

**River Idle Washlands**  
**Bawtry**  
**South Yorkshire**  
**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**Contents**

List of Figures

List of Appendices

1. Introduction
2. Archaeological Background
3. Methodology
4. Results
5. Artefact Record
6. Conclusion

Bibliography

Acknowledgements

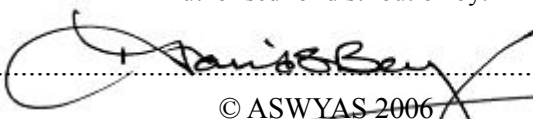
Figures

Appendices

*Summary*

*An archaeological watching brief on the River Idle wetland Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) at Bawtry was conducted at the request of the Environment Agency. Significant numbers of Roman pottery sherds and coins, dating to the 3rd and 4th centuries, were revealed in an unstratified layer below topsoil. In addition, possible in-situ column bases were revealed indicating a structure, which, from finds evidence, may have had a religious function. The site's close proximity to a strategically important Roman road and river crossing together with the nature of the finds make this a site of major regional and national importance.*

Authorised for distribution by:

  
.....

© ASWYAS 2006

Archaeological Services WYAS

PO Box 30, Nepshaw Lane South, Morley, Leeds LS27 0UG

***List of Figures***

- Fig. 1 Site location
- Fig. 2 Site location showing area of watching brief
- Fig. 3 Plot showing areas of strip during watching brief
- Fig. 4 Detail of features identified during watching brief: Area 1

***List of Appendices***

- Appendix I Inventory of primary/research archive
- Appendix II Inventory of contexts
- Appendix III Inventory of artefacts
- Appendix IV The pottery by Ruth Leary
- Appendix V The coins by Craig Barclay

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 Archaeological Services WYAS was commissioned by the Environment Agency to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the removal of soil from the River Idle washlands at Bawtry, South Yorkshire; an area classified as a site of special scientific interest (SSSI).
- 1.2 The site is centred at NGR SK 6565 9335 (Fig. 1), which is located east of Bawtry on land adjacent to the Bawtry viaduct, and to the west of the River Idle (Fig. 2).
- 1.3 Bawtry lies on an outcrop of Sherwood Sandstone (Institute of Geological Sciences 1979) surrounded mostly by glacial sands and gravels and overlain to the north and west by Wick 1 soils and to the south by Newport 1 soils. To the east the Altcar 2 deep fen peats give way to the permeable sandy and course loamy soils of the Blackwood series (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).
- 1.4 The name Bawtry is most commonly attributed to Smith's derivation from the Old English meaning 'tree rounded like a ball' (1961, 48), but Smith also notes a suggestion that it may come from the medieval Latin *bouteria* 'limitation', in allusion to Bawtry being a border-town on the boundary of South Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire.
- 1.5 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken between 22<sup>nd</sup> August and 26<sup>th</sup> August 2005.
- 1.6 The purpose of the watching brief was to monitor the selective removal of topsoil in two areas (Fig. 3) to create a ground surface at or within 0.3m of the present water table, in an effort to maintain the wet grassland habitat of the SSSI.

## **2. Archaeological Background**

- 2.1 Prehistoric activity in the general area of the site is attested by a number of isolated finds recovered during a survey by Hull University (Head *et al.* 1997). Approximately 850m to the southeast a Late Mesolithic microlith and Upper Palaeolithic or Mesolithic blade flake were recovered at SK663929 and Late Mesolithic/Neolithic blade-like flakes at SK665929. One kilometre to the east, Neolithic/late prehistoric blade-like flakes were found at SK667933 and a probable Neolithic flint concentration of 79 worked flakes were found on the southern edge of the Idle floodplain at SK672932.
- 2.2 In 1969 a Neolithic polished stone axe was found 700m southeast of the site on the ploughed surface of a field at SK65899275 (ADS NMR\_NATINV-321028) and a low flanged palstave, broad butted flat bronze axe, and bronze spearhead are reported from unknown locations around Bawtry by Magilton (1977, 13).
- 2.3 A possible prehistoric circular enclosure, seen as crop marks on aerial photographs, is reported two kilometres to the east (ADS NMR\_NATINV-1375970) but the crop mark evidence on the Sherwood Sandstone to the north, west and south of Bawtry remains largely undated as later prehistoric/Romano-British field systems.

- 2.4 Peck (1913) mentions three Roman sites in the area: a large Roman camp to the north at Finningley and two camps (rectangular enclosures) west of Bawtry, visible as earthworks in the early 19th century. These were probably situated near Martin Grange (SK623945) but no modern evidence exists.
- 2.5 Scaftworth Roman 'fortlet', first identified on John Chapman's 1774 Map of Nottinghamshire as a rectangular earthwork, is not mentioned by Peck (1913), suggesting that by this time the earthworks had been ploughed away. The 'fortlet', situated at Holly House Farm 700m southeast of the washlands on the opposite side of the Idle, was identified again on World War II aerial photographs as cropmarks showing a bank and triple ditch system (ADS NMR\_NATINV-320925). Work in 1948 dated the site to the second half of the 4th century, from a bronze imitation of a silver *siliqua* of Julian the Apostate (AD 360-363) and pottery (20 sherds). Hull University's survey (Head *et al.* 1997) recovered a further 685 Roman sherds containing nothing to contradict the assessment of Bartlett and Riley (1958) that no forms are diagnostically earlier than AD 370.
- 2.6 The 'fortlet' lies very close to where the Roman road from Lincoln to York (Margary's 28a) crossed the River Idle. The line of the road is well established along the whole route except in a few places, one of which is Bawtry, where OS mapping depicts the road as a dotted line (Ordnance Survey 2001). Margary thought it likely that the Roman road passed south of the Scaftworth 'fortlet' to cross the river near the present Bawtry Bridge (1973, 410). However, excavations by Sheffield University in 1984 at SK65789298 established that the route ran north of the fort (ADS EHNMR-916655) probably crossing the river at SK65649305 (Frere *et al.* 1992), towards the area of the Bawtry viaduct. The excavations established the presence of two roads on slightly different alignments, the earlier possibly dating to the first century AD with the second, more substantial construction, radio-carbon dated to *c.* 230-430 cal AD (Van de Noort *et al.* 1997, 426).
- 2.7 The River Idle floodplain was examined as part of the Humberhead Wetlands Survey (Van de Noort and Ellis 1997), which included the area between Bawtry and Scaftworth Roman 'fortlet'. Several distinct scatters of Roman pottery (which the authors refer to as 'sites') were recovered during the fieldwalking survey. Centred on SK658930 in an area of cropmarks indicating a fragmentary field system and D-shaped enclosures with other features continuing east to around SK662930, the scatters contained between two and 31 sherds of late 4<sup>th</sup>-century pottery, dated on the basis of similarities with the Scaftworth 'fortlet' pottery (Head *et al.* 1997). The cropmarks identified are restricted to the better-drained soils to the west and east of the Altcar 2 peat.
- 2.8 Further dating evidence comes from two coin hoards. Eight Antoniniani of Gallienus to Diocletian (AD 253-304) were found in *c.*1840 below Bawtry bridge at SK656927 (Magilton 1977, 13) and 500m northeast of the Environment Agency site a coin hoard found in 1963 contained 34 coins from Caracalla (AD 211-17) to Postumus (AD 260-69) and the fragments of a pottery container (NMR\_NATINV-321021).
- 2.9 Recent fieldwork in the general area has revealed Roman field ditches with 2nd to 4th-century pottery in Misson, to the northeast (Gidman 2002) and at Galley Hills, Bawtry, two ditches of probable Iron Age/Roman date, but

without firm dating evidence (Stone 1998). The excavation of two trenches at Wharf Farm, Bawtry, 400m southwest of the site, produced no finds of Roman or medieval date (Roberts 2003).

