

# UKDN WORD

WORLD OF RESPONSIBLE DETECTING

Issue no: 136  
December 2018



**What were they really used for? By Kev Woodward**



**Blessing from the plough By Bryan162**



**Reminiscing Beach Detecting By Keith Usher**

**Inside...News, Views, Competition Results and more**

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UKDN would like to thank Tom Redmayne for the front cover image, DetectingDavid for image enhancement and UKDN members for their input.

# admin team

## Brian & Mo'

Founded UKDN in Sept 2002  
Detecting since 1978



## Coreservers

Word Assistant Editor  
Here since 2003  
Detecting since 2003



## Kevin Woodward

Here since 2005  
Detecting since 1990



## Popsandme

Here since 2009  
Detecting since 2009

## Moderators



## Chasm\_norwich

Here since 2014  
Detecting since 1985



## Baldric

Here since 2004  
Detecting since 2003



## Hectorsfarm

Here since 2012  
Detecting since 2011



## Firthy77

Here since 2006  
Detecting since 1970



## Dendro\_Tom

Here since 2014  
Detecting since 1985



## Arfrape

Here since 2007  
Detecting since 2005

# UK DETECTOR NET 2018 CHRISTMAS PRIZE DRAW

## 1st PRIZE - A DEUS DETECTOR

This metal detector has been purchased by UK DETECTOR NET from Regton Ltd.

**Our intention is to pay ourselves back for the purchase of the metal detector, costs towards the TH magazines and any other expenses involved such as postage of prizes etc and then donate all remaining monies to Macmillan Cancer Support.**



Other prizes include: A Garrett Pro-pointer from Regton, Raven Digging Knife from Detecnicks, a prize from Whites, two subscriptions to Archi-UK, Wireless headphones and camouflage gear donated by C-Scope, A Set of Pro-Tector Covers for your detector from North Staffs Detectors, a Treasure Hunting sub from TH magazine, a TH sub donated from this draw and a set of six reproduction coins donated by Museum Reproductions plus other donated prizes. Full list on the forum (see link below).

Please support the above companies because they have supported our efforts. You donate to Macmillan and we allocate a free draw ticket to you. If paying by Paypal please use the forum link at the very bottom of this page.

As in previous years, numbers will be taken from a brand-new book of 500 numbers starting with number 1 for first £10 suggested donation received. Each ticket allocated will be listed on the forum thread along with the name of the donator. If you do not wish your name to be divulged then we will place "anonymous" in place of your name. Numbers will be allocated ONLY when donations are received.

**The first ticket drawn will be for the Deus detector and further prizes drawn according to a list supplied by ourselves. Multiple prizes WILL be allowed.**

Donations can also be made by cheque: Send cheque for £10 for 1 x £10 donation, £20 for 2 x £10 donations, £30 for 3 x £10 donations etc. Make cheque out to UK DETECTOR NET and send to UK DETECTOR NET, 52 Stonehills Lane, Runcorn, Cheshire, WA7 5UL Closing date will be 11 pm 16th December 2018. The draw will take place on 21st December 2018 by Digger Dawn at Regtons.

[Click Here](#) for forum link to the draw



..... to this the 136th edition of your Word magazine published on 1st December 2018. Unfortunately, this will be the last regular issue of our magazine. We have struggled for many months now with only three of us on the production team and with very little material being submitted. As you know, we all have our lives away from UKDN and it has just been too much of a struggle putting this great magazine together. We really do need a break away from it all!!

What the team have decided, though, is to periodically put together a WORD special issue whenever we find ourselves with enough submitted material, or if the forum has something serious or important to say to you all. It'll be the same team but, for the foreseeable future, we won't have the pressure of trying to get a magazine produced in time for a month end.

What we ask you to remember is that we still need stories of your finds and adventures. Please send them to us. They might not be published within a few weeks, as they have been in the past, but they will get published. WORD magazine will still live on, just not on the monthly basis that it has been for the past 11 years or so.

The forum is running very well, with no reported problems. Today we are launching our 2018 Christmas Draw. As always, the proceeds of the draw, after taking out any expenses, will go to Macmillan Cancer Support. We are hoping that we can beat all previous records for the amount raised, hence the plea for prizes that we made five days ago on the forum.

Detecting is still going well. The weather has been relatively kind to us all with little frost or really bad weather. Make the most of it though folks because a bad winter is being forecast by the pundits.

Well that's it for the foreseeable future. It's been a fabulous run over the past 11 years, ending with this, the 136th issue.

Good Hunting to you all.



# Did you See

With almost 500 members visiting every single day and 100's of new posts every day it is so easy for you, the members of UKDN, to miss out on some very interesting posts. So, each month in the magazine we will bring to your attention some posts that you might have missed like.....click on the link

<b><i>Cut 1/4 for info please</i></b>	<b><i>Bronze Coin for ID, please...</i></b>
<b><i>Artefact for ID please</i></b>	<b><i>Ordnance but what?</i></b>
<b><i>One for our experts</i></b>	<b><i>Long cross penny for i.d. please</i></b>
<b><i>Three nice hammered coins for identification</i></b>	<b><i>One off the bucket list</i></b>
<b><i>Siliqua for id please,</i></b>	<b><i>Button for ID, please...</i></b>
<b><i>Cross like artifact</i></b>	<b><i>Umbonate brooch</i></b>
<b><i>Two Hammys for ideas I'd,s or clues</i></b>	<b><i>Really baffled</i></b>
<b><i>A couple of damaged coins</i></b>	<b><i>Statue foot?</i></b>
<b><i>Gobsmacked when this came out. Quarter Stater ID</i></b>	<b><i>Beautiful gold coin</i></b>
<b><i>Short Cross for Id or ideas please</i></b>	<b><i>Is this a half penny rather than a farthing ?</i></b>

# Blessings from the plough

## By

### bryan162

Having started on the road to owning a metal detector at the age of 13, when at my local park I watched a local chap with an old BFO machine pick up four gold sovereigns from under our local cricket pavilion which was being replaced. I suppose it was this event that gave me an interest in not just detecting but history as well, but it wasn't until 1987 at the age of 27 that I got my first detector.

Detecting since then I have found many artefacts and coins, but one thing has always eluded me ..... a gold coin. I always knew that if I kept going and finding different sites that eventually one would turn up.

Fast forward to 2015 and 28 years later and although I had found many gold items including 5 rings, a bodkin needle and sleeve aiglet (my favourite find) I was still waiting for that first gold coin.

I was beginning to think that maybe it was never my destiny to find a gold coin, but ever since the age of 13 I just had that feeling that I would. Having visited one of my more productive sites and seeing that it had been deep ploughed I was itching to get out there as in recent years the finds rate had dropped off, and with the field turned over the finds should regenerate.

Enter this thing called life and all its problems, anyway from looking forward to at least six Sunday sessions before the crop was too tall I ended up with one on a field with three inch pea plants in. I promised David (the farmer) that I would stay in the tractor tracks to avoid damaging the crop and when Sunday came round I made my way to the site. At the time I was using the original Goldmax Mk1 hip mounted which worked really well, having set up I proceeded to make my way down the nearest track.

*(Continued on page 8)*

This field had only ever produced a few medieval finds, the majority coming from 15th-18th century; my first find was a surprise a Roman Nummus although in poor condition. The session proceeded along nicely with quite a few finds showing themselves including a cut half of William the Lion of Scotland. With time running out (I had to be back to go shopping with my better half) I moved to a track that ran across an area of the field which has produced several hammered coins.

