

# UKDN WORD

WORLD OF RESPONSIBLE DETECTING

Issue no: 103  
March 2016



Special Stater  
P6



Moustache Chape  
P8



Photo Comp Winners  
P14



Silver Savvy pt 3  
P20

Inside...News, Views, Competition Results and more



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UKDN would like to thank Jimmytheferret for the front cover image,  
DetectingDavid for image enhancement and UKDN members for their input.



# admin team

## Brian & Mo'

Founded UKDN in Sept 2002

Detecting since 1978



## Coreservers

Word Assistant Editor

Here since 2003

Detecting since 2003



## Popsandme

Here since 2009

Detecting since 2009



## Kev Woodward

Here since 2005

Detecting since 1990



## Puffin

Here since 2007

Detecting since 2007



## Meandmydreams

Here since 2007

Detecting since 2002

## Moderators



## Tinner

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Detecting since 2001



## Baldric

Here since 2004

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## Littlebloke

Here since 2004

Detecting since 2000



## Hectorsfarm

Here since 2012

Detecting since 2011



## Firthy77

Here since 2006

Detecting since 1970



## Sic odiggin

Here since 2009

Detecting since 1978





Welcome to this our 103rd edition dating to March 2016. This issue contains some great articles including our new Local Heroes and PAS section towards the back of this 48 page edition of your Word magazine.

As an acknowledgement of his work on our behalf we have included a one page tribute to Trevor Austin, General Secretary of the National Council for Metal Detecting who died suddenly on 22nd February.

Trevor was a never-ending work horse for the hobby of metal detecting. A great man who will be sorely missed by everyone associated with the hobby. UK DETECTOR NET sends its condolences to Trevor's family.

You can see our tribute to Trevor on page 33 of this issue.

John Fargher has Part 3 of his feature on silver, this month covering date letters and assay offices. It has been a well received feature of the magazine and John has a few more articles in store for us.

Also in this edition we have an article on Scandinavian York reprinted from Wikipedia through the Creative Commons License.

Do you look at our "Did You See" feature? The idea is that we reprint links to some of the most interesting stories that have been posted on our great forum. On Page 5 you will find this feature, try clicking on the twenty links, they will take you to some great posts on UKDN, posts that you might have missed.

The weather is starting to turn warmer now and the days are slowly drawing out. Everyone on the team here hopes that we can all manage to get out on a piece of land or beach somewhere before all those fields get drilled and seeded.

We hope you enjoy this magazine and remember that we are always on the lookout for more material, club reports and dig reports. Simply send them to one of the team featured on page three.



# Did you See

With almost 200 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

<b><i>You dont see these very often</i></b>	<b><i>Bronze anvil</i></b>
<b><i>Good day hunting</i></b>	<b><i>Crown in flint</i></b>
<b><i>Horse harness pendant coat of arms for I'd please.</i></b>	<b><i>Chess piece seal for ID please</i></b>
<b><i>Gold object for id</i></b>	<b><i>Coin weight and key for ID please</i></b>
<b><i>2 Bronze Age finds??</i></b>	<b><i>Coin values in there day ???</i></b>
<b><i>Digging on the Russian Front</i></b>	<b><i>Stater and hammie help please</i></b>
<b><i>Roman silver [a belter]</i></b>	<b><i>Zoomorphic Dog</i></b>
<b><i>Siliqua</i></b>	<b><i>Dad ring find a few better pics</i></b>
<b><i>Some Bar Steward Low Life Thief's About</i></b>	<b><i>Seeking permission, face to face or letter</i></b>
<b><i>7 Hammered &amp; 2 Saxon Mounts Before Lunch</i></b>	<b><i>Strange brooch and bits</i></b>



**Winner - Obby  
Uninscribed Celtic Gold Stater  
Chute Type - 70BC**



The weather has been pretty wet in my part of Wiltshire, so I was really pleased to be able to finally get out onto some of my own fields which have been left set aside for the moment.

Unfortunately when I arrived at the field I had chosen, I was unable to

park my car owing to someone with a small truck and trailer parking there, while they enjoyed a late lunch. After 20 minutes of driving around looking for somewhere else to park, I finally gave up and went to another part of the Farm, which I had been thinking about visiting for some time.

*(Continued on page 7)*



## MONTHLY COMPETITIONS

*(Continued from page 6)*

Within a short time I had found indications that this could be a productive site, as I had a Roman coin and Brooch followed by a hammered coin.

A couple of days later I returned to the same site, but to no avail. After a couple of hours I had only found a few pre-decimal coins and the usual broken buttons. Deciding to call it a day, I made the slow walk back towards my car. As I got to about 10 feet from the car, I received a great signal, and out popped a beautiful gold celtic stater.

I could not believe my luck, as this was only the third gold coin I had ever found in 25 years of detecting. Since that time a few weeks ago, I have visited the same field on every spare occasion, but have only been rewarded with the usual finds we all come to expect.

Still it will not be long before it is ploughed and seeded, and I shall be returning at the end of the year.

***(c) Obby March 2016***



***Obby waiting for his supper somewhere warmer than the UK !!***



# Artefact of the Month

**Winner - tinnarsdad**

## **Iron Age Mustache Chape**



It was one of those days when I ask the question "where can I go today?" Most of our sites were either too waterlogged or restricted by the shooting season which was still in progress.

I decided to return to a stubble field we had been over numerous times in the last 10 years. The going wasn't too bad as it had been topped over apart from the fact that the farmer had been spreading some muck over it as well.

But I am made of stronger stuff and continued on my merry way. There was not much in the way of finds, as I said earlier we have been on this field for the last ten years. In the past it had given us Saxon brooches, Roman coins, hammies and all the other usual bronze coins, as well as all the trash ie: cartridge cases and the usual farm dross.

