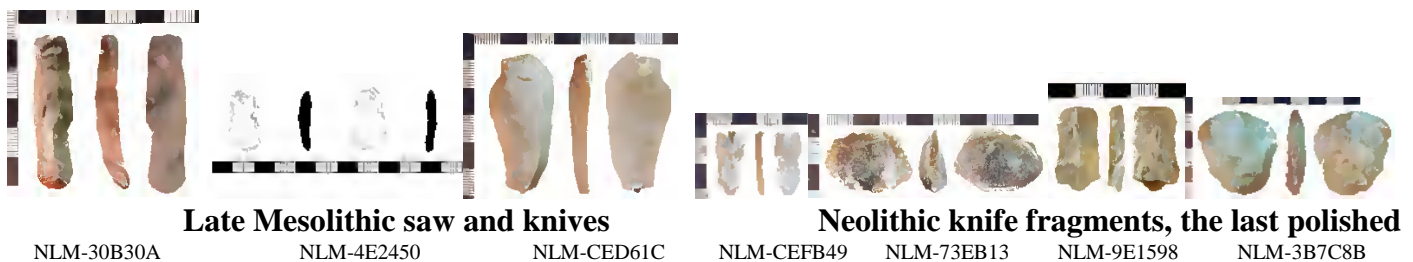


Finds on your Doorstep – 9000 years of life in Scawby - finds recorded on the Portable Antiquities Scheme Database (search for finds.org.uk) – by Martin Foreman, Finds Liaison Officer for North Lincolnshire

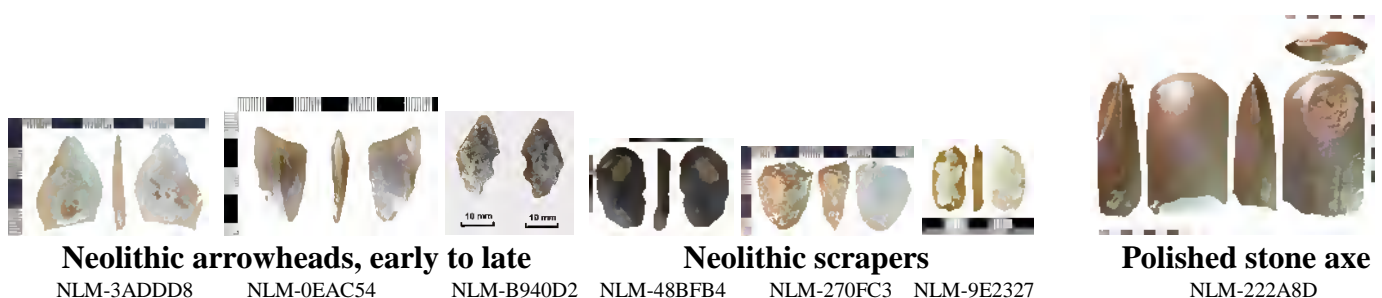
The Stone Age: Mesolithic to Neolithic (8,000-2350 BC) 18 records

Flint and stone tools and weapons are reported from the northern part of the parish, perhaps in loose relationship to the ancient line of the Scawby Brook; early Neolithic monuments were often placed with reference to watercourses. The arrowheads of Neolithic hunters are accompanied by the scraping tools or knives used to process their kills. A fine polished axehead may be a weapon rather than a tool, and is from the Langdale quarries of Cumbria. Save for Langdale itself, these prestigious pieces are most common around the Humber estuary, and their distribution highlights overland routes in use by the mid-Neolithic (3500-2500 BC).

Flint-working skills of Mesolithic were carried over to later times. Saw-edged flakes and blades could easily dismantle a carcass, but Late Neolithic polished knives were laboriously finished to stand longer-term use.



Neolithic arrowheads were tips for arrows fired from a longbow. Scrapers were one-piece tools used to clean hides. A bow was for war as well as hunting, and a polished stone axe was probably a prestigious weapon.