Making my way down the wheel track I received a cracking signal one of those that is just under the surface, kicking the soil away there looking up at me was a gold stater. Stunned I just sat down and picked it up feeling the weight and looking at the beautiful horse on the face. It must have been five minutes before I stood up and recorded the location with my GPS. Putting everything back in its place and the coin in my top pocket for safe keeping I began walking again. Only one meter away from this a second signal rang out and digging down 2 inches a second gold stater was in my hands. Shock set in followed by elation followed by a sort of giddiness.



*Reverses of six of the gold staters*

*(Continued on page 9)*

(Continued from page 8)



*Obverses of six of the gold staters*

Eventually regaining my composure I made a short phone call to the farmer and permission was granted to walk on the crop, then a second call to the wife telling her I would not be going shopping. Despite another 4 hours searching no more staters turned up, but 2 visits that week produced another four staters in the classic scattered hoard pattern (a diagonal line), there was also an awful lot of other finds including a couple of hammerededs. I have returned to the site every year since, but it wasn't until this year that a further 2 staters made an appearance, so in total 8 Whaddon Chase gold staters have made their way to the Museum.

Will the plough bless me again next time it turns the soil over?

© Bryan162 December 2018

# What were they really used for?

## By Kev Woodward

If you have been involved in our wonderful hobby for a few years you will most probably have either found a Roman seal box or know someone who has. It is also most likely that once identified as a seal box the finder will be informed that it was used to seal a document just as archaeologists have categorised them for several decades now, despite there being no direct evidence to substantiate the theory.

However, some researchers, and I include myself in this instance, have over the last decade found this usage of the seal box and the associated evidence for literacy to be mainly, if not wholly, incorrect.

How has there been such a misidentification for their usage and what now is the latest thinking?

Before attempting to answer this question I feel it appropriate to firstly say what a seal box is for those new to the hobby or are unaware of their existence. They are small, hinged, copper alloy boxes with holes in the base and the sides to accommodate the attaching cords and often have enamelled decoration on the lid. The majority found in the UK are in the forms categorised as piriform (sometimes called leaf shaped), lozengiform, circular and square.

Archaeologists when faced with excavating a site usually have limited time, resources and of course money, so they invariably target areas within the site to gain the maximum information from the resources at their disposal. In years gone by, before developer funded projects, they favoured the Roman forts, villas and temples as these held the most interest at the time. Most of these sites have had reports published detailing the features and items found.

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Some of these publications can be as dry as a week old French baguette, but some make the effort to interest the reader and bring the history of the site alive.



How seal box use has traditionally been portrayed

Invariably though assumptions and mistakes are made which are to be expected, especially if the site is only partially excavated or what remains is heavily disturbed. What isn't so great though is what I call 'lazy research' whereby unproven conclusions are 'cut and pasted' from one report to another; this is how a theory becomes a 'fact'. Detectorists are not immune to this syndrome; we are also guilty of this. Artefacts such as the so called 'woad grinder' is a classic example whereby it has become to most detectorists the accepted name for them. They are clearly a pestle and mortar grinding set but extremely unlikely for it to have ever been for woad. For more on these grinder sets see this article in an earlier edition of this magazine

<https://en.calameo.com/read/0001216065be851b62173>

*(Continued on page 12)*

*(Continued from page 11)*



Image courtesy of PAS

It is because of this 'cut and paste' research that Roman seal boxes became associated with literacy to such an extent that many are grouped together in finds reports along with writing styli and ink wells, which 'reinforces' the 'identification' of use. Unfortunately this is still happening and as proof see the new recently published 'Finds Identified' book from Greenlight Publishing compiled by the usually impeccable Dr Kevin Leahy and Dr Michael Lewis who categorise seal boxes with other items of literacy! In their defence neither are Romanists so they can be forgiven for taking the 'accepted' theory as fact.

Through the recording efforts of detectorists the limited type of site seal boxes were once only excavated from, such as those mentioned above, has been widened beyond all expectations. Archaeologists once believed that the seal box was a military item as they were only ever found in forts, but if that was the only places they were digging then this is no surprise!

*(Continued on page 13)*

*(Continued from page 12)*

Over the years more were found at villa and temple sites, so the military theory had to go and was replaced with the literacy theory as the seal boxes were only found at these 'high status' sites. Again, if you only look at 'high status' sites and nowhere else what do you expect?



Image courtesy of PAS

Thanks to detectorists recording their seal box finds their true distribution pattern is becoming much clearer and it has caused a complete re-think on their use. This is mainly due to the fact that many are now found in isolation in rural areas well away from forts, villas, temples and other 'high status' sites. Did this mean that 'low status' Romans were literate and that there was a form of postal service around the Empire? Well there was the Imperial Post (Cursus Publicus) but that is recorded at the time as for official use only. Clearly more work was required to make conclusions from all the new evidence. Several people, including myself, began to look into this, albeit alone and unaware of the others. I gathered as many records of seal boxes as possible from archaeological reports and the detecting finds databases, first from the UK and then from the rest of the Empire. From this it is plain to see that England and Wales have the most comprehensive record and until other countries have similar databases to the Portable Antiquities Scheme then the true picture will never be fully available.

*(Continued on page 14)*

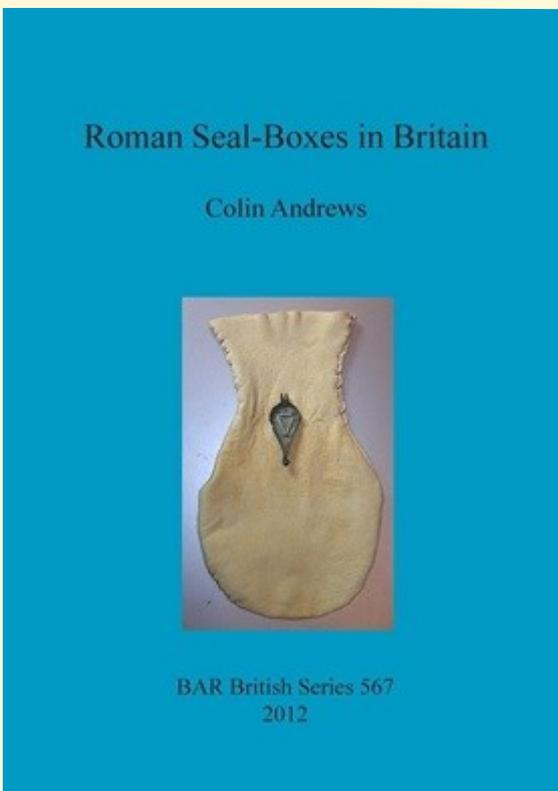
*(Continued from page 13)*

During my research I came into contact with many detectorists, all of which freely gave information and encouragement and I thank them all. It was during this period that I became convinced that the literacy theory was incorrect. I became aware that many examples had been found in conjunction with coins or other high value items and usually in isolation. As an example, the Snettisham jewellers hoard discovered in 1985 contained over a hundred coins plus many jewellery items and one seal box complete with its flax attaching cord. [Link Here](#)

Why would this hoard containing valuable items have such a non-precious item within it unless it was used to seal the hoard container and its contents?

There were other examples, such as; on one of my detecting club sites there is a field that has a twenty by twenty metre square area that has produced over two hundred bronze Roman coins, clearly a scattered hoard. The rest of the field has only ever had the odd non-Roman find, so basically not our favourite field. However, for my research it proved to be fundamental as the only other Roman find from that field was the base of a seal box found within the same area as the coins. As I looked closer at other seal box finds a similar pattern emerged.

