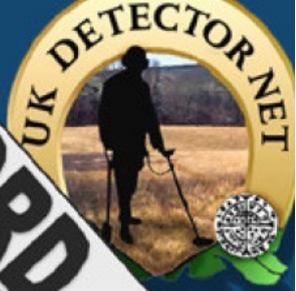


The UKDN

WORD



Issue 14
October 2008

World Of Responsible Detecting



The UKDN

World Of Responsible Detecting



Welcome once again to the UKDN Newsletter, this past month we've been in a state of flux with a few of our team being out of action for differing reasons and of course with the continuing forum upgrade. We hope you like the new look and of course we are indebted to Karv for all his hard work which continues, with some new areas to be opened up in the days ahead.

Our thanks goes out to all who have contributed to this Newsletter, we hope you not only enjoy the content, but that you'll be inspired to add something yourselves to future editions. We'd love to hear from you and please do feel free to contribute anything you feel will be of interest. If you're not sure what you'd like to do then contact Corinne or PhilD who will be pleased to hear from you.

Other news includes the Christmas Raffle, which is £5 a ticket. The main prize is a Gold Max Power, very kindly donated to UKDN by Regtons. Our thanks go to Nigel and the team for their support and of course excellent service! There is also a second prize which has been kindly donated by tomredmayne; it's a brand new, unread copy of Bill Wyman's Treasure Islands book. A third prize of a Bungee Harness has been donated by UKDN itself.

On the political side of the hobby, we hope to bring to you some news of the Portable Antiquities Scheme's Review which should be due out any time now; we'll post that on the main forum as soon as we have anything released. We also hope to have some hopeful news about the recent meetings with the Crown Estate about beach detecting and the Licencing issues currently under discussion.

Continued.....

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As we all know the farming community have suffered once again with poor weather and the late harvesting of crops. This has had a knock-on effect on rallies, club land and individual permissions, though finds seem to be of the usual high quality. We'd love to see the finds you've made so please do post them up and allow our Finds Adviser's to help where they can with any identification needed or add them to the Find of the Month Competition to show them off! We have a super team and we're of course proud of what they do for all the members of UKDN.

Did you know that UKDN has its own Internet Toolbar? Many of our members find this tool a fantastic help to gaining lots of useful information instantly without having to go and look for it in many different places. If you want to see the latest finds from your area via the PAS RSS feeds or any information about the hobby and much much more, then download it.....it's free!

Look at this link to our Download for the Tool Bar <http://ukdn.forumtoolbar.com/>

Finally a big thanks to you for frequenting UKDN, we're always aware that together we all make it a great place to visit during the course of our busy lives. If you have any suggestions to enhance the Newsletter or the Forum then please feel free to pm one of the Admin or Mods and we'll happily discuss your ideas and maybe adopt them!

Brian, Mo and the UKDN Team.



Christmas Raffle going well

Want the chance of winning an XP Goldmax for just a Fiver?

Then point your browser to <http://www.forumukdetectornet.co.uk/phpBB2/viewtopic.php?f=16&t=80873>

Here it is, the raffle you have all been waiting for. Buy a ticket at £5 for a chance to win a brand-new Goldmax Power just in time for Christmas, Retail Value approx £669 !!

This prize has been very kindly donated by Regton Ltd and we are sure we would all like to thank them for their generosity. The draw will be made on 14th December and the ticket will be drawn by someone not part of UKDN. (more to follow soon). The prize will be shipped out to the winner the following day.

A secondary prize has been donated by tomredmayne, it is a brand new, unread copy of Bill Wyman's Treasure Islands book.

Tickets can be taken singularly i.e. £5 buys one number NOT a strip of numbers and will be taken from a brand-new book of 1000 numbers starting with number 1 for first £5 received. Each ticket sold will be listed below along with the name of the purchaser. If you do not wish your name to be divulged then we will place "anonymous" in place of your name. Numbers will be allocated ONLY when monies are recieved.

Payment can be made by numerous methods including cheque/PO/ cash by post, or payment by Paypal. By clicking the paypal button on the first post of the thread.

Please ensure you enclose your username. Give us several days to process your payment and list your ticket number on the thread.

If you wish to send payment through the post then make your cheque/Postal Order payable to UK DETECTOR NET, enclose your username and send it to:

UK DETECTOR NET
95 Gloucester Road
Thornbury
South Gloucester
BS35 1JZ

Brian & Mo', have pledged that all monies raised by this raffle, after prize postage costs, will be put in a special "Prize Fund" and will be used to purchase further prizes for UKDN fun events such as more raffles or lotteries. Monies will not be used for any other purpose except UKDN.



Find of the Month Coin - Mary Groat

Detectavin63 (Vince)

Having a day out detecting on my own is a rarity these days as I prefer to go out with damo, my detecting partner, but as he was away on his holidays and a field became free that we have been waiting for, I couldn't help myself I had to do it, and I'm glad I did.

So out I went all eager and excited with anticipation of this seasons finds to be had from this field.

Well, to say I had a good day is a bit of an understatement, I had a few nice finds including, 2 and a bit Roman silver coins, 9 Roman bronzes and a Charles hammered, ok I thought I'll come back out here the next day.

It was forecast heavy rain for the next day but I went anyway, I had been on the field for a couple of hours or so and had had a few Roman groats when I got a screaming top right signal from my Explorer II, much to my surprise out popped the cracking Mary groat, once I had wiped the soil off I could see what it was as I had only been looking at them in my Spink 2004 book a couple of days before, coincidence or what, I was well chuffed, and after a few minutes and half a bottle of juice later I carried on.

All together that day I had, 13 roman bronzes, the Mary groat, a Lizzy half groat bent into a love token, a silver partefact, a Jack O'lantern pendant and loads of Roman pot including a few nice bits of Samian, so all in all not a bad couple of days detecting...

Happy hunting and good luck to you all, Vince.



Find of the Month Artefact - Roman Dragonesque Brooch 2nd Century

Staterboy (Charles)

I found the Dragonesque brooch while out detecting a well known Roman/Celtic site. I had been searching for about 3/4 of an hour and my detecting partner Steve had already had a Roman silver and a couple of bronzes. We both detect using the Goldmax Power, I got mine from Steve-B earlier this year, so after changing from the Explorer II it took me a while to adjust.

I decided to take it steady, to swing low and to slow down on a particular strip of land. After about 10 minutes a huge thumping signal came through my headphones, I dug a brooch from about 8" down, I recognised it straight away and was surprised to find it in such good condition.

I then proceeded to do what can only be described as a dance resembling Patrick Moore on acid!! I was over the moon to find the Dragonesque brooch, as I had been after one for many years.

All the best, Charles.





"Forever Yours" - Wedding Ring mickyrod (Mick Green)

In August this year, my wife Sue and I were spending our annual holiday in Sandringham, West Norfolk. The weather was being very kind to us, so we decided to spend the day on the beach. The best beach in the area is at Hunstanton. Miles and miles of lovely clean sand.

Late in the afternoon, the tide had gone out and the crowds had mostly gone home for their dinner. I had decided to take along my spare detector, Bounty Hunter Tracker 4, and while my wife soaked up the last few rays of sun, I started to search the wet sand on the beach. After about 15mins, I had a lovely two way signal, and at about 4 inches down, I uncovered a white gold wedding ring. Not only was this the first ring I have ever found in four years of detecting, it was also my first piece of gold. I washed the ring in the sea water and could see that it was in perfect condition, I assumed that it had not been in the sand for very long. On closer inspection, I could see that there was a message written on the inside of the ring, "Forever Yours". Once I read this message, I could not help thinking about how upset the person who lost this ring must have been when they realised it had come off.

