

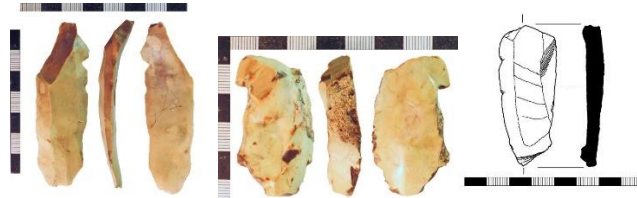
**Finds on your Doorstep – 40,000 years of life in Barnetby le Wold - finds recorded on the Portable Antiquities Scheme Database (search for [finds.org.uk](https://finds.org.uk)) – by Martin Foreman, Finds Liaison Office for North Lincolnshire**

**Early Prehistory, Late Palaeolithic to Mesolithic (40,000-4000 BC): 127 records**

The archaeology of Barnetby is a product of field-walking which has inverted the usual perspective obtained by metal-detecting, raising the profile of non-metallic finds. These are part of a dense spread of flint-work extending into neighbouring Bigby parish.

At the end of the last Ice Age, Barnetby Wold commanded a view across the Kirmington gap. Mesolithic hunter-gatherers exploited this vantage point across a marshy landscape to track migrating herds. The Wold was also a source of flint of which implements were made. The distinction between Late Mesolithic and Early Neolithic was arbitrarily arrived at for much of this large assemblage.

Palaeolithic objects may show human activity in the later part of the Last Ice Age, though whether here or elsewhere is uncertain as they may have been carried a long distance by meltwaters to reach their find-spot.



**Utilised flint flakes, the second glossed**

NLM-339B87

NLM-327DC4

NLM-E89833

Numerous flint cores left from the making of flint tools have been recorded. Dated as from the Mesolithic to the Neolithic, they include imported brown or black flint and grey local flint, all worked in varied styles.



**Brown or dark imported flint cores**

NLM-6F8F05

NLM-6F9F06

NLM-1B9F11

**Grey or patinated cores, probably of local flint**

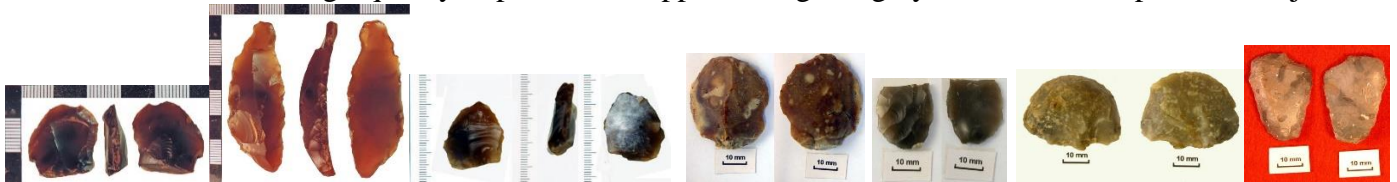
NLM-2890B1

NLM-0FC734

NLM-2D6802

NLM-2A8116

Scrapers brought manual force to bear during tasks, and are often associated with the processing of kills. Tools made from dark high-quality imported flint appear alongside grey Wolds' flint or patinated objects.



**Dark brown flint used for early tools**

NLM-32BDFF

NLM-329B07

**Black flint perhaps from the East Coast**

NLM-F52E86

NLM-8FCE93

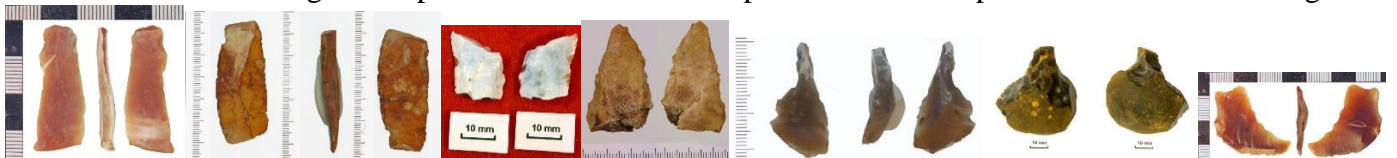
NLM-90C4F8

**Local grey flint**

NLM-8C4000

NLM-D97794

Flint blades enabled meat and hide to be cut while piercing tools allowed holes to be made for stitches or ties. These activities might take place at a Mesolithic campsite or in a more permanent Neolithic living area.



