



## Issue 19 March 2009

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## Message from UKDN Admin Team

Welcome to Issue 19 of the UK DETECTOR NET newsletter, once again we have a superb issue with a great variety of articles and information, we hope you'll enjoy it!

Thank-you to everyone who took part in contacting their MPs and the Committee looking into a separate Coroner for the Treasure finds we make every year. When we get some more information about this we will of course pass that onto you to keep you informed and up-to-date.

The other issue of note from recent times is the advent of the Oxford Archaeology 'Nighthawking Report'. Petethedig was our representative at that meeting in London, so read his report and find out what was said, and by whom. We support in principle the direction this will take us, but have certain reservations about how this may be used or developed in the future. We remain committed to keeping you in touch with further developments and will keep you posted, as and when, we hear anything in the near future and beyond.

We continue to look for anyone who would like to contribute to this extensive and wide reaching publication. If you feel you have anything you can contribute then please contact Corinne or Phil; they will be pleased to hear from you.

We are now recognizing any magazine contribution with a new forum rank, which will read in addition to a users rank ".....and UKDN Newsletter Contributor"

Detecting seems to be busy again with members out in the fields with the Spring ploughing now taking place after the long cold Winter spells. Some smashing finds are appearing in the relevant forum categories, and the Find of the Month Competitions seem to be busy! Please continue to use and take part in this competition.

Best Wishes from Brian, Mo' and The Team.



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## Find of the Month—Coin

### Henry III Short Cross Penny, Class 7a, Canterbury Mint

Finder -Tomredmayne



This smashing little coin came from a field that has always looked like it would produce some good finds, but I have never been able to spend much time on it until now.

The field runs along the banks of a river and some of the aerial images from Google Earth a couple of years ago showed up loads of crop marks here.

The whole length of the field along the river bank showed the remains of an entire medieval village with house platforms, paddock boundaries, roads and tracks.

There have to be hammered coins here!

The field is now under a crop of wheat and this particular afternoon, after a couple of dry days and a strong wind, the surface was just about dry enough to walk on without ending up with six inch platforms and destroying half a row of wheat every time you stopped to dig!

Five minutes into the field, and my first signal turned out to be a beautiful little Medieval strapend in cracking condition. A good start. Almost immediately after that came the first silver of the day, a cut quarter longcross of Henry III and a great indication that more Medieval stuff was to come.

This turned out to be true, with seemingly unending numbers of tiny, white-coated pieces of lead and scrappy chunks of bronze, mainly from cooking vessels with the sooting still visible.

Eventually, though, that lovely, low un mistakable grumble from the SE said "hammered" and not too deep. The first spade ful got it out, and I gradually broke bits off the clod to wave over the coil until, breaking open the last chunk, there was a fantastic, crisp short cross and pellets looking back at me.

I could see the condition was great and, turning it over, the obverse was just as clean and crisp. I could read the detail easily and could see the moneyer was Tomas from Canterbury.

My first coin with my own name on it! You don't get to say that very often!

Tom Redmayne.



## Find of the Month—Artefact 18th Century Georgian Fob Seal Intaglio Finder—Barry Carpenter AKA Puffin



An Ice find to start the year!

First dig of the year and the weather was freeeeezing, I mean sub-zero arctic freezing. The club dig was to be a token hunt, 13 painted old pennies cast around the field. Everyone was looking forward to the hunt, this soon turned to frustration as we realised just how hard the going was, two inches of perma frost. I'd gone back to my trusty VeeDub Camper to change my spade to something I could break the frozen ground with and passed another club member carrying a broken spade, several more spades where to be replaced by the end of that morning!

On my return to the field, I'd walked only a few yards before I saw a complete Henry III short cross penny just sitting on the surface, very nice, thank you very much, another hammered coin for the collection. Word got out to the other members, so by the time I'd walked a further 50 yards or so, the chaps started to come across the field to take a look. At this point my Goldmax Power gave a chirp, so I hammered my Black Ada into the ground to mark the spot, bending it in the process.

After the usual, "lucky bugger" and "flipping hard ground" grumbles, everyone wondered off to do their own thing. I'd almost forgotten about the signal I'd marked. Remembering it just in time, I pulled back on the Ada handle and out popped a big ball of ice, wheat sprouts and mud! Not good, the signal was frozen in the ball. A couple of hand numbing whacks broke the ball in two. I caught sight of a flash of gold, bloody hell! Not another gilt button. No wait! My heart skipped a beat; I reached down, picking up the gold object, my first gold. Yippee! Mad ex-fat man doing a war dance, in the middle of a frozen field, anyone driving by would have assumed that the local mental health unit was having an away day. Luckily, none of the other club members saw me jumping up and down.

I took a deep breath and cleaned the rest of the mud off, a broken fob seal with the intaglio intact. I had to tell someone, quickly, and it was not long before another crowd had gathered to view my second find. This time I got a few Gordon Ramsey style lucky bugger comments. Someone realised that I had not moved very far from the last time he had spoken to me, so I owned up to the fact that they had all been stood around my Ada the first time around, A few more Gordon Ramsey's followed.

The dig on this field was called off after three hours due to the conditions. I'd peaked way too early and dug nothing but junk for the rest of the session, I never did find a token and I believe that after four club digs on the same field there are still two tokens awaiting to be found. Was I happy? Yes, a nice hammered coin and a very nice Georgian 18th fob seal intaglio, incomplete, but nice.

