4. NORTHERN ENGLAND

By ANNA H. WALAS

NORTHUMBERLAND

(1) **Otterburn Army Training Estate**, *Bellshiels Rig Archaeological Evaluations* (NT 81569 00546): evaluations were undertaken on possible archaeological features. Bellshiels Rig is located on the western edge of the range and includes several important scheduled sites, such as the Bellshiel Neolithic long cairn and a Roman marching camp straddling Dere Street. The evaluation comprised three trenches across three features identified through walkover surveys and LiDAR assessments.

Site 1: a circular, embanked feature, *c*. 20 m in diameter. The feature bears similarities to a Bronze Age ring cairn and comprises a low, grass-covered, circular bank, *c*. 0.30 m high by 1.5 m wide, enclosing a flat internal area.

Site 2: an earth and stone mound, 5 m in diameter and *c*. 0.50 m high, thought to be either a prehistoric clearance cairn or a burial monument.

Site 3: a linear earthwork, possibly forming part of an enclosure, comprising an earth and stone bank, *c*. 0.30 m high and 1 m wide.

Excavation demonstrated that Site 1 was made up of a turf bank; the turf had been cut from the area immediately outside the bank. No subsoil was present within this area outside the ring bank, suggesting that the turf had been cut relatively recently. No internal features were found other than an area of vitrified soil inside the bank. Samples were taken from the bank deposit and the buried ground surface, but no suitable material for ^{14}C analysis was recovered. Site 2 proved to be two stone and earth clearance cairns of indeterminate date, with the more northerly being more robustly built with clear curbing and an inner rubble fill, both on to a previous land surface. Radiocarbon dating was completed on two non-oak wood charcoal fragments from the old land surface layer 2008, below the main cairn, and returned two Late Iron Age to Romano-British dates. The cairn must, therefore, post-date this period and may relate to late Romano-British field clearance. Site 3 proved to be a northeast–southwest running bank of upcast material from a shallow ditch to the south-east running in a similar alignment. There was no material suitable for ^{14}C dating. This ditch/bank formed a rectilinear enclosure to the north-west of the bank. Both Site 1 and Site 2 contained ditch features that were cut through the old land surface, with bank material piled on to it. It is considered likely that the old land surface in these two trenches is contemporary with that dated below the Site 2 cairn, and so it is likely that both features post-date the Late Iron Age/early Romano-British period.[14]

(2) **Woodburn**: 24 dupondii/asses and seven artefacts. Coins: Nero 1; Domitian 1; uncertain Flavian 2; Hadrian 3 (Hadrian 2; Aelius Caesar 1); Antoninus Pius 14 (Antoninus Pius 11; Diva Faustina I 2; Faustina II 1); uncertain Antonine emperor 1; uncertain Antonine empress 2. The items were found concreted together and were separated in the British Museum conservation laboratory. The artefacts (identified by Rachel Wilkinson) consist of one key, one phallic pendant, one disc brooch, two pelta mounts, one button loop toggle and a circular lead object. Deposited *c*. A.D. 154–61. The group includes a number of coins 'of British association'

[14] Work by Wessex Archaeology, directed by Ben Saunders, for Landmarc Support Services Ltd. Information provided by L. Lichtenstein.

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that were probably struck in Rome for use in Britain. The location north of Hadrian's Wall and the deposition date of the hoard support the interpretation of the hoard as military in character.[15]

CUMBRIA

(1) **Westward**: 27 denarii: Nero 1; Otho 1; Vitellius 1; Vespasian 7; Titus 2; Nerva 2; Trajan 4; Hadrian 7; Antoninus Pius 1; Marcus Aurelius Caesar 1. Deposited *c.* A.D. 140–44 or later.[16]

COUNTY DURHAM

(1) **Sedgefield**, *East Park* (NZ 4353 5290):[17] a second season of excavation at this large village/small town was undertaken as one of a range of archaeological projects in the Brightwater Landscape Partnership scheme supported by the National Heritage Lottery Fund.[18] Investigation of an area in the central-eastern portion of the settlement located a number of enclosure boundary ditches and the post-pits of a timber building. Post-excavation analysis of the data recovered from the excavation at the southern end of the settlement in 2019 has revealed that the ditch, thought to mark the southern boundary of the Roman settlement, is in fact of Iron Age date.