**Blade fragments, usually broken in use**

NLM-32CB01

NLM-536F82

NLM-1BF287

NLM-1646A2

**Awls and borers to pierce small holes**

NLM-6E6FC4

NLM-A26437

NLM-32A755

## **Early Prehistory, Late Palaeolithic to Mesolithic (40,000-4000 BC): continued**

Mesolithic implements might be made as a composite of tiny narrow flakes mounted or hafted together. The debitage from their striking bears scars where the flakes were removed. Some were worked into small tools.



**Local and imported flint with narrow flakes removed**

NLM-332F02 NLM-3317D6 NLM-09CDE3 NLM-0987CE NLM-F517C4

**Individual flakes from Mesolithic working**

NLM-A38D97 NLM-901BC5 NLM-09D949 NLM-2A9594

Some larger one-piece tools were used to work wood. Fabricators were general purpose tools, and other forms include serrated blades or points for working bone. Only flint parts of composite tools now survive.



**Tranchet flint axeheads**

NLM-952884

**Fabricator**

NLM-5E5154 NLM-8F3A7A NLM-09C0BA

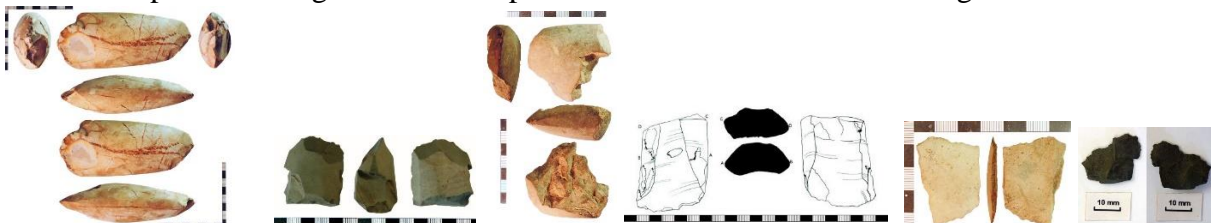
**Other tool types with a range of uses**

NLM-5E381A NLM-1A95E7 NLM-5E70FB

## **The Neolithic (4000-2350 BC): 84 records**

Mesolithic 'occupation' may have comprised recurrent visits to a favoured hunting camp. The Neolithic invention of agriculture dictated a more static lifestyle, so crops could be planted, cared for and harvested. The same places may have continued to be used, though whether by the same people is debatable. Farming brought awareness of property, and prestigious weapons may have been carried to defend it when moving away from competitors or threat was less feasible. Polished stone axes were made from suitable stones, and those brought from inaccessible quarries at Langdale, Cumbria, are the most frequently found type in the Humber region.

Polished Langdale axes were accompanied by fragments of others, which were themselves sometimes polished or shaped. This might hint at the special status accorded even to a fragment from such an axe.



**Polished axehead and fragments of others; most were probably of Langdale stone**

NLM-ECE803 NLM-566F65 NLM-33479A NLM-3E7AE1 NLM-5E7D81 NLM-8F84F2

Neolithic arrowheads are rare components in such a large group of flints. This may be because they were less frequently lost in a populated area. They were used with a longbow, for hunting, and perhaps for war.