*(Continued on page 9)*



# Artefact of the Month

*(Continued from page 8)*

On this particular day I decided to give it a go along a ridge through the centre of the field. The stubble here was quite long and strong and I swung through it for several minutes until I received a very strong signal on the Deus. Pushing aside the stubble and taking another swing I got an even better signal.

Digging down about 8 inches, a good spit on the spade, I utilized the probe into the loose soil and recovered this lovely item with a very nice patina.

It looked totally undamaged, with nice grooves running down both sides. I had no idea what it was, it just looked old and it appeared to be hollow. Like 2 pear drops upside down with a central flange around the middle.

I took it home, rinsed it off, photographed it, and placed it on the UKDN Forum for I.D. and age. True to form it was soon identified as an Iron Age Moustache Chape, so as you can imagine I was well pleased and well pleased with everyone who took the

time and effort to research the item. Thank you. Item found in the County of Wilts.



## Monthly Competitions Runners up



***Hectorsfarm\_ - Roman silver coin;  
a denarius of Vespasian  
(AD 69 - 79)  
dating from AD 75 - 79***



***The-roman -  
Edward III groat.***



***Bodvoc - Henry VIII  
half-groat 3rd issue  
Bristol mint.***



## Monthly Competitions Runners up



***Tinner - Danebury  
dragon quarter stater  
50BC***



***RiggaDigDig -  
Durotriges Cranborne  
Chase silver stater,  
ABC 2157***



***Evo - Lizzy Sixpence***



***Dendro Tom –  
English medieval jeton***



***Arfrape -  
Small Roman ring***

## Monthly Competitions Runners up



***Owen Williams422***

***Bronze age gouge***



***Tinner -***

***Iron Age artefact***



***Far left - iron age  
14 thC decorated  
strap-end***



***Middle - Donnydave -  
James 1st penny  
11mm diameter.***

***Bottom - Midhurst -  
Tincomarus Silver Unit  
20BC- 10AD***





# ***News and Views from February 2016***

***Mesolithic shaman's necklace***

***Detectorist Viking Find***

***Intact Bronze age wheel found***

***Roman Coin Hoards.....***

***LIDAR does it again***

***Roman Town Found.***

***Good News for Metal Detecting***

***York Viking Festival***

***More from the "English Pompeii" site***

***Enticing headlines***

***Teen gets to keep gold found near Hitler's summer***

***Stonehenge burials equal***

***Old outer London maps***

# UKDN FUN DSLR - Camera PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

**Winner - Restyler**

**Punked Up**



**Runners Up Featured Overleaf**



# **UKDN FUN DSLR - Camera PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION**

**Runner-up - Popsandme**

**Orange Sunshine Guppy  
Canon 600d.**



## UKDN FUN POINT, PRESS & PRAY PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

**Winner - Dug-a-hole**

**Come on it's cold sat here**





**Runners-up -**



***Casa-Dos - Detecting With The  
Brecon Beacons Backdrop Sony Cyber shot T100***



***Donnydave - Taken with Sony DSC 10  
20. 01 2016 Club dig in the fog.***

**Runners-up -**



***Nick - Hoopoe. Fatehpur Sikri, India.  
Nikon L820 taken 19/01/2016***



***Firthy77 - Whoa easy on  
the steak***

***Taken with iPhone 5s***



***Blue\_yeti - My dog in the fog  
Taken this morning 23/1 on  
iPhone 6 with drama setting***



# **ARCHAEOLOGY-TYPE FINDS BAGS EXCELLENT**



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

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# ARE YOU SAVVY ABOUT SILVER ?

## PT 3 - DATE LETTERS.....ASSAY OFFICES

**BY JOHN FARGHER**

The first thing to be said about the date letters used in hallmarks is that they do not refer to the year in which an article was made. They refer to the year in which it was assayed (tested for purity) and stamped at an appointed Assay Office. When examining a hallmarked silver sovereign case, with a date letter for 1902, for example, the only thing one can be sure about is that it was assayed in that year. But, it could have been made at any point in time before then..... a month.... a year.....or even earlier. There is no way of knowing how long the maker kept it in stock before presenting it for assay.



With an anchor mark denoting the Birmingham Assay Office, and the letter C for the year 1902, this stylish sovereign case was made in the workshops of Robert Pringle & Sons.

For the record, the case measures 1 ¼" x 1 ¼" x 5/8" and weighs 23 gm.

*(Continued on page 21)*



*(Continued from page 20)*

The second thing to be considered is that, as there are only twenty six letters in the alphabet, which will last for just twenty six years if all are used consecutively in a cycle, there is a need for constant repetition. Approximately four cycles of letters will be required for use by an Assay Office in every hundred years.

The ways in which the Assay Offices have navigated their way around this particular problem is.....

- a) By varying the fonts used (Arial, Gothic, Roman, Script, etc) from cycle to cycle.
- b) By using both upper and lower case letters.....but in different cycles.
- c) By changing the shape of the box in which the date letter is housed.....circle, square, oval, lozenge, shield, etc.

If only it were that simple ! Individual Assay Offices....say London, or Birmingham, or Sheffield, for example.... choose a font, its upper or lower case form, and the shape of its surround for a cycle, quite independently of each other. Not only that, but their cycles of letters from A to Z start in different years, and sometimes letters are omitted from a cycle to prevent confusion when two of them look too similar for comfort..... or for any one of a number of other technical or incomprehensible reasons.

Thus, for the year 1927.....

London uses a lower case Gothic letter m, within an almost rectangular surround that looks as if two nibbles have been taken out of its base.

Birmingham uses an upper case C in a more modern font, contained within a similar, but slightly different, shaped surround.

And Sheffield uses a lower case k in a shield shaped surround.