- 2.10 The Roman road may have continued in use into the medieval period or later, as indicated by the discovery of a leather shoe of medieval or post-medieval date (Van de Noort *et al.* 1997, 426). There is, however no material evidence of sub-Roman or Anglo-Saxon occupation in the area. The battle of the River Idle has been associated with Bawtry. Described by Bede, in the year 616 or 617 the East Angles under Raedwald defeated the Northumbrians under Æthelfrith, and Æthelfrith “was slain on the borders of the kingdom of Mercia, on the east side of the river that is called Idle” (cited in McClure and Collins 1994, 94).
- 2.11 A small iron axe-head dated to the mid-late 11th century AD is recorded from within SK6593, exact provenance uncertain (ADS NMR\_NATINV-321005).
- 2.12 The date of the foundation of medieval Bawtry is not certain. The town is not mentioned in the Domesday survey of 1086, but St Nicholas's church, located near the line of the Roman road, dates from the 12th century and probably provided a focus for settlement in the early medieval period. The town is first recorded in a charter of AD 1199 and a document from AD 1233-38 mentions the burgesses of Bawtry (O'Neill 2001).
- 2.13 The town is known to have been an important medieval and post-medieval inland port with the navigable Idle connecting it with the Humber estuary and Hull. The original grid plan of streets with a rectangular market place is still partly retained. Radiating off from the main roads are fossilised burgage plots that have produced material dating from the 13<sup>th</sup> century (Dunkley and Cumberpatch 1996, O'Neill 2001). However, six evaluation trenches 700m southwest of the current site found no evidence of medieval wharves, which were suspected of being further north (Chadwick 1995).
- 2.14 The River Idle remained a major trade route until 1777 when traffic bound for the rivers Trent and Humber was re-routed onto the newly opened Chesterfield Canal. The port finally closed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century when construction of the railway line required the river to be diverted.
- 2.15 Management of the River Idle started with the schemes of Cornelius Vermuyden in the 1620s, who realigned it as part of his drainage schemes, and continues to the present time, with a major embankment constructed in 1958 and further straightening in 1983. The drainage improvements have led to agricultural intensification on the floodplain, particularly during the last 20 years. In addition to increased ploughing, the lowering water table and desiccation of the uppermost peat, resulting in wind erosion, is revealing more archaeology but also placing it under greater threat of damage and loss.

### **3. Methodology**

- 3.1 The aim of the watching brief was to monitor the excavation of approximately 4500m<sup>3</sup> of soil from two areas and to record any archaeological features and deposits encountered by the works.

- 3.2 Mechanical excavation was carried out using a 360° machine excavator with a 0.6m wide toothless bucket and all archaeological features identified were recorded and photographed using standard procedures (ASWYAS 2005).
- 3.3 The site archive contains all the information gathered during the investigations and is indexed in Appendix I.
- 3.4 The complete paper and digital archive is currently stored by Archaeological Services WYAS and will be deposited, along with the finds, with Doncaster Museum Service, with Environment Agency authorisation.

#### **4. Results**

- 4.1 Area 1 measured approximately 71.5m x 33m and was excavated to a depth of a maximum of 0.5m. As the topsoil (1000) was removed, a layer of highly organic peat (1002) was encountered at a depth of approximately 0.12m. This deposit appeared to form a 'U' shape that partially surrounded, to the northeast, southeast and southwest, a slightly raised area of lighter sandy clay (1001). The topsoil strip was therefore continued to respect level 1001 in order to establish its extent.
- 4.2 The remainder of the area showed a continuation of the peat deposits, which had large concentrations of preserved wood and general organic material. Two land drains and a modern drainage channel were seen to cut across this area running along an approximate NW-SE alignment, and a series of possibly modern plough scrapes were found running counter to this in a NE-SW direction (Fig. 4). The plough scrapes appeared to stop at the mid point of the raised area.
- 4.3 Below the topsoil, and within the surface of layer 1001, a very large concentration of Roman pottery sherds was exposed. In addition, three column bases made from fairly well-dressed stone were encountered approximately in the middle of the raised area (Fig. 4). The two columns located furthest northwest were 0.92m apart and appeared upright and *in situ*. A further, disturbed, column fragment was situated some 2.48m to the southeast. A single coin of Antoninus Pius (AD140-143) was found between the columns. Approximately 3.4m south of this group a disturbed fragment of masonry was found that may be a pad stone. As the topsoil was only stripped to the level of the tops of the observed columns, it is possible there are more columns *in situ* below the exposed level.
- 4.4 On the southeast side of the raised deposit, a scatter of 71 Roman coins was revealed in a strip approximately 27m by 3.5m. These were all aligned in a NE-SW direction and were evenly distributed over the area with no discernible clusters or groups.
- 4.5 Other surface finds in the raised area included a fragment of copper alloy, numerous pieces of lead and iron, and a burnt stone 'pot boiler'. Two pieces of flint were recovered from the organic peat (1002) to the southeast.
- 4.6 Following the discovery of the coin and pottery assemblages, work was halted and, after consultation between the Environment Agency and South Yorkshire Archaeology Service, further soil removal was curtailed in Area 1. A layer of Terram was laid over the extent of the raised area and covered with sand. This

was then 'sown' with iron nails and re-covered with topsoil in an attempt to deter metal detectorists and prevent possible damaging to buried archaeology.

- 4.7 Area 2, measuring approximately 55m x 37m, was excavated in the same manner as Area 1. The area consisted entirely of topsoil overlaying the natural sand with no evidence of archaeological finds or features.

## **5. Artefact Record**

### **5.1 Summary**

- 5.1.1 The majority of artefacts recovered comprised Roman-British pottery and coins, with the addition of eight iron objects, nine lead objects, a copper alloy fibula fragment, a flint blade and flake, a stone 'pot-boiler' and single piece of modern glass. All the finds were recovered from layer 1001, with the exception of the flint, recovered from the organic deposit 1002. The coins and pottery were passed to appropriate specialists for assessment and the resulting reports are reproduced in Appendices IV and V. The coins and iron objects were x-radiographed by Karen Barker, who also cleaned and conserved the coins. The priority for this watching brief report was the assessment of the pottery and coins to provide information on the date and function of the site. The remaining finds were not submitted for specialist assessment at this stage. All finds are listed in Appendix III.

### **5.2 Pottery**

- 5.2.1 The Romano-British pottery sherds were assessed by Ruth Leary and are reported below (Appendix IV). The pottery totalled 653 sherds, all of which were recovered from 1001. The date of the pottery indicates a mid 3<sup>rd</sup> to mid/late 4<sup>th</sup>-century date.
- 5.2.2 The unusually high proportion of bowls/dishes and beakers is similar to assemblages recovered from Romano-British villas and towns, indicating a higher status origin than the 'normal' rural assemblages recovered in this region. A high proportion of the pottery was burnt or sooted and contained a number of vessels that have previously been associated with ritual or burial practices.

### **5.3 Coins**

- 5.3.1 A group of 72 coins was examined by Craig Barclay and are described below (Appendix V). The coins are severely corroded and for most only general identification proved possible. A single coin is dated to *c.* AD 140-43, the remainder fall into three groups: 13 debased radiates dating from the 260s-90s, 39 Constantinian *nummi* of *c.* AD 330-48, and 9 base metal Valentinianic coins struck post AD 364. Nine coins with no surviving detail are assigned to the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> centuries on the basis of fabric.

### **5.4 Iron objects**

- 5.4.1 Eight ferrous objects were recovered from layer 1001. Four are nails, either complete (maximum length 125mm) or broken (maximum length 50mm). One item at least is probably modern.

### **5.5 Lead objects**

- 5.5.1 Nine flat pieces of lead were recovered from layer 1001. Six pieces are roughly oval in shape, one piece is oblong with a slight fold on one corner, two pieces are of irregular shape. All the pieces fall between 20-40mm in length and 8-30mm in width.

## **6. Discussion and Conclusions**

- 6.1 The discovery of large quantities of pottery and coins during the removal of soil from the River Idle washlands resulted in the termination of the watching brief before any stratified deposits could be firmly identified. Conclusions regarding surviving *in situ* archaeology on the site are therefore restricted.
- 6.2 The possibility of a structure in Area 1 is suggested by the presence of dressed stone columns, two of which may be *in situ*, and a possible pad stone. The depth of the upright columns was not established, but it can be assumed that shorter upright column bases *may* survive beneath the machined level. The results of the recent geophysical survey (Harrison and Webb 2006) did not identify a structure, or any significant anomalies that would indicate structures, within the survey area. This, however, is not necessarily negative as the immediate area was peppered with material to deter amateur metal detection and its location, on a raised area of sandy clay surrounded on at least three sides by peat deposits and preserved organic material, indicates that the structure was situated on a promontory beside either water or marsh land.
- 6.3 The site produced an unusually large assemblage of pottery that, although unstratified, is tightly dated from the mid 3rd to the mid/late 4<sup>th</sup> century. The coin assemblage is similar in date to the pottery, but may indicate episodic activity during the second half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century and two periods either side of the mid 4<sup>th</sup> century. The absence of intrusive medieval material would suggest the area has been little used for occupation or waste disposal since the Late/sub Roman periods. Current agricultural use is probably a result of modern drainage schemes.
- 6.4 The pottery assemblage would suggest a civilian rather than military origin, in fact the range of forms make the Bawtry ceramics comparable to assemblages from villas and small towns (Leary below). While possible Romano-British field systems and enclosures are mainly located on the lighter soils of the Sherwood Sandstones to the north and west, by the late 3rd and 4th centuries, Roman occupation evidence occurs in a number of locations on or adjacent to the River Idle floodplain (Van de Noort *et al.* 1997, 427). There is no extant evidence of a settlement in Bawtry, although it is suggested that this would have been a better strategic location to protect the river crossing than the scheduled Roman 'fortlet' at Scaftworth. Originally assumed to be a military site (Bartlett and Riley 1958) and still described as a 'purely military post' (ADS NMR\_NATINV-320925), the 'fortlet' has been reassessed in light of recent work and may have been a civil agrarian site, with the triple ditches having a drainage rather than defensive function (Head *et al.* 1997, 291). This has some credence, as there is no evidence for any other military sites in Nottingham post-dating the abandonment of 1st century forts in the 70s AD (Bishop 2002).
- 6.5 The site may be that of a Romano-Celtic temple or shrine. This is inferred primarily from the pottery evidence, although the location adds support. The



