

ON THE TRAIL OF THE LEGIONS

BY
STUART LAYCOCK



Latest News
INSIDE !!



**Pt 1 OF
GOLD COINS
FEATURE**

inside:

NEWS, VIEWS, COMPETITION RESULTS AND MORE

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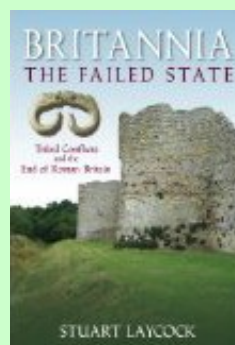
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UKDN would like to thank Tom Redmayne for the cover page image, DetectingDavid for image enhancement and UKDN members for their input.



A Message from Admin

Hi Everyone

Welcome to this our 67th issue of Word magazine. Some changes have taken place on the forum in the main the creation of what we are calling "The Chill-Out Zone" an area within the Adult Section, where you have to be over 18 to view the content, and ask a Team Member to put you in that group ie Adult Group. This section has been created after numerous requests asking us to create an area where members could let off steam without being asked to tone it down. Obviously, there has to be rules and they are simple ie no racism at all and definitely no personal threats to any forum member and no personal rants against any admin or Team member of the UKDN.

After recent threads on the forum we advise all members to be wary when booking for rallies. Check with your forum friends about the reliability and honesty of those running the rallies.

May not look like it, but the soil is warming up and starting to dry out. Many farmers are now getting on and cultivating for spring crops such as beans, and fields that have been stubble all winter are being ploughed and those that were left as rough plough are being cultivated down. Standing crops are starting to grow away a bit now too so those who can detect on them may see them get too long to go on quite quickly.

There are still many farmers who lost crops due to the wet weather though and there will be opportunities to detect as these are ploughed or disced back in and re-sown.

Police are reporting record numbers of house burglaries including garages and sheds, due to the economic situation and desperate people, so make sure all your detectors and equipment are stored safely and securely and are all marked and serial numbers recorded.

Good Hunting to you all from The Team



Brian & Mo'

Founded UKDN in Sept 2002, Detecting since 1978.



Puffin

Here since Nov 2007, Detecting since 2007



Coreservers

Word Assistant Editor. Here since 2003, Detecting since 2003



Petethedig

Here since Nov 2002. Detecting since 1980.



Kev Woodward

Here since 2005. Detecting since 1990.



Tomredmayne

Here since Sept 2006, Detecting since 2005

The Admin Team



Kevmar

Here since Sept 2002. Detecting since 1978.



Karv

Techy Admin. Here since March 2004. Detecting since 2004

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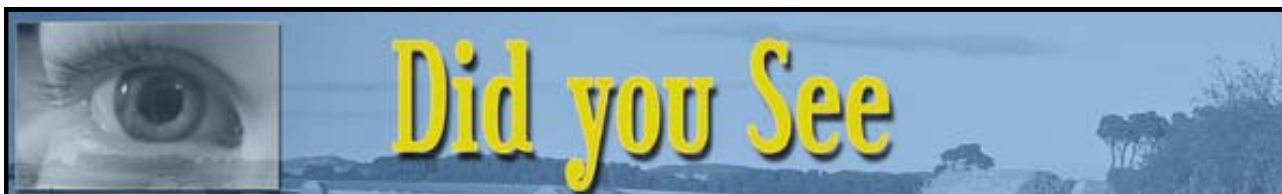
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With almost 500 members visiting every single day and 100's of new posts every day it is so easy for you, the members of UKDN, to miss out on some very interesting posts. So, each month in the magazine we will bring to your attention some posts that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

<u>Chill Out Zone</u>	<u>Gold Ring</u>
<u>Beware of this Rally</u>	<u>Silver medieval Brooch</u>
<u>Which field type</u>	<u>coins that never were</u>
<u>Roman Name Generator</u>	<u>Tracing family history</u>
<u>Green Waste</u>	<u>Deep Ploughing</u>
<u>When did you start...</u>	<u>Asteroid Near Miss</u>
<u>Richard III, beyond doubt</u>	<u>UKDN HTML EMAIL</u>
<u>New Wireless phones</u>	<u>Mounting finds</u>
<u>Display Box</u>	<u>Roman Fields</u>
<u>Luck with the Deus</u>	<u>My 1st Permission</u>

Coin of The Month

Winner - Monkeybean Edward III Quarter Noble



It was a couple of days before the snow came down in Dorset this year. I had a day off work and with no new land to detect at the moment I decided to drive to a farm that has done me proud over the years. It's been detected on for years and years by clubs and individuals but myself and a couple of friends always seem to wrangle something out.

