

UKDN WORD

WORLD OF RESPONSIBLE DETECTING

ISSUE NO.62
October 2012



A SILVER HAWKING VERVEL



THIS MONTH'S I.D - A LATE SAXON PENNY

inside:

NEWS, VIEWS, COMPETITION RESULTS AND MORE

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UKDN would like to thank Tom Redmayne for the cover page image and members for their contributions

A Message from Admin

Welcome to another packed edition of UKDN WORD magazine.

The detecting season is in full swing again with most of the crops now off and much of the land either under stubble or cultivated down again and we are seeing some wonderful finds posted on the forum. It seems to be a year for real quality finds so please keep posting them up for all to see as they offer a great inspiration to seasoned detectorists and newbies alike. And talking of newbies, it's great to see so many new UKDN forum members who are just starting out in the hobby. It's the best place to ask questions and gain information. Just a reminder too, if you are starting out and start making finds, please record them with the PAS. It all counts!

Just as our last magazine went to press at the beginning of September, we had our fantastically successful UKDN prize raffle with the first prize of an XP Deus metal detector, kindly supplied by Regtons. Nigel from Regtons did the draw for us and it was filmed and put on youtube for all to see.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dBH-jKMyiA&feature=plcp>

The three lucky winners and their prizes were:

1st Prize - tinner – XP Deus metal detector supplied by Regtons

2nd Prize - hoarder – original watercolour painting entitled "This Green and Pleasant Land" by Anthony Stokes

3rd prize – scrap iron chris – hand made custom stainless steel spade donated by Steve Wright

Not only was this a great event with some great prizes, but we also raised enough to make a donation of £684 to Cancer Research, the charity voted for by our members. Well done to all involved.



Brian & Mo'

Founded UKDN in Sept 2002, Detecting since 1978.



Puffin

Here since Nov 2007, Detecting since 2007



Coreservers

Techy Admin Here since 2003, Detecting since 2003



Petethedig

Here since Nov 2002. Detecting since 1980.



Kev Woodward

Here since 2005. Detecting since 1990.



Tomredmayne

Here since Sept 2006, Detecting since 2005

The Admin Team



Kevmar

Here since Sept 2002. Detecting since 1978.



Karv

Techy Admin. Here since March 2004. Detecting since 2004

ARCHAEOLOGY-TYPE FINDS BAGS EXCELLENT



Made of strong, durable 200 gauge polythene with grip-seal openings and with three write-on panels.

Supplied in a three useful sizes to suit all occasions i.e. 1.5" x 2.5 inch for coins and very small finds, 2.5" x 3 inch for larger coins and artefacts and 4" x 5.5 inch for the larger finds.

Sold in batches of multiples of 100 e.g. 300 or 600 or just 100, 500 and 1,000.

All sold at very competitive prices

with no rip-off fees for postage. For more info and to order go to the UKDN Shop via the link on the below.

100 small bags - £2.90 INC. postage

500 small bags - £9.20 inc. postage

1000 small bags - £13.99 inc. postage

100 medium bags - £3.20 inc. postage

500 medium bags - £9.90 inc. postage

1000 medium bags - £15.50 inc. postage

100 large bags - £4.99 inc. postage

500 large bags - £14.50 inc. postage

1000 large bags - £23.00 inc. postage

[Link to UKDN Shop](#)



Did you See

With almost 500 members visiting every single day and 100's of new posts every day it is so easy for you, the members of UKDN, to miss out on some very interesting posts. So, each month in the magazine we will bring to your attention some posts that you might have missed like.....click on the link

<i>Rolled Hammie?</i>	<i>Bronze age dagger tip?</i>
<i>What is it?</i>	<i>Roman brooch & Georgian half penny</i>
<i>Golden ball...!!!</i>	<i>Roman umbonate brooch</i>
<i>Is it a hobby or an obsession?</i>	<i>Anybody know what this is?</i>
<i>Roman gold</i>	<i>Heraldic pendant which family?</i>
<i>Medieval annular brooch</i>	<i>Hobbies...</i>
<i>Let's see your total days finds</i>	<i>Silver treasure</i>
<i>Star dust from Sunday?</i>	<i>Do I stop digging BOMB...</i>
<i>Silver seal matrix</i>	<i>Nice seal matrix</i>
<i>Offa penny I hope</i>	<i>Finds pouch</i>

PAS Find of Note of County/Local Importance Found by Tom Redmayne

CANDLESTICK

Unique ID: PUBLIC-C37065

Object type certainty: Certain

Workflow status: Awaiting validation 

PAS Record

An incomplete, Medieval, cast, copper-alloy, socketed tripod candlestick. It has a turned, broad, saucer-shaped base, 96mm in diameter, with two pairs of concentric grooves and a raised edge. The base is supported by three legs, two with a flaring, trapezoidal foot. The foot from the third leg is missing and the base is broken into three pieces with some missing fragments. The stem of the candlestick originally issued from the centre of the base but was found as three separate pieces, detached from the base. The stem tapers from a wide base, 17.3mm in diameter, up to 9mm, where it meets a hexagonally-shaped collar which, in turn, supports the two flat sides of an open socket that is surmounted by a tapering, hexagonal collar. There is a deep indentation in one edge of the collar. At the junction of the sides and the terminal collar, are the remains of two projections. The stem and socket are 147mm in length. The socket has an internal diameter of 15mm tapering down to 10mm.

