

# Arbeia Society Notes

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## No. 1: Roman finds from Sunderland and its surrounding area

*by A. Croom*

*Version 2: 2022*

This list was compiled principally from the Historic Environment Records (HER) and the Portable Antiquities scheme (PAS) and includes both Roman material and material thought or suggested to be Roman in the past. The headings are coloured:

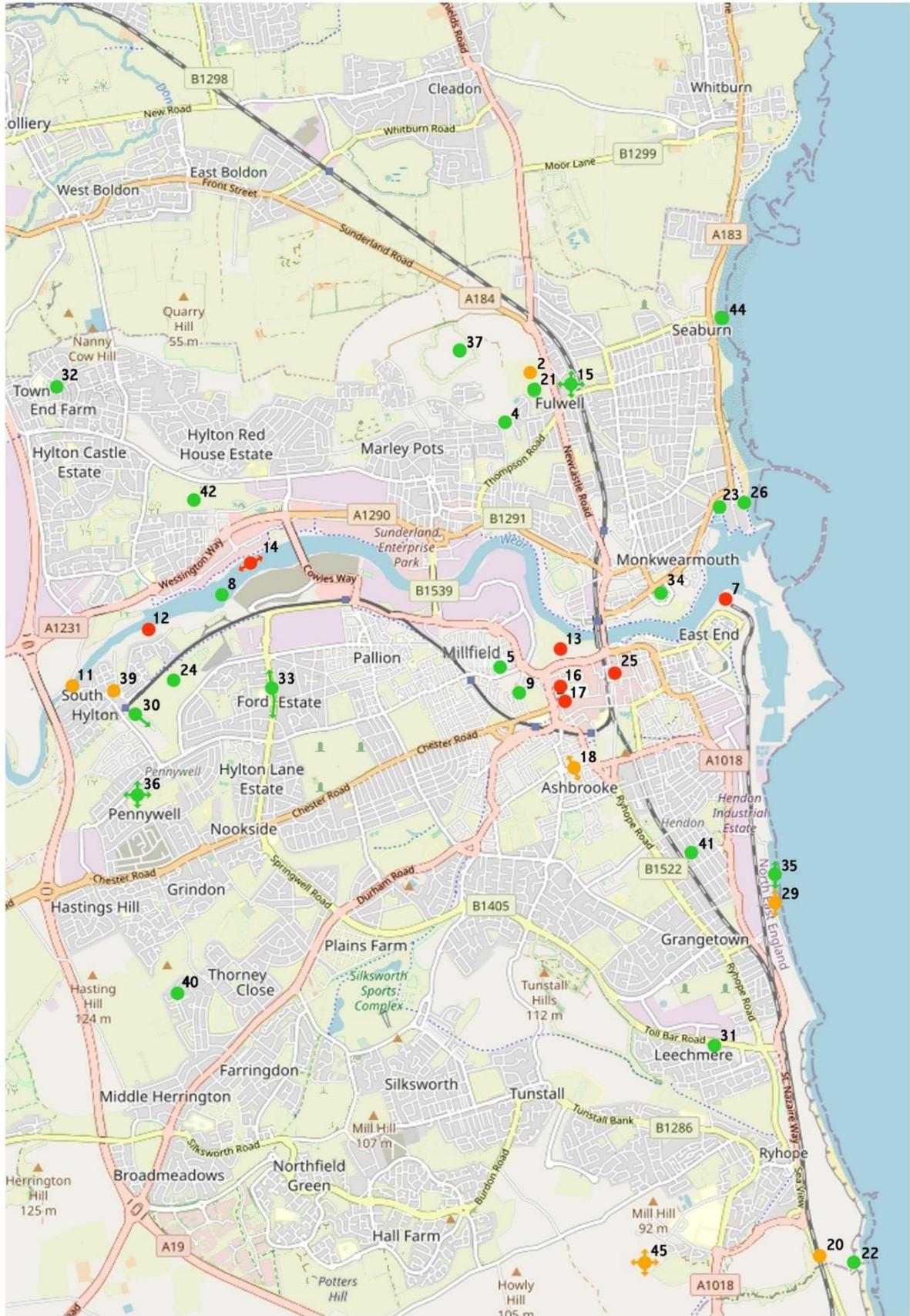
Green           for Roman objects

Amber           for objects that either could be in theory be Roman but are without any supporting dating evidence, or genuine Roman objects likely to have been lost in modern times

Red              for objects that are not Roman or not from the area

References are listed in chronological order, and are not exhaustive; they include only those closest to the time of discovery.

The collection is noticeable because of the large number of coins (at least 35). This is a typical picture for chance finds: the Portable Antiquities Scheme records many more coins than other types of Roman copper alloy objects. On Roman occupation sites, on the other hand, coins are only a small proportion of the material recovered. At Wallsend Roman Fort (1975-1984 excavations), there was approximately 3.7kg of pottery for every coin recovered, and almost twice as many non-coin copper alloy objects as coins. At South Shields Roman Fort (1983-2016 excavations) there was approximately 1.9kg of pottery and 4.3kg of tile for every coin, and 1.7 copper alloy objects. Even at a civilian site such as the villa at Ingleby Barwick, Stockton-on-Tees, there was approximately 2.5g of pottery (113 sherds) for each coin, and 1.3 copper alloy objects. All sites will, of course, also produce other finds of glass, iron, lead, worked bone and other materials. This collection of finds therefore only provides evidence for Roman occupation in two areas: in and around Fulwell, and at Ryhope, since both sites produced a number of sherds of Roman pottery.



*Fig. 1: Map of Sunderland and the surrounding area, showing the approximate positions of the finds listed in the catalogue. See text above for colour key.*

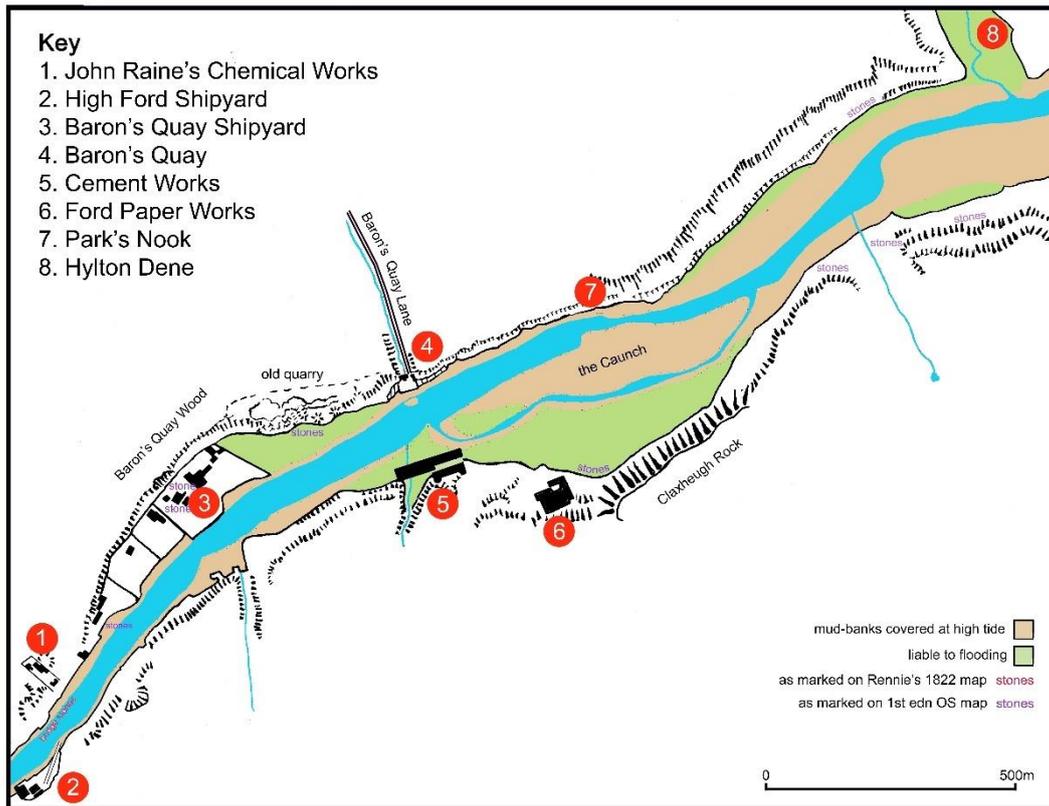


Fig. 2: Map of the River Wear at Hylton and Claxheugh, with some of the places mentioned in the text. The Brigg Stones (no. 11) were in the area between nos 1 – 2. Composite map showing the mudbanks present before the dredging of the river.

## Catalogue

### 1. 'Chisels'

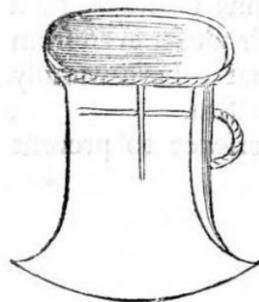


Fig. 3: from Laurence 1727

HER: 23

Description: 'ancient (British or Roman?) chisels being found in the small joints and crevices of the stone' (Summers 1858, 14)

Finds-spot: 'in a quarry near Bishopwearmouth'

Found: c.1721-1727 [as Laurence came to Bishopwearmouth in 1721]

Location: unknown

Discussion: Summers (1858, 14) gives a reference to Laurence's book as the authority for these finds, but Laurence identifies them as Viking, while

a sketch shows the three 'chisels' were in fact Bronze Age socketed axe-heads (Laurence 1727, 130). Summers also identified Neolithic stone axes as being of Iron Age and Roman date.

