pottery were home to an existing population, instead of being the result of immigration of a Romanised population.

The Anglo-Saxon period

Background

Anglo-Saxons, comprising Germanic Jutes, Angles, Saxons and Frisians, had a history of piracy in the North Sea and raided inland, the latter possibly being a contributory factor in the re-occupation of *Danum* fort in the 4th century (Jones, 2000). After the Roman Empire withdrew from Britain early in the 5th century the way was open for substantial Anglo-Saxon settlement and within 200 years the kingdoms of Kent, Sussex, East Anglia, Essex, Wessex, Mercia and Northumbria had been established (Bunting, 1993).

The incoming settlers to South Yorkshire were predominantly Anglians but their arrival was relatively late in terms of Anglo-Saxon settlement and the area was part of the independent British kingdom of Elmet well into the first half of the 7th century (Hey, 1979). Support for this theory is demonstrated by the dearth of early Anglian place names in the area (ibid.). Archaeological evidence from this period in South Yorkshire is rare but recent excavations at Conisbrough Wellgate revealed a wooden box, stakes and trackway that have been radiocarbon dated to the second half of the sixth century (O'Neill, 2004). The timbers may have been part of a deer leap and the implication of the dates is of some continuity of occupation in the area from the Roman period. It is also possible that the enigmatic linear earthwork known as the Roman Ridge (or Rig), which runs from Wincobank Hill to Mexborough, may represent a 5th or 6th century defensive feature offering protection for Elmet from the Anglo-Saxons (Jones, 2000). West Yorkshire had been ruled by Mercian Angles from 633AD, when Edwin of Northumbria was killed at the battle of Hatfield by the combined forces of Penda of Mercia and Cadwallon of North Wales, but in 654 AD Penda was killed and the whole of Yorkshire came under Northumbrian rule (Hey, 1979).

Finally, whilst there is scarcity of early Anglian place names, South Yorkshire does have place name evidence that hints at the establishment of a defensive system along the Don and Dearne valleys in the late 9th century (Gardner, 2004). In old English used by Anglo-Saxons the name for a fortified place was burgh, which has been corrupted to borough or brough, potentially illustrating the early nature of places such as Sprotbrough, Barnburgh, Mexborough and Conisbrough (Jones 2000; Gardner 2004), all of which border the Don Gorge. Buckland *et al* (1989) attribute the establishment of this possible defence system to the period around AD 876 when Scandinavian settlement took place in the area.

The archaeological record

The archaeological record for the Anglo-Saxon period in the study area comprises three sherds of possible Anglo-Saxon pottery, three coins, three strap ends, a hooked tag, a buckle and plate, and remnants of a stone cross. The stone cross was discovered early in

the 20th century built into the buttress of a priest's door in Sprotbrough. The metalwork and coins were found, recorded and reported by a local metal detectorist, Mr. D. Holdsworth of Conisbrough.

The uncertain age intimated by the description of the two possible Anglo-Saxon pottery sherds on the SMR record (SMR 01989/01) is replicated to some extent by the pottery sherd on the small finds report which is also described only as a 'possible' Anglo-Saxon sherd and has a wide potential age range of 300 years between the 6th and 9th centuries AD. The limited numbers and doubtful context of the pottery hence makes it impossible to draw valid conclusions regarding its presence in the study area.

The three coins are all Northumbrian *Styca* types, of Aethelred II (Illustration 11). He succeeded his father Eanred in 841 and reigned over the kingdom of Northumbria until 844 when he was expelled from the kingdom by Raedwulf. However, the same year witnessed the death of Raedwulf in battle against raiding Vikings and Aethelred II was restored to the throne until his assassination in 848/9.

The metalwork from the study area includes three strap ends, which were used to prevent fraying of belts or cords and to ensure that they hung correctly. The styles of the strap ends enable dating between c.AD 800 and c.AD 1000. A fourth metal item is a triangular hooked tag which may have been a fastening for a bag or purse, or a fastening for clothing (Illustration 12). Similar items from archaeological excavations in Winchester and Southampton suggest a date between c.AD850 and c.AD950. The final metalwork is a copper alloy belt buckle and plate of a design similar to ones from burials in Suffolk, giving an age of c.AD 800. All of the coins and four of the metalwork artefacts are represented on the SMR records and were found in Pot Ridings Wood at grid reference SE 526 005. The metalwork not present in the SMR records is the buckle and plate, but Doncaster Museum records state that this was also found in Pot Ridings Wood. There is a possibility that the coins were originally the contents of a purse that was fastened by the hooked tag, which could further support the idea of deliberate deposition. Unfortunately, the fact that these artefacts were not discovered during archaeologically controlled excavation leaves this as speculation.

The other Anglo-Saxon artefact described on the SMR records is the partial stone cross (SMR 0408/01) discovered in Sprotbrough in the early part of the 20th century. It is described as being similar in type to those from either Kirkheaton or Kippax, both of which are Anglian. The stone cross at Kirkheaton is represented by fragments found following a fire in the church in 1886 and has been dated to the late 9th/early 10th century (www.arch.wyjs.org.uk) The one from Kippax is similarly fragmentary and was found in 1875/6 built into a tower doorway (www.acny.org.uk). It has been dated to post 900AD (ibid.). These dates imply a date between the late 9th or 10th century for the Sprotbrough Cross, which balances well with the dates for the metal artefacts from Pot Ridings Wood. There was an ecclesiastical presence in the area from at least AD 750 when St Peter's Church, Conisbrough was built as a minster church in the Northumbrian style.

Summary

Other than the partial stone cross found in Sprotbrough, all of the definite Anglo-Saxon material comprises coin and metalwork from a relatively small area in Pot Ridings Wood. The artefacts are all Northumbrian types, and probably represent activity in the mid to late 9th century AD. At this time the Don Gorge was within the southern border of Northumbria, which stretched from the Humber to the border of North Wales. The metalwork and coins accord well with the cross fragments from Sprotbrough, and with two 8th/9th century coins and a polyhedral dress pin discovered during excavation at the Gardens, Sprotbrough in 2001/2 (Fenton-Thomas, 2006).

It is intriguing to consider whether the artefacts in Pot Ridings Wood represent a single depositional event and if there is any link to the increased Danish threat in the second half of the 9th century. Norwegians and Danes had well-established trade links with England by the 840s and this seemed to have acted as a spur for increasing piracy and raiding mid way through the 9th century (Blair, 2000). By AD 865 this had developed into large scale invasion, with the landing of the Danish army under Halfdan and Ivarr the Boneless in East Anglia, and its subsequent advancement northwards to the kingdom of Northumbria (ibid.). The Danes captured York in AD 867 and established rule over Northumbria as a client state (ibid.). However, the make up of the finds from Pot Ridings Wood is not that of a typical Anglo-Saxon or Danish hoard, being low value items with no silver or gold. Rather, they would offer support to the presence of a settlement in the immediate vicinity.

The nature of any settlement may have been defensive. The location is at the edge of Northumbrian territory and its position near the River Don is strategically important, offering protection against incursion by water or along road routes. Place name evidence from the suffix ‘burgh’ implies an increasing need to respond to external threat and the artefacts from Pot Ridings Wood confirm Anglo-Saxon activity in the Don Gorge somewhere between AD 850 and AD 900, at a time when increased pressure from Danish invaders was changing the political face of England.

Overall summary

The archaeology of the Don Gorge is extensive and has not previously been systematically studied or made known to the wider public. This paper marks a first step towards structuring the data so that their stories can be told.

Newspaper articles from the late 19th and early 20th century tell of finds of Pleistocene fauna including woolly rhinoceros, mammoth, red deer and horse during excavation of cuttings in the magnesian limestone in the Gorge. The natures of the finds show that in the late Pleistocene the Don Gorge was populated by Ice Age megafauna. The relative proximity of the Gorge to Creswell Crags illustrates the potential for further research to discover more faunal remains and possibly artefactual evidence of human activity in the Upper Palaeolithic.

The early stages of the Mesolithic seemingly saw the Don Gorge traversed on at least one occasion as people moved through the landscape foraging for food. In the later Mesolithic stone tool evidence shows greatly increased utilisation of the area with scatters of flint tools and debitage hinting at temporary camps in areas around Cadeby Cliffs close to the River Don.

Lithic evidence shows activity in the Don Valley for a period of at least 3000 years from the Early Neolithic into the Early Bronze Age. The quantity and type of tool found intimate at possible settlements in the areas around Cadeby River Don/viaduct and Cadeby Cliffs. Apparent deliberate deposition of stone tools in the Early/Mid Neolithic, as suggested by their unused condition, can be allied to tentative evidence for a henge monument at Cadeby Cliffs to form a picture of a ceremonial landscape. Iron Age evidence is less forthcoming, which is unsurprising, but an Iron Age presence is displayed by the fine sword chape and mouth guard from Pot Ridings Wood.

There is evidence of human activity in the Don Gorge throughout the majority of the Roman period. Finds of brooches and imported samian ware imply contact between important indigenous people and the Romans in the early post-Conquest period but it is in the 2nd and 3rd centuries where finds of pottery and coinage indicate the highest levels of activity. During this time the area seems to have low status rural sites with eating habits based on utilisation of locally made coarse ware bowls and dishes that are more typically kitchen ware. The late 3rd century in the Don Gorge is witness to burial of coin hoards, possibly in response to the crisis that gripped the Roman Empire for almost 50 years from AD 235. Fine ceramics from the 4th century implies a rise in status in the area but eating habits still retain native elements where food is taken from a communal bowl rather than served in individual wares.

The Anglo-Saxon period is dominated by finds from Pot Ridings Wood. These comprise metalwork and coinage that have Northumbrian style and imply activity and settlement in the mid to late 9th century AD. This was a time when the Northumbrian kingdom, of

which the Don Gorge formed a part, came under increasing threat from the Danes, finally succumbing to the status of client state to them in the 860s.

Acknowledgements

Many thanks to Louisa Matthews at the SMR for persevering with my endless questions and for producing maps, and to Bill Bevan at *in*Heritage, Peter Robinson at Doncaster Museum and Dinah Saich at South Yorkshire Archaeology Service for suggestions and comments.

Photographs of artefacts held at Doncaster Museum were taken by Julia Reid, High Peak Photography.

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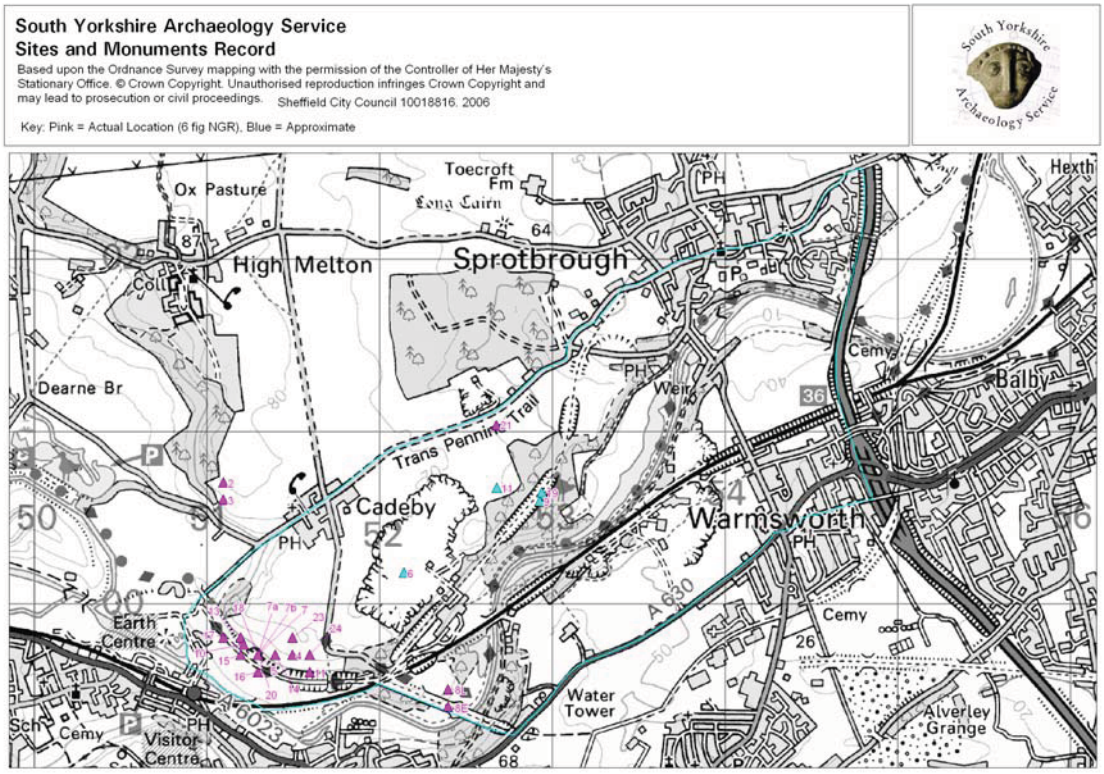
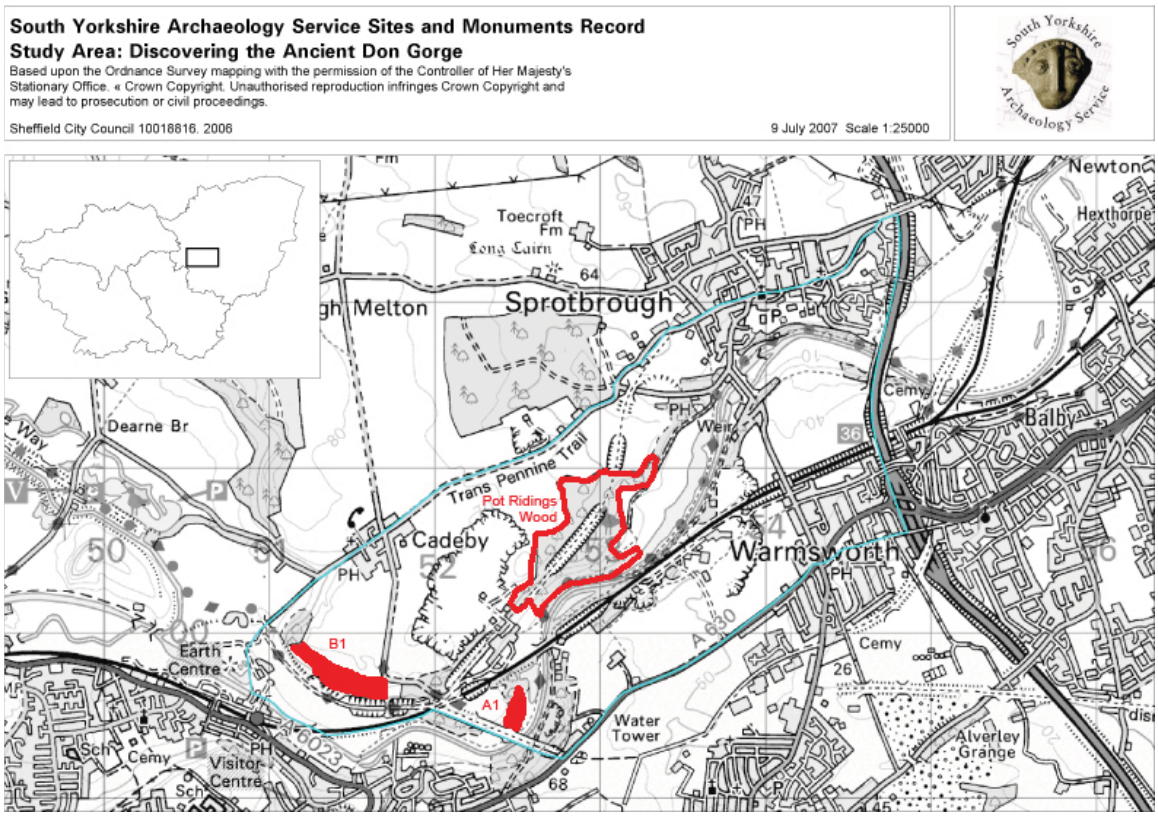
ILLUSTRATION 1