This candlestick is almost identical to one described in Egan, "The Medieval Household", pages 149-150, fig. 117, no. 426, and is comparable to two, similar sticks found in French hoards dated to the 14th century. Egan suggests, therefore, that these candlesticks were imported from the continent. Very few examples of this type are known as UK finds.

Subsequent actions

Subsequent action after recording: Returned to finder

Chronology

Broad period: MEDIEVAL

Period from: MEDIEVAL [[scope notes](#) | [view all attributed records](#)]

Period to: MEDIEVAL [[scope notes](#) | [view all attributed records](#)]

Date from: Circa AD 1300

Date to: Circa AD 1400

Dimensions and weight

Height: 177 mm

Diameter: 96 mm

Quantity: 1

Discovery dates

Date(s) of discovery: Saturday 10th July 2010

Personal details

Recorded by: Mr Tom Redmayne - [[view all attributed records](#)]

Identified by: Mr Tom Redmayne - [[view all attributed records](#)]

Other reference numbers

Materials and construction

Primary material: Copper alloy [[scope notes](#) | [view all attributed records](#)]

Manufacture method: Cast [[scope notes](#) | [view all attributed records](#)]

Completeness: Incomplete [[scope notes](#) | [view all attributed records](#)]



View 

Zoom 

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Coin of The Month

Winner

Edward the Confessor Penny - 1042-1066 by Plodite



Sunday 26th of August was my club (Medway History Finders) 1st anniversary and the committee had organised a barbeque and refreshments by means of a celebration (thanks Pete and Kev). The club has grown since the early meetings of 10 people in a pub to over 60 members!

We had visited the farm in question twice before and detected on a pasture field each time. This had proven to be very productive and a number of quality items had been found including 4 Saxon coins, Roman silver and bronze coins and a number of hammered.

This time we had three fields available, all rape stubble cut very short. The weather was very kind and the sun shone all day long. I set off slowly concentrating on keeping the

coil as low as possible. My first signal was very positive. I turned over the spade to see an odd shaped piece of metal I initially did not recognise. On closer inspection I realised I had found my first 15/16th Century purse bar. A great start.

In the next 10 mins a shout went up of "Saxon". Someone had found a lovely conditioned Scaet. Good I thought, shows there are finds to be had.

Over the next 3 hours I wandered about on 2 of the smaller fields finding the usual buttons and small pieces of lead. Then the next signal produced a lovely little Medieval Annular Brooch with pin, another first. This was turning out to be a good day for me. By now the smell of burgers was wafting over the field and drawing me towards the



barbeque. Quite a few of the members had gathered for a bite to eat and drink and to show their finds. I saw a lovely elaborately designed Georgian Seal Matrix, a few hammered and then another shout of "Saxon". This time a cut half of Cnut in excellent condition. Wow I thought, I want one.

Suitably refreshed I set again for part two of the hunt. Walking down a line I spotted the friend I came with. We usually ring each other if one of us finds anything of note but that day I had left my phone at home.

I decided to change direction and go see what he had found. Within four steps I had a very good signal. This was a Lizzy three pence in VF condition. I was chuffed to bits and thanked my friend as he was responsible for me having found it. He had not had much luck so I wished him luck and carried on. I wandered onto the largest of the 3 fields but it was very quiet and after 2 hrs I had only dug about 4 targets.

It was getting late in the afternoon by now and I was very tired from the hot sun. So I decided to spend a last hour in the field where the 2 Saxon had been found and I had my Hammered.

After about half hour of digging buttons and bits of scrap another stonker of a signal. From the edge of a clod I could see what appeared to be a silver coin poking out.

Not hammered I thought, too thick. Not milled though as no lines around the edge. Confused I carefully broke up the clod to reveal a nice Saxon penny. I could not believe my luck. I had already had a great day of finds and now this.

Unable to detect any longer I showed the coin to the other members some of whom are very experienced but no one knew who the coin belonged to until someone produced a copy of Spinks and it was identified as Edward the Confessor. My best day detecting to date.

Richie Morrissey (plodite).

Artefact of the Month

Winner Silver Hawking Vervel by Yorky Pete



It was Saturday the 20th of August, I was detecting with a local detecting Club at Sutton Upon Derwent near York.

I nearly didn't bother when I heard the venue was rape but it proved to be not too bad.

I used my trusty Minelab Etrac, the field was very quiet and after one hour and only my second signal, out popped an Eddy hammered.

Then I got a very iffy signal which I wouldn't normally have dug, but due to the lack of signals in the field I decided to dig it out.

At about 5 inches down out came this lovely hawking vervel, I was over the moon! I could tell it was old & silver after getting home and washing it. I contacted the FLO on the Tuesday

and arranged to hand it over on the Friday, she loved it and it is now going through the treasure process.

I researched it on the internet but it was hard to find as the inscription on the ring was F Vaugan, missing the letter 'H', however the FLO said that such spelling mistakes were not uncommon at that time.

I found the family crest on [this link](#) and found it belonged to F Vaughan, the Sheriff of Sutton Upon Derwent in the 1500's.

There's a nice little bit about his family at Sutton, Yorkshire, Herefordshire and Wales on [this link](#) all be it a little scary.

Thanks go to myfamilysilver.com and Natalie Lawrence for your informative websites.

