

# The UKDN

## World Of Responsible Detecting

UK DETECTOR NET

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# Message from UKDN Admin

Welcome to another great issue of the UKDN Word. Spring is well on the way now, fields are thawing out and everything is budding and, at last, the detectorists are making finds as can be seen on the UKDN ID and Picture Forums. We are all making the most of it because this detecting period is very short for soon enough crops will be growing so fast that detecting will be restricted in most part until July/August.

We appointed a new moderator in Liz, not as a replacement but as an addition to the Team. Liz has been with us quietly since April 2005 and will prove to be another great addition to our Moderating Team. She has been welcomed on the open forum and we are sure she will feel at home soon enough.

Kev Woodward and Tom Redmayne represented UKDN at the recent CBA Conference and have given an excellent report on the forum and elsewhere.

UKDN believes the best way forward for the hobby is to discuss and debate the issues currently facing us all. We believe that constructive dialogue has to be paramount with cooperation on an equal basis being how we see the hobby of metal detecting modernised for the benefit of all.

The recent CBA conference in Newcastle attended by Kevin Woodward and Tom Redmayne shows UKDN's contribution to this process. The NCMD have always stated they represent their membership so it's only right and proper that other voices be heard that may not totally agree with the stance or beliefs that the NCMD have adopted. Metal Detecting in Britain is a broad church and a broad church has a diversification in approach and execution to the best way forward.

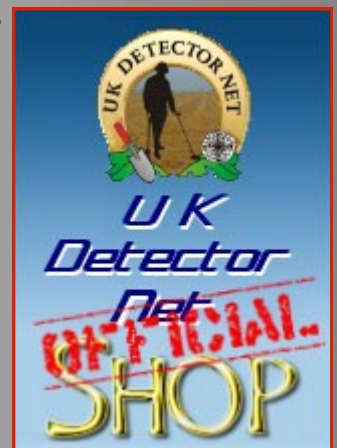
Certainly no one organisation can have all the answers or indeed the inside line, so to speak. UKDN has always believed that liaison is the key to preserving our hobby, not entrenchment which could lead to us returning to the politics of the 1980's, which will do none of us any favours. UKDN would like to say thanks to Kevin and Tom, but also to Suzie Thomas of the CBA for the invite and the opportunity to express our position on a way forward, which we believe encompasses the thoughts of some of the silent majority.

The new improved PAS database is fantastic and a real change from the previous monolith. Dan Pett has done a fantastic job and deserves a gold medal for all his hard work over the past 2 years getting it to the point of use.

In this issue we have the PAS, CBA and Historic Scotland contributing to where they believe the hobby stands and its impact in the future, about cooperation and modernisation. We hope to have something from Natural England at some point and we'll be asking others their thoughts too!

This issue of the UKDN Word is a bumper one and we hope you enjoy it.

Brian Mo & the Team





# UKDN Shop now selling Finds Bags



A new addition to the UKDN Shop - and much-loved and desired by most detectorists and archaeologists.

Made of strong, durable 200 gauge polythene with grip-seal openings and with three write-on panels. Supplied in a three useful sizes to suit all occasions i.e. 1.5" x 2.5 inch for coins and very small finds, 2.5" x 3 inch for larger coins and artefacts and 4" x 5.5 inch for the larger finds.

Sold in batches of multiples of 100 e.g. 300 or 600 or just 100, 500 and 1,000.

All sold at very competitive prices with no rip-off fees for postage.

For more info and to order go to the UKDN Shop via the link on the Forum Index Page.

**Tom Redmayne says :**

***Got mine and the quality is very good. Nice thick plastic and good writing surfaces.....just the job.....***

## New Moderator - Liz

On 22nd March we appointed a new moderator—Liz.

Liz, who has been with us since April 2005, lives in Rutland, is aged 57, and uses an XP Powermax Gold.

### **Liz told us....**

*I always think that life is very much like detecting, as you never know what is going to turn up!*

*I have always been a keen gardener and kept a few chickens. About 30 years ago I managed to rent a small paddock and started to grow some vegetables and flowers. Then I opened a shop, - later I saw an advert for some glasshouses for sale; I bought them, put them up behind the shop and sold garden plants. In 2000 other shops in the village had closed, so I leased the shop out as a general store. In 2007 I closed the nursery and semi-retired.*

*I still grow vegetables, although they get neglected as the detecting season starts, usually for me at the end of August.*

*I can think of no greater "stress buster" than a metal detector, the minute I switch it on, all else fades away. We are not in the best of areas and often find very little, but the anticipation and the finds we do make never fail to amaze me. I think that most of the fields have a story to tell and just like people some reveal them straight away and some take longer.*

*I look forward to being part of the UKDN Team and feel highly privileged to have been asked in the first place.*

# Find of the Month Coin

## Henry VIII Angel

By **Steven Bancroft**

It was a really cold day, the ground was frozen and I even damaged my kneecap trying to smash an oblong slab of frozen dirt on it. The hammered gold was in a frozen piece of dirt which I put directly into my pocket. When I got home it was dusk and I put on the kitchen light to defrost the lump under the tap. When I saw the coin I said "great it's hammered" and I thought as I balanced it on my finger, its heavy for silver. As the minutes passed by it got brighter (high energy lights) and the coin got yellower. I then realised it was gold. I also found a medieval heraldic pendant on the same day.

Yours Steve.



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# Find of the Month Artefact

## Medieval Merchants Seal Ring

By **Karv**

It was a dull Saturday, threatening rain, but I figured I'd get out and take my chances, aiming for one of the few fields I have access to which wasn't in crop. I'd done this field fairly well over the last couple of years with my Explorer II - or so I thought. The wife had bought me an E-Trac for Christmas, and as I was settling in to the change of machine I'd started to find things I must have walked over with the Explorer, several times!

I was quite surprised to find that since getting the E-Trac, I'd found several hammered coins, a Pilgrims' Ampulla and a nice strap end from an area of this field I'd gone over a lot.

This was turning into a very good year, and this field has shown me saxon and medieval before, plus having a good smattering of Roman pottery it has very good potential. The day had been fairly productive, with a couple of hammies, several buttons and old coppers etc, but as the rain was closing in on me, I started heading back across the field. I'm not sure quite what it is about "heading back to the car" .... A lovely high tone, a good solid two-way signal (the magic 12), and I was pleasantly surprised when this beautiful medieval merchants ring appeared from the clod of earth in my hands.

It may "only" be bronze, but the detail is fantastic, and it's such good condition. A real pleasure to find, and obviously well appreciated by the number of votes it's received.

Thank you all for voting!

Karv



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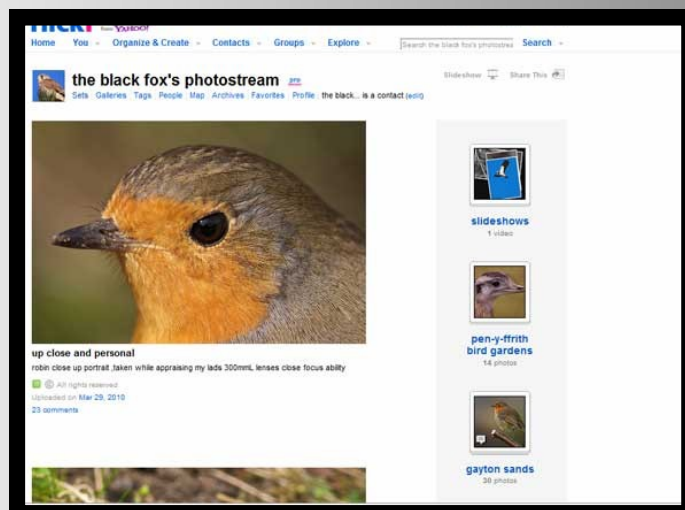
# Photograph of the Month Competition Winner **Coenwolf (Jeff)**



## **"Wings of an angel"**

Taken with a Canon 40d camera plus Canon 400mm L series prime lens, hand held .

***To see more of Coenwolf's photos click on the Flickr image below***





# The Pirate

by dazipoo - Daz



I met this chap recently and I tried to gain info on where he kept his booty, for detecting purposes of course.

And having a common link etc I said to him "I'll show you mine if you show me yours" Legs that is!!! But even with that common link he would still not reveal the info. Perhaps if his parrot was around he might have shed some more light on the matter!

I'm doing very very well indeed since my medically appalling year of 2008, in actual fact I have defied the odds - let alone losing my leg but having the two brain tumours as well !!!

But life must and does go on thankfully - with a stubborn determination to keep moving and keep overcoming any obstacle that comes my way. So going out on Saturday and finding my first Hammered's since March 2008 was a wonderful feeling, sharing the discovery with the land owner and showing my finds to my family again.

What a great hobby.....Magic

Daz....



# CAST COIN COPIES IN ROMAN BRITAIN

by Adrian Marsden

Irregular coins, that is to say coins produced by unofficial workshops, were a common feature of the Roman currency system. At some times production of these assumed the proportions of an epidemic. This is the case with, for example, the issuing of irregular copies of the *antoninianus* coinage, the so-called 'barbarous radiates' in the 270s and 280s. Earlier in the history of Roman Britain irregular coins were produced but in much smaller numbers. Many of these earlier copies were cast in moulds and not struck with dies. This article will look at the history of cast coin copying in Roman Britain.

In twenty-first century Britain we do not have a shortage of currency. This was not, however, the case in Roman Britain. To be sure, producers of irregular money had a definite financial motive for doing what they did. However, in some cases, they were also servicing a need, manufacturing imitations to supply a market in desperate need of coinage. This must always be borne in mind when considering the often poor appearance of irregular coins. Quite simply they were suffered to circulate because nothing better was available.

The casting of irregular *denarii* is well attested in Roman Britain and large caches of the moulds used to make them have been discovered over the years. Norwich Castle Museum has several moulds from a cache of these coin moulds discovered at Lingwell Gate in Yorkshire on display in its Boudica gallery (figure 1).



(figure 1).

These moulds were produced in the form of clay discs and impressed with a coin on each side. These moulds were then stacked up in columns (figure 2); usually three of these columns were arranged around a central channel. The molten metal was then poured down this channel, running off into each individual mould by way of grooves cut into the edge of the discs.



(figure 2)



The irregular *denarii* produced by this method are easy to spot today; witness a dull grey example of Septimius Severus with patches of small patches of corrosion (figure 3).



(figure 3)

Since these coins are cast their details can appear a little woolly. If the metal was not heated sufficiently, premature cooling can leave pitting on the surfaces as on an specimen of Caracalla (figure 4).



(figure 4)

Some have quite obvious seams running around the edge of the coin where the two halves of the mould met. In some cases, when the moulds have not been aligned correctly, this can be quite easily seen in the resulting cast. A coin of Septimius Severus features this phenomenon (figure 5). It is their colouring, however, that is their most distinctive feature. They were produced in what seems to have been a pewter type alloy and over the years this has invariably toned to a dark grey or black.



(figure 5)

Another feature of these coins is the way in which they can snap, a result of the brittle tin in their makeup. Broken fragments do appear from time to time. The pewter alloy can also corrode in a way very different to that of silver, the green patches on the illustrated example, a fragment of a cast *denarius* of Julia Mamaea, being typical of this (figure 6).



(figure 6)

The way in which these coins turn up as stray finds, however, implies that many entered circulation at least for a time and this suggests that their appearance when initially produced was very convincing. Indeed, these coins would have looked very different when fresh from the mould. It takes some time for pewter alloys to tone; initially these cast copies would have appeared all but indistinguishable from true silver *denarii*. The tin present in the pewter would also have given them a level of hardness similar to that of silver.

