

Finds on your Doorstep – 3000 years of life in Cadney - finds recorded on the Portable Antiquities Scheme Database (search for finds.org.uk) – by Martin Foreman, Finds Liaison Officer for North Lincolnshire.

Later Bronze Age to Iron Age (1000 BC- AD 43) 6 records

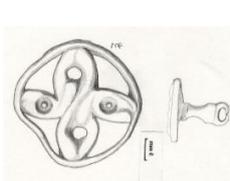
The earliest finds from Cadney were both reported from the northern part of the parish, and might be outliers of activity centred on Brigg. The identification of one is uncertain; the other is an impressively decorated *Sompting* axe-head from the early Iron Age (after 800 BC).

Other Iron Age finds to the south include further examples of ornate metalwork pointing to a community where noble pursuits such as feasting and horsemanship or fighting were esteemed. A petty chieftom or estate was perhaps defined by the marshy limits which gave the parish its present English place-name (Cadney = *Cada's Island**).

Iron Age finds are of a consistent quality presenting the refined tastes of their owners. They would adorn the harness of a chariot, the vessels which appeared at the table, and perhaps even the coiffure of his(?) wife.



Sompting axe
FAKL-FB5DF6



Mount and rein ring from horsegear
NLM4311



NLM-6007EA



Antlered vessel mount
NLM-FCCC62



Pin or stud head
SWYOR-E15DD4

The Roman Period (AD 43-410) 101 records

Early Roman finds point to a continuing occupation: it seems Celtic Cadney proved amenable to a new regime – with a fort built at neighbouring Hibaldstow, prudently so. The lane passing from Howsham through Cadney appears to be an ancient route, axial to its settlement. Along it were found objects bearing the images of Roman gods and brooches of British styles.

Later Roman times saw the same focus, but after about AD 250 only small bronze coins appear, all found west of Cadney. They may include a scattered hoard, or point to other activities to be adduced from their heavy use or frequent loss.

Plain brooches were of British manufacture, but are mostly of hinged types found where troops were based. Mercury and Mars were Roman gods favoured by merchants and soldiers, and both objects are 2nd-century.



British brooch types favoured by Roman troops
NLM-20690E



NLM-DBC742



NLM-CD7182



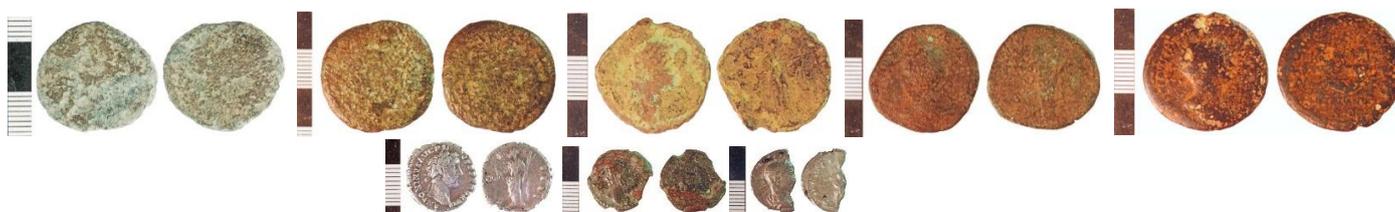
A Yorkshire style
NLM-1C0013



Images of Mercury and Mars
NLM-876407

NLM-86DEF4

Early Roman coins include larger copper alloy issues used for small purchases, and silver coins usually entering circulation as soldiers' wages. This range of coins resembles that to be expected of a tiny fort!



Larger coins dated up to AD 200 (the last is 147-175), and silver coins of AD 151, 161 and 222-235

Top row: NLM-E6E825 NLM-F643C1 NLM-F5F011 NLM-F5CA72 NLM-F5BA38 below: NLM-9318F4 NLM-F6CADA NLM-F6EF8D

* **What's in a name?** The prefix *Cad* is thought by some to indicate a Celtic name, but recent place-name study suggests *Cadney* originates from the Anglo-Saxon personal name *Cada*.

