



Stunning ring Find of the month



Military Buttons

Great research feature

inside:

NEWS, VIEWS, COMPETITION RESULTS AND MORE

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UKDN would like to thank Tom Redmayne for the cover page image, DetectingDavid for image enhancement and UKDN members for their input.



A Message from Admin

Well Spring may have finally arrived and everything seems to have started growing again. It has been a long and miserable winter for both farmers and detectorists, and the problems haven't ended yet. Many farmers have lost crops, especially the oilseed rape which has failed completely in some areas, This obviously offers opportunities for extended detecting time but it is a bad time for farmers and we must all be aware of that and be diplomatic when dealing with them.

The warmer weather is nice, but the crops have really shot up suddenly and for those of us lucky enough to be able to detect on growing crops, they will soon be too long to detect on so we will start to see more finds coming off the grass fields and the beaches soon.

There have been some great finds posted on the forum in the last month and it seems to have been an especially good start to the year for hammered coins, with many being found and posted up. Thanks to all who have shown their finds and please keep posting them for all to see and be inspired by.

The UKDN Easter competition was finally decided and well done to Popsandme and Mike1980 on their winning guesses. It took a tiebreaker to sort out who would win the Spink 2013 Coins of England book, and it was finally Mike1980 who pipped Pops to the post (no tongue twister intended!). Congratulations Mike.



Brian & Mo'

Founded UKDN in Sept 2002, Detecting since 1978.



Puffin

Here since Nov 2007, Detecting since 2007



Coreservers

Word Assistant Editor. 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



"White Fields" in northern England towns.

During a recent walk around stockport museum I noticed the words below and thought that would be useful to know if you see or read of a field called "White Field".

Bleaching removes the natural colour from woven cloth and improves its whiteness.

This traditionally involved soaking the cloth in sour milk and laying it out in fields in the sunlight. These fields were known as "White Fields". There is mention of a few such fields in the town of Stockport in the late 1700's.

From the mid 1700's people began to experiment with chemicals to improve the bleaching process. By the late 1700's a bleaching powder had been developed . This meant that the entire process was speeded up and could be carried out indoors.

The majority of Styockport's bleachworks were established just outside the town as bleaching called for a ready supply of water and a large site. Two of the largest bleachworks in Stockport were sited at Edgeley and Heaton Mersey. The bleachworks at Heaton Mersey was established by Samuel and Thomas Oldknow in 1784. The works at Edgeley were built by William Sykes in 1792. Sykes bleachworks became on of Stockport's longest established family firms, only closing its doors in 1986.

So if browsing through a tithe map you see field names such as "Bleach Ground", "White Field" or "Print Field" then bear in mind that a great deal of activity will have taken place there along with the respective losses.

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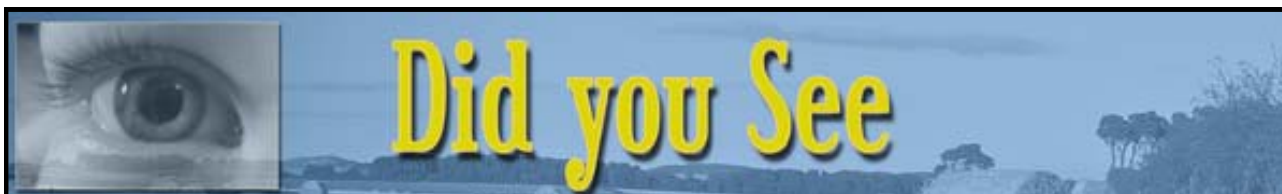
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With almost 500 members visiting every single day and 100's of new posts every day it is so easy for you, the members of UKDN, to miss out on some very interesting posts. So, each month in the magazine we will bring to your attention some posts that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

<u>3 peaks for Macmillan</u>	<u>Old Git John Valued Sup- porter</u>
<u>Easter Compo Winners</u>	<u>Advice wanted on WOT coil</u>
<u>Decent permission letter</u>	<u>Cleaning Horse Shoes</u>
<u>One Way Signals</u>	<u>detecting open land</u>
<u>Crown Estate - rivers</u>	<u>Where to begin</u>
<u>Coin Dies - how were they made</u>	<u>Foulford Battle site</u>
<u>Anything on Southport Beach</u>	<u>March 2013 Gold!</u>
<u>Stolen VW Camper - Reward</u>	<u>Eyes Open</u>
<u>Lost Permission</u>	<u>Sharing</u>
<u>UKDN FACEBOOK GROUP</u>	<u>Not April 1st</u>

Coin of The Month

Winner - Ironage Dubonni Quarter Stater



This coin was found in warwickshire on the 20 th march 2013.

It will be off to the FLO at our next meeting.

The detector was a minelab explorer2 on all metal settings.

It is only the 17th recorded coin of the Dobunni tribe , it being a Corio Quarter Stater. Weighing in at 1.3 g and 13.5 mm in size.

It is my first ironage coin, although I have had few ironage artefacts over the years but no coins previous to this one in my 14 years detecting.



Artefact of the Month

Winner - Flipperbrownsnout Romano-celtic ring



Myself and son of the sands had decided to go to the 3 counties dig at buntingford for three days and had booked to stay at stevenage for a couple of nights.

After detecting the first day and spending the night in the local pub we decided that our aging limbs could stand no more...the mud stuck to your boots every step, so we decided to head up the A1(M) to try a few sites I had permission on some 45 miles away.

