

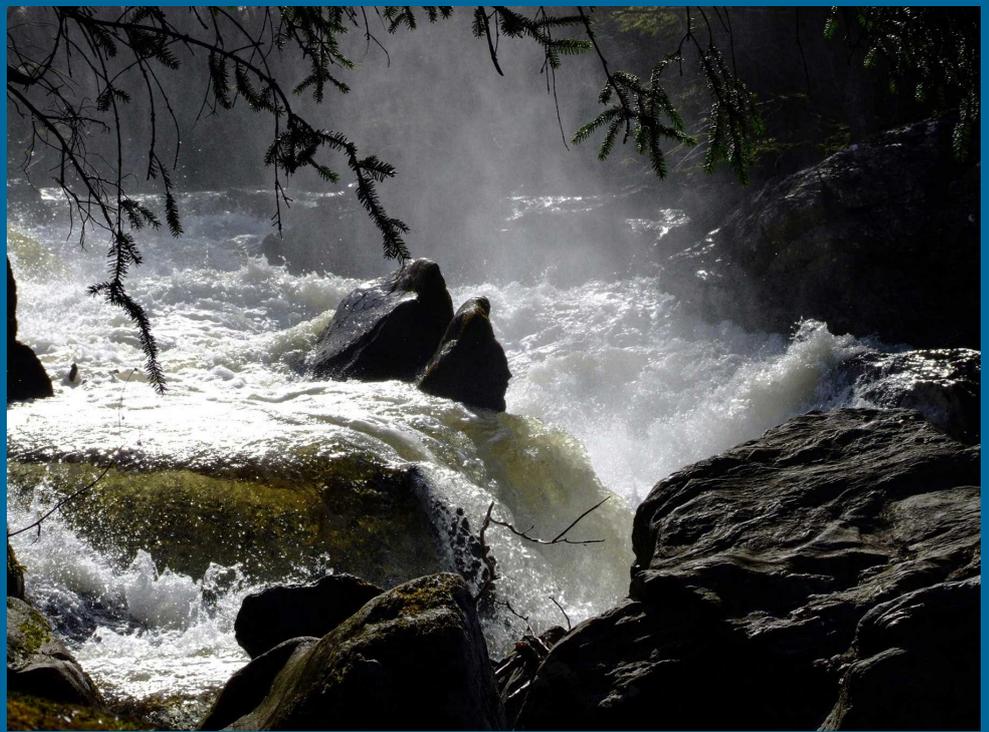
The UKDN

Issue 27

November 2009

World Of Responsible Detecting

WORD



Message from UKDN Admin

Welcome to our 27th edition of the UKDN Word.

Firstly let us start by apologising for the recent down-time of UKDN, this was due to an unforeseen technical difficulty which took some time to rectify, we hope this did not affect your enjoyment of the site too much. We appreciate all the calls, emails, Facebook messages etc and it's nice to know we were missed so much. We hope this won't be happening again any time soon so we're back to our normal service with a smile.

We hope you all enjoy the newsletter with as varied a content as you the members have provided over the last three years. We have to admit to being a little bias, but we love it and it certainly seems to be welcomed each and every month! We're always looking for any kind of contribution you feel as a member you can offer, from small snippet's to longer more detailed articles we'll take them all. Without the involvement of you our valued membership, the Newsletter would soon come to a halt, so thanks to all who have contributed and thanks in advance of those who are thinking of doing so. This could be your chance to have a permanent record online that you can go back to time and time again.

Well the late summer turned out to be a pretty good time for most, with some excellent finds being posted. With most ploughed land now in seed ready for next years harvest it may be a good time to go through all those grot boxes to check you've not missed anything important. Remember to post your finds up for our Find Advisers to see, hopefully we'll be able to give you an identification. We look forward to seeing your finds, so remember to also enter them into the Find of the Month competitions and maybe have a chance to go through to the end of year final!

Lastly our thanks go to Corinne and PhilD who manage to create this Newsletter each month from what seems so little at times, we're grateful for their continuing effort which we hope you'll agree with us is fantastic.....and free!

Best wishes Brian, Mo' & the Team.

FOM Artefact - Elizabethan necklace link

Winner — Tom Redmayne

I had been waiting for weeks for this field to be available again to detect on. It had been sown down to beans and so was one of the last crops to be harvested and then the stubble was so long and tough, that it was a nightmare to swing through.

It is in a good spot, right on the edge of the Lincolnshire Wolds and close to an ancient village. It has produced a lovely little Iron Age quarter Stater and quite a few Medieval hammered silver coins but the majority of finds have been early Post-Medieval, with a good number of Elizabeth I coins coming out.

