

The UKDN



WORD

World Of Responsible Detecting

Issue 37
September 2010



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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

UKDN newsletters to download

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

View online

<http://en.calameo.com/books/00012160634bfe9ad3f0c>

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

UKDN aims

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

UKDN actively works towards the following aims:

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

Message from UKDN Admin

Hi Everyone

Welcome to a very special edition of the UKDN Word, your on-line detecting magazine. This issue becomes special for several important reasons i.e. because with this 37th edition we actually begin our fourth year of existence and secondly this issue acknowledges the 1600th anniversary of the Roman exodus from Britain.

Before we go any further let us start this first edition of our fourth year by thanking all those during the past three years who have helped collate the previous thirty-six issues starting with Corinne and Phil, our editorial team right through to the many of you who have submitted material for this, your very own metal detecting magazine.

Without all of you this project would have failed miserably and for this, we, the UKDN Team, thank you all. There is no doubt that your magazine will continue for a lot more issues to come.

Secondly, we thank all those of you who have submitted material for this very special Roman issue. What a bumper issue it has turned out to be, jam-packed with your photos of some amazing Roman material, all rescued from the ground !!

At the moment there are about 500 of you a day visiting the forum, a figure we expect about this time of the year when finds are coming out of the ground as fast as fields become available. Already we have seen photos of dozens of hammered and Roman coins, quite a number of sceats and already several gold coins. We are sure the best is yet to come.

Our next free lottery will be coming very shortly, the winner taking the very last of our excellent run of the book on Seals. Watch out for some new UKDN Lottery prizes in the very near future.

Thanks for reading this and we hope you enjoy this edition.

Find of the Month Coin—Henry V Groat

By **Pegasus (David Rowe)**



It was a another hot dry day. I had returned to the site I had been on the previous day. It had yielded a half decent Medieval Shoe Buckle, and a worn and clipped Henry VII Half Groat. I always seem to be drawn back to sites where I have made a good find.



However this time, after spending one hour with no further finds I decided to move on. It was a reasonably long hike, circumnavigating three large Maize fields, before arriving at the next Pasture, which was complete with a herd of cows! I had detected on this field several times before, all I had found was a George III sixpence.



I started detecting, not really expecting much, when I got a loud clear sharp signal, just like the ones you get when you find one of those ubiquitous lead penicillin cow tubes! I had trouble cutting the flap, the ground was rock hard, but on turning over the flap, there was the unmistakable cross and patten design of the reverse of a hammered coin.



It was in very good condition, with little or no signs of clipping, a lovely Henry V Groat. So much for declaring a field done. As the pundits often say, "A field is never done, there's always more to be found". Thank you for your votes, and the encouraging remarks in your posts, they will spur me on to keep on Detecting.

"Pegasus"



Find of the Month Artefact—**Saxon Gold Bractreate**

By **jammeygit (Chris Bursnall)**

On Monday 12th of July I had a call from my detecting partner Kev telling me that one of the farmers who's land we detect had just harvested some of his barley fields, so I called at the field on the Tuesday to see how long the stubble was and it was short, perfect for detecting. I booked the Wednesday off work to go detecting as myself and Kev had not long bought the new xp deus and this was the first cultivated land available to test them on. The field in question has been a club site for over 30 yrs and two club/charity rallies have been held on it close to a DMV.



I got to the field at about 7.45am on the Wednesday, the field is about 200 metres long running down to a stream. I went to the top/middle of the field and started to detect with the XP Deus in GM Power mode, heading down to the stream. I had done two full down and up lengths of the field and had a few bits of lead and a fragment of a roman brooch. On the next lap, three quarters of the way down I got a good signal showing 55 on the Deus display. I removed a clod of soil and in the clod I could see a gold disc just sticking out. My first thought was gold tin foil or bottle top, but then as I bent down to pick it up, I could see some pattern on it and the suspension loop and that's when I knew I'd found a Saxon gold pendant! I did a little dance in the field, then took some photos on my phone. I then rang and told the wife. I was dying to get home and clean it but I marked the spot and spent the next 4hrs detecting the area. When I got home I gave it a quick wash and started to go through my books and searched the Internet but could not find anything similar. I sent a picture to the FLO that I record my finds with and got a phone call the next day from her asking if I could take it to her to photo/record. So the following Tuesday I took it to her, she told me it was a called a bractreate and it was the first she had seen. She sent a email to the BM to which I got a email back a couple of days later explaining it was a late 5th century gold type A- bractreate, one of only six known and this one is a new type. The bractreate was taken to the BM on the 16th of August and declared treasure and hopefully when its gone through the treasure act will go on display at my local museum in Melton Mowbray.

Chris Bursnall





Photograph of the Month Competition

DSLR Camera

Winner— Coenwolf (Jeff)

Stoats playing

Camera : Canon 40d + 400mmL lens



Photograph of the Month Competition

Point Press & Pray

Winner— Andy (squonk)

This months Point, Press and Pray winner is Andy (squonk) with this image of Alice Cooper at the Sonisphere Festival at Knebworth

Camera: Panasonic TZ3 (compact)

Settings: F4.9, 1/400 sec, ISO 800, -2 stops, no flash, hand held

My Little bit of Gabúí Diary

Terry Mallison

Saturday, 1 May 2010

My start on the journey.

While helping a friend one afternoon, I received, quite out of the blue, an unexpected phone call. A ladies voice asking to speak to Terrence Mallison.

After establishing that I was the said person, the lady went on to explain that she had been given, among others, my name as a possible person who might like to travel to Italy and assist with the Gabúí project. (see <http://sitemaker.umich.edu/gabuiproject/home>)

A project I had already heard of because a fellow club member and associate Stuart Elton had been probably the first person to be asked to detect on such an important on going archaeological dig. You can read Stuart's Blog here <http://windymillerandthetempleofjuno.blogspot.com/>

I could not believe that I was being asked! At first, I thought about not going because my daughter Bridget is currently undergoing treatment for Leukaemia. But after talking to her and other C.H.A.R.T. team members <http://www.chartnearthed.co.uk/>, I decided it was something I had wanted to do for a long while. So despite not having been out of the country for 36 years and having to apply for a passport, I gratefully accepted.

I hope to bring you my part of the jigsaw piece by piece.

My thanks to Laura McLean our local F.L.O. (Finds Liaison Officer) for Essex, who put my name forward, to Sally Worrel who contacted me to ask if I would be interested and to those responsible for including British detectorists in such an important project.

The first piece of the jigsaw

After receiving an email from Jeffrey A. Becker, Ph.D. RPA ,Managing Director, The Gabúí Project. I have started my journey.

First the passport photos, not a pretty sight at the best of times..



Monday, 3 May 2010

One step nearer

I took the machine out today to check it was working all right and Fate puts in an appearance. This came up from cultivated land at a depth of approximately 10 cms.

Well I have sent off for my passport just waiting now.

I have bought a language book or dictionary trying to learn as much Italian as I can. Everyone is saying I do not need to but courtesy says otherwise.



Sunday, 23 May 2010

Been out today in the blazing sun, getting some practice in. Still trying to decide the best type of head wear. I am not a great lover of hats. So this should be fun.

Thursday, 8 July 2010

Lost track of time

It has been a while since I posted anything. Shame on me.

Well here goes, the weather we have been having recently has enabled me to try out a selection of detectors. The conditions have been bad, the ground solid and very dry but I have persevered. Over the past few weeks I have recovered a selection of items most of which have been from the Georgian period with a few modern bits and some medieval, Not a great deal of Roman but I hope that is waiting for me when I get to the Gabii project. The local land owner has been good to allow me onto his land when most of it is under crop. But I am pleased to say he is very interested in the finds that are being recovered. This is what I think it is all about. Sharing our history.

