

[News story: Roman treasures found on A1](#)

Archaeologists have uncovered Roman shoes and keys, a rare amber figurine and the most northerly example of coin production as part of Highways England's £380 million Highways England Leeming to Barton scheme

These finds are shedding new light on Roman life in Northern England. They hint at a far more sophisticated industrial and administrative centre in Yorkshire than had previously been known about. They also point to wealthy citizens having lived in the area.

Neil Redfern, Principal Inspector of Ancient Monuments at Historic England said:

The sheer amount of exceptional objects found on this road scheme has been extraordinary. Through them we are learning more and more about life here in the Roman period. This project has given us a unique opportunity to understand how the Romans conducted their military expansion into Northern England and how civil life changed under their control.

We discovered these treasures as part of our work to upgrade the existing dual carriageway between Leeming and Barton with a new 3 lane motorway. The upgrade is part of the government's £15 billion investment in motorways and strategic A roads.

Nearly 2,000 years ago the Romans used the very latest technological innovations to construct the original A1 as a major road of strategic importance – just as Highways England is doing today.

The extensive excavations have been carried out by Northern Archaeological Associates, on the advice of Historic England's experts.

Top recent discoveries

Amber carving

The figure of a toga-clad actor carved from a block of amber was recently found at Scotch Corner. Thought to have been made in Italy during the 1st century AD, a similar example was also found at Pompeii. Nothing like this has ever before been found in the UK. Its presence at Scotch Corner, along with a large number of other high status imported items suggests this was an early site furnished with the finest Roman goods.

Coin Workshops

Workshops for making gold, silver and copper coins found near Scotch Corner represent the most northerly example of coin production ever found in Europe. They demonstrate that the Romans were carrying out significant industrial activity in this part of England and potentially producing coins of high value.

Roman shoes

A number of well-preserved Roman leather shoes have been found in Catterick, a town south of Scotch Corner known by the Romans as Cataractonium. Large sheets of leather have also been found in the town, perhaps used for producing clothes. This indicates that the town was an important leatherworking centre, possibly supporting the Roman military.

Roman keys

Many keys have been found at Catterick, from small keys on rings to larger ones for lifting latches. The amount found is unusual for a northern suburb, suggesting people who lived in the town were conscious of protecting their valuable possessions.

Silver ring

A silver ring shaped like a snake which wraps around the finger has also been found in Catterick. This is a rare find and, like the amber figure, it hints at the great wealth of the people who lived here.

Pen and inkpot

A pewter inkpot and a number of "styli", or Roman pens, have also been discovered at Catterick. This tells us that the town was a key administrative centre. The sheer amount of pens found suggests that a significant proportion of the population were able to read and write.

Lead plumb bob

A lead plumb bob from Cataractonium gives us evidence for construction methods used within the town and was perhaps even used in the construction of Dere Street and other Roman roads at the site. This gives us a fantastic insight into the engineering technologies of the time.

Earlier date for Romans in Northern England

The excavations have also led to the unearthing of a major Roman settlement at Scotch Corner which pre-dates settlements in York and Carlisle by 10 years. This tells us that the Romans had a major presence and even possibly began their territorial expansion into northern England a decade earlier than previously thought. The settlement was unusually large for the north of England, stretching over 1.4km from north to south which is roughly the size

of 13 football pitches positioned end to end. The finds uncovered at the site, from brooches to gaming counters, suggest the people who lived here, as at Catterick, were wealthy.

The settlement seems to have only been occupied for a short period, perhaps no more than 20-30 years. It probably became redundant as the Romans kept moving into the north. It's demise seems to coincide with the rise of Catterick, which we know was an administrative and economic centre in the north of England. The extensive archaeological finds discovered along the route – which will prove historically significant for future generations – will impact the scheme completion date.

Investigating and upgrading the A1

Works to upgrade the A1 through Yorkshire over the last 20 years have resulted in more than 60 miles of the road being investigated by archaeologists, from Ferrybridge near Leeds up to Piercebridge.

Since these excavations began in 2014, a team of around 60 archaeologists have discovered thousands of artefacts from a range of different periods, demonstrating that this area has been part of England's story for thousands of years.

[Press release: PM call with Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau: 10 April 2017](#)

The Prime Minister spoke to Prime Minister Trudeau of Canada last night to discuss events in Syria following the chemical weapons attack and the US airstrikes, and to look ahead to the G7 foreign ministers' meeting this week.

They agreed on their support for the US action, which we believe was an appropriate response to the barbaric chemical weapons attack launched by the Syrian regime.

