Landscapes of Roman Britain

Martin Millett

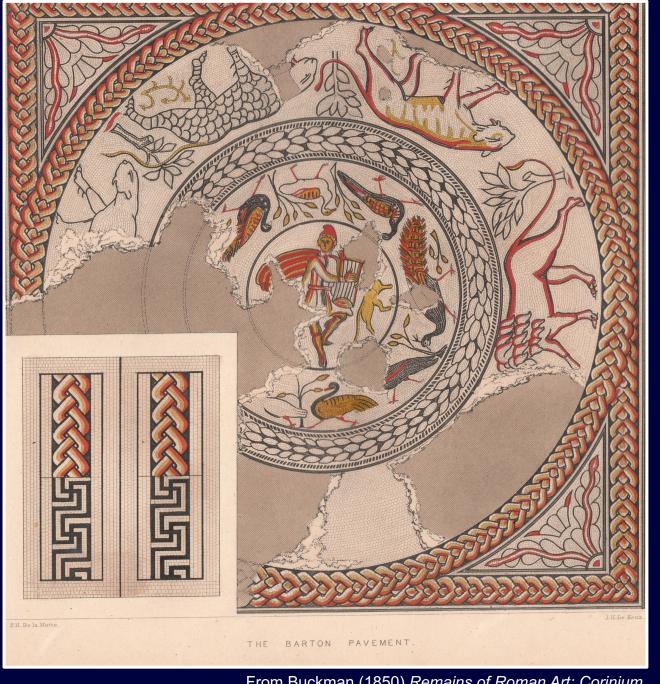
Emeritus Laurence Professor of Classical Archaeology

Fellow, Fitzwilliam College





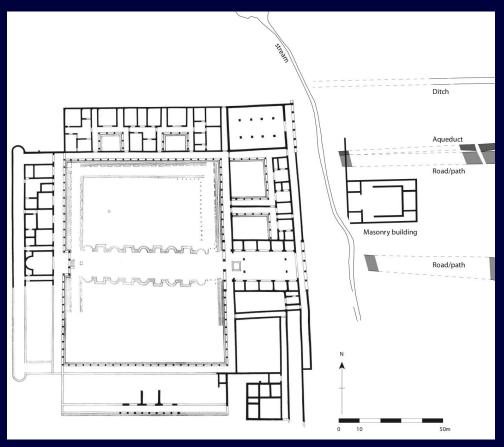
A revolution in knowledge of **Roman Britain**

