

Quarry Farm, Ingleby Barwick

A Romano-British Villa

The Excavation at Quarry Farm, Ingleby Barwick

- To the north of Ingleby Barwick, only several hundred metres from the River Tees, Archaeologists uncovered a large Romano-British villa complex of buildings and field enclosures, as shown in the plan below.



Oblique aerial photograph of Quarry Farm, showing crop-marks © Tees Archaeology



The excavated area at Quarry Farm, showing the villa complex © Tees Archaeology

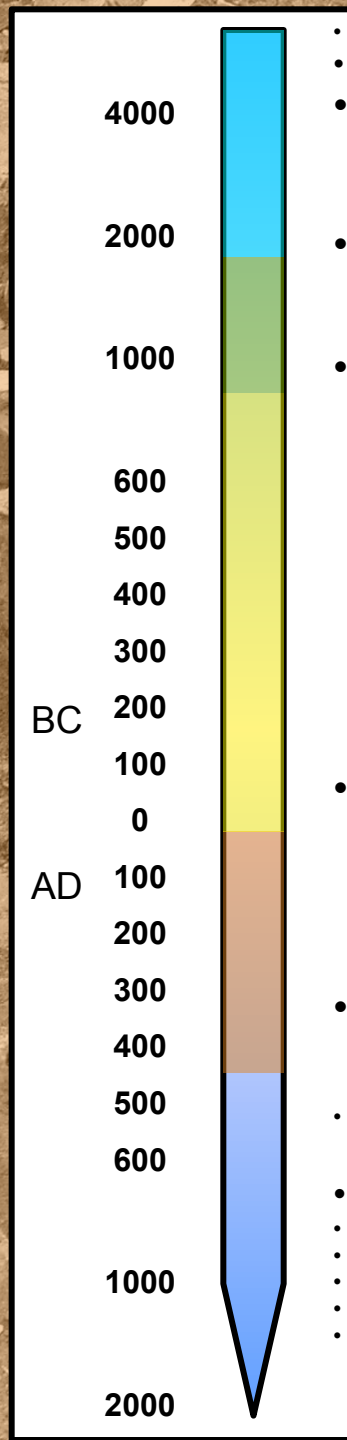
How was the site discovered?

- The site was first discovered through aerial photography in 1970. In the 1990s field-walking, geophysical survey and trial trenching began to provide more information about the site.
- Because of the importance of the discovery, it was decided that excavation of the site should take place before houses were built. Excavation was carried out by Archaeological Services University of Durham in 2003-04.

Timeline

This timeline presents the key periods of activity found at Quarry Farm during the excavation.

Use of Quarry Farm
Romano-British villa



4000
2000
1000
600
500
400
300
200
100
0
100
200
300
400
500
600
1000
2000

BC
AD

- Palaeolithic (2.5 Million Years Ago)
- Mesolithic (10,000 BC)
- Neolithic (4000 BC)
- Bronze Age (2200) BC
- Iron Age (800 BC)
- Roman Britain (AD 43)
- Anglo Saxon (AD 450)
- Viking (AD 793)
- Medieval (AD 1066)
- Tudor (AD 1485)
- Stuart (AD 1603)
- Georgian (AD 1714)
- Victorian (AD 1837)
- Modern Britain (AD 1902 – Present Day)

} Stone Age

} Post-Medieval

A Brief History of the Site

The villa may be the most significant find, but there is much more to the site. There have been people living and working on the banks of the River Tees at Ingleby Barwick for thousands of years. The excavations at Quarry Farm revealed artefacts that charted human history from the Stone Age through to the present day.

Prehistoric

- The earliest phase of the site at Quarry Farm ranges from the Mesolithic to the early Iron Age.
- Finds include about 250 flints, seven almost complete pots, a bronze punch or chisel and a small number of pits and a gully. All of which tells archaeologists that the landscape was being used, but not intensively.



Three partially reconstructed Beaker pots from 2,500-2000 BC.



A heavily corroded bronze punch or chisel which would have been used by metal-workers in the late Bronze Age.



Iron Age and Pre-Roman

- Activity on the site immediately before the arrival of the Romans dates to the late Iron Age, 100 BC-AD 100. Pottery was discovered in a couple of pits and a roundhouse was found to the south-west of the site. This tells us that people were living and working on the site just before the construction of the villa complex.

A Brief History of the Site

Romano-British

- We will learn more about the Romano-British Villa later, but the largest proportion of activity on the site belongs to this period, between about AD 100-450.



