APPENDIX F

The Regional Evidence for Depositional Practice, Including 'Placed Deposits' and Animal and Human Burials

'Non-placed' deposits?

Important evidence for such practices was recovered in 1997 with the pottery assemblage from Scrooby Top. Through the examination of wear on pot sherds, Graham Robbins identified taphonomic differences between material entering ditches and pits gradually, and sherds that were probably deposited as single dumping episodes (Robbins 1997, 2000). Furthermore, sherd weight and sherd count suggest spatial variations with most mid-second to mid-third century AD greywares recovered from concentrations in the southern enclosure ditch. This part of the ditch also contained the greatest number of sooted and burnt sherds, along with heat-shattered stones (Robbins 2000: 88-89), with a smaller 'peak' on the western side of the enclosure ditch. As *in situ* external hearths were excavated on the southern side of the enclosure, this indicates a focus for everyday activities such as cooking and eating, and the deposition of refuse from this. In contrast, the smaller quantity of pottery from the northern side of the enclosure ditch consisted mostly of fine wares.

At Edenthorpe, large sherds of a late first or early second century bowl of Iron Age tradition were deposited at the point where two field ditches intersected (Chadwick 1995a, 1995b: 45). At Pickburn Leys in South Yorkshire, two substantially complete late Iron Age vessels and animal bone were recovered from the fill of a recut enclosure ditch, on the south-eastern side of the enclosure near to an entrance (Sydes 1993; Sydes and Symonds 1995). A later recut of the ditch at this point produced a rotary quern stone fragment. Towards the southern end of the droveway a Roman coin and sherds from at least seven Romano-British vessels, including an almost complete third century AD greyware jar, were deposited where one of the ditches turned to the south-east.

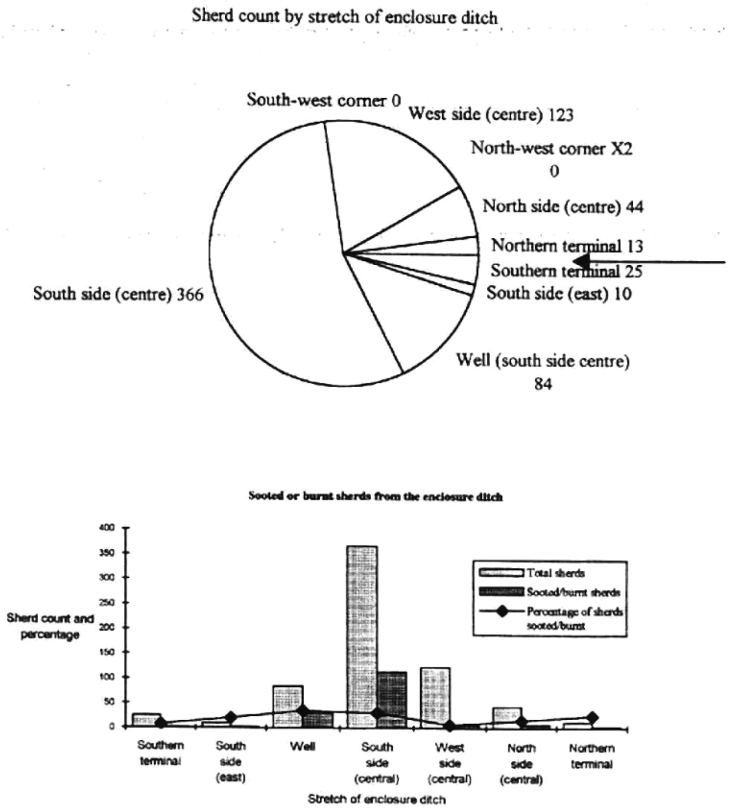


Figure F.01. *Spatial analysis of Romano-British pottery sherd distribution by sherd count at Scrooby Top, Notts., showing the large number of sherds, including the majority of the sooted or burnt sherds, deposited to the south and south-west. (Source: Robbins 2000: 88-89).*

At Bullerthorpe Lane most of the second century AD pottery came from around the south-east facing entrance of the enclosure ditch (Wheelhouse 2001: 41), whilst at Apple Tree Close just one section through the southern enclosure ditch produced 23% of the entire Romano-British pottery assemblage recovered (Wrathmell 2001: 15). There seems to have been a tendency on some sites, particularly with Iron Age pottery, to preferentially curate the rims and bases of vessels, a trend that has been noted elsewhere in Britain (e.g. Hill, Braddock and Williams 2006: 180). This would need to be statistically verified through detailed analyses of assemblages.

At High Street, Shafton, most of the first and second century AD pottery came from the north-west to south-east orientated main ditch to which the D-shaped enclosure was appended (Burgess 2001d), and at Billingley Drive, Thurnscoe, the ditch of the D-shaped Phase III enclosure contained the largest assemblage of pottery from the site, including substantial sherds; and the majority of the coins (Brickstock 2004: 51-52; Neal and Fraser 2004: 26). At Moss Carr, Methley Site 2 there was a particular

concentration of charcoal, burnt stone and artefacts in the fills of a recut of the south-western corner of the enclosure (Roberts and Richardson 2002: 15-16), and at Topham Farm Sykehouse the western recut of the Enclosure A produced most of the pottery and animal bone from the site (Roberts 2003: 11). At Lincolnshire Way, Armthorpe, the bulk of the Romano-British pottery recovered came from just one short section of ditch that contained a dump deposit of nearly 500 sherds, the majority of them from different vessels represented by only a few sherds each, and spanning a broad chronological range from the late second to mid third centuries AD (Leary and Willis 2004; Rose and Richardson 2004).

Animal burials and animal remains

Cattle, sheep, goats, pigs and horses

Complete or near complete adult cattle were buried as individuals in a pit immediately adjacent to the western ditch of the double ditched, subtriangular enclosure at Ledston (Sumpter and Marriott 2005: 12), in a pit just within the northern boundary ditch of the northern enclosure at Methley (MAP 1996: 23-24), and from the north-west corner of the ditch of the northern subsidiary enclosure at Enclosure 8, Redhouse Farm, Adwick-le-Street (Upson-Smith 2006: 5) (Fig. 11.25). At Area B, South Elmsall, three pits within or associated with the enclosure each contained partial remains of articulated cattle skeletons (O'Neill 1998).

Within the pit complex at Site M on the A1 (M) road corridor, pit 2058 in the south-eastern pit group was noteworthy (Fig. F.02), with partial and semi-articulated cattle carcasses in lower fills, whilst the upper fills contained the complete skeleton of a young cow along with the bones of a neonate calf indicating that she was pregnant when she died, or that they had both died during birth or soon afterwards (Brown, Howard-Davis and Brennand 2007: 97) (Fig. 11.24). This event may have been considered tragic and/or inauspicious, or perhaps the reverse, as this may have been a sacrifice to ensure good luck and fertility (q.v. Beard, North and Price 1998: 45). The animal bone from the central pit cluster was almost entirely horse, whereas the south-eastern and north-western pit clusters only had one pit each containing horse bones.

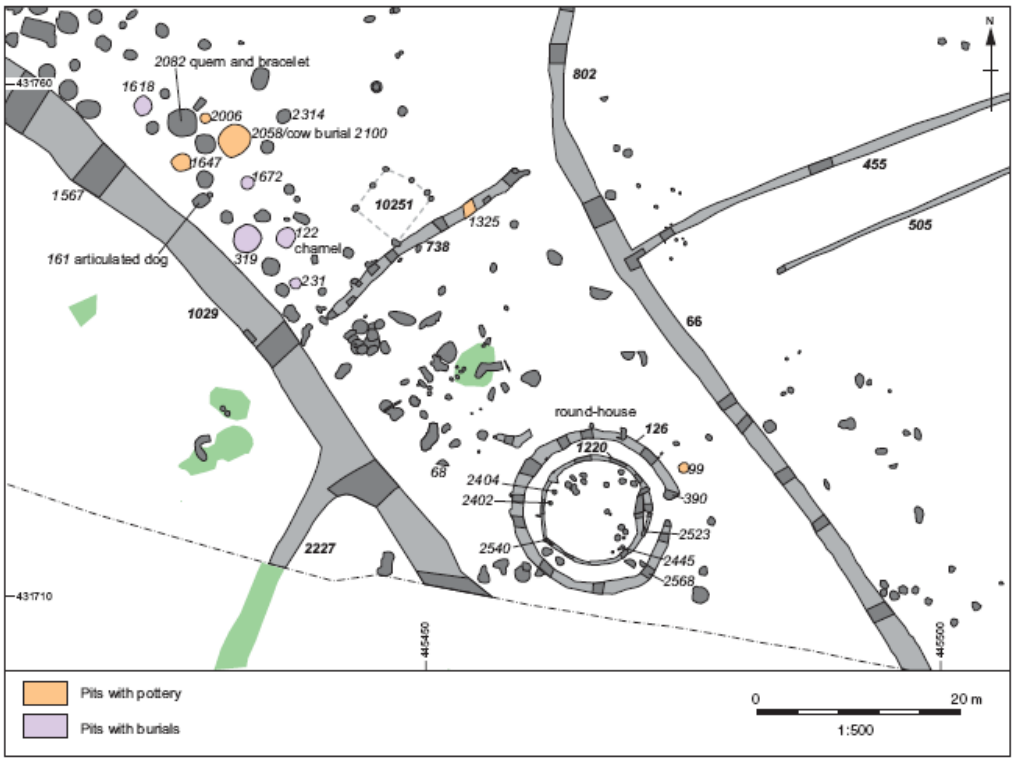


Figure F.02. *Features in the vicinity of roundhouse 126/1220 at Site M, A1 (M) road corridor, W. Yorks. Note the concentration of pits, especially to the north-west of a dividing gully of fence, including one pit with a cow and calf burial, and one containing a dog burial; in addition to a pit with a probable structured deposit of a quern and a bracelet. Some pits may also have contained charnel deposits. Also note the ring ditch around the wall gully of the roundhouse. Fragments of cattle skull were recovered from the eavesdrip gully on the northern side of the roundhouse entrance, where the skull may have been displayed. (Source: Brown, Howard-Davis and Brennand 2007: 89, fig. 58).*

Single cattle skulls may sometimes have been displayed prior to their entering archaeological contexts, and/or were then incorporated into placed deposits. Examples include a cattle skull from a sub-enclosure gully at Enclosure C at Ferrybridge (Martin 2005: 106), and perhaps from a posthole in the south-east corner of the sub-enclosure at Dunston's Clump (Harman 1987: 61), and a bank revetment at Wattle Syke (Chadwick pers. obv., see below). A group of disarticulated cattle bones was found in the eastern butt end of the E1 enclosure internal sub-enclosure ditch at Adwick-le-Street, which the excavators thought might represent a deliberate dump to mark this entrance (Meadows and Chapman 2004: 5). At Site M along the A1 (M) road corridor, fragments of cattle skull were recovered from the eavesdrip gully on the northern side of the entrance to the southernmost roundhouse excavated. A larger assemblage of cow and sheep/goat bone came from the south-eastern side of the same

gully, whilst a small amount of largely sheep/goat bone was recovered from the inner wall slot on the southern side of the entrance area (Brown, Howard-Davis and Brennand 2007: 90). Sometimes individual horse skulls might have been displayed too – the horse skull in the well at Wild Goose Cottage was missing its teeth and mandibles (Garton and Salisbury 1995: 38), suggesting that it could have been displayed elsewhere prior to its deposition. One of the excavated pits at Ledston contained a single, fragmentary horse skull (Sumpter and Marriott 2005: 11). A water tank at *Margidunum* contained several horse bones in the backfill (perhaps a closure deposit, unless the water was contaminated), and two horses were buried in the late Roman town ditch (Harman 1969: 96-97). It is not clear if this was merely prosaic disposal of unwanted carcasses, or something more.

Figure F.03. (left). *Sheep or goat skull placed in the terminal of a ditch at Wattle Syke, W. Yorks., apparently 'nested' amongst burnt stones.* **Fig. F.04. (right).** *Complete skull (mandibles beneath) of a juvenile cow skull found amongst collapsed stones from an enclosure revetment wall at Wattle Syke. The skull may have been displayed on the wall, or above it. The base of a Roman redware vessel was found close by, and a distinctive stamped samian base sherd. Note the pole-axe fracture on the front of the skull. (Source: © AS WYAS).*

The most obvious example of the deposition of cattle remains in the study area is from the carriage or chariot burial at Ferry Fryston near Ferrybridge. Here, the partial remains of up to 25 adult cattle, including five skulls, were recovered from just above primary silts in the square barrow ditch. The ^{14}C dates obtained from some of these bones suggest this took place between 410-200 BC. The poor, fragmentary condition of the bone, and the haphazard orientation of the bones may suggest that the bones had originally been exposed on the barrow mound itself, and some remains might even have come from another location and been of some age when they were placed

there (Boyle et al. 2007: 158). At a later date, probably many centuries later in the mid-third or fourth centuries AD (see the discussion of human burials below), the remains of over 162 further cattle were deposited in the square barrow ditch, many of them burnt and butchered. This may have been one enormous feasting event, but radiocarbon determinations suggest that several seasonal episodes of feasting took place, perhaps over 200-300 years (ibid.: 159). These would still have represented potentially dramatic sacrifice, butchery and feasting episodes, however.

Figure F.05. *Detail of part of the mass of butchered cattle bones in the square ditch of the Ferry Fryston carriage burial, W. Yorks. Note the preponderance of jawbones and meat-bearing limb elements. (Source: © Oxford Archaeology North).*

The spectacular placed deposits of a complete adult sheep, two complete pigs and butchered cattle bones found during recent excavations at Wattle Syke have been described in Chapter 11. Elsewhere in the study region, there are some smaller-scale examples of possible animal placed deposits. At Balby Carr, articulated bones from a sheep/goat were found in the primary fills of the terminal of a ring gully surrounding a roundhouse (Rose and Roberts 2006). An articulated goat leg was buried in a small pit at Garforth, together with 41 sherds of fourth century pottery from a single vessel (Owen 2000: 5). It was considered that this pit had silted up naturally rather than being backfilled, although this does not preclude it being a placed deposit. Another pit at Garforth contained the hind leg of a horse, associated with a cow skull, whilst another contained limestone blocks, and fragments of a horse skull in the

Figure F.06. *Photogrammetric composite image of the south-eastern corner of the square barrow ditch at Ferry Fryston, again illustrating the impressive quantity of cattle bone deposited. (Source: © Oxford Archaeology North).*

upper fill, and cow skull fragments in a lower deposit. Yet another pit contained a juvenile pig, dumped into the feature with limestone blocks (Jacques 2000: 26). A juvenile pig skeleton was found in a small pit within the Romano-British enclosure at Barnburgh Hall (Richardson 2005e). At Dunston's Clump, a small pit on the outside of the south-eastern corner of the sub-enclosure palisade ditch, and opposite the main enclosure entrance, contained the calcined bones of sheep and pigs (Harman 1987: 61). At Chainbridge Lane, the western section of the D-shaped enclosure ditch contained a complete partly waterlogged pig carcass, whilst the eastern enclosure ditch also had a complete pig skeleton (Eccles, Caldwell and Mincher 1988: 17). This opposition of the two pig carcasses may have been significant, and fibres noted in the ditch suggest at least one animal had been bound. Unfortunately, as this was a salvage project the remains were retrieved in a rushed, haphazard manner, and the pig remains have subsequently gone missing. There are no plans or photographs of these burials in the site archive, although one of the original excavators was kind enough to provide me with her photographs of the project, including images of the pig remains when partly excavated[1] (Figs. F.07.-F.08).

Figure F.07. (left). *The partially waterlogged pig carcass from the western ditch at Chainbridge Lane under excavation; and* **Fig. F.08. (right)** *the complete pig skeleton from the eastern ditch, showing the hindquarters and tail. (Source: © Jen Eccles).*

At Wattle Syke, recent excavations found possible placed deposits of animal bone in several Romano-British buildings, including Building 2, where one shallow cut contained a complete cattle mandible, whilst two internal postholes were conspicuously packed with butchered but partially articulated pig bones (Fig. F.09). These remains may have been foundation deposits. Other similar examples include the sheep/goat remains in the main filling layer within Structure P at Dalton Parlours, that were comprised of 91% foetal or newborn animals, or those only a few weeks old (Berg 1990: 178). Two pits at Menagerie Wood also contained the remains of young sheep/goat and cattle (Garton et al. 1988: 29). Varro's *De Rustica* (II.4.16) highlights the use of piglets and other young animals for sacrifices.

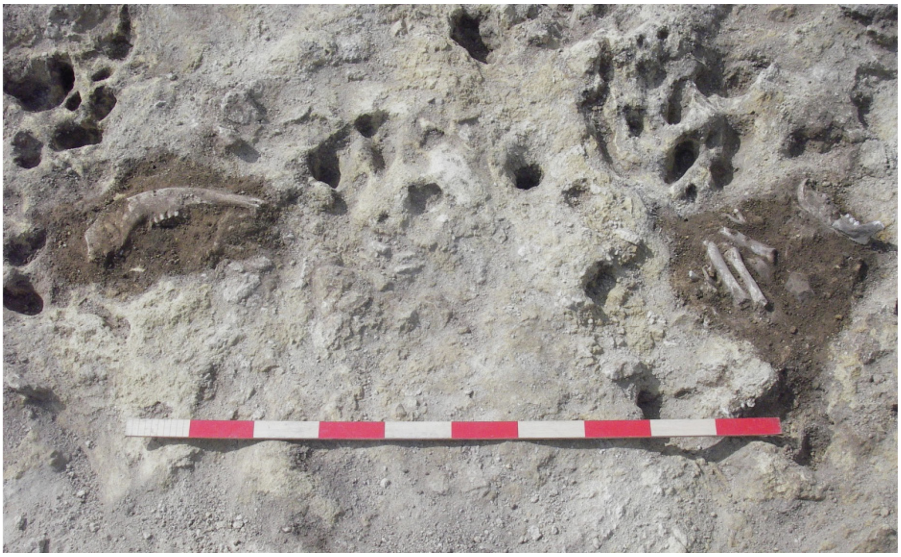


Figure F.09. *Possible foundation deposits of animal remains in the primary phase within Building 2 at Wattle Syke, W. Yorks. The shallow feature to the left contains a complete cow jawbone, the posthole to the right large quantities of pig remains, including a complete pig jaw. (Source: © AS WYAS).*

Dogs

At Dalton Parlours, pit 3454 contained 121 bone fragments from a dog, but also sheep/goat and horse (Berg 1990: 177). This pit was in a central location inside Enclosure IV, but more interestingly, was also within the area of roundhouse 6, by the east facing entrance, and almost opposite the south-east facing enclosure entrance (Sumpter 1990a: 24, fig. 17). Next to it was another pit, 3405, containing the partially articulated skeleton of an old dog lying on its left side, with the sides of the pit deliberately lined with sheep and pig metapodia and phalanges (Berg 1990: 177) (Fig. 11.26). There was also a partly articulated sheep/goat limb and a spinal column placed in this pit. Although their exact stratigraphic relationship with the roundhouse could not be established, it is possible that these animal remains were foundation and/or closure deposits.

At *Margidunum*, two dog burials were excavated – one was in a pit next to a ditch, and the other in a pit that also contained a bird skull (Harman 1969: 97). Unlike southern England, most of the other dog burials in the study region were not associated with additional species and artefacts, making it harder to interpret the original context of their deposition. Some, but not all, may have been the result of prosaic acts of disposal. Nevertheless, at Garforth an irregular pit contained a small lap-dog missing its skull and mandibles (Jacques 2000: 25). This pit also contained limestone blocks, fourth century pottery and further dumps of animal bone, and lay underneath one corner of an apsidal ended stone-footed building associated with a corn drier (Owen 2000: 5-6). At Enclosure E1 at Adwick-le-Street, one dog was buried in the western enclosure ditch, above rubble infill and below a localised dump of soil (Meadows and Chapman 2004: 5), and another was buried in a pit in Enclosure E3, around 20m away from two pits containing quern deposits (Upson-Smith 2002: fig. 6). Two dog burials were found at Site M along the A1 (M) corridor, one each within the south-eastern and north-western pit clusters (Brown, Howard-Davis and Brennand 2007: 97). Cremated animal bones found in a possible cist in the enclosure at Jump near Barnsley may have been dog remains (see below). The most notable deposit of dog remains in the region occurred in the excavated well at Dalton Parlours that contained parts of at least 31 separate dogs (Berg 1990b: 252).

Birds

Small bird bones were found with human bones within the urn of the Romano-British cremation burial at Upton (McKinley 1995: 18), and at Garforth there was a partial bird skeleton in a posthole, possibly a raven, with mainly wing bones represented (Jacques 2000: 26).

Cremated animals

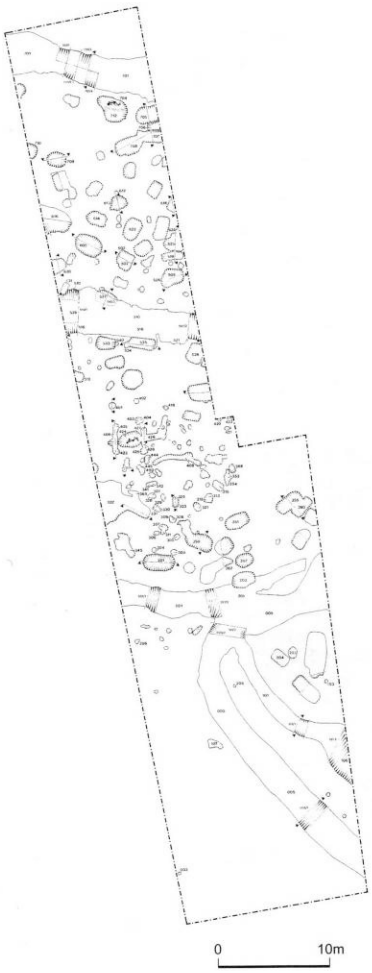
Heavily burnt or cremated animal bone deposits have been found in pits or postholes at Enclosure A at Ferrybridge (Martin 2005: 96), in a ring gully terminal by the south-west entrance of roundhouse 7 at Moss Carr, Methley Site 1 (Roberts and Richardson 2002: 10), in a subrectangular pit within the enclosure at Upton (Roberts 1995: 14), and in the ring gullies of roundhouses 2, 4 and 8 at Topham Farm, Sykehouse (Roberts 2003: 8, 10, 17). These occurrences seem to be more than just excessive charring caused by cooking, and might indicate a particular way of dealing with animal remains, perhaps as deliberately cremated offerings. Cremated cattle remains were found amongst pyre debris in the gullies of the small later Iron Age cremation enclosures at Sutton Common (Chapman 2003; Outram 2007: 157; Van de Noort 2007b: 164). Whilst some of these may have been food offerings accompanying human cremations on pyres, it is again possible that they resulted from separate cremations themselves, and that at least some of these animals were regarded as special offerings or as non-human persons. At Jump, a stone-lined pit or cist near the centre of the excavated enclosure contained the cremated remains of a 'dog-sized animal' (Robinson and Johnson 2007: 9).

Pottery and other ceramic objects

At Sutton Common, the inner and outer ditch terminals by the eastern entrance into the main enclosure contained deposits of animal bone, a quernstone and a bone comb, and the single sherd of stratified prehistoric pottery recovered during the excavations (Cumberpatch, Vince and Knight 2007: 143; Chapman, Van de Noort and Fletcher 2007: 83-84, 90-91). At Swillington Common South, a fragmented but nearly complete mid to late Iron Age jar, and additional Iron Age rim sherds, were found in pit 4193 in the north-west corner of Enclosure C, along with a deposit of clay and charcoal (Howell 2001: 63) (Fig. F.13). At Ledston, one pit contained 75 sherds from a large Iron Age jar (Sumpter and Marriott 2005: 11) (Fig. 10.13). At Dalton Parlours,

later Iron Age pottery including large sherds and substantial portions of vessels came from the ring gully of roundhouse 5, the southern and eastern ditches of Enclosure I, and from sunken hearths 2600 next to the entrance of roundhouse 4, and 2558 which cut the earlier southern palisade slot of this enclosure (Sumpter 1990b: 128-130). At Enclosure E1 at Redhouse Farm, Adwick-le-Street, the western ditch of the enclosure contained a dump of 231 sherds of Iron Age pottery from two vessels (Cumberpatch 2004b: 16). Unfortunately, the authors of the main report (Chapman and Meadows 2004) did not note the location of another significant group of 97 sherds of Scored Ware. One ditch excavated at Balby Carr contained 77 sherds of late Iron Age pottery forming substantial portions of one or two vessels (Cumberpatch 2005), whilst at Rampton, two near-complete Iron Age vessels were found in the recut terminal of a ditch close to a roundhouse, along with ash, charcoal and substantial sherds from other vessels (Ponsford 1992: 99). The large quantity of Iron Age pottery found in the enclosure ditch at Aslockton may have been deliberately dumped, perhaps as feasting residues (Palmer-Brown and Knight 1993: 147).