I felt I had enough evidence to publish my conclusions but I was met with a



c o o l  
response from the archaeological journals I approached, I fear mainly due to the fact I didn't have an archaeological sponsor/mentor!

Thankfully within the year a doctoral thesis was published by the excellent British Archaeological Reports series (BAR 567) and written by Colin Andrews. I will admit here that I was sure it would be 'literacy' based but to my surprise and delight his conclusions mirrored my own and he had included some experimental exercises in how seal boxes were secured with compelling results.

He used the patterns formed by the secur-

*(Continued on page 15)*

*(Continued from page 14)*

ing cords found in the few intact seal box contents that have survived, and compared them to various cord tying patterns he found during his experiments securing various items with a seal box. The conclusion was that seal boxes were used to secure bags/pouches made from a single piece of material, such as leather, so that any tampering would be immediately evident. This also accounted for why some hoards and other finds had seal boxes in association with them. For example, finds from Trier in Germany of a seal box probably being used to seal a leather pouch containing gold aurei, and from Kalkreise of a seal box in association with a money pouch have all lead to Andrews to conclude that the security of valuables may have been the aim rather than securing messages. His thesis has now become the reference work on seal boxes, from categorising the various types to what they were used for. Let's just hope that future archaeological report authors use this excellent reference work and not get lazy and 'cut and paste' the same old incorrect theory.



Image courtesy of PAS

Thanks again to all of you who have recorded a seal box or who will in the future. I have a few more questions I'd like to answer, such as regional types, and I know where the evidence will come from, without doubt PAS. Keep recording those finds guys; you are most definitely making a difference.

**© Kev Woodward December 2018**



## Merry Christmas

You can help more people living with cancer this festive period with a donation to Macmillan Cancer Support.

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**Thank you**



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# Reminiscing beach detecting abroad.

**By Keith Usher.**

Back in the mid 80's and into the 90's there were four of us who used to join in with the coach trips which were organised to go detecting in Spain. Shame we never used to take cameras with us but we just didn't think to do so at the time. Can't remember exactly which beaches we went on now as it was so long ago but I remember the coach would take us along the Mediterranean coastline and we would stop at various beaches along the way, I remember Salou being a good productive beach as well as Benidorm and Alicante. They were always good trips and everyone always seemed to get along really well and it was always good to meet with other likeminded people as detecting wasn't as big as it is now.



***Salou Beach in the 1980's/90's***

Apart from doing these organised coach trips the four of us would also book our own week-long beach detecting adventures and always got the best half board deals through Ceefax. Remember Ceefax? Before the days on the internet or at the very beginning of it. These detecting trips were always to Majorca Spain. We always stayed in Magaluf and visited the beaches up and down the coast.

*(Continued from page 17)*

The beaches were packed full of coinage and the gold rings in those days so we always did well and always made the trips pay for themselves, even after paying for the nights out. Was it is to be young and get away with long nights out then long days on the beach detecting. We always went out of season too as this was the best time as the beaches were quiet of tourists and the weather was comfortable.



### ***Levante Beach - Benidorm***

As for things like permissions, well we never had to ask as it was never a problem. We used to get the Civil Guarda and the local police come over and ask what we were doing at times but they used to just let us carry on.

Having said that, there was one occasion when we decided to go and detect the beach at Alcudia which was a bit of a drive to get to but we had heard it was the Roman capital of the island. Big no no, we got arrested literally five minutes after switching on our machines. We were taken to a little wooden beach hut and questioned for an hour and a half about what were we looking for and what had we found and that it was illegal to metal detect that area. Eventually they let us go and told us to stay down our own end of the island so I feel we were very lucky and got off lightly now looking back.

*(Continued on page 19)*

*(Continued from page 18)*

Most of the money we would find in the dry sand, as you would expect, and most of the jewellery would come from the water. We would wear wet suits and have our long scoops and wade in up to our necks. For the water we all used the whites surfmaster PI machines and for the dry sand we all used Fishers 1266x machines. These served us well at the time. I don't do beach detecting these days as I prefer inland. Beach detecting was only our excuse to get abroad really and we never did much of it back home but was a good time in my life.



***The White's PI detector we all used but  
with the Dual-Field head attached***

I also spent six months detecting and living off the beaches in France and northern Spain in the very late 90's but maybe that could be another story if anyone would like to hear about it?

Cheers all and happy hunting whatever type of detecting you do.

**© Keith Usher—December 2018**

**UKDN FUN DSLR - Camera  
PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION**

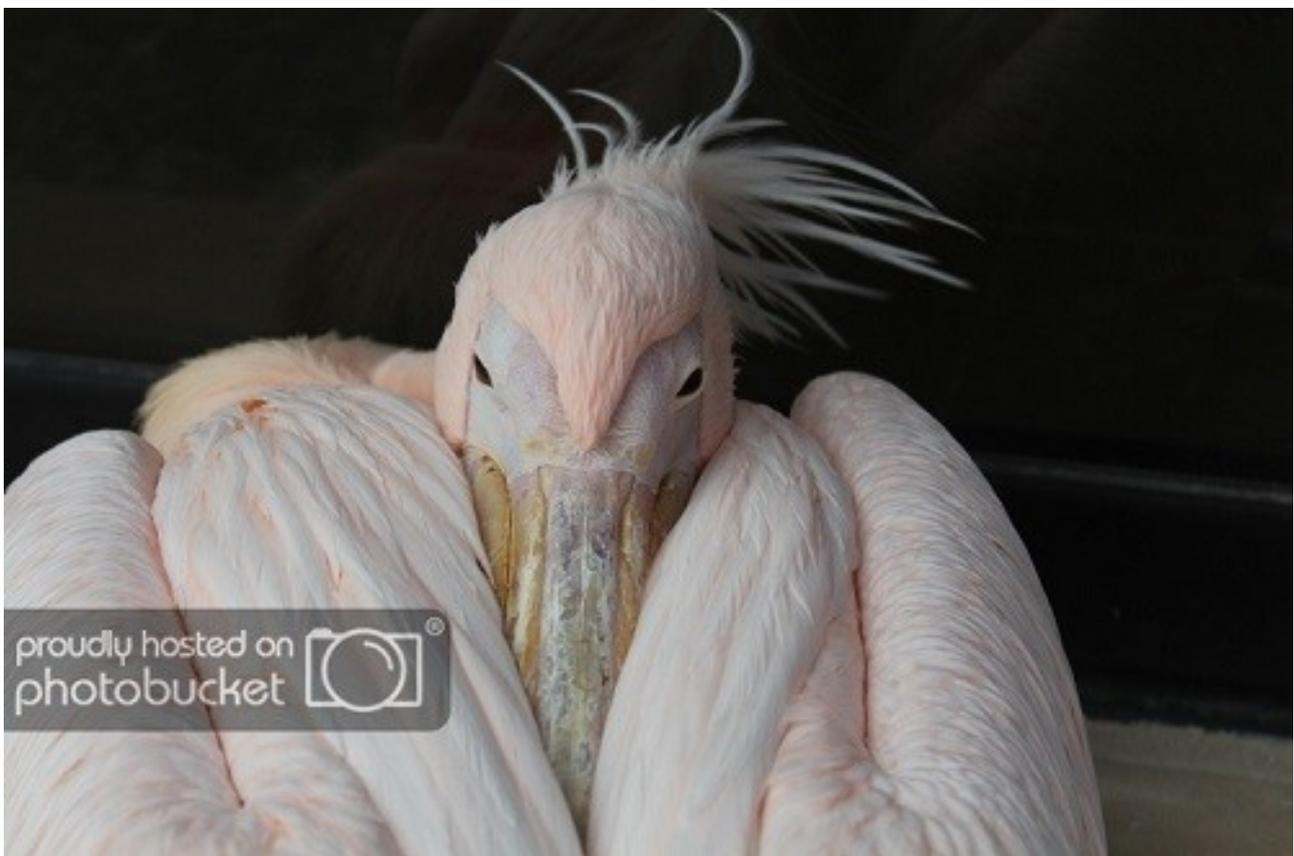
**Winner - Ritchie B  
The Conductor of Buttermere**



