

The UKDN

WORD



ISSUE 16 DECEMBER 2008

World Of Responsible Detecting

HAPPY CHRISTMAS

From The UKDN Team



Inside Issue 16



♦ Welcome message from UKDN

♦ UKDN Supporter GOLD

♦ Win a brand new Goldmax Power



♦ Why did Regton donate the XP Goldmaxx Power to UKDN ?

♦ Find of the Month Coin—Chris Hall

♦ Find of the Month Artefact -Andrew Kibbey



♦ Spotlight on Deetektor

♦ Detectorist discovers lost Chapel - by Kev Woodward

♦ Red Rocket Article Number 5—Bri & Mo

♦ The Portable Antiquities Scheme Saved! - Roger Bland

♦ The launch of the Annual Treasure Report and PAS Review—
Petethedig



♦ UKDN Crossword—by History Hunter

♦ Club News by Phil D



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Welcome

Hi Everyone

Well, what a month this past month has been.

The news about PAS being safe for the time being was the most welcome yet and for UKDN to get a letter from Roger Bland praising the part UKDN played in the lobbying for the PAS was just the icing on the cake.

He also announced the joint funding effort put to English Heritage which will benefit both the PAS and the UKDN. This money, if successful, will fund several projects we are both looking into. Information concerning all the above is within the pages of this months edition of the newsletter.

This month also sees the final days of the UKDN Christmas Raffle which will be drawn on 15th December by Nigel Ingram of Regton Ltd, the company that kindly donated the Goldmax Power metal detector to UKDN. Get your ticket now, details are within the newsletter.

The past year has been eventful to say the least and our team have carried out important essential and cosmetic improvements to the UKDN forum which have entailed a great deal of work. In the coming months it is planned to add a new version of the early album which will, again, vastly improve your UKDN experience.

Our team has stayed fairly stable considering that all of us have work and family commitments.

On a final note can we ask that if you have any material which you feel may be of use to the newsletter team, however small it may be, then please contact a member of the team.

We all wish you a Happy Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year and hope that interesting finds come beneath your search heads in 2009.

Best Wishes from Brian, Mo' and The Team.

The UKDN

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UKDN SUPPORTER – GOLD !!

Hi Everyone

Believe it or not UKDN became six years old in late September 2008. Thanks to you all for making it what it is today.

Within the bowels of the forum's operating system is a ranking system which enables the forum owners to put a ranking against a users name. On registering for UKDN all users are ranked as a "Registered User"

During the past couple of years some members have wanted to donate towards the running costs of UKDN and so, to acknowledge their contribution, we changed their rank to "UKDN Supporter" on receipt of a donation.

However. some members want to contribute year in, year out and so now, since September 28th 2006, we felt we needed to acknowledge that continued commitment to UKDN and so created further ranks such as "UKDN Supporter – Bronze" and, last year "UKDN Supporter – Silver"

A donation, however large or small, will get you a ranking and in this way, some people who have only been members for one year, have moved up the rankings.

On December 1st we will introduce a new ranking of "UKDN Supporter – GOLD" and anyone donating after that date who is already a "Silver" will move up to "Gold". If a member is only a Registered User, a UKDN Supporter or a UKDN Supporter – Bronze then they will simply move up a rank.

All donations are recorded privately and are checked over by a respected member of the forum. All donations will be used for the purpose of paying for the forum server and associated running costs.

We hope this helps you understand the ranking system and how we have tried to acknowledge your support of UKDN.

UKDN still remains free to all end users and no special areas will be created for those who have donated.

Kind regards

Brian, Mo' and The Team

LAST CHANCE TO WIN A BRAND-NEW GOLDMAX POWER

Hi Everyone

This is your last notification regarding the Goldmax Power Christmas Raffle being run by UKDN. You have until the 11th December to pop onto the forum and purchase a £5 ticket which will give the opportunity to win this superb detector valued at approx £669 and kindly donated by Nigel Ingram of Regton. As Regton's donated the detector to UKDN we felt it only right that we ask Nigel Ingram if he would draw the ticket for us. He has kindly agreed.

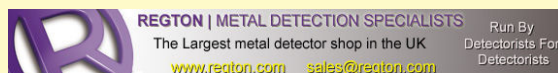
The sale of raffle tickets will end on Thursday 11th December 2008. They will then be sent by registered post to Regton's where the draw will take place on 15th December 2008. The winner will be announced on the forum as soon as we know the result.

We have a 2nd prize of a brand-new copy of Bill Wyman's Treasure Islands book donated by Tomredmayne.

UKDN has donated 3rd and 4th prizes of a Roy Bungee Harness and a brand-new copy of Coins of England 2008.

Pop across to the thread at <http://www.forumukdetectornet.co.uk/phpBB2/viewtopic.php?f=54&t=80873> and purchase your ticket NOW !!

Why did Regton donate the XP Goldmaxx Power to UKDN ?



Regton Ltd is proud to be associated with UKDN and what it stands for, I have known Brian & Mo from way before the advent of the internet and have always found them to be fair and honest individuals with a hunger for history. The promotion of our hobby in a correct and professional manner is so important and what better way to do this than through a public forum where we are seen to be doing everything to improve our understanding of the past.

There are many forums that have followed in UKDN's footsteps, most have fallen by the wayside, some have prospered but none more so than UKDN. I have been a member for a few years & whilst I tend to take a low profile due to business pressures please remember it's my hobby too !

With all this in mind I thought it would be a good opportunity to put up a decent machine to be raffled with proceeds going to the prize fund, my way of putting a little back into the hobby.

I know this will make someone very happy indeed and I wish everyone the best of luck.

Regards

Nigel Ingram

Wonersh Stater - Headmaster (Chris Hall)

Having been involved in the hobby for almost 25 years, I have only made two gold finds. The first of these was a Commius stater found 'eyes only' on a West Sussex ploughed field in the 1990's. This coin was valued at £2000 at the time, and was recorded in the Celtic Coin Index.

I would imagine that most detectorist's, myself included, are driven on by the hope that they will one day find gold! The Wonersh stater, winner of the October 2008 'Coin of the Month' surfaced just 20 miles from the Commius example. Stepping onto the field that morning, I had very low expectations. Firstly, the crop of fodder turnips was alarmingly high and there were only one or two areas of the field where detecting was worthwhile. Secondly, although the field in question was new to me, I knew for sure that it had been 'hammered' by local clubs and several individuals over a period of some 15 years. I am a great believer in the theory that no field is ever 'searched out', and have proved this on many occasions.

On entering a new field, I usually carry out a 'Union Jack' pattern search initially. For some reason, on this misty morning I decided to walk straight out into the field and make for a large tree on the far side that I would use as a marker. So often in the past we have all read about the final signal of the day - the one that comes just as you are making for the car! Well, on this occasion it was the first signal of the day, and it came just a few paces into the field. My new 'E-Trac' detector gave a positive signal and I prepared to dig up my first cartridge case of the day. A few seconds later, I was holding what I thought was a gold coloured button in my hand. The hand started to shake as I made out a design featuring a prancing horse, a wheel and a spiral. I knew then that it was a Celtic stater - my second from the county. The obverse with the crossed wreaths is almost as beautiful in its own way.



Wonersh Stater - Headmaster (Chris Hall)

The farmer has been informed, and it is good that he always shows a great interest in the history of his land. At the time of writing we are still undecided about what to do with the stater that dates to circa 40BC. According to Dr Philip de Jersey there are only around 20 recorded, and this example appears to be a rare variant.

Headmaster.



Chris Hall

FOM Artefact - La Tene III Brooch - AndyK (Andrew Kibbey)



I found the La Tene III brooch at the Leisure Promotions dig at Longbridge Deverill, which is near Warminster in Wiltshire.

It was found in the afternoon not too far from where I found a medieval dog shaped mount and my detecting buddy Mark (Detector Dog) on this forum found a bronze Celtic coin.

Cheers, Andy.



Spotlight on Deetektor (Alan Radley)

I live in Thundersley, Essex, and work as a plumber, mainly in the Southend-on-Sea area. I've been detecting for about eight years now, and belong to the Essex Detector Society.

I've had an interest in history and archaeology, ever since I was a youngster, going on holidays with my parents, and visiting the ruins of Medieval castles and abbeys. Something which my wife and I still do whenever possible.

I first got interested in the idea of metal detecting, when I was talking to the quantity surveyor of a builder I did a lot of work for. He had been detecting for many years and made some nice finds, including a hoard of silver Roman coins which is in Colchester Museum.



To cut a long story short, I eventually bought a second hand Fisher 1266, which I never really got on with.

I then changed to a CScope Newforce, which I really enjoyed using, only changing to the Hawkeye as I needed a lighter machine. I now use a Goldmaxx Power.

My best find with the Newforce, was a beautiful Papal Bulla of Gregory XI, which is now in Saffron Walden museum. Unfortunately I don't have a decent picture of this to hand.

Spotlight on Deetektor (Alan Radley)

The nicest coin I found was this Celtic unit. I found this at Firle in 2006. I just went for the one day and got this with virtually my first signal, it certainly made the trip worthwhile. Apart from Rallies, most of my detecting is done on club sites, with the odd trip to the beach at Southend on a warm summer's morning, when nothing else is available.



I have supported the PAS since it came to Essex, and always record any suitable finds when I get the opportunity.