The pit clusters at Ledston, Ferrybridge and Site M near Micklefield all produced evidence for placed deposits of Iron Age pottery (Brown et al. 2005; Richardson 2005a; Sumpter and Mariott 2005; see below). At Topham Farm Sykehouse, a posthole associated with the entrance of a roundhouse contained large sherds of Iron Age pottery, including vessel rims (Roberts 2003: 22). At Site 16/WW6 Wetherby Lane near Micklefield, a relatively large amount of Iron Age pottery was recovered from the two ring gully terminals (Brown, Howard-Davis and Brennand 2007: 117). At Gamston, the southern terminal of the ring gully of roundhouse 2 and the north-western terminal of a gully associated with roundhouse 3 produced large quantities of unabraded late Iron Age pottery, including substantial portions of vessels, in addition to animal bone, burnt stones, charcoal and charred plant remains (Knight 1992: 34). These may have been deliberately dumped after the buildings went out of use. At Holme Dyke, Gonalston, the ring ditches associated with the three different phases of roundhouses in the enclosure produced late Bronze Age or early Iron Age pottery (Elliott and Knight 2002: 149; Knight and Howard 2004b: 98), although the enclosure ditch contained late Iron Age pottery. Although the roundhouses may indeed be earlier, it is possible that they were deliberately curated sherds, found and retained from an earlier period. This possibility should be investigated further through wear



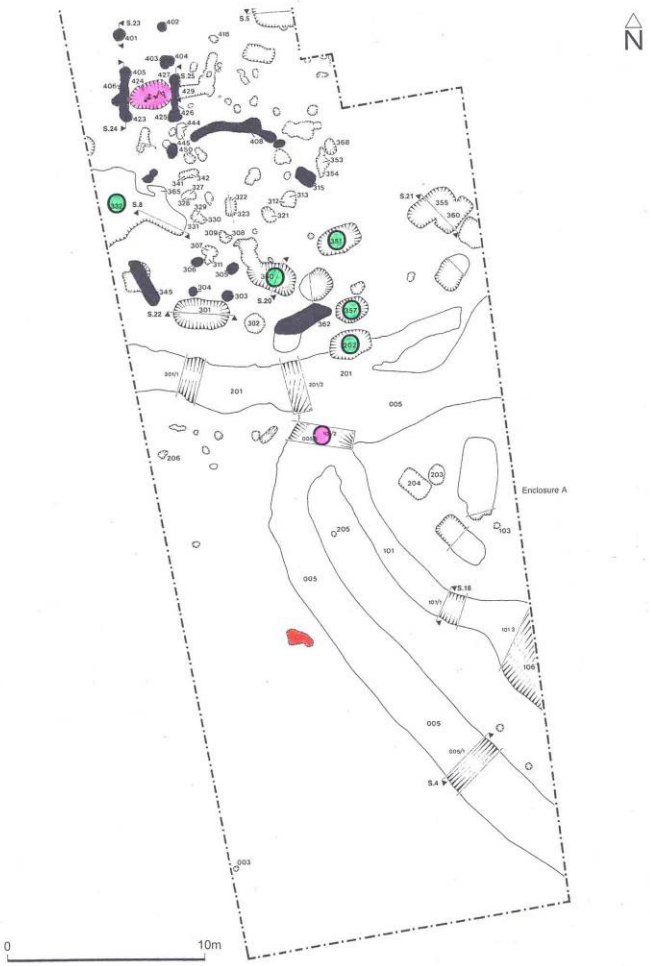
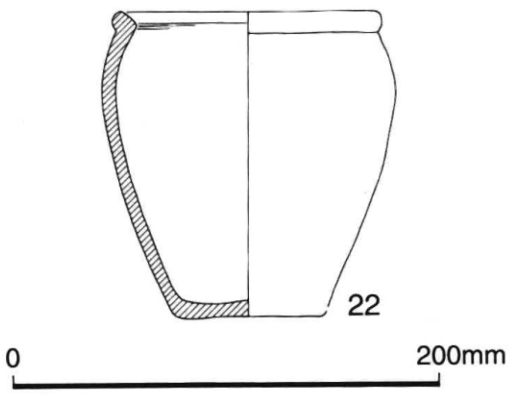


Figure F.10. (top left) *and* **Fig. F.11. (left).** *Part of the pit complex and the double-ditched enclosure at Ledston, from excavations in 1976. (Source: Sumpter and Marriott 2005: 6, 8).* **Fig. F.12. (top right).** *Detail of part of the 1976 excavations, with remains of structures highlighted in black, human burials or disarticulated human bone in pink, placed deposits of pottery, querns, other artefacts and animal bone in green, and animal burials in orange. (Source: Sumpter and Marriott 2005: 7, additions by author).*

analysis. At Ferrybridge, the clay-lined pit 4147 that cut the Phase 1 boundary ditch of Enclosure A contained ash rich fills and most of a late Iron Age to first century AD handmade jar; and within Structure 2 in Enclosure A, a pit contained eight sherds of a rare Gallo-Belgic eggshell carinated cup of *c*. AD 1-70 (Martin 2005: 95). A curvilinear ditch at Holme Pierrepont contained a nearly complete late Iron Age or

Romano-British jar (Guilbert, Fearn and Woodhouse 1994: 22) (Fig. F.14). At Rossington Bridge, peat deposits by the River Torne contained a complete late Iron Age or Romano-British jar (Buckland, Hartley and Rigby 2001: 79, fig. 52 no. 374).



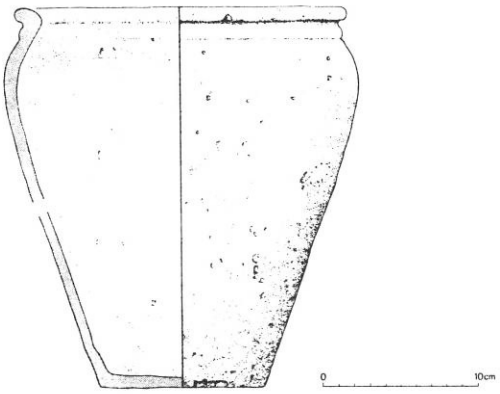


Figure F.13. (left). *Nearly complete Iron Age jar deposited with rim sherds from two other Iron Age vessels in a pit within Enclosure C at Swillington Common, W. Yorks. (Source: Evans 2001b: 157).* **Fig. F.14. (right).** *Large part of a first century AD jar deposited in a curvilinear ditch at Holme Pierrepont, Notts. (Source: Guilbert, Fearn and Woodhouse 1994: 22). Deposits of whole or substantially complete pottery vessels seem to have taken place from the middle Iron Age through into the Romano-British period. They may thus represent the continuity of a particular tradition over time, or perhaps the re-working and reinterpretation of beliefs using one particular form of household material culture.*

A concentration of fourth century Romano-British pottery, including substantial portions of vessels, was found in the south-west corner of a recut field boundary ditch 5002 at Swillington Common South (Evans, Briscoe and Dickinson 2001: 158; Howell 2001: 65), and significant amounts of late Romano-British pottery including further large sherds were excavated in two pits each associated with a quern fragment at Parlington Hollins East Enclosure E (Holbrey and Burgess 2001: 101). A complete Romano-British jar with external sooting was found in a ditch or slot at Methley Quarry (Yarwood and Marriott 1990), and a similar near-complete and sooted vessel in the base of the ditch underneath the multiple animal burial at Wattle Syke noted above (Chadwick pers. obv.). A pit recently excavated at Wattle Syke contained substantial sherds from over half of a red-slip decorated, Crambeck Parchment Ware platter, together with a marked concentration of butchered sheep bones, a deer antler base, and iron objects.

Figure F.15. *Schematic plan of the Iron Age features recorded at Site M along the A1 (M) road corridor, W. Yorks. There seems to have been some spatial division of occupation, not merely along simple functional lines, but perhaps also following social, symbolic or cosmological beliefs. Placed deposits of artefacts and animal bone were crucial to these practices. (Source: Howard-Davis, Lupton and Boyle 2005: 9).*

At enclosure E3 at Redhouse Farm, Adwick-le-Street, a substantial group of Black Burnished Ware sherds was deposited in a field ditch next to what was either a narrow north-western entrance into the enclosure, or the point where the enclosure bank met the associated field boundary (Upson-Smith 2002: fig. 11). Amongst the sherds of Romano-British pottery in the southern part of the enclosure ditch at Scrooby Top was one almost complete but fragmented vessel, whilst the greatest number of sherds from the ring gully associated with a possible roundhouse were near the presumed entrance (Davies et al. 2000: 23, 28).

At High Street, Shafton, the pottery in the large eastern boundary ditch that the D-shaped enclosure was appended to contained three almost complete Romano-British vessels (Burgess 2001d; Evans 2001d). One excavated section of Ditch 7 at West Moor Park, Armthorpe contained large numbers of sherds from several substantially complete Romano-British greyware jars and bowls (Evans 2001c), suggesting a very localised dump of pottery. Large portions of vessels were also deposited in the backfill of two oven or furnace structures. Other localised dumps of substantial portions of Romano-British vessels were noted at West Moor Park II, Armthorpe

(Chadwick and Richardson 2007) (Figs. 11.35.-11.36). At Dunston's Clump, a posthole associated with the entrance through the sub-enclosure was packed with first century AD wheel-thrown pottery and late La Tène butt beaker sherds (Garton 1987: 29). The fill of the sub-enclosure palisade slot also contained a large portion of a handmade vessel of late first century BC or early first century AD date. In the Dalton Parlours villa complex, Structure A contained a subrectangular pit (3211) by a possible entrance into the building, which contained two nearly complete ceramic jars of late Romano-British provenance, and a copper-alloy openwork decorative mount (Cool 1990: 89, fig. 71; Sumpter 1990b: 145). These may have been either foundation or closure deposits. One of the pits excavated at St Wilfrid's Road, Cantley, contained two near complete early to middle third century AD pots (Daley 2007: 13).

Although fired-clay loomweights and/or firebricks and other 'hearth furniture' are rare finds within the region, a pit within the enclosure at Jump contained layered deposits of clay loomweights and fired or worked clay, in addition to pottery sherds, burnt or cremated animal bone and a burnt quern fragment (Robinson and Johnson 2007: 8-9). Three or four of the loomweight fragments may have been decorated with incised lines (Cowgill 2007: 45-46).

Weapons, torcs, tools and other metalwork

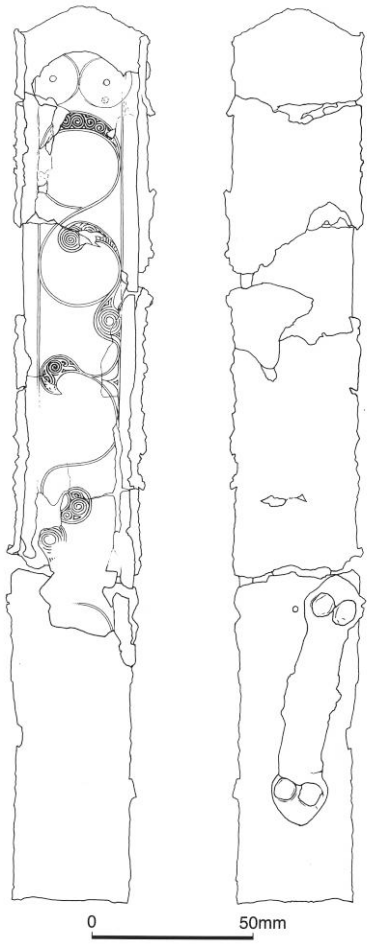
Iron Age finds from the River Trent include two late Hallstatt-style swords (Cowen 1967; MacCormick 1966), a La Tène decorated shield boss from Ratcliffe-on-Trent near Redhill (Watkin et al. 1976) and a La Tène bronze sword scabbard from Sutton Reach in Lincolnshire (May 1976). An Iron Age carriage linch-pin decorated with red coral and cleaved in half by an axe was found between Granby and the River Whipling (Laing and Ponting 2001). In West Yorkshire, a Hallstatt sword was found near Temple Newsam in palaeochannel deposits of the River Aire, whilst two possible Iron Age iron sickles were found near Brackenhall Green and a bronze horse cheek-piece near Ackworth. Two possible gold torcs, now subsequently lost, were recovered during the nineteenth century from Billing near Guiseley and at Ilkley in West Yorkshire (Keighley 1981: 131). The decorated bronze torc found on a hilltop in Swinston Hill Wood near Dinnington was an isolated metal detector find (Fig. 10.01), although the earthworks of a possible Iron Age or Romano-British settlement were located 140m to the south (Beswick et al. 1990). A copper-alloy twisted hoop torc

likely to be of first century BC to first century AD date was recovered from the southern corner of the enclosure ditch at Enclosure C at Ferrybridge (Duncan, Cool and Stead 2005: 154, fig. 116, plate 28) (Fig. 10.04). Given the possible unusual or specialised social status of Enclosure C (Roberts 2005a: 215), and its proximity to the pit alignments near the Ferrybridge henge and the placed deposits and human burials they contained, this spatial association is interesting.

Ritual deposition in rivers did continue in the Iron Age, though with a more restricted range of artefacts than during the later Bronze Age (Fitzpatrick 1984), and this is reflected in other concentrations of Iron Age metalwork across the wider region, as in the River Witham (Davey 1973; Field and Parker Pearson 2003; Hawkes 1946). An interesting group of metalwork was found at Rossington Bridge – during 1950s excavations part of an iron cauldron chain and a 'poker' were recovered from palaeochannel peat deposits associated with a plank trackway and wooden moulding (Buckland, Hartley and Rigby 2001: 10, 20-21, fig. 17, plate 19) (Figs. 10.41-10.42). Many cauldrons and their suspensory chains have been found in Iron Age or Romano-British river, hoard or grave contexts (Manning 1983). The 'poker' with its paddle-shaped end is an enigmatic artefact whose exact function is unknown, though they may have been part of hearth furniture, or used in smithing. Other La Tène and Roman examples are known from Britain and the continent, including one from the *oppidum* at Manching (Rodwell 1976). Metal detector finds in the immediate vicinity of the Rossington Bridge excavations included a red enamelled carriage linch-pin and a similarly decorated terret ring and horse-harness toggle, and a La Tène III-style tankard handle (O'Connor 2001: 91, figs. 55-56). Although linked to a proposed roadside settlement and the nearby Romano-British pottery kilns, a complete ceramic vessel was found in peat deposits, and disarticulated, defleshed human bones (Buckland, Hartley and Rigby 2001: 82). Only a small area was excavated, but the presence of the river, together with possible wooden trackway structures and evidence for unusual depositional practices, suggests that this site had some special significance before and even during its military and industrial use.

At Ferrybridge, a La Tène style decorated iron and copper-alloy sword scabbard was excavated from a primary fill of the inner henge ditch (Figs. F.16.-F.17), comparable in form and decoration to examples from East Yorkshire (Stead 2005: 231), and is

likely to date to the third century BC, so may have been broadly contemporary with the carriage burial (Boyle et al. 2007). It is even possible that it was directly associated with that dead man. The scabbard was deliberately bent and broken in two pieces, which is unparalleled in British examples, and its location in the ditch of a much earlier ritual monument must surely indicate a particularly special event.



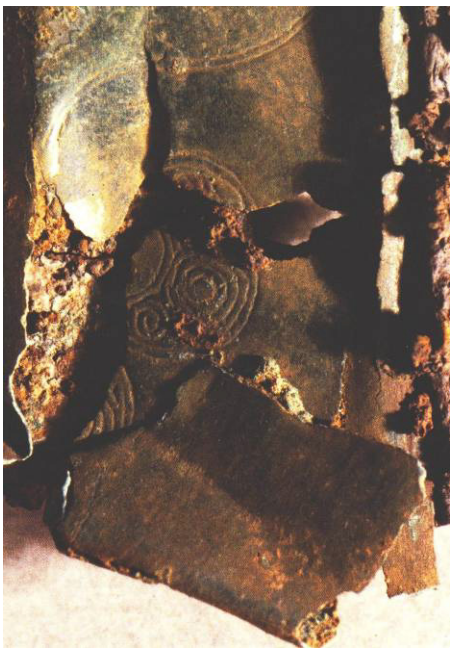


Figure F.16. (left). *The Iron Age bronze sword scabbard found in the henge ditch at Ferrybridge.* **Fig. F.17. (above).** *Detail of part of the scabbard before conservation, showing the finely incised La Tène-style decoration. (Source: Stead 2005: 230).*

At Moss Carr, Methley Site 1, an iron knife was recovered from the exact point where the ring gullies of roundhouse Structures 3 and 4 intersected, and an iron bar was found within the ring gully of Structure 5 (Roberts and Richardson 2002: 5, 10). At Lincolnshire Way, Armthorpe, a complete iron spade shoe from a wooden spade was recovered from a Romano-British ditch fill (Rose and Richardson 2004) (Fig. 4.10). Although this may of course have been casually discarded after accidental breakage or thrown away in anger, it is interesting that the iron was not taken away and recycled, or fitted to another wooden spade. This may therefore have represented the

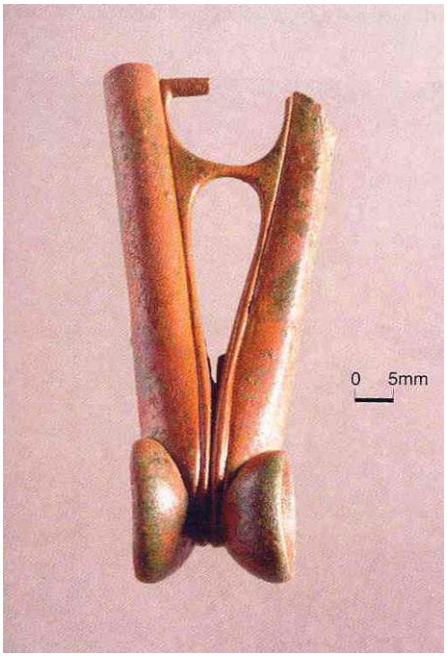


Figure F.18. (left). *Copper-alloy chape for a late Iron Age dagger of first century AD date, found in pit 1043 in a pit alignment at Ferrybridge, W. Yorks. A first century human burial was in a pit close by.* **Fig. F.19. (right).** *Copper-alloy Romano-British terret ring of second century AD from gully 3799, associated with or pre-dating another pit group at Ferrybridge. (Source: Duncan, Cool and Stead 2005: 153).*

deliberate deposition of an agricultural implement. Three iron blade fragments and a hook were also found in nearby ditches at West Moor Park East, Armthorpe (Cool 2004; Gidman and Rose 2004). Again, it seems strange that this material was not re-used. At West Moor Park II, Armthorpe, a possible iron spearhead or plough share tip was found in the backfill of a small oven or corn drier (Chadwick and Richardson 2007). An almost complete bone-handled knife was found in the upper fill of the north-east section of the enclosure ditch at Raymoth Lane, Worksop (Daubney 2004: 53), and an iron punch was found in the midden at Dunston's Clump (Garton 1987: 33). Hingley (2006) has recently reviewed some of the evidence for the deposition of iron artefacts in Iron Age and Roman Britain, and has proposed that for these periods the proportion of iron objects lost accidentally was small, and that the majority of them may represent deliberately placed deposits. Spearheads, tools and agricultural implements were frequently components of such practices.

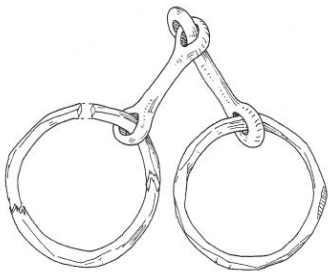
Within Enclosure D at Ferrybridge, subrectangular pit 1496 contained a collection of structural iron fittings or fastenings, a disc-cutter and a copper-alloy stopper or ferrule, likely to be of Roman date (Duncan, Cool and Stead 2005: 154-155, plate 29,

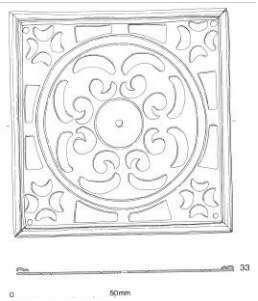
157-158, fig. 117; Martin 2005: 116-117) (Fig. F.20). This pit was just clipped by the posthole of the rectangular building Structure 7, and although it might have been a foundation deposit or votive offering, the iron fixtures might indicate that it was a metalworker's hoard. It is odd though that it was never retrieved, and as suggested for Romano-British hoards elsewhere (Clarke 2000; Hingley 2006), this may suggest it had votive associations (cf. Manning 1972). The fact that most of these objects were structural fittings may suggest a potential link with the life history of a building.

Figure F.20. *Some of the Romano-British metal objects found in pit 1496 from Enclosure D, Ferrybridge, W. Yorks. (Source: Martin 2005: 117).*

At Billingley Drive, Thurnscoe, a complete iron snaffle bit of first century AD date was deposited in a one of the ditch terminals of the Phase III D-shaped enclosure (Cowgill 2004: 50) (Fig. F.21). A Romano-British enamelled seal-box lid and a bronze terminal were found on and under the clay floor of a building at *Margidunum* (Todd 1969: 90). Along with two near complete pots (Cool 1990: 89, fig. 71; see above), at Dalton Parlours an openwork copper-alloy mount was deposited in a pit within the later Romano-British Structure A (Fig. F.23). An outstanding copper-alloy candlestick from Dalton Parlours (Fig. F.24) was recovered from the fill of a small, possibly natural hollow, which frustratingly is not illustrated on any of the published site plans, although the context number (2601) suggests it was located in or around the earlier Iron Age Enclosure I, away from the villa buildings. It could have been a placed deposit on an older, more ancestral part of the site, but it may perhaps have

been a hidden, stolen item, perhaps an act of resistance or revenge by a servant or slave, and an item that consequently was not or could not be safely disposed of (q.v. Casella 2001; Ferguson 1996; Singleton 1996).





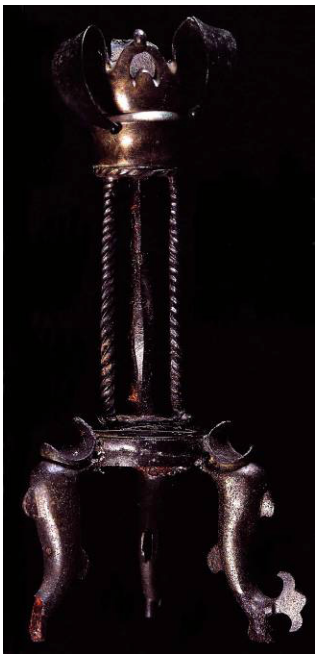
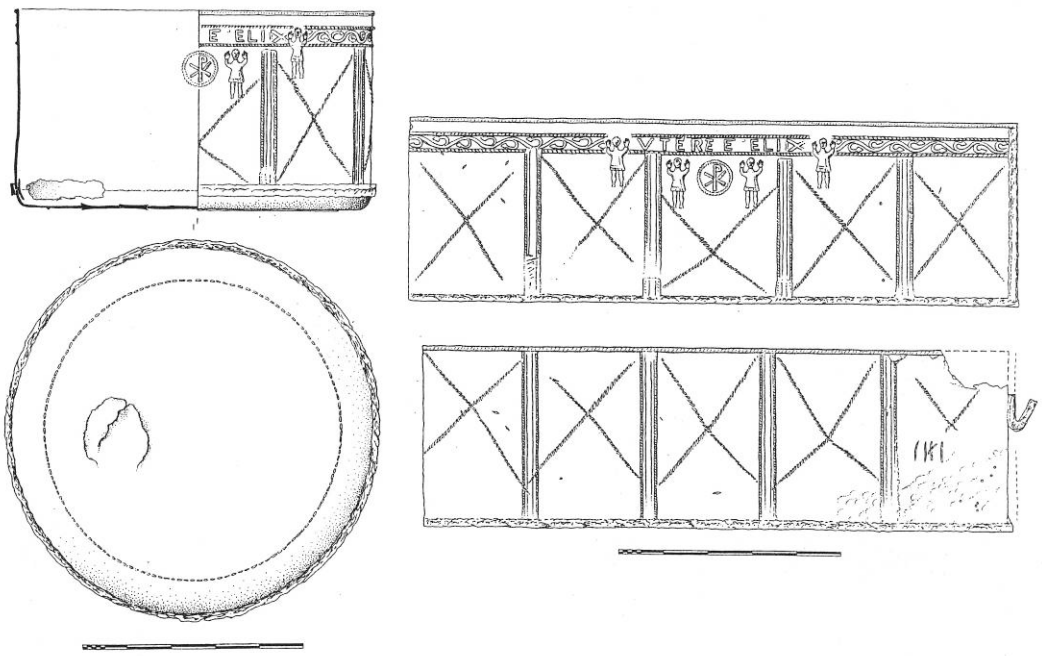


Figure F.21. (top left). *Complete iron snaffle bit of first century AD date from a ditch terminal at Billingley Drive, Thurnscoe, S. Yorks. The circular cheek-pieces are each c. 80mm in diameter. (Source: Cowgill 2004: 49).* **Fig. F.22. (top centre).** *Iron mounting with two suspensory loops found in an upper ditch fill in the corner of an enclosure at Wattle Syke, W. Yorks., and likely to be part of a late Roman stave built bucket, perhaps used for alcohol consumption. (Source: © AS WYAS).* **Fig. F.23. (top right).** *Romano-British copper-alloy openwork mount from a pit beneath Structure A, Dalton Parlours, W. Yorks.* **Fig. F.24. (left).** *The Romano-British copper-alloy candlestick from Dalton Parlours, originally c. 165mm high. (Source: Wrathmell and Nicholson 1990: front cover).*

At Flawborough, a complete circular lead tank with a Chi-Ro symbol in moulded relief was deposited within a put cut into a silted up enclosure ditch junction on the edge of a possible high-status Romano-British site (Challis et al. 1999; Elliott and Malone 2005) (Figs. F.25.-F.26). It seemed to have been deliberately crushed and damaged. The significance of this type of object has been outlined elsewhere (Watts 1988). Despite deliberate puncturing by spears or arrows suggesting symbolic defacing, perhaps following a revival of late Roman anti-Christian paganism (Elliott and Malone 2005: 34), the context of its deposition may indicate a desire for later retrieval or even symbolic burial. The deposition of a complete auxiliary's shield

beneath the turf rampart of the Roman Antonine fort at Doncaster (Buckland 1978b) could also be considered a possible special foundation deposit.