Saturday morning we set off and in no time landed at the first farm. Having reacquainted myself with the landowner, permission was given to search the site. The conditions were perfect compared to the previous day... short stubble!!.

I have searched the site a number of times and it has produced a few bits and bobs....a few roman, a couple of brooches here and there.

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MONTHLY COMPETITIONS

(Continued from page 8)

The site appears to be a romano-british farmstead.

In no time at all I had found a couple of roman bronzes by searching a particular area of the site that had previously produced similar items.

I continued for a few hours working back and forth then 2 hammereds revealed themselves...both a little worse for wear, then 2 more ro-

man.... then the ring came up, as soon i saw it i looked for son of the sands but he was away over the hill.

Once located the look on his face was a picture as he had no success at all. Wwe generally have a bit of banter and run a little competition between ourselves regarding finds so that weekend was easily my victory.



Monthly Competitions Runners up



Henry V111 Groat
Afrape



Roman Nail Cleaner
Tinnersdad

UKDN FUN DSLR - Camera PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

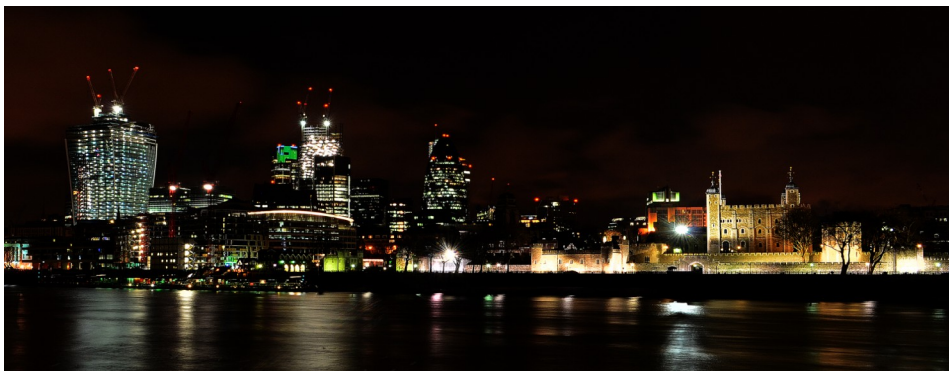
Winner

**Chris Hall—Garden Thrush
Canon 7D—Sigma Lens**



Runner-up

Slappeddicus, tower & city



UKDN FUN POINT, PRESS & PRAY PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

Puffin

Spring, Canon Powershot 2400is



Nick—Stonehenge





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Crop Watch

[April](#)

Time to end stagnant wheat yields

[Richard Allison - 15th April 2013](#)

A focus on cutting costs and some crops being starved of nitrogen are two factors being implicated in the stagnation of average on-farm wheat yields since the mid-1990s, according to experts.

However, a lack of progress in plant breeding or crop protection, is not thought to be part of the reason for this yield plateau, say scientists.....

Dutch growers earn more for sugar beet

[Louise Impey - 13th April 2013](#)

The news that Dutch growers will receive almost twice as much money for their sugar beet this year as their British counterparts has added to the rumblings of discontent already felt about the current UK pricing system.....

Cereals 2013; Time to turn up the heat on blackgrass

[Richard Allison - 26th April 2013](#)

Blackgrass and slug populations are two major challenges for establishing winter cereals on heavy soils in the UK and the banning of straw buring could be to blame, say agronomists.....

Top tips for getting the most out of spring oilseed crops

[Louise Impey - 18th April 2013](#)

It's not too late. That's the message for growers still considering whether to drill a spring oilseed crop this year and with the right care, both linseed and oilseed rape can give good returns.....

Beekeepers March - Protest held over pesticides

[Phil Case - 26th April 2013](#)

More than 100 beekeepers and conservationists have held a march in London to protest against pesticides linked to bee decline.....

Could wheat be made more like maize?

[David Jones 8th April 2013](#)

Wheat yields could potentially double as scientists seek to make the crop's efficiency of photosynthesis similar to that of maize plants.

Maize draws in more carbon dioxide than wheat does, making it twice as efficient at transforming light energy into biomass and hence yield.....

Video; Crop Watch - Light soils blown away in high winds

[Adam Clark - 23rd April 2013](#)

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Out and About in the Red Rocket

Issue 179 July 2000



Article reproduced
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the
searcher

In our last article we let the cat out of the bag by informing you all that this trip was to be our last in the famous Red Rocket, not that we knew it at the time. Just several weeks after our trip to Norfolk, we were once again loading up the van ready for another detecting trip. Land had become free in all our haunts and as all detectorists know there is precious little time to get on ALL the fields we want to.

On this occasion we planned to travel to Humberside. We had a lot of farms in this area and with five days free we were hopeful of making some interesting finds.

We left late on a Friday evening to beat the traffic and so as not to cause any major hold-ups on the M62 – the Rocket travels that slow uphill !!

By travelling this way we beat the traffic and are on site late at night, ready for the next day. We were there in under three hours and parked in our usual spot at the back of some houses.

We had detected the three fields here off and on now for a number of years and finds were becoming a bit thin on the ground. It is not Mo's favourite spot as she never seems to have much luck there. So, we had an agreement that if nothing special was turning up after the second day, we would try to find some new fields.

Next morning, we were out fairly early. It was a bright morning and we were hopeful that a nice find would appear.