References: (1) Laurence, J. 1727 *On a New System of Agriculture*, Dublin  
(2) Summers, J., 1858 *The History and Antiquities of Sunderland*, Sunderland

## 2. Cist burial with two coins

HER: 398 (cist), 399 (skeleton), 400 (coins)

Description: a human skeleton 'nine feet six inches [2.9m] in length' in a cist of 'four large flat stones', with the head to the west; Roman coins were 'found on the south side of the skeleton, near the right hand' (Collinson 1763, 492)

Finds-spot: in a quarry 'upon Fullwell Hills, near Muncremouth [Monkwearmouth] in the county of Durham, and within a measured mile of the sea' (Collinson 1763, 492)

Found: 1759

Location: unknown

Discussion: The cist was found in 'a ridge of limestone and rubble [sic]' being removed within the quarry. P. Collinson reported it to the *Gentlemen's Magazine* in October 1763 'a few weeks' after a gentleman had shown him 'some large teeth and two Roman coins' from it; the man had removed the teeth from the jaw. The coins, 'in a state of excellent preservation' were said to be in the possession of one Alexander Kirkaldy of Monkwearmouth by 1834 (Mackenzie and Ross 1834, 325), but no identification is provided for them.

By 1810, 'a small urn of unbaked clay' was also said to have been found in the grave (Brayley and Britton 1810, 92: in 1891 it was in the possession of T. Wilson, who designed the 1796 Wearmouth Bridge). It is possible this is a Neolithic or Bronze Age vessel, as these have been found in the area, which was at some stage wrongly associated with the giant's burial. Welfare remarks that the 'ridge' could be a prehistoric cairn and if the grave is regarded as Roman then the form of burial (ie inhumation) would suggest a date after the early third century (1980, 24).

References: (1) Collinson, P., 1763 'Description of a large human skeleton', *Gentlemen's Magazine* **33**, 492  
(2) Brayley, E. and Britton, J., 1810 *The Beauties of England and Wales, Volume 5*, London  
(3) Mackenzie, E. and Ross, M., 1834 *An Historical, Topographical and Descriptive View of the County Palatine of Durham, Volume 1*, London  
(4) Welfare, H., 1980 'The Fulwell Giant', *Northern Archaeology* **1**, 22-5

## 3. Milestone

HER: 4991

Discussion: This is *RIB* 2295, which was found near Lanchester. It was later wrongly ascribed to Ford, near Sunderland: see *RIB* for full references.

Found: before 1783  
Reference: *Roman Inscriptions of Britain*: see <https://romaninscriptionsofbritain.org/inscriptions/2295>

#### 4. Copper alloy statuette of Jupiter



Fig. 4: © Great North Museum: Hancock

HER: 359  
Description: 'a Roman figure' (Clanney 1822, 13)  
Finds-spot: 'immediately above the excavations of the Limestone at Carley Hill Quarry, which is situated about a quarter of a mile West of Fulwell Hill, in the parish of Monkwearmouth, and about 200 yards West of Hill House, the residence of Mr Wake, sen.' (Clanney 1822, 13).  
Found: November 1820  
Location: Great North Museum, acc. no. NEWMA : 1822.35  
Discussion: It was found by a quarry-man 'removing the surplus soil ... there were found at the same time, several portions of Human Bones and a quantity of common rock Limpet Shells, imbedded in limestone rubbish and surface soil' (Clanney 1822, 13); previous discoveries of burials in stone-cut graves were also mentioned. The figurine was donated to the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle on 6 February 1822 by Dr Clanney [sic], presumably William Reid Clanny. Mitchell (1919, 21) takes the report of human bones to mean the statuette was found in a grave, although Clanney himself does not say this, reporting that they were found, with the limpets, at the same time but not that they were found together; Mitchell is often not reliable with details.  
References: (1) Clanney, W., 1822 '1822, Feb. 6.' in Anon., 'Donations to the Society since its establishment in 1813', *Archaeologia Aeliana*, 1 ser. **1**, Appendix after the index, 1-13

(2) Mitchell, W. 1919 *History of Sunderland*, Sunderland

## 5. Coin(s) of Constantine the Great (306-337)

HER: 62

Description: 'some Roman coins ... of the Emperor Constantine the Great' (*Gentlemen's Magazine* (1821), 367); 'Roman coins' (*Durham County Advertiser*, 24 March 1821); 'a Roman copper coin, of Constantine' (Burnett 1830, 50)

Finds-spot: 'in that neighbourhood' [ie of Sunderland] (*Gentlemen's Magazine* (1821), 367); 'as some workmen were digging the foundation of a house, near the south end of Villiers Street' (Burnett 1830, 50).

Found: before March 1821 (*Durham County Advertiser*)

Location: unknown

Discussion: The *Gentlemen's Magazine* noted that the reporter, Dr Collingwood Jnr (Dr Robert G. A. Collingwood) had reported it/them to the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle. Rennie's 1822 map shows that Villiers Road South had not yet been built, so its approximate position on the Map is shown at the end of Villiers Street rather than any further south.

References: (1) *Gentlemen's Magazine* (1821), **91** part 1  
(2) Burnett, J., 1830 *The History of the Town and Port of Sunderland*, Sunderland

## 6. Sculptured stone

HER: 39

Description: 'an ancient sculptured stone and some fragments' (Burnett 1830, 70)

Finds-spot: 'dug up near [Castle Well], at the bottom of the cliff'. Castle Well, no longer in use by 1830 was 'near the dock and staith of Lord Durham' (Burnett 1830, 70)

Found: pre-1830, 'several years ago'

Location: unknown

Discussion: The description of this find comes in a report by Dr. Robert G. A. Collingwood, a medical doctor and antiquarian of Sunderland (1783-1866), which Burnett quotes. The stone is not described as Roman, and comes in a chapter on the Anglo-Saxon and later remains in Sunderland; Mitchell (1919, 19-20) seems to be the first to describe them as 'of supposed Roman work', and he is not the most reliable of sources. OS suggests the staiths are the Lambton Drops, and HER suggest the well could have been in Galley's Gill gorge.

References: (1) Burnett, J., 1830 *The History of the Town and Port of Sunderland*, Sunderland  
(2) Mitchell, W. 1919 *History of Sunderland*, Sunderland

## 7. Pottery kiln



Fig. 5: © Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens

HER: 82

Description: circular stone structure considered to be part of a pottery workshop, red and yellow ochre and 'four perfect specimens of Roman bottles of common red ware' (Summers 1858, 13).

Finds-spot: on the site of 'old houses occupying the Pier or Commissioners' Quay', South Dock (Summers 1858, 13); 'a row of two-storied houses ... built at the foot and in front of a high bank at or on the north-east corner of then then then promontory, facing the river (Potts 1892, 58)

Found: January 1849

Location: one of the bottles is in Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens, acc. no. TWCMS : H18122

Discussion: The surviving vessel is a post-medieval flask, possibly a cucurbit, used in the distillation of acids for use in refining metals. It was donated by T. Meik, the river-engineer, who also helped recover the skulls (cat. no. 8). He worked for the River Wear Commission from 1845-1868.

References: (1) Summers, J., 1858 *The History and Antiquities of Sunderland*, Sunderland  
(2) Potts, T., 1892 *Sunderland: a History of the Town, Port, Trade and Commerce*, Sunderland

## 8. Roman coin (c.114-7), human bones and deer antler

HER: 19

Description: 'large quantities of human bones, and the antlers of deer', a 'bronze coin or medal' of Trajan and preserved tree trunks and branches (bog wood/bog oak) (Johnson 1860, 117, 118)

Finds-spot: a sandbank by Claxheugh Rock. The finds came from 'the eastern extremity where the two currents of the divided stream re-unite', on the northern edge of the bank. They were 'dredged up from a depth of ten feet [3m] below the bed of the river' in a layer full of preserved

wood (Johnson 1860, 117). This is the sand-bank called Cyngden Sand on Rennie's 1822 map of the River Wear and Miniken's Canch on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map (spelt 'Caunch' according to Potts 1892).

Found: c.1860  
Location: unknown  
Discussion: Thomas Meik, a river-engineer, helped recover the three surviving skulls and examples of antlers reported on by Johnson (the rest had already been disposed of at sea). He worked for the River Wear Commissioners from 1845 to 1868, although from 1859 he was working on Hendon Dock.

On the basis of the shapes of the skull Johnson identified one large skull as coming from a Roman soldier and one smaller skull as coming from a British woman (*ibid.*, 118, 120), washed away when crossing a nearby ford. He assumed the human remains were of Roman date because of the coin, but since the finds were recovered by dredging the connection is hardly certain. Various skulls have been found in the river: R. Hooppell observed that 'many skulls of men have been found in the Wear near the site [of the Brig Stones]. There are at least six in the Museum at Sunderland, which, I was assured recently by the Curator there, came out of the river by Hylton' (1.3km downstream: *Newcastle Daily Journal*, 27 July 1882).

The exact coin type cannot be identified from Johnson's description (1860, 118-9), but the reverse figure is Felicitas (full dressed, but draped) holding a caduceus rather than the wreath Johnson identifies (easy to confuse the two, if the image was worn, and the fact that none of the legend was legible suggests this side was not in great condition: it should possibly be SENATVS POPVLVSQVE ROMANVS SC).

References: (1) Johnson, F., 1860 'On ancient remains found in the bed of the River Wear, at Claxheugh, near Sunderland', *Transactions of the Tyneside Naturalists' Field Club* **4**, 117-21  
(2) Potts, T., 1892 *Sunderland: a History of the Town, Port, Trade and Commerce*, Sunderland

## 9. Coin of Nero (66 – 67)

HER: 56  
Description: bronze *sestertius* of Nero  
Obv. Bust of Nero  
IMP. NERO CAESAR AVG. P. MAX. TR. P. P. P  
Rev. Winged Victory  
VICTORIA AVGVSTI SC  
Finds-spot: in a field near the Water Works Road, Bishopwearmouth' (*Newcastle Daily Chronicle*, 30 September 1861): the brickfield is shown on 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS maps.  
Found: September 1861  
Location: unknown  
Discussion: the workman found the coin sticking out of an unfired brick

References: (1) *Newcastle Daily Chronicle*, 30 September 1861  
(2) Hylton Dyer, W., 1876, 'Durham and Sadeberge – pagan period', *Archaeologia Aeliana*, 2 ser. **7**, 89-113

## 10. Silver spoon (fourth century)



Fig. 6: from *Archaeological Journal*

HER: 60

Description: an inscribed silver *cignus* spoon, with an incomplete bowl and the remains of a coiled handle. The inscription reads [BE]NE VIVAS, 'may you live well' (*RIB II*, 2420.65)

Finds-spot: 'near Sunderland' (Way 1864, 76). The entry in *Ephemeris Epigraphica* (1872, vol. 7, no. 1159) says it was found 'at the mouth of the river Wear', but this relates to the position of Sunderland, rather than a finds-spot for the spoon itself.

