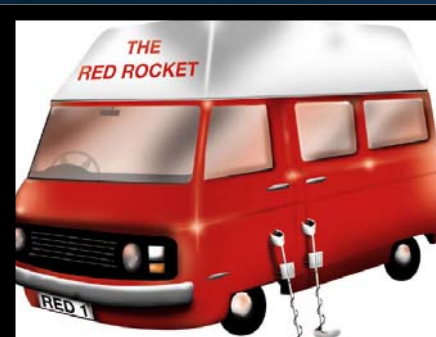


# The UKDN



ISSUE 8 APRIL 2008

World Of Responsible Detecting



Featuring :  
Spotlight on Polgor  
Grassroots from Iron Ron  
Finds of the month  
And much more.....

'Carinus'

# The UKDN

ISSUE 8 APRIL 2008

World Of Responsible Detecting



## Welcome...

To the **8th edition** of UK DETECTOR NET's very own newsletter.

First of all – this is the perfect opportunity to thank those of you who have contributed to this, our eighth edition, and helped make this another informative and interesting issue. There are some excellent articles as per usual from our members and guest contributors – Thank you!

But, we still need contributors. We are looking for members who have a story to tell whether it be about a great find you made, about a Search and Recover you did recently or even if it's about your experiences metal detecting in general. We are also looking to get ahead with club details that have been submitted for the "Club Scene" section of the newsletter. If you want your club to be featured in this section then drop a line to one of the newsletter team or the Admin people.

Thanks all the people who supported the PAS initiative over the last few months; we're confident of a good outcome. We already know the PAS will be based at the BM which will secure the future of the scheme and the central unit that runs it. All that's being argued over is the terms of the review and future funding allocation.

Special mention should be made of the UKDN Finds Advisors who have done a superb job these past months.

If you are a newcomer to the hobby then please ensure that you visit the Beginners Section where you will find some useful information.

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

Brian, Mo' and The Team

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## AUP? What's that all about then?

### What the 'ell is it?

Quite often you will see posts on the forum, especially from a Moderator, which mention the AUP. "Stick to the AUP" or "Make yourself familiar with the AUP" they will say. But how many of you know what it is, have read it or know why we have it?

AUP stands for Acceptable User Policy and is basically the rules by which UKDN is run. Without an AUP none of us, Admin, Moderators and members alike, would know where we stand, what we can or cannot do or what rules we should be abiding by.

Take a quick look at the AUP, you'll find it on any forum section, as an Announcement so it can be found virtually everywhere on the forum right at the top of each section. It makes for interesting reading really! For example it states that each of us can have only one username, that we all must behave in an acceptable manner and treat each other with respect and use good posting manners.

It explains rules over the use of the email and private message system as well as stating what rules apply to pictures and personal avatars. It mentions the admin and moderators, the people who give up their time to help the forum run smoothly.

The provision of a warning system for those that break the rules is explained as well as club digs, advertising and a whole multitude of other stuff.

Before we finish, it is interesting to note that we, ourselves, that is UKDN owners, have to agree to abide by the AUP set by the hosting company and can be liable if we break their rules too. Hence the reason why some posts HAVE to be removed.

Take a look at the AUP, see why we have it and why it is sometimes mentioned. It will enhance your understanding of how UK DETECTOR NET runs.



# Wartime Evacuee

By Ironron

This story might seem irrelevant to the younger readers who read this. But this is how I first got interested in archaeology, which eventually led me into metal detecting.

My story begins in 1939, Britain has declared war on Germany and the government of the time headed by (Peace in our time) Neville Chamberlain, decides, that all youngsters under enlisting age, were to be evacuated. Well! That included me and my three brothers.

So ! With labels tied around our necks, telling anyone who was interested who we were, we were shipped off to the country. To darkest Wiltshire in fact, a small village by the name of Great Bedwyn.

Arriving at Paddington station, we were formed into large queue's and were herded along like sheep, eventually boarding a very long steam train.

It was getting dark by now ! And we were all getting the jitters, kids were crying and a deep feeling of apprehension and sadness engulfed me. Were we ever to see our parents again!.

Arriving at Great Bedwyn station, there were about two dozen of us to be billeted here! We formed a queue at a bus stop, with three teachers who were sent with us. Local adults started arriving and were picking and choosing who was going where. Our luck was in, we were chosen by one of the local bigwigs, who turned out to be the local historian and explorer.



After settling in, we were giving a guided tour of the house, and the excitement! Of seeing some of the artifacts that he had acquired over the years, I was spellbound! And instantly taken in by it all. Partial roman mosaics, roman coins, found locally and masses of artifacts from all over the world, a virtual museum!! As time went by, he let us into some of his secrets, and showed us where a lot of the roman artifacts were coming from.

In the middle of this large copse, was a large depression, partly encircled by a Dyke , this! I was to find out in later years, was an important roman villa.

Piercing the night  
With shafts of light  
To keep the invading  
foe in sight."

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# Wartime Evacuee

By Ironron

This was discovered by the local poacher originally and we were sworn to secrecy, not to tell anybody where it was.

The American officers who befriended our host, used to bribe us with all sorts of offering , to try and get us to disclose the whereabouts of the villa, but we never did give them any information of the whereabouts. I suppose in our innocence, we were guilty of partially destroying the lovely mosaic, and taking away some of the tessera. But this was a time, left over from the Victorian era, when ignorance was bliss!

Years later, I visited Littlecote Manor, where they were excavating a roman villa in the grounds and I happened to mention the villa in Great Bedwyn. The archaeologist seemed very surprised that I knew about it and I gave him all the information that I could remember ! I.e.. The colour of the mosaic & some of the artifacts that I had seen. All of these artifacts, that my host excavated from this villa , eventually ended up in various museums..

This villa was eventually excavated in the early seventies, by the University of San Francisco. The interest that I gained from this early dig, or what ever you like to call it, got me interested in history, and eventually into metal detecting. First owning a tranny on a broomstick & tweaking it with two pieces of silver paper to tune it.

Then! The first BFO, came out, god! , I was in my element.

There were coins everywhere! Parks & Commons were my first hunting grounds. Old pennies! Half crowns. Tanners, the odd piece of jewellery, badges! Rings. Then C-scope brought out the IB and the TR .They were heaven ! No more fiddling about with the BFO, which sounded like a bumble bee, ah Memories.