pottery contains vessels that are particularly associated with burial and ritual sites (Leary below), including the tazza (incense burner). Tazze appear in Britain with the Roman army and were initially made and used by the military, eventually passing to the civilian population until their general demise in the third century (McBride 2003). This type of vessel appears to have been used for burning incense and has ritual associations due to its archaeological context, being largely found within cemeteries, either within burials or within the areas where burial rituals are performed, although they may also have had a purely domestic use as 'air-fresheners' (Featherby 2004). At least 20 tazze were recovered from Phase 3 deposits (AD 140-180) at the Roman *vicus* at Castleford, West Yorkshire (Rush 2000, Table 22) in an area that has recently been reinterpreted as having a religious function (Cool 2005, 10).

- 6.6 The severely corroded coins may have accumulated as individual 'votive' offerings (Barclay, below), but this interpretation is made with the knowledge of the pottery and structural evidence, rather than any intrinsic aspect of the coin assemblage. Lead 'curse tablets' have been found associated with ritual sites and water (Bowman *et al.*) but none of the nine pieces recovered during the watching brief are folded or rolled or bear any identifiable inscription or incised marking.
- 6.7 The location of column bases suggests *in situ* structural remains; the size of the area and results from the geophysics survey point to a single isolated building or monument. The fact that the area appears to have been surrounded on three sides by water or marshland may be significant as such ritual sites reflect the importance of the location rather than the requirements of a particular community (Ebbatson 1989). A single Roman coin of second-century date found in the area of the columns does not assist in dating the structure, but if the building had a religious function it would not be unusual for it to be located on the site of an earlier prehistoric or Celtic place of ritual activity (Ebbatson 1989).
- 6.8 The limited watching brief undertaken at the River Idle washlands has demonstrated the site to be of significant importance, despite the absence of intrusive archaeological investigation. On a purely local level there is a total absence of evidence for any Roman presence, military or civilian, on the current site of Bawtry, yet the results of the watching brief would confirm a nearby settlement of some stature. Pottery of mid-late 4<sup>th</sup>-century date is exceptional in the region and its distinctive character is unparalleled and of significant value for regional pottery studies. If this is the site of a Romano-Celtic temple it is of national importance as they have such a sparse distribution in the north (Ebbatson 1989). Equally, ceramic assemblages of ritual character are rare in Roman Britain and the Bawtry pottery is therefore potentially of national significance. Finally, the rich organic peat deposits were not sampled as part of the watching brief but may contain finds and environmental evidence such as wood, animal bone and macrofossils relating to religious or votive activity, including evidence of any prehistoric precursor.

## **Bibliography**

- ADS, 2006, Archaeology Data Service Online Catalogue,  
<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/>
- Annable, K.F., 1960, *The Romano-British pottery at Cantley Housing Estate, Doncaster*, Doncaster Museums Publication XXIV
- ASWYAS, 2005, *West Yorkshire Archaeology Service Site Recording Manual*, Archaeological Services, unpubl.
- Bartlett, J.E. and Riley, D.N., 1958, 'The Roman Fort at Scaftworth near Bawtry', *Trans. Thoroton Soc.* 62, 24-35
- Bede, *Historia ecclesiastica gentis Anglorum*, Book II Chp. 12, cited in McClure and Collins p94
- Bishop, M., 2002, *An Archaeological Resource Assessment of Roman Nottinghamshire*, <http://www.le.ac.uk/archaeology/research/projects/eastmidsw/pdfs/25nottrom.pdf>
- Bowman, A.K., Brady, J.M., Tomlin, R.S.O and Thomas, J.D., *A Corpus of Writing-Tablets from Roman Britain*, British Academy Research Project,  
<http://www.csad.ox.ac.uk/RIB/RIBIV/jp4.htm>. Accessed July 2006
- Braithwaite, G., 1984, 'Romano-British Face Pots and Head Pots', *Britannia* 15, 99-131
- Buckland, P.C. and Dolby, M.J., 1980, *A Roman pottery kiln site at Blaxton Quarry, near Doncaster*, Doncaster Museums and Arts Service publication
- Buckland, P.C. and Magilton, J.R., 1986, *The Archaeology of Doncaster 1. The Roman Civil Settlement*. Brit. Archaeol. Rep. 148
- Buckland, P.C., 1976, 'A Romano-British kiln site at Branton near Doncaster', *Yorkshire Archaeol. J.* 48, 69-82
- Buckland, P.C., Dolby, M.J. and Magilton, J.R., 1980, 'The Romano-British pottery industries of South Yorkshire: a review', *Britannia* 11, 145-64
- Chadwick, A., 1995, *Report on an archaeological field evaluation on land off Gainsborough Road, Bawtry*. South Yorkshire Archaeology Field & Research Unit
- Cool, H., 2005, *Review of the Evidence from the Excavations at Castleford 1987-8*, ASWYAS commissioned report
- Darling M.J., 1977, *A Group of Late Roman Pottery from Lincoln*, Lincoln Archaeological Trust, *The Archaeology of Lincoln*, Vol. XVI-2
- Darling, M.J., 1999, 'Roman Pottery' in Colyer, C., Gilmour, B.J.J. and Jones, M.J., *The Defences of the Lower City. Excavations at the Park and West Parade 1970-2 and a discussion of other sites excavated up to 1994*. CBA Res. Rep. 114, 52-123
- Darling, M.J., 2004, 'Guidelines for the archiving of Roman pottery', *J. Roman Pottery Studies* Vol. 11, 67-75
- Dunkley, J.A. and Cumberpatch, C.G. (eds), 1996, *Excavations at 16-20 Church Street, Bawtry*. Brit. Archaeol. Rep. 248
- Ebbatson, L., 1989, *Romano-Celtic Temples*, English Heritage MPP Monument Class Description
- Evans, J., 1989, 'Crambeck; the development of a major northern pottery industry', in P.R. Wilson, *The Crambeck Roman Pottery Industry*, 43-90

- Evans, J., 2001a, 'Iron Age, Roman and Early Anglo-Saxon Pottery', in I. Roberts, A. Burgess and D. Berg (eds), *A New Link to the Past. The Archaeological Landscape of the M1-A1 Link Road*. Yorkshire Archaeology 7
- Evans, J., 2001b, 'Material approaches to the identification of different Romano-British site types', in S. James and M. Millett, *Britons and Romans: Advancing an Archaeological Agenda*, CBA Res. Rep. 125, 26-35
- Evans, J., 2002, 'The Iron Age and Romano-British Pottery', in I. Roberts and J. Richardson, *Iron Age and Romano-British Settlement Enclosures at Moss Carr, Methley, West Yorkshire*, Archaeological Services (WYAS) Publication 2, 26-9
- Evans, J., 2004, 'Roman Pottery', in A. Burgess and I. Roberts, *Two late Iron Age/Romano-British Settlement Sites near Whitwood, West Yorkshire*. Archaeological Services (WYAS) Publication 6, 32-3
- Featherby, R., 2004, 'Gresham Street Tazze', Study Group for Roman Pottery, Newsletter 38
- Frere, S.S., Hassall, M.W.C. and Tomlin, R.S.O., 1992, 'Roman Britain in 1991', *Britannia* Vol. 23, 255-308
- Gidman, J., 2002, *Land at Bawtry Lane, Misson, Nottinghamshire. Interim Report*, ASWYAS Rep. 1067
- Harrison, T.S. and Webb, A., 2006, *River Idle Washlands, Bawtry. Geophysical Survey*, ASWYAS Rep. 1532
- Head, R., Fenwick, H., Chapman, H., Van de Noort, R., Dinnin, M., 1997, 'The Archaeological Survey of the Rivers Idle, Torne and the Old River Don', in E. Van de Noort and S. Ellis, 267-367
- Howe, M. D., Perrin, J. R., and Mackreth, D. F., 1980, *Roman pottery from the Nene Valley; A Guide*, Peterborough City Museum Occas. Paper 2
- Institute of Geological Sciences, 1979, *Geological Map of the United Kingdom: South*
- Leary, R.S., 1987, 'The Pottery', in D. Garton, 'Dunston's Clump and the brickwork plan field systems at Babworth, Nottinghamshire; excavations 1981', *Trans. Thorton Soc.*, 91, 43-52
- Leary, R.S., 1988, 'Romano-British pottery', in G. Garton, C.O. Hunt, R.D.S. Jenkinson and R.S. Leary, 'Excavations at a Romano-British cropmark enclosure near Menagerie Wood, Worksop, Nottinghamshire', *Trans. Thorton Soc.* 93, 23-33
- Leary, R.S., 2003, 'Roman pottery', in I. Roberts, *Excavations at Topham Farm, Sykehouse, South Yorkshire*. Archaeological Services (WYAS) Publication 5, 18-23
- Leary, R.S., 2004, 'Roman pottery' in J. Gidman and M. Rose, *West Moor Park East, Armthorpe, South Yorkshire. Archaeological Evaluation and Excavation*, ASWYAS Rep. 1211
- Leary, R.S., 2005, *Holme Hall quarry, Stainton, Romano-British pottery*, Report for ARCUS
- Leary, R.S., forthcoming, *Excavations on the A1 north: The Romano-British Coarse Pottery*. Unpublished Report for Oxford Archaeology North
- Magilton, J.R., 1977, *The Doncaster District: An Archaeological Survey*, Doncaster Museums and Arts Service
- Margary, I.D., 1973, *Roman Roads in Britain*, third ed.

