

## **Finds on your Doorstep – 6000 years of life in Whitton - finds recorded on the Portable Antiquities Scheme Database (search for [finds.org.uk](https://finds.org.uk)) – by Martin Foreman, Finds Liaison Officer for North Lincolnshire**

### **Prehistory, Neolithic to Iron Age (4000 BC- AD 43) 11 records**

Whitton occupies a promontary on the River Humber, now overlooking a navigable channel. Both its name and position may suggest it was flanked by marshes in antiquity. The earliest finds suggest sustained activity from the Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age (2500-1800 BC), and comprise flint tools, an arrowhead, and other utilised flint. They may indicate settlement or visits by hunters, and lay in a loose arc on the landward (south) side of the modern village. Late Iron Age finds come from much the same areas, and comprise coins of the East Midlands Corieltavi tribe and a fragmentary bridle fitting.

Flint tools include a Neolithic knife fragment and a 'toolkit' of the Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age; the tools bear overall retouch and one is polished by handling. Possible arrowheads may be of a similar date.



Celtic coins span the period between 60BC and AD 40, and all but one are incomplete. A ribbed object may be associated with horse-gear; the Parisi of East Yorkshire are noted for their use of chariots as grave goods.



### **The Roman period (AD 43 – 410) (20 records)**

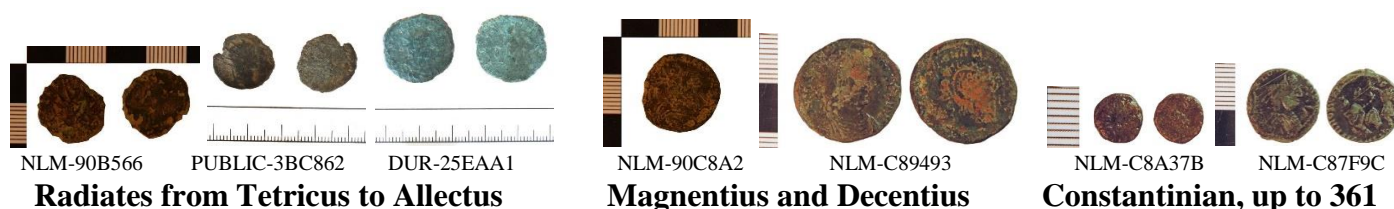
Roman Whitton is overshadowed by better-researched neighbours: Winteringham, to the east, and Brough, across the Humber. Finds indicate activity from the later 1<sup>st</sup> century to the 4<sup>th</sup>, albeit most are ill-located.

Early Roman brooch fragments include 'Dolphin' types of possibly military affinity, fragmentary headstud and trumpet brooches, and a fine 'East Midlands enamelled' type of the Corieltavian heartland. Coins are of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> centuries, the latest being eccentric late issues of the House of Constantine (of 355-361).

Brooches included a range of types common in North Lincolnshire, and span the later 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries.



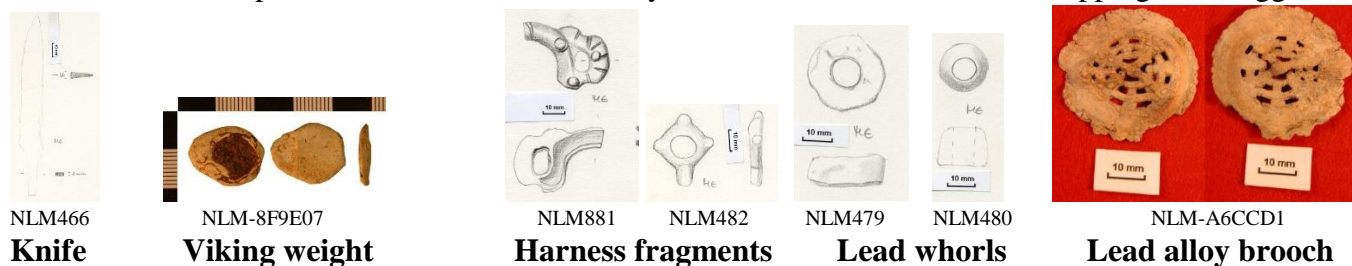
Late Roman coins include issues of separatist rulers; one at least was probably deposited in the early 350s. As in some neighbouring parishes, the sequence of coins gives out before the Valentiniac issues of 364-378.



