

UKDN WORD

WORLD OF RESPONSIBLE DETECTING

Issue no: 105
May 2016



Coenwulf Coin



Bronze Minerva



Photo Comp Winners



Silver Savvy pt 5

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



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Meandmydreams

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Here since 2006
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Here since 2012
Detecting since 2011



Firthy77

Here since 2006
Detecting since 1970



Sic odiggin

Here since 2009
Detecting since 1978



Welcome to the 105th issue of Word magazine, the magazine for UK DETECTOR NET forum members and the wider world. This is another bulky issue with two great feature articles inside, together with the regular monthly Finds Competition and Photo of the Month results.

In this issue we have Part 5 of John Fargher's series on silver. This month John is offering his thoughts on the subject of Foreign Silver.

Along with John's article we have one from Tom Redmayne on his 2011 project of making a Thor's Hammer from his collection of scrap silver. This is a great piece from Tom, venturing into the manufacture of a replica artefact.

Many thanks to John Maloney (the author), the NCMD, and the PAS for permission to publish the Lincolnshire PAS Conference 2016 report celebrating Metal-detecting, archaeology and the Portable Antiquities Scheme in Lincolnshire. This article was first published in the NCMD's Digging Deep Issue 20.

Sadly, our forum has lost one of its Admin guys..... meandmydreams. Clive has been struggling for some time now, trying to juggle forum time with work and busy family commitments. In the end something had to give, and Clive has reluctantly stepped down from his admin post. We thank him for his past work, and now welcome him in the role of Valued Member of the forum.

We are pleased to announce that Son of the Sands (Mike) has taken up the vacant Admin post. Mike has been with us for many years, since 2003 in fact, so he is well aware of the proud history of our forum, and how it is run.

On a final note, the weather these past few weeks has been atrocious and, as we go to press, we are seeing a covering of snow in many parts of the country. The Bank Holiday weekend is looking, as usual, as if it may be a wash-out. More bad news in that we are losing more and more land as the farmers start seeding their fields; so it's out with the research books for us and off to do a bit of beach detecting. Good luck to you all, whatever you decide to do during the lean months.



Did you See

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

<i>Bent gold and bent silver</i>	<i>Queen Anne shilling</i>
<i>Interpreting Crop Marks by Kev Woodward</i>	<i>Cracking day out with dad</i>
<i>How does the gold dance go?</i>	<i>Stater ID</i>
<i>Hoping its Saxon or Viking</i>	<i>Amazing series of coincidences.</i>
<i>Three for Id incl a bit of yellow</i>	<i>Annular Buckle</i>
<i>A little saxon silver</i>	<i>Today's Finds - Medieval Brooch?</i>
<i>Once Woodland</i>	<i>Roman Denarii</i>
<i>Two Sites, One Medieval, One Roman - Nice Results</i>	<i>Nice bit of bling</i>
<i>Wet and Dry Soil.</i>	<i>Sarcophagus Cleaned Up - New Pictures</i>
<i>First outing with the Deus</i>	<i>Nice Livery button & tokens</i>

Coin of The Month

Winner - Hartsman Coenwulf Tribach Penny



I hadn't managed to get out detecting for ages or so it seemed. What with an arthritic hip (a legacy from my footballing days many moons ago) and 'She who must be obeyed' thoughtfully arranging various tasks for me it has been difficult. But then it happened, the planets were all aligned and I finally got a small window of opportunity. I can only do short sessions so decided on a field that has yielded a few nice finds over the years.

The drive to the field was punctuated by the welcome sightings of the odd Red Kite and Buzzard both of which seem to grow in increasing numbers every year. I arrived at my chosen spot and proceeded to get ready, check for camera, GPS unit and the rest of the paraphernalia that we carry and then I was off. I detect a lot slower nowadays with a slight Herr Flick action.

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MONTHLY COMPETITIONS

(Continued from page 6)

The field was quiet as usual and I had only had a couple of signals until I had a nice low tone with the cursor appearing bottom middle on my Minelab Explorer II screen. I dug out a spadeful of earth and checked it, the target was there and louder.

When I broke open the clod I saw a round impression where something had been, then I saw a coin on the other half of the clod facing me. I knew instantly that it was Saxon but which ruler?



I took a couple of shots for the clod aficionados on the forum and gently plucked it from it's resting place carefully brushing away some of the dirt until I could decipher the legend. Blimey, I muttered to myself it's a Coenwulf! It's always a mixture of surprise and disbelief when a fabulous find comes your way and I was in a bit of a daze for a while until it sunk in. I took a GPS reading for the FLO, put the coin safely away and decided to call it a day there and then as I was too excited to carry on.