I have also tried my best to promote the value of recording finds with the Scheme to Club members, with limited success. There are many who have been detecting for far longer than I have, who firmly believe that there is some ulterior motive behind the aims of the PAS, and are reluctant to record what they find.

Unbelievably, there are still those who think their favourite field will be scheduled, as they've found a few hammered coins there !



Spotlight on Deetektor (Alan Radley)

I tried to encourage other members to attend the PAS conferences to see how finds data is used, also without much success. I find it sad the way some try to rubbish the PAS and what it stands for, at every opportunity, without trying to understand how the scheme really works.

I shall carry on regardless, doing what I think is best for the hobby.

Deetektor.



Detectorist discovers lost Chapel - by Kev Woodward

If you were detecting in Norfolk (chance would be a fine thing I hear you say) and you started coming across some flint nodules with a cream coloured solid substance attached would you know their significance? Detectorist Steve Brown did and he found an area covered in them.

The substance attached to the flint was medieval mortar and as flint is widely used as a building material in East Anglia it was very likely that a building once stood at the spot he was now detecting on. The finds suggested a medieval date spanning several hundreds of years and it wasn't of a humble nature.

Research into the area before hand had thrown up names of places nearby like Peters pit (an old quarry) and several old track ways. There was also the possibility of a medieval chapel in the area as a St Peter chapel is mentioned in medieval documents but its exact location wasn't known. Could this be the site of this chapel?

Such questions often come into the detectorist's mind at times like this but how many really try or know how to find out? Steve is a very experienced detectorist and has worked with archaeologists on many projects. Through the contacts established in these projects he was able to arrange a ground penetrating radar geophysical survey of the flint and mortar covered area and the results shown speak for themselves. He had discovered the long lost chapel of St Peter believed to have been torn down by Henry VIII.





Adult Burial



First adolescent burial was a shallow one



Main crossing wall looking east

Steve has been active with a group of amateur archaeologists for several years and they were looking for a project this summer, what better than to see what survived of the chapel and hopefully date its construction and demolition. Permission from the landowner was readily given along with some funding as the group had held digs on his land before. All the required organisation was carried out by a dedicated few and in July this year a group of up to twenty amateurs and one professional archaeologist gathered to pitch their tents in a field in deepest rural Norfolk.

Work commenced the following day with a very Time Team type start of using a JCB to clear away the top soil from a 23x13m trench. I had been given the honour of supervising this activity, the first time I had ever done this, and it was quite scary at first as no one really knew the exact depth of the surviving walls; although a good idea can be worked out from the radar survey.

After several hours of skilful work by Pete the digger driver the tops of the higher walls were poking out of the top soil. From now on it was to be manual labour with mattocks, shovels and trowels. It took several days to remove the rest of the top soil from around the chapel to expose the outline, no mean feat as the sun had baked the ground rock hard in the only truly hot week of the summer!

It became clear that the building had at least three phases of construction starting with the classic Saxo-Norman rectangular form with an apse on the east end; this can be clearly seen on the radar plot. Later in a change of fashion the apse was removed and the building was made rectangular with the east wall now having thin vertical stained glass windows; stained glass fragments were found at the base of the wall. The final phase saw the east end extended with possibly a larger stained glass window. The extension can be clearly seen in the radar plot.

Internally we dug down to find the original floor levels, one being made up of plain red tiles but the original one appeared to be just a beaten earth surface. The original altar support bases were uncovered along with many pieces of stained glass and the lead frames into which they were fitted. Many sherds of medieval pottery types were also uncovered; these will provide more detailed dating evidence once they have been processed by a pottery expert.

During all this digging Steve turned up most days to detect the spoil heaps and to mark various locations in the trench of non-ferrous finds. Items found in the spoil (most of it taken off by JCB) were hammered silver coins ranging over several centuries, some buckles and a beautiful pilgrim badge in perfect condition.

Within the main body of the chapel it became apparent that the south wall had collapsed inwards covering the chapel floor which gave the hope that any dating evidence would be of good quality being sealed by an almost intact wall. As it happened time was against us and the wall remains covering the floor; more work for a future dig. The wall did reveal that it was made of flint and local sandstone with large brown ironstone corner blocks used randomly to reinforce the corners. The wall was also decorated with these ironstone blocks as they were set out in horizontal parallel lines providing a contrasting colour to the pale sandstone.

Late in the chapel's life a mullioned window was fitted into the south wall; the carving on some of the stone is still very sharp and shows excellent craftsmanship.

The objective of dating the chapel's construction and demolition were achieved. The construction can be dated by the style of the original building, being Saxo-Norman, dating it to around the 10th to 11th Century.

The demolition proved to be a harder nut to crack but was achieved by the use of the metal detector in the hands of Steve. One of the signals marked in the main chapel interior was excavated out by me on the last day of the dig so as not to leave any metal on the site; it turned out to be a jetton. This was excellent news as it came from the layer where fallen wall and floor met and it could be dated.

On research it was found to be a Nuremburg French Shield type jetton and was dated to 1530's thanks to UKDN PhilD for the use of his Mitchiner reference book. This gave the proof that the chapel ended it's life in the reign of Henry VIII but whether it was due to the Reformation or through abandonment we will need more evidence to prove.



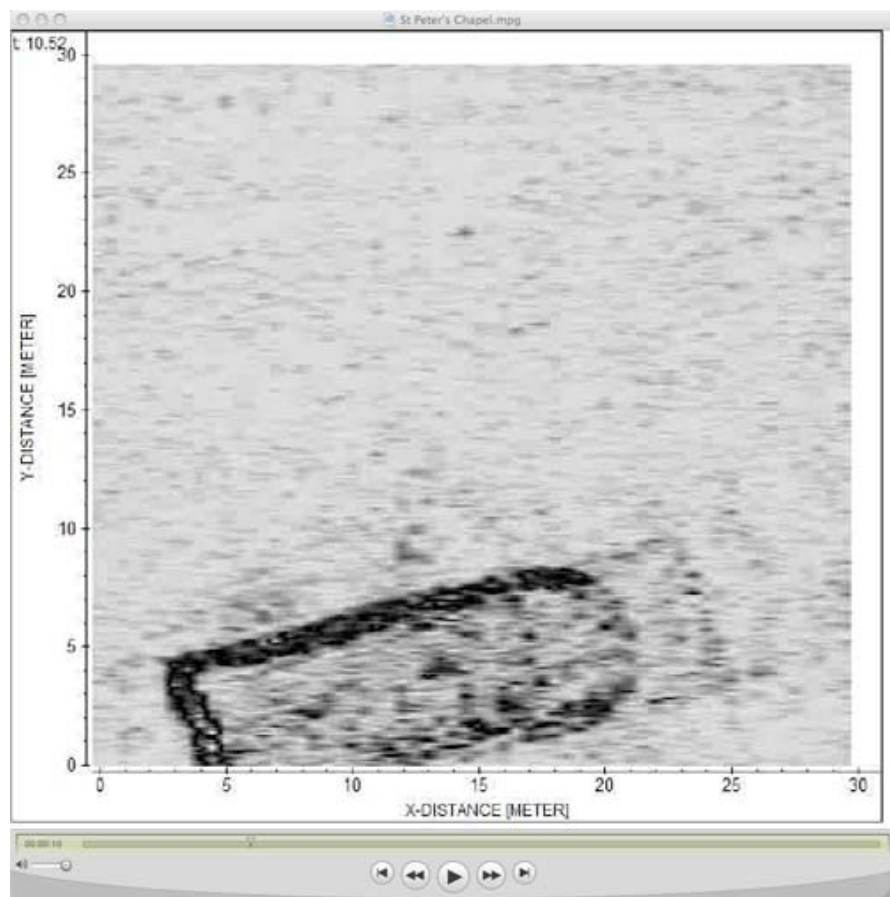
Chapels and burials usually go together and until the last couple of days only a few suspect grave cuts had been noted. One was targeted to see if it was a burial but it turned out to be a shallow pit containing an animal jaw bone. On further examination several other burials were uncovered, ranging from infants to the elderly. Three adult burials, one adolescent and two babies were excavated.

It became apparent that there were many more burials but our research objectives did not require their excavation. Other objectives were to find any boundary to the chapel grounds; none was found but the track that passed close by respected the line of the chapel by deflecting it's course, so potentially the track is at least Saxon in origin.