# UKDN FUN DSLR - Camera PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

## Runners-Up - Gash (2nd)

Gash - A little friend from Cyprus

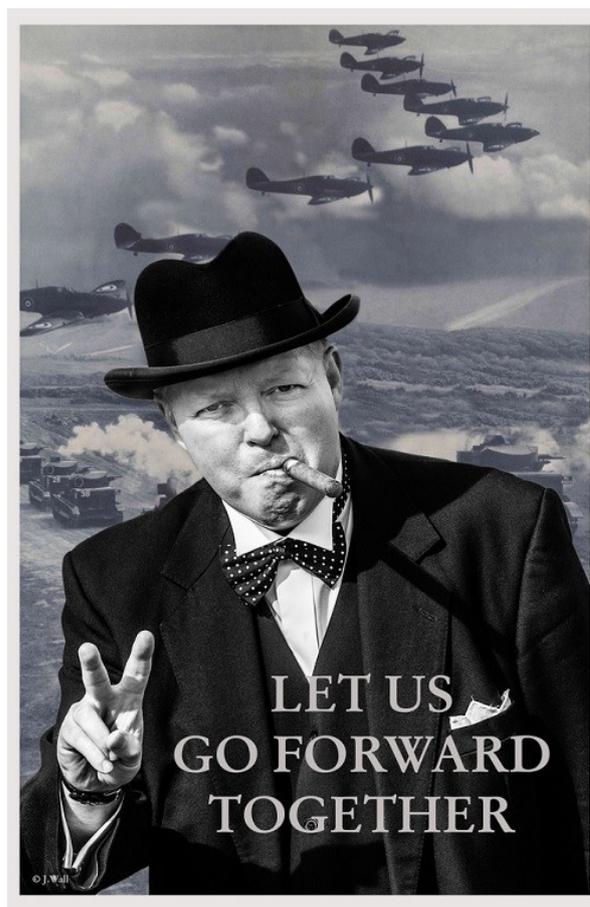


# UKDN FUN DSLR - Camera PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

## Runners-Up - (Joint 3rd)



**Restyler**  
**On the Beaches**  
**Canon 80D - 40mm Lens**



**Jimmytheferret**  
**Steve McTigue as Winston  
Churchill with the poster  
background created for it**

**UKDN FUN PP & P - Camera  
PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION**

**Winner - tman**

**A glorious day out in Berrow**



***Runners-up overleaf***

# UKDN FUN PP & P - Camera PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

## Runners-Up

2nd

3rd



***Restyler***  
***After the Battle***  
***Olympus TG860***

***Nick***  
***Ice Bar, Honningsvåg,***  
***Norway.***  
***CatS60 phone.***

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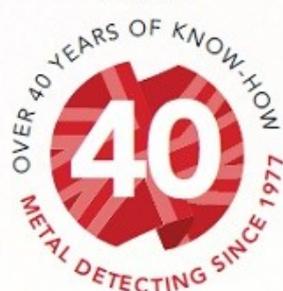
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***Venice Flooding damages St Mark's Basilica***

***What food would they sell at rallies ?***

***Roman town discovered where homes are being built***

***Bridge and gold coins uncovered as Danube sinks...***

***Public invited to take part in historical dig***

***Dirty Jokes in Latrine Mosaics Entertained Romans***

***HS2 bosses confirm prehistoric artefacts unearthed***

***Site of Iron Age feast celebration found on Orkney***

***500-year-old gold ring worth £10,000***

***West Cork was 16th century global trading hub***

***Men in court over Anglo-Saxon treasure charges***

***Guernsey's medieval 'Porpoise grave' mystery***

***Ancient Finds Boost Windmill Funds***



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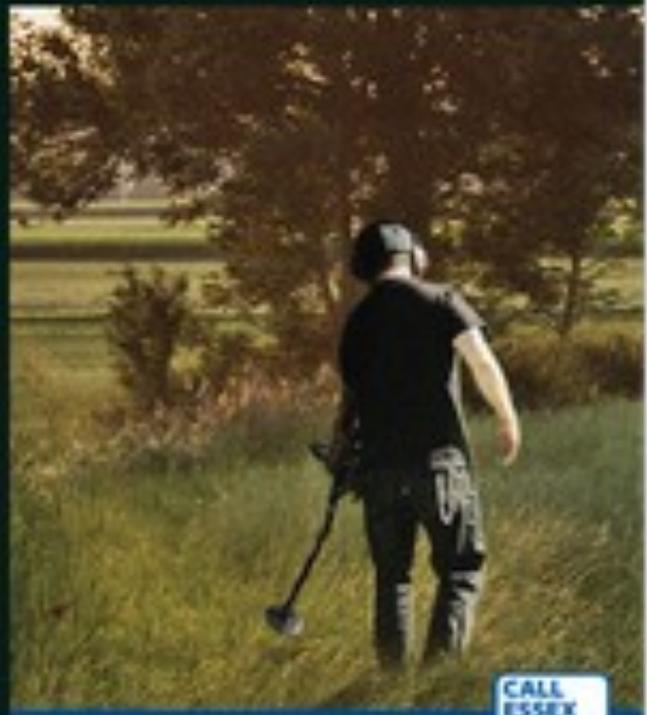
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Your local Police Heritage Crime Officer on **101**



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 Protecting and serving Essex  
 www.essex.pnn.police.uk

  
 NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR METAL DETECTING  
 TO PROMOTE TO PROTECT TO ENCOURAGE  
 www.ncmd.co.uk

  
 Portable Antiquities Scheme  
 www.find.org.uk

  
 Historic England  
 www.historicengland.org.uk

  
 ARCH  
 ALLIANCE TO REDUCE CRIME AGAINST HERITAGE

### What is Nighthawking?

Nighthawking is a term used in the United Kingdom to describe illegal metal detecting on farmland, archaeological sites and other areas of archaeological interest, usually in order to steal coins and other artefacts for their historical and financial value. Nighthawking refers to the fact that such illegal activity is often undertaken at night to avoid detection and arrest. Although this is deceiving as it also occurs during the day. It can occur anywhere in the country, but counties such as Yorkshire, Essex, Kent, Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Cambridgeshire and Suffolk are particularly vulnerable due to the rich heritage and large amounts of arable land that exist in these areas.

### What should you do if you find Night Hawkers on your land?

Whether day or night, if you find Nighthawkers on your land call the Police on 999, as there is a crime in progress. Do not approach them as this would scare them off or they may become aggressive towards you. Gather information by taking registration numbers of vehicles and descriptions of those involved and pass these details to the Police immediately.

