

# The UKDN



ISSUE 17—JAN 2009

World Of Responsible Detecting

# Happy New Year!





Hi Everyone

Welcome to Issue 17 of the UK DETECTOR NET newsletter and, welcome also, to 2009!!

This year promises to be an exciting one for UKDN in that we expect some more great improvements to the forum both in software, capabilities and functionality. We will keep you updated as we move along.

We hope to hear if the joint funding effort put to English Heritage which will benefit both the PAS and the UKDN has come about. If it has then that will be great news for both sides as we can implement improvements we have in mind.

The Christmas Draw was a huge success and has placed plenty of funds in the kitty to ensure that we hold a regular Lottery as well as other fun events. A big "Thank You" to all who took part and, again, to Regton's for donating that wonderful prize.

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. The newsletter would not exist but for the contributors.

We all wish you 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.



### **BigAI2 Becomes First UKDN Gold Supporter**

As explained in an earlier newsletter we have just created a new ranking entitled "UKDN Supporter – Gold". This means that anyone who already has the ranking of "UKDN Supporter – Silver", who donates to UKDN will move up to this new ranking.

BigAI2 has always been a great supporter of UK DETECTOR NET and has slowly risen up through the ranks. In the run-up to Christmas he made a further donation which made him a UKDN Gold Supporter, our very first !!

You will find a full article explaining the ranking system in the UKDN 2008 Christmas Edition of this newsletter which you will find available for download in the UKDN Newsletters section on the Index page.

If you would like to donate towards the running costs of UKDN then you will find a donate button on the portal page of the site at [portal.php](http://www.forumukdetectornet.co.uk/phpBB2/portal.php)

<http://www.forumukdetectornet.co.uk/phpBB2/portal.php>

We will record your donation and move you up the ranking system.

Well done BigAI2

### **Christmas Raffle was Huge Success**

As most of you will know the UKDN Goldmax Power Christmas Raffle was won by mooseas who has got to be the most grateful winner we've ever had !! The thread is full of his surprise at winning the detector which was kindly donated by Nigel Ingram of Reg-ton's.

The raffle raised about £650 after expenses which, as Brian and Mo' explained, will all be used as a prize fund for UKDN.

The full results for the raffle were:

The Goldmax Power detector was won by mooseas

The Treasure Island book donated by TomRedmayne was won by Shauneboy

The Bungee Harness donated by UKDN was won by redback and

The Coins of England 2008 donated by UKDN was won by Lobolad.

# BRITANNIA

## THE FAILED STATE



Tribal Conflicts  
and the  
End of Roman Britain

Congratulations to Stuart Laycock for making it into the top 9 books nominated by Current Archaeology for their Book of the Year 2009 with his book, 'Britannia the Failed State'.

Stuart Laycock studied Classics at Cambridge and experienced the reality of a failed state at first hand as an aid worker in Bosnia during the war. He has been studying late Roman belt fittings (working closely with detectorists) and the end of Roman Britain for the past 4 years. Stuart has written a number of articles for the detectorist press (including UKDN, Issue 11 of our Newsletter) and his book (with Andrew Appels) on Roman Buckles & Military Fittings was published by Greenlight last year and is a must have book for identifying finds.

Britannia The Failed State, by Stuart Laycock is published by Tempus.

# STUART LAYCOCK



## **Archaeology and metal detecting: a CBA viewpoint**

In the minds of many metal detector users, the Council for British Archaeology (CBA) is still associated with the STOP campaign of the 1970s. This campaign (which in fact campaigned against treasure hunting, rather than metal detecting) is still regularly mentioned in the detecting magazines and in discussions about the relationship between archaeologists and detectorists.

In fact, the CBA's engagement with metal detecting has moved on in the intervening years, to the point where we were one of the leading players in the drafting of the Code for Responsible Metal Detecting in England and Wales (which we fully support). The CBA was also one of the leading voices in the campaign over the last year to support the funding of the Portable Antiquities Scheme. In part this was due to the recognition that the Scheme plays a pivotal role in recording finds and their find spots from detectorists (and others) which would otherwise be lost to the archaeological record. We were encouraged by the support for the Scheme shown by detecting groups, particularly UKDN along with the NCMD and FID.