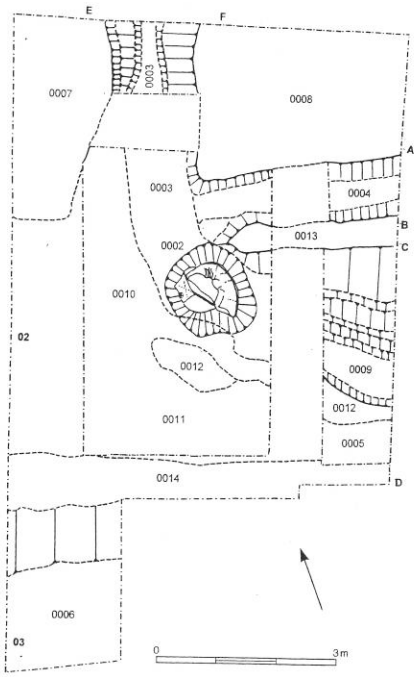


Figure F.25. (above). *The lead tank found at Flawborough, Notts., originally c. 900mm in diameter. Probably made as a series of moulded lead sheets using a damp sand matrix and stamps. Above the Chi-Rho symbol is the inscription VTERE EELIX, meant to be VTERE FELIX or 'good luck to the user'. The four figures have their hands raised, perhaps in the Orans prayer posture.* **Fig. F.26. (left).** *The lead tank was discovered crumpled and in two halves, within a pit dug into the silts of the south-west corner of an enclosure ditch. (Source: Elliott and Malone 2005: 27, 31).*

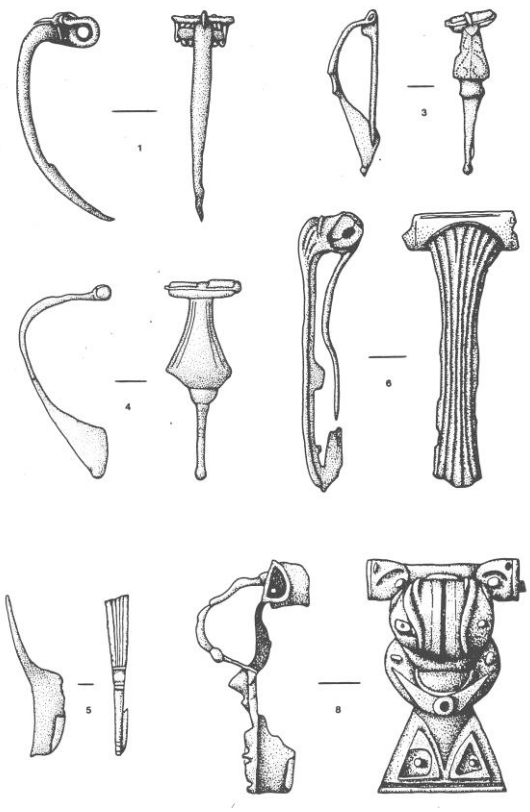
Brooches and bracelets

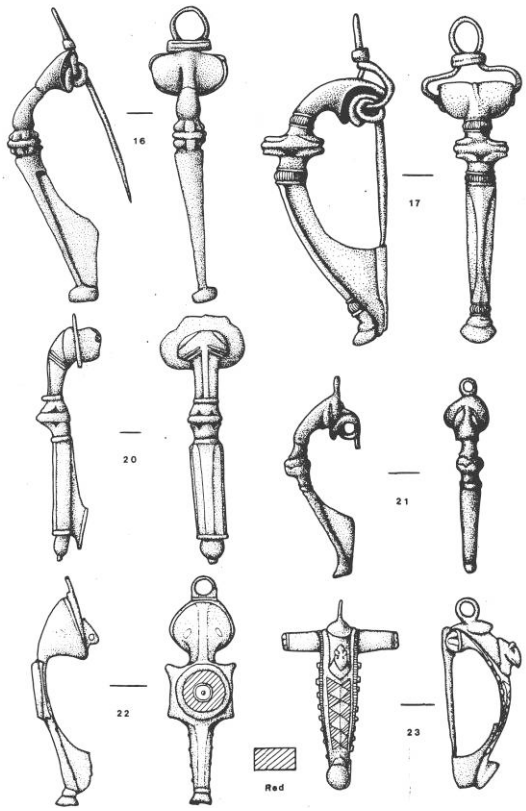
There have been a series of late Iron Age and Romano-British brooches found on Magnesian Limestone areas of South Yorkshire, some close to earthworks in woodland, on hilltops and/or near to water sources (Dearne and Parsons 1997; Jones 1980); and a group of late Iron Age and early Romano-British brooches found in river

deposits at Rossington Bridge and between the vexillation fortress at Rossington and the River Torne (Lloyd Morgan 2001: 16-18; O'Connor 2001: 91, fig. 55), including a disc brooch with a triskele repoussé design.

In addition, at Redhill, a late Iron Age 'bird-brooch' and numerous Romano-British fibulae were recovered as surface finds close to the site of a possible Romano-British temple complex (Hawkes and Jacobsthal 1945; Hildyard 1946), although there are problems with the structural evidence for these buildings (Bishop 2001; Elsdon 1983). A second century AD copper-alloy trumpet brooch found at Rampton may have been associated with roundhouse 'occupation deposits' (Mackreth 1992: 117; Ponsford 1992: 95), but this may have actually reflected abandonment practices or a decommissioning act. At the subcircular enclosure on the gentle rise at Marr Moor, in an otherwise finds sterile ditch on the south-eastern side of the enclosure there was a complete, fresh-looking pennanular brooch of late Iron Age or early Romano-British date (C. Merrony pers. comm.). A complete Romano-British brooch was found in the south-western corner of Enclosure E8 at Redhouse Farm, Adwick-le-Street (Upson-Smith 2006: 8-9), and a possible copper-alloy hair pin was recovered from the south-west corner of the E1 enclosure ditch (Meadows and Chapman 2004: 4). The southern ditch of E1 also produced a copper-alloy Romano-British brooch from the fill of a recut. A Hod Hill brooch and a coin were found in an upper fill of the junction of the north-south and east-west field ditches at Scrooby Top (Davies et al. 2000: 38). These were both likely to have been of first century AD date but were associated with mid-second to mid-third century pottery, suggesting they had been curated for some time. In the fort at Templeborough, two early second century brooches were found in the same pit, by the baths (May 1922: 72).

At Scabba Wood, the unusual internal ditch of a small subrectangular enclosure contained an Aucissa-type brooch of *c*. AD 40-60 bearing the maker's mark ATGIVIOS (Buckland et al. 1998, 2002). At a nearby limestone rock shelter some 200m to the east, there had been late Neolithic and Bronze Age deposition of pottery and human remains. A small number of Iron Age pottery sherds and Roman coins and pottery were also recovered, however, which might suggest that the locale was later re-used for small-scale votive deposits. Recent disturbance by tree roots and badgers may also be a taphonomic factor.





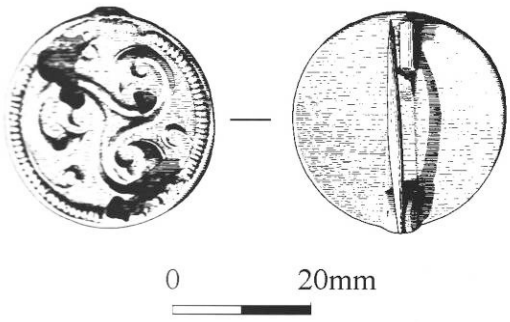


Figure F.27. (top left) *and* **Fig. F.28. (top right).** *Roman period brooches recovered as unstratified metal detecting finds in South Yorkshire. No. 8 (Fig. F.27, bottom right) is a rare Aesica-type brooch that may even be pre-conquest in date. (Source: Dearne and Parsons 1997: 43, 51).* **Fig. F.29. (middle left).** *A disc brooch with repoussé triskele design found at Rossington Bridge Pumping Station, mid-first century AD. (Source: Lloyd Morgan 2001: 18).* **Fig. F.30. (bottom left).** *Two views of a decorated stud excavated at Holme Hall Quarry, near Stainton, S. Yorks. (Source: Bevan 2006: 31).*

At Dunston's Clump, a pit adjacent to the enclosure entrance contained a first century AD copper-alloy brooch in its upper fill (Garton 1987: 30). A Flavian copper-alloy trumpet brooch was found in a late Romano-British gully in Phase IV at Billingley Drive, Thurnscoe, along with a quern fragment. The gully defined a series of unusual

pits thought to be possible grave cuts (Cowgill 2004: 49, fig. 27; Neal and Fraser 2004: 26). It could have been an heirloom deposited a century or so after its manufacture, but although described as 'someone's sad loss' (Cowgill 2004: 50), if the nearby features were possible graves then it may have been cast into the gully in grief, or to accompany a prayer for the dead. The association with the quern fragment suggests it was not chance loss. Fragments of a Romano-British glass bracelet were recovered from the upper fill of a ditch terminal at Engine Lane, Shafton (Burgess 2001e), and pieces of an Iron Age glass bracelet from a circular ditch around a roundhouse at Balby Carr (Rose 2003). An internal gully at Enclosure E7, Redhouse Farm, Adwick-le-Street contained two fragments of a glass bracelet and a shale bracelet, both of Romano-British date (Upson-Smith 2002: 23).

Bracelet fragments have occasionally been recovered from other contexts such as enclosure or field ditches, as with a piece of shale bracelet from Swillington South (Heslop 2001b: 202-203, fig. 129: 19). At Raymoth Lane, Worksop, two fragments of shale bracelet were recovered from an upper fill of the enclosure ditch, by the entrance (Daubney 2004: 52-53, fig. 11). Pit 2082 at Site M contained a fragment of stone bracelet and part of a beehive quern (Brown, Howard-Davis and Brennand 2007: 96). The association of bracelets with roundhouses seems especially significant though. Along with brooches, these were all personal items, and even if relatively new when deposited, may still have been owned by specific individuals. These may reflect much more personal deposits. Rachel Pope has suggested that jewellery associated with abandonment or decommissioning acts might have directly linked personal identity with the household (Pope 2005).

The most spectacular deposit involving bracelets was found in Pot Ridings Wood near Cadeby Gorge near Doncaster, where two Romano-British silver 'snake' bracelets and two bracelets set with cornelians were deposited along with a 'poppy' beaker and a hoard of Roman coins including silver *denarii* (Buckland 1986: 41, fig. 24; Cool 2000b). They were place in a small natural gap in the limestone, then capped with a limestone slab though whether this hoard was votive or hidden for safekeeping is not certain (see Gazetteer, Appendix G).

Rings, beads and other artefacts

The discard of these objects is usually much harder to interpret as placed deposits, for individual beads attached to items of clothing or worn around the neck, and finger rings, would have been particularly prone to chance loss. Nevertheless, sometimes the context of deposition suggests that cultural factors have to be considered. At Moss Carr, Methley Site 1, a blue glass bead was found in the fill of the recut of the southern entrance terminal of the enclosure B ditch (Cool 2002: 35). A small cylindrical copper-alloy bead was found in a ditch fill outside the northern entrance of the enclosure at High Street, Shafton (Burgess 2001d), and half a ring bead was found from the upper surface of the enclosure ditch at Gamston, close to the entrance (Henderson 1992: 68). Also at Gamston, a copper-alloy ring was found in the north-west corner of the enclosure in the uppermost ditch fill (Knight 1992: 66), and a continental La Tène style glass bead was found in a ditch. A cylindrical jet bead with spiral decoration and parts of a bone comb were found in a hollow associated with a small structure next to a palisade slot at Newton Kyme (Monaghan 1991: 57).

At Ferrybridge, eight glass and two stone beads were recovered from an early Bronze Age barrow and the pit of a hengiform monument, from several pits in the pit alignments, and from Enclosures C and D, including features that were part of roundhouse 5 (Duncan 2005: 162-163). *All* of these beads were considered by the specialist to be intrusive, however, and their method of construction and/or chemical content suggestive of a post-medieval origin. Although it is clear that there was considerable debate over this (ibid.: 163), it seems highly unusual for so many beads to all be intrusive, especially given the context of some. Even *if* they were all post-medieval, then this discard still has to be explained, as it cannot have all be down to chance loss alone. This may indicate a local post-medieval practice, akin to placing horseshoes on prehistoric monuments (Chadwick and Pollard in prep.), although the beads in features associated with the roundhouse would still be hard to explain. It is likely, however, that at least some of the beads have been incorrectly dated. A black stone bead similar to two found at Ferrybridge was recovered from *beneath* the ribs of an adult male Iron Age inhumation at Site M near Micklefield (Brown, Howard-Davis and Brennand 2007: 99-100) – extremely difficult to interpret as an intrusive item. The Ferrybridge beads thus need to be re-examined in the light of this additional

evidence, and it may be that Iron Age and Roman stone and glass bead production was more sophisticated than has been presumed.

At Sutton Common, a well-preserved weaving comb of bone was found in a ditch terminal by the eastern gateway into the large enclosure (Chapman, Van de Noort and Fletcher 2007: 91). Elsewhere in Britain, these bone weaving combs have been components of placed deposits (e.g. Hill 1995; Hodder and Hedges 1977).

Querns

Quernstones and quernstone fragments were buried in pits or postholes within structures at Moss Carr, Methley Sites 1 and 2 (Roberts and Richardson 2002: 6, 21), and Dalton Parlours roundhouses 1, 3 and 7 (Buckley and Major 1990: 106-107). A rubbing stone was buried in a pit associated with a roundhouse structure at Balby Carr (Richardson and Rose 2005). Whole querns or quern fragments were also deposited in the ring gullies of roundhouses at Moss Carr Methley Site 1 – two beehive base stones in Structure 5, and three in Structure 7 in Enclosure B (Roberts and Richardson 2002: 10). A complete beehive base and two beehive base fragments were found in the ring ditch surrounding a roundhouse at Balby Carr (Richardson and Rose 2005), whilst at Gamston, the complete lower stone of a beehive quern was found in a length of gully associated with roundhouse 3 (Wright and Firman 1992: 74). Quern fragments were also associated with pits, postholes and slots that were near or part of enclosure, sub-enclosure and field entrances and entrance structures at Rothwell Haigh (Faull 1981: 152; Keighley 1981: 125-126), Dalton Parlours (Buckley and Major 1990: 106-107), Moss Carr, Methley Site 1 Enclosure A (Heslop 2002: 32), Enclosure E1 at Redhouse Farm, Adwick-le-Street (Meadows and Chapman 2004: 6), Menagerie Wood (Garton et al. 1988: 28), West Moor Park II, Armthorpe (Chadwick and Richardson 2007) and Enclosure D at Ferrybridge, along with a probably curated flint knife (Martin 2005: 113).

Querns were also deposited in the palisade slots or gullies of sub-enclosures, as at Apple Tree Close (Buckley 2001: 19-20), Dalton Parlours (Buckley and Major 1990: 106-107), Wattle Syke (Chadwick pers. obv.), Dunston's Clump (Fenton and Garton

1987: 56-58), Gamston (Knight 1992: 26), and Billingley Drive, Thurnscoe, where a quern fragment was found close to a brooch (Cowgill 2004: 50; Wright 2004: 55). In contrast, querns were scarcer in main enclosure ditches, although they did occur in ditch terminals at Sutton Common (Chapman, Van de Noort and Fletcher 2007: 91) and Ferry Lane Farm, Collingham (Bourn, Hunn and Symonds 2000: 112).

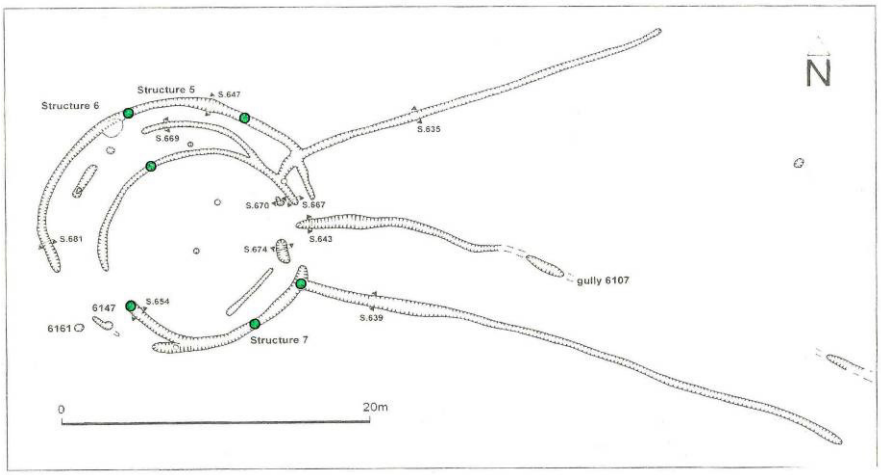
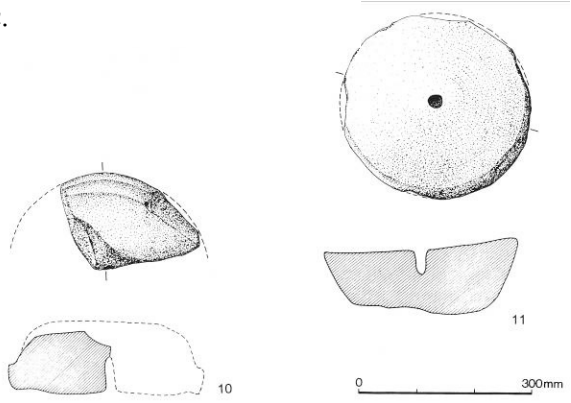


Figure F.30. (above). *Structures 5-7 at Site 1 Enclosure B, Moss Carr, Methley, W. Yorks., with the approximate locations of possible placed deposits marked in green.*

Structure 5 had an iron bar and two beehive querns in its wall gully; Structure 7 had two beehive querns, and cremated animal bone and charcoal in one south-western entrance terminal. (Source: Roberts and Richardson 2002: 9, additions by author). **Fig. F.31. (left).** *Querns recovered from Structure 7. (Source: Heslop 2002: 31).*



Notable quernstone pit deposits include the 66 fragments from 12 separate querns found within a pit at Area D South Elmsall (Howell 1998; see below). There were other placed deposits of quernstones in pits at Ledston and Ferrybridge (Heslop and Gaunt 2005; Sumpter and Marriott 2005; see below). A beehive quern fragment and part of a stone bracelet were found in one pit at Site M along the A1 (M) road corridor (Brown, Howard-Davis and Brennand 2007: 96). An almost complete but fragmented bottom quernstone was found in a clay and stone lined pit near Enclosure E3 at Redhouse Farm, Adwick-le-Street (Upson-Smith 2002: 23), in a 'crush' within a trackway. Another quern was deposited in a pit 20m to the south-east. A beehive

quern fragment and a flat rotary upper stone fragment were buried in adjacent pits at Parlington Hollins East with large quantities of third and fourth century AD pottery and tile (Holbrey and Burgess 2001: 101). Quernstones or quern fragments found in backfilled well shafts at Dalton Parlours (see below), Wild Goose Cottage, Bunny and Templeborough (Alvey 1967; Buckley and Major 1990: 117; Garton and Salisbury 1995; May 1922: 57), and within the waterholes at Bottom Osiers, Gonalston (Elliott and Knight 1997, 1998) and Scrooby Top (Davies et al. 2000: 41).

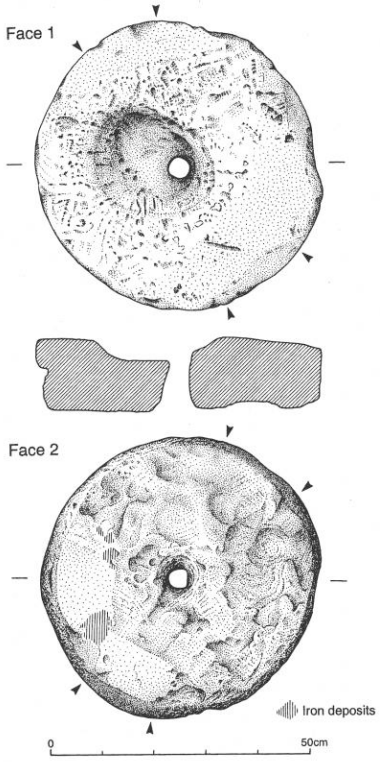


Figure F.32. (left). *Two views of the beehive quernstone found at Ramsdale, Notts., with iron deposits on its surface. The arrows also indicate patches of smooth wear on the edge, produced by clamping a frame across it. The iron deposits may be a result of smithing undertaken on the stone. This might indicate a series of practical and symbolic links between metalworking and agricultural production. (Source: Garton, Southgate and Leary 2000: 33).*

At Gamston, Ramsdale and Jump, Iron Age and Romano-British quernstones were found with heat reddening and/or iron deposits on their surfaces, indicating their possible re-use as anvils (Garton, Southgate and Leary 2000: 40; Knight 1992: 72; Wright 2007: 54). Some querns found at Ferrybridge were also covered in a ferruginous deposit (Heslop and Gaunt 2005: 149), and one of the beehive quern fragments found at Balby Carr (Heslop 2005). At Cantley, a lower beehive quernstone formed part of the wall of an iron bloomery furnace, but its surface was also iron stained (Cregeen 1956: 37). Other quernstones were recovered nearby. At Manor Farm, a large stone mortar found in a probable late Iron Age pit was used to crush iron ore and produce a ferruginous powder (Cowgill and Heslop 2001: 201-202).

Shoes

Two leather shoes were found in the waterlogged basal fill of the central waterhole or well in the enclosure at Bottom Osiers, Gonalston (Elliott and Knight 1996: 164). At Dalton Parlours, several near complete waterlogged one-piece shoes were found, and a child's sandal (Mould 1990: 233). Lots of leather scraps from other shoes were also excavated, however, so not all may have been placed deposits. A leather shoe sole was found in the well at Bunny (Alvey 1967: 7). Unspecified leather artefacts were also recovered from a fourth century well at Rothwell Haigh (Faull 1981: 152). Although details of these finds were not published and they are now lost, they included one-piece shoes (Mould 1990: 235; Richardson 2004). May mentions that Well 2 at Templeborough contained a number of leather sandal soles (May 1922: 59).