The period photo is that of the village, where I was evacuated. The house where I lived is on the extreme left of the photograph, Mr E.R. Poles house, brother to Sir Felix Pole, President of the Great Western Railways.

**Happy Days.**

**Ironron**

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# Spotlight on POLGOR

This is me, Polgor, warts and all ...Spent most of my working life in smoke filled gaming rooms in and around Nottingham, I have met characters that normal folk only read about, druggies, dropouts, woman crying on yer shoulder saying they had spent the rent on the `Booze Bingo& Bandits` . tapping you up for a few quid or even tokens!! Offers made, deals done, seen and heard things that would make you cringe...

Yep that was me, electronics engineer" with my head stuck inside fruit machines and pin tables, day in day out, digging someone else's ditch, keeping them reels turning and the money rolling in.

Most of you must remember the guy with a chain full of keys around his neck..Yep ...ME

Sheeesh what an Education.... what a way to earn a living!!!



Those few lines of truth were just to put you in the picture of what a god sent relief it was for Me in my early detecting days, just to get out, even for a single day into the countryside and switch off from all the rubbish life slings at us, just being out there was fantastic. Being out there and with a detector was my bit of heaven, with dreams and aspirations of hopefully finding that life changing mother load. Well as you guessed, life's not like that! I continued working in that above environment until I took early retirement suffering with chronic `Meniers disease` so sad.....sad..... no way! ...Yippee...

Wrong side of sixty, mortgage paid, nine fantastic grandkids a great wife and detecting partner that lives and breathes detecting herself. `Huston the Eagle has landed` O yes! just bring it on... Early interest in electronics started me into detecting, I built my first detectors (three in all) although all where workable projects they were not suited to everyday wear and tear and the rigours of rape stalks, soon I had to splash out and buy myself a half decent detector. A `Garret Groundhog` If I remember correctly it took four nine volt batteries!!

Certainly didn't reload regular with that puppy (ouch).

I spent many hours on the local parks, although I hated working on grassed areas especially after any rain, quickly learning to spend a little more time pinpointing before finally delving in with the bowie, the amount of pre 47 silver I found in those first years was truly amazing.



APRIL 2008

# Spotlight on POLGOR

I have to admit, my early days of detecting were a little gung ho with regard to recording finds, so here I pass on a small tip to all the young shavers..no matter how good your memory is now, get your finds recorded. I certainly rue the day not doing so, also remember, we are only the temporary keepers of the finds we make. Although I do have finds recorded with the P.A.S, I also use online recording with UK Detector Finds Database, their service is A1. if you wish to view a few of me and my wife's finds then search by username `polgor` and enjoy our finds.

I sometimes hear folk making disparaging remarks about other detector users parting with their finds and how they would never dream of selling their hard found artefacts/coins, mmmm really. Well yes, I would have agreed a few years back, in fact right up until the year when `Lady Luck` eventually after some thirty five years detecting paid me a long awaited visit in the guise of a chap by the name of `Carinus` ..!!!

In fact a gold Aureus of the Emperor `CARINUS` found on a club dig Nov 5th 2006 and on land we had been detecting on for thirty plus years (never say a sites done to death), anyway short of it being, the coin went to auction and sold for over five thousand pounds..yep too valuable for me to scrape together an offer for the farmer hence it had to be sold...this coin also went on to win one of the Searcher magazine most significant coin awards. Providing a find has been fully recorded I really don't have a problem with people selling them, god knows we have all spent thousands of pounds over the years in some way or other in this hobby, its fine to pull a wee bit back occasionally.



**Unlisted Trajan Denarius**

Trajan denarius, struck at Rome, AD 103-111. The coin is an unlisted mule, which combines an obverse and reverse that both carry the COS V P P titles.



**Carinus**

# Spotlight on POLGOR

Photography is still a big hobby of mine and lends itself perfectly to detecting with needs of macro photographs for finds identifying and recording, here I have to have a little moan at a small number of fellow detectorist..Digital photography hey, you never had it so good! What the hells happening with the rubbish photographs sent in when asking for an i.d I mean come on guys/ girls ..I agree some artefacts may pose a problem with focal depth, but coins. No excuse. With an awkward artefact I may take a dozen shots in getting lighting and focusing correct...see photo of my homemade gizmo, a sawn down white funnel total cost 75p plus  $\frac{3}{4}$  hour of my time, ideal for photographing coins. So please give the person you asked an i.d from.. a flying start with a half decent photograph of your find, take half a dozen and pick the best, after all they are practically FREE.



## Medieval Heraldic Pendants



APRIL 2008

# Spotlight on POLGOR



Gratian siliqua, struck at Trier, AD 367-375.



Henry III class 5b2 long cross penny of London.



John class 5bl short cross penny of Norwich.

Issue date 1205



Julian II Siliqua, struck at Lyons, AD 360-363.

So next time you are near a gambling den then heed my advice and keep walking, nothing good comes out of those places only your hard earned cash for the owners....

**As always.. Good hunting, Polgor.**



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## Helping in the community

### The Big Wet One

by Tim Storer

I was approached by a work colleague (Carol) who had heard that I arranged metal detecting rallies for charity.

Her daughter (Corinna) had taken up the challenge set by a charity called "Beating Bowel Cancer" ( <http://www.beatingbowelcancer.org> ) to raise a minimum of £2500 by next April. If she hits that target then she can go on the sponsored walk along the Great Wall of China so there is a strong incentive. I gave Carol the criteria for the fields and she headed off to see some local farmers. I didn't tell her about permission problems so she had an open mind and consequently found two friendly farmers very quickly. The end result was two adjacent farms with a mix of ridge and furrow and stubble fields.

Due to the land usage we had a very tight deadline and set the date for two weeks later. Currently, the weather was dry with sharp frosts in the morning but it wasn't to last. The weather forecasts deteriorated as the date crept closer and it went from occasional light showers to high winds and torrential rain. Never one to give up, we ploughed ahead and eventually had enough bookings (thanks to JBM) to make it viable. To add interest I decided to bury some coins in a set area to make a "treasure hunt" type of rally. The coins ranged from Roman silver to milled half-crowns.

The day dawned with no wind and a light drizzle so I hoped that it would be O.K. weather-wise. I arrived at the site early and set up the gazebos ready for the first arrivals. Carol and Corinna arrived first and set up the food area just as the wind and rain picked up. The gazebos did their best to stay in one place but only if we used human guy ropes! The cookers also proved ineffective against the gusting winds and kept blowing out.