However on this day I chose to detect a field we rarely do because of all the silver paper.

I was getting rather fed up after an hour of nothing but the said foil then I had a signal, slightly different from foil but I was still sceptical, out of the corner of my eye I spotted a tiny glint of gold even before I dug, I wasn't excited at this point because it still looked like foil.

I picked it out of the ground and instantly I knew I had my first hammered gold coin.

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MONTHLY COMPETITIONS

(Continued from page 6)

I posted a photo onto the UKDN forum whilst still in the field for an identification. At the same time I sent a photo to a friend on the forum, Paul (sgroaty) who came up with an I.D before I had a chance to fill my hole in! That was it for my day, a quick search around the area then home to investigate, clean and admire my prize find.

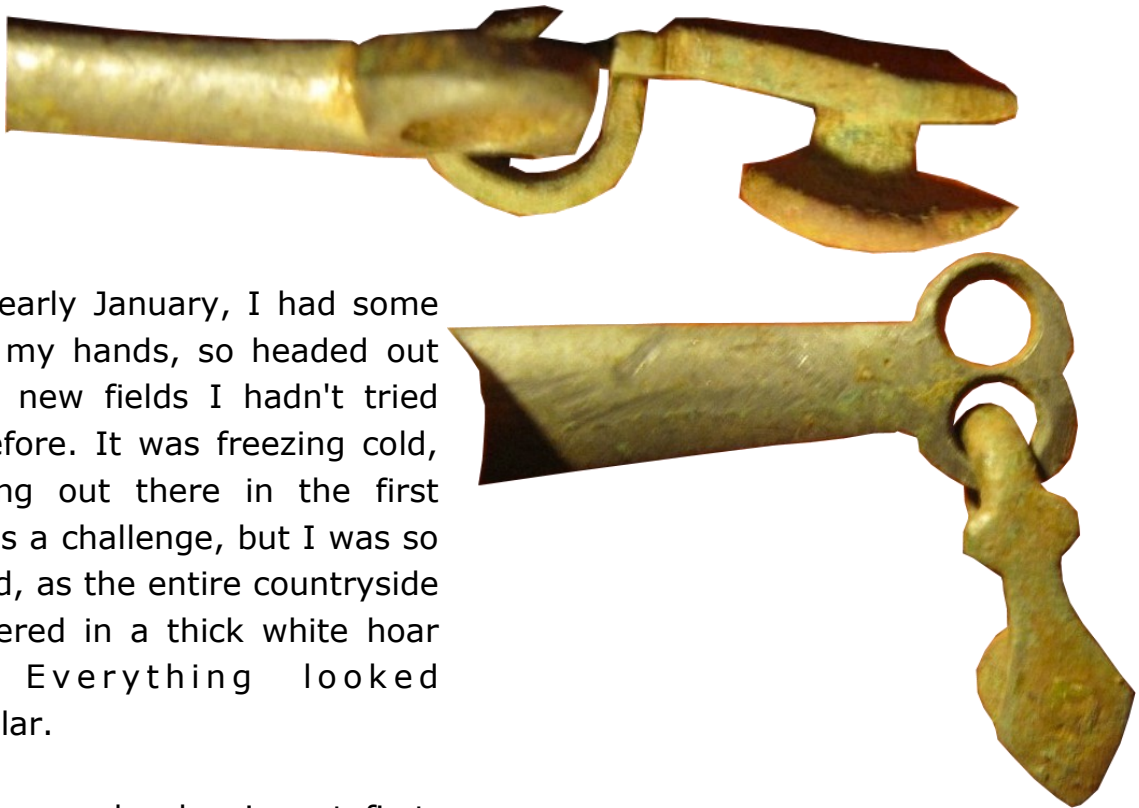
Copyright Monkeybean Feb 2013

(Apologies for the quality of the coin pictures.)



Artefact of the Month

Winner - Godfrey TUDOR SPUR



Back in early January, I had some time on my hands, so headed out to some new fields I hadn't tried much before. It was freezing cold, so getting out there in the first place was a challenge, but I was so glad I did, as the entire countryside was covered in a thick white hoar frost. Everything looked spectacular.