When I got home I posted pics on the forum and had plenty of nice comments. I was also advised to get in contact with the EMC for a full id as the moneyer was one that I couldn't find. Dr. Martin Allen of the EMC replied that he had consulted with Dr. Rory Naismith who confirmed that this is a new moneyer (Dun) for Coenwulf's tribrach type and so an important discovery. I am very pleased to have found a new piece of British history and would like to thank all that helped in the id.

(c) Hartsman April 2016

Artefact of the Month

Winner - Tinner Roman Bronze head of Minerva



I would like to thank everyone who voted for my artefact. As I recall it was a Sunday hunt with dad. We were both using our Deus metal detectors, still in V2 on GM power tweaked as much as possible without being too noisy – basically everything is on maximum – it certainly seems to work for me.

We had spent the morning on a rolled and seeded field but not much had come up. So we decided as it had been fairly damp the day before we would give one of our pasture fields a go for a couple of hours to see if we could pull up any Roman coins and/or artifacts.

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Artefact of the Month

(Continued from page 8)

This was late in the afternoon and dad was beginning to get tired and started to work his way back to the car. We had had a few grots but nothing much to talk about. I said I would give it another hour to see what might come up.

With dad almost back to the car and a good few hundred metres away, I got a good signal at what appeared to be some depth. Digging around the signal carefully, I turned over the clod to find that it was a liquid silage fitting made of copper. My heart sank. After filling in the hole I took 2 steps and got another good signal. Thinking that this may be part of the same, but not able to walk away from the signal, I cut the clod out and turned it over. No sign of anything!

I tested the hole with the Deus to find the signal still in the hole. Carefully loosening the soil in the hole I scooped out with my hands, checking the spoil, the target had been lifted out. A quick search with the pin point revealed a small bronze object.

At first sight I thought it was a small pouring spout as I was looking at it horizontally. However, as I brushed the dirt from the object I realised that it was actually a helmeted face. Looking up to see where dad was, by now he was the other side of the field. So I left everything where it was and went running across to show him.

He was suitably impressed and exclaimed "I just don't know how you do it!" I was thinking "He doesn't do too badly himself" lol.

When I got home I simply rinsed the object with some cold water and carefully removed most of the dirt. With a small amount of research it appeared to be the head of the goddess Minerva.

A Roman statue head was high on my bucket list, and I'm glad to say now ticked. I will take this to Salisbury Museum next time I'm in. I will keep you updated once the report is returned to me.

Happy hunting! Tinner.

Treasure hunting

BRITAIN'S BEST SELLING
METAL DETECTING MAGAZINE

Monthly Competitions Runners up



Top Left: Hectorsfarm_ Possible Tudor pendant top/dress accessory

Top Right: Lightman73 - 8th/9thC Bronze/Gold Gilt Mount

Above: Ironage - Celtic terret ring

Left: Graham_B - Medieval Seal Matrix

Monthly Competitions Runners up



Above: Hawkeye - Book strap end



Right: tinnerstdad - Tudor spur rowel



**Top: marconorth - Henry VI
Calais mint groat c.1431-33**



**Left: - jpd1903 - Edward IV
second reign groat
c.1477-80**

Monthly Competitions Runners up



Left: Dendro_Tom - Edward III Quarter Noble
Right: Ossie - Charles 1st Shilling



Left: Georgian Tim - Henry VIII Canterbury mint Half-Groat
Right: Hectorsfarm_ - Elizabeth 1st Threepence 1569



Left: Arfrape - Edward II Penny Class 11b Canterbury mint
Right: tinner - Richard 1st London mint Class 4a penny

Monthly Competitions Runners up



Left: Graham_B - Roman Republican Denarius 122BC



Right: punkboy101 - Roman Aureus c. 336-337 AD



Left: ironage - Elizabeth I sixpence 1568



Right: tinnorsdad - Henry II Tealby penny, c 1154-1189



Above: Midhurst - Edward IV second reign Groat

UKDN FUN DSLR - Camera PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

Winner - Restyler

**Still not taken any interesting shots
outdoors this month, so I had a play
around with a Slinky...**

SPRING



No Runners Up this month

UKDN FUN POINT, PRESS & PRAY PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

Winner - Casa-Dos

Nikon Coolpix P600



Runners Up Overleaf

Runners-up -



**Above: Chris Hall
Jay - Nikon Coolpix
P600**



**Left: Chris_G
Primroses - Sony
RX100**

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1000 medium bags - £15.50 inc. postage*

*100 large bags - £4.99 inc. postage
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1000 large bags - £23.00 inc. postage*

[Link to UKDN Shop](#)

ARE YOU SAVVY ABOUT SILVER ?

PT 5 - FOREIGN SILVER

BY JOHN FARGHER

The first thing to be said is that the absence of a British hallmark from a piece of silver does not necessarily imply that it is inferior in any way. The Dutch, the French, and the Americans, amongst many other nations, have produced, and still produce, silver craftsmanship of the very highest quality. Indeed, gifted French Huguenot silver workers, fleeing to England from persecution during the 17th century, brought their skills with them and greatly influenced the quality of silver production here, to the good.