Deposits in pits and pit alignments

At enclosure E1 at Redhouse Farm, Adwick-le-Street, pit 186 contained sorted stones with the smaller ones arranged around the pit edges and the larger examples in the middle, in addition to late Iron Age or early Romano-British pottery, animal bone and three fragments (two conjoining) of a rotary quernstone (Meadows and Chapman 2004: 8). The bottom of a pit at Gamston contained a pair of iron tweezers, along with 25 sherds of later Iron Age pottery (Fell and Knight 1992: 68). At Dunston's Clump, pit 1066 contained charred wood and iron fittings including clenched nails and hinges thought to be from a box, and charred cereal remains (Dawson 1987: 52; Garton 1987: 34; Jones 1987: 59), deposited in or with the burnt remains of a wicker basket. In a letter in the site archive, the metalwork specialist Mike Dawson described one of the metal items from this pit as a possible religious object:

> The implement (vii) is a curiosity, it is not complete, the narrower end is fractured and gives no hint as to what is missing.
> If we may conjecture a loop where the implement has fractured then we may have a religious implement – for a similar artefact survives as part of a group of three pieces attached to a ring and probably used as a rattle in a religious ceremony from the

temple of Aesculopius and Hygia, Ulpa Traiana Sarmizgetusa, Romania. (Dawson 1983).

Strangely, this artefact is simply described as a 'plate' in the published report (Dawson 1987: 52, fig. 20 no. 56). It is not clear if the original interpretation was edited out because it conflicted with the views of the excavators, or if the specialist changed his opinion. Even without this additional unpublished information, regarding the whole deposit simply as household rubbish (Jones 1987: 60) is rather reductive. The pit was situated in the middle of the settlement enclosure, and it is likely that the objects and materials within it were deliberately burnt before deposition.

One of the most unusual deposits from the study region came from a large pit within the subrectangular ditched enclosure in Area D South Elmsall. This feature contained 23 sherds of late Iron Age or early Romano-British pottery, 335 animal bone fragments from cattle, sheep and pig – many of them burnt, a copper-alloy rod fragment and an iron clasp, and an unprecedented 66 fragments of beehive quern from at least 12 separate quernstones (Howell 1998). These materials were deposited in distinct banded layers (K. Howell pers. comm.). Fragments of slag, charred cereal grains and large amounts of charcoal were also recovered. Another nearby pit contained part of a saddle quern, hammerscale and charred cereal remains

Three interesting pits excavated within the Roman *vicus* at Castleford that are also worthy of mention, despite their occurrence in an urban archaeological context. These three pits (908/922, 909 and 913) were closely associated with Building AX, initially interpreted as a *mansio* (Abramson and Fossick 1999: 140), but re-interpreted as part of a possible shrine or temple complex (Cool 1999: 302). Pits 908/922 and 909 both had deep, square shafts with rounded upper sections, and 908/922 had waterlogged remnants of a wooden ladder. The upper fills of this feature contained a perforated copper-alloy cup, many glass vessel fragments and a quernstone. The upper fills of pit 913 contained more fragments of glass vessels, crucible fragments, a leaded copper disc and three glass bracelet fragments. Especially noteworthy was the main upper fill of pit 909, from which further glass vessel fragments, crucible fragments, a coin, a large number of dog bones and a near complete ceramic lamp were recovered (e.g. Cool 1998a; Cool and Price 1998). In addition, some very significant plant remains

were identified, including abundant fig and grape seeds, celery, sloe, plum, coriander, wild parsnip, mustard, wild radish and lamb's lettuce, all indicative of food remains; but also purging flax, opium poppy, deadly nightshade and hemlock (Bastow and Boardman 1999: 173). These latter species in particular may be significant given the finds of similar species in Romano-British well deposits (see below). Large quantities of willow, lime and meadowsweet pollen were thought to be indications of honey. Pits 908/922 and 909 also contained many near complete ceramic vessels. It is thus highly likely that these were deliberate backfill deposits and that some of them were linked to healing and ritual activities associated with a shrine (see below).

At Ledston, two or three trackways converged close to an unusual double-ditched, subtriangular enclosure, where there was also a dense agglomeration of up to 280 limestone-cut pits identified from aerial photographs. This pit cluster was defined by further ditches and perhaps a polygonal enclosure or series of ditches and fences (Sumpter and Marriott 2005: 10-12). Around 60 pits were excavated, and two contained human burials (see below). Two thirds of the excavated pits produced fragments of animal bone, but only nine in moderate quantities, although there were indications of more deliberate placed deposits from features in close spatial association with a possible roundhouse. Pit 332 contained the matching stones of a complete beehive quern, whilst pit 357 contained a beehive top stone fragment and a fragmented horse skull. A bone weaving comb and coarse handmade pottery sherds were found in pit 351, and 75 sherds of a large later Iron Age jar were recovered from pit 202. Fifteen sherds from three different pottery vessels were found in pit 350.

Very few of the pits intercut one another, which may indicate that they were mostly contemporary (Roberts 2005b: 32), or had above ground markers of some sort. Although this is possible, it is also likely that this shows knowledge and memories of previous pit cutting episodes and a deliberate desire not to dig into earlier features. Traces of these pits probably survived as depressions in the ground, or as patches of lusher vegetation visible in the landscape. When first identified and excavated, these rock-cut pits were directly equated with grain storage pits found on Iron Age sites in central southern England (e.g. Keighley 1981: 120). But as Roberts (2005b: 31-33) has noted, there is no palaeo-environmental or archaeological evidence that they were ever used as storage pits. And despite the presence of two possible four-post

structures and a roundhouse, there is little indication that Ledston was a 'normal' domestic settlement. The care taken over the regular shape and positioning of the pits indicates that some importance was attached to them, however.

The Ferrybridge pit alignments were sinuously aligned from the north-west to the south-east and east, and demarcated an area to the west and south of the earlier henge and most of the round barrows (Richardson 2005a). In part, they followed the line of a geological feature dug out earlier in prehistory, perhaps to provide material for the henge banks, but also to emphasise this area (Martin et al. 2005). Part of an earlier curving gully was also followed by the pits. The pit alignments further delineated the area immediately around the henge, and though some were later recut as field boundaries, no field boundaries or settlements were constructed inside the henge area, even in the Romano-British period, indicating respect for earlier monuments.

Figure F.33. *Aerial view of part of the pit alignment at Ferrybridge, W. Yorks., under excavation by AS WYAS in 2002. (Source: Richardson 2005a: 64).*

Some of the pits in the alignments seem to have been part of, or formed the focus for, clusters of pits, such as pit groups 130 and 181 (Richardson 2005a: 56-57, fig. 43, 68, fig. 59). In total, 141 pits were excavated at Ferrybridge. They varied considerably in size and shape, and again most produced little or no material. Twelve of the pits were used for human inhumation burials from the later Iron Age through to the early medieval period (ibid.: 70). A second century AD copper-alloy terret ring was

recovered from the fill of the earlier gully, whilst pit 1043 contained a late Iron Age copper-alloy dagger chape, pit 2255 the base of a beehive quern, pit 2129 the base of a Romano-British glass beaker, pit 3380 a spiral iron ferrule and a copper-alloy Roman *ligula*, and pit 3382 a late Iron Age Alésia brooch. Pit 3392 contained 59 sherds from an early first century AD wheel-made, Iron Age style vessel, pit 5036 contained a substantial portion of a Romano-British jar, and pit 6447 most of a bead and flanged bowl of AD 270-400 (Evans, Wild and Willis 2005: 137-139).

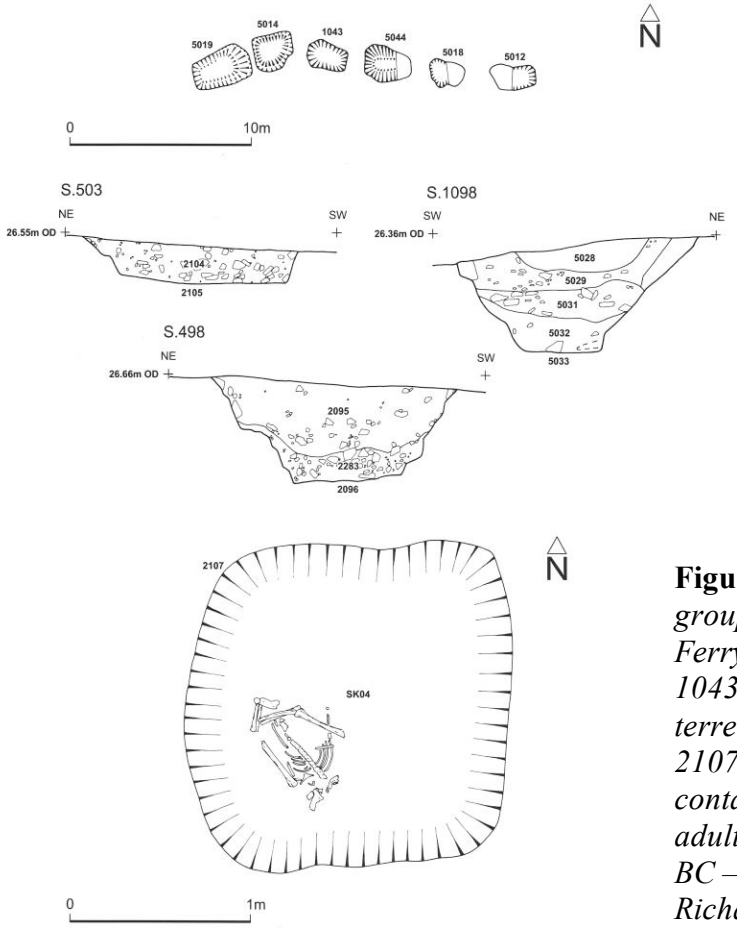


Figure F.33. (left). *Plan of pit group 129 from the Ferrybridge pit alignments. Pit 1043 contained a copper-alloy terret ring (Fig. F.19). Pit 2107 (shown in plan) contained the skeleton of an adult woman ^{14}C dated to 60 BC – AD 140. (Source: Richardson 2005a: 55).*

Although some pits contained relatively large quantities of pottery for the region, including scarce Iron Age vessels and a few sherds of unusual 'Belgic' vessels, only pit 5036 is considered to have been an example of 'structured deposition' (Evans, Wild and Willis 2005: 142). Through using my criteria however, I have identified more examples. There had clearly been considerable mixing and disturbance of material, and although it is possible that some early Bronze Age pottery and flints might indicate an early origin for the pit alignment (Richardson 2005a: 68), it is also likely that these were curated and redeposited much later.

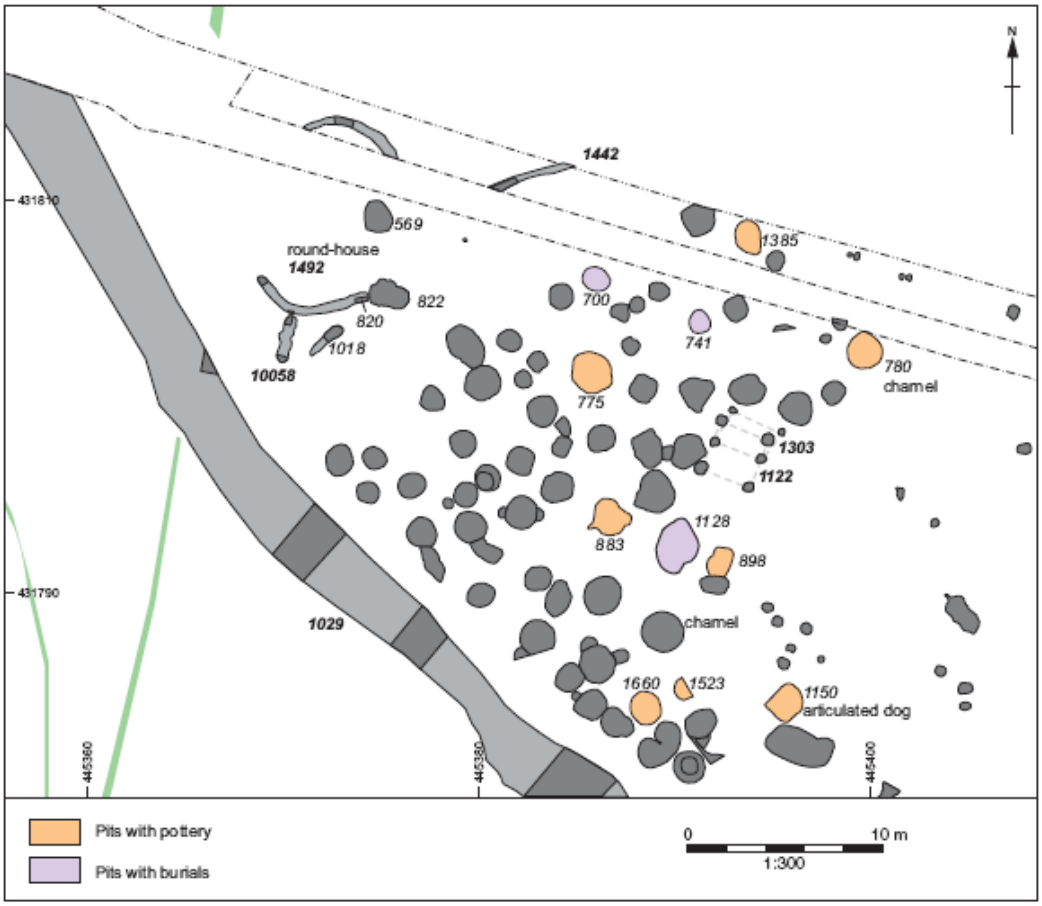


Figure F.34. *Features in the vicinity of roundhouse 1492 at Site M, A1 (M) road corridor, W. Yorks., showing four-post structures, pits with placed deposits, pits with human and animal burials, and 'charnel' pits with disarticulated human remains. (Source: Brown, Howard-Davis and Brennand 2007: 87, fig. 56).*

At Site M along the A1 (M) road corridor near Micklefield, the pottery vessels recovered from eighteen middle Iron Age pits in the three clusters at the centre of the site were almost all Iron Age everted rim jars. Most pits with pottery in the north-western group contained a single large sherd only, but these were relatively fresh and seem to have been purposefully placed, rather than simply falling in from the surrounding surface (Brown, Howard-Davis and Brennand 2007: 104). The vast bulk of the Iron Age pottery came from only three pits, one from each of three clusters of pits that were identified. A single large pottery vessel was recovered from pit 2058 within the south-eastern pit group, along with the articulated remains of several animals. This vessel alone comprised 51% of the total Iron Age pottery from the site. Within the central cluster, pit 1363 also contained a single vessel, while a second pit (1749) in the same area also produced a relatively large assemblage of pottery (ibid.). Within the north-western pit group, pit 780 also contained a single pot, the only

example of a calcite-gritted fabric. There was a hint of spatial distinctions amongst the pottery fabrics, as 97% of the quartz-tempered pottery came from the north-western pit group. In addition to eight human pit burials, two dog burials and several partial and complete cattle burials were excavated (Brown, Howard-Davis and Brennand 2007: 97). The majority of the bone within the pits was cattle or sheep/goat, although some horse and red deer remains were also noted, in addition to some disarticulated human bone. No pig bones were found. Once again, it was thought unlikely that these features were simply re-used storage pits (ibid: 103-104).

Wells and waterholes

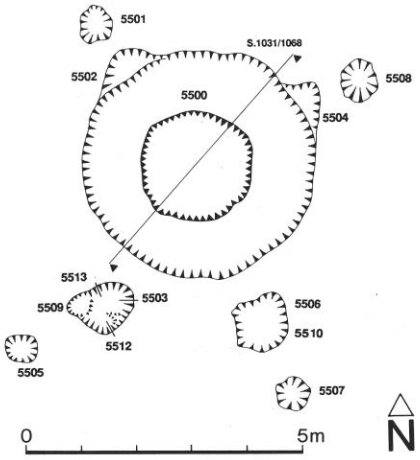
At Hoveringham Quarry, Gonalston, a large waterhole or pond produced a substantial assemblage of second century AD pottery including fine wares and samian (Elliott and Knight 1996, 1997, 1998). Iron and copper-alloy objects, lathe-turned and carved wooden objects, textile fragments, leather shoes and quernstones were also recovered from this waterlogged feature. The site was abandoned by the beginning of the third century, possibly as a result of flooding and a rising water table. Perhaps some objects were placed in the waterhole as offerings to try and prevent this, whilst other items may represent abandonment and closure deposits. At Wild Goose Cottage, a Romano-British square, timber-lined well shaft produced most of a horse's skull from the fill of the construction cut, whilst the backfilled well shaft contained a quern stone and fragments of two others (Garton and Salisbury 1995: 38). Although the skull was missing its mandibles, it is unlikely that it was just a 'handy pit prop' as the excavation report suggests. One complete ceramic jar was found with wear indicating that it had probably been held in some sort of cradle and used to draw water from the well. The bases of seven other vessels were recovered, but whilst five of these showed similar wear, two were very fresh. Three of the bases came from the primary fill, but the other four were from backfill deposits, and may have been lying on the surface for some time (ibid.: 33). This indicates a mix of vessels 'lost' through everyday use, and others that were part of deliberate backfilling. The Romano-British well at Bunny contained several near complete pottery vessels or substantial portions of vessels (Alvey 1967). Again, some of these may have been used for obtaining water, but they also included 'open' ceramic forms such as shallow dishes that would

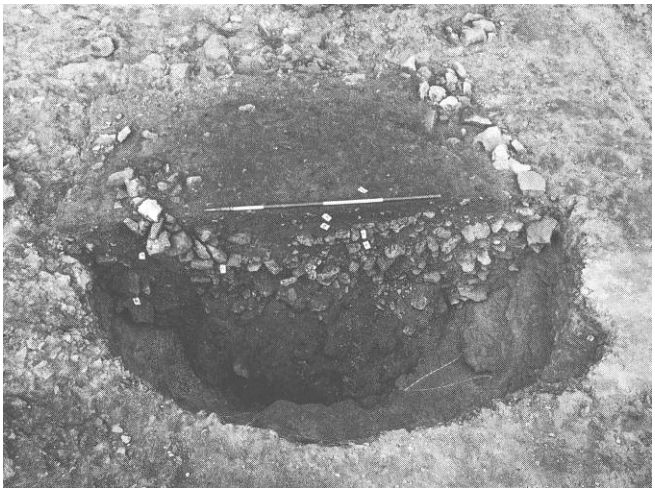
have been most unsuitable for this. Two quern fragments were also recovered, and the remains of two horses, a deer, four or five pigs, and 66 lower jaws from sheep/goats, along with skulls (ibid.: 8).

In the fort at Templeborough, Well 1 contained a fragment of lava quern, and Well 2 many querns and a number of leather sandal soles, although this well was not excavated by May and none of these artefacts seem to have been recorded or retained. A well associated with the *praetorium* contained large fragments of amphorae, Black Burnished ware and two pig jaws, in addition to a stone column base (May 1922: 35-36, 57, 59, plate LIII). A Romano-British well at Hallgate, Doncaster was also backfilled with substantial quantities of pottery (Atkinson and Cumberpatch 1995: 22-23). In addition to leather shoes and wooden objects, the well excavated at Rothwell Haigh also contained a human skull (Richardson 2004).

The complex sequence of deposits from the excavated Romano-British well at Dalton Parlours included iron bucket handles and waterlogged remains of numerous wooden buckets in primary fills, many clearly from accidental loss. The large assemblage of pottery included over 24 complete or substantially complete Huntcliff jars and lug-handled jars (Sumpter 1990c: 236). Some of these too were used to draw water and had been accidentally lost, but others were derived from later backfilling. Nine beehive and flat quernstones came from the fills, along with four stone column fragments and a pedestal (Blagg 1990: 160-162). There were also silver and copper-alloy finger rings and coins, and iron objects including knives, a sledgehammer, a spade shoe and a reaping hook (Fig. 11.51), in addition to leather shoes and scraps. The majority of the querns and metal objects may have been deliberately thrown into the well. Numerous cattle, sheep and pig bones included 17 near complete sheep skulls and 10 near complete cattle skulls, with a large proportion of the pig bones were foetal or neonatal individuals (Berg 1990b: 252). Some animal bone was undoubtedly butchery waste, but it cannot all be explained simply in these terms. There were horse bones, including four skulls, and badger and hare remains. Up to 31 dogs were represented, and the partial remains of three adult humans. Plant remains from the Dalton Parlours well included deadly nightshade, henbane, hemlock, purging flax and self-heal, all commonly used in herbal medicines and/or poisons (Bastow and Murray 1990: 263-266). Although it was felt these species were present

simply because they were plants of disturbed and rough or abandoned ground, this highly unusual combination may have been linked to the placed deposition of the artefacts and animal and human remains. Some of these plants were also found within Romano-British pots in a pit in Silchester (Fulford 2001: 206), and in a pit within the *vicus* at Castleford (see above).





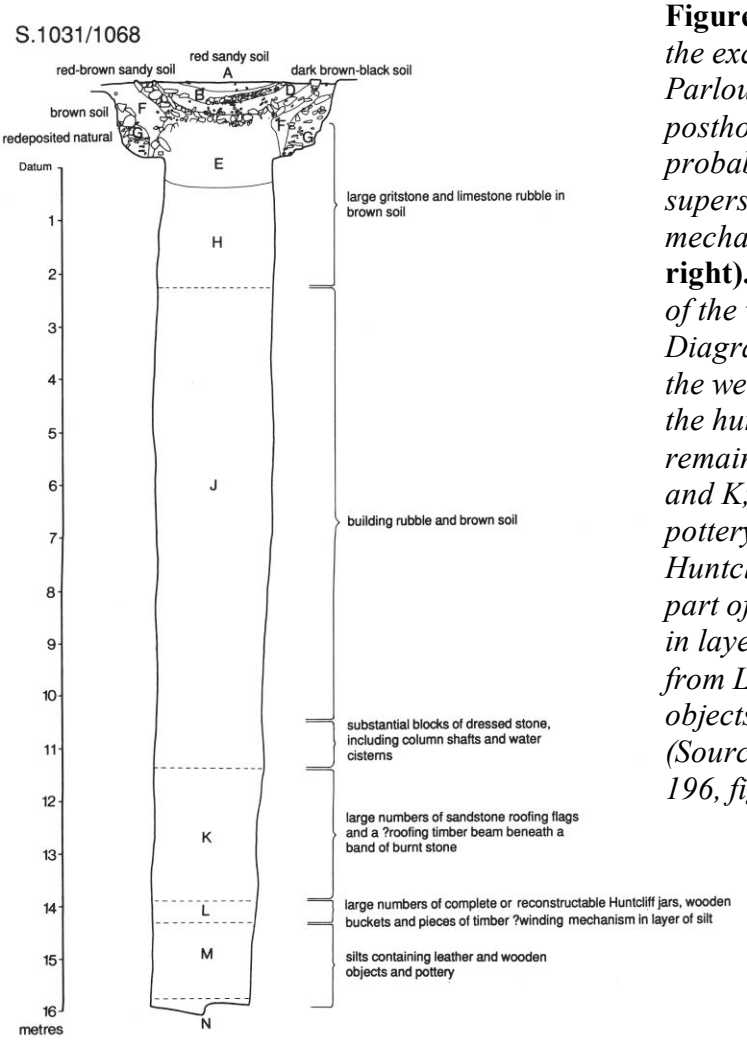


Figure F.35. (top left). *Plan of the excavated Well 1 at Dalton Parlours, W. Yorks. The large postholes surrounding the well probably supported a timber superstructure and a winding mechanism.* **Fig. F.36. (top right).** *View of the upper part of the well.* **Fig. F.37. (left).** *Diagrammatic section through the well deposits. The bulk of the human and large mammal remains came from layers J and K; the majority of the pottery (Cranbeck and Huntcliff wares) from the lower part of K and L (Throlam wares in layer M); the leather objects from L,M and N; and iron objects from layers L-N. (Source: Wrathmell 1990: 195-196, figs. 114-115, plate xxxv).*

Middens

An extensive midden 9.25m by 9.75m across covered much of the eastern half of the enclosure at Scrooby Top in later phases of occupation, and also spread across the enclosure entrance. It contained large quantities of charcoal, burnt and fire-cracked stones and pottery (Davies et al. 2000: 34-35, 47), and despite modern ploughing still formed a layer 0.25m thick below the topsoil. At Dunston's Clump, in Phase III there was a midden deposit up to 0.30m thick and 4 by 4.5m across inside the remains of an earlier rectangular building (Garton 1987: 33), which contained the largest Romano-British pottery assemblage from the site, in addition to an iron punch and a quernstone fragment.