**As a result of all these potentially confusing variations in the date lettering system, the only way in which a piece of silver can be accurately dated is when its date letter mark is used in conjunction with its issuing Assay Office mark. In isolation, a date letter is just about useless.**

*(Continued on page 22)*



A vinaigrette with everything going for it. Great condition...Georgian.... A much admired maker (William Eaton) ...And the London Town mark and date letter O for 1809. In addition, a personal inscription to the interior lip which reads, "Rebecca Howard – the gift of her affectionate sister M.A. Gibbs"

For the record, the box measures 3cm x 2cm x 1cm and weighs 14.4gm

*(Continued from page 21)*

When an Assay Office applies the sterling standard Lion Passant stamp to a piece of silver, indicating that it has tested positive for the required .925 level of purity or above, it also applies its own "Town" mark and a date letter for the year it was tested.

Currently, there are just four working UK Assay Offices. They are in London, Birmingham, Sheffield and Edinburgh, and each has its own distinctive stamp.



London – A Leopard's Head.



Birmingham – an Anchor.



Sheffield – a Rose since 1975 but, before that, a Crown.



Edinburgh – a Castle.

Between them, these four Assay Offices now test and stamp all articles of precious metal, no matter where they are actually made within the UK.

*(Continued on page 23)*



*(Continued from page 22)*

It has not always been so.... One has only to go back as far as the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries to find literally dozens of different Town marks on articles of provincial silver, from as far apart as Barnstaple to Launceston to Liverpool in England..... to Arbroath, Aberdeen, and Cupar in Scotland..... and Cork, Galway, and Youghal in Ireland. The list seems almost endless, but these town marks are all now long gone, except for those on the marked pieces of silver already in collections or museums, and those still waiting to be discovered.

This is a highly specialised period in the history of British silver, and it would require someone with a far greater knowledge and experience than me to explain it all. For the time being, I shall move on to those more recent, but now defunct, Town Marks one can still come across, albeit infrequently, on silver articles found in antique shops, in auctions, on line..... Or, with a bit of luck, in junk shops, flea markets, or car boot sales..... But not forgetting to include metal detecting finds.



A Lady's evening purse/card case with engine-turned decoration, from the workshops of Sampson Mordan & Co.

The Town mark and the letter M in script tell us that it was assayed in **Chester** in **1912**.

For the record, it measures 3 ½" x 2 ½" and weighs 77gm.

*(Continued on page 24)*

*(Continued from page 23)*

Many provincial offices used more than one town mark during the time they were operating, but these are the most common examples and the dates that their assay offices closed .....



Norwich - A seeded rose crowned - 1702



York - A half fleur-de-lys and a half leopards head - 1858



Exeter - A castle with three turrets - 1883



Newcastle - Three castles - 1884



Chester - Three wheat sheaves and a sword - 1962



Glasgow - A tree, a fish, and a bell - 1964

**Footnote :- Irish silver is a study in its own right. It was part of the UK Assay Office system, until Independence in 1922, and still uses both the sterling standard and a very similar marking regime. Look for a crowned harp to denote the .925 standard of fineness.**

**Next Month: Part 4  
Makers' Marks.... Sponsors' Marks.... And Beyond**



# Scandinavian York

Scandinavian York (also referred to as Jórvík) is a term used by historians for the south of Northumbria (modern day Yorkshire) during the period of the late 9th century and first half of the 10th century, when it was dominated by Norse warrior-kings; in particular, used to refer to the city (York) controlled by these kings.

Norse monarchy controlled varying amounts of Northumbria from 875 to 954 AD, however the area was invaded and conquered for short periods by England between 927 and 954 before eventually being annexed into England in 954. It was closely associated with the much longer-lived Kingdom of Dublin throughout this period.

York had been founded as the Roman legionary fortress of Eboracum and revived as the Anglo-Saxon trading port of Eoforwic. It was first captured in November 866 by Ivar the Boneless, leading a large army of Danish Vikings, called the "Great Heathen Army" by Anglo-Saxon

chroniclers, which had landed in East Anglia and made their way north, aided by a supply of horses with which King Edmund of East Anglia bought them off and by civil in-fighting between royal candidates in the Anglian Kingdom of Northumbria between the leaders of its two sub-kingdoms; Bernicia and Deira.

Declaring a truce, the rivals for the throne of Northumbria joined forces but failed to retake the city in March 867, and with their deaths Deira came under Danish control as the Kingdom of Northumbria and the Northumbrian royal court fled north to refuge in Bernicia.

A Viking attempt against Mercia the same season failed, and in 869 their efforts against Wessex were fruitless in the face of opposition from Kings Ethelred and Alfred the Great.

*(Continued on page 26)*





*A map of the routes taken by the Great Heathen Army from 865 to 878*

*(Continued from page 25)*

The archbishop, Wulfhere, seems to have temporised and collaborated with the Norse, for he was expelled from York when a Northumbrian uprising in 872 was only temporarily successful; he was recalled and held his seat until his death.

The Viking king Guthred was buried in York Minster, a signal that he and the archbishop had reached a lasting accommodation. All the Viking coinage appears to have emanated from the mint at York, a mark of the city's unique status in Northumbria as an economic magnet.

*(Continued on page 27)*



*Seated Eric Bloodaxe and Gunnhild  
are confronted by  
Egill Skallagrímsson.*

York's importance as the seat of Northumbria was confirmed when the Scandinavian warlord, Guthrum, headed for East Anglia, while Halfdan Ragnarsson seized power in AD 875.

While the Danish army was busy in Britain, the Isle of Man and Ireland, the Swedish army was occupied with defending the Danish and Swedish homelands where Halfdan's brothers were in control.

Native Danish rulers who eventually made Jelling in Jutland the site of Gorm the Old's kingdom, were in the East Anglian kingdom. The Five Burghs/Jarldoms were based upon the Kingdom of Lindsey and were a sort of frontier between each kingdom.

King Canute the Great would later "reinstall" a Norwegian dynasty of jarls in Northumbria (Eric of Hlathir), with a Danish dynasty of jarls in East Anglia (Thorkel). Northern England would continue to be a source of intrigue for the Norwegians until Harald III of Norway's death at the Battle of Stamford Bridge in 1066 just prior to the Battle of Hastings and the Norman conquest.