By 10.30 about half had left due to the bad weather and the ladies had decamped to a garage so that they could at least boil some water. I then opened the stubble fields and the last dozen hardy people trekked over through a field of "frisky" bullocks. A few grots and other non-descript items came up but most people came back to the ridge and furrow quite quickly.

By lunch time all the prize coins had been found and a few more soggy detectorists packed up to head home to dry out. The ladies also packed up the catering stall and headed home. They had made a small loss but that was down to the weather more than people willing to part with their money. Finds were mainly modern from losses at the car boot site although the land holds a lot of promise. The end tally was £200 raised and I would like to thank everyone involved and who donated money. The landowners are happy for us to come back so a rerun (in drier weather) is still on the cards. Donations can still be made on: <http://www.justgiving.com/corinnariley> There is also a counter on the site to see how much Corinna has raised so far.

Georgian Tim (Timothy Storer)





# Meet the FLO

## Adam Daubney

I'm the Finds Liaison Officer for Lincolnshire, and have been in this post since the scheme started in this part of the world over 5 years ago. I'm 28, and Lincolnshire born and bred, though I braved the ganglands of Sheffield to do my degree in Archaeology and Prehistory. Despite applying for jobs all over the country, it was a local archaeology unit who started me out in the world of professional archaeology. 3 months digging in the Boston fens over winter was enough to kindle the desire for a warm office-based life revolving around the latest and best finds available, so I moved to the local museum as assistant keeper of archaeology, and two years later from there to the PAS where I haven't looked back.

My main research interest is the material culture of the Roman period. Lincolnshire is well located in the 'Romano-British' zone of the country, and so I'm particularly pleased to be working on what is perhaps some of the country's most interesting material. Of the 10,000 or so finds I've recorded since starting with the PAS, around 6000 of these are Roman. I think if I ever applied for a post elsewhere I'd seriously need to consult a distribution map!

I've enjoyed getting to know finders and hearing their stories of the search. Finders are a constant reminder to me that we need to be engaged much more in story telling when it comes to archaeology and discoveries. Over the last 30 years or so 'Archaeology' as a profession has seemingly tried its best to make the discipline unattractive through dry descriptions of pit alignments and ink drawings of empty ditches. Though these have their place in publication, the whole area of translating these finds and features to the public has often been lacking. As such I feel a great privilege to be working with people who are making great discoveries today, and by 'great' I mean every find from the humble grot to the glimmering Solidus. One day we'll all be part of the past, and so we need to make sure we write a great story for the future.



Portable  
Antiquities  
Scheme

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

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## Portable Antiquities Scheme

### Dot Bruns, FLO (Lancs./Cumbria)

Earlier this year, 'Living with the Romans' opened at Lancaster City Museum, Lancashire. This touring exhibition displays Roman and Romano-British objects from around the Northwest, but especially from Liverpool and Merseyside, where the exhibition was put together in the first place.

In order to complement the touring exhibition, Lancaster City Museum was given the opportunity to add two cases showing local material from in and around Lancaster, for example pottery and artefacts from the 1960s-1980s city centre excavations as well as a rare cu-alloy enamelled cockerel vessel which had been found by a metal detectorist in North Lancashire and subsequently donated to the City Museum for conservation and display.

The exhibition had only been open for a week when I got a phone call from a Mr Fieldhouse who said that he had found a little Roman bronze mount in the city centre ages ago and that he'd always thought about donating it, but could never really quite bring himself to do so. I asked him to come into the museum so we all could have a look at the mount – and what a beautiful artefact it was! When Mr Fieldhouse came in with his small mount, we were all astonished: it was a lovely furniture mount in the shape of the goddess Diana, with her hair twisted up in two knots and a loosely fitting dress around her shoulders. The mount had been seen and recorded by a former curator of Lancaster City Museum, Mr Andrew White, more than a decade ago, but the finder felt so strongly about the little Diana mount that he didn't leave it at the museum.

The finder told us that the mount would have never gone on display and that's what had saddened him at the time. He said that, at least at his house his friends and family were able to see and admire it and over time, it had become almost a lucky charm for him.

## ROMANS AROUND LANCASTER

The evidence of Roman occupation can be found all over the area surrounding Lancaster.

The most significant sites are probably those at *Quernmore* where the Roman military set up complexes of kilns to produce tiles, bricks and pottery for use in the fort and *vicus* at Lancaster. The site was evidently chosen for its ready access to the raw materials needed.

The discovery of scales and iron slag at *Warton Crag* (Carnforth) suggests that this was another area of industrial activity in the Roman period, presumably concerned with the extraction of raw material for iron-working.

The coins found in 1975 in the bank of the *River Keer* at *Docker*, and those found in *Silverdale* in the 1970s, indicate the presence of hoards, or possibly votive deposits. These imply connections with the Roman fort, possibly of an agricultural or industrial nature.

A bronze cockerel found at *Slyne-with-Hest* is especially interesting, and could indicate the location of a Roman villa. This would be unusual for north-west England, as such buildings were generally found in the south.

Aerial photography has shown the presence of Romano-British farms at various locations in the *Lune Valley*, and most recently such a site was excavated on the site of *Lancaster University*.

Roman Coins.

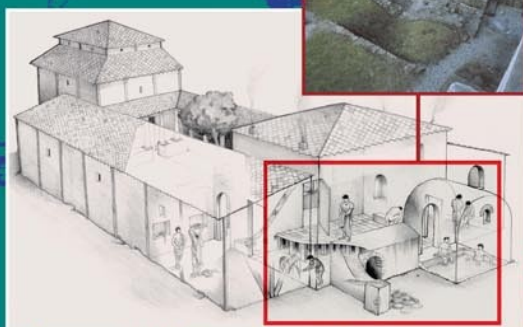


Roman Mile Stone at Lancaster City Museum.

Map Caption needed?



Reconstruction Drawing of the Roman Bath House in Lancaster.



## Portable Antiquities Scheme

Now, however, more than 20 years later, he felt that the mount should go to a museum in the end and when I said to him that we could probably get it on display within a week, he seemed very pleased and virtually donated the mount straight away. Living with the Romans had only opened the week before and it was only a matter of a couple of days to get the mount's identification and date verified and a small label made for it. The mount was on display within a week and the finder's been to the museum to see it resting next to other Roman artefacts from the same site.