Excavation of the Anglian fire-pits at Quarry Farm © ASDU

Anglo-Saxon

- Almost 200 sherds of Anglo-Saxon pottery show that people continued to live here after the villa complex went out of use. The pottery was found in a number of pits to the north of the villa as were two buildings and several fire pits.

Medieval to Modern Day

- During the Medieval period, the land around Quarry Farm was farmed. A scatter of Medieval pottery, ridge and furrow strip fields and field boundaries were found across the excavated site. Several farmsteads were established including Barwick Farm and Quarry Farm.
- The Medieval farmhouse was eventually demolished during World War II, and replaced by a modern one. This was soon demolished as well, to make way for the modern housing development that we see today.

On the Edge of an Empire

The Romano-British Villa at Quarry Farm was on the fringe of the Roman Empire's western frontier. During this time, the villa was surrounded by a range of military fortifications, including coastal fortlets and the imposing presence of Hadrian's Wall.



Although situated in a rural landscape, the position of the villa near to some of the most important and well-used roads in this Northern frontier, meant that the residents had easy access to trade and resources.

The Romano-British Villa Complex



What does Romano-British mean?

- 'Romano-British' is what archaeologists refer to when talking about the culture that appeared as a merger of Roman influence and the native Briton's way of life, after the Roman invasion in AD 43.
- The people of Britain would have changed little, other than having easier access to imported food and materials.

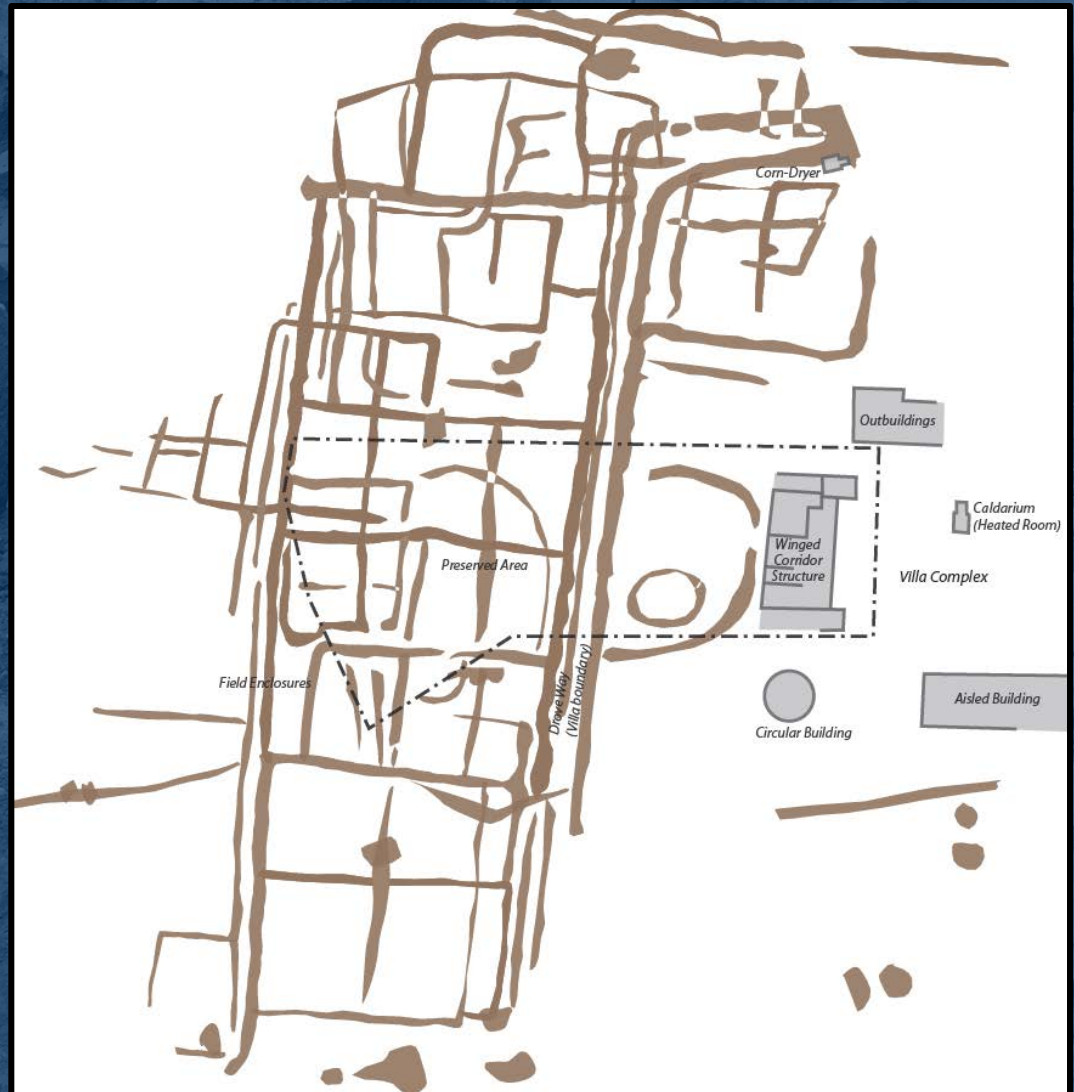
Were the Occupants of the Villa Roman or Briton?

