Robert King, late of Pickering, discovered the vestiges of the Danus Sinus road in the fields near the village of Broughton, where 11 Roman urns were found, in making the fences of the late enclosure.

Christopher Sykes, writing in 1824 about 5 ‘Roman’ urns left by his brother to the York Museum, says ‘The Broughton urns formed part of a collection belonging to my late brother, and were bought by him of a man of the name of Larpent in 1502 or 3, who resides in Malton; he stated that they were found by some labourers digging in a Field in the Township of Broughton near Malton, on the road to Hovingham’.

The OS records 9 burial urns found S of the road (1840).

By 1853 Phillips at least had recognized the Broughton urns in the York Museum as AS: and illustrated his book with an inaccurate wood-cut of one of them. However, since the only circumstantial account of their provenance was written of third-hand knowledge 20 years after they were found, there can be no absolute certainty as to the site. Elgee supposes all the so-called Roman urns found here to have been Anglo-Saxon, and this by no means necessarily so. Only further excavation can settle the matter, but in the meantime the site has been accepted, since the urns may represent foederati attached to the Roman fort at Malton.

C. N.B. A small long brooch, dated to c. A.D. 500 was the only AS object found within the Roman fort at Malton in 3 years’ excavation. (Ant J. XXVIII (1948), 176.)


ante 1912 ‘2 “long” brooches have been found, doubtless with a burial, at Bulmer, and are now in the British Museum. They closely resemble those from Goodmanham and Asgarby Li, dating from c. 550.’


1937 During the excavation of a gravel pit at Burton Fields, human bones were found 4 deep with a bracelet made of a circular rod of white metal, swollen in one place to represent the head of a serpent. About the same time a toilet set was found in one of the excavating buckets. It is also made of stout white-metal wire, and has 3 instruments strung together on a twisted wire ring; one was broken, one has a flattened elongated-lozenge-shaped blade, the third is spatulate, and provided with a tiny circular spoon at the end. These probably came from the same grave, and are ornamented like the bracelet with groups of lines, and with dots and interlacing ornament also. Parallels were found at Burwell Ca, and the burial is obviously a late one.

A Roman burial was previously found on the site.


1818 ‘Whilst excavating for the foundations of a house on an estate in this place, the workmen discovered 2 human skeletons c. 5’ or 6’ below the surface in the ground, in an unusually perfect state of preservation, but upon exposure to the air they gradually crumbled to dust, except the skull and some of the larger bones. No coffins were observed, but in the earth, on each side of one of the skeletons were found 2 antique circular ear-rings, of a vitrified glass, a blue, tinted stone, of beautiful transparency, with a perforation through each, and suspended by a few inches of very fine gold wire, rudely twisted through the centre of each aperture. A plain gold ring, somewhat corroded, was also found with the bones. The ear-rings were presented to Whitby Museum, by Dr Raines . . . and the ring was allowed to be kept by John Loker, the man who first made the discovery. From the number of human bones exhumed in the gardens, at the time above-mentioned, it was supposed that the field had been an ancient cemetery, though no coffins were found.’

This site was recognized by Elgee as AS; because of the character of the very few grave-goods, which do not appear to be still extant, one may assume it to have been a late cemetery.


1865 During gravel-digging, bones were discovered in a barrow in Holdde, a natural gravel mound c. 150 yds. long, 50’ wide, 8’ high. Lukis and Greenwell excavated 4 burials, lying...
been within a few inches of the surface; but since earth had recently been dumped on the site it was impossible to tell exactly.

The Roman structure was probably part of a block of secondary buildings—slaves’ quarters or workshops—and derived by the time it was used by the AS.

ante 1957 4 more brooches had been found. Further excavations showed that occupation of the site had extended into the V.

A large buckle, in chip-carving, of a type similar to those found at Vermand, was found in one of the buildings with a IV-V Roman coin. It is a continental provincial Roman import, and unconnected with the AS discoveries. A crude ‘double dolphin’ buckle was also discovered.


‘In a field near the railway, about a mile to the E of Great Driffield, and between that town and village of Nafferton, is a large flat mound of earth, which has long been known by the name of Cheesecake Hill. . . . The tumulus is nearly circular, much in the shape of an inverted saucer, but of a very irregular form, having a diam. of c. 90’ [Wellbeloved says c. 50 yds. diam., 5’ high] with a very gradual descent to the circumference, beyond which the ground, for the most part, rises as if by a natural undulation. . . .

1845 Workmen removing soil from the mound ‘discovered c. 3’ below the surface a human skeleton; on the following day another; and several more as the work proceeded; but the exact number has not been ascertained. 

. . . The bodies would appear to have been deposited in an erect position, and, in some cases, had been interred in a confused manner, with the head bent on the chest and knees drawn up. 

. . . With most of them were found beads of amber, glass, etc.; brooches and clasps. Near one skull of one was a mumbo of a shield with 3 or 4 flat circular discs of iron arranged round and near it, and a large spearhead.’ Other objects recovered were an arrow- or javelin-head, 2 knives, a pair of scissors (doubtless modern), brooches including a large cruciform and a semicircular-headed brooch, a pair of clasps, tweezers, and a bone disc or playing-piece.

Several vases of coarse earthenware, of a common AS type, some of them described as containing charcoal and bone ash, were also found.

The natural soil of the tumulus is described by Mr Jennings [the owner of the site] as a small white gravel; but the bodies seem to have been placed in a layer of chalk or lime.

1845 The mound and a 30 ft. stone double cistern, known as ‘St Cuthbert’s Well’, were explored by the Yorkshire Antiquarian Club, and 9 skeletons were found. The excavations are described by Thurnam in Ackerman, and (copied by Mortimer). All but 2 of the skeletons had grave-goods; some seem to have been previously disturbed. In one grave a female skeleton in a crouching position lay over an extended male; they seemed to have been buried simultaneously.


ante 1933 An AS cremation cemetery was said to have been found just below the junction of the Costa-Pickering Beck, near Kirby Misperton Bridge, but Dr Kirk had no first-hand knowledge of it.


1862 Atherope dug away a mound of stones on his estate at Dinnington, a little to the S of the village. It was c. 134 paces in circumference, 42 long, c. 35 broad, and 7 to 8’ high. The stone was the light sandstone of the district, and most of the pieces were more or less equal in size.

22 skeletons were found; 12 were in the centre of the cairn, nearer together but not superimposed.
posed, without any associated objects or definite orientation. Some were 12 deep, one only 2; ‘The workmen said, “The skulls lay between the legs”; “The thigh bones were at the back of the neck” and I [Rollenstein] suppose consequently that the bodies had been buried in a sitting posture.’ This is not clear and possibly the skeletons had been disarticulated as sometimes occurs in AS burials. ‘Only one skeleton was extended, and its head lay to the NW... At the E end [of the mound] a skeleton was placed far apart from the rest, a point of importance to be noted, as Sir R C. Hoare has put on record that the deposit in the long burrows he excavated was typically at the E end... A considerable proportion of these skeletons had belonged to aged individuals, and the hypothesis of a battle will not account for the facts of these burials.’ The skull shapes were thought to resemble the Roman.

Elgee considered that these burials might be AS, but in the absence of more accurate records of the excavation, or of associated objects, it is impossible to be sure.


ante 1851 Quantities of bones were said to have been turned up by the plough on the site of a barrow standing at the head of the Gipsy Race, on a farm called Kellethorpe.

1851 Londesborough excavated the barrow, reduced to c. 4’ in height, and found the disturbed remains of several skeletons at a very slight depth in the centre. The primary BA burial was in a cist; on the N side of the barrow 2 skeletons were found close together, the lower one of BA date, with a beaker, the other with a curious bone object, to which was fastened a hollow iron ball, in its hand. In one place on the E side of the burnt area c. 5 were cremated remains of bone belonging to different skeletons, more or less burnt, were found throughout it. ‘In the centre... lay a skeleton at full length, the vertebrae and middle portions completely calcined, but the extremities not so much destroyed. Quantities of charcoal were met with in both above and below the bones. The red gravel formed a conical heap, and it was evident that the fire had subsided before the earth had been placed over it, as there is no appearance of the latter having been subjected to any heat.