**Early leaf arrowhead**

NLM-2CC1E2



**Late Neolithic arrowheads**

NLM-F53E16 NLM-5B1733

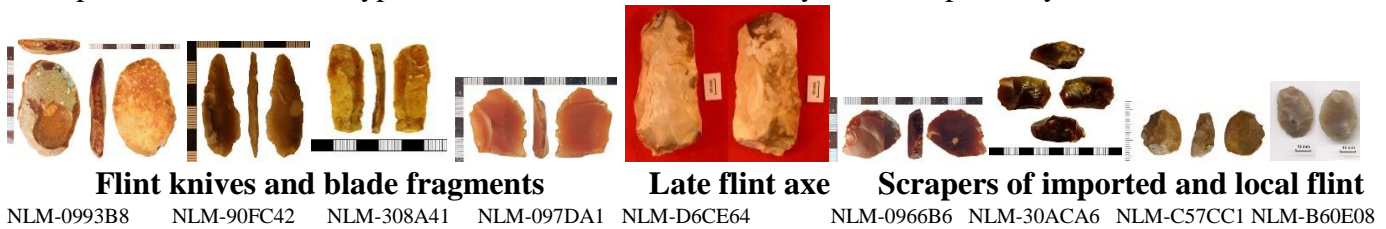


**Barbed and tanged arrowheads**

NLM-E851A7 NLM-5A13D4

## **The Neolithic (4000-2350 BC): continued**

Neolithic objects were made of the same range of flint as those ascribed to the Mesolithic. They include few examples of late Neolithic types of artefact; the intense activity here was probably of earlier Neolithic date.



## **The Bronze Age (2350-800 BC): 7 records**

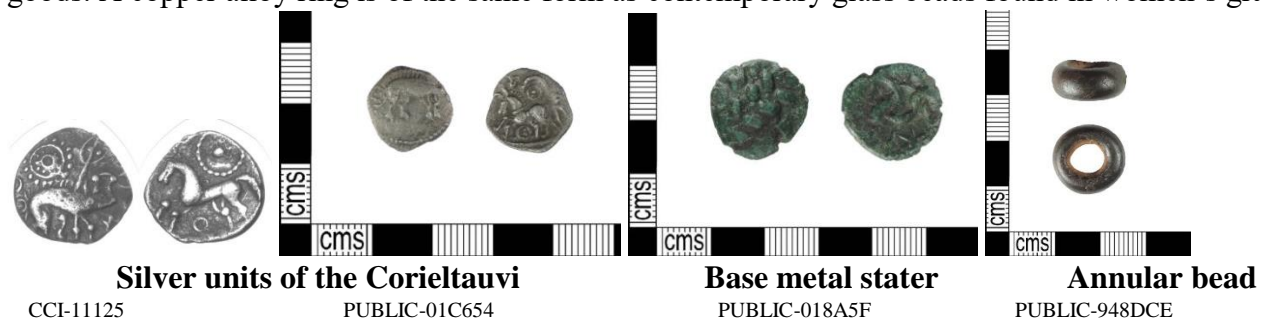
The invention of metal weapons and tools is reflected among finds reported from Bigby (Lincolnshire) as part of this spread, but finds from Barnetby-le-Wold are of earlier dates, from when flint was still the usual material used for tools. An arrowhead of barbed and tanged form is a type variously ascribed to the Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age. Small thumbnail scrapers were a distinctive form; one made of brown flint was perhaps reworked from an earlier discarded object. Other tools were of local or inferior varieties of flint. A potsherd is important evidence suggesting the proximity of a settled community.



## **The Iron Age (800 BC – AD 43): 4 records**

Iron Age finds are attributed to that later (100 BC – AD 43) period when Barnetby le Wold lay in the territory of the Corieltavi tribe. They include three coins and a bead. The coins were of silver and copper alloy. Their discovery in this relatively elevated Wold top site links these coin finds to others reported from the Yorkshire and Lincolnshire Wolds, whose find-spots sometimes suggest locations of ritual interest rather than settlement. These may have been marked by already-ancient monuments from earlier periods of intense local activity indicated by many finds. There is scant evidence for settlement at this time.