Barry Carpenter AKA Puffin (Picture of Puffin courtesy of Jim-mytheferret)



# Spotlight on Lobolad

Hi, 43, married with two children a daughter now aged 22 and she is expecting a baby boy in April, so I'm going to be a granddad and a son of 20 who is at Uni in Brighton. Oh yer and a cocker spaniel called Lazer, named after my old detector!! I live in Ramsgate in Thanet, Kent and work as a train driver. The beauty of my job is that able to see some of my fields and when they are

I then decided to try a new detector which was a fisher 1235 and found my finds where increasing so much, but I didn't like how noisy this machine was. I then bought a Lazer B3 Powermax and wow what a difference this made. It was so quiet and easy to use, it

When asked what is the best artefact I have found that is hard because I love medieval bronze seals because they are so personal and I have found eight of them so far, but I would have to say this beautiful medieval gold ring set with an uncut Sapphire dating from the mid 13thC.

being worked. I have been detecting now for about 11 years. I was bought a detector by my wife a c scope 770D, but never used it. Then one day I was talking to a guy at work and he was a member of the local club - The Thanet and Wantsum Relic Society, so I made a few enquiries and joined. Then one Sunday on a club site I found my first hammered coin which was

found lots of small hammered and it found this very rare coin of king Offa, the thing was that I had to work all night and I wasn't going detecting, but I woke early and attended the club site meeting and I'm glad I did. When I found this coin I couldn't believe it, I detected a few

I found this on another club site when nothing else was found on that day. I declared this as treasure and it was sent to the British museum and it was disclaimed.

an Edward penny, I will never forget that feeling, a silver coin of the 13thC and I was the first person to touch it since it lay in the ground all those years. That is what I love about this hobby, being the first person to touch a coin or artefact since it has been lost, and never knowing what the next signal maybe.

more lanes but couldn't concentrate so I had to stop, sit down and just look at this great find. Then on the same site in the afternoon I found a Saxon Sceatta, Porcupine type. That will be a day I will never forget.

The Seal pictured is a 14thC hexagonal copper alloy matrix and measuring 24mm on the face and 30mm high, it reads..

S'OHIS DE APER DE-  
L Y E R E C T O R

Translated ....THE  
SEAL OF JOHN OF  
APERDALE,RECTOR



The hammered's pictured are;

Henry I double inscription type, minted in Hastings 1100-1135.

Charles The Bold double patard 1467-77.

Elizabeth I third issue sixpence 1561.



Henry I double inscription type, minted in Hastings



Charles The Bold double patard 1467-77.



Elizabeth I third issue sixpence 1561.



# Spotlight on Lobolad

After some time I decided to buy a new detector which was a lobo supertrac and with this machine I have found loads, Celtic, roman, medieval to modern, this machine I have stuck with and I love it. Then I saw an upgrade to this - the Wolftrax, so I brought that and have now used this for over a year. It's a great machine, goes deeper than the lobo and still finds the small cuts. I found ten cut quarters last year, plus many other hammered, lots of roman and many other finds so I think the machine is truly up to the job. The Lobo is now my backup machine.

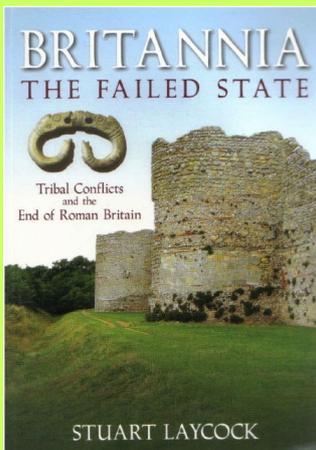
Well I have gained permission on loads of new land so I hope this year will bring many coins and artifacts and maybe a hoard? Well we can all dream cant we, and a bit of good luck.

Happy hunting to you all and good luck.

Peter Thomas ....Lobolad



# Propelled into the late Roman military



Stuart Laycock's book on the end of Roman Britain, *Britannia the Failed State*, was published last year and was one of nine books nominated by *Current Archaeology* as Book of the Year 2009. His new book, *Warlords: The Struggle for Power in Post-Roman Britain* is published by The History Press in April. You can find out more about belt fittings in *Roman Buckles & Military Fittings* by Appels & Laycock.

One of the frustrating things about detecting is turning up a fragment of something that looks vaguely interesting but is just too small and broken to identify.

Fortunately, there are some bits of kit that are almost instantly recognisable, however, broken they are, as long as you know what you're looking for. **Cue the late Roman propeller belt stiffener.**

OK, the thought of a late Roman propeller does seem pretty weird, since there weren't that many Spitfires or Hurricanes in use by the late Roman military. But what we're talking about here is, of course, the shape.

These little copper alloy pieces were made to fit on late Roman military belts to make sure the belt was stiff enough to carry whatever the soldier wanted to hang from it and also to provide decoration. They'd originally have been bright shiny metal, so a belt covered in these would have been quite a sight.

Now the good part for detectorists. They come in all sorts of different sizes but propeller belt stiffeners (the main type of late Roman belt stiffener you're liable to come across in this country) are always this same basic shape, with a central round bit and two triangular bits leading off them, and at the ends there are holes for rivets or possibly the actual rivets themselves to attach to the belt. The central roundel usually has some kind of decoration with rings, though, sometimes there's a sort of stiffening spine that runs most of the length of the stiffener and goes across the central roundel. Very rarely you'll see something like this example where there's something else in the centre, in this instance what seems to be (unless it's supposed to be an acorn) a head with hair but no face. Don't ask me why! Anyway, even if a propeller belt stiffener gets broken, I think you can see that the chances of it being recognisable are still pretty good.



Add to that the fact that bits like this are always the first thing to fall off a belt and the fact that at the end of the Roman period, a fair number of Brit militiamen seem to have been wandering round wearing Roman military belt sets and there's a fair chance that you might come across one of these some day while out detecting.

If so, please let me know or tell the PAS, because late Roman military belt fittings can help to reshape the way we look at the history of the end of Roman Britain.

**Stuart Laycock**

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## Propelled into the late Roman military



More examples of late Roman propeller belt stiffeners

## 33 Axe Head Hoard



I had only started metal detecting around 3 months prior to Friday 19<sup>th</sup> of August 2005. I always fancied detecting even when I was a young lad still at school. My friend Paul Burgess had a metal detector that he had for a couple of years and had done a small amount of detecting prior to that Friday. I bought a cheap detector that was advertised in the local paper one day and Paul dusted the cobwebs off his, and that was where our amateur detecting began. I began first by detecting a couple of the local beaches. The rewards of finding a small amount of modern day coinage was ok but I seemed to get more of a buzz from finding old pre-decimal coins and various modern day artefacts. This was the start of a great hobby for me. I just could not wait to finish work so that I could go exploring. Paul came as much as he could but he had busier evenings than I did as he ran local Taekwon-do clubs. The beaches started to get a bit boring for me as I wanted more interesting finds so I decided to try some inland exploring.

