

PREHISTORIC (STONE AGE TO IRON AGE)

Although the Roman villa had a great impact on the banks of the River Tees, archaeologists found that there had been activity in the area for thousands of years prior to the Roman arrival. Seven pots and a bronze punch, or chisel, tell us that people were living and working here at least 4000 years ago.

ROMAN

The Romano-British villa at Quarry Farm has been preserved in an area of open space, in the heart of the new Ingleby Barwick housing development. Excavations took place in 2003-04, carried out by Archaeological Services Durham University (ASDU), to record the villa area. This included structures, such as the heated room (shown above right), aisled building (shown below right), and field enclosures.

ANGLO-SAXON

With the collapse of the Roman Empire, Roman influence began to slowly disappear from Britain, but activity at the villa site continued. A substantial amount of pottery has been discovered, as have fire-pits which may have been used for cooking, and two possible sunken floored buildings, indicating that people still lived and worked here.

MEDIEVAL – POST MEDIEVAL

A scatter of medieval pottery, ridge and furrow earthworks and early field boundaries are all that could be found relating to medieval settlement and agriculture. Farmsteads were established in the area including Barwick Farm and Quarry Farm. The original Quarry Farm farmhouse was lived in for hundreds of years until it was demolished during World War II.

MODERN

A new farmhouse was built at Quarry Farm, but was demolished to make way for the current housing estates of Ingleby Barwick. It was the archaeological investigations which were carried out during the housing development which uncovered the long and continuous settlement of this part of the Tees Valley.



The excavated heated room, or caldarium (left).

The caldarium was the bath house. Although this building was small, it was well built. It was probably constructed during the early phases of the villa complex.

For Romans, bath houses were social places where people could meet.



The 'aisled' building, looking east. This building provided storage for farming equipment, cover for animals and a place for craft activities.



Building photographs by ASDU and artefact photographs by Tees Archaeology.



website: www.teesarchaeology.com

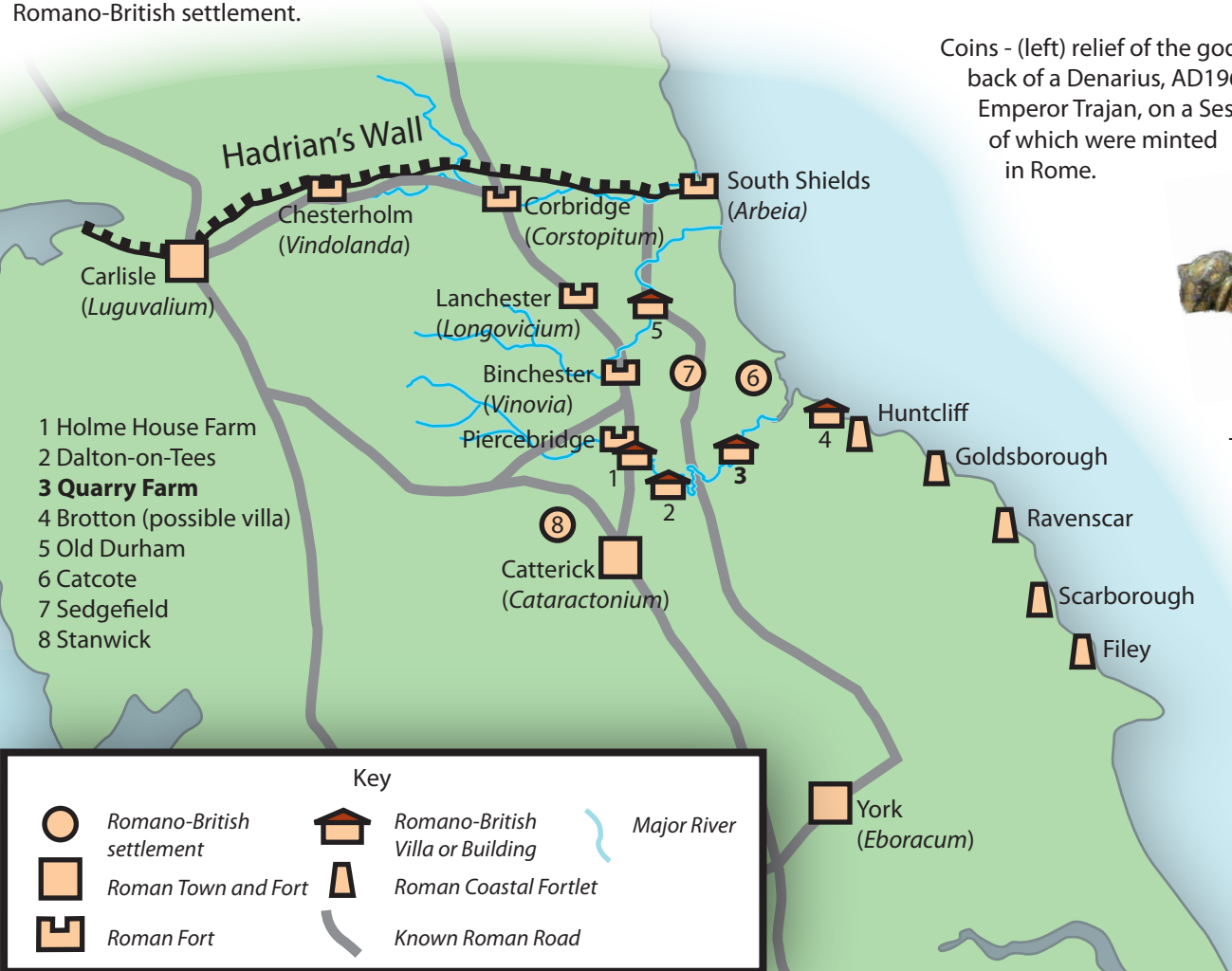
QUARRY FARM INGLEBY BARWICK

A ROMANO-BRITISH VILLA

THE ROMANO-BRITISH VILLA AT QUARRY FARM, INGLEBY BARWICK

The Romano-British villa at Quarry Farm, Ingleby Barwick was surrounded by a range of forts such as Binchester, coastal fortlets such as Huntcliff, and Hadrian's Wall, the Roman imperial frontier – the villa was on the northern edge of the Roman Empire. The position of the villa, near to well-used roads and on the south bank of a major river, meant that the residents had easy access to trade, and some of the excavated objects were imported from the far corners of the Roman Empire. The villa complex was probably constructed between c. AD 100-150 and fell into disuse c. AD 500, though it is difficult to be accurate as the main winged-corridor structure has not been excavated.

The villa was a working farm, with enclosures for livestock and a corn-dryer for processing crops. Items such as an altar and the crossbow brooch tell archaeologists that this rural settlement was first built by a moderately wealthy retired soldier, but was he local, or did he come from somewhere else in the Empire? Many of the artefacts relate to the everyday running of a domestic Romano-British settlement.



- 1 Holme House Farm
- 2 Dalton-on-Tees
- 3 Quarry Farm**
- 4 Brotton (possible villa)
- 5 Old Durham
- 6 Catcote
- 7 Sedgefield
- 8 Stanwick



Coins - (left) relief of the goddess Victory on the back of a Denarius, AD196-7, (right) the head of the Emperor Trajan, on a Sestertius, AD114-7 - both of which were minted in Rome.



There was a large group of iron farming and wood-working tools.



A late Roman gilt bronze crossbow brooch.



The pottery included Samian ware from Gaul (right) and vessels such as amphorae, which would have been imported from Spain filled with olive oil.



Jewellery included items like this Roman glass bracelet - a type which is particularly common in northern England.



High status items included fragments of a beautifully crafted polychrome glass dish which came from Egypt.