I walked back to where my wife was sitting, and she did what she always does when I come home from a detecting session, she held out her hand and said "Ok what treasure have you found me?" This time I called her bluff, and placed the ring in her palm. She looked closely at it and read the message. "How sad" she said.

From this moment, I decided that I would do whatever I could to get this ring back to its owner. I put the ring in a safe place and we went back to our caravan.

One week later, when I was back at work and our holiday was just a distant memory; I started to think of what I could do to track down the owner of the ring.

I logged on to the Internet and tracked down the e-mail address of the Hunstanton police station. I fired off a message to them asking if anyone had reported a lost ring. To this day, I have never had a response!

I then looked up the web address of the local Hunstanton newspaper. I found the site of Lynn news, a local paper based in Kings Lynn. I sent them a message asking if it would be possible to put an item in their paper asking if anyone had lost a ring on Hunstanton beach. I did not give any details of the ring, so that I could ask the potential owner to give me a description. The article appeared in the next edition of Lynn News [http://www.lynnnews.co.uk/hunstanton/Hu ... 4423736.jp](http://www.lynnnews.co.uk/hunstanton/Hu...4423736.jp)

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Early the next day I received a phone call from a young lady called Victoria – she explained that her husband had lost his wedding ring three weeks earlier and that it was white gold and had the inscription “Forever yours” inside. Bingo! I had found the owner. I will never forget the excitement in her voice as she realised that it was her husband’s ring that I had found. She offered me a reward, which I declined. I sent the ring back via registered post, and it arrived back with the owner the following day.

Interestingly enough, I received a further seven phone calls from people who had lost wedding rings in Hunstanton. So there must be more there!

Since then, this simple story has grown and grown. Lynn News put a further article in their paper with a picture of the lucky couple and the wedding ring. I then received a phone call from Anglia TV who had heard about the story and wanted to make a short film about it. So two days later I found myself sitting in front of a TV camera. The article went out on Anglia and other regions within the UK.

I then received a phone call from my local paper and they carried a full article on the story. Including a big picture of me on Page 1 and page 3 (No I was not topless!)

And last but not least, I was invited to participate in a Sky 1 TV program “Noels HQ”. Although the story did not make the final cut for the program, it did mean that my wife Sue and I got a chauffeur driven Mercedes to the BBC TV studios in London to see the program.

So finding one gold ring on the beach has given me my five minutes of fame and more importantly, given the hobby of metal detecting some well deserved, good publicity.

Mick.



Spotlight on..... Phil D

Hi, I live in North Yorkshire, I'm retired and have been detecting about 5 years. I started out with a Bounty Hunter and found a modern gold ring in the first week, talk about beginners luck!, haven't found another one since. I got interested in the hobby after reading about it on the forums but finding land was giving me a headache and it was either pack it in or change something.

I decided to get a new detector and had been reading about the Explorer II and it's alleged greater depth and multi frequencies, so I took the plunge and bought one. I gave the Bounty Hunter to a mate who now detects and travels to Rallies with me, sharing the costs. I also decided to join the York and District Metal Detecting Club.



Spotlight on..... Phil D

Joining the Club has proved a very good move, I've made lots of friends there, some of which live in my area so we can share the cost of travelling to the Clubs outings and meetings. The Club has been going for 30 years this year of which we are all very proud.

Other advantages of Club membership are ties with the NCMD who provide our Insurance and keep us up to date with detecting affairs at their regular regional monthly meetings and via email. They also fight our corner on various issues.

Another thing I like is the attendance of the Liz Andrews Wilson (our FLO) who always appears with a cheery smile and is very efficient at recording our finds, saving me a trip to the Museum. Thanks to Liz, I was invited to assist the Time Team, an experience I will never forget. It was really eye opening to see what goes on behind the the scenes and how hard and enthusiastically they work as a team, even in the pouring rain!



Spotlight on..... Phil D

My main drive in detecting is to help fill in pieces of the historical jigsaw and I have to admit that if I couldn't record my finds I wouldn't detect. One day I hope to find something of significant historical importance or something that leads to such a find being made.

I was over the moon in 2006 when I found a 'Pseudo Imperial Merovingian Tremissis' with my Explorer II - see this link http://www.findsdatabase.org.uk/hms/pas_obj.php?type=finds&id=001462762FE0171D

The coin won the 'Coin of the Year 2006' and 'Saxon/Viking 1st 2006' for the NCMD Yorkshire Region and is the highlight of my detecting finds to date, what a buzz it gave me. It was donated to the York Museum where it is on display.

I currently use a T2 which I am very pleased with as it can be swung pretty fast due to it's quick response and recovery speed and combined with it's light weight allows me to cover more land and detect for longer.

Detecting has helped me appreciate history a lot more and to get out into our beautiful countryside. Thanks to Brian and Mo, the Staff and all the members, I get a lot of enjoyment out of the forum, it's like a Club in many ways, I really enjoy looking at all the finds people make and have fun trying to ID some of them. It's great to see by the finds posted, that if you keep looking, your big day will come.

Good hunting to you all.

Phil D
PhilD.



Grass Roots

Coin Shooting In Preston

By History Hunter

On Friday the 21st June I had decided to go coin shooting in a park at Preston, the weather forecast was supposedly for a few showers during the day and there were a few dark clouds overhead.

I had decided to take my Minelab Xterra 70 with a 6" 7.5khz coil to make pinpointing easier and less chance of digging oversized holes more than necessary.



My decision for the choice of settings was all metal mode, yes I would detect everything but I wouldn't discriminate out the good stuff.

The park was heavily contaminated with ring pulls, bottle caps, screw caps, foil and discarded soft drinks cans. On average three out of every four signals were rubbish which I immediately bagged up for disposal, every piece of rubbish removed should in theory mean less to dig next time depending on the visitors to the park and if they dispose of their rubbish rather than just dropping it on the grass. I suppose in my own way I was doing my bit for the community by removing the rubbish!

My first find of the day started with a pull ring, and then a partial piece of a coin which had obviously it had been cut by the councils grass cutter. Things were starting to look better all the time. One item that I did find was a disc with the number 124, I presume that it was for a key fob to a room of a hotel or a building.

Slowly but surely the good finds started rolling in, several of my finds were from the same hole even though the coins were of low value like 1p x 3 or a 20p and a 1p. Every time I had a high value coin like a 50p or a £1 my eyes light up, it's like hitting the jackpot! Little did I know I was going to hit the jackpot later on in the day, by 2pm I had found roughly £3.30 -£3.50 which consisted of mainly low value coins and two £1 coins.

The park started to have more visitors, business men and women (or office workers), children and nuns, construction builders etc. I steered clear of them and gave them their own space so that I wouldn't disturb them or their enjoyment and pleasure time.

Grass Roots

I could see quite a few people watching me detecting, one or two smiled, some looked a bit baffled at what I was doing. I didn't care, it's my hobby and what I take pleasure in doing. At about 3:30pm I had a signal which was pretty good, the ground looked like it had been disturbed in the past and the soil was bone dry and in a bit of a hollow dip.