The Bronze Age (2350-800 BC) 14 records

The Early Bronze Age saw flint remain the principal material for tools, and these were typically small thick *thumbnail* scrapers which were finished to enhance their durability. Later flint blades were economically made with a few blows of a hard hammer. The first bronze objects probably had greater prestige than utility; later sword and spear blades, the principal types represented at Scawby, were functional weapons to be thrust or cast. If Homer's *Illiad* is any guide, the spear was by far the deadliest in combat. Most of these finds come from west of the village, encountered while searching for later objects.

Bronze Age flint-workers used a hard stone hammer. Scrapers and knives might be carefully finished to prolong their working life; other tools were swiftly struck. A hollow scraper (at end) trimmed arrow shafts.

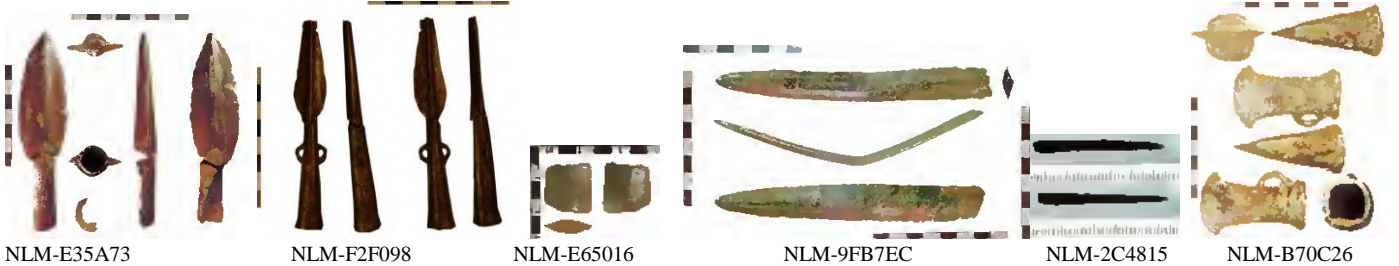


Early Bronze Age Scrapers: this economical flint-working resembles that of the Late Neolithic

The Bronze Age (2350-800 BC) continued

The Middle Bronze Age (1800-1000 BC) saw deterioration of European climate and a rise in sea level which caused rivers to back up and become brackish up-stream, turning formerly productive pasture to saltmarsh. These changes promoted competition for resources among a growing population, and the primacy of a militarised aristocracy which could fight for them. The evidence of metal weapon finds is variably interpreted: as marking ritual sacrifice, by deposition of treasured items at marshland margins to placate the angry powers of the waters, or as evidence for the practical political responses to such pressures.

Spears of earlier date and a rapier were perhaps deposited as offerings in an area where climate change had led to encroachment of marsh. An awl was a piercing tool, and socketed axes may have been a late currency.



Spearheads of the Early to Middle Bronze Age

Rapier fragment

Awl

Socketed axe

The Iron Age (800 BC – AD43) 11 records

Iron Age finds come from west of Scawby village. They include rings associated with swords or horse-gear, both prerogatives of a martial aristocracy. Some may be relatively early in date, and there is scant distinction to be drawn between Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age societies.

Later objects relate to the East Midlands tribe of the Corieltavi. They include a brooch of a type broadly associated with eastern England, and yellow metal coins, either gold, copper alloy or gilt. A small ingot may observe a metrical system suspected to have operated in 1st century BC Britain, contemporary with the coins.

Rings may be for horse harness or the suspension of a sword. A strap distributor and possible bridle ring, the former attached to an iron component, point to the former. A long narrow object is of unknown use. The *Parisi* of East Yorkshire put chariots in graves; recent finds extend the known area of a chariot burial rite.



Copper alloy rings

Strap distributor

Unidentified object

The later Iron Age culture of south and eastern Britain was widely shared. Colchester-type brooches were common. The Corieltavi were the northernmost tribe to strike coins, albeit perhaps for non-secular uses.