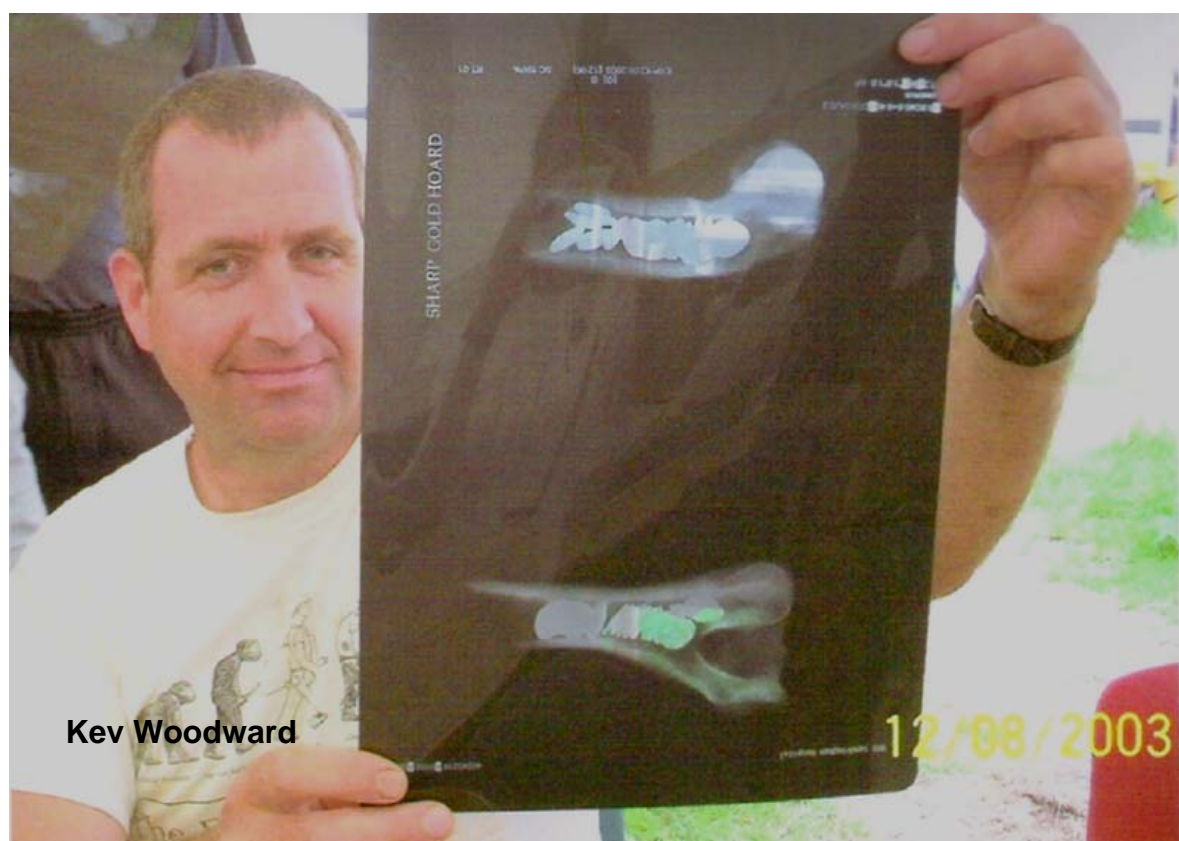
A 'blob' on the radar plot on the north side of the chapel turned out to be a roughly circular base made up of chalk and flint, possibly for a cross as it commanded an excellent view to the road 300m away down the slope. Another 'blob' to the west turned out to be a mortar mixing pit, evidence of the original construction or later modifications. The site proved to be well preserved, especially considering it was so shallow and under cultivation.

Steve is to be congratulated on his keen eye and unselfishness in sharing the site with other interested parties. A big piece of the Ecclesiastical history of Norfolk had been discovered and recorded. Further digs may take place in the future, if they do I will update you all either through the Newsletter or the Forum.

Kev.



GPR survey of St Peter's chapel



Red Rocket Article Number 5

By Kind Permission of The Searcher Magazine

HOT & COLD – HELP & HINDRANCE – August 1991- Issue No. 72

CHRISTMAS was over, we'd both dried out and the Red Rocket had been parked up for a number of weeks. Brian had worked through the New Year whilst Mo built up her home industry stock of cushions. We were raring to get out detecting again, especially after the successes of the last trip or two.

The opportunity came on 24th January and, despite the fact that the weather was extremely cold, we were determined to take this chance at getting on a few fields before they were seeded. We left Runcorn at 7 p.m. after a busy day preparing the Rocket. It showed its disgust at leaving at such a late hour by immediately running hot as soon as we hit the M62. Should we turn back? Could we turn back? The answer was a definite "No". Brian felt that the Rocket was only playing up and not in real trouble. We pressed on beyond Doncaster with the temperature gauge nudging red-hot all the way but going no further "into the red".

After calling at friends we drove through the night to our first site. Brian, surprising Mo by finding the gate to the field in the pitch dark, at first attempt.

We were up at eight and had been to see the landowner by 9.15. Sugar beet had been taken off the land and there were hundreds of acres to go at. Unfortunately, a field where we'd found a hammered half-groat last year was out of bounds. The farmer had put sheep on it. We really wanted to give that field some time and effort.

Tiny spoon

We took to wandering over the remaining fields. This village is almost non-existent but we thought this land had prospects as it lay right on the village edge. Finds really were few and far between, despite the fact that the land was flat as a pancake. Brian found nothing of note all day but Mo managed to produce a few finds, notably a small 14th century buckle and a tiny bronze crucible.



Medicine spoon, or crucible for enamel?

Celtic, Roman or later?

This is an interesting find in that there are two different theories about the intended use of this "spoon". The first states that it was probably used to mix medicines in Victorian or Georgian times. The second is more attractive in that it suggests the crucible may have been used in Roman or Celtic times to melt enamel ready for pouring into the prepared crevices of artifacts. Mo will be sending it to Kevin Leahy of Scunthorpe Museum for identification.

We drove to a small village and were delighted to find that almost in the village centre was a ploughed field, flat as another pancake. This would do us nicely, for a field in such a position must hold coins and artifacts. We kept our fingers crossed and set down the trail in search of the owner and permission.

We knocked at a big farmhouse only to be told that “someone already does it and I can’t see my grandfather giving permission”. Sometimes we think this is the standard “put you off” and so, undeterred, we decided to go and see grandpa.

It was grandma we bumped into as we parked the Rocket near their drive. We explained what we were up to and asked her permission to search. With a wave and a good luck blessing she told us to go ahead. What a field to get on!

We knew there had been reports of Roman pottery on this field but were amazed when we stepped on it to see quite a number of medieval shards. Within a few minutes Mo unearthed a medieval jetton and Brian, a medieval buckle. Over the next few hours medieval buckles came up regularly, unusually, most still had the pins intact. We later discovered that this was probably because the field had been ploughed for the first time in living memory just a few years ago. A few more years and most of these artifacts would have been damaged.

It was shortly before dark when Mo unearthed a beautiful Civil War pewter buckle in almost mint condition. It was unfortunate that the weather was so bitterly cold and that the days were so short. It was dark by 5.15 p.m. and too cold to continue without the faint warmth of the sun.

Civil War Buckle

We returned in the early evening to see the farmer and his wife who had given us permission. What an embarrassing surprise to discover that we had been detecting on someone else’s land! The field she had given us permission for was situated next to the one we’d been working. But it had winter wheat on it – we hadn’t suspected for one minute that she’d given us permission to work that, especially as the wheat was about five inches tall.

Nevertheless, they gave us permission to work that field as well as some other land. They also gave us the name of the farmer on whose land we’d been working all day. They reassured us that as it was a small village he probably knew we’d been on his land anyway and that we’d more than likely get permission from him.

It was now getting late and this was our last day so we planned another trip in eight days time. On that trip we would contact the farmer and hopefully work his interesting field some more. When we got home, Brian replaced the thermostat on the Red Rocket, presuming the other to have been sticking. On the eighth day at home we were up and about at 5 a.m. and left Runcorn at 7.45 a.m.



Civil War pewter buckle in excellent condition, found by Mo

We had only travelled about three miles when the Rocket blew steam and water everywhere. We had no choice but to return home and sort out the problem. Brian found a hairline crack in the thermostat housing and set off for the breakers yards. We finally hit the motorway at 11.45 a.m.

The water temperature was still touching the red line but once again, didn't move beyond that. We decided to carry on, we were that keen to get back to the site.

After traveling through thick fog we arrived at the old couple's farmhouse. We decided that as the wheat field lay next to the field that produced so much on the last trip, it would be worth a detect. They gave us permission once again despite the crop.

Access to the field was from a drive next to a relatively new house. The weather was beautiful, although cold, and we looked forward to a good half day's detecting. We parked the Rocket and began to set up.

Shove off!

Then **HE** arrived from the modern house. "You can't camp here," he said with not the slightest hint of courtesy. He had AGGRO written all over his face. We explained what we were doing and that we had permission from the farmer.

"You might have," he shouted, "but you've just driven along my road and only the farmer has got a right of access across my drive into that field!"

We looked at each other not believing that this was true. Here we were parked at the entrance to a field with permission from the farmer to detect and this man was objecting to our having driven along his road to gain access to the field entrance. We politely argued that as we had permission from the farmer then we had every right to use his field entrance.

"Ah yes, the farmer has access over my drive but you haven't" he shouted back, "I want you off here".

We decided between ourselves to move and find another access to the field. We had to park the Rocket some way away, cross a dyke and another field before we were on it, and it was 4 p.m. when we finally got around to detecting. Not a great deal came off but we continued after dark until 7 p.m. when Brian found our first hammered, a broken Edward halfpenny. At last we had signs of decent finds but the field was nowhere near as busy as the first.



With the farmer's permission we parked on a lane leading to one of his barns and got out the kettle. Then in the darkness we noticed the lights of a vehicle parked behind us in the lane. It was the police! They were quick on the ball for we'd only been there five minutes. We explained who we were and that we had permission and they left contented. What a day!"

We were up early again the next day and soon on the same field. After Brian had found the hammered coin we decided that "where there's one, there's more", and that the field should be given some more time. We hit a small patch which started to produce Georgian coins and it was here also that Mo found a tiny Charles I penny. During all this time, we could see the other productive field across the way and at about three in the afternoon with only two-and-a-half hours of light left we decided to see the farmer and ask his permission for a search.