I approached a couple of the local land owners and was overjoyed when they gave me permission to access their land and detect. I had by now caught the bug and after only a few weeks had decided to invest in a new modern detector. The detector arrived and while experimenting with it on a local beach I was approached by a woman she introduced herself as Anna Tyacke the local Finds Liaison Officer who worked with the Truro museum or something similar to those words. "What's she want, I thought to myself, am I doing anything wrong". I was new to this hobby and still had a lot to learn.

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## 33 Axe Head Hoard

We began a conversation and I was told about a local detecting club. Great stuff I thought I'll go there. We ended our interesting conversation about the Portable Antiques Scheme and said our goodbyes. Paul and I joined the local club at Hayle. The monthly meetings seemed quite interesting with members bringing along their recent finds of coins and artefacts to display. Anna was there to represent the Portable Antiques Scheme and to record any finds of interest. I just could not get enough of the hobby I spent hundreds of hours and walked well maybe hundreds of miles over ploughed and rough land in search of interesting finds. The condition of some of the items fascinated me even my wife sat down to guess what some of the finds may have been. Coins, coins and more coins, mostly 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century kept popping up. Buttons well I just cannot tell you how many I have. Paul used to call me buttons. I just wanted one decent find and while I was out on one of the fields I recovered my first Hammered Edward 1 Coin. This was great I felt so proud of that find. Many other small artefacts started to crop up as I persevered including a very nice silver thimble. Then that day came.

Paul finished work early that afternoon and I drove to his house to pick him up. After a long time deciding where to detect as many of our land owner's fields were in crop we decided to have a go on some of the recently cut stubble fields. Man this was hard going, the hard work was not producing anything other than a few late coins and modern day tractor parts etc. After around 3 hours of hard work and walking in the blazing sun we started to head back to the vehicle. What now I asked as we stood there. We had two choices one was the beach but there would have been too many tourists around or the other was to walk to another area of the land. We decided on the land and off we walked again. As we walked towards the area we had in mind, we stopped to talk to the landowner who is an extremely polite person. Admiring the countryside as we finished our conversation with him we set off again.

We had to pass through a certain field to reach the area we had in mind so decided to switch on our detectors and give that a go first. Approximately five minutes later I got an audio on my detector and stopped to pinpoint and dig it. Paul carried on ahead as I dug my find. I looked up and saw Paul who was nearer the top of the field bent down on a dig. I filled my small hole in after recovering a late 19<sup>th</sup> century copper coin and replaced the small piece of turf I had removed. I began to make my way towards him when he yelled "it's an axe head". My heart started to beat as I walked faster towards him thinking he was joking. I was around 15 yards from Paul when my detector let off an enormous high audio sound enough to clean the dust from your ears. I somehow remembered that area as I continued to meet Paul. It was a terrific find; he had found one beautiful Bronze Age Socketed Axe Head. You lucky so and so I said. I just could not believe it, what a find. After cooling down a bit Paul started to tidy his hole up and I remembered the High pitched audio sound I had passed while walking up the field earlier. I made my way towards where I estimated it to be and there it was again, wow! The audio sound on my detector went the off scale. I pinpointed the item and broke a nice clean circle in the turf. As I dug I thought to myself what if this was another bronze axe head. That's silly I said those are rare finds then I saw a green piece of what seemed to be a rim of some sort. As I gently removed more soil my heart began to bounce, **IT WAS ANOTHER.**

I shouted Paul and he made his way down to take a look. Boy we were both proud as punch. We held two rare Bronze axe heads in our hands. Paul walked back to where he had found his find and began to scan again and soon shouted that he had another strong signal, up popped his second one. I was so happy; I had my axe head in one hand and started to fill in the hole I had dug with my left hand.

# 33 Axe Head Hoard

As I stood up I grabbed my detector that was still switched on and the coil crossed my dig, off it went again "I think it's another" I shouted to Paul. He came running down as I started to open the hole again that I had already dug. Gently I removed more of the earth and there it was, yet another axe head in fantastic condition. We were jumping; we each held two fantastic axe heads in our hands. "I'd better see if there's any more" I said. So I scanned over the small hole I dug again and the detector started screaming. Paul walked back towards the top of the field and also hit another strong signal. "Another here" he said. I shouted I think we had better leave them and call in an Archaeologist. We both agreed on that as we were not sure as to whether we might have been destroying any Archaeology history below the surface, so we filled in and camouflaged our holes with the original turf removed and leaves. What now? Well we were on cloud nine four Axe heads and 2 more to come, possibly 3 as I was getting a super strong scream from my dig. We both agreed to let the land owner's know as it was their right. We just had to drive back to my house and verify that they were what we thought they were on the PAS database as we did not want to get the landowners as excited as we were for nothing. There were the images, we were correct. This may sound silly but remember we had only been detecting for a few months and I don't think we were 100% sure about them. Well this was fantastic; we got straight back in my vehicle and went straight back to let the land owner know the good news. He and his wife were fascinated and so pleased for us. We told them about our plan to get an Archaeologist in and they agreed.

After talking for a while to the landowner we headed back to the vehicle to make some phone calls. We tried first to contact the local FLO but got no answer so left a message. After driving back to my house we made various other phone calls to the local museum but remember this was a Friday evening and we knew it was going to be hard to do much about the situation that night. After hours that evening of excitement and worry of the other items left in the field we decided to call it a night. That must have been the longest night I have had for years I just could not get to sleep. Saturday morning eventually came around and I just had to start making some phone calls. After phoning several people I eventually got through to the local librarian in the museum and I must say she was great with the whole matter. She told me to leave it with her and she would see what she could do.

A few hours later I received a phone call from a local archaeologist who introduced himself. We discussed the subject and agreed to meet around 1, o'clock that day and he would bring his friend another archaeologist to view the area concerned. I phoned Paul to let him know what was happening. The four of us met and after a short conversation and viewing of the four axe heads we had already removed, with excitement we headed for the find area. When I tell you these boys knew what they were doing I mean it. They were so accurate in reading the land and what had previously been there it was amazing. We eventually decided after finding and discussing the finds area to gently open up a small hole to investigate another audio sound Paul had found. Up came his third Axe Head. This was great we were all excited. I just could not wait investigate my dig that I had made the evening before. I scanned the hole I had made with my detector again and came to the conclusion that there may have been more than one axe head below that area.