Study area marked in blue with locations of Roman pottery finds marked by pink or blue triangles

ILLUSTRATION 2



Fieldwalking locations from where flints were found

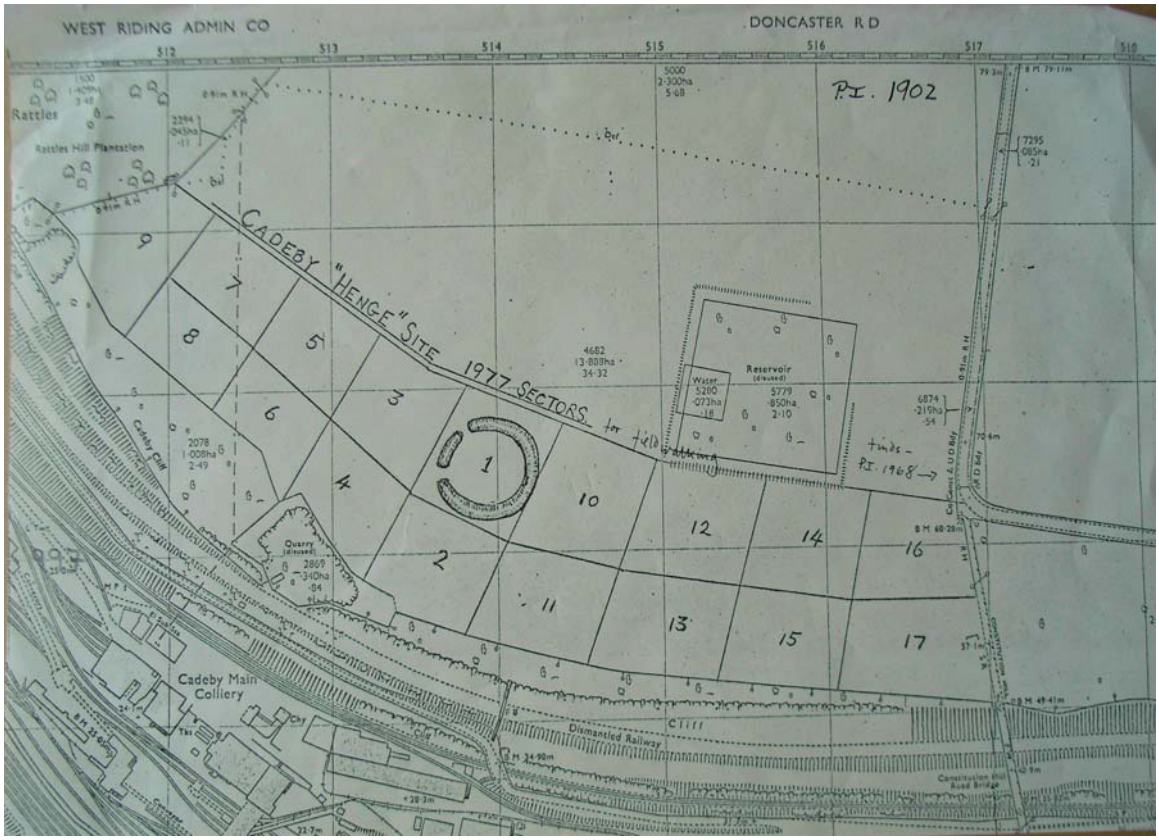
ILLUSTRATION 3

Mesolithic bladelets and points

ILLUSTRATION 4

Neolithic leaf-shaped arrowhead

ILLUSTRATION 5

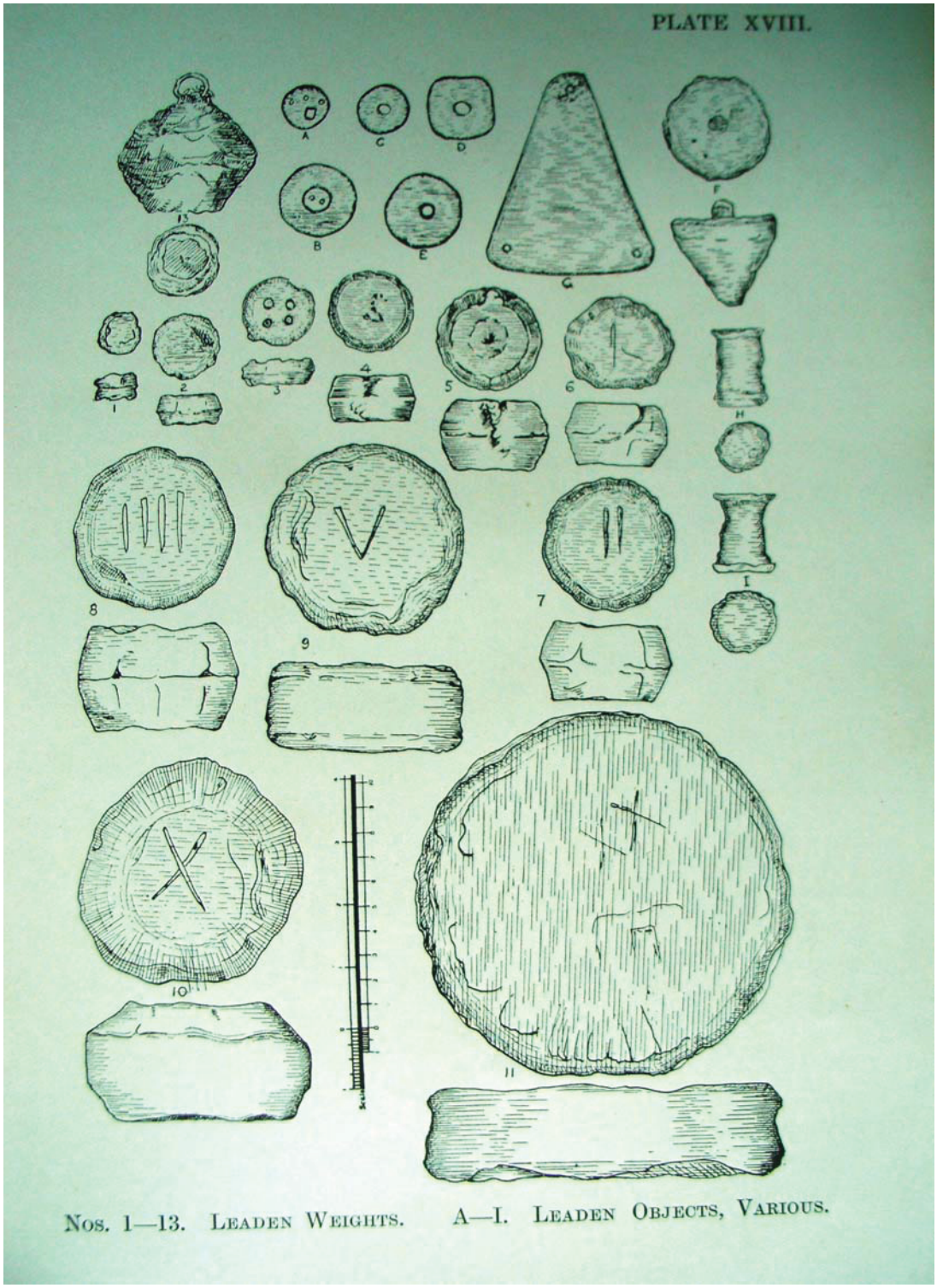


Location of 'Cadeby henge' immediately north east of Cadeby Cliffs. (From SYAS SMR records)

ILLUSTRATION 6

Iron Age sword chape

ILLUSTRATION 7



Lead weights from Templeborough Fort. (From May, T. 1922)

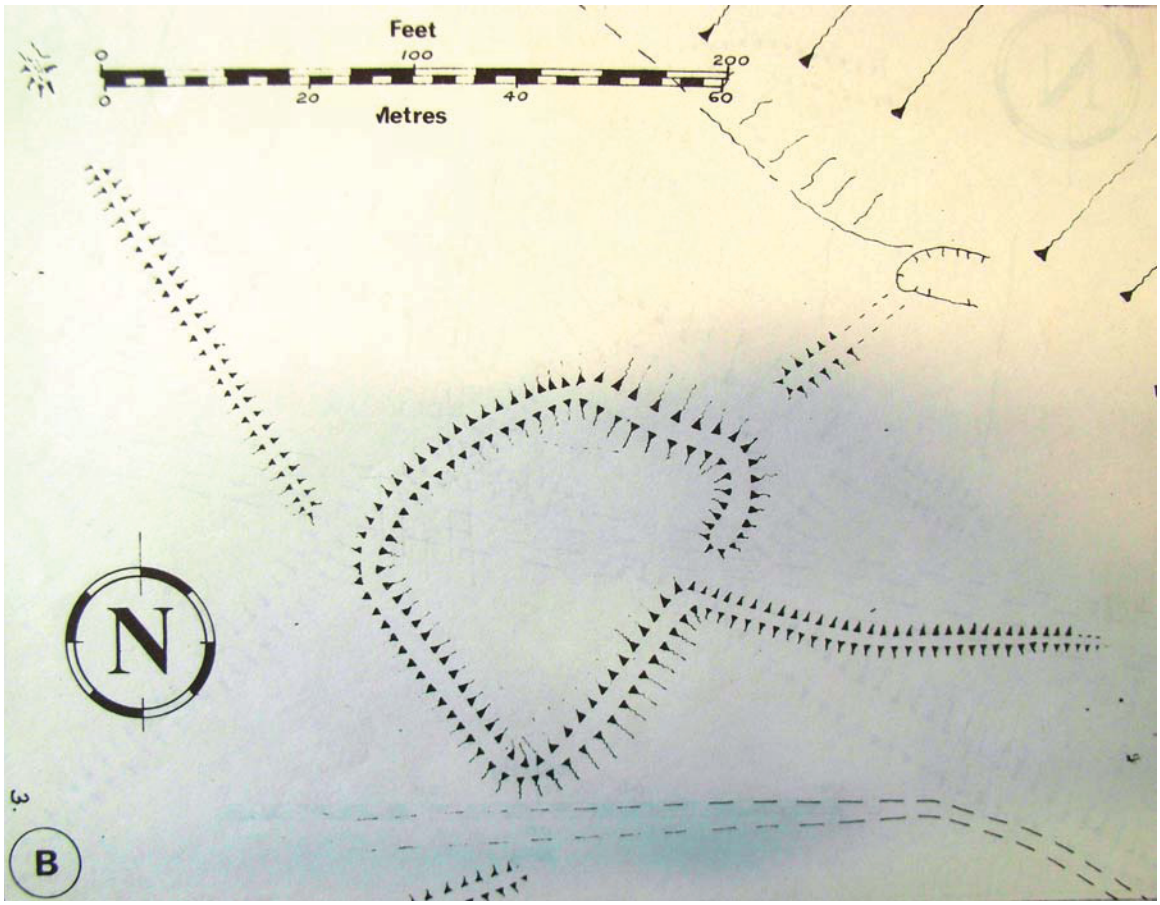
ILLUSTRATION 8

Poppy-headed beaker, coin hoard and silver bracelets

ILLUSTRATION 9

Umbonate brooch

ILLUSTRATION 10



Enclosure B at Edlington Woods. (From Ramm, H. 1973)

ILLUSTRATION 11

Anglo-Saxon styca

ILLUSTRATION 12

Anglo-Saxon hooked tag

Appendix 1. SMR records for the Don Gorge

The following pages summarise the data derived from SMR records and aerial photographs, broken down by period.

