

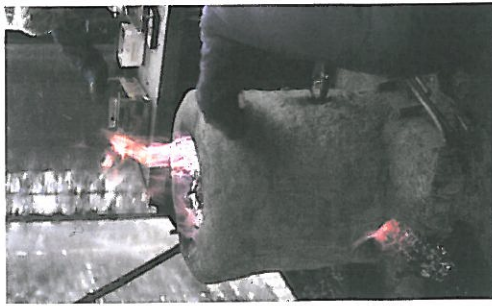
2 parts = - Brough on Humber (sur)  
 - Faxfleet (probable, en face).

# Putting the iron back into the Iron Age of East Yorkshire, UK

More iron objects have been found in East Yorkshire than in any other part of Iron Age Britain, largely in the burials of the Middle Iron Age Arras Culture, named after the excavations at Arras near Market Weighton (1815-17). The region also contains one of Britain's largest prehistoric iron production centres contemporary with the Arras Culture. This poster reviews early iron production and consumption and its social and economic significance. For full discussion see: Halkon, P. (2012) In *Press* Iron, landscape and power in Iron Age East Yorkshire - *The Archaeological Journal* 168 (for 2011)



**Bog iron ore or "nosmun"** at Spen Lane, Holme-on-Spalding Moor. This material which forms on the sandy edges of wetlands had broken farm machinery (photo: P. Halkon).

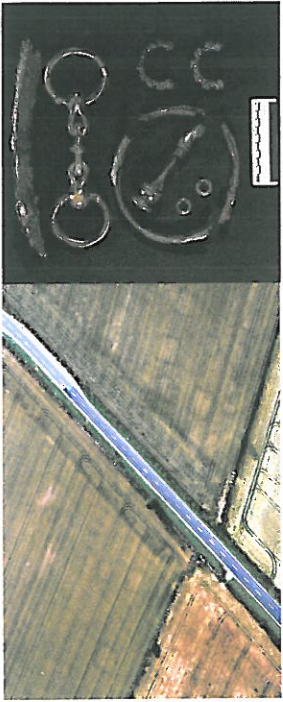


Above: **The remains of the Iron Age shaft furnace** at Thearne, Hull Valley, excavated by Richard Campbell in 2010 (Photo: P. Halkon)

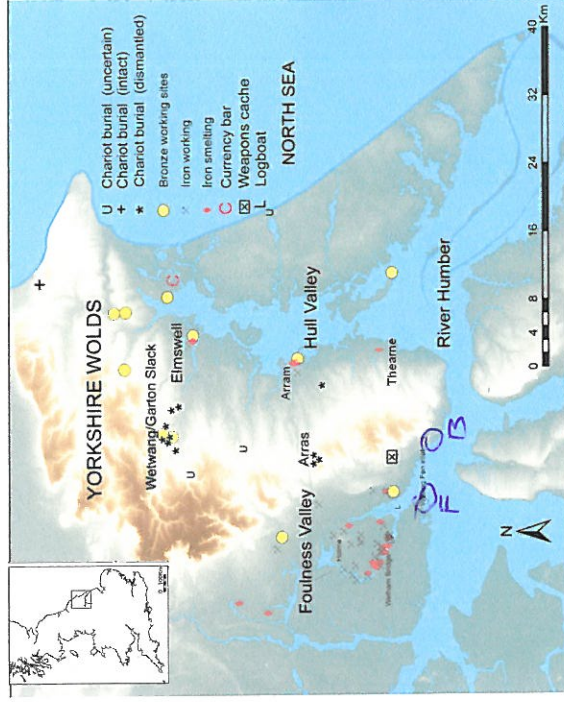
Left: **Experimental iron smelting** by Peter and Susan Crew at Pils Tan Y Bulch, Snowdonia National Park, using bog ore from the Foulness Valley. Crew's work shows that it may have taken between 8 and 25 person days to produce 1 kg of bar iron (Photo: P. Halkon)



**The Moore's Farm, Welham Bridge slag heap** under excavation. At over 5 tonnes, the largest prehistoric slag heap yet discovered in England C14 dated to 450-250 cal BC (2 sigma) (HAR-92334) and 600-380 cal BC (2 sigma) (HAR 92335) (Photo: P. Halkon).



**The Arras square barrow cemetery** from the air July 2009 (Photo: P. Halkon). Finds from the King's Barrow Arras. Part of an iron tyre, bridle bit, nave ring, lynch pin, rings and terrets. All these are iron objects some encased with copper alloy (Photo: M. Park, courtesy Yorkshire Museum, York).



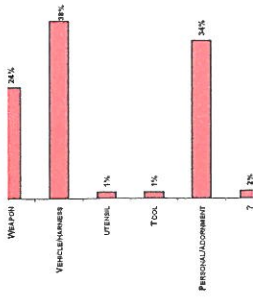
**Iron Age East Yorkshire** showing the distribution of copper alloy and iron working sites and chariot burials. Note the effect of high middle Iron Age sea levels in Foulness and Hull valleys.

