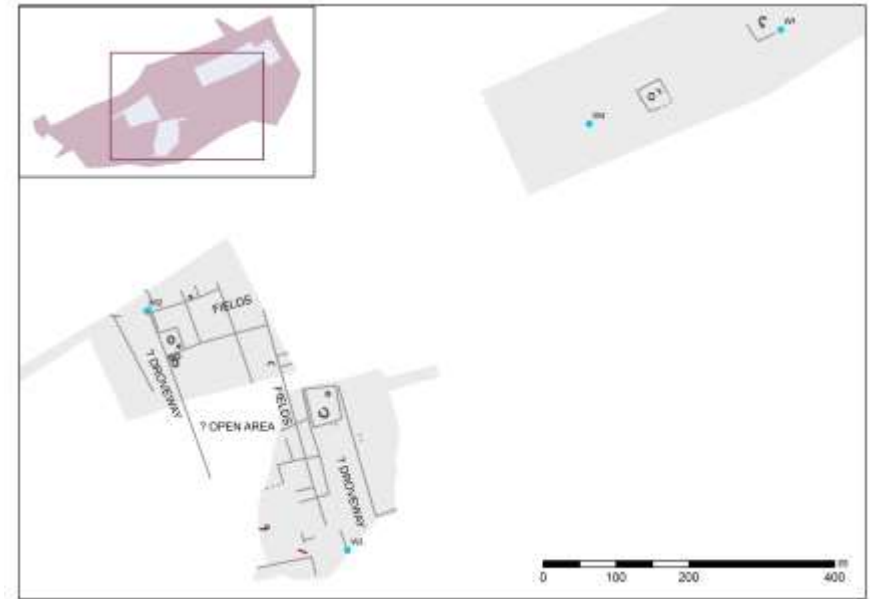


Transitions within and beyond the Roman period at Heslington East

- On eve of conquest ordered and enclosed landscape, differentiation socially (houses) and economically (jet and prestigious metals)
- Until c.150 CE: little change apart from serving then preparing food, and 'memory' of well

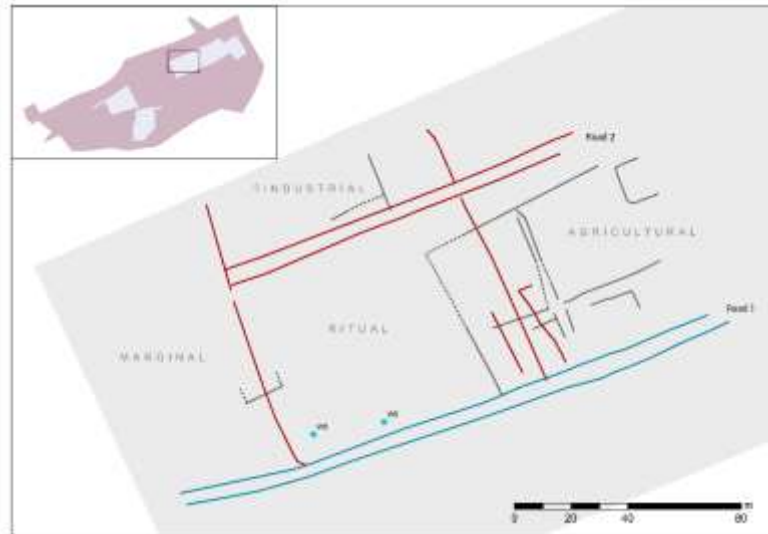


Pastoral dynamics

	Pre-Hist	Early R.	Late R	V Late R
Cattle	20.80%	88.10%	78.30%	83.80%
Horse	8.30%	0.90%	3.90%	3.60%
S/G	70.10%	10.00%	10.60%	9.50%
Pig	0.80%	0.90%	7.20%	3.20%

Faunal data:

- Cattle increasing, 'founder population' until late Roman but no innovative breeding programmes. Surplus 'exported'?
- (NB road)