The Old Norse placename Konungsgurtha, Kings Court, recorded in the late fourteenth century in relation to an area immediately outside the site of the porta principalis sinistra, the west gatehouse of the Roman encampment, perpetuated today as King's Square, which nucleates the Ainsty, perhaps indicates a Viking royal palace site based on the remains of the east gate of the Roman fortress.

(Continued on page 28)

*(Continued from page 27)*

New streets, lined by regular building fronts for timber houses were added to an enlarging city between AD 900 and 935, dates arrived at by tree-ring chronology carried out on remaining posts preserved in anaerobic clay subsoil.

The Viking kingdom was fully absorbed into England in 954. After the Kingdom of Northumbria was remerged (by now an Earldom of England under the House of Wessex), the title King of Jórvík became redundant and was succeeded by the title Earl of York, created in 960.

Loss of political independence did not cramp the region's economic success: by ca 1000, the urban boom brought the city to a population total second only to that of London within Great Britain.

Although some of the early Earls of York were Nordic like the Jórvík Kings, they were succeeded by Normans after the Norman conquest. William the Conqueror ended the region's last vestiges of independence and established garrisoned castles in the city. The Earldom of York was abolished by King Henry II.

Between 1070 and 1085, there were occasional attempts by the Danish Vikings to recapture their Kingdom of Jórvík; however, these attempts did

not materialise into the return of the kingdom.

The title Duke of York, a title of nobility in British peerage, was created in 1341, but was merged with the Crown when the 4th Duke became King Edward IV.

Subsequently, the title of Duke of York has usually been given to the second son of the King or Queen.

From 1976 to 1981, the York Archaeological Trust conducted a five-year excavation in and around the street of Coppergate in central York.

This demonstrated that, in the 10th century, Jórvík's trading connections reached to the Byzantine Empire and beyond: a cap made of silk survives, and coins from Samarkand were familiar enough and respected enough for a counterfeit to have passed in trade. Both these items, as well as a large human coprolite known as the Lloyds Bank coprolite, were famously recovered in York a millennium later.

Amber from the Baltic is often expected at a Viking site and at Jórvík an impractical and presumably symbolic axehead of amber was found. A cowrie shell indicates contact with the Red Sea or the Persian Gulf.

*(Continued on page 29)*



(Continued from page 28)

Christian and pagan objects have survived side-by-side, usually taken as a sign that Christians were not in positions of authority.

After the excavation, the York Archaeological Trust took the decision to recreate the excavated part of Jórvík on the Coppergate site, and this is now the Jorvik Viking Centre.

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Map of Heathen Army routes By Hel-hama (Own work) [[CC BY-SA 3.0](#)], via Wikimedia Commons

### Some Viking York finds from the PAS database.



**Early medieval silver penny, St Edmund memorial type, 895-910, cf. North 483 moneyer, CIBVINIA.**  
[LEIC-19C0DA](#)



**An early medieval (Anglo-Scandinavian) silver penny, Two-line type in the name of St. Peter of York (Phase II), North 553, c.910-20** [NMS-BDD828](#)



**Complete struck of hammered silver penny of the Early Medieval period. The coin is a Northumbrian issue of the Viking invaders at the York mint for Cnut of Northumbria, minted c.895-902.**  
[DENO-984DE6](#)

Above images and links reproduced courtesy of [PAS](#)



**A FANTASTIC £874.25p was given to  
Macmillan by the members of  
UK DETECTOR NET as a result of  
The Christmas Draw held on the  
UKDN Forum.**

**This money will make a HUGE difference  
to people affected by cancer.**

**SO THANK YOU VERY MUCH!**

**Have a very happy and prosperous 2016**



# 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





## ORGANIC MARKET GROWS FOR THIRD CONSECUTIVE YEAR

NEWS

23 FEB 2016

BY OLIVIA MIDGLEY

SHARE

Sales of organic have continued to outperform the non-organic grocery market



The organic sector has continued to grow for the third consecutive year, with the UK market now worth £1.95 billion.

Sales of organic have continued to outperform the non-organic grocery market which decreased by 0.9 per cent in the same period, according to the Soil Association's 2016 Organic Market Report.

Shoppers spent an extra £1.73 million a week on organic products in 2015

Better co-ordination between Defra and the Environment Agency would have prevented the severity of this winter's flooding, according to the CLA.

Farmers and landowners are calling for a new approach to flood prevention in order to protect against another disastrous weather event in the near future.

The CLA told the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (EFRA) committee that better co-ordination between Defra and the Environment Agency and better use of resources to deliver catchment level water management plans would have prevented the severity of this winter's flooding.



Forecasters predicted a wet spring, with heavy rain across Northern England, Scotland and NI

**COUNTRYFILE**.com



**BBC iPlayer**  
watch the latest episode

## Rest in Peace Trevor Austin



**Trevor was such a dedicated man who worked constantly for the hobby and the NCMD.**



# Local Heroes

Detectorists are seen by the public as portrayed in the media, dare I say as the good, the bad and the ugly, ie;

- Those who are recovering our history for the benefit of future generations by following [the code of practice for responsible metal detecting in England and Wales](#) agreed by all parties including the NCMD, the NFU and English Heritage, by helping in the community and recording their finds.

And by reporting all finds as [Treasure Trove in Scotland](#).

- Those who are depriving future generations of our history by not following the code of practice and not recording their finds even though [recording is mandatory in the countryside stewardship landowners agreement](#).

- Those who are thieves who use detectors to steal from farmland and Scheduled monuments.

This new section of the magazine is to promote good practice and is dedicated to the ambassadors of the hobby of whom we are so proud. Their deeds have in the past been spread throughout the magazine but are now brought together to improve their presentation.