Permission was no problem and as we imagined, he had known we'd been detecting there. The phone lines had been hot, even on our last trip. We're thinking of asking BT for a percentage on the calls made since the Red Rocket appear in these parts!

We worked the field until about 7 p.m. Mo found a beautiful pair of Roman tweezers and Brian picked up two Edward hammered pennies within the space of ten minutes. Mo found another a short while later. We spent an hour or two in the local pub before parking down the lane again and settling down to examine our finds.

Next morning we were on site at 10.a.m. our first full day on this field. We worked hard all day and our pockets were bulging with artifacts, so many in fact that we had to empty them at one stage. Mo found the best item of all which appeared to be a Saxon brooch. This has now been identified . It shows a beast looking back at its own tail: typical Saxon work.

So this field is something special. We picked up three Roman bronze coins, four hammered coins, a Saxon brooch, two jettons, a Georgian fob seal, four spindle whorls, a medieval lead token and numerous medieval buckles on this one trip.

We called in to see the farmers, showing our finds and sharing a few cups of tea with them. They were both very interested in what we'd found but, like many, thought we were a little batty to spend so many hours in the bitter cold weather walking up and down the fields.

Who knows what that field will show next time it is ploughed. One thing is for certain, the Red Rocket will be there right behind the plough.



the
searcher

The Portable Antiquities Scheme Saved!

Thanks to UK DETECTOR NET

Roger Bland

The outcome of the Review of the Portable Antiquities Scheme commissioned by MLA was announced on 19 November. The Report by an independent consultant (Kate Clark) is published on the PAS website <http://www.finds.org.uk/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2008/11/pas-final.pdf> , at the same time as the Treasure Report 2005-06 http://www.finds.org.uk/documents/TAR2005_2006HighRes.pdf . The press release issued by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) about the PAS is available at: http://www.mla.gov.uk/news/press_releases/PAS_funding_confirmed

The MLA, principal funding body of PAS, and the Government have both confirmed their acceptance of the recommendations contained within the Report. The Report is very positive. It recognises that the Scheme needs more funding: 'Despite savings in posts, in travel and equipment budgets, IT and in operational costs, PAS is under-resourced' (p. 7).

In discussing options for funding Kate Clark states (p. 8): 'Option 4 (find an additional £160K) is favoured by everyone from finders to partners. No consultee has suggested that the scheme is not needed, or that its aims could be delivered in another way.'

Kate Clark states: 'PAS is generally well managed with a clear sense of direction, efficient administration and excellent reporting on outputs' (p. 30) and concludes (p. 38)

'PAS appears to be well-liked, delivering genuine partnership and good value for money. Having reviewed budgets and operations, it is clear that with no increase in resources, posts must be cut and the scheme will not deliver regional equity.'

Specifically the Report recommends an increase in funding next year of at least 9.3%, made up of increased contributions from MLA (which is putting in an extra £80K, or 6%), the British Museum (which is putting in over £70K, up from £7.5K in 2006-07) and the 32 local partners where the posts are based (they are being asked to double their contributions to their posts from 5% to 10%). The detailed figures are in a table on p. 38 of the Report.

This means that we will be able to reverse the cuts that we had to make this year: we plan to establish two new part-time Finds Liaison Officer posts in the North East and Berkshire and we will be able to strengthen the National Finds Adviser team.

Kate Clark's Report made no specific recommendations about the funding and management of the Scheme beyond the current Spending Review period, 31 March 2011 and that will be a matter for discussions between the BM, MLA and the DCMS.

There are a number of other recommendations that will be discussed at a meeting of the Scheme's Advisory Group in December. Although the long-term management of the Scheme after 2011 is still to be decided, we now have a secure basis on which we can move forward over the next two and a half years, in partnership with finders and all our other stakeholders.



Roger Bland and Barbara Follett, MP talk to Caroline Barton at the Treasure Annual report launch 2008

We are also working on other developments which will also hopefully mean that we can offer a better service to you. Dan Pett, who runs the PAS database and website, is now rebuilding it to make it much more usable and we hope the new version will be up and running in the spring. It will be much **easier for users to search** and will run quicker. We will have a very **simple interface for finders to upload images and basic details of their finds**, and which the local FLO can then follow up and finders who register with us will be able to go to a home page on which will be listed all their finds.

One priority to is to seek as much external funding as possible to enable us to extend our activities and, now that the core funding has been secured, we will be able to do that. We also had the very welcome news on the 19th November that the Headley Trust will fund four special assistant posts for six months each (or eight for three months each) in each of the next three years and they will help the hard-pressed FLOs deal with backlogs of finds, hopefully **providing a better service to finders**.

We are waiting to hear the outcome of four other bids to outside funding bodies totalling over £300,000 - **including one to English Heritage's National Capacity Building Programme in which we are in partnership with UK DETECTOR NET**. In this bid we are asking for money to **enable a feed from the PAS database to go to the UKDN website** so as to make the database more visible to UKDN users, as well as some **funding to help UKDN produce this newsletter**. We have also asked for money to pay for potential volunteers to attend residential summer schools **to be trained in how to record finds on the PAS database**, as well as money to buy **200 hand-held GPS machines to give to every detecting club in the country** and to community archaeology groups and the Council for British Archaeology is also a partner in this bid.

All of us in PAS are tremendously grateful for the wonderful support UK DETECTOR NET gave us when we were threatened with funding cuts and our future looked uncertain. I think you can see that the whole situation is now transformed thanks in large part to the support you gave us earlier this year.

Some results of PAS in 2007

Objects recorded: A further 77,606 archaeological objects were recorded on the PAS finds database (a 33% increase on 2005), almost 85% discovered through metal-detecting.

Outreach: 1,761 outreach events, including talks, finds days and exhibitions, were organised; these were attended by at least 33,298 people, including 11,089 children. At least 258 articles about the work of PAS were published or broadcast, including academic publications, articles in the popular press, and reports on television and radio. As part of National Archaeology Week 2007, the PAS was involved in 68 events, attended by at least 4,193 adults and 3,040 children, and its Finds Liaison Officers examined more than 2,331 finds.

Liaison: Regular contact was maintained with 167 metal-detecting clubs; the Scheme's Finds Liaison Officers attended 728 club meetings. PAS staff also liaised with local archaeological and history groups. Members of the Scheme attended at least 831 other meetings to promote the Scheme and its aims.

Social Inclusion: In 2006 a socio-economic analysis of postcode data showed that 47 per cent of people recording finds with the Scheme (since 1997) were from groups C2, D and E, which compares favourably to visitors to museums (31 per cent).

Website: Currently the online database allows public access to more than 359,000 objects and 188,000 images. There have been 295,000 visits, 160,000 visitors, and 3,700,000 page views on the Scheme's websites – www.finds.org.uk and www.findsdatabase.org.uk – in 2007.

Findspot information: Almost 92 per cent of finds recorded have been recovered from cultivated land, where they are susceptible to plough damage and artificial and natural corrosion processes. 90 per cent of finds are now being recorded to the nearest 100m² (a six-figure National Grid Reference) or better, and almost 50 per cent of all finds are being recorded to the nearest 10m² (an eight-figure National Grid Reference).

Finds data: The finds data generated by the PAS is made available to Historic Environment Records (HERs) – the key record holders for information about the historic environment – and is published on the Scheme's website: www.finds.org.uk. A protocol has been agreed on the transfer of PAS data to HERs, which 54 (more than two-thirds) have now signed.

Research & Publications: The PAS database is increasingly being used as a research tool: PAS is a partner in 4 major AHRC or Leverhulme-funded research projects, 5 Collaborative Doctoral Awards and we also know of another 13 PhD and over 40 Masters and other research projects that are using, or have used PAS data. New research is showing that PAS data has the potential to radically alter our understanding of the historic environment and further archaeological knowledge: for example, a recent survey of finds recorded by PAS in Lincolnshire has shown that in five years, PAS finds have revealed 175 new sites in that county alone. Recent publications include the Portable Antiquities sections of *Britannia* volume 38, *Medieval Archaeology* volume 51, and *Post Medieval Archaeology* volume 41.

Heritage Crime – policing and guidance: The Department of Portable Antiquities & Treasure (British Museum) continued to monitor eBay for finds of unreported Treasure; in 2007 intelligence on 144 cases was passed to the police.

Illegal metal detecting: A survey by Oxford Archaeology on Nighthawking (to be published in February 2009) has found that this problem appears to have declined on two counts compared with an earlier survey in 1995: (a) in 1995 188 scheduled monuments were reported as having been damaged, and in 2008 the number was 70 and (b) in 1995 74% of archaeological units reported that they had been attacked, whereas in 2008 the number is 28%. The Report will attribute this, in part, to the educational work of PAS.

Since September 2007 the Department has been an expert adviser on the **export licensing** of detector finds, and in 2007 approved 312 licences, of which more than 85 per cent are for export outside the European Union.

Extent of the Scheme: A network of 37 Finds Liaison Officers (FLOs) covers the whole of England and Wales. This is co-ordinated and supported by a central unit of a Head and Deputy Head, Resources Manager, Education Co-ordinator, ICT Adviser and six Finds Advisers. In 2007, 101 people volunteered with the PAS.

TREASURE

Increase in Treasure Finds Reported: increasing numbers of finds are being reported Treasure: 2007 (749), 2006 (665), 2005 (592), 2004 (506). Prior to the Treasure Act 1996 (i.e. under Treasure Trove) the average number of finds reported each year was 25.