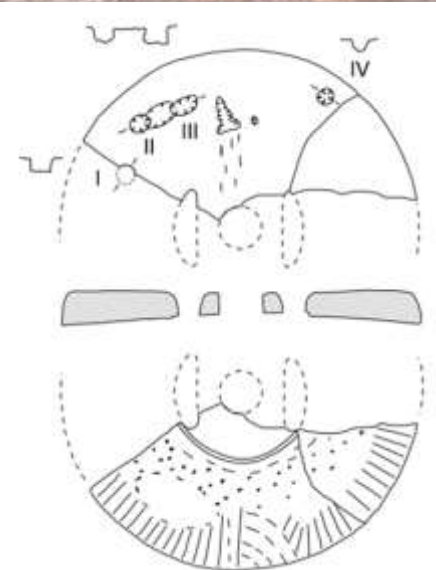
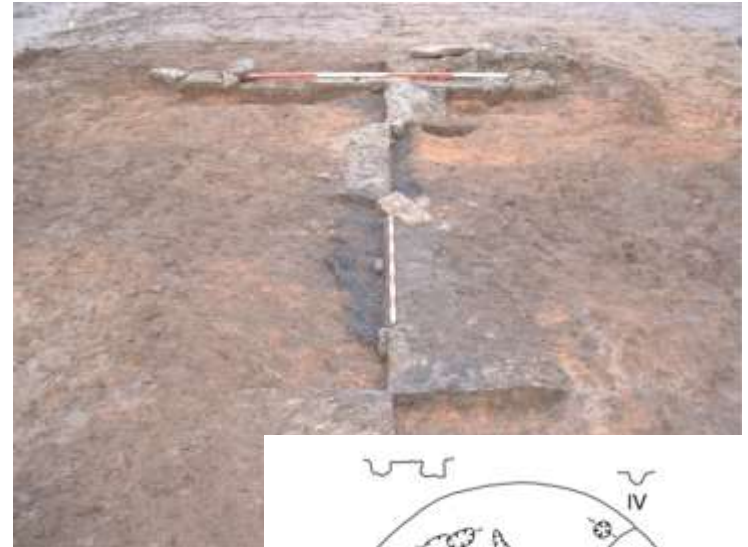


- Sheep a breeding population, but lambs absent (can't be overwintered?)

Agricultural dynamics

Floral data:

- bread wheat more prominent in Roman period (higher yields, winter hardy, but more vulnerable to pests/disease and requires greater soil fertility)
- First corn driers in C.3rdCE

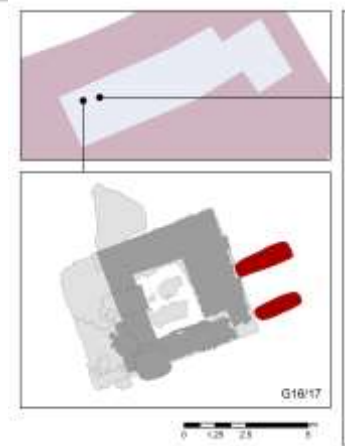
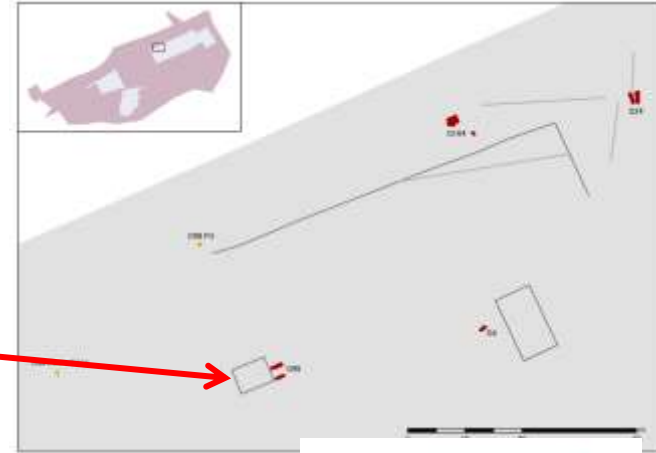


- Also first powered millstones (vs. hand querns) in C. 3rd/4th: greater efficiency or control of processing?
- Such millstones rare in late Roman York – grain now arriving as flour/bread (vs. Coney St. warehouse)