*Click on the names for more information*



## Ways we can help the PAS

PAS funding has been reduced leading to fewer FLO's and so the PAS is looking for better ways to manage their work load as they are working at full capacity;

<https://finds.org.uk/getinvolved/guides/pressures>

They are taking on volunteer recorders;

<https://finds.org.uk/getinvolved/volunteering/role/id/12>

And are promoting self recording;

<https://finds.org.uk/counties/leicestershire/tag/british-museum/>

I would welcome any suggestions on how we can help PAS and the hobby get through this period of austerity.

My thoughts are that we can all help by having information available when recording, the more help we can give the PAS the better I.e. By;

**1.** Have a National Grid Reference of your find spot ready when you see the FLO, this saves getting a map out and finding the NGR. If you can give a 10 figure reference using a GPS it would be much appreciated;

[http://www.amazon.co.uk/s/ref=nb\\_sb\\_noss\\_1/276-8734508-8923167?url=search-alias%3Daps&field-keywords=garmin+etrex&rh=i%3Aaps%2Ck%3Agarmin+etrex](http://www.amazon.co.uk/s/ref=nb_sb_noss_1/276-8734508-8923167?url=search-alias%3Daps&field-keywords=garmin+etrex&rh=i%3Aaps%2Ck%3Agarmin+etrex)

Or download the Grid Reference App to your Android phone (set it for 10 figs); [https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=net.blerg&hl=en\\_GB](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=net.blerg&hl=en_GB)

Or use the Grid Reference Finder website;

<http://www.gridreferencefinder.com/>

**2.** If you can fill in the details of your find on a "Finds recording sheet" in advance this will save precious PAS time. Basic info; <http://atoz.forumukdetectornet.co.uk/PAS%20find%20recording%20labels.doc>

More info; <http://atoz.forumukdetectornet.co.uk/PAS%20finds%20recording%20sheet.pdf>

**3.** Better still if you are willing to purchase a set of jewelers scales;

[http://www.amazon.co.uk/s/ref=nb\\_sb\\_ss\\_i\\_4\\_8?url=search-alias%3Daps&field-keywords=jewelers+scales&srefix=jewelers%2Caps%2C188&rh=i%3Aaps%2Ck%3Ajewelers+scales](http://www.amazon.co.uk/s/ref=nb_sb_ss_i_4_8?url=search-alias%3Daps&field-keywords=jewelers+scales&srefix=jewelers%2Caps%2C188&rh=i%3Aaps%2Ck%3Ajewelers+scales)

And a digital caliper;

[http://www.amazon.co.uk/?ie=UTF8&keywords=caliper+measure&tag=googhydr-21&index=aps&hvadid=48450325458&hvpos=1t1&hvexid=&hvnetw=g&hvrandid=5959077009827215455&hvpone=&hvptwo=&hvmmt=b&hvdev=c&ref=pd\\_sl\\_9rw416xiuq\\_b](http://www.amazon.co.uk/?ie=UTF8&keywords=caliper+measure&tag=googhydr-21&index=aps&hvadid=48450325458&hvpos=1t1&hvexid=&hvnetw=g&hvrandid=5959077009827215455&hvpone=&hvptwo=&hvmmt=b&hvdev=c&ref=pd_sl_9rw416xiuq_b)

The weights and dimensions of the finds would be much appreciated saving even more time.

4. Or you can go the whole hog and self record, this requires you to undertake an initial meeting with your FLO to assess your level of ability and then up to 5 training sessions with PAS to ensure you are competent to do this as you would need to take quality images of the finds and ID them accurately as per others on the PAS database and enter them correctly, although not all sessions are necessary if you can demonstrate that you are able to self record to the PAS standard. Your FLO is only an email or phone call away to help and guide you if you are unsure of a particular aspect of self recording.

Volunteers guide to recording objects;

<https://finds.org.uk/volunteerrecording>

Flow of objects;

<https://finds.org.uk/documents/guide.pdf#page=7>

Please feel free to share this information to assist the PAS and strengthen our hobby.

Flickr link for PAS images;

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/finds/albums>

Local Heroes theme song;

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5maW-BTJ2LE>

Find my FLO

<http://rjw57.github.io/findmyflo/>



Welcome to the Portable Antiquities Scheme website  
The Portable Antiquities Scheme is a DCMS funded project to encourage the voluntary recording of archaeological objects found by members of the public in England and Wales. Every year many thousands of objects are discovered, many of these by metal-detector users, but also by people whilst out walking, gardening or going about their daily work.



# Portable Antiquities Scheme

[Register](#)