NORTH YORKSHIRE

(1) **Aldborough**, *Roman town and suspected bridge* (SE 4414 4678): large-scale magnetometry survey[19] has mapped a total of about 120 ha of the landscape to the north-west, north-east and south of the Roman town. To the north-west, between the Roman town and Boroughbridge, the survey revealed the line of a former river course. Close to the south bank of this was evidence for enclosures, which probably relate to a farm of the Iron Age/Roman period. To the north of the Roman town a trackway can be traced linking the river to the northern suburbs of the settlement, almost certainly indicating the site of a riverside wharf. A little further downstream there was another Iron Age/Roman settlement, probably associated with the use of the river for transport. To the south it was possible to map large areas on either side of the Dunsforth Road, which follows the line of the Roman road to York as far as Low House. Evidence of the Roman road itself was found here, represented by a pair of parallel roadside ditches diverging from the line of the modern road. To the east of the road, the survey mapped features associated with Roman fields. To the west of the road, on the rising ground towards the York Road, a series of enclosure features that probably relate to adjacent Iron Age/Roman farms was located. Overall, the density of farming sites matches that in other parts of lowland England, confirming the idea that such sites were widely present in the Vale of York.

Previous geophysical survey had identified a feature interpreted as the foundations for a Roman bridge crossing the river Ure to the north of the Roman town. In order to investigate the bridge, small-scale trial excavations were undertaken with the objective of locating and sampling the feature. Three trenches (Trench 1: 19 by 2 m; Trench 2: 12.5 by 1.3 m; Trench 3: 25 by 1.4 m) (FIG. 6) were excavated across the line of the bridge. These revealed a homogeneous fine to very fine sand and silt stratigraphic profile with no evidence for the

[15] Information provided by Eleanore Cox; coins discovered in 2017.
[16] Information provided by Stuart Noon, Lydia Prosser and Matthew Ball; hoard found in 2018.
[17] Information sent by David Mason, Durham County Council.
[18] For previous work, see *Britannia* 38 (2007) 264–6; 39 (2008) 285; 40 (2009) 236; 51 (2020) 398–400. The archaeological investigations for the Brightwater Landscape Partnership were conceived and designed by the Archaeology Section of Durham County Council. DigVentures undertook the fieldwork for the East Park project.
[19] The system employed has been developed by Eleanor Maw of the Department of Archaeology, University of Cambridge, in collaboration with Dominic Powlesland of the Landscape Research Centre.

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bridge footing (cut to a depth of *c.* 1.2 m). We can conclude therefore that there has been considerable riverine deposition in recent times, which may suggest that the Roman bridge and associated deposits are much deeper than first thought.[20]