The Roman Period (AD 43-410) continued

Late Roman coins date from AD 260 to 395, with those dated to the rule of Constantine and his successors the most common. Among over 90 coins, later issues are unusually prominent.

Magnentius (350-353) attempted to establish a breakaway western empire, and his coins here are mutilated, perhaps part of the *Damnatio* erasing a rebel from public record. *Paul the Chain* purged his supporters in Britain, bringing an end to occupation at many sites. At Cadney, however, coins continued to circulate up to AD 395, matching the evidence for a late Roman military or official presence at the nearby Hibaldstow fort.

Britain was a link in a supply chain extending to garrisons on the Rhine. The revolt of Magnentius disrupted this, but an official presence suspected at Cadney was maintained or even strengthened after its suppression.



House of Constantine

NLM-CDB38A

NLM-0EB0C4

Mutilated coins of Magnentius

NLM-E24B94

NLM-F5DF53

House of Valentinian & Gratian

NLM-CDD989

NLM-90E13D

The Early Medieval Period (410-1066) 13 records

The late Roman military was bolstered by barbarians drawn from outside the empire, and this process was mirrored in Sub-Roman Britain. Anglo-Saxons from across the North Sea were called in as mercenaries, fell out with their paymasters, and within decades took over their domains. Finds hint at burials observing an Anglian custom of clothed burial close to the previously occupied area. Whether this was the replacement of old masters by new, or simply a change in their dress-sense, is unknown.

A Viking presence is similarly apparent, though the nature of a takeover from previous occupants following Anglo-Saxon custom is equally unclear.

Fragments of brooches suggest the culture if not the nationality of residents. Cruciform brooches were part of an Anglian matron's burial outfit. Strip brooches were later types worn in a now-Christian England.



Early Anglo-Saxon grave goods

NLM-A738C8

NLM-E09B6F

Middle Saxon strip brooches

NLM-A5BBC0

NLM-FCC174

Viking strap ends or fittings

NLM-E77782

NLM-E78274

A Viking came as a raider, worked as a trader if it proved profitable, and ended up as a resident! His use of metal ingots made up for an absence of coins, while heavy lead whorls may have been used to make rope.



Bronze ingot
NLM-CD339E



Spindle whorls: nos 2 and 3 are heavy types
NLM-CCEB55 NLM4316 NLM-CD5C16



Viking strap fitting
NLM-A5D974



Buckle
NLM-0A5573

What's in a name?

The development of Howsham as an outlying settlement may be of Viking date, from the Old Norse *Hus* (house) and the Old English *Ham* (small settlement). This bilingual compound yields a place-name meaning *at the houses*, and might hint at the nature of a local Viking 'takeover', occupying marginal land. Howsham was administered as a single parish with Cadney until 1936.

The Medieval Period (1066-1500) 75 records

The 12th century saw the building of Cadney's Norman church and the royal foundation of a Gilbertine Priory in neighbouring Newstead parish in 1171. The latter was a small house but of an English Order, and was supported by an income granted from the Isle of Axholme. Both these institutional advances may point to an intention to add value to villages which had seen hard times, or to reclaim wasteland.

Medieval finds come mainly from west of Cadney, with few from outlying Howsham, and even fewer near Newstead. Most were probably taken from the villages with rubbish and spread with it to fertilise the fields.

The most common objects found are dress accessories. Their styles point to local activity from the 1200's through to the end of medieval times. Later forms are more common; early or late, most are of simple types.



Buckles 1200-1400: the last three have a sheet metal roller on the outer edge, a trend up to about 1350
NLM-A71768 NLM-3ACAA1 NLM-0A72A1 NLM-0A2BA7 NLM-1C1BC1 NLM-0A3816 NLM-CDA0FC



Buckles 1350-1500 (after the Black Death): most are simple one-piece forms until late on in the period
NLM-0AA7C8 NLM-0A893F NLM-0A67C8 NLM-5FD135 NLM-0A5E34 NLM-939BE5 NLM-CD7E67

Silver pennies were medieval England's common currency from later Anglo-Saxon times onwards. These are mostly from the 1200s, and serve as a sample of what cash was available in village homes to be lost.



