

A Royal Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Street House, Loftus, North-East Yorkshire



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By Stephen J Sherlock

Discovery in 2005 of an Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Street House, near Loftus (Borough of Redcar & Cleveland), was a surprise as preliminary work suggested there was only an Iron Age enclosure on the site. Subsequent excavations over three seasons between 2005 and 2007 revealed a 7th-century AD cemetery with 109 graves, five of high status containing treasure and one containing an Anglo-Saxon bed, the first to be recorded in northern England. The layout of the graves formed a square within the earlier Iron Age enclosure, again unique in the country. A range of exquisite finds and the bed suggest a broad time-span between AD 650 and AD 670 for this early Christian cemetery and strongly suggest connections between this site and the Deiran royal household. The report presents the evidence, supported by analysis from a series of specialist reports, to consider anew the significance of Street House in the context of Christian conversion and Anglo-Saxon activity across the Tees Valley and the wider region.



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