Conventional interpretations of Hadrian’s wall modelled the structure as a hard line of defense that separated the “civilised Romans” from the “barbarous” native Britons. The wall was believed to be not only a delineation of Roman territory but a physical barrier to protect the Romans from the violent and uncouth barbarians. As excavation in the region has continued, the modern interpretation of the wall has shifted away from such a hardline stance and instead has progressed to encompass a wide variety of functions. In modern scholarship, Hadrian’s wall is more porous – it is a frontier where cultural exchange, trade, defense, and domestic life intersect in complicated and unique ways. While the presence of the Roman army in the area suggests a certain threat, it is softened by certain structural features of the wall. This shift in the scholarship is beautifully reflected in HBO’s Game of Thrones. When we are first introduced to The Wall, modelled after Hadrian’s wall, it is at first a massive structure that separates civilization from Wildings, crude, barbarous people who live in the frigid North. This is seen in especially in season one when Jon, and the viewer is introduced to the Night’s Watch. In later seasons, symbolised by Jon’s romance with Ygritte and his eventual, yet controversial decision to let the Wildlings through in Season 5, these tensions are mitigated and the wall becomes a security checkpoint rather than a defensive structure, at least with respect to the Wildlings. This diachronic progression is an excellent example of how popular culture can both influence, and be inspired by our interpretations of classical archaeological finds. Fantasy is a genre to explore possibilities often not considered in our world, something that perhaps could help us think outside of the box when understanding the Romans and their intentions.