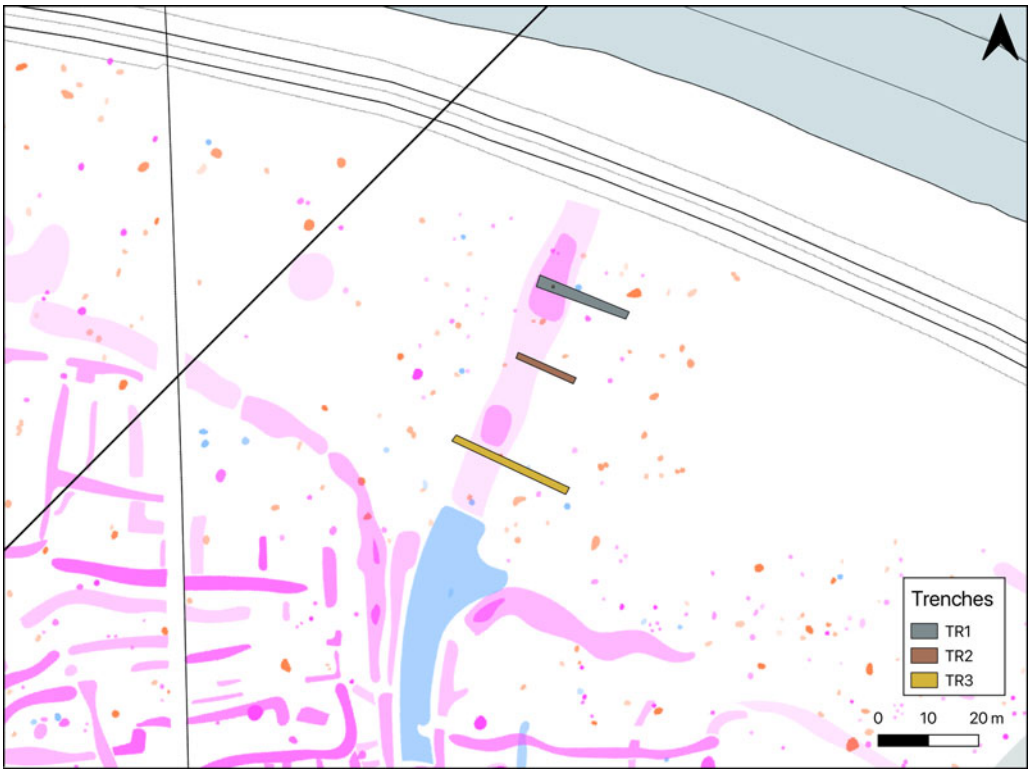


FIG. 6. Aldborough: locations of trenches in relation to the Roman road and bridge identified on the magnetometer survey. (© *University of Cambridge*)

(2) **Wheldrake**: six siliquae and a fragment of silver plate. Siliquae: A.D. 360–63, Trier 1; A.D. 364–67, Trier 1; A.D. 378–83, uncertain mint 1; A.D. 383–88, Trier 1; uncertain date and mint (A.D. 378–94) 1; A.D. 395–402, Milan 1. The folded silver sheet (25.2 g) is likely to be a fragment cut from a larger vessel, such as a shallow dish or plate. The outer surface has a partial double banded incised ring enclosing the engraved letters AL[.]SA. Deposited *c.* A.D. 395–402 or later.[21]

EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE

(1) **Elloughton-cum-Brough**, *The Burrs playing field* (SE 9371 2664): an earlier GPR survey revealed extensive Roman structures including defences, a road and a series of rooms around a courtyard. A 25 by 3 m trench was excavated across a D-shaped anomaly, suggested as

[20] Information provided by Martin Millett; excavation supported by the Society of Antiquaries of London.
[21] Information provided by Rebecca Griffiths and Eleanor Ghey; hoard found in 2018.

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possibly representing a mid-second-century theatre (FIG. 7). A layer put down in 1972 to protect the underlying archaeology overlay plough soil and it is likely that Roman pottery (Crambeck painted parchment, Huntcliff types, local greywares, samian) and medieval and post-medieval sherds derived from this. At the northern end of the excavation was a hearth of irregular stone slabs which included a burnt coin dating to around A.D. 330. On three sides of the floor were foundation slots for walls, coinciding with a room of the courtyard building visible in the GPR survey. The building had been remodelled several times. In the southernmost room, removal of rubble revealed a layer of painted wall-plaster. The back of the plaster bore wattle indentations and the colours suggest a building of considerable status. Ceramic and stone roof-tiles and hypocaust-tiles were also recovered. The walls of the courtyard building cut through the core of a substantial wall, running north–south across the centre of the trench. Beyond the southernmost foundation trench, a rubble spread extended for around 4 m. Only a single block of facing stone remained, indicating robbing of building material. To the south of the rubble was an ashy, industrial deposit. Under the rubble spread in the centre of the trench, a regular



FIG. 7. Elloughton-cum-Brough: the excavation at three stages: (a) hearth and floor; (b) stone structure running diagonally; (c) the core of the stone wall, painted-plaster surface and robber trenches of the room, at the bottom the earlier unrecorded excavation trench (photos: T. Sparrow).

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layer of stones ran at an angle, coinciding with the location of the rear of the D-shaped anomaly in the GPR plots. However, the later third- and fourth-century coins and pottery associated with the stone layer make it unlikely that this structure relates to a mid-second-century theatre. Underlying this feature were stony layers interpreted as successive courtyard surfaces. Finds here included roof-tiles and iron nails, many oyster shells and a well-preserved copper-alloy buckle. At the southern end of the excavation was a narrow trench from an unrecorded investigation. Finds including a crossbow-type brooch and coins indicate later Roman activity here, though some had been redeposited after being missed by earlier excavators. Other finds include a bone needle case with ring-and-dot decoration and late Roman jet items. Most coins date from the mid-third and fourth centuries. The crossbow brooch, a buckle and a possible scale armour fragment suggest military activity, perhaps supporting the theory that the walled enclosure with bastions was a naval base protecting the Humber. Pottery includes Nene Valley colour-coated sherds from the late fourth-century kilns at Stibbington. Most of the greyware came from the Holme-on-Spalding Moor industries. Oyster shell was found with a scored chequer-and-diamond pattern. The relative lack of first- and second-century A.D. material shows that there is some depth to go before these levels are reached; so the D-shaped feature in the GPR may still relate to a theatre, although no conclusive evidence has been found.[22]