1.1 Prehistoric

Forty eight SMR records exist for the prehistoric period, the vast majority being for small surface finds of flints. It is possible to correlate the two SMR records for Neolithic polished axes with those on the specialist small finds report from Doncaster Museum (below). Two finds of clusters of Mesolithic tools and debitage are of note for their potential in identifying temporary settlement areas.

SMR no.	Location	Description
01062/01	Conisbrough Park SE 534 002	Tanged flint arrowhead. Probably late Neolithic. Doncaster museum 96.68
01069/01	Sprotbrough SE 544 019	Two beehive gritstone quern top stones. Iron Age. Doncaster Museum 153.68
01921/01	Cadeby SE 531 007 (ploughed field)	One multi-purpose flint tool - plane/scraper/awl. Mesolithic. Mr A. Peace
01921/02	Cadeby SE 531 007 (ploughed field)	One retouched flint flake. Mesolithic. Mr. A. Peace
01923/01	Cadeby SK 519 998 (ploughed field near quarry)	One retouched flint flake. Mesolithic/Neolithic
01924/01	Cadeby SK 518 997 (ploughed field near quarry)	Flint chopping tool. Mesolithic/Neolithic. Mr A. Peace
01924/02	Cadeby SK 519 998 (ploughed field near quarry)	Retouched flint blade segment. Mesolithic/Neolithic. Mr. A. Peace.
01925/01	Cadeby SK 520 990 (ploughed field near quarry)	Reworked flint scraper. Mesolithic/Neolithic. Mr. A. Peace.
01929/01	Cadeby SK 523 995 (ploughed field near Cadeby Ridding)	Flint graver. Mesolithic/Neolithic. Mr. A. Peace
01930/01	Cadeby SK 523 995 (ploughed field near River Don)	Four scrapers, 13 microliths, 2 retouched flakes, 1 awl, 4 cores, 1 micro-core, 1 graver, 1 borer (1 scraper and 1 retouched flake are in grey chert). Mesolithic industry. Mr. A. Peace
01931/01	Cadeby SK 523 995 (ploughed field, bank of River Don)	Nine scrapers, 37 microliths, 25 retouched flakes, 4 cores, 1 micro-core, 2 gravers, 1 utility flake. Mesolithic industry.
01932/01	Cadeby SK 528 995 (ploughed field, bank of River Don)	Button scraper. Neolithic/Bronze Age. Mr. A. Peace.
01932/02	Cadeby SK 523 995 (ploughed field, bank of River Don)	Retouched honey coloured flint flake. Neolithic/Bronze Age. Mr. A. Peace.
01923/03	Cadeby SK 523 995 (ploughed field, bank of River Don)	Retouched honey coloured flint flake. Neolithic/Bronze Age. Mr. A. Peace.
01968/01	Cadeby SK 514 997 (possible henge)	Henge and prehistoric tools. Aerial photo July 1975 Don. Mus. Flight - crop mark of a circle-ditch broken in two places. Finds from the site include 1 flint microlith, 1 flint awl, 2 antler tips, 1 piece of antler and 2 fragments of knife handle. Mr A Peace
02363/01	Pot Ridings Wood SE 527 005	Three black flint flakes, 1 white flint flake.
02364/01	Pot Ridings Wood SE 527 005	Eight flint flakes.
02364/02	Pot Ridings Wood SE 527 005	Flint core.

Prehistoric finds identified from SMR records (page 1 of 2)

SMR no.	Location	Description
02365/01	Pot Ridings Wood SE 527 008	Flint scraper – 2cm x 1.5cm.
02365/02	Pot Ridings Wood SE 527 008	Flint blade – 4cm x 1cm
02365/03	Pot Ridings Wood SE 527 008	Worked obsidian core – 4cm x 3cm.
02368/01	Pot Ridings Wood SE 533 013	White flint scraper 3cm x 3cm, Grey flint point 4cm x 1.5cm. Mesolithic.
02384/01	Cadeby SE 527 006	Three large scrapers, 1 small discoidal scraper, 1 large discoidal knife, 2 waste flakes. Possibly Mesolithic.
02385/01	Pot Ridings Wood SE 530 008	Mesolithic -3 flint flakes 2cm x 1.5cm
02386/01	Pot Ridings Wood SE 527 003 (adjacent to poss. rock shelter)	One flint awl, one saw edge engraver and one flake blade. Found in loose limestone.
02396/01	Cadeby SE 530 004	Black flints, 6cm x 4cm and 6.5cm x 3cm.
02408/01	Cadeby SK 511 997	Two scrapers and three utilised flakes.
02410/01	Cadeby SK 513 996	One flint core, 1 flake, 1 utilised flake/awl
02411/01	Cadeby SK 511 997 – 516 997	Five utilised flakes - top of Cadeby Cliff.
02412/01	Cadeby SK 515 995	Flint flakes - top of Cadeby Cliff.
02413/01	Cadeby SK 516 997 – 514 996	Three utilised flakes and one utilised blade.
02414/01	Cadeby SK 514 996	Scraper from field on top of Cadeby Cliff.
02415/01	Cadeby SK 515 996	Flint flake from field, top of Cadeby Cliff.
02416/01	Cadeby SK 515 997	Late Neolithic – Plano-convex knife end
02417/01	Cadeby SK 525 994	Forty six flakes, 2 utilised flakes, 1 flint hammerstone.
02420/01	Cadeby SK 524 996	Five microliths, 2 flakes, 46 waste flakes, 1 core.
02421/01	Cadeby SK 524 995	Five microliths, 1 scraper, 26 waste flakes, 3 retouched flakes, 1 utilised flake.
02422/01	Cadeby SK 524 994	Five microliths, 1 microcore, 1 core, 2 retouched flakes, 67 seven waste flakes.
02424/01	Cadeby SK 511 998 – 512 997	One Neolithic leaf-shaped arrowhead, 4 utilised flakes, 1 reworked flake.
02426/01	Cadeby SK 525 994	Two scrapers, 2 utilised flakes (1 notched).
02428/01	Cadeby SE 529 004	Mesolithic white flint blade 3.5cm x 2.0cm.
02428/02	Cadeby SE 529 004	Mesolithic grey flint flake 3.0cm x 1.0cm.
02428/03	Cadeby SE 529 004	Mesolithic worked grey flint 7.5 x 5.0cm
02576/01	Sprotbrough SE 534 001	Flint arrowhead
02714/01	Cadeby SE 527 007	Neolithic flint flake 10cm long
03765/01	Conisbrough Parks SK 513 997	Neolithic polished stone axe 13.5cm x 7cm x 3.75cm - Group I (Cornwall).
03766/01	Conisbrough Parks SK 513 996	Neolithic fragments of a polished stone axe Group VI type.
03977/01	Conisbrough Pks. SK 515 997	Barbed and tanged arrowhead. Mr A Peace

Prehistoric finds identified from SMR records (page 2 of 2).

1.2 Roman coins

The SMR records for the Roman period comprised mainly coinage that had been discovered by metal detectorists. Of the 38 SMR records for Roman coins 31 are finds of single coins, 5 are finds of small hoards, and 2 are finds of large hoards. The earliest coin found was a *denarius* of Vespasian dated to AD 72 – 73 and the latest an ae22mm of Constantine II from the Trier mint dated between AD 346 – 350. The coin assemblage is dominated by coins from the 3rd century, although 14 of the single finds are 4th century. Of particular note are the coin hoards. Two of the small hoards and both of the large hoards are from the 3rd century and either from Cadeby (map reference SK 519 996) or from Sprotbrough Plantation (map reference SE 532 010). A third small hoard of indeterminate description from Conisbrough Park is also allocated a 3rd century date and is probably made up of barbarous radiates. The large coin hoards are worthy of individual description:

SMR 01899/01 – a hoard of 1681 *antoniniani* in a grey ware jar which has a foot ring and a high rim. The coins range from Valerian I (AD 253 – 260) to Tetricus II (AD 273 – 274) and include 16 barbarous radiates, locally made copies of *antoniniani* that were issued primarily during the mid 3rd century and are thought not to be forgeries due to their being noticeably smaller than *antoniniani*.

SMR 03943/01 - a hoard of 313 barbarous radiates, 186 blanks of bronze, 6 bronze tubes, 12 lengths of bronze rod, 114 cut bronze rods, 6 sections of bronze tube, 4 bronze globules, 9 portions of blank, 1 length of twisted bronze wire, 1 bronze strip, 1 bronze sheet, and 1 bronze fragment. The small size of the coins indicates a late phase of production and has analogy with hoards from Veralium and Worthing, giving a date ca AD284. (Mattingley and Dolby, 1982) Associated Roman pottery represents over 50% of a small calcite gritted 3rd/4th century Dales ware jar, which was probably the original container for the hoard (ibid). The bronze blanks, rods, wire, globules and sheet imply that the coins were being minted in the vicinity of their discovery (ibid.)

SMR no.	Location/grid reference	No.	Type	Period range
00662/01	Warmsworth SE 545 010	1	Ae3	AD 306 - 337
01782/01	Cadeby SK 519 996	11	*Sestertii*	AD 98 – 192
01899/01	Cadeby SK 519 996	1681	*Antoniniani*	AD 253 – 274
02355/01	Cadeby SK 519 996	9	*Antoniniani*	AD 268 - 270
02356/01	Cadeby SE 526 004	1	*Sestertius*	AD 117 – 138
02357/01	Cadeby SE 529 005	1	*Dupondius*	AD 138 - 161
02359/01	Cadeby SE 526 005	1	*Denarius*	AD 193 - 211
02360/01	Cadeby SE 526 005	8	*Sestertii*	AD 83 – 183
02371/01	Cadeby SE 530 007	1	Barbarous radiate	3rd century
02398/01	Cadeby SK 521 995	1	*Ae Urbs Roma*	AD 330 - 335
02399/01	Cadeby SK 515 997	1	*Ae3*	AD 308 - 337
02400/01	Cadeby SK 520 995	1	*Denarius*	AD 98 - 117
02401/01	Cadeby SK 520 995	1	*Sestertius*	AD 164 – 183
02563/01	Conisbrough Park SK 521 995	12	*Unspecified*	3rd century
02626/01	Sprotbrough SE 533 011	1	*Antoninianus*	AD 260 – 269
02627/01	Sprotbrough SE 533 011	1	Barbarous radiate	3rd century
02628/01	Sprotbrough SE 534 013	1	Barbarous radiate	3rd century
02630/01	Sprotbrough SE 532 010	1	*Denarius*	AD 72 – 73
02632/01	Sprotbrough SE 532 010	1	*Denarius*	AD 193 – 211
02633/01	Sprotbrough SE 531 009	1	*Denarius*	AD 222 – 235
02634/01	Sprotbrough SE 536 014	8	*Antoniniani*	AD 259 - 270
02635/01	Sprotbrough SE 531 009	1	*Antoninianus*	AD 268 - 270
02636/01	Sprotbrough SE 534 013	1	*Antoninianus*	AD 275 - 276
02637/01	Sprotbrough SE 532 009	1	*Follis*	AD 318 – 319
02638/01	Sprotbrough SE 532 009	1	*Antoninianus*	AD 259 - 268
02638/02	Sprotbrough SE 532 009	1	*Antoninianus*	AD 270 - 273
02644/01	Sprotbrough SE 531 009	1	*Antoninianus*	3rd century
02645/01	Sprotbrough SE 532 010	1	*Follis*	AD 317 - 324
02645/02	Sprotbrough SE 532 010	1	Ae4	AD 341 – 346
02646/01	Sprotbrough SE 532 011	1	*Follis*	AD 321 - 323
02648/01	Sprotbrough SE 532 010	1	Ae4	AD 330 - 341
02649/01	Sprotbrough SE 532 010	1	Ae 12mm	AD 330 - 335
02650/01	Sprotbrough SE 532 010	1	Ae 22mm	AD 346 - 350
02651/01	Sprotbrough SE 532 010	1	Ae4	AD 337 - 350
02652/01	Sprotbrough SE 531 010	1	Ae 15mm	AD 335 - 341
02653/01	Sprotbrough SE 532 010	1	Ae4	AD 341 - 346
02654/01	Sprotbrough SE 532 009	1	Ae 14mm	4th century
03943/01	Sprotbrough SE 532 010	313*	barbarous radiates	3rd century

Roman coins from study area identified on SMR records. Where marked * denotes a hoard with blanks, bronze tube, wire.