[Crime in your area](#)  
[click on Crime Map](#)



## News



### Have your say on the future of the AHDB: just two weeks left to share your views

News 27 Oct 2018 06:00

As farmers, growers and processors will know, we are gathering views on the role of AHDB, writes Farming Minister George Eustice.

arable, Business, farm life, livestock



### Keeping an eye on the grain market: October 25 update

News 26 Oct 2018 13:25

What to watch: A stop in production for the Ensus ethanol plant in Teeside in November is yet another negative story for UK domestic wheat demand.

arable, Business, Prices & trends



### Nottingham University researchers to grow crops underground

News 25 Oct 2018 14:44

University of Nottingham academics are exploring a new concept for subterranean farms as an alternative approach to large scale crop production.

arable, Arable Farming, Crops



### Ensus biofuels plant to 'pause production'

News 25 Oct 2018 13:48

CropEnergies, parent company of Ensus, the biofuels plant in Wilton, Teeside, has announced that the facility is to 'pause production' from the end of next month due to difficult market conditions.

arable, Arable Farming, Harvest



### FUW and NFU Cymru launch first ever joint campaign to keep direct payments

News 25 Oct 2018 04:00

NFU Cymru and the Farmers' Union of Wales have set up their first ever joint campaign to persuade the Welsh Government to keep some form of direct payment after Brexit.

arable, Business, livestock





Detectorists are seen by the public as portrayed in the media, dare I say as the good, the bad and the ugly, ie;

- Those who are recovering our history for the benefit of future generations by following the [code of practice for responsible metal detecting in England and Wales](#) agreed by the BM, PAS, NFU, CBA, Historic England & others, by helping in the community and recording their finds. And by reporting all finds as [Treasure Trove in Scotland](#).

- Those who are depriving future generations of our history by not following the code of practice and not recording their finds even though [recording is mandatory in the countryside stewardship landowners agreement](#).

- Those who are thieves who use detectors to steal from farmland and Scheduled monuments.

This new section of the magazine is to promote good practice and is dedicated

## Finds liaison Officers Near You

### Norfolk centuries of treasures unearthed by detectorists



A cabinet of finds made by detectorists from Norfolk Heritage Recovery Group who hold regular digs across Norfolk. Picture: Godfrey Pratt



## Ways we can help the PAS

PAS funding has been reduced leading to fewer FLO's and so the PAS is looking for better ways to manage their work load as they are working at full capacity;

<https://finds.org.uk/getinvolved/guides/pressures>

They are taking on volunteer recorders;

<https://finds.org.uk/getinvolved/volunteering/role/id/12>

And are promoting self recording;

<https://finds.org.uk/counties/leicestershire/tag/british-museum/>

I would welcome any suggestions on how we can help PAS and the hobby get through this period of austerity.

My thoughts are that we can all help by having information available when recording, the more help we can give the PAS the better I.e. By;

**1.** Have a National Grid Reference of your find spot ready when you see the FLO, this saves getting a map out and finding the NGR. If you can give a 10 figure reference using a GPS it would be much appreciated;

[http://www.amazon.co.uk/s/ref=nb\\_sb\\_noss\\_1/276-8734508-8923167?url=search-alias%3Daps&field-keywords=garmin+etrex&rh=i%3Aaps%2Ck%3Agarmin+etrex](http://www.amazon.co.uk/s/ref=nb_sb_noss_1/276-8734508-8923167?url=search-alias%3Daps&field-keywords=garmin+etrex&rh=i%3Aaps%2Ck%3Agarmin+etrex)

Or download the Grid Reference App to your Android phone (set it for 10 figs); [https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=net.blerg&hl=en\\_GB](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=net.blerg&hl=en_GB)

Or use the Grid Reference Finder website;

<http://www.gridreferencefinder.com/>

**2.** If you can fill in the details of your find on a "Finds recording sheet" in advance this will save precious PAS time. Basic info; <http://atoz.forumukdetectornet.co.uk/PAS%20find%20recording%20labels.doc>

More info; <http://atoz.forumukdetectornet.co.uk/PAS%20finds%20recording%20sheet.pdf>

**3.** Better still if you are willing to purchase a set of jewelers scales;

[http://www.amazon.co.uk/s/ref=nb\\_sb\\_ss\\_i\\_4\\_8?url=search-alias%3Daps&field-keywords=jewelers+scales&srefix=jewelers%2Caps%2C188&rh=i%3Aaps%2Ck%3Ajewelers+scales](http://www.amazon.co.uk/s/ref=nb_sb_ss_i_4_8?url=search-alias%3Daps&field-keywords=jewelers+scales&srefix=jewelers%2Caps%2C188&rh=i%3Aaps%2Ck%3Ajewelers+scales)

And a digital caliper;

[http://www.amazon.co.uk/?ie=UTF8&keywords=caliper+measure&tag=googhydr-21&index=aps&hvadid=48450325458&hvpos=1t1&hvexid=&hvnetw=g&hvrand=5959077009827215455&hvpone=&hvptwo=&hvqmt=b&hvdev=c&ref=pd\\_sl\\_9rw416xiuq\\_b](http://www.amazon.co.uk/?ie=UTF8&keywords=caliper+measure&tag=googhydr-21&index=aps&hvadid=48450325458&hvpos=1t1&hvexid=&hvnetw=g&hvrand=5959077009827215455&hvpone=&hvptwo=&hvqmt=b&hvdev=c&ref=pd_sl_9rw416xiuq_b)

The weights and dimensions of the finds would be much appreciated saving even more time.

4. Or you can go the whole hog and self record, this requires you to undertake an initial meeting with your FLO to assess your level of ability and then up to 5 training sessions with PAS to ensure you are competent to do this as you would need to take quality images of the finds and ID them accurately as per others on the PAS database and enter them correctly, although not all sessions are necessary if you can demonstrate that you are able to self record to the PAS standard. Your FLO is only an email or phone call away to help and guide you if you are unsure of a particular aspect of self recording.

Volunteers guide to recording objects;

<https://finds.org.uk/volunteerrecording>

Flow of objects;

<https://finds.org.uk/documents/guide.pdf#page=7>

Please feel free to share this information to assist the PAS and strengthen our hobby.

Flickr link for PAS images;

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/finds/albums>

Local Heroes theme song;

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5maW-BTJ2LE>

Find my FLO

<http://rjw57.github.io/findmyflo/>



Welcome to the Portable Antiquities Scheme website  
The Portable Antiquities Scheme is a DCMS funded project to encourage the voluntary recording of archaeological objects found by members of the public in England and Wales. Every year many thousands of objects are discovered, many of these by metal-detector users, but also by people whilst out walking, gardening or going about their daily work.