What the British hallmark does, however, is give a provenance which says where, when, and by whom an article was presented for assay.....and provides a guarantee of the constant quality of its silver content with its Lion Passant stamp. It is a comprehensive and trustworthy system used in very few other countries, and to some extent accounts for the worldwide collectability of British silver.

Whereas some items of silver made in foreign parts can carry a maker's mark, and/or a town mark, and/or a standard mark, or a combination of a couple of them, many others do not. The accurate dating of such pieces, bearing no date marks at all, can be a nightmare. Sometimes, dating them has to be guesswork based upon style, condition, the experience of the viewer, and little else. Silver content can also vary, from an almost non-existent standard right through 600.....to 800.....to 925, stopping at all points in between. However, there are other examples of silver made, in other places, to even higher standards than our 925..... so we cannot claim to have a monopoly on quality.

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To illustrate some of the points I have made above, and rather than using just words to describe them, I offer a few photographic images of foreign silver pieces in my collection.....



INDIAN SILVER VISITING CARD CASE

A striking Anglo-Indian silver visiting card case, made during the late Victorian/Edwardian (Raj) period, with a presentation inscription consisting of the initials G.M.P. and the date 1907 in a shield-shaped cartouche.

There are no manufacturing marks at all on this super card case, despite it containing a full four ounces of silver..... but this is not unusual with Indian silver. A lot of it remains anonymous.

The way the card case has been made, and its flower and leaf decoration, tells us that it was made in the Kutch region of Gujarat. The method of making Kutch silver items is involved, unusual, and worthy of some gentle research for the interested reader. For the record, the case measures 10cm x 7cm x 1cm, and weighs 124gm.

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NAPKIN RING

A Chinese silver napkin ring of great quality, decorated with an applied cast silver dragon.....one of a set of six.

There is no way of dating it, or telling where it was made or assayed, as the only mark on it is the maker's mon (name or mark) on a small cast and applied panel.....in Chinese. One can only guess that it was made in the early part of the 20th century.

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AN OVAL SILVER SNUFF BOX

I bought this little beauty on a whim, neither recognising the foreign silver marks clearly stamped to its interior base nor having any idea of its age. Since buying it, however, I think I may have made a fairly accurate identification of where it was made..... but I still have no idea of its age.

The box is oval, of great weight and quality, and has a heavy cast silver lid depicting an image from one of Aesop's Fables, "The Bear and The Gardener". The box has a gold-washed interior which carries two die-stamped marks to its base consisting of a Crowned Lion Rampant and a Five Pointed Star, or pentagram, above it.

These marks, I believe, are those used in Cordoba, Spain, and indicate a silver fineness of 915.....a little poorer than the English 925 (Lion Passant) standard. But, I have still not been able to discover just when my box was made. Somebody will know, but incidents like this serve to remind me just why I prefer the benefits of the comprehensive English hallmarking system.

For the record, the box measures 2 ¼" x 1 ¾" x ¾" and weighs 52.4gm.



AN ANTIQUE AMERICAN TABLE SNUFF BOX

American silver can be of really great quality and design, and this table snuff box is US silver at its best.

It is marked "STERLING", in typical US fashion, which equates it to our 925 or Lion Passant standard of silver. It also bears the rather strange maker's mark (A parrot and a cat or dog playing with a ball of string which is marked with a W).....the mark of the Whiting Manufacturing Company of New York. There is no date mark as such, but a presentation inscription to its base dates the box to "September 6th 1873" at the latest. A little further research indicates that the makers were only in business in New York from 1866 onwards, so the box must have been made somewhere in the seven year window before its presentation.

There is some additional ongoing research into the origins of this box taking place as I write, and I hope to be able to provide an update in my next article.

For the record, the box measures 3.8" x 2.6" x 0.9" and weighs 108.5gm.

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AN IMPORTED MATCHBOOK COVER

A ladies silver matchbook cover, for pocket, purse, or handbag, with its top cover decorated with delightful pink guilloché enamel over an engine-turned design.

Probably made somewhere on the continent, before the outbreak of the First World War, and typical of the period, but it bears only the import mark for London 1915, which includes the 925 silver standard mark....and the somewhat enigmatic initials AJ. I wonder if AJ was the maker.....the importer.....or, perhaps, the person who submitted the piece for assay ?

With enamelled items, it is important to retain the enamelling intact if the value is not to be greatly diminished.

For the record, the cover measures 2 ¾" X 1 5/8" and weighs 39.7gm.