The Roman period (AD 43 - 410) 145 records

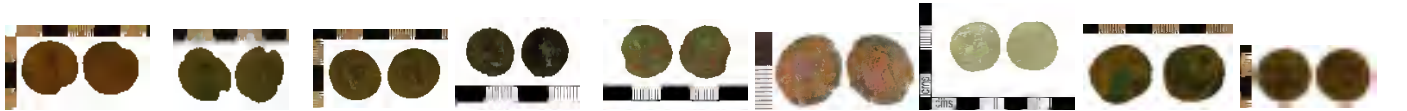
Roman finds inevitably seem associated with traffic along Ermine Street, between the legionary base at Lincoln and the Humber, which the Romans crossed in AD 70. Coins - found mainly west of the road - sketch its military use: from invasion in AD 43, through Hadrianic settlement of a northern frontier; to the Severan campaigns of the 3rd century. The later 3rd and 4th centuries saw more numerous coins deposited, reflecting the wider strategic importance of the Humber. Other finds include British brooches, brooches denoting the presence of officials, and objects perhaps linked to taxation, as indeed most coins are.

Earlier coins comprise silver denarii paid to soldiers and the larger base metal coins they used for daily transactions. Most date to after the Roman crossing of the Humber in AD 70, under the Flavian dynasty.



Coins from Claudius to the later Severan dynasty: the smaller silver or base silver coins are denarii
NLM-A32315 NLM-947091 NLM-670F21 NLM-9D89C6 NLM-0D6366 NLM-A29A72 NLM-A02873 NLM-F11673 NLM-9DD373

Radiates include earlier issues of the Central Empire, and mostly Carausian issues of the later Gallic Empire. Carausius's dependence on naval power may have made control of the Humber a priority for his regime.



Radiate coins of the Central Empire NLM-B6B727 NLM-7510F2 NLM-93A924 NLM-9F06E0 NLM-A9EBB3
Gallic Empire coins, mostly of Carausius NLM-B5153A LIN-82669E NLM-63EB57Z NLM-F0ED16

Under the House of Constantine, the Humber was point of departure for convoys supplying garrisons on the Rhine. The House of Valentinian left markedly fewer coins, perhaps marking a diminished official presence.



Base metal coins and one silver *siliqua* of the House of Constantine NLM-7494BD NLM-B52073 NLM-275676 NLM-913C23 NLM-CF2477 NLM-E317A3 NLM-4E6D94 NLM-3DB233 NLM-F67C2E NLM-F646AA
Valentinian

Simple hinged 'dolphin' or Colchester derivative brooches are an eastern British type associated with the Army at auxiliary forts. The spread of Trumpet brooches may relate to *Legio IX*, Lincoln's first garrison.

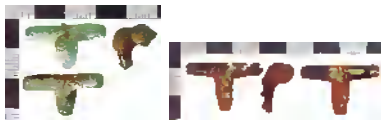


Hinged Colchester Derivative brooches
NLM-398205 NLM-94E713 NLM-3F2773 NLM-0DE322



Trumpet Brooches
NLM-81F3BD NLM-CBE6F4

The 'East Midlands Enamelled' form probably originated in the Corieltauvi heartland. Headstud brooches are common in the region; though their origins are unclear, some were made at Castleford, West Yorkshire.



Corieltavian enamelled

NLM-D6894D

NLM-F517CA



Headstud brooch

NLM-94DBE2

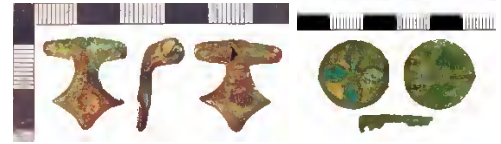


Plate brooches, the first is Continental

NLM-D6E417

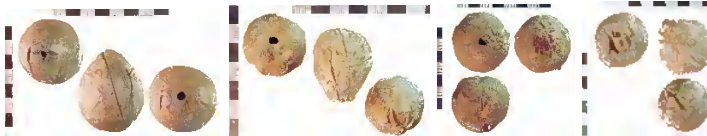
NLM-F34F57

The Roman period (AD 43 - 410) continued

There was scant real distinction between civil and military officialdom. Though local administration might be devolved to cooperative tribal leaders, the bearing of arms was forbidden to all but the military, so powers of enforcement rested with Rome.

The later Roman period saw extension of citizenship bring an increasing proportion of the population into the taxation system. Taxes paid the Army, and the Army enforced collection. British take up of a monetary economy was perhaps slow for those content with subsistence farming and no need to buy into Roman lifestyles. But taxation in kind 'enabled' every farming family to contribute.