Here is a little something I had the pleasure to recover and record.



Here is the record on the P.A.S. database

<http://www.finds.org.uk/database/artefacts/record/id/384627>

Thursday, 8 July 2010

Big Head

Managed to find a hat that fits me and guess what! I had one at home all the time, so that was a waste of money. Here is the old one as well



Anyway here is the one I bought. The beard will have to go though.



It seems that no matter where I go I cannot find a hat big enough for me to wear at Gabii, so I came up with this idea. I don't think it will catch on, but I must be honest and say it did work :)



Sunday, 18 July 2010

Just a week to go and I am almost ready. I took out the detector again, just for a few hours not much to show until the end I got two signals. I dug the first and it was a lump of lead, but the second one was much better. Made my weekend and more besides... here it is blank on the other side but on this side, well enjoy!



Saturday, 24 July 2010

Well it is here at last

ciao

I am sitting here going over everything for the ?? time to make sure I do not forget anything. But I know I will, I always do.

Off to the bus station at 1.30 am to catch the Stansted bus. The journey starts here and finishes here but what lies in between! well that is the story waiting to be told.

If I get to Rome early enough, I am going to walk to the Hotel in Frascati. If that does not do me in! I will be ready for the week of walking on site.

I have worked out a route and the time it will take, so I hope I am ready :-)

No internet all week ahhh what did we do before FB and other social sites.

Well I should have a story to tell when I return.

Just checked the weather it is going to be 32 c tomorrow (Sunday) and 31 c on Monday

arrivederci

Monday, 2 August 2010

Sunday

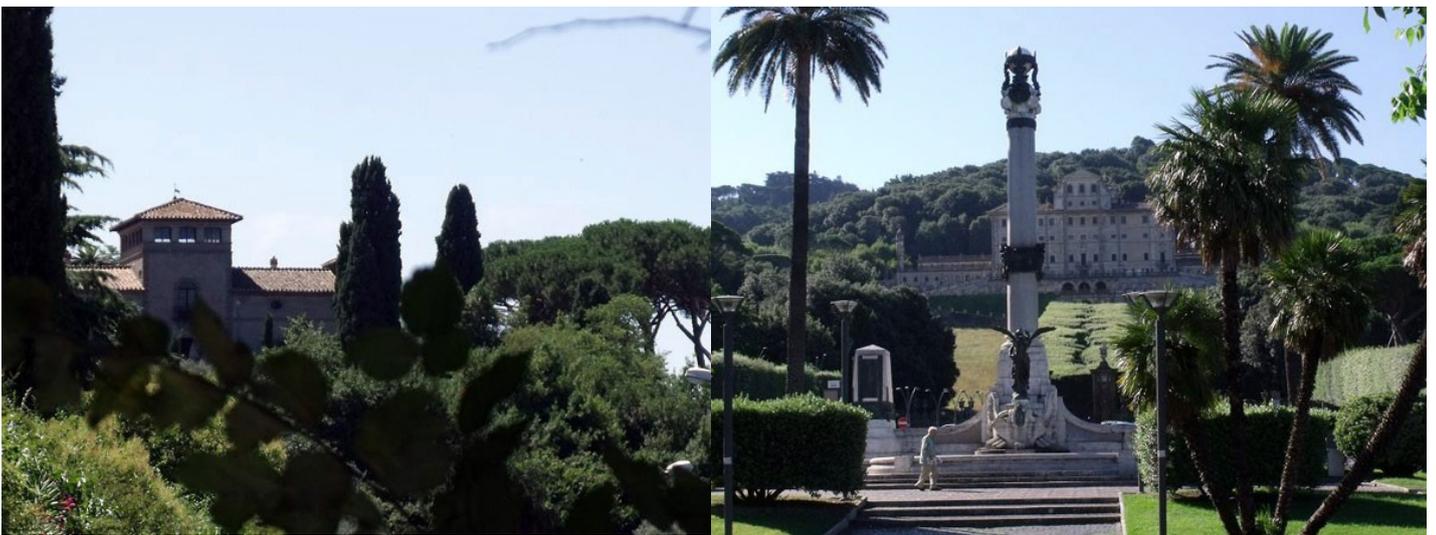
Left home at 2am to get the bus to London Stansted airport the flight left shortly after 6am and we arrived approximately 9.25 local time.

Departed from the plane straight into a heat I was not used to. So I stuck to my daft idea and got acclimatised by walking from the airport to the hotel! Not too far but with blisters and lack of drink I arrived about 4 hours later. (Lack of drink because the route I took everything was shut because it was Sunday.) note to self (twit)

Scenery was so different to home and enjoyed great parts of it.

I checked in and went straight to my room and into the shower - absolute bliss!:-)

After my shower I asked directions to the town and was told nothing would be open. being Sunday. But I went exploring anyway. Found a bar open that had soft drinks in a cooler inside the door and ice creams, so I treated my self and sat down on a nice seated walk area where I saw the Villa Aldobrandini (Villa Belvedere) it was impressive to say the least.



After getting back to the hotel I set the alarm clock using the satellite button to set it for local time and had a rest.

I slept and awoke at what the clock said was 7.15 so got ready for dinner and went in search of someone from the project. However dinner was already underway! So I chose not to walk in and went back to my room. It was not until the following morning after missing breakfast and almost missing the bus that I realised something was wrong with the clock?

Watched a bit of Italian television and went to bed early, ready for my first day on site in the morning. But that is tomorrow's story.

Monday

Had a good sleep got up at 5.30am to be sure of meeting people and having breakfast!

Got dressed and went down to wait around the reception area hoping to meet someone. I did, I met the Managing Director of the site Jeffrey Becker, who introduced himself and to my surprise suggested I hurry and catch the coach which leaves in 10 minutes.

I had now missed breakfast. Must check that clock when I return.

Sat myself down on the coach and looked forward to the day ahead. We arrived at the site or as close to as the coach can get and walked the short distance remaining.

The first thing to greet me was the 'Temple of Juno' a very pleasant welcome.

I was introduced to Field Director Anna Gallone, Vice Field director Marcello Mogetta and other staff and field members during the course of my introduction to the site, it's history and the ongoing project.

After the introduction I was asked to see one of the Field Supervisors, Jamie Sewell

who explained what had been done by the previous detectorist and what he would like me to do.

I was shown 4 spoil heaps and the remains of a previous weeks heap to run the detector over. The spoils heaps were not too large and with the use of a shovel I was able to spread the soil and detect at my own speed. I must say that it was all I expected and more, to be able to work within the confines of an archaeological excavation, knowing that I was helping in my small way.

The heaps did not produce a lot, which in itself showed that the method already in use by the staff and members was very successful with locating as much as was possible with eyes and hands only.

I cannot say I was not disappointed, I was. Because as a detectorist I would have liked to have found something of note. However I was happy in the knowledge that I was doing what was asked and was experiencing what I would call a chance in a lifetime experience. Although I hope, not the only chance but the start of similar future involvement with archaeologists back home in England!

I did find a few pieces of iron barely recognisable without the detector a small fragment of appeared to be a coin and a thicker copper alloy piece with what appeared to be a coin embedded within it.

After lunch, which was a good selection of filled bread rolls and fruit, I was asked to speak to another Field Supervisor Claudia Melisch who asked me to go over a couple of the spoil heaps for the area that she supervised. Along side the heap I did was one that had been done previously I saw the way that it was set out and chose to use a different method, one that I had developed on the morning's work.

With the use of a shovel I was able to move and detect the entire heap while only increasing the original area used by approximately one third.