The author was interested to see how easy it was to create these coins and, with Jason Gibbons, illustrator for Norfolk Landscape Archaeology and a keen practitioner of reconstructive archaeology, decided to attempt the production of cast copies using this technique. Unlike copper alloy, pewter does not have a high melting temperature and so little in the way of special equipment was needed for the experiment.

First, clay was used to produce moulds after the fashion of the Lingwell gate specimens and these, after being dried under a strong sun, were then arranged in two short columns. Wet clay was then placed around the columns to make the whole structure sturdy and a central channel left for pouring the molten metal.

The first experiment was not a complete success; the clay moulds gave off steam and in some cases cracked. The cast coins, when they were removed, were found to be imperfect; some were incomplete whilst others had miscast surfaces, both due to the moisture in the moulds causing the metal to cool prematurely and the steam issuing forth forcing back the molten metal from the moulds themselves (figure 7).



(figure 7)



The second experiment was much more successful (figures 8-10). Considering the problems encountered previously the moulds were this time heated in an oven to eliminate excess moisture. Clay will also hold moisture chemically and so the presence of water cannot be eliminated completely but, given the difficulties of the first experiment, more clearly needed to be done to dry out the moulds as much as possible. The results were completely satisfactory and the bright, silvery appearance of the cast coins, together with a relatively crisp definition, showed how easy it is to produce forgeries which were, at the least, initially quite convincing .



(Figure 8)



(Figure 9)



(Figure 10)

When were these cast copies made? The overwhelming majority of moulds recovered and, indeed, the overwhelming majority of cast copies themselves, are of Severan date and so we can be reasonably confident that these coins were not being produced, at least not in Britain, until the early third century. Indeed, most are probably a good deal later. We know that some were certainly being produced at the same time as cast copies of radiates dated to the early 270s since moulds mixing impressions of radiates with those of *denarii* have been recovered from some assemblages.

Why were these coins being produced decades after the last officially-produced silver *denarii*? It cannot have been the case that *denarii* were still circulating as currency; the massive debasement of the radiate coinages and the ensuing collapse of the Roman currency system in the 260s would have driven any good silver coins from the marketplace. There may have been a large number which remained in existence, serving as bullion although it is probable that most had long since been melted down. The memory of silver *denarii* would, however, have remained. It may be that this provides a context for the production of these cast coins, their makers hoping that *denarii* of apparently good silver would be accepted at face value in an era where silver coin was a thing of the past. If silver *denarii* had vanished a generation and more before it is also worth considering that many people living would be very unfamiliar with real silver coins and might far more easily accept these cast copies as being true silver *denarii* of the long-defunct Severan dynasty.

There was a steady but low level of production of cast *aes*, the collective name given to the large bronze coins of the earlier imperial period, namely *sestertii*, *dupondii* and *asses*. These are often recognisable on account of their smaller size. As cast coins cool they shrink slightly and if these cast copies were themselves then used to make moulds the products of a workshop would steadily become smaller. Given their larger size relative to the cast *denarii* discussed above, their designs are also often weaker due both to this shrinkage and particularly due to the fact that the molten copper alloy would cool more quickly because of the larger moulds being used and the alloy's higher initial temperature. Even when these cast *aes* are of good size, they often carry a distinctive ridge around their edge caused by the slight gap between the two halves of the mould.



These coins are generally cast in a copper alloy of distinctive appearance; this usually patinates to a silvery-green colour, presumably a testament to there being a high level of tin present in the metal. This tin content can make the metal unstable and these copies have been known to deteriorate very quickly once removed from the soil.

Unlike the cast *denarii* mentioned above, these cast *aes* do not overwhelmingly replicate coins of the Severan dynasty. Examples are known of cast copies in the names of first and second century emperors such as an *as* with a Britannia reverse of Antoninus Pius (figure 11). The filed-down lug where the coin has been broken from its casting jet can be clearly seen at about one o'clock on the reverse. A seam around the edge is apparent in some areas. The coin is of good size and weight but the alloy is probably a base, highly leaded copper alloy. In any case, coined metal was worth more than the uncoined equivalent and this would have furnished a good enough reason to produce cast imitations.



(Figure 11)

However, most of these imitations are cast from coins of the middle years of the third century rather than those of earlier date. These tend to be copies of the smaller *aes* denominations, *asses* and *dupondii* and range in date from the reign of Severus Alexander to that of the Philippi. This is interesting considering how relatively rare officially-produced *aes* of the first half of the third century are in Britain. Here we presumably have, as well as a desire to make a profit, an attempt to make good a shortage of regular coin by casting imitations.

An example of Julia Mamaea is, especially when compared to a regular issue, symptomatic of the species (figure 12). It has ill-defined, weak surfaces, typical of larger cast coins and weighs in at 4.77g, significantly less than a regular coin. Two other examples, both *dupondii* of Maximinus and both found in Norfolk (figure 13), are interesting in that they appear to have been cast in the same mould or at least from the same original coin. These perhaps imply that people in Roman Norfolk were responsible for at least some of these cast *aes*.



(Figure 12)



(Figure 13)

Some of these copies are of truly dreadful appearance. Another cast coin, probably intended to replicate another *as* of Julia Mamaea has such weak designs that it is mostly illegible (figure 14). A pronounced casting seam makes its origins even more clear.



(figure 14)

As mentioned above, some cast radiates were produced but these remain rare and it does not appear that very many were made. The majority of these were probably manufactured early in the 270s before the vast numbers of struck copies appeared in circulation. They often have the same silvery green appearance of cast *aes* and reproduce the common, debased *antoniniani* of Gallienus, Claudius II, and the later Gallic emperors, Victorinus and the Tetrici. They are thin and this can make it difficult to detect the casting seam around their edges. They are smaller than their regular counterparts, however, and a typical example, of Tetricus I, is easy to spot when placed alongside an official issue (figure 15).



(figure 15)

Two interesting coins from the same site have been cast from moulds impressed using struck copies, one of Tetricus I and the other of his son Tetricus II (figure 16). Thus they represent an unusual category of second generation imitation. In colouring and form, however, they are typical of cast *antoniniani*, with the same pale greenish patination and casting seams.



(figure 16)



There are almost no cast imitations from the later years of Roman Britain. In Egypt the *folles* or, as they are often now called, *nummi*, of the Tetrarchy were cast in large numbers, a practice attested by the large numbers of moulds surviving in the country. These are of a distinctive, dark grey, silty-looking mud and appear to have been used in an identical way to the *denarius* moulds mentioned above. The few forgeries of these coins known from Britain, however, were struck and not cast. Casting may have been used to produce copies in fourth-century Roman Britain but there is practically no evidence for it and so casting in this later period need not detain us here.

The author is always keen to hear of any evidence for irregular coinage, not only in Norfolk where he works as Norfolk Landscape Archaeology's Numismatist, but also from other parts of the country. He can be contacted by telephone on 01603 493647 or by email at [adrian.marsden@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:adrian.marsden@norfolk.gov.uk)

### Adrian Marsden



# Using the Teknetics T2 in Scottish Soil conditions

## By coreservers

Scottish soil conditions tend to be a lot harsher than down south, and can make this detector a little unstable unless set-up correctly, this is my standard set-up routine;

I turn the on\off\volume dial all the way to full, then turn the control panel knob to the all metal setting.

Here you really need to set the sens correctly to allow for accurate pinpointing, especially as the coil is not a "standard" shape.

Press the button once and the figure 60 should appear, turn the knob down until this states 15. Again make sure you are adjusting the all metal setting!

This is not an issue south of the border, but our soil conditions can seriously knock the pinpointing out.

Just press the button again until "all metal" is highlighted bold, and turn the knob to Discrim.

## My standard startup settings are:

**Sens** set to 80, be prepared to knock this about a bit as soil conditions change. I have had it as high as 90 and as low as 58. Keep an ear and an eye on the signals. If the machine gets sparky and very noisy, turn this setting down.

**Discrim** I always set to 5, it can bring in coke and some large iron, but makes missing tiny signals less likely. You can set this as high as 10 if you feel the need.

**Tones** The T2 has more tone options that you'd ever want to use. But for the past 18 months I've stuck with 2+, I have tried 3 and DP but personally find the machine a bit too lively for my liking.

## Ground Balance.

Find the pinpoint switch, and instead of pulling it up, push it downwards. Then pump the coil between 6 and 1 inch 3 or 4 times. Our soil can read as high as 78 on this. I stop and do this every 5-10 minutes. You may find signals are not coming through clearly, if so find a clean bit of ground and Gb again.

## Target numbers

A basic rule is dig everything over 43. But watch 92+ as it can be very deep iron, however a recent trip brought a 93 at 3 inches, which I was in two minds about digging, however I did and it turned out to be a George 3rd half crown. Watch sub surface wet coke though. It gives a really nice clear signal, but you can work it out. I'm not going to say how I think it appears though, as it could lead to you missing out on some good targets. But it's one to listen out for and learn.



# Using the Teknetics T2 in Scottish Soil conditions

## By coreservers

Here's a couple from that day, a Charles 1st Turner 1624-ish (2 pence Scots) and a William3rd love token



Hope you find this helpful.

**coreservers**



The South-Lancs & Cheshire Metal Detecting Club has been in existence since September 1978 and for a long period in the 1980's and 1990's the club newsletter was written by both Brian Cross and John Fargher. The front covers were designed by Dave Berry, club member and resident artist. The newsletter front cover became a classic of good humour, hobby relevance and fine design and each month the club members looked forward to what Dave was going to put on the cover. Many club members could see themselves captured by Dave and featured on the cover, Brian & Mo' for example, courting at the time, often saw themselves below a heart carved in a tree or Brian would be featured wearing Wellingtons on the end of suspenders.

Dave has kindly given us permission to feature some of the classic covers and for this we thank him.

**Cover Explanation:** Gawd, this cover really hit home when it was published - how many of us can relate to this picture - loads of us I'll bet. Greenall Whitley at the time was one of the biggest ale brewers in the country. Brimo







There has been a lot of speculation on a number of fora and in some of the hobby press about a perceived threat of a new STOP campaign , worries about the new rally code of practice, and a whole host of other issues. In fact if you believe everything you read the end of detecting is nigh!

We at UKDN have decided to ask the main organisations and individuals to talk to us through an article by answering our straightforward, no nonsense question below - this allows them to set out their stall and allow us, the detectorist to see what issues there may be to face—or not as the case may be!

This edition we have written responses from Mike Heyworth, of the CBA, Sally Foster from Historic Scotland and also from Michael Lewis from the Portable Antiquities Scheme.

## Our Question:

“Metal Detecting in the UK has changed dramatically since the inception of the Portable Antiquities Scheme in 1997, as we enter a new decade what does your organisation see as the challenges facing the hobby, where do you see positive bridges being built, and where can metal detectorist and other involved parties assist in this process of cooperation and modernisation?”

# The Answer from Mike Heyworth, the Director of the CBA

The archaeological heritage of the UK is a fragile, irreplaceable resource which is vulnerable to damage and destruction from a variety of agencies, some natural and some caused by human intervention. The huge and growing public interest in history and heritage gives encouragement to activities which attempt to preserve and conserve that resource for future generations to appreciate and study. It also leads to increased engagement with research efforts to understand better the nature of the archaeological resource and what it tells us about past activity in the UK.