Role of the Portable Antiquities Scheme in the Reporting of Treasure. PAS plays an increasingly important role in the effective operation of the Treasure Act; its Finds Liaison Officers advise finders of their legal obligations and help them through the process, and also write reports on Treasure finds. In 2007, 97% of Treasure finds were reported (to the Coroner) via a Finds Liaison Officer. Since 2003, when the PAS was extended to the whole of England and Wales, there has been an average increase of 193.68% in the reporting of Treasure. The highest increases have been in the Isle of Wight (1507%), Sussex (964%) and the North East (440%). Without the PAS the Treasure Act would fail.

Museum Acquisition of Treasure Finds. 282 new Treasure finds (i.e. reported in 2005/6) in the *Treasure Annual Report* 2005-06 have been (or are being) acquired by museums, while 557 have been disclaimed, 206 were deemed not to be Treasure, and the outcome of 212 cases are still to be determined.

Donations. More finders and landowners are waiving their right to a reward following an initiative by the Government in 2006 to encourage interested parties to waive their right to a reward. In 2004 there were 28 cases where one or both parties waived their rewards; in 2005 the number was 25, and in 2006, 44.

Unreported Finds of Potential Treasure. Since October 2006, MLA and the British Museum have had an agreement with eBay to monitor the site for unreported Treasure. During the first year 183 cases were investigated, and the intelligence passed to the police.

An Anglo-Saxon roundel. Date, 10th – 11th century AD. This gold and enamel roundel is probably from Hampshire. It was found by Mr K Hollyfield while metal detecting between 1980 and the early 1990s, and reported Treasure by his son. Though it was not declared Treasure - because it was found before the commencement of the Treasure Act 1996 - the object was such a rarity that it has been purchased by the British Museum.



This object shows the Hand of God descending in a gesture of blessing or divine acknowledgement. The setting almost certainly derived from a larger object of some kind and in terms of design shows similarities to the famous 'Alfred Jewel'. 2006 T242



A beautiful Anglo-Saxon mount. Date, 7th century AD. Made of gold and garnet, this small object was found by Mr Minshall whilst metal detecting in Essex in 2006.

Its exact function is unknown but it may have been part of a necklace pendant. The object has been acquired by Chelmsford Museum for £3,000. 2006 T440



BM treasure case: 2005 T52

Made from electrum (gold and silver mix) and valued at £350,000, the torc has been acquired by Newark Heritage Service and is the most expensive single Treasure find in recent history.



The launch of the Annual Treasure Report and PAS Review at the British Museum, 19th Nov. 2008

As I sat waiting for the Annual Treasure Report to be launched I was reading the release of the Review of the PAS, undertaken by Kate Clark, which UKDN indirectly took part through myself. Reading through the report I had a few minutes to reflect on the journey of the past year that we on UKDN had undertaken along with many archaeologists. My first thought was that this coming together of detectorist and archaeologist would have been unheard of on this scale not so long ago, it showed that we are stronger working together than just 'throwing words at each other', that have so divided us all in the past. Here we were, detectorist and archaeologist along with some of the PAS staff and other Heritage professionals with a smattering of journalist thrown in, all in a gallery of the British Museum waiting for the Minister Barbara Follet. I was only interrupted from my thoughts by a familiar face poking a camera at me, Dan Pett, who is the PAS IT manager, was busy as per usual making sure there was a good record of the days events of those who frequented it, making sure that briefings and information was there for all. Dan has been working on the new improved and more user friendly database which will hopefully come into service in the new year, but it was nice to see that every now and again he got let out!!

In came the Minister and the meeting started with all the right and proper pleasantries as one would expect for such a prestigious event. Then with a hush everyone listened intently as this meeting in particular had more than just the release of the latest Treasure Report behind it. The Minister had obviously been well briefed and was appreciative for those responsible for making these finds available through their adherence to the Treasure Act. No "Heritage Hero's" from this Minister, which was great; Barbara Follet MP came across to me as far more down to earth than just using high-falutin' words, no, she was a woman who gave the right praise at the right level. I actually found her approach quite refreshing and certainly came across as totally pragmatic and sensible. She herself recounted a situation where she had found something in a field many years ago and was excited by finding it! She also said that it would have been good to have had something like the PAS back then, so she would know exactly where the find should be taken for identification and recording. This new Minister for Heritage was a lady I felt had her feet on the ground, but who also valued what was good and said as much about the PAS and responsible detectorist who recorded with the PAS.

Mrs Follet moved onto announcing the results of the Review by Kate Clark, and again, the response to the PAS was positive, with the announcement that it was safe and that in two and a half years it would go through the public spending review, which is fine. The PAS is also due an increase in funding as proposed by Kate Clark in the immediate future. When the Minister sat down to a warm round of applause you could feel the delight of some in the room who's futures depended on the continued work of the PAS, myself included! Soon after the Minister sat down up stepped Hedley Swain of the MLA, he was deputising for Rear Admiral Roy Clare, who's ship was nowhere to be seen. Apparently he had a previous engagement and could not make the meeting with his boss, the Government Minister. Hedley is a bit a misnomer himself as he is certainly of the anti-detecting ilk, but surprising enough he was quite warm toward what detectorist had achieved and was almost happy about the continuing of the PAS after the Review.

When all was said and done, there was a palpable sense of relief, I thought, certainly the air of foreboding that had encompassed this past year had well and truly lifted. Smiling happy faces all round and people busy talking and taking pictures. I stood back and felt a sense of pride, that when people set their minds to something that is perceived as good by the majority, then it's always great to have a pleasing outcome. I was proud of what some in the hobby had helped achieve, I was also really proud of the fact that at last detectorist and archaeologist were finally working together on something I thought bigger than any one group could have perhaps handled.

I was pleased to have been invited to the meeting, I was even happier to be leaving knowing that for now the PAS is safe, that a future spending review should hopefully set it on its way again with adequate funding and a sense of partnership as never before! I was absolutely thrilled for Roger Bland, the head of the PAS and Michael Lewis, his deputy, and their team, what a travesty it would have been to have seen 11 years of cooperation, commitment and hard work just frittered away into a system that would have eventually meant the Scheme's demise. Roger has earned his OBE (for his services to heritage), awarded this year, perhaps he'll have time to reflect on this now, and enjoy it.



In a small way all of us who have recorded a find with the PAS, detectorist or PAS staff, can have a sense of participation in the recognition that Roger will receive from Buckingham Palace. After all if you and I did not record then the PAS would have been long gone, and in all sincerity, we'd still be in conflict with archaeology and the Government.

Finally, thank you to Neil MacGregor (Head of the BM) and Roger Bland for the invite to the meeting, and to the PAS staff who made me most welcome. Also to Mike Heyworth of the CBA, a man capable of moving mountains and who worked tirelessly in the background, most of the time, who is a man without guile of high principles. Great to meet up with Trevor Austin again, who has for years worked so hard for the NCMD. A thoroughly enjoyable day, well done to all who took part in saving what has become a national institution, The Portable Antiquities Scheme.

The Treasure Report (2005/06) is now available from your local FLO, the Review of the PAS can be found on their website <http://www.finds.org.uk> or on www.forumukdetectornet.co.uk

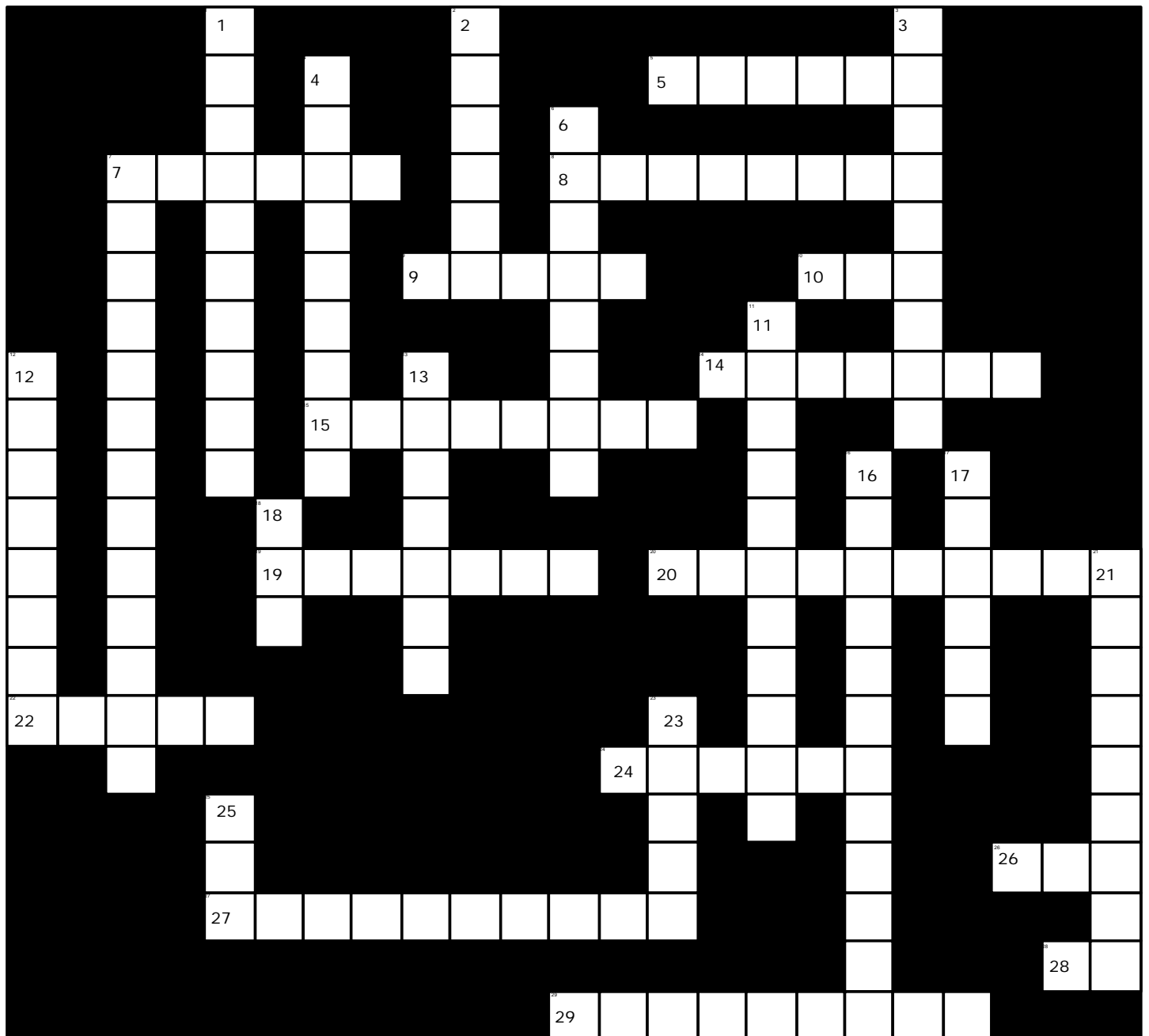
Peter Twinn (petethedig), on behalf of the UKDetector Net Team.