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The day got hotter and hotter and we became more and more weary but finds were few and far between. We detected until eight at night and finally called it a day having found about five kilos of scrap, a pile of buttons and not much else.

soon talking local history

That evening we called in at a local watering hole we've used many times before. The locals get used to us calling about September/October and it was good to see the usual faces there. After a pint or two to wash down the stubble dust, we were all soon talking local history. Somehow, the subject got around to horse racing and how, years ago, races used to be held near the pub. The landlord got an old map out and we all tried to figure out where the old course was.

Some of the locals were adamant that part of the course still existed behind some new houses that had been built on the major part of the old course. Old Doug insisted that the two big semi-detached houses had been built right on where the bookies used to stand. He insisted that it would be a good idea if we detected the gardens of these two houses ! After a couple more drinks, Mo' and I were thinking it wouldn't be a bad idea either!

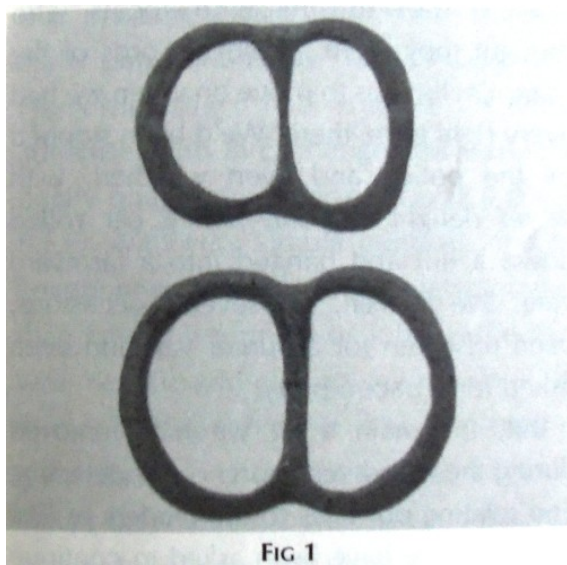
The next morning we decided to take a look at this bit of waste ground; the last remnants of this once popular racecourse. We'd had lots of conflicting directions the night before but we had a rough idea where it was supposed to be, 'supposed' bring the crucial word here. We drove around for ages and ages, all about the area of the new houses but couldn't find this old bit of racecourse. After two hours or so, we gave up. Probably by now, that site has had houses built on it too.

Whilst we had been driving around we'd seen some fields, recently cropped, outside the town, that we'd never looked at before. Here we go, the detectorists nightmare; finding who owns them and ... gaining permission to search. Here we spent almost an hour driving from house to farm, farm back to house, before we actually were informed that the owner lives in South Africa and only she could give us permission. It was now mid-afternoon and we hadn't even got our detectors out yet !

In desperation we headed back to the fields we'd searched yesterday just to get a few hours searching in. We were lucky in that we each found a medieval spectacle buckle, both shown in Fig. 1 but no early coinage was found.

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The next day we decided to chase up some research we had done in the area. We found a reference in an old book which mentioned a field called "The Hermitage" not so far away from where we were. A hermit lived in the hermitage and every visitor paid one penny to see him. He probably had a good thing going there. This old book actually had an old map which showed the rough location of the field and, after a bit of homework and leg work, we found the field and ... it had recently been cropped. Better still, a gang of workers were still in the field.

Keeping fingers and everything else crossed we made our way across to the group. It's a tense moment for any detectorist, even more so when you're seeking permission to detect on a probable medieval site.

Cutting a long story short, the farmer knew of the hermitage and didn't want anyone to search the field as he was keeping it for his daughter who was showing an interest in history and metal detecting. We offered to show her the ropes, on that field, but he wasn't having any of it. He did give permission to search a couple of fields near an old mill. We were off like a shot thankful for small mercies.

Full of apples

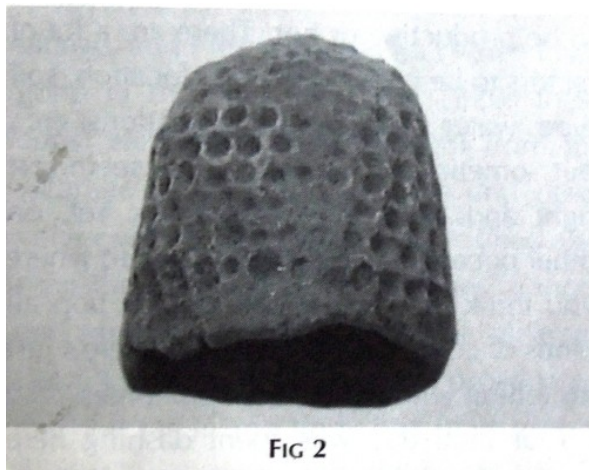
We took a wrong turn on the way to those new fields and found ourselves down a narrow lane which came to an abrupt end, the lane had been cut by a modern road. Mo' noticed a lone apple tree as I did a U-turn. It was full of apples.

The next hour was spent picking apples. Every nook and crannie of the van was filled with apples, enough to make a couple of dozen Desprate Dan apple crumbles. Everytime the van braked, apples rolled all over the place.

We spent the rest of that day and day four on these new fields but they were fairly barren, even of modern rubbish. Mo' found a cartwheel penny and several military buttons.

