

The UKDN

WORD



Issue 3 November 2007

The World Of Responsible Detecting



A Tribute To Linnet44

September
Finds of the Month
Results

Plus

UKDN News
Meet the Mods
Grass Roots
Guest Pages

Scotland's Billon Coinage

60 DESCENDIT, IUVARE CONTRA IVS GENTIVM ET
PROMISSI FIDEM CAPTIVA RETENTA, POSTCAPTI
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PER ... GLICI CRVDELI FATE.
... SENTENTIA NECI
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... A SERVILI ET AMEC
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Welcome...

To the 3rd edition of UK DETECTOR NET's very own newsletter.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank those of you who have contributed to this third edition and helped make this an informative and interesting issue.

We will use the newsletter to inform you all of our plans and expectations for the near future, we can tell you of the future plans for the software, of the stories you may have missed on the forum and of developments within this fascinating hobby of ours.

The newsletter will be a regular monthly feature of UKDN therefore we will need input from as many people as possible. To create and sustain a monthly newsletter we need regular and varied contributors. You can post in the newsletter in much the same way that you post to your forum.

We hope that you enjoy the newsletter and we welcome your feedback on the forum.

Brian, Mo and the Team



Tell us what you think!

Send a PM to Corinne or PhilD

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Pete Morris, (PeteM)

Aged 61 I live at Nafferton a small village in East Yorkshire at the foot of The Wolds, I started detecting following early retirement in 2000.

Lucky enough to be able to detect any day of the week whenever there is available land.

A fascinating hobby and a brilliant way to learn about our history, could just do with another fifty years though to get the hang of identifying those hammered.

Good hunting to you all.



Paul, (leadlumps)

Born in Cornwall, age 42, married twenty years with three children, working as a supervisor-chargehand for a mineral extraction company here in sunny Cornwall. When I left school I went straight into farming while taking my City and Guilds in Agriculture and then onto college to study for National Certificate in Agriculture. I was a former member of the YFC-young farmers club, I left farming to join my current job.

I have been detecting for twenty years, perhaps one of the very few hobbyists who have ploughed and searched in the same fields.



Craig A

I am 37 and have been married for 17 years to Denise. We have 5 children ranging between eighteen and twenty months. I am presently a welder in the automotive industry.

In the past I have done everything from being a first mate on an army landing craft in Central America to being a carer for adults with learning disabilities. I also spent a few years in the Outer Hebrides as a fisherman.

I first became interested in detecting at the age of 12 when I swapped some of my toys for a Tandy machine and found some Victorian pennies at the local park. I started detecting as a hobby when I was in my twenties and whilst on leave from the army went into The Midas Touch to kill some time whilst waiting for the pubs to open.

After several cups of coffee and a chat about the hobby I left with my first machine a Whites Classic II.

I was in the fields of an old school friend's father within the hour where I found a lead soldier and a load of junk. I now use an Explorer II and an X-Terra 70.

I would like to get more involved with archaeological projects in the future and show the benefit of having a detectorist on site.



Durham Dave

Hi there readers just a few lines about myself, my 'real' name is Dave Findlay, but I'm better known as Durham Dave.....'yeah this is Dave he's from Durham' lol.

I detected first time around in the early Eighties using various Whites and C-scope machines.

I gave up the hobby at that time due to work and family commitments, however I always retained an interest and promised myself I would get another detector sometime. That 'sometime' was about six years ago when I bought a Fisher 1236x2, soon followed by a Lobo Super Trac and then a Minelab Sov Elite.

I really enjoy the rally scene as I am a 'social creature', but it is also good to get out on your own land and forget about everything except the next signal.

Happy hunting.



History Hunter

I'm Anthony, most call me Tony. Aged 47, born in Bamber Bridge, Lancashire.

When I was at school aged 12, a pupil brought bullets, grenades & a cartwheel twopence, these items made history come to life for me. I decided at that early age that it would become one of my major hobbies later on in life. In the early 80's I purchased my first detector, a Viking 7M.

Finally after many years of detecting I'm finding artefacts and coins that encourage me to get out detecting even more. With a stock of five different detectors to choose from I've one for every type of detecting possible.



In next months newsletter we meet the folks with all the knowledge

The UKDN Finds Advisers

UKDN Christmas Auction.

UKDN will be holding its fourth auction with all monies helping to pay for the server costs. UKDN is the premier UK based forum with the largest membership and active user base of any UK forum.

The contributions of members over the years have kept the forum free and this auction will likewise help to ensure that UKDN never becomes a tiered forum with the good bits only viewed by subscription membership.

After feedback from the 2006 Christmas auction I will be running it slightly different this year. In the past it has been a 24 hour auction and the finish time on a weekday evening has meant that some members could not bid or take part because of work commitments.

This year the auction will start at 7.00 p.m. on Thursday the 29th of November and finish at 9.00 p.m. on Sunday the 2nd of December.

We would be very grateful for donations from members. So if you have any detecting related items lying about which are in good order and you would be happy to donate to UKDN please get in touch and we will be able to give more information on how it works.

All donators will be given UKDN supporter status.

Please contact either myself (CraigA) or Kate by p.m. Alternatively you may contact us by Email on auction@forumukdetectornet.co.uk

UKDN LOTTERY to go monthly

Following on from the huge success of the previous months' UKDN Lottery's, the UKDN Team have decided that for the foreseeable future we will hold the event on a monthly basis with a prize of a book/books to the value of approx. £20.

The lottery will take place about one week later than the UKDN newsletter launch so will happen about one week into each month. It will run from Thursday evening until 7pm on the Saturday evening when the topic thread will be locked. The 6 numbers will be taken from the Lotto draw that evening about 8pm.