SOUTH YORKSHIRE

(1) **Farm Lane**, *Kinsley* (SE 41270 15110): evaluation trenching of a 3.2-ha parcel of land was undertaken, comprising 24 trenches. The most significant result of the project is the identification of a Romano-British pottery kiln. An assemblage of 53 greyware and pale-firing oxidised ware flagon sherds recovered from the backfill of the kiln includes seconds or wasters. This fill contained pieces of fired clay probably derived from the superstructure of the kiln. The form of the feature is consistent with the firing chamber of a pottery kiln. The flue was not observed but was presumably located outside the area of excavation. There is no previously known evidence for pottery manufacture in the area, the nearest large-scale production centre being around Doncaster, with one other isolated site at Crigglestone, south of Wakefield. The kiln produced a strong response during geophysical survey and other similar responses recorded in the geophysical survey results might represent further kilns.

A series of linear features was identified across the west and centre of the site, some of which correlate with an enclosure system identified by geophysical survey and known from cropmarks. A single prehistoric flint was recovered, but this is likely residual, and the date of the enclosure system has not been established. It may be that the enclosures are Iron Age/Romano-British. Environmental samples indicate that there was arable cultivation contemporary with the enclosure system.

Three further pits were of similar diameter to the pottery kiln but were neither lined nor heat-affected and no further Romano-British pottery was recovered. A sandstone and lime mortar foundation in trench 7 could not be dated. It is likely that it represents a post-medieval or modern building or boundary. The east of the site was truncated by modern disturbance. This may be associated with the demolition of buildings shown on historic maps or with subsequent landscaping. A non-anthropogenic layer in the underlying geological sequence was identified at between 2 and 2.2 m below ground level in one intervention (Test Pit 32). This layer contained humic material, suggesting the potential for preservation of prehistoric palaeoenvironmental information.[23]

[22] Information provided by Peter Halkon (University of Hull), who directed the excavation with James Lyall.

[23] Work by Wessex Archaeology, directed by Simon Brown and Andrew Swann, for Wakefield Council. Information provided by F. Cresswell.

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(2) **Partridge Hill Farm**, *High Common Lane, Austerfield, Doncaster* (SK 64806 96426): evaluation trenching was undertaken on a 45-ha parcel of land in association with a planning application for the installation of a solar farm. The evaluation comprised 105 trenches. The trenches targeted a series of cropmarks, recorded by the National Mapping Programme during an archaeology and cultural heritage assessment, and anomalies of potential archaeological origin, detected during a previous geophysical survey; they also tested 'blank' areas. A total of 35 trenches revealed archaeological features and deposits, indicating that archaeological remains were present across the site, with a high concentration in the southernmost field (Area 7), and in isolation in other evaluated areas (Areas 2, 3, 5 and 6). The uncovered features, comprising ditches, gullies and pits, represent evidence of Romano-British agricultural practices and settlement, although several features remain of uncertain date due to a lack of artefactual material. All but a small proportion of the assemblage of finds came from the southernmost field (Area 7); it comprises almost entirely sherds of pottery dating to the Romano-British period. One residual flint artefact, of probable Neolithic/Bronze Age date, was found in a Romano-British feature. Two ditches to the north are interpreted as the remains of post-medieval field boundaries matching historic cartographic records. The environmental evidence retrieved from the evaluation indicates that the site potentially preserves environmental evidence, namely charred plant remains (both wild plants and cultivated cereals) associated with subsistence and agricultural practices. This was recovered overwhelmingly from Area 7.[24]

DONCASTER

(1) **Sprotborough**: 33 denarii: Nero 1; Vespasian 8 (Vespasian 5; Titus Caesar 1; Domitian Caesar 2); Titus 1; Domitian 1; Trajan 10; Hadrian 9 (Hadrian 8; Sabina 1); Antoninus Pius 3 (Antoninus Pius 2, A.D. 148–9; Faustina II 1; one plated). Deposited *c.* A.D. 148–61.[25]