- Despite the fact that the buildings at Quarry Farm are Roman, the material culture found there is sparse with only the occasional exotic or distinctly Roman object. This is common across other Roman sites in Northern Britain and suggests to archaeologists that the occupants of these villas were probably the local nobility rather than ex-Roman soldiers.

A partially reconstructed pot. This object was found within the villa, but is part of a pottery tradition that dates back centuries before the Romans arrived © Tees Archaeology

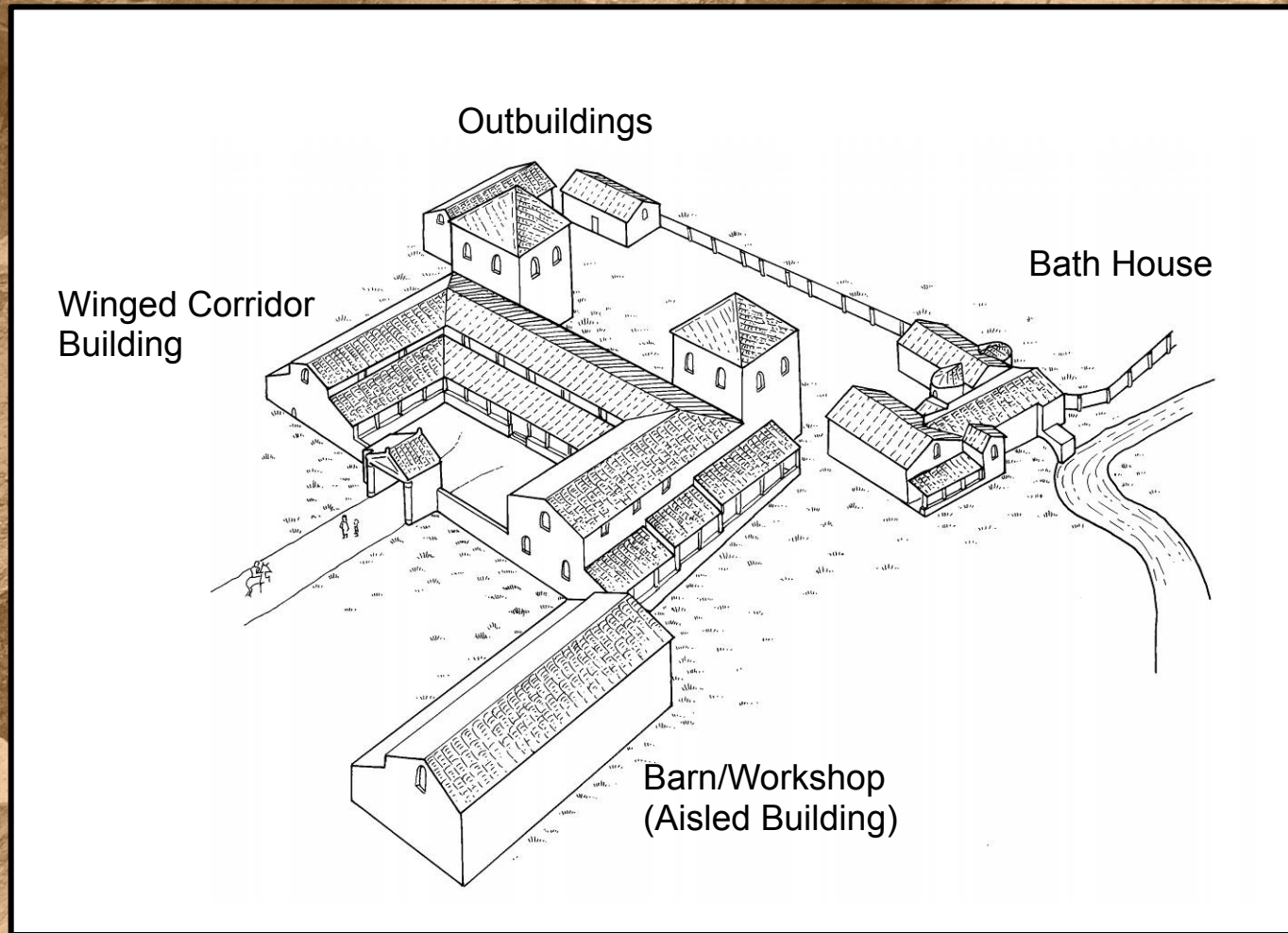
The Villa Buildings

- The plan opposite, presents the buildings of the villa complex as well as the boundaries of the various field enclosures.
- The 'preserved area' in the middle has not been excavated and remains protected within the modern housing estate. This includes the main 'winged corridor structure' (the main villa building), which has been preserved for future generations.
- Because the winged corridor structure has not been excavated it is difficult to be sure of an exact date, but it was probably constructed between circa AD 100-150, and fell into disuse no later than circa. AD 450



Interpretation of the geophysical survey, highlighting the Romano-British elements of the site © ASDU

The Layout of a Roman Villa



Drawing of Roman Villa © Tees Archaeology

This reconstruction of a Roman villa is not based on the villa at Quarry Farm, but is typical of villa complexes.

Five buildings dating to the Romano-British period were excavated including a bath house, an aisled building, a large outbuilding, a circular mill building and a corn-dryer.

The Aisled Building

- The aisled building is a type of Roman building found across eastern England, but the example at Quarry Farm is the most northerly one found so far.
- They are large multiple-purpose buildings with functions that seem to change over time. Typically they are used to store crops and equipment; provide cover for animals and as living and working quarters for estate workers.



Bath House during excavation © ASDU