With advise from Matt and Peter the archaeologists I gently removed more earth from the hole. This produced another 2 axe heads. We were all gob smacked at the condition and amount that was found. I ran my detector over the hole again to check for more and would you believe it there was. Matt and Peter suggested we excavate a 1meter test pit over the hole. We all got tucked in with the work and with careful observation by Mat and Pete they let me and Paul take our first steps in Field Archaeology. This was great I was enjoying myself so much that I lost count of all the axe heads that were been displayed. We eventually after hours displayed most of the axe heads to discover that they had been packed into a pot.

# 33 Axe Head Hoard

Now this was going to be delicate work. We took our time and lifted the top layer of axe heads and recorded them. This left the bottom layer of axe heads along with fragments of the pot to be lifted and recorded. After counting the axe heads we got a total of 33. Now that was amazing. To think these objects that had not seen daylight for around 3000 years and that they could be in so good condition.

One of the axe heads that was nearer the surface had been broken, probably by a plough in the past. It was missing a piece so after we had removed all the metal items that were obvious I decided to scan the hole with my detector to see if I could find the missing piece. No luck, but it had to be somewhere nearby. Paul scanned further away from the hole and a few yards away got another strong signal. It was part of the missing piece that fitted the broken axe head perfectly. We just could not believe it. We needed the other piece to complete the broken axe head. I switched on my detector again and scanned the spoil that we had excavated, and there it was. I think I may have missed it with excitement while uncovering the find. We were now left with the pot to lift and record. It was getting late and Mat and Pete decided that the pot could not be lifted and recorded properly with the little time that we had left before darkness set in. Mat and Pete decided to start again the following day Sunday. We covered the hole with a wooden palette so that no animals could disturb the pot and then walked down and had a chat with the land owner before calling it a night.

Sunday morning came around and I decided to get to the site an hour before Matt and Pete to scan the area and see if there was any other items that may have been related to the find. As I entered the field I looked straight towards the hoard area and was so pleased that we covered the hole as there was a fox sitting right next to the wooden palette. Just imagine the damage it could of done to the pot if it the hole had never been covered. Paul could not make it to the site on Sunday as he had to get his suitcase etc ready to leave for a holiday a couple of days later. Mat and Pete arrived with Emma who was Matt's fiancé. She was also an Archaeologist. We began to lift and record the pot and after of what seemed hours succeeded successfully at our task. We filled the hole back in and cleaned and scanned the area one more time then headed back to the vehicles. We had a short conversation and said our goodbyes.

I now had 33 Axe heads and pieces of delicate pot at home with me. That evening I received a call from Anna Tyacke the FLO and after a great conversation. We decided to meet Monday morning so I could hand over the items for safe keep at her house. Paul took a few hours off work to help me with them. We took one last look at the items after spending a while at Anna's home sorting paper work out and then it was goodbye, They were gone. Although they had brought so much pleasure over that weekend, some how I was relieved that they were out of my hands. They would soon be on their way to the British Museum.



# 33 Axe Head Hoard

I would like to take time once again to say especially to Matt Mossip and Peter Dudley the Archaeologists a very big thank you for giving up your own time and the dinner party that you were supposed to attend that Saturday night, glad to hear they saved you some. Also for not wanting any reward for your fabulous work. A big thank you to Anna Tyacke was so helpful dealing with the whole matter, you done a great job Anna. And thanks to all the people that I contacted that weekend and a great big special thank you to the Land owners who made all this possible.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/7829678.stm>

[http://www.archaeologicalconsultancy.com/projects\\_mylorhoard.asp](http://www.archaeologicalconsultancy.com/projects_mylorhoard.asp)

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/cornwall/7828042.stm>

Harry



# A DETECTING STORY— kally22350

## METAL FINDS IN THE PLOUGH SOIL.

For the past six years now I have been involved, unintentionally at times, in a kind of paper chase. It now seems certain that the scatter of metal finds I have been unearthing in the Lincolnshire plough soil have led me to a previously undiscovered and therefore unrecorded Roman site. If so the hours of solitude, I tend to search alone, and the inclement British weather, will in the end have all been worthwhile.

The site in question boundaries three farms which for the moment and their protection I will call farms A, B and C. At the beginning I had search permission only on farm A. I had known this farmer for some years and was delighted when he readily agreed for me to search his land. It is always an anxious time when you approach landowners for search permission, and there must be trust between both parties. Being an acquaintance of his was a real bonus and we have a verbal 50/50 share agreement. This type of agreement is the norm for metal detecting on agricultural land and not long after was also negotiated on farm B.

## WINTER 2000/2001.

### HUNDREDS OF ACRES – WHERE TO START?

On a new farm the last thing you want to do is to make a nuisance of yourself, so I decided to search well away from the farm itself. I parked my car opposite to a narrow lane. I decided as the field had just been drilled to walk the field boundary keeping a keen look out for any possible surface finds there may be. I had not gone far when I noticed a few pieces of “Grey ware” resting on top of the newly cultivated soil; grey ware is basically unglazed domestic pottery from the Roman period and so called because of its fairly consistent grey colour.

As I walked I scanned the field back and forth and occasionally saw the cold grey glint of pottery against the dark brown soil. Trying not to set my hopes too high I couldn't help wondering why this scatter of Roman finds should be here. The nearest known Roman villa was a few miles away, and I knew there was a branch off the famous Ermine Street running just south of this spot, in fact little more than a good walk, however there was now no doubt this would be promising land to detect. With that thought in mind I turned and headed back to my vehicle to get set up for the search.

Opposite the lane end and beyond my vehicle is a hedge which also forms part of the boundaries to farms A, B and C. After kitting up I decided to follow in its shelter and was pleased to see the land had been sown with winter wheat. This was perfect for sweeping the search-head of my detector close to the ground for maximum depth. Here I feel I must dispel a myth to the uninitiated that modern metal detectors work at great depths. This is untrue and the best I have achieved even with a top of the line model is 6 to 8 inches for small objects like hammered coins, 8 to 10 inches for slightly larger finds like brooches, loom weights and lead ampulla etc and maybe 12 or 14 inches for large objects which from my experience are usually agricultural scrap! In twenty years I have had one exception to this which I will come to later, I can not stress too much that these are maximums. Out in the field, especially the plough soil, most of my finds have been quite near the surface, at around 3 to 5 inches deep.