At Lingwell Gate, although not excavated an oval area of discoloured subsoil approximately 10m by 20m was noted in the centre of the northern sub-enclosure. Interpreted as an 'activity area' (Roberts 2001a: 291), it is likely that this represented a spread of midden material. A 'dump' of material backfilling a 'working hollow' at Wattle Syke contained large quantities of burnt stone, animal bone, broken pottery and quern fragments, but also silver and copper-alloy Roman coins and a brooch (Chadwick pers. obv.). It is possible that on some settlement sites, recent heavy ploughing has reworked midden material into the topsoil or ploughsoil. Indeed, the midden at Scrooby Top was first identified as an artefact and charcoal rich deposit within a topsoil layer during the machine stripping of the site.

Figure F.38. *Possible later midden dump within a 'working hollow' at Wattle Syke, W. Yorks. Note the large quantities of burnt and heat-shattered stone visible in section, and also derived from one of the excavated slots across this feature. (Source: © AS WYAS).*

Temples and shrines, gods and goddesses

At Redhill in Nottinghamshire, close to the confluence of the Rivers Soar and Trent there was a possible Romano-British temple complex on a cliff-edge site (Hawkes and Jacobsthal 1945; Hildyard 1946). Fluted columns of red sandstone were reported (Houldsworth 1963: 23), along with an apparent square or rectangular building surrounded by an area of gravel or pebbles. In this surface was buried two lead curse tablets, one dedicated to Jupiter Optimus, the other still untranslated (E. Turner 1963; Williams 1964). A third curse tablet was recovered from the area during soil disturbance, recording the theft of a mule, bags and domestic items from Camulorix and Titocuna (Hassall and Tomlin 1992). There are problems with the structural evidence for the buildings (Bishop 2001: 7; Elsdon 1983: 16), and parts of the complex may have been quarried away and damaged over the years, but decorative bronze objects including an eagle, a ring inscribed with the legend TOT (for Toutates), a miniature axe head, lead tokens and a series of fine brooches have all been found in the vicinity (Palfreyman and Ebbins 2003: 22). Many coins have been found in the area, and from dredging of the river below. This temple would have been sited to overlook the confluence of the two rivers. The recovery of the La Tène shield boss from the Trent nearby, not to mention earlier Bronze Age deposits, may also suggest a long running tradition of ritual practices at this locale.

Near Bawtry in South Yorkshire, on the floodplain of the River Idle, recent development work exposed a series of stone pillars (Fig. F.39), associated with a concentration of over 70 Roman coins of different periods. Located close to the fortlet at Scaftworth and the crossing place of the Roman road over the Idle (Bartlett and Riley 1958; Dearne 1997), this may well be the location of another shrine or temple site (South Yorkshire SMR). Eight coins of Gallienus to Diocletian (AD 253-304) were found close to the site around 1840 (Magilton 1977: 13). This potentially highly important site requires further investigation in the future. Interestingly, like Redhill there may have been an inland port at Bawtry too, as there was in the later medieval period. The association of both Redhill and Bawtry with rivers is a feature of many other Romano-British temple sites (Blagg 1986).

Figure F.39. *View of part of the possible shrine site near Bawtry, showing a stripped area with stone pillars exposed just below the topsoil. (Source: © SYAS).*

Castleford lay at the confluence of the Rivers Aire and Calder, and several contexts and finds from the *vicus* indicate that there was a shrine or temple complex somewhere in this settlement. Building AX had a courtyard surrounded by three ambulatory wings and was regarded as a *mansio* by the excavators (Abramson and Fossick 1999: 147), but nearby pits contained a series of unusual placed deposits including honey and medicinal plants (see above). Also in these pits were substantial portions of ceramic and glass vessels, the latter a highly unusual occurrence, and some of them matched sherds in Building AX. Contexts associated with Building AX also contained a gold amulet case and a gold ring, several intaglios including one of Jupiter, coins, seal boxes, brooches and graffito (e.g. Cool 1998a, 1998c; Cool and Price 1998; Henig 1998). There was a concentration of *tazze* or ceramic incense burner fragments from this area of the *vicus* (Cool 1999: 301-302). An inscribed stone dedicated 'To the Nymphs' was found underneath the adjacent Building AX (Tomlin 1998: 353, plate 45) (Figs. 11.57-11.58), and beneath both buildings in apparent abandonment layers there was nevertheless a large number of copper-alloy toilet instruments (Cool 1998b; Cool 1998d: 367-368).

Finds from elsewhere in Castleford include a relief sculpture of a Mercury figure, two near-identical siren statues and a fragment of a once larger monumental relief slab depicting an altar (Blagg 1998: 247-250) (Figs. F.40.-F.42). The siren sculptures are

Figure F.40. (above). *Part of 1.80m high monumental relief from Castleford, showing an aedicule and an altar with a fire burning. (Source: Cool and Philo 1998: front cover).* **Fig. F.41. (top right).** *One of two siren statues found at Castleford, 0.50m high. (Source: © AS WYAS).* **Fig. F.42. (right).** *Relief sculpture of cloaked figure, probably Mercury. (Source: Blagg 1998: 248).*

the only known examples from Roman Britain, but they are also extremely rare finds throughout the former western provinces of the Empire. This suggests that at Castleford there was an important temple complex associated with Nymphs, water and healing; perhaps linked to the goddess Brigantia who also had watery associations (Cool 1999: 302-303). Most of the Phase III dog remains found in the *vicus* were recovered from pits near Buildings AX and AY, and a perforated dog canine pendant was found elsewhere in Castleford (Greep 1998: 279). Dogs were associated with some Roman springs and shrines, as at Lydney and Springhead.

In West Yorkshire, three altars including one dedicated to the goddess Brigantia were excavated at Adel in the early nineteenth century, along with a stone inscribed with a phallus (Faull 1981: 144), and building remains that might have been linked to a

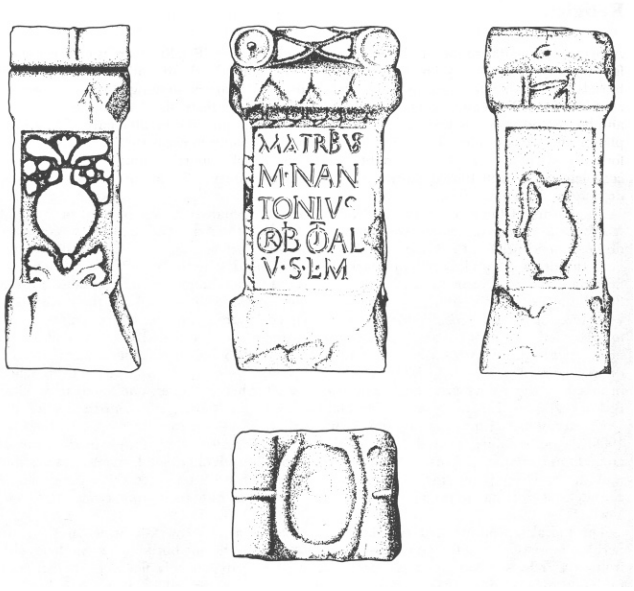


Figure F.43. *The Magnesian Limestone altar found in Doncaster in 1781 at St Sepulchre Gate, 0.75m high and 0.35m wide, and probably of late second or third century AD date. The inscription reads: MARTRIBVS M(ARCVS) NANTONIVS ORBIOTAL(IS) V(OTUM) S(OLVIT) L(IBENS) M(ERITO), or "To the Mother Goddesses, Marcus Nantonius Orbiotalis freely and deservedly has his vow". (Source: Buckland 1986: 50).*

temple or shrine in a *vicus* or fort. Two altars, including a small 'portable' or domestic example, have been found in Ilkley (Collyer and Turner 1885: 30; Woodward 1925: 320). Further altars to the Mother Goddesses, Victoria Brigantia, Fortune, Bregans, Apollo, and various emperors have been found at Altofts, Chapel Allerton, Elland cum Greetland, Harewood, Huddersfield, Longwood, Scarcroft and Wike (Collingwood and Wright 1965: nos. 627-629; Eastwood 1974; Faull 1981: 167; Ramm 1966a: 329; Wright 1965: 221; Yorkshire Philosophical Society 1891: 45). In 1781 an altar was found in Doncaster that was dedicated to 'the Mother Goddesses' (Buckland 1986: 49) (Fig. F.43), and an altar stone was recovered from the fort at Templeborough (May 1922: plate xxxix). Indications of more formal 'ritual' sites in Nottinghamshire include isolated finds of altar stones and figurines such as two clay *dea nutrix* statuettes from Margidunum (Jenkins 1969). Two lead fonts or cisterns were found at Brough and Thorpe, and one was deposited in a ditch at Flawborough (Bishop 2001: 7; Challis et al. 1999; Page 1910; Todd 1973; Watts 1995; White 1988; Wright 1955).

At Enclosure 8 at Redhouse Farm, Adwick-le-Street, 4m north of a four-post granary or fodder rick there was a square beam slot structure approximately 2.1m across (Upson-Smith 2006). This was opposite an early phase of enclosure entrance, and by

the side of a trackway (Fig. F.44). It appeared to have 'entrances' to the north-east and south-west, and is very similar in plan to structures from the hillforts at Danebury and South Cadbury that have been interpreted as shrines (Alcock 1972; Downes 1997: 148-150; Wait 1985: 166-167), especially structure N5 at Cadbury; but also other structures at Maiden Castle, Uley and Chelmsford of Iron Age and Romano-British date (Drury 1980: 45-50, fig. 3.2). Indeed, the N5 structure at South Cadbury has now been dated to the Romano-British period (Barrett, Freeman and Woodward 2000). Downes showed that on inferential grounds some structures at South Cadbury were probable shrines due to their association with placed deposits of animal remains and artefacts, and their central, 'ancestral' position within the hillfort (Downes 1997). At other sites however, shrines have often been identified in terms of what they are *not*, as features lacking in artefacts and other signatures of 'domestic' occupation. There is a danger of doing this with the structure at Redhouse Farm, where there are no contextual, artefactual or faunal associations to indicate a ritual function.

Figure F.44. *Square beam-slot structure excavated near Enclosure 8, Redhouse Farm, Awick-le-Street, S. Yorks., immediately adjacent to a trackway. A granary, storehouse or shrine? (Source: Upson-Smith 2006: 6).*

At Manor Farm, on the summit of the end of a gentle ridge bounded on three sides by Cock Beck, an unusual subtriangular feature was excavated, approximately 40m north-east of a small Bronze Age barrow (Burgess 2001a: 74-80, figs. 53-55, 59, plate 7) (Fig. F.45). It cut across the line of an earlier Iron Age ditched enclosure, and was situated on top of a structural group of six small pits and postholes that contained

cremated human and possibly animal bones of Iron Age date. The subtriangular feature consisted of at least two phases, only one of which had an apparent entrance.

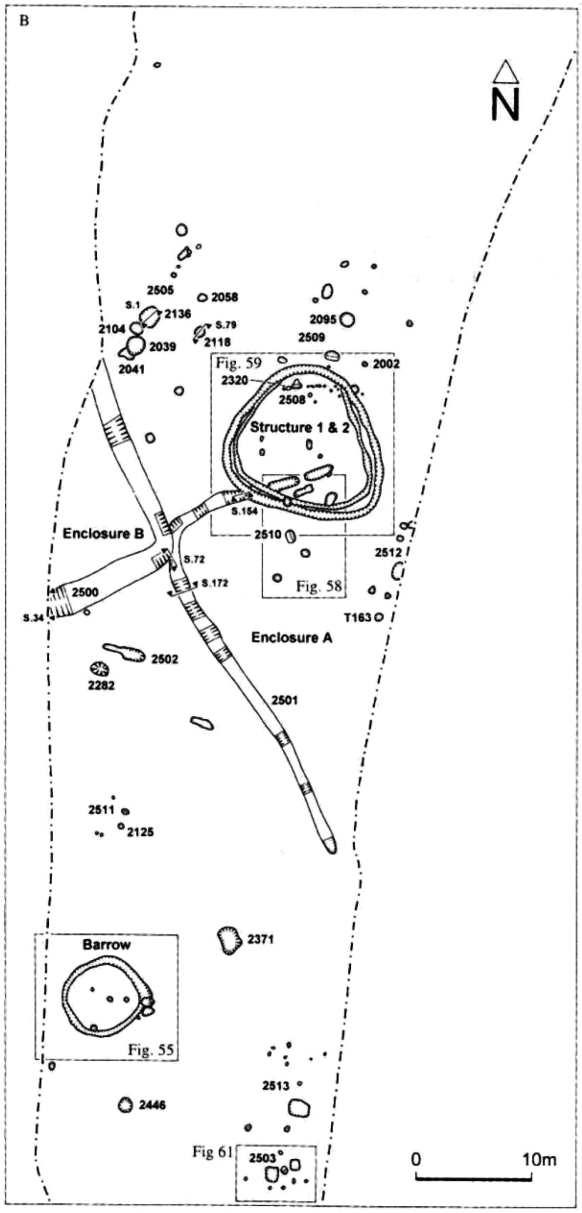


Figure F.45. (left). *The subtriangular feature at Manor Farm, near Garforth, W. Yorks. The earlier Iron Age enclosure and lines of pits and postholes are shown. (Sources: Burgess 2001a: 73, fig. 53).*

No finds were recovered from this subtriangular gully, but two Iron Age ^{14}C dates were obtained for the two phases (Burgess 2001a: 79). It may have been associated with two lines of pits and postholes forming a north-east to south-west 'avenue', but these features could not be dated, and although a Group VI Neolithic stone axe or adze was recovered from the surface of one of the pits (2095) (see Gazetteer, Appendix G), this might have been a curated artefact perceived as having special, even magical properties.

Although originating in the Iron Age, the subtriangular feature may have persisted in use until the early Romano-British period, and perhaps at a later date it was symbolically 'closed down' by the transverse line of later posts. Given the lengths of mnemonic time manifested at Ferrybridge, it is entirely possible that memory of this monument too persisted amongst a living community for several centuries. Further groups of pits and postholes to the north-west of the subtriangular structures may have formed one or two parallel north-east to south-west orientated alignments, and produced burnt stones, vitrified hearth lining, residual (or curated) Bronze Age

pottery and flints, one Iron Age pot sherd, and a stone gaming counter, in addition to Iron Age radiocarbon determinations. To the south, one pit in another group contained the stone mortar used for producing powdered iron ore (see above). Although interpreted as a building (Burgess 2001b: 265-266), the subtriangular feature was unlikely to have been a roofed structure. Some features of Manor Farm – the long chronology, the presence of small amounts of early Iron Age cremated bone, the insubstantial structures, lack of evidence for sustained occupation and the landscape location on a raised area near a junction between watercourse, all have similarities with an enclosure excavated at Normanton Golf Course (see Gazetteer, Appendix G), which was interpreted as a possible shrine (Timms 2005). Interestingly, a Neolithic blade found close to this site could also have been a curated item.

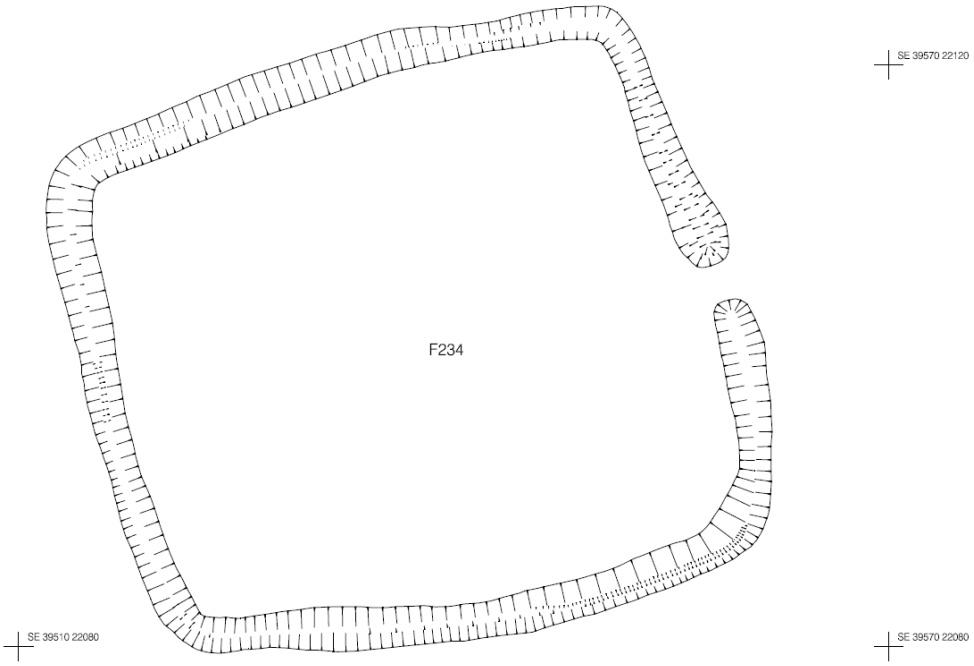


Figure F.46. *An early phase of the enclosure excavated at Normanton Golf Course. In later phases the ditch was recut as a continuous feature and a timber bridging structure formed the entrance. (Source: Timms 2005: 38, fig. 20).*

At Topham Farm Sykehouse, in addition to the excavated roundhouses two further round gullies were identified without entrance breaks (Figs. F.47). Set within a separate sub-enclosure to the rest of the settlement, Structure 5 was 12m in diameter, with a possible posthole set into the north-east side of the ring gully. Its secondary fills contained large amounts of charcoal, burnt or cremated animal bone, fired clay fragments or briquetage, and late Iron Age and Romano-British pottery of the late

first or early second century (Roberts 2003: 12). There were also residual or curated flints, including a fine flint scraper. A ^{14}C date of 60 BC – 180 AD was obtained from the charcoal. Given the paucity of Iron Age pottery on many sites, the fact that 111 sherds from many different vessels were present in Structure 5's ring gully is significant (Cumberpatch 2003), as too is the presence of the salt containers, which may have had symbolic importance. The feature contained 40% of all the Romano-British pottery from the entire site, including several near complete vessels.

Figure F.47. *Excavating Structures 5 and 6, Topham Farm, Sykehouse, S. Yorks. Note the absence of gaps in the circular gullies. (Source: Roberts 2003: front cover).*

Structure 6 succeeded Structure 5, and had a deeper and more V-shaped ring gully 5.5m across with two shallow postholes within it. To the south, a short linear east-west gully just truncated Structure 5, and may have been contemporary with Structure 6. Its fill produced a small amount of Romano-British pottery, and fire-cracked stones. Only one small, fired clay fragment was recovered from Structure 6, but a ^{14}C determination of 60 BC-140 AD was obtained, indicating it was close in date to Structure 5, or even formed an addition to the same structure. Roberts (2003: 29-30) suggested that Structures 5 and 6 were possible shrines, which given the unusual deposition and the lack of evidence for domestic occupation is possible. A very similar feature to Structure 6 was recently excavated at Wattle Syke, near Wetherby.

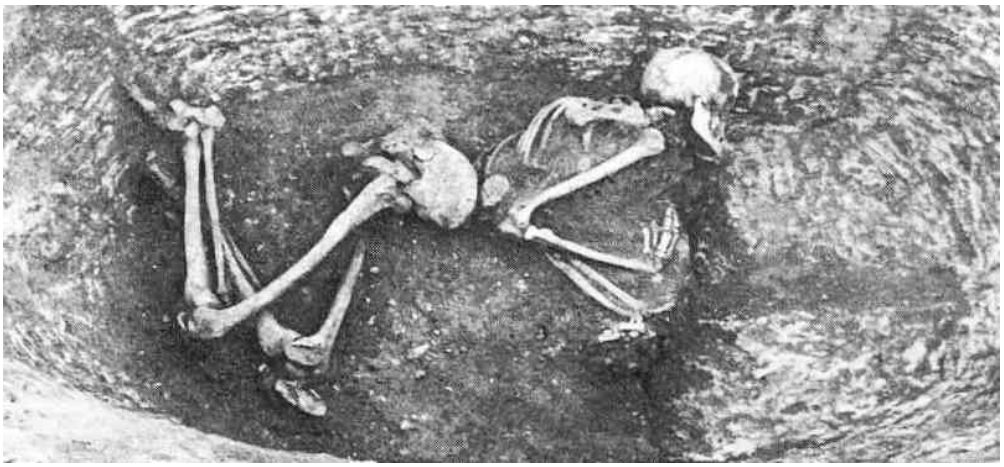
At Site M along the A1 (M) road corridor near Micklefield, a small structure (10251) of seven postholes was another possible shrine 6m square. Although no finds were associated with it, it was separate to the four-post structures on the site, and was close to a series of human pit burials (Brown, Howard-Davis and Brennand 2007: 93) (Figs. F.02, F.53, Structure 10251). At Moor Pool Close Rampton, a four-post structure was set within a subsquare gully, though there was no stratigraphic relationship between them, and the gully itself truncated an earlier small annular enclosure (Fig. E.21). Located in the south-west corner of the agglomerated settlement, John Thomas (2005: 62) suggested this was a possible shrine, although it may have been different phases of drainage gully around a granary or fodder rick, as the four-post structure was not on the same alignment as the gully. It is similar, however, to a five-post structure and square gully at the late Iron Age cremation cemetery at Westhampnett in West Sussex (Fitzpatrick 1997: 40-42, fig. 33, plate 16). David Knight has noted a small, subsquare 0.01ha enclosure at Gonalston (Fig. F.48), and another small 0.01ha trapezoidal example with a large ditch up to 2m wide and 1.4m deep near to the Roman town at *Crococalana* or Brough-on-Fosse (Elliott and Knight forthcoming; Knight and Howard 2004b: 93, fig. 5.16: enc. A). These examples are all difficult to explain as animal pens or hay ricks.

Figure F.48. *Iron Age enclosure, Gonalston, Notts., original entrance to the upper left. The ditch would appear to be disproportionately large for such a small feature if it was just to hold livestock. (Source: Knight and Elliott forthcoming).*

Human burials and human remains

The Iron Age

Within the study region, the cremated remains found at Manor Farm may represent early to middle Iron Age individuals (Burgess 2001a: 78). At Dalton Parlours, one certain Iron Age burial was found in a shallow pit in the north-west corner of Enclosure III, consisting of an adult woman in a crouched position, and dated to 355-94 BC (Sumpter 1990a: 17). Two pit burials were found at Ledston, both of flexed adult males. One had an iron finger ring, and was associated with cattle bone and the possible timber mortuary structure (Sumpter and Marriott 2005: 12) (Fig. F.49). It may have been placed near a four-post structure, or perhaps more likely, this had been constructed after it, next to the grave. The second inhumation was ^{14}C dated to 390 BC – AD 120. Both bodies had had limestone rubble placed on top of them.



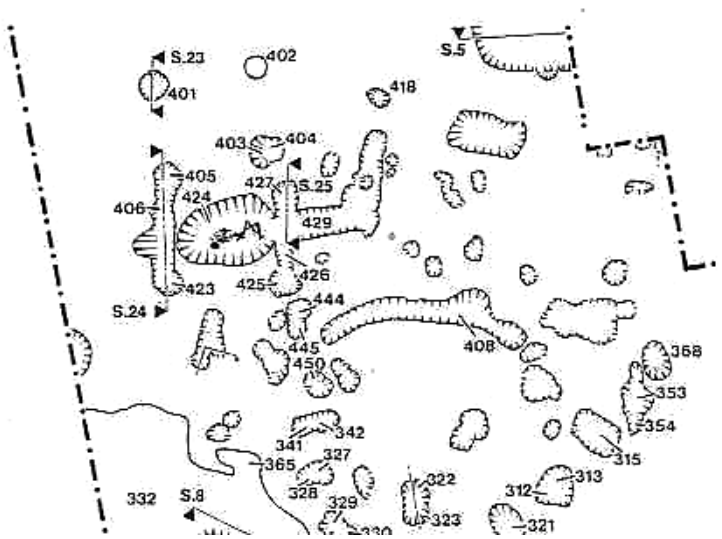


Figure F.49. (above). *Burial SK1 at Ledston, W. Yorks., a tall, well-built man aged 25-30, with an iron ring on his right index and/or fifth finger.* **Fig. F.50. (left).** *The context of the burial, close to a possible roundhouse, beneath a shrine or mortuary structure, and next to a four-post structure. (Source: Roberts 2005: 7, 11).*

The contextual associations of the one Ledston burial in particular are interesting, perhaps providing a symbolic link between a known ancestor, the world of the living, and a possible grain store reflecting fertility and agricultural production. The robustness of the dead man may have leant him or added to his status in life. Most members of the Iron Age population are clearly missing from the burial record, so it may be that the women and men that were inhumed were community leaders, elders or socially notable in other respects. Alternatively, many of those buried may have been people who were considered to have died 'before their time', or who had met inauspicious ends in some way.

