



Bawtry Heritage Group
Preserving our Past for the Future
Registered Charity No. 1168945

The Hunt for Roman Bawtry Desktop Review Stage Two (Part One) - Monuments, Features and Artefacts from central, north and west Bawtry. Also evidence from recent community activity

INITIAL FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS	REVIEW COMMENTS, OBS and ADDITIONAL POINTS
<p>This desktop stage of our Hunt for Roman Bawtry is an examination of the vast amount of diverse detail already out there. Our aim is to use that to expand our understanding of the Bawtry area during the Roman period beyond what has been achieved through BHG work conducted between 2021 and 2023; further defining the story and its relationship with the modern town.</p> <p>There are a variety of accessible databases that present a range of information and detail about Roman finds in and around Bawtry, all recorded over a number of years via planned archaeological activity and chance discoveries. These repositories allow us to collectively analyse and interpret the details captured, with the aim of making generic conclusions, advancing theories, and signposting further opportunities for study.</p> <p>This desktop review is divided into two parts. This report, part one, will deal with central Bawtry and its hinterlands to the north and west. Part two will cover primarily the southern and eastern hinterlands.</p> <p>Both parts of this desktop stage make reference to and take evidence from the following sources.</p> <p>The Heritage Gateway for South Yorkshire The Heritage Gateway for Nottinghamshire Historic England online The Archeology Data Service The City of Doncaster Archives The Roman Road Research Association Cropmark landscapes and domestic space. G Robbins (1997). The Portable Antiquities Scheme/ Finds Database Yorkshire-Archaeological Journals Online Internet Archive Google Earth Pro</p>	

BHG papers presented on its website in 2023
BHG website, other resource section.
Roman Nottinghamshire by Mark Patterson (2011)
UK Metal Detecting Days (UKMDD)
Exotic Structures in 4th Century Britain - Bryn Walters
(Architecture in Roman Britain - edited by Peter
Johnson) - CBA 1996
The History and Future of the Idle/Bycarrsdyke
Waterway and its Catchment - Alan Newman (2016)
Residents of Bawtry Town (2024).

As a result of community action, via our Garden Search
initiative, this report will also deal with evidence
emerging from that activity.

To begin this stage of our desktop review it seems
logical that we consider a significant outcome from
stage one of the process which raised an important
piece of evidence relating to roads.

This outcome emerged when exploring a particular
South Yorkshire Heritage Gateway entry 03106/01 (Lib
ref 1). This record refers primarily to cropmarks and
field systems identified by aerial photography in 2010.
The record dated these features as being between 800
BCE and 409 AD. Intriguingly the survey team also
identified that the photographs revealed that the Roman
Road 28a cut through the field systems as it left the
northern end of what would become Bawtry. By
inference this makes the field systems older than the
road and therefore present before any significant
Roman activity in the area that came with the building
of the road around 71AD. In correspondence with the
Roman Road Research Association they considered
the same interpretation that applied to RR28a cutting
through these systems was also applicable to RR282x.
They invited us to consider the image below that came
from the 2010 survey. This clearly displays RR282x (far
left) in the same manner as RR28a. Note, the former
was constructed around 50 AD. Engagement with
SYAS also supported as credible the conclusion that
organised field systems were in place before the
conquerors came.



Image one (The left red line clearly shows RR282X present and cutting through the field systems. This image was used as image three in Stage One (Roads).

The significance of all of this is that people were active in the Bawtry landscape before the Romans came. Additionally, and perhaps more importantly from our project's point of view, we have, for the first time, an identifiable point of exit for Roman Road 28a as it leaves the modern Bawtry environment in the north.

Conclusions C from the Stage One review challenged this stage to, if possible, enhance the understanding of settled human activity in the area just north of Bawtry and seek to bring clarity to the question as to whether the Roman occupiers, just passed through this environment farmed by the indigenous population, or whether they added to it in a manner that went beyond achieving military aims or governance necessities.

Our scoping of the South Yorkshire Heritage Gateway Records relating to potential Roman activity produced 35 primary records (other additional records emerged as a result of studying these initial 35. Including record

03106/01, 17 of them related to crop marks and field features but only 4 of these, in addition to 03106/01, made any reference to Roman features or finds. The inevitable question this posed is; to what extent the other 12 Gateway records could be considered as robust, in providing evidence of human activity triggered by the Roman occupation or the invaders endeavouring to subdue and govern the island? Given the evidence provided by record 03106/01, being an indicator that these field systems are pre Roman and that none of them at their point of existence were linked to the emergence of Roman activity their value in the pursuit of our hunt for the genesis of Roman activity in the area that was to become Bawtry is probably negligible. This of course does not ignore that the people active in this area before the conquerors came may have remained so and eventually assimilated into what we now label as Romano-British.

Liaison with SYAS on this matter has provided a sensible caveat to the position described above and additional information which adds to our pursuit of a better understanding.

Firstly, whilst SYAS accepts our conclusions about the potential for the genesis of the field systems being earlier than the Roman occupation stating, "the basic conclusion does seem the most likely"; they did so adding that the foundations for it were based mainly on sound, but passive study, rather than intrusive exploration. SYAS point out that very limited archeological activity of note has been conducted in this area therefore limited physical dating evidence is available. They stated that the ground activity that has taken place, "in terms of dating", indicates "that many of these features represent late Iron Age arable landscapes and associated settlements". However, they go on to explain, "that activity (human) really ramps up in the 2nd-3rd centuries CE"; resulting in population increases across the island, especially in the proximity of major Roman routes northwards. Whether the increase in a settled population was due to retired military personnel and their families, or people identifying as natives remains a mystery; as does the extent this identified 2nd and 3rd century trend was applicable to our zones of interest around Bawtry*. That said, it does seem, in the absence of other evidence, to surmise that it did; given the advances in ideas and technology that were experienced over the 300 years + of occupation.

**The evidence regarding this trend is largely founded on ground work further north towards Hadrian's wall*

Locally the generic hypothesis that the pre Roman landscapes progressed in an increasingly more structured way that continued to heighten in sophistication during the Roman occupation is supported by an example related to Scrooby Top in Nottinghamshire which will be covered specifically in part two of this stage. This will cover the 1997 thesis submitted by Graham Robbins entitled, "Cropmark Landscapes and Domestic Space".

Notwithstanding the caveat from SYAS outlined above, it does seem fair to categorise the 12 Gateway records listed below as being of limited value in providing substantive information regarding the genesis of Roman activity in and around Bawtry. However, circumstantially it seems equally fair to conclude that because of the consequences of the Roman invasion and its impact on the socio-economic development around what would become Bawtry, Roman influences will have left an impact of some kind on this complex landscape arrangement.

HER 02477/01
HER 01473/01
HER 02479/01
HER 02473/01
HER 02482/01
HER 02484/01
HER 02483/01
HER 02682/01
HER 03105/01
HER 02474/01
HER 02323/01
HER 02476/01

Note, each of the above records is referenced in full within the library accompanying the Stage One (Roads) summary document and are not repeated in the reference library accompanying this summary.

What is now an important question for this stage review is the extent to which any evidence, in addition to 03106/01 the 4 remaining records, of this batch of 17, provide in advancing our knowledge of Roman activity in the Bawtry story?

The 4 remaining records are identifiable in SY Heritage Gateway database are listed below:

HER 02480/01 (Lib Ref 2)
HER 01794/01 (Lib Ref 3)
HER 01843/01 (Lib Ref 4)
HER 01791/01 (Lib Ref 5)

Image two presents the plotted grid references relating to each of these records marked with their Desktop Reference Library number. L ref 1 indicates the location for the Gateway reference 03106/01 which was the catalyst for the conclusion made in Stage One (Roads) regarding the exit point of RR28a at the northern end of modern Bawtry.

The crop marks and field systems of the four additional sites in the image may also fall into the category of being pre Roman. However, these four are being considered further given the specific references to Roman activity within their Gateway records.



Image two

The general information contained in Image Two can be presented as follows.

All of these references are within the 6.1km maximum considered as legitimately relevant in understanding the context of how Bawtry and its immediate surroundings were utilised, populated and developed during the Roman period. L ref 2 is on the edge of the 1.7km zone and L ref 3 is just inside.

Secondly, 4 plots, additional to 03106/01, relate very closely to what would have been Roman Road 28a (presented in the image as The Great North Road).

It is important to record from the outset that whilst all 4 of these identified features differ from the previous 12, in that their records specifically refer to a Roman connection, there is nothing in any of these individual narratives that deflects away from the generic conclusions made in Stage One about the early dates for all of the field systems and boundaries being realistic. Just as there is nothing in these four additional references that allow us at face value to classify them as pre Roman.

Analysis of L ref 5 (HER 01791/01)

To begin the review of these 4 Gateway records I have chosen the outlier L ref 5, at 4.4 km from the centre of Bawtry it is well outside the 1.7km core zone. The draw to this record is grounded in a reference within the narrative that notes the presence of a Roman road to the northwest of the feature identified in association with Gateway reference 02674/01. Given that L ref 5 is located between 700-800 metres west RR282x with RR28a sited another 2.7kms eastward from the site, evidence of another Roman road northwest of this location would add dramatically to an already busy highway system within the 6.1km zone. There is a notable Roman feature approximately 1km west of L ref 5, Stancil Villa. Marked as L ref 5a, see image three, Stancil as a Roman monument sited just over 5km from the centre of Bawtry and well west of the two major Roman highways that seem crucial in shaping the Roman Bawtry environment. At this stage it is difficult to claim that as a clue to the Roman heritage of Bawtry, Stancil is nothing more than peripheral. However the existence of a third major Roman road as hinted at in L ref 5 might force us to consider some of our thinking.