Detecting was hard going at first, as the frost was building up on my detector head, and I had to keep stopping to brush it off.

Signals were coming in nicely though, a few old coins, bits of lead, that sort of thing, and as the day warmed up

the frost disappeared and detecting got a whole lot easier.

Eventually, I got a nice steady signal on the Deus that gave a reading I didn't recognise.

(Continued on page 9)



Somewhere in the early 60's I think, a steady reading of a number I rarely get anyway. The signal was still there after digging, and pretty quickly I searched it out. At first, I was a bit puzzled. Still covered in mud, I wondered whether it was some sort of phallic object. Alternatively, it had a bit of a medieval look to it in a way, and I assumed it must have been some sort of pendant hanger, with a small pendant still left on it.

Thanks to the good folk at UKDN, it was quickly identified that evening as a fragment of a tudor spur, dating from 1550 to 1700. There were others on PAS, but few in as good condition as this one, and I couldn't see any attachments on them either. I've still to take it to the FLO, but my guess is that the part hanging from it acted like a toggle, to which a leather strap could be attached or removed to fix the spur to the shoe.

The thing is though, this spur fragment shouldn't really have won artefact of the Month. It won by being the only entry, and there were clearly some better finds out there than this one. Last year, there was even an Artefact of the Month that no-one entered.

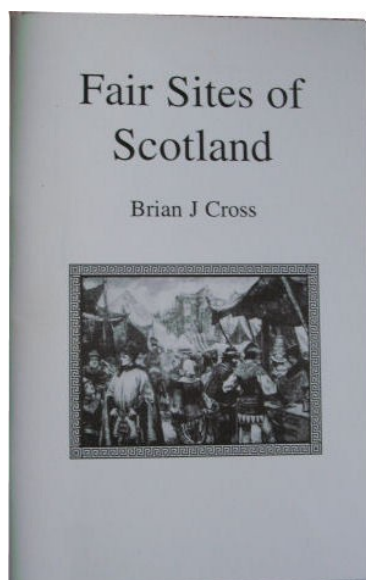
I know we all love our coins, but if you're reading this, can I encourage you to think about your artefacts too? In many ways, artefacts tell more about the history of an area than coins do, so even if coins are your thing, it should be the artefacts that lead you to more coin finds.

If you do find something, enter it for artefact of the month. It'd be great to see some real competition going on in that category, so artefacts start to get more of the love they deserve.

Monthly Competitions Runners up



Flipperbrownsnout's Tealby Penny



Fair Sites of Scotland by Brian Cross

Written by UKDN Forum Founder Brian Cross this book researches all the Cattle, Sheep and Horse fair sites in Scotland. It is an excellent research tool for any detectorist intent on discovering some of these highly productive metal detecting sites.

Originally sold for £6.50 + postage Brian is offering these books to UK DETECTOR NET for a one-off price of £6.41 including postage and PayPal fees.

All the proceeds i.e. £5 from the sale of each book will go to the server costs of UK DETECTOR NET.

[Buy it Here](#)

UKDN FUN DSLR - Camera PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

**Winner — Silversimon
Bluebottle on leaf**



**Runner Up — Slappedicus
Robin**



UKDN FUN POINT, PRESS & PRAY PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

**Winner - Tomredmayne
Jackdaw & Rook**



**Runner up - Son of the Sands
Highland Cattle**





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 IN ADULT ANIMALS
 PLUS CAP reform update

Latest News

Farming's weather battles of 2012

[2012 Weather Stats](#)

2012 will go down as one of the most costly years of extreme weather events for UK farmers in recent memory. A year that began with drought ended as the wettest in more than 100 years. Farmers Weekly takes a regional look at how farmers have been affected.....

NFU Conference 2013; Dorset 'reserve' for pilot badger cull

[Isabel Davies 27th February 2013](#)

Dorset has been named as a reserve area for a badger cull should plans for pilots in Gloucestershire and Somerset fall through.....

Horse meat scandal

[News and Posters](#)

Farmers Weekly coverage of the horsemeat scandal with the news that affects farmers, retailers and food processors.

See the key dates in the timeline below and read all of the news on the scandal. You can also download our Buy British Meat and Beef posters.....

Grower discontent rises over beet prices

[Adam Clarke -14th February 2013.](#)

Unease is growing among sugar beet growers about the current pricing system, which may lead to many abandoning the crop for more profitable alternatives.