At Area D South Elmsall, three grave cuts were identified containing the remains of four individuals, around 120m away from the enclosure (Howell 1998). Two were lying crouched in pits, a possible adult man and woman, and have been ^{14}C dated to 380 BC – AD 70 and 390-10 BC (Burgess 2001c: 268). The third burial was rather different in form, and together with the co-mingling of remains, this suggested it was not contemporary. An incomplete but partially articulated adult human skeleton, possibly a woman, was found at the base of a pit at Dale Lane, South Elmsall, immediately south of the enclosure ditch (Burgess 1998). An abraded possible human long bone fragment was recovered from the secondary ditch fill nearby. At Area C South Elmsall, there was an inhumation on its right side within a pit, outside the settlement area (McNaught 1998). It had been disturbed in the past, possibly by ploughing, and was undated. Another undated crouched inhumation found in Area A, Barnsdale Bar Quarry (Brown and Morris 1997; Burgess 2001f) could perhaps also be later Iron Age. Radiocarbon dating might confirm this.

During the 1990 Wattle Syke investigations, three inhumation burials were found within the enclosures. One seemed to be in the centre of a ring ditch (Turner 1991), but it is unclear whether this was a barrow or a roundhouse – the central inhumation may thus be Bronze Age in date. Another inhumation had a 'pillow' of stones, with the disarticulated remains of a dog underneath. No dating evidence was recovered, and the identification of these as Iron Age burials is contentious (Burgess 2001c: 268). At Ferrybridge for instance, a post-Roman burial ^{14}C dated to AD 540-720 found within Enclosure D had a small dog near the person's head, possibly used as a

pillow (Martin 2005: 121). It is hoped that the recent investigations and ongoing post-excavation work at Wattle Syke will allow radiocarbon dating on these inhumations to determine their likely date. The recent excavations at Wattle Syke uncovered several crouched and flexed inhumations that may be Iron Age, in addition to supine burials likely to be Romano-British or even post-Roman in date.

At Ferrybridge, three or four of the inhumations found in the pit alignment and pit groups were likely to have been Iron Age (Richardson 2005a: 70), and consisted of crouched or flexed adult women and men. Only one of these burials contained artefacts, that of a mature woman (SK14) dated to 200 BC–AD 60, who was associated with late Iron Age pottery, a flint flake, red deer bone and a pig canine (ibid.: 65-67). Again, these may be indications that in life this woman had held some slightly different, special or higher form of social identity or status.

At Site M near Micklefield, there were eight human pit burials, five from the south-eastern group of pits, and three in the north-west pit group (Figs. F.51-F.53). The spatial positioning of the graves suggested some were related. In the north-western group there were two young women and a mature adult male, all crouched and on their left sides. All had iron brooches, one woman also had an iron bracelet, and there was a black stone bead beneath the man's ribs (Brown, Howard-Davis and Brennand 2007: 99-100). There were two young men and a mature man in the south-east group, a mature woman, and one individual who could not be sexed. All bar one young male were on their left sides again, but he was on his right side. The other young male and the mature woman both had cattle bones placed with them that were probably joints of meat, and the woman was interred with an articulated arm from another individual. All were flexed. Strontium isotope analyses indicated that with the exception of the woman with the iron bracelet, the Site M people probably spent their earlier lives outside the region. This may have been from further north in Britain, and whilst it has been suggested that they could have been slaves (ibid.: 103), the presence of grave goods in the north-west group and the joints of meat in the south-east pits may argue against this. They could equally well have migrated into the area.

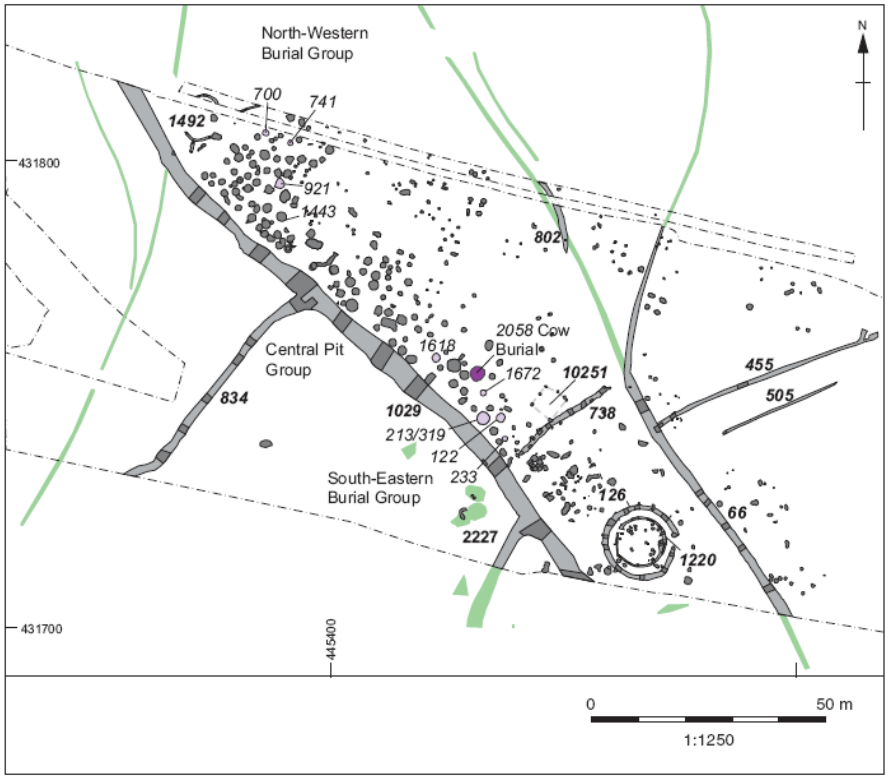


Figure F.51. *The locations of the human pit burials at Site M, A1 (M) road corridor, W. Yorks. (Source: Brown, Howard-Davis and Brennand 2007: 99, fig. 64).*

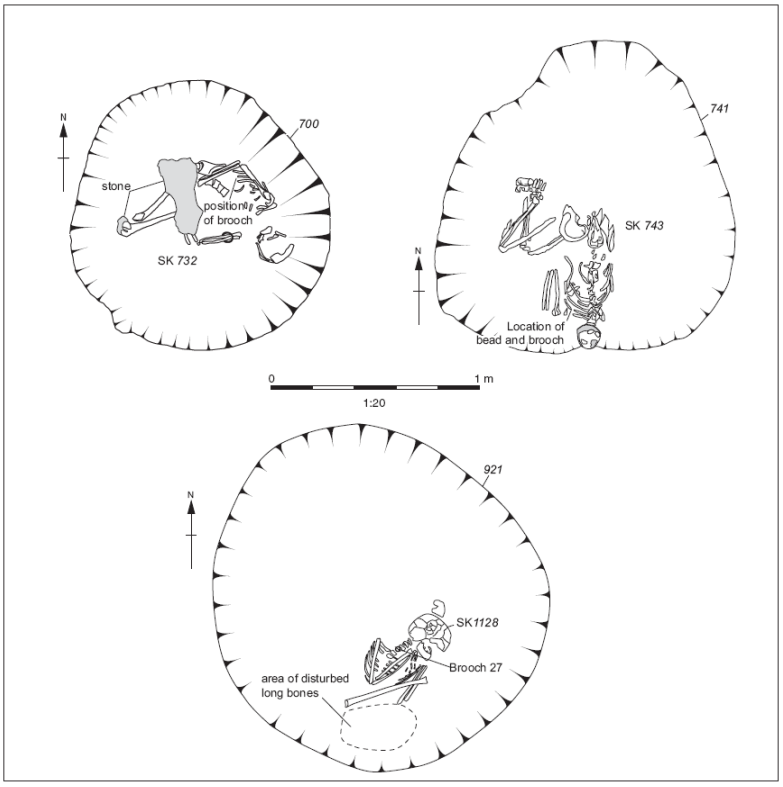


Figure F.52. *The two young adult women (SK 732 and SK 1128) and the mature adult male (SK 743) from the north-western group of pit burials at Site M. (Source: Brown, Howard-Davis and Brennand 2007: 100, fig. 65).*

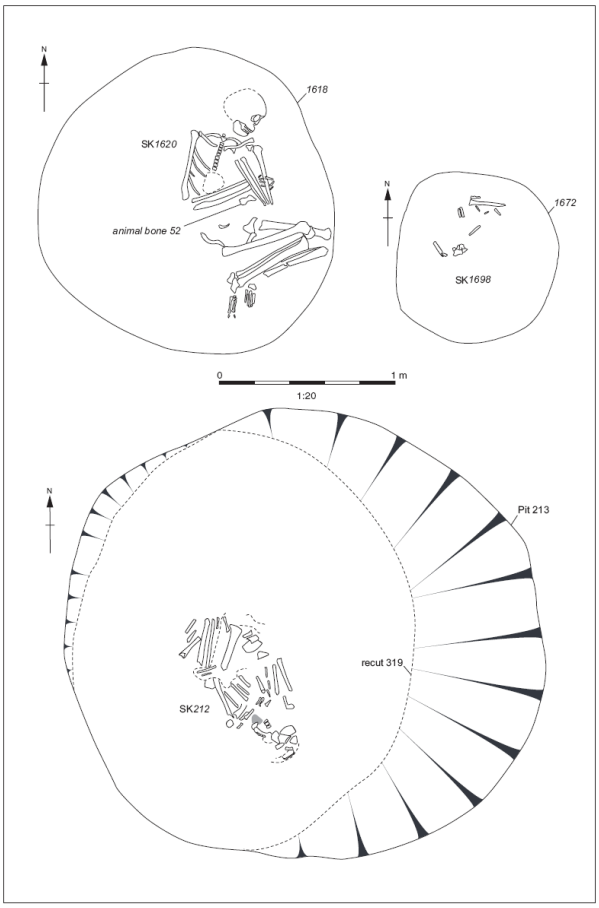


Figure F.53. *Three of the burials from the south-eastern group of pit burials at Site M. (Source: Brown, Howard-Davis and Brennand 2007: 101, fig. 66).*

The radiocarbon dates for these individuals all fall within the same range, but a plateau on the ^{14}C calibration curve means that this can only be dated to between 400-200 BC (Brown, Howard-Davis and Brennand 2007: 99-102). Significantly though, this is also within the date range (380-110 BC) proposed for the individual in the Ferry Fryston carriage burial (see below). It is thus possible that some of these people either formed part of his retinue (if he was of high status, as seems possible), or were part of a group of immigrants who came with him from the same lineage or clan. More detailed examination of the dates suggests some further tantalising possibilities. The 'local' woman with the iron brooch and bracelet may have been one of the earliest burials, in which case she may have helped form the merger of two different clans or lineages. It is feasible that she was married to one of the other individuals in the pit burial group, or perhaps even to the man in the carriage burial. The special treatment accorded to the people in this mini-cemetery might also have signified that they were founder members or pioneers of a new community.

Other burials along the A1 (M) included a single inhumation in a pit by the edge of a major boundary ditch at Site XX15, which was ^{14}C dated to 340-50 BC. Two burials in pits cut into silted up ditches associated with the D-shaped enclosure at Site Q were dated to 90 BC–AD 60, and AD 0-130, and thus represent late Iron Age or early Romano-British inhumations (Brown, Howard-Davis and Brennand 2007: 61-62, 75).

Recent excavations at Sutton Common provided the first evidence for a previously unknown rite from the mid-late Iron Age. Following a period of abandonment, in the large western enclosure up to 30 small enclosures defined by gullies were constructed, in a variety of shapes from circular to rectangular, but all less than 3m long and 2m wide (Chapman and Fletcher 2007: 152-155; Van de Noort 2007b) (Figs. F.54.-F.55). Cremated remains were found in at least two of them, along with several glass beads, in one example within the postpipe of a previous four-post structure – a symbolically suggestive link. In the few excavated gully sections scattered cremated remains, ashes and pyre debris were found. Some enclosures were not dug at all. Apart from the glass beads, the only find possibly associated with the enclosures was a strip of hammered gold of fourth to first century BC date (Hill 2007).

Figure F.54. *Two of the small enclosures excavated at Sutton Common, S. Yorks., featuring scattered human remains. (Source: Chapman and Fletcher 2007: 155, fig. 8.4).*

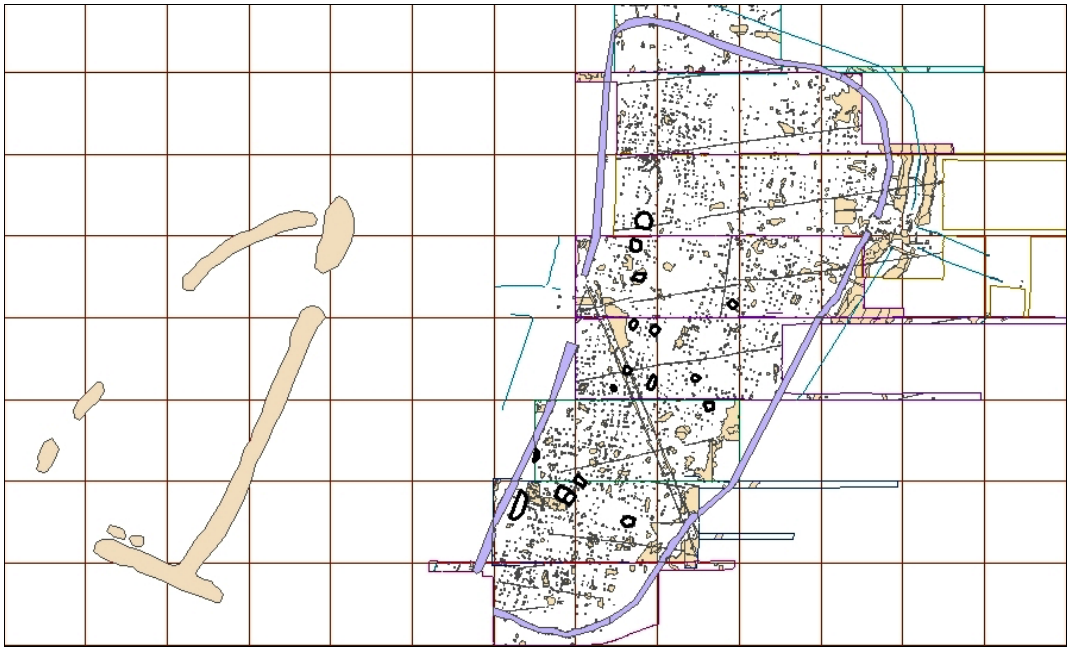


Figure F.55. *The locations of some of the possible later Iron Age mortuary enclosures at Sutton Common, shown in bold in relation to the other excavated features. The example shown in Fig. F.54 above was located on the lower left of the main site plan. The enclosures may have been roughly aligned to respect the western boundary of the eastern enclosure. (Source: © Chapman and Van de Noort).*

There are no real regional parallels for these finds. It is significant that an older construction such as Sutton Common was re-used for this practice, and by this date its marshy location may have been regarded as a liminal place in the landscape. A much earlier Bronze Age mortuary enclosure with pyre debris dated to 1885-1690 BC may reflect this same liminal attraction (Van de Noort and Chapman 2007: 37). It is not known if there were Iron Age mortuary enclosures within the unexcavated eastern enclosure. People may have been deliberately trying to make connections to real or imagined ancestors, perhaps at a time of social stress or change. The nearest equivalents are perhaps the small late Iron Age and early Romano-British 'barrowlets' that have been recently discovered in the Vale of Pickering – small enclosures defined by palisades that were probably a development of the middle Iron Age square barrow rite (Powlesland 2004).

No Iron Age burials have been identified in Nottinghamshire (Bishop 2001: 5). At Gonalston, North Muskham (Fig. F.56) and The Ness, small square-ditched enclosures in clusters have been identified on aerial photographs (Knight and Howard

2004b: 98-99, fig. 5.15; Woodhouse 1993: 12-13; Whimster 1989: 25, plate 17). Located next to River Trent, other examples also occur at Aston-upon-Trent and Barrow-upon-Trent in Derbyshire, but also further afield in southern Scotland (Armit 1997: 97-98). These appear superficially similar to the square barrows of East Yorkshire. The location of the Trent examples may be significant, indicating symbolic links with water and perhaps reflecting some of the East Yorkshire locales (q.v. Bevan 1997, 1999a, 1999b; cf. Giles 2000: 106-111). Three have been excavated – one at Aston-upon-Trent (Fig. F.57) and two at Gonalston, but although small quantities of Iron Age pottery were recovered from the ditches no grave pits were found (Knight and Howard 2004b: 98; May 1970). Some East Yorkshire square barrows may have had bodies placed directly on the ground surface (Stead 1992: 179-180), and others may have been 'cenotaphs' only. This might also have been the case with the Trent Valley examples, or they were mortuary enclosures rather than burial monuments, used solely for funerary rites, after which the bodies were exposed on the ground without a mound covering them, or were placed in the river nearby.

Figure F.56. *Square-ditched enclosures or barrows next to the River Trent at North Muskham, Notts., SK 8035 6075. At least ten are visible in this aerial photograph taken by Derrick Riley. In addition to the symbolic importance of the river, the location of these features may also suggest the possibility of rites attended by people travelling in boats. Note too the trackway to the left of the image, which is again reminiscent of some East Yorkshire square-barrows, although those were often aligned along watercourses. (Source: Knight and Howard 2004b: 99).*

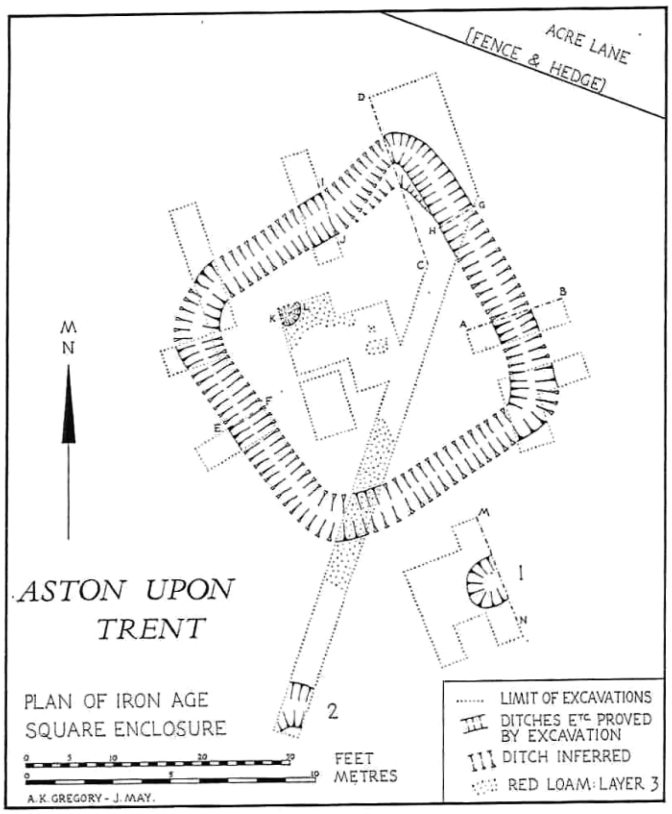


Figure F.57. (left). *The square-ditched enclosure or barrow excavated at Aston-upon-Trent. No central grave mound was discovered, and small numbers of Iron Age pottery sherds were found in the square ditch. (Source: May 1970: 14).*

The Ferry Fryston carriage burial

Near Ferrybridge in West Yorkshire a small, square ditched feature had been identified and noted as of possible significance on aerial photographs since the late 1990s (e.g. Burgess 2001c: 268; Deegan 1998a: 4), and when the topsoil was stripped in 2003 as part of the A1 (M) road improvement scheme, a square barrow feature was revealed in between two round barrows, approximately 600m to the north-west of the late Neolithic henge (Figs. F.58-F.60). The excavation of this area by Oxford Archaeology North (termed Site D) found a chariot or carriage burial placed directly in a large central pit, with its wheels to the south and the pole and yoke to the north, as found in other known carriage burials (Carter and Hunter 2003; Stead 1992). The pit may have been dug in advance, but possibly in a hurry, as it was not quite long or wide enough for the vehicle and subsequent to the initial digging additional recut extensions to the large pit had to be made (Boyle et al. 2007: 125).

The carriage had been placed into the pit whole, like the Scottish Newbridge vehicle (Carter and Hunter 2003) and less well-known potential examples from outside the East Yorkshire Wolds at Pexton Moor and Cawthorn in North Yorkshire, and perhaps

Hunmanby (e.g. Giles 2000; Mortimer 1905: 358-364; Sheppard 1907). All of the excavated Wolds examples were dismantled. There are indications that the carriage was not a 'working' vehicle – the terret rings were too fragile to have been used for long, and the iron tyres and the wheels themselves seem to have come from two different vehicles (Boyle et al. 2007: 127, 139). The carriage may have well been assembled just for the funeral procession, or even perhaps in the grave. People not horses might even have pulled it towards its final destination, but the remains of at least one iron bit close to an arm of the person may have been a symbolic indication of the presence of horses (Fig. F.63). Evidence for the carriage's superstructure was not well preserved, and it is possible that it was removed or modified in some way to accommodate the corpse. Organic soil stains were concentrated to the north of the axle of the carriage, an unsuitable position for an attached carriage 'box' or superstructure (Boyle et al. 2007: 144). The body may therefore have been in a coffin, on a bier or within a detached carriage 'box', perhaps even underneath it.

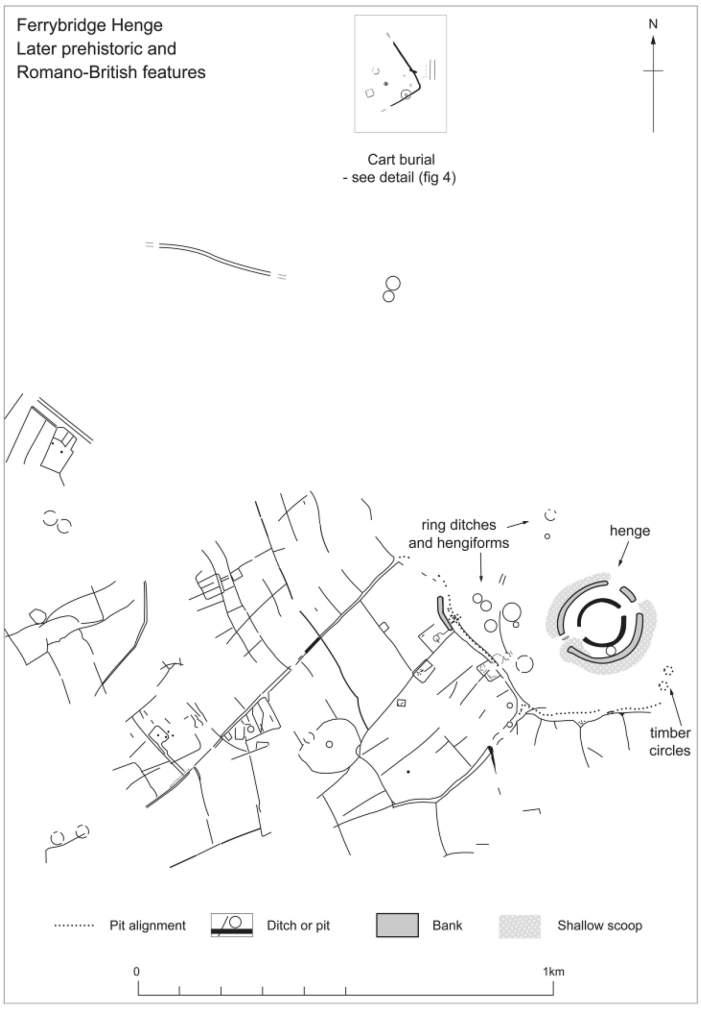


Figure F.58. (left). *A much simplified plan of the later prehistoric and Roman features at Ferrybridge. The Ferry Fryston cart or carriage burial was discovered roughly 600m to the north of the henge by Oxford Archaeology North, having previously been identified on an aerial photograph by Alison Deegan as being of significance. (Drawn by A. Leaver, from Chadwick 2007: 140, fig. 13.3).*

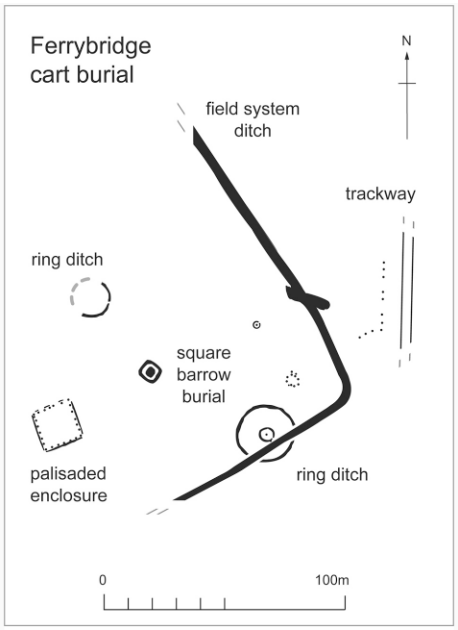


Figure F.59. (top left). *The barrow was revealed during soil stripping, as a small square feature with a central pit (upper left). It was close to a square palisaded feature (centre). (Source: Boyle 2004a: 27).*

Fig. F.60. (top right). *The square barrow was situated between two earlier Bronze Age round barrows that were probably still visible in the landscape (indeed, a later post-medieval ha-ha ditch used one barrow as a marker). A trackway and post alignments were nearby to the east, and the palisaded enclosure lay just to the south-west. (Drawn by A. Leaver, from Chadwick 2007: 141, fig. 13.4).*

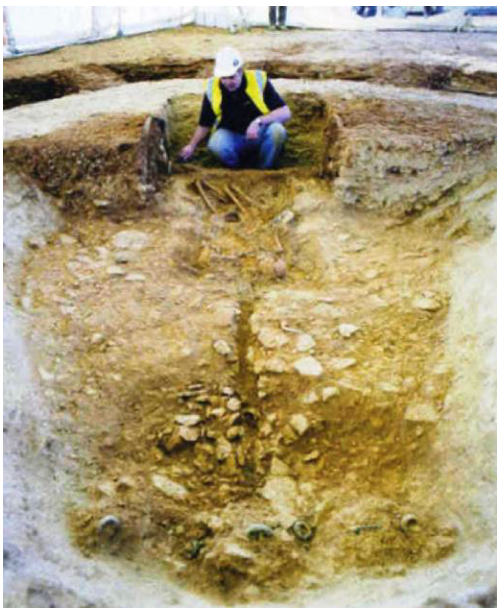


Figure F.61 (left). *Excavation of the carriage burial, looking south with the copper-alloy terret rings in the foreground, and the yoke of the vehicle leading towards the skeleton and the iron-hooped wheels. (Source: Boyle 2004b: 485).* **Fig. F.62. (right).** *Excavating one of the spoked wheels of the carriage, showing the iron tyre hoop. (Source: Boyle 2004a: 27).*

The flexed body was of a tall adult male aged 30-40 years at death laid on his back with his head to the north. It was originally proposed that like Newbridge, the Ferrybridge burial may have been quite early, possibly dating to the fifth century BC (Boyle 2004a: 26), and ^{14}C determinations from the skeleton provided dates of 380-110 BC and 360-120 BC (Boyle et al. 2007: 129). The man was accompanied by the scorched or cooked split skull and mandible and upper leg of a pig, placed to the east of his arm. A single involuted brooch was found close to the man's left shoulder, and is thought on metalwork typologies to be mid to late second century BC in date (ibid.: 147). There may also have been a shield laid across the man's upper body.