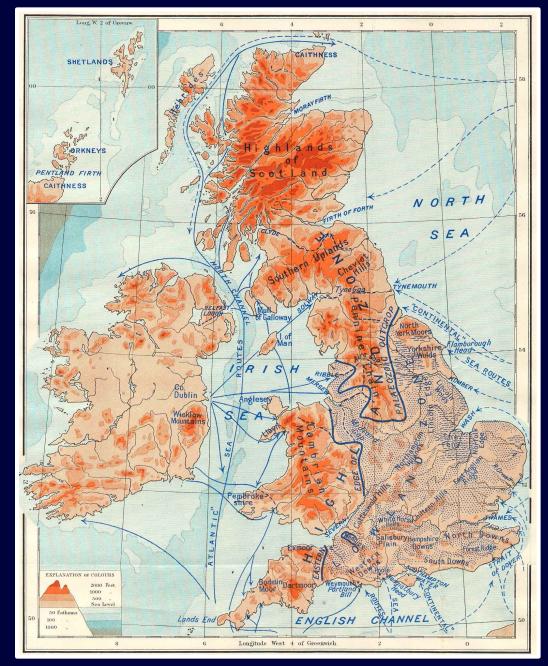




From Buckman (1850) Remains of Roman Art: Corinium

Traditional understandings

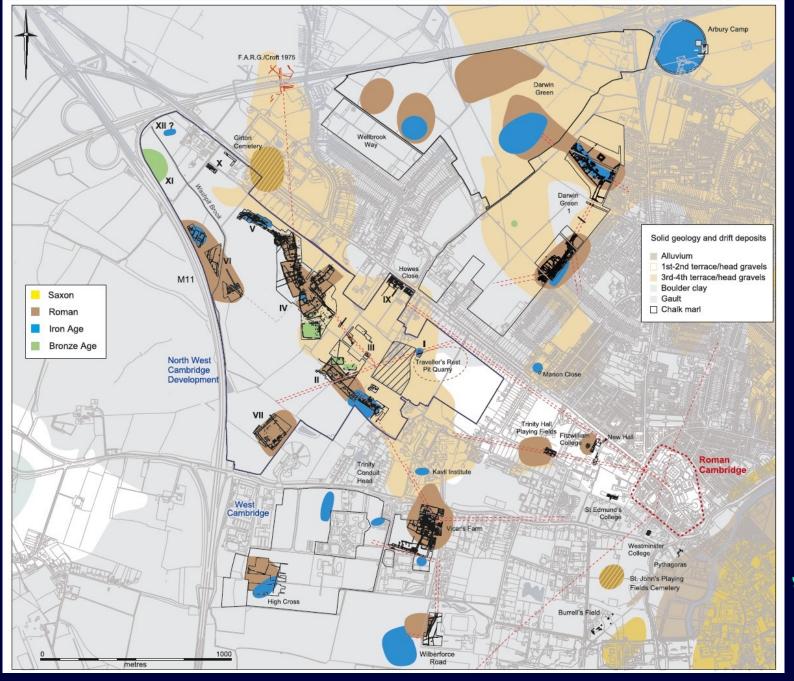






From Millett 2016

Density & Diversity of land use

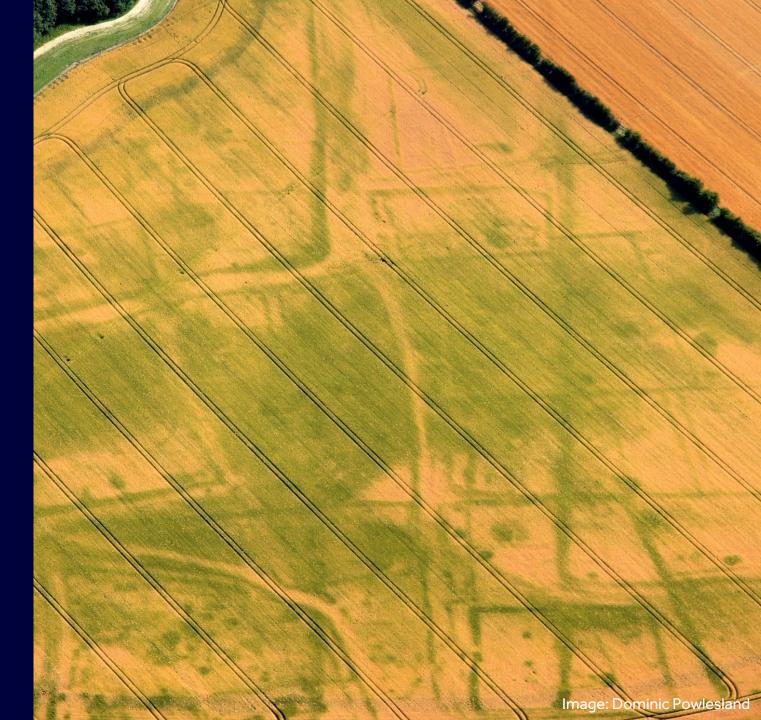




New sources of evidence 1



Image: Martin Millett



New sources of evidence 2





New sources of evidence 3





Image: Dominic Powlesland

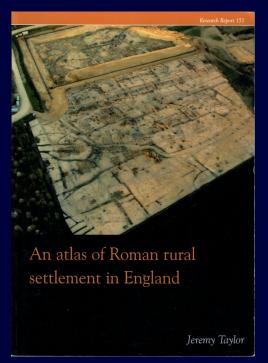
Heslerton Project courtesy of Dominic Powlesland

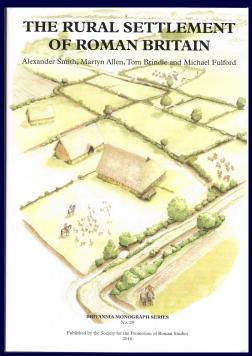


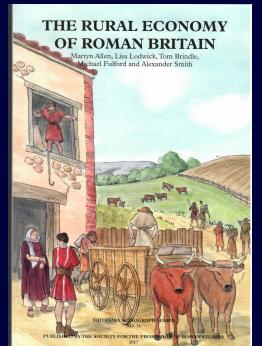
Recent syntheses

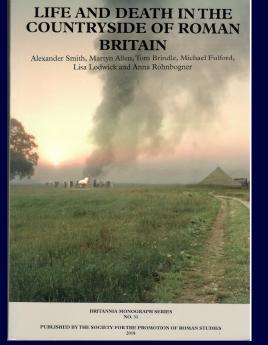
Roman Rural Settlement Project 2627 excavated sites:

- Great regional diversity
- Dominance of small farms (not villas)
- Widespread nucleated settlements ('villages')











Broad implications

Fully exploited landscape

Population size:

• Current estimates maximum c. 2 million in 2nd century, some estimates up to c. 4 million in 4th century.