After lifting the flap of grass up it revealed a nice ring..... Oh My God, I didn't expect that ! My eyes lit up, a big smile on my face, I thought it was too good to be true and it may have been just a cheap metal ring. Could it be silver, it came out of the soil like the day it went in the ground... I checked for hallmarks as best as I could but my eyesight isn't too good these days and I didn't have my glasses or a loupe with me to identify the markings stamped on the inside.

The ring was certainly heavy enough to be silver. A couple of schoolboys and girls approached me and asked what I had found, I told them I thought it was a silver ring and let them have a look. One of the boys said "it's cool, have you found anything else "? I replied that I had found some coins, he then wished me luck in finding more. Within five minutes a group of Asian men and women had approached me and had asked what I had found so I told them.

After detecting for another half an hour I decided to pack up and go home, on arrival at home I had my tea and then cleaned the coins and just gave the ring a rinse under cold water and dried it off. My total finds for the day consisted of : 1 silver (925) ring with the words Richard Shorty stamped on the inside , 1917 one penny, 1951 one shilling, £1 x 4, 50p x 1, 20p x 6, 10p x 1, 5p x 4, 2p x 4, 1p x 11. Total spendable cash £6.19 .

The ring is my first one in 23 years of detecting, it's my second best find this year apart from the King John hammered coin, obviously my Minelab Xterra 70 is proving to be the best detector I've had and it's starting to produce good results.



Grass Roots



On Saturday 21st June I googled "Richard Shorty" and came up with this info from North End Gallery <http://www.northendgallery.ca/richardshortybio.html>

Southern Tutchone artist, Richard Shorty, was born in 1959, and was raised in Whitehorse, Yukon. Richard moved to Vancouver in 1978 where he began his career as a graphic artist, while painting portraits of rock stars, and wildlife.



In 1981 he changed his focus to a more identifiably First Nation's style. With his unique blending of realism with native design, he captures the true beauty of his subjects. Richard is a versatile artist having worked on drums, paddles, masks and rattles. His pieces are found in major collections throughout Canada.

Could he be the same Richard Shorty that had designed the ring that I had found ? If so, the rings origins are from Canada. Looking at the ring in close details it has the looks and design from the North American region. There is the neck of a bird (possibly an eagle's head) and other strange mystical shapes on the ring that looks like that of the Native Indians.

I've asked North End Gallery in Canada for confirmation or not if he did design jewellery.



Enamelled Romano-British Finger Rings

Adam Daubney



Some of you might remember a thread appearing on UKDN a few months ago entitled 'Enamelled Romano-British Rings'. UKDN is a lively forum and a great place for finds research to take place, not least because of the sheer quantity of finds being made by its members and their willingness to record them. My previous paper on Roman ToT rings is due to be published soon, and so now my attention is on enamelled Roman rings. Both projects draw heavily on metal detected finds, and like Sam Moorhead's & Jonathan Naylor's articles in a previous edition, these pieces of research highlight again just what a difference recorded metal detected finds are making to our understanding of settlements and activity in the rural landscape.

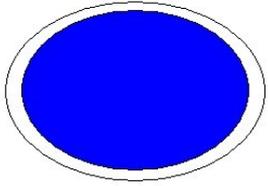
Similar to Roman grots, enamelled rings are often pretty gruffy finds; the hoops are inevitably missing or distorted, and the bezels are usually missing most of their enamel. Still, enough usually remains to enable a good reconstruction, and that is what I've been doing lately with the 75 enamelled Romano-British finger rings recorded on the PAS. These rings date to the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD, and would have been highly decorative items in their original state. As I studied them I realised that they could be grouped according to their bezel decoration. Although there are a wide variety of styles, they generally fall into one of seven categories as shown in Figure 1. These categories are all enamelled, pellets, quarters, circles/wheels, curves, motifs and miscellaneous. The motifs themselves (ie the pellets, lines etc) are usually made out of reserved metal, whereas the background is enamelled to draw contrast to the motifs. Many of these decorations will be familiar to you for similar motifs are seen on plate brooches, mounts and seal boxes of the same period. Perhaps these rings are matching items of jewellery?