- McBride, M., 2003, Tazza: An Overview, Study Group for Roman Pottery, Newsletter 35, <http://www.sgrp.org/newsletter/2003-11.htm> (accessed June 2006)
- McClure, J. and Collins, R. (eds), 1994, *Bede: Ecclesiastical History of the English People*
- Monaghan, J., 1998, *The Roman Pottery from York*, The Archaeology of York, Vol. 16/8
- O'Neill, R., 2001, *Land south of 20 Church Street, Bawtry, South Yorkshire. Evaluation*, ASWYAS Rep. 911
- Ordnance Survey, 2001, Historical Map and Guide. Roman Britain, 1:625 000 5<sup>th</sup> ed.
- Oswald, A., 1937, *The Roman Pottery Kilns at Little London, Torksey, Lincolnshire*
- Peck, W., 1813, *A Topographical History and Description of Bawtry and Thorne with the Villages Adjacent*, cited in Van de Noort *et al.*, 1997, 412
- Ponsford, M.W., 1992, 'A late Iron Age and Romano-British settlement at Rampton, Nottinghamshire', *Trans. Thoroton Soc.* 96, 91-121
- Robbins, G., 2000, 'Appendix 1: Ceramics report', in G. Davies *et al.*, *Archaeological Excavation at Scrooby Top Quarry, Scrooby Top, Nottinghamshire*, ARCUS unpublished report 247c
- Roberts, I., 2003, *Wharf Farm, Bawtry, Doncaster. Archaeological Evaluation*, ASWYAS Rep. 1170
- Rush, P., 2000, 'The Course Wares', in P. Rush *et al.*, *Roman Castleford Excavations 1974-85. Vol. III The Pottery*, pp119, 130, Fig. 65 and Table 22
- Rush, P., Dickinson, P. and Hartley, K.F., 2000, *Roman Castleford Excavations 1974-85. Vol. III The Pottery*, West Yorkshire Archaeology Service
- Samuels, J., 1983, *The Production of Roman Pottery in the East Midlands*. Unpublished PhD Thesis, Nottingham University
- Smith, A.H., 1961, *The Place-names of the West Riding of Yorkshire*, Vol. 30 Pt 1
- Soil Survey of England and Wales, 1983, *Soils of Northern England*
- Stone, M., 1998, *Galley Hills, Bawtry, South Yorkshire. Evaluation*, ASWYAS Rep. 570
- Todd, M., 1968, 'The commoner Late Roman coarse wares of the East Midlands', *Antiquaries J.* Vol. 48, 192-209
- Tomber, R. and Dore, J., 1998, *The National Roman Fabric Reference Collection. A Handbook*, MoLAS Monograph 2
- Van de Noort, R. and Ellis, S. (eds), 1997, *Wetland Heritage of the Humberhead Levels: An Archaeological Survey*
- Van de Noort, R., Lillie, M., Taylor, D. and Kirby, J., 'The Roman Period Landscape at Scaftworth' in Van de Noort and Ellis, 1997, 409-28
- Webster, G. and Booth, N., 1947, 'The excavations of a Romano-British pottery kiln at Swanpool, Lincoln', *Antiquaries J.* Vol. 27, 61-79

## ***Acknowledgements***

<b>Project management</b>	Dave Berg BA
<b>Report</b>	Dave Berg BA Paul Major BSc MA Dip
<b>Graphics/illustrations</b>	Paul Major T. S. Harrison BSc MSc PIFA
<b>Fieldwork</b>	Paul Major T. S. Harrison
<b>Cover image</b>	James Gidman

## ***Appendix I***

### ***Inventory of primary/research archives***

<b>File no.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Quantity</b>
1	Risk assessment	1 sheet
1	Photographic record sheet	1 sheet
1	Watching brief monitoring form	6 sheets
1	Mono and colour photographic negatives	2 sheets
1	Mono photographic contact sheet	1 sheet
1	Cardboard folder containing miscellaneous	1 folder
1	X-radiograph plate of coins	1 sheet
1	X-radiograph plate of iron objects	1 sheet
1	Coins conservation records	72 sheets
1	Coin digital photographs	1 CD
1	Specialist report: Pottery, Ruth Leary	1
1	Specialist report: Coins, Craig Barclay	1

## ***Appendix II***

### ***Inventory of contexts***

---

<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>
1000	Topsoil
1001	Light grey/yellow sandy clay
1002	Organic peat deposit
1003	Natural sand

---

### ***Appendix III***

#### ***Inventory of artefacts***

<b>Fabric</b>	<b>Context</b>	<b>SF no.</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Details</b>
Glass	1000	92	1	Post-medieval fragment.
Pottery	1001	-	653	Roman
Cu Alloy	1001	1-72	72	Roman coins
Cu Alloy	1001	73	1	Incomplete Roman fibula
Pb	1001	75-83	9	Misc objects
Fe	1001	84-91	8	Misc objects
Charcoal	1001	-	1	Section of small burnt branch
Stone	1001	-	1	Heat affected stone 'pot boiler'
Flint	1002	74	2	One blade, one flake



## Appendix IV

### The Romano-British Pottery

By R.S.Leary

#### Factual Data

The pottery was examined and catalogued according to the Guidelines of the Study Group for Romano-British Pottery for basic archiving (Darling 2004). The fabrics were recorded in broad groups and source suggested where appropriate. Reference was made to the National Fabric Collection where appropriate (Tomber and Dore 1998). Details of fabric variations were recorded where appropriate and forms were described.

#### Quantity and provenance

653 sherds of Romano-British pottery (15338g.) were recovered from a single context, 1001. The quantities of pottery sherds by ware are shown in Table. 1. Detailed lists are in Appendix 1. The average sherd weight was 24g. Evans (2001a) has shown the average sherd weight for rural sites in West Yorkshire is c.20g, suggesting this group is comprised of relatively well-preserved ceramics. The group certainly included large sherds with ware group OAB having an average sherd weight of 38g and GRB of 27g. The abrasion level, however, was quite high and cross-joins were uncommon indicating this group was not freshly deposited material. Very few full pot profiles were recovered and some quite large sherds, for example of the OBB lid, were quite abraded.

Since the pottery was recovered from only one feature the quantity of sherds is, of itself, remarkable and unusual for the rural sites in the region where small groups of pottery are often recovered (Table 1). The range of material present is also remarkable (see below) suggesting this is not an ordinary rural, domestic site.

Site	Sherd count	Bibliographic ref.
Whitwood	64	Evans 2004
Tiln (evaluation excav)	142	Leary unpublished archive data
Moss Carr, Methley	153	Evans 2002
Lound Well	163	Leary 1995
Menagerie Wood	185	Leary 1988
Sykehouse	365	Leary 2003
<u>Bawtry</u>	653	-
Dunston's Clump	942	Leary 1987
Rampton	978	Ponsford 1992
Scrooby Top	1333	Robbins 2000
Worksop (non kiln)	2077	Darling 2005
Sturton-le-Steeple	2098	Leary archive data
West Moor Park Lincolnshire Way	4053	Leary 2004
Holme Hall	5300	Leary 2005

**Table 1 Total sherd counts from other sites**

## Range and variety of material

### Wares

The fabric of the pottery was first examined by eye and sorted into ware groups on the basis of colour, hardness, feel, fracture, inclusions and manufacturing technique. If the sherds could not be adequately grouped by eye then they were examined under an x30 binocular microscope and compared with sherds from known sources. National fabric collection codes are given wherever possible (Tomber and Dore 1998).