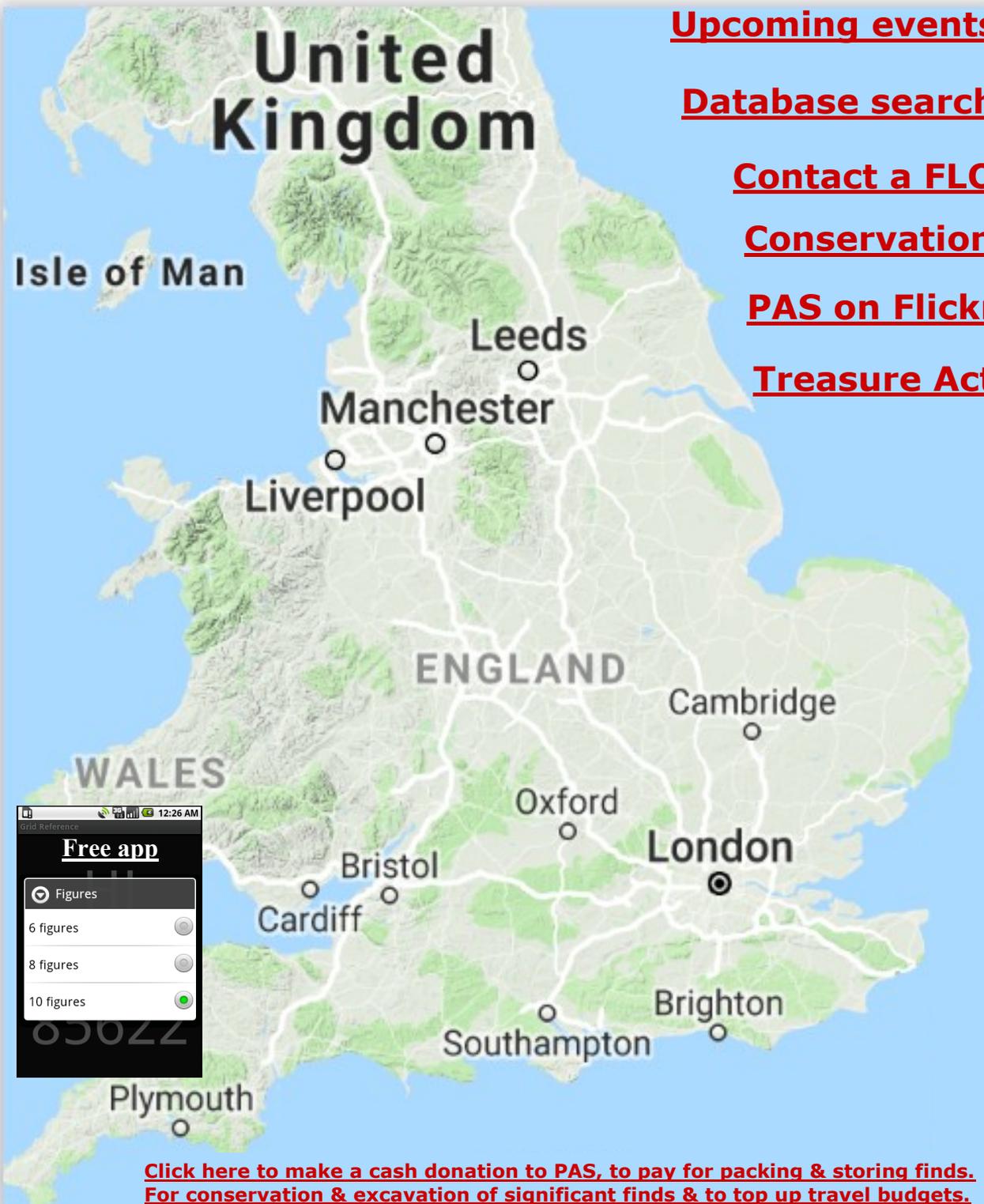
[Register](#)  
[Search the database](#)

# Portable Antiquities Scheme

[www.finds.org.uk](http://www.finds.org.uk)

# PAS Upcoming Events

Click on text



The image features a map of the United Kingdom with various cities labeled: Isle of Man, Leeds, Manchester, Liverpool, ENGLAND, WALES, Cambridge, Oxford, London, Bristol, Cardiff, Brighton, Southampton, and Plymouth. A mobile app interface is overlaid on the bottom left, showing a 'Free app' section with a 'Figures' dropdown menu. The menu options are '6 figures', '8 figures', and '10 figures', with '10 figures' selected. The app interface also shows a 'Grid Reference' field and a time of '12:26 AM'.

[Upcoming events](#)

[Database search](#)

[Contact a FLO](#)

[Conservation](#)

[PAS on Flickr](#)

[Treasure Act](#)

[Click here to make a cash donation to PAS, to pay for packing & storing finds. For conservation & excavation of significant finds & to top up travel budgets.](#)

# PAS Geographic News

Click on map

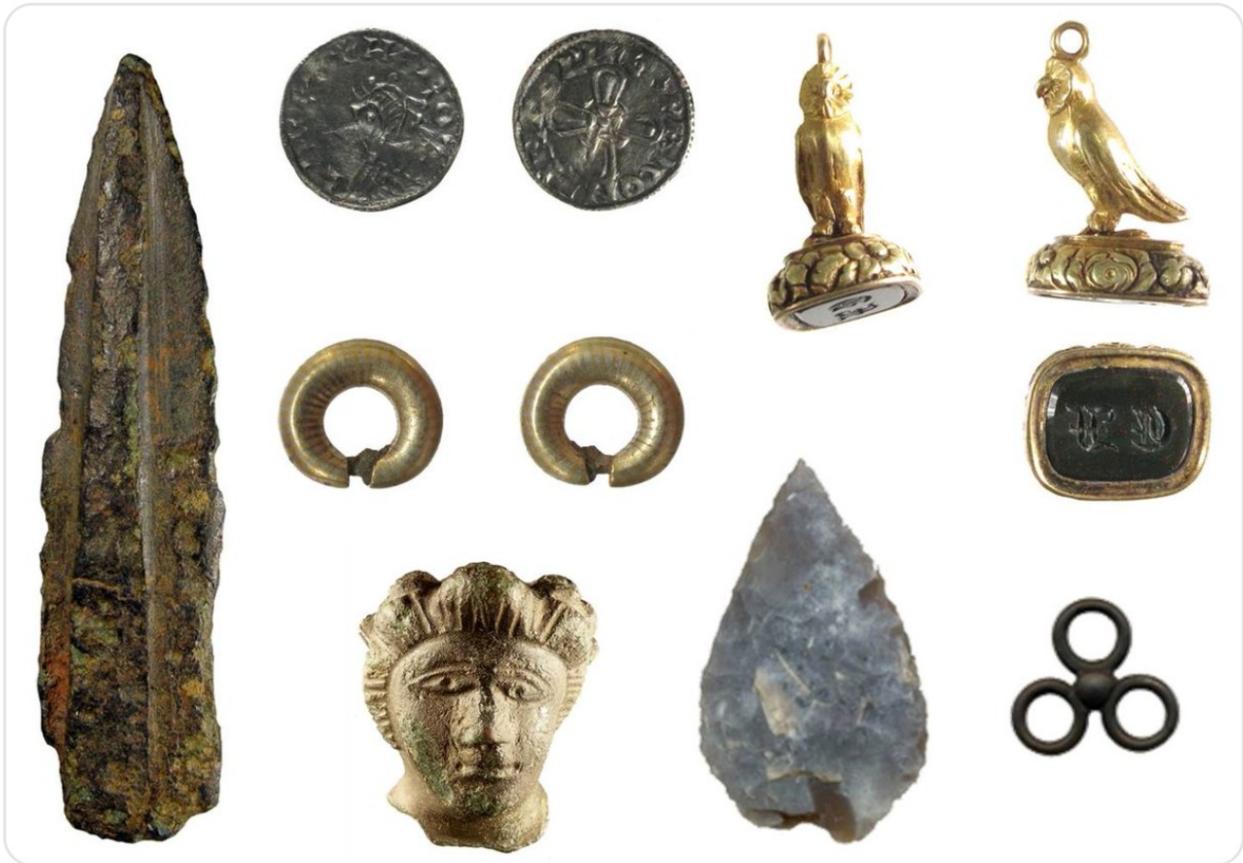


## [PAS on Twitter](#)

**Portable Antiquities** @findsorguk · 8h

Here's our round-up of #PAS15 finds from Warwickshire:

[finds.org.uk/counties/blog/...](https://finds.org.uk/counties/blog/) Join us over on Instagram this week to explore finds from the West Midlands: [instagram.com/findsorguk/?hl...](https://www.instagram.com/findsorguk/?hl...) #Warwickshire #WestMidlands #15YearsOfFinds #ShareTheKnowledge



Portable Antiquities Retweeted

The PAS Database is free to view and record and all find spots are recorded for posterity