The metal detector is a tool which can be used to contribute to improved understanding of the past, and can allow us to discover vulnerable archaeological finds which are in danger of destruction from ploughing and other processes. The contribution of metal detectorists who follow the Code of Practice for Responsible Metal Detecting in England and Wales (agreed by both detecting and archaeology organisations and available at <http://www.finds.org.uk/getinvolved/publications>), and operate in line with the Code and follow the legal requirements in other parts of the UK, is increasingly acknowledged by archaeologists and researchers. The creation of the Portable Antiquities Scheme across England and Wales has been pivotal to building an infrastructure with the capacity to record the finds made by detectorists and others with the aim of improving our knowledge. The productive relationship between archaeologists and individuals who use metal detectors as a tool for archaeological fieldwork is developing all the time, to mutual benefit.

However, to many metal-detector users the interest only lies in the object itself, and not in its archaeological context (not just the place where an artefact is found, but the soil, the site type, the layer the artefact came from, what else was in that layer, etc). This remains a major concern to archaeologists, as the recovery of each artefact is a one-off, never to be repeated, opportunity to learn as much information as we can from that object and its context – and often we learn much more from the context than from the object itself. Archaeology has been likened to a jigsaw puzzle where many of the pieces are missing and we don't know the picture we are trying to create. It is inevitably that much harder to finish the puzzle and identify the picture if even more of the pieces are missing, and particularly frustrating to find out later that they were available to us but were ignored and are now lost forever.

I would like to see more resources given to the Portable Antiquities Scheme to allow their staff to undertake more education and outreach activity to engage with metal detectorists, as well as the general public. The Finds Liaison Officers need to be able to accurately record as much information as possible about finds and their contexts, but also generate wider interest in the *archaeological* value of this information. Responsible detectorists can work with the FLOs, and with local community archaeology groups, and this should bring us together in a shared enjoyment of and interest in the past. Many detectorists are hugely knowledgeable about the material that they find, and can contribute much to archaeology and help the FLOs record finds to build the capacity of the PAS as a 'community archaeology' programme.

There is also a role for responsible detectorists in spreading the word about the importance of acting responsibly and reporting finds to the PAS in England and Wales or other appropriate authorities in other parts of the UK. Detectorists have a key role to play in talking to fellow detectorists in clubs and at rallies about the importance of archaeological context. The best message we can perhaps give out is that any finds in undisturbed, stratified contexts should not be removed from those contexts except with an appropriate archaeological field methodology (which can reasonably be undertaken by experienced detector users, as well as archaeologists). This would naturally include full recording and subsequent publication and dissemination.

Other challenges remain – and should be of common concern to both archaeologists and responsible metal detectorists. These include the continuing examples of the use of detectors in heritage crimes where material is illegally removed from land, and the deliberate spreading of misinformation about findspots and archaeological context to attempt to 'legitimise' stolen material or to enhance the financial value of objects. Detecting rallies also remain a concern as they often lead to intense activity in an area of archaeological interest where the resources available to ensure a good record of the outcomes of the rally are rarely available. This points to a re-thinking of the nature and organisation of rallies, rather than necessarily an outright end to them.



In a recent article in the Council for British Archaeology's own magazine, *British Archaeology* (see issue no 111, March/April 2010, 64-65 – available online at <http://www.britarch.ac.uk/ba/> from mid April) I set out some proposals for extending the Treasure Act to also cover Roman base metal hoards and single finds of Roman and Anglo-Saxon coins which meet the current definition of Treasure (ie contains at least 10% precious metal). I also put forward some suggestions about the current reward system which links with the Treasure Act. There is no doubt that the frequent focus on financial value, rather than archaeological value, which is continually encouraged by the media and through online auction sites, acts as a barrier to cooperation between detectorists and archaeologists.

In the current situation, we must continue to encourage metal-detector users to think about the archaeological impact of their actions, follow a responsible line, work closely with archaeologists, and together we can all learn more about past activity in the UK. It is to be hoped that such closer cooperation, whether through regular contact with Finds Liaison Officers, participating in community archaeology projects, or just through more open and engaging debate of our common interests (and not just our perceived differences), will dispel some of the rumours that are currently circulating about the 'ulterior motives' of the CBA to reinstate a modern day equivalent of the infamous (and now 30-years old!) STOP Campaign. Suspicion and mistrust, whether perpetrated by archaeologists or metal-detector users, can only hamper any constructive progress or dialogue.

This is the constructive approach promoted by the Council for British Archaeology, which encourages detectorists and anyone with an interest in the past to join its membership. More details of the work of the CBA, an educational charity which promotes the appreciation and care of the historic environment for the benefit of present and future generations, can be found on our web site at <http://www.britarch.ac.uk>. You can join the CBA online via our web shop.

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



# The Answer from Sally Foster, Head of Scheduling, Historic Scotland

In summary, the key challenges are building trust, sharing information and best practice. We must also raise awareness that legislation and practice in Scotland is different from elsewhere. Even the best-intended advice for metal detector users is often written from an English or Welsh perspective and may not acknowledge that there are differences to be aware of and plan for.

We have been impressed by the number of people who want to detect responsibly, and we want to do what we can to support you in this. We also need to find ways to reach other interested parties such as metal-detector user groups, landowners, and any one else with an interest in this area or who may be able to assist in any way.

Fiona Hyslop, Minister for Culture and External Affairs recognises the importance of this in her preface to the Institute for Archaeologists *Yearbook and Directory 2010*. With amended historic environment legislation in progress for Scotland, its implementation strategy presents an excellent opportunity to collaborate in the production of a *Code for Responsible Metal Detecting in Scotland*. We look forward to liaising with the metal-detecting community in the future about this, when we hope to build on and learn from the English and Welsh experiences of their *Code*.

In the meantime, Historic Scotland is modernising the information that it makes available online about designated sites. During 2010/11 detectorists and others will gain better access to map-based information from our website, new information about scheduled monuments will become accessible and our data will become live, so we can share it immediately. Your feedback will be most welcomed.

**Sally Foster, Historic Scotland's Inspectorate,**  
[hs.inspectorate@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:hs.inspectorate@scotland.gsi.gov.uk).

Historic Scotland existing guidance:

[\*Metal Detecting. Yes or No? Metal detecting, scheduled monuments and the law.\*](#)

Historic Scotland is very impressed by the number of people who want to detect responsibly



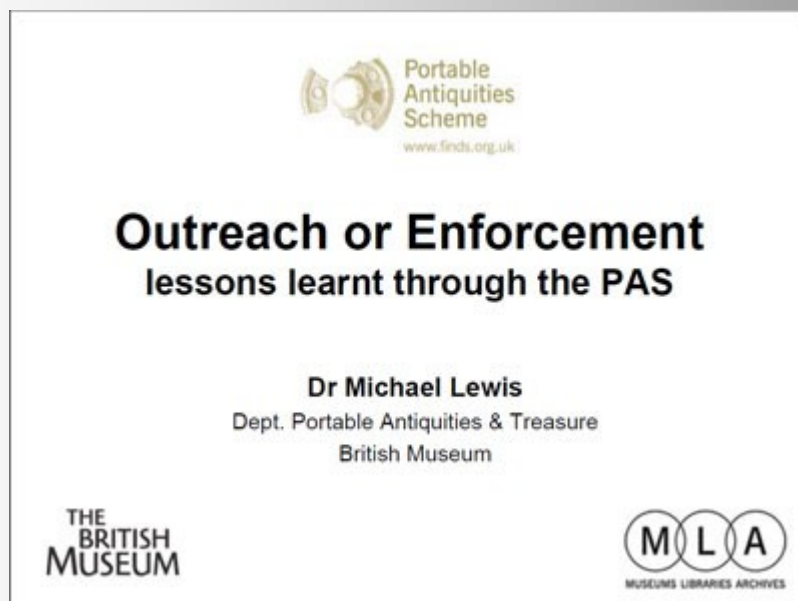


Careful recording of finds and their findspots is an essential first step towards accurate reporting of recovered portable objects in Scotland to the Treasure Trove Unit.

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# The Answer from Michael Lewis, Deputy Head The Portable Antiquities Scheme.



## Abstract

*Prior to the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) there existed no systematic mechanism for recording archaeological objects found by the public, the archaeological response for dealing with such finds (especially those found by detectorists) varied, and there was deep-distrust between most archaeologists and metal-detector users. Thirteen years on things have changed radically, though the views of some archaeologists and detectorists suggests otherwise!*

*This article offers an assessment of the changes that have taken place in the reporting and recording of finds found by the public in England and Wales since 1997. Looking to the future, it investigates what else can be done to encourage finders to employ best-practice when searching for finds and*

*further improve the number of finds offered for recording - also exploring the resource impact of that. It also examines whether more draconian legalisation (such as that enjoyed elsewhere in Europe!) would benefit archaeology (as some archaeologists suggest) or not. It will also highlight some recent changes to the Law and non-statutory guidance in this country to the benefit of the archaeological record.*

## Liaison with metal-detectorists pre-PAS

Upon hearing the views sometimes expressed by certain archaeologists or representatives of the metal-detecting community it is too easy to believe that relations between the two sides hasn't improved much since the bad old days! However, the reality is quite different. Whilst a minority embroil themselves in the politics of 'liaison', those on the ground - the man in the field, as it were - would rather get on with it, accepting that co-operation is mutually beneficial and the right thing to do.

Before we assess the benefits of liaison, and look to the future, it make sense to remind ourselves where we were before the establishment of the first pilot schemes to record archaeological objects found by the public - known as the Portable Antiquities Scheme.

Metal-detecting started to become popular in the 1970's, following the development of lighter and affordable detecting machines, which also saw the establishment of metal-detecting clubs and their representative bodies.

Archaeologists increasingly became concerned that large numbers of artefacts were being discovered by detectorists that were not being recovered or recorded in an archaeological manner. The initial response was to seek to ban or restrict metal-detecting, the approach adopted by most other countries: the enactment of the Archaeological Areas & Monuments Act 1979, which made it a criminal offence to use a metal-detector on a scheduled monument, reflects this. The following year the Council for British Archaeology (CBA) launched its '**Stop Taking Our Past**' campaign, which sought to highlight the damage done by 'treasure hunting'. Consequently relations between archaeologists and detectorists deteriorated, and there ensued deep distrust and resentment.





Meanwhile metal-detectorists were continuing to search for and keep archaeological objects, but were often not reporting them. Even when finds were shown to a museum curator or archaeologist, there was no centralised mechanism for recording this data to similar or nationally agreed standards or ways of sharing the data; though some were making records of finds and passing that information onto other interested parties. There were some areas of the country where liaisons between archaeologists and detectorists were more fruitful. In Norfolk, for example, Tony Gregory and colleagues had been systematically encouraging detector-users in the county to report their finds since 1977, and by 1995 some 24,000 objects a year were being recorded, accounting for about one-third of all Sites and Monuments Record entries in the county.

As Susie Thomas notes in her PhD thesis, it was not only archaeologists who believed that co-operation was better than confrontation. Michael Beach, whose company produced metal-detectors, wrote to the CBA in 1970 asking them to endorse a code of conduct urging finders to avoid archaeological sites and how finds might be recorded. His proposal was declined...

If metal-detecting had been banned or restricted before it became popular (it was licensed until 1980), then we would be in the same position as most European countries. That is to say, most archaeological objects would perpetually remain in the soil - 'preserved in situ', never to be excavated - many subject to agricultural damage, or looted. And archaeologists would have the draconian legislation some crave, though of course whether that legislation would be enforced (or not) is another matter! Let's remind ourselves that whilst metal-detecting on Scheduled Monuments is prohibited, some sites are being systematically looted... (1 -see footnote)

## The establishment of the Portable Antiquities Scheme

Prior to the Treasure Act 1996, England and Wales had no legislation specifically designed to protect objects of archaeological, historical or cultural interest found by the public. Under the previous (common) law of Treasure Trove, finders of gold and silver objects had a legal obligation to report them. The purpose of this law, which was medieval in origin, was to add to royal revenues, rather than to enable museums to acquire important archaeological finds; though from 1886 the principle was adopted that finds claimed as Treasure Trove should be offered to museums, rather than simply being melted down!