Oval steelyard weights found between Scawby and Brigg seem a coherent group: three out of four had their iron suspension loops withdrawn before deposition. These were perhaps used by an official or tax collector.



Steelyard weights from a dispersed group

NLM-43ABDB

NLM-D72895

NLM-659D2B

NLM-79D784



Other steelyard and scale pan weights

NLM-F12DA3

NLM-75C271

NLM-799B14

NLM-75CC86

A sword grip and knee brooches associated with military sites confirm the presence or passage of troops, as may a buckle. Stamped and gilded plate brooches served as conspicuous late Roman badges of official rank.



Sword grip

NLM-6207E5

Buckle & strap end fragment

NLM-94D708

NLM5768

Knee brooches

NLM-94F453

Knee brooches

NLM-34D793

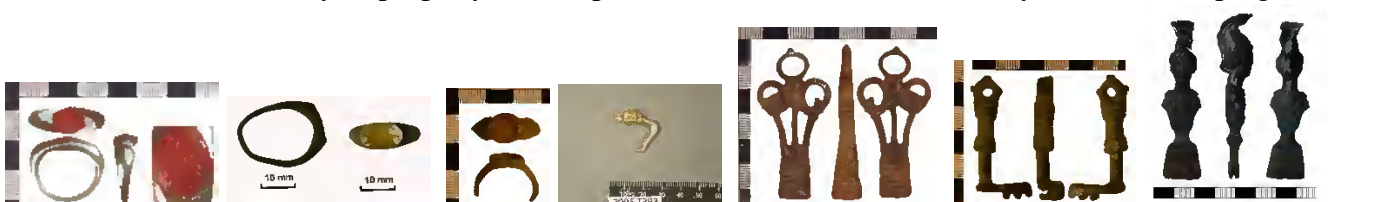
NLM-3AB964

Gilded badges of office

NLM-7C8C08

NLM-ABE766

The wearing of finger rings was a Roman custom; a 2nd-century example bears Mars on its bezel. A gold ring fragment comes from the reported find-spot of mosaics indicating highly Romanised occupation. Keys show concern for security of property, and a spatula to clean wax tablets literacy or record-keeping.



Finger rings, from early to late

NLM-74D2F2

NLM-32DBD1

NLM-F28D17

PAS-DECD8E

Keys

NLM-5653F4

NLM-E6444C

Minerva spatula

NLM-DB0143

Button-and-loop fasteners were a British type popular in Roman times. Drinking was a Celtic hobby, but vessel mounts adopt Roman forms. A miniature object and Mercury's cockerel may show personal beliefs.

**Fasteners**

NLM-744BD5

NLM-9AE682

**Mounts in the form of swan and bull**

NLM-75A127

NLM-F3AA42

**Axe pendant and cockerel**

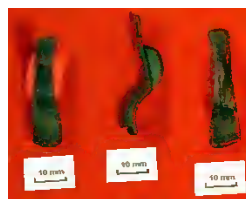
NLM-74A28B

NLM-5666F2

The Early (AD 410-700) to Middle (700-850) Anglo-Saxon period 18 records

The Anglo-Saxons were invited to take up the role of Roman troops withdrawn in support of foreign adventures. Two brooches may suggest burials according to their custom a kilometre east of Ermine Street. Middle Saxon finds cluster closer to the road, immediately north and west of Scawby. They include coins, pins from the coiffure or veils of women, and the whorls which spun fibre to make cloth. Strap ends may come from male costume: belts or garters. Together here, they may mark trade or settlement on a major route: similar groups elsewhere are considered to mark customary market-places or fairs.

Two brooches may suggest the graves of women interred according to Anglian custom. Partial records show the location of one at some distance from the Roman road. The graves were perhaps disturbed by ploughing.

**Fragments of two cruciform brooches**

NLM-9A74E8



NLM-745D04

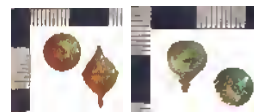
Silver coinage was reinvented by Frisian merchants, and marked the resumption of long distance trade. Pins are thought to have fastened veils or coiffure forming part of the nun-like costume of English women.