Aisled Building during excavation © ASDU

The Bath House

- Although modest in size, the bath house (otherwise known as a Caldarium, or heated room) at Quarry Farm is beautifully designed and had been constructed by skilled craftsman.
- Bath houses were social places where people would meet or business would be conducted.



The Finds

- A large range of artefacts were found at Quarry Farm, covering an equally large range of functions.
- The following slides present a selection of these finds which have all been meticulously excavated, analysed, preserved and catalogued over several years since the excavation took place.

Pottery

Samian ware



Other pottery types

- There were many other pottery forms, including that shown on [slide 7](#). Many of these were native forms, surviving the move towards Roman pottery.

- Amphorae are huge pottery containers with a handle either side of the neck. They were used in vast numbers to transport large quantities of wine, olive oil and fish sauce across the Roman Empire.

Amphorae



- Samian is probably the most easily recognisable of the Roman pottery types. These glossy red wares were made in Gaul, or modern France, and imported across Roman Britain during 2nd and 3rd centuries AD.

Mortaria

- Mortaria were thick-rimmed bowls, with coarse sand or grit embedded into the surface of the bowl to use for pounding and grinding food in the kitchen.



Coins

- 18 Roman coins and 1 coin from the 13th Century were found at Quarry Farm.



The front and back of this *Sestertius* shows the head of Emperor Trajan and the goddess Victory respectively. This coin dates to AD 114-17 and was minted in Rome.

The front and back of this *Denarius* shows the head of Emperor Septimius Severus and the goddess Victory advancing respectively. This coin dates to AD 196-7 and was also minted in Rome.



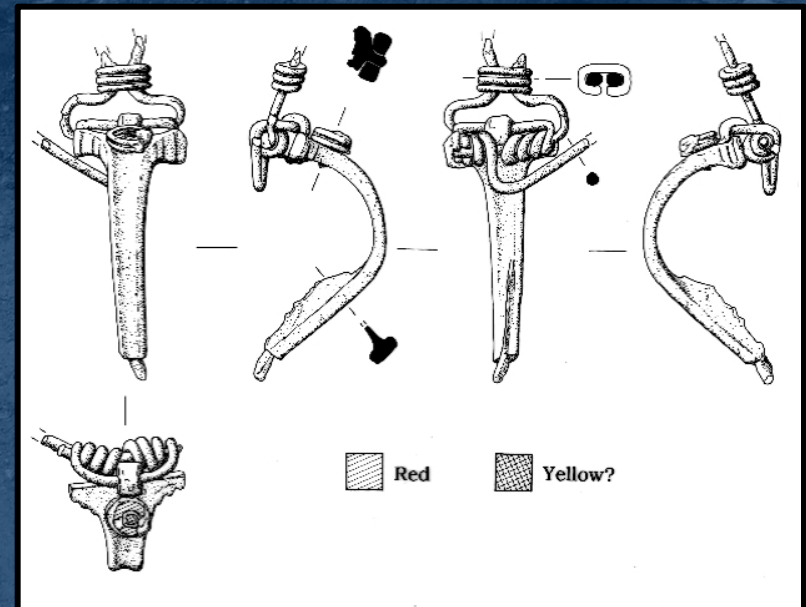
The front of this coin shows the head of Emperor Valentinian I. The back shows a Standard Bearer with the words 'Gloria Romanorum', or The Glory of Rome. This coin dates to AD 364-75 and was minted in Arles, in France.