Balance between different sectors:

- Rural c. 90%
- Urban c. 6.5%
- Military c. 3.5%

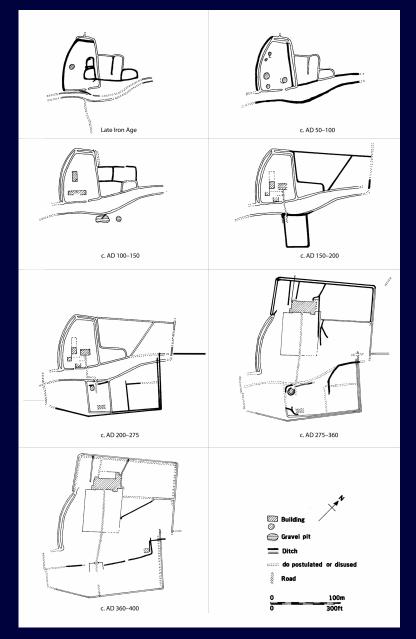


Transforming understandings: villas



Image: Martin Millett

Frocester Court villa, Gloucestershire





Rudston villa, East Yorkshire



Image: lan Stead

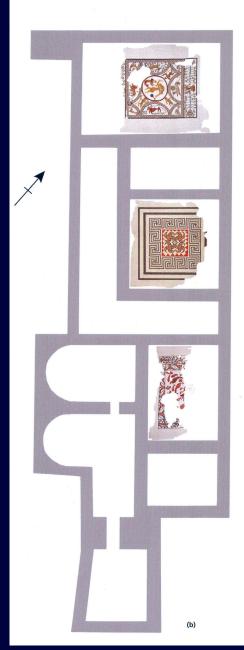
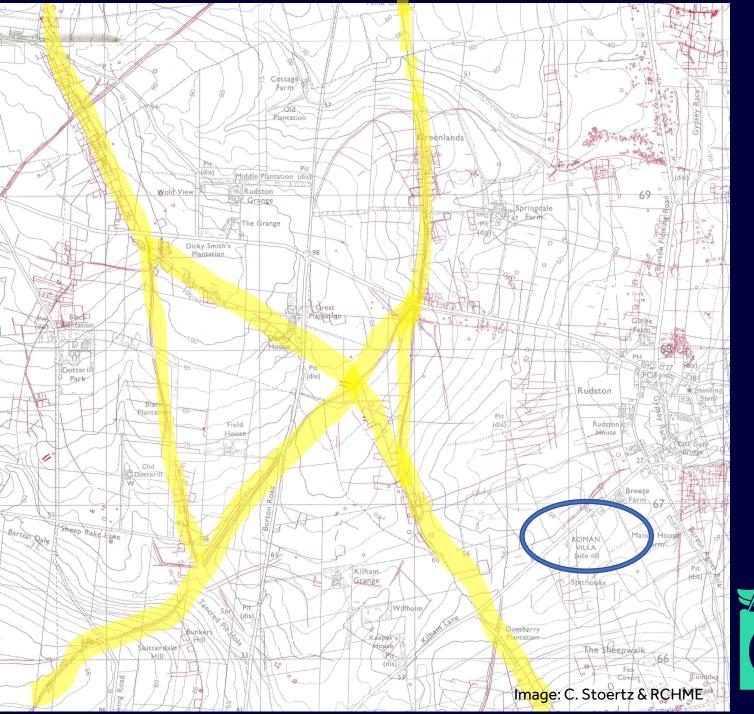