Sam Moorhead and Peter Twinn in room 2 at the British Museum



UKDN



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ACROSS

- 5 One of the UKDN's Admin team (6)
- 7 Brand name for a mini digger tool (6)
- 8 Liquid to provide a glossy protective coating (8)
- 9 Charles I gold coin (5)
- 10 A Detech coil (3)
- 14 Black Adder character or UKDN moderator (7)
- 15 An alternative name for a display case (8)
- 19 hand-held coin balance (7)
- 20 Powder used in the electrolysis process (6,4)
- 22 First detector to use a USB cable & pc (1,4)
- 24 Brand name for a digging tool with a serrated edge (6)
- 26 Celtic Coin Index (3) abbrev)
- 27 Roman coin denomination (10)
- 28 Roman coin denomination (2)
- 29 Roman ruler 218-222 (9)

DOWN

- 1 Lead seal (5,5)
- 2 Roman ruler 98-117 (6)
- 3 Type of saxon brooch (9)
- 4 Review of detector outside (5,4)
- 6 TV program and we only have three days (4,4)
- 7 King Edward III gold coin 1344 (6,7)
- 11 Plastic strips have common coins, trash targets, and a mineral sample attached for easy bench testing. (6,5)
- 12 Center of a dartboard or a probe ? (8)
- 13 UKDN Internet add-on to help you find information (7)
- 16 A lead weight (7,5)
- 17 History Hunter's avatar (6)
- 18 Chemical to protect against bronze disease (3)
- 21 Roman coin denomination (9)
- 23 Roman Goddess of love (5)
- 25 Electronic gadget for recording your location (3)

The UKDN

Club Scene

The World Of Responsible Detecting



**York & District Metal Detecting Club Rally
12th October 2008 celebrating the Clubs 30th Anniversary**

York & District MDC are proud to Announce their 30th Anniversary. The Club was founded in May 1978, the first meeting was at the Crown Hotel in Micklegate, York. The first Secretary was Steve Rough, the Chairman was Jeff Whitaker and the Treasurer was Malcolm Smith.

Don Boldison who joined in September 1978 is the longest serving member and has done a superb job over the years of organising the Clubs outings and raising large amounts of money from the proceeds and from the sale of raffle tickets to donate to a huge number of charities.

The event was celebrated at the Clubs Annual Rally which comprised of a 2 token hunts - numbered tokens all with prizes, washers each for a raffle ticket (evens win, odds lose) and sprayed coins for a lucky dip prize. All the prizes were kindly donated by the members.



At 12/15 we broke for a finger buffet lunch, thanks for the catering go to Treasurers Mike and Jan Wilkins and Membership Secretary Peter Smith who did us proud on the day and even provided doggy bags so that nothing went to waste!



The highlight of the Rally was the Key Hunt, where 11 keys were buried, one of which opened a box containing a prize (£25 cash).

The keys proved very illusive to find but eventually Ray Wright (pictured with Outing Organiser Don Boldison left and Club Chairman Dave Rahaman in the centre) found the key which opened the box.

The Raffle was very well organised by Maurice Jenkinson (pictured to the right of Don) who put a lot of effort into the allocation of the prizes to the numbered tokens. Maurice praised the members for donating so many prizes that no money was needed from the Club funds to buy any in. Dave Stolting generously donated a digital camera which was the star prize.



Don Boldison



Some of the Charities supported by York & District MDC; Martin House Children's Hospice / Yorkshire Air Ambulance / Yorkshire Cancer Research / York Against Cancer / Breast Cancer Care / Marie Curie Cancer Care / British Heart Foundation / Royal British Legion / Poppy Appeal / Hospital Radio Appeal Bridlington / Royal Hull Hospital Charitable Trust / Cat's Protection League York / St Leonards Hospice York / Samaritan's York / RSPCA York / St Gemma's Hospice / Diabetes UK Selby / Selby Animal Sanctuary / MacMillan Nurses / Diana Princess of Wales Fund / Renauds Disease / Research / York Hospital Baby Unit / Redwings Horse Sanctuary / Kings Mill Special School Fund / Leeds ME Group / Ghurka Welfare Trust / RNLI Whitby / More Than a Roof Appeal Leeds / Cancer Care Haven / Children in Need / Guide Dogs For The Blind / Action Research / Grape Lane Community Centre Whitby / Kate Gorman Wheelchair Appeal / St Catherine's Hospice Scarborough / Children's Welfare Trust / Leukaemia Research / Haemophilia Society / Thomas Max Fund / Clare Lift Off Appeal / Imperial Cancer Research / Institute of Cancer Research London / Climb Children's Diseases Appeal / St Georges Crypt Leeds / Age Concern / Brunswick Organic Nursery / Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust / The Joanne Gillespie Memorial Fund / National Association for Colitis and Crohn's Disease York / Women's Royal Voluntary Service York

USEFUL CONTACTS

The Portable Antiquities Scheme covers the whole of England and Wales; contact details for the Finds Liaison Officer covering your local area can be found on www.finds.org.uk or by contacting:

Portable Antiquities Scheme

Department of Portable Antiquities & Treasure
British Museum, London WC1B 3DG

Telephone: +44 (0)20 7323 8611

Email: info@finds.org.uk

Website: www.finds.org.uk

Treasure Registrar (British Museum)

Telephone: +44 (0)20 7323 8546

Email: treasure@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk

Treasure Section, Cultural Property Unit (Department for Culture, Media & Sport)

Telephone: +44 (0)20 7211 6144

Export Licensing Unit

(Museums, Libraries and Archives Council)

Telephone: +44 (0)20 7273 8265

Email: elu@mla.gov.uk

National Council for Metal Detecting

Website: www.ncmd.co.uk

Federation of Independent Detectorists

Website: www.detectorists.net

www.fid.newbury.net

The Portable Antiquities Scheme is managed by a consortium of bodies led by the British Museum on behalf of the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council. The Scheme is funded by DCMS with contributions from local partners.

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Supported by the
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PHOTOGRAPHY (FRONT COVER, PAGE 2, 9, 17): BENEDICT JOHNSON

06/2006

ADVICE FOR FINDERS
OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBJECTS,
INCLUDING TREASURE



Portable
Antiquities
Scheme

www.finds.org.uk

THE PORTABLE ANTIQUITIES SCHEME:

ADVICE FOR FINDERS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBJECTS

The Portable Antiquities Scheme is a voluntary scheme to record archaeological objects found by the public: this booklet provides further information about the Scheme. The Scheme complements the legal obligation to report Treasure (see page 10 onwards).



WHAT IS THE PORTABLE ANTIQUITIES SCHEME?

The Portable Antiquities Scheme is a voluntary scheme to record archaeological objects found by the public in England and Wales. If recorded, these finds have the potential to tell us much about the past, such as how and where people lived and about the types of objects they made and used.

THE AIMS OF THE PORTABLE ANTIQUITIES SCHEME

1. To advance knowledge of the history and archaeology of England and Wales by systematically recording archaeological objects found by the public.
2. To raise awareness among the public of the educational value of archaeological finds in their context and facilitate research in them.
3. To increase opportunities for active public involvement in archaeology and strengthen links between metal-detector users and archaeologists.
4. To encourage all those who find archaeological objects to make them available for recording and to promote best practice by finders.

AM I LEGALLY OBLIGED TO REPORT ALL MY FINDS?

No. The Scheme is entirely voluntary. However, you must report material which constitutes Treasure, or which you believe may be Treasure (see page 10 onwards).

ARE YOU ONLY INTERESTED IN SEEING FINDS MADE BY METAL-DETECTOR USERS?

Not at all. We would like to see archaeological objects found by anyone.

WHAT TYPES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECORD?