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Footnote 1. Whilst the Oxford Archaeology nighthawking survey found a reduction in the reports of illicit metal-detecting on Scheduled Monuments (from 188 in the 1995 survey to 75 in the 2009 one) under-reporting of such instances seems inevitable (Oxford Archaeology 2009, Nighthawks & Nighthawking (Oxford) 70).

### Beach's proposal

1. Firmly – but politely! – warning [metal-detector] users away from archaeological sites and explaining why.
2. Explain exactly what to do if they find anything of interest, who to contact and how to record it.
3. Possibly advising good reference books or suggesting areas where searching could be useful.

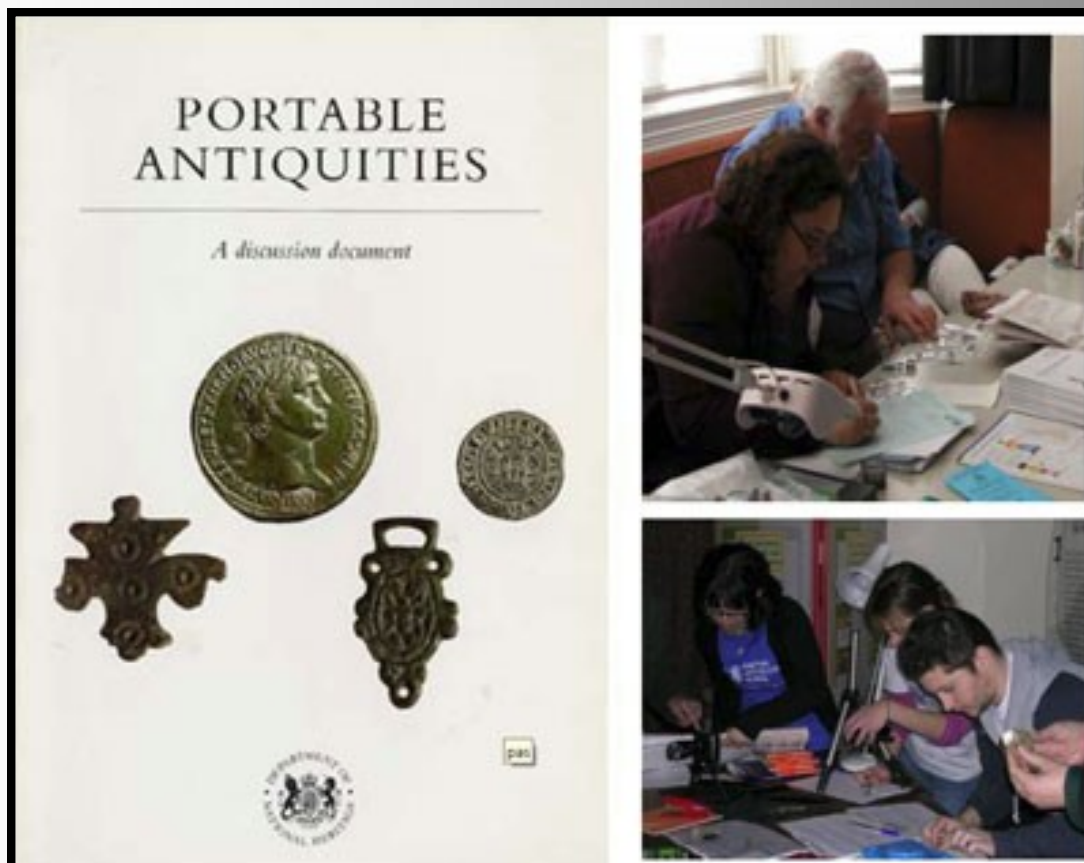


Necessarily the Treasure Act was something of a compromise. Many metal-detectorists opposed the reform of Treasure Trove, which they saw as placing further restrictions on their hobby.

Archaeologists complained that the scope of the Act was too limited, and did not include other important categories of material culture. That said, the Act allows for its scope to be increased without primary legislation, as was the case in 2003, when it was extended to include all prehistoric base metal assemblages. The Act is next being reviewed in 2011.

The loss of information about non-Treasure finds, together with the fact that England and Wales lacked a mechanism to systematically record archaeological finds found by the public, led to the establishment of the Portable Antiquities Scheme. **Portable Antiquities. A Discussion Document**, published in 1996 to coincide with the re-introduction into Parliament of the Treasure Bill, noted that only a small percentage of objects found by the public were recorded by museums and 'this represents a considerable loss to the nation's heritage' as 'once an object has left the ground and lost its provenance, a large part of its archaeological value is lost. The result is a loss of information about the past which is irreplaceable'. Following consultation it was accepted that mandatory reporting of all archaeological finds (opposed in particular by metal-detectorists and landowners) would be overly bureaucratic and impossible to enforce, and therefore a voluntary system (though less palatable to archaeologists) offered the best way forward: though many archaeologists made it clear they would prefer the mandatory reporting of all finds they said they were willing to see whether a voluntary system would work.

Consequently, in December 1996, the Government announced that it would establish pilot schemes in Kent, Norfolk, North Lincolnshire, the North West, West Midlands and Yorkshire to promote the voluntary recording of portable antiquities. In its first full year (1997-8) the Scheme recorded 3,125 finds on its database. The following year further pilot posts were established in Dorset and Somerset, Hampshire, Northamptonshire, Suffolk and Wales, as well as an Outreach Officer, thanks to Heritage Lottery Fund funding. However, it was not until 2003, following a successful bid to the HLF, that the Scheme was expanded to the whole of England and Wales, and now consists of a Central Unit based at the British Museum and 40 (several part-time) regionally based Finds Liaison Officer posts.





## The success of the Portable Antiquities Scheme

It is widely recognised that the PAS has been a great success - British Archaeology Magazine described it as '...perhaps the most successful project to engage a wide public with the practice of archaeology anywhere in the world...'

**Firstly**, the amount of data collated is impressive. The Scheme's database currently holds records for **447,079** finds, many of which might not have otherwise been recorded.

The fact that this dataset covers the whole of England and Wales allows for the distribution of artefact types to be plotted and interpreted, but also highlights the importance of specific sites, thus informing archaeological investigation and research.

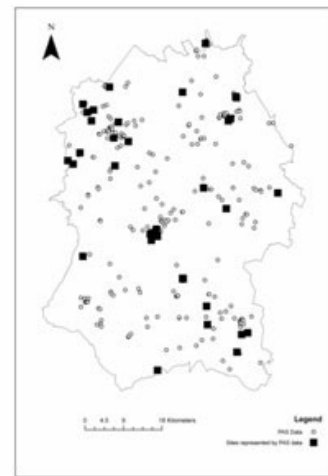
Particularly interesting in this respect is the work of Tom Brindle (Kings College, London) who is researching how PAS data adds to knowledge of the Roman period. In Wiltshire, for example, his research has shown that 43 finds assemblages represent new sites, increasing the number of known Roman settlement in the county by 15% - on three year's worth of PAS data. Likewise, a survey by Adam Daubney (Lincolnshire FLO) of PAS finds recorded in Lincolnshire has identified 328 sites, of which 175 were unknown before.

The research potential of this data was highlighted at the Scheme's tenth anniversary conference - A Decade of Discovery - the proceedings of which will be published later this year. There are also seven collaborative PhDs which are currently undertaking research using PAS data. No other country in Europe can boast such an archaeological dataset, with such enormous research potential.

**Secondly**, the scheme has been successful in encouraging best practice.

Finders are now better aware of the importance of locational data, providing more precise National Grid References (NGRs) for find-spots than ever before. In the early years of the Scheme the number of finds recorded to at least 100m<sup>2</sup> (6-Fig NGR) was 56%. Now the number is in excess of 90%. Furthermore, almost 50% of finds recorded (in 2007) were recorded to at least 10m<sup>2</sup> (8-Fig NGR). We are keen that more finders to use hand-held GPS devices, allowing a degree of find-spot precision that would rival recording through more traditional archaeological search methods, such as field-walking.

It is important to bear in mind that most finds recorded with the PAS (92% in 2007) are recovered from cultivated land and therefore vulnerable to agricultural damage. Archaeologists once thought that such finds, out of (immediate) context, and in the plough-soil, were of limited archaeological value, but metal-detecting has transformed that view.

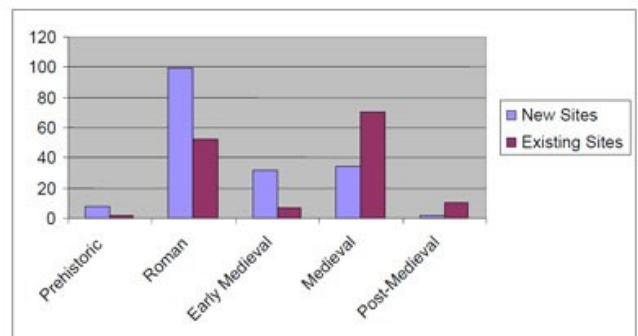


**Roman sites in Wiltshire identified by PAS data**

(based on research by Tom Brindle)

### PAS data from Lincolnshire

(based on research by Adam Daubney)



### GPS training



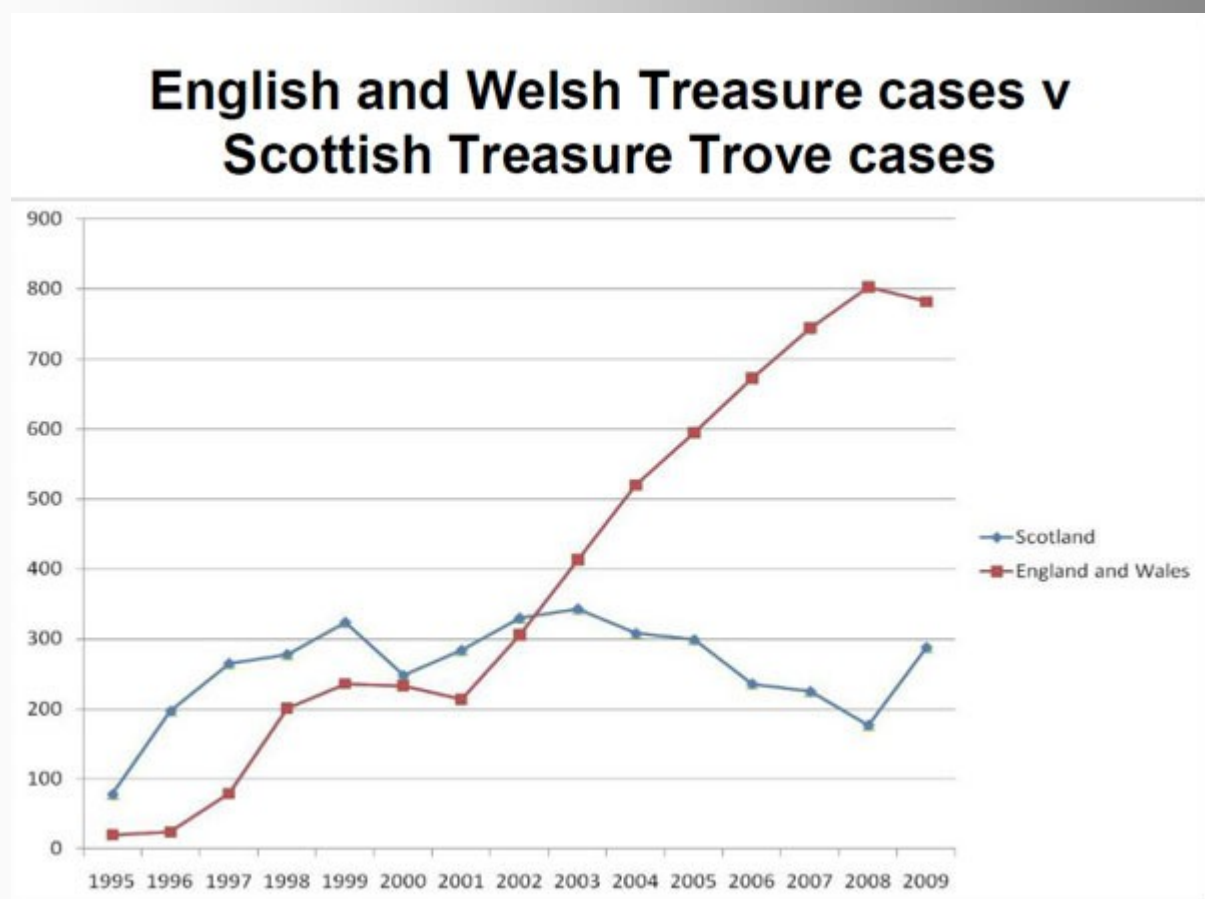
**Ringlemere cup:**  
showing plough damage