Any joint winners will need to submit further numbers, the winning number chosen from the following Wednesday draw.

All UKDN members will be emailed a few days prior to the lottery so that all can take part.

Don't forget it is free !!!

New - UKDN Letter of the month

Do you want to say something? Perhaps about any issues concerning the hobby, comments on published articles etc and have the letter printed in the newsletter?

We would like to hear from you - it can be your opinion on something, a question, a bit of both - or something completely different! Everyone seems to find the time to set pen to paper if they are UNhappy. but how many of us do the same if something makes us smile?! We would like to hear from you whether you are an unhappy bunny or a happy chappie!

We will publish the letter of the month, chosen by the admin team in the newsletter - and if its a question you are asking we will endeavour to find the definitive answer from the relevant "horses mouth" and include the reply in the same newsletter where possible.

PM PhilD if you have a letter to submit.

Sunday evenings and how armchairs can solve a mystery. By Dandelion

In my perfect world Sundays would be reserved for all things metal detecting. Metal detecting to me is more about spending quality time with yourself and selected others, than it is about finding artifacts. It is about being steeped in nature, enjoying the soothing solitude without the interference and irritations of modern life. But this Utopian view is somewhat flawed, as my suffocating mortgage and the seemingly endless draining of my bank account via sneaky direct debits, all require that I have to work many of my precious Sundays as overtime just to make ends meet.

In addition, I would like my Sunday evenings to be reserved for "Cyber-detecting". For prowling the forums and following relevant links ad infinitum until I am somewhere completely at a tangent to where I was originally. It is both fun and informative. Last Sunday was no different, I trudged doggedly around seemingly barren fields, swinging the detector left to right, right to left, on occasion digging holes, Quietly cursing them, then backfilling them.

By the end of the day, I had amassed a number of non-descript partifacts and assorted non-ferrous rubbish! I returned home, somewhat despondent, and waited with anticipation for the best of todays detecting finds to be posted on the Internet. I imagined what it would feel like to unearth such a quality find as a Celtic unit, or a complete medieval zoomorphic brooch .



However, I never seem to find anything of interest. I have not yet had the good fortune to witness the first shimmer of ancient gold as it makes its second tentative reappearance into the sunlight of the modern world, or the thrill of saving a nationally important treasure from the ever present threat of the plough.

I attend a local metal detecting club, but so far the finds liaison officer and I have never had reason to speak.

I have however, dug many pieces of lead, and even more coke. It is usual for my finds pouch to be bulging with the sort of rubbish which most self respecting detectorist would consign to the nearest hedge bottom. Therefore, on the rare occasion that I do actually discover a "respectable" find, then I will endeavor to make the very most of it.



Henry III Penny



For instance, a recent find of mine was an armed forces cap badge which had the initials S.W.B emblazoned across the front. I spent the remainder of the day swinging the detector, and wondering what those three letters could actually signify.

It was during that Sunday evening's armchair "cyber-detecting" session that I researched the badge and discovered all manner of things associated with the South Wales Borderers, all of which I would of otherwise have remained ignorant.

Some years earlier I unearthed what I considered to be my best ever find. It was a penny minted during the reign of Henry the Third. Admittedly it is not thought to be a rare find, but it is in a nice state of preservation, and five years on, I still consider it to be my finest find.

It was discovered in a ploughed field in North Nottinghamshire, close to the Lincolnshire border, It was, in fact not too far away from the medieval provincial mints of Lincoln and Yorksey. The coin has the inscription "Ricard on Glo" on the reverse, which upon consultation with the relevant reference books, and Internet forums would indicate that it was minted in Gloucester, by a bloke called Ricard. This was clearly not a local coin.

So how did a 750 year old coin, minted 150 miles away end up being dug up centuries later by some scruffy bloke in Nottinghamshire? I was curious, but being new to metal detecting, I put it down to being one of those mystery's which makes this hobby so damn intriguing. I was not concerned, I was sure that the reason would make itself known in its own time.

The possible answer, If I remember correctly, arrived courtesy of one of my Sunday evening virtual detecting sessions. I was reading about Lincoln and its roman connections, following links about the roads, Ermine street and Fosse way.

Yes! Fosse way! The roman road which for centuries was a main route, starting on the south coast and which terminated in Lincoln. Which also routed travelers through, wait for it, Gloucestershire!

So a coin minted in Gloucestershire, by a bloke called Ricard, and found a few miles from Lincoln no longer seemed to be so mysterious.

September Coin of the Month

Goldendoe's 'Plastic Type' Cunobelin Stater - AD10 to AD41

Up nice and early with a couple of Annadin (for some strange reason we both had a head ache?), breakfast then off to the meeting point. We were shown the 3 fields we could detect that day and just about everyone marched off to the nearest one that had been ploughed and rolled, it was in perfect detectable condition. We followed and made our way from one corner to the next. Neither of us found anything worth mentioning. We then decided to meander down the edge and detect across the field from and to the other two corners. I think Mick got a thimble but that was it.

Everyone we met said the usual 'not a lot in this one then', we agreed and slowly but surely just about everyone had set off for the next field. The same kind of comments were muttered in this one too, until a very nice Tealby penny popped up. Several people found some more hammered but we found nothing. Again when we decided to move onto the last field by this time most people had dispersed and were already on it. After two and a half hours searching in the heat of the day we retired for liquid refreshments from our fridge and a tasty burger from the caterer.

I am as guilty as the next detectorist here, we race around trying to cover as much ground as possible, always thinking the next field that you can see others in is the one to be in! As much as me and Mick have agreed that this is a crazy way to go on we still somehow manage to do it. Anyway after a few beers and the sight of some of the hammered that had come off we decided to go back out onto the first field as it was almost deserted.