Late Roman Monumentality

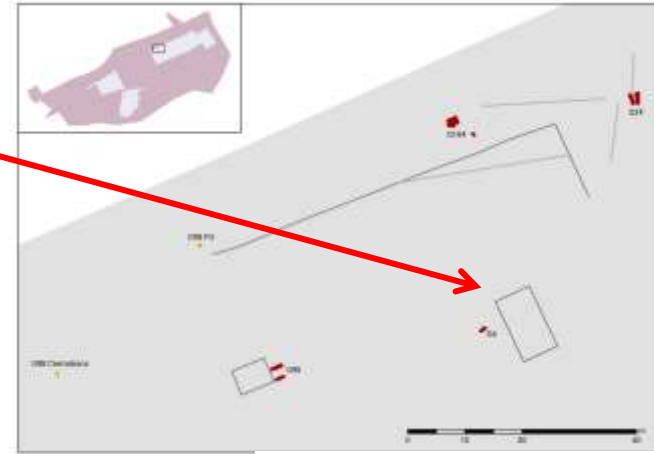
Newly enclosed zone defined by ditches and a new road to north, access mediated by gate (east) and tower (west):

- Two adjacent, ?male (badly-preserved) skeletons in over-sized graves – coffined? – with hints of markers.
- 23 nails around cranium, some very large – nailed into the ground?



Late Roman Monumentality

- Prestigious timber-framed, collonaded building with hypocaust on terrace overlooking The Vale.
- Adjacent scoop has crouched 26+years, male with ‘female’ spindle whorl made of curated pottery. Gum disease, healed muscle injuries on both legs, so physically demanding life after childhood anaemia, ?TB – ‘care in the community’



Very Late Roman Water Supply

Stone-lined well set above the 22m contour 'symbolic'

- Good quality: newly quarried, regularly coursed masonry
- Coursing interrupted by a deliberately intrusive, reused finial – moved from heights to depths. Nearby building sees disposal of drinking vessels



Very Late Roman Water Supply

Unusual artefacts:

- Yew and ash bucket, staves remain, mount and handle missing

Ceramic assemblage:

- Complete vessels

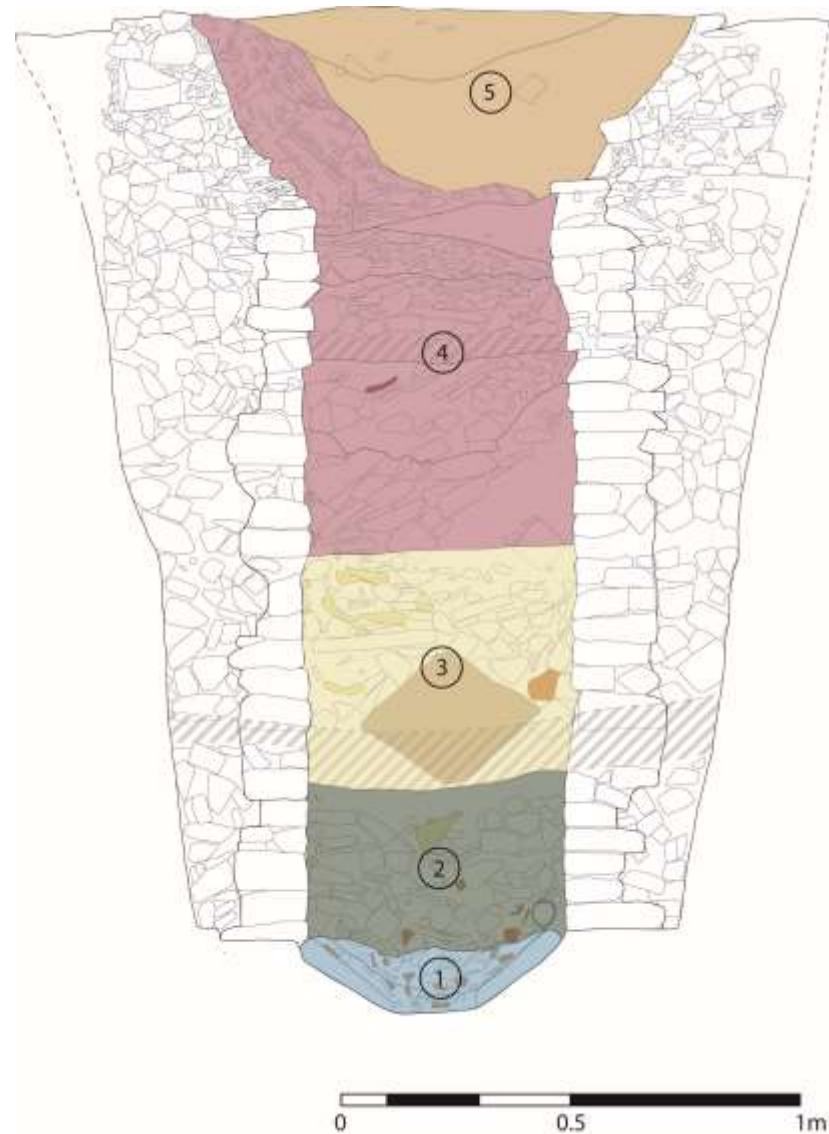


Unusual animal bones:

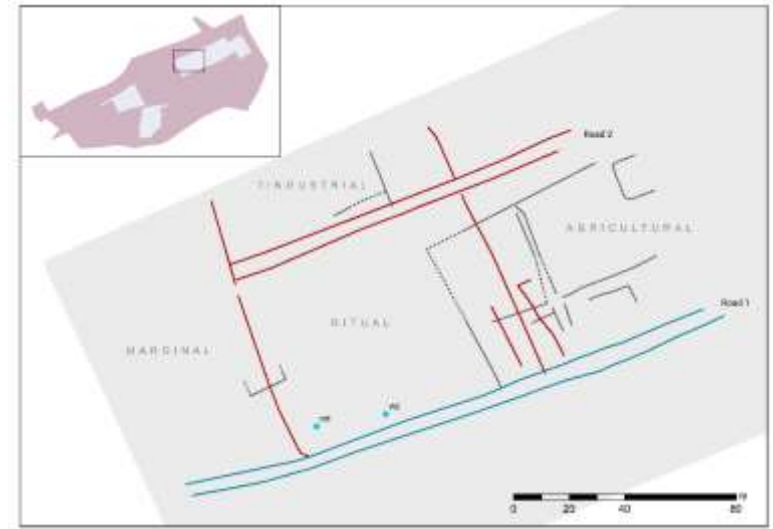
- Butchered cattle/horse, immature dog, deer and calf, adult cow skull and large antler, adult female pig skulls (but only depositing left sides of roughly removed mandibles)

Very Late Roman Water Supply

- Investment in construction and silting up in use, large amphorae, discard of 'normal' bones (1)
- Heathland, frogs/toads fall in, pig mandibles foul the water source, bucket and jar (discard of containers) (2)
- Wasteland, cobblestone, large, butchered animals, puppy: cow/calf, young deer/large antler: young and old - rural cycles? Domestic and 'wild' (3)
- Silting interleaved with collapse, the fully, articulated collapse (4)
- Post-Roman drift deposits (5)



Late/post-Roman development



- 300 CE+: new enclosure, tower with nailed inhumations mediating access, containing disabled man with 'female' spindle whorl near prestigious building: ritual alongside agriculture
- 350+/?? CE short-lived masonry well, nearby building with drinking vessels, but late burst of artisanal activity (but well closure linked again to landscape productivity)
- 'contradictions are emerging in the closing decades of 'Roman' rule

Agricultural and Ritual practices: summary

Ritual activity related to landscape practices:

- 3,000 BCE: visits with increasing regularity
- 2,000 BCE: barrows as signposts along moraine
- 1,500 BCE: local landscape claims via 'flat' but marked cremations
- 500BCE: linear landscape divisions with decapitation **first agric?**
- 50 CE: delayed impact of Rome (Iron Age tenacity), food serving changes before food preparation ('economic' and 'cultural' dynamics diverge) 'transitional' objects, deposited above disused well, greater orientation on cattle and larger scale grain processing
- 250 CE: regionalisation(drinking),then localisation (Crambeck table wares) and storage eventually dominates again
- 220 CE: perinatal inhumations (tragedy of child-loss)
- 250CE: inhumations reinforce new boundaries - labour on the land
- 300/400 CE: monuments in'ritual' enclosure, late industrialisation but stone-lined well, its speedy closure linked again to landscape productivity
- 450 CE: in gaining social and economic control, Roman imperial authority was itself changed (regionalisation, localisation and fragmentation well before the 'End of Roman Britain')
- 2014 CE: 'ritual' deposition in the cause of science **non-agric.**
- 2023 CE: architectural rituals designed to attract new student 'customers' and spin-off commercial companies to the neoliberal university of today **non-agric**



Thanks to organisations



THE UNIVERSITY *of York*

And to diggers!