1.3 Roman Metalwork (non-coin)

There are 10 SMR records of non-coin metalwork that has been assigned to the Roman period. These are detailed in the table below. Four are brooches including a penannular or open ring brooch, a type that has prehistoric origins but which is found in great numbers on Roman-British sites around the late 2nd century AD. Two of the brooches are disc brooches from the 2nd or 3rd centuries AD and one is a fantail and plate brooch dating from the late 1st/early 2nd century AD. Three of the brooches were found in Pot Ridings Wood, the location of an enclosure considered to be indicative of peasant habitation (see above). Other items of personal adornment include a bronze bead, a bronze pendant and bronze belt plate.

SMR no.	Location/grid reference	Description
02358/01	Pot Ridings Wood Cadeby SE 529 005	Bronze disc brooch with plain silvered front – 2nd/3rd century AD
02374/01	Pot Ridings Wood Cadeby No map reference	Bronze penannular brooch with pin missing
02375/01	Pot Ridings Wood Cadeby SE 526 005	Bronze and enamel fantail and plate brooch missing pin – late 1st/early 2nd century AD
02382/01	Pot Ridings Wood Cadeby No map reference	Lead weight – circular section
02383/01	Pot Ridings Wood Cadeby No map reference	Lead weight – conical
02403/01	Cadeby SK 524 993	Bronze hinge belt plate. Exterior has polished green patina. Possibly Roman military equipment. 61cm x 22cm.
02404/01	Cadeby SK 524 993	Cast bronze object, possibly a Roman pendant. 53mm long
02405/01	Cadeby SK 524 993	Bronze and enamel disc brooch 27mm diameter. 2nd/3rd century AD
02829/01	Sprotbrough SE 535 014	Cast bronze bead
03944/01	Sprotbrough SE 532 010	Bronze tubes (6), lengths of bronze rod (12), cut bronze rods (114), sections of bronze tube (6), bronze globules (4), portions of blank (9), length of twisted bronze wire (1), bronze strip (1), bronze sheet (1), and bronze fragment (1). In association with coin hoard 03943/01

Metalwork from study area identified on SMR records.

1.4 Roman pottery

Roman pottery was represented by 14 SMR records, 6 of which were for greyware varying in number between a single sherd up to 30 sherds at a single location. Samian ware was represented by 3 records, with single records for tile, *mortaria*, and Dales ware by a single record, the latter in association with a coin hoard in Sprotbrough Plantation (see above). The earliest SMR record for Roman pottery is of a cinerary urn found in 1909 in Warmsworth (map reference SE 545 012). The limited number of SMR records and the poor description of finds compares unfavourably with the sample size and description in the pottery specialist reports (appendices 4 & 5) making the latter a stronger basis from which to draw conclusions into Roman activity in the Don Gorge. One find that is worthy of note from the SMR records is that of two pieces of tile found in the area of the enclosure (SMR 02369/03). This does not appear on the pottery specialist report but represents an important element when interpreting the age and use of the enclosure, particularly when drawing analogy with similar enclosures at Edlington Wood.

SMR no.	Location	Description
01879/02	Warmsworth SE 538 004	Grey ware rim
01899/01	Cadeby SK 519 996	Grey ware jar with foot ring and high rim containing coin hoard of 1653 *antoniniani* deposited between AD 273 and 275
02353/01	Pot Ridings Wood SE 529 007	Thirty sherds of grey ware, 2nd century AD, found at base of enclosure wall, north east end of Pot Ridings Wood
02353/01	Pot Ridings Wood SE 529 007	Seven sherds of samian ware, 2nd century AD, found at base of enclosure wall, north east end of Pot Ridings Wood.
02366/01	Pot Ridings Wood SE 528 008	Unknown quantity of grey ware found on surface in Pot Ridings Wood enclosure
02367/01	Pot Ridings Wood SE 526 013	Grey ware sherds and rims of jars and bowls. Rim of *mortarium*. Found in topsoil removed for quarrying south end of Scabba Wood
02369/01	Pot Ridings Wood SE 527 008	Two sherds of 2nd century grey ware found in area of possible enclosure.
02369/02	Pot Ridings Wood SE 527 008	Single sherd of 2nd century samian ware found in area of possible enclosure.
02369/03	Pot Ridings Wood SE 527 008	Two fragments of 2nd century tile found in area of possible enclosure.
02406/01	Cadeby SK 524 994	Greyware pottery sherds.
02407/01	Cadeby SK 515 997	Scatter of pottery including samian ware. Top of Cadeby Cliffs close to NCB reservoir.
02715/01	Cadeby SE 526 005	Romano-British tempered (reddish fabric) pot sherd rim found in ploughed field near Pot Ridings Wood. Not collected.
03945/01	Sprotbrough SE 532 010	More than 50% of a small calcite gritted Dales ware jar associated with a hoard of 321 barbarous radiates and bronze.
04170/01	Warmsworth SE 545 012	Cinerary urn found in 1909 and marked on 1928 map.

Roman pottery from study area identified on SMR records

1.5 Other Roman finds and features

SMR records identify a single feature in the study area that is likely to be of Roman origin. It is a scooped sub-rectangular enclosure with rounded corners enclosed by a bank between 3 and 4 metres wide and 1 metre high. The enclosure is in Pot Ridings Wood (grid reference SE 528 007) and lies in an area where significant amounts of other Roman material has been found.
Four other SMR records are of Roman date. From Pot Ridings Wood came both a blue-green glass bead of irregular section (SMR 02387/01) and a broken whetstone (SMR 02360/02), the latter assigned a Roman date due to its association with grey ware pottery sherds. Three fragments of quernstone from Warmsworth (SE 538 004; SMR 01897/01) were similarly designated as Roman due to their association with finds of grey ware pottery. The topstone of a millstone grit beehive quern was found at Cadeby (SE 529 005; SMR 02388/01).

SMR no.	Location	Description
01803/01	Pot Ridings Wood SE 528 007	A scooped sub rectangular enclosure possibly overlying a long barrow. It has rounded corners enclosed by a bank about 3 -4 m wide and 1.0m high. Only the southern portion of the enclosure now remains partly overlying a long oval mound aligned E-W. Roman.
01897/01	Warmsworth SE 538 004	Three quern stone fragments found in association with grey ware pottery. Roman
02366/02	Pot Ridings Wood SE 528 008	Broken whetstone found in association with grey ware pottery
02387/01	Pot Ridings Wood SE 527 006	Blue green glass bead with irregular section
02388/01	Cadeby SE 529 005	Millstone grit beehive rotary quern topstone of a type common in Roman times having an extremely thick dome-shaped upper stone with a slightly flared base.

Other Roman finds and features identified from SMR records.

Possible Roman features in the study area identified from aerial photographs are:
Two enclosures and a field boundary immediately north of Warmsworth and west of the Doncaster by-pass (grid reference centred on SE 545 012)
A trackway and a ditch immediately east of Butterbusk Farm (centred on SK 532 998)

1.6 Anglo-Saxon

The nine SMR records for Anglo-Saxon features comprised a single record for part of a stone cross, a single record for a bronze belt clasp, three records for bronze strap ends, three records for coins and a single record for pottery sherds described as possibly Anglo-Saxon. The strap ends, belt clasp and coins were all found in Pot Ridings Wood, Cadeby.

SMR no.	Location	Description
0408/01	Sprotbrough SE 539 020	Stone cross fragments – compare to Kirkheaton and Kippax, class AC or C
01989/01	Conisbrough SK 514 997	Two sherds of possible A-S pottery found by Mr. A. Peace
02271/01	Pot Ridings Wood SE 526 005	Incomplete bronze strap end found in two pieces. Traces of curvilinear decoration that stops at crossing points. 9th century AD. Doncaster Museum index 262.82
02272/01	Pot Ridings Wood SE 526 005	Bronze belt clasp broken in straight line, possibly where once articulated. Five holes through it, two larger ones with circles around on both faces, and three smaller ones with circles around on single face only. Holes and circles resemble ring and dot decoration. 8th/9th century AD. Doncaster Museum index 263.82
02273/01	Pot Ridings Wood SE 526 005	Bronze strap end with upper surface having 18 ring and dot impressions with an additional single dot. 9th century AD
02274/01	Pot Ridings Wood SE 526 005	Bronze strap end having hollows that bear traces of enamel filling. 9th century AD
02275/01	Pot Ridings Wood SE 526 005	Ae.styca of Aedelred II of Northumbria (AD 841 – 849). Obverse has cross in circle of dots EDILRED REX Doncaster Museum index 261.82
02276/01	Pot Ridings Wood SE 526 005	Ae.styca of Aedelred II of Northumbria (AD 841 – 849). Obverse has cross pattée [sic] + EDELRED R. Doncaster Museum index 260.82
02277/01	Pot Ridings Wood SE 526 005	Ae.styca of Aeanred of Northumbria (AD 810 – 841). Obverse has + AENRED R° in centre.

Anglo-Saxon artefacts from study area identified on SMR records

1.7 Indeterminate SMR records

SMR no.	Location	Description
01902/01	Conisbrough SK 515 997	Circular cropmark photographed by Doncaster Museum. Uncertain significance – it may be old quarrying
02129/01	Edlington SK 530 999	Earthworks and indications of stone buildings in field NE of Butterbusk Farm. Some tradition of connection with Conisbrough Castle. From 1926 newspaper article "At Butterbusk Farm there are some foundations thought to have some connection with the (Conisbrough) Castle and a few years ago while building was going on there one of the men found what was thought to be a pig trough but was in reality an old stone coffin".
02362/01	Pot Ridings Wood	Bronze pin with spherical head with eight facets. Age unknown. DMAG 264.82
02376/01	Pot Ridings Wood SE 526 005	Two bronze buckles found close to location of hoard of 8 sestercii
02377/01	Pot Ridings Wood	One square buckle with undecorated belt plate, 1 semi-circular buckle with straight bar attached to plate and decorated with traces of gilding, one other. DMAG 266.82
02378/01	Pot Ridings Wood SE 526 005	Iron object, possibly part of a key
02379/01	Pot Ridings Wood SE 526 005	Iron spur found near location of hoard of sesertii and lead plumb bob
02380/01	Pot Ridings Wood SE 526 005	Lead object, possible plumb bob – triangular with suspension loop
02381/01	Pot Ridings Wood	Lead spindle whorl, sharply biconical with decoration of raised lines.
02402/01	Cadeby SK 521 995	Bronze ring of unknown date. With finder (Mr. J. Ball)
03728/03	Sprotbrough Park SE 545 019	Possible barrow - a small but pronounced mound which was slightly flattened. It occurred on a ridge and had furrows either side giving a slightly ovoid appearance. By 1996 the location had been built on.

Indeterminate artefacts and features identified on SMR records

In addition to the crop marks at Butterbusk Farm detailed in the table above, aerial photographs also detailed a lynchet of uncertain age adjacent to the trackway at Cadeby Rattles (grid reference SE 511 020).

Appendix 2. When mammoths and woolly rhinos lived at Warmsworth: Ice Age mammals in the Don Gorge

Colin A. Howes

Throughout Britain, the discovery of the remains of prehistoric creatures, triggers a flurry of media interest, ignites the public imagination, and launches scientists into programmes of research. It also prompts government agencies to confer statutory scientific and heritage designations and encourages local authorities and entrepreneurs to develop tourist and interpretative facilities.

This is true of the cave sites at Buckfastleigh in South Devon, the Cheddar Gorge and the Mendips, the Derbyshire Peak District, the Pennine Dales and at Creswell Crags just down the road near Worksop. With the limestone region between Conisbrough, Warmsworth, Sprotbrough and Cadeby being riddled with tunnels, potholes, fissures, rock shelters and more historic monuments, sites of industrial archaeology and sites of natural interest than you can shake a stick at, it is high time that our own Don Gorge should share in this same national celebrity.

This note draws attention to two little known discoveries of prehistoric bone material from the Don Gorge in the hope that it may highlight a) the need for research on the many exposed but vulnerable Pleistocene/Palaeolithic deposits and b) the possibilities of making further important cultural and scientific discoveries to the benefit of the region.

In the 1870s the series of reservoirs at Ravenfield and Thrybergh were being developed by the Doncaster Water Company to provide Doncaster with its first safe (non-river) public water supply. In order to conduct this supply to the town, an elaborate series of tunnels was constructed to take the network of large bore cast iron water pipes. In 1878, while undertaking the epic work of tunnelling through the fractured and fissured Magnesian limestone strata in the Don Gorge between Conisbrough and Warmsworth, the engineers broke into a marl-filled fissure and encountered a cache of impressively large fossil bones. These were purchased by the geologist Edward Bennett Jenkinson FGS, who passed them for identification and comment to Professor William Boyd Dawkins (1837-1927), the doyen of cave research. The specific find site is not known but its description suggests it to be along the pipe tunnel which runs from Nearcliffe Wood deep underground emerging near the covered reservoir adjacent to Warmsworth Halt.