## **The Early Medieval period (410 – 1066) 7 records**

There is no unambiguous evidence for the arrival of the first Anglo-Saxons at Whitton, as is the case in the neighbouring parishes. The only candidate is an iron knife which might date to that or a later period. Viking activity is represented by a weight observing the system of measurement observed in the 'kingdom' of York and Dublin under whose rule the former Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Lindsey fell. More objects, including whorls from domestic settlement, date to the Anglo-Scandinavian period, when conversion to Christianity produced a Danelaw culture where affiliation to the new religion sat cheek by jowl with northern pagan heritage.

A weight with inset coin is the only Viking object from Whitton, from when looted bullion transactions replaced the use of coin. Other metalwork is later and includes lead spindle whorls. A Borre-style brooch with cross motif is paralleled at York and Beverley, and manufacture of these at Coppergate is suggested.



## **The Medieval period (1066-1500) 24 records**

Medieval coins indicate occupation from the mid-13<sup>th</sup> century to the early 14<sup>th</sup>, and other objects imply an occupation which continued throughout the 14<sup>th</sup> century. In so far as find-spots are recorded, deposition was east of Whitton village and alongside the road leading from West Halton. This small assemblage offers a surprisingly consistent view of a prosperous lifestyle with noble pretensions. The objects include buckles and strap fittings, some of later composite construction, fragments of metal cooking pot and tableware, and heraldic horse ornaments. A fine book clasp adds refinement to the picture of genteel life in an isolated spot.

Coins and buckles suggest a respectable occupation which continued into late medieval times. Decoration and robust construction of some buckles is unusual, and they may include workshop-made composite types.



Metalwork is of consistently high quality, suggesting a genteel horse-riding occupation benefiting from a well-equipped kitchen and formal dining, a purse to jangle, and after-dinner reading while the meal settled.



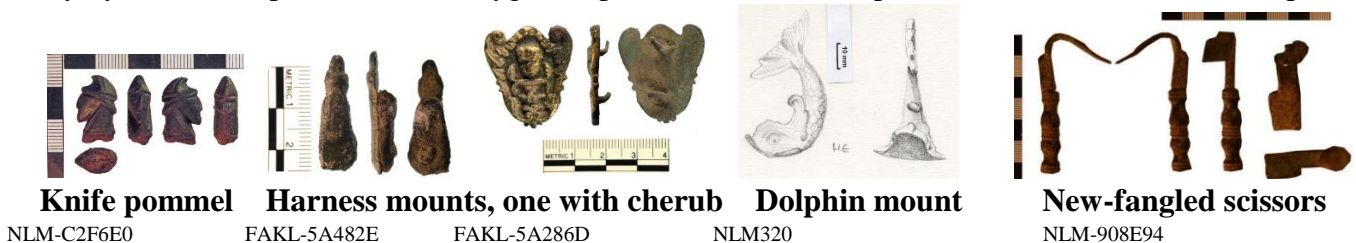
### **The Post-Medieval period (1500-1900) 21 records**

Post-medieval finds come from Whitton itself and from the fields around it to the south and east. An imperfect record comprising a modest number of objects suggests a most respectable occupation through the Tudor period and up to the Civil War (1642-1649). Classically-derived Renaissance motifs represent a cultural diffusion from metropolitan circles typical of the countryside in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century. At least some of these objects would seem at home in a setting whose respectability appears firmly established from medieval times. Later objects are less well represented, so the artefact record is muted where its later fortunes are concerned.

Dress fasteners include hooked tags, a pin, buckle fragment and a toggle. A decorated button might hint at Royalist affiliation, though it is crudely homemade. These are dress fittings of Tudor and early Stuart times.



Renaissance motifs were adopted enthusiastically among the educated, though local renditions can appear oddly hybridised. A pommel with Phrygian cap, a cherub, and a dolphin all draw on the Classical repertoire.



Later objects include a suite of mystery objects perhaps related to horse harness. A jew's harp was a popular musical toy, while a possibly Masonic pendant may date to any time from the later 17<sup>th</sup> century onwards.