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But, what about silver imported from abroad for retail sale in the UK? In 1883 it became law that a capital letter 'F' should be stamped on all imported silver of the sterling or 925 standard, or above, submitted to a British assay office for testing. The letter 'F' was to be applied in addition to any other marks applied by the object's country of origin. In 1904, because of the possibility of confusion with their date letter stamps, assay offices were each given their own unique symbol to stamp on foreign silver articles of the correct sterling standard, instead of the 'F'. Only two years later, in 1906, the symbols were changed again but, this time, with the exception of a few minor alterations and the closure of some assay offices altogether, the system would stay in place until 1998.



A solid silver novelty stamp holder, in the form of a lady's miniature purse or handbag with bright cut decoration and chain handle. It bears a 925 mark for sterling quality silver, a London import mark for 1914, and the maker's or importer's initials JAH.

For the record, it measures 1 ¼" by 1 ¼", and weighs 9.6 gm



Collecting foreign silver, with its multitude of different marks, on occasion its absence of any marks at all, and potentially a whole range of various import marks, when added to the varying silver standards used, can be a minefield.....especially if you come across a piece which was say, produced in Holland, but imported into France, and marked to show this. For this reason I have to say, yet again, that hallmarked British silver is the safest bet for any potential collector.

END.

Next Month: Part 6
Some Thoughts on Collecting Silver

A Thor's Hammer in the making By Tom Redmayne



Back in 2011 I had been collecting all my bits of scrappy silver that I find detecting for several years; the broken thimbles, the damaged rings, the tatty cane tops etc., even the tiny bits of broken hammies, with a view to melting them down and making something.



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Well, after months of inactivity and undecided what to make, I decided to have a go at making a simple Thor's hammer, so off I went to buy a propane blow torch that would attach to my barbecue gas bottle, a graphite crucible, some lightweight concrete bricks, and build a basic furnace.

This was basically just three blocks stacked on top of each other with a 5cm hole drilled down into the top and a 4cm hole drilled perpendicular to it in the side that joined up with the base of the top hole. The blow torch blasted into the side hole and the crucible sat inside the top hole so that it was being heated all over by the torch. It was raised and lowered in and out of the furnace by a pair of tongs.

During all of this, leather welder's gloves and a face shield or goggles are essential. One bit of moisture and everything explodes!

The silver went in and the blow torch was set to blast directly onto the crucible in the furnace until it started to glow red and then almost white hot. The silver melted at about 1000 degrees C with a bit of help prodding and stirring with a glass rod.

The design of the Thor's hammer had been drawn onto lead sheet and cut out to form a template. This was then impressed into a cuttlefish bone, as was done in Roman and Saxon times. The cuttlefish bone is very soft and will take the lead template being pushed into it whilst keeping all the detail. It can also be carved out if you need to. For this project, I cut through a whole cuttlefish bone lengthways and then sanded the surfaces flat. The template was pushed in until it was flush with the surface of the cuttlefish bone and then tipped out to create the hollow shape of the Thor's hammer.

This is one of the lead templates that I made.



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Once the silver had fully melted and was sitting as a liquid pool at the bottom of the crucible, the molten silver was poured directly into the open mould, so it wasn't an enclosed mould. As I discovered, you end up with a very rounded, pillow shape on the top surface and the flat surface of the template inside. The heat totally destroys the bone so it can't be used again. You can see the outer surface of the casting in this picture, the one with the rounded shape and the rougher, bubbly surface.



The molten silver cools very quickly as you pour it so most castings fail. The first two attempts failed as the silver was not hot enough and there was too little of it, but the third attempt was a lot better and produced my first, solid silver Thor's hammer weighing 10.5 grams. A lot of filing, sanding and drilling later, and this was the finished item (see overleaf)

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You can also use the lost wax technique to cast silver, and I am thinking of trying it at some point using different types of clay and plaster too but I wanted to try the cuttlefish bone method first as it is an ancient technique.

This was done as a project, a sort of experimental archaeology, to understand how they made these sort of things in the past. I know I cheated with the blow torch but a charcoal furnace is a bit out of my league at the moment.

I was asked by a few if I would, or should, hallmark it. I wouldn't really want to hallmark it as it is for my own use only and the marks would detract from its simplicity in my eyes.

You only have to get it hallmarked if it is to be sold.

It costs a lot to get set up for having stuff hallmarked though, and then there is the charge for each item on top of this.

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If you wish Birmingham Assay Office to undertake your Hallmarking, you will need to follow these three simple steps:

1. Sponsor's Mark – You will need to register a unique Sponsor Mark with us. To do this, please click on the 'Registration of Sponsor Marks' button and download the form. Please complete the form and return it to us. We will use this form to order your Sponsor Mark punch(es).
2. Registration - You will need to complete a Registration Form.
3. Payment - Registration fee is £60.00 plus VAT. Your registration will last for a 10 year period. A charge of £70.00 for each Sponsor's Mark punch is also made for up to two initials.