The number of interments in this tumulus had been very considerable, the remains of 10 different skeletons having been exhumed during the investigation. The head of one is peculiarly long and narrow, and near it was found a circular fibula of bronze [the illustration of this shows that it is a flat bronze ring brooch, slightly ornamented, and of AS date]. This was at the W end, but several other skeletons being close together and at angles, nothing satisfactory could be made of them. Parts of 2 mortuary urns of Roman-British or Saxon—were found scattered at a considerable depth over the N and E parts of the barrow.

1870 and 72 Mortimer excavated, and discovered 27 further AS inhumation burials, and one BA. Nearly all lay with their heads towards the centre, in a more or less flexed position. 6 were burials of children, 2 being buried in a triple grave with a young woman; 4 of them were without grave-goods. 17 graves were furnished, with spearheads (one of the spear shafts having been broken and the ferrule and head placed together by the left shoulder), shield-bosses, buckets of bronze and iron, cruciform and several flat annular brooches, shears, combs, a horse bit, a buckle, a large bronze socketed and a flat bronze object with little bucket-shaped ornaments around the edge, similar to one found at Cheesecake Hill Y.

1887 Labourers digging gravel on the S side of the mound found 2 graves c. 3’ deep, of adults, probably crouched. Beads, a ring brooch, a massive silver buckle, a knife, a bronze horse brooch, fragments, and heads of amber, bone, and earthenware were recovered from them. Subsequently 11 more graves were discovered, partly within the area excavated by Lord Londesborough, but were carelessly dug out by the workmen. They produced further articles similar to those already found.


1893 While levelling 2 small fields adjoining the King’s Mill Road, we made a recreation ground, and we then found several human skeletons in gravelly subsoil. Afterwards some food vessels were found, mostly broken and dispersed before Mortimer saw them. All except one of those he saw were dark in colour, semi-globular in shape, 4” to 6” in height and diam. The exception is of a dull red colour, wide-mouthed and apparently ornamented with roulette stamps.

About 12 skeletons of men, women and children were recognized, found from 10” to 18” deep and extending over an area of c. 40’ by 60’. Many interments may have been missed, since the ground was only lowered from 6’ to 18’ over the site. There was a slight rise observable on the surface, which seemed to indicate the site of a barrow, and in the middle grave-area was a cremated British interment, or so Mortimer thought.


1876 During the excavation for a short railway siding to the Driffield Cake Mill several interments, apparently AS, were found. Some were accompanied by bits of iron and fragments of AS pottery, some of which Mortimer acquired. There were also traces of one or more cremated interments.

In the BMNH collection is a skull from B. Davie’s collection ‘Malton-Driffield railway’; by the side of the skeleton lay an AS iron sword 2’ 8” long. It is difficult to tell whether this is from this site or not. It may be from Garston II Y.


1820 ‘Whilst excavations were being made for the foundations of a house on the N side of the new road in Driffield, the workmen found 2 human skeletons, which appeared to have been interred at an early period.’

1876 ‘Whilst excavating the foundations for a wall at the gas-works, 8 or more skeletons were found at a depth of c. 2’, with their heads in various directions. No relic was observed by the workmen, who smashed up the bones, most care was wanting but there should not be likely to notice small objects. The bones were much decayed, but some fragments of the skulls preserved seem to resemble AS crania.’ Mortimer supposed all these skeletons might belong to an extensive AS graveyard.


1858 When Gibson, the owner, was removing part of the Moot Hill to fill up an old chalk pit close by, ‘AS remains including a sword’ were found.

1882 During the excavations for the new drainage course for some distance along the Scarborough road, near the E end of Bridge Street, 12 or more skeletons were found hardly 2’ deep, lying in various directions in the middle of the road. These were broken up by the workmen, and no relics were obtained. Mortimer supposed that these might all have formed part of the mound.

1883 A necklace of 11 glass and pottery beads in Hull Museum, labelled ‘Found near the new waterworks 1883’ perhaps came from this site.

Driffield see also Cheesecake Hill Y.

Upper Dunsforth with Branton Green. Mixed cemetery. Secondary in barrow. Y 138 SE. SE 426633. GM (1787), pp. 564-65. E. Hargrove, History of Knarborough (1799), pp. 82-3. circa 1785 ‘3 m. NE of Aldborough is a tumulus called Devil Cross, whose elevation is c. 18’, and circumference at the base 370’. It was broken into some time since... The soil consists first of a black earth, and under that a red sandy gravel, human bones entire, and urns of various sizes, containing burnt bones and ashes. The urns are composed of blue clay and sand, generally very coarse, some ornamented and others quite plain. Hargrove illustrates a plain urn, with a small narrow neck, 9’ 3” in circumference, which looks very like an Anglian urn.


1940 During the construction of a house on top of a hill 100’ high, 2 m. from the Humber and with a good view of it, some skeletons were found 1’-1’ deep in gravel. They were of men and women, and one child who seemed to have been buried in a sack. The burials were in shallow pits, placed anyhow. One man of powerful build lay at right angles across the body of a middle-aged woman; and other bones were thrown in face downwards, and one was
headless. Sheppard thought that they might have been buried hastily after a skirmish. 2 of the women had annular brooches, 1 flat, one of wire decorated with groups of incised lines. The child had a twisted silver wire ring with 2 green-blue glass beads. With one of the men was a knife and a square length of iron, perhaps a sharper. Other finds from the site were further flat annular brooches, beads, a buckle, blade, iron points, and the head of a bone pin.


In Greenwell's collection was the skull of an adult male, one of 70 skeletons contracted at Etton. There were no signs of a barrow. Greenwell considered them AS.


1958. A number of skeletons were unearthed in a field. In the Hull Museum are a blue glass pendant with herring-bone decoration and a silver mount, and beads (2 green paste, one blue glass and one pear-shaped amethyst), found with a female skeleton, and a bronze wire finger-ring and an iron nail found with a male skeleton.


1811. The tenant partly removed a barrow in 'Roundfield Hill' on a knoll of limestone on the slope of a hill above the River Aire near Ferrybridge, but he found so many human bones that he desisted. One of the skeletons was said to have been in armour, and may therefore have been of an AS warrior.

1863. The barrow was opened again by 2 people from the neighbourhood, who found 2 extended skeletons in the centre, 1 'day', one overlapping the other. The upper skeleton was of a tall man, the one under a shorter but more strongly framed person, and both were probably AS. 18' to the left, but rather deeper, was a third extended skeleton. The heads of all 3 were to the W.


1853. While making the foundations for a church adjoining the Wesleyan Chapel, c. 80 yds. SE of Fimbmer Church, the remains of 6 or more bodies were found. They were not more than 2' from the surface, and some of them had the legs more or less pulled up. They were accompanied by fragments of iron and pieces of pottery, mostly destroyed at the time; the few preserved appeared to be AS. The skeletons were examined by Dr. Clements, who said they were of a small people, and mostly women and children.

In 1870, 2 bodies were discovered close to the S side of the church; one near the E end of the porch 2' deep, with a small penannular brooch of late type. The other was about the same depth, situated near the E end of the church. Near by, but deeper and not connected with the burial, was a bronze pointed object of unknown date.

It seems clear that the BA barrow on which the church had been built was used extensively as a cremation burial. So far as Mortimer knew, however, the churchyard was not used for Christian burial until 1877, although the church was early.


In 1877 Greenwell found the secondary burial of an AS woman in a barrow 60' in diam., 1' high. The burial was 12' of the centre and the only part of the skeleton remaining was a single tooth. With it, however, were 'portions of woolen fabric...3 cruciform brooches and a waist-clasp belt, all of bronze, the belt gilded; a necklace of amber and glass beads, a spindle-shaft of clay, and 2 vases, one quite plain, the other ornamented after the usual fashion of the so-called AS pottery.' R. A. Smith describes this decoration as a reversed S pattern, and from the style of the brooches, dates the burial to c. 550.