Found: before 1864

Location: unknown

Discussion: Way got his information about the spoon from Mr Hylton Longstaffe, (William Hilton Dyer Longstaffe), a local historian.

References: (1) Way, A., 1864 'Notices of certain bronze relics, assigned to the late Celtic period', *Archaeological Journal* **26**, 52-83  
(2) *Roman Inscriptions of Britain II*, fasc. 2, no. 2420.65

## 11. Structural stones and other finds

HER: 286, 4623

Description: see below for individual descriptions

Finds-spot: (1) The 'Brigg Stones' are marked on M. Burleigh's map of 1737 (marked by letter L); available at <http://iiif.durham.ac.uk/index.html?manifest=https://iiif.durham.ac.uk/manifests/other/pip/pip-46.json>) and the 'Bridge Stones' on J. Rennie's map of 1822 (available at <http://iiif.durham.ac.uk/index.html?manifest=https://iiif.durham.ac.uk/manifests/other/pip/pip-99.json>)  
(2) on the north side they were 'exactly at Mr John Raine's Chemical works, stretching from his property and connecting the south bank just below the High Ford Shipyard'. Lister suggests they 'stood in an angling direction from north-east to south-west' (Lister 1881)  
(3) 'Near Hylton' (*Sunderland Echo*, 25 May 1881)  
(4) with the John Lister shipyard either 'adjoining the very spot where

'The Brig Stones' were situated in the river' (*Newcastle Daily Journal*, 27 July 1882) or 'near the site' (Anon. 1884, 134); at this point 'the ground rises steeply on each side from the edge of the water. At the spot where the remains were found, the bank swells out into a visible abutment on each side, no doubt enclosing masonry' (*Newcastle Daily Journal*, 27 July 1882)

(5) 'the banks of the river were very high between where the stones were, and ran out into the river exactly like abutments' (Anon. 1884, 134)

(6) near 'the river wall, built in recent times for the protection of the bank' (*Newcastle Daily Journal*, 27 July 1882).

Found: 1865 and 1881

Location: See individual entries below for full details.

The majority of the 1865 stones are 'at the bottom of the sea' (Lister 1882), while some of the 1881 stones were 'used in works close by [their finds-spot] ... built into the quay wall and other structures' (Haverfield and Featherstonhaugh 1890, 231). In 1894 Whellan's *Directory* says that 'a few of them might be seen a few years ago [sic], lying at the mouth of the Wear, inside the dock gates' (Whellan 1894, 805). The entry reads as if it is talking about the squared stones found in 1865, nearly 30 years earlier, but it is possible it was actually referring to some of the 1881 stones. Neither Lister nor any other informant (see entries below) directed any of the antiquarians interested in the stones to inspect these particular examples, which seems a strange omission considering these were some of the very few that had not been 'sunk for ever in deep water' (Whellan 1894, 805) and were actually available for study.

Discussion: Stones in the river at Hylton had been an obstacle since at least 1713 (see HER). Lister called them the 'Breakstones or Brickstones' (Lister 1881); Hooppell said they were variously called 'The Brick stones', 'The Break Stones' and 'The Brig Stones' (*Newcastle Daily Journal*, 27 July 1882); Featherstonhaugh mentions 'Brigstuns' and 'Brigstones' (Haverfield and Featherstonhaugh 1890, 231) and in 1910 they were called 'Brixons' (Spencer 1911, 254).

The stones extended across much of the river, with Lister suggesting they might have 'stood in an angling direction from north-east to south-west' (Lister 1881) between John Raine's chemical works, indicated on the 2<sup>nd</sup> edn OS map as 'naphtha manufactory (disused)' (the *P.O. Directory of Chemists and Druggists* of 1876 identifies John Raine and Sons as naphtha distillers, amongst other things), and the High Ford dock (and later shipyard: HER 2650) on the south bank next to the ferry. Lister records that when he was a child the stones were 'always dry at low water, leaving a steep channel from 12 to 14 feet [3.7 – 4.3m] wide at south side, through which the river rushed at great velocity' (Lister 1881). Another old man (in 1881) recalled that there was 'a causeway of solid stone masonry extending across the river at Hylton and raised some feet above its bed. It, in fact, formed a

substantial dam, over which in ebb tide ... the water fell in considerable cascade'. A gap was cut in the stones 'between the centre and the northern shore' in 1881 (Haverfield and Featherstonhaugh 1890, 230). This is recorded in a report dated 28 June 1881 by the engineer H. H. Wake in the River Wear Commission's Minute Book: 'a cut of from 90 to 100 feet [27 - 30m] in width and from 12 to 15 feet [3.7 - 4.6m] in depth below zero level has now, by means of the Dredger 'Hercules', been completed through the 'Brigg Stones' at Hylton' (Minute Book, p202).

#### *History of the discoveries*

The majority of the stones were removed by the River Wear Commission in 1865: these stones included both square blocks and more decorative stone elements 'finely cut and chiselled', 'many ... had very finely cut mouldings', and many with 'the appearance of just having come out of the workman's hands' (Lister 1881). Further dredging of the river in 1881 revealed more stones; the dredger was damaged hitting a massive 'five feet square' block, and further examination revealed 'a row of similar blocks stretching across the river' (*Sunderland Echo*, 25 May 1881). No architectural elements such as those found in 1865 were recovered in 1881, so the character of the two sets of stones were quite different. The River Wear Commission Minute Book indicates that a passage was made through the stones, which were presumably removed, but that not all were cleared away; there was 'still in a great measure' a causeway surviving in 1890 (Haverfield and Featherstonhaugh 1890, 230), although it should be noted the natural geology at this point gives the appearance of roughly squared blocks (Mounsey 2018, 15; pls 3-4).

The newspaper report in 1881 prompted a letter from J. G. Lister, a local shipbuilder, who had witnessed the larger quantity of stones removed from the spot in 1865. Back then, antiquarians had not been interested in the discovery, but the 1881 discoveries produced more debate (especially in meetings of the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle), led by Rev. R. Hooppell, who thought this was evidence for a Roman bridge. Most others were not convinced. One A. W. Hughes responded to Lister's letter a couple of days later, mentioning 'part of a buttress' and a square stone, possibly from the top or base of a column, with a 'foxe's head [sic] with horns in relief' on two sides that had been recovered from the Wear in 1868, although he does not say from which part of the river. He considered these to be post-Roman, and he thought the same of Lister's stones (*Sunderland Echo*, 4 June 1881).

On 26 July 1882, Hooppell read a paper on the stones to the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne after he had visited the site and talked to Lister; the paper was reported in detail by the *Newcastle Daily Journal* (27 July 1882). There were no published *Transactions* of

the Society that year and Hooppell's paper was not published in *Archaeologia Aeliana*, probably, from the report on the discussion held after the reading of the paper, because most people were not convinced the remains were of a Roman bridge (although probably mainly because at that time they thought the upper parts of Roman bridges were made of timber, not stone). At the meeting Hooppell showed drawings of some of the stones done by J. W. Taylor, redrawn from the original sketches made by Lister in a notebook in 1865. Opinions were certainly divided at the time. At the 26 July 1882 meeting W. H. D. Longstaffe said 'some of the stones described were evidently Roman, but one he thought was medieval' (*Newcastle Daily Journal*, 27 July 1882).

The matter was discussed at the Society meeting of 25 April 1883, by a Mr Robinson and Mr Holmes who went out to the site and said there was nothing Roman there, but as Hooppell was not present at the meeting, further discussion was held over to another meeting.

A year later, at the meeting of 30 April 1884, Hooppell gave another paper on 'the traces of a Roman bridge at Hylton'. At this meeting he exhibited Mr Lister's original notebook with the drawings in it. In the discussion afterwards a stone was again identified as medieval ('as pure medieval as it can be': Anon. 1884, 136), and one 'appeared to be Saxon' (which stone was 'Saxon' is not said: Anon. 1884, 136). Hooppell complained about his first paper not being published, and on being asked if he could add other people's views on the stones in a revised paper, saw this as an insult to his scholarship (Anon. 1884, 137-8): no paper appeared. It was suggested the drawings should be photographed for the paper, but it is unclear if this took place (Anon. 1884, 138). A society member, a Mr Hodges, later remembered that a photograph of a 'moulded stone' had been exhibited at some point before 1890: it is unclear if this was a photograph of the stone still in Mr Lister's possession, or if Hodges had forgotten it was a drawing, not a photograph (Haverfield and Featherstonhaugh 1890, 230).