The story was taken up by the press as follows:

***Doncaster Chronicle* 5th July 1878 'Interesting Discovery'**
"A discovery of ossiferous remains of animals of the Pleistocene age has just been made in the limestone crags at Conisbrough. The workmen engaged in excavating the cutting for the piles in connection with the Doncaster Water Works came upon several fossil bones of unusual size. Some of these passed into the hands of one of the men employed on the works who kept them as a "wonderful find", but was ignorant of their true

character. Information of the discovery reaching the ears of Mr. E. B. Jenkinson, F.G.S, of Swinton, that gentleman purchased them and others afterwards obtained, and sent to Professor Boyd Dawkins of Owen College, Manchester [now \Manchester University] for identification. That gentleman being a distinguished palaeontologist and noted cave hunter, identified them as the bones of the *Elephas* or Mammoth, *Rhinoceros tichornus* (woolly rhinoceros), and the horse; and also that some of the bones had been gnawed by Hyaenas. To those versed in geological facts, the discovery of relicts of mammals utterly extinct now in Great Britain, is not a matter of wonder; for at Robin Hood's Cave in Creswell Crags, Nottinghamshire, and at Wookey Hole near Wells, Somerset, and at Kirkdale Yorkshire, the remains of the elephant, rhinoceros, hyaena and other animals have been found in large quantities…. The bones found in the rocks at Conisbrough are the femur, the radius, the tibia and the shaft of the humerus of the woolly rhinoceros; the metacarpal of the horse; and the tibia of elephas (probably mammoth). …."

This find put the Don Gorge on the academic map and in August and September of that year Edward Jenkinson conducted groups from the *University Students' Association* on rambles to see the geological sites of the area. This was a particularly interesting period in the history of geological research since the history and formation of the Magnesian limestone was in the process of being worked out for the first time. Whether this rare and curious form of limestone was derived from chemical precipitation or by the deposition of prehistoric marine life was being hotly debated.

Accounts of the excursions were reported in detail by the press as follows:

***Doncaster Chronicle* 9th August 1878 'A Scientific Pic-nic'**
"On Saturday afternoon members of the University Students' Association paid a visit to Conisbrough and the neighbourhood for the purpose of studying the "Permian" strata. At Mexborough they were met by Edward G. Jenkinson Esq., F.G.S., who kindly promised to accompany the students and assist in their investigations. The party at once proceeded to Anderton's tea gardens where an excellent tea had been provided. It was originally intended to have the tea at the gardens but as rain had fallen heavily in the morning, Mr. Anderton accommodated the students undercover, the tables being ornamented by a variety of bouquets. After enjoying a social meal and studying the geological maps of the neighbourhood, Mr Jenkinson exhibited some bones discovered in the neighbourhood, proving the existence of at least three extinct species of mammals they were the femur of a *Rhinoceros tichornus*, the tibia of an *Elephas primogenious*, both now extinct and the metacarpal of a Horse. In these bones the teeth marks of Hyaenas were distinctly visible, the animals having been dragged into the cave of the hyaena and there gnawed.

After first visiting the castle the party passed into the Don gorge where the culvert now in course of construction to Ravenfield was reached. Here, through the crevices of the limestone the lower red marl had been washed, a tongue of the marl running up to within a short distance. On the sides of the culvert numerous cases of stalagma[i]tic action were seen. Here an admirable paper descriptive of the physical geology of the neighbourhood was read by Mr Jenkinson, the gentleman having evidently paid considerable attention to the "Permian". A unanimous vote of thanks was given to the reader, coupled with the

wish to that a larger party had been present; several of the associates expressed the opinion that the absentees had missed a great treat. Passing along the secluded but lovely walk along the valley of the Don, Warmsworth Quarry was reached; here was a rich field for geological investigation. The quarry is worked in what is known as the Lower Magnesian limestone; there are two hypotheses to account for its origins, the one being chemical and the other the organic theory, probably both are correct. … It is from the unfossiliferous character that the strongest support for the chemical theory is derived but the students set earnestly to work, hammers and lenses were requisitioned, with the result of discovering that organic nature had something to do with the formation of the lofty cliffs at the base of which they were working. One specimen in the possession of the writer is clearly made of organic debris, one shell of "*Globigerina*" being entire, the foramina being distinctly visible under a good power. One piece was found which was believed to contain the joints of a Crinoid; this is now in the possession of Mr Jenkinson, who will doubtless submit it to further examination. Mr Wood was fortunate in securing a small specimen containing a small portion of the vertebra of a fish. This was a doubtful specimen but not at all improbable as Gadoid fish are common in this stratum in the North of England.

Taking a last look at the lovely secluded valley of the Don, the party returned to Conisbrough discoursing most learnedly on the way, again visiting Mr Anderton's to gather up cloaks and coats left behind. …. At Swinton Mr Jenkinson left the party, who hoped soon to again have the pleasure of his company as conducteur…"

***Doncaster Chronicle* 5th September 1878 'Excursion to Conisbrough'**

"On Saturday afternoon a party of the University Students Association visited the pretty village for the purpose of exploring the Permian rocks so profusely found in its immediate neighbourhood.

The first object of interest was the upper coal measures found in the neighbourhood of Doncaster road. This spot is rendered more interesting as it is the only place in Yorkshire where the upper coal is found, the whole of the formation with this exception has been removed by denudation and erosion probably before the deposition of the red marl resting unconformably upon it.

The keep of the old castle was next visited, a portion of the party ascending to the summit and admiring the beauty of the panorama spread beneath them.

After enjoying a hearty tea the business of the Association was proceeded with. The party inspected the quarry being worked in the dolomitic limestone capped by red marl (a distinguishing feature of this formation). The idea of the Magnesian limestone being the result of an inland sea was discussed and several pieces of the rock were secured for future inspection and analysis. This sea must have been filled with animals of a low type of organisation, portions of the rock being literally composed of "*Globulina*" and other minute creatures belonging to the order Ostracoda. Some specimens were found in which the shells of the lamellibranchiate (*Arca antiqua*?) were abundant. The position occupied

by the remains shows that they were slowly deposited on a sea bottom undisturbed by currents. The party returned home much gratified and instructed by their excursion."

The Don Gorge was also much admired by botanists throughout the north of England. *The South Yorkshire Times* on 5th July 1889 reported on the annual visit to Conisbrough and the Don Gorge of an organisation known as the 'Lancashire Linnean Botanists'. About 1,200 excursionists were brought by special trains from Manchester, Oldham and other Lancashire towns and were joined by a large contingent from Sheffield. The report reads " To the botanists Conisbro' offers special attractions, the valley of the Don being exceedingly rich in rare and beautiful specimens of English flora. Among the party on Sunday were some well known and eminent naturalists, geologists and entomologists and all seemed well satisfied with the valuable specimens found in the woods and amongst the cliffs and crags .."

In 1906, during the excavation of the very deep ravine through the limestone Nearcliff Wood to accommodate the Dearne Valley mineral line from the Cadeby viaduct through to Edlington, a further discovery of Pleistocene bone material was encountered. This reported on by the celebrated Doncaster GP and founder of the Doncaster Scientific Society, Dr Henry Herbert Corbett in the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union journal *The Naturalist* (1906 **31**: 109). Dr Corbett was later to become Doncaster Museum's first Honorary Curator.

Pleistocene Mammalian Remains near Doncaster
In excavating for a deep cutting on the Dearne Valley Railway near Conisbro' some fragments of bone were thrown out by the steam navvy. These were taken to the office of the resident engineer, Mr. Gibbs and were kindly given by him to me. They consisted of part of an antler, probably *Cervus elephas* and two bones of Rhinoceros*. These latter have been submitted for identification to Mr. T. Sheppard [of Hull Museums] and by him to the British Museum Authorities. Close to the place where the bones were found is a cave in the Magnesian Limestone and it is hoped that when this is further opened up, more bones etc., may be found. Mr Gibbs has given orders that anything of interest discovered is to be handed over to me for our local museum.
H. H. Corbett, M.R.C.S., Doncaster".

* An editorial footnote by Thomas Sheppard noted that "These are the ulna and tibia and one of them is distinctly gnawed, apparently by hyaenas. It is to be hoped that further researches will result in as interesting a set of specimens being found as occurred in then Creswell Caves, which were also in the Magnesian Limestone. T.S."

Interestingly, this railway cutting is directly above the water pipe tunnel, which suggests the possibility that the 1878 and 1906 finds may be connected.

It is also worth noting that other, possibly many, Ice age and post-glacial (Pleistocene, Holocene and Palaeolithic) sites are just sitting there, waiting to be studied and to receive appropriate recognition. Ironically, although the Don Gorge missed out on the Victorian cave hunting bonanza and the tourist industry that came in its wake, it also avoided the

crude and damaging 'treasure-seeking' practices of the dilettante 'gentlemen geologists' of the mid 19th century. The material and sites that remain are in a relatively undisturbed condition and could therefore benefit from the far more revealing investigative and dating techniques of modern archaeology and geophysics.

Though many of the Ice age sites which would have occurred in the Don Gorge have gone through a history of quarrying, current mineral planning legislation enables local and national government authorities to be more prescriptive of mitigation actions and after-use. So for the future, the extensive and relatively unexplored Don Gorge which bisects the Magnesian limestone ridge just 25 km to the north of the internationally renowned Creswell Crags, has the potential for instigating a new era of archaeological, geological and palaeoecological investigation, and in turn developing the welcome basis of educational, cultural, recreational and tourism resources within the region.

Acknowledgements.
Sincere thanks are due to Andrea Marshall for combing through years of microfilm archives of the *Doncaster Chronicle* and drawing our attention to the hitherto unknown 1878 discovery.

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Appendix 3. Rapid assessment of lithic assemblage: Don Gorge, Cadeby, South Yorkshire

J. Rylatt

Box descriptor	No. of Packets/Bags	No. Pieces	Comments
Cadeby P1.2714	1	1	From blade core
Cadeby: Pot Ridings Wood, Cadeby Rattles 1977	12	89	(Bags of # 8, 7, 1, 3, 13, 17, 3, 15, 3, 3, 16) 1x bag of '3 flints' empty, possibly on display? 2x chert 8+ burnt
95/152 – Pot Ridings Wood, Cadeby	5	25	(Bags of # 4, 5, 1, 11, 4)
Cadeby Viaduct Site A1 & Cadeby Cliff Site B1 (A. Peace)	5	1231	A1: 3 packets, with 60 bags, containing 982 flints (1 packet unwashed = 125 pieces) 15+ cores, 2 core scrapers, 1 microlith, 1 notched flake, 1 retouched flake, 50+ burnt, 9 chert B1: 2 packets with 26 bags, containing 249 flints (1 packet unwashed = 120 pieces) 4+ cores, 1 end scraper, 2 thumbnail scrapers, 1 side & end scraper, 1 knife, 1 retouched flake, 27+ burnt, 3 chert
Conisbrough (Cadeby Cliff) SK 513997 1981 [site B1]	24	316	3 cores, 1 core scraper, 1 denticulate, 1 knife, 5 retouched flakes, 1 utilised flake, 30+ burnt, 1 chert
Conisbrough (Cadeby Cliff) SK 513997 1981 [site B1]	31	321	7 cores, 1 hollow scraper, 2 notched flake/blades, 1 knife, 1 crude arrowhead, 5 retouched flakes, 44+ burnt, 1 chert
Cadeby Cliff SK 511-4/997-9 1978	26	298	3 cores, 1 hollow scraper, 1 retouched flakes, 1 small hammer, 1 sharpening flake, 17+ burnt, 1 chert
Cadeby Cliff (Conisbrough Parish) SK 512999 – SK516996 Oct-Nov 1979 [site B1]	17	157	3 cores, 1 notched flake, 1 piercer, 1 arrowhead fragment, 4 retouched flakes, 26+ burnt
Conisbrough (Cadeby Cliff) SK 512999 – SK516996	19	235	6 cores, 3 end scrapers, 1 thumbnail, 1 misc scraper, 2 knives, 13 retouched

Box descriptor	No. of Packets/Bags	No. Pieces	Comments
(sectors 1-17) April 1979 [site B1]			flakes, 2 utilised flakes, 19+ burnt, 2 chert (1 is possibly greenstone/tuff)
Cores (plastic tub)	-	65*	Various cores (catalogued & marked)
Special tools (plastic tub)	-	39*	Tools (catalogued & marked) – includes plano-convex knife, fabricator, knife, piercer – several pieces are not tools, but have post-depositional damage
Scrapers (plastic tub)	-	94*	Scrapers (catalogued & marked) – including end, side, side & end, thumbnail, hollow – also several pieces that are not scrapers, but have post-depositional damage or represent misc retouched forms
Special boxes (plastic tub)	3 (boxes)	89	1 polished axe flake 36x pieces of chert – including 5 cores 23x arrowheads [site A1 & site B1] (also 10 from C1 – H1) 29x microliths [site A1 & site B1] (also 6 from C1 – H1)
Total	143	**2960**	* could include some pieces from sites C1 – H1

Comments

Overall, the composition of the assemblage suggests a palimpsest of material originating in the Mesolithic. There are pieces representing late Mesolithic industries (c. 29 microliths) and there is abundant debitage resulting from Mesolithic/early Neolithic core reduction strategies. There are early Neolithic arrowheads and scrapers, late Neolithic arrowheads, early Bronze age arrowheads, scrapers and knives and a larger body of lithic material that can be more generally assigned to the late Neolithic and Bronze Age.

Implements are mostly manufactured from flint, but around 5% utilise chert obtained from limestone geology. Where cortical surfaces survive, the flint appears to be derived from secondary deposits such as river gravels and sheet deposits.

