Coins, Artefacts and Social Stratification in Roman Rural Yorkshire

Dr Tom Brindle
Proportions of sites in Yorkshire with individual Classes of object (presence/absence)
Proportionate distribution of objects from nucleated sites, villas, shrines and farms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Nucleated sites (No = 14)</th>
<th>Villas (No = 13)</th>
<th>Shrines (No = 6)</th>
<th>Farms (general) (No = 137)</th>
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Legend:
- Red: Nucleated sites (No = 14)
- Blue: Villas (No = 13)
- Green: Shrines (No = 6)
- Purple: Farms (general) (No = 137)
### Proportions of villas and farms in Yorkshire with individual classes of object (presence/absence)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Object Class</th>
<th>Villas (No = 14)</th>
<th>Farms Complex (No = 36)</th>
<th>Farms Enclosed (No = 37)</th>
<th>Farms Unenclosed (No = 10)</th>
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<td>other_dress</td>
<td>23% 17%</td>
<td>23% 14%</td>
<td>23% 0%</td>
<td>23% 0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food Production</td>
<td>46% 38%</td>
<td>46% 30%</td>
<td>46% 0%</td>
<td>46% 0%</td>
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</table>
Dates of reports for villa excavations for Yorkshire and the South West (Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Dorset, Somerset)
Villas (No. = 13) Complex Farms (No. Enclosed Farms (No. = 36) = 33) Unenclosed Farms (No. = 11)

Late coins (post-AD 260), presence

Villas (No. = 13) Complex Farms (No. Enclosed Farms (No. = 36) = 33) Unenclosed Farms (No. = 11)

Late coins (post-AD 260), frequency
**Coinage at sites occupied until at least AD 300**

Proportion of sites occupied in the late Roman period with late Roman coins

- **Yorkshire**
  - Villas (No. = 104)
  - Complex Farms (No. = 46)
  - Enclosed Farms (No. = 7)

- **South West**
  - Villas (No. = 13)
  - Complex Farms (No. = 19)
  - Enclosed Farms (No. = 16)
Density of early Roman coins recorded by PAS

Density of late Roman coins recorded by PAS
The national distribution of late Iron Age coinage
**Principal Yorkshire Brooch Types**

- **Knee**
- **Pennannular**
- **Dragonesque**
- **Later Plate**
- **Aesica**
- **Early Plate**
- **Headstud**
- **Trumpet**
- **Others**

- **Penannular**: 28%
- **Trumpet**: 24%
- **Knee**: 15%
- **Early Plate**: 7%
- **Aesica**: 7%
- **Later Plate**: 4%
- **Dragonesque**: 3%
- **Headstud**: 2%
- **All other types**: 11%
- **Others**: 11%

Number:
- Penannular: -72
- Trumpet: -61
- Knee: -37
- Aesica: -17
- Later Plate: -17
- Dragonesque: -9
- Headstud: -9
- Early Plate: -6

All other types: -26
Comparison of proportions of brooches on PAS and Rural Settlement Project databases

- PAS (2022 identified examples)
- Rural Settlement Project (255 identified examples)

Brooch types:
- Trumpet
- Headstud
- Aesica
- Dragonesque
- Knee
- Pennanular
Frequency of principal brooch classes from Yorkshire by site type
(number of brooches divided by number of sites)

- **knee**: Nucleated (No. = 14), Villa (No. = 13), Farm (No. = 137)
  - Nucleated: 0.4 (0.01)
  - Villa: 1.0 (0.2)
  - Farm: 1.7 (0.3)

- **later_plate**: Nucleated (No. = 14), Villa (No. = 13), Farm (No. = 137)
  - Nucleated: 1.0 (0.2)
  - Villa: 1.7 (0.3)
  - Farm: 0.2 (0.02)

- **headstud**: Nucleated (No. = 14), Villa (No. = 13), Farm (No. = 137)
  - Nucleated: 1.7 (0.3)
  - Villa: 0.2 (0.02)
  - Farm: 1.4 (0.05)

- **aesica_fantail**: Nucleated (No. = 14), Villa (No. = 13), Farm (No. = 137)
  - Nucleated: 1.0 (0.2)
  - Villa: 1.0 (0.2)
  - Farm: 0.2 (0.05)

- **dragonesque**: Nucleated (No. = 14), Villa (No. = 13), Farm (No. = 137)
  - Nucleated: 0.2 (0.02)
  - Villa: 0.2 (0.01)
  - Farm: 0.2 (0.01)

- **trumpet-derived**: Nucleated (No. = 14), Villa (No. = 13), Farm (No. = 137)
  - Nucleated: 1.7 (0.3)
  - Villa: 1.1 (0.05)
  - Farm: 0.01 (0.05)

- **early_plate**: Nucleated (No. = 14), Villa (No. = 13), Farm (No. = 137)
  - Nucleated: 0.2 (0.02)
  - Villa: 0.2 (0.01)
  - Farm: 0.01 (0.05)

- **Pennanulars**: Nucleated (No. = 14), Villa (No. = 13), Farm (No. = 137)
  - Nucleated: 1.4 (0.05)
  - Villa: 1.8 (0.05)
  - Farm: 0.05 (0.05)
**Presence of brooches at villas and farms**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site Type</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Villa (No. = 13)</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Complex (No. = 36)</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enclosed (No. = 37)</td>
<td>10</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Image from cover of Bayley and Butcher’s Roman Brooches in Britain, 2004*
The national distribution of late Iron Age and Roman Brooches
Polden Hills Brooches

Quantity
- 1
- 2 - 5
- 6 - 10
- 11 - 40

Polden Hills
Trumpet Brooches

Quantity
- 1
- 2 - 5
- 6 - 10
- 11 - 22

Trumpet
Penannular Brooches

Quantity
- 1
- 2 - 5
- 6 - 10
- 11 - 30

Penannular
Conclusions

The broad artefact profile for sites in Yorkshire differs considerably from some other regions, e.g. the South West

- Artefacts appear to be socially more restricted in parts of Yorkshire than further south
- Reflecting part of the broader national pattern, east/west of Ryknild Street and Dere Street
- Where farms do produce coins, brooches and other objects suggestive of a degree of status, there is evidence for a hierarchy with a tendency for complex farms to produce these objects
- Partly to do with chronology, but also social and cultural differences which influenced connectivity with market centres
- More nuanced understanding of social distribution of artefacts from excavated evidence of critical importance for better understanding of artefacts recovered from unexcavated contexts, e.g. Portable Antiquities Scheme

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