At the Society meeting of 26 May 1890 one W. Featherstonhaugh recorded the results of his own visit to the site 'some years ago', after being asked by Hooppell to make some enquiries (presumably in 1881, before Hooppell was able to make his own visit in 1882). He went to the spot and talked to an unnamed 'intelligent man' who had been there when 'the dam was cut' in 1881 (Haverfield and Featherstonhaugh 1890, 230). This informant said that 'a great many of the stones removed were, he said, used in works close by'; Featherstonhaugh looked at these and said they were 'easily recognised as Roman ashlar stones' (Haverfield and Featherstonhaugh 1890, 230), although without explaining exactly what identified them as Roman. Large ashlar blocks were also used in post-medieval quay walls, such as that in front of the George and Dragon Inn at Hylton

(Fig. 7); the quay was built post-1737, but pre-1822, as it is shown on Rennie's map; cf 1<sup>st</sup> edn OS map, surveyed 1857). Similar large stone blocks can be seen on quay walls elsewhere (eg an 1886 photograph of Mushroom Quay, Newcastle, available at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/39821974@N06/4075863507/>)



Fig. 7: *The George and Dragon Inn, South Hylton, west of the ferry, taken on 2 August 1877 for the River Wear Commissioners. © Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums, acc. no. TWCMS : G17818.*

- References: (1) *Sunderland Echo*, 25 May 1881 (repeated in *Newcastle Courant*, 27 May 1881 etc)
- (2) Lister, J., 1881 'Relics of the past', a letter by Lister in *Sunderland Echo*, 2 June 1881
- (3) River Wear Commission Minute Book, Tyne and Wear Archives, IC. W
- (4) *Newcastle Daily Journal*, 27 July 1882 (repeated in *Sunderland Echo*, 28 July 1882)
- (5) Anon., 1884 'Roman Bridge at Hylton', *Proceedings Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle*, 2 ser. **1**, 134-8
- (6) Haverfield, F. and Featherstonhaugh, W., 1890 'Hylton Ford', *Proc. Soc. Antiq. Newcastle*, 2 ser. **4**, 230-1
- (7) William Whellan and Co., 1894 *History, Topography and Directory of the County Palatine of Durham*, London (2<sup>nd</sup> edn)
- (8) Spencer, A., 1911 *Life of Harry Watts: Sixty Years Sailor and Diver*, Sunderland
- (9) Mounsey, K., 2018 'Site 7, Hylton 'Dam' site, South Hylton,

### 11.1 Building stones and timber structure

Description: Stones:

(1) In 1865: "hundreds of tons" of splendid, squared building stones', clamped together with iron and lead, with either 'a few pounds weight' of lead (Lister 1881) or 'several hundred weights of lead sold as scrap' (*Newcastle Daily Journal*, 27 July 1882); the lead 'was not the least corroded, even the iron points of the clamps were not entirely destroyed' (Lister 1881)

(2) In 1881: 'a large stone block five feet square [1.5m] ...[and] a row of similar blocks stretching across the river' (*Sunderland Echo*, 25 May 1881)

(3) 'there had been a stone causeway on the bed of the river, and Mr Nichol, who had resided at the place for 72 years, stated that he remembered, when a boy, crossing upon the causeway, which was made of large blocks of stone clamped together, and run in with lead (Robinson 1883, 19)

(4) of 'massive size, regularly shaped, and tied with iron clamps bedded in lead' (Haverfield and Featherstonhaugh 1890, 230)

Timbers:

(5) There were also 'several sturdy oaks' (*Sunderland Echo*, 25 May 1881); timbers 'as of a massive wooden framework, were found beneath and amongst the stones' (*Newcastle Daily Journal*, 27 July 1882); 'there was an oak frame beneath' (Anon 1884, 134)

(6) '[The massive stones] were laid on oaken piles driven into the bed of the river, and on the lower side of, and outside, the structure stood piles of great height ... there was found also a great deal of horizontally laid timber, part apparently laid between the higher piles and the perpendicular masonry, part showing signs of having been morticed onto the top of the other timber' (Haverfield and Featherstonhaugh 1890, 230).

Finds-spot: See above

Found: 1865 and 1881

Location: 1865 stones: 'the great mass of the stones ... [are] at the bottom of the sea' (*Sunderland Echo*, 28 July 1882), although another inhabitant of Hylton said they were 'used in works close by ... built into the quay wall and other structures a few yards below [the discovery spot]' (Haverfield and Featherstonhaugh 1890, 231)

1865 lead: sold as scrap

1881 timbers: unknown, although Hooppell reports that some went to Sunderland Museum (although there is no mention of it in the Accession Register for 1881) and some were kept by Rev. W. P. Swaby 'and others' (*Newcastle Daily Journal*, 27 July 1882)

Discussion: In 1865 large quantities of stone were removed from the river, although in 1881 there was still a row of massive 1.5m x 1.5m square

blocks across the river. If the description of the large blocks being continuous across the whole of the river bed is correct it cannot be a bridge as bridges require separate piers. It is possible these had been part of a dam to keep enough water for the ferry: in 1884 the River Wear Commission Minute Books records that people had been complaining about the impossibility of using the Hylton Horse and Cart Ferry due to low water 'since your local dredging operations and particularly as I understand since the removal of a sill across the river bed, somewhere below the ferry, which served to retain a standing of water'.

- References: (1) *Sunderland Echo*, 25 May 1881  
(2) Lister, J., 1881 'Relics of the past', a letter by Lister in *Sunderland Echo*, 2 June 1881  
(3) *Newcastle Daily Journal*, 27 July 1882  
(4) Robinson, J., 1883 'The supposed Roman bridge at Hylton', *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle*, 2 ser **1**, 19-20  
(5) Anon., 1884 'Roman Bridge at Hylton', *Proceedings Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle*, 2 ser. **1**, 134-8  
(6) River Wear Commission Minute Book for 1884, meeting 15 July (Tyne and Wear Archives, ref. no. 202.1023)

### **11.2 Chamfered stones**

- Description: (a) 'it is not so large as many found, but will weigh between two and three cwt [102 – 152kg], from appearance it must have formed part of a buttress' (Lister 1881)  
(b) 'a stone wrought with many facets'. This was 'one of a great number of the same kind which were found, and which, when placed one upon another, formed a wall like a slanting buttress'. Enough of these stones survived to make a pile 'ten feet [3m] or more high' when stacked on top of one another (*Newcastle Daily Journal*, 27 July 1882)  
(c) 'chamfered' (Anon 1884, 136)

Finds-spot: As above

Found: 1865

Location: Lister retained one of these at his home at the time, 'no. 7. Railway-terrace' (Lister 1881); presence whereabouts unknown

Discussion: Mr Robinson of the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle 'examined the stone in Mr Lister's yard, and found it had been a springer of an arch of the 14<sup>th</sup> century' (Robinson 1883, 19), later identifying it further as 'a springer of a large doorway of the 14<sup>th</sup> century' (Anon. 1884, 134). A Mr Holme (of SANT) also looked at the drawing of the stone and said 'the stone – the springer – was medieval work' (Anon. 1884, 135). Hooppell pointed out that there seemed to be too mainly examples for them to be the springers for a doorway (Anon. 1884, 134).

- References: (1) *Newcastle Daily Journal*, 27 July 1882  
(2) Lister, J., 1881 'Relics of the past', a letter by Lister in *Sunderland Echo*, 2 June 1881  
(3) Robinson, J., 1883 'The supposed Roman bridge at Hylton', *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle*, 2 ser **1**, 19-20

(4) Anon., 1884 'Roman Bridge at Hylton', *Proceedings Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle*, 2 ser. **1**, 134-8

### **11.3 Semi-circular stone**

Description: 'a large stone was a perfect half circle, about 12 inches [0.3m] thick, and from 8 to 10 feet [2.4 – 3m] in diameter, with very fine mouldings hardly damaged, having the appearance of the sill of a castellated turret' (Lister 1881)

Finds-spot: as above

Found: 1865

Location: unknown

Discussion: this large stone is not mentioned by Hooppell for some reason (perhaps because Lister did not draw it?)

Reference: Lister, J., 1881 'Relics of the past', a letter by Lister in *Sunderland Echo*, 2 June 1881

### **11.4 Voussoirs**

Description: (1) '24 inches by 22 by 13 at the thick end, and 11 at the thin end' [610mm x 560mm Th: 330 to 280mm], *Newcastle Daily Journal*, 27 July 1882

(2) 'bout two feet long, eighteen or nineteen inches in breadth, sixteen inches in thickness at the thick end, and twelve inches at the thin end' [L: 610mm B: 460-480mm Th: 410mm to 305mm] (Anon. 1884, 135)

(3) 'the key-stone to the arch of a bridge'; this is first mentioned in 1892, and perhaps refers to one of the voussoirs (Potts 1892, 60)

Finds-spot: (1) Hooppell made a second visit to the site on May 27 1882 and found one (no. 1 above) 'lying on the topmost course of stones' of the 'river wall, built in recent times for the protection of the bank' (*Newcastle Daily Journal*, 27 July 1882)

(2) The stone no. 2 above was seen when he made a fresh visit to the site; no exact location given (Anon. 1884, 135, 137).

Found: 1882 and 1882-1884

Location: unknown

References: (1) Lister, J., 1881 'Relics of the past', a letter by Lister in *Sunderland Echo*, 2 June 1881

(2) *Newcastle Daily Journal*, 27 July 1882

(3) Anon., 1884 'Roman Bridge at Hylton', *Proceedings Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle*, 2 ser. **1**, 134-8

(4) Potts, T., 1892 *Sunderland: a History of the Town, Port, Trade and Commerce*, Sunderland

### **11.5 Sculptured stone (leaves)**

Description: (a) 'one had the appearance of a pillar shaft, or column of a window or door, with tracery of leaves like a vine' (Lister 1881)

(b) 'a long cylindrical column encircled with vine leaves' (*Newcastle Daily Journal*, 27 July 1882)

(c) 'a circular stone with part of a vine leaf carved on it' (Anon. 1884, 134)

Finds-spot: see above  
Found: 1865  
Location: unknown  
Discussion: The two descriptions (b) and (c) above were made by the same person of the same drawing.  
References: (1) Lister, J., 1881 'Relics of the past', a letter by Lister in *Sunderland Echo*, 2 June 1881  
(2) *Newcastle Daily Journal*, 27 July 1882  
(3) Anon., 1884 'Roman Bridge at Hylton', *Proceedings Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle*, 2 ser. **1**, 134-8

### **11.6 Sculptured stone (palmette)**

Description: 'a stone sculptured all over with the honeysuckle pattern' (*Newcastle Daily Journal*, 27 July 1882); see also Anon. 1884, 134  
Finds-spot: See above  
Found: 1865  
Location: unknown  
Discussion: 'The honeysuckle pattern' is a palmette design (called *anthemion* in architecture), often used as a repeated border design  
References: (1) *Newcastle Daily Journal*, 27 July 1882  
(2) Anon., 1884 'Roman Bridge at Hylton', *Proceedings Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle*, 2 ser. **1**, 134-8

### **11.7 White metal or pewter inscribed plaque**

HER 44  
Description: (a) a 'circular plate ... being in appearance a mixture of tin and lead, and of harder texture than the lead [used in the stones]'. 'This plate had Roman letters and figures raised on the margin round it ... the letters I could make out were I. M.-D.-A G – or AVG round the margin and letters S.C. or S. G. in the body of plate' (Lister 1881)  
(a) 'in the centre of a large slab was a circular plate, of some white metal, harder than lead, I presume pewter, on which was an inscription'. This was only partially legible, but Lister recorded the following: 'Round the circumference IM D AUG. In the Centre S. C.' It was torn 'from its bed in the slab with a crowbar', but it was difficult to remove and was damaged in the process (*Newcastle Daily Journal*, 27 July 1882)  
(b) 'the letters [Mr Lister] wrote on the sketch were "IM- -D- -AUG"'; the letters 'SC' are not mentioned (Anon. 1884, 135)  
Finds-spot: see above  
Found: 1865  
Location: Lister kept it, but it subsequently went missing, perhaps sold as scrap.  
Discussion: In 1890 F. Haverfield, an expert on Roman inscriptions, cast doubt on the inscription (Haverfield and Featherstonhaugh 1890, 230).