Image three, shows the position of L ref 5 the upper blue line indicating the distance to RR282x and the lower the distance to RR28a, both in the east.

Inquiries regarding the reference to a Roman Road immediately northwest of L ref 5 with SYAS led to a focus on three additional references within its Gateway records; 01789/01(L ref 5d), 02674/01(L ref 5c), the record associated with the new road, and 01790/01(L ref 5b). See figure four



Image four

The SYAS response confirmed that these additional references were all highlighting features relating to crop marks and boundaries identified in the Berg et al survey of 2010. 01789/01 refers to a trackway; however, this is within metres of what is now the Great North Road and more likely to be associated with the Iron Age field systems at that location or RR28a itself and in any case it is some 2.5kms east of reference L ref 5. Likewise 02674/01 is also part of the sprawling features captured via the 2010 aerial survey but is somewhat southeast of the L ref 5. Examining this record it does reference the presence of a road described as "a possible roman road orientated north-south". This is almost certainly RR282x, which is clearly southeast of L ref 5 not northwest. Image five with 02674/01, circled red, confirms this reference, 01791/01 circled in green. RR 282x, denoted by the yellow line central in the image is northwest of 02674/01 and is likely to be the reference to a northwest road causing the confusion emerging from the 01791/01 narrative.



Image five

01790/01 (L ref 5b) also fails to address any reference of a possible road northwest of L ref 5 given that it is some distance north east of the main feature.

The only conclusion can be that reference to a northwest road, relates to RR282x and the narrative of 02764/01 (L ref 5c), not 01971/01 (L ref 5). SYAS in their response mentioned RR28a being closely associated with 01789/01. These are the only two major Roman roads. The mapping of all these related features displayed in Images four and five underpins this conclusion. There is nothing to substantiate a road to northwest of L ref 5 and therefore no third road.

Settlements

The most intriguing element of these additional records is the tantalising speculation in L refs 5b 1,2,3 and L ref 5d 1, 2, citing "possible settlements". We should remind ourselves that this statement comes with two big caveats. These conclusions are drawn from the analysis of aerial photographic evidence rather than on site intrusion, or identifying artefacts that might confirm or present signs of domesticity. Secondly, even if the analysis is correct, the lack of physical dating evidence remains a barrier. We cannot be certain what, if anything, is Roman. Remember L ref 1 presented us with substantial evidence to make the hypothesis that the Roman roads came after the field system. Whilst

our inquiries with SYAS present indications established elsewhere that within the Roman era the indigenous population may have remained and expanded their activities and were potentially joined by others who came with the conquerors, we have nothing physical in these two summaries to confirm that. However, what we do have is the potential of an echo from history potentially placing peoples living during the Roman occupation within our designated 6.1km zone. L refs 5b1, 2 & 3 fall within 3.4 and 3.6 km from the centre of Bawtry. Disappointingly outside our 1.7km core zone, but nevertheless close by.

Image six below seeks to present the content of these settlement records on the ground expanding on the detail in Image five.

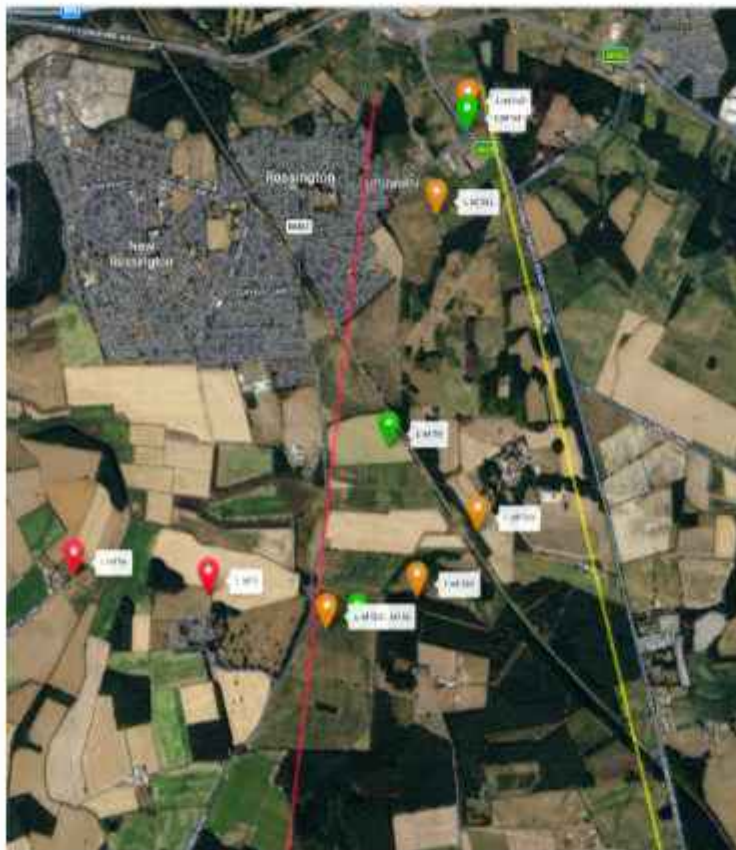


Image six

Analysis of L ref 2 (HER 02480/01)

The location of this feature taken from the grid reference appointed lies 2.06km from the centre of Bawtry. This is a mere 360 metres beyond the 1.70 km inner boundary, see image seven (red marker). That said it lies on the northern edge of Austerfield, a close neighbour of Bawtry but a separate modern settlement in its own right.

The Roman related find captured in this Gateway record amounts to one single shard of Roman Greyware and two Romano-British ditches discovered as part of a watching brief conducted by the Northern Archaeological Associates (NAA) in 2000 during which time a large quantity of topsoil was removed as part of an operation within Austerfield quarry. Interestingly the Archaeology Data Service record for this activity does not refer to this find, but does, in the "notes" section, refer to a Roman ditch at grid reference SK 66159505, 158 metres to the east of the pottery find (see L ref 2a Image seven). Whilst the initial Roman finds and features associated with this record can at best be described as minimal; they were a trigger for additional research and led us into considering Historic England Research Record, Monument Number 320766 (L ref 2b). This record provides details of a significant Roman feature 2.04km due north of L ref 2 and the ADS recorded ditch, see image seven.



Image seven

The Historic England Record describes the feature as, "a large square fortification, perhaps a Roman camp, with the remains of a military way".

"The site of the Roman camp at Austerfield is part of Austerfield high common and Finningley Park. Parts of swords and heads of battle axes are recorded as being found near the site of the camp, along with a brass key and spearhead.

What we should be mindful of with regard to this record is that it is not prompted by recent archaeological activity. It is sourced by a collection of antiquarian observations made between the mid 16 century and the early 19th century and the recording of these finds on OS maps up until the early 20th century.

As can be seen from image seven these features lie just to the west of RR28a marked in yellow. Analysis of 01794/01 adds to that immediate landscape further.

Analysis of L ref 3 (HER 01794/01)

Addressing L ref 3 and its associate find L ref 3a is probably best undertaken with recognition that their geographic relationship with L ref 2b is undeniable given the plot indicated by the 800m squared green zone depicted in Image eight.



Image eight

Reviewing the reference 3 plots within the green zone reveals the following. L ref 3 generically captures the boundary and field features captured in early references discovered in the 2010 survey as those features make their way northeastward. L ref 3a is captured in the description summary and refers to a "sub-rectangular enclosure....lying between Mount Pleasant Hotel and Hammond's Elders". This summary

references "some Roman material found". Image nine zooms in on this location and an array of rectangular features can be clearly seen. A range of antiquarian documentation dating back hundreds of years is covered in detail on page nine of the BHG paper Roman Bawtry - Speculation and Theories Unproven by Archaeological Evidence (see BHG website).

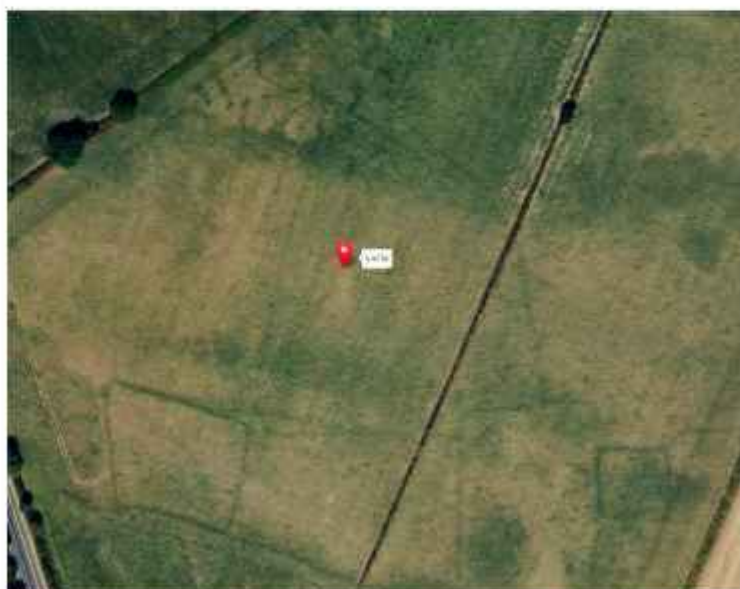


Image nine

Inquiries with SYAS provided some further detail associated with this plot describing "Roman material". The full report, L ref 7, states in the description section "Roman-British coarse pottery and cobbling turned by the plough.....Pottery not very diagnostic but could be 3rd century". These finds discovered via fieldwalking conducted by Doncaster Museum cannot be claimed as definitive in the conclusions made about the features and artefacts discovered, the term "could be" promoting doubt. However, further exploration of the documents associated with this record finds entries a little more positive. The Sites and Monuments Record BackUp File (PIN 00974), L ref 8 references the site as a "Standing Structure - Destroyed". "Possible settlement". Going on in the descriptive narrative to state; "probably a small settlement, timber buildings with cobbled floors." Although the dating references are not definitive, "maybe 3rd century". This all chimes with the SYAS observations shared during this review on the legitimacy of categorising all of the field systems as likely to be pre Roman (see pages 2-5). The evidence of expanding activity in the 2nd and 3rd centuries "ramping up". The Roman detail associated with this plot speculating on 3rd century human activity is in line with this thinking.