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In the corner of one field I found the early thimble shown in Fig. 2. This caused us to spend several hours giving the area the once-over but nothing else turned up apart from the military button shown in Fig. 3.



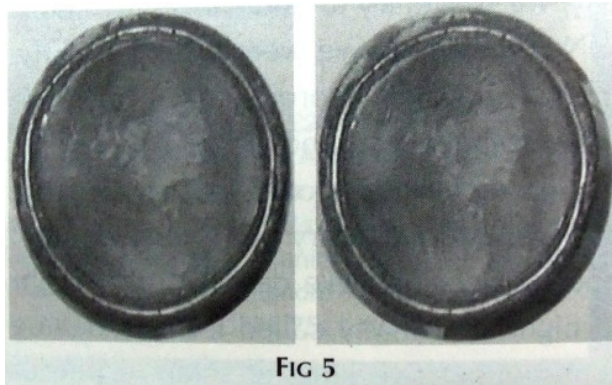
Like a lot of detectorists, we wish we could judge whether or not fields are going to be productive or not.

There are a lot of factors to be considered, e.g. location, soil type, water supply, communications, etc., but sometimes all these factors seem just right and ... nothing comes up. Yet, on other occasions, you think nothing is right and up pop all kinds of coins from all periods. There's just no telling with this hobby sometimes.

Our final day was spent dashing here and there, trying old spots where hammered coins have turned up in the past to no avail. One nice find did turn up however, on the last hour of the day. I had wandered to the top of one of the fields into an area we knew suffered from a proliferation of modern trash. There in the middle of discarded wrappers and bits of tin can, I retrieved the 17th century gilded seal shown in Fig. 4. This lovely find shows the head of a gentleman or clergyman facing right. Fig. 5 shows this head.



(Continued from page 17)



We had an uneventful journey home and parked the Rocket up hoping for another trip in the following weeks. We never got out again in it during the winter and our plans for a trip in early Spring were thwarted by our plans to get married on May 1st 1999. Following the wedding was our honeymoon in the USA and then one thing led to another. The van stood parked on the street for months on end.

Autumn 1999 approached and one day we decided to go looking at second-hand camper vans. The Rocket was still road-worthy but one thing put us off going in it more frequently ... its lack of speed. It simply took too long to get anywhere.

To cut a long story short we persuaded each other we needed to buy another van. This was six years newer and a tad bigger. Best thing about was that it could do 70 mph easily. It really trucked along, which was something really new for us.

We announced at our club meeting that we now had a new camper and that it was to be called "Rocket 2". When someone asked whether this was a red van too we had to admit that it was cream with a brown stripe. Some Smart Alec quipped, "Then why don't you call it Skidmark?". We have to admit that the name has stuck ever since.

Red Rocket is at this moment parked up in a garage in Halifax, that was its last trip. We did want it to go to a detectorist couple but no-one responded to our adverts on the internet. We hope it can be renovated and kept on the road, maybe we'll never know what happens to it.

In the ten years we have had the van we have had lots of fun in it. It has almost become a national institution. We have had so many adventures in it that it's difficult to know where to start.

We have written nineteen 'Red Rocket' articles for The Searcher and have shown most of the special finds we have made during those past ten years. In Feb '94, Mo's find of the Celtic votive sword, manufactured by the Brigantium tribe, was shown. This was eventually purchased by Harrogate Museum and is on show there.

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In April '92 I found my first gold coin, a gold guinea of Queen Anne. In March/April '94 Mo' found her gold posy ring, which read, "God decreed, wee agreed". Then, in Nov '97 I found my second gold coin, a half-guinea dated 1778.

covered in oil and grease

We had broken down many times, probably a reason we could never sell the Rocket, it had gained a reputation !! Many times we arrived on site covered in oil and grease but that didn't stop our fun.

In Feb & March 91 we detected in Cumbria and found zilch, craps, Big 'O', nothing. Detectorists could equate with this as we were found to be just like them, i.e. there are days when you go out, do your best, and come home empty-handed.

In all our travels in the van, we had avoided your bog-standard campsite. In all the ten years we had probably stayed on an official campsite three or four nights. We'd parked on a pig farm, not sleeping a wink all night and at the side of a sewage station.

threatened by yobs

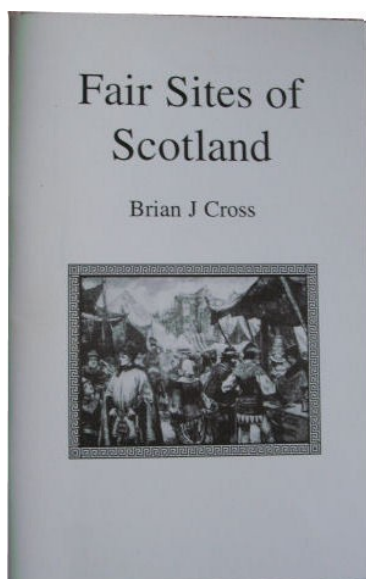
We'd parked bogged down in a slurry pit, we'd been woken in the middle of the night with the van shaking and rocking only to discover sheep had been attracted to their image in the then shiny hubcaps, and we'd been threatened by yobs after the pubs closed.

We'd had run-ins with locals who thought they were medieval Lords of the Manor, telling us to move on when we had every right to be there. We'd been stopped by the police and even watched, with secret delight, as one police car rolled down a hill and banged into a farmyard gate. We'd even, on several occasions, been mistaken for a burger van and been asked for a bacon butty.