**Runner up
Iron bridal dangler by Tinner**



**Runner up
Julia Domna Sestertius by Coreservers**



UKDN FUN DSLR - Camera PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

Winner

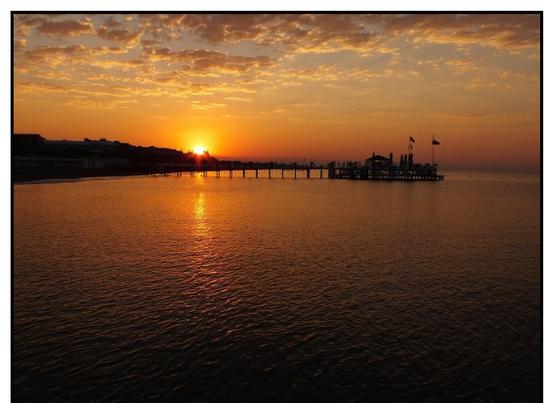
Martin Baker Meteors by -Ian- Nikon D5000



Runners up

**Scarborough Castle
by Popsandme Sony a200**

**Sunrise in Turkey by Warwick Wolf
Fuji HS20 bridge camera**



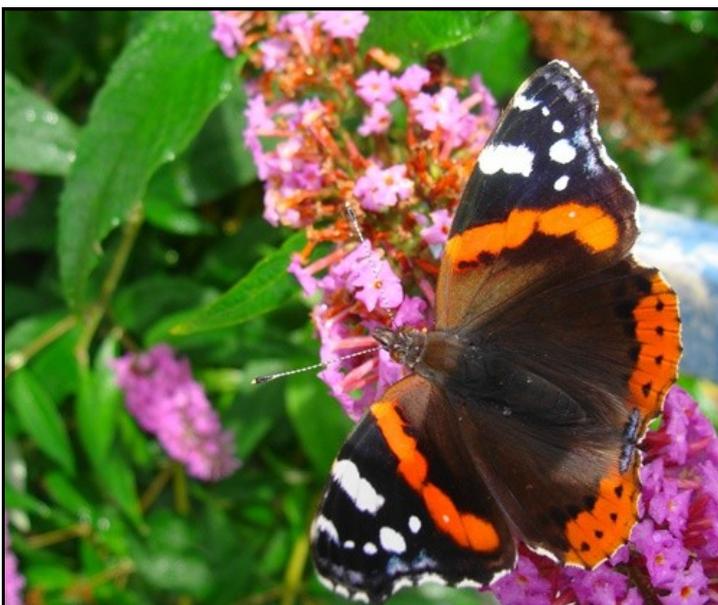
UKDN FUN POINT, PRESS & PRAY PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

Winner
Otters by Fishy - Nikon L310



Runners up

Red Admiral by Donnydave
Sony H10



Hay Bales by Casa-Dos
Samsung mobile phone





HERITAGE CRIME

What are heritage crimes?

Heritage crimes are, first of all, offences that damage the historic environment – so things like vandalism, graffiti, arson and theft.

Why should the public care about heritage crimes?

Heritage crimes are criminal activities, which can have serious effect on neighbourhoods and society.

Things like arson, graffiti, and criminal damage scar beautiful buildings. Anti-social behaviour such as substance misuse debase the places we live and enjoy visiting; theft and illegal metal detecting take away the physical evidence valuable to our understanding of the past. On top of that, all of these can incur financial loss on property owners.

If heritage crimes are not tackled better we all stand to lose something of our history and well-being.

How serious are these crimes?

There is **no national statistics on heritage crime** by the police so the true extent is difficult to ascertain. Through our work in the regions and our experience with many sites across the country, we know the crimes are widespread and they tend to be under-reported by victims.

A recent assessment identified that arson, architectural theft, removal of artifacts from protected sites and vehicle nuisance pose the greatest threat.

Illegal metal detecting in Lincolnshire is growing and reported cases are only the tip of the iceberg.

The level of **metal theft** is also of great concern.

- In 2005, there were 84 metal theft claims from churches totalling £325,326. In 2010, this has soared to 1763 claims costing £3,310,488 (data from Ecclesiastical)
- In 2010 Manchester diocese tops the list of metal theft claims with more than 90 claims recorded up to the end of November. It is closely followed by Lincoln, with more than 70 claims

Our understanding of the volume and extent of crime in the historic environment continues to develop. Neighbourhood Policing and local involvement will contribute considerably to gathering intelligence and data on the ground. We will also be developing systems that will allow us to accurately record crimes and ASB and thereby place our resources in the right place at the right time.

For crimes in progress - call 999

More action, less crime. It all adds up.

For crimes that have happened - report to your local Police
[click here for the non emergency reporting number](#)

LINCOLNSHIRE POLICE

[Click here to take part in the English Heritage Crime Survey](#)

policing with PRIDE

A lucky chap

I had just returned from a few days away when an old friend came to see me, he said he had lost his gold ring, no problem lets go and have a look I replied, he took me to where he had been working in the garden earlier.

I could not believe it - he had worked all day in a huge garden, cutting the hedge and moving the rubbish, first we tried the hedge cuttings with no joy so I went to try the back garden, it was covered in piles of steel, even the hedge had a chain link fence inside with big steel posts.



I thought to myself we have no chance of finding the ring, as my machine was beeping off constant, after about 15 minutes the chap from the house came to see if I had had any luck, I told him that I just couldn't see us finding it, he then mentioned they had also cut the outside of the hedge.

I went out to get away from the constant beeping, and ran my machine along the roadside, it was full of steel, tin cans, and bottle tops.

Out of desperation I tried the detector on the hedge, I kept picking up the chain link fence, I was about

to give up but just didn't want to tell my friend the search was over when I got a small signal, I looked in the hedge, no steel post or steel fence.