Six silver pennies from Henry II (1154-1189) to late medieval times: sixpence was a good daily wage
NLM-935C37 NLM-9376F2 NLM-933CD9 NLM-938349 NLM-F6AD62 NLM-A7B84C



Halfpennies and farthings were for small purchases; the larger object is a jetton or counter not a coin

NLM-AD1330

NLM-AD06BC

NLM-ACF6B4

NLM-E9F032

NLM-AD2BD6

NLM-FCA6E4

Harness pendants bore heraldic motifs; some were perhaps lost by visitors to Newstead Priory. Gilbert of Cadney was perhaps named after the Gilbertines there; his seal bears a songbird, so he might have been a chorister. Folk religion is illustrated by pilgrim souvenirs, torn open and emptied to improve failing land.



Pendant

NLM-93B868

Arms of Clare on a bell

NLM-E9C2E2

The Seal of Gilbert of Cadney

NLM-77621E

Ampullas emptied on fields

NLM-A7D30B

NLM4391

The Post-Medieval Period (1500-1900) 140 records

The Dissolution of Newstead Priory under Henry VIII may have hit neighbouring communities; there was little spare cash about in Cadney. In 1539, Lincolnshire folk took up arms against Henry's Reformation. Things eased under Elizabeth and King James (1554-1625).

There is also evidence for a new or reviving cottage industry using heavy spindle whorls. This was perhaps the plying of hemp cord to make rope. Rope was increasingly needed to fit out ships as isolated England found maritime outlets for Protestant enthusiasm. Landowners in Wales – Lincolnshire was as remote from London - were fined if they failed to cultivate hemp.

Rebellious sentiment may lie behind the scratching of holy initials on a cheap silver ring. There was no spare change to lose under Henry VIII, though coins of value greater than the penny appear before and after.



A defiant rebel's ring? Halfgroat of Henry VII, threepences of Elizabeth & pennies of King James

NLM-A76D1B

NLM-ACE173

NLM-ACD15E

NLM-A7A29E

NLM-AD1F37

NLM-773794

Whorls spun fibre for cloth, but heavier versions are better for plying cords. A decorative scheme was perhaps based on the Star of Solomon, though the design broke into lines and dots with repeated copying.



Lead whorls: only the first two are light enough to make cloth A casting was made if a whorl broke

NLM-55FBE5

NLM-E7235D

NLM-E71B18

NLM-55FBE5

NLM-55EADB

NLM-55DF2C

NLM-CD6679

NLM-1BCC82

NLM-ADBE17

With shipping, trade, piracy and mercantile expansion, English horizons widened in post-medieval times. Counters for reckoning were mass-produced in Nuremburg, and identical types are found everywhere.



Jetons or reckoning counters, all bearing an Imperial-orb-in rose denoting Nuremburg on the reverse

NLM-FC92B8

NLM-E761ED

NLM-E75377

NLM-6FF71A

NLM-18C896

Post-medieval belt mounts were cast along with attachment prongs. Gilding may have used some of Drake's stolen Spanish gold. Did acorns stand for hearts of oak? Or do hearts and lilies hint at Catholic sympathies?



Gilded acorn mounts

NLM-93A57C

NLM-CD0EE4

Heart and inverted lily motif

NLM-CCFA1E

NLM-E0B269

Trinity or cross motifs on fasteners

NLM-E740DC

NLM-A74C61

Reformation hangovers?

Reformation went down badly where people valued an informal welfare state based on Roman Catholic institutions. Popular piety was not abolished, but diverted, as Papist observance was progressively outlawed. Visual symbols presented on clothing or harness may have been more loaded with significance than we appreciate today, as discreet statements of private belief or dissent.