**Silver sceat, styca and lead weight**

NLM-B66184

NLM-BB0B66

NLM-6BE546

**The heads of broken pins and two more complete examples**

NLM-F51FBC

NLM-F7A25E

NLM-972B26

NLM-0E527C

NLM-5F1932

NLM5767

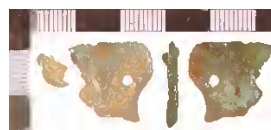


Strap ends from costume and a fragmentary cross-shaped mount suggest a Christian English occupation. Small lead spindle whorls sized for the narrower Anglo-Saxon spindle point to women working at home.

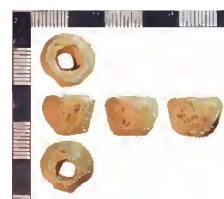
**Copper alloy strap ends**

NLM-E02F51

NLM-5DFD84

**Fragment of gilt mount**

NLM-4F148A

**Lead whorls, all lighter types for cloth-making**

NLM-E34D88

NLM-6D0AFF

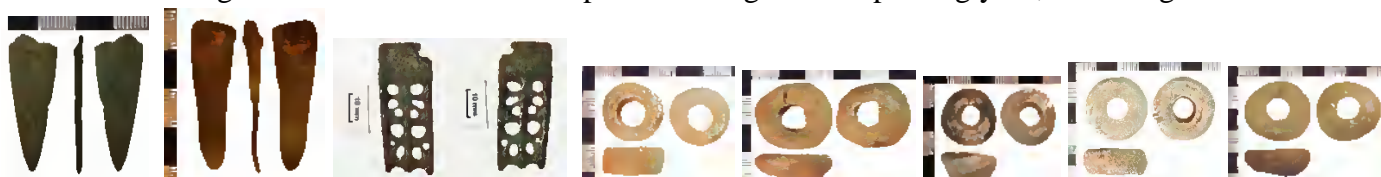
NLM-6D00C7

The Viking and Anglo-Scandinavian periods (850-1066) 29 records

As Vikings arrived in the Humber, they may already have been aware of the strategic importance of Ermine Street. A handful of objects from close to the time of their arrival include strap ends and several of the lead weights thought to have been used to measure silver bullion in the absence of coinage.

Other objects are similar in their materials, type and function to their Anglo-Saxon equivalents, and these convey a striking picture of continuity at Scawby. Anglo-Scandinavian society seems here to have picked up old threads, though representation of 11th-century horse gear seems apt to a roadside village.

A design flaw occasioned breakage of an interlace strap end which resembles a type marking Viking arrival in the Humber region. Half the lead whorls reported were good for spinning yarn, as in Anglo-Saxon times.



Strap ends of Viking and Saxon styles

NLM-495856

NLM-3E75F8

NLM-BB0FF1

Lead whorls for cloth-making

NLM-DCA9C6

NLM-203EB4

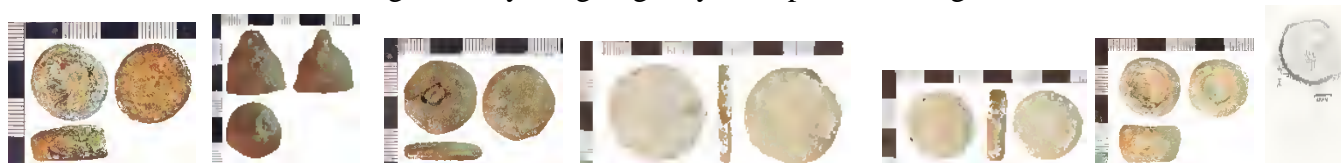
NLM-A31A92

Heavier types for cord

NLM-79A7C9

NLM-B7C896

Viking abolition of coin-striking government left economic participation dependent on exchanges of bullion or barter. The habit of assuring value by weighing may have persisted long after the reintroduction of coins.



Plain lead weights appear to respect Viking-Age systems of measurement

NLM-555647

NLM-F50847

NLM-94BC7E

NLM-79CEA2

NLM-79B804

Weights with insets

NLM-79C4DF

NLM5766

Some Viking converts to Christianity were zealous to parade their new religion. Yet the old beliefs informed motifs chosen to decorate horse-gear, as if manliness, social status and pagan heritage went hand in hand.