I ran my machine up it again and still got a signal, I pulled the branches apart and saw the gold ring balancing on a thin branch no thicker than a pencil, one wobble of the hedge and it would have been gone forever. I left the ring on the branch and called him to take a look in the hedge, to say he was happy is an understatement. I felt great to see



how happy he was with his ring back He was luckier than a lottery winner, if it had come off in any other location in the garden then it would be there forever. By the barnacle.



Word Search - Metal Detecting

[Download a printable PDF copy from here courtesy of History Hunter](#)

Find the words in the grid.

Words can go horizontally, vertically and diagonally in all eight directions

H J R T Q C K F L A E S A C I S S E V L K P N V V
P R P D O E W Q B B P R E T N U H Y T N U O B Q Q
R N V I T Y C A L T V M M C F V O M M F P M M H N
P Z L L Q J G I L N T W I O K K R T L P C L K N X
L T I P K S S S M M P N N I H P O T E T R D K E K
K O L X E S B E P N Z I I L K B S K J P N N J X N
C G P A T L L N N T O Y S C L W E C N J O F K U R
R T L O T W P O O C N Q H O R H T H W X Y C D S I
T M O N Q Q B H R Q P B O V L E A K X H Y T S N N
L L R M P O T P P S Y B V E L F V M B R I B J C G
N V F K K M Y D R E P G E R W Y F L M R G T Y Z G
S Q T M V O L A O B X J L S M J P P I E N N E C G
N C T W R P M E T U P X G S R K Q Z W S R T X S S
Q X I T T I L H C T D N D P E V I K I N G E J C L
P M G T R Z C J E K E Q N R R I N M L Y Z K D T R
O D B O E L V M T C T T J C A O R H I S U T U R O
O N N M Y N Q Y E Q E F N R G P B E Q N F D R L H
C L T N M N K V D T C G X V M X E E T M L E T L W
S D V N X M C E P D T M M C Z N R R S T H A N R E
D M J G A R R E T T O S S E L E R I W S A V B H L
N L W Z V T D F R P R M B M T Z L G I B Y B T M D
A R D L O G K V J Q S K N V L W H F N H R N H Z N
S N C N P H B L A C K A D A O H M M L K K D M K I
R C A R R Y B A G S H V P R O M A N B R O O C H P
D L N T R B F N V K J F T P X T J H Q N N T W L S

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BAGSEAL	CSCOPE	MINLAB	TEKNEICS
BATTERIES	DEIECIORPRO	NEXUS	TESORO
BLACKADA	DRAPER	OKM	TROWL
BLISSFOOL	FISHER	PROBES	TROY
BOUNTYHUNIER	GARRETT	RING	TUBES
CARRYBAGS	GOLD	ROMANEROOCH	VESSICASEAL
COIL	HAMMERED	RUIUS	VIKING
COILCOVERS	HEADPHONES	SANDSCOOP	WHITES
COILTEK	IRON	SILVER	WIRELESS
COIN	MINISHOVEL	SPINDLEWHORLS	XPDETECIORS

EXPLOSIVE FINDS!



Thanks to Jonathan Pow and the Daily Mail for the above image.

World Wars I and II resulted in explosive ordnance being deposited throughout our beautiful countryside and coastal areas. WW II ended over 66 years ago and many people born since the war have little knowledge of the ordnance used, they might not recognise it if they dig it up nor know the dangers it represents and the precautions they should take to avoid this danger when metal detecting.

So here are some images of the ordnance used, some tips on how to avoid digging it up and what to do should you be unlucky enough to do so. Also many thanks to all the detectorist's in the past that have reported the ordnance they have found and had it disposed of by the dedicated and brave workers of the bomb squad, making our fields and beaches a safer place for all;

Avoid Ministry of Defence land where military operations, training and storing of ordnance may have taken place.

If you find ordnance

Stop digging

Switch off your detector

Do not attempt to move or interfere with the explosive

Warn others nearby

Retreat to a safe distance and cordon off the area

Stop people entering the area

Inform the Police or HM Coastguard and the Landowner and give them the location including GPS or OS Map co ordinates if you have them

Any bullets found can be taken to the Police Station.

[Firearms Act 1968](#)

[Mills bombs](#)

[Wiki](#)

[YouTube](#)



[Unexploded bombs](#)

[Wiki](#)

[YouTube](#)



Not to scale

[WW2 mortar bomb - Courtesy of blue yeti](#)

[Wiki](#) [YouTube](#)



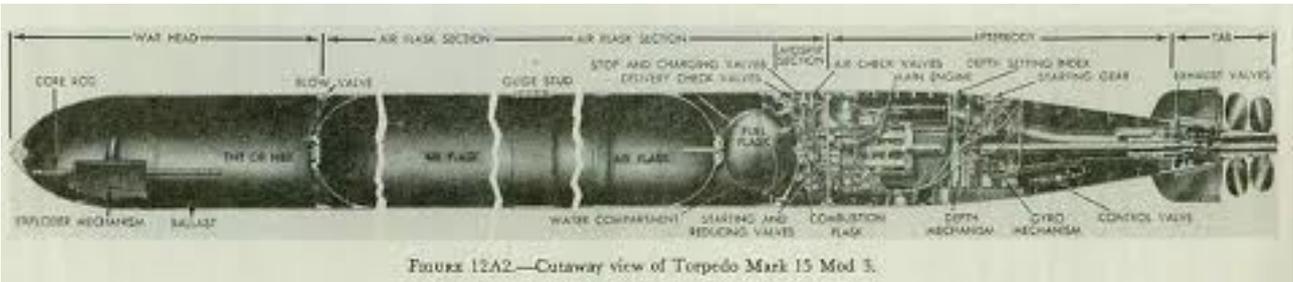
[WW2 Incendiary bomb - Courtesy of blue yeti](#)