Ware group	Description	Tomber and Dore 1998	Count	Weight	Rel % count	Rel % weight
BB1	Dorset BB1	DOR BB1	8	81.2	1.2%	0.5%
CC	Orange medium quartz tempered fabric with grey surfaces	?SWN CC	3	44.7	0.5%	0.3%
CTA2	Dales ware	DAL SH	158	1813.9	24.2%	11.8%
FLB	White slipped ware		2	18.2	0.3%	0.1%
GRA	Fine grey ware		12	154.8	1.8%	1.0%
GRA/OBA	Fine grey/buff ware		3	28.1	0.5%	0.2%
GRB	Medium grey ware		370	9979.2	56.7%	65.1%
GRB?	Medium grey ware		1	8.9	0.2%	0.1%
GRB4/BB1	Dark grey ware with abundant medium quartz similar to BB1		1	19.9	0.2%	0.1%
GRC	Coarse grey ware		7	125.6	1.1%	0.8%
GTA10	Grey ware with moderate argillaceous inclusions, possibly from Little London kilns		1	101.7	0.2%	0.7%
M	Mortarium		1	104	0.2%	0.7%
MLNV?	Probably Lower Nene Valley mortarium	LNV WH	1	103.5	0.2%	0.7%
MMH	Mancetter-Hartshill mortarium	MAH WH	2	411.7	0.3%	2.7%
MMH?	Probably Mancetter-Hartshill mortarium	MAH WH	1	44.2	0.2%	0.3%
MSYSW	South Yorkshire oxidised mortarium, probably Cantley	CAN WS	2	243.6	0.3%	1.6%
MSYWS	South Yorkshire oxidised mortarium,	CAN WS	4	54.4	0.6%	0.4%

Ware group	Description	Tomber and Dore 1998	Count	Weight	Rel % count	Rel % weight
	probably Cantley					
NV	Nene Valley colour coated ware	LNV CC	34	738	5.2%	4.8%
NV/PMT	Worn Nene Valley colour coated ware or parchment ware	LNV PA?	2	54.6	0.3%	0.4%
OAB	Medium sandy oxidised ware, orange-red, probably South Yorkshire		6	233	0.9%	1.5%
OAB?	Medium sandy oxidised ware, orange-red, probably South Yorkshire		1	7.6	0.2%	0.0%
OBB	Medium sandy buff ware		24	703.6	3.7%	4.6%
PMT?	Parchment ware?		1	8.2	0.2%	0.1%
RBB1	Rossington BB1	ROS BB1	1	11.9	0.2%	0.1%
ROX	Oxfordshire red colour-coated ware	OXF RS	2	44.1	0.3%	0.3%
SYOAB	South Yorkshire orange sandy ware		2	136	0.3%	0.9%
SYOAB?	Probably South Yorkshire orange sandy ware		1	42	0.2%	0.3%
TS	Samian ware	SAM	2	21.6	0.3%	0.1%
Total			653	15338.2	100.0%	100.0%

**Table 2 Quantities of wares**

The pottery is predominantly from the South Yorkshire kilns with significant proportions of Dales ware, Nene Valley colour-coated wares and an unsourced buff ware and small amounts of Dorset BB1, ?Swanpool gritty grey ware (Webster and Booth 1947, type H jars), probably Swanpool colour-coated ware, Oxfordshire red colour coated ware, Nene Valley and Mancetter-Hartshill mortaria and samian ware. Some of the grey wares may be from the kilns at Little London but separation of these wares from the South Yorkshire grey wares produced in kilns around Doncaster will be very difficult apart from one distinctive grey ware fabric with shell inclusions found at the kilns along the Trent or in the case of distinctive forms not made at both kiln groups. More detailed examination of the fabrics should be undertaken at a later stage with this in mind.

The small amount of BB1 is consistent with a date in the early 4th century, as is the larger quantity of Dales ware. To the north at Castleford, BB1 is replaced by Dales ware and East Yorkshire coarse wares in the 4th century (Rush *et al.* 2000). The small amount of gritty grey ware associated with double lid-seated jars of Swanpool type H (Webster and Booth 1947, Buckland and Magilton 1986 nos 59-60 - the latter containing a coin hoard dated to AD 340) suggest the group was still receiving ceramic debris in the mid 4th century. However, the absence of Crambeck ware and East Yorkshire calcite-gritted wares, both present at Doncaster (Buckland and Magilton 1986 nos 61 and 208), suggest a date before the wider distribution of these wares in the mid to late 4th century (Evans 1989). To the north, at sites around Wetherby groups dated to the mid-late 4th century have *c.* 6-12% (of the total sherd count) made up of Crambeck grey ware and 30% made up of East Yorkshire calcite-gritted wares (Leary forthcoming).

The mortaria is divided between the local products, Mancetter-Hartshill and the Nene Valley. One vessel is from an unknown source.

The fine ware contribution is large for rural sites in the region and the table ware vessel types includes a group made in a quartz-tempered buff ware. This is rather finer than the normal South Yorkshire fabric range and its source has not been identified at this stage. The large Nene Valley group is unusual for rural sites in the region, which tend to have none, as at Dunston's Clump, or less than 1%, as at Holme Hall and Scrooby Top (Leary 2005, Robbins 2000). This may be partially the result of the late date of the group since the other sites did not last into the 4th century. At Sturton-le-Steeple, Nene Valley colour-coated wares accounted for some 3% of the assemblage recovered from evaluation trenches outside the town (Leary unpublished archive report). Only seven Nene Valley colour-coated ware sherds were collected during the field walking of the Nottinghamshire brickwork plan field system, which included two sites thought to be of higher status (Leary report in prep for TPAT) on account of the better class of pottery and the roof tiles found. At least one colour-coated beaker is likely to be from Swanpool rather than the Nene Valley kilns and one beaker base compares well with Oxfordshire red colour-coated ware.

## Forms

Bowls/dishes and beakers were unusually prolific. The grey ware bowls and dishes were predominantly bead and flange bowls of the mid/late 3rd-4th centuries, together with bowls/dishes with flat rims, heavy triangular or bead rims, these can be found amongst the late groups at Cantley kiln 7 and Branton (Annable 1960 type 3, nos 26, 27 and 22 and Buckland 1976 types Cb and Ca respectively), although the heavy bead and triangular rim bowl do not appear at Branton. Two grooved rim dishes were present.

The colour-coated and buff ware OBB bowls and dishes were predominantly DR38 copies with two bead and flange bowls. The beakers comprised at least three Nene Valley colour-coated pentice moulded vessels and a fourth possibly from Swanpool, a folded NV beaker, an NV beaker with overpainted scrolls and two oxidised ware beakers. A fine grey ware vessel with evidence of an indented body was probably a folded beaker.

Three NV sherds were probably from flagons or flasks. One of these had curvilinear over painting and rouletting. Its carinated body form compared with Howe *et al.* (1980, no. 69) dated to the 4th century. Fragments of a vessel in a self-slipped grey

ware were recovered and had much surface damage resulting in surface flaking. This vessel seemed to be a small pedestal flask covered with zones of burnished swags, wavy line and chevron motifs. Neither the fabric nor the form is immediately paralleled within the South Yorkshire kilns groups and a Lincolnshire source seems more likely. A GRB sherd bearing pushed out moulded decoration is from a headpot, probably around the eye and top of the nose. The style belongs to Braithewaite's East Midlands group (1984, 119-121) and it may have come from kilns further south around Lincoln.

The most common jar form was the Dales ware jar. One lid-seated jar was present, two late BB1 splayed-rim jars, and five GRB jars with simple everted rims. There were three examples of later type, the double lid-seated rim jar, which is the most common type at Lincoln in the mid-late 4th century (Darling 1977, 30-1). At least eight wide-mouthed deep jars/bowls with flat rim (Buckland *et al.* 1980 type Hd), bead rims (Buckland *et al.* 1980 type He) and rather everted rims were present and there were also two wide-necked jars with bead rims similar to the East Midlands burnished ware type (Todd 1968) and one shouldered jar (Buckland *et al.* type Hb). A small number of narrow-necked jars were identified. These were neckless, two with short everted rims and one with an elongated bead rim. The former type may belong to the Buckland *et al.* 1980 type F group but the latter is unparalleled amongst the South Yorkshire kiln group or the kilns along the Trent at Little London, Lea and Knaith (Samuels 1983) although the elaborate zoned burnished decoration suggested by body sherds can be paralleled in the latter kiln group (Oswald 1937 pl II).