Brooch fragments and pendant crosses

NLM-CA830A

NLM-A69254

NLM-820A89

NLM-270CC7

Stirrups bear motifs drawn from Norse legend

NLM-94C281

NLM-AAB862

NLM-B85BD2

NLM-75F102

An ingot mould may have been used to reduce metallic loot to more manageable forms. Fragments from spurs observed the decorative fashions of the North, and followed those conventions long after conversion.



Ingot mould fragment

NLM-34C2F7



Mounts from stirrups and a bridle cheekpiece fragment

NLM-6B5572

NLM-E0C460



NLM-FCA4D7

What's in a name?

Scawby means *Scalli's farmstead*, from a Viking personal name. This suggests a name only given to pre-existing settlement after about AD 870. Finds from Scawby may suggest the takeover to have been more a change of management than of character.

The Medieval period (1066-1500) 225 records

Medieval coins appear loosely centred on Scawby and the adjacent settlement of Scawby Brook, nearer to Brigg. Most were probably distributed on arable fields along with other household sweepings. Other common finds include dress accessories and lead weights. Some categories are of slightly restricted distribution: harness pendants, for example, are mostly from between Scawby and Ermine Street. Few objects come from the further, western, side of Ermine Street, and those that do are mainly buckles perhaps distributed from Messingham Lane. The road may often have operated as a limit to manuring, and perhaps separated Scawby's infield and outfield land.

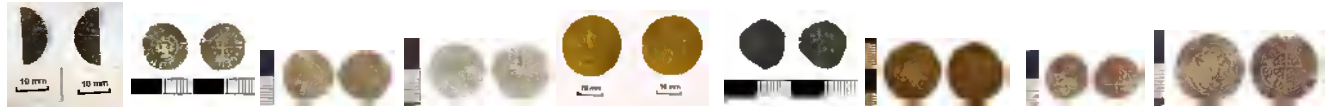
Coins range from issues of Henry II to Henry VII, with a later 13th-century peak to deposition. Those from close to Scawby itself include a representative range of lower values or fractions used in daily transactions.



Coins from Richard I to Edward IV (1189-1483), recorded from nearer to Scawby itself

NLM-FC7336 NLM-E0BA33 NLM-5694A2 NLM-979E5F NLM-E0D970 NLM-498051 NLM-B45527 NLM-F5AD94 NLM-E107A1

Coins from near Scawby Brook include a high proportion of later issues and higher value denominations. This might suggest profit arising from proximity to the market at Brigg, or even *forestalling* that market.



Coins from Henry III to Henry VII (1216-1509) found nearer to outlying settlement at Scawby Brook

NLM-BB5352 NLM-1686D4 NLM-652A6A NLM-744D7E NLM-337712 NLM-1669F7 NLM-F1F932 NLM-DCBAF5 NLM-F56E88

Buckles are mostly of single looped forms and a larger number are of later medieval date. Most buckles and strap fittings have cast one-piece frames; composite types are proportionately rarer than might be expected.



Buckles from around the Scawby Brook settlement

Messingham Lane buckles*

NLM-3AC392 NLM-16A165 NLM-E9AF45 NLM-4EDB6B NLM-43CB11 NLM-A390E6 NLM-748EFF NLM-CC14F3 NLM-F49574



Buckles from around the northern end of Scawby village

NLM-023E9A NLM-566863 NLM-9FF919 NLM-F52B68 NLM-271FB7 NLM-CA983E NLM-B4B08F NLM-26F9B1 NLM-42BF14

Harness pendants include few heraldic types and more of non-heraldic or composite forms. Some of a group of circular gilded pendants might come from a single harness, and were found at the north end of Scawby.