The Romans did not use white metal for formal inscriptions, nor were such inscriptions circular. Lister originally describes the letters as being 'raised'; and while their exact positioning and whether SC was part of a

longer word is unknown, as it survives this could be read as part of an emperor's titles round the edge of the circle and in the centre the letters 'SC' for *senatus consulto* (a term used frequently on bronze coinage but not on inscriptions). This makes it sound very much like a lower denomination Roman coin recreated on a large scale, which is not something that a Roman would use as decoration.

- References: (1) Lister, J., 1881 'Relics of the past', a letter by Lister in *Sunderland Echo*, 2 June 1881  
(2) *Newcastle Daily Journal*, 27 July 1882  
(3) Anon., 1884 'Roman Bridge at Hylton', *Proceedings Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle*, 2 ser. **1**, 134-8  
(4) Haverfield, F. and Featherstonhaugh, W., 1890 'Hylton Ford', *Proc. Soc. Antiq. Newcastle*, 2 ser. **4**, 230-1

### **11.8 Mortar or *opus signinum***

Description: 'fragments of the mortar ... which had bound [the stones] together ... From his [ie Mr Lister's] description it was of the usual character of Roman mortar, composed of lime and pounded brick, and very hard' (*Newcastle Daily Journal*, 27 July 1882)

Finds-spot: see above

Found: 1865

Location: unknown; original kept in Mr Lister's office for a while

Discussion: mortar would not be required if the stones were held together by iron and lead bars, nor on massive stone blocks. Hooppell, however, identifies the material as *opus signinum* (although on the basis of a verbal description 17 years after its discovery). *Opus signinum* is a mortar containing large quantities of crushed orange tile fragments and would equally be out of place on a bridge or causeway etc. In the Roman period it was used as a waterproof and hardwearing surface for floors and plunge-baths in bath-houses, rooms with hypocaust heating and in some high-status domestic rooms. It is not specifically Roman in date, however; it was also used in the Anglo-Saxon period for floors in high-status churches and other religious buildings, including at Wearmouth at the mouth of the Wear (Cramp 2006, 19).

- Reference: (1) *Newcastle Daily Journal*, 27 July 1882  
(2) Cramp, R., 2006 *Wearmouth and Jarrow Monastic Sites, Volume 2*, English Heritage

### **11.9 Bronze coins**

Description: 'old Roman copper coins'

Finds-spot: see above

Found: 1881

Location: unknown

Discussion: these coins are not mentioned again, despite the robust discussions in the meetings of the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle about whether the remains were Roman or not.

- Reference: *Sunderland Echo*, 25 May 1881

### **11.10 Deer antler**

- Description: 1865: 'deers' [sic] horns of immense size ... too rotten to preserve' (Lister 1881)  
1881: 'antlers of a stag' with 14 points (*Sunderland Echo*, 25 May 1881)
- Finds-spot: see above
- Found: 1865 and 1881
- Location: destroyed and unknown
- Discussion: Lister also mentions 'old oak trees' being found in 1865; cf no. 8 above for a similar combination of bog oak and antlers
- References: (1) Lister, J., 1881 'Relics of the past', a letter by Lister in *Sunderland Echo*, 2 June 1881  
(2) *Sunderland Echo*, 25 May 1881

### **12. Paved road**

- HER: 286
- Description: 'a paved road' (Potts 1892, 63)
- Finds-spot: 'underneath the salt grass', found 'when Peverall and Harford [a mistake for Harwood] were erecting the cement works at Hylton', 'the road lead to the Ford, crossing the river to the landing place directly opposite, commonly called Baron's Quay' (Potts 1892, 63)
- Found: 'about the year 1866 or 1867'; they opened in 1867
- Discussion: Potts says that when it was discovered it was 'supposed to be of Roman date' (Potts 1892, 63), although he himself thought it was much later in date. There is nothing to support a Roman date.
- Reference: Potts, T., 1892 *Sunderland: a History of the Town, Port, Trade and Commerce*, Sunderland

### **13. Stone wall foundation**

- HER: 39
- Description: 'foundations of an ancient building ... five feet [1.5m] below the surface, and four feet [1.2m] thick' (Robinson 1903, 98)
- Finds-spot: 'at the point of the river bank, which commands a view of the sea and the mouth of the river'. Castle Street leads 'to the spot where the foundations were found, not far from the first ford, now named 'Deptford'.' (Robinson 1903, 98)
- Found: c.1873 (or 1865: see below)
- Location: *in situ* or destroyed
- Discussion: There is absolutely no evidence to identify this foundation as Roman. The first mention of foundations at Castle Street were made in 1903, of discoveries made 'thirty years ago' (Robson 1903, 98). He reported that: 'Thirty years ago, Mr John Moore, an observing and industrious local antiquary, examined the foundations of an ancient building'. He does not report what Moore thought of the building. It is Mitchell in his 1919 school text-book that makes more definite statements: 'in 1873 the late Mr John Moore examined the foundations, which were four feet thick, and found the worked stones and cement were in keeping with Roman workmanship' (Mitchell 1919, 19). Mitchell, however, is not

the most reliable of sources.

If Robinson was a bit loose in his use of the term 'thirty years', it is possible he was referring to some remains that were dug up in 1865. In that year a wall 'six or eight feet [1.8 or 2.4m]' wide with a number of smaller walls were found five or six feet [1.5 – 1.8m] below the surface 'at the north end' of Rectory Park, which is next to Castle Street (*Shields Daily News*, 17 February 1865). These were identified at the time as possibly a Civil War fort or a castle, from which 'Castle Street' got its name (*Newcastle Journal*, 18 February 1865). It is therefore unclear if one lot of foundations was uncovered in 1865, or if two sets, very close together, were uncovered in 1865 and c.1873.

- References: (1) *Shields Daily News*, 17 February 1865  
(2) *Newcastle Journal*, 18 February 1865  
(3) Robinson, J., 1903 'Bishopwearmouth tithe barn', *Proc. Soc. Antiq. Newcastle*, 3 ser. **1**, 96-99  
(4) Mitchell, W. 1919 *History of Sunderland*, Sunderland

### **c.1873**

Coin at Monkwearmouth: see no. 33 for all finds from Monkwearmouth

### **1881**

Stones and other finds in the river at Hylton; see no. 11 above

### **14. Sword**

HER: 388; probably also 389

Description: 'a Roman sword in a perfect state of preservation ... In composition it seems to be a kind of bronze' (Potts 1892, 59)

Finds-spot: 'while the Commissioners' dredger was deepening the bed of the river in the higher reaches, between Hylton Dene and Park's Nook'; 'the bucket of the dredger brought up [the sword], from a depth of eighteen feet below the bed of the river ... it was found lying on a bed of gravel' (Potts 1892, 59)

Found: 1885 (Potts 1892, 59)

Location: 'now [1892] in the possession of H. H. Wake' (Potts 1892, 59)

Discussion: As it is made of bronze it cannot be Roman in date, and is most likely the Bronze Age rapier that was found near Claxheugh before 1893 (Blair 1893, 207); its short length may have suggested the 'short sword' of the Romans to Potts. Henry Hay Wake was the engineer for the River Wear Commission from 1868 – 1907, in charge of the dredging operations to improve the river for shipping.

- References: (1) Potts, T., 1892 *Sunderland: a History of the Town, Port, Trade and Commerce*, Sunderland  
(2) (1) Blair, R., 1893 'Notes on archaeology in provincial museums: XXXI. Sunderland Free Library and Museum', *The Antiquary* **28**, 207-9

## 15. Six coins of Victorinus and Claudius Gothicus (268-71)

HER: 22

Description: Six bronze *antoniniani*

(1) obv. IMP C VICTORINVS PF AVG

rev. PIETAS AVG

Pietas standing left holding box of incense and sacrificing on altar to left

269-271

(2) as (1) above

(3) obv. IMP C VICTORINVS PF AVG

rev. PAX AVG, with V and \* in field

Pax holding olive branch in right hand and long diagonal sceptre in left.

269-271, Cologne, RIC 118

(4) as (3) above

(5) obv. IMP C VICTORINVS PF AVG

rev. [INVICTVS]

Sol marching to left, probably with right arm raised and whip in left

270

(6) coin of Claudius Gothicus (obverse not recorded)

rev. FORTVNA AVG

Fortuna facing left, cornucopia in right hand, probably sacrificing at altar with right hand

268-270

Finds-spot: 'said to have been found recently at Fulwell, near Sunderland' (Blair 1891, 76)

Found: before July 1891

Location: unknown

Discussion: The descriptions of the coins are taken from Blair, but with additional or details added.

Reference: Blair, R., 1891 'Exhibited', *Proc. Soc. Antiquaries of Newcastle*, 2 ser. **5**, 74-6

## 16. Cobbled surface, walls and quern

HER: 73

Description: a road of 'cobble stones, in a splendid state of preservation' with nearby 'thick walls' used as a retaining wall for a stream, and 'an ancient Quern, of millstone grit' (Robinson 1907, 5)

Finds-spot: Hat and Feathers pub, Low Row [now called Greens], found when the pub was being rebuilt, 'at a depth of about twelve feet [3.7m] ... on that portion of the building which was the Inn yard'. The quern was 'within a few feet of the ancient pavement ... among the loose stones' (Robinson 1907, 5).