<b>Useful Weblinks</b>
<a href="#"><b><i>PAS - getting involved</i></b></a>
<a href="#"><b><i>PAS - Upcoming Events</i></b></a>
<a href="#"><b><i>PAS - self recording</i></b></a>
<a href="#"><b><i>PAS -Recording Timeline</i></b></a>
<a href="#"><b><i>PAS - Advice for finders of archaeological objects including treasure</i></b></a>
<a href="#"><b><i>PAS - Conservation advice notes</i></b></a>
<a href="#"><b><i>PAS - Guidance to landowners, occupiers &amp; tenant farmers in England &amp; Wales</i></b></a>
<a href="#"><b><i>PAS - News from the scheme</i></b></a>
<a href="#"><b><i>Grid Reference Android Phone App</i></b></a>
<a href="#"><b><i>Responsible detecting code of practice</i></b></a>
<a href="#"><b><i>Frome hoard time lapse video of excavation</i></b></a>
<a href="#"><b><i>Press coverage of the Frome hoard discovery</i></b></a>
<a href="#"><b><i>Burnham hoard excavation</i></b></a>
<a href="#"><b><i>Staffordshire hoard excavation</i></b></a>
<a href="#"><b><i>Staffordshire hoard at the BM</i></b></a>
<a href="#"><b><i>Definition of Treasure</i></b></a>
<a href="#"><b><i>To Report Nighthawking - If in progress ring 999, if after the event click here &amp; enter post code, the phone number for your local Police Station is shown on the bottom right hand side</i></b></a>
<a href="#"><b><i>Rallies &amp; Events - Searcher Magazine</i></b></a>
<a href="#"><b><i>Rallies &amp; Events - Treasure Hunting Magazine</i></b></a>
<a href="#"><b><i>Wheresthepath - For O/S &amp; Aerial Maps &amp; National Grid References</i></b></a>
<a href="#"><b><i>Uk Grid Reference and Post Code Finder</i></b></a>
<a href="#"><b><i>Getting involved in archaeology</i></b></a>

## **New members in November 2018**

Brian and Mo and the team would like to thank and extend a warm welcome to all the new members listed below who have joined UKDN in the last month. Please introduce yourselves so that the members can welcome you aboard and make you feel at home. [Click here to introduce yourself](#)

If you are not already registered with UKDN you can register by clicking on this link and see what you are missing [Click here to register](#)

### **Otherwys**

**jeff bunker**

**Aslan1234**

**Under dog**

**Clivethedrive**

**zulues**

**Cornwall Dan**

**jasonsell**

**Jan den Das**

**winterrobin**

**seano78**

**Andy1914**

**Kip**

## Finds Liaison Officers (FLOs) and their work

The Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) has been extremely successful, thanks to the contribution of the many metal-detector users and other finders who have volunteered archaeological finds for recording. However, most FLOs are now working at capacity, and therefore unable to record all finds offered for recording. In some areas volunteers and self-recorders are invaluable, but it is nonetheless necessary for FLOs (Finds Liaison Officers) to develop strategies to decide what to record and meet finder's expectations.

The aim of this note is to summarise the guidance offered to FLOs by the PAS Central Unit (British Museum) on how to work under these pressures.

### General

- FLO areas are diverse in their geography, the number of finders and the number of metal-detecting clubs etc, and therefore the PAS needs to adapt to differing local circumstances.
- All FLOs share a job description which is the basis of the funding agreement between the British Museum (which manages the PAS) and the host partners (which employ FLOs).
- Although FLOs work flexible hours they should only work their contracted hours. Therefore they need to balance their time in and out of the office (in order to dedicate enough time to recording finds) by restricting non-office based activities, such as visits to metal-detecting club, finds days etc.
- FLOs receive guidance on PAS policy from the PAS Central Unit via national and regional meetings, and by email. FLOs will normally refer to staff at the Central Unit for guidance on issues such as Stewardship Schemes, nighthawking etc.
- Most FLOs welcome volunteers or self-recorders, but due to practical issues can only take on a certain number at any time. They also must work within the rules set by their local host partners.
- FLOs attend training offered by the British Museum and the PAS Finds Advisers. However, they will refer to other experts about finds offered for recording as necessary. **Unfortunately PAS staff cannot invest time investigating objects that are unlikely to be recorded.**

**Any misuse of social media or any other complaints should be reported to [info@finds.org.uk](mailto:info@finds.org.uk) or PAS, Department of Britain, Europe and Prehistory, British Museum, London, WC1B 3DG. Tel: 0207 323 8611/8618.**

### Finds Recording

- The core role of an FLO is to record archaeological finds to further our understanding of the archaeology of England and Wales. Outreach by FLOs is (normally) only undertaken to encourage the further reporting of finds (see above).
- FLOs record on average at least 1000 records a year and these take time to produce. They include a description of the find, find spot details, weight and dimensions, and a photograph or photographs. The PAS ID for the find allows finders to see it on-line and download a report should they wish to have one.
- FLOs will limit the number of finds they take in for recording, and this might vary from FLO area to FLO area. It is sensible for the FLO and finder to agree a time frame within which finds should be returned. FLOs will usually record finds on a first come first served basis, in order to be fair; occasionally there may be finds that require urgent attention that need to be prioritised.

Because many FLOs are working at capacity they need to be selective in what they record. It is at their discretion whether or not they record a particular find, based on local knowledge and

# PAS Prioritising Recording Guidance

This guidance note is designed to help FLOs prioritise the recording of finds that advance archaeological knowledge.

## General Advice

- It is strongly recommended that FLOs make full use of volunteers and self-recorders.
- Finders should be encouraged to show you all of their finds so that you, not the finder, can exercise discretion whether or not to record a particular find.
- Refer to the PAS guides (e.g. Lithics Recording Protocol) for specific advice.
- Familiarise yourself with the regional and national Research Agendas for your area.
- Keep up to speed with current research projects that use PAS data, especially the sorts of questions researchers are asking of it.
- Develop strong links with your local HER and your local network of heritage professionals, and make use of the Heritage Gateway; these sources of advice may prove important in terms of knowing whether a find or assemblage is important.
- It is good practice to make a note any local recording biases (e.g. only recording crotal bells that have interesting marks, or buttons associated with local militia).

**The final decision to record a find will be based on your local knowledge and experience, supplemented (where necessary) by the advice of colleagues. If in doubt, ask.**

## Recording Priorities

- Priority will be given to finds with good findspots; at least a 6-figure NGR, though ideally greater using GPS. Exceptions may be made in certain circumstances.
- FLOs will selectively record post-medieval objects and coins (i.e. those dating to after 1540). Exceptions can be made for items of social or historical interest.
- Priority will be given to Treasure finds in view of the time constraints stipulated by the Act.
- Priority will be given to new assemblages, such as those which indicate previously unknown sites, and finds which advance knowledge of known 'sites' or landscapes.

**Priority will be given to finds that hold greater potential for advancing knowledge of material culture (e.g. typology, dating, distribution etc.).**

## Priority Checklist (the more ticks an object has the more likely its importance)

- Does this find have at least a 6-figure NGR?
- Is it of national, regional or local importance?
- Does it help identify an area of archaeological potential?
- Does it shed new light on a previously known site?
- Is it an object type that is being researched, or has research potential?
- Is it potential Treasure?