The comprehensive information we were able to associate with L ref 5 was all west of RR28a whereas analysis of L refs 2 and 3 focussed on references to the east of this main highway as it ran its course north of what we now would define as modern Bawtry. From this review a picture is emerging of some settled human activity being very likely across this landscape. Notwithstanding that physical evidence thus far collated is minimal; it is difficult not to lean towards a conclusion that the area immediately north of Bawtry and between 2kms from its eventual centre and 6.1km the maximum outer range, was settled before the Romans came and in the years following their arrival. I do believe it is safe to make the conclusion that these people were not nomadic; they were settlers. It is likely that those who came early on Roman military business along RR 282x in the first instance and then RR28a were in the main travelling purposefully northward. However, this is surely not likely over the next 300 years, and we are confident that RR28a was in operation for at least that length of time. Fine that this might be and even if these conclusions were 100% correct they do not come close to placing settlers during the Roman period within the 1.7km zone that currently makes up the built up area of today's modern town. So what about settlers within today's modern space?

Analysis of L ref 4 (HER 01843/01)

The grid reference that accompanies this record places the location of this feature a mere 115 metres outside the line defining the 1.7km zone, at the northern end of a modern field. Note, the southern part of which is well inside the zone, see Image ten.

The descriptive narrative accompanying this recorded feature, begins by stating that it is based on "dubious" foundations. The rationale for this is that the source of the feature described comes from an early 19th century antiquarian; although the record does not expand on why this source is dubious? We assumed that it is categorised as such because the finds associated with the site are missing. We also did speculate that possibly



Image ten

The adjective "dubious" was prompted by there being only one witness account from the 19th century. However, research captured in the Bawtry Heritage Group paper entitled, Roman Bawtry – Speculation and Theories Unproven by Archaeological Evidence, pages 14-16 negates this. The paper clearly presents more than one 19th century source purporting to be referencing the same site.

Peck's recording in 1815 references what he describes as a "Roman Camp" in both words and by way of a sketched plan. Peck also refers to "traces" of Roman pottery which he indicates that he had seen, describing them of "blue clay and slightly baked". Importantly Peck refers to the Roman pottery being "a little to the north-east". He is not specific in what amounts to "a little". Some 49 years later Francis White wrote an entry for the Nottinghamshire History, Directory, and Gazetteer of 1864 revisiting Peck's Roman station. However White's record is not just a repeat of what Peck claimed he found. White also refers to artefacts discovered some 13 years after Peck in 1828. These being 3 second century silver coins, a Roman Vase and numerous pieces of Roman pottery. Whether they were discovered by him or someone else is not clarified and neither is any clue given to where these artefacts went to and may still lay today. Further analysis of White's Gazetteer entry reveals that it is pretty much an exact copy of T Bailey's entry at page 362 in volume four of his Annals of Nottinghamshire produced between 1853 and 1855.

The result of this examination of 19th century antiquarian records leads us to the following observations.

1. At least 2 sources years apart seem to describe the same thing. More powerfully, they provide additional information unique to their observation.
2. The Gateway record does not cite White or Bailey, it only references Peck; notwithstanding that coins do not appear to be mentioned by Peck? References in the record to an enclosure might fit with the White/Bailey narratives. As does identifying that the A638 is nearby with the site being just to the north of Martin Grange Farm. Once again hinting at the White/Bailey records.
3. The finds lie between what we are now very certain were two substantial Roman highways running northward through our area.
4. A 20th century observer recorded in the Gateway record, A H Oswald* says of Peck's original find "I would not like to rule out the possibility of its being Roman" I suspect this statement was prior to the Historic England scheduling (mentioned later) and is therefore maybe a less significant opinion now?
5. White and Bailey do seem to be recording a different site to Peck. Contradicting the assumption made at observation 1.
6. The confusions that emerge from close study of these entries alongside the Gateway entry challenge the accuracy of current records and prompt further activity.

**A H Oswald is likely to be Alexander Oswald operating in the 1930's across this area and referenced many times by Mark Patterson in his book on Roman Nottinghamshire.*

Items 1-5 above speak for themselves, item 6 requires further explanation.

The Gateway record and Historic England scheduling record 1012453 L ref 4a make up the two modern references that at first glance appear to capture Peck's 1815 record. However, analysis of these two sources present a somewhat confusing picture; especially when compared with the 19th century observations.

Firstly the two modern records reveal two different grid references for what would appear to be the same site? However, when plotted the Gateway site is in excess of 1.5km to the east of the Historic England site?

Notwithstanding that the antiquarian record shows that Roman artefacts were a little way to the northeast of the Peck site, 1.5km does seem excessive.

Image eleven provides a visual of the two plots with the Gateway site marked as B and the Historic England site marked A. Interestingly nowhere in the Historic England summary is Roman origin or Roman finds mentioned. The site, referred to and sketched by Peck in 1815 is scheduled as a mediaeval Manor Holt.

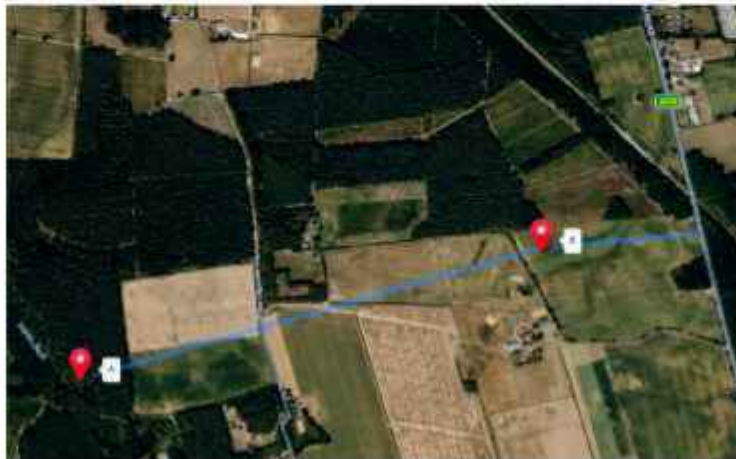


Image eleven

Secondly, reviewing the antiquarian narratives alongside the plotted grid references reveals something interesting. Peck's written description of what he concluded was a Roman structure is, according to him, covered by trees in a wooded area. This chimes with the Historic England reference plotted in Image eleven. Conversely White's 1864 summary most likely lifted from the Thomas Bailey work of 1853/55 places a structure in a wheat field. The narrative explains how the structure's image can be clearly seen as the crop grows at a different rate and provides the outline.

Without knowing why the grid reference plots, which on the face of it appear to be noting the same thing, are different, one is left with a series of questions.

1. Do we have two sites depicting very different things?
2. Is there an explanation in the academic archives that casts light on the apparent contradiction evident on the ground?
3. Is one of the modern records currently displaying an error?

SYAS were invited to consider this conundrum and after some detailed communication it is not unsound for us to conclude that the Historic England site is recording

something different to the Gateway site. The Gateway record prepared by SYAS although references Peck is largely based on the work of Magilton conducted in 1970's.

Why does this matter in the context of our Hunt For Roman Bawtry? We would suggest there are a number of reasons.

1. The Historic England site seems to dismiss that there is anything of Roman interest in what Peck recorded 209 years ago. If that is correct our interest in that location is very much diminished; notwithstanding its proximity to the route of RR282x. Peck's reference to Roman pottery is imprecise and may not be associated with the structure and in any event very difficult to substantiate.
2. If the Gateway record is accurate, this is evidence of a different site with minimal, if any, association with Peck's structure? Its location 115 metres north of this project's inner zone of interest, hints strongly at Roman activity at a location previously not considered, making it tantalising.
3. The Gateway record plots a site only 400 metres west of RR28a and references domestic pottery and 2nd century coins (although unverifiable at this time). Is this people passing or something more?
4. The Gateway site when plotted via the grid reference sits to the northern end of a field. In the modern environment some woodland borders the site to the north, less so to the west, east or south. The 1828 reference by Bailey, talks of the site being crop laden and an "octagonal" structure evident. Clearly this would not be a wooded area as described by Peck only 13 years earlier. (We note however, that a contemporary record for the 1828 finds remains elusive).
5. In addition to its proximity to the inner zone the Gateway site sits within the sweep of heavy agricultural evidence dating back to the Iron Age. Its specific reference to Roman artefacts makes it only one of four Gateway sites captured as part of the 2010 identified by this project; therefore elevating its priority as a site that might reveal more that supports our quest.
6. Aerial work conducted by D N Riley in the mid 1970's identifies Martin on page 100 of his publication, Early Landscapes from the Air. He identified cropmarks 350 metres northeast of the Heritage England/Peck site. Riley cites the Martin site as potentially related but that any

ongoing marks are covered by the trees of Bawtry Forest. The location of Riley's photographic discovery in relation to the plots in Image eleven can be seen in Image twelve. Marker C is Riley's cropmarks. Note even Riley's plot is 1.3km from the Gateway/Whites/Bailey plots and like Peck his narrative also places the Martin site under trees.