Found: pre-1904

Location: destroyed/*in situ*; quern said to be in Sunderland Museum and Art Gallery, but cannot be identified

Discussion: There is no dating evidence for deciding it was a Roman road, and the

HER points out that no reason is given why it was not a cellar floor. The OS Archaeology card says that the curator of the Museum in 1977 identified the quern as medieval; it is described as a bowl-like lower stone, which is certainly not Roman in design (Robinson 1907, 6)

References: (1) Robinson, J., 1907 'Roman road and remains at Bishopwearmouth', *Antiquities of Sunderland* **5** (for 1904), 5-9  
(2) Ordnance Survey Archaeology card no NZ 45 NE no. 25

## 17. **Inscription**



Fig. 8: © Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle

HER: 39

Description: Inscription on stone reading 'VS VSLM' in an oval frame made of two leafy branches (Robinson 1903, opposite p90)

Finds-spot: Built into wall of building adjoining the tithe barn at Bishopwearmouth Rectory

Found: 1903

Location: destroyed in 1938

Discussion: See *Roman Inscriptions of Britain* for discussion (<https://romaninscriptionsofbritain.org/inscriptions/2348>). The inscription, a well known abbreviation from altars or religious dedications, is meaningless within an oval frame; the frame is also not Roman in style. Probably eighteenth century.

References: (1) *RIB* 2348

(2) Robinson, J. 'Bishopwearmouth tithe barn', *Proc. Soc. Antiq. Newcastle*, 3 ser. **1**, 96-99

## 18. **Coin**

Description: 'a tiny Roman coin' with 'the head of a Roman ruler on one side and an eagle on the other'

Finds-spot: 'in an Azalea Terrace garden'

Found: 1916

Location: unknown

Discussion: As the identification was done by a journalist who was either not confident reading the legend or was unable to do so because of the condition of the coin, the identification as Roman should be treated

with caution. The report said that Sunderland Museum did not have a similar one, although the museum has few Roman coins anyway. Azalea Terrace is a long road divided into Azalea Terrace North and Azalea Terrace South, so the exact position on the map takes the midway point. By coincidence, Mr Lister, who recorded the stones in the river at Hylton (see no. 11 above) was living in Azalea Terrace in the 1880s (Anon. 1884, 135)

References: (1) *Sunderland Echo*, 28 January 1954  
(2) Anon., 1884 'Roman Bridge at Hylton', *Proceedings Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle*, 2 ser. **1**, 134-8

### **19. Coin of Marcus Aurelius (161-180)**

Description: coin

Finds-spot: (1) Ring Road, Sunderland (Steer 1938, 306); presumably meaning the ring road, which was completed in the late 1920s (B1405, although the modern route is different to the original route)  
(2) 'Wearmouth Bridge' and 'Ring Road', according to the Ordnance Survey Archaeology card NZ 35, NE no. 45

Found: 1927

Location: unknown; probably retained by finder

Discussion: Steer got the information from Rev. T. Romans, vicar of St Mark's, Millfield, Sunderland, and a local antiquarian. The ring road started at the southern end of Queen Alexandra Bridge (in Millfield) and went west through Pallion and Hylton before turning south and finishing in Grangetown.

References: (1) Steer, K. 1938 *The Archaeology of Roman Durham*, PhD thesis, at <http://etheses.dur.ac.uk/683/>  
(2) Ordnance Survey Archaeology card NZ 35, NE no. 45

### **20. Coins**

HER: 267

Description: 'Roman coins'

Finds-spot: 'excavations at the works of Henry Bell, contractor, near Ryhope Bridge'

Found: 1927

Location: unknown

Discussion: In 1938 the coins were still in the possession of H. Bell, but Steer was unable to study them (Steer 1938, 299)

References: (1) Taylor, M. and Collingwood, R., 1927 'Roman Britain in 1927', *Journal of Roman Studies* **17**, 184-219  
(2) Steer, K. 1938 *The Archaeology of Roman Durham*, PhD thesis, at <http://etheses.dur.ac.uk/683/>

## 21. Roman pottery and quern

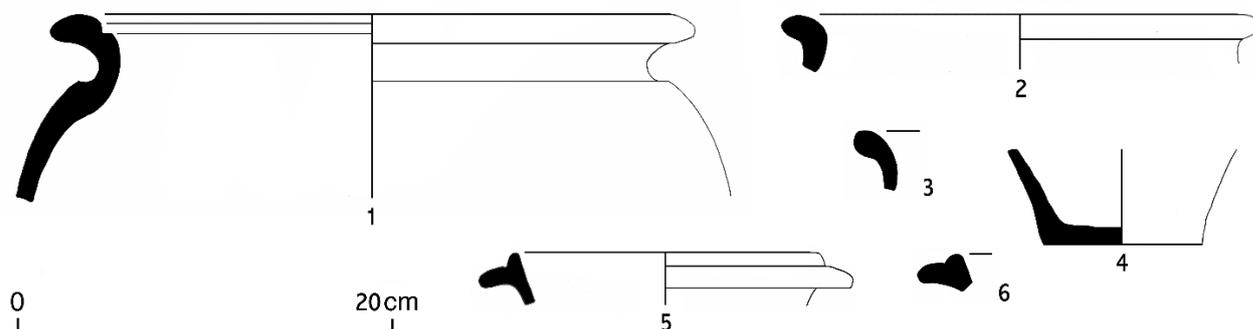


Fig. 9: nos 1-3 calcite gritted ware cooking pots; no. 4 grey ware cooking pot; no. 5 parchment ware bowl; no. 6 grey ware bowl (after Steer 1938)

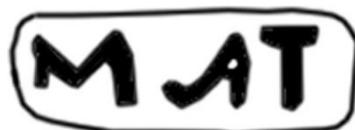


Fig. 10: amphora stamp (after Steer 1938)

HER: 27

Description: (1) 'Roman pottery' and 'a quern bearing what looks like, but is not, a Greek inscription' (Taylor and Collingwood 1927, 189)  
 (2) six sherds of pottery found in 1927 and 'a few more fragmentary sherds' in 1933, 'two querns', and a spindle-whorl, apparently of pottery (Steer 1938, 292-3).

Finds-spot: 'at the Fulwell quarries' (Taylor and Collingwood 1927, 189); at 'Southwick quarry ... west of the village [of Fulwell]' (Steer 1939, 292)

Found: 1927 and 1933

Location: unknown

Discussion: The pottery found in 1927 was found at 'a depth of one foot [0.3m] below the surface, and near a V-shaped pit containing miscellaneous refuse including limpet-shells' (Steer 1938, 292). Steer had a chance to study the pottery and identified a second-century amphora handle stamped TAM [presumably a Dressel 20]; a calcite-gritted ware cooking pot/storage jar rim with Huntcliff type rim [dated 360+], two other calcite-gritted ware cooking pot rims [c.270+], a rim sherd of a flanged conical bowl in a parchment ware [c.250+], a rim sherd of a grey ware conical flanged bowl [possibly Crambeck reduced ware of c.270+] and the base of a grey ware cooking pot [second century+] (Steer 1938, 292-3; pl. XLVIII, 5-10; XLIX, no. 18). Apart from the amphora handle all the pottery is, or could be, late Roman, including a definite late fourth-century vessel. Steer does not describe the querns in any greater detail, so some uncertainty must remain over the dating of them.

References: (1) Taylor, M. and Collingwood, R., 1927 'Roman Britain in 1927', *Journal of Roman Studies* **17**, 184-219

(2) Steer, K. 1938 *The Archaeology of Roman Durham*, PhD thesis, at <http://etheses.dur.ac.uk/683/>

## 22. Possible burial and three pottery vessels (370+)

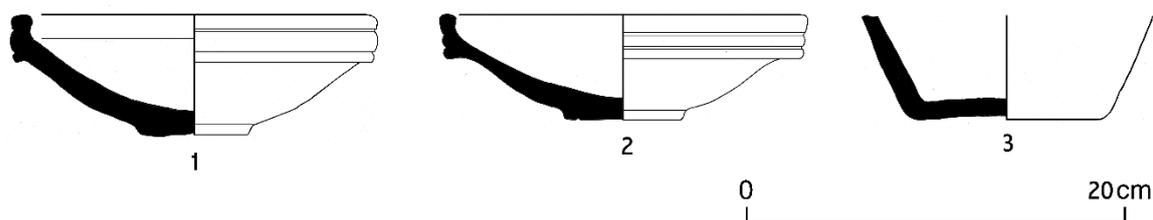


Fig. 11: nos 1-2 Crambeck parchment ware bowls; no. 3 base of a calcite-gritted ware cooking pot

HER: 299

Description: 'three pottery vessels' and 'it is reported that some human bones occurred', although Trechmann is uncertain about this and Steer only mentions 'associated animal bones' (Trechmann 1946, 345, Steer 1938, 299)

(1) complete Crambeck parchment ware bowl (370+)

(2) incomplete Crambeck parchment ware bowl (370+), although Steer describes it as being complete (Steer 1938, 299); he may perhaps have meant it had a complete profile

(3) base and lower part of calcite-gritted ware cooking pot (270+)

Finds-spot: at 'a depth of 6 feet [1.8m] in a sand quarry about a quarter of a mile south of Ryhope' (Steer 1938, 299); 'north side of Ryhope Dene almost immediately above the coast line' where sand and gravel extraction had taken place (Trechmann 1946, 345); 'on the north side of Ryhope Dene [where] Mr Nelson, of the Town Farm Dairy, Ryhope, was digging gravel on the cliff edge' (*Hartlepool Northern Daily Mail*, 2 December 1958); 'in a gravel quarry on N. edge of Ryhope Dene near the coast .. (Mr Dodds per K. Steer says sand quarry 1/2 mile S of Ryhope) (1963 Accession Register)

Found: 1929 (Steer 1938, 299); Trechmann says c.1930 (1963 Accession register) and c.1931 (1946, 345)