I then got the call from the farmer that he was going to subsoil it, plough it and sow wheat all in the next two days. I couldn't get out there soon enough. I finished work on the Thursday night and headed out to try and get an hour in before dark. Why do we have to start losing the light just when the fields are ready?

The field was beautiful. Drilled and rolled as flat as a billiard table. It was also very dry as no rain had been seen for weeks.

I headed straight across from the gateway to the area where most of the finds had appeared picking up a nicely decorated spindle whorl on the way. The third one from this field with the same design on.

I was almost at the far side of the field when I noticed a huge boulder about three feet across laying in the grass at the edge of the field. This must have been dragged up by the plough!

As I was looking at this and still walking, I suddenly had the sweetest sounding signal in the headphones that stopped me dead; crisp and clear and obviously not too deep. I carefully took out the first spade full and it was out! I knelt down and sifted through the loose soil and, then, there it was. A glittering little piece of gold. My heart sank. It was cheap Christmas cracker tat. It was too shiny and the gold was that slight coppery colour you get on cheap fake rings. The white stones looked like chalk. Then I picked it up. It was heavy; very heavy.

Then it clicked that this was real and something very special. As I turned it around in my hand I could see the detail and the hand-finished work, the tiny gold pins holding the (what I now know are) seed pearls in place. It was so shiny because it was almost completely unmarked.



FOM Artefact - Elizabethan necklace link

Winner — Tom Redmayne

This had not been rattling around the plough soil for any length of time.

I rushed back to the car and went to see the farmer. He was suitably impressed and was all for going out with a tractor and digger to look for the rest of it! We came to the conclusion that it had been sitting, undisturbed at some depth for centuries and that the subsoiler working at about two to two and a half feet deep had disturbed it enough for the plough to bring it to the surface. This was also where the boulder came from!

The call went in to Adam Daubney at the PAS and pictures emailed to him and the BM. A couple of days later it was confirmed as being 16th-17th Century in date and most likely Elizabethan from a multiple-link necklace. It is now wending its way through the Treasure Act.

I am still allowed onto the field until the crop grows too big to detect so, maybe, there is still the rest of the necklace to be found!

Tom.



FOM Coin - Edward III Berwick halfpenny Winner — Tom Redmayne

This lovely little coin was a bit of a puzzler at first.

I had just finished work and decided to try out one of my “Roman” fields which was still under wheat stubble and was due to be direct drilled with rape in the next few days. This field is quite small at about 20 acres but has produced a lot of Roman bronzes and a couple of silvers; a Siliqua and a Denarius. It is also where the lead curse tablets cursing Emperor Valens came from that are now at the British Museum.

I was hoping for some Roman finds, but the field has also thrown up some very nice Medieval finds including a super condition Edward I penny and an equally good Continental Sterling of Louis IV of Bavaria.

The stubble was long and hard going with the open SEF coil catching all the time and making me swing even slower than usual. This is probably what got me the coin as the signal was very faint and I nearly missed it. If I had been swinging faster I don't think I would have heard it!

The first spade full missed it and the signal was still in the hole but much stronger now. I got out the pinpointter and rummaged about in the loose soil at the bottom of the hole. A sudden beep and it was there, still in a small lump of soil. I gently wiped the muck off to reveal a perfect little silver disc. The first side that I saw was the reverse and I didn't recognize it. Two of the quarters had strange designs in them instead of the usual three pellets. I thought it must be another Continental coin, but it was too small; obviously a halfpenny.

It wasn't until I got home, cleaned it up properly, read the reverse legend as VILLA BERVICI and looked through my books that I found out it was an Edward III Berwick halfpenny made from local dies and with the bear of Berwick in two of the reverse quarters. It is in stunning condition for this type of coin too.

Another first for me and a really pleasing find.