This was a rare opportunity and I guess we realise what most finders fear: most artefacts never make it on display and if they do, then it's usually only for a temporary display. In this case, however, we're already thinking of moving a couple of Roman objects around in the permanent display cases – surely there'll be a small space for our little Diana mount!?

### THE ROMANS IN LANCASTER

The origins of Lancaster lie in the Roman fort that was built on *Castle Hill* in the 70s AD. The decision to place a permanent garrison here was almost certainly that of Quintus Petilius Cerialis (governor of the province from AD 71 to 74). A Roman garrison of cavalry was maintained here for over three centuries, until the fort was abandoned, probably at some point in the fifth century.

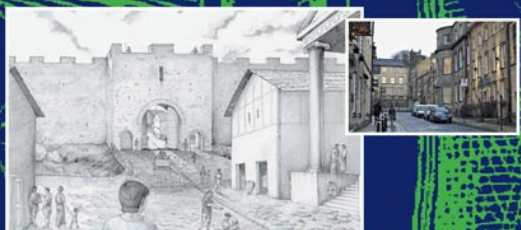
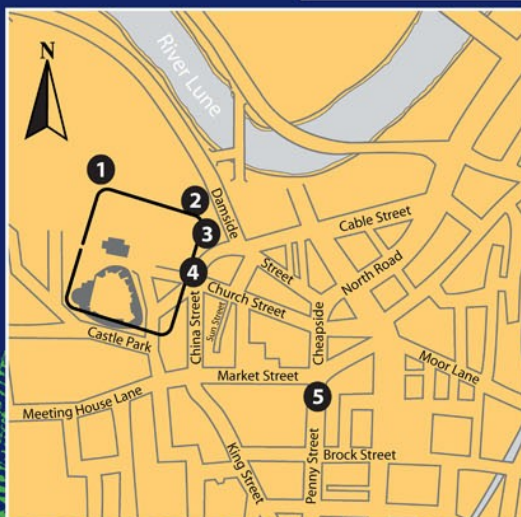
Whilst the troopers lived inside the fort, a village (*vicus*) soon grew up around it to house women and the families of the soldiers. Other people, like inn-keepers and shopkeepers, were soon attracted to the *vicus* as they saw the soldiers as a source of income for their goods and services.

This *vicus* which grew up outside the fort influenced the location of the present city. The modern street-plan owes something to the layout of Roman roads. Both *Penny Street* and *Church Street* represent the lines of Roman roads. Church Street was the main street of the *vicus*, and led out of the east gate of the fort.



Colour reconstruction of the Roman Tombstone found in Lancaster in November 2005.

**Roman Fort Map**  
 1. Vicarage Field  
 2. Roman bath house  
 3. Mitre Yard  
 4. China St, Sun St, Church St  
 5. Brock St, Penny St, Cheapside



Reconstruction of Church Street during Roman time.

#### Mitchell's Brewery Site

If you would like to find out more about the Mitchell's Brewery excavation, why don't you visit our Roman's display on the first floor?

**Roman duck-shaped necklace link**  
 Mediterranean origin  
 1st - 2nd century AD  
 Mitchell's Brewery site, Lancaster  
 Acc. No.: LMLOAN.2008.1 Moor Lane  
 Kindly loaned by Oxford Archaeology North

**A piece of Roman gold wire**  
 Twisted by a left handed craftsman  
 Mitchell's Brewery site, Lancaster  
 Acc. No.: LMLOAN.2008.1  
 Kindly loaned by Oxford Archaeology North

**Roman furniture fitting displaying the goddess Diana**  
 From a wooden box or piece of furniture  
 1st - 2nd century AD  
 Mitchell's Brewery, Lancaster  
 Donated by Mr. N. Fieldhouse



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*We have been asked to feature some of the old Red Rocket articles written by Brian Cross and published in The Searcher magazine.*

*We will publish an article every two issues and hope that you enjoy this series of articles that began way back in June 1990.*

*Please excuse the quality of the photographs as these have been taken of the originals printed in the magazines. Brian tells us that each article was written in such a way that the reader would gain one lesson in metal detecting from each article. We begin with the very first Red Rocket article and hope you enjoy the series.*

the  
searcher

Originally reproduced in The Searcher magazine

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

## By Red Rocket to Greener Fields - Issue 58 - June 1990

WE'VE BEEN DETECTING for quite a few years now. Readers of The Searcher will have seen Brian's articles, and it could be said we've had a reasonable amount of success at detecting taking into account the difficulties of the area where we live. Cheshire is notorious as being a poor county in which to detect. It really is hard work here!

So, during the past few years we have taken to jumping into the car, very early in the day, and travelling to more promising parts of the country.

It makes it tough for the driver faced with a two or three hour journey to the site, eight hours detecting, and then another long journey home. But we've done it many times simply because, in this way, we always have the chance of finding something worthwhile every trip ... not the usual feeling setting foot on our familiar Cheshire sites.



APRIL 2008

### Jumped at the Dodge

In March 1988 we began to look for some sort of caravanette so we could make more of these away trips and find them less exhausting. We had plenty of usable time, Brian working shifts, and we were beginning to spend too much money staying over for the odd night or two so that we could get an extra day on site. Good fortune gave us the chance of buying a Dodge Caravanette. We jumped at it.

A week or two later saw us on Humberside with Mal and Jean Jubb having a look at some productive Roman sites, with varying degrees of success. We thoroughly enjoyed this time with Mal and Jean, and were reaping some benefits from our van, now dubbed "The Red Rocket" to make up for its lack of interest in any speed greater than 65 mph.

A problem of Humberside is that detector users from a large surrounding area tend to travel to the same well-known sites. It seems that many are not interested in research and tend to go along to the sites that feature in work-of-mouth descriptions. Nowadays the best these sites have to offer seems to be grotty fourth century Roman bronze coins.

We found a number of these and little else despite working for many hours in very bad weather. We also found a number of landowners not too welcoming and can only presume they have become a little tired of constant requests for permission to search.

We decided to try elsewhere and as Brian had just brought out his first book on Roman sites we decided that we would sample some of this research at sites further afield, spending four or five days away from home – after all there were more than 1,000 to choose from.

Our next trip was to Anglesey where we had very little luck despite trying many sites that appeared to be excited. We tasted the idea that the Welsh never used money, but concluded that much of the land we tried had been pasture for very many years.