At the current price of about £26/t, Charles Whitaker, a partner at agricultural consultants

Brown & Co, said growers would only be covering costs of production in the current campaign, with average yields widespread.....

Fallowing to rise as rain falls on waterlogged soil

[David Jones - 13th February 2013.](#)

Land left fallow is set to jump by a third this year as nearly half the arable growers in a Farmers Weekly survey said they might leave fields uncropped.

Faced with waterlogged soils and wet weather, some 45% of the 500 farmers who responded said leaving fields fallow until the autumn was an option.....

Harvest flurry in late February

[Philip Case 26th February](#)

A farmer has salvaged 15t of spring beans after harvesting the crops six months later than planned.....

Farmer Focus; Giving direct drilling a go this spring

[Andy Barr 24th February 2013](#)

Well at least we've done something on the fields, namely a bit of cultivating and applying urea to diminutive oilseed rape crops, *writes Andy Barr*.....

Arable News

[Latest News](#)

The above articles have been reproduced with the kind permission of the Farmers Weekly.



BBC iPlayer
watch the latest episode

On the Trail of the Tribes.

**How you've been helping redraw the map of early Britain
(and Roman Britain, and post-Roman Britain).**

Stuart Laycock

There was a time when antiquarians viewed the period before the Roman invasion as a period of little or no culture, a period in which the locals pretty much ran around in furs just waiting and longing for the light of classical culture to shine into their dark, dreary lives. Pre-Roman coins, particularly those showing little sign of Roman or Greek influence, were regarded as crude and uninteresting. Collectors wanted to fill their cabinets with laurel-wreathed Roman heads, not with the un-Classical patterns and designs found on pre-Roman coinage.

Of course, for a long time we've known that the idea of the Romans arriving here in 43 to take over some simple, primitive society was complete rubbish. Britain in 43 was a complicated patchwork of competing, contrasting and often conflicting tribal territories holding sophisticated and diverse cultures. It was many things, but simple and primitive wasn't among them.

Nonetheless the idea that British pre-Roman coins were intrinsically less interesting and less significant than those of the Roman period lasted far longer than it should have done, with pre-Roman coins only comparatively recently getting the attention and study they truly deserve.

Partly this has probably been due to inaccurate, but lingering (even if often unspoken) prejudice about the supposed superiority of Roman culture and artefacts over their British equivalents. Partly it has been a question of sheer accessibility. With Roman coins being found in large quantities all over the Empire, and with their study being something that has been going on for hundreds of years, it has been much easier to understand Roman coinage. By contrast, the small numbers of British pre-Roman coins available for study until recent decades, made it much harder to decide how different issues were linked and to interpret their chronology and geography.

(Continued on page 15)



*Coins of Tasciovanus and Cunobelin.
With kind permission of David Shelley.*

(Continued from page 14)

This, however, began to change with the arrival of metal detecting as a major hobby. Metal detectorists who report their finds have been responsible for an explosion in examples of pre-Roman coins available for study and consequently we know far, far more about the subject than we ever have done before.

Both the Celtic Coin Index and the Portable Antiquities Scheme now have large and growing databases of pre-Roman coins, and detectorists are responsible for a large chunk of those.

One of the most exciting things about the growing number of pre-Roman coins documented is that it is helping us to understand the political geography of pre-Roman Britain.

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Apart from coinage distribution, about the only way to understand the boundaries of tribal territories in the period before Rome is through the works of the geographer Ptolemy, writing in the 2nd century AD, backed up by a smattering of references in other classical sources, plus an even smaller number of inscriptions and, to some extent (though here the interpretation tends to be more subjective) the distribution of other pre-Roman artefacts, such as pottery types.

Ptolemy's work is vital, but all he does is list names of towns and cities belonging to each tribe. With some tribes the list includes a number of towns and cities, which is very helpful. With others, he may give just one, which is obviously a lot less helpful. That is why some maps of pre-Roman Britain, particularly older ones, just slap the names of the tribes across vaguely appropriate parts of a blank map of Britain and leave it at that.

When we take into account coinage distribution, however, particularly with the increasing numbers of coins found, the picture becomes much clearer.

It is true that there is a slight inherent danger of circular arguments (e.g. if a coin previously recognised as Dobunnic turns up somewhere no other Dobunnic coins have previously, that area gets recognised as part of the territory of the Dobunni, rather than it being questioned whether the coin really is Dobunnic), however, treating the evidence with due caution, it is still possible to come up with a map of tribal territories that is broadly-speaking, convincing, coherent and consistent with other non-coin evidence.