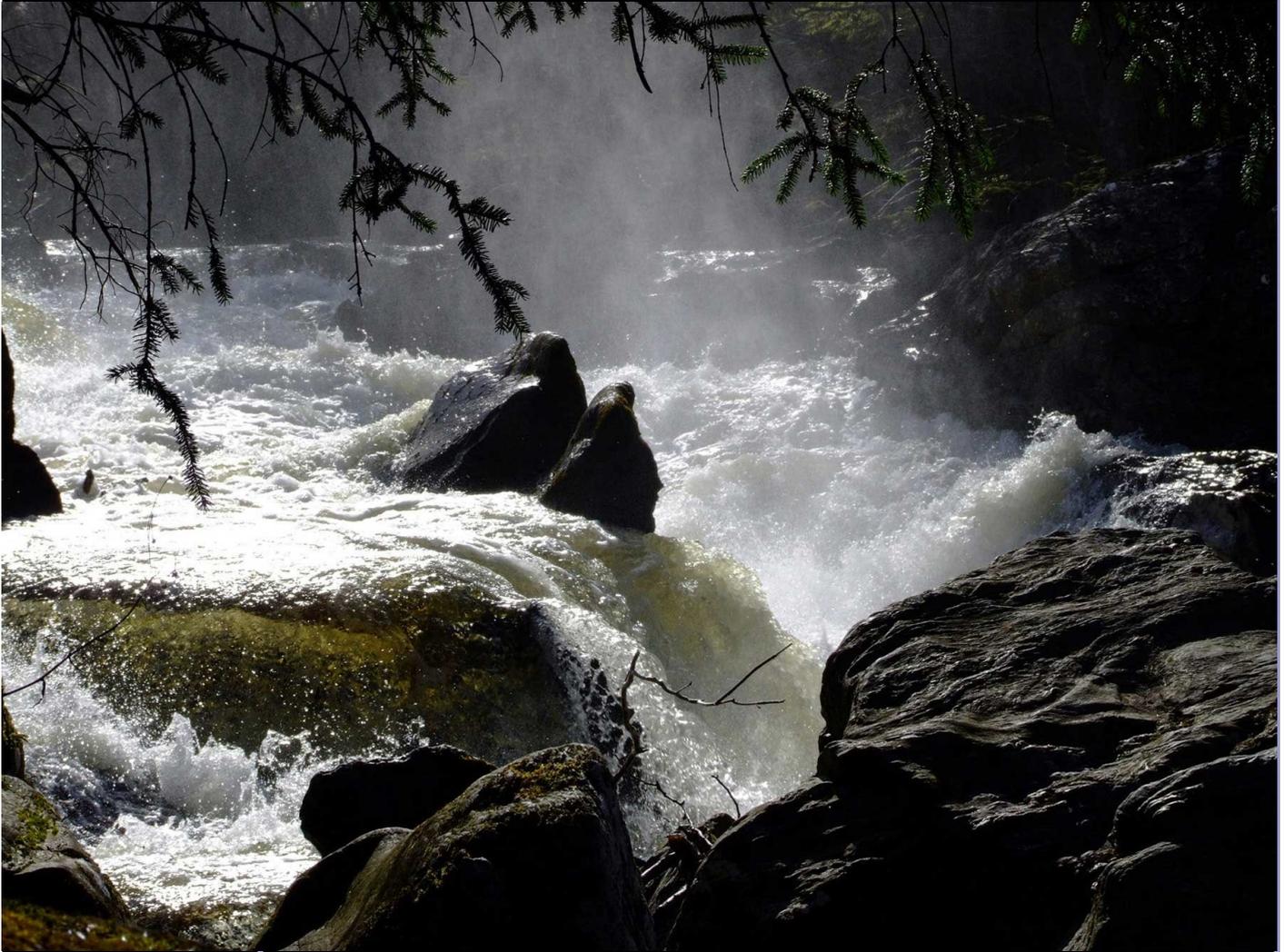


FOM Artefact - Edward III Berwick halfpenny
Winner — Tom Redmayne



Edward III Berwick halfpenny

Photo of the Month Competition Winner firesmudge



”Mist on the water taken at Rumbling Bridge,
Perthshire ”

Camera: Fuji Finepix S9600

Times have changed

By Mal Asterley

I first picked up one of these new fangled Metal Detectors about 30 years ago ; well it was new to me but many people had been using them before that time and somehow I missed it , well I opened the box, put it together slipped in the battery and I was off !! , All around the house and then into the garden but I kept a pretty low profile outside because I was a little embarrassed and didn't want the neighbours thinking I was an anorak . If anyone spotted me over the fence I would tell them it was a new type of lawnmower and make the noises to go with it - *ha ha* .

I had joined a local club and there were not a lot of them around those days and that Sunday I was going on my first dig. Sunday arrived and off I went with my trusty C-Scope in hand. I had my nice new wellies on and some new kit I had bought to look the part and felt I was one of the boys !! . Yes I did get a few finds and it was a good selection of old pennies , half pennies and three-penny pieces with the odd tanner (sixpence) thrown in but don't forget they weren't that old those days to me because a few years before I had been given them to go and buy my sweets .