1866 Mortimer excavated Beacon Hill barrow, then 44' across and 1' high, standing in an elevated position. Near the centre of the barrow, only 6' deep, he found a skull and parts of an arm bone. Close to the S side of the skull was an iron spearhead with split socket, 11' long, pointing westward. It therefore seems probable that the head was at the W end of the grave. A little further S were portions of 2 blades of a pair of iron shears, but most of the burial had been removed when the beacon was made (1588).

The primary interment was 'British'—i.e. BA.


1865 Labourers on the Malton and Driffield railway c. 300 yds. W of Garton Station, discovered a human skeleton 10' to 12' deep, close to the N side of the railway. Mortimer visited the site the same day, and the skeleton was described to him as lying on its left side, head N, the legs slightly bent, the left arm at full length by the side, the right doubled back with the hand near the head. 'Behind the skeleton were 7 iron spearheads. The largest had a ridge along the middle and was 7' long. The other 6 varied in length from 5' to 3'. They were in a row, reaching from the back of the head to the lips. All specimens have sockets for inserting shafts, and in 2 cases the impressions of wood are visible within the sockets. A portion of the skull, which is preserved, is that of a young individual.'

'Thinking this skeleton might be accompanied by others, the ground all round was well trenched, but nothing further was discovered.

Neither the spearhead nor the small dart-heads appear from the illustrations to have split sockets, and the spearhead has an unusually small blade and long socket.


1848-52. During the construction of the Malton and Driffield railway several skeletons were found, but no grave-goods noticed.

1870 Mortimer excavated a barrow standing to the S of the railway, c. 200 yds. S.W. of the W of the Garton gatehouse at the Green Lane crossing. From its northern edge he found AS sherds, possibly a hearth, extending for 40 yds. (until cut across by the railway) along the northern fosse of a British double entrenchment—leading from the Emsworth springs to the chalk hills—which divides at this point and encloses the barrow. The usual method of burial seems to have been to place the body in the hollow by the side of the rampart, without digging a grave, and then to cover it sufficiently by filling in the fosse with soil mixed with animal bones and potsherds. The skeletons were usually on their sides or back, with the knees pulled up, heads to the NW, 30 or so graves were discovered, all but 7 furnished with grave-goods of a late type. The objects included food vessels, a work-box, spindle whorls, annular brooches, a pear-shaped jet and gold pendant, a circular gold pendant with a central gold boss and filigree work, bone combs, iron knives, buckles and bridle bits. Very many of the graves contained animal bones which must have been placed there as joints of meat. Mortimer does not describe the urn, which was packed around with medium-sized stones, so that it may not have been AS. 46' to the E, Mortimer discovered a further series of c. 30 graves, again buried in line, but orientated with heads to the W. The series had no grave-goods. One skull was buried in a coffin. Other differences were noticed—in the western graves there were nearly always pieces of burnt wood, but not in the eastern. All the graves were narrow, but the eastern were always long enough, the western usually cramped. The hand of the eastern skeletons were more usually at the lower part of the body than the western.

Mortimer wondered if the two cemeteries were of different age, or whether one was pagan and one Christian. The relics in the supposed pagan cemetery are late in date, and so it may be contemporary with the Christian one without grave-goods. None of the skeletons had been disturbed by a later grave, and so there may have been small mounds above them.

See also Driffield III Y.


Circa 1800 When the rampart of the entrenchments called the Double Dyke was cut through, in levelling the high road from Sledmere to Garton and Driffield, 10 or 12 skeletons were found.

1860 When posts and rails were being
erected, a skeleton was found on each side of the road.

1866. Workmen found more skeletons when levelling the entrenchment near the memorial to Sir Tatton Sykes, on rising ground to the N of the Garton Slack Group of barrows. Mortimer recorded 42 graves altogether, strung out along the base of the rampart. The graves were of men, women and children, all with the heads to the W. 28 of the bodies were extended, one greatly doubled up, 9 more or less crouched, the rest unaccountable. The only grave-goods found were some fragments of AS pottery, one or two knives, a spearhead, an arrowhead and a bone comb. The remains of other skeletons were found disturbed, and in 4 or 5 graves a child's skull was found near the adult burial. In one grave there may have been a coffin.

1872. 3 excavations were made on the E side of the road, opposite the 1866 discoveries. The first, 30 yds. from the road, revealed an adult male skeleton near the centre of the rampart, c. 2' deep (i.e. half-way down). The second, 50 yds. from the road, exposed 2 burials. These 3 burials also had their heads to the W. The third excavation, 70 yds. from the road, disclosed only fragments of animal bones.


1868. Mortimer excavated a barrow 70' diam., 2' high, on a natural rise. 4 secondary burials had been made in the ditch surrounding the barrow when it was three parts filled. One was of a young child, buried in a crouched position, near a few burnt bones of a young person; the second was an adult, head SE, with the legs bent back from the knees; the third, also an adult, was on the right side, head to the W, both knees bent up, and hands in front of the breast. 16' NW of the skull were traces of the bones of an infant. None of these had any relics, and were c. 18' deep from the surface, 10' into the trench.

A fourth skeleton was only 10' below the surface; the knees were bent, but it was not doubled up as the other skeletons; the head was to the N. 2 corroded iron objects, one apparently the remains of a knife, the other 'probably a sharpening iron' (the illustration shows only a long iron point) occurred across the lower part of the skeleton, just under the bones of the forearm—i.e. possibly thrust through the belt.

1872. When the large double cemetery Garton II was found 200 yds. to the N of the barrow, Mortimer dug the extreme edge of the barrow to look for further remains, and found another skeleton 2' from the surface, of an adolescent 10-14 years old. Near the skull were the leg bones of a small pig, but nothing else. The closely crouched position resembled that of a BA grave, and the type of the skull, Mortimer considered as probably AS.


ante 1912. From a woman's burial on Hambledon Moor, not precisely located, came a plain annular brooch, a small buckle, a silver pin with expanded and imperfect head, and part of a thread-box with its chain. All these are in the British Museum, and the last item belongs to the same class as specimens from Uncle.

The burial belongs to the late class defined by Leeds and Lethbridge.


ante 1865. Some barrows were excavated on Sunny Bank, W of Hawshy. In a large one 120' circ., 4' high, was the skeleton of a young woman head N with a leather girdle ornamented with a cross pattern, set with garnets and fastened with gold rivets, 2 hairpins, one of silver, one of gold, 4 silver annular brooches and one of moulded bronze, blue glass beads and one spindle-whorl. At the head was a thin bronze bowl c. 11' diam. with 3 handles or escutcheons, with a wooden cover ornamented with strips of bronze in a diamond pattern. There were also part of a knife and several corroded iron fragments.

Only 2 or 3 of the smaller tumuli had interments. In one was a skeleton with the head to the W, legs bent backwards 'in the usual position of those in Celtic and British tumuli'; there were no grave-goods. Another tumulus, c. 15' away, was 8' diam., 2' high and surrounded by stones. It covered the skeleton of a 'man lying full length on the right, head to the N'. Near the thorax was a small circular bronze box c. 2' diam. with a lid; both ornamented. Attached to the box was a short portion of bronze chain, 2 larger bronze links, a ring-shaped brooch, and a small iron knife.


ante 1907. A cist made from slabs of chalk, thought to be of AS date, was found beneath the tower of Hesles church during some excavations.


1952. During the laying of a drain 2' deep for the new house on Franby House, Heads Lane, 2 necklaces of beads, mostly amber, and fragments of 2 accessory vessels, one plain, one ornamented, were found in clayey chalk. There was no sign of bones, and further investigation was not permitted. The bones could have been completely eroded, and it is most reasonable to suppose these finds represent at least 2 burials.


1878 & 1880. A remarkable series of Anglian urns were discovered near Heworth. They were found, and contained ashes and bones. Several of the urns contained glass beads and one a pair of fine bronze tweezers with a rich patina, another some buttons.

42 urns were restored by Dr Gibson. These and fragments of others are in the York Museum; but many of the urns must have been completely empty. The urns are of the AF type, and date to the V and VI.