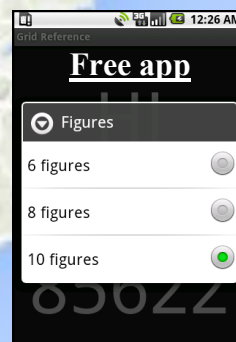
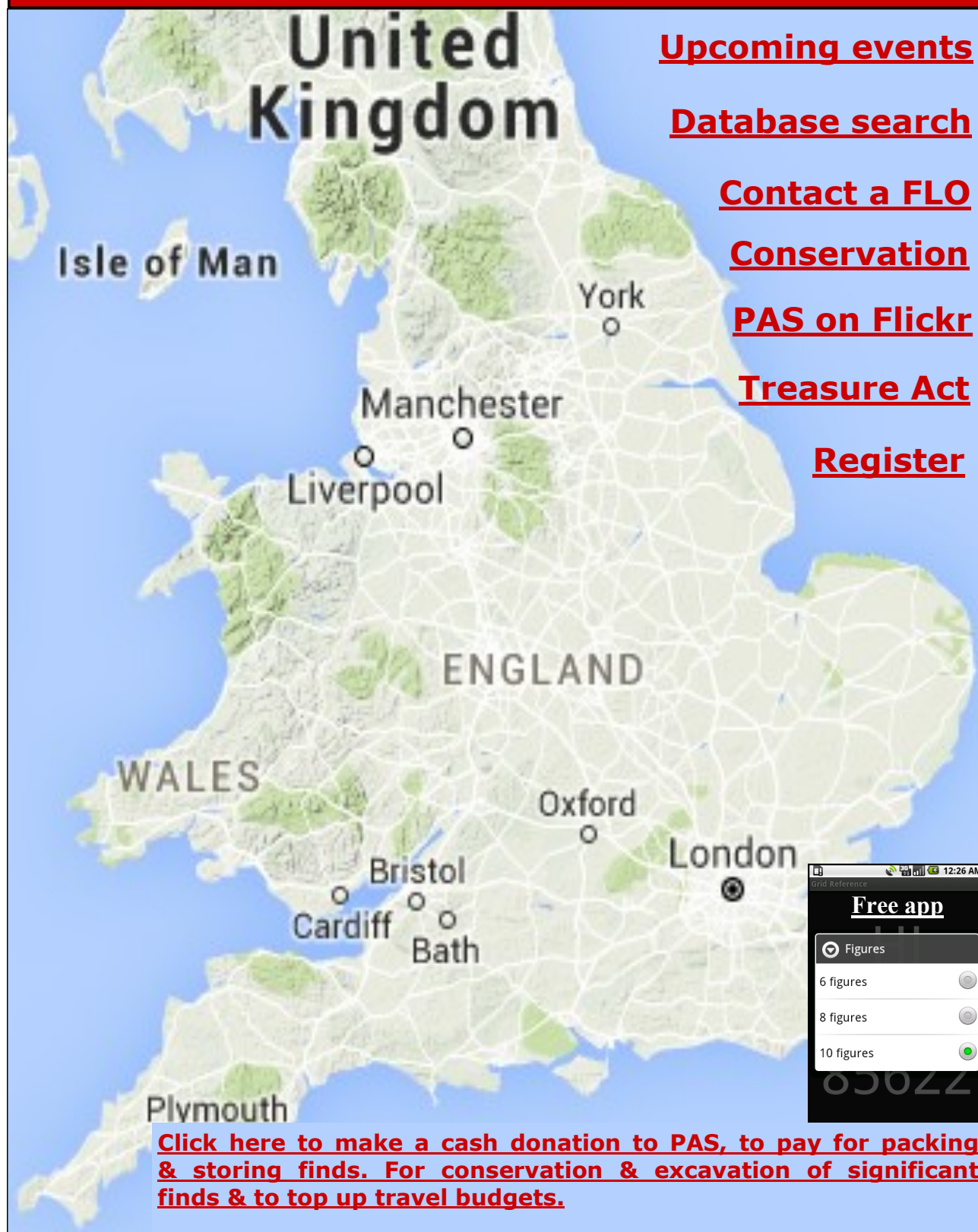
[Search the database](#)

[www.finds.org.uk](http://www.finds.org.uk)



# PAS Upcoming Events

## Click on text



## Why are 'good' findspots important?

With kind permission of Garry Crace and Michael Lewis are the authors of this article of which they retain copyright. The article was previously published in the NCMD Digging Deep Issue 19.

The PAS says 'FLOs will not record finds with poor findspots (generally less than a 6-figure National Grid Reference (NGR)) as finds without good spatial information are less useful to archaeology' (see <https://finds.org.uk/getinvolved/guides/pressures>). Why is this issue so important, and what is the loss to archaeology if finds are recorded without a 'good findspot'? This short article attempts to explain...

When a find is made it is easy to get excited by the discovery and (in some cases) the mystery of what the find actually is. So much so, that the significance of its findspot is sometimes overlooked. However, it can be the case that this information – where the find was found and also its context – is just as important, or even more important to archaeologists, than the find itself.

Take for example a group of three or four copper-alloy medieval finds found in a small area of a field. If these were found individually, maybe by different finders over a period of a few weeks or several months, would it be clear whether or not these finds might be associated with one another? It might be the case that these objects were lost as part of trading activity on a fair site in that area. But if they are not recorded precisely or accurately these clues will simply be missed. Likewise where a particular feature is already known in the landscape precise information about finds associated with it can sometimes be used to guide interpretation. Our understanding of any archaeological find is mostly informed by where it was found and, whether it is a single object or a group, the knowledge we have of similar items found in the past, and where exactly they were discovered.

The ways in which an object might enter the ground can vary considerably. It might be lost or dropped by accident, purposefully discarded (thrown-away) or deliberately buried or concealed. These activities of deposition are of particular interest to archaeologists, and often it is only the findspot and context of the discovery that can help them properly understand the discovery. Meticulous recording of an object's exact location (the findspot) and other contextual information (such as associated items, topography, geology and stratigraphy) are what make it useful to future researchers.

Proper context provides the evidence needed to help understand not only how and why objects were made and used, but also contributes to much broader issues, such as demographics, society, culture, economy, manufacturing, trade, religion and more. Provided there is sufficient findspot accuracy and precision in PAS data researchers will be able to interpret clues and extend

their conclusions right down to the smallest geographical location in the ancient landscape. As suggested in the earlier example the past location of features, such as trackways, occupation sites, fair sites, places of worship, manufacturing sites etc, can only be pinpointed or inferred in this way.

The precise moment of discovery is therefore a pivotal and critical point in the life-story of an artefact, and one in which the finder has the ability to make that find add to archaeological knowledge, or not. If the finder does not record their find, then (to the detriment of the historic environment) all the information that potentially could have been known about it is permanently lost, and the find is therefore little more than an interesting curiosity. If however the object is found by an individual that records their finds with the PAS then the artefact enters a new stage in its life, and its record becomes part of the dataset for future researchers with the potential to reveal much more about itself and the wider historic landscape.

The majority of metal-detected finds are discovered on land that has at some time in its history been ploughed and therefore have their original primary context disturbed – they have often moved from the place where they were dropped or deposited. In the past archaeologists didn't think that objects in the plough-soil were that useful to archaeology, but that view has changed radically. While objects in the plough-soil have in all probability moved, and are still moving, they nonetheless provide vital clues about past land usage and any underlying archaeology that might be in situ.