(2) **Norton**: 1,055 denarii and one radiate: Mark Antony 46; Nero 7; Galba 2; Otho 2; Vitellius 2; Vespasian 52 (Vespasian 47; Titus Caesar 3; Domitian Caesar 2); Titus 5 (Titus 2; Domitian Caesar 1; Divus Vespasian 2); Trajan 9; Hadrian 15; Antoninus Pius 75 (Antoninus Pius 37; Faustina I 1; Diva Faustina I 21; Marcus Caesar 12; Faustina II 4); Marcus Aurelius 13 (Marcus Aurelius 6; Faustina II 5; Lucilla 1; Divus Pius 1); Commodus 46 (Commodus 45; Crispina 1); Pertinax 2; Wars of the Succession (Septimius Severus 203; Julia Domna 56; Clodius Albinus 13; Caracalla Caesar 36); joint reign of Severus and Caracalla (with Geta from 209) (Septimius Severus 109; Julia Domna 34; Caracalla 57; Geta Caesar 46, Plautilla 8); Caracalla 28 (Caracalla 18; Julia Domna 10, including one radiate); Macrinus 7; Diadumenian Caesar 1; Elagabalus 113 (Elagabalus 72; Julia Maesa 26; Julia Soemias 8; Julia Paula 4; Aquilia Severa 2; Alexander Caesar 1); Severus Alexander 68 (Severus Alexander 57; Julia Mamaea 11); uncertain emperor 1. Found on a metal-detecting rally. Pottery was found with the coins. The hoard is similar in spread and proportions to the Shapwick Villa hoard. Deposited A.D. 231.[26]

LANCASHIRE

(1) **Lancaster (to Burrow)**, *Roman road at the Ridge, Margary 705* (SD 49777 62930): an excavation was carried out at the Ridge, just east of the M6 Motorway. A 1 m-wide trench was opened across the *agger*. The road was located but had suffered much plough damage, making determination of its width very difficult, but the surviving foundation stones indicate it was at

[24] Work by Wessex Archaeology, directed by Alvaro Mora-Ottomano, for Corylus Planning & Environmental Ltd. Information provided by F. Cresswell.
[25] Information provided by Eleanor Ghey; hoard discovered in 2018.
[26] Information provided by Richard Abdy; hoard found in 2018.

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least 6 m wide. A second small trial pit was dug approximately 30 m further along the *agger*. It confirmed foundation stones had survived, in both cases about 0.3 m below the surface.[27]

(2) **Lancaster (to Burrow)**, *Roman road at Escowbeck House, Caton* (SD 52669 64165): a site visit granted by the owner of Escowbeck House enabled the route of the Roman road through the private grounds of the house to be inspected. This confirmed that the line of the road around Escowbeck Knoll indicated in LiDAR imagery was correct. The knoll (SD 52669 64165) was clearly the setting-out or sighting point for the road alignment both west and east of this point. West of the knoll the remains of an old stone culvert directly on the line of the road were visible (SD 52573 64133). East of the knoll the road descended down an incline (SD 52706 64150) to cross the Escow beck. The incline was in excellent condition, but it is likely that the Roman route has been 'improved' in modern times.[28]

(3) **Overtown**, *near Cowdber Farm* (SD 6301 7537): a watching brief took place during groundworks for a horse manège in a field sloping down towards Margary 7c, the Ribchester to Tebay Roman road, from which possible branch roads on both sides are recorded in the Lancashire Historic Environment Record in the field to the south. Excavations by the late B.J.N. Edwards nearby in 1977 investigated the cross section of the road and identified a deep layer of 'soil creep' to the west. This deep hill-wash was confirmed and soil was added to – rather than removed from – the area where an outer ditch on the western side of the road might have existed; no finds of Roman date were recovered.[29]