[Wiki](#) [YouTube](#)



[WW2 Torpedoes](#)

[Wiki](#) [YouTube](#)



[Naval mines](#)

[YouTube](#)

[Wiki](#) [YouTube](#)



Not to scale

[0.303 inch diameter rifle bullet courtesy of Bridex](#) [Wiki](#) [YouTube](#)



[0.5 inch diameter machine gun or aircraft canon bullet courtesy of blue yeti](#)

[Wiki](#)



[Armour piercing bullet](#)
[courtesy of blue yeti](#)

[Wiki](#)



[Anti Aircraft shells](#)

[Wiki](#) [YouTube](#)



Not to scale

This Month's Identification

A LATE SAXON PENNY BY TOM REDMAYNE



The coin shown below has a small fragment of the flan missing but, other than that, it is very round, not clipped and has a definite beaded edge. The strike is very central on both the obverse and the reverse. Because of that, and the fact that the coin was very black and I didn't have my glasses on when it was found, it looked very like a modern coin, a 20th

century sixpence perhaps. This is the reaction of a lot of people when they find their first Anglo-Saxon penny. The reason that they are so neat is that the coins were struck onto an over-sized flan and then trimmed down and filed so that they were precisely circular and central.

(Continued on page 22)



IDENTIFICATION FEATURE

(Continued from page 21)

This helps enormously in reading the legends and so identifying the coin.

So it has been noted that this is a Saxon penny. How do we know? The obverse legend is fairly worn at the beginning, but clearer after that and we can see that it says ELRÆD REX ANGL. This makes it almost certainly a coin of ETHELRED, but which one?

There have been a few Ethelreds who have issued coins in Britain during the Early Medieval period, but only Ethelred I and Ethelred II have issued pennies on these large, regular, round flans. The pennies of Ethelred I were issued from AD 865-871 and had the profile bust on one side and the moneyer's name in three lines on the reverse. The obverse legend read AETHELRED REX. The pennies of Ethelred II were issued from AD 978-1016 also with the King's bust in profile, but with a variety of reverse designs and the obverse legend ÆTHELRÆD REX ANGLOR (or versions of this with the ANGLOR shortened)

This, then, would appear to be a penny of Ethelred II as King of all England. There were about 85 different mints in England producing coins for Ethelred II at this time and so we need to look at the reverse legend to pin down where this coin was minted.

The reverse is nice and clear, fortunately, and we can see that, after the initial cross, it reads + OS MVN DMO LINC. This stands for Osmund, moneyer, Lincoln. So, the coin was minted in Lincoln and by the moneyer Osmund. Unfortunately, the Lincoln mint was very long-standing and prolific and every different type of Ethelred's pennies were minted there.