Site A1 – Cadeby River Don/Viaduct

Arrowheads

Type	No	Date	
Leaf-shaped	1	Early Neolithic	Well made example
Tanged	1	Early Bronze Age	Small and relatively crude example – essentially 'barbless' variant of B&T forms

Microliths

Type	No	Date	
Various-types	16	Late Mesolithic	Terminal late Mesolithic - narrow bladelet forms – backed-bladelets, lunates and other geometric forms
Various-types	3	Middle-Late Mesolithic	Broader bladelets than examples above – probably late Mesolithic, but Middle Mesolithic industries possible (mid8th-7th Millennia BC)

Scrapers

Type	No	Date	
Side & end scrapers	5	Late Neolithic – Early Bronze Age	Gracile flakes 2-3cm diameter with semi-abrupt retouch
Side & end scrapers	4	?	On gracile flakes 2-3cm diameter with semi-abrupt retouch – probably L.Neo/EBA, but dating more equivocal
Thumbnail scrapers	2	Early Bronze Age	
Miscellaneous scrapers	7	?	Non-specific types with expedient retouch – difficult or impossible to date
Other scrapers	5		1x large end scraper (possibly E.Neo); 3x short thick end or side and end scrapers (poss E.Neo); 1x burnt end scraper (poss L.Neo)

Special tools

Most notable items are:

A piercer made on a blade-like flake – early Neolithic date
a nicely made plano-convex ('slug') knife of EBA date

(N.B. about a third of these pieces are actually plough damaged and not tools)

- A late Mesolithic presence – microliths potentially forming components of projectiles (arrows) – only analysis of debitage could tell whether there is associated material that could indicate some form of settlement

- Also some Early Neolithic material, probably including a few scrapers, although nothing particularly diagnostic – definitely some blade-like debitage likely to belong to this episode of activity – suggests some form of camp/occupation – but this preliminary analysis has not identified large quantities of material from this date and suggests that there was no permanent settlement here at this date.
- This superficial examination of the material suggests that this area was relatively peripheral to human activity during the early Neolithic (4th millennium BC) in comparison to the succeeding period (later 3rd to early 2nd millennia BC)
- The largest proportion of the diagnostic tools appear to be the product of late Neolithic-early Bronze Age industries. There are a significant number of gracile scrapers and there is a lot of debitage reflecting the working of multiple platform cores consistent with these industries.
- The most diagnostic elements of this later material are indicative of early Bronze age activity – the tanged arrowhead, the plano-convex knife and the thumbnail scrapers.
- Potentially looking at some form of settlement or activity area on or in the immediate vicinity of this site during the early Bronze Age/Beaker period.

Site B1 – Cadeby Cliffs

Arrowheads

Type	No	Date	
Leaf-shaped	10	Early Neolithic	Lots of different sub-types – 7x are complete (3x are very small – i.e. thumbnail-sized); 1x has tip missing but some modern damage; 1x has one end broken off (ancient damage), but bigger break than normally associated with impact fracture & possibly basal end detached (not clear); 1x has tip detached – probable impact fracture. All are relatively well-made with bifacial invasive flaking.
Leaf-shaped	1	Early Neolithic	(B1/48) crude example – invasive flaking along dorsal margins and on tip of ventral surface 'workman-like' piece rather than a concern with stylistic concerns.
Oblique	3	Late Neolithic	All three are different, but each has relatively basic retouch to margins – 2x bifacial, 1x unifacial – not 'fancy' examples
Hollow-based	1	Late Neolithic	A relatively unusual form, a fancy variant of the oblique type with bifacial retouch to all margins – has an impact fracture that has removed the tip.
Tanged	1	Early Bronze Age	Relatively large example – essentially 'barbless' variant of B&T forms
Barbed & Tanged	3	Early Bronze Age	All bifacial worked – 2x extensively; smallest example has an impact fracture

Plus 2x other retouched pieces also in box

Microliths

Type	No	Date	
Various-types	4	Late Mesolithic	Terminal late Mesolithic - narrow bladelet forms – backed-bladelets and other geometric forms
Various-types	5	Middle-Late Mesolithic	Broader bladelets than examples above
Backed-blade	1	Early Mesolithic	Broad blade utilising Wolds flint

Scrapers

Type	No	Date	
Side & end scrapers	3	Early Neolithic	on blade-like blanks
End scrapers	2	Early Neolithic	on flakes from blade-cores
Side & end scrapers	4	?	On gracile flakes 2-3cm diameter with semi-abrupt retouch – probably L.Neo/EBA, but dating more equivocal
Miscellaneous scrapers	14	?	Non-specific types with expedient retouch – difficult or impossible to date
Other scrapers	8	Late Neolithic – early	on gracile flakes with semi-abrupt retouch – most

		Bronze Age	likely to be later forms
Hollow scraper	1	Late Neolithic – early Bronze Age	Classic late form but on thick blank more characteristic of E.Neolithic
Thumbnail scraper (derivative)	1	Early Bronze Age	Slightly irregular piece but with characteristic scale-type flaking around ¾ of perimeter

Plus 6x probable flake knives also in box

- There is a single large microlith that is probably the product of early Mesolithic activity late 10th – mid 8th Millennia BC
- Other microliths provide an indication of a later Mesolithic presence – this may have been middle and late Mesolithic or just the latter period. Without examining the debitage and other material it is not possible to say whether this lithic material is restricted to microliths (i.e. projectiles – shoot and move on) or represents a more extensive collection indicative of more sustained activity at camps or other foci.
- There is a relatively large number of leaf-shaped arrowheads – many of these are carefully worked and most are undamaged – they may have been fired and landed in soft media thus maintaining their pristine condition – however, the quality, number and condition of these pieces could also provide an indication of more unusual (possibly 'ritual') behaviour.
- In comparison to Site A1, there are more tools and scrapers that are clearly the product of early Neolithic industries. This could indicate that there was some form of settlement or occupation on this area of higher ground.
- There are 4x late Neolithic arrowheads. There are also 13+ gracile scrapers that are broadly late Neolithic – early Bronze Age types.
- 4x arrowheads and a thumbnail scraper provide evidence of a distinct early Bronze Age presence.

Appendix 4. Don Gorge Project: the Romano-British pottery

R.S. Leary

1136 sherds of pottery were submitted for examination. The pottery was studied by field-walked collection and a catalogue compiled recording the number of sherds present, their fabric, form, decoration and date range. A summary of each collection group was written giving the date range of the pottery, the sources of pottery represented and the character of the settlement suggested by the pottery. Some sherds of special interest were only given alphanumeric codes and their findspot is unknown to the author.

Group no	Site	Grid Re	No sherds
1	BARNBURGH CLIFF	SK499037	15
2	CADEBY RIDDING	SE511007	458
3	CADEBY RIDDING	SE511006/7	103
4	CADEBY CLIFF	SK515997	35
5	CADEBY CLIFF SECTOR1 CIRCULAR ENCL	SK513997	13
6	WARMSWORTH LIMESTONE QUARRY		1
7	CADEBY CLIFF	SK513997 (CENTRE)	23
7a	CADEBY CLIFF	SK513997 (CENTRE)	2
7b	CADEBY CLIFF	SK513997 (CENTRE)	2
8E	CADEBY	SK52409940	7
8L	CADEBY	SK52409940	5
9	POT RIDINGS WOOD		9
10	CADEBY CLIFF CONISBROUGH	SK51299-SK516996	138
11	CADEBY FIELD ADJ TO POT RIDINGS WOOD		57
13	CADEBY CLIFF	SK512998	13
14	CADEBY CLIFF	SK514997	2
15	CADEBY CLIFF	SK512997	3
16	CADEBY CLIFF	SK513996	3
17	CADEBY CLIFF	SK511998	10
18	CADEBY CLIFF	SK513997	12
19	POT RIDINGS WOOD		30
20	CADEBY CLIFF	SK513997 CENTRE	44
21	CADEBY (S OF SCABBA WOODS)	SE526010	27

Group no	Site	Grid Re	No sherds
23	CADEBY CLIFF SURFACE SCATTER N OF RESERVOIR	SK515998	19
24	CONISBROUGH (CADEBY CLIFF) SK59/NW40	SK516997	77

Group 1 Barnburgh Cliff SK499037 3rd to mid-4th century. Optimum mid-3rd to mid-4th century

Shell-tempered sherds including one Dales ware rim. Dales ware dates from the early third century to the mid-fourth century although Paul Buckland has suggested it may occur in late second century contexts at Doncaster. At Lincoln and York it has not been found this early and is most common after the mid-third century.

Group 2 Cadeby Ridding SE511007 late 2nd to mid-3rd century

A large group of nearly 500 sherds came from here. The majority is South Yorkshire grey wares with vessels typical of that industry: deep sub-conical bowls, wide-mouthed jars, everted-rim, medium-necked jars, large jars with everted rims, possibly originally lugged, grooved-rim dishes, flat-rim dishes or bowls and cupped-rim jars. Although the deep bowls and wide-mouthed jars have a long life in the mid/late second to fourth century, late sherds were scarce. Only one battered sherd may belong to a bead and flange bowl dating after AD270. No Dales ware or calcite-gritted wares were present and the everted-rim jars and cupped –rim jars date to the late second to third centuries. Only two BB1 sherds such as that made at Rossington Bridge in the mid-second century were present suggesting a date range from the late second century to around the middle of the third century. The majority of the pottery came from the South Yorkshire kilns around Doncaster. One sherd from the Derbyshire ware kilns at Belper was identified. These potteries made very highly fired coarse ware jars with cupped or hooked rims probably distributed for their contents, as yet unknown. Two grey ware sherds in a finer quartz tempered fabric were present. These may also be made in the South Yorkshire kiln but may come from a finer vessel than the majority of the sherds. No samian, mortaria or amphora sherds were present.

This large collection indicates a rural settlement of lowly status. Nearly all the pots were locally produced apart from a single Derbyshire ware sherd. The vessels belong in the kitchen and the finer range of vessels needed to grace the table of an affluent romanised person are lacking. Most of the vessels were of jar form – either medium-necked cooking jars or wide-mouthed shouldered jars and deep wide-mouthed bowls/jars, the latter being a characteristic product of the South Yorkshire kilns. Even coarse ware dishes and bowls are uncommon suggesting food was eaten straight from the wide mouthed bowls and jars, serving as casserole- or tureen-type vessels, or organic serving dishes were used.

3 Cadeby Ridding SE511006/7 Mid-2nd to 3rd century

This group was almost completely made up of Derbyshire ware, including both cupped and hooked rims medium necked jars and some small hooked-rim jars. Two sherds are distorted and warped. Such vessels may still have been serviceable and provided cheaper containers. Although Derbyshire ware type jars were made at Rossington, the fabric used was unlike true Derbyshire ware being tempered with ironstone inclusions. The handle of a Dressel 20 amphora and a Mediaeval sherd were also identified. This globular-shaped amphora with oval handles and short spike is the most common amphora form imported into Roman Britain and were made specifically to transport by sea the olive-oil produced by the many estates in the valley of the River Guadalquivir and its tributaries between Seville and Cordoba in the southern Spanish Roman province of *Baetica* in at least 150 different centres The globular Dressel 20 form was made over a long period, beginning in the reign of Augustus and lasting until shortly after the middle of the third century A.D. This material comes from the same area as group 2. The quantity of Derbyshire ware is quite surprising since this ware was generally uncommon in South Yorkshire. The presence of an imported amphora indicates the inhabitants were able to obtain luxury goods in small amounts. It is also possible that the amphora was brought to the site already empty as a useful large container.

4 Cadeby Cliff SK515997 Mid/late 2nd-4th century, optimum late 2nd-mid-3rd century

A small group comprising South Yorkshire grey ware including sherds from bead and flat-rim deep bowls, shouldered , wide-mouthed jars and everted rims, perhaps from medium-necked jars most common in the mid-second to third century.

5 Cadeby Cliff sector 1 circular encl SK513997 Mid-2nd to mid-4th century

A small group, principally of undiagnostic South Yorkshire grey ware with one deep, subconical bowl and a Derbyshire ware sherd.

6 Warmsworth limestone quarry. 3rd century

One rim sherd from a large jar in a grey ware with shell inclusions. This fabric probably comes from the 3rd century Trent valley kilns such as at Little London.

7 Cadeby Cliff SK513997 (centre). Late 2nd-3rd

South Yorkshire grey ware including a grooved-rim dish, bead and flat-rim deep bowls and shoulder, wide-mouthed jars. The bead-rim deep bowls were more common in the second and third centuries. A date in the late second – third century would fit with these types

7a Cadeby Cliff SK513997 (centre) Mid-2nd century +

A South Yorkshire grey ware sherd and a rim from a Derbyshire ware, cupped-rim jar

7b Cadeby Cliff SK513997 (centre) 3rd-4th century

South Yorkshire grey wares – a plain jar base and the rim of a flat-rim deep bowl.

8e Cadeby SK52409940 Mid-2nd to 3rd century

A South Yorkshire grey ware flat-rim bowl, most common in the mid-second to third century and bodysherds.

8l Cadeby SK52409940 5 Romano-British

A white slipped orange ware bodysherd and South Yorkshire grey ware sherds.

9 Pot Ridings Wood - see also group 19

Nine samian sherds.