1913. While levelling a slight ridge to make a bowling green for a Hydro at Hornsea, bones were found with some beads reported in the local paper as 'Roman'. Sheppard investigated and observed that the extent of an area c. 12 yds. by 4 yds. 12 skeletons were found, 10 in a row from E to W, the other 2 at either end of a possible parallel row to the N, but no intervening skeletons were found. 7 skeletons had their heads to the S, and were more or less extended, mostly on their sides, the other 5 had their heads toward the N and were more or less crouched. One of the crouched burials was that of a child of 6. The skeletons had grave-goods (one only a knife); other brooches had been found before Sheppard arrived, and it was difficult to allocate them to particular graves. The 4 cruciform brooches found are dated by Mortimer to the mid or late VI, and the cemetery was therefore well within the pagan period. Wrist-clasps, ring brooches, beads and 3 food vessels were also found.

York Museum has from this site a pair of small-long brooches, a smallish cruciform with attached knobs and no lappets, a necklace of small glass and paste beads, probably obtained at about the same time as the objects in Hull.


circa 1798. Christopher Sykes was said to have opened Duggleby Howe, a large isolated barrow with a flat top, now 19'-22' high, but there are no records of the excavations.

1890. Mortimer excavated. In a central disturbed area he found a few nails and flat corroded pieces of iron, one side of a pair of small iron shears, the point end of a bone pin, and a piece of bone apparently from a comb—probably AS. About 250 potsherds were found, a few being AS date. Animal bones were collected, those of a horse being found only towards the top, combined either with AS secondary burials or a later cross-shaped excavation. There were also part of a human lower jaw, probably female, several other pieces of human bone, including parts of a large and small femur (both cut with
a sharp instrument, probably during the previous excavation). These bones indicate that there had probably been at least 2 secondary AS burials. In the mound more fragments of these skeletons were found, and also animal bones, part of an iron knife, 9 rusty nails and other bits of iron, and many potsherds.

Mortimer supposed the top of the mound to have been levelled in AS times, so that it could be used as a Moot Hill.

Kelleythorpe see uncleby Y.


1878 Mortimer excavated Kemp Howe, on Cowlam Farm 6 m. N of Driffield. On the SE of the mound, 1" 2" below its base were found 6 adult skeletons. 5 were parallel, heads to the NW, overlying an earlier oblong excavation beneath the mound; the sixth was lying across the ditch, head W. This skeleton and one of the others were in a crouched position (not closely contracted) on their left and right sides respectively; the rest were extended but slightly flexed, one with the ankles crossed. There were no grave-goods but Mortimer considered these burials to be AS from the skeletal position and the narrow form of the graves.


1824 Mortimer records that in a chalk pit at 2 m. N of the village of Kilham several urns and other relics were found in the first quarter of the XIX. He thought that the 1824 finds were probably from the same cemetery.

1824 A party of excavators dug in a sandpit at Kilham where they had previously 'been successful'; and found a human skeleton of moderate size, 3' below the surface, head NW, legs crossed. But the lower part of the body was a 'brass' buckle, with a plate or loop; and within a few inches a corroded iron ring. 'Close by the breast was a fine piece of neatly worked brass c. 5' in length, varying in breadth from 1' to 3', with a kind of hook or catch on the inner side'—clearly a kind of long brooch. Near the upper part of the right arm was a pair of bronze clasps, and another pair were on the wrist of the same arm. There were several beads of glass and amber near the neck.

The York Museum has from this site an openwork square-headed brooch of the Y closely resembling a large series found near Kiev in Russia (evidently a Gothic type), radiate brooch with blunt-ended foot and formal geometric ornamentation, a developed cruciform brooch of the VI, 5 pairs of wrist clasps, 3 pairs of flat annular brooches and 2 odd ones, a bronze ring, a mutilated little oval bronze annular brooch or buckle, plain strapends, a buckle of bronze with an oblong plate, a perforated Roman coin, and amber and double or triple glass beads. There were also some weapons, including spear- or lance-heads and a shield-boss.


1853 Bateman dug a barrow at Kingthorpe and discovered a disturbed AS secondary burial near the apex of the mound. Some of the bones, including the jaws, and a bronze cruciform brooch 3" long, a boar’s tusk and part of the rim of a vessel of dark-coloured earthenware were found.

Kirby Moorside. Y Y 90 NW. OS records, information from R. H. Hayes.

ante 1949 'Howe End—the site of a tumulus now used as the Tourne Inn in which 12 skeletons in irregular position were found together with 3 urns resembling Roman pottery and signs of fire on the E side of the mound. These were probably secondary burials.'


In Rolleston’s collection, considered AS, were the remains of 2 adult males, 2 females (one young) and another adult, sex unspecified, from Kirby Underdale. Nothing is known of the discovery of these burials. They are perhaps connected with the discoveries on Painthorpe Wold.


1870 On the surface soil of this mound Mortimer found part of a large cruciform bronze brooch, which had probably belonged to a ploughed-out AS burial.


1936 ‘At the NW corner of the large aerodrome’ the skeleton of a man 35–40 years old was found interred at full length. Under the head was a small fragment of an iron ring. Other objects were grabbed up, and afterwards collected from the dump; they included a sword 34" long, 2' wide, 6 knives varying from 3' to 9'' in length, 3 bones, an iron buckler, a ring 1' diam., an iron key and a thick cylindrical piece of iron 1' diam. In bronze were 2 nails and a fragment of heavy wire, 3 thin flat pieces, 2 corroded discs, an edging (?) for a purse, and 2 silvered studs. There were also a gold tab set with garnets, some beads of glass with one of jet and one of amethyst, and a triangular fragment of blue glass, perhaps part of a drinking vessel. Hull Museum has also bronze studs, a large bead, perhaps a spindle-whorl. These objects are sufficient to indicate that several graves must have been destroyed.

Knaresborough-Scotton. Inhumation cemetery. Y 154 NE. SE 343583 or 341591. E. Hargrove, History of Knaresborough (1789), pp. 129–30. OS records ante 1789 ‘Some years ago’ 5 or 6 human skeletons were found by gravel-diggers, side by side, each with a small urn placed at its head, c. 3' from Conyngh Garth. There are gravel pits in both Knaresborough and Scotton which would fit this description.


1856 A glass bead was found in a tumulus at Knipe Howe near Whitby. It may represent a burial.


1849 About 3' from York, on the right of the road to the village of Hessington was a mound called Lamell Hill, situated near the summit of the rising ground on the S side. Its diam. was c. 110' EW, 125' NS, the height varying from 22' on the S to 15' on the W and N.

circa 1824 When the mound was planted, a few human bones were thrown up.

Derry. A deep walk was made, and even more human bones found exposed. Skirmum excavated, and found skeletons laid at regular distances, 2'–3' apart, heads W, 10° to 12° deep. Other human remains were found above this level, but were disturbed, sometimes gathered into small heaps almost touching the complete skeletons. The skeletons were of both sexes, but with probably more males than females, mostly middle-aged, but with c. 6 children and 2 old persons. Most of the men must have been from 6' to 6' 4'' tall, one 6' 8''. Scattered among the disturbed remains, and to within a foot of the undisturbed skeletons were animal remains including the jaws of a small horse and part of the butt of a horn of a deer, made into a ring, but mostly of the extinct ox bos longifrons. In the centre of the mound was a Roman pot, and near it a male skeleton 6' 4'' tall. Numerous iron nails and rivets were found. A seam of moist black burnished clay, partly formed of charcoal, stretched through the mound 10' to 11' deep, 1' to 2' above the skeletons. In 3 places, or near this seam, were the remains of burnt human bones, but they were not scattered through it generally.

There is no definite evidence to date this cemetery; Thurnham considered it probably late Saxon (VIII).


ante 1877 There was a barrow 30 yards to the NW of the great entrenchment running NS over Langton race course; the N side of it had been levelled for the course. The other side was ploughed and many fragments of "Anglo-Saxon" pottery were strewn about immediately beneath the surface, the remains no doubt of somewhat superficial interments.” (Greenwell.)


1883 A plain bronze bowl 6' 6'' diam. was found near the excavations in the New Cut between Rosedale and Leven. ‘It resembles the Barton bowl both in structure and thinness; but has no evidence of hooks for suspension or other form of decoration.’