Mick went off to the right and I detected straight across. Once I got to the far edge by the woods I decided to 'snake' down the edge rather than walking in a straight line. I was just getting into the 'mind set' of our ancestors, as to where they would have buried their treasure when my phone went. It was another mate of mine asking if I had found anything. Once I gave him the bad news of 'No and I doubt anyone will either' I detected about 5 paces and got a clear high pitched signal from my Goldy. I put the spade in as usual, certain of pulling out a ring pull or a small shotgun cartridge, and there before my eyes in the ground was that illusive disjointed horse of my dreams.

I picked it up and turned it over to see an ear of corn. Oh my God! My first ever Gold Stator in 9 years of detecting. I placed it in the palm of my hand and just gazed at it. I then felt that adrenalin rush you get when you find a 'Most Wanted'. I calmed myself down, put the coin away in a safe place and slowly covered the localised area round the find spot but to no avail. Then I detected (probably with the search head 10 inches of the ground) over to Mick. He saw me coming and instantly knew by the 'Cheshire Cat' grin on my face that I had found something very good. He was well chuffed for me but I reckon a tad jealous me thinks!!

I showed the find to Skunky who asked me to show it off, which I did with the greatest of pleasure. As this was happening another detectorist came wondering over from the same field where I found my stator with a gold quarter stator! He had found it several yards up from where I had found mine. Needless to say that field was packed for the rest of the afternoon but I didn't hear of anymore coming up. It just goes to show what can come up from a field when you slow right down, even when a hundred or so other detectorists have been on it earlier.

As we were leaving on the Sunday Skunky came over to the caravan and informed me that I had the 'Find of the Rally' and gave me a very nice 21 year old bottle of whiskey for my trouble. Bonus!! I will definitely be going to his next rally. Bring it on!



September Artefact of the Month

Pip's Medieval Pommel



I was at the Central Searchers dig at Islip on the 22nd of September 2007, when feeling tired after a lot of walking and not much digging, I was heading back to the tent for a well deserved brew when I got talking to a mate of mine.

After a couple of minutes we headed off in opposite directions changing the detecting line I was following, then a nice strong signal was there beneath all the footprints, 30 yards away from the gate. I scraped away the top surface and there was this little horse thing looking at me, covered in mud, the Explorer had done me proud once again.

After showing it to many people and recording it at the rally it was becoming more obvious as to what a rare find I had made and no one had seen anything like it before.

I've still not had a positive id on it yet, the artifact is 30mm tall 24mm wide and 8mm thick, I think its made of bronze and has three silver inlay panels on each side, each with a cross in them



surrounded by black lines. I'm unsure as to what the animal is, the base has a small hole in it possibly for mounting on the end of a knife?

SCOTLANDS BILLON COINAGE

By Gordon Innes

Silver coinage can be found from Scotland's past covering many different monarchs, and although I love uncovering hammered Scottish silver I must say I get more of a buzz when unearthing the small copper and billon coinage of Scotland. Billon consists of approx 90% copper, 10% silver, but this I have found varies from coin to coin.



My personal favourite of the billon copper coinage of Scotland are the coins of Mary Queen of Scots, She was Queen for 25 years, being born only 6 days prior to the death of her father, James V on the 14th Dec 1542, and at the age of 6 days old she became Queen until her abdication in 1567.

Up in my area of Scotland I am lucky in that the soil is very kind to these small billon coins and I have uncovered some nice examples. The earliest coinage of Mary's reign was produced in her absence, as she spent her early years in France, the coinage of this age were known as the infant head type.



On the 24th of April 1558 Mary married Francis, Dauphin of France and this in turn led to the production of many Francis and Mary coins, quite a common detecting find in certain parts of Scotland nowadays. Although saying that, I do believe the soil type contributes a lot to the condition of these billon coins.

These first struck Scottish coins were produced in 1136 by the then King David I, and from then until the 15th century generally only gold and silver was used in Scottish coinage. It was during the reign of James I in 1406 that the use of billon (debased silver) came into use and stayed a marked feature of Scotland's coinage until the end of the 16th century. The range of Scotland's coinage is large and varied and having seen the vast displays in The National Museum of Scotland , I still have a long way to go until I have uncovered even a fraction of possible coins available from the Scottish mints of old.



Why the Roman Grot needs to be recorded

Sam Moorhead

I have been researching Roman coins found by metal detectorists since the early 1980s. Without several large groups of coins from Roman sites in the West Country I could not have completed my post-graduate degree on Roman coin finds. As I will explain below, without seeing all the coins from a site, I cannot carry out valid statistical analysis. Since I started with the Portable Antiquities Scheme last year, I have been asking that all Roman grots be recorded. I have been amazed by the response of many detectorists who have brought more material to their Finds Liaisons Officers. Likewise, a number of finders have been surprised by the importance of their coins. What is so significant is that the PAS database is recording Roman coins from rural sites, rather than the better known forts and towns. We already have almost two times the number of coins (c. 60,000) from rural sites than were published by Richard Reece in his Roman Coins from 140 Sites (1991). At the moment, the number of Roman coins being added to the database is about 1000 a month. By recording your coins with the PAS you are effectively revolutionising our understanding of Roman coin use across Britain. I do ask for your patience if we cannot catalogue large assemblages instantly, but I am trying to develop efficient systems for the processing of the big groups.

One reason why a coin expert should see all coins is that rare and unusual pieces do turn up. When Frank Basford (FLO for the Isle of Wight) asked detectorists for all of their grot, amongst the coins brought in was an exceedingly rare coin of Augustus

Figure 1: Silver denarius of Augustus (27BC – AD14), possibly mint of Lyon, showing Capricorn, RIC I, 542. This is the second published example (IOW- 0D5931). The moon was in Capricorn when Augustus was born.