It was encouraging to hear that the Government has agreed that the MLA can fund the Scheme for the next three years from its Renaissance in the Regions budget, but we have yet to see the full implications of this decision. It does not resolve the long-term funding future for the Scheme, which must surely lie within the income streams managed by the British Museum, and it is important that the Scheme is not exclusively seen as museum-focussed. The link with local authority-based Historic Environment Records is equally significant as they are the 'knowledge base' for archaeology connected with the conservation and management of the historic environment through the planning system. It is vital that the updated information from the PAS database continues to be made available to HERs.

One of the most encouraging aspects of the PAS is the ongoing public education role which means that detectorists are able to access information about the archaeological significance of their finds, and crucially the contexts of the find spots. Those detectorists who follow the Code for Responsible Detecting can take satisfaction from making a genuine contribution to developing our understanding of the past. The CBA would like to see greater collaboration between responsible detectorists and local 'community archaeology' groups who can work productively together, using a variety of techniques and methodologies associated with field survey.

On the other extreme, we will shortly have the publication of a major new report on nighthawking (illegal use of metal detectors in criminal activity to steal archaeological material from landowners). The report from Oxford Archaeology will cover the whole of the UK and its Crown dependencies. It is due to be launched in mid February. The evidence base collected during the course of the research will help to focus the attention of the police and Crown Prosecution Service on the need to deal with 'heritage crime' more appropriately. The use of the Theft Act should be more widespread in these situations, with equipment confiscated and significant fines imposed to act as a deterrent to others.





It is also in the interests of archaeologists and responsible detectorists to help to ensure that all legitimate detectorists understand the importance of acting responsibly. Many detectorists pursue their hobby with a passion for the historical nature of their finds, and are often hugely knowledgeable about the material they recover, but they are not always fully aware of the importance of recording the finds and find spots with the PAS. There are still too many reports of legitimate detecting trips which turn into 'treasure hunts' where the archaeological knowledge that accompanied the finds is mostly destroyed in the haste to recover the finds from the ground. We need to build up the trust and understanding between archaeologists and detectorists so that when significant finds are made the detectorists call in the archaeologists to help with the recovery of the find and the full contextual information. There is no reason for this to lead to any loss of ownership of the material recovered or potential reward for the legitimate detectorists. Nor is there any evidence of legal protection systems being utilised to prevent the detectorists working the same area in the future (another common concern which is mentioned in this context by detectorists).

One the key remaining concerns for archaeologists are large scale detecting events or 'rallies' which are totally unregulated and can be opportunities for nighthawks to 'legitimise' find spots for material recovered elsewhere, as well as a significant loss of information on key sites. The scale of the events often makes it difficult for the PAS to provide full cover to record the finds and their find spots. As many rallies are undertaken on land covered by environment stewardship agreements it is encouraging to see that Natural England has recently introduced conditions for rallies on land covered by stewardship which obliges rallies to operate in line with the Code for Responsible Metal Detecting. The CBA and a number of other archaeological organisations will be publishing a short guidance note for rally organisers and participants in early 2009 which helps to provide information on how everyone can act responsibly in a rally context.

Looking back 30 years we have come a long way in starting to build up a more productive relationship between detectorists and archaeologists, though inevitably there is more work to be done. The PAS has a vital role to play here, and it needs to be supported to broaden its broader education role. Local contacts between archaeological and detecting groups should also be encouraged. The CBA will be working to do what it can in the coming years to assist in this process, and we will work with any detecting group which actively promotes responsible detecting.

**Mike Heyworth**  
**CBA Director**

**December 2009**





**Winner of the November Coin** poll was **monkeybean** with his Iron Age, Cranborne Chase 'type', gold stater.

Monkeybean received 47 votes from 56 who voted.

2nd was detectavin63

# Find of the Month

## Artefact

### Anglo Saxon Trewiddle Type Strap End - scratchienn (Mary)

The day of the find went like this.....