More and more research now involves a geospatial element to the analysis requiring that the findspot data is both accurate and precise. Back in the day when PAS was in its infancy providing a suitably accurate grid reference using site notes and a map could be a problem for some. Fortunately this is no longer the case, with computer, Smartphone and GPS satellite technology, the provision of an accurate and precise grid referenced findspot is very much within the capacity of the majority. Furthermore, in the early days of the scheme mutual trust had not been established and some finders were reluctant about giving accurate information. The PAS has now been in place for close to 20 years and in this time has shown there is no need for concern or suspicion from finder, tenant or landowner, and findspot accuracy has ceased to be an issue for most recorders. Cooperation has continued to flourish with over 1 million finds now recorded on the PAS database and the PAST Explorers initiative enabling many finders to record their own finds on the database.

As noted at the outset, the PAS now specify that findspot grid references are supplied to at least 6 figures, moving towards an ideal of 8 figures. An 8-figure NGR gives a precision on the ground to a 10 metre square (see Table 2). The necessity for this has been explained above and the 2014 analysis of the PAS database shown in Table 1 below indicates good progress.



Table 1: PAS database findspot PRECISION for 2014			
4 figure	6 figure	8 figure	10 figure
0.6%	25.3%	34.5%	39.6%

**Table 1: PAS database findspot precision (2014)**

Moreover, the figures in Table 1 only represent the precision of recording, they do not necessarily represent the real accuracy in relation to the original findspot. It is very easy to record a totally inaccurate findspot precisely! Accordingly, there is a need for the findspot to be identified accurately in the first instance and then for this location in the landscape to be recorded precisely. Figure 1 illustrates this point. We are striving to achieve a precise 8 figure grid reference on position 1; a level of resolution that will place the record to within a 10 metre square of the actual findspot. Prolific finders who do not use a GPS system or take location notes for each find at the time of finding will very often recall or indicate the findspot incorrectly, for example at position 2. This means the findspot may have already been wrongly shifted hundreds of yards without yet being recorded. If the find is then given an 8 figure grid reference at point 2 this degree of precision indicates the actual findspot was within a 10 metre square of this point, which is clearly wrong. Sometimes finders will say they found an item using a building as a fixing point (Point 3) or the centre of the parish (Point 4) both of which when set against the original findspot (Point 1) are too vague.



**Figure 1: Examples of findspots that might be recorded**



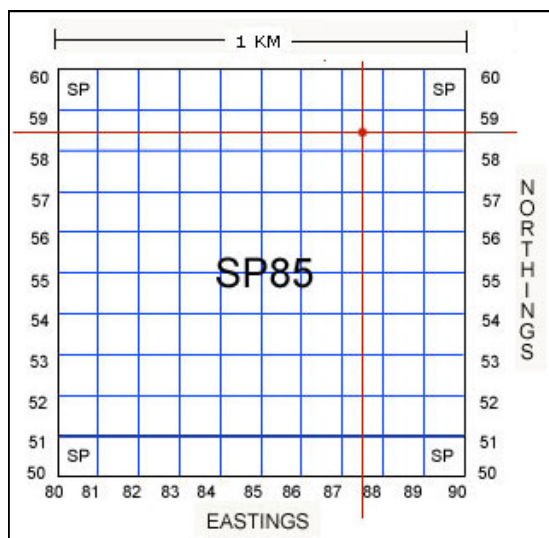
*Table 2: Explanation of how National Grid Reference precision varies with the number of digits quoted using TG 2319908509 as an example. Note; there can be some confusion over the number of figures in a grid reference. If the grid reference starts with a two letter prefix then as shown above a 10 letter reference gives 1 metre precision. If however there is no two letter prefix then 1 metre precision is represented by 12 digits.*

## Summary

Metal-detectorists have great potential to help archaeologist transform our understanding of Britain's past, and many finders are working closely with their local FLO to this end. As discussed the first part of the process is the finder making an accurate (and precise) record of the findspot. *The Code of Practice for Responsible Metal-Detecting in England and Wales* recommends that this is done using a hand-held GPS device or map whilst in the field. The find should then be bagged and this findspot marked on the bag. Whether the finder records the find onto the database themselves, or delivers the find to their local FLO to record, it will ensure the database record of the findspot is as good as it can be. To get this pinpointing correct on the record there is a duty on both finder and recorder; the finder to represent the actual point of finding accurately, and the recorder to reflect this level of accuracy in the precision of the grid reference assigned to the object findspot.

Garry Crace works part-time as Finds Liaison Officer in Norfolk. Michael Lewis is Head of the Portable Antiquities Scheme, based at the British Museum.