<https://theassayoffice.co.uk/help-with-hallmarks/anatomy-of-a-hallmark>

As I said, this all started in 2011. A year later, and after looking at real Thor's hammer pendants on the internet and on the PAS database, I wasn't really happy with the shape and decided to have another go to try and make a more authentic one.

This time, it was cast in a stone (terracotta tile) mould that was carved out by hand with a small chisel. Again, the silver was melted using a propane torch and a makeshift furnace with breeze blocks and a graphite crucible.

This was the result after a little bit of finishing. It needed a lot more finishing to take some of the rough edges off, although I quite liked the slightly uneven quality, more like the genuine ones.



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What I learnt from this method was don't try using terracotta tiles like I did. They start to crumble after a couple of pourings and are then useless. You do need the right tools to make a real stone mould though and to get the detail sharp enough.

Cuttlefish bones are really better for making enclosed moulds rather than open ones and they are definitely one casting only as the heat destroys them. The detail you can get from them is amazing though as they are so fine grained so any future experiments will probably go back to using them.

The picture below shows a couple of the raw ingots that I made up from all my scrap silver bits melted down. All sterling silver, no debased at all.

I just break bits off as I need them. The hammer in this picture is getting closer to a finished state, just a few more rubbings with clay and sand mix to take out the final casting pits and file marks were needed. This hammer is a particularly special one and, I hope, a good talisman for detecting as it is not made from the ingot but made purely from melted bits of broken and scrappy hammered silver coins that I have collected over the years and were too far gone to read or record. It weighs 6.6 grams.



I wear it all the time now!

(c) Tom Redmayne April 2016

News and Views from April 2016

More than half a tonne of ancient Roman coins

Rare Roman statuette found in Long Melford

Medieval gold brooch dug up in Oxfordshire

Clandon Park fire: Archaeologist speaks

4,000-year-old skull 'a wonderful discovery'

Robbie Williams has a brand new hobby

Rare Coin Find Sparks Journey for Metal De-

The Science behind the Staffordshire Hoard

Roman villa unearthed 'by chance' in Wiltshire

Anglo of the North?

Treasure unearthed for hospice

PAS county page websites

Galloway Viking Treasure BBC Article



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



Sky lantern warning after nature reserve fire in Dorset

NEWS

28 APR 2016

🔥 234



Agriculture in the news - April 28, 2016

NEWS

28 APR 2016

🔥 53



CLA urges MPs to support new flood management scheme

NEWS

27 APR 2016

🔥 374

COUNTRYFILE.com



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watch the latest episode

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.

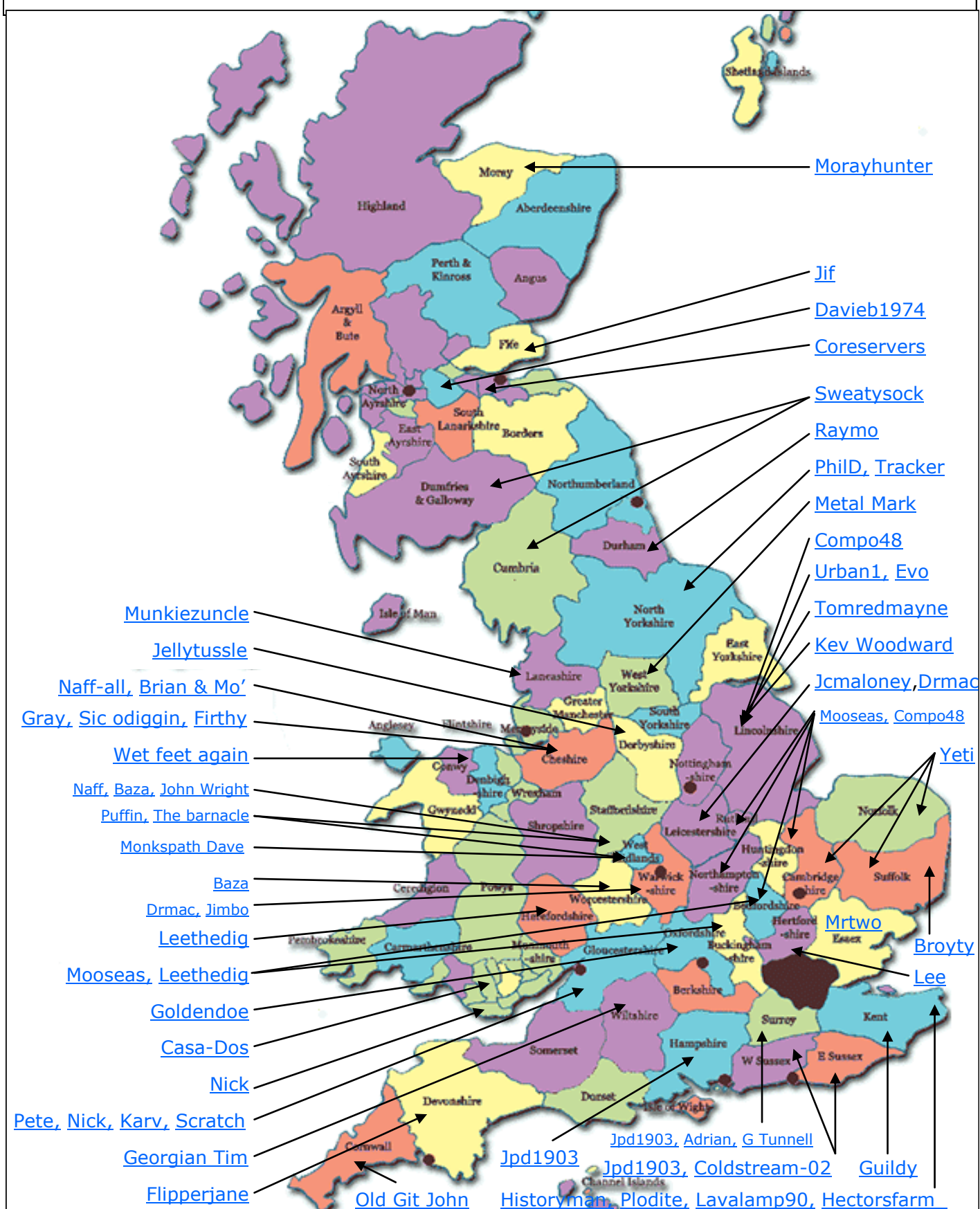
This new section of the magazine is to promote good practice and is dedicated to the ambassadors of the hobby of whom we are so proud. Their deeds have in the past been spread throughout the magazine but are now brought together to improve their presentation.