This silver denarius was only two-thirds complete and was in poor condition, but I was able to identify as only the second published example – the other coin is in the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris. Furthermore, the mint for this coin is unknown, but the discovery of one piece in France and another in Britain does strongly suggest it was struck at Lyon (Lugdunum) in southern France.



Another unexpected find was the Theodosian coin of AD 406-8 recently found north of Hadrian's Wall and published in Treasure Hunting News by Rob Collins (FLO for the North East; ref.) It is only the second coin of its type recorded from Britain, the other being found in Oxfordshire by a

detectorist in 1984. I was able to identify this coin as a GLORIA ROMANORVM 3 emperors type because I have seen many working on excavations in the eastern Mediterranean where this coin is common. It again is in poor condition and would probably be overlooked if found with many other poorly preserved coins.

Figure 2: A nummus of the GLORIA ROMANORVM type with three emperors standing on the reverse, AD 406-8. This coin was struck at an Eastern Mint as is only the second example from Britain (NCL-EE2655).



Another fraction of an Iron Age coin turned out to be a piece of Amminius (probably Adminius of the Classical sources, a son of Cunobelinus). There are only 9 examples on the Celtic coin index. So, lurking in your 'grot pot' just might be an extremely rare coin or one which is not normally found in this country.

Figure 3: Silver unit of Amminius, c. AD 30s. Only around ten examples exist and the British Museum does not have an example in its collection (ESS-9A0BF6)



Figure 4: Roman 3rd and 4th century coins from Wiltshire. These coins are typical of the Roman "grot" that I identify for detectorists. Just by glancing at this group, I can tell you that the majority of the coins are of the House of Valentinian (AD 364-78) and that many of these are from the mint at Arles.

Most grot are normally common 3rd and 4th century coins with a few worn out earlier pieces. However, when used in statistical analysis they are all as important as better preserved or precious metal coins.

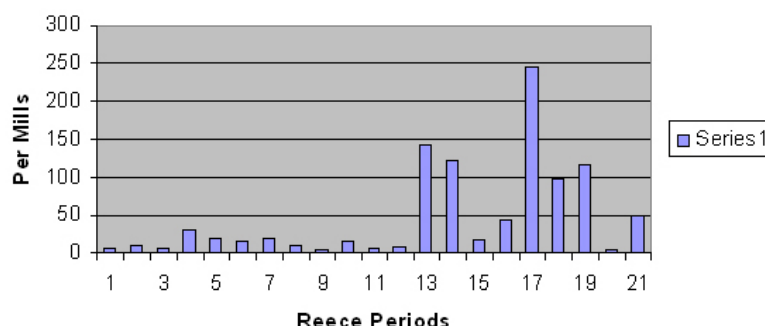


For many years, coin experts and archaeologists have been analysing such coins by issue periods devised by Richard Reece and John Casey. Richard Reece has developed a system with 21 periods and this is the one I use and I have introduced onto the PAS database, with the addition of two extra periods. (See <http://www.finds.org.uk/romancoins/reece.php>)

When Dan Pett and I have completed changes to the PAS database, all coins will automatically be assigned to a Reece period. By analysing coins by periods we build up individual "site profiles" which are normally shown as graphs. These graphs enable us to compare sites and regions, and sometimes give strong pointers to identifying the nature of an unspecified rural settlement (e.g. villa, village or temple).

Richard Reece constructed this graph for Britain in 1995, using the data he collected from over a hundred sites across Britain. Instead of using percentages, we use Per Mill (thousand) figures which are easier to work with.

Britain All Sites (Reece 1995) Per Mills



To underline the importance of recording grot, I should relate the story about detector finds from one site in Wiltshire. The detectorist first asked me to catalogue 136 well-preserved coins; there followed another 185 quite reasonable coins which I duly catalogued. These two groups had no coins that post-dated AD 378. In Wiltshire, this is significant because there is an important group of sites which have no coins after 378, places which might have been destroyed by Irish invaders in the late 4th century. Therefore, I thought this site would join this group. Then I asked for the "grot". Amongst the 231 extra coins there were a significant number of Theodosian pieces that post-dated 378, therefore changing the site profile significantly. Had I not seen the grot, I would have made an incorrect conclusion about the last years of this site – the evidence now suggests that it is one of the sites that we know to have survived into the 5th century.

Wiltshire Villa Site - Well Preserved versus Grot

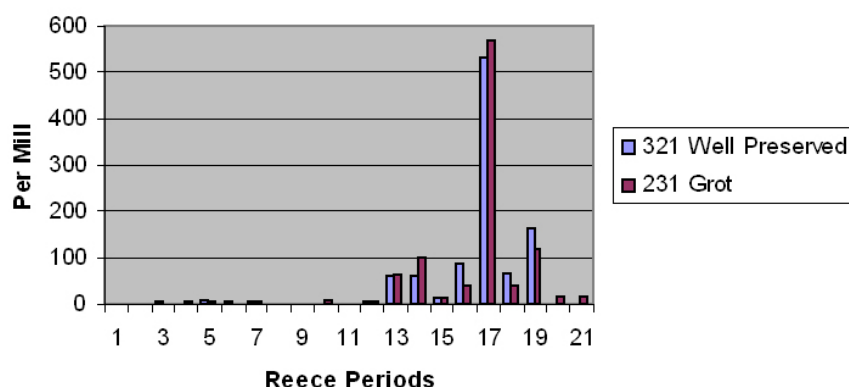


Figure 5: Wiltshire villa site showing the 321 better preserved coins (blue) against the 231 grots (red). This shows clearly how the grots provide representation for the last two periods (20-21: AD 378-402).