49. **Gazetteer of Early Anglo-Saxon Burial Sites**

**Transactions of the Historical Society of Lancashire & Cheshire, New ser. XI (1871), 200. Elgee (1933), pp. 185-86.**

*ante 1871* In Lilia Howe, c. 1 m. from the source of the Yorkshire Derwent, were found 4 silver strap-tags, 2 with interlacing ornamentation, 2 with peculiar ornamentation, probably unique—all the ornaments are surrounded by a row of dots, . . . 2 roundels of gold-ornamented rolls of tile-gear work, c. 1½ diam., several plain gold rings, and a gold brooch said to have a white stone in it. This interment is thought to be of the Lilia who died protecting King Edwin from assassination in 625, (see Bede, *Historia Ecclesiastica*, II, 9); and the objects as described would fit this date well enough. The interment was, according to Elgee, in a BA barrow.

Lisset, Doubtful. Y 163 SW. NZ 144580.

**Ant. J., XXVIII (1848), 32.**

1940-41 ‘A large number of human burials was excavated. There was no pottery, but they may be Danish. There was also an elliptical mound with post-holes and pits.’


1875-78 Osleworth, Wold, near the summit of the hill, c. 3 m. N. of the village of Londesborough, workmen found ‘many’ AS inhumation burials during chalk quarrying. These were accompanied by glass and amber beads, bronze brooches, bronze and iron buckles, iron knives and earthenware vessels, which were mostly dispersed. These burials probably included those described under 1880.

1880 2 skeletons were found c. 2 deep; one was disturbed by the workmen and the skull rolled down into the pit; the other skeleton was lying with the head rather raised and facing SE; the left arm stretched out at an angle of 45°. The skull was unusually thick. Near the right shoulder and side were 2 bronze brooches, a bronze bracelet, a blue glass bead, a bronze ?buckle, some iron ?blades or arrowheads? and an iron article like a key.

Later Canon Raine found another skeleton, laid 18° deep on the chalk on the right side and fairly closely contracted, head to the NW. There was a knife above the knee, a brooch and other ornaments at the neck, and a fragment of shell and a small flint scraper near by.

All 3 skeletons were of adult females, and are now in the BMNH. The discoveries are described in the Rolleston correspondence.

1884 A. H. Williams of St John’s College presented to the Cambridge Museum the head of a small-long brooch, several pieces of a curved bronze strip, 2 Roman coins, a strap end, a blue glass bead, a bigger blue one of earthenware with red and white ‘eyes’, a tiny decayed one, and a piece of pottery ornamented with stamps with a diagonal hatching, all from Londesborough.

1895 The East Riding Antiquarian Society visited Londesborough, and a grave was discovered 2° deep. It contained a female skeleton, head E, ‘partly on its back, and left side, with the knees slightly pulled up’. Behind the skull was a plain semi-globular vessel of dark ware, on the breast a bronze square-headed brooch, and a little below were 2 small bronze clasps. R. A. Smith (VCH) also 2 annular brooches, 2 plain bronze discs, an iron ring and buckle, and beads of amber and glass, including Roman melon beads. The square-headed brooch was ornamented with silver plates, and the finds went to York Museum.

*ante 1912* In the Ashmolean were a knife, part of an iron annular brooch, and another of bronze with an iron pin from one grave; a bronze band, probably a bracelet; half a clasp with a panel of animal ornament, an iron key or girdle-hanger, and annular brooches with groups of transverse ribs.

At York were also ‘a square-headed brooch with dissected animal design on the head and running scrolls bordering the foot; in grotesque faces at the 3 angles, a pair of clasps with decorations recalling that below the bow of the brooch, the swelling loops of a buckle (with traces of an iron pin) and a Roman coin of Constantine, unperforated.’

*ante 1940* There are also in the Hull Museum 4 cruciform brooches, (2 very large and elaborate), a pair of unusual girdle-hanger, 6 flat annular brooches, a large annular brooch made of deer’s horn with a massive iron pin, some small rectangular bronze plates with staples, a flat bronze strip, a triangular piece of bronze with a heart-shaped piercing, parts of 2 clasps and a long necklace of beads of graduated sizes, of amber and glass. It is not known when these were excavated.


Although descriptions of this site are not clear, this does not seem to be the same site as that under North Newbald.

1900 A skeleton was found on a grave cut 2° 6’ deep into the solid rock at Market Weighton. The skeleton had apparently been buried chert down, the face turned to the right, the hands crossed beneath the pelvis and the knees partly drawn up. With it were 28 beads of amber, glass and paste, a pair of massive cruciform brooches of developed type, 13 rings buried, 1 p. hall single cruciform brooch, an iron looped plate, perhaps from a belt, a ring made of the tine of a deer’s horn, together with an iron pin, 2 pairs of wrist clasps, also brand new, a pair of girdle-hangers, a food vessel 5½ high and a fragment of another, smoothed on the outside.

In an adjoining male grave was a knife, part of a scarabas, a small spear or javelin head and an iron buckle.

**Melton Hill, Inhumation burial. Y 229 NW. SE 975268. TERAS, XIV (1907), 64. VCH, II, 74. T Hill S & FNC, IV (1918), 319. Hull MP, No. 46, p. 64; No. 117, p. 319.**

1907 A bead and a small annular brooch were found with a skull at Melton Hill, near Ferby, ‘many years ago’.


1850-55 Longbottom discovered ‘many urns and other AS relics’ when excavating clay in the brickyard between the church and the Pottery at Nafferton. They were discovered and no trace remained.


This site is sometimes confused with those at Sancton Y (e.g. in VCH) but should be kept distinct. See also Market Weighton Y.

*ante 1901* ‘Some years ago’ a skeleton was found, the body doubled over with head near the pelvis, and the back of the skull broken in. ‘Later’ a child’s skeleton was found, with a triangular hole on the right side of the skull. ‘Other remains of a more or less insignificant character were subsequently found’—but presumably no associated objects.

1901 Another skeleton was found extended on the back, and with a single piece of rough unornamented pottery. Above it was another skeleton, also extended, with a scarabas, a knife, a steel and some small iron points of doubtful use.

1901-02 Sheppard excavated, and discovered 3 skeletons, close together, c. 2 deep. The first was on its side with the legs partly drawn up; the position of the others is not known. With the first skeleton was a bronze annular brooch, 2 beads suspended from a ring, a pin of twisted silver wire, knife and 2 iron keys. Sheppard later places this site in a sandpit near Newbald, and speaks of ‘numerous skeletons buried in shallow graves in the sand. These were carefully and gradually examined, so as not to make too great inroads on the farmyard crops. It is not clear, however, whether any burials were found in addition to those described.

**Ocaneby Beck, Inhumation burial. Y 137 SE. SE 352621. ANL, II (1949), 51. YAJ, XXXVII (1951), 402.**

1942 During the excavation of a sandpit c. 150 yds. N. of the ford over the Ocaneby Beck, on the E of the lane from Ocaneby to Copgrove a human burial was discovered, lying EW in a grave c. 30° deep lined with limestone slabs, and perhaps covered over with large stones. The skeleton was probably of a young man 25-35 years old; associated were 2 bronze annular brooches of plano-convex section, ornamented with stylized bird’s heads, dated by Waterman to the VII.


1862 A chalk pit in Pudsey Plantation encroached upon a barrow, and 2 secondary
burials, extended with heads to the W, were exposed. 'One occurred near the left-hand margin [? on the W] and was at the base of the barrow. The other was near the right-hand margin [? on the E side] and a little below the base of the mound.'

1870 The centre of the barrow was explored, and immediately under the turf a disturbed skeleton and fragments of AS pottery were found.

1871 Further chalk quarrying exposed the leg-bones of an adult 13' SW of the centre of the barrow. The skeleton was extended, with the head to the NW, the hands on the pelvis, only 6' deep. The skull had been removed, probably at the time when the barrow was planted with trees, or during rabbiting.