Enamelled Romano-British Finger Rings

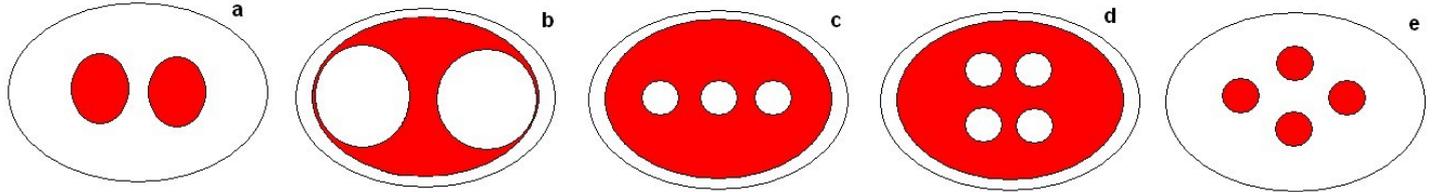
Adam Daubney

Figure 1—Provisional Classification of finger rings

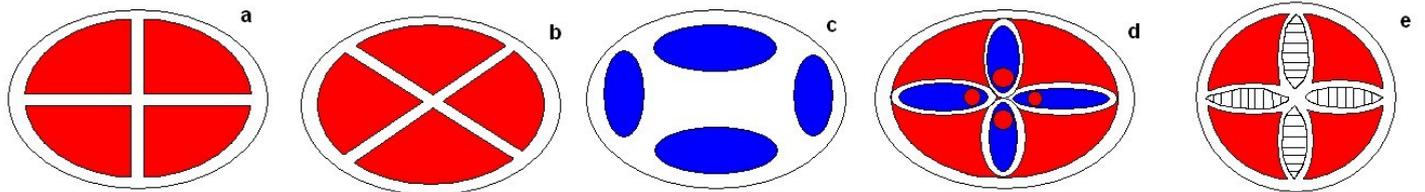
Group 1: Entirely enamelled



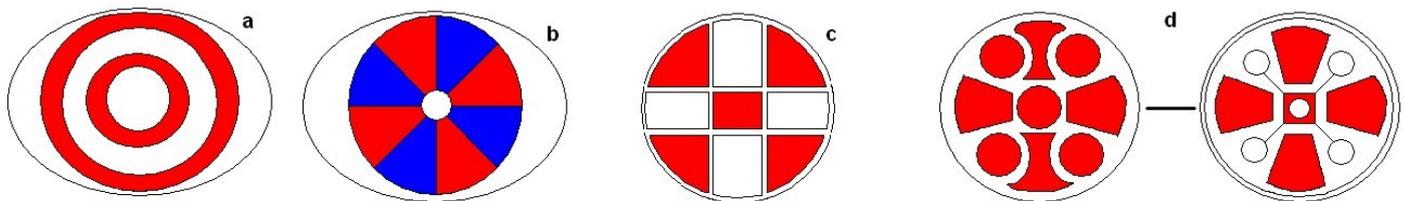
Group 2: Pellets



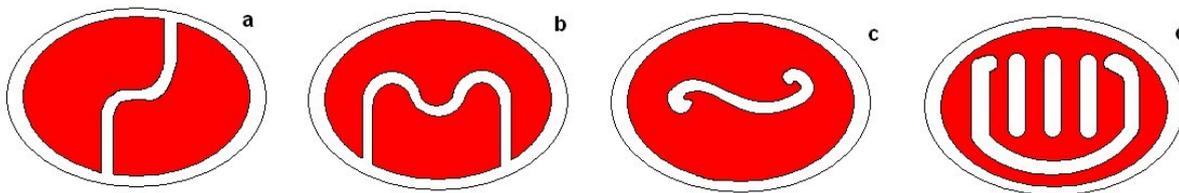
Group 3: Quarters



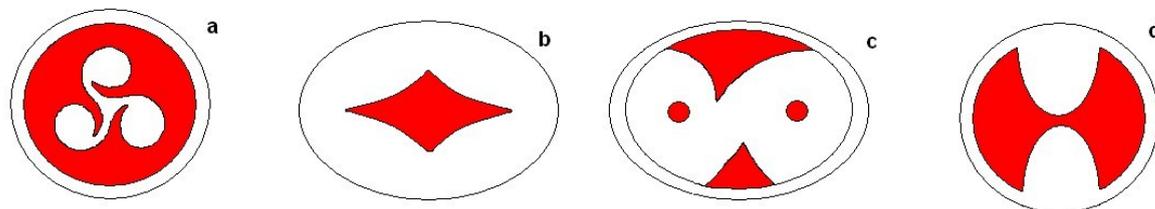
Group 4: Circles/Wheels



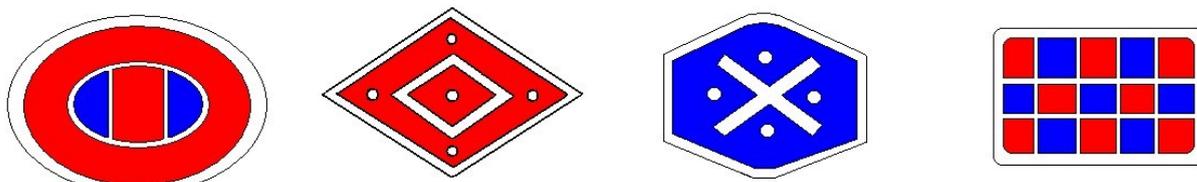
Group 5: Curves



Group 6: Motifs



Group 7: Miscellaneous



Kingsdon, Somerset
SOMDOR490

West Lavington, Wilts
WILT-E14055

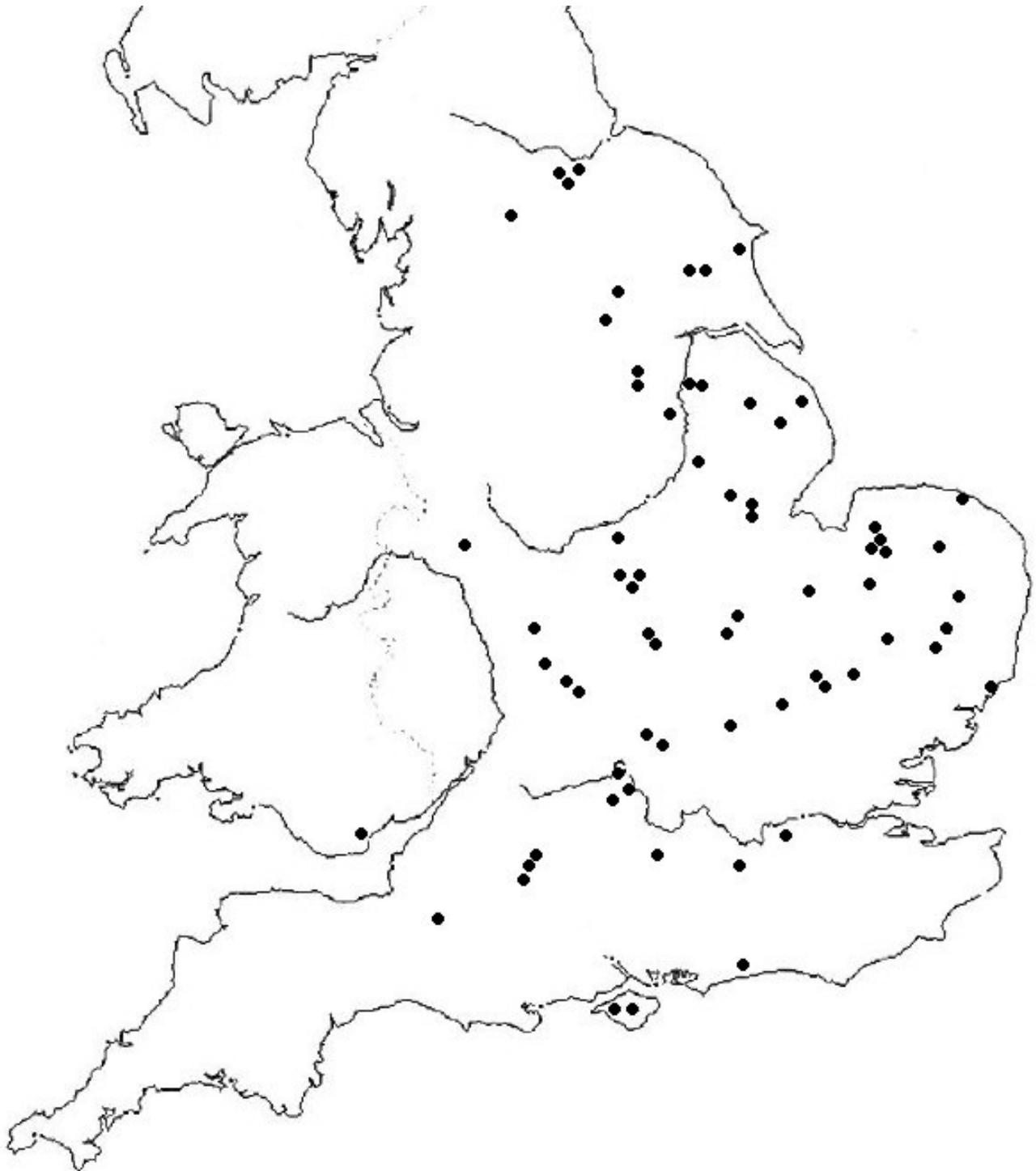
Keddington, Lincolnshire
LIN-E16125

Corringham, Lincolnshire
NLM-9F5932

Figure 2 shows the distribution of all enamelled Romano-British finger rings recorded on the PAS.

Immediately you can see that most are found in the 'Romano-British' rural landscape between the rivers Trent and Thames. Few rings are from the deeply romanised South, and few are found in the far North (of England that is!). These rings are giving us an insight into the artistic preferences of the average rural Romano-Brit. These people have long been neglected in Roman archaeology in favour of high status villas and urban and military sites, but similar to Sam Moorhead's & Phillipa Walton's research into Roman grotts, we are now seeing a better picture of the goings-on in the average rural farmstead through the systematic analysis of gruffy finds

Figure 2 - Distribution of all enamelled Romano-British finger rings on the PAS database



The choice of enamel colour is really interesting – compare figures 3 & 4. When the ring is entirely enamelled (Group 1), the colour is nearly always blue. Conversely, in Groups 2-7, when the ring has a motif on it, the background is nearly always red. This is probably due to a combination of factors such as local preference, but probably mainly due to aesthetics since red contrasts more sharply with the metal than blue does, creating a more vivid bezel decoration. Curiously, blue remains popular in the East Midlands in all groups, as highlighted by the ring found by UKDN's 'Squonk'. Maybe this is local preference, or perhaps something to do with the enamel colour imitating water or sky, both of which are characteristic features of these largely flat and wet counties. The landscape gives great panoramic views of both sky and water, and even today visitors comment on the wide open views.