A CTA2 lid was found in the assemblage. Three vessels in oxidised fabrics were unusual in both form and condition. One was hemispherical with a bead rim and a recessed footring. The other two were flanged with plain upright rims like DR38s. One had a footring base and the other had a damaged base. Both were small and shallow and both were burnt. They may have functioned as small bowls or as lids. The form of the body can be compared to a vessel from Lincoln, which had a pedestal base which Darling suggested may have been used as a tazza (1999, fig. 35 no. 309). This is an attractive interpretation taking into account the localised burning around the rim of one and the rim and body of the other. It would account for the rather shallow form - too shallow for a bowl - and their small diameter.

Two fragments in a similar OBB fabric to the putative tazze had been shaped into rough roundels. These were also burnt.

### **Chronology**

The forms and fabric present can be firmly dated to the period mid 3rd to mid 4th century AD. The absence of cupped-rim jars and the amounts of Dales ware all point to a period late in the 3rd century or later. At Castleford the replacement of BB1 jars with Dales ware jars was firmly dated to the early 4th century and the amount of late Nene Valley vessels, including pentice moulded beakers, confirms a 4th century date range. The presence of three double lid seated jars indicates some pottery dating to the mid 4th century or after and a similar vessel from Doncaster containing a coin hoard ending in AD340 supports this dating. The absence of any East Yorkshire pottery on the other hand, points to a date not long after the mid 4th century and before these wares became more common in the region. Therefore, a date in the first half of the 4th century probably towards AD340 is likely.

### Function and site status

Studies in the make up of Romano-British ceramic assemblages from different types of site have suggested that dishes and bowls tend to be more common on urban sites (30%+) and less common on rural sites, with villas lying on the margin (Evans 2001b fig. 5). At *c.* 30%, Bawtry lies in the same region as villas and small towns. By minimum vessel count, *c.* 10% of the assemblage comprised beakers and this also is towards the top of the range for rural sites. Compared with other rural sites in North Nottinghamshire and South Yorkshire, such as Dunston's Clump (bowls and dishes *c.* 18%, beakers *c.* 3%), Holme Hall (*c.* 20% and 4% respectively) and West Moor Park (*c.* 36 % and 2 % respectively), the numbers of bowls/dishes is towards the upper end of the range and the numbers of beakers is high, even when EVES values are used.

Several aspects of the assemblage point to a distinctive function. The headpot is a type of vessel particularly associated with burial and ritual sites (Braithwaite 1984, 124). The small flanged vessels with their distinctive scorching may have functioned as tazze (incense burners), also largely associated with ritual groups (Monaghan 1997, 858). The level of scorching in the assemblage was high and, unusually, was predominantly of finer wares such as the Nene Valley colour-coated bowls and several of the oxidised DR38 bowls as well as the "tazze" vessels and three of the mortaria. This contrasts with other sites such as West Moor Park and Holme Hall where at both sites the burnt vessels are all grey ware jars except a mortaria and one oxidised flanged bowl. Although this aspect of the site is not immediately explicable it serves to isolate the group as unusual.

Vessel type	Min Ves	EVES	Rel % min ves	Rel % EVES
Bowl	32	177	27.8%	23.1%
Bowl/dish	2	23	1.7%	3.0%
Bowl?	1		0.9%	0.0%
Beaker	12	28	10.4%	3.7%
Beaker/jar	1	19	0.9%	2.5%
Beaker?	2		1.7%	0.0%
Dish	4	46	3.5%	6.0%
Flagon	2		1.7%	0.0%
Flagon?	1		0.9%	0.0%
Facepot	1		0.9%	0.0%
Flask	1		0.9%	0.0%
Medium-mouthed jar	30	290	26.1%	37.8%
Jar/Flagon	1		0.9%	0.0%
Jar/narrow-mouthed jar	1		0.9%	0.0%
Jar/Wide-mouthed jar			0.0%	0.0%
Lid	1	5	0.9%	0.7%

Vessel type	Min Ves	EVES	Rel % min ves	Rel % EVES
Lid/bowl	1	5	0.9%	0.7%
Lid/Bowl/Tazze	2	30	1.7%	3.9%
Mortarium	4	43	3.5%	5.6%
Narrow mouthed jar	4	19	3.5%	2.5%
Wide-mouthed jar	12	82	10.4%	10.7%

**Table 3 Quantification of vessels by vessel types by minimum vessel count and estimated vessel equivalents**

## Statement of potential

### The pottery

The varied and precisely dated character of the group is unusual. Mid-late 4th-century groups are uncommon in the region and the size of the group is also remarkable. Its distinctive character is unparalleled in the region and, given its association with a coin hoard and the column bases, it is likely to indicate a site of both regional and national significance. The variety of pottery is noteworthy in an area where rural sites are generally dominated by local reduced wares and has important implications in terms of the status and trading links enjoyed by the people visiting or living at the site.

### Fabric analysis

The assemblage has been grouped in broad ware groups and preliminary study demonstrates that these can be classified more precisely using microscopic techniques. In order to trace the source of some of the oxidised buff wares, it may be necessary to consult the museum collections from the later South Yorkshire kilns and confer with their excavator, Paul Buckland, and also Margaret Darling with respect to Swanpool fine wares. One of the mortaria could not be identified and this should be referred to Kay Hartley for identification. Only one samian vessel was present and this should be identified by a specialist.

### The site

#### Site chronology

The pottery has provided firm dating for the site.

#### Spatial analysis

No spatial analysis can be done within the feature but such analysis to study differences in the kind of pottery in use across the site would undoubtedly be profitable should a more extensive area be opened.

#### Nature of occupation and aspects of trade and exchange

The assessment has demonstrated the unusual nature of the group and the wider than usual trade/exchange contacts of the 'site'. The latter was perhaps a result of people coming to the site from a distance rather than trade proper. This needs to be set

against the local background of trading contacts normal for domestic sites in the region and with patterns found at ritual sites elsewhere in Britain. Such data is available and its inclusion should be incorporated in any future analysis of the group.

### **Regional or greater significance to pottery studies**

The assemblage is unique in terms of its associations, date, status and function for the region. Its study and publication is of great importance regionally. Quantified groups of ritual character are rare in Roman Britain so the assemblage also has national significance. In addition the rarity of groups dating to the mid-late 4th century in this area has been commented upon (Evans 2001b, 175) and this adds to the significance of the group for regional pottery studies. Such studies lead to greater precision in dating, which in turn informs our understanding of settlement developments in the region at that time. The mid 4th century was a period of upheaval in the ceramic industry of South Yorkshire and this group may add to our understanding of its demise.

### **Storage and curation**

The pottery is predominantly stable.



## Appendix V

### The Roman Coinage From Bawtry

By C.P. Barclay

#### The Assemblage

A total of 71 coins were recovered from a single context, 1001. A full catalogue is reproduced below. One of the coins (SF 72) was found in the vicinity of the *in situ* columns. This coin is a moderately worn *sestertius* of Antoninus Pius, struck *c.* AD 140-43. Sestertii of this type enjoyed a long circulating life and are frequently to be found in hoards of mid 3<sup>rd</sup>-century date. The Bawtry specimen is not however excessively worn and is unlikely to have been lost from circulation much after AD 200.

A further 70 coins were found at a depth of not more than 300mm within an area measuring approximately 27m x 4m. Of these, 13 were found to be debased radiates dating from the 260s- 90s AD; 39 were found to be Constantinian nummi of *c.* AD 330-48; and 9 were base metal Valentinianic coins struck post AD 364. A further 9 coins proved to be wholly illegible but on the basis of their fabric can tentatively be assigned to the 3rd or 4th centuries AD. A final metal fragment (SF 3) proved on examination not to be a coin. The composition of the assemblage may be summarised as follows:

#### AE Sestertius; C2nd AD (1)

Issuer	Type	Ref	SF no.	Weight
Antoninus Pius	TR POT COS II[I], S-C wolf and twins	<i>RIC</i> 648	72	14.89

#### AE Radiates; C3rd AD: Regular (12)

Issuer	Type	Ref	SF no.	Weight (g)
Gallienus	[...] STATO[RI]	-	30	1.32
Gallienus	-	-	51	1.94
Claudius II	GENIVS E[XERCI]	-	23	2.89
Claudius II	F[IDES EXERCI]	-	52	1.91
Claudius II?	-	-	54	2.26
Victorinus (?)	-	-	1	1.28
Carausius	Female stg. with cornucopia	-	22	2.91
Allectus	Stg. fig.	-	27	1.50
Unc.	-	-	2	1.01
Unc.	-	-	9	1.78
Unc.	-	-	50	2.25
Unc.	-	-	20	1.37 (frag.)