White and yellow metal coins may have been used for purposes distinct from the buying and selling of goods. A copper alloy ring is of the same form as contemporary glass beads found in women's graves.





## The Roman period (AD 43-410): 56 records

Roman objects are recorded as a relatively sparse scatter with concentrations north and south of Barnetby. Coins indicate activity from the 1st century to the later 4<sup>th</sup>, with those from a northern group spanning the 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries. Some finds from the eastern parish include types associated with the 1<sup>st</sup>-century Roman Army, and these could be outliers from the site of an auxiliary fort at Kirmington. Features of this group, however, might commend its origin from a shrine which may itself have attracted deposition of later coins. Other objects south of Barnetby represent debris from an extensive Romanised settlement.

Coins from north of Barnetby might relate to traffic along Middlegate, an ancient route which had retained importance into Roman times, or to the fort at Kirmington. These examples span the 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries.



**Early Roman coins**

**Radiates of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century, mostly Central Empire issues**

PUBLIC-93E0B7 PUBLIC-938850 PUBLIC-0212BB PUBLIC-925962 PUBLIC-027C25 PUBLIC-02422B PUBLIC-933735 PUBLIC-91F9B4

Hod Hill brooches associated with the Roman Army appear together with figurines and a miniature object. These might all have been objects from a shrine, with brooches perhaps serving as personal tokens of vows.

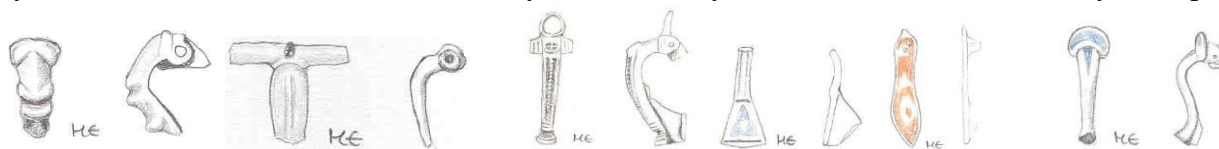


**Figurine fragments & a miniature bridle**

**Hod Hill brooches and a later Aucissa brooch**

NLM120 NLM1132 NLM1133 NLM1135 NLM135 NLM136 NLM1130 NLM-B15682 NLM964

Finds from south of Barnetby include a range of objects from a Romanised settlement dated from the 1st century onwards. Brooches include a fantail style favoured by the Corieltauvi and a military P-shaped type.



**Hinged bow brooch fragments**

**Enamelled brooches including a fantail**

**P-shaped brooch**

NLM139 NLM141 NLM133 NLM132 NLM125 NLM140

Pottery from settlement includes later Roman forms in a Kirmington-made fabric. Coins suggest occupation dated from the later 1<sup>st</sup> century to the mid-4<sup>th</sup>. Further finds extend south into neighbouring Bigby parish.



**Pots made at Kirmington into the late Roman period**

**Coins dated from the 1<sup>st</sup> century to the 4<sup>th</sup>**

NLM-8C6BB4 NLM-69FC28 NLM-6A15D3 NLM-6A2225 NLM-512822 NLM-DF0C34 NLM-DF67F8 NLM-DF1AF7 NLM-DF3983

Other items from settlement include bracelets from women's costume and a spindle whorl from household work; a seal box points to the literacy of inhabitants. Roman objects also appear elsewhere as isolated finds.



**Bracelet fragments**

**Whorl made of shale**

**Seal box**

**Isolated finds: Nail cleaner and late coin**

NLM-DF5826 NLM-7A7F76 NLM-7A5950 NLM119 NLM-5F4568 NLM-DEE955

## **The Early Medieval period (410-1066): 13 records**

Anglo-Saxon mercenaries were employed by late or sub-Roman authorities, so evidence for their early presence at a strategically important location illuminates their arrival and settlement. Objects, including potsherds of fabric noted at other cemeteries in the region, may come from post-Roman burials of women interred according to Germanic custom, extending south into Bigby parish.