Only two brooches were found at the villa at Quarry Farm, but both are in relatively good condition.

Brooches

Headstud Brooch

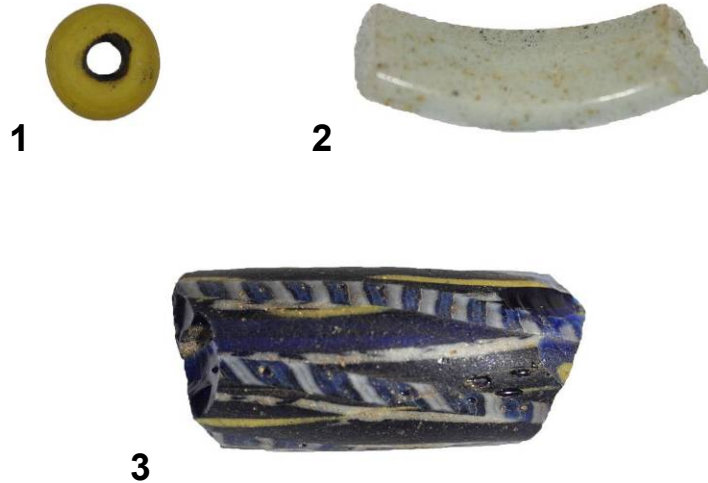
- This copper alloy Headstud brooch was found reasonably intact. It still has its one-piece spring and enamel decoration and dates to the second century AD.



Crossbow Brooch

- This is a Roman gilt copper alloy crossbow brooch (above). These were used by the Roman military and it was made with twelve separate pieces. It dates to the 300s AD and apart from a small altar, this object is the only evidence on the site of a military presence.

Jewellery



1. Glass Bead
2. White Glass Bangle
3. Blue Decorative Bangle

1. Although Roman forms of jewellery, these items probably belonged to the pre-villa phases of the site.
2. The blue bangle is unique to northern Britain, having only been found as far south as East Yorkshire.

1. This silver intaglio ring is evidence of wealth at the villa site. Although damaged and corroded, the central oval would have once contained an engraved semi-precious stone.



Glass



1. A range of glass fragments were found at Quarry Farm. Glass objects included window glass, bottles, tableware and jewellery.
2. The object, shown left, is a handle from a jug.

1. High status items are rare, particularly at Quarry Farm, but they can reveal a lot of information.
2. These small, colourful fragments of glass, shown right, are all that remain of a large shallow plate or dish. The base glass is colourless, but thin sections of multi-coloured mosaic canes have been embedded into the surface to create a floral design.
3. This came from Egypt, and must have cost a great deal.



Ironwork

1. Knife
2. Bronze Mount
3. Disc-shaped Adze
4. Lead Weight
5. Circular Door Handle
6. Pruning Hook, used for gardening
7. Cooper's Croze
8. Nails
9. Nave Lining, part of a wheel for a cart
10. Large U-Shaped Staple
11. Double-spiked Loop Fitting



Worked Stone

1. Dressed Slab, now split in half. This slab was part of the flooring in the bath house. It has been nicely finished with diagonal dressing. One of the faces has wear caused by a door opening across it.
2. Beehive Quern. This is the upper portion of a quern used for grinding cereals by hand. Cereal would be poured into the top hole and the side hole would contain a handle to rotate the stone.
3. Millstone. This large millstone was found incorporated into a paved surface, but would have originally been used to grind large quantities of grain, perhaps turned by mule or donkey.



1



2



3

Credits...

1. Excavation and report by Archaeological Services University of Durham.
2. This presentation has been compiled by Tees Archaeology, January 2012.
3. For further information on the site at Quarry Farm please contact Tees Archaeology.

**Tees Archaeology
Sir William Gray House
Clarence Road
Hartlepool
TS24 8BT
Tel: 01429 523455**

**Email: tees.archaeology@hartlepool.gov.uk
www.teesarchaeology.com**