**Thirdly**, the Scheme has encouraged better liaison between archaeologists and detectorists. There are currently 170 known metal-detecting clubs in England and Wales of which the FLOs liaise with 161 of them. It is reckoned that the total membership of the clubs is 6,543, and a further 1,320 independents are known to the FLOs - a total of 7,863 detectorists. Given that 4,328 metal-detectorists volunteered finds for recording in 2007, this is a significant proportion of the total; though it is not known how many unknown detectorists there are, or how many of the known ones actively detect or only search on beaches. In some counties, such as Kent, liaison groups have been established to support archaeological work in the area, including in advance of development control.



Likewise more and more detectorists are developing an interest in archaeology, and taking this interest further through formal education. We know of at least 48 metal-detectorists enrolled on archaeology or museum related courses.

**Fourthly**, the PAS has been successful in encouraging the mandatory reporting of reporting of Treasure finds. Since the Treasure Act came into force, in 1997, the number of finds reported has increased year on year, from 201 in the first full year of the Act (1998) to 782 last year. However, most significant is the impact of the FLOs on the reporting of Treasure. When the PAS was extended to the whole of England and Wales in 2003 the number of finds recorded jumped from 240 in 2002 to 420 in 2003, and to 506 the year after that. Of further interest is the comparison between the reporting of Treasure in England against the reporting of Treasure Trove in Scotland. Whereas the reporting of Treasure in England has increased year on year (most years), in Scotland this is more variable. Whereas legislation might be seen as the archaeologists' tool of choice, the reality shows that education might work best in practice.





# Lessons learnt through the Portable Antiquities Scheme

So what lessons can be learnt through the PAS, and how might the benefits of liaison be advanced in the future?

An immediate issue, is the Scheme's inability to record every item found. In 2009 the PAS recorded 66,068 finds, and it seems unlikely the FLOs can record many more at the current level of resourcing (the 2007 figure was 66,311). In the present economic climate, it is not realistic to plan for further expansion of the Scheme, though a grant from the Headley Trust has enabled FLOs to employ interns on a short-term basis. However, there is political support for the Scheme, which (ironically) grew from the funding crisis of the last Spending Review. Recently Ed Vaizey (shadow Minister for culture) described the PAS as 'a politician's dream' since 'it costs very little and achieves a huge amount'. So whilst the public sector is braced for significant cuts in the next Spending Review - even a minor reduction in funding for PAS would have a significant impact - Vaizey's commitment that a Tory government would 'ensure that the PAS remains a central and successful part of British archaeology' is clearly positive.

Given FLOs are unable to record every object found, and are already necessarily selective when recording post-1700 material, there seems to be a contradiction between our message to finders - that all finds should be offered for recording - and the practical implications of that. In the future the PAS looks to make greater use of volunteers, particularly finders themselves. In some FLO areas finders are already recording direct onto the PAS database and my colleague Dan Pett is currently upgrading the database to make it more user-friendly, and also allow anyone to upload basic information about their finds (which PAS staff can then follow up). Even if finders are able to provide good find-spots and a digital image when they submit finds for recording it will help.

Portable Antiquities Scheme

Home | Contacts | Get involved | Conservation | Database | News & reports | Treasure | Research | Blogs | Events

Log in | Register

Home » Database

Welcome to the Scheme's database

What/Where/When search

Find number:

What:

When:

Where:

Search!

383,813 records of 544,577 artefacts

The Scheme's database holds records of a range of activities (the majority from metal detecting), and these data can be found in a variety of ways. Our records are made available with different levels of detail. The Scheme is very willing to give researchers access to the data. Indicate that you would like higher level of detail on our collated data and is

Data enhanced by

GEOPLANET

CALAIS

## Self Recorders

Portable Antiquities Scheme

Home | Contacts | Get involved | Conservation | Database | News & reports | Treasure | Research | Blogs | Events | Staff forum

Home » Database » Artefacts » Add a new find

Add a new object

You can copy your last record

Find number: PAS-64A9D2

Object details

Object type:

Object type certainty: ☒ Certain ☐ Probably ☐ Possibly

Classification:

Sub-classification:

Object description:

Michael Lewis

Log out

Assigned role: Fa

Administer site

My finds

My institution's records

Images

All artefacts & coins

Search database

People

Organisations

Scheduled monuments

Reference works cited

Numismatics

Whilst most finders seem to be happy for their finds to be recorded, many might be termed 'passive recorders' - that is to say they will wait until the FLO visits their club before recording their finds. In the early days of the Scheme it was hoped that finders, once understanding the value of recording, would be proactive in contacting their local FLO, but success in this area has been variable. The problem is that if an FLO is unable to attend a club meeting (for whatever reason) then finds get missed. In some areas, where there are only a handful of metal-detecting clubs, it might be reasonable to expect the FLO to attend most meetings, but in other parts of the country there are too many clubs. That said, some clubs have 'club recording officers' who make a summary or complete record of the finds found by club members. If made available to the FLO this can be extremely. Indeed, a survey undertaken by Eleni Vom-vy-la (University College London) demonstrated that Club Recording Officers and a pro-recording Chairman were two of the biggest factors that have a positive impact on finds recording and find-spot precision. Another was common attendance of the FLO.

David Barwell (former Chairman of the NCMD) would often say to fellow detectorists 'you dug it up, now you are responsible for it!' For many years it was unclear what being responsible means, but in 2006 the most important archaeological bodies and metal-detecting and landowners organisations agreed the *Code of Practice for Responsible Metal-Detecting in England and Wales*. For the first time this defined what is meant by 'being responsible', providing 'clear blue water' between those that were primarily interested in advancing knowledge and those that detect for personal gain. It is unfortunate, however, that ALGAO did not endorse the *Code* (though many HER Officers welcome the document itself) and also that it has not replaced the 'codes' used by the detecting organisations. Whilst we appreciate that these organisations need to carry their membership with them, we should be more outspoken about the benefits of responsible metal-detecting. Too long have those who detect with no interest in the past piggy-backed on those who want to do the right thing. Likewise, we should not stand for the hypocrisy of archaeologists who moan about detecting but are happy to make use of the data. If we believe in the *Code* then we need to make our voice heard; in this respect it is good news that Natural England has embedded the *Code* in the new Entry Level Scheme handbook.

A major contention between most archaeologists and many detectorists is what should happen to the objects discovered. Whilst many archaeologists generally believe that **all finds** should end up in public collections, many finders like to hold on to their finds, or even sell them. Further, museums - with ever reducing space for such finds (including those found through controlled archaeological excavation) and resources to curate them - are (when given the choice) selective in the objects they acquire.

## Recording finds @ the club



## A museum!





The trade in antiquities is controversial, though it is legal to buy and sell archaeological finds. Therefore our main message to finders wishing to sell their finds is that they first should have them recorded and then give their local museum first refusal. In cases where finds are sold on the open-market it is also important that full provenance is kept with the find, so that if at any time in the future it comes by the way of a museum its archaeological value is maintained.

A similar thing might be said about finds in finders' collections. Hopefully these finds will have been recorded with PAS and therefore have unique reference numbers that allow a particular find to be linked to its database record. Many finders say that they hope their finds will end up in a museum when they die, but few have made plans for that eventuality. Instead, they will probably be flogged off (by the wife!) without provenance or end up in a skip. Therefore finders, who recognise they are in fact only temporary custodians of 'their' finds, should ensure these objects are properly recorded, archived and curated whilst in their care, and they should also make plans for what will happen to them in the future.



In this respect Treasure finds are less problematic, as there is a clear process which allows museums to acquire finds they want (or can afford) and disclaim the rest. The problem for many archaeologists is that Treasure finds realise a financial value, which can conflict with their archaeological value. For museums, Treasure finds can severely dent (or obliterate) their acquisition budget, and leave nothing left for conservation etc; that said, increasing numbers of finders/landowners are donating their share of the reward: in 2007 there were 53 (7%) cases where one or both parties waived their rewards. For finders (and landowners) the process is often slow, which creates bad feelings. To this end it is hoped the recent changes to the Treasure Act, through the Coroners and Justice Act 2009, will improve ~efficiency: the Act establishes a Coroner for Treasure, and also formalises the general practice whereby most finders report Treasure to their local FLO - which should establish the FLO network on a more secure basis. Importantly, the Act will extend the obligation to report Treasure to all that come into possession of Treasure, aiming to deal with the illegal trade in Treasure finds. But there are no extra resources to help museums acquire finds, undertake archaeological excavation or conservation work.

Museums are only able to acquire finds where title is clear. In the case of (non-Treasure) finds the landowner (will normally) have the best title, even if the finder has possession. A 'finds agreement' between landowner and the finder is the best way to address such issues, but it is apparent from discussions between the PAS, the CLA and NFU that landowners lack a central-point of advice on issues relating to metal-detecting and persons searching for archaeological objects. In order to address this, and also advocate the benefits of responsible metal-detecting, the PAS has drafted a leaflet for landowners. This will shortly be put before the Port-



A major concern for archaeologists, are metal-detecting rallies. In many cases the number of people attending such events stretches the resources of PAS, and it is not normally possible to make an adequate record of the finds found. Further, the fact that finders come from far and wide, and thus are not often familiar with the site detected, means that if they take their finds to their FLO they often cannot provide precise find-spot data. In order to address the problem (to some extent) the Portable Antiquities Advisory Group sought to draft a *Rally Code* aimed at organisers of such events. Whilst two of the major rally organisers in the UK said they would follow the Code, neither of the detecting organisations on the Advisory Group thought they could. It is now the case that Natural England are considering how this guidance can be used in relation to events on land under ELS. It should be noted that this guidance is not aimed at restricting metal-detecting, but rather encouraging rally organisers to take responsibility for the archaeological impact of the events they organise.

## Metal-detecting rallies



Why do people attend metal-detecting rallies? Some detectorists clearly have difficulties gaining access to local land, and rallies reduce the hassle of getting permissions etc. Others like the social aspect of the event. These reasons are easy to appreciate. However, are there other ways in which people could engage these passions that are more beneficial to archaeology? In some parts of the country archaeologists and detectorists are working together to explore and understand sites, but the opportunities are limited. If archaeologists did more to embrace the detectorist (and his tool) within archaeological fieldwork, then private enterprises might be less attractive or rewarding. In fact there seems to be countless archaeological excavations that still do not benefit from having metal-detecting as part of the 'excavation brief'. In some counties more is being done in this respect, and metal-detecting is even advocated as part of development control. What is clear is that if archaeologists think detectorists should develop better archaeological nous, then they have a fundamental part to play in that process.

