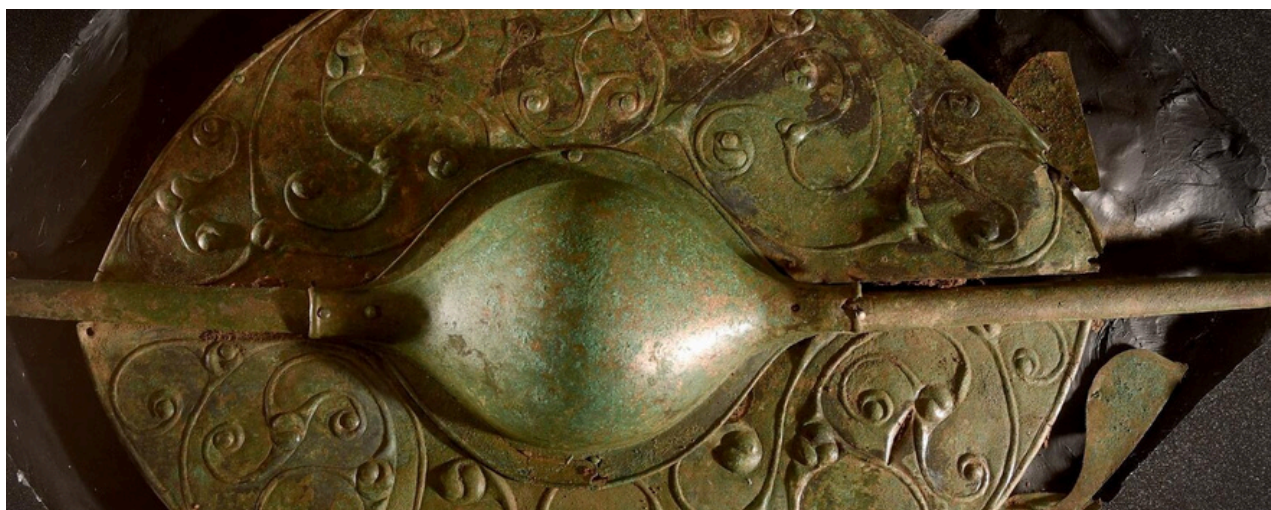


Spring Newsletter



2025



An Introduction from the Trust

Back in 1972 the Council for British Archaeology reported: 'Pocklington has a great deal of potential in answering some of the questions about the emergence of towns in Britain'. The next four decades saw some information gathering, but little in the way of action; until, that is, two pre-development archaeological digs in 2014 and 2017. These uncovered a plethora of Iron Age and Anglo-Saxon finds; prompting the formation of Pocklington District Heritage Trust (PDHT) with the objective of creating a museum and heritage centre to showcase the artefacts where they were discovered. The two excavations produced 90 mid-Iron Age square barrows containing almost 200 burials, plus more than a thousand grave goods, including weapons, jewellery and domestic items. And this was topped by the discovery of two unparalleled chariots, both with horses attached and each containing their charioteer, one laid on his spectacular repoussé decorated shield ("Iron Age Britain's most spectacular grave" – BBC's Digging For Britain, 2018; and "the most important British Celtic art object of the Millennium." Prof. Melanie Giles, 2019). These stellar finds will be the heart of the planned Pocklington museum, which will focus on the prehistoric eras; particularly appropriate to the area which bestrides the western Wolds and Eastern vale of York. Within a five-mile radius of Pocklington are sites of a

Roman fort and roadside settlement, several Roman villas, Iron Age hillfort, roundhouse locations and stretches of routeways and earthworks heading up into the Yorkshire Wolds. More nearby remains include Bronze Age bowl barrows, a couple of recently determined Viking Great Army encampments, the rare mid Anglian Grubenhaus settlement discovered adjacent to chariot burial on The Mile, plus the Nunburnholme Cross with its unusual mix of Anglo-Saxon, Viking and Norman sculpting. Identified finds from earlier eras include pre-Glacial fossils, a Paleolithic hand-axe, Mesolithic microliths from the banks of Pocklington Beck, and Neolithic hengiform cropmarks, along with dozens of stone axeheads. Many of these historic sites have generated extensive assemblages of artefacts, that have been left without a permanent home within East Yorkshire. A few pieces ended in national or regional museums, where some disappeared into store and have remained unseen since. In many other cases local farmers, collectors and metal detectorists have offered to give or lend us a host of important pieces - so long as we produce a local facility to showcase local finds. To create a museum for the district - currently there is no community

In this newsletter you can expect:

An Introduction

Latest Events and
Updates

Book Spotlight

Events Coming Soon

Artifact Spotlight

The Travelling
Museum

Stop Press

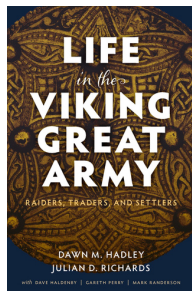
heritage facility west of a line from Goole to Beverley to Bridlington - is a big challenge. But we believe it is one we can rise to and produce something quite special that will enhance the area for all ages, visitors and locals alike. We hope you will endorse and support our aims, and keep up to date with our progress.