Location: the three pots: Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens, acc. nos TWCMS : H4900, TWCMS : H4893 and TWCMS : H19933

Discussion: Although the presence of human bones is very uncertain, the vessels could easily have come from a burial, perhaps a cremation. Whilst not unknown, complete vessels are rare outside burials or other deliberate depositions, and while the other two vessels are incomplete they are both large sherds, which is typical of vessels that have moved little since being deposited (as in burials). The objects were found by a Mr Klee (1963 Accessions Register), although Trechmann was given the pottery by Mr Nelson's widow (*Hartlepool Northern Daily Mail*, 2 December 1958)

References: (1) Steer, K. 1938 *The Archaeology of Roman Durham*, PhD thesis, at <http://etheses.dur.ac.uk/683/>

(2) Trechmann, C. T., 1946 'Late Roman pottery along the Durham coast', *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle*, 4 ser **10**, 341-6

(3) *Hartlepool Northern Daily Mail*, 2 December 1958 (article by C. Trechmann)

(4) Sunderland Museum 1963 Accession register, no. 177-1963)

### **23. Two House of Constantine coins (early fourth century)**

HER: 71

Description: two coins

Finds-spot: 'opposite Roker Park Road South (the seaward end) in a garden [ie a small area of greenery] below an octagonal bus shelter'

Found: 1935

Location: 'now lost'

Discussion: Information from Accession Register; reported by some-one living in nearby Bede Street

Reference: Ordnance Survey Archaeology card no NZ 45 NW no. 25, from information provided by Sunderland Museum (a card index of archaeological finds in County Durham, currently stored at Arbeia, South Shields Roman Fort)

### **24. Coin of Maximianus I (286-310)**

HER: 30

Description: coin

Finds-spot: South Hylton, Low Ford

Found: c.1953

Location: unknown

Discussion: Reported to Museum by a Mr Knight in 1962; no further details. This is presumably the same Mr Knight who brought nos 30 and 33 below to Sunderland Museum in 1963.

Reference: Ordnance Survey Archaeology card no NZ 35 NE no. 49, from information provided by Sunderland Museum

### **25. Coin of Maximianus I (286-310)**

Description: *tetradrachm* of Maximianus I

Finds-spot: 'on the site of Jopling's [a shop] near Thomas's Street'

Found: c.1953

Location: unknown

Discussion: Reported by a Mr Lugvigsen of Thornley Close. This type of coin is a Greek provincial issue, used only in the Greek-speaking eastern empire, and is therefore a modern import/loss.

Reference: Ordnance Survey Archaeology card no NZ 35 NE no. 60, from information provided by Sunderland Museum

### **26. Coin of Constantine I (307-337)**

HER: 70

Description: 'AE3'

Obv. CONSTANTINVS MAX AVG

Bust of emperor facing right  
Rev. GLORIA EXERCITVS  
Two standards between two soldiers.  
Mint of Aquileia

(1963 Accession Register)

Finds-spot: 'found at the Durham District Omnibus Garages near the North Dock by Mrs H. McCririe'

Found: c.1958

Location: Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens?

Discussion: 'AE3' is a term used of bronze coins (*nummi*) of the second half of the fourth century, about 17-19mm in diameter

References: (1) Sunderland Museum 1963 Accession Register, no. 106-1963  
(2) Ordnance Survey Archaeology card no NZ 45 NW no. 24, from information provided by Sunderland Museum

### 27. Coin of Hadrian (118)

Description: silver *denarius* of Hadrian, RIC 44c (see Jarrett 1959, 351 for full details)

Finds-spot: 'the Sunderland area'; this and another coin were 'found in different areas of the town' (Jarrett 1959, 351)

Found: pre-1959

Location: unknown

Reference: Jarrett, M., 1959 'Two Roman coins from Sunderland', *Archaeologia Aeliana*, 4 ser. **37**, 351

### 28. Coin of Faustina II (after 175)

Description: bronze *sestertius* of Faustina II, RIC 1702 (Marcus) (see Jarrett 1959, 351 for full details)

Finds-spot: 'the Sunderland area'; this and another coin were 'found in different areas of the town' (Jarrett 1959, 351)

Found: pre-1959

Location: unknown

Reference: Jarrett, M., 1959 'Two Roman coins from Sunderland', *Archaeologia Aeliana*, 4 ser. **37**, 351

### 29. Coin

HER: 69

Description: 'AE3 ... presumably Roman' (OS card)

Finds-spot: Hendon beach

Found: 1961

Location: unknown

Discussion: 'AE3' is a term used of bronze coins (*nummi*) of the second half of the fourth century, about 17-19mm in diameter

Reference: Ordnance Survey Archaeology card no NZ 45 NW no. 23, from information provided by Sunderland Museum

### 30. Coin of Carausius (282-283)

HER: 32  
Description: *antoninianus*  
Finds-spot: 'Pennyhill Estate' (1963 Accessions Register); 'east side of Dene View Crescent' (HER, taken from the grid reference on the OS card)  
Found: 1962  
Location: Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens, old acc. no. 80-1963 (present acc. no. unknown)  
Discussion: This was presented to the museum by a Mr Knight of Fulwell, although he did not find it himself; he also reported no. 24 above and no. 33 below.  
References: (1) Sunderland Museum 1963 Accession Register  
(2) Ordnance Survey Archaeology card no NZ 35 NE no. 51, from information provided by Sunderland Museum

### 31. Fourth-century coin

HER: 282  
Description: 'AE4 Roman bronze coin very worn. Possibly Constantine II 337 -340' (1963 Accession Register)  
Finds-spot: garden of 77 Lynthorpe, Ryhope  
Found: 1963  
Location: unknown: Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens?  
Discussion: 'AE4' is a term used for coins less than 17mm in diameter  
References: (1) Sunderland Museum 1963 Accession Register, no. 78-1963  
(2) Ordnance Survey Archaeology card

### 32. Coin of Vespasian (74)

HER: 351  
Description: silver *denarius*, 'very worn' (Accession Register)  
Obv. IMP CASAR VESPASIANVS AVG  
Bust of emperor  
Rev. PON MAX TR, P. COS. V  
*Caduceus*  
RIC 703  
Finds-spot: garden of 48 Berwick Avenue, Town End Farm  
Found: 1963  
Location: Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens, old acc. no. SMAG 134-1963; current accession number not known  
References: (1) Sunderland 1963 Accession Register, no. 134-1963  
(2) Ordnance Survey Archaeology card no. NZ 35 NW no. 8, from information provided by Sunderland Museum

### 33. Coin of Maximinus (235-238)

Description: 'AE *as*' (1963 Accession Register)  
Finds-spot: 'Front Road, Hylton Estate'  
Found: 1963 (or earlier)  
Location: Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens, old acc. no. SMAG 79-1963; current accession number not known

Discussion: AE is an abbreviation for 'bronze'; an *as* is a type of coin. The coin was presented by a Mr Knight of Fulwell, who also presented nos 24 and 30 above.

Reference: Sunderland Museum 1963 Accession Register

### 34. Re-used building material and other finds

HER: 414, 415

Description: large pieces of stonework and a very small quantity of small artefacts

Finds-spot: St Peter's Church, Wearmouth

Found: most during the excavations of 1959-1988

Location: *in situ*, or Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens

Discussion: Large pieces of Roman stonework suitable as building stone could be taken long distances for re-use; cf altars from Wallsend Fort (and its surroundings) were re-used in the Priory at Tynemouth, 7.5km to the east. Re-using large blocks of stone, already cut to size, saved on a lot of quarrying work. The coins may have been collected as curios or for their metal content, and the samian and other coloured sherds either as curios or for grinding up to make fine powders or pigments. The glass fragments are too small to have been of much interest, although it is possible they were pieces collected for recycling in the glass-working on the site. It is also possible that some or all of the small finds were simply in mud not cleaned off the salvaged stonework that had been dug out of the ground.

#### 34.1 Building stones

Description: cut and dressed building stones (cf Senior 2014 figs 10 right; fig. 12b, fig. 14)

Finds-spot: built into fabric of the church walls, especially the tower

Location: *in situ*

Discussion: It is thought 'most of the cut dressed stone' used for doors, arches and quoins was re-used Roman stone; analysis of the stone suggests that it came from South Shields Roman Fort (c.10km by land, and also easily accessible by sea) (Senior 2014, 29, 32)

Reference: Senior, J., 2014 *Petrological analysis of the Anglo-Saxon and Anglo-Norman Stonework of St Peter's, Wearmouth and St Paul's, Jarrow*, McCord Centre Report **2014.2**

### 34.2 Roman altar (second or third century)



AS 1a (18)

*Fig. 12: © Corpus of Anglo-Saxon stonework*

- Description: large sandstone altar re-shaped and used as a door jamb; no surviving inscription (Cramp 2006, 168, no. AS1)
- Finds-spot: pit in Wearmouth monastery, St Peter's Church
- Found: 1964 (during excavations)
- Location: St Peter's Church, Wearmouth
- Discussion: Large pieces of Roman stonework suitable as building stone could be taken long distances for re-use; cf altars from Wallsend Fort (and its surroundings) were re-used in the Priory at Tynemouth 7.5km away.
- Reference: Cramp, R., 2006 *Wearmouth and Jarrow Monastic Sites, Volume 2*, Swindon

### 34.3 Roman altar (second or third century)



*Fig. 13: © Sunderland Museums and Winter Gardens*

- Description: Fragment of the base or capital of a large sandstone altar (Cramp 2006, 168, no. AS2). It has been re-used in a way that left one side worn and slightly dipped, and then again as building rubble in a wall.