#### AE Radiate; C3rd AD: Irregular (1)

Issuer	Type	Ref	SF no.	Weight (g)
Unc.	-	-	12	2.30

**AE Nummi, AD 330-348: Regular (26)**

<b>Issuer</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Ref</b>	<b>SF no.</b>	<b>Weight (g)</b>
Constantine I	GLORIA EXERCITVS (2 standards)	-	15	1.87
Constantine I	GLORIA EXERCITVS (2 standards)	-	16	1.98
Constantine I	GLORIA EXERCITVS (2 standards)	-	18	1.40
Constantine I	GLORIA EXERCITVS (2 standards)	-	68	0.59
Hs. of Constantine I	GLORIA EXERCITVS (2 standards)	-	26	2.08
Hs. of Constantine I	GLORIA EXERCITVS (2 standards)	-	53	1.50
Hs. of Constantine I	VRBS ROMA	-	13	1.88
Hs. of Constantine I	VRBS ROMA	-	32	1.75
Hs. of Constantine I	VRBS ROMA	-	49	1.30
Hs. of Constantine I	VRBS ROMA	-	58	1.41
Hs. of Constantine I	VRBS ROMA	-	59	1.52
Hs. of Constantine I	CONSTANTINOPOLIS	-	28	1.55
Hs. of Constantine I	CONSTANTINOPOLIS	-	37	2.06
Hs. of Constantine I	CONSTANTINOPOLIS	-	40	1.52
Hs. of Constantine I	CONSTANTINOPOLIS	-	48	1.96
Hs. of Constantine I	CONSTANTINOPOLIS	-	60	1.59
Hs. of Constantine I	CONSTANTINOPOLIS	-	70	1.24
Constantine II (Caesar)	-	-	4	1.43
Hs. of Constantine I	GLORIA EXERCITVS (1 standard)	-	25	0.90
Hs. of Constantine I	GLORIA EXERCITVS (1 standard)	-	62	0.86
Hs. of Constantine I	GLORIA EXERCITVS (1 standard)	-	66	1.24
Helena	PAX PVBLICA	-	29	1.83
Theodora	PIETAS ROMANA	-	43	0.75
Theodora	PIETAS ROMANA	-	67	0.81
Constantine II/Constans	VICTORIAE DD AVGG Q NN	-	8	1.48
Constantine II/Constans	VICTORIAE DD AVGG Q NN	-	14	0.23 (frag.)

**AE Nummi, AD 330-348: Irregular (13)**

<b>Issuer</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Ref</b>	<b>SF no.</b>	<b>Weight (g)</b>
'Constantine I'	'GLORIA EXERCITVS' (2 standards)	-	31	0.84
'Constantine II (Caesar)'	'GLORIA EXERCITVS' (2 standards)	-	71	1.04
'Hs. of Constantine I'	'GLORIA EXERCITVS' (2 standards)	-	24	1.03
'Hs. of Constantine I'	'GLORIA EXERCITVS'	-	34	0.58

	(2 standards)			
'Hs. of Constantine I'	'GLORIA EXERCITVS' (2 standards)	-	65	0.63
'Hs. of Constantine I'	'GLORIA EXERCITVS' (2 standards)	-	69	0.92
'Hs. of Constantine I'	'VRBS ROMA'	-	19	0.67
'Hs. of Constantine I'	'VRBS ROMA'	-	45	0.77
'Hs. of Constantine I'	'CONSTANTINOPOLIS'	-	10	1.15
'Hs. of Constantine I'	'CONSTANTINOPOLIS'	-	55	0.41
'Constantius II (Caesar)'	'GLORIA EXERCITVS' (1 standard)	-	6	0.76
'Hs. of Constantine I'	'GLORIA EXERCITVS' (1 standard)	-	33	1.20
'Hs. of Constantine I'	'GLORIA EXERCITVS' (1 standard)	-	63	0.43

**AE; post-AD 364 (9)**

<b>Issuer</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Ref</b>	<b>SF no.</b>	<b>Weight (g)</b>
Hs. of Valentinian I	SECVRITAS REIPUBLICAE Victory adv. Left	-	5	1.20
Hs. of Valentinian I	SECVRITAS REIPUBLICAE Victory adv. left	-	38	0.88
Hs. of Valentinian I	SECVRITAS REIPUBLICAE Victory adv. left	-	61	0.94
Hs. of Valentinian I	GLORIA ROMANORVM Emperor & captive	-	11	0.94
Hs. of Valentinian I	GLORIA ROMANORVM Emperor & captive	-	35	0.83
Hs. of Valentinian I	GLORIA ROMANORVM Emperor & captive	-	41	1.37
Hs. of Valentinian I	GLORIA ROMANORVM Emperor & captive	-	42	1.75
Hs. of Valentinian I	GLORIA ROMANORVM Emperor & captive	-	46	1.75
Hs. of Valentinian I	GLORIA ROMANORVM Emperor & captive	-	47	1.31

**AE Illegible (9)**

<b>SF no.</b>	<b>Diameter (mm)</b>	<b>Weight (g)</b>
7	11	0.92
17	12	0.96
21	13	0.66
36	9	0.20
39	18	1.90
44	15	0.26 (frag.)
56	15	0.99
57	16	1.51
64	15	1.19

## Interpretation

The coins are, almost without exception, severely corroded and in the vast majority of cases only general identification proved possible. It is nevertheless clear that the assemblage comprises both officially-struck and irregular issues, as one would expect from a Romano-British site. The range of types represented is likewise generally unremarkable, although some significance may be attached to the absence both of early (pre AD 330) Constantinian issues and the common FEL TEMP REPARATIO issues of the early- mid 350s.

The observation that all but one of the coins was recovered from a long, confined strip of ground raises the question of whether the assemblage might represent a single hoard that has been scattered by ploughing. The overall composition of the group is not consistent with this interpretation, although the possibility that one (or more) hoards or similar deposits are represented cannot be excluded. In particular, the Constantinian nummi and their copies represent a coherent group, as do the Valentinianic coins. An alternative explanation, which gains some support from the nature of the site and the associated pottery assemblage, is that some or all of the coins might represent votive offerings.

Overall, the dating of the coins corresponds fairly closely with that of the pottery assemblage as, with the exception of the Valentinianic issues, the group neatly spans the period from the mid 3rd century AD to the 340s. There is an apparent episodic nature to the material with groups dated to: 260s-90s; a period *c.* 330-48 and a period of revived activity *c.* 364-78.

**CATALOGUE (by Small Find number)**

AE radiate; Victorinus (?); AD 268-70 (?)  
1.28g; corroded  
SF 1; context 1001

AE radiate (?); later C3rd AD  
1.01g; fragment  
SF 2; context 1001

Metal fragment: not coin  
SF 3; context 1001

AE nummus; Constantine II (Caesar); pre AD 337  
Obv.) [...] VS IVN NC  
1.43g; light wear; corroded  
SF 4; context 1001

AE3/4; House of Valentinian I; AD 364-78  
Rev.) [SECVRITAS REIPVBLICAE]; Victory adv. left  
1.20g; corroded  
SF 5; context 1001

Barbarous AE nummus; 'Constantius II (Caesar)'; prototype AD 335-7  
Obv.) [...] TIVS N [...]  
Rev.) GLORIA EXERCITVS (single standard) type  
0.76g; chipped; light wear  
SF 6; context 1001

AE 11mm  
Obv.) diademed head, right (?)  
0.92g; corroded  
SF 7; context 1001

AE nummus; Constantius II/ Constans; AD 347-8  
Rev.) [VICTORIAE DD AVGG Q NN]; two Victories  
1.48g; corroded  
SF 8; context 1001

AE radiate; later C3rd AD  
1.78g; corroded  
SF 9; context 1001

Barbarous AE minim; 'House of Constantine I'; prototype post AD 330  
CONSTANTINOPOLIS type  
1.15g; light wear  
SF 10; context 1001

AE 3; House of Valentinian I; AD 364-78  
Rev.) [GLORIA ROMANORVM]; emperor & captive  
0.94g; chipped; corroded  
SF 11; context 1001

Barbarous AE radiate; later C3rd AD  
2.30g; corroded  
SF 12; context 1001

AE nummus; House of Constantine I; post AD 330  
VRBS ROMA type

1.88g; light wear  
SF 13; context 1001

AE nummus; Constantius II/ Constans; AD 347-8  
Rev.) [VICTORIAE DD AVGG Q NN]; two Victories  
0.23g; fragmentary/conserved  
SF 14; context 1001