7. Clarity over how to interpret this landscape perhaps redefines the significance of Heritage Gateway record 03104/01. (L ref 4b) This record highlights earthwork banks in Kings Wood with the Wood Bank element dated between 800 BCE and 409 AD and the potential of there being managed woodland fitting into a very expansive date range between 800 BCE and 1539 AD. Until the matters relating to the issues prompted by Gateway 01843/01 the Kings Wood site was sidelined as having very limited potential to advance the goals of the project. However, as Image thirteen shows this feature, D, is only 653 metres to the east of plot B (L ref 4 01843/01), and in the proximity of all the plots related to this conundrum. It is also very close if not right on the trajectory of RR28a as it departs modern Bawtry.



Image twelve



Image thirteen

All this points to a location potentially harbouring unanswered questions linked to Roman activity on the boundary of what became modern Bawtry.

The Historic England site is without doubt the site identified by Peck and after considerable professional scrutiny the conclusion is that it is not Roman. The Gateway site, presenting a wildly different grid reference but a potentially close relationship with 19th century sources other than Peck, is difficult to bring to any concrete conclusion as a result of desktop activity. Liaison with SYAS revealed that the Gateway record was drafted with Magilton's 1977 work as its main source. However, once again the substantially different grid reference remains a mystery.

In the context of this project there are only two options,

1. Leave things as they are given that the genesis for the fog of confusion is so far back in time any academic review of documentary sources would be futile. If this site had been further into the 3.4 -6.1km zone I would probably recommend this option for the project and cover what is unearthed here by way of a report to SYAS for consideration.

However, this site is right on the 1.7km boundary, it would appear never to have been explored and may relate to other recorded features within its proximity.

2. The closing paragraph of number one hints at option two. The BHG project explores the opportunities to test the area of Gateway reference 01843/01 intrusively, thereby attempting to bring greater clarity to the confusion and ensuring that something of potentially great value to this project's aims is

not dismissed too easily.

Note, BHG desktop adjudicator David Kirkham raised caution in respect of Gateway record 01843/01 in his notes on page 4 of the desktop stage one report. He had grappled with some of these anomalies in the production of his paper on the Roman period. I believe this desktop research has confirmed the voracity of David's observations as well as presenting a logical interpretation of what had been the root of confusion and arriving at sensible conclusions for taking things forward.

Re-analysis of the 12 Gateway Records dismissed as of little value

What became an inescapable conclusion of the examination of the Gateway records L ref 2 - 5 was that the 12 records considered of little value in addressing the aim to identify whether a Roman influenced settlement ever existed in modern Bawtry, perhaps warranted a revisit. Revisiting these records does not delegitimise the decision to sideline them earlier, as the fact that none of them have any direct evidence of Roman activity beyond being related to the broadly dated field systems remains solid. What changed following the analysis of the selected 4 is that the picture emerging of potential settlements interspersed within, what initially were defined as land use features; across the immediate northern hinterland of modern Bawtry was definitive in portraying a landscape, not just utilised for active agriculture or transportation via the Roman highways, but a landscape upon which people were settled. All of this far being currently located outside the 1.7km zone, arcing southwest to northeast across the ridge of high ground. The question prompted is whether analysis of the 12 dismissed records might place agricultural activity captured by the 2010 aerial survey within the 1.7km zone and therefore raise legitimate questions regarding the potential for settlements within that area? Image fourteen presents the answer to that question.



Image fourteen

Only three of the 12 sidelined Gateway records revisited were identified as being within the 1.7km zone. The grid reference plots shown in Image fourteen correspond with the following Gateway records

HER - 02323/01 = sk 653939 (L ref 6)

HER - 02473/01 = sk 636934 (L ref 7)

HER - 01473/01 = sk 639932 (L ref 8)

Two are situated to the west of the town and outside what currently constitutes the built up area. The third to the north and within the confines of what is now the Kingswood estate. These features were revealed prior to the 2010 survey and in the case of L ref 6 before the estate was built. The L ref 6 document reveals the survey data as 1984. L refs 7 and 8 have no date indicator. An examination of Magilton's 1977 survey currently held within the City of Doncaster Archive might reveal to what extent this landscape covered the Kingswood estate prior to it being built and importantly how far these features descended the slope towards the modern day centre of Bawtry.

Whilst the two sites to the west are locked within open land, there is nothing in their records that would prompt that further intrusive exploration. This however is not the case with SK 653939, the section on domestic artefacts pages 25-26 covers why.

Sites containing domestic/personal artefacts within and immediately north of Bawtry

The exploration of Gateway records capturing what might be described as domestic/personal artefacts may indicate whether they enhance any of the generic features thus far explored; providing the potential to signal additional clues pointing to settlement.

Image fifteen plots the main indicators from the South Yorkshire Heritage Gateway that fall within this category. Note, three, plots E, G and H fall within the 1.7km zone; plots A and B are within 600 metres of the zone. Our examination will begin with these records.

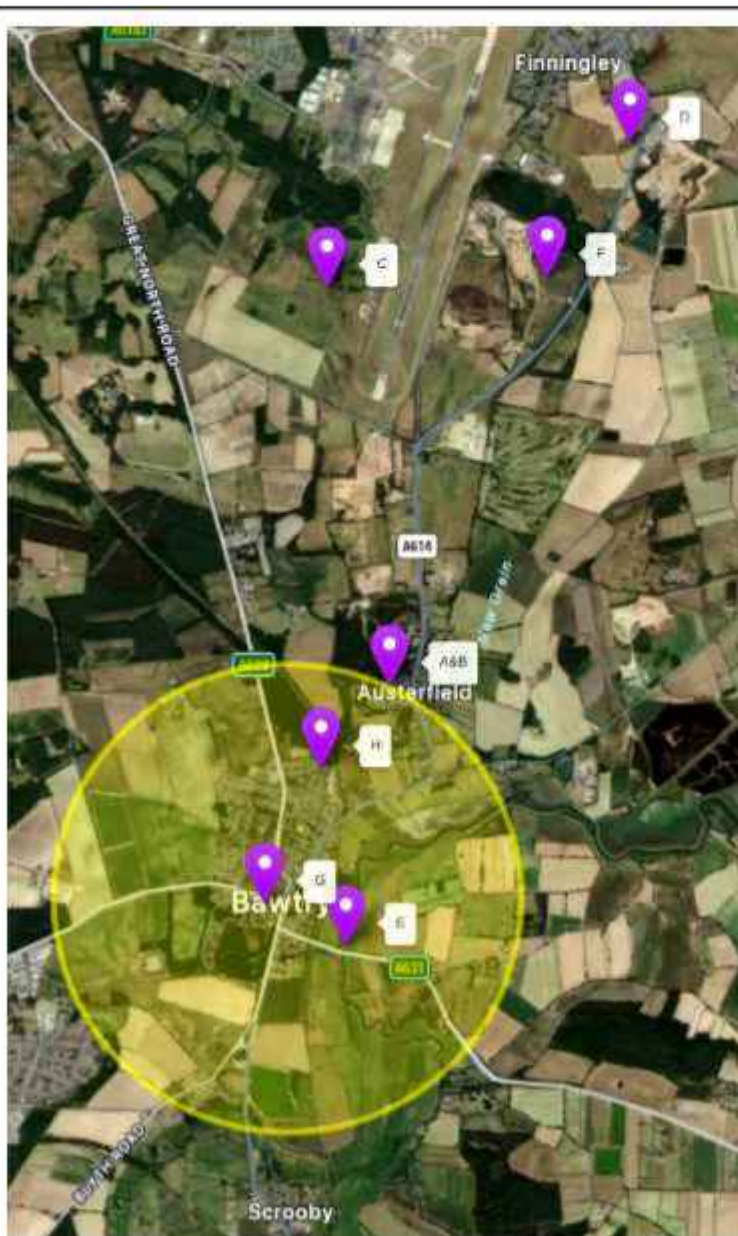


Image fifteen

Plots A, B, H, G, and E (L ref 9)

South Yorkshire HER Gateway records labelled A and B (L refs 9 (A) and (B)) are given the exact same grid reference. Both records present details of Roman period artefacts; L ref 9A is a metal shoe plate indicating shoe making or shoe repair and L ref 9B is a double handled cremation urn. One might not describe either of these items as domestic in the everyday sense of the term, but they do point to diverse human activity related trade skills, domestic necessity, human beliefs and ritual. The detail of how these artefacts were discovered is very brief and if any record of them were made it is likely to have been long gone given the discoveries occurred in 1911.

Whilst these artefacts indicate the strong likelihood of a Roman period population being active on the immediate boundary of what became modern Bawtry there is nothing in the evidence as it is presented indicating a domestic settlement on the actual find site. They are at best an echo of human activities being played out 2,000 years ago somewhere nearby.

The same could be said for the three plots well within the 1.7km zone. Plot H (L ref 9H) refers to a 1st century Roman period brooch described as having "trails of enamel on the expanded box". The record is attributed to one C. Hippisley-Cox on behalf of Doncaster Museum Service and appeared in the Yorkshire Archaeological Journal 1987 Volume 59 page 195. Inquiries with the City of Doncaster Archive shed little further detail. They reported the record related to a "general find" rather than being part of a wider archaeological report. Interestingly, the grid reference for this find which is within the 1.7km zone lies a mere 141 metres northeast of grid reference sk653939 (L ref 6) plotted at image fourteen as one of the three Gateway references dismissed from the field boundary group of 12. Re-examining this record, HER - 02323/01 (L ref 6), reveals that this is part of the cropmark and field system dated between 800 BCE -409 CE already discussed; although this was discovered via aerial photography on 7th July 1984, rather than the 2010 survey and is described in the record as the "Gally Hills field system - crop marks site". Image sixteen reveals the close proximity of these two records. The yellow line cutting through the southwest corner of the image is the plotted route of RR28a heading towards Rossington Fort.