A few objects show that English settlement using some brooch types of unusual or Frankish affinity was established locally between the 7<sup>th</sup> century and the 9<sup>th</sup>. Such objects appear near Barnetby village, and at Melton Ross to the north. The Viking takeover of English lands, however, is barely evidenced.

Anglo-Saxon burials of the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> centuries are suggested by finds from a cemetery south of Barnetby, continuing into Bigby parish. A sleeve clasp is probably from a contemporary cemetery at Melton Ross.



Middle Saxon and Frankish finds from near Barnetby resemble material seen in quantity – and much sadly unseen – from Melton Ross to the north. There are only hints of Viking-Age or Anglo-Scandinavian activity.

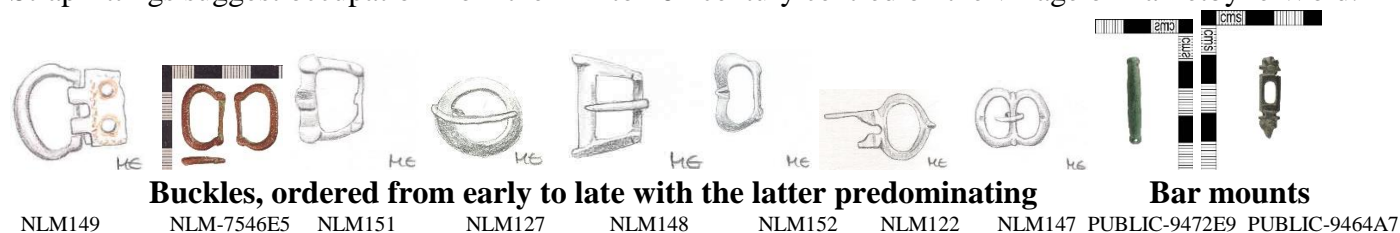


## **The Medieval period (1066-1500): 23 records**

Medieval finds include dress accessories from straps, and a range of other objects of mainly domestic use. Coins were not reported, though the style of dress accessories spans the period 1250-1500 and cash was presumably as necessary here over that period as at any other North Lincolnshire village. Weights suggest minor transactions in bulk goods, so there was local economic activity.

The objects probably originated from the village of Barnetby, and were spread with other rubbish swept from homes to manure its fields. While a modest record, it exceeds that from medieval Melton Ross, where only earlier material was recorded.

Strap fittings suggest occupation from the 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> century centred on the village of Barnetby le Wold.



## The Medieval period (1066-1500): continued

Metal vessel fragments and weights for transactions confirm a normal level of local prosperity in Barnetby's village society. A lead cross may be disturbed from a burial, as a rare form of Christian-period grave goods.



## The Post-Medieval period (1500-1900): 34 records

Post-medieval dress accessories date from 1500 to 1720, and predominate in an assemblage spread from the village. A few recent objects are reported from Barnetby itself rather than from its fields. Lead whorls formerly thought to be of medieval date are now usually ascribed to the early post-medieval period, and may point to a cottage industry occupying spinsters.

Lead shot is most likely to represent 18<sup>th</sup>-century vermin control by farmers, though it includes an example of a specialised type of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. An animal bell also hints at herds of sheep put out to pasture.

Most dress accessories date from 1500 to 1650, and are from belts or straps; one may be from a later shoe or knee buckle. Mounts with long fixing prongs were fastened to leather straps, perhaps to decorate horse-gear.



Lead whorls and a thimble illustrate women's work in the home. A bell was attached to a sheep, perhaps the *bell wether* of a flock. Lead shot illustrate vermin control – or perhaps pin-making at home in some cases!



There was an improving strain to more recent Barnetby life: the Church of England Temperance Society was busy, while the Tom Thumb Club promoted a well-behaved childhood. Cheap trinkets were also circulating.