AE nummus; Constantine I; AD 330-5  
Rev.) [GLORIA EXERCITVS]; two standards type  
1.87g; corroded; light wear  
SF 15; context 1001

AE nummus; Constantine I; AD 330-5  
Rev.) [GLORIA EXERCITVS]; two standards type  
1.98g; corroded  
SF 16; context 1001

AE 12mm  
0.96g  
SF 17; context 1001

AE nummus; Constantine I; AD 330-5  
Rev.) [GLORIA EXERCITVS]; two standards type  
1.40g; corroded; light wear  
SF 18; context 1001

Barbarous AE minim; 'House of Constantine I'; prototype post AD 330  
VRBS ROMA type  
0.67g; light wear  
SF 19; context 1001

AE radiate; later C3rd AD  
1.37g; corroded; fragmentary  
SF 20; context 1001

AE 13mm  
0.66g  
SF 21; context 1001

AE radiate; Carausius; AD 287-93  
Rev.) standing draped female figure with cornucopia  
2.91g; light wear  
SF 22; context 1001

AE radiate; Claudius II; AD 268-70  
Rev.) GENIVS E[XERCI]; Genius standing left  
2.89g; light wear  
SF 23; context 1001

Barbarous AE nummus; 'House of Constantine I'; prototype AD 330-5  
Rev.) GLORIA EXERCITVS (two standards) type  
1.03g; light wear  
SF 24; context 1001

AE nummus; House of Constantine I; AD 335-37  
Obv. [...]NOB C  
Rev.) [GLORIA EXERCITVS]; single standard type  
0.90g; corroded; light wear  
SF 25; context 1001

AE nummus; House of Constantine I; AD 330-5  
Rev.) [GLORIA EXERCITVS]; two standards type  
2.08g; light wear  
SF 26; context 1001

AE radiate; Allectus; AD 293-96  
Rev.) standing figure  
1.50g; corroded  
SF 27; context 1001

AE nummus; House of Constantine I; post AD 330  
CONSTANTINOPOLIS type  
1.55g; light wear  
SF 28; context 1001

AE nummus; Helena; AD 337-40  
Rev) [PAX PUBLICA]  
1.83g; light wear  
SF 29; context 1001

AE radiate; Gallienus; AD 260-68  
Rev.) [...] STATO[RI]  
1.32g; light wear; chipped  
SF 30; context 1001

Barbarous AE nummus; 'Constantine I'; prototype AD 330-5  
Rev.) GLORIA EXERCITVS (two standards) type  
0.84g; chipped; light wear  
SF31 context 1001

AE nummus; House of Constantine I; post AD 330  
VRBS ROMA type  
1.75g; moderate wear  
SF 32; context 1001

Barbarous AE nummus; 'House of Constantine I'; prototype post AD 335  
Rev.) GLORIA EXERCITVS (single standard) type  
1.20g; light wear  
SF 33; context 1001

Barbarous AE nummus; 'House of Constantine I'; prototype AD 330-35  
Rev.) GLORIA EXERCITVS (two standards) type  
0.58g; light wear  
SF 34; context 1001

AE 3; House of Valentinian I; AD 364-78  
Rev.) [GLORIA ROMANORVM]; emperor & captive  
0.83g; moderate wear  
SF 35; context 1001

AE 9mm  
0.20g  
SF 36; context 1001

AE nummus; House of Constantine I; post AD 330  
CONSTANTINOPOLIS type  
2.06g; light wear  
SF 37; context 1001

AE 3; House of Valentinian I  
Rev.) [SECVRITAS REIPVBLICAE]; Victory adv. left  
0.88g; corroded  
SF 38; context 1001

AE 18mm  
1.90g; corroded  
SF 39; context 1001

AE nummus; House of Constantine I; post AD 330  
CONSTANTINOPOLIS type  
1.52g; light wear  
SF 40; context 1001

AE 3; House of Valentinian I; AD 364-78  
Rev.) [GLORIA ROMANORVM]; emperor & captive  
1.37g; moderate wear; corroded  
SF 41; context 1001

AE 3; House of Valentinian I; AD 364-78  
Rev.) [GLORIA ROMANORVM]; emperor & captive  
1.75g; moderate wear; corroded  
SF 42; context 1001

AE nummus; Theodora; AD 337-40  
Rev.) [PIETAS ROMANA]  
0.75g; light wear  
SF 43; context 1001

AE 15mm  
0.26g; fragment  
SF 44; context 1001

Barbarous AE minim; 'House of Constantine I'; prototype post AD 330  
VRBS ROMA type  
0.77g; light wear  
SF 45; context 1001

AE 3; House of Valentinian I; AD 364-78  
Rev.) [GLORIA ROMANORVM]; emperor & captive  
1.75g; moderate wear; corroded  
SF 46; context 1001

AE 3; House of Valentinian I; AD 364-78  
Rev.) [GLORIA ROMANORVM]; emperor & captive  
1.31g; moderate wear; corroded  
SF 47; context 1001

AE nummus; House of Constantine I; post AD 330  
CONSTANTINOPOLIS type  
1.96g; light wear  
SF 48; context 1001

AE nummus; House of Constantine I; post AD 330  
VRBS ROMA type  
1.30g; moderate wear  
SF 49; context 1001

AE radiate; later C3rd AD  
2.25g; corroded



SF 50; context 1001

AE radiate; Gallienus; AD 260-68  
1.94g; heavy wear  
SF 51; context 1001

AE radiate; Claudius II; AD 268-70  
Rev.) F[IDES EXERCI]; Fides standing with standards  
1.91g; light wear  
SF 52; context 1001

AE nummus; Constantine I; AD 330-5  
Rev.) [GLORIA EXERCITVS]; two standards type  
1.50g; corroded; light wear  
SF 53; context 1001

AE radiate; Claudius II?; AD 268-70?  
2.26g; corroded  
SF 54; context 1001

Barbarous AE minim; 'House of Constantine I'; prototype post AD 330  
CONSTANTINOPOLIS type  
0.41g; light wear  
SF 55; context 1001

AE 15mm  
0.99g; corroded  
SF 56; context 1001

AE 16mm  
1.51g; corroded  
SF 57; context 1001

AE nummus; House of Constantine I; post AD 330  
VRBS ROMA type  
1.41g; moderate wear  
SF 58; context 1001

AE nummus; House of Constantine I; post AD 330  
VRBS ROMA type  
1.52g; moderate wear  
SF 59; context 1001

AE nummus; House of Constantine I; post AD 330  
CONSTANTINOPOLIS type  
1.59g; moderate wear  
SF 60; context 1001

AE3/4; House of Valentinian I; AD 364-78  
Rev.) [SECVRITAS REIPVBLICAE]; Victory adv. left  
1.39g; corroded  
SF 61; context 1001

AE nummus; House of Constantine I; AD 335-7  
Obv.) [...] NOB C  
Rev.) [GLORIA EXERCITVS]; single standard type  
0.86g; chipped; light wear  
SF 62; context 1001

Barbarous AE nummus; 'House of Constantine I'; prototype post AD 335

Rev.) GLORIA EXERCITVS (single standard) type  
0.43g; chipped; light wear  
SF 63; context 1001

AE 15mm  
1.19g; corroded  
SF 64; context 1001

Barbarous AE nummus; 'House of Constantine I'; prototype AD 330-35  
Rev.) GLORIA EXERCITVS (two standards) type  
0.63g; light wear  
SF 65; context 1001

AE nummus; House of Constantine I; AD 335-7  
Rev.) [GLORIA EXERCITVS]; single standard type  
Trier: PTR[ ]  
1.24g; chipped; light wear  
SF 66; context 1001

AE nummus; Theodora; AD 337-40  
Rev.) [PIETAS ROMANA]  
0.81g; light wear  
SF 67; context 1001

AE nummus; Constantine I; AD 330-5  
Rev.) [GLORIA EXERCITVS]; two standards type  
0.59g; chipped; corroded  
SF 68; context 1001

Barbarous AE nummus; 'House of Constantine I'; prototype AD 330-35  
Rev.) GLORIA EXERCITVS (two standards) type  
0.92g; light wear  
SF 69; context 1001

AE nummus; House of Constantine I; post AD 330  
CONSTANTINOPOLIS type  
1.24g; light wear  
SF 70; context 1001

Barbarous AE nummus; 'Constantius II (Caesar)'; prototype AD 330-35  
Rev.) GLORIA EXERCITVS (two standards) type  
1.04g; light wear  
SF 71; context 1001

AE sestertius; Antoninus Pius; AD 140-43  
Obv.) ANTONINVS AVG PIUS PP; head right  
Rev.) TR POT COS II[I], S-C; wolf and twins  
RIC 648  
14.89g; moderate wear  
SF 72; context 1001