For digging I used a 10inch Bowie Knife and I was very good digging a clean divot with that, because I was a time served master butcher (it all helps). That dig was also the start to me of clearing the world of pull tags , scrap iron , lead and all the other bits of metal in the ground because the C-Scope didn't give a lot of discrimination .

DREAMING

When we had our breaks in the fields we used to talk about the machines we were using and wonder how they might get a lot more clever in the future . The lads would say things like “ I bet they will come up with a machine that can tell you what the signal means; like if its ferrous or non ferrous “ and one silly person even said “hey I bet they will have like a little TV screen on your detector that will tell you what kind of item it is even before you dig !!” How stupid can you be hey !! Well it happened didn't it - just look at the machines that you guys and gals are swinging today ! They were just a dream 30 years ago .

Times have changed

By Mal Asterley

WHAT ELSE HAS CHANGED ??.

Well if you found a nice Roman coin or a complete artefact it usually meant a trip the nearest Museum and then a wait for 3 or 4 weeks for a feedback .

Now things have exploded !! Most people have a digital camera and most homes boast a computer— this in turn started forums on metal detecting— so if you find something now you can have it displayed on the PC screen within minutes for hundreds to see and all those clever Bods out there will tell you all about it right away.

Even partial artefact's that we used to throw into the hedgerow can now be identified as a valuable part of history.

I dread to think what we used to throw away !! As a matter of fact I might start detecting the hedgerows to try and find them again .

Hey you young 'uns have never had it so good *ha ha ha* .
Mal.



Northumberland Hoard

by Keith Dodds aka Keith777

Lee Brown rang me on the 11th of September saying that he had finally got permission off a farmer for us to hunt in a field that he had a good hunch about. So Wayne Derbyshire and I arranged to meet him in a car park in Blyth the following morning so he could direct us to the field. When we met up with Lee in the car park he jumped out of his car ever so excited, "*look lads a hammered*" with one between his fingers. It was the first hammered coin he had ever found. He had already been to the field for ten minutes before meeting up with us to check the field out & he had found the coin fairly quickly.

So off to the field we went. When we got there I thought great, the stubble isn't that high, as I hate pushing through heavy stubble. Lee said he had found the first coin half way up the brow of the field. So we set our machines up and off we went to search the field. I set off up the middle of the brow to search, Lee & Wayne were searching down the brow. When I got to the top of the field I found it to be a bit to junky to hunt in, so I headed off back down the brow. Half way down I met Lee coming up, so I said to him, "*where about's did you say you found the coin again*" and he replied "*round about where we are now*", so I started to search round about where we were.

Within a minute or so I got a signal, but it wasn't a clean signal it was a slightly broken one, but I dug it anyway, "*Its another hammered I shouted*". Lee came straight over and so did Wayne. We had a look at the coin to check it out, then I checked out the hole with the machine again and there was still a signal there, so I dug back in to the hole again and I pulled another one out. "*Another one*" I shouted'. I checked the hole again with the machine and still there were signals, I dug again and this time I pulled out 3 coins stuck together.

At this point you should have seen the shocked look on Lee & Wayne's faces. I dug again and this time there were about 7 stuck together I shouted "*I've found a hoard*". At this point my heart was missing a beat or two. Lee & Wayne quickly started to search round about where I was and within a minute or so Wayne started to find a few coins. I kept digging and the coins were coming up like daffodil bulbs, some of the coins were on their own, some were stacked on top of each other in 2, 3, 5, 9 etc. Lee also found a few coins round about where I was.



After we couldn't find any more coins in the main area where we thought they all were, I emptied my pocket and I couldn't believe the amount of coins I was holding in my hand—about 80 of them, I tried to separate the stuck together coins but I could hardly do it for shaking with excitement. We had to broaden the search from the main hole to find some more lost coins and in total we found 117 coins that day. We went back to the field the following day to do a thorough search of the area where the coins were found and the second day we found 5 more coins by doing a very slow wiggle.

There were 122 Hammered coins found in total:

- 117 English Edward I (1272-1307)
- 4 Scottish Alexander III (1249-1286)
- 1 Scottish John Baliol (1292-1296)

Detectors used were :

- MINELAB SOVEREIGN XS-2a Pro
- MINELAB XTERA 70
- LASER HAWKEYE

I never imagined that my older Minelab Sovereign XS-2a Pro metal detector would find one hammered coin never mind a hole bunch of them.

For more information follow these links;

<http://coindetector.com/news.php?id=1186>

<http://vids.myspace.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=vids.individual&videoid=64177730#>

Keith.



More Power to the Vicar!