I arrived at a club 'open site' knowing that finds would be few and far between, but the site had thrown up both Saxon and Roman artefacts and in the previous two visits I had unearthed two hammered coins.

I went to a field which had been hardly touched since a rally last year and started detecting. In the fog and gloom I spotted another club member and he told me that he had 'done' the strip of land that I was currently working on. I took a 90 degree turn and went to the middle of the field..... not one signal.

I took another 90 degree turn and went to the bottom of the field. Still no signals, not even a shot gun cartridge. I then started working back towards my car on the edge of the field. I was getting so bored with no signals that the faintest hint of something made me stop in my tracks.





# Find of the Month

## Artefact



I can't even recall the type of signal this gave, but it was something to dig, so gave it a go. I know it was 'iffy' and on a productive site I would possibly have given it a miss, but within half a spade full, out popped this beauty.

As soon as I saw it, I knew it was a Strap end. When I rubbed the mud off it and saw the design, I was pretty sure it was Saxon. I was well pleased and could have gone home there and then, but persevered for another hour or so but found nothing more.

When I got home I dry cleaned the Strap End – I.e. Rubbed it in a kitchen towel..... It really didn't need any more cleaning.

Considering this Strap End is over 1000 years old, it is so lovely to the touch. The patina is so smooth.

I uploaded a picture of my find to various websites and forums and almost instantly got a confirmation that it was Saxon.

Well chuffed!

Mary.



# Spotlight on Jif

Having detected with my elder brother back in the early 80's I always fancied a metal detector of my own. When my parents asked me what I would like for Christmas in 2003 out of the blue I asked for a metal detector. On Christmas Day I found myself the proud owner of a C-Scope CS2M which I dutifully assembled & unlike me I read the manual front to back, then due to family commitment I boxed it back up again until the following Spring!!!!

My first trip out was to a local farm field that we picnic in as it has a stream running through it & a castle nearby. On this outing I found detecting was not as easy as it first appeared & came home with a musket ball. Although not the most amazing result for a first outing it sparked my interest & I set about learning more about my new found hobby.





My finds have been varied but all in all not overly spectacular, my oldest coin for example is an 1816 silver sixpence. Detecting to me is more than the finds, I have made several new friends in the past 2 years through detecting & this is just as important to me, although a hammered wouldn't go amiss!!! I do have three items away at the NMS (National Museum of Scotland) in Edinburgh being looked at so I really can't complain. My favourite finds are my Scots guard badge & my little zoomorphic figure, the badge means a lot to me as both my Grandfather & Great Grandfather were Scots guards.





UKDN has given me endless help & advice & has also introduced me to the proper world of detecting. Also as I mentioned before I have made some new friends via UKDN one of these, Firesmudge, introduced me to SARG including the lovely Lesley. Also Rusticalex is a UKDN member who I have had the pleasure of meeting & detecting with, also I keep in touch with other members now & then via the PM system. I hope to attend some rallies in the next couple of years when my three youngsters have grown up & in doing so I hope to meet some more detector minded people & make some more great friends.

This April I treated myself to a Goldmaxx Power & now after doing lots of testing & some interesting research of an area close to where I live I hope 2009 is going to be as much fun but slightly more productive than this year.

Last but not least I thought I had better explain my user name of Jif, well all I can say is with a name like Ian Lemon what else could I have called myself ?? (No comments please)

Thanks all for reading,

Jif.



### West Sussex Schools Metal Detecting Project - by Headmaster (Chris Hall)

The C.Scope-sponsored West Sussex Schools Metal Detecting Project is now well established in four schools in Burgess Hill and Brighton.

Birchwood Grove Primary School and Newick House School were the first schools to be involved, each being loaned 5 'Bill Wyman' detectors, complete with lightweight headphones. A member of staff at each of the schools agreed to co-ordinate the project.

The detectors were officially handed over to the schools by Alan Hughes of C.Scope and there was great excitement all round! Few of the children had ever used a metal detector, but a great many of them couldn't wait to get their hands on the brand new machines!