That most of these finds are brought up from greater depths by ploughing is something of a paradox, as man's most ancient and useful tool is fast becoming both the harbinger and destroyer of our heritage. Harbinger in the hundreds of thousands of portable antiquities it has helped detectorists to discover and record with the PAS. Harbinger in the hundreds of new sites that archaeologists have been pointed to, but destroyer of much buried archaeology when these sites are later investigated. High commodity prices mean less land in stewardship (farmers will not join) and therefore less buried archaeology being protected, under these circumstances deep cultivation will continue and even increase. Through discovering portable antiquities I would argue that hobby metal detecting, which is inextricably linked to the plough, is invaluable in mitigating much of this damage to our buried heritage. It does this by creating massive amounts of research data that can be collected in no other way.

## A DETECTING STORY— kally22350

Back to the search, before long and after learning to reject the ubiquitous shotgun cartridges, I started to find my first Roman coins on this land. My initial finds were mainly grots (poor quality) possibly third century barbarous radiates, contemporary copies of Gallienus (AD 253-268) and Claudius II (AD 268-270). They are not too difficult to differentiate from the real thing as they tend to be smaller and cruder, showing signs of being cast rather than struck. It seems that when the money supply from Rome got tight certain people got busy!

From here the land started to rise up gently before dipping down towards the next field. Following the hedge in the lee of the high ground on what was now set-aside land I received a good non-ferrous signal of high conductivity. Removing a large divot to a depth of about 4 inches I recovered a small silver coin. Wiping away the mud I found myself looking at a beautiful, if somewhat worn, silver denarius of the Roman Republic. With no visible inscription remaining the obverse shows the head of Roma facing right and wearing a helmet with visor. The reverse shows Jupiter in quadriga also facing right. I now believe this coin to be one of the earliest found in this area and dating from about 124 – 103 BC and already quite old on its arrival in Britain with the Claudian invasion of 43 AD.

This was a great find and proved a pleasant surprise from the barbarous copies I had found earlier. It would appear that these small silver coins were so well struck and the metal of such high quality that they could circulate in quite usable condition for up to 200 years! Not far from this spot I unearthed a bronze leaf shaped nail cleaner and small zoomorphic razor handle without blade. Before I reached the next field I also unearthed the upper mount part of a small copper alloy finger ring; again Roman and studded with coloured glass. With each positive signal the finds were becoming increasingly interesting and at the same time somewhat puzzling. Before starting any search on any land I always check with the Historic Environment Records (HER) this is to make sure the land in question is not scheduled, in other words that there is no known archaeology of considered importance that might be disturbed. So why were these objects here?

Fascinated by the finds on that part of the farm I decided to retrace my steps concentrating on the western boundary. Again in a small hollow it was not too long before my efforts were further rewarded with finds of more coins, and my first Roman fibular (brooch) found on this farm. Although lacking its pin it was in otherwise good condition, of the dolphin type from the first century. Unbeknown to me at that time, these would be part of only a handful of finds discovered on the lower ground in this area during my entire search over the next five to six years. As you will see the vast majority of finds came from the higher ground, perhaps the Romans liked to keep their feet dry, as opposed to our Bronze and Iron Age ancestors who seemed to revere the more watery places.

During the next few months I searched the land farther to the east looking all the time for any hot spots. If you find one ancient coin and search that area slowly and methodically you will probably find more. The same applies to fibulas and in fact any other personal object made of metal. As a general rule plough will produce more than pasture, as a deep ploughing will often return metal objects nearer the surface to a place quite close to their original loss. There have been many field tests on this and it seems that metal objects in the plough soil do not move far. Although not in any archaeological context i.e. below the plough plane, they are certainly not without significance and can build up a pattern of land use spanning many centuries.

## TRAGEDY – FOOT AND MOUTH.

When the six o'clock news on the TV sunk in I realised without even phoning the farmer that the only detecting I would be doing for the foreseeable future would be on the beaches. Although Lincolnshire fared better than many counties during the crisis the restrictions on movement in the countryside and the understandable anxiety within the farming community was plain to see. It was to be nearly a year before I ventured onto agricultural land with my detector again.

# A DETECTING STORY— kally22350



# A DETECTING STORY— kally22350

## CRISIS OVER.

When the time came for me to dust off my machine and recharge the batteries I thought I would try a change of tack. Farm A itself forms part of a village that encircles the local church. I had already spoken to the farmer and a few locals about the history of the village and the general consensus was that the present village had shifted slightly east of the church meaning that the old medieval village was a little further west.

This is where I began my new search and not without reward. Before long I had found a much worn hammered silver penny of Edward I or II 1272-1327, and another slightly better Edward II silver penny dating from 1307-1327 with type 13 crown and minted in Bury St Edmunds. Also a tiny cut  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a Henry III short cross penny 1216-1247 in excellent condition. These are extremely small and hard to find in the mud. In the early 13th century if this coin had not been cut it would have taken six of them to buy a coarse-woolled sheep (*ovis lanae grossioris*) and ten to buy a fine-woolled sheep (*ovis crispus*). I also found several post medieval jettons issued by Hans Krauwinkel, which are money counters. In late and post medieval England poor literacy and numeracy in the lower classes was a problem so buying and selling at market, be it provisions or livestock, could be complex, especially with the awkward multiples of their coinage. It is thought that these "Jettons" were used on a board in a similar function to an abacus to show monetary value and keep track of their transactions. Later on their use changed to become gaming counters. On the same patch I also found many buckle frames, again both Medieval and post Medieval.

There is also a fair amount of lead dross (casting waste) on this village site which is not that uncommon. Lead was considered a versatile and easy to work metal as it could be smelted and cast on little more than a camp fire. The fact that its use can poison us did not seem to bother them, either that or they didn't know! Apart from a couple of Roman grots this was definitely a medieval site, but I was to discover its true significance later on with two quite rare Saxon finds, but that's another story.