NLM-3B89EF NLM-2660E7 NLM-073BE7 NLM-B8664E NLM-FC6AFA NLM-752024 NLM-48EBC5 NLM-5564C8

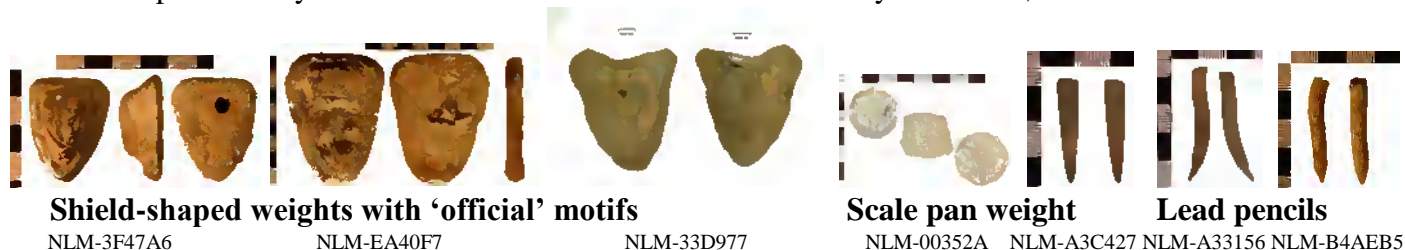
Harness pendants of composite and non-heraldic types seem unusually common in this ample sample

* The last Messingham Lane buckle illustrated has *AMOR* (love) inscribed on its loop, probably as a romantic gift. Ladies' girdles represented by outlying finds at Scawby seem to have been rather finely fastened, and were perhaps unfastened in private spots. See also the unusual NLM-B84B6D, a splendid Romanesque fastener of strikingly ambiguous form.

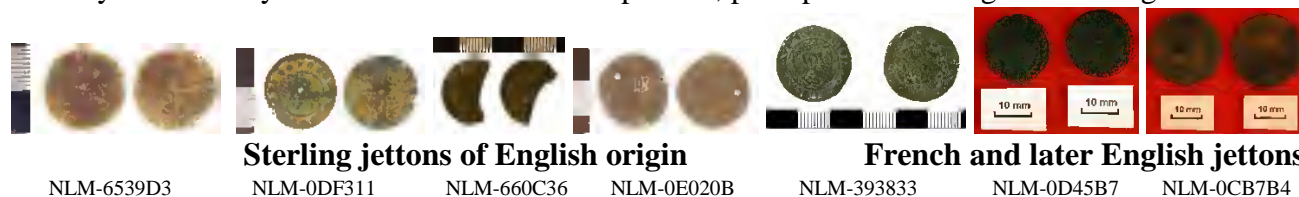
The Medieval period (1066-1500) continued

Lead weights perhaps used for small sales of bulk goods may relate to the holding of markets, as at Brigg, while fishing weights include groups along the Brook. Jettons used with a counting board come from the northern part of the parish. Lead pencils may indicate functional literacy – a limited use of letters and numbers in support of other enterprises. There is less trace of pilgrim traffic down Ermine Street than at nearby Kirton, but a mould may point to enterprising use of local fossils by a would-be badge maker: the impression of a shell resembling a cockle was captured in lead.

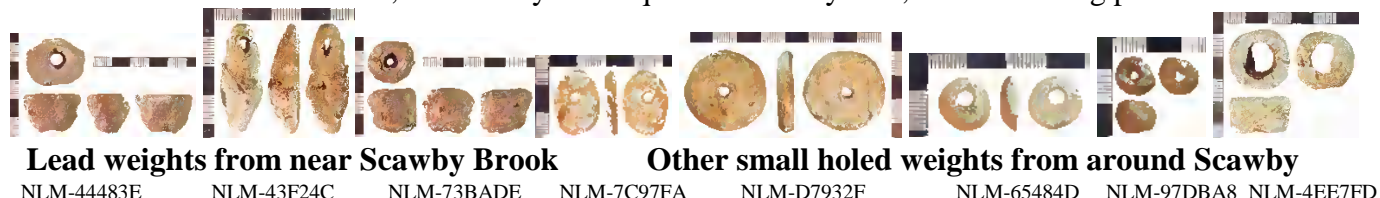
Shield-shaped weights presented the veneer of official sanction to the purchaser, while scale pans were also used. Lead pencils may have been used to write on hard materials by craftsmen, or on wax tablet notebooks.