I visited both schools to give an illustrated talk about metal detecting to staff and children. The talk covered:

- ◆ How to use and care for the Bill Wyman detector
- ◆ Detecting and digging techniques
- ◆ Where to search and the importance of getting permission
- ◆ The Treasure Act (a very basic introduction)
- ◆ Identifying and recording finds
- ◆ My own finds (photos and actual coins/artefacts)
- ◆ Q & A session





# The UKDN

## World Of Responsible Detecting

WORD

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The children, whose ages ranged from 8-16, were really enthusiastic and asked some excellent questions. I showed them a copy of my gold Celtic stater of Commius (c. 35-20BC), found near Chichester in West Sussex. At the same time I explained that finds like this are not to be expected every time they go detecting! I'm sure that their first Victorian coin or artefact will be as thrilling to them as the stater was to me.

Finds began to surface. Newick House school invited me in and made me feel very welcome, providing tea made by the pupils and chocolate bars bought with the spending money they found with the detectors on a specially arranged outing to Brighton beach! They also put on a slide show for me illustrating the various searches they carried out. They put together a display in the school corridor with some excellent written work and accompanying photos. The best finds to date have been a 1948 sixpence and a very well patinated late 19th century table spoon.



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The children at Birchwood Grove used the detectors on a rota basis, as over 100 of them came forward to join the project! Searches were made on the school field, and holes soon appeared (neatly dug and filled in of course!) in their parents' and grandparents' lawns.

The local press covered the project and I was interviewed on the local radio station, 'Bright FM'. Following this coverage, I had a phone call from Roger Mintey, the finder of the famous 'Reigate Hoard' in 1990. This hoard comprised 6,705 coins: 138 gold and the rest silver dating from 1272 to 1455. Roger offered to come into school and give a talk on the finding of the hoard; this was very well received.

The project really took off when a third school, Mile Oak in Brighton, showed an interest in using the detectors. The Deputy Head, Martin Cooper, is passionate about archaeology and metal detecting, and he has inspired so many children at the school to take up the hobby.

Each child who expressed an interest was asked to write a letter to Martin saying why they wanted to be involved. They were then loaned a detector, together with a pack consisting of a camera, notes on how to use the detector and a specially written guide.



# The UKDN

## World Of Responsible Detecting

WORD



I visited the school recently to do an assembly and was most impressed by the knowledge and enthusiasm of the children. The school recently won the 'Reading Connects School of the Year' award, and it was pleasing to see their use of metal detectors featuring in the winning submission. I have now been asked to organise a detecting outing in the Spring Term 2009; Martin plans to use this as an incentive for reluctant readers in the school.

At the time of writing, a fourth school, West Hove Infants, is about to join the project. It will be interesting to see how children under 7 years of age take to this fascinating hobby of ours!

**Chris Hall**

**Co-ordinator of the C.Scope 'West Sussex Schools Metal Detecting Project'**



**Chris Hall**



## MY LITTLE “HOARD” By Tom Redmayne

It's amazing how one little word can set the pulses of thousands of dedicated detectorists racing isn't it?

### **Hoard!**

If we haven't found one, we can imagine that good, sharp signal that gets stronger and stronger as the hole gets deeper and deeper until, at last, showers of coins start falling from that final spadeful of soil.

It doesn't always happen like that.

Sometimes your first hoard starts as a very small trickle, and never really becomes that flood of coins that you expect. That doesn't make it any less exciting and, in some ways, increases the excitement as you wait in anticipation for the next signal that could be the motherload.

I am very lucky in that I live in North Lincolnshire, a county with a rich history, literally. During Medieval times, it was one of the wealthiest areas of the country and was a patchwork of large and small villages serviced by numerous churches with a prosperous and varied collection of professions and trades keeping the money flowing.

A little over two years ago, I approached one of my local farmers for detecting permission on a couple of his fields near to a deserted church. The church dates back to 1200, and now stands as an empty shell in the middle of open fields. To my surprise, and great pleasure, he allowed me to go on any fields that I liked on his farm, nearly 600 acres in total! Where do you start?