Image sixteen

These two plots may of course be unrelated. However,

if we accept the logic of conclusions hypothesised in desktop Stage One and reinforced in this review, I would suggest it is possible that the field system, the busy Roman road and the potential owner of what might be a lost or discarded personal item were all active within this locale around the same time. But it would be something of a stretch to suggest this grouping signals settlement site.

The City of Doncaster Archive was unable to confirm whether any Archaeological Assessment was undertaken before the housing estate was built in this area. Again reinforcing the recommendation to review the Magilton survey.

Plot G (L ref 9G) references a Roman Amphora sherd and has the honour of being the most centrally placed artefact, the find spot being right in the heart of the modern town centre. This could be a domestic storage item or an item being transported. There is no further context forthcoming from the record to shed anything conclusive. Once again we have an echo.

Plot E (L ref 9E) Represents the 1840 discovery of 8 Roman coins dated between 253-304 during construction of the stone bridge on Gainsborough Road. What these coins relate to is uncertain; but given what has emerged from this research so far there are a number of possibilities upon which to speculate.

1. They are a hoard placed for safe keeping (Although it would be a small hoard)
2. They are part of an offering to the god(s) of the shrine a short distance to the north (see desktop stage 3)
3. They are related to activity associated with the small finds from the Bridge Lane excavation a short distance to the west and reported on pages 41-43 of this report
4. They are related to activities taking place at the fortlet only a short distance to the east
5. They are related to the upgrading activity associated with the Roman road 28a which took place around the mid third century.

All of this is of course pure speculation and given that the coins were discovered out of context it is unlikely that we will ever know the story of how they came to be on our patch and in the ground for the best part of two millennia. However, by adopting the process followed by our project we begin to gather together collective knowledge that hints and echoes of a bigger picture, providing perhaps clues about how to sharpen the focus into the past but also give us a feeling related to

human activity as it played out and shaped the location in which we now live, work and play.

Plots C, D and F (L ref 10)

Whilst these three plots lie some considerable distance beyond the 1.7km zone they are worthy of mention as they add to the story relevant to L refs 3 and 3a referred to earlier in this piece at pages 12-14.

Plot C (L ref 10 C) has already been focussed upon in those pages that referenced the finds between Mount Pleasant and Hammonds Elder's at images eight and nine; L ref 3 et al.

Plot D (L ref 10 (D)) Refers to Romano British pottery found on the northeastern side of the Doncaster airport runway. Gateway reference 00233/01.

Plot F (L ref 10 (F))Refers to a "Putative" (meaning currently accepted) Roman settlement site attributed to Magilton's Doncaster District Survey of 1977. No further detail is given.

In isolation these three records are of minimal value but if one compares them along with the finds and features related to this geographic area north of Bawtry and midway between the 1.7km boundary and the 6.1km limit; it makes it difficult to ignore this location as one not having a substantial echo reflecting Roman period activity akin to that already mentioned relating Gateway record 01843/01 which is right on the 1.7km boundary.

L ref 11

As part of the search that identified references A-H above Historic England Research Records revealed Monument Number 321021, referred to here as L ref 11.

This captured a 1963 find of 34 coins dated between 211 AD and 269 AD and fragments of a pot the coins were suspected to have been contained in. A third century hoard in the very centre of the modern town was a surprise for our search as there had never been any indication of this in the common folklore that accompanies such things down the ages. The discovery had been allocated a 4 figure grid reference and image seventeen shows that reference plotted. However, any initial excitement was soon dampened when one read the additional information provided with the record narrative which stated: "A Roman coin hoard was uncovered during preliminary excavations for a gravel pit in a field off Thorne Road in 1963. The thirty four coins from Caracalla (AD 211-17) to Postumus

(258-67) and the fragments of the pottery container, were acquired by Doncaster Museum".

Firstly, the reference to a gravel pit being excavated in the very heart of Bawtry town centre is very dubious. Notwithstanding the 61 years that have elapsed since this find and the changes within Bawtry over that period it is not likely that the location referenced was ever a gravel pit. Secondly, the statement "in a field off Thorne Road" presents further doubt about this location being credible. The grid reference given is adjacent to Tickhill Road almost on the junction with Top Street. Any referencing of this location having a geographical relationship with Thorne Road is implausible. Thorne Road, Bawtry does not emerge as a location until one begins to leave the modern boundary of the town having travelled along Station Road and passed under the railway bridge. Image seventeen marks the route of Thorne Road, in blue, as it leaves Bawtry and runs through the centre of Austerfield.

Liaison with SYAS on the conundrum presented here led to agreement that the grid reference on the record is misleading even if one takes account of the 1km radius associated with 4 figure grid references. Examination of old ordnance survey maps for the late 20th century along with our own common local knowledge does make the proposed locations of this find plausible on the north/western side of Thorne road as it is marked in image seventeen via the blue and yellow circles. However, without further information it is difficult to be more certain.

Whilst L ref 11 is, without doubt, a noteworthy find. However, it is of little value in helping us towards our ultimate goal.



Query raised in adjudication - The yellow circle is the site of a known gravel excavation. The blue circle depicts a potential location fitting into the recorded narrative. Either one could be the location of the coin hoard. Both are more credible than the town centre location.

Image seventeen

Other Gateway Records

South Yorkshire Heritage Gateway Records noted but not scrutinised as part of this desktop stage are listed in the table below. The comment section also alongside each item provides a comment explaining why.

No.	HER ref	Comment
1	02124/01	Auckley kilns. Outside the 6.1km zone although evidence of settled human activity north of Bawtry.
2	00230/01	Bridge at Rossington supports previous desktop conclusions re roads and human movement in the period.
3	00140/01	Rossington Fort. Importance

		recognised and captured in desktop report one on roads.
4	00707/01	Reference to specific section of RR28a the relevance of which has already been captured in a previous desktop report
5	04912/01	Potential shrine/temple site to be addressed in a separate desktop report.
6	01271/01	Scaftworth Fortlet to be addressed in a separate desktop report.
7	00721/01	Um outside the 6.1 km in Auckley no plotting reference given for the find.
<p>British Museum Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS)</p> <p>In addition to records held on the South Yorkshire Heritage Gateway, ADS and HE this desktop research has utilised the database serviced by the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS). In exploring the database by reference to local parish boundaries we are able to expand on the range of artefacts captured in other records. Some of the records are duplicated such as SY Gateway 01270/01 describing the coin hoard near the Gainsborough Road Bridge, Bawtry and referenced in this report at plot E, image fifteen, L ref 9E and accompanying text. However, a good number of artefacts discovered by chance or through other activities such as fieldwalking and metal detecting are examined, validated and recorded within the PAS records only.</p> <p>Sticking with our review of Bawtry town and its hinterland to the immediate north and west of the town, image eighteen plots a total of 8 such finds.</p> <p>Items A-C are shown to be awaiting "validation status" at the time of reviewing, whilst items D-H are recorded a "published".</p>		

All the items were found between 2002 and 2024 and span a dating range between the 1st and 4th century AD. Seven of the items have been labelled as "certain" in respect of identification as Roman; with one, item C being labelled as "possibly Roman".

Seven items were discovered by metal detecting activity. The method which led to the discovery of item C is not captured in the record.

All of these 8 artefacts are presented with a 4 figure grid reference which plots their find position to within 1km. This area is marked against each plot in image eighteen, by the coloured circle surrounding it. Intriguingly, plots C-H are sited within the same reference area and are given the same grid reference.



Image eighteen. (Roman recorded finds from the PAS database for Bawtry Parish).

The following table provides an overview of each find in image eighteen.

Database No. and Image label.	Artefact Description	Additional Comment
SWYOR- D2A5AC Plot A	COIN - A copper-alloy Roman coin; a nummus of Constantine I dating to the period AD	The grid ref is plotted on the western side of Stripe Road. Even plotting the 1km range places this item well outside

	330-335. Reverse depicting two soldiers holding two standards.	the Bawtry 1.7km zone. Found 3rd February 2024.
SWYOR-CD3911 Plot B	COIN - A copper alloy Roman coin; a nummus of Constantius II or Constans, dating from AD 348 - 350 Emperor on galley type, probably with emperor holding a phoenix. The coin may be a contemporary copy, because the head is rather elongated, and the flan is a bit small.	Grid reference plot 1.3km outside the core zone. The 1.km radius eastward from the plot also places it well outside the 1.7km core. The find as plotted by the 4 figure reference is on the line of RR282x as it crosses Tickhill Road just north of Bircotes
SWYOR-D75FF6 Plot C	NEEDLE - Copper alloy needle, possibly Roman. The needle has a square section and tapers to a point at one end. At the eye end the needle flattens out and there appears to be the bottom section of a loop forming the eye of the needle. The shaft is slightly more swollen at the centre than the ends.	This find is plotted well within the 1.7km zone. The 1km radius of the find will take it into the built up area of Bawtry on its south eastern side and into the field associated with HER 01843/01 (see pages (14 - 20) the find plot being 900 metres south west of that field of high interest). Caveat - "Probably Roman".
YORYMB-1697 Plot D	BROOCH - This brooch has a cast head stud, which is decorated with red enamel. Below the head stud and running the entire length of the spine are 12 recesses filled	This find is plotted well within the 1.7km zone. The 1km radius of the find will take it into the built up area of Bawtry on its south eastern side and into the

	with alternating red and white enamel. The foot is cast, as is the suspension loop. The catchplate is incomplete and two thirds of the pin is missing.	field associated with HER 01843/01 (see pages (14 - 20) the find plot being 900 metres south west of that field of high interest).
YORYMB-1698 Plot E	BROOCH - This brooch had a riveted head stud, now missing. Below the head stud and running the entire length of the spine is a raised spine. The upper surface of the spring housing is decorated on each side by three red enamelled cells. The foot also had a riveted stud. There is no evidence of there being a suspension loop. The catchplate is incomplete and the pin is missing.	This find is plotted well within the 1.7km zone. The 1km radius of the find will take it into the built up area of Bawtry on its south eastern side and into the field associated with HER 01843/01 (see pages (14 - 20) the find plot being 900 metres south west of that field of high interest).
YORYMB-1699 Plot F	BROOCH - This brooch had a riveted head stud, now missing. Below the head stud and running the entire length of the spine is a series of 19 lozenge-shaped cells of blue enamel. On each side of this central line of cells are 19 triangular cells of red enamel. This pattern (comprising 3 blue and 4 red cells) is repeated on the upper surface of the spring housing and on the lug below the	This find is plotted well within the 1.7km zone. The 1km radius of the find will take it into the built up area of Bawtry on its south eastern side and into the field associated with HER 01843/01 (see pages (14 - 20) the find plot being 900 metres south west of that field of high interest).