Obviously this information is vital in understanding the history of pre-Roman Britain, but it looks like it might be equally important in understanding the history of Britain during the Roman period and even in the post-Roman period.

The pre-Roman tribal territories formed the basis of the civitates (very roughly like our counties), the basis of Roman civil administration in this country. Thus each tribe continued, after the invasion, administering itself as a political unit, probably (judging by the recurrent appearance of Roman-period villas on the site of pre-Roman dwellings) with the same aristocracies in place.

(Continued on page 17)



*Coins of Tasciovanus and Cunobelin.
With kind permission of David Shelley.*

(Continued from page 16)

It has already been suggested that the distribution of different styles of Roman mosaic in the 4th century indicates that civitas boundaries were still an important factor in British life towards the end of the Roman period. Work I've been doing on the distribution of different styles of military and paramilitary buckles and belt fittings also suggest that by the end of the 4th century, a number of British tribes may have re-armed and formed their own tribal militias.

This re-arming may originally have been done with Roman permission and encouragement as an attempt to counter raiders from beyond the borders of Roman Britain.

However, if foreign raiders were the original intended target of these militias, the evidence of coin hoards, burnt villas and linear defensive earthworks from the period around the end of Roman rule suggests that the militias may soon have resumed their pre-Roman customs and turned on each other. In the process they may have well have created a failed state scenario in Britain, which could account both for the rapid collapse of Roman culture at the end of the Roman period and for the arrival of at least a significant proportion of the original Anglo-Saxon settlers (brought in as mercenaries to fight for one British tribe/civitas against another or others).

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Persistence of tribal customs and borders could also even account for another enduring mystery of British and particularly English history – how do the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms come into being? From our increasing knowledge of pre-Roman tribal boundaries, we can now see that there is a very significant similarity between the map of pre-Roman tribal territories and the map of post-Roman Anglo-Saxon kingdoms.

Somehow, presumably through the growing influence of Anglo-Saxon mercenaries (and maybe, the occasional Anglo-Saxon coup d' état, where the Anglo-Saxon mercenaries just stopped taking orders and started giving them), the British tribal territories of central and eastern England adopted Anglo-Saxon culture (just as they had previously adopted Roman culture) and became the main Anglo-Saxon kingdoms.

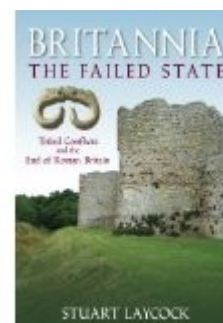
So next time you're out detecting, keep a sharp eye out for some fascinating British pre-Roman coins and do report any you find. Detectorists have already helped redraw the map of British history, but there's still lots more detail to add and lots more new history to find.

Britannia The Failed State

Britannia The Failed State, by Stuart Laycock is published by Tempus. Available from Amazon etc.