As the days began to lengthen and warm I decided to try my luck back on the western boundary and away from the village. As already mentioned, before the Foot and Mouth outbreak I had checked the Historic Environment Records to make sure I was well away from any scheduled sites. However during the enforced lay-off I did some more detailed research and also talked with the archaeologists (always a good idea) in this case Adam Daubney the newly appointed "Finds Liaison Officer" for Lincolnshire. Adam was great and showed a lot of interest in my Roman finds from the area of the boundary hedge. His research did note that occasional finds of Roman pottery had turned up in the wider area but had not helped to pinpoint an actual Roman site, in fact it was Adam who encouraged me to write this article as a record of what clues our ancestors may have left behind to try and build up a picture of past cultures in this area. Added to this I had always recorded the grid positions on the Ordnance Survey map for the area I was searching. This is something I had been doing with Dr Kevan Leahy at the North Lincolnshire Museum at Scunthorpe before Lincoln had its own FLO; I am pleased to say that I have been on board with the PAS since its inception.

As I searched further along the western boundary and away from the village site the Roman finds seemed to be increasing in both number and variety, I also noticed an increase in the amount of grey ware and occasional tiny pieces of CBM (ceramic building material). This can be a sign of Roman occupation, maybe part of a homestead, farm, or possibly a well used track way. I was intrigued and determined to find out more.



## A DETECTING STORY— kally22350

Over the coming months I searched over many fields and many different crops and would at this point like to thank the many farmers who allowed me access to their land virtually the whole year round. It is because of this I take great care not to destroy seedlings and never walk through standing crops. I have always felt it is a privilege to be allowed access to what is mainly private land. As a member of the public, I may have access to many footpaths and bridleways but my permissions to metal detect on what is now thousands of acres allows me far greater scope to witness first hand the stunning beauty of the English countryside. Even more it offers me a unique window with which to view the diversity of our native wild life. Modern farming, as we know has its detractors; I have occasionally heard it said that all you will find on this monoculture we call farm land are rabbits and crows. From my experience this is far too cynical. During my many hours of searching the Lincolnshire landscape, mainly alone, I have witnessed some marvellous sites, including Badgers playing by their sets in the winter dusk, and the mad March Hare boxing his mate. I have seen moles and voles, water-rats and mice, bats and birdlife of many kinds. Also grass snakes, hedgehogs, foxes, and wild deer. I have been stung and bitten by every insect that bites and stings and of course I mustn't forget those rabbits and crows.

As the seasons slowly changed I continued my search and made many more interesting discoveries including a beautiful pair of late Iron Age/ Romano –British toggle fasteners, one Ball and Petal type and the other with three cells of enamel inlay dating from approximately 50 BC to 50AD. I wasn't aware then but this was just the beginning of what would turn out to be a very large collection of clothing fasteners, brooches, fibulas and pins. Could it be possible that the local Iron Age tribe in these parts, the Corieltavi were making these wonderful pieces of enamelled metalwork for their Roman conquerors in the early years of the occupation? You never know, after all business is business and it could explain why there are so many of them on some sites!

By now, still on the western boundary of Farm A and closely bordering Farm C on which I had not yet gained permission to search, my next find was so special it made me determined to try to gain that permission.



# The Nighthawking Report

Peter Twinn/petethedig



During late 2008 I received an invitation from Professor Sir Barry Cunliffe (the interim Chairman of English Heritage) to represent UK Detector Net and attend the release of 'The Nighthawking Report' which was to be held in the prestigious home of the Society of Antiquaries of London, at Burlington House, Piccadilly, along with around 60 other dignitaries from all aspects of heritage, including the **P**ortable **A**ntiquities **S**cheme, the **C**ouncil **B**ritish **A**rchaeology, **E**nglish **H**eritage, the **NCMD** and the **FID**, the Kent Police and many more.

On Monday the 16<sup>th</sup> February the meeting was convened and the Report was released, chaired by Sir Barry Cunliffe. The Report was the culmination of a survey undertaken by Oxford Archaeology into the occurrences of Nighthawking, particularly on **S**cheduled **A**ncient **M**onuments and archaeological sites. The report was, 'A survey of illegal metal detecting in the UK and Crown Dependencies.'

My invitation was to represent UKDN, which I did, which enables me to pass on information and my thoughts to you, our membership, and beyond.

The meeting itself was divided up with Sir Barry Cunliffe speaking first, then Mike Heyworth, then John Browning, a Suffolk Farmer, then Chief Inspector Mark Harrison of the Kent Police; the meeting finishing with a question and answer session.



The Society of Antiquaries of London, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London.

## **Sir Barry Cunliffe, English Heritage.**

It is pertinent to say that from the very outset of the meeting that Sir Barry Cunliffe of EH and Mike Heyworth of the CBA made it crystal clear that there was a distinction to be made between those who are 'Responsible Detectorist' and those who are Nighthawkers, or as Sir Barry preferred to call them, "Heritage Thieves!" The point was also made that "heritage after all belongs to us all." Sir Barry said that the worst area of Britain for Nighthawking is on the eastern side, which is not surprising as most of the rich sites are to be found there after most invasions or migration's came in from that direction.

Sir Barry mentioned that between 1995 and 2008 there were a total of 240 sites that reported cases of Nighthawking of which 88 were scheduled sites. The number of reported attacks on SAMs has decreased by 1.3% of the resource to 0.41% since the last survey in 1995. 152 Non-scheduled sites have been attacked, but this category was not examined in 1995. The report revealed that 3-6% of archaeological excavations have also been raided, though the reports from archaeologist seem to suggest that Nighthawking is down from 37 out of 50 in 1995 to 15 out of 54 in 2007 (19 units responded, reporting 35 affected sites), (Source: The Nighthawking Survey, 2009, Oxford Archaeology).

Sir Barry noted an issue that needs to be addressed, is that of the apprehension and prosecution of Nighthawkers, which at the moment does not seem to be a policing priority in many parts of the country, even though these people are involved with 'heritage theft'. This issue was dealt with very well by Chief Inspector Mark Harrison in the meeting, which we will come to later. What is clear is that when people have been caught and prosecuted, the fines are derisory, and their detectors are handed back, which suggests the whole issue is not understood within the Crown Prosecution Service or by the Crown and Magistrates courts in the right context! This in-itself causes disillusionment with landowners who have been prepared to have people prosecuted in the past. There have also been some landowners who have taken on the thieves themselves which the police obviously don't condone. But it does seem there are 'professional gangs' at work in some parts of the country.

