YORKSHIRE MUSEUM

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The Ryedale Bronze Hoard

A group of Romano-British bronzes found by metal detectorists in North Yorkshire were sold to the Yorkshire Museum, returning them to their original area of discovery. The group of finely modelled bronzes were first discovered by metal detectorists James Spark and Mark Didlick in May 2020 in a field near Ampleforth in Ryedale, North Yorkshire. The hoard is made up of a bust, most likely representing Roman emperor Marcus Aurelius, a horse and rider, a handle in the form of a horse head, and a plumb bob – similar to an ancient spirit level. Prior to this discovery, very little material evidence of the Romans had been found in the region, giving this hoard great archaeological and historical significance.