Isotope studies suggest that the man was not born and raised on the Magnesian Limestone, but may have come from further north – an apparent 'incomer' of some considerable status by the time of his death who may have founded a lineage or a clan. Across the local landscape, interesting connections may be the non-local people in the pit burials at Site M near Micklefield, and the deposition of a decorated sword scabbard in the ditch of the Ferrybridge henge to the south. The close association of the square barrow with earlier Bronze Age features such as the round barrows was clearly deliberate, and may have been an attempt to legitimate a new lineage and/or hark back to either real or imagined ancestors. In this regard, it is interesting that two sherds of Beaker pottery, two worked flints and a saddle quern were also recovered from the square barrow ditch (Boyle et al. 2007: 124). These were probably not merely residual objects, but were carefully selected 'relics' (q.v. Woodward 1993).

Rather than simply regarding the carriage as 'cobbled together' for the funeral and burial, it might be more productive to see it as manifesting different biographies of objects and materials, perhaps drawing on the real and symbolic landscape associations and social connections of the dead man (Giles 2000, 2002). Melanie Giles has outlined the phenomenological qualities of these Iron Age vehicles, and how they were the 'ultimate stage for framing and drawing attention to a body' (Giles 2000: 137-138). Such carriages gave high-status people rapid access to more distant places, and might have speeded the departure of the dead to the afterlife and eased their journeys. Shields and inverted carriage boxes or coffins restricted visual access to the bodies, but following Taussig (1999: 175), Giles shows how this may have actually highlighted and drawn attention to that which was being hidden (Giles 2000:

137). If the body was on public display on the carriage and/or in a mortuary enclosure prior to the burial, the placement of these objects would have further emphasised another stage in the separation of the dead person from the world of the living.

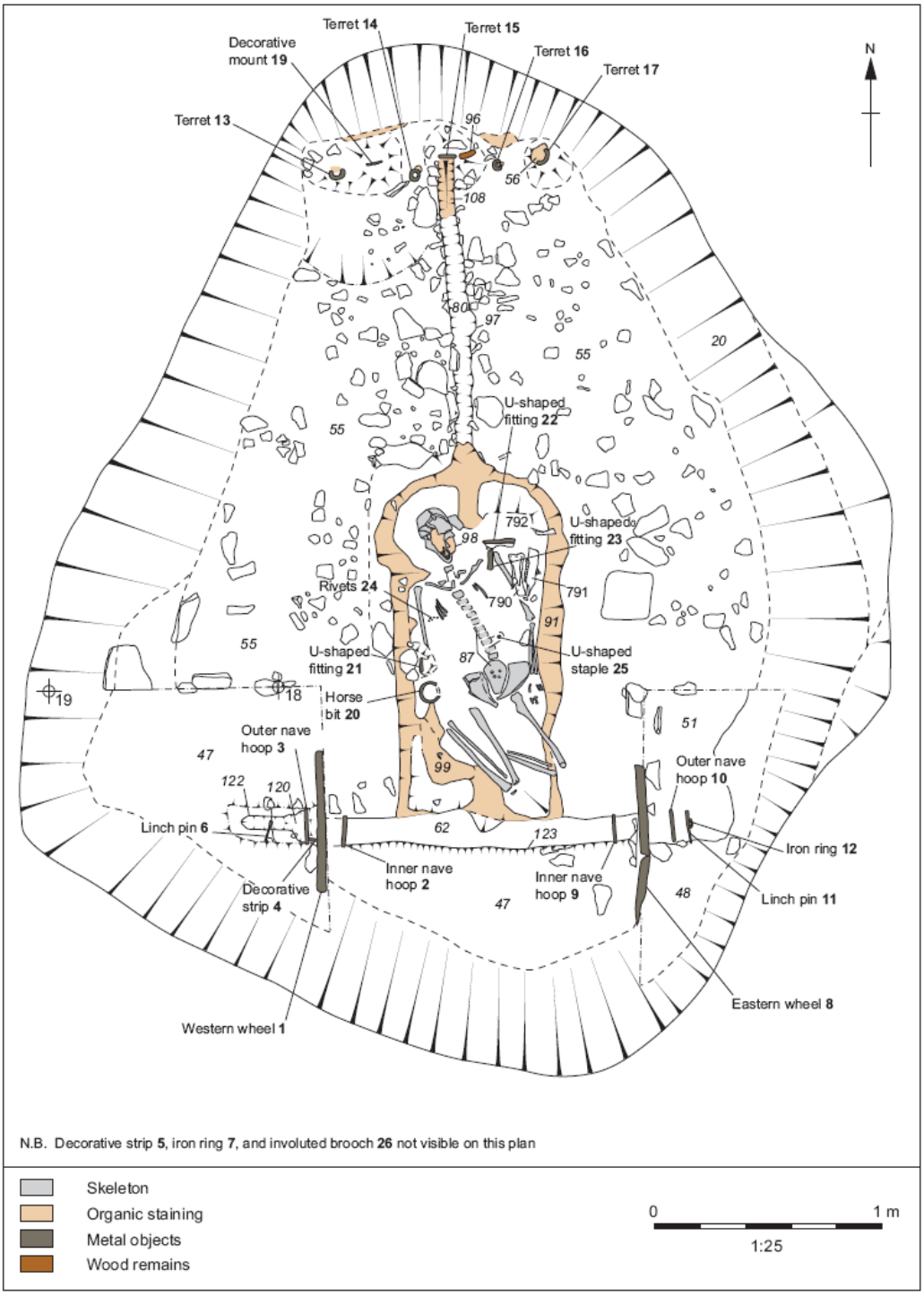


Figure F.63. *Detailed plan of the Ferry Fryston carriage burial. Note the terret rings at the northern end of the yoke, the forward position of the body implying a detached carriage-box or superstructure, and the organic staining around the body. (Source: Boyle et al. 2007: 126, fig. 86).*

Just above the primary silts on the base of the square ditch were the partial remains of up to 25 adult cattle, including five skulls, which may have been displayed on the mound or even elsewhere before they were deposited. These bones were dated to 410-200 BC, approximately contemporary with the burial (Boyle et al. 2007: 131). The upper deposit in the ditch contained over 12 000 animal bones from around 160 cattle, almost exclusively the heads and right forelimbs of the animals (Figs. F.05.-F.06). The consistent density of the bone and the lack of lensing within the deposit initially suggested that this was from just one episode, perhaps a massive feast. The ^{14}C dates were surprising, however, with dates of AD 60-220 suggesting some were deposited in the second century AD, although the majority seem to have been deposited during the mid-third to mid-fourth centuries AD (Boyle et al. 2007: 132-133). The deposition may thus have taken place regularly over 300 years, with smaller-scale feasting episodes involving individual beasts or small groups, and there are indications from the cattle bones that this took place seasonally during September-December. Even more intriguingly, isotope analysis of selected cattle bones indicated that none of the beasts tested were local either, and were raised elsewhere in Yorkshire, or even further afield.

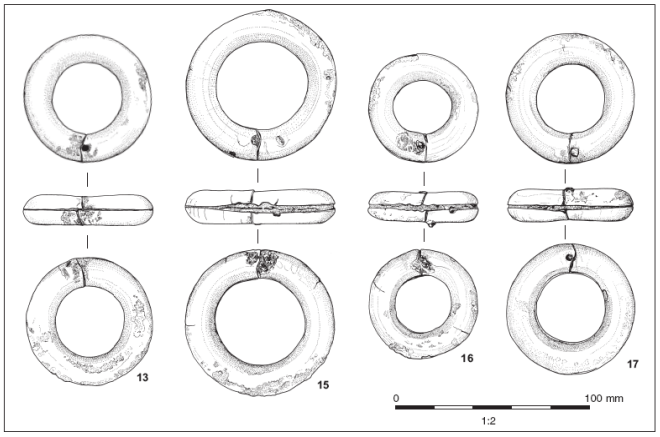


Figure F.64. (left). *The square barrow ditch and central grave fully excavated. (Source: © Oxford Archaeology North).* **Fig. F.65. (right).** *Four of the copper-alloy terret rings from the excavated carriage. (Source: Boyle et al. 2007: 140, fig. 98).*

Although the man buried at Ferry Fryston was probably an incomer from another region, possibly East Yorkshire (or North Yorkshire, or southern Scotland), there were also significant differences between this carriage burial and the rite as practised in East Yorkshire. The fact the carriage was largely intact and not disassembled, the

emphasis on beef rather than pork, the lack of obvious martial objects in the grave – all of these suggest that if the man had indeed come from East Yorkshire, there were some interesting transformations or reworkings of practices and perhaps even identities taking place. Recent excavations at Wattle Syke near Wetherby recorded another small square barrow, but the surrounding ditch only produced a few fragments of animal bone, and there was no evidence for any central burial, only a tree bole. Perhaps any human remains originally present had been placed directly on the original ground surface under a small mound, or perhaps this feature was more like a cenotaph, located on the edge of the settlement (M. Giles pers. comm.). Some East Yorkshire square barrows have not produced evidence for any central grave.

Figure F.66. (left). *The Wattle Syke square barrow after initial cleaning.* **Fig. F.67. (right).** *Panoramic shot showing the barrow under excavation in the foreground, on the margin of the densely occupied area. (Source: © AS WYAS).*

Romano-British burials

Burials sited next to ditches included the inhumations of two adults and two infants at Dalton Parlours (Manchester and Bush 1990: 172-174), and three adult inhumations at Parlington Hollins West in Enclosure D (Holbrey and Burgess 2001: 96-97, fig. 75). Alternatively, there were burials actually within the boundary ditches or internal gullies of enclosures, as at Dalton Parlours, where the remains of one adult and five infants were found in enclosure ditches or gullies (Manchester and Bush 1990: 172-174), at Site XX8 between Pontefract and Knottingley where a foetal or neonate was found in a ditch (Brown, Howard-Davis and Brennand 2007: 57) and at Raymoth Lane, Worksop, where an old adult woman (52-59 years) and a young adult male (17-25 years) were buried in the upper fills of the southern ditch terminal of the western

enclosure entrance (Kitch 2004: 76-77; Palmer-Brown and Munford 2004: 27, 30, fig. 6). South of this, a young child aged 6-9 had also been buried in the upper fills of the enclosure ditch, with adult-sized copper-alloy bracelets on the upper body close to the right arm, a smaller copper-alloy bracelet around the right wrist, and a fourth lay near the left wrist. There was also a jet bead found close to the jaw (ibid.: fig. 9, plate 4). One pit in the south central part of the enclosure at Raymoth Lane contained five partial neonate skeletons (Palmer-Brown and Munford 2004: 30). Four infants were also buried in a ditch at Womersley (Buckland and Dolby 1987).

Figure F.68. (left). *Burial of an adult Romano-British woman at Site XX15 within a silted-up field ditch. Note the associated pottery vessel (behind the head), and the copper-alloy neck ring. (Source: Howard-Davis, Lupton and Boyle 2005: 18).* **Fig. F.69. (top right).** *Romano-British cist burial recorded at Wattle Syke, W. Yorks., containing an adult inhumation. (Source: © AS WYAS).* **Fig. F.70. (bottom right).** *Undated crouched inhumation from Wattle Syke, with feet truncated by modern disturbance. (Source: © AS WYAS).*

A few inhumations occurred in more isolated positions next to or within boundary ditches, as with one burial at Parlington Hollins West (Holbrey and Burgess 2001: 96), and at Area B Barnsdale Bar Quarry (Burgess 2001f). At Site XXI5, a grave cut into a ditch was that of an adult woman with a copper-alloy necklet and an almost

complete ceramic jar, and her bones produced a date of AD 70-230 (Brown, Howard-Davis and Brennand 2007: 76-77) (Fig. F.68). There were also Romano-British inhumations associated with the pit alignment and pit groups at Ferrybridge (Richardson 2005a: 70). One of an adult male dated AD 20-340 was associated with a copper-alloy brooch (ibid.: 67). At Wattle Syke, one burial of an adult was associated with a near-complete but fragmented greyware vessel, possibly smashed *in situ*, another with an iron brooch, and one possible juvenile individual in a double inhumation with several coins (place by the hands) and bracelets. Nevertheless, despite these examples, most of the Romano-British rural burials excavated in the study region did not contain artefacts.

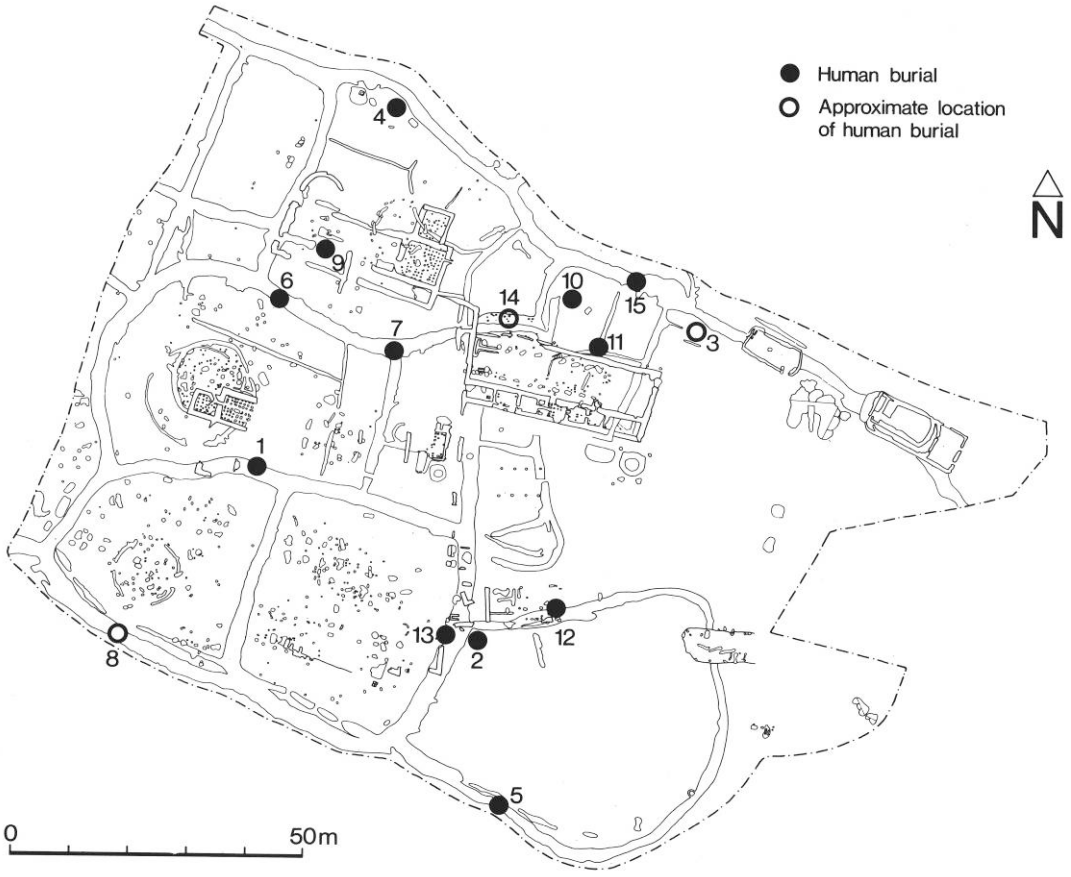


Figure F.71. *The locations of human burials at Dalton Parlours, W. Yorks. With the exception of burial 1, a post-Roman inhumation, and burial 4, the crouched inhumation of an adult Iron Age woman dated to 355-394 BC, it is likely that the remaining burials (adults nos. 8, 10, the rest neonates or infants) were from the Romano-British period. The high proportion of neonates and infants, most buried in ditches, is especially noteworthy. (Source: Manchester and Bush 1990: 171).*

At Parlington Hollins West, two late Roman inhumations were inserted into the ditch terminals of the earlier phase Enclosure C (Holbrey and Burgess 2001: 101-102). Interestingly, these were orientated east-west, which might indicate an early Christian rite, but skeleton 880 in grave 883 (an adult woman) had been decapitated, and the head had been placed between her feet, although it is not know if this was peri-mortem or post-mortem (Fig. F.72). Hobnails were also recovered from around the feet. A decapitated, possible female skeleton dated to 160 BC–AD 90 and missing its skull was found in the pit alignment at Ferrybridge (Richardson 2005a: 64-65, fig. 51), and a decapitated male skeleton was found in a stone coffin at Paper Mill Garth, Pontefract, with its head between its feet (Faull 1981: 166). Decapitation is another relatively well-known rite in Roman-period burials (Philpott 1991), and does not seem to have been a punishment. It may have symbolised an unlucky death, and/or perhaps the head was removed to prevent a troubled soul returning to the body.

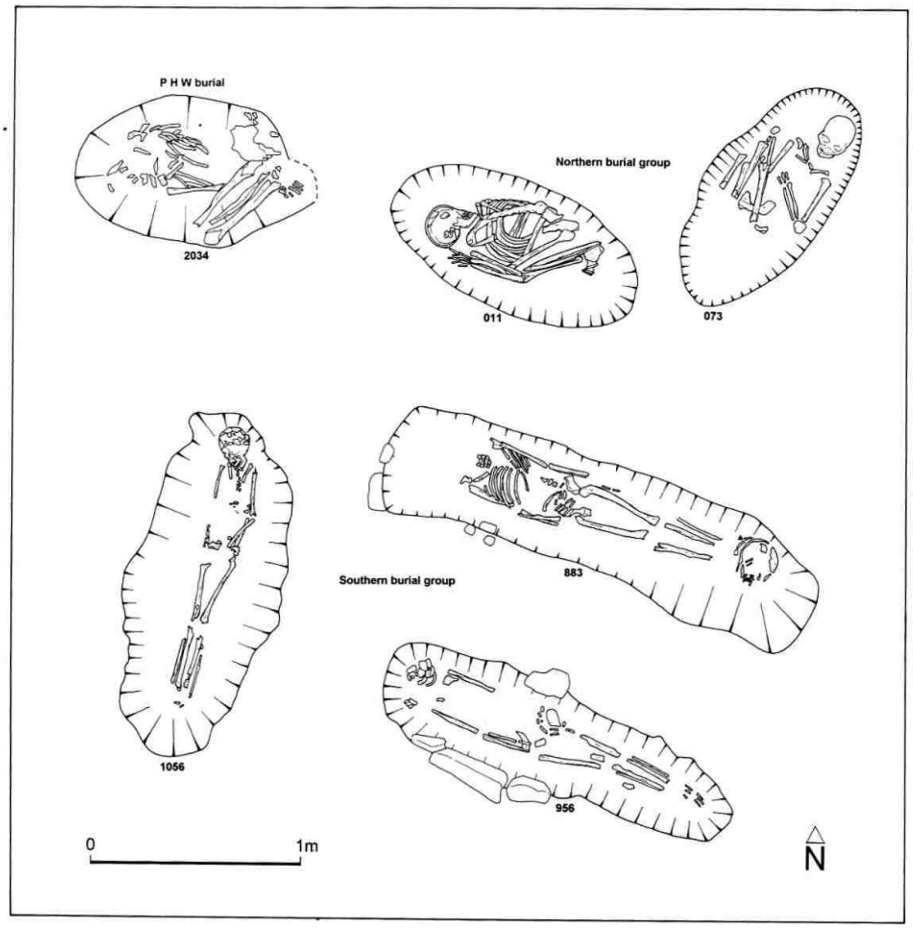


Figure F.72. *The Romano-British inhumations from Parlington Hollins, W. Yorks. Skeleton 880 in grave 883 was a decapitation burial of an adult woman. (Source: Holbrey and Burgess 2001: 97).*

Some cremation burials also occurred, including older isolated finds of urns (e.g. Faull 1981: 166-167), but also within vessels in isolated pits within enclosures, as at Parlington Hollins West Enclosure D (Holbrey and Burgess 2001: 97-99), in the ditches of enclosures as at Upton (Roberts 1995), or in small cists (Faull 1981). At Site XX15, a cremation burial in a second or early third century greyware jar was immediately north of an inhumation cut into a field ditch (Brown et al. 2007: 76-77; see above). A cremation burial was found in the butt end of a field ditch near Enclosure E1 at Adwick-le-Street (Upson-Smith 2002: fig. 5), but rather frustratingly it is not described further in any of the archive reports. At *Segelocum* or Littleborough-on-Trent, a large pit next to the Roman road to Doncaster contained two disturbed cremation deposits in or associated with several pots (Riley, Buckland and Wade 1995: 262). Unurned cremated deposits of people and animals were found in three pits at Armthorpe, in a small enclosure near a well or waterhole (Hughes 2006), and some of the cremated remains found at Hallgate in Doncaster were also without urns (Atkinson and Cumberpatch 1995: 22). Cremated bone that may be human and Romano-British in date has been recovered from a variety of contexts including a pit at Swillington Common North described as Bronze Age, but given its location more likely to have been late Iron Age or Romano-British (cf. Howell 2001: 52); and from the ditch of Enclosure E at Parlington Hollins East (Start 2001: 212).

Philpott (1991) suggested that cremation was primarily an earlier Romano-British practice, with inhumation becoming common later in the period. The Enclosure D cremation at Parlington Hollins was within a third or fourth century vessel, however, with a ^{14}C date of AD 254-511 (Holbrey and Burgess 2001: 99). The cremation at Upton was in a possible Huntcliff ware jar, probably of later fourth century or early fifth century in date (Rush 1995: 16), and a cremation burial at Adel was also found in a similar vessel (O'Neill 2001c: 279). Romano-British inhumation and cremation burials of the same approximate date are also known from York, Whinmoor and Doncaster (Atkinson and Cumberpatch 1995: 21; Faull 1981: 166; R.F.J. Jones 1991). This evidence suggests a more complex situation, or even regional variation. Why certain people were cremated and others buried as inhumations is not clear. It may reflect persistence of a local tradition, differences in their religious beliefs during life, and/or aspects of their social identity such as status, gender and lineage.