	suspension loop. The foot would also have had a riveted stud. The catch plate and the pin are complete.	
YORYMB-1700 Plot G	BROOCH -Upper half of a trumpet brooch with the break below the characteristic acanthus leaf decoration. The pin, spring and suspension loop mechanism is missing.	This find is plotted well within the 1.7km zone. The 1km radius of the find will take it into the built up area of Bawtry on its south eastern side and into the field associated with HER 01843/01 (see pages 14 - 20) the find plot being 900 metres south west of that field of high interest).
YORYMB -1701 Plot H	SEAL BOX -Lid of square Seal Box. The lid is decorated by a series 5 parallel enamelled cells. The first, third and fifth cells comprise of alternating blue and white squares. The second and fourth cells comprise of alternating millefiori squares of blue and white cheques and blue and white cheques within a red border. The walls of the lid are badly damaged and only one of two original side holes remains.	This find is plotted well within the 1.7km zone. The 1km radius of the find will take it into the built up area of Bawtry on its south eastern side and into the field associated with HER 01843/01 (see pages (14 - 20) the find plot being 900 metres south west of that field of high interest).
<p><i>Note, Finds D-H are recorded as being found at the same time in 2002.</i></p> <p>The finds in the table above are presented as interesting and informative objects in their own right.</p>		

However, the question for us is less about them as individual items and more about how any of this collection influences the interpretation regarding our main objectives for the project, which centres on whether during the Roman period the space that became modern Bawtry was settled and thriving with daily human activity.

Items C-H displayed against the same 4 fig grid reference are particularly intriguing even when one takes into account the potential 1km variance of each of them, illustrated by the blue circle. This is potentially a significant cluster. The reason for this added interest comes from the location of the cluster when one relates these finds to the area of interest marked by the green rectangle in the northeast section of the blue circle in image eighteen. The review notes earlier in this report, pages 14 to 20, flag the area marked by the green rectangle as an area of high interest, based on the analysis of SY Gateway record 01843/01 and other related sources. The PAS database provides us with a cluster of additional finds which even with the imprecision of a 4 fig ref heightens the level of intrigue generated by this area. Of course the luxury of 6 fig refs for each of these finds would allow for a more focussed critique of the potential in this area.

One might also consider including plot B alongside C-H should any available 6 fig refer move it into their cluster zone as the 1km radius from its central point significantly overlaps that zone.

The individual finds which in the blue zone are made up of 4 Brooches, 1 Needle and 1 Decorated Seal Box Lid. All provide a sense of domesticity, greater than other finds reviewed, plus, they may be related. However, all were discovered out of any archaeological context mainly via metal detectorists and as such remain well short of being able to confirm the presence of a substantial settlement.

The PAS database for Bawtry Parish revealed only 9 specific Roman items, a very small number when compared against the 92 listed in the search of the database for the Tickhill District. Closer analysis of the Tickhill records did provide a little more in the way of expanding the collection. The most easterly finds from this group are plotted in image nineteen and as can be seen lie approx 2.5 km west of the modern Bawtry environment. They do add to the array of finds beginning to accumulate along the route of RR282x for which this desktop has already pointed to in previous sections and the PAS finds labelled A and B in image eighteen, which, like the two Tickhill district finds are

both coins. All span the full period of Roman occupation, perhaps hinting at the longevity of RR282x and rivalling RR28a. The finds are labelled and described as follows.

Item 1 SWYOR - AD3780 - Grid reference SK6294 is a 2nd century coin dated between 117AD and 138AD (Hadrian).

Item 2 SWYOR - ED5DCE - Grid reference SK 6293 is an early 1st century coin (Tiberius) 14-37AD. Perhaps the pay of an early legionary building RR282x?



Image nineteen (Note the yellow line demotes RR282x)

Note, plot A in image eighteen lies west of modern day Stripe Road and therefore west of the two Tickhill District designated coins although it is a Bawtry District record?

This desktop stage additionally researched the PAS database for finds relating to Austerfield parish. No finds are shown recorded for the Roman period.

Additional input from our region's Finds Liaison Officer at the Portable Antiquities Scheme.

All of the above expanded significantly after some detailed communication with the PAS Finds Liaison Officer (FLO), Amy Downes. Having raised the query with her about the potential for us acquiring more accurate plotting of the PAS items in Images eighteen and nineteen through more precise grid referencing. The hope behind this inquiry was to seek to reinforce the importance of this area just north of the modern town in relation to our project goals, but in particular to enhance the growing potential of the green zone highlighted in Image eighteen which had initially emerged from the exploration of Gateway reference 01843/01 covered in the analysis of this record under its label L ref 4, pages 14-20.

Amy's reply led to us accepting that the pursuance of the appropriate research status required to access more precise data was not likely to be commensurate with any major gain. However, Amy went on to supply additional data and information that did add positively to the picture we considered was already emerging. Conducting a specific PAS database search set to identify Roman artefacts within 2km of the grid reference accompanying Gateway reference 01843/01. The result expanded the picture further as can be seen in Image twenty.

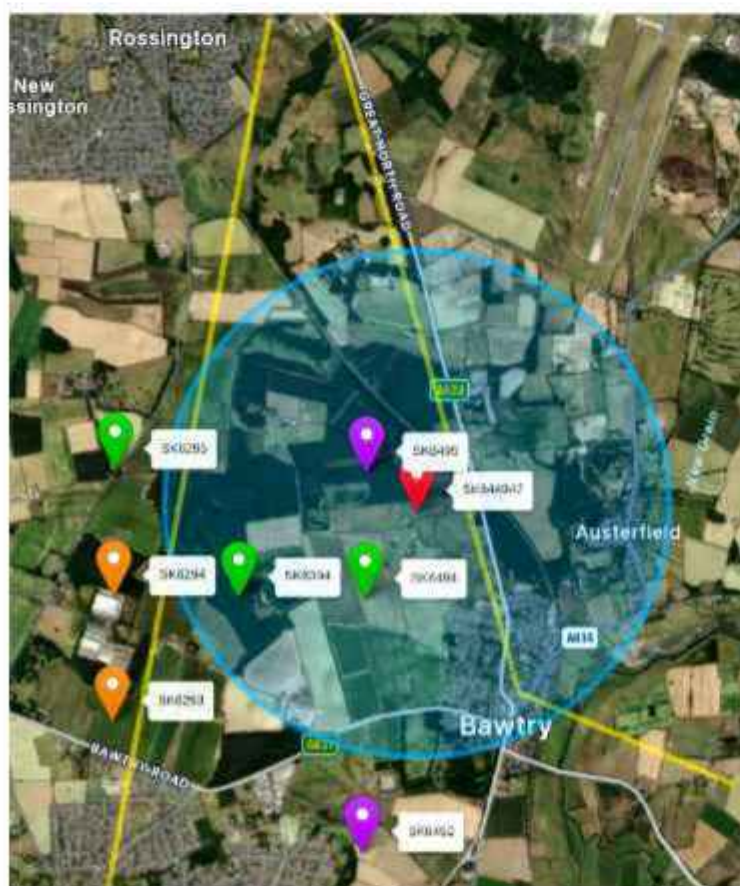


Image twenty

The blue circle denotes the 2km zone surrounding the plot for 01843/01. In addition to the 10 artefacts plotted by our initial Bawtry and Tickhill parish searches (markers green and orange in images fifteen and sixteen); a further two artefacts related to grid reference SK 6495 and two more related SK6492 (purple markers) emerged from the additional PAS FLO 2km search. Add to this an additional 9 Roman artefacts were flagged by the FLO within that 2km zone that were identified but the spatial references were protected.

All of this is enhanced further if we include finds of a domestic/personal nature that have emerged as a result

of earlier research reported in this stage. Image twenty one illustrates this.



Image twenty one

The four black markers illustrate the relationship of these finds to the PAS information. These three locations were reported when analysing certain items flagged in Image fourteen.

The table below brings together in one place the details of all that is represented in image twenty one.