We would like to know about everything that you have found - not just metal objects. We record all objects made before about 1700 and are selective in recording more modern finds. It is often best to let a Finds Liaison Officer see all your finds, especially if you are unsure what they are; a nondescript lump of metal may turn out to be of archaeological interest.

WHEN I GO METAL-DETECTING I OFTEN PICK UP WORKED FLINTS AND PIECES OF POTTERY AS WELL AS METAL OBJECTS. WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE THESE AS WELL?

Yes - because these finds also provide important archaeological information.

WHAT TYPE OF INFORMATION ABOUT MY FINDS DO YOU WANT?

We would like to record details of the objects that you have found, including a detailed description, its weight and measurements. We would also hope to record where and how they were found, and photograph or draw your finds. If you wish you can have a full report of the information we record.

HOW LONG WILL THIS TAKE?

Generally the Finds Liaison Officers prefer to borrow the finds for a time, so they can research and record them properly. You will be issued with a receipt, whilst they are in our care.

WILL MY FINDS BE TAKEN AWAY FROM ME?

No. We only want to record information about your finds. Museums may sometimes be glad to have the opportunity to acquire your non-Treasure finds, but this could only happen if you and the landowner agree.

WHAT WILL I GAIN FROM REPORTING MY FINDS?

Your local Finds Liaison Officer will be able to offer you:

- finds identification (either personally, or after consulting a specialist) and recording
- advice on the *Treasure Act 1996*
- advice on conservation and storage (a booklet *Conservation Advice Notes* is also available)

The Finds Liaison Officer will also be able to inform you of the importance of your material for the understanding of our history. If you would find it useful, your local Finds Liaison Officer will be very glad to pass on to you a report of the information recorded.



Iron Age coin
from Firle,
East Sussex
(SUSS-B68308)

WHO WILL HAVE ACCESS TO THE INFORMATION ABOUT MY FINDS?

Our aim is to make as much of the information available as possible while protecting your personal details and archaeological sites from damage. We will publish details of the finds you show us on our online database (www.finds.org.uk), but the findspots of objects will not be identified more precisely than a National Grid Reference (NGR) of four figures (which identifies 1km²); the most sensitive findspots will not be identified as accurately as this. This data is made available to third parties, such as Historic Environment Records, who must agree to abide by the same terms and conditions for publishing data online as the Scheme follows. Please note that the information given to Finds Liaison Officers is subject to the *Freedom of Information Act* (2000) and the *Data Protection Act* (1984).

DO I NEED PERMISSION BEFORE I START SEARCHING WITH MY METAL-DETECTOR?

Yes. Always obtain permission to search from the landowner/occupier, regardless of the status, or perceived status, of the land before using a metal-detector. Remember that all land has an owner. To avoid subsequent disputes it is always advisable to get permission and agreement in writing first regarding the ownership and recording of any finds subsequently discovered. You must adhere to the laws concerning protected sites, such as those defined as Scheduled Monuments or Sites of Special Scientific Interest, where metal-detecting is restricted (you can obtain details of these from your Finds Liaison Officer). We cannot record objects that have been illegally recovered.

WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR METAL-DETECTOR USERS?

The Portable Antiquities Scheme encourages metal-detector users to act responsibly, and abide by the *Code of Practice for Responsible Metal-Detecting* in England and Wales (see fold-out, page 18).

All finds are evidence of human occupation and can help us understand more about a particular area or object type. As more and more finds are recorded we will begin to be able to trace patterns in the way they are distributed and these may provide vital clues to the activities of our ancestors. In this way, together we can learn more about our past.



Roman strap-end
from Wall,
Staffordshire
(WMID5951)

I HAVE BEEN METAL-DETECTING ON A LOCAL FARMER'S LAND AND HAVE DISCOVERED A WHOLE RANGE OF MATERIAL FROM ROMAN TO MODERN TIMES. IF I REPORT THESE FINDS, WILL THIS SIMPLY LEAD TO THE AREA BECOMING A SCHEDULED MONUMENT, MEANING THAT I CAN NO LONGER DETECT THERE?

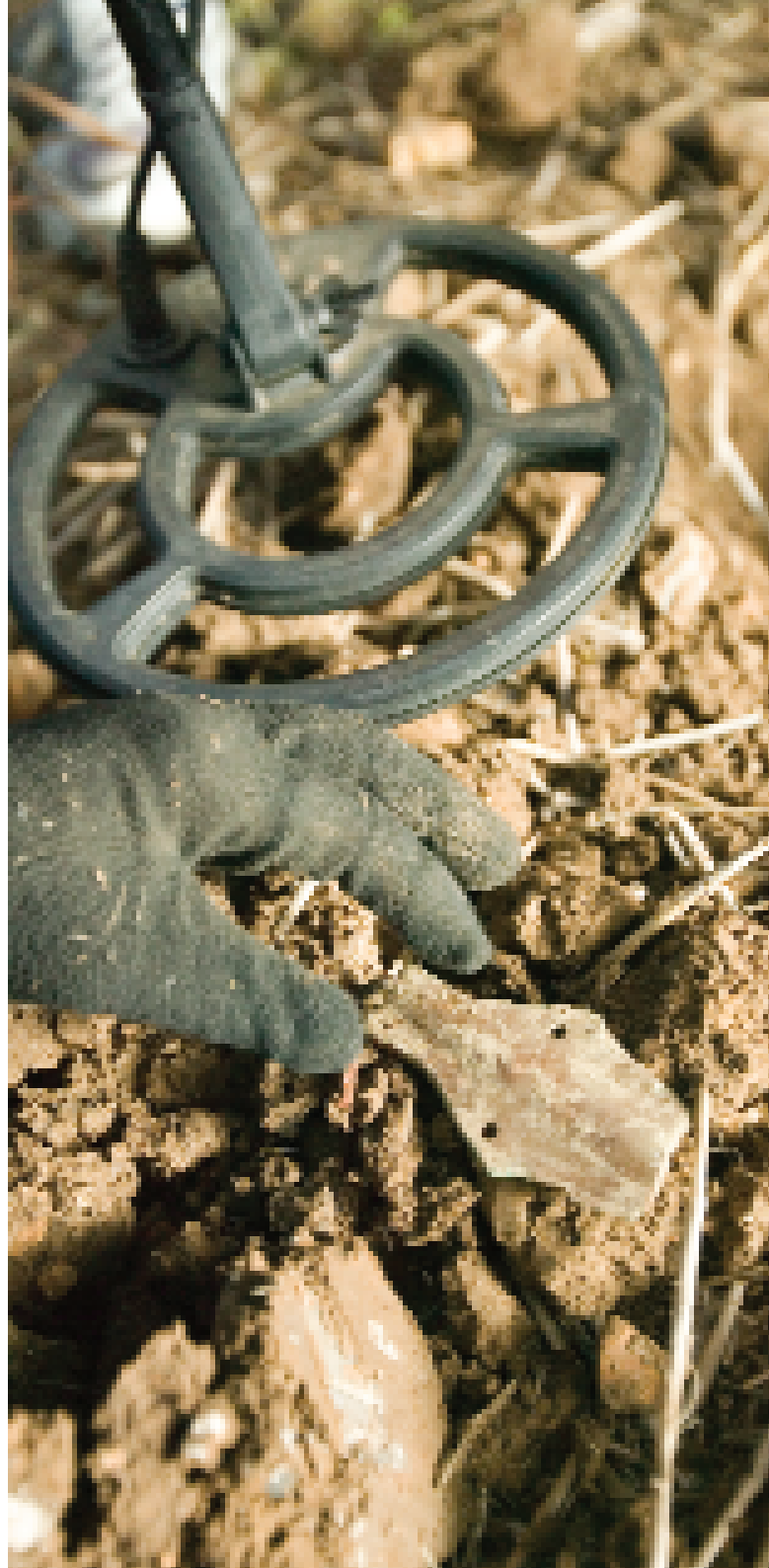
This is highly unlikely. Only sites of national importance are scheduled (which means that it is illegal to use a metal-detector on them without permission from English Heritage or Cadw) and metal-detector finds on their own are not enough to lead to a site being scheduled, although such sites may be scheduled if other, more detailed, information about them exists. There is no known example where new detector finds have, on their own, led to a site being scheduled.

I HAVE BEEN DETECTING FOR MANY YEARS AND HAVE A LARGE COLLECTION OF FINDS. AM I EXPECTED TO HAVE THIS MATERIAL RECORDED?

We would be very glad to know about all your finds, no matter how long ago you found them. If you have a lot of material the Finds Liaison Officers are likely to concentrate on the most recent or important discoveries. It is best to discuss the logistics of recording a large collection with your local Finds Liaison Officer.

HOW CAN I CLEAN MY FINDS?

Most of your finds will need no treatment other than dry storage. For further information about cleaning and conserving your finds refer to *Conservation Advice Notes* (also available on our website - www.finds.org.uk).



THE TREASURE ACT 1996: INFORMATION FOR FINDERS OF TREASURE

Under the *Treasure Act 1996* there is a legal obligation to report all finds of Treasure: this leaflet provides a summary of the main points of the Act. We strongly recommend that all other archaeological finds are reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme (see page 2 onwards) but this is completely voluntary.

The *Treasure Act 1996* replaced the common law of Treasure Trove in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and was extended on 1 January 2003.

WHAT OBJECTS QUALIFY AS TREASURE?