I finished one heap and proceeded onto another which I was unable to finish and hoped that I would return to it the next day.

My ideas of my first day.

Very enjoyable with very few finds, but the chance to get involved and also meet others while learning something new about the archaeological way of doing things. Seeing that the two can work together for the benefit all concerned.

Also a lovely view of the surrounding area all day, made it a very nice area to be working in.

Here are two views of some of the area.



My method

I did not take as many pictures as I would have liked, mainly because I was unsure of the wishes and restrictions (if any) of the people in charge of the project. More pictures are available on the official blog site and elsewhere.

<http://lapisgabinus.blogspot.com/>

The method I used was one that I felt happy with and which I thought covered the most soil.

I would start with a spoil heap and remove as many of the stone and rocks that I could see. This was because some of them contain enough mineral content to give me a reading, albeit at the lowest end of the scale. Once the rocks had been cleared away I would choose one end of the heap away from the end being used if the heap was still in use, and create a new starting point.

The spoil heap to begin with.

I would begin by detecting the entire surface area of the existing heap and then moving the soil nearest, to my new start point and depositing it to the left of the heap.



In progress

As the new pile got larger I created a gap between the two and maintained that throughout. When the soil was shifted from one heap to the other I would proceed to detect the new area exposed by its removal, but also the soil that I had removed because any small item missed on the first swing may now lie in a different position which allowed it to be detected. This happened a few times especially with the smallest pieces of iron which were only 10 to 15 mm in length.



This heap is approximately half done and shows the new surface area on one side of the heap which enabled me to spread more soil over a smaller ground area. I then proceeded to detecting the entire surface of the new heap far quicker.



A smaller spoil heap in a finished state.

Showing to the right is the area left flat. This is done to be sure of not picking up anything that might lay on the surface before the heap was deposited.

This was also left to enable any on-going heaps to be added to without mixing the new material with the old.

My future idea would be to detect an area before the spoil heap is created

The method was very successful and went on to produce approximately 40 assorted sized pieces of lead, copper alloy, iron and one more coin.



Tuesday

You would have thought I would have learnt my lesson with the clock but no. I set the clock last night at the correct time and got up this morning to find that the coach had gone by about 5 minutes. So no breakfast this morning. I am going to have to sort it out or lose weight.

Luckily a nice young lady noticed and offered me a lift and we arrived at the same time as the coach.

I continued from where I left off yesterday and finished that particular spoil heap. I got plagued for the first time by insects but that was probably due to the spoil heaps being in the longer vegetation.

After the break I moved to another fresh spoil heap which was still in use. This was an easier task, because once I had caught up with the small pile already there, I had a moment to wait for the next barrow load and I filled in the between time running the detector over other heaps. They were done just as well as the others because I hardly had any signals and those I did get were mineralised rock or the odd small piece of iron fragment.

With the heap being fresh and in use, I had control of it's location in so much as when the barrow loads arrived, the students very obligingly placed the fresh spoil where ever I asked. Perfect!

I would like to say that it was a pleasure to work in among the various teams and the manners I experienced, where a credit to the individuals, their families and their various academic establishments.

Thank you all.

A pleasant lunch break with a similar selection of filled rolls and fruit. Throughout the day we were encouraged to maintain a good supply of water, which was always available from one of the cabins. I must say that I have never forced myself to drink so much in a long while but it was important, because it was easy to get dehydrated.

After lunch I went to do some work on area B and Claudia asked me to detect a small spoil heap being created by a gent who introduced himself as Tony. I suggested that he might want to do it and Claudia said that if I did not mind then he was welcome to have a go. Tony recovered 2 fragments of iron and 2 fragments of copper alloy dross or slag, all small but never the less I believe he enjoyed the experience.

After work we were informed that there would be a lecture in the evening about Roman Funerary and tombs, also Bioarchaeology and human osteology which was to be given by Jeffrey Becker and Kristina Killgrove. I attended the lecture and found it very informative.

After a pleasant dinner I settled down to bed and checked the clock, this time making sure it was right! I set it for 5am so that if anything went wrong I would still have time to get breakfast.

Buona notte

Wednesday

Buongiorno

Day started well, I woke up before the alarm went off at 4.48am. Switched it off so as not to wake the people in the next room. Got washed and dressed, glanced at the clock it now read 4.08 am ??? so at approximately 5am there must be a satellite pass over and it resets itself again. That is why I have been late the last two mornings.

Had a lovely breakfast with a good selection to choose from.

On site I went to work on 4 different small heaps in area A, much the same as the other days with only small fragments of iron, 1 small fragment of copper alloy and what looked like an iron fibular or bow brooch, but most likely a bent nail. Ah well next time maybe!

Good lunch selection again and a well needed rest from the sun. This is the area where we all sat out of the sun for break and lunch.

After lunch returned to area A and started on a fresh spoil heap still in use, I was kept busy on this one as the barrow loads arrived, sometimes just the one, but occasionally two at once. I managed to winkle out 1 copper alloy lump and 5 fragments of iron. I had the chance to go over another heap while waiting and recovered a few pieces of iron and 1 coin. But that was it for the day.



Back to the hotel for dinner and a quiet evening watching Star Trek in Italian.

A view from the hotel window looking toward Rome.

buonanotte



Thursday

Buongiorno

I bought a small cheap clock last evening I am glad I did, the old one reset again and the new one woke me in good time. Just to rub it in the coach was late, so I had plenty of time this morning anyway.

On site. I went straight back to work on Area A. This proved to be my quietest morning so far with no signals until a few minutes before the morning break. Between the break and lunch I managed to find a few pieces of iron fragments and a couple of copper Alloy.

Lunch as good as it has been all week

The afternoon brought very little from area A and when I finished it was suggested that I have a word with the field supervisor in Area C, Sabrina Zottis, to see if there was any spoil that she would like me to run over. I was given one, probably my biggest all week and I set about using the method that I had previously used and it worked well with approximately 8 small pieces.

Not looking forward to tomorrow being my last day on site it has gone so quickly.

Finished for the day and back to the hotel for a shower and a bit of shopping.

buonanotte



Friday

Buongiorno

My last day on the site.

It looked like rain on the way in and there were a couple of rainbows in the sky. I took my camera with me to get some pictures of the lizards. But there were not to be seen anywhere. They must have sensed that there was going to be rain.

Started work on the remaining spoil from Area C and managed to recover a few more pieces of iron a larger piece of lead, some copper Alloy and one coin. While doing the same spoil heap I was asked to check two smaller heaps as they were being made from Area A. This area was more important at that stage and so I had three spoil heaps on the go at once. The two smaller ones went on to produce about 5 small pieces of iron and nothing else.

Rain stopped work at about 9.45 so we broke early for the morning break. After the break I managed to finish the 3 heaps in time for lunch, while all around me the work was being wound down for the end of this season.

I was sorry to see it come to an end. But who knows the the future may bring! Lunch time bought group photographs and then a guided tour.

I did manage to find one lizard that came out after the rain. Gabii arrivederci

For those of you who wish to see more here are a couple of links. Enjoy

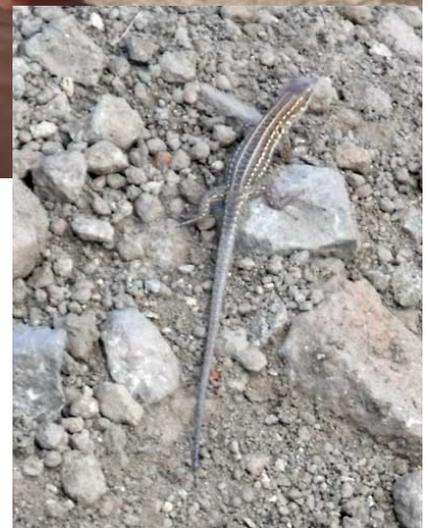
<http://sitemaker.umich.edu/gabiiproject/home>

<http://lapisgabinus.blogspot.com/>

<http://www.facebook.com/gabii.project>



Nicola Terrenato leading the final 'trench tour' for 2010.