(4) **Poulton-le-Fylde**, *Garstang Road* (SD 3602 3931; SD 3617 3949): between 2014 and 2018 investigations were undertaken ahead of the construction of houses just north of Garstang Road. The first phase included a desk-based assessment, a geophysical survey and a 14-trench archaeological evaluation. Two areas of archaeological interest were identified. Area 1 was just to the east of the known site of a Romano-British settlement previously recorded by Oxford Archaeology North.[30] Wardell Armstrong carried out excavations in a 0.18-ha area here in 2017. Area 2, located 200 m to the north-east of Area 1, was investigated by a further six trial trenches in the same year. In 2018 an excavation area covering 0.28 ha was opened over Area 2 (FIG. 8). Remains of enclosures and settlement features relating to what was very probably the same Romano-British occupation site, inhabited during the second to fourth century A.D., were recorded in both excavation areas. Just under 150 kg of iron slag was recovered from deposits in Area 2. Most of the slag derived from two working hollows spaced just 4 m apart. These appear to have been channels used to collect tap-slag run-off from two or more furnaces, the remains of which had not survived. The fills of these working hollows were radiocarbon dated to A.D. 220–380 (*Hordeum sp.*) and A.D. 335–530 (*Quercus sp.*), respectively. Many other features relating to small working enclosures and plot boundaries were recorded. In Area 2 some of the slag was recovered from features that were stratigraphically later than the two working hollows; it was clearly residual. However, some primary dumps of furnace waste provided good evidence that iron smelting on the site had continued during later phases of the occupation. Analysis of the slags demonstrates that they derived from an iron-smelting campaign using a slag-tapping technology that resulted in slag cakes and larger lumps of tap slag. Handheld XRF and SEM sampling of the iron-working slags indicated that they formed a homogeneous group in terms of their composition. Very low phosphorus and manganese content excludes the use of local bog ores as a source. The most likely regional ore sources are

[27] Information provided by David Ratledge.
[28] Information provided by David Ratledge.
[29] Information provided by Nigel Neil.
[30] Oxford Archaeology North, *Wyre Estuary Pipeline, Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancashire: Archaeological Post-Excavation Assessment*, unpub. report (2010), OA North Job No. L10015.

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the haematites of Furness, whether mined from glacial deposits or imported directly across Morecambe Bay.



FIG. 8. Poulton-le-Fylde: location of the 2020 evaluation trenches in relation to the modern road.

The remains of two probable dwellings, similar in size and shape, were recorded (Structures 1 and 2). These were represented by two oval-shaped drip gullies and other small discrete features. Structure 2 was located just 15 m south of the *in situ* remains of iron-smelting activity. Magnetic fraction recovered from its fills indicates that it was in use at the same time as the nearby iron smelting took place. The ceramic evidence recovered from the site has a very clear spatial distribution and is datable. In Area 1, 42 sherds of a Dorset black-burnished ware 1 cooking pot dated to the mid- to late third century were found within the drip gully of Structure 1.[31] The remainder of the assemblage retrieved from Area 1 consists of Iberian oil-amphora sherds which were found in the south-eastern corner of the enclosure ditch. In Area 2 a single sherd of a Raetian-type mortarium,[32] probably produced in the mid- to late second century A.D. at Wilderspool or possibly Walton-le-Dale, was found in the drip gully of Structure 2. Six joining fragments of a third-century Mancetter-Hartshill mortarium[33] came from the fill of a pit located close to the western limit of the excavation (found prior to the open-area excavation in an evaluation

[31] J.P. Gillam, 'Coarse fumed ware in north Britain and beyond', *Glasgow Archaeological Journal* 4 (1976) 58–80.
[32] K.F. Hartley, 'Raetian mortaria in Britain', *Journal of Roman Pottery Studies* 15 (2012) 76–95, type A/C.
[33] Similar to J.P. Gillam, *Types of Roman Coarse Pottery Vessels in Northern Britain* (1970) 280.

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trench). A rotary quernstone fragment, three fragments of whetstone and three fragments of a shale or cannel coal armlet, or bangle, were also recovered.[34]

(5) **Ribchester**, *Preston Road* (SD 6332 3691; SD 4341 3685): watching briefs, during the creation of a new vehicle access at Moneymoon (SD 6332 3691) and a house extension and landscaping works two houses further south at Providence House (SD 4341 3685), provided opportunities to investigate a sunken-way linear earthwork that was formerly believed to be the course of the Roman road from Ribchester to Lancaster, Margary 704. No Roman ceramics were recovered, but a few medieval sherds were. The earthwork, shown on the OS 1847 map, is now interpreted as a late medieval route towards Ward Hall (now rebuilt as 'Beacon Reach'), 360 m to the north-west of Moneymoon. LiDAR work by David Ratledge has led to the proposal that the actual course of the Roman road (provisionally Margary 704aa) lies *c.* 190 m to the south-west of this earthwork.[35]

(6) **Ribchester (to Kirkham)**, *Roman Road, Margary 703* (SD 63842 34813): site visits and LiDAR imagery located the Roman road approximately 1 km west of Ribchester fort. Despite recent deep ploughing, stone scatter from the road was evident all along the *agger* line indicated by LiDAR, whereas the remainder of the field had very few stones on the surface. Movements of the river Ribble will have destroyed the line between here and Hothersall Hall (FIG. 9).[36]