Sheffield experts unearth Saxon island in Lincolnshire field



Community Archaeology Volunteers on Uk Detector Net

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

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

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

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

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;

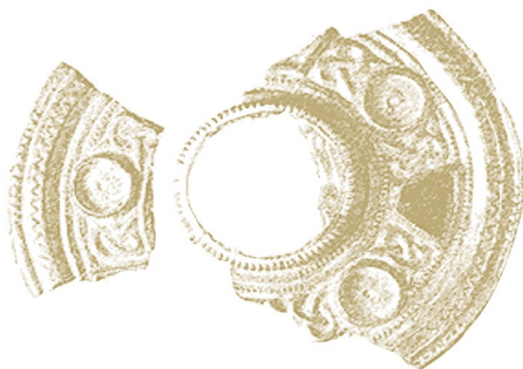
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/finds/albums>

Local Heroes theme song;

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

Find my FLO

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



[Register](#)

[Search the database](#)

Portable Antiquities Scheme

www.finds.org.uk

PAS Upcoming Events

Click on text



United Kingdom

Isle of Man

Leeds

Liverpool

Manchester

ENGLAND

Cambridge

Oxford

London

Brighton

Southampton

Bristol

Cardiff

WALES

Plymouth

Upcoming events

Database search

Contact a FLO

Conservation

PAS on Flickr

Treasure Act

Register

Free app

Figures

6 figures

8 figures

10 figures

[Click here to make a cash donation to PAS, to pay for packing & storing finds.](#)

Lincolnshire PAS Conference 2016
Celebrating Reporting:
Metal-detecting, archaeology, and the Portable Antiquities Scheme in Lincolnshire.



Following on from the National PAS Conference at the British Museum, previously reported in Digging Deep, it was time to head East for the first regional PAS Conference in Lincoln. Hosted at The Collection in the heart of historic Lincoln this regional conference was certainly more metal detecting related and might show how PAS could look in the future as local governments change ways of working and the ever increasing volume of finds almost overwhelms the system.

Lincolnshire is a prime example of the success of PAS with a forward thinking FLO in Dr Adam Daubney and one of the founders of the Scheme in Dr Kevin Leahy both of whom were to speak at the conference.

The first speaker after the traditional introductory coffee's & registration was Dr Michael Lewis who heads the scheme from the central unit at the British Museum. His presentation focused on the PAS Strategy leading up to 2020, equally he mentioned one or two topics that would have many experienced detectorists raising an eyebrow.

There was a good outline as to how the currently recorded finds have brought in 1.47 million in research funding and their future use for finds as an educational resource for schools.

There was discussion about how the PAS can continue to promote itself, contribute to European Finds Groups, promote recording & prioritise recording finds that provide the best quality data eg:

accuracy of findspots.

He spoke about the need to improve the links with the Historic Environment Record (HER), in many areas there is no integration between the two which leads to a loss of archaeological knowledge. There were several other interesting points raised particularly around the Treasure Act, the Treasure process & rallies guidance.

More of that later as the format didn't allow time for questions until the end of the day. Definitely an event to make notes & keep the powder dry.