1876 The rest of the mound was examined, and on the NW, 8' deep, were found the extended remains of a large-boned skeleton, head SSE, 18' from the centre of the mound. A woman's burial was found, the head SW, laid on the right side, the knees pulled up to make a right angle with the trunk, the left arm bent over the body and the right doubled back with hands to the face. On the breast was a small bronze annular brooch, and near the neck a amethyst and 9 pence beads. Close within the angle formed by the body and the legs were a bronze box containing a ring and an iron needle, an iron knife 4½ long, and the remains of a saddle of woven material with a bronze clasps ornamented with an interlaced pattern, 2 bronze rings, and several elongated pieces of bronze, looped at each end, with corroded iron adhering to them. Corroded iron links were also found, and the remains were more probably from a chatae, parts of the dress remaining in the rust, than from a saddle as Mortimer supposes. These finds are typical of the VII; and the other similar secondary burials found earlier without grave-goods are almost certainly of the same period.

Painthorpe Wold II. Inhumation burial, secondary in barrow. Y 159 NE. SE 829585. Mortimer (1906), p. 120.

1877 Mortimer excavated a barrow (No. 200) to the SE of the last described on Painthorpe Wold. 3 cattle had been buried in the mound in the cattle plague of 1866-67 and this intrusion had destroyed at least one burial, since a thin bronze cap or dish and the iron spike belonging to the shaft of an AS spear were found.


1850 Bateman excavated a stone barrow, 52 yards in circumference, 5-6' high. A little Na of the centre was a skeleton with head to the N; near it was a small iron knife 3½ long, a canine tooth or tusk of some animal, and an 'egg-shaped article of baked clay, nearly 2' long'.


1885 A thick iron ladle was found with a stone bead 1½ diam. in a sandpit. The ladle is 8½ across, 2½ deep, and has 2 spouts, one on each side.


1891 A large shield, a shield-handle and a spearhead were found in a tumulus at Sowerby.


1912 'In Pickering Museum is a small series of antiquities from a grave or graves of the VI at Robin Hood's Bay, consisting of an urn and 2 jars, heads, tweezers, 2 small square-headed brooches and annular brooches of the ordinary type.' (R. A. Smith.)

1933 Elgee wrote that there were one or 2 plain vessels of AS age in the York Museum. 'I believe other objects were recorded from here, but where they or the records are not known to me.'

In the York Museum now, from the Michelson collection at Pickering, are 6 pots labelled Robin Hood's Bay—5 very messy little accessory vessels and one slightly larger. Nothing is known of the whereabouts of the objects recorded by Smith; and the labels and records of the Michelson collection are unfortunately not altogether reliable.


ante 1877 21½ E by N from the centre, 6' deep, in a barrow 100' diam. and 9' high, lay the body of a man, extended on the back, the head W by N. 1' W was another man, and another 1½ further, all laid parallel, supine; the hands of all 3 were placed on their hips.

2' NW of the third man was a fourth, laid on the right side in a contracted position, with the head to the SW, and the hands up to the face. Just beyond the feet of the 3 extended bodies there was another, the bones of which were too much disturbed by the plough to admit of the position of the body being ascertained. It is not improbable that the 3 bodies laid at full length, and indeed the other 2 as well, were those of Angles...

In the absence of any associated relics this is of course mere conjecture; but it is one which at least may safely be hazarded, inasmuch as the position was so exactly that of Anglo-Saxon burials in general.'

Greenwell also excavated a V shaped barrow, a pair to the above. On the S side of the northern limb (210' long by 75' wide at the E and 45' at the W end) and at its eastern end, was a good deal of broken "Anglo-Saxon" pottery, lying at various depths, some of it almost as low as the natural surface. It was not, however, found beyond the part specified, and it is not improbable that an existing mound had been used as a burial-place by the Anglian people of the neighbourhood and that their interments being entirely ploughed away. At the same time it must be remarked that this explanation does not fully account for the occurrence of these potsherds at the level where some of them were met with.'


ante 1912 2 cruciform brooches, perhaps dating from the late V, were found at Rudstone—probably with a burial, since they are a pair. The side knobs are now missing, not being cast in one piece with the head plate, whose sides were bevelled to receive them.

Rudstone see also Thorpe Hall Y.


Museum: Middleborough.

1873 During iron-stone working at Hob Hill, a small plateau 300' high, c. 1 m. SSW of Saltburn, an AS burial ground was found (previous discoveries made here were not recorded). 16 cremation burials were discovered, 4 without urns (a bead necklace one), the rest in dark-coloured urns, mostly partly destroyed by ploughing. 2 were ornamented with shields and bosses and seem to have been of the Buckelarm type. Bead necklaces were found under 5 of the urns and at intervals. The beads were of various shapes, and of glass, amber, crystal, jet (3) and coloured pastes.

1910 24 burials were discovered between January and July. The graves went from 1' 3' apart and ran NS in 2 parallel lines, c. 50 yds. long, and 6 yds. apart. The cremations were more frequently to the S. In one place the remains of an empty urn were found above the unburnt teeth of a young child, buried 3' deep with a bead necklace and the end of a bronze brooch. 6' away was a bronze cruciform brooch. One adult inhumation burial was found with 7 beads, a cruciform brooch and a piece of hide; and another, perhaps wrapped in hide, buried 3' deep and orientated NS, had 3 beads, an annular brooch, an iron buckle with a bronze attachment, and 2 fragments of pottery. An iron fragment, perhaps part of a buckle, was found near a shattered urn. Later 6 inhumation burials were found in one week, and with them were hide, a bead necklace of crude amber and glass, a small accessory vessel and 2 bronze annular brooches. In a large urn full of burnt bones was found a large well-made amber bead, and a piece of fused glass—perhaps a ring. Later a sherd of a jar was found, a pair of arms laid too deep to have been disturbed by the plough to be found as defective; and it was not known if this was due to subsequent disturbance—the beads etc., found beneath the pots perhaps belonging to later inhumation burials—or to ritual smashing.

Later in the year a third line of burials was found, the W edge of the previous interments. A francisca was with a cremation burial, and associated with separate burials were 3 small knives, the socket and ferrule of a spear, a spearhead minus its point, and a piece of oak in which was embedded a bronze ring, perhaps part of a large buckle. Beneath this was an oak celt, perhaps charred as a preservative, 2' wide, 1½ deep, containing the remains of an adult skeleton, with a bronze annular brooch and a necklace of crystal, amber and paste beads. In the same line of burials was found a pair of bronze tweezers in an ornamented urn.
Brown would date the cemetery to the VI because of the franciscan and a florid square-headed brooch.


The confusion concerning the Sancton sites is considerable, and it is often very difficult to decide which of their finds belong to which. Although the site of the cremation cemetery is now known, if any further facts come to light the account of the sites may have to be revised once more.

1873 The OS old 6" map marks an old chalk pit to the NE of Sancton Village as the site of urns discovered 1873.

ante 1875 Rolleston illustrated a talk on the Frilford Gypsies, with drawings of 8 urns found at Sancton, all ornamented with necklines, some with long bosses, stamps and lines on the shoulder. These were given by the owner of the site, Langdale, to the Ashmolean; and R. A. Smith regards all of these urns as cruciform brooch dated to c. 550, claps, amber beads and 2 annular bosses; in addition, 5 annular brooches and a penannular, blue glass bead, a large spindle-whorl and a knife. In a third there were 2 annular, a small spindle-whorl, fused glass beads and fragments of iron and bronze; and in a fourth a disc brooch with ring ornament, 2 annular brooches, a pierced coin, a knife, amber beads, a ‘heavy iron object of sickle form c. 4" long’, and a cruciform brooch perhaps belonging to the beginning of the VI.

ante 1890 Sheppard describes and illustrates 19 urns apparently belonging to a collection made by J. W. Wilson from Sancton. 13 of these were ornamented very similarly to those found in 1875; the rest were plain and roughly made. 11 urns contained grave-goods, including the remains of bronze brooches, wrist-clasps, glass beads, an oval crystal bead, toilet implements including shears, tweezers, and 2 combs (one triangular, one double); a pair of miniature tweezers, knife and shears, all of bronze, and a pair of miniature iron shears, 2 spindle-whorls and parts of a bronze cup or box. 11 egg-shaped pebbles (10 of crystalline quartz, 1 of sandstone), were found in one urn, and a single quartzite pebble with a flint core in another.