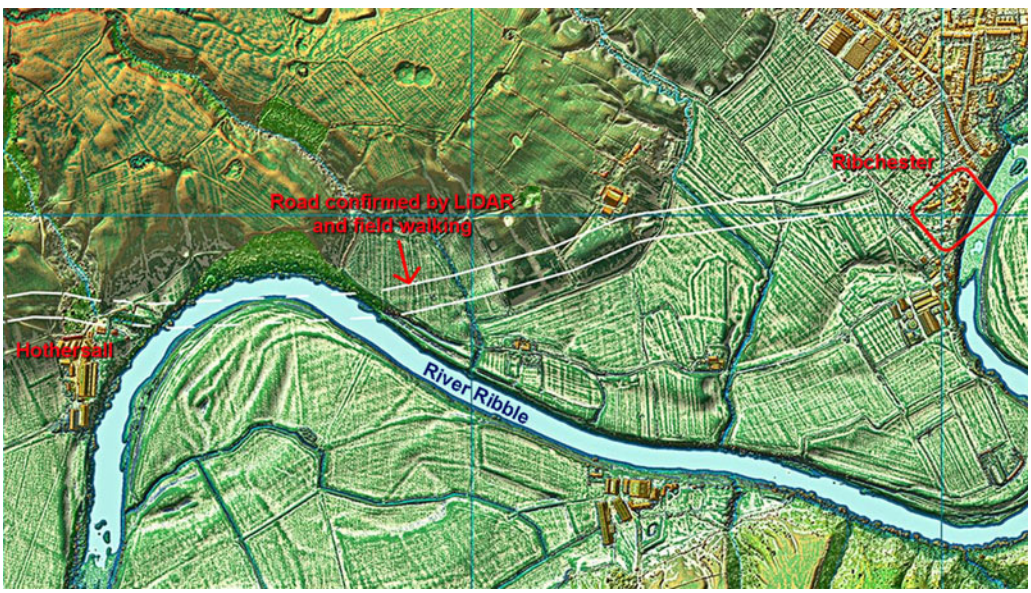


FIG. 9. The route of the Roman road to Kirkham immediately west of Ribchester. The length identified by LiDAR and confirmed by fieldwalking is indicated. (*Base LiDAR data is © Crown Copyright 2020*)

[34] Work by Wardell Armstrong. Information provided by Matthew Hobson, Associate Director, Wardell Armstrong LLP.
[35] Information provided by Nigel Neil.
[36] Information provided by David Ratledge.

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(7) **Walton-le-Dale**, *Roman road at Broughton and Barton*, *Margary 70d* (SD 52850 35304 to SD 51851 37926): the line of the Roman road indicated by LiDAR was walked from Whittingham Lane, Broughton, to Hoole Fold, Barton. The line was confirmed at several places. It crossed Dean brook at SD 52559 36029 and passed to the east of a small wood at Tunsteads (SD 52456 36399). At Barton brook the stream has been repositioned in modern times but the northern ascent from the stream was evident (SD 52297 36767). The *agger* was also evident south of Jepps Lane (SD 51993 37551).[37]

(8) **Walton-le-Dale**, *Roman road at Cabus, Margary 70d* (SD 48455 48331): a series of small excavations was carried in 2020 at Cabus crossroads, just north of Garstang, Lancashire, by Wyre Archaeological Society. Site inspection and LiDAR imagery indicate a wide land-take for the Roman road with the *agger* located in just the middle third. The Roman road is now partly overlaid by a narrower modern farm track and could only be excavated on its western side. A series of trenches was dug, all revealing the stone construction of the Roman *agger* and proving the road survived here. In one trench it appeared that the road had edging stones, but this was not evident in the other trenches. The western ditch was not located with confidence.[38]