Furthermore, this is one of many sites in Wiltshire and surrounding counties which have a major peak in Period 17 (the Valentinianic period, AD 364-78). Many of you detectorists will have found Valentinianic coins of the GLORIA ROMANORVM (emperor and captive), SECVRITAS REI PVBLICAE (Victory left) and GLORIA NOVI SAECVLI (emperor standing) (Figs. 6-8).

Figure 6a: Obverse of a nummus of Valens (364-78) from the Mint of Lugdunum (Lyons), found in Nottinghamshire (DENO-9A76F2)

Figure 6b: Reverse of 6a: SECVRITAS REI PVBLICAE, Victory advancing left, with a R S//LVGP mintmark that tells us the coin was struck 375-8.



Figure 7: Nummus of Valens (364-78) from the mint of Arles in France, struck between 367 and 375. GLORIA ROMANORVM reverse with emperor dragging captive and holding standard inscribed with the Christian Chi-Rho symbol. Found in Hampshire (HAMP-601112).

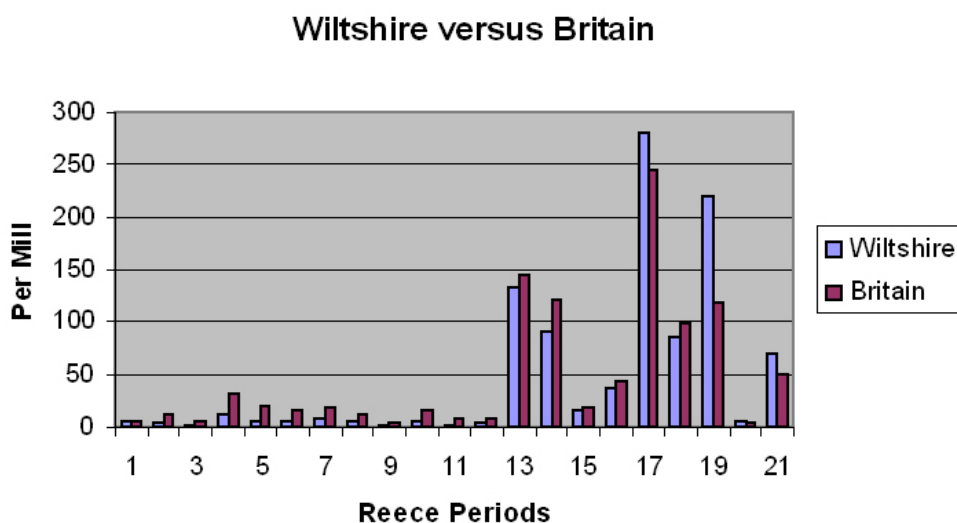
Figure 8: Nummus of Gratian (367-83) struck at Arles in France between 367 and 375. GLORIA NOVI SAECVLI reverse with emperor standing. Found in Hampshire (HAMP-24A3C4)



In north Wiltshire, north Somerset, Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire, many sites have this Valentinianic peak. It was also known to be present in west Norfolk and west Suffolk where detector finds have been recorded since the 1970s. PAS records are now showing that this pattern is appearing on the western side of the Fens in Cambridgeshire and Lincolnshire, and in Nottinghamshire.

However, it does not appear to present in the south-east (e.g. Surrey, Hertfordshire, Sussex). Without recording large numbers of detector finds, this research would not be possible and in the near future I will tell you all what I think it all means, but I believe it to be all about the Romans taking food from Britain in massive convoys to feed the Roman army on the Rhine.

Figure 9: Wiltshire coin finds (per mill) versus British Average (Reece 1995), showing how Wiltshire has many more Valentinianic coins (Period 19: AD 364-78) than the national average.



What is important is that sites do appear to be showing regional profiles in their coin records. There is now a PhD student working at the Institute of Archaeology and the British Museum on the data so in the coming years we can slowly generate a more complete picture of Roman coin finds from rural sites.

Figure 10: A comparison of PAS coin finds from Hertfordshire, Wiltshire, Nottinghamshire and Surrey. Surrey and Hertfordshire have the highest proportion of coins for the periods up to AD 260 (1-12) but Wiltshire and Notts have the higher proportions for the period 330-402 (17-21).

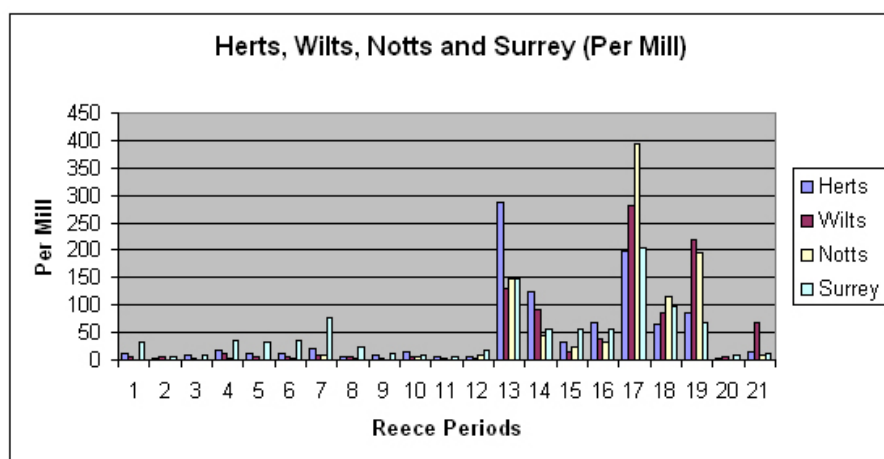


Figure 11: Map showing sites (in black) which showed a peak in Valentinianic coin finds (Period 19: AD 364-78) in research in the 1980s and 1990s. The red crosses show how PAS data has extended this phenomenon into Hampshire, Suffolk, Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire. Note that there is still almost a void in the South East.