Figure 3—**Distribution of Group 1 rings by enamel colour**

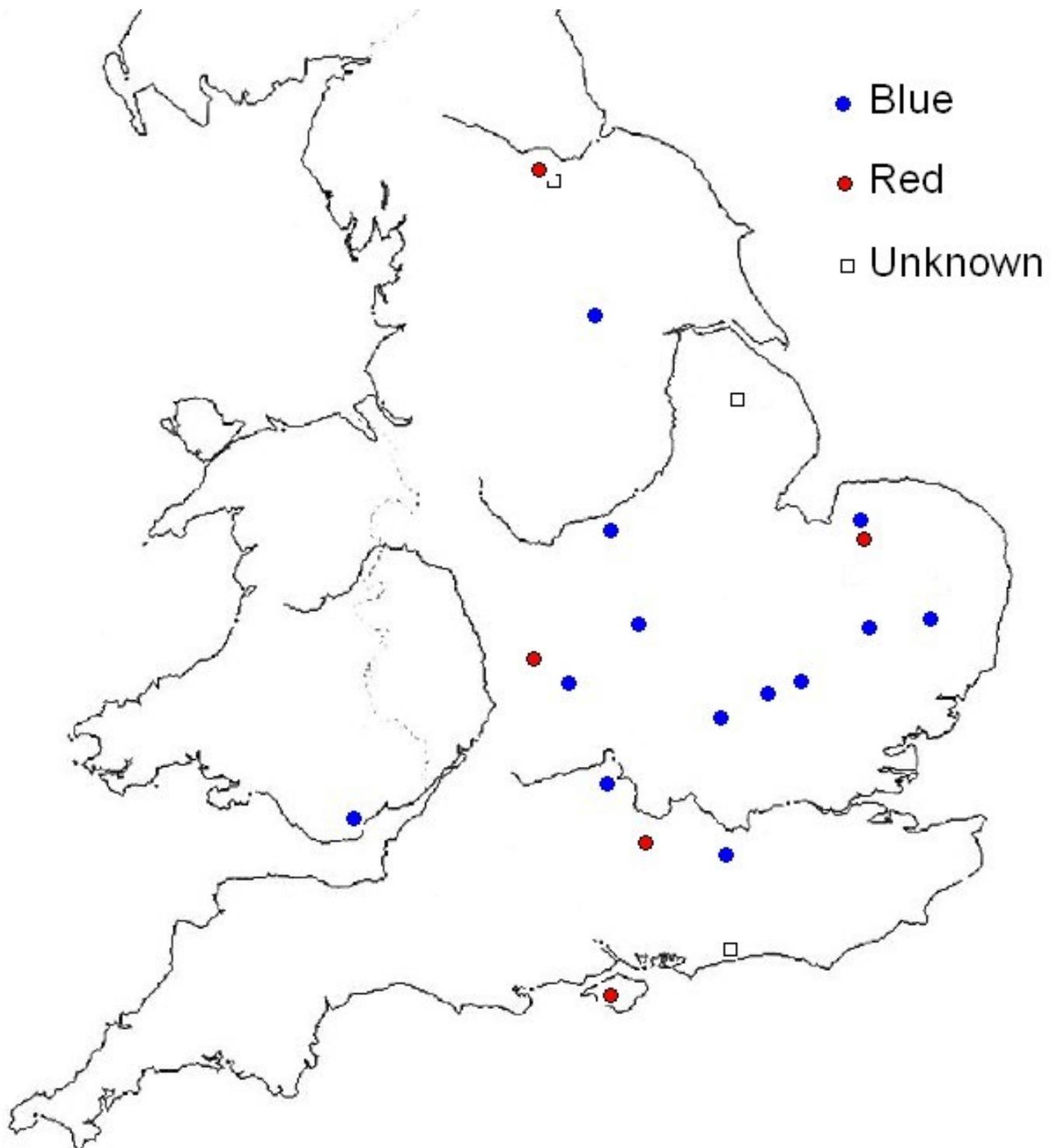
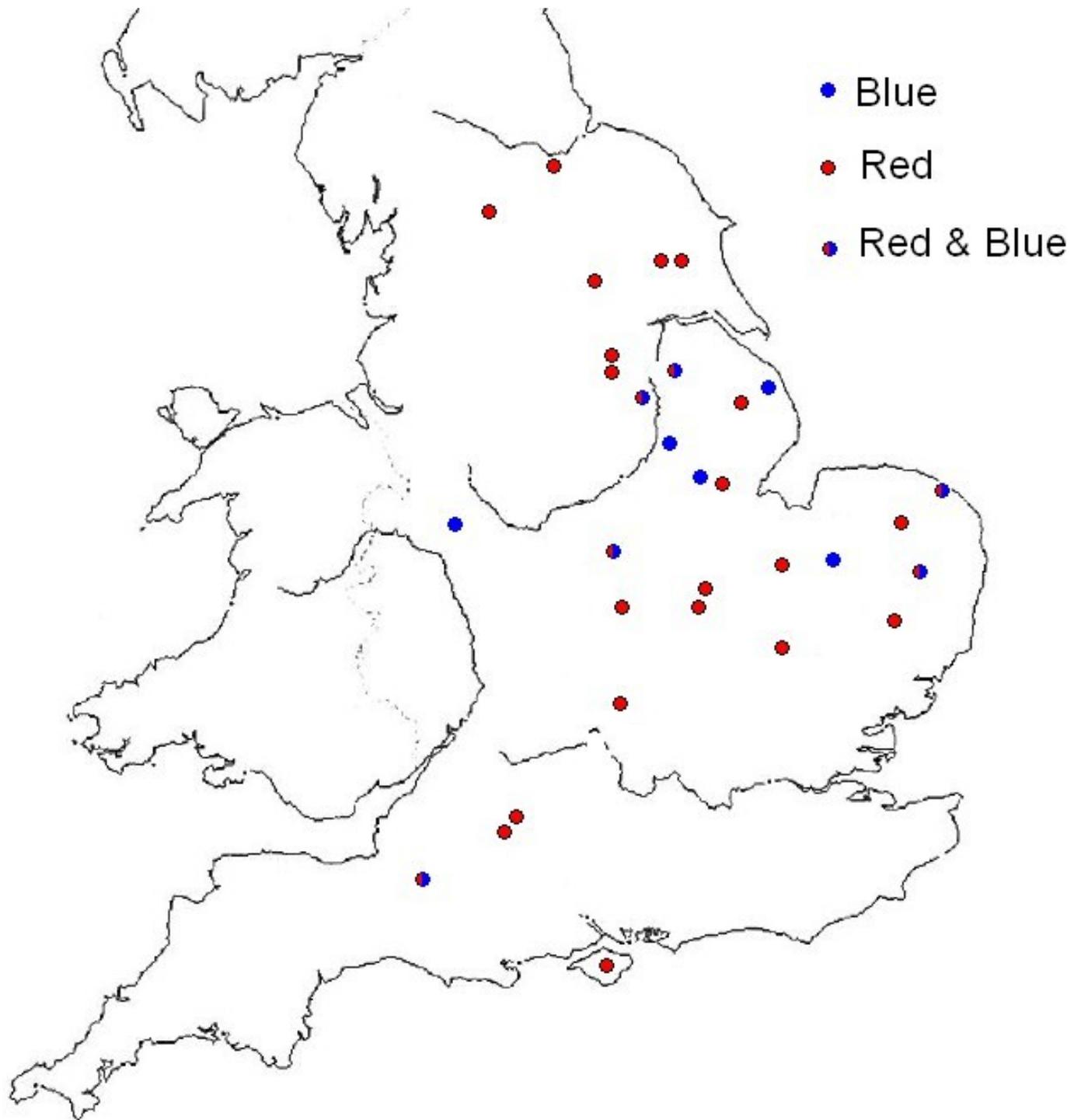
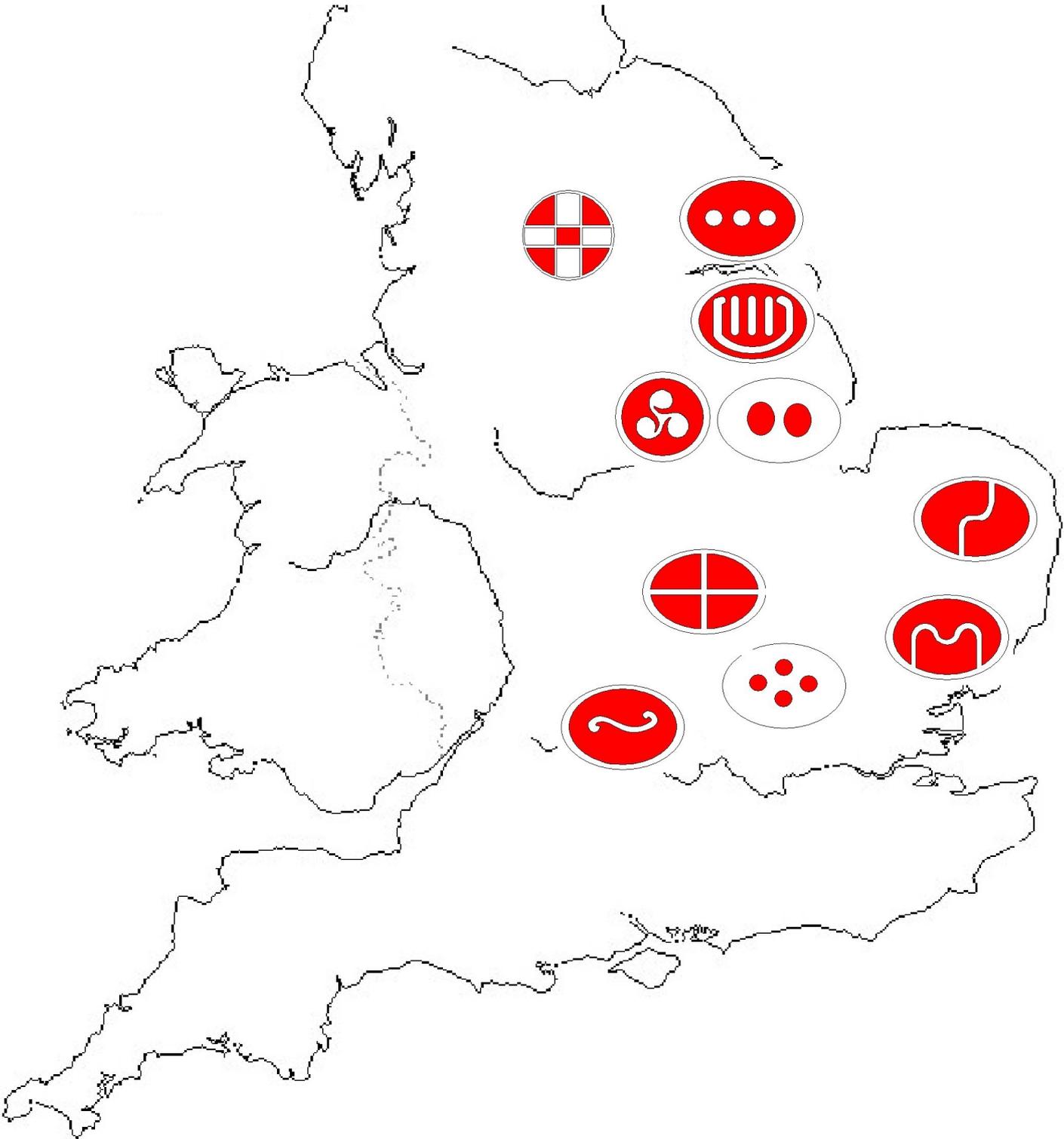