As mentioned before, Sir Barry made a distinction between the thieves and the responsible detectorist who follow the 'Code of Practice for Responsible Metal Detecting in England and in Wales (2006). He also mentioned that the "PAS have done wonders, with a huge amount of new data available, that have led to doctoral thesis done on the information deposited there." He also mentioned the "stunning results at Sedbury where Bronze Age and Roman sites have been recorded with handheld GPS; responsible metal detecting is thoroughly good when used to record finds."

Sir Barry concluded that there must be some education for the public, landowners and the judicial system to understand these issues. There should also be established a central database for Nighthawking which would allow people to report such incidences, and people who may be involved.

He also mentioned that the PAS "should be fully supported and funded, as the PAS is central to recording our heritage." There was also a need to integrate metal detecting into archaeology where cooperation was required or offered. On the issue of illicit finds there is a need for eBay to adopt the European system whereby the seller has to have some proof of ownership and the provenance of finds.

## **Mike Heyworth, Council British Archaeology.**

Mike Heyworth started by supporting the stance of 'responsible detectorist' not being the focus of attention. He said the origins of the Nighthawking project go back to the PAS working group, but also follows up on the CBAs own survey from 1995, where "considerable evidence of Nighthawking was found at the time." The new report is specific to heritage crime and is of huge public concern. Mike went on to say, "There are two kinds of illegal detecting, those who steal, but also those who are ignorant of the law, neither of whom have any real excuse."

Speaking of the PAS, Mike said, "FLOs have been instrumental in the changes we've seen in recent years. Though the Scheme is voluntary the numbers who use it are growing." He mentioned the recording with the PAS compared to just 300 finds a year being recorded in Scotland, though the recent Code of Practice should help.

Mike said there was a need to follow up the report on a large regional scale to get the whole picture. There is also a need to enhance the deterrent, "to regulate the markets, because if no profit can be made then this would discount many". Public auctions and sales need to be regulated, a requirement by those who come into contact with treasure under law need to show such finds. EBay abroad now have to show documentation which should accompany any artefact for sale.

There is a need for a new criminal offence and such a proposal is being considered by the parliamentary group. Mike concluded with the fact that "more work is needed to stop the loss of our heritage to thieves!"

## **John Browning, Landowner/Farmer, Icklingham, Suffolk.**

John Browning started by stating that Nighthawking "affects one body above all else, being landowners," he also commented it was a shame that both the **L**and **O**wners **A**ssociation and the **N**ational **F**armers **U**nion were not at the launch of the report, despite being invited.

Mr Browning followed the theme of the previous speakers, by saying, that obviously not all detectorists are bad, but its "regrettable that the wrong people get hold of them." John Browning has been fighting battle with nighthawks for 30 years; he used to get raided three to four times a week which was reduced to two per week to around six to ten occurrences a year..... "but has effectively just pushed the problem sideways onto his neighbours farms and land."

John stated that he as a landowner would face fines of up to £10,000 if he started digging with his machinery on a SAM that was excluded from farming, yet, "dig a pot of gold and get caught, and you'll get a £200.00 fine and your detector back." John stated the need for a specific offence for these heritage thieves. He said there are deterrents' out there, but they do not work. He wants to see a law passed called "Metal Detecting without consent".

John also touched on the laundering of artefacts' and how they come out of a chain of people where they become "clean at the top end." He believes that this whole issue, rather than getting better is getting worse! Often people involved in this kind of theft who get caught are often found to be involved in other illegal activities. He expressed a desire to see the Crown Prosecution Service better educated, the max he has seen in a £400.00 fine and confiscation of a detector,

but the penalties are far too random. Even the police are demoralised as when they get people to court they seem to get off with 'derisory sentences.'

John hoped the report was not another report for the sake of it, there was a place to have 'mystery shoppers' to catch dealers and shops selling illegally found artefacts'. John concluded "there is a need to report, report, report, and to get a crime number as these statistics eventually add up, and that what we are seeing is just the tip of an iceberg."

### **Chief Inspector Mark Harrison, Kent Police & Police Service.**

Mark was at the report release to talk about the Police Response in both structure and the issues that arise from Nighthawking. His experience was from the Kent Area, but generic rules to dealing with Nighthawking should apply across the country.

Kent obviously has a long history with its proximity to Europe and good communication links. Kent has SAMs, a lot of development sites with businesses, roads & housing all growing at a fast rate and through these they have a lot of 'heritage experience.'

The Kent police believe in working with the detecting community, who in turn work with the police and archaeology where possible. Mark believes that with such people he has effectively 400 eyes and ears in the countryside, indeed some detectorists have helped solve other crimes like the spare parts that were being stripped from stolen cars for resale.

Kent has a dedicated crime officer, who is a single point of contact, because "personal relationships are key," where both parties know what's needed. Indeed trained officers visit the clubs and speak, both trained officers and PCSOs. The Crown Prosecutor in Kent is trained in heritage, and has been effective in many cases brought before the courts.

There are strong links also, into the farming community, but the police are aware that organised large groups do cause intimidation. He said the police are measured by perception of fear and therefore have to act. He said, "If we know about it, we can and will deal with heritage crime!"

He suggested that more information was needed for landowners in identifying Nighthawking activities and what to do if they encounter it. There is a need to target high risk sites and to also target offenders.

Mike concluded with the benefits of metal detecting, where valuable information was gained and that sometimes with the likes of Cliff Bradshaw and his responsible actions over the Ringlemere Cup, both the landowner and the finder each received a share of a reward.

He finished by saying that the police do and will follow up on thieves and when searches take place they always look for the "Gollum Box!" That is the place where thieves keep their ill-gotten gains, or as he explained, their 'precious's!"

## **Peter Twinn, UK Detector Net – Final appraisal and observations.**

There is little doubt that this report into Nighthawking has stirred something, but it has to be said, not before time. The general feeling at the meeting was plainly clear, in that, we who go about our hobby with the right permissions have nothing to fear. Indeed we were praised for some of the fantastic contributions we've made to the historic record through recording with the PAS. It has often been pointed out that the hobby has not dealt with this thorny issue and maybe should have done many years ago, but it has been left now, on two occasions in 1995 through the CBA and again in 2008 through Oxford Archaeology and its partners.