I hope that these short notes help to explain why I am so keen to record all Roman coins found. I hope that in five years time the PAS data will have shown a completely new picture for rural activity in the Roman period. As with my previous research, it will largely depend on the recording of coins that you, the detectorists, have found. If you have large assemblages, please let your Finds Liaison Officer know and they will contact me. Between us we will find the best way of recording you coins. For someone who has worked on Roman coins for almost 30 years, I can say, as the Romans wrote on their coins in the middle of the 4th century – *Felicitium Temporum Reparatio* – “Happy days are here again”!

Sam Moorhead is the Finds Adviser for Iron Age and Roman coins with the Portable Antiquities Scheme, based at the British Museum. He has not only researched Roman coins in Britain, but also on excavations in the Near

East, Albania and Italy. He does enjoy giving lectures to Metal Detecting Clubs about Roman coin finds in Britain and their local region – contact him on smoorhead@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk

Jerry Morris (JBM) Farmer Peter's Presentation

Some couple of months ago I posted a beautiful gold ring which had belonged to a deceased farmer Roy Issacs. Peter explained how his dad spent many weeks looking for his lost signet ring in 1941.

We traced the actual goldsmith who made the ring and obtained a ring box with the company name inside the lid.

Well today I had the pleasure of handing it back to Peter and the happy event picture also shows our SHRADS sites officer Vic Frances. Once in a while we all get a warm feeling, Vic and I had such an experience today when we saw the farmers beaming face.

Hyperlink to Newspaper article; [http://www.gazetteseries.co.uk/news/lat ... entury.php](http://www.gazetteseries.co.uk/news/lat...entury.php)



SALLY'S ARTICLE

Linda and I have at times been asked to help with raising funds for various causes in the villages we detect in.

We have always been more than happy to help as it raises awareness of our hobby, and helps to keep the historic 'core' of the villages we are lucky enough to search around, going.

Our favourite has been the yearly fete in the heart of a beautiful old Suffolk village where we detect in the fields all around it. It is one of the few real old village fetes left, and is very popular.

The first one we were asked to do was opened by Terry Waite and John McCarthy.

We have set up about four very big display cases, hours of work, with illustrations to show how the various pieces were used etc.

Well we also had a big jar of buttons, and for a small fee we had people guess how many in the jar. We made a nice amount for the Church restoration fund. Terry and John were so busy they didn't make it to our exhibition, so I went off and grabbed them, said

come and look at our artifacts, and dragged them over. Then caught a poor unsuspecting fellow, gave him my camera and said please take some pictures.

We also had the press come along, asked some questions, then at a later date did an article on us. From that article we had Suffolk Radio contact us, and asked if they could do a live broadcast with us on a field! Was great fun. So all in all it can only do good really for our hobby, and more than likely provide you with new opportunities to search, and we are helping to keep our old villages 'alive'.

Linda and I can't think of a better way to give us recognition and good will than that.



Have you been involved? Have you helped in the community? assisting on an archaeological dig, doing talks, history fairs etc? We would love to hear your story and see your photos – please email them to either Corinne or Phil D .

A Tribute to Linnet44 - James Terence Britten. by David Watson

I met Linnet through the UK Detector Net forum, he was advertising some detecting magazines free and days detecting for any newbie interested. The magazines had gone but he still offered to take me out detecting and we met at the village hall in the little Hamlet where he lived. I took a liking to the little man with the big smile from the first time I shook his hand, and we were good friends and detecting buddies from that moment on that was 15th Feb 2007 little did I imagine he would only be with us for nine more months. I sensed that Terry was a lonely person and he used his detecting with great skill not only to find lost history but to make new friends.

Terry was only 67 years old and he started his working life in the RAF as a boy telegraphist in 1956-57 and by chance he met another of our forum members Mugwamp, who was stationed at the same camp at the same time only they did not meet up at that time.

Terry was passionate about his detecting he would get out into the fields surrounding his house at every opportunity. His collection of finds, which included Roman, Saxon, Medieval and modern was vast, he always reported his rare finds and often had them on display at the Treasure House in Beverley.

Terry was a generous and modest person and he felt privileged that he had all this search permission on almost every farm in his area. With his wit and charm he had no problem acquiring search permission from the local farmers, but he always presented them with whiskey and chocolates for the farmer's wife.

He wanted to share his good fortune and often invited forum members down to search his fields, and was soon making new friends and looking forward to their visits.



Linnet



Linnet & Donnydave check a find

Dazzbarwise, Petem, and Mugwamp have all met and searched with Terry. He had a long standing friendship with another forum member Ferret who would take him to the car boot and help him with his computer problems and whom Terry spoke very highly of. Terry also loved his beach detecting, he once lived at Bridlington and would organise days out with the above forum members he was as excited as a kid going to the seaside. He also would invite newbies down on a Sunday so they had somewhere to go and teach them how to detect properly.

He struck up a friendship with Craig at Crawfords in Scunthorpe who was always willing to do a deal with Terry, he had to admit his explorer xs was getting too heavy for him, I think that was the start of his health problem, I took him through to Scunthorpe a couple of times and against his better judgement ended up settling for a T2, and he was happy with that but alas he did not get chance to use it much.

I know Terry will be missed by everyone that had contact with him, in person or on the forum, and the East Yorkshire fields will be lonelier without him.

Goodbye and God Bless you Terry.