My Experience

When I was invited to partake in the Gabii Project, I did not know exactly what to expect. Being involved with an Archaeological dig had never been offered to me before, so the whole experience would I hoped be a learning curve.

I knew that 'Gabii' was an important Project and just knowing that metal detectors were to be used, was in it self a positive thing for the hobby. Imagine my surprise when I was asked if I would like to be one of the detectorists. At first I did not like the idea of leaving Bridget (my daughter) behind, after spending the last 2 years seeing her through her Leukaemia but she insisted that she has others to help her if necessary.

So after applying and getting my first passport, I was set to go.

Time flew by and the date was soon upon me.

I was instructed that all I would require was my detecting equipment and myself, any else that I needed, would be supplied.

In the meantime I printed off several pages concerning the site rules and regulations, noting that steel reinforced footwear was required. I was unsure about this because it would interfere with the signals from my equipment. However I had nothing to worry about because my work boots were adequate I had read up about the Gabii Project and also done a bit of reading about archaeology, but I was still unsure of what I would do or what would be expected of me.

I cannot say a great deal about the actual excavation and what was found because it is an on going project and I do not wish to jeopardise this in any way.

The first thing that I did on site was to be given a short version of the history of the site along with how and why it was chosen.

Then I was shown around the site by The Managing Director Jeffrey Becker, who told me about the finds and features recovered to date. I was careful to walk only where shown and instructed, this was to minimise damage and disturbance of the the areas waiting to be done.

After being given the tour I was introduced to the staff in the finds area who were very busy with cleaning, recording and storing the artefacts as they were brought in from the 3 different areas. I found this area very interesting, because you could see good large examples of the various types of ceramics, alongside bones and other materials. Jeffrey kindly got me a list of the various types of pottery (ceramics), expected and being found at the site and how to identify them.

The ladies gave me some bags, a container and a marker pen and explained what they were for. I was then asked to see the field supervisor in Area A, Jamie Sewell who put me to work on some spoil.

If, while doing the spoil, I found anything I was curious about, I only had to ask and an answer was given. I tried not to ask too many times because excavations are very much controlled by time and as we know, time cost money.

I found my own method for dealing with the spoil and it seemed to work well, giving me time between barrow loads and spoil heaps, to look around me and watch the others at work. It was interesting to see the methods being used even though at the time I had little idea of what was being done and why. I was occasionally asked to use my equipment in situ. which was enjoyable because it meant being in the middle of the work and helping to find something, hopefully of interest. Something that had not been disturbed since it came to rest, when Gabii was last in use! Sometimes however, I was just asked to detect over the site and if I located a signal, to place a small flag marking the position. This was usually for a good reason and albeit a little frustrating not seeing what I had located, I got satisfaction in knowing that another piece of the 'jigsaw' had been found.

I do feel that the use of a detector is an important addition to an archaeological excavation and that it is still in it's infancy.

With metal detectors going deeper now than ever before, I would like to see them being used more from the start and continuously throughout the dig. I feel it would help with the location of certain features and help prevent theft from sites.

This may not be practical, for various reasons and in this case, proved not really necessary, because very little was missed.

I do not know the ratio of metallic items found with eyes only, against detector finds but it will be interesting to see such data.

I found the overall experience very interesting and informative and would recommend it to anyone, should they ever be invited to attend an excavation.

I am hoping to share this experience with fellow club members and have been asked to put together a small show and tell presentation.

Now I can honestly say that I have 'Been There and Got the T-shirt'

Thank you to both Sally Worrel and Laura Mclean for being given this chance and experience.



Cursing the Emperor?

In the reigns of the joint-emperors Valentinian I (AD364-75) and Valens (AD364-78), the Roman historian Ammianus Marcellinus tells us that in AD 367 "A certain Valentinus, who was a native of Valeria in Pannonia (Hungary), a proud man, had been exiled to Britain for a serious offence. Like some dangerous animal he could not stay quiet; he pushed ahead with his destructive, revolutionary plans, nourishing an especial loathing for Theodosius [a general of Valentinian and Valens sent to Britain]." Ammianus informs us that Valentinus' rebellion was quashed and then goes on to describe the catastrophic events in Britain, commonly called the Great Barbarian Conspiracy, when Saxons, Picts and Scots (from Ireland) all ravaged the Roman province. Britannia was only saved by the swift actions of Count Theodosius.

Modern historians have tended to overlook the revolt of Valentinus. Indeed, it has been suggested that this was the catalyst for the subsequent invasions as the barbarians sensed that Britain was in turmoil, therefore especially vulnerable to attack.

Early this year, Mr Tom Redmayne was metal detecting in a muddy field in the parish of Fulstow in Lincolnshire. He had already found Roman pottery (Samian ware from Gaul), some late Roman coins and lead weights. Then he found several pieces of lead, three of which were folded over. When he carefully unfolded them, he saw they had holes drilled in them and that in the centre of each was an impression (see illustration 1 below). He took them to the Portable Antiquities Scheme Finds Liaison Officer for Lincolnshire, Adam Daubney, who realised that they were coin impressions.



One of the two lead sheets showing the impression of the coin of Valens (AD 364-78) and the hole drilled after the piece was folded (width 7.5cms)

Adam brought the pieces down to London where he and I determined that the impressions were caused by hammering in bronze coins of the emperor of Valens (see illustration 2 below). After the impressions were hammered in, the pieces were folded over and then the edges of the sheets pierced. This was probably done so they could be hung up. So how do we interpret this?



It might be that during the revolt of Valentinus, one of his followers decided to curse the emperors. It was traditional to write curse messages on tablets which were rolled up or nailed to a temple wall (you can see Roman curse tablets from Uley in the Roman Britain Gallery – Room 41). In this case, it seems that instead of writing the emperors' names, it was decided to use the effigy of Valens from a coin. Then the lead was folded over and the pieces possibly nailed to, or hung from, a wall. At a later date, the two pieces might have been bound together between the third piece of lead and ritually deposited, possibly in the ground.

This is only my personal interpretation – we will never know for certain why they were made, but perhaps they were created by a follower of Valentinus who was part of the rebellion against the emperors of Rome. Whatever the truth, we have not found other objects like these in Britain.

Cursing the Emperor? - links just click on the images below

Rare find highlights antiquities fears

Maev Kennedy
The Guardian, Monday 17 December 2007
[Article history](#)



The only lead curse on a Roman emperor ever found, with a Roman gold coin. The lead foil would be hung in a temple to enact the curse, which would be made with the impression of a coin. Photograph: Martin Godwin

LIN-57021 (ALL FINDS: find 147322 of 251673)

Object Type: lead tablet

Possible lead tablet for making a silver cliché coin forgery (or possibly a curse tablet) containing the impression of a coin of the Emperor Valens (AD364-78)

The lead panel is roughly triangular in shape with two near-complete edges and one incomplete edge. The sheet is flat and has a circular hole in two corners, the third corner is missing. The sheet was originally found folded together and has since been opened.

Inside the folded sheet is the negative impression of the obverse from a Roman coin of Valens. The diameter of the impression is 18mm indicating that it is from a silver aureus or a copper alloy nummus. When viewed from above the bust faces left and the lettering is reversed. The bust is diademed and draped. The legend field is extremely worn and unfortunately no lettering can be read.