## Plotting archaeological objects using an OS Map



## Plotting archaeological objects using GPS

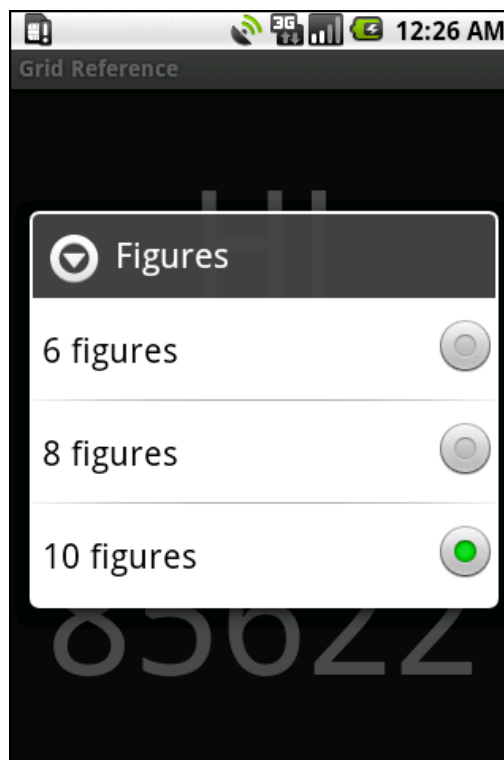
### Setting up the GPS



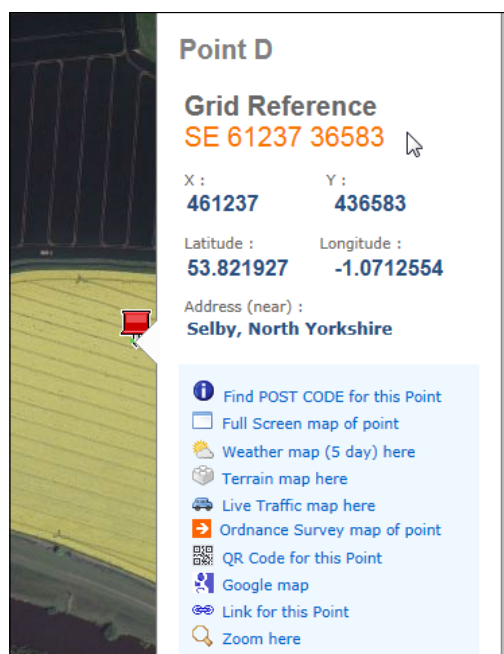
### PAS finds recording sheet

Find Summary ID			
Find Site		Finders Name	
Date Found		Photo y/n	
Terrain		Map Plot y/n	
Grid Reference			

## Free Android mobile phone app For 10 figure NGR recording



## Grid Reference Map For 10 figure NGR recording



Many thanks also to the owners of the informative web sites linked to in the making of this article.



## I'll be back despite 254mph crash says Becci Ellis

<http://www.driving.co.uk/news/ill-be-back-despite-254mph-crash-says-becci-ellis-fastest-woman-on-a-motorcycle/>



## Steve Nelson finds the all important data logger



## Barrow metal detectorist's third treasure discovery

A metal detectorist who is no stranger to fascinating discoveries has had another finding treasure classed as silver - this time uncovering evidence from the Viking era; thanks to the North West Evening Mail.....

<http://www.nwemail.co.uk/News/Barrow/Barrow-metal-detectorists-third-treasure-discovery-a268a000-c8db-4868-b5b3-ff154a9a9f17-ds>



Detecting is - uncovering evidence



Click on the images for the .PDF

# Code of Practice for Responsible Metal Detecting in England and Wales

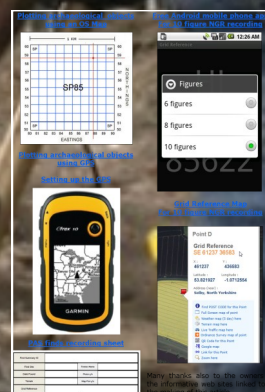


## Conservation Advice Notes



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Heritage Lottery Fund



UKDN Detecting Guide - by PhilD			
What do I need	Where can or can't I detect	What might I find	What should I do when I find something
Equipment	Farm land permission req'd	Modern finds under 300 yrs old Lead, iron, copper, alloy, silver & gold	Recording find spots with an O/S map or GPS or online map
Permission from the landowner. Finds assessment	Reaches Permit req'd for Crown Estates	Recordable finds over 300 yrs old Lead, iron, copper, alloy, silver & gold	Recording with PAS Recording Treasure Trove
Club Membership can provide help	Mudlarking Permit req'd	Treasure Finds Inform. Rally Organizer & FLO	What recording can tell us
Consider NCT or FID membership & insurance	Local Parks & Council land permission req'd	Season Burials & Charist burials Stop digging & report to PAS FLO	Archaeological objects including Treasure
Comply with the Responsible Detecting code of practice	Avoid SAM's & SSSI & in England, Wales & Scotland	Green Waste water always take care	Bagging, cleaning & conserving finds
Understanding of the Treasure Act or Treasure Trove (Scotland)	Avoid National Trust land and Nature Reserves	Disposals never always take care	Please consider donating your finds to a Museum
Understanding of local excavations	Avoid battlefields to retain their battle history	Ordnance - stop digging and find lots of Metal Finds tell the FLO	Getting involved in archaeology
PAS Guide for landowners & Farmers & Ralls Guidance Note	Avoid footpaths	Join UKDN & our finds Advice will ID your finds & save you a PAS valuable time	PAS Frequently asked Questions



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

## New members in February 2016

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](#)

<b>laidback4sho</b>	<b>gonzzy5</b>
<b>bazi</b>	<b>pete-smith</b>
<b>Gneilson</b>	<b>vincent1</b>
<b>malcermie</b>	<b>geoffers</b>
<b>mart1nb</b>	<b>daveg</b>
<b>Golden mask 4wd</b>	<b>MarcSIIA</b>
<b>Salopian</b>	<b>123roundtable</b>
<b>skinner1</b>	<b>naborut</b>
<b>harsh2uk</b>	<b>itom</b>
<b>Ebygum</b>	<b>xelnaga</b>
<b>zel35467</b>	<b>discotroll</b>
<b>delboy</b>	<b>i_jason</b>
<b>bones2dog</b>	<b>searchcoil</b>
<b>focker</b>	<b>metalmickey 11</b>
<b>Linzi84</b>	<b>medik</b>
<b>Bigvern</b>	<b>cook14</b>
<b>DSM2016</b>	<b>Travelnight</b>
<b>taffyph11</b>	<b>graham scott</b>
<b>Tutty123</b>	<b>tellett</b>
<b>berzek</b>	<b>JCC1</b>
<b>fafa38</b>	<b>madmick1945</b>
<b>doddie78</b>	<b>Glyndwr</b>
<b>Buster</b>	<b>H20</b>
<b>Mikee</b>	<b>humbermole</b>

# 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](mailto: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.