1953 J. E. Taylor found broken pottery near the chalk pit at Sancton. F. Wainwright suggested an attempt should be made to discover the limits of the cemetery, and to see if it ante- or post-dated a large dew pond to the N of the chalk pit.

1954 Sutton of Hull Museum put down trial trenches to the W, and 6 urns and numerous pot fragments were found near the chalk pit; further away deep ploughing had left only a few sherds. Among the cremated bones in the urns were bronze objects, including a set of miniature knives, shears and tweezers, some bone counters and part of a bone comb, and fused glass beads.

1955 Excavations were continued to the N, and 27 pottery positions located, sometimes consisting of 2 or more urns placed together. In these urns were a small crystal mounted in bronze, 6 broken combs and numerous fragments of fused bronze and glass beads. In one place, 2 by 1", there was a mass of burnt clay, charcoal and bones; it may have been a small cremation floor.

1956 Excavations were again extended N and E, between the chalk pit and the dew pond. 63 pottery positions were found, and over 50 square yards excavated. A trefoil-headed small long broch was found further from an urn trench put in advance to establish the site. Post-dated the cemetery; under the bank surrounding it were 2 complete and 3 crushed urns. In the urns excavated this year fused remains of glass vessels were found as well as the usual objects.

1957 Excavations continued to the E, N of the chalk pit. 80 scattered pottery positions were found only 8 of the urns were complete. In them were 3 bone spindle-whorls, an iron knife with a bone handle, many fragments of fused glass and bronze, a pair of miniature tweezers and another of very large size.

The cemetery site must originally have been on level ground, fairly high on the Wolds. The urns appear to have been scattered over the site in a regular system of spacing, although they were often c. 30" apart. A small semi-circular brooch hole had been scooped to hold each of them, either in the sandy topsoil or the chalk subsoil. Sometimes they seem to have been family burials—in one place a large urn containing adult bones had been broken when 2 smaller children’s urns were placed on top.

About 200 urns were found, all of AF type, either plain cooking pots or food-vessels, or ornamented ‘cremation urns’ proper. They vary from 16" to 4" in height, according to the age of the person buried. Sometimes the urns had been deliberately holed before burial.


more skeletons were found all more or less contracted. Over the head of one was a very fine Saxon urn . . . profitably marked; . . . with another were several beads of glass and amber, a fine leaf-shaped flint arrow-head, fragments of urns and charcoal.' (M. Foster.)

ante 1912 R. A. Smith records ‘a small but interesting series from Sancot . . . in the possession of Mr. Storr’s Fox of Bakewell [which] comprises the contents of 2 extended burials and one cinerary urn, all found in Mr. Thomas Foster’s paddock.’ This may be safely taken as the same site as that described in 1882; the finds Smith describes probably being made subsequently. The urn was ‘incomplete at the base, but well ornamented above with stamped rosettes and sedge-shaped patterns in triangular spaces and between chevrons.’ The inhumation graves contained a cruciform brooch with separate side-knobs, slight openwork wings, and a loop at the end of the foot, dated by R. A. Smith to the mid VI, ‘2 annular brooches of bronze 14’ across, 2 pairs of bronze clasps, lobed and angular, a spearhead 19½ long, 17 rough amber beads and one of glass with white wavy markings on blue; also a bone awl and a few flint flakes that may have had no connection with the interments.’

The Bakewell collection is now in the Hull Museum; the urn is missing but in addition there is a clay spindle-whorl.

Scotton see Knaresborough Y.


To the NE of Seamer, on the extremity of Seamer Moor, the chalk rises ‘into a round knoll, not very great elevation. It appears that the brow of this knoll was occupied by an early AS cemetery. During a long period of years, however, a large portion of one side of the knoll has been gradually cut away by the operations of a very extensive line-quirry, which there can be little doubt has destroyed the greater part of the cemetery, without leaving any record of its contents’.

circa 1845 ‘It is, however, remembered by people in the parish that c. 20 years [before 1865] . . . the quarrymen in clearing away the surface earth, found a number of skeletons, which . . . they . . . buried in Seamer churchyard, but no one knows whether any personal ornaments were found with them.’

1857 Workmen clearing away the surface earth to reach the chalk found ‘several gold ornaments and other articles’. Lord Lonsdor- borough heard of these finds when the wife of one of the men tried to sell them in Scar- bow, and he discovered the site, and he and T. Wright investigated, first sifting the earth which had been thrown down. In it were found ‘a small, hard-baked AS urn, in brown pottery, elegantly formed’, a diamond-shaped gold pendant of filigree work, set with ‘jewelled garnets, 2 gold rings, one large, one small, a large silver ring, 2 gold pins, the heads set with garnets, 2 gold beads, 2 gold pendants set with gems, 3 elongated triangular gold tabs of filigree work, set with garnets, a large silver annular brooch, formed in the round and ornamented with animals’ heads, fragments of an ‘elegant band of fine silver wire, plated: a small bronze buckle, fragments of other bronze articles, beads of glass, amber, paste and amethyst, a small thick ring of jet, a pierced coin, a small rivet, a quantity of broken pottery, fragments of iron, some of which appeared to be from a coffin, and a piece or two of rather thick glass.

On trenching the ground above, a skeleton was found in a crouch position; it had with it a circular bronze ring belonging to a girdle, a small knife, and fragments of bone and iron, perhaps from a purse and a buckle.

1871 In Hull Museum are 2 large iron ‘keys on an iron ring, labelled M. (for Mortimer?), Seamer 1871.


1959 P. A. Rahtz (for the MOW) excavated 49 inhumation graves in a cemetery whose limits were not found. ‘The graves are irregularly orientated and disposed, and represent roughly equal proportions of male and female, with some children and babies. Most contained grave-goods, including necklaces of amber, glass, red crystal, jet, and bronze wire; cruciform, square-headed and annular brooches: wrist-clasps; knives; objects of wood and bronze foil; needles; silver-plated bronze buckles; girdle-hangers; a silver disc; much fabric and one shield umbo. 2 burials were in coffins (probably of planks); one of these had a well-defined post-hole adjacent to the foot-end of the coffin, probably for a grave marker. The other was the richest grave found, and was marked by a cairn of chalk blocks. The skeleton, probably an adult female, was extended; it was accom- panied by a bronze cauldron (with iron handle and triangular base drawn out from an everted rim), 2 necklaces of 203 amber and glass beads, a large gilt bronze square-headed brooch with divided foot, 2 smaller bronze square-headed brooches, a pair of decorated gilt wrist-clasps, a pair of girdle-hangers, an iron ring, an iron knife, a pair of triangular bronze pendants, a wood and shagel thread box and traces of fabric. The grave pit was deep and in the upper half, separated from the coffin by a few inches of soil, was a secondary burial. This was also probably an adult female, accompanied by a few grave-goods which could have been worn on the body. The skeleton was lying face downwards, with feet and elbows raised in a position that suggested a violent burial; part of a garment (perhaps a tunic) was found on top of the pelvis. Preliminary examination suggests a dating range for the cemetery of mid VI—mid VII.’


ante 1933 A cist burial was found at Spaunton on the Limestone Hills, containing the extended skeleton of a round-headed man accompanied by a small AS food-vessel and beads.


ante 1933 ‘Anglian urn.’

Stancill, Doubtful. Y 291 NW. SK 609690. YAJ, XXXV (1940), 261–69. JRS, XXX (1940), 167–71. 1938 A large trench for a water-pipe was being cut through Stancill Farm, 2 m. N of Tickhill, when a skeleton was discovered and police were called in. Many others were revealed—perhaps up to 40—and a stone wall found. 2 sacks were said to have been removed and some skulls went to Doncaster Museum. There was a local tradition that a medieval church had stood on the site, and it was thought that this might be its churchyard. Smedley and Whitling made a preliminary investigation, and found strongly cemented walls and 2 skeletons, one above the other, lying NS and EW.