There is no evidence for an earlier fold that would have suggested that the lead was folded around a coin and then struck to gain the impression of obverse and reverse.

The fold in the lead as discovered by the finder cuts, seemingly intentionally, across the centre of the impression.

This is one of two tablets found together along with a folded blank lead sheet. The die is recorded on the Portable Antiquities Schemes database as LIN-57001 and the lead sheet is recorded as LIN-58006. The impression on the other lead tablet is from the same coin obverse and is also folded through the coin.

The nature of the finds and their folds has lead Sam Moorhead (Roman coin finds adviser, Portable Antiquities Scheme) to suggest that the objects are for making cliché coin forgeries or were possibly curse tablets used against the Emperor Valens.

Findspot
OS Grid ref: TF3496 [limited], 10k Map: TF39NW, 25k Map: TF5338, Parish: FULSTOW, County: LINCOLNSHIRE

[Images](#)

[Zoom in](#)
Lead sheet with stamp mark
[all images \(2\) >](#)

LIN-57001 (ALL FINDS: find 147322 of 251673)

Object Type: lead tablet

Lead tablet containing the impression of a Roman coin of Valens (AD 364-78), probably used for making a silver cliché forged coin, or possibly a curse tablet.

The lead panel is roughly rectangular in shape with three near-complete edges and one incomplete edge. The sheet is flat and has a circular hole at one corner, and another half way down the length of the incomplete side, through which the sheet is broken. The sheet was originally found folded together and has since been opened.

Inside the folded sheet is the negative impression of the obverse from a Roman coin of Valens. The diameter of the impression is 18mm indicating that it is from a silver aureus or a copper alloy nummus. When viewed from above the bust faces left and the lettering is reversed. The bust is diademed and draped. The clearest lettering is seen behind the bust, which reads DN VALENS. The legends area after the bust is quite worn and so the lettering is difficult to determine, but probably read PF AVG.

To the left of the obverse impression is a very faint ring mark which is the same diameter as the obverse, indicating that another impression was contained within the sheet. There is no evidence for an earlier fold that would have suggested that the lead was folded around a coin and then struck to gain the impression of obverse and reverse.

This is one of two dies found together along with a folded blank lead sheet. The die is recorded on the Portable Antiquities Schemes database as LIN-57021 and the lead sheet is recorded as LIN-58006. The other impression bearing tablet was also folded through the coin obverse.

The nature of the finds and their folds has lead Sam Moorhead (Roman coin finds adviser, Portable Antiquities Scheme) to suggest that the objects are for making cliché coins or were possibly curse tablets used against the Emperor Valens.

Findspot

[Images](#)

[Zoom in](#)
Lead sheet with stamp mark
[all images \(2\) >>](#)

LIN-58006 (ALL FINDS: find 147329 of 251673)

Object Type: lead tablet

Rectangular lead panel. The panel is very worn and incomplete and has three folds in it creating four smaller panels. This lead panel was discovered wrapped around a single blank lead sheet.

This object was discovered in the same place as two further lead sheets containing impressions of official Roman coins, interpreted as being lead curse tablets against the Emperor Valens. The sheets are recorded on the Portable Antiquities Schemes database as LIN-57001 and LIN-57021.

Findspot
OS Grid ref: TF3496 [limited], 10k Map: TF39NW, 25k Map: TF5338, Parish: FULSTOW, County: LINCOLNSHIRE

[Images](#)

[Zoom in](#)
Lead sheet
[all images \(2\) >](#)

What is it?

Dr Kevin Leahy

The clue to what this small brass ring was used for is given by numbers around it: 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 - 12 -1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 and the accompanying letters: I F M A M I and I A S O N D which should ring a bell even if the numbers don't mean anything. January February March April May June.... (in the sixteenth and seventeenth century when this object was made they didn't distinguish between I and J). So we have the month of the year and the numbers 1 to 12. Now look at the object and you will see a slot around it in which something could slide. This object is a pocket sun dial, a ring dial, and the slider allowed the pin-hole, through which the sun-light shone onto the hour-scale to be adjusted as the sun's position changed through the year. Clever stuff!

Found at Fransham, Norfolk, identified by Stephen Ashley and recorded for the Portable Antiquities Scheme by Ellen Bales, Portable Antiquities Record Number NMS -A3F348. See this and many other finds at www.finds.org.uk



This article was originally published in BBC History Magazine

Door Knobs that Open a Door to the Past!

This year marks the 1600th anniversary of the traditional End of Roman Britain. And to mark that, this is a special edition of the newsletter focusing on the Romans and the Roman period in Britain. Detectorists have been helping change the way we look at the Roman period and what came after by sharing information on what they find and helping build up a picture of the small finds from those fascinating years. And as we're increasingly realising small finds can make a big difference to our understanding of what exactly happened in that period.

In the past, I've drawn attention to particularly interesting categories of artefact that you can look out for, and here's another. Bit mysterious this one, but important and maybe you can help solve a mystery that could provide some really important answers about the history of Roman and post-Roman Britain.

What does this look like to you? Door Knob right? Almost exactly like a modern one, but earlier because it looks hand-made and a bit knocked about, so Georgian perhaps, or Victorian. Well if that's what you thought, you'd be wrong, but nobody would blame you. Even the people who named this category of artefact named them, 'door-knob spearbutts' or 'knobbed spearbutts'.



OK, you say, you can see the doorknob, but where does the spearbutt bit come in? Well that's where we get to the heart of this mystery.

These items are fascinating, because they're not Georgian or Victorian, they're much older. Originally it was thought they might be pre-Roman, but now it's generally agreed that they date from around the 3rd - 5th centuries AD. Examples of them have been found in Ireland and Scotland and moulds for them have been found in Scotland. But increasing numbers of them (though they're still very rare) are being found now by detectorists in England, including areas of the far south, a long, long way from Ireland and Scotland. What are they? Well that's one of the key problems. We don't actually know.

One in the British Museum is very worn just below the 'knob', which the curator thinks implies friction. However, they have been traditionally thought of as spearbutts mainly because of a passage in the Roman Historian Dio Cassius that describes the weapons of the Caledonii and Maeatae in Scotland: 'Their weapons consist of a shield and a short spear with a bronze 'apple' at the end of the shaft which is designed to make a loud noise when shaken and thus terrify the enemy.' One Irish example was also allegedly found with a 'spear shaft' - and there are depictions from the Roman period of expanded butts on spears, plus a number have rivets for securing them.

The exact use of these artefacts is one half of the mystery. The other half is what they're doing in Roman or post-Roman Britain as far south as southern England. They're definitely being made in Scotland and being used in Ireland in some quantity. It's very rare to find items from either location deep inside Roman Britain. It is conceivable that they have been traded in some way. However, if they actually are spear butts, that would seem perhaps unlikely. In that context, it might be more likely that they would represent some kind of movement of armed warriors.

Now we know from ancient historians of raiders coming into Roman Britain across the sea from Ireland and across the Wall from Scotland. A particularly devastating raid or series of raids, which seem to have spread across much of Britain is recorded for the year AD 367 and included raiders from both Ireland and Scotland. Equally, Gildas, a British cleric writing probably in the early 6th century, describes destructive raids by Picts at the end of the Roman period and in the post-Roman period. Could these raiders have left these spearbutts behind? It's certainly possible. On the other hand, a significant percentage of these spearbutts found in England have been found close to major Roman towns and cities that were defended with walls, not particularly where you would expect to find small groups of lightly armed raiders. And we know that units composed from some of the tribes active in the 367 raids were incorporated at some point into the Roman army. So could some of these spearbutts have been left by such raiders-turned-Roman-soldiers? Again it's certainly possible. Finally, there's a suspicion that some post-Roman British warlords employed Irish mercenaries. The post-Roman tombstone of an Irishman called Cunorix has been found at the major Roman and post-Roman site of Wroxeter. Could these spearbutts have been left by post-Roman mercenaries? It's yet another possibility.