10 Cadeby Cliff Conisbrough SK51299-SK516996 Mid-2nd to mid/late 3rd century

Wares represented in this group included South Yorkshire grey and oxidised wares, black burnished ware, probably from Rossington Bridge, Dales ware, Derbyshire ware, mortaria from Cantley and Mancetter-Hartshill, near Coventry. The forms include the common deep bowls and wide-mouthed jars made throughout the life of the South Yorkshire kilns, flat-rim bowls and dishes of the mid-second to mid-third century, a bowl with low bead and flange dating to the early third century and everted-rim jars of the late second to mid-third century. Several of the deep bowls had bead rims, a rim form more common in the second century. The Dales ware and Cantley mortarium sherd give a mid-3rd to 4th century date range although the lack of late third to fourth century, developed bead and flange bowls and other fourth century forms indicate little activity after the late third century. An oxidised rim sherd from a copy of a bowl copying samian form 36 dates to the late third to fourth century and a hammerhead mortarium rim from Mancetter-Harthill near Coventry is of third century type.

The group included vessels from the South Yorkshire kilns, the Derbyshire ware kilns at Belper, Lincolnshire or South Humberside and Mancetter-Hartshill near Coventry. Fine wares such as samian and colour-coated ware were not present but local, coarser copies such as the bowl copying a samian bowl, may have served as a substitute.

11 Cadeby, field adj to Pot Ridings Wood mid/ late 4th century

The South Yorkshire vessels included two flat-rim deep bowls, a smaller bead rim bowl similar to those made at the 4th century kiln at Branton, a large jar with everted rim, probably originally with shoulder lugs and a developed bead and flange bowl (late third-fourth century). Also present were two finer grey ware narrow-mouthed jars. One had a cupped rim not unlike vessels from the Swanpool kilns at Lincoln and the other had a sharply everted rim similar to types made at Blaxton kilns (dated AD 160-250). An oxidised wide-mouthed jar with everted rim compares better with vessels made in the East Midlands in the late third and fourth centuries, known at Swanpool, Lincoln. Other coarse wares included two BB1 jar rims which appear to be of late type. These are from Dorset rather than Rossington Bridge. Two Crambeck products were identified – a grooved-rim dish and a double-flange rim mortarium. The dish dated to the fourth century and the mortarium dated to after the mid-fourth century. Six sherds of Huntcliff ware were present and these included two classic Huntcliff jars with everted rather than hooked rim profiles, dating to the late 4th century. A further late date is indicated by the presence of a late double lid-seated jar in a shell-tempered ware. This form is common in the late fourth century at Lincoln. Sherds from two reeded, hammerhead mortaria of mid-third to mid-fourth century date were identified as Mancetter-Harthill products. The Nene Valley colour-coated ware comprised four beaker sherds, one cornice rim from a beaker dating to the mid/late second to early third century, two from funnel necked beakers of the mid- to late third century and one from a globular beaker with white painted scroll decoration of late third to fourth century date. Overall the group indicates a date range centred on the mid-late fourth century with some earlier fourth century material. The Nene Valley colour coated ware included third century types and some of the grey wares may be earlier. However the grey ware types changed little over time in the South Yorkshire industry and vessels such as fine beakers could well survive due to careful treatment. The small number of grey ware may well indicate a late date when local grey ware supplies had diminished and this is suspected at other local sites. This would account for the presence of coarse wares from outside the region such as the Swanpool and Crambeck types and the double lid-seated jars and Huntcliff jars. No local mortaria were identified. Instead these were brought from Mancetter-Hartshill and Crambeck.

This group contrasts with the others in terms of the range of wares, the presence of fine wares and the late date of most of the pottery. The sources of wares represented comprised the large scale potteries at Mancetter-Hartshill near Coventry and in the Nene valley, near Peterborough, Dorset, Crambeck in Yorkshire, Lincolnshire and south Humberside, probably kilns in the East Midlands and the South Yorkshire kilns. The grey wares account for only 38% of the group compared to over 90% in most of the groups. Fine colour-coated ware at 12% is high for rural sites and would compare with quantities from 4th century towns and forts quantified by Jerry Evans in the north. At Church Way Doncaster, some 9% of the late pottery was colour-coated ware while on rural sites a proportion below 1% is common. In addition to the wares present, the vessel types also reflect a slightly more romanised character. Beakers were well represented and mortaria were important for food preparation. Dishes and bowls were relatively

unimportant. In south Yorkshire the wide-mouthed jars and deep subconical bowls seem to have become increasingly important in the third and fourth century at the expense of bowls and dishes suggesting serving and dining was perhaps centred around a central serving bowl or jar rather than individually served portions. This may reflect a return to native feasting habits.

13 Cadeby Cliff SK512998 Mid-4th century+

Two sherds of South Yorkshire grey ware included an everted rim from a small jar or beaker of uncertain date. Bodysherds of Huntcliff ware and oxidised ware were also present. A flat, upright rim in a pinkish quartz-tempered ware with white slip is of unknown form and date.

14 Cadeby Cliff SK 514997

Two undiagnostic handmade sherds may be of prehistoric or Saxon date.

15 Cadeby Cliff SK 512997 Mid-2nd to mid-3rd century

Three South Yorkshire grey ware sherds included a flat-rim bowl or dish of mid-second to mid-third century date.

16 Cadeby Cliff SK 513996 Mid-2nd century +

Three South Yorkshire grey ware sherds included an everted-rim, wide-mouthed jar and a large jar with everted rim, possibly originally lugged. .

17 Cadeby Cliff SK 511998 Late 2nd-mid-3rd century

Only South Yorkshire grey wares were present. Forms included a deep bowl with flat rim, a grooved-rim dish, an everted-rim jar and a cupped-rim jar suggesting a date range in the late second to mid –third century and a humble status.

18 Cadeby Cliff SK 513997 Mid-2nd century +

A fine grey ware everted rim, probably from a small jar or beaker was found with two South Yorkshire grey ware sherds. These cannot be closely dated but would date from the mid-second century or later.

19 Pot Ridings Wood Mid-2nd century +

South Yorkshire grey ware sherds and one oxidised sherd, also of South Yorkshire type. A small bead rim deep bowl and flat-rim dish were identified. The former was common in the later kilns at Branton while the latter dates to the mid-second to mid-third century.

20 Cadeby Cliff SK513997 centre Sherd of mid-3rd century +

The group was comprised of 96% undiagnostic grey ware bodysherds. A Derbyshire ware bodysherd was also present and a Dales ware sherd suggests a date within the mid-third to mid-fourth century date.

21 Cadeby (S of Scabba Woods) SE526010 Mid-2nd century +. Late 3rd-4th century mortarium present

96% South Yorkshire grey ware including deep bowls with bead and flat rims and a flat-rim dish/bowl. A Lower Nene Valley mortarium rim dates to the late third or fourth century.

23 Cadeby Cliff surface scatter n of reservoir SK515998 2nd to mid/late 4th century

38% South Yorkshire grey ware including a deep bowl with flat rim, a cupped-rim jar of the late second to mid-third century and bead- and grooved-rim bowls/dishes of similar date. A samian sherd was present and a fragment from white ware, flanged mortarium, probably local and of second century type. A bodysherd of Nene valley colour-coated ware dating from the mid-second century or later was identified and a fine grey ware everted-rim jar, probably from a narrow-mouthed jar of the type made at Blaxton kilns (dated AD160-250). A rim from a Dressel 20 amphora was of late 1st to mid-second century type. Later activity was represented by an everted rim in Crambeck grey ware and a Huntcliff ware sherds, both of fourth century date. A Huntcliff rim sherd was identified although the internal lid-seated was scarcely visible due to abrasion/erosion

The larger proportion of traded wares and the presence of high status goods such as samian and imported olive oil amphora indicate a higher status than the other sites.

24 Conisbrough (Cadeby Cliff) SK59/NW40 SK516997 Late 2ndto mid-3rd century

96% South Yorkshire grey wares includes deep bowl with bead and flat rims, wide-mouthed, everted-rim jars, a cupped-rim jar and a grooved-rim dish. A Dales ware jar was also present with a Derbyshire ware sherd. The types include types dating from the late second and mid-third centuries. The group suggests a rural site of low status.

Vessel type	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	7a	7b	8E	8L	9	10	11	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	23	24
Amphora			1																					1	
Bowl		1											3	1										4	1
B/D		9								1			3		1					2	2		2		1
Beaker													2	6	1					1					
Dish		7					1						2	1					2					1	1
Jar (medium necked)	6	38	100				4	2	1				5	11					4		3		3	3	11
J/Wide mouthed jar		358		3																					
Mortarium											1		2	8									1	1	
M/Bowl																									
Narrow-mouthed jar		4					1							2										1	
Large storage jar						1								1											
Large storage/narrow-m jar																		1							
Wide-m deep bowl		16		3	1		7		1				11	3				1	1		1		5	3	6
Wide-mouthed jar		17		5			1						3	1				1							1
Spindle whorl														1											

Table 1 Quantification of vessel types by group using sherd count

Fabric	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	7a	7b	8E	8L	9	10	11	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	23	24
BB1		2											1	3											
Cantley mortarium													1												
Crambeck grey ware														1										1	
Crambeck mortarium														1											
Shell-tempered with clay pellets/grog																									
Dales ware	15		1										1	2								1			2
Derbyshire ware		1	100		1			1					2									1			1
Dressel 20 amphora			1																					1	
White-slipped ware											1				1										
Fine grey ware		2												2						1				1	
Coarse grey ware		1																							

Fabric	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	7a	7b	8E	8L	9	10	11	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	23	24
Grey ware with sparse shell and grog						1																			
Handmade ware																2									
Huntcliff ware														7	1									2	
Lower Nene valley mortarium																							1		
Mancetter Hartshill mortarium														4											
Mancetter Hartshill mortarium (AD140+)													1	3											
Nene Valley c-coated ware														6										1	
Oxidised ware		1								1			4	2	1						1			2	
S Yorks grey ware		449		34	11		23	1	2	5	4		127	19	9		3	3	10	11	29	42	26	6	71
Samian				1								9			1									1	
Local white ware mortarium																								1	
Total	15	456	102	35	12	1	23	2	2	6	5	9	137	50	13	2	3	3	10	12	30	44	27	16	74

Table 2 Quantification of wares by group using sherd count.

Chronology, trade and status

Most of the site assemblages were dominated by South Yorkshire grey wares, 13 groups having more than 90%. Rossington Bridge BB1 types were rare and the majority of the better dated grey forms present belonged to the late second to mid-third century. However the deep bowls and wide-mouthed jars were not closely dated and may extend this date range. The assemblages lack material belonging to the mid-first to mid-second centuries. Closely dated vessels suggest activity was common in the period covering the second half of the second century and the first half of the third century and the samian was predominantly of Antonine date. Dales ware sherds from groups 1, 3, 10, 11, 20 and 24 may extend the dating of these sites into the second half of the third century when this ware was more common. Only groups 11, 13 and 23 had evidence of activity in the later fourth century and these were characterised by having a much lower proportion of South Yorkshire grey wares (38%, 69% and 38% respectively) with coarse wares coming from Lincoln and East Yorkshire.

Dales ware, a type most common from the mid-third to mid-fourth century, was present in six groups while the fourth century wares such as Crambeck and Huntcliff wares were present on three sites. Derbyshire ware was present in small numbers on four sites, at a level common on north Nottingham and south Yorkshire sites. In group 3 it was unaccountably very common (98%). However group 2 comes from the same area and may belong with this material. This would reduce the percentage to c17% which, although still high, is nearer the norm for this area.

The assemblages are predominantly indicative of humble rural settlements with large amounts of local coarse ware jars and few or no fine table wares and imports. Groups 4, 9/19, 13 and 23 included samian sherds and group 9/19 had nine of these dating to Antonine period, cAD150/60-200, with two sherds being more closely datable cAD160-185. Groups 9/19, 13 and 23 also have relatively high proportion of bowl/dish forms, an indicator of more romanised settlements, and group 23 also included other wares such as Nene Valley colour-coated ware and imported oil amphora. The only other group with Nene Valley colour-coated wares was the late group 11. Group 11 had a larger proportion of tablewares than other groups, chiefly due to the number of beakers represented. Combined with the number of traded pottery, this site stands out from the others on account of its consumption of non-local wares and romanised tablewares as well as its late date range. Group 23 also included late wares and had a high proportion of bowl/dish forms. This group was rather small.

The fieldwalked groups cover a period stretching from the late second century to the late fourth century and, although most of the groups comprised pottery common to humble rural sites in south and west Yorkshire, several groups included wares and vessel forms suggesting more romanised and perhaps, richer settlements. The concentration of samian at Pot Ridings Wood may indicate a settlement of a different character while the fine and traded wares from the late groups 11 and 23 similarly suggest a higher social status.

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Appendix 5. The Samian Ware

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1 Methodology

Each sherd of samian ware was catalogued on a Microsoft Access database. All vessels are listed in Section 3.

The abbreviations SG, CG and EG denote vessels which were produced in South Gaulish, Central Gaulish and East Gaulish workshops. Vessel types are generally Dragendorff's form numbers unless otherwise stated; for other terminology, see Webster 1996.

Date-ranges such as c AD 70-100 or c 120-200 were used rather than epochs (eg Flavian, or Hadrianic-Antonine). They were used merely to enable their entry into the database and should not be thought more precise than epochs.