And they discussed the importance of Russia using its influence to bring about a political settlement in Syria, and to work with the rest of the international community to ensure that the shocking events of the last week are never repeated.

They noted that the Foreign Secretary is working closely with his Canadian counterpart as part of diplomatic efforts to line up G7 and like-minded support for a clear international position on the way ahead, in support of the US Secretary of State's visit to Moscow.

And they agreed to continue this close cooperation as we build support for a political solution to end the conflict and bring lasting peace and stability

to Syria.

[News story: UK policing forum considers way ahead for international policing](#)

The Joint International Policing Hub (JIPH) hosted a two day conference in Liverpool on 21-22 March 2017, bringing together participants from across UK policing to discuss the UK's role in supporting international policing efforts in fragile and conflict affected states, and beyond.

Brandon Lewis, Minister for Policing and the Fire Service, opened the event, underlining the importance of international policing:

“It is clear that collectively, more can be done to maximise the benefits from effective international policing – be they protecting our people at home and abroad; projecting our global influence; or promoting our policing capability.

UK policing has a strong reputation with international recognition of its professionalism and performance. Our policing expertise and skills are in demand across the globe. The knowledge contained in police forces across the UK – and in the law enforcement sector as a whole – is recognised as highly valuable by our international partners.

We can use international policing to promote UK prosperity and policing capability, with UK policing's brand used to export our policing expertise. Not only will this increase capability in overseas states and organisations, it will also increase the skills of our own officers, who will bring their experiences back to UK forces and benefit local communities.”

Minister for Policing and Fire Service Brandon Lewis addresses UK police partners

Over 20 organisations participated in the event including the Foreign & Commonwealth Office, Home Office, National Police Chiefs Council and the Association of Police & Crime Commissioners, as well as representatives from national constabularies, the National Crime Agency, academic institutions and other bodies. Participants discussed the challenges and opportunities that lay ahead in putting in place a cohesive and unified UK approach to international policing.

A significant element of UK international policing effort is in support of multilateral missions. Baroness Joyce Anelay, Minister of State for the Commonwealth and the United Nations , also addressed the conference and

highlighted the value of UK policing abroad:

“I am proud of the UK’s contribution to international policing. Our dedicated and professional personnel, often working in difficult conditions, set a high standard for others to follow. The UK Government is committed to making the international effort more effective and to strengthening the British contribution to international policing.”

Joint International Policing Hub

The JIPH operates off of the Stabilisation Unit platform and works to ensure that the UK has an international policing capability which is able to identify, prioritise, develop and deliver upon non-operational international policing requirements and requests. The JIPH is working to establish itself as the recognised gateway into and out of UK international policing assistance structures for domestic and global partners.

[Press release: Change of British High Commissioner to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean](#)

2011 – present Ankara, Deputy Head of Mission 2010 – 2011 FC0, Assistant Director, Human Resources 2007 – 2010 FC0, Head of Africa Department (Southern, Central and West Africa) 2004 – 2007 FC0, Head of Consular Assistance Group, Consular Directorate 2003 – 2004 FC0, Head of Transitional Team, Human Resources Directorate 2002 – 2003 FC0, Head of Personnel Management Unit 2, Personnel Directorate 2000 – 2001 FC0, Deputy Head of Department, Africa Directorate Southern 1996 – 2000 Stockholm, First Secretary (European Union) 1993 – 1996 Seconded to Overseas Development Administration, Head of Section, Emergency Aid Policy and Emergency Preparedness 1991 – 1993 FC0, Head of Humanitarian Affairs Section, UND 1988 – 1991 Ankara. Second, later First Secretary (Political and Press) 1987 – 1988 Language training (Turkish) 1986 – 1987 Seconded to Directorate General IA (External relations), European Commission 1985 – 1986 Desk Officer for Greece, Southern European Department 1985 Joined FC0

[This is too little too late for working families who face Tory cuts to](#)

Universal Credit – Debbie Abrahams

Debbie

Abrahams MP, Labour's Shadow Work and Pensions Secretary, commenting on the Government's reduction to the Universal Credit taper rate, which takes effect today, said:

"This is too little, too late for those working families who face Tory cuts to Universal Credit that will see some worse off by £2,600 a year.

"The Chancellor is stealing pounds with his left hand and paying back pence with his right. For some, including many self-employed workers, these changes will make up less than seven per cent of losses from cuts elsewhere.

"Labour is demanding the Government fully reverse cuts to in-work support that will penalise millions of working families."