The only way we can ever hope to find answers to this mystery and potentially uncover some pretty interesting information about the history of Roman and post-Roman Britain is if more examples of these artefacts are found and catalogued by the PAS.

So, in this anniversary year of the End of Roman Britain, keep an eye out for doorknob spearbutts and take a look through your old finds too. That strange chunk of metal might not be just an old Victorian doorknob after all! It could be a doorknob spearbutt about to open a fascinating door on the Roman and post-Roman period in this country.

Stuart Laycock

lateromanbuckle@hotmail.co.uk

A new book that Stuart Laycock has co-authored with Miles Russell, 'UnRoman Britain' (History Press) is published in October.



“not a bad rivet is it?”

Liz

It had been a cold and wet, miserable week, so when my DP, Peter and I met we decided to go to a field of set-a-side; it was a field we had been to many times with very little success, we only went there when there was nothing else available.

As usual we were finding very little, it had been raining quite heavily on and off all day but about lunchtime it brightened up so we continued. By mid afternoon when we met up, in the top corner of the field, the sky was darkening and another storm was imminent so we decided it was time to call it a day. As usual we detected our way back to the car, I got there first just as the rain started, I could see Peter was some distance away and although we were in my car that day, instead of being sensible and getting into it, I walked a few yards away and continued to detect, I got one last signal and as I retrieved it from the mud Peter walked past, he took one look and said “ rivet” by now it was howling down with rain, so I said ,“could be,” I popped it into my bag and made a beeline for the car.

It was one of those sort of days, we were wet through and well muddied up, we didn't hang around and look at our finds, we just decided to go straight back to my house and get the kettle on.

As I made the brew he said that he would just swill a bit of the mud off of some of our finds, a few minutes later I heard a couple of loud expletives, he turned and said something totally unrepeatable followed by, “just look at this” , then it was my turn to say... (something equally unrepeatable!)....as I found myself looking at this brooch. It was so plastered in mud when I found it, I couldn't believe it, I said “not a bad rivet is it?”



Why I love the Romans

Brian Cross

I have been detecting since 1977, 33 years. I first detected with a C-Scope detector in Stoke-on-Trent, detecting on a village green and various playing fields finding masses of old pennies, sixpences and three-penny pieces.

During those first early years the oldest things I ever found were Georgian pennies and half-pennies, Georgian groats we called them and once I had dug up several hundred of them one did become tired of these worn, uninteresting coins. I did this for several years and then, when the hobby had me in its clutches I started to think about older items and how I would go about finding them.

After moving to Runcorn on Merseyside I formed the South-Lancs & Cheshire metal detecting club and started to do lots of research and first met the Romans. What is it about the Romans that detectorists are attracted to? Is it the fact that all those years ago this vast, efficient army made their way across the English Channel and subjected our race to a totally new way of life? Is it the fact that they were so sophisticated and advanced compared with our own peoples having things like proper roads and central heating? Or is it simply that for a metal detectorist finding something from the Roman period was something achievable and quite possible because the Roman influence covered much of the British Isles.

Whatever was the case I now had an affection for the Romans and wanted to find something from the Roman period more than anything else. I wanted it even more than that overwhelming desire to find my first hammered coin.

I became obsessed with research, discovering a interest in all the Roman roads that ran through Cheshire and beyond. I realised that, in the main, Cheshire was a military zone and so tried to concentrate my detecting near to those important military roads.

Then a friend and club member found a Roman silver intaglio ring on The Meadows in Chester. Wow, I could feel the thrill in finding something that precious because I was with him when he found it and shared his joy !! It was a gob-smacking experience - we couldn't believe what he had found, especially in that place which had been common ground and detected upon quite regularly. It is said that it contains mountains of rubble and other material removed from the centre of Chester in Victorian and later times. A similar ring is shown in Fig 1 and 1a



Fig 1 - Roman Intaglio Ring

(picture kindly donated by Romanrich



Fig 2 - Roman Intaglio Ring
(picture kindly donated by Romanrich)

Then it happened for me and totally out of the blue it was. I was detecting one Sunday morning totally on my own on a pasture field along a track that had been disturbed by some heavy machinery. Looking down, detecting along, I saw ahead of me, lying on top of the soil, on the impressed tracks of some digger, what was obviously a silver coin. I didn't even detect it, I saw it ahead of my detector search head. I knew it was a Roman type head and once home I discovered it was a Roman Republican coin. I cannot describe the elation I felt at having found my first Roman coin and at it being such a special one at that.



Fig 2 – Republican Denarius

The coin is shown in Fig 2 and is a Republican silver denarius minted by Licinius Macer dating to about 84 B.C The coin shows the head of Vejovis and the reverse shows Minerva in a quadriga (four-horse chariot) with a javelin and shield.

This was a one-off find and nothing else at all came from that field, despite my searching it several times. I can only presume that the heavy digger or whatever it was had brought the coin to where I found it from who-knows-where?

A year or so later and our club started getting together coach trips to Lincolnshire in an effort to help other members get that first elusive Roman coin. We went to fields surrounding Newark where it was fairly easy to detect your first Roman coin. Forty members would go and most would find their first Roman, albeit grotty, coin, most came back very, very satisfied !!

Shortly after this myself and Mo' bought the Red Rocket and started our adventures in that. Some of those exploits are being reproduced in the UKDN Word now and readers will feel our excitement at finding Roman material most of which is now being recorded with PAS.

Below are just a small sample of the Roman finds that have thrilled us during our searches.

Cast copper alloy trumpet brooch dating to 75-175AD.

PAS Reference - LVPL-B20874 BROOCH



Cast copper alloy gilded Hod Hill type brooch dating to 43-75AD.

PAS Reference - LVPL-B277D8 BROOCH



Cast copper alloy headstud brooch dating to c.65-200AD.

PAS Reference

LVPL-35CF31 BROOCH



Finally comes my very favourite Roman period find – we call him Mr Happy for very obvious reasons !!

Cast copper alloy figurine dating to the Roman period, (43-410AD).

PAS Reference

LVPL-D9A6B5 FIGURINE



If you don't believe that I absolutely love the Romans then take a quick look at this article

http://www.ukdetectornet.co.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=77%3Aengaging-trip-to-rome&Itemid=60

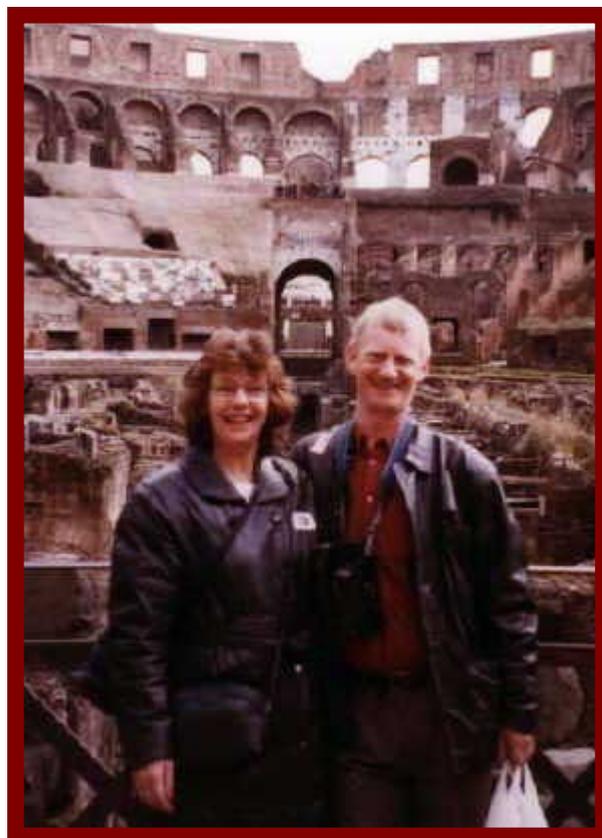
The above episode happened in 1998 and since then we have grown older and a little less able to do the hours upon hours of detecting that we used to do. However, the fascination with the Romans is still there.