## Archaeological excavation





## Summary

In summary, it is clear the PAS has been a great success - both for archaeologists and metal-detectorists. At its best it has highlighted the benefits of liaison and co-operation and amassed a huge archaeological dataset. The challenge for us all is how we deal with those at both ends of the spectrum who look back with suspicion and resentment: the archaeologist, who has no realistic or practical alternative to PAS, who would rather put his head in the sand and pretend metal-detecting, legal or otherwise, did not exist; the metal-detectorist, who refuses to take responsibility for the impact his hobby has on archaeology, and does not wish to share knowledge.

Sometimes it is easy to see legislation as the answer, but banning or restricting metal-detecting is unlikely to be enforced, even if it were ever enacted! Instead, we must seek to educate the ignorant and ostracise the unwilling. Education, co-operation and self-regulation offer the best ways ahead...

**Michael Lewis**

**Deputy Head**

**The Portable Antiquities Scheme.**

## Ed Vaizey (Shadow Minister for Arts)

“The Portable Antiquities Scheme is a politician’s dream! It costs very little and achieves a huge amount”





Image © TWAM (Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums)

**Great North Museum**



Image © TWAM (Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums)



# The Metal-Detecting Forum-An Online Community: Resource, Education and Co-operation

UKDN at the Council for British Archaeology and the International Centre for Cultural and Heritage Studies Portable Antiquities: Archaeology, Collecting, Metal Detecting

Back in December 2009, the Council for British Archaeology and the International Centre for Cultural and Heritage Studies announced that they were organizing a two-day conference taking place at Newcastle University and the Great North Museum: Hancock, in the centre of Newcastle upon Tyne. The conference would take place on Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th March.

Papers planned to address recent research, new initiatives and ultimately discuss what the future holds for portable antiquity management and protection in the UK and further afield. Speakers were to include individuals from archaeological, collecting, metal detecting and law backgrounds.

Earlier this year, UKDN were asked if they would participate in the conference and present a paper outlining the role of the forum and its importance in the metal-detecting community.

It was an opportunity not to be missed and important that we attend so that as many representatives as possible, from all sides of the heritage spectrum, were there to voice and discuss their views.

Kev Woodward and I were asked if we would step into the breach to prepare and deliver a presentation, a role that we both gladly accepted. So began the job of actually deciding on a title and then preparing a 20 minute talk. Fortunately, Kev and I only live about 25 miles apart so we met up at Kev's house and started to think about what UKDN is about and the role it plays for its members and others.

We quickly came up with a title for our presentation:

## **The Metal-Detecting Forum-An Online Community: Resource, Education and Co-operation**

The next few weeks were about condensing all that is UKDN into 20 minutes of talking and power-point slides; not easy as there was so much we could say!

Well, we did what we could and we were finally ready to go about a week before the conference weekend. That final week turned out to be a little more nerve-wracking in the end than even we had anticipated.

The withdrawal of the NCMD from participating in the conference prompted a huge response from many quarters and the debate over their actions raised the profile of the conference with many wondering what the reaction of people in the various heritage camps would be. Kev and I didn't know what sort of reception we were going to get!

We were eventually given our "slot" to speak and it was early on the Sunday morning so at least we could relax a little and listen to the speakers and the debate on the Saturday first.

Saturday morning dawned and Kev and I found our way to Newcastle University and the conference registration desk to be warmly greeted by Suzie Thomas of the CBA, the conference organiser. Introductions were made to other speakers and delegates and information packs were handed out. The atmosphere was one of a friendly and positive, group of people who were happy and willing to chat and talk.

So there we were. We met people, we asked questions and joined in the discussions, and we listened. We stood up and we talked about UKDN and we were asked a lot of questions in turn. The presentation that we gave on behalf of our forum is available to view here, along with all the papers from the other speakers.

<http://www.britarch.ac.uk/cba/events/portants2010>

## So how did it go?

We both felt that the whole conference was a useful exercise and that it showed a vast amount of common ground that was probably already known to many people - it is the extremes from both groups that need to understand the potential for the heritage record from this common ground (common good).

The most significant examples that relationships are moving forward were the totally unprompted remarks by archaeologists there that attitudes to metal detecting and detectorists by some in the archaeological profession were outdated and non-productive and that they needed to acknowledge the progress made and accept the skills and knowledge the hobby has to offer and not to see it as a hobby enjoyed solely by the great unwashed. One of the phrases used was that they need to move away from "academic elitism"!

It was also made clear what steps landowners can take to protect their land from the night hawks (or site burglars as they were called after Badger's talk) by the English Heritage-funded Chief Inspector Mark Harrison. He also remarked on how some intelligence can be gathered and used by the police on actual and suspected site burglars. This was good info and may be something that can be talked about in another thread if others are interested.

What also came out of the talks on heritage crime and illegal digging on scheduled sites and elsewhere was the appeal to the archaeologists not to immediately go ahead and continue to dig a despoiled site as this can destroy vital forensic evidence that could help in tracking down heritage criminals or "site burglars".....this wonderful new name conjured up by Badger.

It was sad to hear from Stuart Campbell of the Scottish Treasure Trove Unit that although they would love to have their own type of PAS system in place their Government have no desire to fund one. He would welcome Scottish detectorists to lobby their MPs to change this impasse.

## Some lows from the conference

Dr Peter Stone (EH) had tried to make contact with John Wells (Chair of NCMD) before the conference but his calls and letters were not returned.

Peter also seemed to rely too heavily on the Oxford University Night Hawking report, even though it is widely accepted its data is only a very rough guide to the real situation.

The Isle of Man is seeing an increase of tourist metal detecting (especially from the USA) leading to problems with what is found as the law is similar to Scottish TT and detectorists being unaware that finds must be reported and that a licence is required to export them.

## Some highs from the conference

The police will focus on the crime of night hawking and not the tool used. It is the action that is a crime, the metal detector is merely a tool like any other. Night hawking was acknowledged to be only a small percentage of overall heritage crime. The Kent scheme could be rolled out nationwide (no timescale mentioned though).

Wayne Sayles from the Ancient Coin Collectors Guild (based in USA) are lobbying for a PAS type system in the US. He also showed that the Guild can give grants of up to £500 towards the finder reward for treasure coins found in the UK (pre Saxon only).

David Connolly (Badger) gave a talk in his unique style exploring the ways to gain maximum recoverable knowledge by proactive contact with all relevant bodies to gain a first hand insight, rather than unworkable impositions. His talk (with sound) can be found here. What you hear at the beginning is actually me confirming to the assembled delegates that UKDN and the UKDFD are not connected! <http://www.slideshare.net/BAJR/whats-missing/1/yes>

Dan Pett - talked about the new PAS database - all we can say is WOW - it is supposed to be rolled out in the first week of April ( or earlier!)- it is certainly a very big leap forward.



All in all, the conference was an excellent and worthwhile experience that allowed us to understand the real views of the majority of archaeologists and the compatibility between metal detecting and the other heritage groups that is already going on and will only continue to grow, with or without the involvement of certain people and groups.

We were well received by all and were both in demand from people wanting to talk to us about UKDN throughout the weekend.

I would like to think that what we did was a really positive move and allowed a wider audience to appreciate what we are and what we have to offer. And in return, we learned a lot from the simple process of talking and discussing.

**Tom Redmayne and Kev Woodward**



Images © Penny Grennan



# Spurred on to take a snap!

## Barry Carpenter AKA UKDN's Puffin



I take photographs, *lots* of them.

I got into photography when I wanted to take better photographs of my finds and got hooked again. Again! You may ask - well I did do 4 years at Art College 25 years ago, and part of the course included photography. I kind of enjoyed messing with the chemicals, watching the image appear on the paper in front of my eyes. Thankfully digital came along; so now you can mess around with your images from the comfort of your armchair. Great - no chemicals to worry about. Not long after I started posting my pictures on UKDN, I was pointed towards the Flickr photo hosting site <http://www.flickr.com/> by Corinne Mills and so I joined.

Within Flickr there are sub-Groups for just about every subject and place under the sun. Great internet site for showing and storing your images. I joined my local towns group, Walsall. This is a very active group that has developed a very good working relationship with Walsall Council, who have allowed small groups of photographers to wander around various council properties like the Town Hall. A few weeks ago the group received an invite by Walsall's Museum Service to a photographic shoot at the Museum Services Stores.

[http://www.walsall.gov.uk/index/leisure\\_and\\_culture/museums/walsall\\_museum.htm](http://www.walsall.gov.uk/index/leisure_and_culture/museums/walsall_museum.htm)

After swearing to not reveal the location of the store we duly arrived one Saturday morning with camera kit at the ready. I say we - A small group of 8 people.



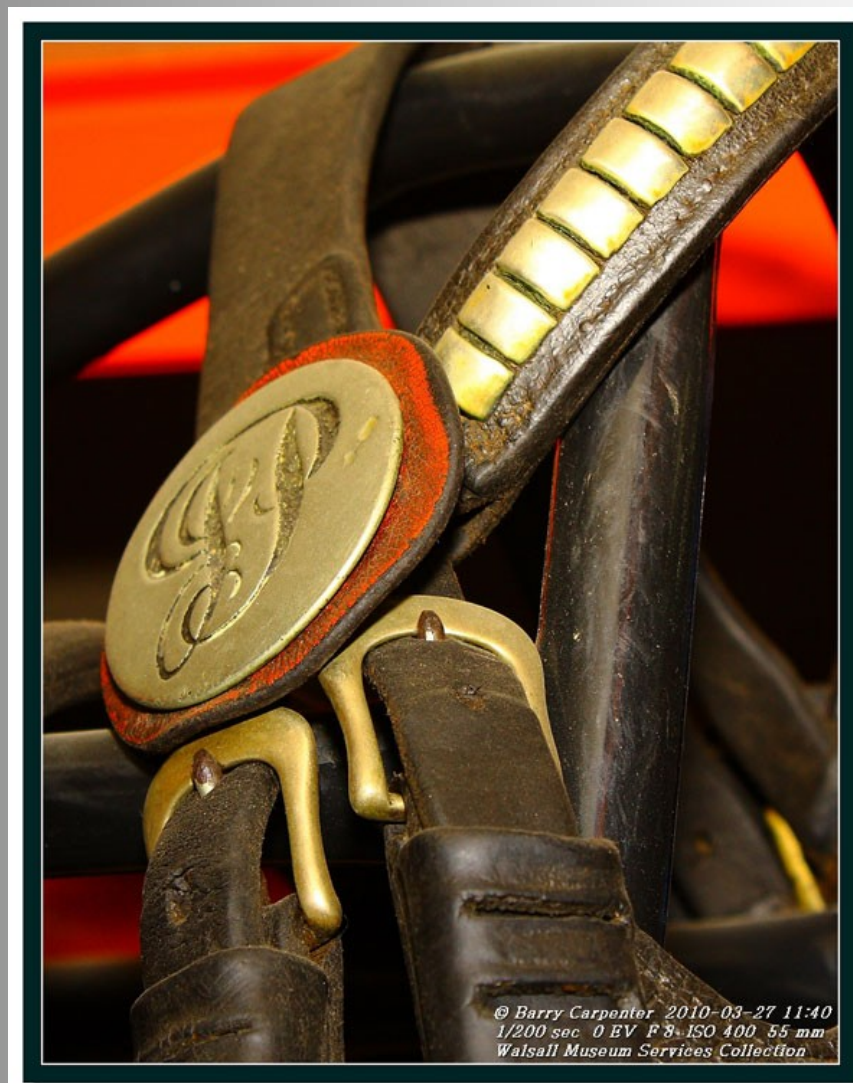
None of us had any idea of what to expect, so after a brief chat with the staff and a nice cup of coffee, we were let loose. The store is an industrial unit tucked away from unwanted eyes. It's not very big and the objects stored mostly date to the 19th and 20th centuries. A good chunk of the objects come from the leather and horse equipment industry which Walsall is world famous for making. I dare say that some of you have found Walsall made horse kit at some point or other. We could not see most of the smaller objects because they are boxed and stored on racking.