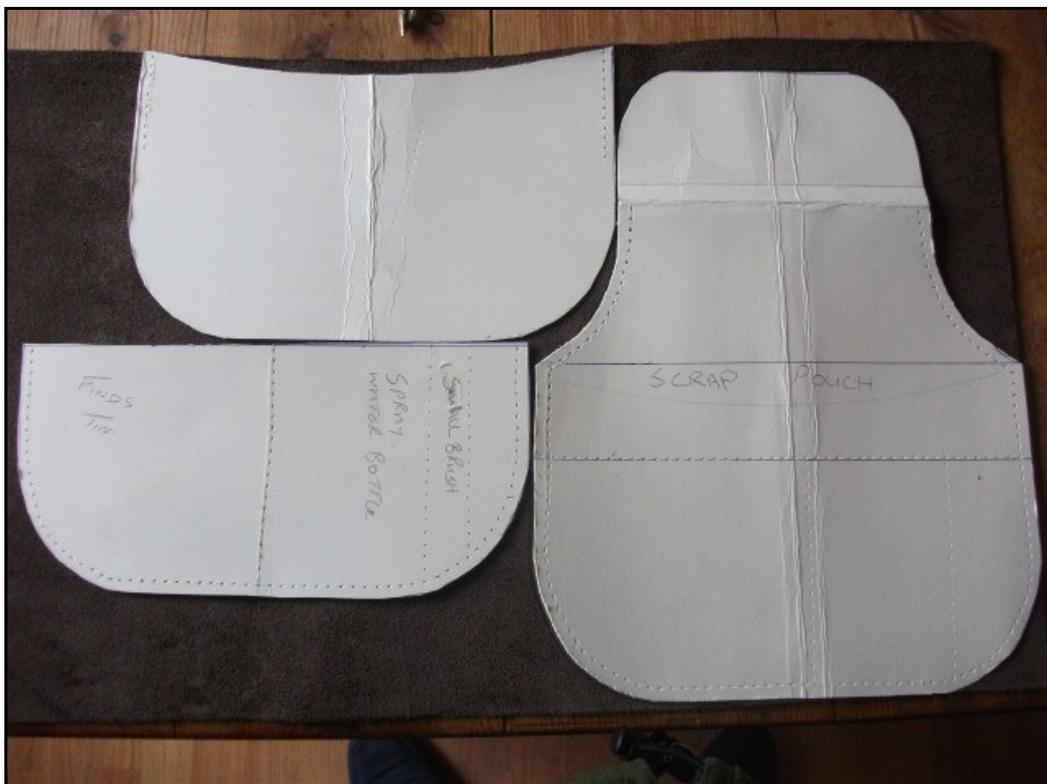
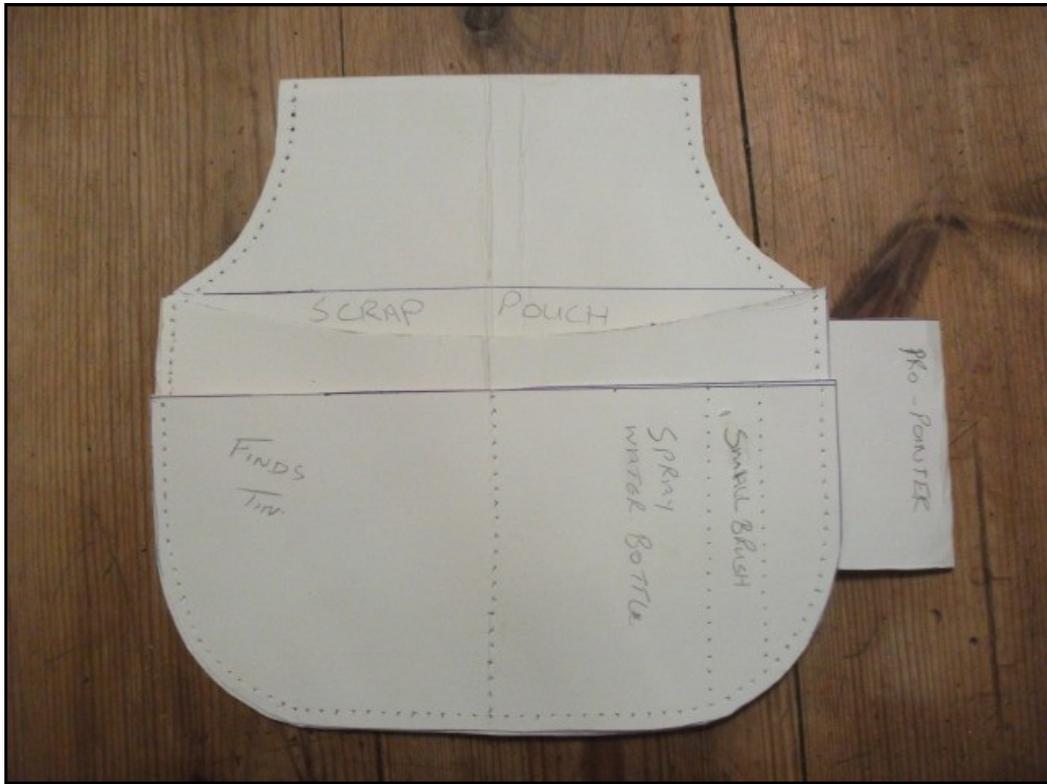
This is where good reference books come into their own. The books list eight different types of penny for Ethelred II and a bit of research shows that only one type shows the king wearing armour and with a helmet on his head as on this coin, unsurprisingly called the 'Helmet Type'. The reverse on this type is also very distinctive, being a voided long cross, each limb ending in three crescents, set over a diamond or square with a trefoil at each point. The coin was minted between AD 1003 and 1009.

That is it then. An Anglo-Saxon silver penny of Ethelred II, King of all England, helmet type, minted in Lincoln by the moneyer Osmund between AD 1003 and 1009. What a story it could tell!

**Copyright Tom Redmayne
August 2012**

Finds Pouch

Forum member metal-head shows how to make a finds pouch from leather to hold a Garrett Pro Pointer with a large pocket for junk, a finds tin, a spray water bottle, small brush and a pencil.









Roman Pestle and Mortar Grinders by Kev Woodward



Over the past century they have been classified as diversely as fertility pendants, woad grinders and now cosmetic grinders - why the confusion?

They were first published in 1918 by Reginald Smith an assistant at the British Museum who later went on to become Keeper of the Department of British and Medieval Antiquities. His paper however only dealt with one half of the set, namely the mortar, as he believed them to be equine or fertility pendants, hung from the loop.

In the main this classification survived until the early 1980's when other papers were published adding to the growing corpus of known examples from excavations. Metal detecting finds at this time were still considered by the vast majority of archaeologists and

academia as to be of no research value so were never considered. Even those detecting finds recorded by the forward thinking and *avant garde* archaeologists Tony Gregory in Norfolk and Kevin Leahy in North Lincolnshire were not deemed worthy for research purposes. I am glad that things are now moving in a more enlightened direction these days.

Some of these 1980's papers contained details of both 'grooved' pendants and 'solid' pendants, especially those found together in graves. But the connection that they were actually 'sets' of one artefact was only really accepted when the two components of one set, from an excavated site near Canterbury, were found fused together in their functional positions. Further evidence of their function was found when the same wear marks were seen on many

examples indicating a grinding action had taken place over an extended period.

Ralph Jackson published the latest evidence in the archaeological journal *Britannia* in 1985 and coined the term 'cosmetic grinder' and 'cosmetic set' without any physical evidence of what the ground up material actually was. The metal detecting hobby adopted the term 'woad grinder' as the accepted term and unfortunately it still persists to this day.

A combination of good research and better communication between museums ensured many more examples were brought to light from the collections hidden in their store rooms and collections. At the time of Ralph Jackson's paper in 1985 there were only 99 examples known; only 6 of them complete sets. By 1996 that figure had risen to 417 and by 2004 there were 625. These figures (from Jackson, British Museum Research publication No 181) do not include the grinders recorded on PAS or UKDFD and a quick glance on these databases show that those recorded by detectorists have pushed the known examples to over a thousand.