LINCOLNSHIRE

(1) **Riby**: 776 radiates: Gordian III 1; Gallienus (sole reign) 96; Salonina (sole reign of Gallienus) 8; Claudius II 61; Divus Claudius II 14; Quintillus 10; Aurelian 1; Probus 1; Diocletian 1; Maximian 1; Postumus 20; Marius 3; Victorinus 168; Tetricus I 270; Tetricus II 108; uncertain Gallic emperor 2; Carausius 1; irregular 10. This group consists of coins typically found in hoards of radiates deposited in the late third century A.D. However, its composition is unusual for a hoard of coins buried in the A.D. 290s, in that the later, post A.D. 274 reform radiates are very poorly represented indeed, even considering their relative rarity when compared to the radiates of the Gallic Empire. It is, therefore, probable that the original hoard was larger and contained more of these later coins. Deposited *c.* A.D. 286–93.[39]

(2) **Rauceby**: ten radiates to A.D. 293 and two radiates and 3,097 nummi to A.D. 307. Radiate hoard: Gallienus (sole reign) 4; Salonina (sole reign) 1; Claudius II 1 Maximian (A.D. 293) 1; Victorinus, 1; Tetricus II, 1; Carausius, 1. Nummus hoard: radiates: Gallienus (sole reign) 1; Probus 1; nummi: 1st Tetrarchy (A.D. 294–305) 2,729 (London 536; Trier 1433; Lyon 466; Ticinum 120; Aquileia 8; Rome 97; Carthage 24; Siscia 9; Thessalonica 1; Heraclea 3; Cyzicus 3; Antioch 4; Alexandria 1; uncertain 5; irregular copies 19); 2nd Tetrarchy (A.D. 305–07) full weight 316 (London 291; Trier 24; Ticinum 1); 1st weight reduction (of A.D. 307) 31 (London 29; Lyon 2); 2nd weight reduction (of A.D. 307) 21 (London 19; Trier 2). Subsequent archaeological excavation of the find-spot was carried out by Adam Daubney and Sam Bromage. The pot containing the nummi was buried in the centre of a large oval pit, which had been lined with rough quarried limestone. The pot appears to have been carefully placed onto the limestone base and then packed all around with pieces of limestone to the top of the pit. A sheet of limestone (probably roof-tile) with a hole in the centre was then placed over the top of the pot. A separate deposit of ten copper-alloy Roman coins was found placed carefully to one side of the pit, within the limestone packing. Although this pre-dates the large hoard, it may have been placed in the pit during the burial of the latter, possibly as a closing deposit. The hoard contains no coins of Constantine I issued after he attained the rank of Augustus in

[37] Information provided by David Ratledge.
[38] Information provided by David Ratledge.
[39] Information provided by Eleanor Ghey; found between 2011 and 2018.

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December 307. However, the latest coin in the hoard is of Maximian Herculius, dated to the same period, i.e. late A.D. 307 to 308. Deposited *c.* A.D. 307–08.[40]

(3) **Bardney**: 66 siliquae: A.D. 348–64, 16 (Lyon 3; Arles 10; Antioch 1; uncertain mint 2); A.D. 364–78, 18 (Trier 9; Lyon 1; Arles 1; Aquileia 1; Rome 6); A.D. 378–88, 10 (Trier 8; Lyon 1; Aquileia 1); A.D. 388–402, 18 (Lyon 2; Milan 15; uncertain 1); uncertain date 3; irregular 1. At least nine of the coins had been clipped and 21 are broken, with half or less than half remaining. Deposited *c.* A.D. 395–402 or later.[41]

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5. THE MIDLANDS

By ALICE LYONS

BEDFORDSHIRE

(1) **Houghton Regis North 1**, *site HRN3486* (TL 0270 2560): a 'strip, map and sample' investigation totalling *c.* 11.5 ha was undertaken in advance of housing development at the north-eastern edge of Houghton Regis. Evidence for a field system on a north–south alignment extending over 30 ha was identified. An exception was a north-east–south-west aligned ditch extending over 250 m, which was also found within adjacent excavation areas. An isolated pit contained seven pottery vessels and an iron knife (FIG. 10). While it seems likely that this is a grave, no human remains were found.[42]



FIG. 10. Houghton Regis North 1: pit containing pottery vessels as first exposed and prior to full excavation.

(2) **Sandy** (TL 179 487): two recent excavations by AOC Archaeology Group and an evaluation by Albion Archaeology have demonstrated that part of the town was walled, as referenced by

[40] Information provided by Adam Daubney and Eleanor Ghey; hoard found in 2017.
[41] Information provided by Susheela Burford, Adam Daubney and Lisa Brundle; hoard discovered in 2017–18.
[42] Work by M. Luke, M. Kozimiski and C. Watts of Albion Archaeology. Information provided by M. Luke.

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