

Update September 2019

Roman inscriptions and people associated with the Peak District on stone or lead.

This update considers those names recorded on inscriptions associated with the Peak District from the Roman period. These occur on both stone from finds such as altars and on lead ingots. These finds have been made randomly over the last 300 years or so and new finds are occasionally made.

Quintus Sittius Caecilianus

Role: Prefect

Stone altar inscription: Deo | Marti | Braciacae | Q(uitus) Sittius | Caecilian(us) praef(ectus) coh(ortis) | I Aquitano(rum) | v(otum) s(olvit)

To the god Mars Braciaca, Quintus Sittius Caecilianus, prefect of the First Cohort of Aquitanians, fulfilled his vow.

Perhaps about AD158 because the Aquitanians were later at Brancaster. Found at Haddon Fields. The location of this find is completely disfigured in modern reports by ignoring the date at which it was found allegedly "by the High Road" so is wrongly interpreted as being somewhere near the A6, but the altar was found before 1695 at which time the High Road through Haddon Fields was the Portway not the A6.

Aelius Motio

Role: unknown

Stone altar inscription: Deae | Arnomecte | Ael(ius) Motio | v(otum) s(olvit) | (aetus) | (ibens) m(erito)

To the goddess Arnomecta, Aelius Motio gladly, willingly, and deservedly fulfilled his vow.

Date unknown but before about 350 (based on the adoption of Christianity in the Empire). Found at Brough on Noe in the fort strongroom. Arnemecta (Arnemetia) is the god(dess) of Peak District waters.

Julius Verus

Role: Commanding Officer

Stone plaque inscription: Imp(eratori) Caesari T(ito) [Ael(io) Hadr(iano)] | [An]tonino Au[g(usto) Pio p(atri) p(atriciae)] | coh(ors) I Aquitan[orum] | sub Iulio V[ero leg(ato)] Aug(usti) | pr(o) pr(aetore) inst[ant]e | [C]apitoni[o Pri]sco prae(fecto)

For the Emperor Caesar Titus Aelius Hadrianus Antoninus Augustus Pius, father of his country, the First Cohort of Aquitanians under Julius Verus, emperor's governing legate (may mean commanding officer), (and) under the charge of Capitonius Priscus, prefect, (built this).

Date: about AD158. Found at Brough on Noe in the fort strongroom.

Capitonius Priscus

Role: Prefect

Stone plaque inscription (same plaque as above): Imp(eratori) Caesari T(ito) [Ael(io) Hadr(iano)] | [An]tonino Au[g(usto) Pio p(atri) p(atriciae)] | coh(ors) I Aquitan[orum] | sub Iulio V[ero leg(ato)] Aug(usti) | pr(o) pr(aetore) inst[ant]e | [C]apitoni[o Pri]sco prae(fecto)

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Date: about AD158. Found at Brough on Noe in the fort strongroom.

(?) Proculus

Role: Prefect

Stone altar inscription: [He]rculi [A]ug(usto) | [ob] restitutionem | t[em]pl[um] a s[ol]o | [...] | Proculus | praef(ectus) posuit | idemque dedica |

To Hercules Augustus, to mark the restoration of his temple, [unreadable first name] Proculus the prefect set (this) up and also dedicated it.

Date unknown but before about 350 (based on the adoption of Christianity in the Empire). Found in the vicus outside the fort at Brough on Noe.

Valerius Vitalis

Role: Centurion

Stone plaque inscription: c(o)ho(rtis) I | Frisiavo(num) | Val(eri) Vit | alis

From the First Cohort of Frisiavonians the century of Valerius Vitalis (built this)

Date: AD70-150 (based on the occupation dates of the fort). Found at Melandra by Glossop in the fort.

Lucius Araconius Verecundus

Role: Brenner (Lead Smelter)

Lead ingot inscription: L(ucii) | Arconi(i) | Vericundi | Metal(li) | Lvtvd(arenses)

(By) Lucius Araconius Verecundus from the metal works of the province of Lutudarum

Date unknown. Found at Matlock Bank near a smelting hearth.

Gaius Julius Protus

Role: Brenner

Lead ingot inscription: G(aii) | Iul(i) | Proti | Brit(annicvm) | Lvt(vdarvm) | (plvmbvm) Ex Arg (entariis)

(By) Gaius Julius Protus from British Lutudarum (lead) from the lead-silver works

Date unknown. One found at Hexgrave Park nr Farnsfield, Notts and another at South Cave, Brough on Humber and three more at Brough on Humber itself.

Tiberius Claudius Triferna

Role: Brenner

Lead ingot inscription: Ti(berii) | Cl(audii) | Tri(ferna) | Lvt(vdarvm) | Br(itannicvm) | (plvmbvm) Ex Arg (entariis)

(By) Tiberius Claudius Triferna from Lutudarum, British (lead) from the lead-silver works

Date between AD 69 and AD 79. One found at Matlock Moor and four more at Broomers Hill, Pulborough, Sussex.

Tiberius Claudius Triferna is also known from lead pigs from the Mendips.