These grinders appear to be a Romano-British device as only a handful have been found outside of UK shores and those that have were found just over the channel. This may be due to a lack of excavation sites available in other countries or the recognition of the type if they are found. The most likely indication though is that they are indeed a purely Romano-British artefact. It is a real shame that other countries do not have their own version of the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) as this would surely have answered this

and other research questions!

So the evidence so far indicates that these grinders are a two piece pestle and mortar set used for grinding up, as yet, unconfirmed substances. The 'woad theory' is based purely on the writings of Julius Caesar where he mentions that the barbarians (native Britons) he met on his ill-fated campaign to Britain in 55-54BC wore blue 'war paint' all over their bodies. This may be true or just Roman propaganda, we will probably never know. But all the excavated grinders found in secure contexts have been dated post-conquest (43AD) so what did the earlier barbarians use to grind their woad? And with the growing amount of grinders now known, with probably just as many still left to find, would there have been enough woad to keep this fashion going? This theory does not hold water anymore and must now surely be put to bed!

The cosmetic set theory is a tempting one as it is well known that the Roman wealthy spent some of their denarii on perfumes, cosmetics and personal adornment; you just need to study some of the painted scenes from Pompeii for proof of that. The small number of grinders known up to the 1980's may well of supported an elite class use, but the sheer numbers now being recorded, now mainly by detectorists, is forcing a re-think.

The sets found in graves are not confined to just females, although they are in the majority, and I suppose males will have worn cosmetics in Roman times, but I feel a more plausible and practical use for these grinders is required.

Without organic or mineral proof any theory put forward will be just that, a theory. With that in mind I would like to propose a different or complimentary use for these enigmatic items. With the transport infrastructure that the Roman Empire brought to Britain people were able to move around the country much more than ever before. During their travels and at home people would fall victim to various illnesses and injuries which required some form of treatment. In the days before an organised medical service there were probably only two options available, one being to pray to an appropriate god for a speedy recovery. The other choice was to make up your own medicine from pre-prepared items such as dried herbs or plants etc., that were readily available from the land if you knew what helped.

This knowledge was passed down the generations and some of these remedies are known and still used to this day. These remedies could be prepared using these pestle and mortars wherever you were. Hung from a belt with a small pouch of various herbs etc., it would make a perfect 'medicine chest' either out in the fields or on your travels. And what better way to also ensure protection by the gods than to have your remedy prepared within close proximity of the zoomorphic icons that are shown on the terminals, the most popular being a bull's head.

A complete grinder set was found in a grave in London in 1992 which was fused together by corrosion to a toilet set and one other has also been found in a grave close to a toilet set (St Albans). These were the basis for

classifying these sets as cosmetic grinders as they were deemed to be employed along with the toilet sets "in some aspect of body care or beautification" (Jackson 2010). Such a small sample is not enough to be conclusive, especially as other grinder sets have been found in conjunction with items possibly used for medicinal purposes, such as a glass flask and a long thin spoon like artefact called a ligula. There is also the obvious matter of the many different zoomorphic terminals depicted on many examples.

In the main the bulls head and water birds are the most popular along with the ever present Roman symbol, the phallus. The interpretation of these symbols has generated much debate which I will not duplicate here. It is fair to say that they follow the pre-Roman art form of the late Iron Age as well as mixing with that of the 'new' Roman. Fertility is a strong theme that cannot be ignored but neither can health, well-being and the power of certain animals in Celtic and Romano-British beliefs. Take a look at a grinder found as a surface find during a geophysics survey of a Roman site in Norfolk that I was on; great craftsmanship and symbolism. It must have been made at the site or close to it as it is unfinished, the hanging hole is still solid and one end has suffered some casting failure. This one was probably rejected after manufacture and possibly discarded; even so it is still a beautiful object.



Examples from the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS);



As these grinder sets are a Romano-British device do we also believe that the 'native' Britons were the only ones to wear cosmetics or carry portable medical kits? This is of course complete rubbish; the rest of the Roman Empire had the same desires and needs as the Romano-British. It is the manner in how they resolved these needs that was different and the Romano-British took full advantage of their extremely skilled metal workers to leave us with these artefacts of much beauty and symbolism.

Whether these grinders were used for cosmetics, medicine or even salt grinding we may never know, but as more are found and recorded the researchers are slowly piecing the jigsaw together. And who knows one day a set or individual item will be found with the ground up material still surviving, my bet is on a medicinal substance, we will just have to wait and see.



Metal Detecting

Solution

H J R T O C K F L A E S A C I S S E V L K P N V V
P R P D O E W O B B P R E T N U H Y T N U O B Q Q
R N V I T Y C A L T V M M C F V O M M F P M M H N
P Z L L Q J G I L N T W I O K K R T L P C L K N X
L T I P K S S S M M P N N I H P O T E T R D K E K
K O L X E S B E P N Z I I L K B S K J P N N J X N
C G P A T L L N N T O Y S C L W E C N J O F K U R
R T L O T W P O O C N Q H O R H T H W X Y C D S I
T M O N Q Q B H R Q P B O V L E A K X H Y T S N N
L L R M P O T P P S Y B V E L F V M B R I B J C G
N V F K K M Y D R E P G E R W Y F L M R G T Y Z G
S Q T M V O L A O B X J L S M J P P I E N N E C G
N C T W R P M E T U P X G S R K Q Z W S R T X S S
Q X I T T I L H C T D N D P E V I K I N G E J C L
P M G T R Z C J E K E Q N R R I N M L Y Z K D T R
O D B O E L V M T C T T J C A O R H I S U T U R O
O N N M Y N Q Y E Q E F N R G P B E Q N F D R L H
C L T N M N K V D T C G X V M X E E T M L E T L W
S D V N X M C E P D T M M C Z N R R S T H A N R E
D M J G A R R E T I O S S E L E R I W S A V B H L
N L W Z V T D F R P R M B M T Z D G I B Y B T M D
A R D L O G K V J Q S K N V L W H F N H R N H Z N
S N C N P H B L A C K A D A O H M M L K K D M K I
R C A R R Y B A G S H V P R O M A N B R O O C H P
D L N T R B F N V K J F T P X T J H Q N N T W L S