Figure 4—Distribution of Groups 2-7 rings enamel colour



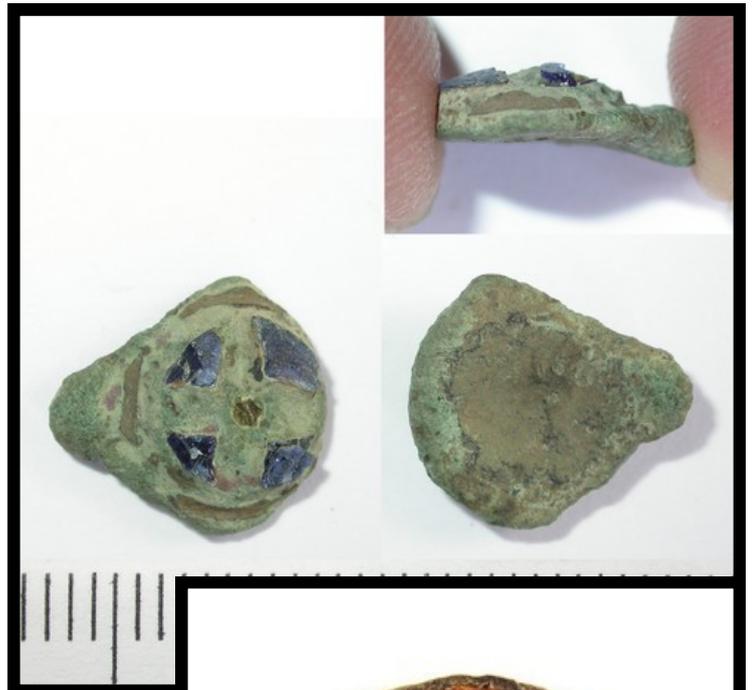
Ideally I'd like another 50 rings to be found so that the distribution maps can be strengthened, so please let me know if you have any that haven't been recorded yet. Even though the dataset is still quite small, patterns are already emerging. For example, rings with three pellets have only so far been found in Yorkshire (Group 2c); rings with two pellets have only been found in Lincolnshire and Norfolk (Group 2a), rings with quarters on a vertical cross are based in the Northamptonshire region (Group 3a), and the unusual 'm' shaped motifs of group 5b have only been found in Suffolk.

I've recently drawn a 'visual guide' to the rings, showing where the different forms are usually found



Perhaps this is showing that the rings were made locally but following a nationally recognised style? Perhaps they are the product of just one itinerant jeweller?