Linnet on the beach at Brid with Petem and Donnydave



Linnet & Dave

EARLY SAXON FINDS IN NORFOLK

My name is Mary Chester-Kadwell and I'm an archaeologist at the University of Cambridge. I've spent the last five years studying the 3,500 Early Anglo-Saxon artefacts reported over the last thirty years by metal detectorists to Norfolk Historic Environment Record (reporting started in Norfolk very early). I've also spent a lot of time talking to metal detectorists about what they do, and even made some friends along the way. I like to think that what I do shows what will be possible all over the country in another twenty years of the Portable Antiquities Scheme. Every artefact counts, so please keep recording!

Metal detecting has highlighted a serious problem: sites are being eroded by the plough. This erosion in some places may be as much as 60cm since the beginning of modern techniques. But ploughing is the very thing that makes metal detecting possible, at least on heavily agricultural land such as in East Anglia. Helen Geake, one of six Finds Advisors for the PAS, suspects that most sites under the plough will be gone in twenty years time. So metal detecting represents an extremely important way to

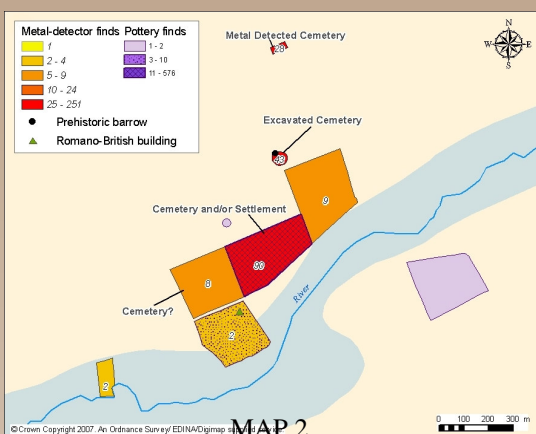
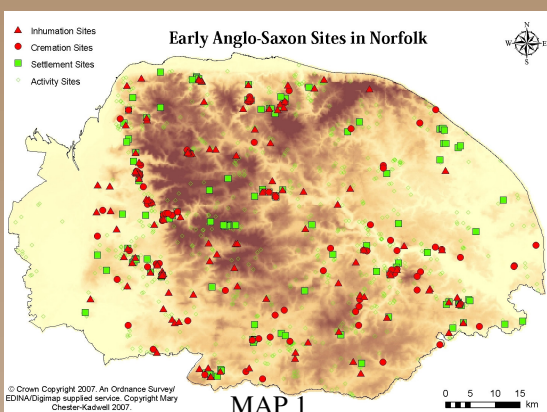


reclaim some of what is being destroyed. As well as enjoying yourselves with a rewarding hobby, metal detectorists have become satellite archaeologists and detectorists everywhere should be proud of their contribution to our country's heritage.

Many archaeologists have concentrated on studying detected artefacts, looking at particular types of finds, often from a particular period in time. They have considered their artistic value, or worked out what their design tells us about people's lives in the past. Another way of using detected artefacts is to put them back into context — to use them to locate new sites and identify what kinds of sites they are. This has the value of building up a picture of whole communities, and we can therefore suggest where people lived, worked and were buried, how they organised themselves and perhaps even what they thought about their own community identity.

There are three things I have done with the Early Saxon finds. One is to work out the locations of as many Early Saxon sites as possible in Norfolk (see Map 1) of which there are hundreds. You'll know that most Early Saxon artefacts are thought to have come from cemeteries or from accidental losses, but as archaeologists have excavated ever more complicated settlements and cemetery sites it seems more possible that some of the finds might have come from other kinds of sites, like ancient fields, workshops, funeral pyres, marketplaces or even settlements. An important thing to understand is that even the most ugly and broken artefact will have value for this kind of work.

The second thing I've been doing is to use finds to understand the complex relationships between local sites. Often the one famous excavated cemetery in an area is just the beginning of the story. The area in Map 2 shows how metal detecting, fieldwalking and excavations have uncovered a whole



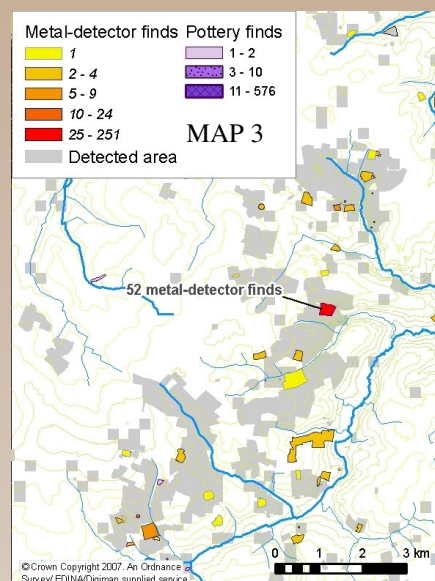
community of people living and burying up and down a river. This kind of situation is repeated all over Norfolk. Don't let anyone tell you that there was no-one around in the "Dark Ages".

The third thing I've been doing is asking metal detectorists where exactly they have been detecting, in fact, every field they ever detected! I have compared the result to the spread of finds to look for "negative evidence" (Map 3). Knowing what the real "gaps" are in coverage is just as important as knowing where sites are. Some detectorists had to remember as far back as thirty years — they were very patient.

From this work I've learned three things I would ask metal detectorists to do. Record very accurately where you find things, to a small area within the field you have been detecting if at all possible. It can make the big difference between saying "there's something going on here but who knows what" and "there's a cemetery/workshop/funeral pyre here".

The second thing is to consider telling your FLO where you went and didn't find things. "Negative evidence" is becoming increasingly important. Thirdly, consider going back again to those unproductive fields you abandoned. If you can prove that the field is really "empty" that would be a very useful thing to know. Equally, perhaps it's not really empty but just has a different kind of site in it — something rare perhaps? There's still a lot of work to do.

