Known to the Romans as Vinovium (“On the Wine Road”), Binchester safeguarded Dere Street, the main road between the legionary headquarters at York and Hadrian’s Wall to the north, for nearly four hundred years (70 to 450 CE). Since 2009, an international team of archaeologists, professional excavators, local community members and students drawn principally from Durham University, Stanford University, Texas Tech University, and Durham County Council has been excavating the vestiges of the Roman fort and town at Binchester seeking to understand its place and importance in one of the richest archaeological landscapes in the world. Among other things, these excavations have provided fresh details into a longstanding and intensely debated question: what became of the Roman military frontier after the dissolution of the Empire?

Lending perspective on debates concerning the transition from Roman Britannia to Anglo-Saxon England (4th- to 6th-centuries CE), this presentation will share new findings from the Binchester Archaeological Project and raise some fascinating problems that surface at the intersection of history and archaeology.