Finds-spot: re-used in Anglo-Saxon wall in Wearmouth monastery, St Peter's Church  
Found: 1969 (during excavations)  
Location: Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens, acc. no. SUNMU : 2020.1  
Reference: Cramp, R., 2006 *Wearmouth and Jarrow Monastic Sites, Volume 2*, Swindon

#### 34.4 Coin of Helena (337-40)



Fig. 14: © Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens

Description: bronze coin of Helena (Brickstock 2006, 218, no. Nu1)  
Finds-spot: Wearmouth Anglo-Saxon cemetery, St Peter's Church  
Found: 1961 (during excavations)  
Location: Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens, acc. no. TWCMS : 2005.4672  
Reference: Brickstock, R., 2006 'Roman coins', in Cramp, R., *Wearmouth and Jarrow Monastic Sites, Volume 2*, Swindon, 218-9

#### 34.5 Coin of Constantine I (330-5)

Description: bronze coin of Constantine I (Brickstock 2006, 218, no. Nu2)  
Finds-spot: Wearmouth Anglo-Saxon cemetery, St Peter's Church  
Found: 1962 (during excavations)  
Location: unknown  
Reference: Brickstock, R., 2006 'Roman coins', in Cramp, R., *Wearmouth and Jarrow Monastic Sites, Volume 2*, Swindon, 218-9

#### 34.6 Coin of Constantinopolis type (c.330-1)

HER: 61  
Description: 'a small Roman coin'.  
Obverse: helmeted bust with sceptre over shoulder, legend CONSTANTINOPOLIS  
Reverse: Victory standing facing left holding a sceptre and shield, with one foot on prow of ship; in exergue TRP [= mint of Trier]  
Finds-spot: St Peter's Church, Monkwearmouth, when church being restored. In 1875-6 the north aisle of the Church was rebuilt.  
Found: 'about 25 years ago', which would make it c.1873; probably about 1875 (Anon. 1898, 110)

Location: Great North Museum, Newcastle upon Tyne  
 Discussion: It was donated to the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle on 26 January 1898  
 Reference: Anon., 1898 'Donation of the Museum, *Proc. Soc. Ant Newcastle*, 2 ser. **7**, 110

### 34.7 Vessel glass

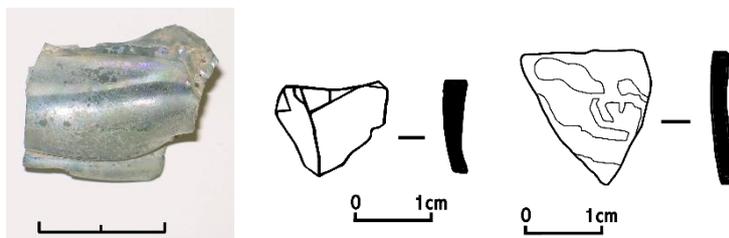


Fig 15: Photo: © Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens; drawings after Cramp 2006

Description: three very small fragments of possible vessel glass, one Roman and two possibly Roman (Price 2006, 313, nos GIV R1, R2 and R3)

Found: 1962, 1967 (during excavations)

Location: Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens, acc. no. TWCMS : 2006.4391, and uncertain

Reference: Price, J., 2006 'Roman vessel glass', in Cramp, R., 2006 *Wearmouth and Jarrow Monastic Sites, Volume 2*, Swindon, 313-4

### 34.8 Glass vessel? (first to second century)

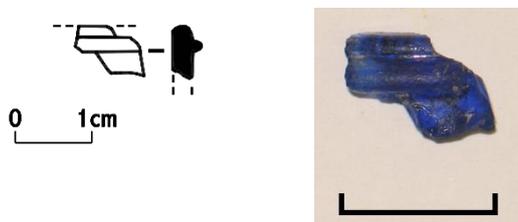


Fig. 16: © Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens

Description: a minute fragment of a dark blue glass. It has been described as a bangle, but it is only 3mm thick with a rib that would be off-centre, and is perhaps more likely to be a vessel rim (Cramp 2006, 258, no. Ba1)

Found: 1961 (during excavations)

Location: Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens, acc. no. TWCMS : T5654

Reference: Cramp, R., 2006 *Wearmouth and Jarrow Monastic Sites, Volume 2*, Swindon

### 34.9 Pottery sherds (second to third century)



Fig. 17: © Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens

Description: 'eight sherds of Samian and colour-coated wares' (Cramp 2005, 24)  
Found: 1959-1988 (during excavations)  
Location: Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens, acc. no. TWCMS : 2007.868;  
others not yet located  
Reference: Cramp, R., 2005 *Wearmouth and Jarrow Monastic Sites, Volume 1*, Swindon

### 35. Coin of Postumus (265)



Fig. 18: © Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens (variation in colour due to different lighting conditions)

HER: 68  
Description: silver *antoninianus* of Postumus  
Obv: IMP C POSTVMVS PF AVG  
bust, radiate, draped and cuirassed  
Rev: SALVS AVG  
Aesculapius standing facing, looking left, leaning on serpent  
entwined staff, with globe at feet.  
Mint of Cologne  
RIC 326  
Finds-spot: beach at Hendon  
Found: 1965  
Location: Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens, acc. no. TWCMS : F13392  
[old acc. no. 7.1965 and TWCMS : N357]  
Reference: Ordnance Survey Archaeology card no NZ 45 NW no. 22

### 36. Coin of Trajan or Hadrian (96-138)



Fig. 19: © Portable Antiquities Scheme

P.A.S.: NCL-FF2DE6  
Description: worn *duponius* or *as* of Trajan or Hadrian  
Finds-spot: St Anne's ward, South Hylton, found whilst gardening  
Found: 1965-1975  
Location: unknown: retained by finder  
Reference: Portable Antiquities Scheme database

### 37. Two coins, of Hadrian (117-38) and Diocletian (284-305)

HER: 33  
Description: bronze *sestertius* of Hadrian and bronze *foliis* (= *nummus*) of Diocletian  
Finds-spot: Carley Hill Quarry  
Found: 19 July 1971  
Location: Unknown: retained by the finder  
Reference: Ordnance Survey Archaeology card no NZ 35 NE no. 52, from information provided by Sunderland Museum (from card index of archaeological finds from County Durham, currently stored at Arbeia, South Shields Roman Fort)

### 38. Coin of Valens (364-378)

HER: 29  
Description: coin, Thessalonika mint  
Finds-spot: Sunderland; OS four figure grid reference makes this North Hylton, although the grid square covers much of South Hylton  
Found: pre-1976  
Location: unknown  
Discussion: There is no further detail of where or when this was found.  
Reference: Ordnance Survey Archaeology card no NZ 35 NE no. 48, from information provided by Sunderland Museum

### 39. Coin

HER: 31  
Description: 'unidentifiable Roman coin'  
Finds-spot: South Hylton (according to OS card grid references); 'between High Street and Ford Crescent' (HER)  
Found: pre-1976  
Location: unknown  
Reference: Ordnance Survey Archaeology card no NZ 35 NE no. 50, from

information provided by Sunderland Museum

#### 40. Coin of Antoninus Pius (138-161)

HER: 241

Description: 'very worn *sestertius*'

Finds-spot: 190 Tadcaster Road, Thornley Close?

Found: pre-1977

Location: unknown

Discussion: HER says it was found in Tadcaster Road, on the basis of the grid reference given on the OS Archaeology card. The card, however, only gives the address as that of the finder.

Reference: Ordnance Survey Archaeology card no NZ 35 SE no. 17, from information provided by Sunderland Museum

#### 41. Coin of Constantinus II (337-361)

HER: 72

Description: coin

Finds-spot: 74 Hastings Street, Hendon, Sunderland

Found: pre-1977

Location: retained by finder

Discussion: There are no further details

Reference: Ordnance Survey Archaeology card no NZ 35 NW no. 26, from information provided by Sunderland Museum

#### 42. Five coins (335-378)



Fig. 20: © Great North Museum: Hancock and Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle

HER: 4606

PAS: NCL-5CBBE1, NCL-5D1805, NCL-5D3713, NCL-5D78C4, NCL-5D5427

Description: five bronze coins

(1) *nummus* of Constantius II, c.335-341, Trier mint  
P.A.S. NCL-5CBBE1

(2) *nummus* of Constantius II, c.337-341  
P.A.S. NCL-5D1805

- (3) *nummus* of Theodora, c.337-340  
P.A.S. NCL-5D3713
- (4) *nummus* of Valentinian I, 364-7  
P.A.S. NCL-5D78C4
- (5) *nummus* of Valens, 364-78  
P.A.S. NCL-5D5427

Finds-spot: Hylton Dene, North Hylton, metal-detecting in garden

Found: pre-1994

Location: Retained by finder

Discussion: They were said to have been found 'within a pouch which subsequently disintegrated'.

References: (1) Recorded by S. Speak of Tyne and Wear Museums  
(2) Recorded by P.A.S. (see the database for full details)

### 43. **Coin of Decentius (350-353)**



Fig. 21: © Great North Museum: Hancock and Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle

PAS: NCL-BE6347

Description: *nummus* of Decentius

Finds-spot: Ryhope, metal-detecting on cultivated land

Found: pre-2000

Location: retained by keeper

Discussion: for full details see the PAS record:

<https://finds.org.uk/database/artefacts/record/id/191963>

Reference: Portable Antiquities Scheme database

### 44. **Brooch**

HER: 6802

Description: 'copper alloy Roman stud brooch' (Anon. 2004, 10)

Finds-spot: 'at the mouth of the surface drain at Seaburn' (Anon. 2004, 10)

Found: pre-2004

Location: unknown

Discussion: It's find-spot suggests it may be a modern loss. The exact form of brooch is unclear

Reference: Anon., 2004 *The Coast from South Shields to Whitburn: Archaeology and History*, South Shields

**45. Figurine**



*Fig. 22: © Durham County Council*

- PAS: DUR-58A381 <https://finds.org.uk/database/artefacts/record/id/482119>
- Description: incomplete copper alloy figurine, possibly of Cupid
- Finds-spot: Ryhope
- Found: April - June 2011, metal detecting on cultivated land
- Location: retained by finder
- Discussion: The date of the object is uncertain, although a very round head and circular recessed eyes are used on some Roman-period statuettes (cf P.A.S. LEIC-E3A6AB). Cupid can be depicted with his right arm raised and his legs crossed or nearly crossed (cf. HAMP-C51B4D, BERK-536215, BERK-EA42E1), although it is unclear how this figurine stood up.
- Reference: Portable Antiquities Scheme database