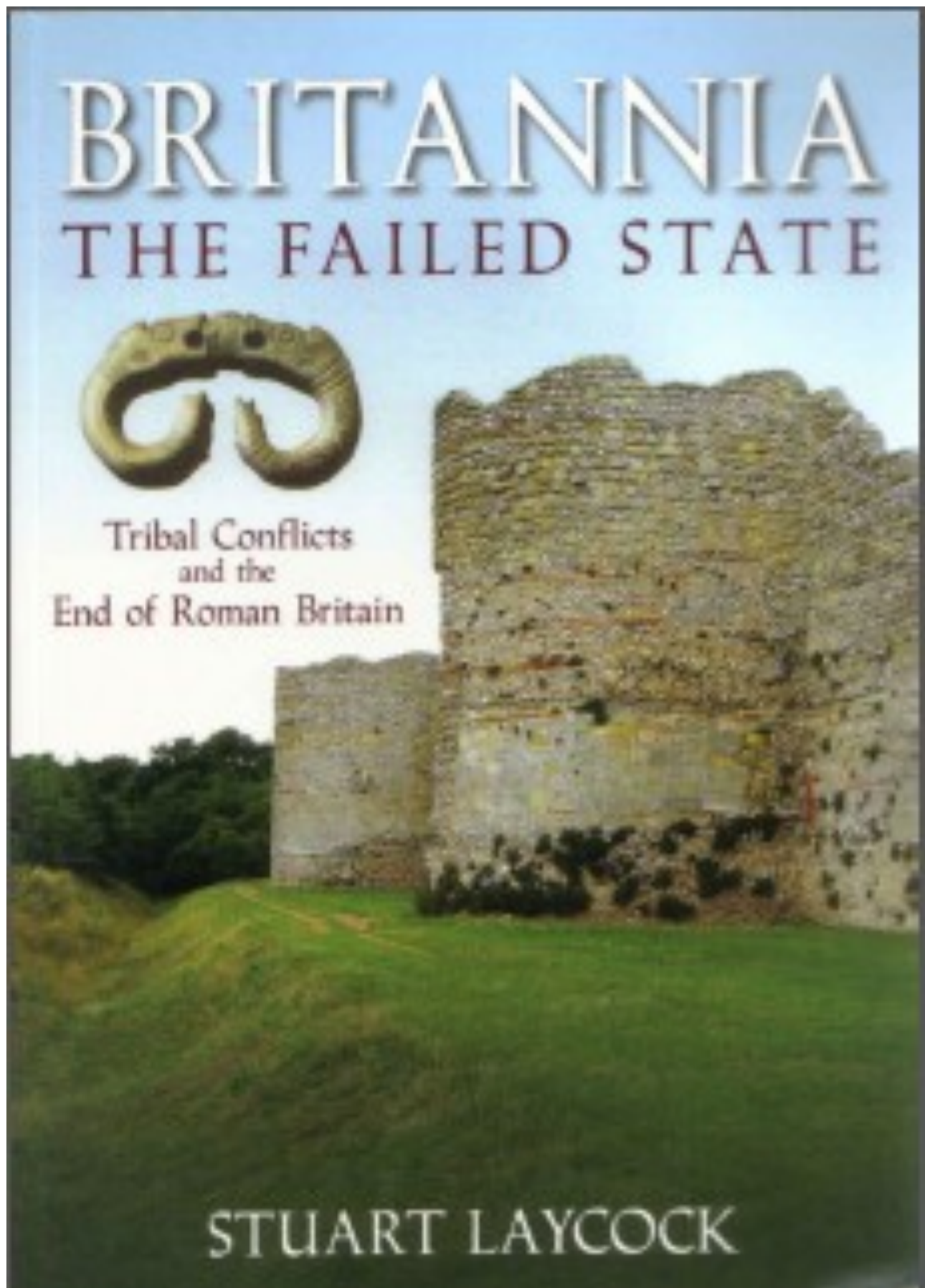
Stuart Laycock studied Classics at Cambridge and experienced the reality of a failed state at first hand as an aid worker in Bosnia during the war. He has been studying late Roman belt fittings (working closely with detectorists) and the end of Roman Britain for the past 4 years. He's written a number of articles for the detectorist press and his book (with Andrew Appels) on Roman Buckles & Military Fittings was published by Greenlight last year.

If you wish to purchase a copy of Britannia The Failed State then click on the book cover below.



**Map of tribal territories based on
main areas of coin distribution.
Areas of overlap show regions of
competing or changing influence.**





GOLD COINS - Pt 1



A gold coin is a coin made mostly or entirely of gold. In modern times, most gold coins are intended either to be sold to collectors, or to be used as bullion coins - coins whose nominal value is irrelevant and which serve primarily as a method of investing in gold.

Gold has been used as money for many reasons. It is fungible, with a low spread between the prices to buy and sell. Gold is also easily transportable, as it has a high value to weight ratio, compared to other commodities, such as silver. Gold can be divided into smaller units, without destroying its value; it can also be melted into ingots and re-coined. The density of gold is higher than most other metals, making it difficult to pass counterfeits. Gold is extremely unreactive.

Antiquity

Gold was used in commerce (besides other precious metals) in the Ancient Near East since the Bronze Age, but coins proper originated much later, during the 6th century BC, in Anatolia. The name of king Croesus of Lydia remains associated with the invention (although the Parian Chronicle mentions Pheidon of Argos as a contender). In 546 BC, Croesus was captured by the Persians, who adopted gold as the main metal for their coins.

The Ying yuan is an early gold coin minted in ancient China.

Larger units of monetary value and exchange such as the talent were the ancient equivalents of the modern 400-troy-ounce "good delivery" gold bullion bar.

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1933 American Double-Eagle Gold Coin

(Continued from page 21)

Modern history

The German gold mark was introduced in 1873 in the German Empire, replacing the various local Gulden coins of the Holy Roman Empire.