Image: David S. Neal & Stephen Cosh

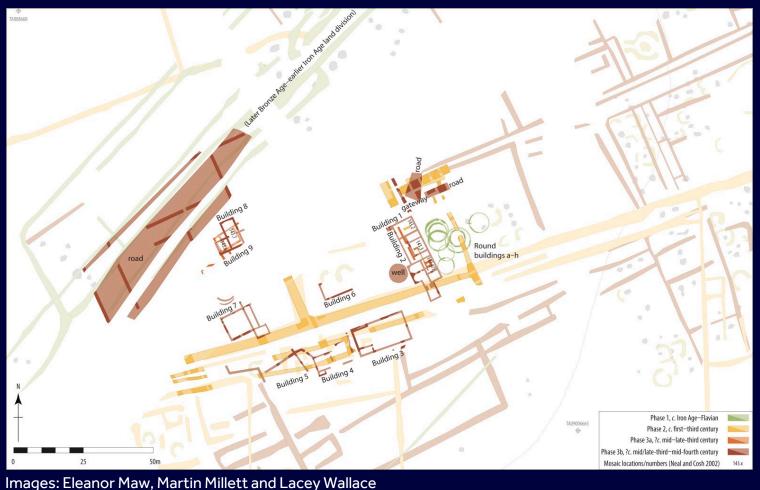


Rudston's Pre-Roman landscape



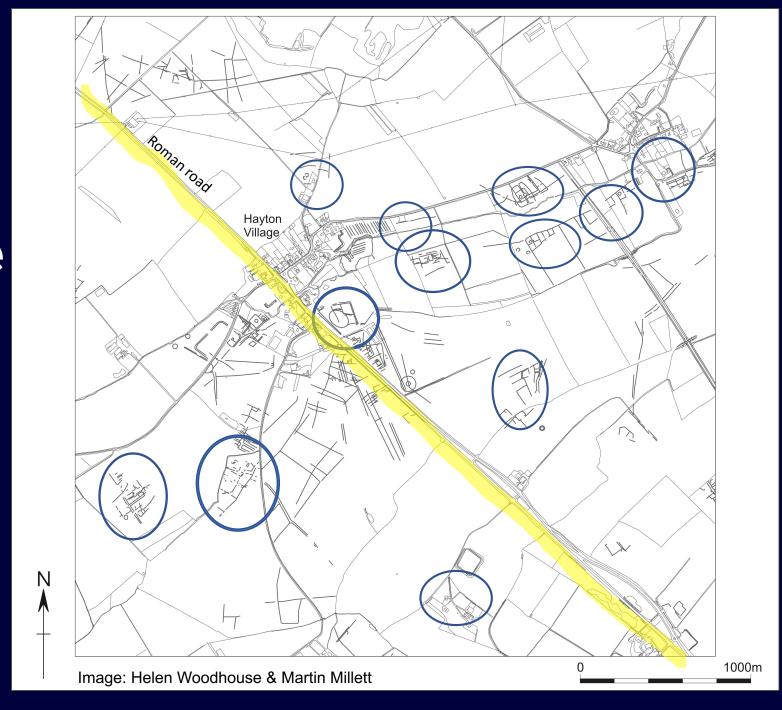


Rudston's landscape transformation





Landscape diversities: Lowland East Yorkshire





Lowland East Yorkshire



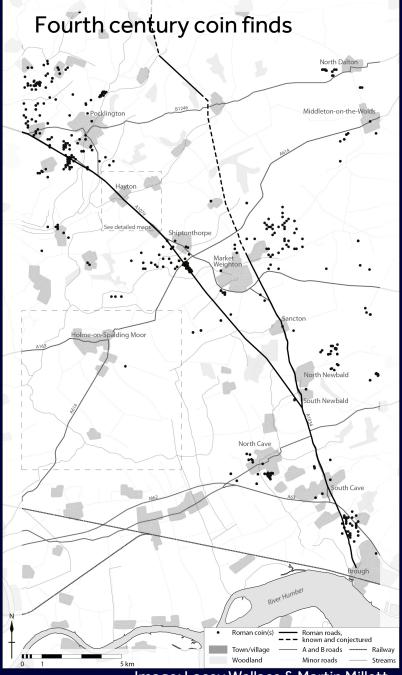
Image: Martin Millett



Image: Martin Millett



Image: Peter Halkon







Transforming understandings: connectivity & culture



Image: Martin Millett









Image: Peter Halkon

Lowland East Yorkshire

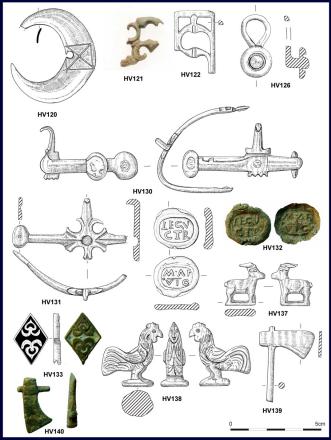
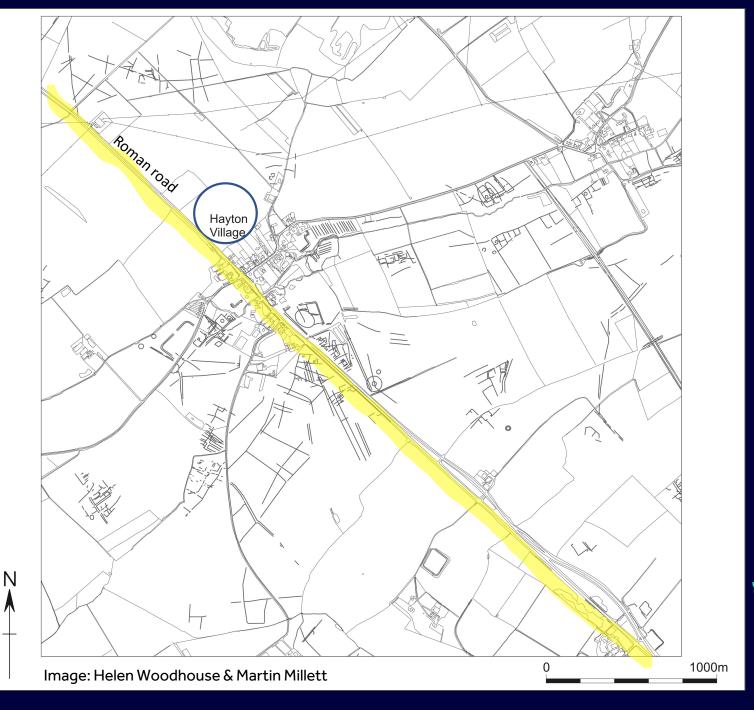