I'd be pleased to hear from you if you have found an enamelled Romano-British finger ring, or think you might have one. You can contact me on adam.daubney@lincolnshire.gov.uk



Heading South for the Big Time and Deal - By Brian and Mo'

During July and August last year we began to think about our annual holiday. We had been to turkey the year before last and had our best holiday yet. We planned to go there again and began to visit travel agents in the hope of picking up a cheap bargain.

As it was cheap holidays to any place were as rare as gold staters. Then just as we were considering taking a full-price holiday in turkey the crisis in the Gulf began. All thoughts of a holiday so close to this trouble-spot were dismissed.

Capital targets

We decided that we would take the Red Rocket to pastures new. As we also wanted to visit the British Museum, the Museum of London and The Tower of London we decided that we would spend some of the time detecting in one of the supposedly richer, southern counties. As it happened a rally was taking place near Deal on the weekend after we planned to visit London so it all fell into place very easily. We spent three days in London visiting the usual sites. After writing and talking about so many of the treasures found and placed in the BM it was fascinating to see these riches in reality. Our particular favorites ended up being the treasures from Sutton Hoo, the Snettisham gold torques and the Mildenhall Roman silver tableware. We spent a full day wandering about here.

Mudlarks' Museum

The next day saw us at the Museum of London where we had been told most of the finds on display had come from the river Thames. In fact we later learnt that 90 per cent of the finds here had been found by the Thames Mudlarks, a unique group of people given sole rights to dig for artifacts on the river, a task which requires its own particular type of expertise. We found this museum equally as fascinating as the BM if only for the reason that many detector finds could be seen. Once again almost a full day was spent here.

That evening we visited Mike Bailey and other members of the South-East London MD Club and enjoyed a few beers until the early hours swapping detecting talk and yarns. We thank Mike and the lads and lasses for their hospitality.

Saturday morning saw us heading off to the rally at Deal, arriving at about 1.30 p.m. The rest of the day was spent detecting and chatting with lots of old friends. Some lovely finds were already beginning to turn up. Brian found a Bronze Age/Iron Age bead which the resident archaeologist seemed over the moon with even if Brian, before Mo pointed it out, swore it was simply some sort of "nut"!

The weekend was a success producing for us a few finds but nothing worth photographing. We spent a hilarious night in the beer tent with the Jubbs, Wainwrights, Archie Cold of Black Ada, and others.

Sunday evening was spent at a local restaurant with Mal and Jean Jubb and American visitors Jimmy "Sierra" Normandy and Flemming Neilson. Obviously detecting talk from both sides of the Atlantic flowed fast. We spent a few hours on a site with Jimmy and Flemming the following day. The American visitors had been on site about six hours before we arrived and had struggled to find a few Roman bronzes between them in that time. Brian showed them what it was all about when, two minutes after arriving on site, he pulled out a denarius of Maesa.



Denarius of Julia Maesa (150%)

Heading South for the Big Time and Deal - By Brian and Mo'

Quick shuffle

Within one hour we had added six small bronzes to this total, Mo finding four of these. We stopped to talk to our guests, trying to discover what problems they were having. Apart from earlier discovering that some of their machines were not performing well in the mineralized ground they were very surprised to learn that the signal from these small Roman bronze coins was not always a clear blip, even on the Silver Sabre on very low discrim and close to the surface. We explained that most small spits and cracks can be quickly investigated by shoving some of the plough soil aside with the foot and then trying again. Within half an hour our friends were beginning to find some Roman coins.

Then on the Deal

We all had to part shortly afterwards but not before promising to write and keep in touch. Our holiday in the Red Rocket was going well and we already had a few nice finds.

The next day found us visiting Deal and also detecting late in the evening on a site at a Roman crossroads. We dug plenty of signals but were a little put off by the fact that many detector users had been here before. We decided to fall back on our old favorite i.e. research.

The next day found us gaining permission to search hundreds of acres of land in and around a small village. We have always tried to take this tack when short of sites, working on the principle that such land will have been well-used for centuries and will contain finds from all periods. Our arrival was quite leisurely and not knowing anything about the land and being on holiday we were in no desperate rush. Brian started to search the field whilst Mo idly chatted to some chap walking his dog. As this chap bade her farewell after about half an hour, Brian came rushing over. "Get your machine out, we're onto a crackin' site," he exclaimed. With that he showed her two medieval buckles picked up in those thirty minutes.

Disaster

Then it happened. Mo got her machine out and discovered that it had packed in. Being the gentleman that he is, Brian gave her his and took her machine to the Red Rocket to check out the batteries. By the time he had discovered that the batteries had leaked and apparently ruined the circuit board, Mo had made a few beautiful finds of her own.

These were a rolled gold ring, a medieval buckle, an early jetton and a beautiful crotal bell. Here we were, hundreds of miles away from home, on a productive site, with only one machine between us! Brian wished he'd had a packet of Hamlet, 'cos he would have sat on the fence and smoked the lot just like in the TV advert!



Heading South for the Big Time and Deal - By Brian and Mo'

Sharecropping

For the remainder of that evening till long after it was dark we worked this field sharing the one and only machine we had. A few other nice finds came up along with masses of Georgian and Victorian coinage. We left the Red Rocket parked on site that night and slept well.

Rescue

The following morning we decided to travel the 30 miles or so to see David Cowell of C-Scope International and try to obtain a machine to see us through the remaining six or seven days of our holiday. Here, we were treated to a personal tour of the factory with David and the offer of a C-Scope CS2M motion detector for trial.

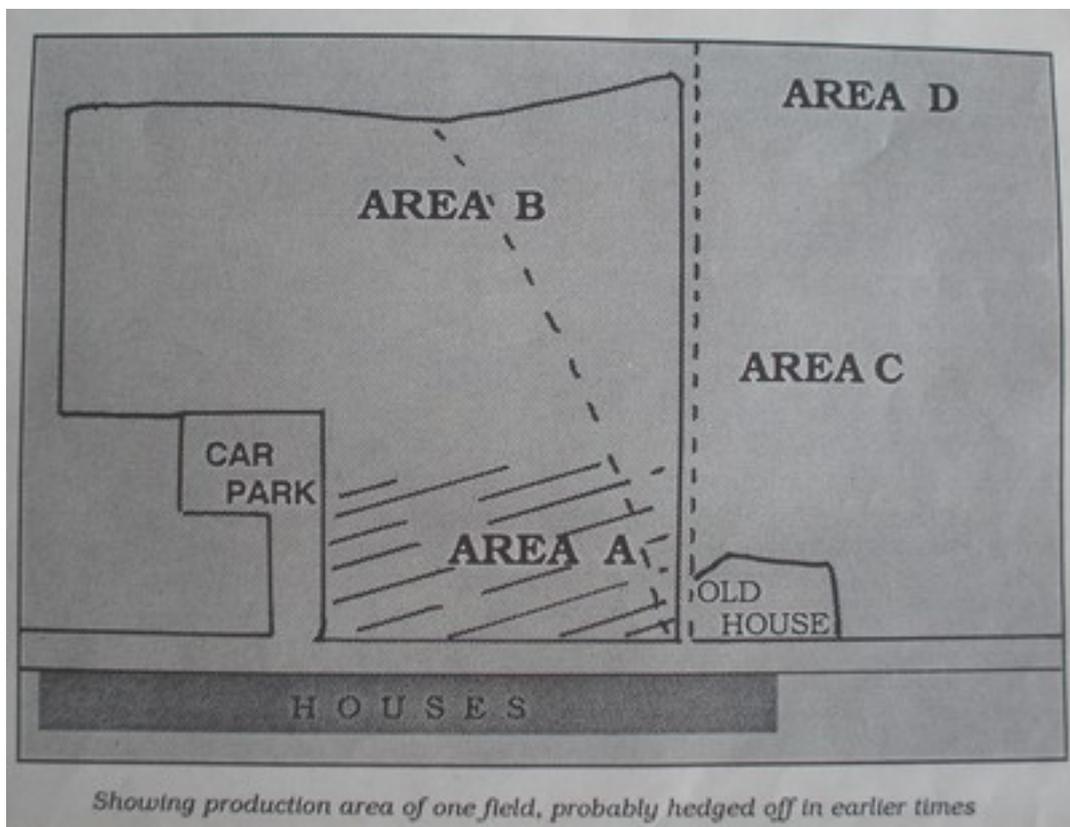
We cannot thank David enough. He could easily have turned us away especially as we were not C-Scope users! In the end we found the C-Scope to be a good machine. Brian used it for the remainder of the holiday and kept up his finds rate, even though he found the deeper pitch of the signal tone took a bit of getting used to – not bad going for an unfamiliar machine.