Jettons were counting office equipment, moved around a chequer board to do sums; these were found close to Scawby and Scawby Brook. Jettons were often pierced, perhaps to discourage their being used as coins.



Lead weights holed for a line suggest that anglers dangled in the Ancholme, and probably the Scawby Brook too. Some forms are common; others may be unique to a river system, or for catching particular sorts of fish.



Though pilgrim badges are few – the best here comes from Amiens, France – it seems fossils from the local Ironstone had mileage for their makers: a lead mould was perhaps a stage in the making of pilgrim badges. A torn ampulla fragment shows the quasi-magical operation of emptying its contents to refresh failing land.



The Post-Medieval period (1500-1900) 547 records

An ample record yields a wide-ranging picture of post-medieval Scawby. Coins represent almost every monarch from Tudor times onwards. Buckles, strap ends, dress hooks or tags and buttons are from clothing, while many mounts were probably from leather horse harness. Weights are usually from kitchen sets, though

other purposes are also represented, including the agricultural use of water pumps. Lead spindle whorls may point to a cottage industry, possibly the plying of cord to make rope. As before, objects were incorporated into rubbish which ended up on the fields, though they were now deposited to either side of Ermine Street.

One-piece cast double-looped buckles for straps give way to a curved frame with a steel spindle which was used to fasten shoes from the later 17th century. Similar fasteners closed breeches at the knee or stiff collars.



Buckles to fasten straps

Curved buckles for shoes, breeches or collar

NLM-9FEE05

NLM-60CDB6

NLM-48BE36

NLM-B60802

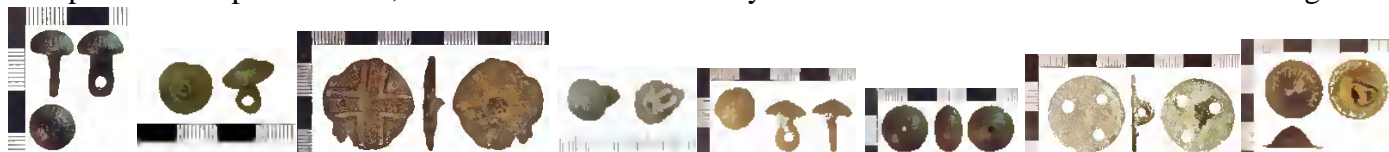
NLM-074456

NLM-65A728

NLM-309EE3

NLM-B5FBD6

Buttons also developed from one-piece cast forms or those which only required finishing with a drill, to die-stamped and composite forms, which from the 19th century came from new urban centres like Birmingham.



Buttons of copper alloy and lead alloy: earlier types which were probably made locally

NLM-F529B7

NLM-F37300

NLM-E69392

NLM-86CB11

NLM-F5090B

NLM-F53287

NLM-0DCE1E

NLM-B83232

Dress hooks or hooked tags are of uncertain use, but outnumbered contemporary buttons. A design with an openwork cross motif appears more often than others here. A silver clasp fragment was formerly enamelled.



NLM-746AFF

NLM-E32A6F

NLM-F3D1E4

NLM-B42632

NLM-753445

NLM-753DF7

NLM-AC0041

NLM-F35FF8

NLM-49F037

Composite (no. 1) and one-piece dress hooks or hooked tags

Silver clasp

Lead weights gave way to copper alloy, though official inspection was no guarantee of accuracy. Specialist weights included chemist's sets, hem weights, and heel-shaped lead weights to seal the chamber of a pump.



Lead and copper alloy weights for shop or kitchen

Hem weight

Weights from water pumps

NLM-D78473

NLM-6D1F3B

NLM-01C2E2

NLM-01CD2E

NLM-0DEB81

NLM-F78F55

NLM-E2EF53

NLM-16EF67

Lead whorls of biconical forms may have been used to ply cord, as they are rather heavy to spin a yarn. These were copied by casting at home, with blurring of the decoration, or sometimes onto simpler forms.



Spindle whorls with line and pellet decoration, some copied onto cylindrical versions

NLM-B50C3A

NLM-B5F5F5

NLM-CF1011

NLM-9E80C4

NLM-B71896

NLM-A2CC07

NLM-56C8D2

NLM-42B062