But, the main thing we have enjoyed during these past ten years, is our detecting and relating our tales to the readers of The Searcher. We have been asked to continue to catalogue our adventures in the new van 'Skidmark' and this we have promised to do.

Our first trip in Skidmark was way down to the south of England. We did well and the van had no problem in getting there. Don't miss our story in the next edition of The Searcher.

Written by Brian Cross July 2000



Fair Sites of Scotland by Brian Cross

Written by UKDN Forum Founder Brian Cross this book researches all the Cattle, Sheep and Horse fair sites in Scotland. It is an excellent research tool for any detectorist intent on discovering some of these highly productive metal detecting sites.

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MILITARY BUTTONS



Military buttons are finds that most detectorists make, and perhaps for many they are too modern or mundane to get terribly excited about. However, its a subject that for the earlier buttons and the smaller units is not fully covered and detectorists are continually helping to uncover many missing parts of the story.

Indeed if you are keen on seeing history recorded and help re-write what is known on a subject you could do far worse things than on a wet day wade back through your button finds and look for anything that has letters, crests, numbers or a crown on it as you may just unlock the secret of a units uniform unknown for 200 years or more!

Some may be surprised to know that buttons with regimental numbers start from as early as 1767, and no doubt the earlier large pewter plain ones we all find are the mundane predecessors.

When something is found that is more unusual than the normal to start identifying it is probably best to understand a little about the make up of the different units and how they fit into what truly is a fascinating piece of British history.

Infantry Militia 1757-1881

Many of these buttons will be found close to the area where a unit was formed or served. A lot will include the word 'Volunteers' or have a monogram of letters (often including a V in their design).

Detectorists finds of these are today helping to attribute known types of button to individual units, purely by find spot. It was towards the end of George II's reign on June 28, 1757 that the act was passed allowing reforms to the Militia. This meant that quotas for each county were sent for the number of men they were to provide. Exact formation dates are virtually impossible to ascertain and equally troublesome are the units names.

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The Militia Lists often don't concern themselves with such things as 'Royal' titles whilst other units clearly decided to use the title without formal permission all adding to making identifying new discoveries today even more difficult.

In November 1796 with the threat of invasion increasing the raising of a Supplementary Militia was sanctioned. In some counties these extra men were absorbed into existing units whilst in others new units were formed. By January 1800, some 23 of these Supplementary units had been disembodied following an Act that allowed the King to embody these forces. A further raising of Supplementary Militia took place in the summer of 1803 but these seven units were later disembodied in 1805, which meant they could be embodied at a few days notice should the need arise.

With the end of the Napoleonic Wars in 1816 most units were quickly disbanded soon after, although a 'permanent staff' was maintained by each regiment. In 1853 at the outbreak of the Crimean War 17 additional battalions were formed mainly in heavily populated areas which included some artillery units as well as converting some existing regiments to artillery.

It was though the Stanley Committee recommendations, that were enacted in 1881, that spelled the end of the Militia as a separate force and the surviving units became numbered battalions of the regular line infantry.



English Volunteer Infantry - Found by Ritchie

Its to the Clerkenwell Loyal Volunteers who were formed as a loyal association with first commission date that of Capt. W. Marmaduke Sellon on 20 June 1798. They were disbanded in 1801, one company was not allowed to serve outside the parish boundary. Metal detecting unique find of previously unrecorded type, date range 1798-1801



English Volunteer Infantry

Again it was previously unknown and follows the common pattern of monogram letters under a crown, in this case IBV. It was through find spots attributed to the Ingatsone and Brentwood Volunteers, with the finders, myself and silver fox both having found these in mid Essex. They were raised in 1798 and disbanded in 1801.

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The Volunteers of 1803 and the Local Militia of 1808

Buttons of the Local Militia come in many designs, but one of the most common is an eight pointed star, with a crown on top and the letters pertaining to the unit in the middle, these will often include the letters LM.

The number of Volunteer Infantry units that erupted so dramatically in 1803 compared with those of 1794-1801, was a result of the Government passing 'The Levy en-masse Act' on 27th July 1803. This quite simply meant, 'volunteer or be conscripted'. By 1807 with the immediate threat of invasion lessening the Government now sought a way to utilise this vast volunteer army into a more integrated and efficient force.

The passing of the Local Militia Act (48 Geo III) was an attractive package for the rank and file with better pay and training but involving a four year commitment, which is why so many corps accepted the terms. It was not an enforcement, those units 'judged efficient' could continue as before, but without the better terms. Other units judged not to be efficient could either disband or continue serving 'without Government allowances'.

Middlesex and Westminster (the latter listed as a county in the 1804 and 1807 War Office Lists) chose to stay outside the LM Act, and additionally there were no Local Militia regiments in Ireland.

The overall object was to ensure that the male population of this country would, on a rolling basis, be trained in the use of arms. This objective back-fired somewhat when in 1812 the out-going 'four year men' promptly opted to re-enlist!



A local Militia button the 2 Suffolk Local Militia illustrates the style which often is based around an eight pointed star with crown atop.

When Napoleon abdicated in 1814 Parliament very quickly 'suspended training for the Local Militia', this had to be issued again every year until 1836. As a result, activities certainly continued in some regiments and officers' coatees as late as the 1829 pattern are known.