It now seems as if the agenda has been set and we find ourselves reactive rather than pro-active to these issues of theft. One can only hope that in the months and years ahead that this report will not be found gathering dust in some office filing cabinet, but that we could well look back and see a watershed where this sick monkey can be finally lanced off our backs.

I also feel that Sir Barry Cunliffe, Roger Bland and Mike Heyworth should be commended for their approach to this subject, and indeed, the detecting community as a whole. I certainly know that Roger and Mike have sought to keep communications and cooperation at the forefront of the interaction between metal detecting and archaeology in Britain. Long may that continue despite what you may read elsewhere?

There is also a gap that we should all become aware of from within the media, one that seems to be locked in the headlights of a car like a frightened rabbit. The press in this country have rarely understood our hobby, they seem to think that every field is paved in gold and incessantly calls us 'Treasure Hunters' or 'Treasure Seekers,' which we all know couldn't be further from the truth concerning the vast majority of us. Metal detecting and Archaeology are as close as we have ever been with cooperation, education, and communication playing pivotal roles in recent years; not forgetting the great success of the Portable Antiquities Scheme which many of us can take some pride in as we've used and added to it. Those in the media have to wake up, and we have to make sure we become media wise, or wedges can and will develop that could take us back to the bad old days when we were under threat. The problem arises when we have no editorial control, so if we say anything, think twice and speak once.

I would like to think this report will spawn a few good measures that can deal with this issue once and for all. The need to report such crimes, the need for the police to take them serious and the greatest need for the Crown Prosecution Service and the courts to hand out sufficient deterrents that will make the majority of nighthawks think twice.

My overall impression was that Oxford Archaeology took a good step forward; it was certainly not inclusive enough when set up, but it has started a ball rolling which should deal with something that has never done our hobby any favours. Those within detecting should play our part and cooperate with the authorities where appropriate and welcome changes that should benefit us all.

Behind all the facts and figures are people detecting illegally, behind those people are others who don't care about metal detecting other than what they can make financially. It's time to do what we can, to play our part, and to keep the communication lines open.

Pete.

The full Report can be read online at: [www.helm.org.uk/nighthawking](http://www.helm.org.uk/nighthawking)

# A Medieval Hoard

Where do I start? We have found this hoard and the roman one a few weeks previous because of the UKDN forum and meeting the late Linnet44, because he invited us down to detect his fields in East Yorkshire.

I approached all the farmers Linnet had search permission with and only one refused me access, I also asked for permission for Dazz to accompany me.



We found a few hammered coins on a field about a mile away from our hoard site and we showed them to the farmer, we estimated their value and gave the farmer 50% plus a bottle of whiskey. With which he replied "I have some more fields at the back of my farmhouse all grass pasture but you are quite welcome to detect them as well".

We have detected on there a couple of times last winter, but we only found Georgian and Victorian coins mainly and not many, but in the summer he put a herd of bullocks on, so it was out of bounds. We was itching to get back on and we decided to brave the icy conditions on the first Sunday in February, Dazz was the first to make a decent find he came over to me just before our dinner break and showed me a hammered Lizzy, all I had found was buttons and a musket ball, but as he was showing me the Lizzy I was already digging a signal, I dug it out in front of Dazz and said "It's a short cross hammy". We decided to go back to the car for our dinner break, because we were freezing and it was too cold to snap outside.

# A Medieval Hoard

After dinner I was getting a bit depressed I was only finding buttons and scrap again it had started to snow heavier my back was killing me with pain, and it didn't make me feel any better when Dazz came over with two more hammies. Dazz said "We only have about an hour left before we have to pack in". It was already starting to get dark and the snow had turned to a blizzard, when I got an iffy signal with a low 43 number on my T2, but when I removed the sod, the signal turned sharp and loud and registered 78 on the screen. Another short cross penny; I put the sod back and there was still a signal, so I removed the sod and there was another short cross in the sod, the signal was still there when I put it back again, and another came out of the same sod. I only moved a foot and I was getting signals next to each other, I dug down only a couple of inches the soil was clay and full of small pebbles which is unusual for this field everywhere else it is fine sandy soil, there was two more short cross hammies in the clay clump. By now it was dark and the blizzard was stinging our faces, I think Dazz had found three more short cross nearby but he couldn't get too close because we both use T2,s and they where interfering with each other.



We decided to call it a day, Dazz started walking with his back to the icy blast, but not having eyes in the back of his head he fell backwards into the nearby pond, filling his boots and his T2's battery compartment.

We couldn't get back until the following Wednesday because the weather was too bad. I got the coins I had found ID,d by Tom on the UKDN forum and like we had already suspected he thought the coins being all the same date where from an hoard or purse loss?.

We got back Wednesday morning the weather was much better, in fact the sun came out most of the day, we took our lunch with us so to save the long walk back to the car, the same area produced another 14 John short cross coins and 3 cut halves, Dazz found a further 3 coins from the surrounding area all very shallow, you could only dig about half a spade depth because of the hard gravelly ground.

We called at the farmhouse to show the farmer and inform him of our intention to submit them as possible treasure finds, but he was out and we couldn't find him at any of his fields so we left for home.



# A Medieval Hoard



Dazz had informed the local FLO and we had an appointment at Doncaster on the coming Monday so I was anxious to see the farmer and we only had two days so I decided to go back Saturday morning, Dazz made a last minute decision to go with me. I just caught the farmer leaving the yard in his tractor, he had always insisted he did not want any finds reporting but I explained it was necessary to stay within the law, and we managed to talk him round.

We had another session on the field but only one more coin of John came up, I found a couple of roman nearby and a few other bits, Dazz didn't find any coins at all on that session but it wasn't for lack of trying.

Monday afternoon we met up at Doncaster museum and handed over 30 coins, 1 -William 1 of Scotland, 3 King John cut halves, and 26 King John short cross coins all ranging from 1205 to 1215, the William could range from 1205 to 1230.

We are now waiting for the long process of the treasure trove.

Dave Watson and Darren Barwise.

# A Medieval Hoard