As detectorists we are amazed that even though millions upon millions of Roman coins were produced you can still find one that will be amazingly rare.

You can still find a brooch that, although it has been in the ground almost 2000 years, will still retain most of its enamel if you're lucky and it is very possible for the detectorist to find a piece of personal artefacture that we can still relate to today.

When you drive to your favourite Roman site you will more than likely drive down those same Roman roads that the Romans walked down. The date you fix for your excursion will be based on the calendar which was started by Julius Caesar and when you come home and sit in your cosy central heated house to identify and record your latest finds just remember that it was the Romans who first came up with the idea of central heating!!

While we use this issue of the UKDN Word to highlight the fact that it is 1600 years since the Romans vacated the British shores for most detectorists it is like they left just yesterday for so much of the Roman way of life remains with us still – that's why I love the Romans !!



The Find that nearly never was

Cesar

I took up detecting not long after the turn of the century but like many of us it was quite some time before I got permission to go on a farmer's field as an individual, at last, my own fields even if lots of detectorists and clubs had detected on this very same farm, indeed a major rally had been held on these very fields.

It was a very large field and truth be told I found very little, not a single roman coin then or in all the subsequent years I have detected on there. I was at this stage a real newbie with almost no historical knowledge of coins or artefacts and was at that very time building up my library of reference books. One Sunday whilst wandering round the field in blessed solitude with now't but the hum of the minelab explorer resonating in my ears, suddenly I heard a very loud and tinny response. Moving the loose top soil (the field had recently been rolled) I noticed some colour showing amongst the loose dry soil and picked up what I then felt to be a circular badge with painted roundel on it, I felt it was far too well made to be old and would be Victorian or later so I put it in my finds bag and took it home.

My wife who at that time had not taken up detecting was never the less interested in what I found and would inspect my finds, when seeing the roundel disc she claimed it was old and probably Roman, I dismissed this as absurd, she knew no more then about Roman artefacts than I did which is to say nothing. I stored the item away and a considerable time later I purchased the Celtic & Roman Artefacts book by Nigel Mills, on looking thru it my wife suddenly exclaimed, see, I told you it was a Roman find and showing me a picture in the book (page 62/RB165a) I could see an identical roundel which was described as a disc brooch, this was my first Roman find and not a bad one either and I had not even known it. Now both of us would recognise it in a flash even by just seeing the catch plate on the reverse, we have come a long way since then, its of course on the P.A.S. database and the finds number BUC-ED53E6.

<http://www.finds.org.uk/database/artefacts/record/id/78967>



UKDN Members Roman Finds





Roman Coins

UKDN FOM Coin found by whipet Antonious Pius Denarius



[Denarius at Wikipedia](#)

[Denarius unsigned article](#)

[Denarius at Coinarchives](#)

[Denarius at the Portable Antiquities Scheme](#) [Encyclopedia of Roman Imperial Coinage pdf](#)

[Roman Imperial coins timeline](#)

[Ruler rarity](#)

[Roman Imperial](#)

[Identifying Roman coins](#)

[Identifying late Roman bronze coins](#)

[Virtual coin collection pdf](#)

[Identifying Roman coin legends \(type some letters in\)](#)

[Roman Britain](#)

[Roman roads in Britain](#)

Bibliography: I would like to thank the following websites & people for producing such informative web pages; Wikipedia, William P. Thayer, CoinArchives, The Portable Antiquities Scheme, Sam Moorhead, Dirtyoldcoins.com, Dirtyoldbooks.com & Rasiel Soares, Tesorillo.com & Roman-Britain.org.

Please support UK Detector Net

& record your finds with The Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS)

for the benefit of future genera-

Roman Brooches

TRUMPET



FOM Artefact
Donnydave

[Roman Brooches \(Britarch\)](#)

[Roman Brooches \(Hull CC\)](#)

[Roman Brooches \(Darwin Country\)](#)

[Roman Brooches \(Roman Era by John Ward\)](#)

[Roman Brooches \(Portable Antiquities Scheme\)](#)

[Trumpet Brooches \(Portable Antiquities Scheme\)](#)

[Trumpet Brooches \(Darwin Country\)](#)

[Dating Roman Brooches \(Portable Antiquities Scheme\)](#)

[Dating Roman Brooches \(Wikipedia\)](#)

[How brooches were worn \(Chorley History Society\)](#)

[How brooches were worn \(Roman Finds Group\)](#)

[Roman Clothing & Jewellery](#)

[Roman Brooch Moulds](#)

Bibliography: I would like to thank the following for producing such informative web pages; Britarch, Hull CC, Darwin Country, Roman Era by John Ward, The Portable Antiquities Scheme, Wikipedia, The Chorley Historical Society, The Roman Finds Group & Roman – Colosseum.info/

Please support UK Detector Net & record your finds with The Portable Antiquities Scheme for the benefit of future generations & the hobby

A very small piece of a very, very large field

There are several reasons why I started detecting but one of the main reasons was to find out more about the history of my village. It was recorded as Saxon but a few tantalising clues about earlier occupation occasionally came to light. These were pre-PAS days and there was no central record that I could refer to or who would give me the information I was after.

My initial searches produced the usual Medieval and post-Med items but apart from a rare piece, the Roman and pre-Roman artefacts and coins eluded me. However, all this changed when a farmer sub-soiled a set of previously fairly barren fields. I normally ignored them unless I had nowhere else to go which proved the case on one sunny weekend a couple of years ago. Without much hope I wandered over the first field and was hardly getting a signal until I was shaken awake by multiple signals in one sweep. This turned out to be 6 Roman bronze coins within a couple of feet. A quick search of the area didn't bring anything else up but it had given me new hope. I duly reported the coins to PAS but it was decided that the coin date range was too long (1st to 4th Centuries) for them to be associated. This may not prove to be the case as later finds indicate but there is nothing conclusive yet.

Over the next month I had pinned the active area down to about 20 square metres although stray artefacts do turn up elsewhere in the field. The surrounding fields yielded the odd coin but the main patch was on the first field. My best day provided 3 Roman brooches, a Roman key and a smattering of coins. The best brooch turned out to be an unrecorded variety and in exceptional condition for these fields with only the pin missing.

[http://www.finds.org.uk/
database/artefacts/record/
id/186846](http://www.finds.org.uk/database/artefacts/record/id/186846)

Click on the link to take you
to the PAS record



A second version has since turned up from Somerset and duly recorded. If PAS didn't exist then neither of them would be available for study or anyone have known of their existence. I am not against anyone selling their finds but if they are not recorded first then their provenance is lost and they become another lump of metal in someone's cabinet.

I have now recovered several brooches from this field in varying conditions. The plough has had its way with some of them but I may still be able to find the rest of the pieces in the near future. They were probably safely cocooned in their own layer before the sub-soiling but are now fair game for the plough, elements and various farm chemicals. The date range is from 1st century A.D. Through to the 3rd Century A.D. But the two most telling brooches are pre-invasion so tell us that the site is probably Romano-British although it is possible that they came over with the first Roman settlers. They also tell us that the original owners had connections with trade on the south coast where the initial Roman trading posts were situated. We will never know if they traded direct or via one or more different traders.