## Dynasty meets Cumbria

A later trip took us to Cumbria, and while this was more a sight-seeing holiday, we did find a hammered coin on the beach at Ravensglass and ten tons of musket balls – an interesting place we thought worthy of a lot more research.

Another trip took us to Cumbria again, this time in the company of a long-lost friend, Eddie Bolton of Southport Electronics, who had just bought a caravan, seemingly straight out of Dynasty. Our old friend is now known to us as “Super Pitch” he always managed to get the best pitch – he even found one with Sky TV on tap. This trip produced a beautiful hammered of Edward III for Brian and masses of Georgian goodies between the three of us. We were really enjoying our new can because it enabled us to stay away and detect for long and leisurely periods without having to dash 200 miles or so back home at the end of each day.

Our next five trips were on our own. Brian’s shifts made it impossible to meet up with Eddie, or anyone else for that matter. We had masses of research material, most already published in Brian’s books, and we decided to investigate some of the lesser know sites. When we called at our first selection from Brian’s Roman book we were amazed to find that never before had the farmer been approached by a detector user.

## A ‘yes’ with interest

We explained what we were up to and told him of our research results. He was surprised to hear what we had to tell him, and was happy to allow us to investigate further. We parked the van on site and headed off into the field. Within five minutes Mo found a fourth century Roman bronze in good condition. Our spirits were high.

Brian was very lucky in that during the next hour or two he found two hammered coins, a feat he had not achieved before in such a short period. One coin was Elizabethan, the other was a short cross penny. Darkness overtook us and we much appreciated that if we hadn’t had the caravanette we would have been heading home by this time, not knowing when we might be able to return.

As it was, we were able to park right on site. Sitting there with a bowl of cereal we talked about the exciting finds, examined our slummy and imagined the fabulous items that would be brought to light the next day, having ten or twelve hours in which to “play outside”.

What followed the next day was as uncannily disappointing, for although we patiently marched up and down that field, not another find of any significance came from it. We didn’t know whether to put it down to temperature, for it was a scorching hot day, ground conditions, or even lack of concentration. We thought we were concentrating like mad, enough to cry those hammered out of the ground. But to no avail. A day or two of site reconnaissance ended this trip. The site was to be cropped before our next trip planned for this year. Anyway, we’d had some luck with our new tactics: in addition to Brian’s finds. Mo had plenty of interesting bits including the 14th century stirrup buckle shown, which unfortunately broke on retrieval.

We planned our next trip deliberately avoiding well-known detecting spots. Using the published research once more we chose places which mentioned Roman pottery kilns, the finding of a few coins, or bits of Roman stone or pottery, in fact anything giving clues of Roman activity in the area. We also tried to pick those spots where there was offered a full six figure O.S. reference. With the help of a good scale Ordnance Survey map this would enable us to pinpoint single fields. We expected this would save us much foot slogging and days spent in selecting the optimum area when confronted with ten or twenty fields.





## The jackpot?

It was on our next trip that we seemed to hit the jackpot, within half an hour of arriving at the very first field selected by this method. It was late in the evening and we had just obtained permission when the heavens opened. Brian, the eternal optimist, got toggged up with the comment "There should be a good chance of finding hammered here".

Half an hour later Brian was fifty yards from Mo when he heard a shout, and went to see the Scottish hammered she had found! We searched the same field the next day also, but it produced only Georgian and a few earlier copper coins. Funny how often this happens – you walk into a field and find what might well be the best object there before putting in hours more of blank searching.

The following day we got permission to search a huge field right next to the site of a deserted medieval village, now under grass. The humps and bumps of medieval crofts and tofts could be seen very clearly, and this was our first look at such a site. The day was very hot. We were allowed to park the caravanette right on the field, and we couldn't get out quickly enough. But we were wasting our time, finding nothing of any interest. We concluded that the field must have been left fallow in later times, or was taken over by woodland. It certainly did not appear to have been farmed.

## The evidence

Roman pottery was the magnet for the site chosen as target on our next trip. The reports of finding Roman pottery originated from many years ago when the evidence turned up as a result of drainage operations. Local archaeologists had deduced that nothing of any consequent existed there. We plotted the co-ordinates on the map and the farmer confirmed our research, giving us permission quite readily.

Obtaining accurate OS co-ordinates proved its value once more. Because we had done our homework we were able to drive straight to the field and, ever watchful as we went, go directly to that area of the field where the pottery finds had been reported. How pleased we were to find Roman grey pottery confirming the very spot. Our searching produced numerous bits and pieces, broken Roman bronze fittings and so on, and this lucky day also supplied our first Roman filula complete with pin. This site also gave us the silver denarius of the Republic minted by moneyer Marius. It shows many nicks where, we imagine, it was tested for silver quality by merchants and others accepting payment. Such finds made the trip well worth while and we headed home perfectly content.

## Recipe for finds

Now it seemed we had found the recipe for making interesting finds. We'd keep to the smaller, lesser known sites, taking advantage of being able to stay overnight, and working consistently for one or two day. This was the magic factor, and our experience to date had told us just how often it was possible to have a completely blank day on a site, and to write it off, when another day might tell a much more exciting story. Without "The Red Rocket" we could have expected many more disappointed journeys home from seemingly barren sites.

All of the sites were culled from Brian's book More than 1,000 Roman Sites in England, Scotland and Wales, and none were sites listed as areas of archaeological importance or interest.

Our trips continued towards the close of '89 with interesting finds. There will be more about the travels of "The Red Rocket" in later installments.





## *Roman Britain.....*

We have all heard of how the Romans steamed through what is now south east England, built Hadrian's wall in the North and financed beautiful villas in the south west but *what was their relationship with what is now Wales?*

***Steffan Ellis writes a a light hearted account on Roman Wales.***

Before the Romans got to Wales or even Britain for that matter, there had been contact between Gaul and Britain through trade. The Veneti tribe of the Armorican coast found the trade so important that when the Romans started to muzzle in on the scene, they went to war with them. The Veneti were soundly thrashed.

In **54 B.C.** Julius Caesar had been busy taking over Gaul and made a foray across the channel to Britain. It was a bit of a disaster; the weather was awful, they had the wrong type of ships and had no idea about the layout of the place.

The following year he tried again, landed and made his presence well and truly known so that local kings / chieftains went to him and ended up promising to look after things on behalf of Rome. Caesar referred to the population of the south and east of Britain as being relative newcomers from Gaul and were very similar in most ways to their continental cousins.