The following finds are Treasure under the Act, if found after 24 September 1997 (or, in the case of category 2, if found after 1 January 2003):

1. Any metallic object, other than a coin, provided that at least 10 per cent by weight of metal is precious metal (that is, gold or silver) and that it is at least 300 years old when found. If the object is of prehistoric date it will be Treasure provided any part of it is precious metal.
2. Any group of two or more metallic objects of any composition of prehistoric date that come from the same find.
3. All coins from the same find provided they are at least 300 years old when found (but if the coins contain less than 10 per cent of gold or silver there must be at least ten of them). Only the following groups of coins will normally be regarded as coming from the same find:
 - hoards that have been deliberately hidden
 - smaller groups of coins, such as the contents of purses, that may have been dropped or lost
 - votive or ritual deposits.
4. Any object, whatever it is made of, that is part of the same find as another object that is Treasure. An object or coin is part of the 'same find' as another object or coin if it is found in the same place as, or had previously been together with, the other object. Finds may have become scattered since they were originally deposited in the ground.
5. Any object that would previously have been Treasure Trove, but does not fall within the specific categories given above. Only objects that are less than 300 years old, that are made substantially of gold or silver, that have been deliberately hidden with the intention of recovery and whose owners or heirs are unknown will come into this category.



WHAT OBJECTS DO NOT QUALIFY AS TREASURE?

The following types of find are not Treasure:

- objects whose owners can be traced
- unworked natural objects, including human and animal remains, even if they are found in association with Treasure
- objects from the foreshore which are wreck
- single coins found on their own
- groups of coins lost one by one over a period of time

If you are in any doubt, it is always safest to report your find. Your local Finds Liaison Officer will be glad to record all archaeological objects that you find.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I FIND SOMETHING THAT MAY BE TREASURE?

You must report all finds of Treasure to the Coroner for the district in which the finds were made, either within 14 days of the day on which you made the find or within 14 days of the day on which you realised that the find might be Treasure (for example, as a result of having it identified). The obligation to report finds applies to everyone, including archaeologists.

HOW DO I REPORT A FIND OF TREASURE?

You may report your find to the Coroner in person, by letter, telephone, fax, or email: your Finds Liaison Officer will be able to help you to do this. Finds made in one of the few areas in which a Treasure Franchise operates (the Duchies of Lancaster and Cornwall, the Corporations of Bristol and London), should be reported to the Coroner in the normal way.

WHERE WILL I HAVE TO TAKE MY FIND?

Your local Finds Liaison Officer is normally the main point of contact for Treasure finds (details of your local Finds Liaison Officer can be found at www.finds.org.uk, email info@finds.org.uk or telephone +44 (0)20 7323 8611). Upon depositing the find you will be given a receipt. You will need to provide information about exactly where you made the find (the findspot), wherever possible to the equivalent of a six-figure National Grid Reference (100m²): in official dealings, the parish or a four-figure National Grid Reference (1km²) will be used, whilst a more general location description may be used for particularly sensitive finds. It is strongly recommended that you and the landowner should keep the find-site location confidential.

WHAT IF I DO NOT REPORT A FIND OF TREASURE?

The penalty for not reporting a find that you believe (or there is good evidence for believing) to be Treasure, without a reasonable excuse, is imprisonment for up to three months, a fine of up to £5,000 (level 5), or both. You will not be breaking the law if you do not report a find because you did not at first recognise that it may be Treasure, but you should report it once you realise this.



Medieval silver-gilt livery badge from Kellington, North Yorkshire (2003 T402)

WHAT HAPPENS IF THE FIND IS NOT TREASURE?

If the find is not Treasure, the Coroner will be informed and the find would normally be returned to you without the holding of an inquest.

WHAT HAPPENS IF THE FIND IS TREASURE?

If the institution or individual receiving the find on behalf of the Coroner believes that the find may be Treasure, they will inform the British Museum or the National Museum Wales. They will then ascertain whether they or any other museum wishes to acquire it from the Crown.

If no museum wishes to acquire, the Secretary of State will disclaim it. When this happens, the Coroner will notify the landowner that the object is to be returned to you, after 28 days, unless the landowner objects. If the landowner objects, the Coroner will retain the find until you and the landowner have resolved any dispute.

WHAT IF A MUSEUM WANTS TO ACQUIRE MY FIND?

The Coroner will hold an inquest to decide whether the find is Treasure. If the find is declared to be Treasure then it will be taken to the British Museum so that a valuation can be recommended by the Treasure Valuation Committee: this amount is what a museum will pay to acquire the find. However, the Department for Culture, Media & Sport wishes to encourage finders and landowners to consider donating their finds (therefore waiving their right to this financial reward)



Post-Medieval
gold posy ring
from Wixford,
Warwickshire
(2004 T70)

and gives certificates to all those who do. This in no way prejudices the rights of finders and landowners to claim a reward if they so choose.

HOW IS A FAIR MARKET VALUE FOR A TREASURE FIND ARRIVED AT?

The Treasure Valuation Committee, which consists of independent experts, values all finds that museums wish to acquire. The Committee will commission a valuation from one or more experts drawn from the antiquities or coin trades. You, the landowner and the acquiring museum will have the option to comment on this valuation, and/or to send in a separate valuation for the Committee to consider. The Committee will inspect the find and arrive at a valuation. If you are then dissatisfied with the Committee's recommendation there are opportunities to appeal. If you are still dissatisfied, you can then appeal to the Secretary of State.

WHAT IF THE CORONER OR THE NATIONAL MUSEUM LOSES OR DAMAGES MY FIND?

They are required to take reasonable steps to ensure that this does not happen but, if it does, you should be compensated.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE A SHARE OF THE REWARD?

This is set out in detail in the *Treasure Act Code of Practice*. To summarise:

- the finder who has obtained permission to be on the land from its owner, and acted in good faith
- the landowner
- the person who occupies the particular site as a tenant of the owner (unless this is precluded by the terms of the tenancy agreement)

WHO IS NOT ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE A SHARE OF THE REWARD?

- an archaeologist who makes a Treasure find
- a finder or a landowner who has acted in bad faith, and not in accordance with the *Treasure Act Code of Practice*, may expect a reduced share of the valuation, or none at all

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE BEFORE I RECEIVE MY REWARD?

The period between the find being received by the Coroner, or by the organisation to whom he/she has directed that the find be delivered, and the payment of an ex gratia reward should not be longer than twelve months (provided no challenges are made), although it may be necessary to exceed this period in exceptional cases such as large hoards of coins, or finds that present particular difficulties.

FOR FURTHER ADVICE ABOUT TREASURE:

Finders are strongly advised to obtain a copy of the *Treasure Act Code of Practice*, which provides further information about the Act, including guidance on the payment of rewards and advice on the care of finds, and has lists of useful contact addresses. This can be downloaded from the Department for Culture, Media & Sport's website (www.culture.gov.uk) or obtained from the British Museum's Treasure Registrar, your Finds Liaison Officer (see www.finds.org.uk) or through the National Council for Metal Detecting or the Federation of Independent Detectorists (see back of this leaflet for contact details).



CODE OF PRACTICE FOR RESPONSIBLE METAL-DETECTING IN ENGLAND & WALES

Being responsible means:

Before you go metal-detecting:

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

While you are metal-detecting:

5. Wherever possible working on ground that has already been disturbed (such as ploughed land or that which has formerly been ploughed), and only within the depth of ploughing. If detecting takes place on undisturbed pasture, be careful to ensure that no damage is done to the archaeological value of the land, including earthworks.
6. Minimising any ground disturbance through the use of suitable tools and by reinstating any excavated material as neatly as possible. Endeavour not to damage stratified archaeological deposits.
7. Recording findspots as accurately as possible for all finds (i.e. to at least a 100m², using an Ordnance Survey map or hand-held Global Positioning Systems (GPS) device) whilst in the field. Bag finds individually and record the National Grid Reference (NGR) on the bag. Findspot information should not be passed on to other parties without the agreement of the landowner/occupier (see also clause 9).
8. Respecting the Country Code (leave gates and property as you find them and do not damage crops, frighten animals or disturb ground nesting birds, and dispose properly of litter, see: www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk).

After you have been metal-detecting:

9. Reporting any finds to the relevant landowner/occupier; and (with the agreement of the landowner/occupier) to the Portable Antiquities Scheme, so the information can pass into the local Historic Environment Record. Both the Country Land and Business Association (www.cla.org.uk) and the National Farmers Union (www.nfonline.com) support the reporting of finds. Details of your local Finds Liaison Officer can be found at www.finds.org.uk, email info@finds.org.uk or telephone +44 (0)20 7323 8611.
10. Abiding by the provisions of the Treasure Act and Treasure Act Code of Practice (www.finds.org.uk), wreck law (www.mcga.gov.uk) and export licensing (www.mla.gov.uk). If you need advice your local Finds Liaison Officer will be able to help you.
11. Seeking expert help if you discover something large below the ploughsoil, or a concentration of finds or unusual material, or wreck remains, and ensuring that the landowner/occupier's permission is obtained to do so. Your local Finds Liaison Officer may be able to help or will be able to advise of an appropriate person. Reporting the find does not change your rights of discovery, but will result in far more archaeological evidence being discovered.
12. Calling the Police, and notifying the landowner/occupier, if you find any traces of human remains.
13. Calling the Police or HM Coastguard, and notifying the landowner/occupier, if you find anything that may be a live explosive: do not use a metal-detector or mobile phone nearby as this might trigger an explosion. Do not attempt to move or interfere with any such explosives.