My first job was to go back home and do some research. Hours of trawling through Google Earth, Old Maps and archive websites gave me a picture of a very busy Medieval landscape.

The farm is centred around two converging rivers, that were both navigable to some distance inland from the sea only a mile away. Alongside these waterways, I found many cropmarks showing habitation over the years including a complete, deserted Medieval village, one of the many that were ravaged by the great plague in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Other references pointed to Saxon settlement and even some Roman finds had been made in the area. Ships were built here from the Middle Ages, and part of Henry VIII's fleet started life in the boatyards along these rivers.

One field showed some intriguing dark marks in the soil and, after looking at old OS and tithe maps, I discovered that there had been an Elizabethan house of some size on the site. The finds from here have nearly all been 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century, including a lead sundial with a date of 1688 engraved into it. They have given a fascinating insight into life here at this time.



This farm is a mixed one of arable crops and beef cattle, so there is some cultivated land, some very old ridge and furrow pasture, and there are fields that are down to grass but which are cultivated and re-sown every couple of years. These latter fields are great as they give access all year round. Having said that, the farmer is one of a kind. He allows me to detect on any of his growing crops up to the point where I can't swing the search head any more. His theory is that I will do less damage than the pigeons, rabbits and hares that I am scaring off whilst detecting. A mobile scarecrow really!

I have spent the last two years gradually working across the farm finding new hotspots every now and then and lingering at these fields for a while before moving on. The finds have been wonderful, mostly Medieval but with one or two Saxon and Roman items too and all in great condition.

Every now and then I would meet the farmer on his tractor when out and about. He has a habit of suddenly dropping into the conversation that he is off to spray or cut or cultivate "that little field over there", a field that I never even knew was his! This has happened a few times now and has proved to be a productive site on more than one occasion.

This is exactly what happened one Tuesday lunchtime in July this year. The farm is only five minutes from home, and I can take an hour to detect sometimes if I am working from home.

I met the farmer driving out of the farmyard and was told of a "new" field that had just been cut for silage and that he was just finishing clearing of bales. It was right next to the river, and had been old pasture up to five years ago before being ploughed and planted with wheat. It was then sown with grass and has been down to grass ever since. I was in the field as soon as the bales were carted away. The pictures below show how it looked on that day; very inviting indeed.







I set up the Quattro in all metal with ferrous tones, ground balanced it and set off. I decided to do the edges first, then the two diagonals to look for any concentrations of finds. It was very quiet with hardly a signal right along two edges. I was about to put it down as another “empty” field when a huge signal nearly made me jump out of my skin. A quick dig and a large copper-alloy nail came up. This was a very big nail, over six inches long, and was probably used in boat-building. A find at last! This was closely followed by a bronze pot leg, more pieces of bronze vessel and a couple of buckle fragments. At least there was some indication of activity here after all.

I completed the full square of four edges, with a few shotgun caps for my trouble, and set off to do the first diagonal. A nice George V sixpence surfaced then a lovely two-way crisp signal got the heart pounding. I hoped I was right about what this was. Sure enough, after a couple of spadefuls, and from about four inches down, a lovely silver disc lay in my palm. It was, obviously, an Edward longcross, and a later one with the EDWAR legend. It could be Edward I or Edward II.

I later identified it as an Edward II London penny, but a mule between classes 11b and 11c dating to 1310-1314.



Edward II penny class 11b/11c mule, London. 1310-1314



I was really pleased as this field had looked so promising and had not really produced the finds I had expected. I marked the spot with the GPS and carried on. Nothing more was found on that line, so I crossed the field and did the other diagonal. A nice Medieval beehive thimble came up but nothing else and it was time to go back to work.

I didn't get chance to go back out to the field until the following Sunday, but I was up bright and early and, after a cup of tea and some breakfast, I was detecting again by 7.00 am.