**Wetwang Slack 1-** 1984 Chariot Burial with sword. (Photo: AL. Pilsbury, courtesy Yorkshire Collection). Even at the lowest estimate based on experimental smelting, the iron objects in burials such as this would have taken around 300 person days to produce. The iron spear heads follow the speared corpse tradition of the region. A link between Arras culture elites represented by burials like this and control of iron production is possible

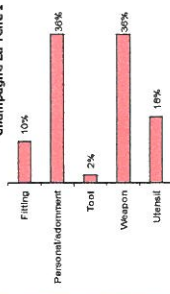


## Iron artefacts from burials in Eastern Yorkshire

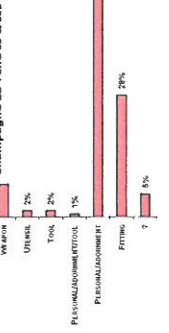
Total number of burials - 858  
 Burials with iron artefacts - 183  
 Total no of iron artefacts - 421



## Champagne La Tene I

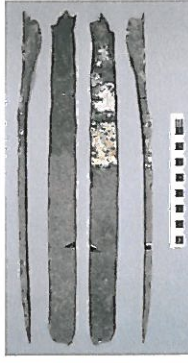


## Champagne La Tene II & III



## Iron artefacts in Iron Age burials in Champagne (Stead 2007)

La Tene 1 - La Tene II/III  
 Total number of burials 28 91  
 Burials with iron artefacts 21 59  
 Total no of iron artefacts 50 274



**The Gransmoor currency bar**, the only example from this region (Photo: M. Park)



**The iron working tools** from a pit at Garton Slack (Photo: M. Park courtesy Hull and East Riding Museum)



**Right: Late Iron Age weapons cache from South Cave** Left: Copper alloy sheath with a sword grip and guard made from a sperm whale tooth. It is likely that the weapons were produced in the region illustrating the continuation of metalworking proficiency. (Photos: East Riding of Yorkshire Council and YAC)



Reconstruction of Roman hall at Shiptonthorpe.

Excavation of the hall.

## Valley of the First Iron Masters

With this award-winning website, you can explore an ancient landscape. The "Valley of the First Iron Masters", the Foulness Valley, in East Yorkshire, was home to one of Britain's largest and earliest prehistoric iron industries, dating from around 300 BC.

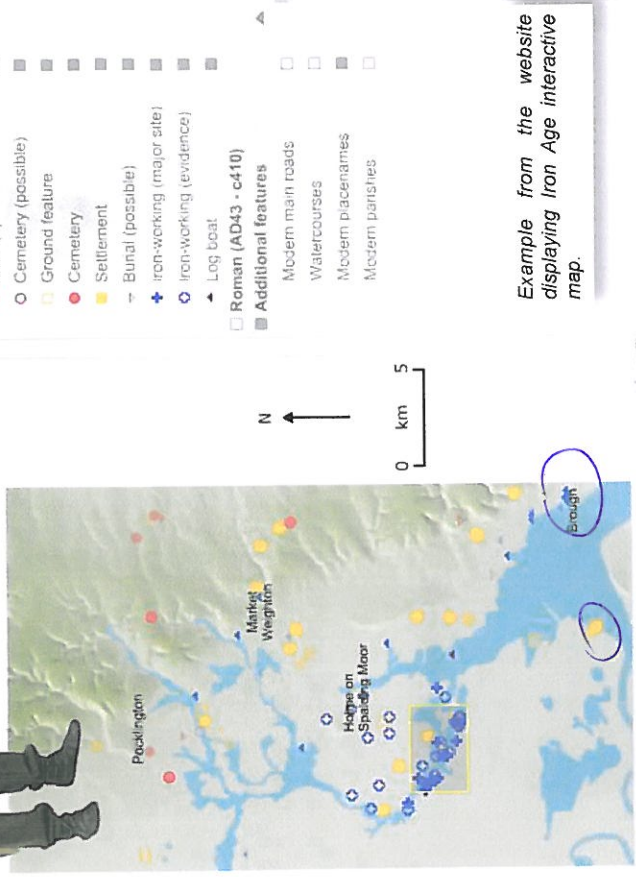
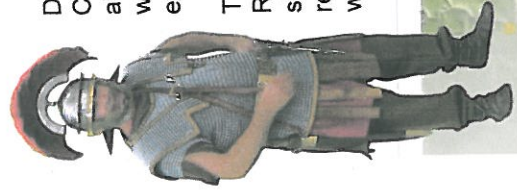
Other discoveries made there include the Iron Age Hasholme log boat, the largest survivor of its kind in Britain, dating from the same time as iron industry and East Yorkshire's spectacular "Arras Culture" with its chariot burials.

Crossed by two Roman roads, the region contains Roman roadside settlements, villas and a Roman pottery industry. Since 1980, the award-winning archaeology project which this website documents, has involved hundreds of people of all ages in researching the changing landscape of this area, from the Stone Age to the medieval period and human activity within it.



Designed with three user levels - **basic**, (targeted to the National Curriculum), **intermediate** (general adult user) and **research**, aimed at Higher Education, with a high-contrast version for those with impaired vision, this website includes a variety of ways of exploring the rich archaeology of this region.

There are interactive maps for each period, from Stone Age to Roman, virtual "guides" and themes such as food, clothing and shelter. There are video clips from excavations, virtual "fly-through" reconstructions of landscapes, buildings and other features and a wealth of images of some of the finds made.



Faces of Foulness Valley - L and R heads decorating the bucket and sceptre from the 'Priest's burial' at Brough. Head of Vulcan from Shiptonthorpe (Hull Museums Photo: M Park).