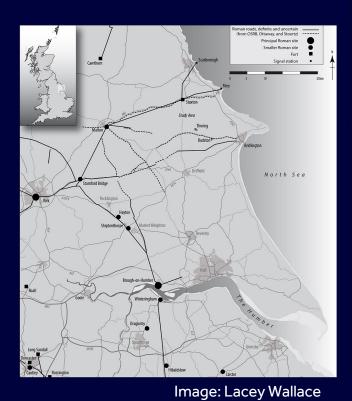


Image: Helen Woodhouse & Barbara McNee





Upland East Yorkshire







Transforming understandings: architectural display





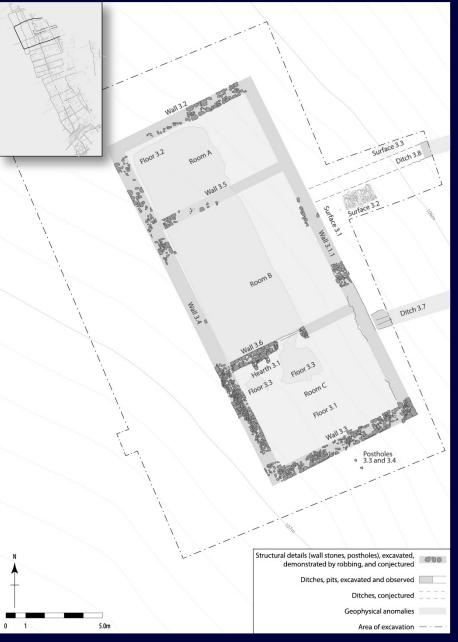
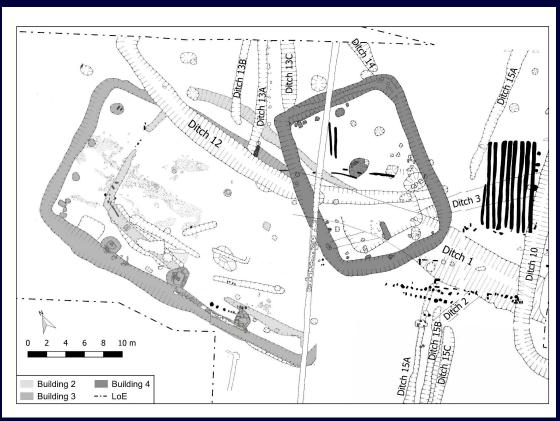


Image: Lacey Wallace

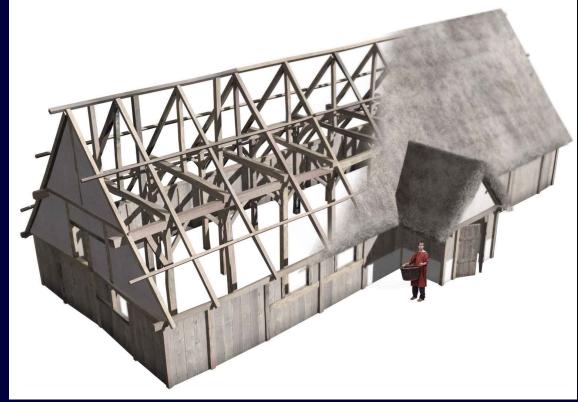


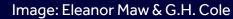
Timber as architectural display

Lightwater, Surrey



Shiptonthorpe, East Yorkshire







Transforming understandings: diversity of impacts of Empire



Image: Boxford History Project



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