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Hence 'closed back' pattern buttons of some local militias exist.

The Rifle Volunteers 1859-1881

Buttons of the later Rifle Volunteers often feature the bugle horn in the centre of the design more recently associated to the Light Infantry units that many would later become.

The history of these units goes back to when fears of war with France once again raised the question of requiring volunteer units. It was not acted upon until 1859 when Lord Lieutenants were granted the right to raise units of volunteer rifles and artillery corps in maritime towns. There would be however no central financial support and all corps would need to provide their own equipment and arms.

With great enthusiasm in these early days some 800 units were set up by 1860, often purchasing their equipment before official recognition had been given. In 1881 under the Stanley Committee recommendations, Rifle Volunteer units in the same way Militia units were, became numbered volunteer battalions of the regular infantry.

The process was largely completed in the 1880's but some units did continue to keep their individual identities right up until the formation of the Territorial Force in 1908.

The Yeomanry c1790 onwards

Yeomanry being mounted wore buttons that are convex and very often silver plated. It is also common for them to show the letters YC albeit with a combination of other letters that will generally be the place name, don't however get confused with Yacht Club buttons that also commonly feature the YC letters!

Whilst the word 'Yeoman' hailed to a small farmer who owned his land, Yeomanry officers were drawn from the nobility or the landed gentry, and many of the men were the officers' tenants or had obligations or loyalties to the serving officers. These regiments, formed with the threat of invasion as a backdrop became known collectively as the Yeomanry, members of these units were not obliged to serve overseas without their consent.

(Continued on page 25)

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Following the end of hostilities with France in 1816 the Yeomanry Regiments were used extensively in support of the civil authority to quell riots and civil disturbances as police forces were created and gradually took over this role. In 1828 the Whig government withdrew financial support for all but a few units leading to mass disbandments.



Heres an example for the Yeomanry Cavalry section. Found by UKDN member mohican it shows the traditional 'ball' style of the mounted units, which are often silver plated. It was originally an unknown type but has since been attributed to the Cheltenham Yeomanry, whom we knew of but not what they wore!

The decision was reversed in 1830 with a backdrop of unrest in many agricultural communities and no rural police forces able to deal with outbreaks of trouble. Gradually with the expansion of police forces the role for Yeomanry diminished and whilst some units continued many others disbanded.

Of those that did survive they would become Imperial Yeomanry by way of an Army Order in 1901 and 1908 they would be merged with the Volunteer Force to form the Territorial Force.

It was through these amalgamations and development of the Territorial Forces into the Territorial Army, that many of the famous names of Yeomanry units still survive today particularly in the Royal Artillery and Territorial Army units.

Regular Regiments of Cavalry, Infantry and Corps

The numbering of buttons for the Infantry and Cavalry regiments was promulgated in 1767 but only received the Royal Warrant in 1768. This was a new Regulation - there were no numbered buttons prior to this date. The King's, Queen's and Prince of Wales's Regiments of Dragoon Guards were the only regiments to successfully appeal against this Regulation. Many of the early styles replicated the French design with a broken circle with or without a dot at the opening, still known as a 'French circle and dot'.

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The general trend was for the earlier large, plain buttons to gradually reduce in size and by around 1800 makers start adding their names to the backs of buttons. Equally there was a tendency for buttons to become more convex as the flat one piece style fell out of favour.

Pewter, used by the other ranks for many years was finally abolished in 1855 and Regimental designs in brass took over. In 1871 all infantry regiments replaced their personalised buttons with Royal Coat of Arms of the General Service button for the rank and file, whilst officers and NCO's continued to wear numbered buttons until 1881, the rule did not apply to Cavalry units which continued to wear unit specific buttons.

As can be seen the range of units and timescales and any lack of a definitive list of either units or their uniforms means that new buttons will continue to turn up for detectorists, especially as buttons are probably only known to around half the units we know actually existed. With this as the backdrop the plunge was taken to make a start on forming a definitive list that can be added to as our history is uncovered and which allows a hub for people to send in and record these small pieces of our past.



And for the regular army section a nice unusual find made by Stupot to the King's German Legion which was formed from expatriate German personnel in 1803 and were disbanded in 1816 and were the only German unit to fight without interruption against the French in the Napoleonic Wars. This style of button is most likely that used by the two regiments of (heavy) Dragoons.

Already since the project was started as a personal interest thread on UKDN we have now recorded more than 20 previously unknown examples. A new website has been launched britishmilitarybuttons.co.uk which now has around 200 examples online and is growing every week. Whilst many of the examples now on there are unusual types that we have recorded along the way, we are adding more common types as well now so that the resource builds to a point where if you don't find it on there, then it is probably unknown or at least unusual. Whilst we are still a long way from that position currently, it is a long term achievable goal that with assistance from responsible detectorists will finally allow a fascinating period of British history to be properly recorded.



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

Detecting on Entry Level Stewardship (ELS) Land - From the [ELS Handbook](#)

5.5.5 Archaeological fieldwork and metal detecting on your land

With certain exceptions (see below) metal detecting is allowed on [land within an ELS agreement](#), provided that it is undertaken in accordance with best practice laid down in the current Code of Practice for Responsible Metal Detecting in England and Wales and that you agree that all finds are reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme. For details of this code, please see www.finds.org.uk.