Figure F.73. (top left). *Romano-British crouched inhumation (Grave 011) of an adult woman at Parlington Hollins, W. Yorks. (Source: © AS WYAS).* **Fig. F.74. (bottom left).** *Skeleton 075 in grave 073 at Parlington Hollins, W. Yorks., that of an adult woman.* **Fig. F.75. (right).** *Excavating skeleton 1051 grave 1056 at Parlington Hollins, that of a juvenile individual. (Source: Holbrey and Burgess 2001: 95, 102).*

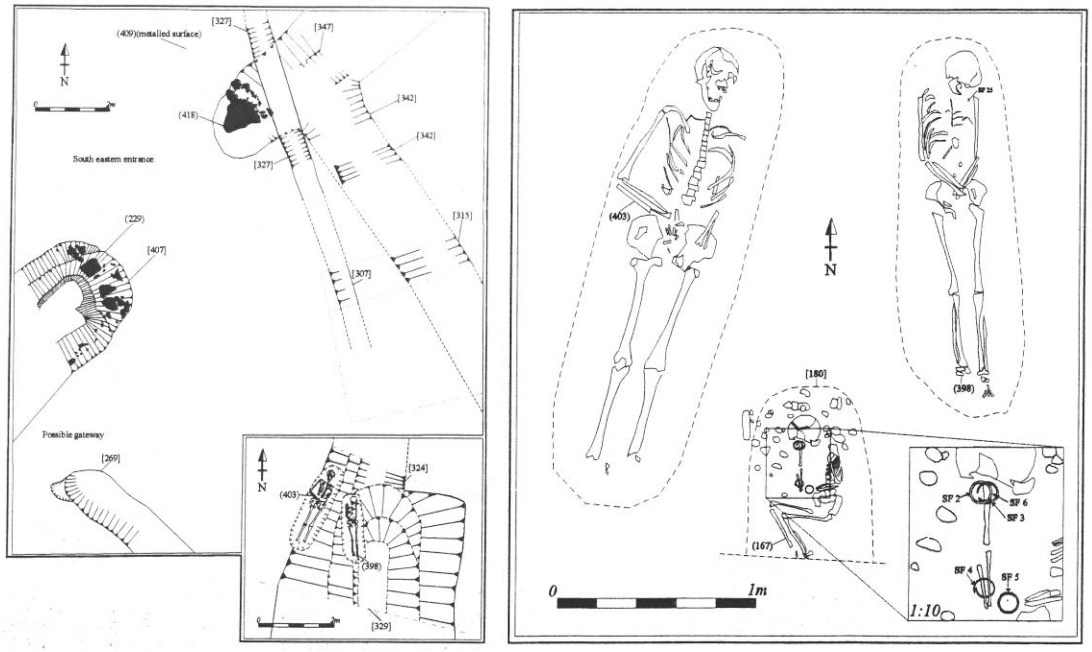


Figure F.76. (left). *The south-eastern entrance into the enclosure at Raymoth Lane, Worksop, Notts., showing its restricted nature and the later stone dumps; but also detail of the southern terminal of the western entrance, showing the two adult inhumations buried in the ditch. These were of a young adult male and an older adult woman.* **Fig. F.77. (right).** *Details of the two adult inhumations from Raymoth Lane, but also the additional burial of a child found just to the south, with four copper-alloy bracelets. (Source: Palmer-Brown and Munford 2004: 27, 33).*

Few cemeteries are known from the study region. The nine inhumations and five cremation burials at Hallgate in Doncaster are the first evidence for a cemetery there, originally just outside the town (Atkinson and Cumberpatch 1995: 19-20). Prior to this, only scattered Romano-British human remains had been found. At Staunton sixteen inhumation burials were excavated (Todd 1975: 34), and it is possible that four inhumations and two cremations at Adwick-le-Street represented part of a small rural cemetery (Dolby 1969), but there is no firm evidence of this, although two vessels from a limestone cist were also found at Red House, Adwick-le-Street (Buckland and Magilton 1986: 195). Small groups of burials found in West Yorkshire near Adel, Castleford, Ilkley, Slack and Wetherby may also be from small cemeteries associated with these settlements (Faull 1981: 145, 153), whilst small inhumation cemeteries existed at Brough, Redhill and *Margidunum* (Bishop 2001; Houldsworth 1973; Oswald 1949; Palfreyman and Ebins 2003).

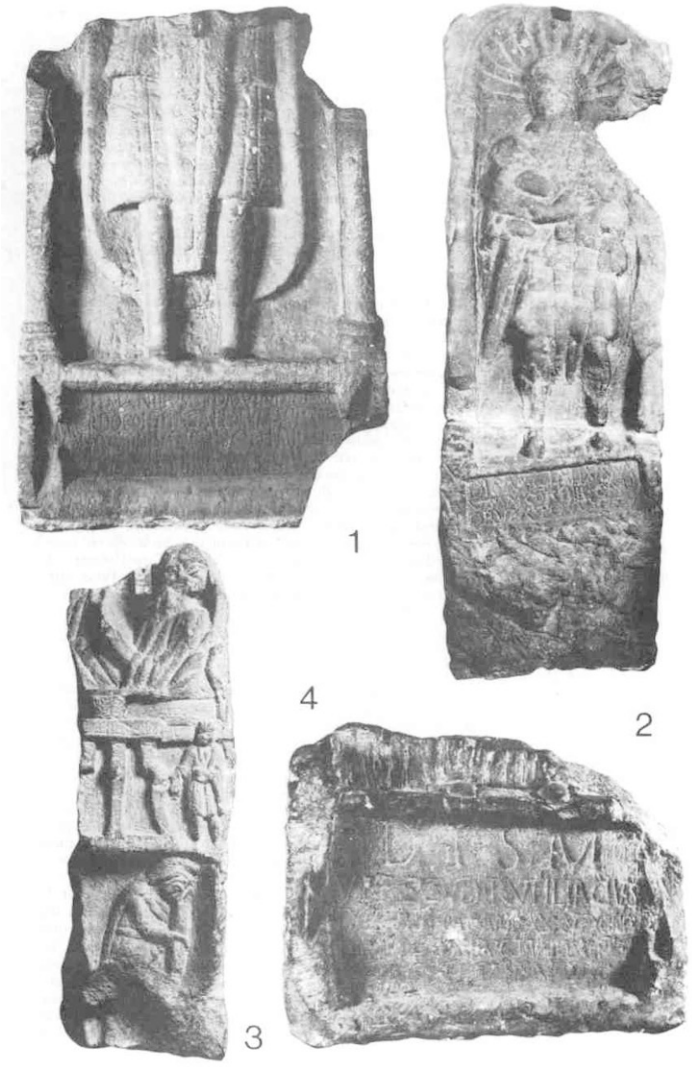


Figure F.78. (left). *Tombstones incorporated into later Roman structures at Templeborough. No. 1. (top left) honours Crotus, son of Vindex, veteran of the IV cohort of Gauls and no. 2. (top right) honours Cintusmus of the IV cohort. Both were erected by their wives. No. 3 (bottom left) is uninscribed, but the lower figure may show a grieving widow. No. 4 (bottom right) honours Verecunda Rufilia, a citizen of the Dobunni, and was erected by her husband. The feet and bottom of the drapery of a female figure just survive above the inscription. (Source: Buckland 1986: 29).*

At *Margidunum*, at least twelve inhumations were excavated just outside the southern boundary of the settlement, including one decapitated burial with the head between the feet and a coin between the thighs, one burial in a wooden coffin, and two in lead coffins (Todd 1969: 73-78). A few of these inhumation burials contained grave goods such as bronze bracelets, *ligulae* and other toilet instruments. At *Ad Pontem*, one lead casket was marked with a Chi-Ro symbol (Wright 1955: 147), and other lead coffins were found at Brough (Smith 1941). Stone coffins and cists of Romano-British date, mostly isolated finds, have also been excavated in several places in West Yorkshire, including Wetherby (Kent and Kitson Clark 1933: 171-174; Faull 1981: 144-145, 166) (Fig. F.69). Stone funerary monuments have been found at Thorpe and North Wheatley in Nottinghamshire (Bishop 2001: 7; White 1988), whilst at Templeborough in South Yorkshire, several were re-used in later fort structures (Buckland 1986: 30, fig. 16; May 1922: 17-132) (Fig. F.78). Several tombstones were excavated at Ilkley (Woodward 1925: 316-317) (Figs. 10.58-10.59, Fig. F. 79).

Figure F.79. *This tombstone was found at Ilkley in 1867, and depicts a man, woman and child wearing cloaks. The ansate panel below was never inscribed. (Source: author, courtesy of the Manor House Museum, Ilkley).*

Violence

Physical evidence of violence is rare, but a young male skeleton found in Enclosure D at Ferrybridge and ^{14}C dated to AD 80-330 had severe blunt force trauma on the skull (Holst 2005: 172; Martin 2005a: 121), with evidence that an object had gone right through and shattered his skull. This individual also had earlier healed injuries to his clavicle and vertebrae, and evidence for herniated discs. He may have been murdered in a fight or feud before being buried near the centre of the enclosure, but given the evidence of his healed earlier injuries indicating a physically demanding life it is also possible that he was originally a slave or a servant. Burial in the centre of the enclosure does not suggest a furtive act.

Figure F.80. *The contracted Romano-British burial found at Adwick-le-Street in 1968, minus its hands and feet. This may have been an execution and/or a ritualised mutilation. (Source: Buckland 1986: 36).*

At Adwick-le-Street, a tightly flexed inhumation burial of third or fourth century date was missing both its feet and hands (Dolby 1969: 253). These may have been cut off before death as part of a criminal punishment and execution, and possible cut marks were apparent close to the left wrist, although the evidence for removal of the feet and other hand was more equivocal (Buckland and Magilton 1986: 216). The body also seems to have been very tightly flexed (Buckland 1986: 36, fig. 21), and may have been bound and/or preserved for some time prior to its burial. At Site C4SA along the A1 (M) road corridor, there was an inhumation of a young adult in a pit cut into a

silted up tree-throw hollow near a ditch, and dated to AD 20-130 (Brown, Howard-Davis and Brennand 2007: 111-112). This person was probably laid face down, and the position of the body, together with the context of burial, might be circumstantial evidence that this person was killed. The grave was near a ditch junction, however, and this may have been a more significant factor in the location of the burial.

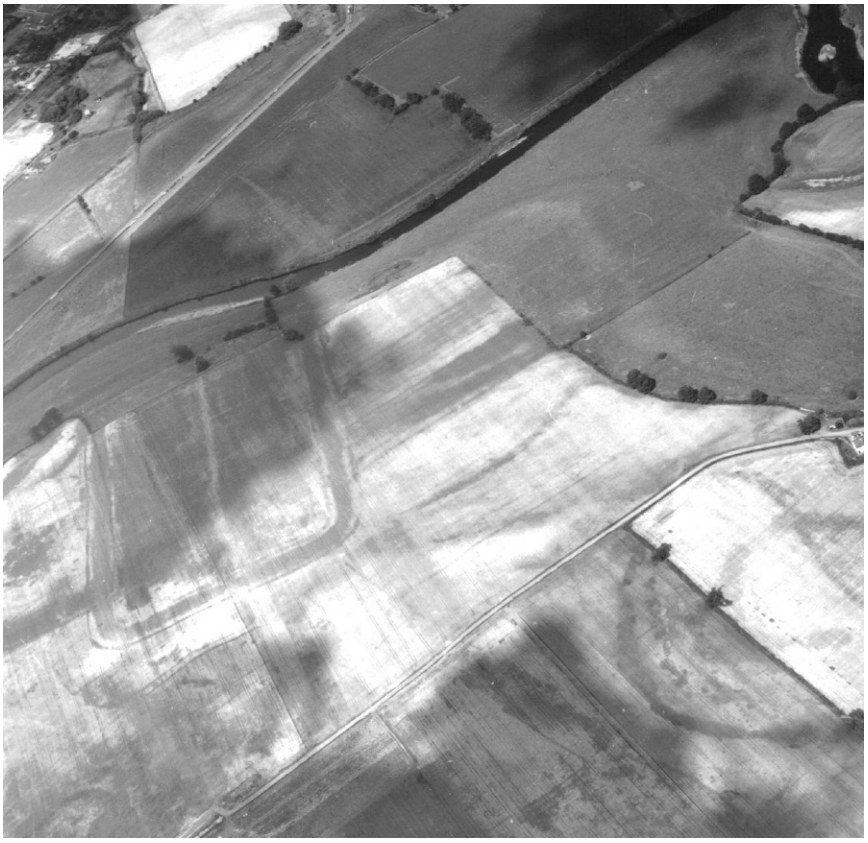


Figure F.81. *Newton Kyme, N. Yorks. The late Neolithic henge is visible lower right, the Roman fort and vicus lower left, and the River Wharfe to the north beyond. The palisaded ring ditch with the burial was to the left of the eastern (left) corner of the fort, close to an earlier marching camp. (Source: D. Riley, SLAP 258, SE 458 453).*

At Newton Kyme near Tadcaster (just inside North Yorkshire), the palisade ditch of part of a double ditched feature 25m across was found to contain human remains (Monaghan 1991: 56). The flexed inhumation was face down with its arms behind its back, and may have been bound. Though in poor condition, this person's right tibia revealed evidence for a severe, healed break and partially healed but crushed bone (Westley 1991: 56). This leg would have been permanently lame. Although close to a Roman marching camp ditch, this feature seems to have the ring ditch of a possible roundhouse. This person may have been a victim of the Roman advance and

occupation (Monaghan 1991: 58), but the palisade ditch also contained split and butchered pig bone. The published information is very poor, but although this burial may pre-date the Roman occupation, it is possible that this was a deliberate execution or a human sacrifice, associated with the construction of the marching camp. Although supposedly anathema to the Romans (Beard, North and Price 1998), there is growing evidence that ritualised executions did take place within the Roman Empire, particularly involving prisoners and convicted criminals (Isserlin 1997). These were often foundation deposits (Esmonde Cleary 2000: 135).

Bog bodies

There are poorly recorded finds of two bog bodies from Thorne Moors during the eighteenth century, and three from Hatfield Moors in the seventeenth century (Briggs and Turner 1986; Hunter 1828; Stovin 1747; Turner and Scaife 1995). Only sketchy information is available for them and their date is unknown, but some may have been Iron Age or Romano-British. A body found at Grewelthorpe Moor in North Yorkshire in 1850 may have been of Romano-British date (Turner et al. 1991). There was a wider tradition of the deliberate deposition of human remains in peat bogs during later prehistory and the Roman period across Britain, Ireland and north-west Europe (Aldhouse-Green 2001; Turner and Scaife 1995). Many preserved bog bodies display evidence of violence, ligatures and/or special meals that suggest they were deliberately, even ritually killed.

Disarticulated remains

Two human skulls of early or middle Iron Age date were found in the northern terminal of the outer ditch by the eastern entrance into Sutton Common, along with the only pieces of yew wood recovered and canid remains (Chapman, Van de Noort and Fletcher 2007: 88; Knüsel 2007: 139) (Fig. F.81). Disarticulated human remains were recovered from the outer ditch of the double-ditched sub-triangular enclosure at Ledston, including bones belonging to two infants and an adult (Sumpter and Marriott 2005: 8), and in the ditch of the D-shaped enclosure at Site Q along the A1 (M) road corridor (Brown, Howard-Davis and Brennand 2007: 62). At Site M, disarticulated human bone was found in two pits in the north-western cluster, and some

disarticulated human remains were also found at Dalton Parlours (Manchester and Bush 1990: 172), and at Garforth (Jaques 2000: 22).

Figure F.81. *One of two fragmented but complete human skulls recovered from the northern outer ditch terminal by the eastern entrance into the Sutton Common enclosure. The skulls may have been displayed above ground as ancestral relics prior to falling into the ditch. Note the wood beside the skull. (Source: Knüsel 2007: 138, fig. 7.1).*

Partial disarticulated remains of a human juvenile were found in the backfilled pottery kiln within the enclosure ditch at Raymoth Lane, Worksop, along with a complete puppy skeleton (Palmer-Brown and Munford 2004: 40). Part of a human cranium was found in a pit at Frenchgate in Doncaster (Bailey 1986: 196), whilst disarticulated human remains from at least three individuals were present in the excavated Romano-British well at Dalton Parlours (Berg 1990b: 253). It should be noted that disarticulated human remains have been recovered from many Romano-British wells across Britain, including one at Oakridge in Hampshire with up to twenty-three adults and three children represented (Oliver 1992).

Notes

1. I am extremely grateful to Jen Eccles for making available some of her own photographs of the Chainbridge Lane site, and for her reminiscences of the project in a series of letters and a telephone call.

Evidence for deposition, 'ritual' and mortuary practices

Table 27

West Yorks.	Placed deposits								Non-placed but 'unusual' deposits	Human burials	Animal burials	Temples, shrines etc	Other evidence
Site name	Disartic. human remains	Disartic. animal remains	Pottery	Weapons, tools etc	Torcs, brooches etc	Beads, bracelets etc	Shoes	Querns					
Dalton Parlours	√	√	√	√	-	-	√	√	√	√	√	-	Plant remains?
Ledston	√	√	√	-	-	-	-	√	-	√	√	?	-
Bullerthorpe Lane	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	√	√	-	-	-	-
Swillington Common South	-	-	√	-	-	-	-	?	√	-	-	?	-
Manor Farm	-	-	?	-	-	-	-	-	-	√	?	√	Stone mortar? Poss. curated flint axe
Parlington Hollins East	-	√	-	-	-	-	-	√	?	√	-	-	-
Ferrybridge Enc. A	-	?	√	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enc. B	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	√	-	-	-	-
Enc. C	-	?	-	-	√	√	-	√	-	-	-	-	-
Enc. D	-	-		√	-	√	-	√	-	√	-	?	-

Ferrybridge Field systems	Pit alignment													Gaming counter Poss. curated flint scraper
A1(M)	-	√	√	√	-	√	-	√	√	-	-	√	-	-
Site C4SA	-	-	?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Site CFAT	-	-	?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Site D	-	√	-	√	√	-	-	?	-	-	-	?	-	-
Site M	√	√	√	-	√	√	-	√	√	√	√	?	-	-
Site Q	√	-	?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Site XX8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	√	-	-	-	-	-
Site XX15	√	√	-	√	√	-	-	-	√	-	-	-	-	Bone toggle
Site 16/WW6	-	-	?	-	-	-	-	?	√	-	-	-	-	-
South Elmsall	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Area A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Area B	-	?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	√	-	-	-	-
Area C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	√	-	-	√	-	-	-
Area D	-	?	√	-	?	-	-	√	√	-	√	√	-	Cereal deposit?
Dale Lane	√	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	√	-	-	-
Dale Lane/Doncaster road junction	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Upton	-	?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	√	-	-	-

Apple Tree Close	-	-	-	-	-	?	√	√	-	-	-	-	-
Moss Carr, Methley													
Site 1													
Enc. A	-	-	?	√	?	-	√	√	-	-	-	-	-
Enc. B	-	?	-	√	-	?	-	√	-	-	-	?	-
Site 2													
Enc. C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	√	-	-	-	-	-
Site 3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Low Common													
Enc. A	-	-	?	?	-	-	?	√	-	-	-	-	-
Enc. B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	-	-	-	-	-
Whitwood Common	-	?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Royd Edge, Meltham	-	-	-	-	-	-	√	√	-	-	-	-	-
Oldfield Hill, Meltham	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	-	-	-	-	-	-
Methley (MAP)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	√	-	Poss. grave pits?	
Willow Grove, Methley	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Methley Quarry	-	-	√	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rothwell Haigh	√	?	?	-	-	-	√	√	-	?	-	-	-
Garforth	√	√	√	-	-	-	-	√	-	-	√	-	-
Thorntree Hill, Walton	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	-	-	-	-
Wattle Syke, Collingham	-	-	?	-	-	-	-	?	-	√	-	-	-
Swillington Brickworks (York and WYAS)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	-	-	-	-	-
Stile Hill, Colton	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 28

South Yorks.	Placed deposits								Non-placed but 'unusual' deposits	Human burials	Animal burials	Temples, shrines etc	Other evidence
Site name	Disartic. human remains	Disartic. animal remains	Pottery	Weapons, tools etc	Torcs, brooches etc	Beads, bracelets etc	Shoes	Querns					
Sutton Common	√	-	√	-	-	-	-	-	√	√	?	?	Gold strip
Billingley Drive, Thurnscoe	-	-	-	√	√	-	-	?	-	-	-	-	Poss. grave pits?
Edlington Wood	-	-	-	-	?	-	-	?	-	-	-	-	Coin hoard?
Scabba Wood	-	-	-	-	?	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	-
Barnburgh Hall	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	√	-	-
Shafton High Street	-	-	?	-	-	?	-	-	√	-	-	-	-
Shafton bypass/ Engine Lane	-	-	-	-	-	√	-	-		-	-	-	-
Barnsdale Bar	-	-	-	-	?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scawthorpe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	-	-	-	-	-

Red House Farm, Adwick-le-Street												
E1	-	√	?	-	-	√	-	√	√	-	-	-
E2	-	-	-	-	-	?	-	-	-	-	-	-
E3	-	-	-	-	-	-	√	-	√	-	-	-
E4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	-	-	-
E5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
E6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
E7	-	-	-	√	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
E8	-	-	-	-	√	-	√	-	√	?	?	-
Armthorpe Junction4 (J. Samuels and OAU)	-	?	-	-	-	-	-	√	-	-	-	-
Lincolnshire Way	-	-	-	?	-	-	-	√	-	-	-	√
West Moor Park	-	-	-	?	?	-	-	√	?	-	-	-
West Moor Park East	-	-	-	-	-	?	-	-	-	-	-	-
West Moor Park II	-	-	-	-	-	√	-	√	√	-	-	-
Rands Lane	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	√

Lings Farm, Dunsville	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
South Anston	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pickburn Leys	-	-	√	-	-	-	-	√	-	-	-	-	-	Coin?
Balby Carr	-	√	?	-	-	√	-	-	√	-	-	-	-	-
Topham Farm, Sykehouse	-	?	√	-	-	-	-	√	-	-	-	-	?	Poss. curated flint scraper

Table 29

Notts.	Placed deposits								Non-placed but 'unusual' deposits	Human burials	Animal burials	Temples, shrines etc	Other evidence
Site name	Disartic. human remains	Disartic. animal remains	Pottery	Weapons, harness, tools etc	Torcs, brooches etc	Beads, bracelets etc	Shoes	Querns					
Dunston's Clump	-	√	√	-	√	-	-	√	√	-	?	-	Wooden box with iron fittings, plant remains?
Wild Goose Cottage	-	?	-	-	-	-	-	?	?	-	-	-	-
Bunny	-	√	√	-	-	-	?	?	√	-	-	-	-
Chainbridge Lane, Lound	-	-	-	?	?	-	-	-	√	-	√	-	-
Menagerie Wood	-	?	?	-	-	-	-	√	√	-	-	-	-
Gamston	-	?	√	√	√	√	-	√	√	-	-	-	Loom weight, plant remains?
Rampton	-	-	?	-	?	-	-	-	√	-	-	-	-
Moor Pool Close, Rampton	-	-	√	?	?	-	-	?	√	-	-	?	Middens, coins?

Gonalston Bottom Osiers	-	-	√	?	-	-	√	√	-	-	-	Wooden disc? Square-ditch features	-	
Holme Dyke	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	√	-	-	?			
Gonalston Lane	-	-	?	-	-	-	-	√	-	-	-			
Flawborough	-	-	?	-	-	-	-	√	-	-	?	Lead tank		
Whatton	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	-	-	-	-		
Redhill	-	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	√	-	?	Votive tablets Poss. temple		
Besthorpe Quarry/Ferry Lane Farm, Collingham	√	-	?	√	-	-	√	√	-	-	-	-		
Ramsdale	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Holme Pierrepont	-	-	?	-	-	-	-	√	-	-	-	Log boats?		
Staunton	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	√	-	-	-		
Aslockton	-	?	?	-	-	-	-	?	-	-	-	Weaving combs?		
Scrooby Top	-	-	?	?	?	-	?	√	-	-	-	Midden		
Raymoth Lane, Worksop	√	?	?	√	-	√	-	√	√	√	-	-		