The Eddie penny had come from a spot almost in the centre of the field, so I walked from the edge of the field straight across the middle. Absolutely nothing, not a signal. I reached the far side, turned and set off back about three feet across from my previous track. As I reached the centre point, a very faint signal stopped me. Another slow sweep, and it was still there, faint but steady. I dug a small, shallow clod out of the ground and there, sticking out of the bottom of it was half of a tiny grey disc with a longcross and pellets visible. Another hammy, and only about twenty feet from the penny of a few days before, this time a farthing and Edward again.



**Clod**  
**shot!**



I marked the spot, bagged the coin and carried on the same line. I had walked another few yards when a second faint signal, almost identical to the first, had me digging up another tiny piece of dark grey silver. It was broken and had been heavily clipped, but it was still clear enough to see that it was another farthing of one of the Edwards.

These were later found to be an Edward I class 10 farthing, 1300-1310, and an Edward II class 13 farthing, 1314-1317, tying in nicely with the penny's date.



**Edward I farthing class 10, London. 1300-1310**



**Edward II farthing class 13. London. 1314-1317**

I was, obviously, now in a good area so I wandered over to the hedge and took a few sticks to mark the three findspots. That way, I could easily see where they were as I was detecting.

I decided to keep walking up and down the full length of the field in case there were other areas of activity but another hour of searching produced nothing other than a few .303 bullets and cases in a concentrated area and a 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century harness buckle.

I knew that I wouldn't be able to get back on the field for a couple of weeks after this, due to work commitments, so I pulled up the sticks and left for home knowing that I could go right back to the spot using GPS at a later date.

Two weeks later I finally got chance to get out again and headed down the long, muddy track by the river to the "silage" field. I was gutted. The grass had grown at an alarming rate and was a good eight inches long and so thick that it was like walking on a very deep carpet. There was no way of detecting in that so I packed up and drove back up the track to see the farmer. The news wasn't good. It would be another fortnight before he would be cutting it so I would have to wait.

I did have a productive couple of weeks on my other fields, especially the one with the demolished Elizabethan house, and had the pleasure of Eddie Lea's (munkiezuncal) company over from Lancashire as a detecting partner for one of those weeks, but I couldn't wait to get back onto my silage field.

It was now towards the end of August, and I was on one of my early Sunday morning outings when I saw the tractor and trailer go by full of silage bales. At last!

Baling took all of that day but, by early evening, I was back on the field and detecting. I headed to the findspot using the GPS and marked it with a stick again. I could still see the marks from where the previous coins had been found and started detecting a little to one side of them. Within minutes, I had a signal and out popped silver number four. I now had the full set, a halfpenny to go with the penny and farthings. Again, an Edward I, but a bit earlier being a class 3e dated 1280.

With the small denominations, this was looking like a purse loss and this theory was agreed with by Adam Daubney, the Lincolnshire FLO. Up to now, the coins could have been random losses, but it was time to put them forward as potential treasure items. Adam started the reporting procedure the following day.

The next day's detecting seemed to confirm this with two more farthings coming out close to the others, both of Edward I class 10, 1300-1310.





**Edward I halfpenny class 3e, London. 1280**

**Edward I farthing class 10, London. 1300-1310**

**Edward I farthing class 10, London. 1300-1310**

I now decided to concentrate all my efforts on this part of the field and walk an area of about 100 yards by 100 yards in every direction, overlapping the sweep all the time. I knew this would take more than one trip to complete, but I did not want to miss any of the tiny hammered farthings.

The next three weeks involved walking as slowly and methodically as I could, and it was hard work. The coins came out one at a time and it felt like trying to draw blood from a stone at times. However, the elation when another silver coin appeared was an instant boost every time.

There were times when I just had to get away from the hotspot, especially when I had been searching it fruitlessly for a couple of hours. I then set off across the field and just wandered about on the off chance of anything else appearing.

Occasionally they did, like the nice, little Henry VI halfpenny and the Henry III Irish penny that won me FOTM. They both came from this field, but from opposite ends.



**Henry VI halfpenny, London, pinecone/masle issue. 1431-1433**



**Henry III voided long cross penny, moneyer RICARD ON DIVE (Dublin). 1251-1254**

I always headed back to the "hoard" spot though and, after detecting it for nearly three months, the coin finds seemed to have dried up. The grand total (so far) is 12 coins plus the two Henries. It is still possible that these are the tip of the iceberg, and more coins lie a little deeper as part of a larger hoard, but the real likelihood is that it was a purse loss as first thought.