Speaking of the people who lived further inland (including the lands that would one day form Wales, presumably) Caesar said that they were indigenous to the island and believed themselves to have grown out of the ground.

The **55 B.C.** expedition served to bring the south east of Britain into the periphery of the Roman Empire. Although it wasn't conquered, as such, a series of client kings began to appreciate the advantages of being in Rome's good books. The Veneti had certainly lost out, and the Britons began to cultivate a taste for olive oil and wine.

However, the effects of all this were yet to be felt in Wales. Life carried on more or less as normal. At least for a hundred years or so they did.



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# *The Roman Conquest of Wales in a Nutshell*

After Caesar left Britain, not much was done to keep the Brits in order. The client kings kept to their side of the bargain (on the whole), trade continued and links were strengthened. The kings would send their sons to be educated in Rome as their guests (or hostages). The first Emperor, Augustus considered annexing Britain, but he decided against it. Caligula was tempted. He assembled an army, sailed to the south of Britain, landed, collected some shells from the beach and then went home again.

Caligula's Uncle Claudius soon had the opportunity to become Emperor and felt he should stamp his authority on Rome with a big military victory. There had been a bit of in-fighting amongst the tribes in Britain and one of the client kings had come to Rome seeking help. Claudius saw the excuse and opportunity for a full scale invasion of Britain. He appointed Aulus Plautius in overall command of the invasion (with over 40,000 troops) in **A.D. 43**. The tribes of the area were defeated; Claudius nipped over to personally accept the surrender of eleven south eastern kings and then returns triumphantly to Rome. Job done. Aulus Plautius is left as the first Governor of Britannia with the task of consolidating the position up to the line of the rivers Trent and Severn. By **A.D. 47** this is done and it's time for a younger man to take over.

**A.D. 47** sees Publius Ostorius Scapula being appointed as the new governor. Straight to the point, he attacks the Deceangli in Clwyd. This drives a wedge between the tribes of Northern Wales and the Brigantes of Northern England.

After dealing with a few problems elsewhere, Scapula turns his attention to South Wales, where the Silures seem to have taken a shine to the Catuvallaunian prince, Caratacus. Scapula attacks them in **AD 49** and starts building some forts to try and keep them in check. Caratacus has the Romans worried and in **51** he takes an army northwards to join up with the Ordovices. Somewhere on the way the Romans catch up with him. There is a set battle on a hill overlooking the Severn. Some of Caratacus' army get away, but his wife and daughter are captured. He runs to Queen Cartimandua of the Brigantes for help. She promptly hands him over to the Romans! (She obviously knows which side her bread is buttered). Caratacus is taken to Rome in chains and paraded in front of the Emperor and the Senate. Now, when the great Gaulish leader, Vercingetorix, was captured and taken to Rome, they strangled him outside the Temple of Mars. However, Caratacus makes a grand speech and is given the freedom of the city and a nice little villa.

Meanwhile, back in Wales the Silures are not disheartened; they fight on. The rumour that they were all to be exterminated or exiled en masse to Gaul, may have something to do with the ferocity with which they fight the Romans and they wipe out several units. It's all too much for Scapula, who dies from exhaustion (much to the delight of the Silures).



# *The Roman Conquest of Wales in a Nutshell*

Before Rome can get a replacement for poor old Scapula, one of the generals decides to show the politicians how things should be done and sends a legion to wipe out the Silures. It doesn't quite work and by the time the new Governor, Aulus Didius Gallus, turns up in **52**, the legion has been defeated and there are Welshmen running riot all over the place.

Aulus Didius Gallus eventually manages to get some order again in Wales. He builds some new forts, but before he can get the conquest under way again..... he dies.

**In 57**, the next Governor, Quintus Veranius, makes a few attacks into Gwent and Glamorgan, but then ... he dies.

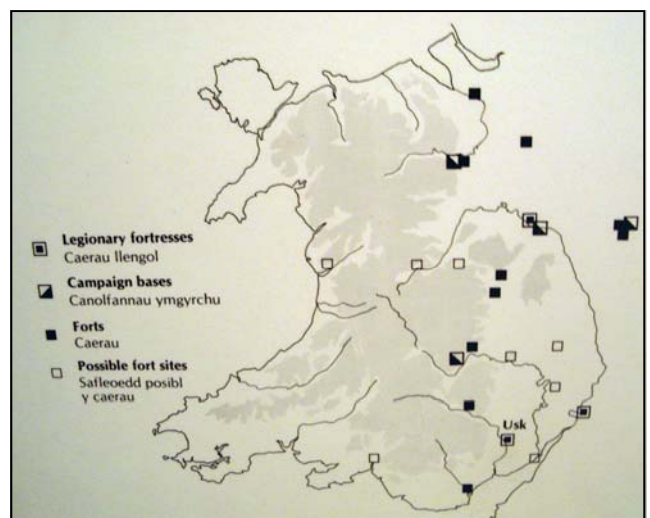
With this track record of dead Governors and the Silures, perhaps it's not too surprising that Gaius Suetonius Paulinus goes straight onto battle ... with the Ordovices in North and Central Wales. He campaigns in Snowdonia and then, in **AD 60**, makes his way for Anglesey where there are some Druids to be sorted out (the sooner the better if there's a jinx on Governors). He's almost got it cracked when he gets word that Boudicca of the Iceni tribe has gone mad in her chariot and three of the top cities of Roman Britain are in flames.

The Emperor (Nero by now) begins to wonder if Wales (or even Britannia) is worth all the bother. He decides to carry on (even if it just to save face). However, before long the Empire is in turmoil and civil war means that Wales is put on the back burner for a decade or so.

When Vespaian gets crowned in **AD 69**, he's not prepared to take any nonsense. In 74 he sends Sextus Julius Frontinus to sort out the Silures once and for all. This he does and to keep them in check sends the Second Augustan Legion to build a permanent base at Caerleon. Another legion is given a new home in Chester. Then the Romans set up a network of forts throughout the country.

**In 78**, Julius Agricola takes up the Governorship and puts the North Walians into their place (using such subtle tactics as genocide) and finally conquers all of Wales, including the prize of Anglesey.

**80 - 120** sees the military occupation of Wales. Eventually it seems safe enough to start taking troops away to help build walls in northern Britannia.





