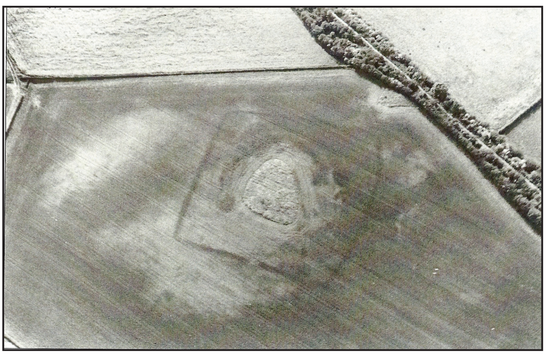
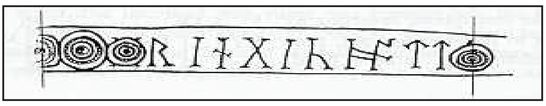
ROMAN TO NORMAN

Cobby Castle is near to Dean House Farm (now demolished) and the only remains are crop marks visible on aerial photographs. It measures 87m x 84m and comprises a ditched enclosure with traces of possible round houses



Example of a Romano-British enclosure but could have a later history as a motte and bailey castle



Inscription on the ring found in Wheatley Hill

8th Century

A finger ring bearing a runic inscription which reads “ring I am called” was found in the Wheatley Hill area in 1993. The ring is made from silver, alloyed with copper, tin and lead and is mercury gilded. It has three gem settings, only one of which is now filled (with red glass). It has been dated to the late 8th Century and is now in the British Museum

Hugh Burel exchanges Wingate and Wheatley Hill with Henry du Puiset

‘Hugh Burel, to (men) both present and future, greetings. Know that I give, grant and by this present charter confirm to Henry du Puiset (son of Hugh, bishop of Durham 1154-1195), and his heirs, Windegate and Wuetlawe and Smithetun, ..., and all my rights in England, in exchange for his land of Perci and Mureres (in Normandy), according the agreement between us ...’ (c. 1180)

Greenwell Deed 135:

‘At Thornelawe John son of Richard Harpyn confirms to William de Kellawe de Thornlawe 4 acres of land in Thornelawe of which 2 acres lie in Caldewellehope and 2 between the North Moor (Northmore) and the field of Schaldeforde (Shadforth). William in turn quitclaims to John the right to common on le Northmore except 15 days between feast of St Michael and Palm Sunday.’

Charter 1071 - 1080

The following Charter was preserved in a manuscript. It records the loan to Ealdgyth for the term of her life of land at Thornley and Wingate by Walcher, Bishop of Durham from 1071-1080

Walcher the bishop and all the congregation of St Cuthbert have granted to Ealdgyth the land at Thornhlawa for this payment, that is as follows, that if she leave ie need fully, be it in death or in life, the payment is eight oxen and twelve cows and four men. And also he has loaned her the land at Windegat all the while that she have need of it.

From the Norman period onwards, documents became more available and these are good examples that relate to our area