Latest Events

On the 28th March, we revealed the handcrafted replica of the Pocklington Shield, alongside the real artefact itself. Professor Melanie Giles gave a presentation regarding the significance of Pocklington and the East Riding for our knowledge about the Iron Age era. Pictured is Charlotte Puntorno Archaeology & Heritage Manager at MAP Archaeological Practice who brought the original shield for the evening.

A decade ago Roland made a replica of one of the South Cave swords. And for our event we borrowed it from East Yorkshire Museum Service so Roland could pose with his Iron Age sword and shield replicas. Gloucestershire-based Roland Williamson is the country's foremost maker of historic replicas, with decades experience of producing artefacts for regional and national museums, including the British Museum. During his own journey with crafting the replica, Roland learnt the complex process of sourcing, manipulating and creating different features of the shield.



Life in the Viking Great Army: Raiders, Traders, and Settlers - Dawn M. Hadley, Julian D. Richards

Published by Oxford University Press in January, York University professors, Hadley and Richards provide an insight into the archaeological footprint of the Viking Great Army as it ravaged Anglo-Saxon England. Using new evidence to explore life in the Great Army, this book provides a detailed account of the groups of people who made up the Army and how they lived. It also includes information and photographs about the identified Viking Great Army camps in our locality at Pocklington, Yapham and Skirpenbeck.



Event News

'All About the Wolds'

- Date: 12 April 2025
- Time: 11am-3pm
- Location: Burnby Hall Community Centre
- Ticket Price: FREE

'Yorkshire Heritage Summit'

- Date: 13 May 2025
- Time: 10am-3pm
- Location: Skipton Town Hall
- Ticket Price: FREE

'Summer Fete'

- Date: 22 June 2025
- Location: Madhyamaka Buddhist Centre, Kilnwick Percy

'Roman Revival'

- Date: 12 July 2025
- Location: Burrs Playing Field, Brough

Artefact Spotlight



Iron Age Brooch

This particular brooch found by Paula Ware's MAP Archaeology team in Burnby Lane, Pocklington. It was discovered in the grave of an older woman who was also wearing two bracelets. The only other H-shaped brooches of this type, have been found at Yapham, Norfolk x 2, Wiltshire and Maiden Castle hillfort in Dorset. Of these the Burnby Lane brooch is the best preserved.



Gold Standard Paulinus Shilling

The 1,400-year old mid-Saxon gold coin, discovered by a metal detectorist at Pocklington in 2007, was recognised almost a decade later as a 'Paulinus Gold Shilling', attributed to the episcopacy of the first Bishop of York, 627-633. The tiny coin was further conjectured to be a commemorative token given by Paulinus after carrying out the first baptisms in Pocklington beck.



Viking Practice Art

This piece of bone fragment was used by an Anglo-Saxon or Viking craftsman as a practice sketch before committing to a larger piece. It's incredibly rare and the first of its kind to be found in a rural location.



Anglo-Saxon Panel

Early Anglo-Saxon gold and garnet cloisonné panel, perhaps from a larger composite object. Found near Pocklington by a metal detector back in 2013 and shows a craftsmanship technique that can also be found in Sutton Hoo.



Hayton Mouse

Although the Romans have a reputation as hard nosed conquerors, they did have an acute sense of humour. Our guess is that the Hayton Mouse was some sort of child's plaything. Found by a local metal detectorist, this item has been given to PDHT on permanent loan.

The Travelling Museum



Our travelling museum set up for the Stamford Bridge Primary School students

The Pocklington District travelling museum uses digital visualisations and real objects to inspire community learning and create future projects to uncover the area's past. Former PDHT vice-chair, Sue Lang said: "We are excited about how this can be developed by involving local people and our wider audiences", with trustee, Dr Peter Halkon, who has spent many years researching the region's prehistoric and Roman landscape, adding: "These welcome developments mean that at last this area of East Yorkshire can showcase its rich and remarkable archaeology".

The 'Travelling Museum' arrived in late October, just in time for PDHT's annual heritage festival. Since then it has been packed into the boot of trust member's cars to take and give talks and displays to the High Wolds Heritage Group, Nunburnholme church, Stamford Bridge School, Pocklington Thursday Club, Yorkshire Wolds Heritage Trust, Londesborough Snowdrop Sundays, Millington, Pocklington Brownies, Wilberforce Care Home and Pocklington Probus Club.

If you are interested in us doing a talk or presentation for your group or school, contact us by emailing: pocklingtonheritage@gmail.com



Stop Press

The Pocklington museum was mentioned in parliament this week. After attending our shield reveal, local MP, Sir David Davis, asked Minister, Chris Bryant, what the Government could do, saying: "I was in Pocklington last week, at the site of what Professor Alice Roberts described as the most important Iron Age archaeological site in Britain: the Pocklington chariot burial. It is a magnificent thing, and the centre of a huge area of Iron Age archaeology. I was there to meet dedicated local volunteers who are creating a new museum at Burnby Hall, which will bring tourists into the countryside. What can the Government do to help develop ideas such as this?" The Minister replied: "I know of the work that people are trying to do in Pocklington, and everything I have seen about the hoard in Pocklington is absolutely amazing. I pay tribute to Burnby Hall, it would be amazing if we were able to get it back into full use."