However we did see some interesting objects. There is a collection of early 20th century ladies dresses found in a back room of a shop. They had never been worn and still had removable tacking stitches to hold the pleats in place. One corner had a pile of bits awaiting cataloguing, everything from bikes to a canal barge rudder board. It looked like a proper junk shop with interesting bits and bobs on every shelf.

The group of objects that did catch my eye were the horse straps and fittings. The buckles, mounts, straps, stirrups and spurs form part of the Walsall Leather Museums Collection.

<http://www.walsall.gov.uk/leathermuseum/>

Brass casting and leather work are still carried out in the town, I believe around 90 companies are still working in this Walsall back street industry. The lighting was not too good but I took around 200 photographs, some of which I'd like to share with you. I did recognise some of these metal fittings from objects found on club digs and now I can see how they were used. Some of the buckles were used in unexpected ways, not on the ends of a strap but along the middle sections as strap unions. All interesting stuff but with no explanations as each item is tagged with a reference number for retrieval, cross referenced with paper work records stored in another building. I concentrated on photographing these horse fittings and I did delve into one or two boxes. I was stunned when I saw an amazing spur, complete and as sharp as the day it was made. Another box held terrets complete with a bell, still with their factory fitted storage plastic wrapping in place.







This was an interesting chance to see behind the scenes of a museum and even more interesting was the chance to photograph these wonderful objects with little or no restrictions, a really enjoyable couple of hours was had by all who attended.

All pictures taken by Barry Carpenter AKA UKDN's Puffin. Reproduced by permission of Walsall Museum Services—their Flickr site is <http://www.flickr.com/groups/1386967@N22/>



## Out and About in the Red Rocket by Brian & Mo'

Feb 1994 Issue 102

### Rescued from the blades of the plough



It has been some time since we made the finds mentioned in last months Searcher magazine. It was then July and we were anxiously awaiting the harvesting of the crops, especially in the North Yorkshire area.

Brian had been on a residential training course, based in a building with an interesting history. The grounds looked ripe for detecting and with the hope of being able to detect every evening he had actually taken his machine with him. As it happened the course was very intensive and only on one evening did Brian find himself with an hour or two in which to carry out a possible search.

He approached the Course Director, Steve, with a view to gaining permission and saw a glimmer of more than just a passing interest as Steve gave his OK for Brian to walk the grounds.

The other course participants scoffed as Brian walked through the lounge kitted out and ready to find hammered silver galore. Alas, it was not to be.... The grounds had been 'messed about' so much that no old coins at all presented themselves. All that Brian found in two hours was £1.57p and a musket ball.

Steve showed great interest in the musket ball and the hobby in general and Brian promised Steve that he would call back in a few weeks time in The Red Rocket. He would bring a spare machine, Steve could have a bash at some real detecting and Mo' could get the chance to see this wonderful house where Brian had spent a week learning all about how to work in a team. Interesting since he has been a lone factory worker for the past thirteen years !

A few weeks later we were in the area, the Red Rocket having run like a dream to get there – it only broke down twice ! We took Steve out on some fields where he had gained permission to search and we had success by finding a late Roman bronze coin and a 17th century Scottish bronze coin.

Steve was working whilst we were there so we made arrangements to search several fields and meet up with him in the local pub on one or two evenings. Available land was very hard to find and the few fields we managed to get on produced nothing at all.

On the Sunday morning Mo's saw a sign for a local car boot sale and that was it – Brian knew that no detecting would be done for many an hour that day. Brian can go around a boot sale in about twenty minutes whilst Mo' takes about four hours, and that's when Brian is rushing her ! She is one of these people who can spend half an hour on each stall, picking up every item, commenting on its beauty or design before putting it back. She gets some cracking bargains but the practice doesn't leave much daylight for detecting, even in July !

the  
searcher

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<http://www.theseacher.co.uk/>



Whilst walking around this boot sale we spotted a ploughed field just across the road. It was perfectly flat and had recently been turned over. Most unusual for that time of the year but an opportunity not to be missed. The farmhouse stood at the side of the field and we made a beeline for it, thinking to ourselves, "He can only say 'yes' or 'no', we've nothing to lose"

The gentleman who answered the door was a man of few words, in fact three brief "yes" answers from him verified that he was the the farmer, that the field was his and that we had his permission to detect on it.

We rattled around the rest of the boot sale and got toggged up. How wonderful to be detecting on a ploughed field at this time of the year and in such lovely weather.

The field was near the village centre and so showed potential, it lay about fifty yards from the main road bordered by what might have once been the village green.

The front of the field was very scrappy and full of contamination, mainly of metallic building debris i.e. pieces of twisted steel and corrugated iron. But once we wandered away from the edge we settled down and began finding a few coins and bits of buckles etc.

After about two hours we had found nothing of note and Mo' decided to take a look towards the centre and far end of the field. Brian, using the White's Spectrum, decided to continue working the busy area convinced that, due to the field's location, something special would turn up sooner or later.

We met for a cuppa and a smoke later and compared finds. Brian had found the bottom of a silver **thimble**, which at one time had been a nice piece, and a silver jetton. This shows a fish on one side and if anyone can accurately identify this then we would be pleased to hear from them. It's condition is wonderful and the find sports a lovely black patina.



## Done well

Mo' had done well in that she reported that the field did quieten down as she went further away from the main road and the farm buildings. On the right hand edge she had found two medieval buckles and was now intent on working that area and the middle of the field in the hope of finding a hammered or two.

We parted to work our respective areas. An hour later Brian had the good fortune to pick up the top half of the damaged silver thimble about twenty yards away from where he had found the bottom. It has since been repaired by a Liverpool jeweler. The building pictured on it appears to be a Tudor style hall and if you have any idea as to the date of the piece we would like to hear from you.

About an hour later Brian noticed Mo' walking towards him, machine unbuckled and left behind, hands behind her back with a grin from ear to ear.

"I've found something but it's in dire need of restoration" she said as she brought from behind her back, what appeared, at first glance, to be a piece of corroded iron.



It appeared to be an old dagger about 13 inches long of which 9 in. was the blade. The object turned out to be a Celtic or Romano-British Votive Short **Sword** with about 5 in. missing from the tip of the blade. A wonderful find. Mo' had found this in the centre of the field on an area of soil that appeared to have been brought in from somewhere else.

The farmer could not be found and we consequently had to make another trip to this part of the country the following week. We then learnt that a nearby spring had been cleared out and the material strewn over the part of the field that Mo' had searched. We put two and two together, bearing in mind the small size of the hilt of the sword, and came to the conclusion that the sword had been a votive offering 2,000 years ago.

Quite a number of experts have now looked at and examined the sword. Popular opinion is that it dates to circa 1st century BC or 1st century AD. It is probably Brigantium (North Yorkshire tribe) and it is in the La Tene style. Where the hilt joins the blade there is a small remaining piece of a bronze scabbard bearing a design of circles.

Despite its appearance the blade is quite solid and is not fragile. The hilt is made of bronze and was made in two pieces. These were slipped over the tang of the blade. These two pieces are not a snug fit, the item maybe having been slightly damaged as it was removed from the ground by the digger. Nevertheless the bronze hilt is in an excellent state of preservation.



We cringe to think what would have been the result had the farmer run over the field to flatten and straighten it out. We feel sure that the iron blade would have been completely destroyed and lost had this taken place. When Mo' designed a display case for the Blackpool Exhibition she used the headline "Rescued From the Blades of a Plough" to describe her finding of the sword. A proper description for many of our hobby activities.

Obviously if it is bought by a museum it will be properly conserved and will appear, when it is completed, to be a much more valuable find in terms of historic interest. Mo' hopes that it will probably be seen in a museum early in 1994.

Little else was found on this field despite our making three trips back there to search it. Mo' is obviously pleased as Punch that, once again, she's beaten Brian to the "Find of the Trip", but really we're not bothered as long as we return home in the Rocket with something of interest.

Next month we shall recount the story of a very recent trip in the Red Rocket that should have lasted for seven days but went on for thirteen days and resulted in some really special finds and our meeting with some interesting characters.



# Helping in the Community

## Rebalancing Karma - By John Wright

After numerous things going wrong over the past two months (2 car crashes, neither of them my fault), I was beginning to wonder what I'd done wrong, then last night out of the blue I got a call from a guy who I've met a couple of times asking if he could borrow my detector.

A friend of his, a farmer, had lost a part from a straw cutter and was desperate to find it....

I explained that an F75 in the wrong hands could interfere with the earth's magnetic field causing a total global catastrophe, but I would be willing to go and search for it in the morning. I couldn't sleep last night having looked at the farm on Goggle Earth - It is massive.

I went around this morning and met the farmer, who took me to a large building with a cattle stall. It covered an area about 50 yards by 10 yards and was covered in straw about a foot thick - on top of reinforced concrete.

My machine went ballistic, there was so much metal around. I asked if he had another piece the same, which he showed me. I put it down on the ground and then adjusted the discrimination as high as possible to cut out as much iron and nails and general rubbish and then proceeded to detect.

Fifteen minutes into the search I found the missing part - It was an absolute pleasure to see his face; He was over the moon. The farmer said two of his sons had spent 3 hours going through the straw but couldn't find it.

*"Hay mucch doo AR owe thee"* he asked in broad Saxon.

I said "no charge but I wouldn't mind having a little go over your land to find you another Staffordshire Hoard".

*"Any tarm thee wants son theyt more than wellcome"*.

I asked where I could detect, he said *"thray hundred acres a pasture here an another hundert acres of plough in'th next village"*..

I didn't know whether to laugh, cry or kiss him, but I chose keep my dignity, thanked him and said I would be in touch.

I now feel the imbalance of Karma as been truly corrected.....

Thank you God.





# The Powers of Silver Coins

## By PhilD



**\*\*Click on images or links in the article for more info\*\***

After a recent discussion on UKDN about silver love tokens, I've searched the internet regarding silver coins & it seems the sixpence was lucky and used as a reward and for it's healing powers. The following websites I found most interesting;

### English Folklore; Silver

<http://www.answers.com/topic/silver>

Bibliography Opie & Tatem, 1989; 327 - 328, 357 - 8

"Silver coins are mentioned in many different contexts. It is not clear how much intrinsic power ascribed to the metal itself - some, no doubt, since there is evidence that in Suffolk around 1850 people with fits would beg twelve small silver items such as broken spoons or buckles, to melt into a curative ring, and in some of the stories where a hare (really a witch) is shot with a silver bullet, this is said to be made from a button. However, silver objects were not regularly thought powerful in the way that domestic iron objects were.

A silver sixpence is frequently mentioned: as a gift to a new baby; as a gift left by fairies for diligent servant girls, or for children shedding a tooth; as a lucky charm, especially in a bride's shoe; as a counter charm against witchcraft when churning milk.