P. Rubrius Abscantus

Role: Brenner

Lead ingot inscription: P | Rubri | Abscanti | Metalli | Lvtvdare(n)s(es)

(By) P Rubrius Abscantus, from the metal works of the province of Lutudarum

Date unknown. Found at Tansley Moor.

Imperial Caesar Hadrian Augustus

Role: Emperor

Lead ingot inscription: Imp(eratoris) | Caes(aris) | Hadriani | Aug(usti) | Met(alli) | Lvt(vdarvm)

Imperial Caesar Hadrian Augustus from the metal works at Lutudarum

Date AD 117-138. Found at Cromford Nether Moor near Wirksworth.

Other lead ingot inscriptions

The remaining lead ingot inscriptions which do not mention names of their owners or producers can be grouped as follows:

Soc(iorvm) | Lvt (vdarvm | Brit (annicvm) | (plvmbvm) Ex Arg (entariis)

Society of Lutudarum, British lead (from the lead-silver works)

Examples with this inscription have been found on one from Brough on Humber and one from Ellerker (Brantingham by Brough on Humber).

Sociorum | Lvtvd(arvm) | Brit(annicvm) | (plvmbvm) Ex Arg (entariis)

Society of Lutudarum, British lead (from the lead-silver works)

Examples with this inscription have been found on two ingots from Yeaueley near Ashbourne a mile north of Long Lane.

Socior(vm) | Lvt(vdarvm) | Br(itannicvm) |(plvmbvm) Ex Arg (entariis)

Society of Lutudarum, British lead (from the lead-silver works)

Examples with this inscription have been found on one ingot from Broomfleet, one from Churchover in Warwickshire and one from Belby on Humber.

Sociorum: Society / Associates / Companions / Allies. We have translated this as "Society" but "Company" would also do.

Of the properly recorded others which are of Roman shape and weight but are uninscribed or which have only numerals or are damaged there are 11. One from Oaker Hill at Darley Dale, one from Bradwell, one from Brough on Humber, one from Owslow Farm at Carsington, two from Cromford churchyard by Cromford Bridge, two from Carsington Scow Brook, one from Castleton and the two from Ilam. Finally there are a number of anecdotal finds whose records are so poor as to be unenlightening unless further material about them comes to light. Bateman in his 1848 work "Vestiges" noted that others of a similar form without inscriptions had been found in the neighbourhood of Wirksworth, but at that time if you found a lead pig you would probably sell it or remelt it. Two lead pigs were allegedly found by the Schoolmaster of Middleton by Wirksworth School in 1870 and a further one alleged on Wirksworth Moor. None of these are verifiable.

The **LVT** inscription is well understood to be Lutudarum, (Wirksworth, Peak District) (31 pigs associated). Other civitas locations appear as: VEB probably **Venta Belgarum**, (Winchester) for the Mendip pigs (26+ pigs associated). BRIG for Isurium **Brigantum** (Aldbrough) for the Yorkshire Dales pigs (4 pigs associated). Dec for **Deceangli**, whose civitas capital may have been Canovium **Deceangli** (Caerhun) for the Flintshire pigs (7 pigs associated). There are also three pigs known for Shropshire which do not bear a civitate or location inscription. These figures are of course subject to change with new discoveries and differing interpretation of the inscriptions.

Sources

The stone inscriptions are from The Roman Inscriptions of Britain and can be found on-line at <https://romaninscriptionsofbritain.org/counties/derbyshire> (and other counties).

There are several published lists of Roman lead ingots. A very comprehensive on-line one appears in the text of part 2 of Dearne, M J (1990) The economy of the Roman south Pennines with particular reference to the lead extraction industry in its national context, in White Rose e-Theses On-line. Gladwyn Turbutt's History of Derbyshire contains a fairly complete one. Finally, Harry Lane published one in his Romans in Derbyshire book, but this is quite difficult to get. Of these we have used Dearne's for the above lead ingot inscriptions as it was the most comprehensive. Since 1990 a few more ingots have been found and are listed by the Portable Antiquities Scheme (Pase) in a rather difficult to search website, others can be found by Googling news reports and detectorist's finds. None of the new post-1990 finds have Roman inscriptions relating to the Peak District lead industry (the Lutudarenses) but two lead pigs of Roman shape were found at Ilam near Ashbourne in 2005 (Pase WMID30B156) which brings the total of inscribed and uninscribed lead pigs attributable to the Peak District to 31.

Dearne, M J, (1990), The economy of the Roman south Pennines with particular reference to the lead extraction industry in its national context, PhD thesis, University of Sheffield, p406-516

Lane, H C, (1986), The Romans in Derbyshire, Bolsover, Veritas Publications, p14-18

Fitzpatrick-Matthews, K J, (2013), Britannia in the Ravenna Cosmography: a re-assessment, Accessed at <https://www.academia.edu/4175080/> on 22nd September 2019, p 1-107

Turbutt, G, (1993), A History of Derbyshire, Chesterfield, Merton Priory Press, p414-418

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