Metal detecting is **not** allowed on Scheduled Monuments, SSSIs and known archaeological sites under grassland. By 'known archaeological sites', we mean archaeological sites identified in your FER and any additional sites of which you are subsequently advised in writing by us.

You must also ensure that the metal detecting does not conflict with the requirements of your ELS agreement, ie where the proposed detecting will affect your ability to meet any option prescriptions. In such a case, you will need a derogation. Section 5.6.6 explains how to apply for a derogation.

As part of your ELS agreement, we require you to protect and retain archaeological sites and other environmental features (ie the features identified in your FER) over the entire area under agreement. You must ensure that no damage is caused to these features, and any additional features of which you are subsequently advised in writing by us, wherever metal detecting takes place.

Damage to archaeological sites is taken to mean disturbance of previously undisturbed deposits in and on archaeological sites and monuments, and any removal, loss and/or disruption of standing masonry or other upstanding structural material. If you are in any doubt about whether any operations will damage environmental features, please contact us.

You must inform us of large-scale metal-detecting events, including metal-detecting rallies, on any ELS agreement land at least 12 weeks before the event. You should provide all available details including the date, location, a map showing the parcels to be searched (marked with any areas excluded), and the expected number of participants. We will provide you with advice to ensure that the event does not conflict with the requirements and objectives of the ELS agreement.

On Scheduled Monuments, you must obtain a licence from English Heritage before metal detecting can take place. Detecting without such a licence is a criminal offence.

On SSSIs, where actions resulting from metal detecting (eg digging or vegetation disturbance) are listed as 'operations likely to damage the special interest' of the SSSI, you must give written notice to us of these operations. Detecting can only proceed with written consent.

You need to apply for a derogation for any proposed fieldwork (such as test-pitting or excavation) that would cause, or is expected to cause, ground disturbance or damage (see above) to any known archaeological sites. Section 5.6.6 explains how to apply for a derogation.

In addition, any archaeological fieldwork (including the use of ground penetrating radar or remote sensing) on Scheduled Monuments requires written consent from English Heritage before fieldwork can commence. You must obtain written consent from us for any archaeological fieldwork (including the use of ground-penetrating radar or remote sensing) on SSSIs before fieldwork can commence.

Code of Practice for Responsible Metal Detecting in England & Wales

Being responsible means:

Before you go metal-detecting

Not trespassing; before you start detecting obtain permission to search from the landowner/occupier, regardless of the status, or perceived status, of the land. Remember that all land has an owner. To avoid subsequent disputes it is always advisable to get permission and agreement in writing first regarding the ownership of any finds subsequently discovered (see www.cla.org.uk / www.nfuonline.com).

Adhering to the laws concerning protected sites (e.g. those defined as Scheduled Monuments or Sites of Special Scientific Interest: you can obtain details of these from the landowner/occupier, Finds Liaison Officer, Historic Environment Record or at www.magic.gov.uk). Take extra care when detecting near protected sites: for example, it is not always clear where the boundaries lie on the ground.

You are strongly recommended to join a metal detecting club or association that encourages co-operation and responsive exchanges with other responsible heritage groups. Details of metal detecting organisations can be found at www.ncmd.co.uk / www.fid.newbury.net.

Familiarising yourself with and following current conservation advice on the handling, care and storage of archaeological objects (see www.finds.org.uk).

While you are metal-detecting

1. Wherever possible working on ground that has already been disturbed (such as ploughed land or that which has formerly been ploughed), and only within the depth of ploughing. If detecting takes place on undisturbed pasture, be careful to ensure that no damage is done to the archaeological value of the land, including earthworks.
2. Minimising any ground disturbance through the use of suitable tools and by reinstating any excavated material as neatly as possible. Endeavour not to damage stratified archaeological deposits.
3. Recording findspots as accurately as possible for all finds (i.e. to at least a one hundred metre square, using an Ordnance Survey map or hand-held Global Positioning Systems (GPS) device) whilst in the field. Bag finds individually and record the National Grid Reference (NGR) on the bag. Findspot information should not be passed on to other parties without the agreement of the landowner/occupier (see also clause 9).

Respecting the Country Code (leave gates and property as you find them and do not damage crops, frighten animals, or disturb ground nesting birds, and dispose of litter properly: see www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk).