Michael is hoping that, in terms of funding, that the income from the BM will remain flat and local council cutbacks won't have too much detrimental effect on the scheme. Having received funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for the PAST Explorers project there are, of course, certain targets that need to be achieved such as engagement with 300,000 members of the public & recruiting at least 500 volunteers.

We then moved on to our second speaker, the avuncular Dr Kevin Leahy who provided a very entertaining & amusing look back on the start of the PAS, which he described as making him as popular as Osama Bin Laden in archaeological circles when the Council for British Archaeology were actively promoting the STOP campaign in the 1970's. It was Kevin alongside a few colleagues that had realised that, as agricultural practices changed, there was a large amount of artefacts, coins & metalwork in the topsoil of many fields with one easy recovery method. In fact, he suggested that farming had done more damage to archaeology than the reformation. Having started the scheme & overseen its growth and development he was full of praise as to how well recorded finds had changed the perception of the Dark Ages and he confidently said that as more research comes to light a "Golden Age is coming".

We then broke for coffee & a chance to catch up with some of the 110 attendees that ranged from students to detectorists and some forward thinking archaeologists.

Speaker three was our host & organiser Dr Adam Daubney the FLO for Lincolnshire who discussed a number of interesting aspects of the scheme and if the scheme is developing new knowledge or enhancing known knowledge, ideas that a number of speakers considered. Adam had started in his role in 2003 with no laptop, no books & as he candidly admitted..... no idea! How things had changed in 13 short years. Adam has now recorded 25,000 finds, published papers, gained a Phd and two children....there was an ironic dip in the number of records relative to childbirth!!

Adam spoke eloquently & with passion about how 70% of finds were from "unknown" sites that could easily be ephemeral or temporary areas of activity as well as detecting finds also adding to "known" sites such as Torksey.

There was also a lot of focus on considering scatters & associated finds that, with research, could easily provide evidence of activity that isn't recorded in any other way. The reality is that detectorists go to places that many don't and with that there is a real need to look at the bigger picture of a "@productive area" and associating accurately recorded finds.

We were then introduced to Dr Caitlin Green who spoke about how research based on PAS data can provide evidence of our collective past by both what is found as well as what isn't. Sometimes the absence of finds can be as useful as the presence of finds as it can show how the environment has changed over the centuries. A distribution map of "known" Anglo Saxon cemeteries expanded greatly when recorded detecting finds were added, sites that would have remained unknown or possibly lost to agriculture if they hadn't been searched & recorded accurately.

Our fifth speaker was Dr Peter Chowne who spoke on the importance of context in Bronze Age metalwork. In Lincolnshire this can be interesting & challenging with lots of land drainage,

ditch digging, ditch cleaning all of which can almost turn the archaeological record “upside down”.

Again there were many examples of public engagement with detecting finds and how transient settlements of the Bronze Age can be evidenced by associated finds & detritus such as slag which might be discarded by the less knowledgeable, even the “scrap” matters.

There was then a break for a buffet lunch with more opportunities to network with other FLO's, delegates & the speakers.

Tom Redmayne then delivered his PAS National Conference paper on the experience he had gained working as a volunteer self-recorder with the scheme & his interaction with Adam. Tom explained how volunteering had added to his personal skill set, widened his network of knowledge and how he is able to call on a wide range of fellow detectorists or National Finds Advisers. In itself this has led Tom to write papers for the Finds Research Group and develop his own skills as a small finds advisor. In Tom's experience it has been a two way street in that he has been able to give something back as he, in turn, has gained development & new skills.

Saturday 5th March was also the 80th anniversary of the first Spitfire and our seventh speaker was Peter Atkinson (aka: Yoda) who has worked alongside the PAS & community based archaeology as part of Operation Nightingale. Nightingale is a well known scheme that helps injured service personnel reintegrate with civilian life & develop new skills whilst recovering from the physical & mental trauma of war & service. He spoke with humour & passion of the difficulties encountered during “Operation Battle Eagle” the recovery of a Lincs based spitfire from WWII, a very emotional & poignant talk.

Our final speaker was Antony Lee, Archaeology curator from our venue The Collection his talk was based around donation, acquisition, curation & display and was very informative in terms of what happens “behind the scenes” and how many museums have to strike a fine balance as to what to collect..... local or national? How to curate & conserve (Lincs have around 3.5 miles of shelving!) he also touched on Treasure & donations and how the donors can be better recognised and accredited.

Having heard the speakers & some having over run a little the time for questions was limited after the traditional thanks & presentations to some of the organising team.

Question one set the tone..... “As this event is hosted by Lincolnshire County Council why do they have a blanket ban on detecting on their land holdings?” That caused a certain degree of nervous shuffling and a consensus that it could be reviewed if the finds were accurately recorded and donated.