The details of the coins are:

Edward II penny. mule. class 11b/11c. 1310-1314. London

Edward I farthing class 10. 1300-1310. London

Edward II farthing class 13. 1314-1317. London

Edward I halfpenny class 3e. 1280. London

Edward I farthing class 10. 1300-1310. London

Edward I farthing class 10. 1300-1310. London

Edward I penny class 10ab. 1300-1310. London

Edward I penny class 9b1. 1299-1300. London

Edward I penny class 9b2. 1299-1300. London

Alexander III Scottish penny 1280-1286. Mint unclear

Edward I penny class 10cf. 1300-1310. London

Edward I penny class 10cf. 1300-1310. Canterbury



**Edward I penny class 10ab, London. 1300-1310**



Edward I penny class 9b1, London. 1299-1300



Edward I penny class 9b2, London. 1299-1300





Alexander III penny. 1280-1286



Edward I penny class 10cf, London. 1300-1310



### **Edward I penny class 10cf, Canterbury. 1300-1310**

It was now time to see how the treasure act really worked. The first documents to fall through the letter box were from the coroner at Boston. A letter confirmed all the details of the find including the name and address of the landowner, the exact findspot, the state of the land and how and when they were found.

Also included was an official police witness statement that I had to fill in, giving my version of how and where the coins were found. This was duly completed and sent back. I later learnt that the farmer had been sent the same documents for reference only. It scared the life out of him when an envelope with Boston Constabulary on the front dropped onto his doormat!

The coins had all been handed in to Adam Daubney by now, and he told me that all we could do now was wait. The next step was to offer the coins to the museums to see if there was any interest in them. Adam had been very good all the way through in keeping me up to date of anything that was happening and what to expect next.

In a surprisingly short space of time, I got a call from Adam to say that no-one was interested in acquiring the coins and that they would be disclaimed and returned to me. Sure enough, later that week, I received a letter from the coroner, dated October 15<sup>th</sup>, saying that they had been disclaimed and would not go to inquest. They would be returned to me after a 28 day period during which the institutions had the chance to change their mind about wanting to buy them.



20 OCT 2008

Mr S P G Fisher  
HM Coroner  
19 South St. Mary's Gate  
Grimsby  
Lincolnshire  
DN31 1JE

15<sup>th</sup> October 2008

Dear Mr Fisher,

Treasure Act 1996: 2008 T527  
Medieval Silver Coin Hoard from [REDACTED], Lincolnshire  
Finder: Mr Tom Redmayne

On behalf of the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, I am writing to inform you that the Crown's interest in this find has been disclaimed.

As anticipated by the *Treasure Act 1996 Code of Practice* (paragraph 48), it will not normally be necessary in these circumstances to proceed with an inquest. I therefore enclose a copy of the Treasure Receipt for this find, and a copy of the curator's report, to complete your file.

Please could you contact the owner of the find site, stating that the find is to be returned to the finder, unless objections are submitted within 28 days, in line with paragraphs 48-51 from the *Treasure Act 1996 Code of Practice* (revised).

I confirm that the find is currently in the care of the Finds Liaison Officer for Lincolnshire.

The finder is reminded to keep a copy of this letter with the find, and to advise any purchaser of the find to do the same, as it constitutes formal evidence that the find has been considered under the *Treasure Act 1996*.

Yours sincerely,

PP ANDREW BASHAM

Ian Richardson  
Treasure Registrar (020 7323 8243)

[treasure@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk](mailto:treasure@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk)

cc Mr Tom Redmayne (Finder)  
Mr Adam Daubney (Finds Liaison Officer)

So, as of November 12th, I have them all back and can give them pride of place in my collection.

The final ( or not! ) part to this tale is that the farmer has just ploughed and seeded the field with wheat. How deep the plough has gone remains to be seen.

Watch this space!