Georgian Tim



So what does the local vicar have to do with detecting? Go back to the 1600's and the vicar was centre of village life and also one of the few educated people who lived there, a situation that continued well into the last century. It also meant that he had time to indulge in his hobbies which included antiquarian research and belonging to antiquarian societies where such things were discussed. These societies often published magazines or books with articles from their members. The other most important person was the lord of the manor who owned most of the land and all finds were reported / given to and he would then discuss them with the vicar who often wrote them down. An example of this is a hoard of Roman silver coins found in the 1800s in Lacock whilst labourers were digging the ditch. This hoard was immediately taken to the Manor and handed over and the vicar summoned to identify it.

For the purposes of this article I will quote Reverend Jackson (later Canon Jackson) and the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society which is based in Devizes museum. Just about every county has an equivalent and a visit to your local library or records office will yield dozens of volumes of their work. In fact, these books turn up just about anywhere from specialist book shops to car boot sales.

A visit to Devizes museum is well worth it and the sheer volume of their collection is staggering. Basically, any antiquarian/archaeological excavation that took place in Wiltshire was reported back to them and objects that were discovered were given to the museum. The society was formed in 1853 and commenced publishing members articles straight away, eventually settling down to an annual publication.

These books are a goldmine of information and discuss ancient sites and their interpretation. One example of this was an extract by an earlier antiquarian by the name of Aubrey whose work Jackson republished:

About 2 miles north of this village is a small single ditched encampment , commonly attributed to the Romans. It is of square form and occupies a gentle swell called XXXXXX.

A quick look at a tithe map (see one of my earlier articles here <http://www.forumukdetectornet.co.uk/phpBB2/download/file.php?id=65190>

) of the parish and I located the area which I then cross checked with Google Earth and I had it pinpointed.

More Power to the Vicar!

I contacted the farmer who gave permission and I was quickly on-site. It turned out to be a late Saxon/Early Medieval site but the point is that it was an ancient site that was now just about invisible because of ploughing and lost to current memory. I have since read through hundreds of articles in the publications and found many more sites. Some are built on, some unavailable but many of them are still farmland and it would be just a case of gaining permission.

Many of the sites discussed by the societies are long since lost and well worth a bit of shoe leather to try and track them down again. Often the clues are cryptic such as *“by Hendrick;s farm is an ancient wall with a Roman tombstone”* and you have to search the records to find which farm was owned by Hendricks. Other times it can be straightforward like *“go 140 paces north-east from the knave door”*. The older the article, the more intriguing the hunt so get out there and start finding those elusive sites. Just remember that they are not all located on large farms and can often be lurking in the most unlikely corners of towns and villages.



About us

UK DETECTOR NET was created on September 28th 2002 to bring together responsible metal detectorists everywhere to discuss the hobby, their finds, the machines they use and a million and one other detecting related subjects.

Visit the forum

<http://www.forumukdetector.net.co.uk/phpBB2/index.php>

Contact UKDN

enquiry@ukdetector.net.co.uk

UKDN newsletters to download

<http://www.forumukdetector.net.co.uk/phpBB2/viewforum.php?f=166>

If you would like to **contribute to the newsletter** please contact either UKDN as above, Phil D via PM, or Corinne Mills at Corinne.mills@ourpasthistory.com

UKDN AIMS

UKDN is a forum for people who are interested in the hobby of metal detecting. UKDN is an online community where members can exchange and share knowledge, their views, discuss the hobby, their finds, the machines they use and a million and one other detecting related subjects.

UKDN actively works towards the following aims:

1. Develop a greater understanding of the hobby and some of the wider issues through healthy pro-active debate within the forum and through the monthly newsletter, which is distributed to, and read by, our membership and beyond. The newsletter includes UKDN based news and articles, as well as wider news, debate, and issues of heritage interest.
2. Provide a platform to inform beginners in the hobby of the basic principles in the use of a metal detector, gaining permission, site research, basic heritage law, farming scheme rules and in the 'best practise' for conservation, recording and co-operation.
3. Actively promotes the 'Code of Practice for Responsible Metal Detecting' to all members of the UKDN online forum and beyond.
4. Encourage all UKDN detectorist's to record their finds with the appropriate bodies (depending where they detect); In England and Wales, this is with the Portable Antiquities Scheme, in Scotland this is the Treasure Trove Unit.
5. UKDN will actively work towards ensuring the future security of the hobby. We will liaise and co-operate with heritage professionals in a way which is mutually beneficial to all parties whilst maintaining our independence, and we encourage their active participation, either in the UKDN online community or through our on-line newsletter.