**Charles Wellbeloved prize 2020**

*Winner of the Charles Wellbeloved undergraduate archaeology prize*

**Agricultural change in early medieval Yorkshire: a landscape approach** *by Yannick Signer*

We understand very little about the development of agriculture between the departure of the Romans and the Norman Conquest. Only recently has academic research focused on the key factors which influenced changes in crop and animal husbandry.

The study of changes in agricultural output, analysed from published and unpublished archaeobotanical and faunal data, demonstrates that agricultural development fell into two phases. A first phase (late/sub-Roman – Anglian) was characterised by abatement and continuation, where crop choices did not vary and a shift to pastoralism was evident. The second phase (Anglo-Scandinavian – post-Conquest) was one of intensification, evidenced through the expansion of arable land and specialisation in the raising of certain animals for their primary and secondary products.

The identification of factors that would have influenced these profound agricultural changes can be linked to wider socio-economic developments of the period, including the rise of proto-urban settlements. The analysis revealed some indications that the phase of intensification started during the Anglian period. However, further research on well-dated assemblages is needed to investigate this.