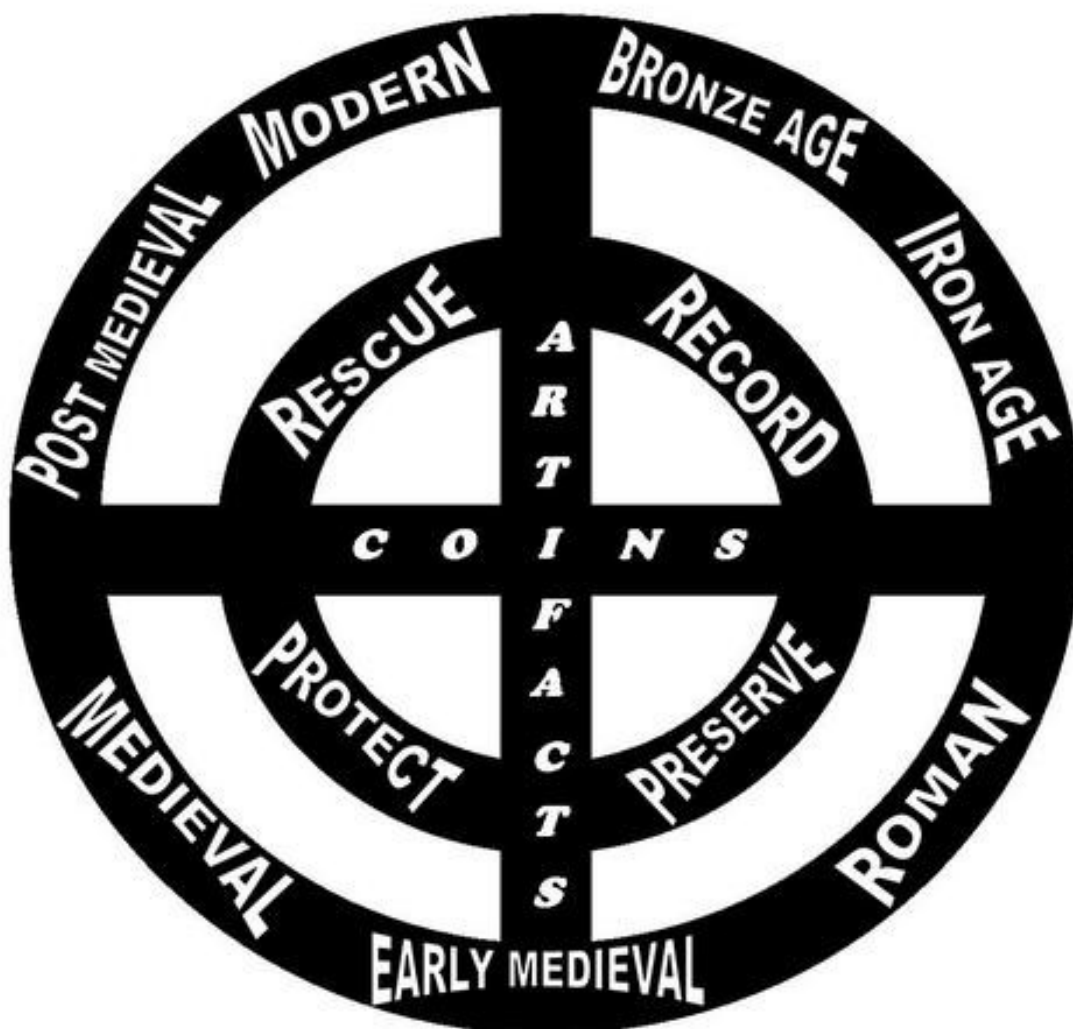
After you have been metal-detecting

Reporting any finds to the relevant landowner/occupier; & (with the agreement of the landowner/occupier) to the Portable Antiquities Scheme, so the information can pass into the local Historic Environment Record. Both the Country Land & Business Association & the National Farmers Union support the reporting of finds. Details of your local Finds Liaison Officer can be found at www.finds.org.uk/contacts, e-mail info@finds.org.uk or phone 020 7323 8611.

Abiding by the provisions of the Treasure Act and Treasure Act Code of Practice, wreck law (www.mcga.gov.uk) and export licensing (www.artscouncil.org.uk). If you need advice your local Finds Liaison Officer will be able to help you.

1. Seeking expert help if you discover something large below the plough soil, or a concentration of finds or unusual material, or wreck remains, and ensuring that the landowner/occupier's permission is obtained to do so. Your local Finds Liaison Officer may be able to help or will be able to advise of an appropriate person. Reporting the find does not change your rights of discovery, but will result in far more archaeological evidence being discovered.
2. Calling the Police, and notifying the landowner/occupier, if you find any traces of human remains.
3. Calling the Police or HM Coastguard, and notifying the landowner/occupier, if you find anything that may be a live explosive: do not use a metal-detector or mobile phone nearby as this might trigger an explosion. Do not attempt to move or interfere with any such explosives.

The above Code of Practice is made available courtesy of the PAS website.



News and Views from April 2013

[***gold adorned skeleton***](#)

[***Pompeii of the North***](#)

[***Helping Soldiers recover***](#)

[***Sewer workers in Bath reveal part of Roman City***](#)

[***New insight into battle of flodden***](#)

[***Cheapside Hoard***](#)

[***Copper plates Baffle Archaeologists***](#)

[***Lead Roll project***](#)

[***Ironage Metal Hoard***](#)

[***Entire roman streets in City***](#)

[***Silver Hoard***](#)

[***Northampton Castle's Saxon Past***](#)

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 April 2013

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](#)

peterdk	Stevie76
Glynhector	Rod Daplyn
p4ddy	madbean
eltell	carpyken
parober	ronayne88
ScotsmanInKent	Stanlee3173
norfolk dynamo	squelch
greenpeace	Frankylad11
tagnut69	elysium
tomcon	CJ-L
danny5497	Wildsteve
walkoverit	Darryl
bandit1157	gordon21
humbermud	welder08arek
Davie1	willyeckerslike
tomhollamby	dig it up notts
daver30	grivet
Darkzone	Kimbo
poolman	LEZZA
Vienna	robrobinson
johnmitman	Headlandmonkey
Catalint	filb
johnnytt	epwheco
tracyp123	GySi
tohveli	Will0800
Euan	Peekay1958
Angus	kennys
Rich71	georgie
dansun	ricko47
chickenjohn2	Adamguiel
	dragon3775

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

UKDN magazines to download

[Download magazines here](#)

View online

[View our Magazines online here](#)

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.