**Meet the Dealer**.....**Regton Ltd**, pronounced Reg as in reggae and ton, as in.....ton



My name is Nigel Ingram, known to most on UKDN simply as 'nigel', I tend to keep out of the limelight on UKDN as it can be taken the wrong way but will always try to help anyone if no-one else offers. I started detecting during the late 60's in fact my first detectors were made by my father who modified them to allow for my 9yr old stature. By the time I was entering my early teens some well known manufacturers were coming on-stream, the likes of Sol Invictus (now Viking) Savo Electronics (White's), Garrett and who could forget Candle Scope (C-Scope), now the fun begins.

My father started a detector shop in Birmingham back in the early 70's called Treasure Hunting Spe-

cialists, this was not his main business he still manufactured tin cans (of all things) for the Midlands based car manufacturing industry but towards late 70's the recession was biting hard and the shop closed. I was now coming up to school leaving age, had a good knowledge of detectors & detecting having worked in Dad's shop on Saturdays and holidays, went onto college to learn about business. I started a new detector Company in the late 70's part time whilst working for an industrial research laboratory working with.....you guessed it metal detectors, this time suspended up to 300ft high outside blocks of flats whilst surveying them, It certainly cured the vertigo. Regton became Ltd in 1981 as I went full time manufacturing coil covers and trowels for detector manufacturers and dealers around the UK whilst running the shop, I was chief buyer, salesman, repairman, accountant, welder, sprayer, cleaner (occasionally) and also fitted in rallies at weekends. Early discriminators were being experimented with but always had the disadvantage of losing depth with increased amounts of discrimination, you could either have one or the other. This led to manufacturer combining the advantages of discrimination with the better detection range of all metal mode, motion machines were born.

Regton Ltd now have 10 full time and 4 part time members of staff with our base in Birmingham just on the city centre outskirts with good access via road, train, coach (so no excuses not to visit us). We pride ourselves on offering a first class service in terms of speed & reliability together with a friendly, courteous and most importantly knowledgeable approach to our work offering most of the major, well know brands together with associated accessories and service backup. We are distributors for Garrett with their extremely successful Ace range, XP with their equally successful range especially the Goldmaxx unit, Coiltek with their professional aftermarket Minelab coils we also supply many other dealers with accessories and books.

Regton has a little known alternative side to the business based on security metal detection equipment supplying and servicing the hundreds of archway detectors fitted all over the UK in Courts, warehouses, prisons, airports, embassies and even Houses of Parliament not to mention those used by Police forces and more recently schools with their anti-knife crime initiatives.

# The UKDN



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World Of Responsible Detecting



When we moved the showroom within the building six years ago we took the opportunity to put back into the hobby a more professional showpiece for detectors and equipment, these together with our library of available books and maps are displayed in purpose built display cases so that customers can have a hands-on experience rather than the normal, "we'll get one in for you" approach seen elsewhere. We try at all times to be competitive and will always price match when pointed out to us that someone, somewhere is cheaper than us, UKDN members are offered a 10% discount off any items with the proviso they are not on any other special offer, this must however be mentioned at the time of ordering. If you've dealt with Regton at any time you already know how we operate, if you haven't dealt with us please try us sometime. We offer a warm welcome to all UKDN members, open every day except Sunday when we are closed, this is my detecting day even if my wife does call it busman's holiday. If you would like to see me (don't laugh) and get a glimpse of what the shop looks like just go to U-Tube and search for Regton.

Best wishes

Nigel Ingram



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# The UKDN

## World Of Responsible Detecting

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On UKDN we get lots of posts by members asking for help in identifying sherds of pottery you have picked up in the field when metal detecting.

The study of pottery is daunting for most of us, so we have started to do some simple guides to help you tell what period your sherd is likely to come from. One of the best ways to find out more about pottery is to visit your local museum and see the items on display - most museums also have examples you can handle - it would be worth having a word with your local Finds Liaison Officer.

Pottery in the Bronze Age was made by hand – in other words it wasn't wheel thrown, but was formed by creating the base with a slab of clay and then building the walls of the vessel with coils of clay.

The long, narrow coils were spiralled upward and outward to form the basic shape of the vessel. The end result was a very rough form – this was then scraped and smoothed to give an even finish and to help weld the coils together. This way of making vessels meant they were often very crudely made and also meant only very simple shapes could be constructed.



**This Bronze age pot from the museum in Inverness clearly shows the "coils"**

The clay was dug probably locally, and other materials such as grit, shell and flint were mixed with it. This was done to make the fabric of the vessel stronger and to reduce the risk of the pot breaking when it was fired. This is known as "tempering".

Once the pottery had been formed, it was left until it became "leather hard", then it was often decorated by drawing on the surface of the clay, or making impressions and grooves using a variety of objects such as toothed combs and twisted cord or string – even fingernails.

The pot was then fired in a kiln or bonfire at quite a low temperature – this means that the fabric of the pots are soft and crumble and can easily be damaged.

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# The UKDN

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CM |

Sherd of coarse flint tempered pottery



Handmade vessel sherd from a small jar with fine sandy & micaceous inclusions



These sherds have oxidised orange external surfaces and the fabric contains shell fragments and have an impressed decoration of a linear band below small circular impressions



Coarse-grained fabric including moderate inclusions

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## Find of the Month—Artefact—February

Early Medieval ring with Sapphire  
setting

I have been a member of the Scottish Artefact Recovery Group (SARG) for almost 2 years now, but as the club is based in central Scotland and I live in Aberdeenshire attending every monthly dig can be a bit of a problem. I try to attend at least 4 digs a year and the February dig was my first one of 2008.

Usually a very well attended event, this one was no different, the normal happy atmosphere with a lot of good banter prevailed.

My first find was a very bad condition Georgian halfpenny, other usual detecting finds followed, and by lunch time my find pouch was filling up with usual buttons, bullets and lead.

Heading to a different field after lunch where a few nice finds had been unearthed in the morning, I switched on my machine and head down for the afternoon session, after a few of the usual targets, my machine gave a sharp good two way signal, and being very stony land the depth I got my spade into the ground, it was no more than 3 inches, turning over the earth

I saw a thin gold band only and on picking it up and giving the ring a wee clean I saw the beautiful blue stone encased in gold and knew I unearthed something special.

My verbal reaction is unprintable!!!!, my physical one was close to a full disco dance, for me this has got to be the find of a lifetime.

It has been identified as being 12/13th century gold ring with cabochon sapphire, and would have possibly belonged to someone of high status such as a bishop.