News and Views from September 2012

Archaeologist set to conserve Roman scroll

Ipswich waterfront dig unearths 300 graves

Jersey celtic hoard to go on public display

Digs transform understanding of Roman site

Rare silver badge to stay in York

Tons of lost treasure appears in Polish river bed

Lifelong learning 12/13 Roman coins in Britain

Roman sarcophagus found in Dorset garden

Wooden tankard from Thames goes on display

Supermarket to cut fuel prices

Police hunt nighthawkers after dig site raid

Crosby Garret helmet to go on show

Wenlok jug returned to museum after theft

Useful Weblinks
<i>PAS - getting involved</i>
<i>PAS - Upcoming Events</i>
<i>PAS - self recording</i>
<i>PAS -Recording Timeline</i>
<i>PAS - Advice for finders of archaeological objects including treasure</i>
<i>PAS - Conservation advice notes</i>
<i>PAS - Guidance to landowners, occupiers & tenant farmers in England & Wales</i>
<i>PAS - News from the scheme</i>
<i>PAS - Blogs</i>
<i>Responsible detecting code of practice</i>
<i>Frome hoard time lapse video of excavation</i>
<i>Press coverage of the Frome hoard discovery</i>
<i>Burnham hoard excavation</i>
<i>Staffordshire hoard excavation</i>
<i>Staffordshire hoard at the BM</i>
<i>Definition of Treasure</i>
<i>To Report Nighthawking - If in progress ring 999, if after the event click here & enter post code, the phone number for your local Police Station is shown on the bottom right hand side</i>
<i>Rallies & Events - Searcher Magazine</i>
<i>Rallies & Events - Treasure Hunting Magazine</i>
<i>Wheresthepath - For O/S & Aerial Maps & National Grid References</i>
<i>Post code finder</i>
<i>Getting involved in archaeology</i>

New members in September 2012

Brian and Mo and the team would like to thank and extend a warm welcome to all the new members listed below who have joined UKDN in the last month. Please introduce yourselves so that the members can welcome you aboard and make you feel at home. [Click here to introduce yourself](#)

If you are not already registered with UKDN you can register by clicking on this link and see what you are missing [Click here to register](#)

kcannon
VdubS89
rover
jeff53
andy66
pchristi
lucky7
Bigbadjohn
Digger Barnes
WrinklyNinja
Runic-baz
Fisher4me
grego
treasurequest
robs1800
Barry G
derekwoodley
jamieb1990
eswqc
densload
Rod
graysy141
alan thwaites
Nutts
sandlover
christrig
STEVEW411ACE
nightowl2912
dyfz16
The Todds
Mk40
dexta
old man
Sparkles
Sir Likealot
Robert16
Bartie
lee
2bullmastiffs

mikeyk
kopparberg
nethertondetectors
gazzaj-59
viracocha
rangerover860
clintus
chaz_mcbride
Lone Wolf
digger27
1759snowy
dalfaber1
Lyndylou
Reldar
Markjoyce
ray howitt
gregmanchester
andy clarke
groom2012
Malpoet
brickie58
higgy
philvarg
bride2012
doughty8936
bsa lad
Tombs
goldhunter
mistletoe
hairytoe

About us

UK DETECTOR NET was created on September 28th 2002 to bring together responsible metal detectorists everywhere to discuss the hobby, their finds, the machines they use and a million and one other detecting related subjects.

Visit the forum

[Click here to visit forum](#)

Contact UKDN

enquiry@ukdetectornet.co.uk

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If you would like to contribute to the newsletter please contact either UKDN as above or PhilD via PM,.

UKDN aims

UKDN is a forum for people who are interested in the hobby of metal detecting. UKDN is an online community where members can exchange and share knowledge, their views, discuss the hobby, their finds, the machines they use and a million and one other detecting related subjects. UKDN actively works towards the following aims:

1. Develop a greater understanding of the hobby and some of the wider issues through healthy pro-active debate within the forum and through the monthly magazine, which is distributed to, and read by, our membership and beyond. The magazine includes UKDN based news and articles, as well as wider news, debate, and issues of heritage interest.
2. Provide a platform to inform beginners in the hobby of the basic principles in the use of a metal detector, gaining permission, site research, basic heritage law, farming scheme rules and in the 'best practice' for conservation, recording and co-operation.
3. Actively promotes the 'Code of Practice for Responsible Metal Detecting' to all members of the UKDN online forum and beyond.
4. Encourage all UKDN detectorists to record their finds with the appropriate bodies (depending where they detect); In England and Wales, this is with the Portable Antiquities Scheme, in Scotland this is the Treasure Trove Unit.
5. UKDN will actively work towards ensuring the future security of the hobby. We will liaise and co-operate with heritage professionals in a way which is mutually beneficial to all parties whilst maintaining our independence, and we encourage their active participation, either in the UKDN online community or through our on-line magazine.