Another attendee commented that certain parts of the Lincolnshire PAS maps from various speakers that showed large areas of “nothing” was owned by Christchurch College in Oxford who hold a similar view regarding detecting. Is the record of finds being lost to agriculture, or night hawking? Again it's a conversation for several organisations to consider sooner rather than later.

The third question to Michael Lewis was concerning the PAS proposed “Rallies Guidance” and the responsibility for recording qualifying finds being placed on the organiser as the resource of FLO's attending such events is very limited. Michael was asked if there would be a stronger definition of what constitutes a rally rather than a club dig. The comments were taken on board and the ubiquitous promise of “a consultation with stakeholders”.

Michael also eluded to an improved Treasure Tracking system, it is an often commented frustration of finders that their finds go into the system for sometimes prolonged periods yet neither finder or landowner are aware of what stage they are at. He had linked this with the long awaited review of the Treasure Act, however it seems this review has, yet again, suffered slippage or lack of resource to complete as the government throws those resources at the pending EU

referendum.

Question 4 was a real jaw dropper for many in the room when a contracting archaeologist asked “How easy would it be to get a detectorist to work on dig sites?” I think a large percentage of the attendees were dumb struck, however the idea was very popular and several FLO’s said they could easily provide responsible, recording detectorists.

All in all a very enjoyable, educational and well organised conference that may lead to many more in the regions. Get in touch with your FLO as they need us as much as we need them!

Many thanks to John Maloney (the author), the NCMD and the PAS for permission to publish this article first published in the NCMD Digging Deep Issue 20.

Treasure unearthed for hospice

Metal detecting enthusiasts from Bridlington have turned their hobby into treasure for Saint Catherine’s.

So many people enjoyed the hobby during 2015 that they have just presented £1,000 to the hospice.

<https://www.stcatherineshospice-nyorks.org/treasure-unearthed-for-hospice/>



Two hammered silver coins of King Edward I (1272/1307) which Pip found while metal detecting round Bridlington and Scarborough

Purse found inside Jersey Hoard

A rare purse has been found in the middle of one of the world's largest hoards

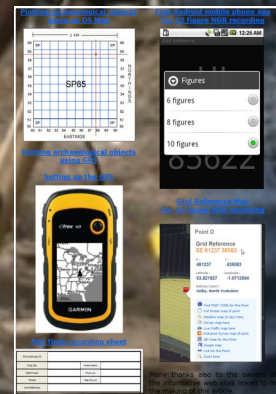
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-jersey-36052641>



The purse was found in the middle of the celtic coins and is very fragile



Click on the images for more info



Code of Practice for Responsible Metal Detecting in England and Wales



Guidance for landowners, occupiers and tenant farmers in England and Wales

Metal-detecting, Field-walking and Searching for Archaeological Objects: guidance for landowners, occupiers and tenant farmers in England and Wales

This guidance had been jointly produced by the Country, Land & Business Association, the National Farmers Union and the Portable Antiquities Scheme, September 2010.

Best Practice

Conservation Advice Notes



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 copper alloy, silver & gold	Recording find spots with an O/S map or GPS or online map
Permission from the landowner, Finds agreement	Beaches Permit req'd for Crown Estates	Recordable finds over 300 yrs old copper alloy, silver & gold	Recording with PAS Recording Treasure Trove
Club Membership can provide land	Mudlarking Permit req'd	Treasure finds Inform Duty Organiser & FIQ	What recording can tell us
Consider NCMD or FID membership & insurance	Local parks & Council land permission req'd	Saxon burials & Roman burials Stop digging & connect to PAS FIQ	Archaeological objects including treasure
Comply with the Reasonable Detection code of practice	Avoid SAM's & SSSI's in England, Wales & Scotland	Green Waste never, never take care	Bagging, cleaning & conserving finds
Understanding of the Treasure Act or Treasure Trove (Scotland)	Avoid National Trust land and Nature Reserves	Dangers near, always take care	Please consider donating your finds to a Museum
Understanding of head receptors	Avoid battlefields to retain their battle history	Ordnance - show drawings call Police Lots of Metal! But, tell the FIQ	Getting involved in archaeology
PAS Guide for landowners & farmers & Rally Guidance Note	Avoid footpaths	Join UKDN & use Finds Advisers will ID your finds & save you a PAS valuable time	PAS Frequently asked Questions

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>Grid Reference Android Phone App</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>Uk Grid Reference and Post Code Finder</i>
<i>Getting involved in archaeology</i>

New members in April 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](#)

yesBilly
tottenham hotspur
Ray118H
steins
Celticbluestone
Orangeherald
pixulator
Lengthorn1
FrankWatt
baggy
jimbo1878
Coil
Michele
Stormy1958
Brimotest2
Peterliz
clugg
mikew41
Stebbing
Krungthep56
GordonJ
p0acher
pelops
Alan B

Richard1971
Dommey
mighal602
Berkyholler3

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.