Hot territory

Fig. 3 shows a plan of this productive site. Up until now we had been working Area A and we continued to do so for the remainder of the next day. A small medieval ring brooch turned up as did a 14th century brooch, commonly known as a Fish-Eye brooch.

Signals were still thick and fast on the ground and we were surprised that we hadn't found any hammered coins yet. We had discussed this subject the previous evening. We'd expected that with so many artifacts from the medieval period turning up, we would have had a pocketful of hammered by now. One would turn up sooner we were sure.

It finally did in the form of a penny of Edward II, found by Mo early that evening. This was found in Area B territory which produced very little except for this hammered and the occasional bullet or Georgian button.



Heading South for the Big Time and Deal - By Brian and Mo'

Greener grass?

Strange though it may seem, the following day we wandered away into Areas C and D. This was done to ensure that we were not actually detecting on the outer edges of a productive site. As it happened, these areas produced nothing of interest at all, just the usual modern farm field scrap. We'd now spent three days parked in this tiny village. We'd become minor celebrities within the locality. We'd spent evenings and lunches in local pubs and had given away to very interested locals, countless Victorian and Georgian pennies and other bits and pieces. We'd done our bit in promoting the hobby. WW2 bullets, ..303s, had been found with regularity. One old chap, outside the local shop where we called every morning for our fresh bread and REAL sausages, saw the bullets and pulled a shiny but old bullet from his pocket.

"Bet you haven't got one with a hole straight through the middle of it, like this," he proudly stated. My Dad shot a bullet straight through this one, on a training session during the last war". Sure enough, this shiny .303 from his pocket bore a hole through the shell. We marveled at his father's tremendous shooting and promptly unloaded about 20 bullets on him! He went away as pleased as Punch.

Valuable scrapheaps

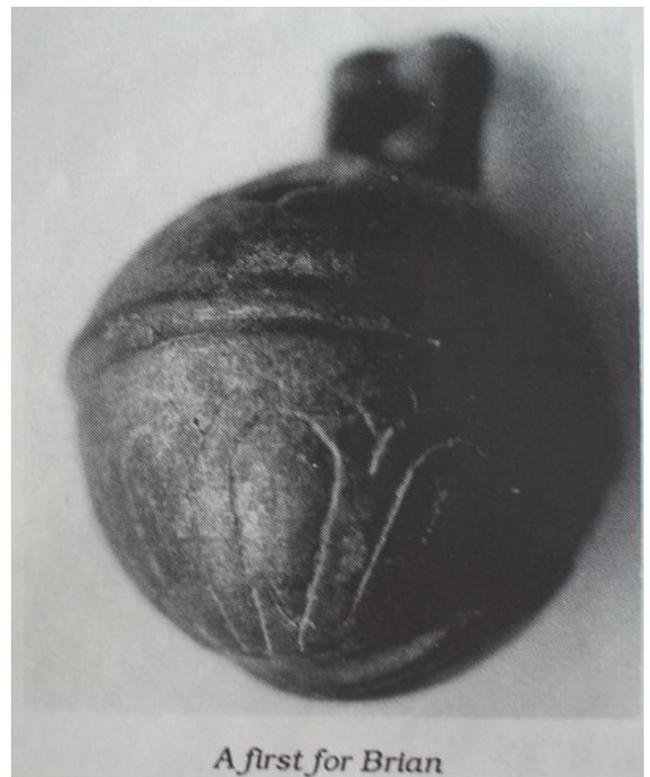
We had deliberately removed and kept all scrap from these fields. This was kept by the side door of the Red Rocket and was by now forming a veritable mountain. We now find this a useful exercise in that farmers and landowners can see exactly how much scrap is being removed from their fields. We also find that farmers are fascinated by this stuff: almost as much as the better finds. They love rooting through it all, commenting occasionally, "I know what that is, it's a top off a clevis pin from a 1938 Ford tractor"! Or similar reminiscences.

At the end of this day we decided that we must move on, for a variety of reasons. Firstly we needed a proper camp site where we could get a shower and cleanup. Secondly, despite the fact that we were on a good site, we needed a change of scenery. You will have to remember that we were on our annual holidays. We felt we shouldn't spend these holidays looking at the ground on the same few fields in Kent, no matter what was turning up. We also wanted to have a break from detecting and do a bit of sight-seeing.

The old road

A few days later found us seeing permission for land just a few miles from Dover on an ancient route leading to the town. The route existed as a green road and Dover Castle could be seen on the horizon. Whilst attempting to find the landowner or farmer, usually the hardest part, one local told us of the site of an ancient public house that stood beside the trackway before taking a direct hit during WW2. We later gained permission to search beside the trackway and so decided to search the area of this pub. Within seconds of stepping on to the field we were finding Georgian coins by the bucketful. We were ecstatic. Detecting in Kent seemed totally different than in Cheshire for here finds appeared to be in greater abundance, no matter what the period.

We felt sure that sooner or later a medieval buckle or brooch would turn up telling us that the site was also used during the medieval period. A short while after one of our many tea breaks, Brian found his first crotal bell!



A first for Brian

Heading South for the Big Time and Deal - By Brian and Mo'

Now this may sound strange to southern readers of The Searcher. But despite the belief that crotal bells should be more common in the north of England, due to the many sheep and cattle drove routes, we have seen very few of them. In fact, during more than 12 years in the South Lancs & Cheshire Club, based in Cheshire we have actually seen TWO entered in our monthly competition!

Wrong dates

We detected here until it was dark but failed to find anything of a medieval nature. The only other good find to come from here was a Georgian III sixpence dated 1816.

We cannot say that this site was not medieval. As stated we had only detected here for one day and had literally hundreds of acres to go at. Unfortunately, this was our last day. We called back to see the farmer and discover that, unfortunately, we had not been detecting on the site of the old Inn but close to the site of an abandoned farm!

So if we are ever back in Kent – and we think we will be – we've got quite a few sites to wander over. We found the people very helpful, the farmers very accommodating and the land full of interesting finds.