Grid Reference	Data Reference	Description
SK 644947 Red Marker	SY Heritage Gateway 01843/01	This site was extensively examined at pages 14-20 and is the catalyst for the conclusions being promoted here.
SK 659946 Black Marker	Gateway ref Image 14	1911 discovery of a Roman shoe plate and a cinery urn
SK 654940	Gateway ref Image 14	Roman Brooch

Black Marker		
SK 650930 Black Marker	Gateway ref Image 14	Roman Amphora piece
SK 632945 Black Marker	Gateway ref Image 11	Potential site for Peck's reference to pottery NE of Manor Holt. from aerial photography by Riley
SK 6295 Green Marker	PAS database ref Image 15	4th Century Coin see table accompanying Image 15
SK 6394 Green Marker	PAS database ref Image 15	4th Century Coin see table accompanying Image 15
SK 6494 Green Marker	PAS database ref Image 15	Six individual finds relating to this 4 fig reference. Needle Brooch X 4 Sealed Box lib. See table accompanying Image 15
SK 6293 Orange Marker	PAS database ref SWYOR-ED5DC E Image 16	1st Century Coin see text accompanying Image sixteen.
SK 6294 Orange Marker	PAS database ref SWYOR-AD3780 Image 16	2nd Century Coin see text accompanying Image sixteen.
SK 6495 Purple Marker	From PAS 2km search. Reference	Additional plot with spatial context given in 4 grid ref.
SK 6492 Purple Marker	From PAS 2km search	Additional plot with spatial context given in 4 grid ref.
Blue 2km zone Blue circle	From PAS 2km search References	Contains a further 9 unplotted PAS finds where the specific spatial context details are protected. Brooch X 6 Coin x 2 (2nd and 3rd Century) Cosmetic Spoon
The additional finds from the PAS database are mainly owing to their generic location reference being recorded as other than Bawtry Parish, which was used in the initial search. This resulted in the PAS record		

presenting not 9 (eight used)*, but 21 artefacts with a relationship to Gateway reference 01843/01. This increased by a further 5 when revisiting artefacts from other sources reviewed earlier in this desktop review.

Crystallising the key conclusion emerging from the table above with specific reference to Gateway ref 01843/01 results in the following,

1. 26 individual finds encircle this location within a 2km zone. This does not include finds relating to Bailey and White.
2. 9 individual finds could be categorised as within the immediate vicinity of the Gateway record 01843/01. Based on the spatial information we have.
3. Notwithstanding that all 21 PAS finds are limited in precision by four fig references or have a protected spatial reference, we note that none of the finds plotted fall within the field associated with the Gateway reference.

There is a need to explore the validity of making a case for the area centred on Gateway reference 01843/01 and its significant potential as an area of heightened interest regarding this project. One might summarise those considerations as follows

1. That personal Roman items formally recorded this far, appear to have a tangible relationship with this area of interest.
2. Whilst there are a range of finds, we note that 11 of the 26 are brooches 4 in the immediate vicinity of our area of interest. One a little to the South but within 2km and 6 we are unable to locate with any precision but are inside the 2km zone. Is there something significant about these items and this location?
3. None of the 26 identifiable items are plotted in the location appertaining to Gateway 01843/01. Has this been, to date, an area untouched?
4. 12 of the identifiable items are plotted between the two major Roman highways 282x and 28a. With the majority of the rest being significantly close either to the east or west.
5. This general location is by far the busiest area for personal items north and west of Bawtry and in the heart of much agricultural activity that predates the conquest.

Whilst it might be tempting to refer to these 5 observations as significant ; on these foundations alone, a critical eye might view any such promotion as a little lightweight and premature. However, there are

**Note, one other find relating to the parish of Bawtry is listed on the PAS database, a 2nd to 4th century finger ring. However, it was not evident in the 2km search and unlikely therefore to impact directly on the conclusions here.*

factors relating directly to the Gateway location when considered alongside these 5 that begin, I would suggest, to tip that balance.

1. The review of Gateway 01843/01 revealed a long standing catalogue of confusion at a separate location 1.5km to the west. This site having had very specific scrutiny by Historic England whilst 01843/01 appears to have been unrecognised, thereby undermining any clear view of its potential.
2. Two antiquarian records reveal the presence of Roman domestic artefacts dating back to 1828 see pages 14-20
3. Perhaps the most compelling observation is the nineteenth century description of an octagonal shaped structure evident in the crops. Current views via Google Earth Pro do reveal marks but none one might describe as octagonal. Octagonal shaped structures are evident in the Roman period having been discovered as agricultural buildings, bath houses, villa appendages and temples. If the antiquarian were not making up what they saw, what would be the grounds for ignoring it?

Notwithstanding the imprecision triggered by the loss of the 19th century finds and records from 1828. There is a strong argument based on the work conducted here to consider some exploratory activity on the ground at the location related to record 01843/01.

Archaeological Exploration within 1.7km Zone

Four specific pieces of activity spring to mind in the recent past which undertook archaeological excavations within the centre of modern Bawtry.

1. 16-20 Church Street - Dunkley and Cumberbatch 1996
2. Excavation at Bawtry's Masonic Hall - McIntyre and Hadley July 2010
3. Bridge Lane - Wessex Archaeology Evaluation and Mitigation Report 2012
4. Land to the West of Top Street, Evaluation Report - Wessex Archaeology 2017

None of these projects set out to pursue goals related to a specific period of history. With the exception of item 2 the activity preceded construction work

Image twenty two presents the locations where all this

activity took place.

Blue represents Church Street

Red represents the Masonic Hall

Green represents Bridge Lane

Yellow represents Land west of Top Street.



Image twenty two.

Finds relating to Roman activity, let alone Roman settlement were sparse. The Masonic Hall dig made no reference to the period and the Top Street dig as referenced in the BHG paper Defining the Future of Roman Bawtry stated, "nothing Roman found".

The Church Street catalogue for Roman artefacts fared a little better as recorded in the same BHG paper. It notes "minimal shards of pottery and a single coin taken from a medieval context".

However, neither of the Roman papers presented on the BHG website mentioned the Bridge Lane site and although one might not consider the Roman finds from this activity to be spectacular it produced more than the other 3 combined. The table below details the Roman pottery found from this excavation.

Table 2 – Reason patterns

Station	Transmitter	Site	Program	Advertiser	Start of Month	Start Date/Time	End Date/Time	Spots/Week	Spots/Line	Rate	Comments	Order #	Product
301	WISN		6-11	Advertiser	WISN-TV	12/15/2010	12/15/2010-12/16/2010	1	1	\$1,000.00			
347	WISN		6-11	Advertiser	Only show	12/15/2010	12/15/2010	1	1	\$1,000.00			
348	WISN		7-10	Advertiser	Only show	12/15/2010	12/15/2010	1	1	\$1,000.00			
349	WISN		11-11	Advertiser	Only show	12/15/2010	12/15/2010	1	1	\$1,000.00			
350	WISN		6-11	Advertiser	Only show	12/15/2010	12/15/2010	1	1	\$1,000.00			
351	WISN		7-10	Advertiser	Only show	12/15/2010	12/15/2010	1	1	\$1,000.00			
352	WISN		11-11	Advertiser	Only show	12/15/2010	12/15/2010	1	1	\$1,000.00			
353	WISN		6-11	Advertiser	Only show	12/15/2010	12/15/2010	1	1	\$1,000.00			
354	WISN		7-10	Advertiser	Only show	12/15/2010	12/15/2010	1	1	\$1,000.00			
355	WISN		11-11	Advertiser	Only show	12/15/2010	12/15/2010	1	1	\$1,000.00			
356	WISN		6-11	Advertiser	Only show	12/15/2010	12/15/2010	1	1	\$1,000.00			
357	WISN		7-10	Advertiser	Only show	12/15/2010	12/15/2010	1	1	\$1,000.00			
358	WISN		11-11	Advertiser	Only show	12/15/2010	12/15/2010	1	1	\$1,000.00			
359	WISN		6-11	Advertiser	Only show	12/15/2010	12/15/2010	1	1	\$1,000.00			
360	WISN		7-10	Advertiser	Only show	12/15/2010	12/15/2010	1	1	\$1,000.00			
361	WISN		11-11	Advertiser	Only show	12/15/2010	12/15/2010	1	1	\$1,000.00			
362	WISN		6-11	Advertiser	Only show	12/15/2010	12/15/2010	1	1	\$1,000.00			
363	WISN		7-10	Advertiser	Only show	12/15/2010	12/15/2010	1	1	\$1,000.00			
364	WISN		11-11	Advertiser	Only show	12/15/2010	12/15/2010	1	1	\$1,000.00			
365	WISN		6-11	Advertiser	Only show	12/15/2010	12/15/2010	1	1	\$1,000.00			
366	WISN		7-10	Advertiser	Only show	12/15/2010	12/15/2010	1	1	\$1,000.00			
367	WISN		11-11	Advertiser	Only show	12/15/2010	12/15/2010	1	1	\$1,000.00			
368	WISN		6-11	Advertiser	Only show	12/15/2010	12/15/2010	1	1	\$1,000.00			
369	WISN		7-10	Advertiser	Only show	12/15/2010	12/15/2010	1	1	\$1,000.00			
370	WISN		11-11	Advertiser	Only show	12/15/2010	12/15/2010	1	1	\$1,000.00			
371	WISN		6-11	Advertiser	Only show	12/15/2010	12/15/2010	1	1	\$1,000.00			
372	WISN		7-10	Advertiser	Only show	12/15/2010	12/15/2010	1	1	\$1,000.00			
373	WISN		11-11	Advertiser	Only show	12/15/2010	12/15/2010	1	1	\$1,000.00			
374	WISN		6-11	Advertiser	Only show	12/15/2010	12/15/2010	1	1	\$1,000.00			
375	WISN		7-10	Advertiser	Only show	12/15/2010	12/15/2010	1	1	\$1,000.00			
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377	WISN		6-11	Advertiser	Only show	12/15/2010	12/15/2010	1	1	\$1,000.00			
378	WISN		7-10	Advertiser	Only show	12/15/2010	12/15/2010	1	1	\$1,000.00			
379	WISN		11-11	Advertiser	Only show	12/15/2010	12/15/2010	1	1	\$1,000.00			
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381	WISN		7-10	Advertiser	Only show	12/15/2010	12/15/2010	1	1	\$1,000.00			
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452	WISN		6-11	Advertiser	Only show	12/15/2010	12/15/2010	1	1	\$1,000.00			
453	WISN		7-10										

The expert review of these items conducted by Dr C Cumberbatch and Ruth Leary logged 11 sherds, 2% of all pottery items from the site, recovered from 9 contexts. These Roman items were recorded as moderate to heavily abraded, "in fairly good condition" and represented a date range between the 2nd and the 4th century. The analysis was unable to confirm that the pottery was from local kilns although concedes that it may have been.