2 Summary of the samian assemblage

Table 1. All samian vessels, by form and fabric (maximum 25 vessels)

Form	SG	CG	EG	Total
18/31 or 18/31R			1	1
18/31 or 31		2		2
18/31R or 31R		1		1
31		1		1
31 or 31R		2		2
31R group			1	1
33		1		1
30 or 37		1		1
37	2	4		6
ind		8	1	9

The 28 sherds represented a maximum of 25 vessels (0.14 EVES). Statistical analysis would not be meaningful based on such a small sample collected from diverse locations. Nevertheless, a few overall comments may be made.

Although rather battered, the material as a whole was in a relatively good state of preservation, most of the fabrics being little eroded. Most sherds were small, with an average weight that was less than 10g. There were no vessels that presented complete or near-complete profiles and 36% of the material was of indeterminate form. As Table 1 reveals, there were eight dishes but only one cup form in this sample. In contrast, there were seven decorated vessels, comprising as much as 44% of the total (discounting indeterminate sherds. Only two could be ascribed to specific potters. One sherds, labelled G1/15, displayed an ovolo that could represent Rogers type B143 rather than B144, set above an astragaloid border (A9) and a leafy scroll with a startled bird. This represents the style of Cinnamus, perhaps his standard style of c AD 150-170, rather than the earlier style of c 135-160. A second bowl, from Ridings Wood 2A 33, displayed Paternus v's 'bent-tongue' ovolo (Rogers B234) above an astragaloid border (A10) and the figure of Pan standing in panelling bordered vertically by beadrows (A2). Paternus v worked at Lezoux in the period c AD 160-185.

The South Gaulish vessels comprised only 8% of the total, while the Central Gaulish ware constituted 80%. None of the material could be ascribed firmly to workshops at Les Martres-de-Veyre in the Trajanic period or indeed later. Three vessels (12% of the total) were produced in East Gaulish workshops: one may have been produced at La Madeleine in the Hadrianic-early Antonine period and the other two probably originated at Rheinzabern in the later-second or third century. Thus, the sherds found in all these Don Gorge locations ranged from the Flavian to the later-Antonine periods and possibly the third century.

There was no evidence in this sample for repair-work or for wear from secondary use. As much as 20% of the assemblage showed evidence of burning.

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Appendix 6. Small Finds Report: Material from The Don Gorge centred on Cadeby and Pot Ridings Wood

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Introduction

The material studied represents several collections of Field walked (Material from the Alan Peace collection) and metal detected material including several coin hoards dealt with under the old Treasure Trove law, collected by various individuals and largely deposited with the Museum service throughout the 1980's. The majority of the material is from Pot Ridings wood, with the remainder of the material coming from the nearby and related sites of Cadeby Cliff and Sprotbrough Plantation.

Field Walked Material (from the Alan Peace Collection)

1. Denarii of Constantine: Obv: CONSTAN-TINVS AVG / Rev: DN CONSTANTINI MAX AVG – VOT/XX (in laurel wreath). Mint Mark: AR (Arles) R.I.C: 223. From area B1/10
2. Sestertius – Illegible. From area D2/1
3. Incomplete Pennanular brooch (Fowler type A3), circular sectioned hoop, with flat fronted disc knob terminals with cordon behind, and a further three cordons (central one widest) separated by concavavity. Similar to an example from Castleford Phase IIa dated c85 -100 AD
4. Incomplete Trumpet style derivative brooch, with central moulding on arm of large disc surrounded by two smaller discs to the head side and one disc and an acanthus style decoration on the foot side. 1st – 2nd Century AD. From area B1/79
5. Neolithic Axe. Petrological Group I (Cornish Greenstone). Type 4b/c fully ground or pecked and ground. c3000 BC. From area B1/61
6. 9 fragments of Neolithic Axe(s?). Petrological Group VI (Cumbrian, Langdale). Type 10b fully ground. c3000 BC. From area'B1/58,59,60,84,92,111 C2/ 21, 24 and E2/5. Possibly the same axe, which has been deliberately smashed into pieces and buried.
7. Pottery body sherd. Area B1/91. Neolithic Grooved Ware. C2800 – 2200 BC
8. Pottery body sherd. Area 9N. Iron Age 50 BC – 100 AD
9. Pottery body sherd. Area B1/45. Buff orange outer fabric with grey core and shelly inclusions. Possibly Anglo Saxon 6th – 9th Century(?)

Late Iron Age Sword Chape and scabbard mouth guard:

- Cast copper alloy chape and mouth guard from an organic (probably wood and leather) sword scabbard (similar to the Stanwick scabbard – British Iron Age Swords and Scabbards, I.M Stead, B.M Press, 2006). The mouth guards top bar is defined by slight ribs, top and bottom, and is above a

plaque that is rounded at the bottom and concave at the sides. Within the plaque are two confronted rounded trumpets with terminals in relief, each enclosing a cup shaped ring with a central pin-like projection. The trumpet and ring motifs are separated by fan shaped and crescentic perforations. The rings may have held enamel, but none survives. The top bar continues round the back above a narrow continuation of the front plaque. The chape on the front is a cup shaped ring like those on the mouth guard. From the side of the ring to the top corner of the chape is a lentoid shape in high relief, with a triangular perforation at its side. A thin semicircular band spans the space between the two rings, and from its junction with the rings stems a low moulding on the frame. The back is open and the bridge ribbed top and bottom is set slightly below the tops of the frame, and a narrow curved band spans the space below it. The two pieces were found buried together, the mouth guard having been slid over the chape before deposition. c100 BC – c100 AD. From Pot Ridings Wood.

Roman Coin Hoards:

10. DONMG: 1980.72, 1980.73, 1983.158 - 197 (refer to Appendix I & II for full Treasure reports and coin index) From Pot Ridings Wood. The suspected deposition dates for the two hoards are c273 AD and c180-250 AD respectively.
11. DONMG:1980.237 (Coin Hoard of 10 Sestertii from Pot Ridings Wood) c250AD
    - Obv: M COMMODVS ANTONINVS AVG PIVS / Rev: [T] RPIII [IMPVI] [C]OSIIII [PP] S.C coin of Commodus
    - Obv: DIVA FAVSTINA / Rev: AET[ER]NITAS S.C (R.I.C:1105) coin of Faustina
    - Obv: LVCILLAE AVG ANTONINI AVG F / Rev: PIETAS S.C (R.I.C: 1756) coin of Lucilla
    - Obv: LVCILLA AVGVSTA / Rev: IVNONI LVCINAE (R.I.C: 770) coin of Lucilla
    - Obv:[M] AVRE[L] [ANTONINVS AVG] ARMENIACVS [PM] / Rev: TRP OT XIX IMP III COS III S.C (R.I.C: 911)

    Illegible Coins:
    - Sestertius of Hadrian
    - Sestertius of Trajan
    - Sestertius of Trajan
    - Sestertius of Faustina
    - Sestertius of Domitian

12. DONMG: 1980.48.1-11 (Coin Hoard of 11 Sestertii from Pot Ridings Wood) c250AD
    - Obv: HADRIANVS AVG COS III PP / Rev: Illegible
    - Obv: ANTONINVS AVG PIVS PP IMP II Rev: TR POT XIX COS III S.C (R.I.C: 945)
    - Obv: ANTONINVS AVG PIVS PP Rev: Illegible
    - Obv: DIVA FAVSTINA Rev: AVGVSTA S.C (R.I.C: 1116)

- Obv: DIVA FAV-STINA Rev: AVGVSTA S.C (R.I.C 1126)
- Obv: IMP CAES M AVREL ANTONINVS AVG PM Rev: CONCORD AVGVSTOR TRP XV COS III S.C (R.I.C 797)
- Obv: M ANTONINVS AVG TRP XXIII Rev: [SALVT]I AVG COS III S.C (R.I.C: 964)
- Obv: M COMMOD ANT P FELIX AVG BRIT PP Rev: CONCOR COMMODI (R.I.C: 579)

Illegible coins:

- Sestertius of Trajan
- Sestertius of Trajan
- Sestertius of Antoninus Pius.

Sesterii hoards ending in Antonine issues (Antoninus Pius, Marcus Aurelius and Commodus) may well date to the mid 3rd Century rather than from the late 2nd, since many sisterii were collected for re-striking under the refors of Postumus, creating the double sesterii and re-introducing fractional currency.

13. Barborous Radiate Forgers Hoard from Sprotbrough Plantation DONMG: 260.84 & donmg: 261.84:
    - 321 Struck copies of Gallic empire (Barbourous Radiates) mostly illegible
    - 114 cut sections of bronze rod
    - 13 Lengths of bronze rod
    - 186 hammered circular blanks
    - 6 sections of cut bronze tube
    - 4 bronze globules
    - 1 length of twisted bronze wire
    - 1 bronze strip
    - 1 bronze sheet
    - 27 bronze fragments

Based on the size of the radiate copies and blanks the hoard would seem to best fit a date around 273-286 AD.

Roman artefacts:

1. DONMG: 1982.268. Penannular Brooch with moulded terminals (Pin Missing). Similar to types from Winterton and Dalton Parlours (Vila sites). c200 – 400 AD
2. DONMG: 1980.241. Plate Brooch. Umbonate type plate brooch, with central element split into an 8 sunken petal shaped cells each filled with a dark blue/green enamel. 3 lugs at east, south and west and a loop at north. 2nd Century AD type.
3. DONMG: 1980.240. Colchester type, two piece Brooch, tinned. 1st Century AD
4. DONMG: 1980.239. Bow brooch 1st Century AD.
5. DONMG: 2000.55. Trumpet headed derivative Brooch, with fanned tail and central rivet hole. The fantail is decorated with a trifoliate design, which is Celtic in form. 1st – 2nd Century AD
6. DONMG: 1997.32. Light blue annular Glass bead (plain) 1st – 2nd Century AD.

Anglo-Saxon coins:

1. Obv: + AEILRED R pellet
   Rev: EANRED lozenge of dots enclosing pellet (BMC 348). Pot Ridings Wood.
2. Obv: (+EDELR)ED (R) cross pattee
   Rev: (+)LEOFD(EN) triple circle, middle one of dots, enclosing pellet (BMC 473). Pot Ridings Wood.
3. Obv: +EDILRED RE [triple pellet] X cross in circle of dots
   Rev: =OD [triple pellets] I [pellet] L [pellet] O retrograde (the L reversed) cross. (BMC 577). Pot Ridings Wood.

The Stycas are all Northumbrian types, of Aethelred II, who reigned in The Anglo Saxon Kingdom of Northumbria from 841 – 844 (c854 – c858 revised dates) and 844 – 849(c858 – c862 revised dates). The first two appear to be from his first reign and the third from his second reign.

Anglo-Saxon/Anglo-Scandinavian artefacts:

1. Strap End. Double riveted, flat convex-sided, with animal mask terminals (in the shape of a bears head) central area is decorated with two long panels (containing traces of enamel or gilding), with three crescents above and a four lozenges below. Copper Alloy. Northumbrian type. c850 – c900AD. Pot Ridings Wood.
2. Strap End. Double riveted (with split plate), flat convex-sided decorated with punched ring-and-dot decoration (17 in total) with two incised lines at tip. Copper Alloy. c800 – c900AD. Pot Ridings Wood.
3. Strap End. Double riveted, flat convex-sided. Incomplete. Central area decorated with borre-style ring-chain interlace design, which is of Scandinavian influence, and closely parallels examples from York, coppergate. c850 – c1000AD. Pot Ridings Wood.
   Strap ends were attached to the ends of belts, straps and cords to prevent fraying and to weigh down the cord/strap/belt, helping them to hang correctly and neatly.
4. Hooked Tag. Copper alloy triangular plate tapering to hook, with punched ring and dot design (5 in total – all have central pierced holes, though the two top examples have larger holes for attachment), and two attachment holes. It is probable that these items were used to fasten a bag or purse. a pair found in Rome with coins of the 940's would seem to support this (G Campbell and Okasha 1991). Other examples from British contexts have been found in burials associated with the skull, waist and knees, suggesting use as a fastening for clothing. Examples from excavations in Winchester and Southampton suggest a date range of c850 – c950 AD. Pot Ridings Wood.
5. Buckle and belt plate. Copper alloy D shaped buckle and riveted (two rivets) buckle plate (incomplete) with incised Zig-Zag boarder decoration and traces of Gold gilding. Similar examples have been found with burials in Suffolk dating to c 800 AD. Pot Ridings Wood.

Discussion

The complete collection of finds suggest almost unbroken concentrated habitation along the Don Gorge between Cadeby and Sprotbrough from the Neolithic through to the late Anglo-Saxon/Anglo Scandinavian period.

Since all of the material studied is from archaeologically unstratified contexts, there is little that can be deduced about the nature of the finds in any direct relation to archaeological features in the ground.

Based on dating of the artefacts there are three clear hiatus periods of activity those being:

Neolithic
Roman Late 2nd – Late 3rd Century c180 – 290 AD
Late Saxon c800 – c1000 AD

The Coin Hoards

The coin hoards are fairly tightly grouped within a period of around100 years, covering a period of economic and civil instability within the Roman Empire and within Roman Britain itself. It is debatable whether they were buried as an economic response or in times of trouble.

Anglo Saxon coins and artefacts

This group of coins and artefacts clearly represents a period of activity in the 9th Century, which is localised to Pot Ridings wood (as all the artefacts are from the same grid location). Both the coins and the s are Northumbrian types, and cover a period of just over 50 years. They accord well with the earliest known phase of St Peter's Church at Conisbrough, which can be dated to the 8th Century (c700-800AD) and which is built in the Northumbrian style.