So how old is the site? The soil is black, highly mineralised and full of iron which would normally indicate intensive use of many years but it can also indicate when the farmer put all his old chicken huts, set fire to them and then ploughed the remains into the field. That said, the other evidence shows that the field has been in use for thousands of years.

The flints go back to the Mesolithic period and run right through to the Bronze Age. This lovely flint arrowhead dates to the late Neolithic to early Bronze Age.

(Awaiting PAS Number)



I have only found one other piece of Bronze Age which is this nice Middle to Late Bronze Age (1500 BC - 800 BC) tanged chisel. This must have been a prized tool at the time whose loss must have been very noticeable.

<http://www.finds.org.uk/database/artefacts/record/id/287185>

Click on the link to take you to the PAS record

Despite being a Saxon village very little from that period has been found. One item is a link from a Saxon pin set that came from a nearby field and the other is a reused Roman plate brooch which has evidence of re-use. Although impossible to date accurately, there is evidence of similar reuse from the Saxon period.

<http://www.finds.org.uk/database/artefacts/record/id/186563>

Click on the link to take you to the PAS record



Evidence of Medieval and later use makes its usual appearance but by then the village was well established and is to be expected. I have not included anything here but may do so in a future article.

In summary, the evidence points to a hunter gather existence until sometime in the early Bronze Age then some sort of regular use right the way through until the late Roman period, possibly in to the Saxon period. After that it was in use as a cultivated field up until the present day. I don't think that I have hit a habitation site as I find very little pottery or household debris such as broken spoons etc. The only items that would come under that heading was a part bronze/part iron key and a vessel mount but these may also mean other uses. Hopefully as I recover more artefacts the puzzle may be resolved. The fields are hard work and far from very productive but what comes up always brings a smile to my face. This coin came up late last season so I can't wait to get back on the site.



Welcome to the...

South-Lancs & Cheshire Metal Detecting Club



Est. 1974

South Lancs & Cheshire Metal Detecting Club Report

The August meeting took place on 04/08/2010 at 7:30pm and was well attended considering the holiday season is still with us.

We still have new member interest every month. Today was no exception.

Vanessa Oakden our FLO was with us today for her last recording visit before she takes time off to have her baby. She was presented with a bouquet of flowers from the club as a thank you for the hard work that she does.



Gary Owens - South Lancs & Cheshire MDC.

The finds table was well attended, with finds from all periods being represented.

The post 1662 Coin of the month was won by Perry Webster with a Victorian Gold Sovereign (Sydney Mint) 1894.



The pre 1662 Coin of the month was won by John Fargher with an Elizabeth 1 sixpence 1568.



The post 1700 Artefact was won by Perry Webster with a Silver Plated Thimble.



The pre 1700 Artefact was won by Dennis O'Brien with a 1st Century Roman Fibula Brooch.



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.

Here's another classic from Dave Berry, dating from March 1989. This was a little dig at a previous member, who despite various ailments, still managed to bring in to the club finds competitions competition winning finds :-)



York & District MDC live at the Malton Show



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York & District MDC had a stand at the **Malton Show** on Sunday 18th July for the third year running, manned by six experienced members.

The aim was to demonstrate how metal detectors work, what they are capable of finding & to show how these finds can be recorded with the **Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS)** so that the information can be added to our history for the benefit of the local community & future generations.

Also by the use of photographs & newspaper articles, to show how by assisting in Community Archaeology Projects, Battlefield Surveys, Time Team programmes etc, detectorists can contribute in other ways & get more out of the hobby.

The Club operates a **free** recovery service in the York, Malton, Selby, Tadcaster, Wetherby, Harrogate & Knaresborough Areas to assist farmers & the general public in the recovery of lost machine parts, tools, items of jewellery etc.



A Garrett Ace 250 metal detector (yellow above), which is an excellent machine for demonstration purposes was set up on the table above to show how a metal detector works & how it displays the different conductivity's of metals & gives by means of the symbols at the top of it's screen an estimate of what it thinks the target might be.

Typical beach type targets such as a gold ring, foil & a ring pull tab were run over the search coil & the conductivity's of each noted.

The ability to eliminate (discriminate out) nuisance items such as ring pulls was demonstrated & the problem explained of how eliminating ring pulls would also eliminate other targets of the same conductivity such as some gold rings & hence why discrimination should be used with caution.

It was demonstrated how the machine shows the depth of the target & what depth might be achievable depending on the size of the target & whether it was lying flat or on it's side.

A common question asked was how deep the detector could detect, to which the answer given was perhaps a couple of feet if it was the size of a dustbin lid or a couple of inches if it was a 'cut quarter' (a quarter of a hammered silver coin).



There were more than the usual number of children there this year, most of whom were eager to have a go with the **Teknetics T2 metal detector**, so we obliged.

We hid Victorian pennies in some straw & they were invited to detect for them. Having found the coin's general location they were handed a **Garrett Pro-Pointer** to pin point it's exact location. The pin pointer is real fun to use in it's own right.

The children were well pleased when told they could keep the coin & most went away with a find that was a hundred years old. Some of them wanted multiple goes so we asked them to look away as we re hid the coin they had previously found.

In the past we have used six buckets of sand and a huge plastic sheet, but got the idea of using straw which is cheap & easy to use from a post on the **UK Detector Net Forum** where **much more information about the hobby can be found**.

I would like to thank the **Rotary Club of Malton & Norton** for inviting us along again, we thoroughly enjoy this event each year. I would also like to praise our knowledgeable 'team' of Club members who revel in discussing the finds & the hobby with the public & answering the multitude of questions put to them.

We are all very much looking forward next years show, thank you for reading.

Please record anything you find over 300 years old with the Portable Antiquities Scheme for the benefit of future generations

Unlucky for some

Old Git John

About 17 months ago, following my severe shoulder injury, in which I tore the rotation muscle in my right shoulder, I decided to change my detector, sold my DFX, and bought a T2. A detector which, in the right hands is much loved. Unfortunately my hands were not the right ones, and we never gelled, I came to hate using it, but that was just me, not the detector may I say.

My operation took place on the 28th of January this year, at which time I was told, "No driving or anything else for three months". I spent several weeks going through some very painful physio. My shoulder is now fully working again.

Quite some weeks ago I decided that, come what may the T2 had to go, and advertised it on four forums, plus Fleabay. My asking price was way over the top at first, but I gradually dropped it.

Now, this bit is in its own way important, I was born on Friday the 13th, @ 1300 hours, (1.00pm). On the Tuesday prior to the 13th of August I ordered a new detector, a DFX300. It was delivered to my home on Friday 13th, which was nice, but then came a bolt out of the blue, at precisely 1300 I concluded the sale of the T2.

Last Saturday was my first trip out detecting with my new toy, on a club dig, detecting for the very first time on pasture. I found a gold wedding ring, which dates to 1892.

Yesterday, I received a 'phone call, asking me if I could go over today, to try to find a gold ear ring, lost on Sunday. I agreed, and went this afternoon.

The lady still had the other one, and showed it to me. One of those flat ones made to look like a flower, about a quarter of an inch across, plus the pin on the back. It made me cringe a bit.

Anyway, I set up the detector and started, whilst her ladyship popped indoors, as she came out two minutes later, I was delighted to hand her the ear ring. To say the least, her flabber was well gasted

I was very happy that, on my second trip out detecting with the new machine I had struck gold again.

I love my new toy.

Oh, and by the way, most of the good things which have happened in my life have been linked to the number thirteen.