The ring is now at the NMS in Edinburgh and is due to go before the treasure trove panel at the next meeting in June.

trojan\_ab

APRIL 2008

John gm

## Find of the Month—Coin - Anglo-Saxon early transitional sceat

About five or six years ago I borrowed a metal detector to attend my first rally. I came home delighted because I had unearthed a (completely illegible) Georgian half-penny (at the time I thought that roman coins and the like were strictly the stuff of magazines).

After another couple of rally's – and more pockets full of 'junk' – I was now keen enough to go out and buy myself a machine. This I duly did and I also registered on a metal detecting forum called U.K.Detectornet. I found the forum a great place, not only for the education, but also for making friends. One of the many friends I've made is a most helpful and generous man that you all know by the name skunkypaul.

A few weeks ago I was excited by the prospect of joining Skunky and his detecting partner, Porky (another smashing bloke) on a field that they had only recently acquired, but had already shown much promise. I spent the morning frustrated by the superior finding skills (luck?) of the two Paul's (I just can't work out why for every medieval buckle fragment, or battered hammie that they dig, I'll find a lump of lead or piece of tin foil).

Around mid-day, the two spawnly so and so's stopped to have a chin-wag while I continued scratching around for at least a vaguely recognisable piece of metal. Ten minutes or so passed by and I worked my way over to where they were standing. We chatted for a few minutes before Skunky walked off in one direction, Porky another and I put one foot forward and swung my detector. A nice sweet signal told me that I'd located another choice piece of scrap lead. I cut a square in the turf with my spade, lifted off the lid and ran my coil over the hole. A small spade of earth, and my machine revealed I'd got it out. I broke up a clod of earth in my hand and there it was.....a beautiful Saxon silver sceat.

Exhilarating!

I came home as happy as when I found that first Georgian halfpenny. The coin is a rare, early transitional sceat of Vanimundus and is dated circa AD 670 – 680.

john gm



APRIL 2008

# Packing and Storage

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## Protecting your finds

Metal finds need to be cared for. Excavated finds may have lost much of their metal content in burial. Some may be fragile, thin, brittle and easily broken. Others might be very heavy, and need extra padding. Different metals corrode in different ways; gold hardly corrodes at all, whilst iron corrodes quickly.



Some objects are made of more than one metal or contain other materials like glass, enamels, wood, bone, ivory, horn, leather, or textiles. You will need to think about specific requirements for these objects.

Your FLO can demonstrate some of the special packaging and storage materials you might need and can show you a DRY BOX to protect your finds from corrosion.

## Bags, boxes, padding, markers and labels

Conservators have tested a range of supplies to see how well they withstand long term storage and handling. Materials which do not fade, fall apart, or produce acids or gases as they age have been selected. These materials are sometimes called ‘archival’.

- Using robust containers and permanent black markers is important.
- Mini-grip bags with write-on strips and a Jiffy foam insert are good for most finds. Fragile finds are best packed individually in small clear plastic boxes.

- Acid-free tissue paper or polythene foam is recommended for cushioning your finds. Avoid cotton wool, it may stick to the corrosion and be difficult to remove, and foam rubber can give off sulphur and tarnish silver. Textiles like velvet and felt can do the same.



*Biro was used on this bag, but it has faded and the label is lost*



*Paper and card age, but Tyvek® labels and Artline® pen survive*



## Recommended packaging materials:

Polythene grip-top bags with write-on strips – remember to punch holes to ventilate!

Spun-bonded polythene labels (e.g. Tyvek®)

Permanent black markers (e.g. Artline® pens)

Airtight polythene boxes (e.g. Stewart®)

Clear polystyrene boxes for individual finds

Acid-free tissue

Polyethylene foam (e.g. Jiffy® foam) – not household foam rubbers

Closed-cell Polyethylene foam (e.g. Plastazote®)

See [www.finds.org.uk/conservation](http://www.finds.org.uk/conservation) for more details including suppliers

## Storage environment – Relative Humidity

Corrosion requires oxygen and moisture to progress. If you can exclude either of these, metals will survive for a long time. It is easy to create a dry environment for your finds.



*Condensation in sealed bag*

**On site:** Make sure the plastic bag has holes to prevent condensation. Dry out your finds gently when you get home. Avoid radiators and ovens, as the sudden change can damage your finds.

**Storing your collection:** Pack the dry find in a perforated bag with Jiffy foam to protect it from knocks, and store the bags in an airtight container with silica gel and an indicator strip.

**Silica gel** is a crystal that absorbs a certain amount of moisture. Once it has absorbed that amount it has to be dried out again to keep working. Don't leave the Dry Box open, or your gel will quickly become exhausted. How can you tell that it needs refreshing?

An **indicator strip** will turn pink when the gel isn't working. It shows the current level of moisture in the air (relative humidity, RH). Iron needs to be kept very dry (less than 15%RH), so no pink should be seen at all. Other metals will be fine at that level too, but it is too dry for glass and organic materials like leather and wood. You can dry the gel out yourself following the instructions, but your FLO may be able to arrange to have the bags dried for you. There may be a charge for this service.



## Storing different metals

- **Iron** corrodes most easily. It has to be kept dry at less than 15%RH to prevent rusting. Active corrosion is indicated by bright orange powdery crystals or little droplets of 'weeping' iron. In this photo the iron object was not kept dry; the corrosion absorbed moisture from the air and formed an acid liquid 'weeping iron' which attacked the label, staining it and causing it to disintegrate. Orange iron-stained tissue paper is a common sight and indicates an urgent need for dry storage.



- **Copper alloy** should also be kept dry. Corrosion can begin again above 35%RH. 'Bronze disease', a particularly damaging form of corrosion, can be kept from getting worse by dry storage, but it progresses quickly when moisture is present. If you notice pale green powdery corrosion spreading, the find may need chemical stabilisation. A conservator can check this for you, and treat if necessary. You can arrange this through your FLO.



- **Lead** and **Pewter** form white powdery corrosion in contact with paper, cardboard and wood. Even the gases given off by paper and card can cause corrosion, so keep these metals away from cardboard boxes. Lead is a poison which can be absorbed by your skin – wear gloves when you handle lead finds. Don't brush off the white powder; it is bad for your health!

- **Silver** turns black (tarnishes) when sulphur reacts with the surface. Air pollution, handling, and chemicals in some textiles can make this worse. Wear gloves if you handle silver.
- Excavated silver can be very brittle and cracks easily; handle with care.