1939 Further excavations revealed a Roman villa and c. 30 more skeletons in different parts of the building. They were mostly of men, several c. 30 years old, but one elderly man with osteo-arthritis. There were 3 or 4 children 5–8 years old, and 2 youths of 15 or 16. There were no signs of rough handling or mutilation, so the skeletons are unlikely to represent a massacre. ‘One skull showed signs of high intelligence.’ The burials probably postdate both Roman buildings. They were laid in all directions, and are therefore supposed not to be Christian. All observed by the excavators were lying on their backs, but the workmen reported some of those found in 1938 were on their sides, and that there was one woman’s skeleton with a child’s lying above it. Fragments of bones, skulls and teeth of cattle, sheep and pig and ‘a portion of the tibia metatarsum of a large bird, too fragmentary for certain identification’ were found with the skeletons, but no dateable objects.


1937 During the construction of a petrol pit for Messrs Major & Co., near the roadside at Staxton, human bones were found in the upper part of a hill slope consisting of fine sand and gravel. Sheppard investigated, and finally collected the finds together at Hull Museum. He describes them in the Naturalist, but unfortunately implies that there was at least one other cemetery site, which also produced objects about the same time. For want of more definite information, all his remarks will be taken as applying to the highest elevation of the grave groups, being distinguishable; the other objects being found before Sheppard was able to investigate.

With the first skeleton, female, were a pair of applied brooches with a star pattern, a pair of clasps, a plain heavy bronze ring, a pair of elaborate girdle-hangers, clearly new when buried, 2 bronze strap-ends, an ivy ring 6 in. long, and 2 fiddle, a long necklace of 83 amber
beads and 2 of dark blue glass, with a pendant of Cypraea Panthetera shell, and a small group of 9 amber and 3 glass beads, perhaps a bracelet.

With the second skeleton was a necklace of 80 amber, 5 blue glass (4 bugle) and 2 double beads, a pair of girdle-hangers, new when buried, an iron key, a thin bronze tube with an iron centre, a pair of ring brooches with ring ornaments, a pair of clasps, 2 small wire rings, one with a flat piece of bronze attached, a bronze buckle, an ornamented piece of bronze, pieces of bone and teeth perhaps from an animal bone, a massive annular brooch with an iron pin, a large bronze pin and a white drum-shaped bead of meerschaum.

‘With a third skeleton some particularly interesting objects were unearthed’, including an elaborate square-headed brooch, once gilt. Also found (presumably with this skeleton) was a basket with bronze binding, 2 pairs of clasps, a plain penannular brooch, a pair of tweezers, a circular bronze disc adhering to a mass of rusty iron, 2 circular iron buckles, a large iron key and part of a knife, a necklace of amber beads of various shapes and a sherd of AS pot with necklines.

A fourth skeleton, evidently female, had a pair of girdle-hangers, a large penannular brooch of bronze wire, 3 flat annular brooches, an oval disc brooch, 2 pairs of clasps, tab-ends, an iron knife, a bronze tube fitted with iron, 2 small bronze pieces, a sherd of a Roman pot with rubbed edges and another of AS pot, 2 pieces of bone tube c. 1" wide, a spindlet-whorl, several squarish fragments of wood, a necklace of 14 amber beads with a single flat bead of blue glass and another of 12 beads, the canine tooth of a dog or pig, and a bronze projection from a square-headed brooch.

Unassociated objects found in one or more of the burials were: 2 small animal bones, 2 large cruciform brooch, and ‘a pair of small cross-headed fibulae’, the upper part of a radite brooch, a pair of girdle-hangers, 2 pairs of clasps, a slivered oblong plate, a folded piece of bronze with the remains of an iron buckle, a necklace of amber and blue glass beads, the remains of 2 secondary vessels, 2 iron knives, 3 spears, a key and unidentified iron objects. This cemetery (or cemeteries) is remarkable for the large number of amber beads found, and also for the girdle-hangers which are extremely rare north of the Humber.

1939 Gwatkin of Scarborough Museum excavated at the Staxton site, and discovered at least 5 graves 2—of which there are photographs in Scarborough Museum—with crouch burials. From these came 5 flat annular brooches, 2 from one grave, an iron axe head and a large fragment of an urn.


ante 1805 A plain urn, with an everted rim, considered by Sheppard to be AS, was found containing cremated human bones.


1960 A biconical Anglian urn, undecorated, and an iron spear ferrule were found with the remains of an inhumation burial.


1868 Greenwell excavated an AS cemetery at Uncelye, and his notes are published by R. A. Smith in PSA. 4.

The burials were partly upon a BA barrow c. 70' in diam.; the AS had laid the bodies on the surface and covered them with earth, and so had extended its area to c. 34' diam. When dug it was found that the bodies were sometimes in rows running EW, 3' apart, those on the E therefore had their heads higher than their feet; on the W the reverse. The later burials outside the outline of the barrow were in graves. Many of the skeletons were contracted, and were orientated with their heads from N to W. Any aged persons buried here were women; the men seemed to have died young. 71 graves were excavated by Greenwell, with 3 were heaps of bones from earlier disturbed burials. A man and a woman had been buried together, and in one man's grave a child's skeleton was laid on the knees. Above one skeleton were the remains of a dog or wolf. Charcoal was found scattered in the filling of all graves; and in 3 or 4 considerable quantities of burnt earth were found around the skeletons. On the E side of the centre of the barrow was a great deal of blue clay. A honeystone 18" long was found standing upright in the chalk 6' deep, not associated with a grave, but close to many. 20 graves were unfurnished, 7 had a knife only, the rest contained brooches (especially of the small, late annular variety), pendants, beads, bracelets and more knives. One had a sword and one a scabbard; otherwise there were no weapons. The cemetery is dated to the VII.


The Oxford collection had the skull of an aged male dug up N of Wadsworth churchyard. It had a ‘spare or dart with it’.

The site appears to be close to where a tesselated pavement was found in 1878.


1868 Mortimer excavated a barrow to the S of the Wharram Percy Group, mutilated by an attachment which had cut through the central area of the site. On the E side, 12' from the surface of the material thrown out of the ditch, was the skeleton of a tall man, lying on his back, nearly at full length, head SSW. There was no relic with it; but a posthole had cut away the umbilical region and the lower part of the chest. To the E, about the same depth, were the leg and hip bones of another skeleton; the upper part perhaps removed by rabbiers. These 2 burials were regarded by Mortimer as AS.


1860 A circular gold pendant, ornamented with filigree work, with a central boss of white material, and set with garnets, was found with a skeleton.


ante 1958 'AS cinerary urn of the VI-VII found near Yarm' and now in the Dormant Memorial Museum at Middlesbrough.'
GAZETTEER OF EARLY ANGLO-SAXON BURIAL SITES

The Anglo-Saxon cemetery is in the centre of one of Roman York's most important burial grounds and 2 burials in stone coffins were found very close to the AS cremations. A sherd of Romano-Saxon ware was also found on the site.

1950-56 Excavations were carried out in the immediate neighbourhood, in order to confirm the location established by I. M. Stead's researches.

No urns were found in situ, but in the filling above a brick culvert were found sherds from c. 8 AS urns, all with clean breaks, and a fragment of a miniature triangular bone comb. It was therefore supposed that the culvert had disturbed AS cremation burials in the XIX. The sherds appear to come from urns very similar to those preserved in the York Museum.

York III. Y 174 SW. Unlocated. Bristol University Department of Anatomy records.

Hull Museum records. Museums: Bristol University Department of Anatomy; Hull, Mortimer.

ante 1898 A. Prichard had in his collection 2 'Saxon' skulls from 'near York'. Nothing appears to be known of their provenance or date of discovery.

ante 1958 In the Hull Museum are 4 spearheads, apparently AS, labelled 'York'. Nothing appears to be known of their provenance.

* * *

SCOTLAND, WEST LOTHIAN


1915 During excavations for military purposes an inhumation burial was discovered, orientated EW, protected by slabs of laminated sandstone. All that remained of the skeleton were some teeth, and with them were a dozen glass beads, very like AS beads, and, as a centre piece, part of the rim of a Roman glass vessel.