So let's work together before it's too late and everything has been ploughed away. I'm writing a book about archaeology and metal detecting and would like contributions from many more people, so if you have something to say and fancy being immortalised in print, please get in touch. You can email me at mec31@cam.ac.uk





Long Compton Archaeology Group by DigSean

<http://www.longcomptonarchaeology.co.uk>

We are an amateur archaeology and detectorist group which is part of the Compton District History Society. Our aim is to investigate as much land as possible in and around the area of Long Compton, Warwickshire in order to map out the land usage and settlement from prehistoric times to the present day.

We do this by document research, excavations and field walking to recover items such as flint or pottery and, wherever possible, we use metal detectors to recover buckles, buttons and coins etc which are dateable evidence.

The items that are recovered are carefully cleaned, conserved and recorded. Objects of importance are then recorded with the Find's Liaison Officer for the area. This is all carried out in accordance with the Portable Antiquities Scheme.

Finds are then preserved by members of the society or placed in a museum in accordance with the landowners wishes. All information is recorded by area or farm and a copy of the file passed to the landowner.

All our members work within our constitution rules and our health and safety policy, copies of which are available to members. We also have insurance to cover our members and we are currently applying to join the British Council of Archaeology.

Our projects for 2008 are to excavate and record a Double Sided Roman Villa which has been dated from evidence so far as being in occupation between 80 and 380 AD. We have so far recovered several coins, brooches, hypocaust, tesserae, roof tile, samian ware and unusually dorset pottery.

Our other project is a medieval site which contains the remains of a manor house and moat, there is also evidence of fishponds etc. This site we also believe to have been the market place which was granted in 1231 along with a yearly fair.

Other projects that are being looked at are a DMV and a field which is rich in ammonites and fossils and believe it or not a dinosaur bone was recently discovered by a fieldwalker..

The above projects will be investigated using geophysics, field walking, metal detecting and organised digs.

Our meetings will be the 3rd Wednesday of every month starting in January 2008 and will be held at the Red Lion Pub, Long Compton. If you are interested in attending please e-mail lcag@hotmail.co.uk.



Being responsible means:

Before you go metal-detecting

1. Not trespassing; before you start detecting obtain permission to search from the landowner/occupier, regardless of the status, or perceived status, of the land. Remember that all land has an owner. To avoid subsequent disputes it is always advisable to get permission and agreement in writing first regarding the ownership of any finds subsequently discovered (see www.cla.org.uk / www.nfuonline.com).
2. Adhering to the laws concerning protected sites (e.g. those defined as Scheduled Monuments or Sites of Special Scientific Interest: you can obtain details of these from the landowner/occupier, Finds Liaison Officer, Historic Environment Record or at www.magic.gov.uk). Take extra care when detecting near protected sites: for example, it is not always clear where the boundaries lie on the ground.
3. You are strongly recommended to join a metal detecting club or association that encourages co-operation and responsive exchanges with other responsible heritage groups. Details of metal detecting organisations can be found at: www.ncmd.co.uk / www.fid.newbury.net.
4. Familiarising yourself with and following current conservation advice on the handling, care and storage of archaeological objects (see www.finds.org.uk).

While you are metal-detecting

5. Wherever possible working on ground that has already been disturbed (such as ploughed land or that which has formerly been ploughed), and only within the depth of ploughing. If detecting takes place on undisturbed pasture, be careful to ensure that no damage is done to the archaeological value of the land, including earthworks.
6. Minimising any ground disturbance through the use of suitable tools and by reinstating any excavated material as neatly as possible. Endeavour not to damage stratified archaeological deposits.
7. Recording findspots as accurately as possible for all finds (i.e. to at least a one hundred metre square, using an Ordnance Survey map or hand-held Global Positioning Systems (GPS) device) whilst in the field. Bag finds individually and record the National Grid Reference (NGR) on the bag. Findspot information should not be passed on to other parties without the agreement of the landowner/occupier (see also clause 9).
8. Respecting the Country Code (leave gates and property as you find them and do not damage crops, frighten animals, or disturb ground nesting birds, and dispose properly of litter: see www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk).

After you have been metal-detecting

9. Reporting any finds to the relevant landowner/occupier; and (with the agreement of the landowner/occupier) to the Portable Antiquities Scheme, so the information can pass into the local Historic Environment Record. Both the Country Land and Business Association (www.cla.org.uk) and the National Farmers Union (www.nfuonline.com) support the reporting of finds. Details of your local Finds Liaison Officer can be found at www.finds.org.uk, e-mail info@finds.org.uk or phone 020 7323 8611.
10. Abiding by the provisions of the Treasure Act and Treasure Act Code of Practice (www.finds.org.uk), wreck law (www.mcga.gov.uk) and export licensing (www.mla.gov.uk). If you need advice your local Finds Liaison Officer will be able to help you.
11. Seeking expert help if you discover something large below the plough soil, or a concentration of finds or unusual material, or wreck remains, and ensuring that the landowner/occupier's permission is obtained to do so. Your local Finds Liaison Officer may be able to help or will be able to advise of an appropriate person. Reporting the find does not change your rights of discovery, but will result in far more archaeological evidence being discovered.
12. Calling the Police, and notifying the landowner/occupier, if you find any traces of human remains.
13. Calling the Police or HM Coastguard, and notifying the landowner/occupier, if you find anything that may be a live explosive: do not use a metal-detector or mobile phone nearby as this might trigger an explosion. Do not attempt to move or interfere with any such explosives.

WHAT IS THE PORTABLE ANTIQUITIES SCHEME?

The Portable Antiquities Scheme is a voluntary scheme to record archaeological objects found by the public in England and Wales.

If recorded, these finds have the potential to tell us much about the past, such as how and where people lived and about the types of objects they made and used.

This guide gives information on advice for finders

http://www.finds.org.uk/documents/advice_for_finders06.pdf