A particular healing power was ascribed to rings made from a silver coin which had been put into the collection in church (so-called 'sacrament money'), usually a shilling or half a crown; to get it, the sufferer had to beg a penny apiece from twelve (or 30) different people, usually with the further condition that they must be unmarried, and of the sex opposite to the sufferer's, and then exchange them for the 'sacrament money'. They were supposed to cure fits.

Sometimes, it was thought sufficient to beg five, seven, or nine sixpenny or three penny pieces from persons of the opposite sex, and make the ring of them".

### Love Tokens;

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Touch\\_Pieces](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Touch_Pieces)

Bibliography Coin News. Pub Token. ISSN 0958 - 1392 July 1998 P.29

This link suggests bent coins were offered as gifts, to confirm a vow, when in danger, as part of a cure & for general good luck. In each case the bent coin was offered to a saint.

"And the bent coin as a love-token may be derived from the well-recorded practice of bending a coin when making a vow to a saint, such as vowing to give it to the saint's shrine if the saint would intercede to cure a sick human, animal, etc. Bending a coin when one person made a vow to another was another practice which arose from this".

[UK Detector Net](#) supports [Responsible Metal Detecting](#) & [the Portable Antiquities Scheme](#)

[for the benefit of future generations & the hobby](#)

[because our heritage belongs not just to me or you but to everyone](#)

[Please record your finds & exact find spots with PAS & the whole world will benefit](#)

# English Folklore; Coins

<http://www.answers.com/topic/coin>

Bibliography Lovett, 1925; 13 - 14, 54 - 55, 70 - 1. Opie & Tatem, 1989:92 - 3. Lean, 1903: ii 44 - 5, 134 - 5

'The belief reported most regularly about coins is that a holed or bent coin is lucky. The coin with a hole is mentioned from the 1830s to the 1950s. The Poole and Dorsetshire Herald of 11 February 1847 details how a local shopkeeper had kept all holed coins she had received over the counter, in the belief that they were special and should only be used for holy purposes (reprinted in Morsley, 1979: 305). Edward Lovett, collector of First World War beliefs, described meeting a soldier who showed him an old farthing with a hole in it, which he carried as his mascot.

Also lucky was a bent coin, such as the 'crooked sixpence' of the nursery rhyme, but this is recorded from a much earlier date, being mentioned (as 'bowed silver' or 'bowed groat', etc.) by playwrights from the 16th century onwards (see Lean), **often in the context of a gift**, as for example in the description by John Foxe of the martyrdom of Alice Benden at Canterbury, in 1557: 'A shilling also of Philip and Mary she took forth, which her father had bowed and sent her when she was first sent to prison', and similar gifts were reported into the late 19th century (N&Q 1s: 10 (1854), 505). Finucane (1977: 94-5) reports numerous examples of coin-bending in medieval times, **in confirmation of a vow, when in danger, as part of a cure, or for general good luck. In each case the bent coin was offered to a saint.**

Most other coin beliefs have been short lived or at least have escaped being recorded more than once or twice, except in the case of fishermen who used to cut a slit in one of the cork floats of their nets, reputedly to let Neptune know they were willing to buy the fish they caught, and the widespread practice of placing a coin under the mast of any new boat - 'for luck'.'

## The Nursery rhyme "There was a crooked man";

[http://www.rhymes.org.uk/there\\_was\\_a-crooked\\_man.htm](http://www.rhymes.org.uk/there_was_a-crooked_man.htm) Bibliography

'There was a crooked man and he walked a crooked mile,  
He found a crooked sixpence upon a crooked stile.  
He bought a crooked cat, which caught a crooked mouse.  
And they all lived together in a little crooked house.

The content of "There was a crooked man" poem have a basis in history. The origin of this poem originates from the English Stuart history of King Charles 1. The crooked man is reputed to be the Scottish General Sir Alexander Leslie. The General signed a Covenant securing religious and political freedom for Scotland.

The 'crooked stile' referred to in "There was a crooked man" being the border between England and Scotland. 'They all lived together in a little crooked house' refers to the fact that the English and Scots had at last come to an agreement.

The words reflect the times when there was great animosity between the English and the Scots. The word crooked is pronounced as 'crookED' the emphasis being placed upon the 'ED' in the word. This was common in olde England and many references can be found in this type of pronunciation in the works of William Shakespeare (1564-1616)".



## The Crooked Sixpence;

<http://www.goingbust.com/bf.htm> Bibliography

'TAKE then back your foolish token,  
Since it cannot change like you;  
When I feel my heart is broken,  
Shall it still proclaim you true?  
When you gave it, you besought me  
Never from that pledge to part:  
If I am what then you thought me,  
You have spurned an honest heart!

When, far hence, the boisterous billows  
Rage upon the stormy deep;  
And your landsmen press their pillows,  
Careless how we sailors sleep:  
Think how happy you had made him -  
Think how grieved he was to part; -  
Who, though harshly you upbraid him,  
Loved ye, with an honest heart!

Farewell, Nancy, but if ever  
Eyes you love grow gloomy, then,  
Oh! remember, though we sever  
You have still a friend in Ben.  
Yes; dear girl, he'll still defend you;  
And some comfort 'twill impart,  
Aid of any sort to lend you -  
Though you broke an honest heart!"

## The Crooked Sixpence

I read on the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) site that a crooked sixpence was a "coin deliberately made into a love token by removing the legend, scrubbing the obverse smooth and bending twice" which would give the look of age and use as shown below;



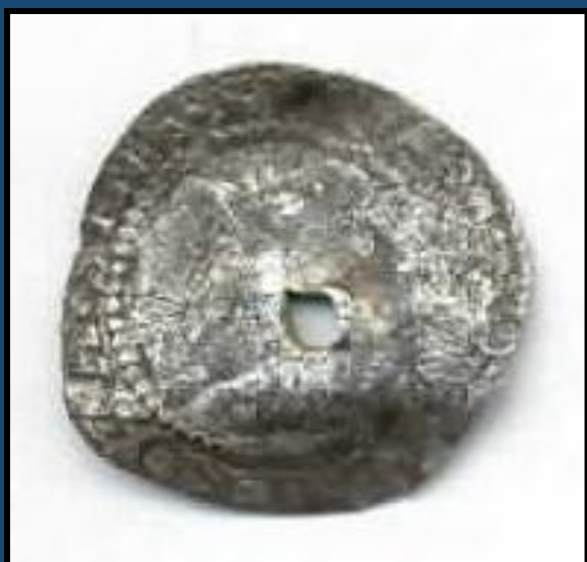
There didn't seem to be much info on a plate about 'Love Tokens' so I had a look around the Internet and have put the following info together which I hope people will find interesting.

Judging by the number of recorded Love Tokens they are very rare finds, with William III Sixpence being the most common by a mile. One idea of how they were thought to have originated during the reign of Charles I is shown above re the crooked man & crooked sixpence stories, but it is clear that they were around before then.

The oldest 'possible' Love Token? I could find was a hammered Henry VI Half Groat dated 1422 to 1427, on the PAS database;



The next oldest was a hammered Elizabeth I Penny 1558 to 1603 over a hundred years later.



I made a list up as follows to show my findings compliments to the [PAS](#) and [UKDFD](#) databases, I didn't include any coin I couldn't personally ID from it's image, it may not be totally accurate but hopefully gives the gist of things;



- 1 Henry VI Half Groat (hammered)
- 1 Elizabeth I Penny (hammered)
- 2 Elizabeth Sixpences (hammered)
- 1 Elizabeth Shilling (hammered)
- 1 Elizabeth Half Groat (hammered)
- 1 James I Half Groat (hammered)
- 1 James I Shilling (hammered?)
- 2 Charles I Sixpences (hammered)
- 1 Charles I Scottish 20 pence (hammered)
- 1 Charles I Half Groat (hammered)
- 1 Commonwealth Half Groat (hammered)
- 1 James II Half Guinea



In 1694 the Bank of England was created and in 1696 a great re coinage was undertaken & 'milled' coinage introduced - [http://www.treasurerealm.com/coinpapers/books/Kenyon-1884/William III.html](http://www.treasurerealm.com/coinpapers/books/Kenyon-1884/William%20III.html) These were to formally part merge the financial world with Parliament and government for the first time.

- 24 William III Sixpences
- 3 William III Shillings
- 1 Anne Sixpence
- 2 Anne Shillings
- 1 George 1 Half Guinea
- 1 George II Shilling
- 1 George III Sixpence
- 1 George III Quarter Guinea



So why so many love tokens made during William's reign & so few before & after his reign?

Bibliography; I would like to thank the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) for permission to use images from their Database & the following for producing such informative web pages; en.wikipedia.org, Answers.com, rymes.org.uk, ukdfd.co.uk, goingbust.com & treasurerealm.com.

As Im sure you are aware Dan Pett has launched new PAS database in beta mode. This is going to make a massive difference to recorders with PAS—its much easier to use and you will be able to view your own finds! Dan has provided information on the PAS Blog on how to get access to your finds—click on the image below and it will take you to the blog post

Portable Antiquities Scheme

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Getting access to your finds

March 29th, 2010 by admin

Building the Scheme's new database was fraught with a huge array of privacy problems ranging from findspot to personal details. The Scheme takes this very seriously, but we do recognise that our registered users have always had a desire to get access to their records that the Scheme has recorded on their behalf. Many finders have hundreds of objects, some just have one; but, they all would like to be able to access these without searching for them/

What has been done is pretty simple and we need to do a few things before you can access your finds easily (and this obviously only works for those that have recorded!) These are:

- Register for a [user account](#) with us (if you don't have one already)
- Contact your local [finds liaison officer](#) and tell them your user name
- They then link your user account to the details that we safeguard on our database
- Voila, next time you login, you have access to your finds (published and those on validation) from your logged in area. Look for the link that says "My finds recorded by FLOs" and which looks like the below image

My finds recorded by FLOs

Coming in the next few days to complement this are a couple of features:

- Mapping of your finds from your home address (if we have it)
- Distance travelled for your furthest discovery
- RSS feeds of your objects so you could embed them on your own site

Hopefully, this new feature will enable many to find objects that they could never retrieve from our old database. One caveat, as we have 17,000 people registered on the system, there maybe a delay enabling you.

Once you have been given access and your FLO has linked your account to your finds you will be able to see all of your finds—see example below of what the listings will look like.

As Dan launches new parts to the database and writes the guides to these (including self recording your finds) we will feature them in the newsletter

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My finds recorded by the Scheme

Image	Object type	Find number	Broadperiod	County	Actions
	Coin	PAS-DD9FA7	Medieval	Warwickshire	<a href="#">xml</a>   <a href="#">csv</a>   <a href="#">json</a>
Henry VII, York Mint, Archbishop Rotherham penny.					
	Token	ESS-08A302	Post medieval	Suffolk	<a href="#">xml</a>   <a href="#">csv</a>   <a href="#">json</a>
Copper alloy trade token of Nicholas Shepherd, draper of Saxmundham.Dickinson 288/90.					
	Coin	ESS-838277	Roman	Essex	<a href="#">xml</a>   <a href="#">csv</a>   <a href="#">json</a>
Illegible copper alloy Roman coin, probably of the 3rd or 4th century.					
	Buckle	ESS-EE3F54	Medieval	Suffolk	<a href="#">xml</a>   <a href="#">csv</a>   <a href="#">json</a>

UKDN WORD

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## 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.forumukdetectornet.co.uk/phpBB2/index.php>

## Contact UKDN

[enquiry@ukdetectornet.co.uk](mailto:enquiry@ukdetectornet.co.uk)

## UKDN newsletters to download

<http://www.forumukdetectornet.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](mailto: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.