**Is it likely to advance knowledge of material culture (such as typology)?**

## Advice to finders

## A cool way to record your find spot National Grid Refs

Download and install 'Grid Reference' app, a free mobile phone app which can give a 10 figure NGR if you have a Google account;

[https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=net.blerg&hl=en\\_GB](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=net.blerg&hl=en_GB)

On the find spot, photo or video your find with your mobile phone and then run the app;

Select 10 figure recording for maximum accuracy

Wait until the maximum number of satellites are acquired for high accuracy

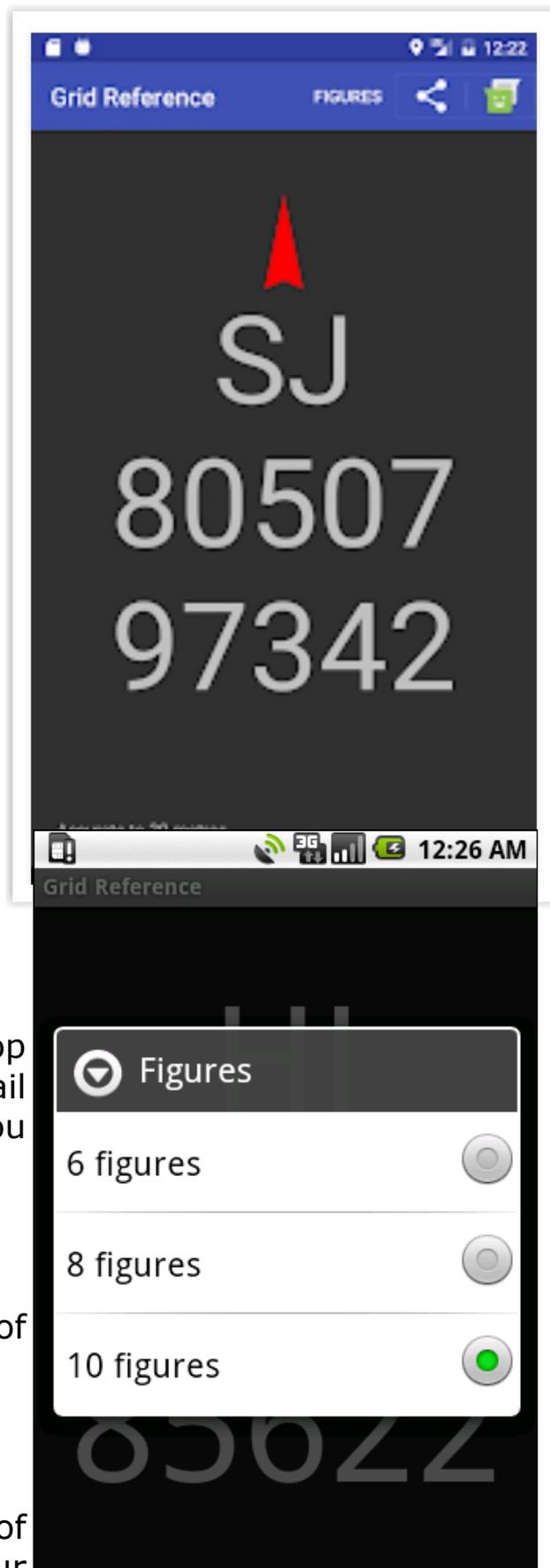
Click on the big letter M at the top of the screen - this lets Google email the grid reference to anyone you want to

Select your email address

Click on the paperclip at the top of the screen

Attach the photo of the find

Click on the red arrow at top of the screen to send the email to your PC at home or mobile phone



# 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

[Click here to visit forum](#)

## Contact UKDN

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

## UKDN magazines to download

[Download magazines here](#)

## View online

[View our Magazines online here](#)

If you would like to contribute to the newsletter please contact either UKDN as above or PhilD via PM,.

## 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 magazine, which is distributed to, and read by, our membership and beyond. The magazine 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 practice' 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 detectorists 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 magazine.



# Some Benefits of Metal Detecting

## **For the Nation**

Increasing;

Britains international, county & village status with some awesome finds

Tourism & Museum Visits

Our knowledge of the past

## **For the Archaeologists**

Assisting;

With Community Archaeology Digs

With Battlefield & Time Team Surveys

With pre construction surveys

Some of above free of charge

Locating;

New archaeological sites

Providing;

Data for research & degree projects via the Portable Antiquities

Scheme Database

Recording;

Everyday finds & Treasure finds

Reporting;

Incidents of Nighthawking

Rescuing;

Coins & artifacts from the effects of farming equipment & chemicals

## **For the Public**

Contributing;

To our heritage by recording finds

Creating;

Employment for hobby manufacturers & dealers

Educating;

By giving talks & showing finds

Raising;

Money for charities

Recovering;

Lost rings, keys etc free of charge

Removing;

Litter, sharp metal & glass from beaches & recreation grounds

Reporting;

Bird rings

## **For the Landowners**

Deterring;

Trespassers, thieves & crows

Fly tipping  
Vandalism  
Hare coursing

Locating:  
Lost farming equipment, underground cables & pipes  
Metal objects swallowed by livestock

Payment;  
To landowner or charity as required

Possibility; Of finds of significant value or Treasure

Removing;  
Large pieces of iron that might damage machinery  
Lead & green waste  
Objects detrimental to the health of livestock

Reporting;  
Trespassers & explosives  
Problems with the land  
Injuries to livestock  
Any human remains found

Revealing; The History of the land

### **For the Detectorists**

Adventure  
Being in the countryside  
Closeness with nature  
Companionship  
Escapism to a whole new world via the headphones  
The thrill of the chase  
Feeling of making lots of new friends with fellow detectorists, farmers, archaeologists & UKDN forum members  
Freedom of the great outdoors  
Fresh Air  
Healthy exercise  
Joy in showing finds to each other  
Learning about finds, history & archaeology  
Pleasure in contributing by recording  
Possibility of finds of county or national importance  
Possibility of finds of significant value or Treasure  
Relaxation  
Seeing new places  
Sharing experiences, pictures of finds, wildlife and scenery on the UKDN forum  
Solitude should you just want to get away from everything & everyone  
Stress relief  
The look on the faces of the owners of lost items when returned  
The thrill of discovery  
Winning of Club Awards

# Landowner & Detectorist Search Agreement

I am seeking permission to search your land in compliance with the terms & conditions of your [Environmental Stewardship Scheme](#), [The Code of Practice for Responsible Metal Detecting](#) & [Guidance for Land Owners, Occupiers & Tenant Farmers in England & Wales](#) agreed with

## Finds may fall into several categories

### Rubbish

Most farmland is contaminated with lead and iron rubbish, some of which can damage farm equipment. This will be removed and the location of any large underground metalwork pointed out to you.



### Portable Antiquities

Finds over 300 years old that are not [Treasure](#) will be recovered in a proper manner and reported to the [Portable Antiquities Scheme \(PAS\)](#) for recording on the [National Database](#) along with their find spots in accordance with the [agreed code of practice](#). Finds of significant value (£ agreed with your self) can be sold and the proceeds shared 50/50 should you wish [ ]. Finds of lesser value I the finder shall own and [conserve](#) [ ].



### Treasure

Finds will be recovered in a proper manner. All finds of potential treasure are the property of the Crown and must be reported to the Coroner within 14 days of discovery.



The Coroner will decide whether the finds fall within the definition of Treasure as contained in the [Treasure Act 1996](#).

It will then be for the [Treasure Valuation Committee](#) to assess it's potential value and the disbursement of any reward.



If no museum has expressed an interest, the find

You will be kept informed of ALL finds made on your land by means of photographs via regular emails and details of all finds recorded by the PAS.



When all detecting is completed you will receive a memory stick containing records in chronological order of all

Agreed by the Landowner .....

Address .....

Agreed by the Detectorist .....

Address .....