As the table indicates 4 vessel types were identifiable, a deep bowl, dish, jar, and mortarium. This all points to what might be considered domestic ware. The report's conclusions whilst brief in respect of what any of the discoveries do to inform us what was going on in the 2nd - 4th centuries AD did conclude the possibility of human activity much earlier than the medieval period at what is now Bridge Lane, Bawtry. To date this is the strongest physical evidence of what might point to settled human activity in the Roman period found within what would become an area well within the confines of the modern town. We would suggest at this stage these finds may well be important in shaping final conclusions related to the project; even though the range and context of Roman finds within the modern built up area remains sparse. Part two of this desktop stage will be exploring areas south of Bawtry close to Bridge Lane and will certainly address Roman activity on the local river system only metres away.

**Community Inspired activity within Bawtry March
2024 to August 2024**

Seeking the support and involvement of the local community and anyone who is inspired to lend a hand in this endeavour has been an important component of this desktop stage.

The BHG during the early months of 2024 put a considerable amount of effort into this aspect of the project liaison with all locally based community organisations via their lead representatives, asking

them to encourage as wide as possible engagement in what we labelled our "Garden Search" Hunt for Roman Bawtry. The core objective was not only to encourage people to search their gardens but to also to tease out finds that might have been sat on mantle pieces or stored in sheds, lofts and outhouses having been found in advance of this call for help, potentially many years previously.

In support of the communication strategy devised for this aspect of the project the BHG is grateful to the contributions made by SYAS, CDC and PAS, ensuring suitable easy to digest guidance was accessible.

Whilst we hoped for more contacts than we have had this far it would be wrong to consider the approach without some successes.

Early in the process a resident of Church Street had the presence of mind to inform us that he had made a search and discovered nothing of any value, Roman or otherwise. On reflection the value of negative responses was not promoted sufficiently within our guidance literature. We may have missed other potential respondents who searched but on discovering nothing did not communicate that effort. This of course stunts the potential one might gain from what we might consider to be a positive or negative critical mass in any particular street of post code.

The heightened advertising of this activity via our established website is the principal reason for why we received interest from the metal detectorist community. Following initial engagement and advice and guidance from SYAS and PAS we will be exploring the potential for engaging with metal detecting activity in carefully selected areas that are emerging from the desktop research stages.

Engagement with a resident in the DN10 6HP area of town led to some metal finds being shared with the PAS. They were unfortunately well short of our target period but provided an interesting item for the news/events section of our website.



Image twenty three. DN10 6HP

However, far more exciting than this was the additional information that came with this particular engagement which all centres on the image below and a residents story that started around 50 years earlier.



Image twenty four.

Some time back in the 1970's the resident reported that whilst preparing the ground for the siting of his greenhouse unearthing a very large number of tiny square tiles blue and white in colour. He had no idea

what they were at the time and reburied them beneath the greenhouse which still stands image twenty four. He went on to tell us that he did not consider this find again until sometime later; when he found himself looking at what he described as a Roman floor mosaic on a site where construction activity was taking place. He described the floor as having a blue and white pattern and that the pieces making up the floor were like those he had come across years before. He went on to tell us that the section of floor he observed was covered over by the construction activity and a domestic structure now sits above the spot. This was all only a matter of metres away from his original find.

We have considered very carefully the merit of referring to this resident's story given, that at best, it is circumstantial evidence and at this moment in time is difficult to substantiate beyond the story told. We concluded that it was appropriate to present the information as reported as this was part of what we hoped for and requested when we embarked on the Garden Search activity; the resident in question had responded in good faith.

We have consulted with the resident further on this section of research being presented within this desktop report and he has agreed. There are a number of possible avenues open that might be worth following to further substantiate this tale and at this moment in time this desktop report will recommend those "in camera" under the recommendation "additional work in DN10 6HP".

Being careful not to get too carried away with the information shared, it is tantalising and if substantiated would have a great deal of significance in establishing whether a Roman period settlement was part of what is now the modern town area. In reinforcing this point I believe it is useful to illustrate by way of image twenty five other substantiated Roman features to which this potential feature at DN10 6HP may relate due to its location. Between them they span the full period of Roman occupation.

The yellow line to its immediate north is the plotted route of RR28a 71AD to 409AD and covered in detail within the Stage One desktop report. The light blue circle denotes the area of the third century bridge discovered in 1997 by Van de Noort and reported extensively in the BHG paper Defining the Future of Roman Bawtry (2023) available via the website and community library. The green circle indicates the site of a Roman Shrine/Temple as reported by Berg et al in 2006, with the red circle marking the location of the

fortlet originally discovered in the 18th century; both of these are also covered in detail within the 2023 BHG paper. The last two features are scheduled for detailed scrutiny as part of our desktop activity resulting in individual reports for each. The dark blue circle represents DN10 6HP as first shown in image twenty four.



Image twenty five

Conclusions and Observations 23.9.24

It is important to present a caveat to the conclusions and observations made at the end of part one of this stage. It is possible that part two, yet to be finalised, might arrive at C's and O's that demand rethinks and adjustments to those made here, hence the inclusion of the date in the heading.

Stage Two (Part One) Conclusions

1. The first phases of this desktop stage clearly reinforces and brings additional clarity to conclusion C from the desktop stage one report. It seems clear that human activity by way of agriculture was taking place in the hinterlands north and west of Bawtry before the area saw any post Roman conquest intrusion. People were living and working nearby.
2. Evidence of Roman period activity beyond the utilisation of the roads which included settlement

Adjudication clarification - DN10 6HP referenced blue here in image twenty five, links back to image twenty three

Adjudication Query - There is no significance in the sizing of the coloured circles. Each is of equal importance. The referencing here is to plot location in relation to DN10 6HP presenting imagery related to the report narrative on page 46.

is clearly evident north and west of modern Bawtry between the 1.7 km boundary and the 6.1 km outer limit. A conclusion supported by comparative study on main road systems further north and work conducted in 1996 by Graham Robbins when studying an area just south of Bawtry at Scrooby Top. This will be covered in more detail in part two.

3. Notwithstanding the echoes of domestic activity immediately on or within the 1.7 km zone identified by this study. The results of this desktop cannot claim to have answered the question of whether a Roman period settlement, of any size, existed within Bawtry's modern built up area. However, this study can claim to have provided some opportunities for more targeted activity that might assist in the pursuance of this aim. Those opportunities are listed under Stage Two, Part One, Observations.

Stage Two, Part One, Observations

Before itemising the observations relevant to conclusion 3 above, it is important to recognise that these observations come with additional challenges for the BHG in pursuit of this project's goals, which will require careful consideration and group discussion.

Observation One.

The extensive focus on the location presented in the section on Heritage Gateway record 01843/01 (Library ref 4) and associated discoveries via other Gateway, antiquarian records, and the PAS database, has elevated this location to a level where we need to consider the value of exploring its potential more intrusively.

Observation Two

Additional work in DH10 6HP. Notwithstanding the circumstantial nature of the evidence relating to DN10 6HP, how do we calculate the value of seeking, if possible, to explore it further against a decision not to take that course?

Observation Three

Given the trajectory of RR28a through the built up area of northeast Bawtry it is disappointing that no archaeological assessment appears to have taken place in this area pre the construction of what is now the Kingswood Estate. We know that some agricultural

<p>activity from that period extended this far but to what extent remains a mystery and with the exception of one Roman Brooch recorded in 1987 no other domestic artefacts have ever been forthcoming from that locale. Our Garden Search appeal provided no reports, positive or negative from this area during March to August 2024. What might be the value of a targeted mail drop to residents in this area as a final attempt to tease out what may have been missed? Might we also consider Queens Crescent and the DN10 6HP area in such an activity? Additionally, a physical review of Magilton's 1970 survey held in the CDC archive might be prudent.</p> <p>Observation Four</p> <p>This observation is made in advance of the completion of part two of this desktop phase, which will cover the hinterlands south and east of modern Bawtry. That said, I am aware that some evidence relating to the Romans and the local river system is likely to emerge with some tangible detail and who knows what else. Against that caveat this observation raises the fact that of the four most recent archaeological excavations undertaken in the last 25 years within the environment of modern Bawtry only 2 have presented Roman artefacts. Interestingly, both sites were located very close to what would have been the course of the river Idle during the Roman period. It is true that those finds were minimal and disturbed. The question being posed here is whether this is a sufficient echo to consider testing this area further?</p> <p>M P Maguire 23/9/24</p> <p>Review and Adjudication Completed 6.11.24</p>	
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Stage Two, Part One, Research Reference Library Information and Links

Further information on the items referred to here can be obtained at request via bawtryheritagegroup.co.uk

Library reference number	Details
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1	SY Heritage Gateway 03106/01
2	SY Heritage Gateways, 02480/01. ADS record for Austerfield Quarry. Historic England Monument Record 320766.
3	SY Heritage Gateway 01794/01. SYAS Monument Report. SYAS Monument Backup Report.
4	SY Heritage Gateways 01843/01, 03104/01. Historic England Manor Holt Site Record 1012453.
5	SY Heritage Gateways, 01791/01, 00964/01, 01791/01, 01791/02, 03674/01, 01789/01.
6	SY Heritage Gateway 02323/01.
7	SY Heritage Gateway 02473/01.
8	SY Heritage Gateway 01473/01.
9	SY Heritage Gateways 00953/01, 00954/01, 01270/01, 00950,01, 02825/01.
10	SY Heritage Gateways 00974/01, 00233/01, 01262/01.
11	Historic England Monument Record 321021.