Gold coins then had a very long period as a primary form of money, only falling into disuse in the early 20th century. Most of the world stopped making gold coins as currency by 1933, as countries switched from the gold standard due to hoarding during the worldwide economic crisis of the Great Depression. In the United States, 1933's Executive Order 6102 forbade the hoarding of gold and was followed by a devaluation of the dollar relative to gold, although the United States did not completely uncouple the dollar from the value of gold until 1971.

Gold-coloured coins have made a comeback in many currencies. However, "gold coin" (in numismatic terminology) always refers to a coin that is (more or less) made of gold, and does not include coins made of manganese brass or other alloys. Furthermore, many countries continue to make legal tender gold coins, but these are primarily meant for collectors and investment purposes and are not meant for circulation.

Collector coins

Many factors determine the value of a gold coin, such as its rarity, age, condition and the number originally minted. Gold coins coveted by collectors include the Aureus, Solidus and Spur Ryal.

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In July 2002, a very rare \$20 1933 Double Eagle gold coin sold for a record \$7,590,020 at Sotheby's, making it by far the most valuable coin ever sold to date. In early 1933, more than 445,000 Double Eagle coins were struck by the U.S. Mint, but most of these were surrendered and melted down following Executive Order 6102. Only a few coins survived.

Face value of \$1,000,000

In 2007 the Royal Canadian Mint produced a 100 kilograms (220 lb) gold coin with a face value of \$1,000,000, though the gold content was worth over \$2 million at the time. It measures 50 centimetres (20 in) in diameter and is 3 centimetres (1.2 in) thick. It was intended as a one-off to promote a new line of Canadian Gold Maple Leaf coins, but after several interested buyers came forward the mint announced it would manufacture them as ordered and sell them for between \$2.5 million and \$3 million. As of May 3, 2007, there were five orders.

Austria had previously produced a 37 centimetres (15 in) diameter 31 kg Philharmonic gold coin with a face value of €100,000.

On October 4, 2007, David Albanese (president of Albanese Rare Coins) stated that a \$10, 1804-dated eagle coin (made for President Andrew Jackson as a diplomatic gift) was sold to an anonymous private collector for \$5 million.

In 2012 the Royal Canadian Mint produced the world first gold coin with a 0.11-0.14ct diamond. The Queen's Diamond Jubilee coin has been crafted in 99.999% pure gold with a face value of \$300.

Bullion coins

Precious metals in bulk form are known as bullion, and are traded on commodity markets. Bullion metals may be cast into ingots, or minted into coins. The defining attribute of bullion is that it is valued by its mass and purity rather than by a face value as money. While obsolete gold coins are primarily collected for their numismatic value, gold bullion coins today derive their value from the metal (gold) content — and as such are viewed by some investors as a "hedge" against inflation or a store of value. Many nations mint bullion coins. Investment coins are generally coins that have been minted after 1800, have a purity of not less than 900 thousands and is or has been a legal tender in its country of origin.

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South African Krugerrand



Diamond Jubilee Coin

(Continued from page 23)

Although nominally issued as legal tender, these coins' face value as currency is far below that of their value as bullion.

The European Commission publishes annually a list of gold coins which must be treated as investment gold coins in all EU Member States. The list has legal force and supplements the law. In the United Kingdom, HM Revenue and Customs have added an additional list of gold coins alongside the European Commission list. These are gold coins that HM Revenue & Customs recognise as falling within the exemption for investment gold coins. This second list does not have legal force.

South Africa introduced the Krugerrand in 1967 to cater to this market; this was the reason for its convenient and memorable gold content — exactly one troy ounce.

It was the first modern, low-premium (i.e. priced only slightly above the bullion value of the gold) gold bullion coin. Bullion coins are also produced in fractions of an ounce – typically half ounce, quarter ounce, and one-tenth ounce. Bullion coins sometimes carry a face value as legal tender.

The face value is minted on the coin, and it is done so in order to bestow legal tender status on a coin, which generally makes it easier to import or export across national borders, as well as subject to laws against counterfeiting. However, their real value is measured as dictated by their troy weight, the current market price of the precious metal contained, and the prevailing premium that market wishes to pay for those particular bullion coins. The face value is always significantly less than the bullion value of the coin.

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Legal tender bullion coins are a separate entity to bullion gold. One enjoys legal tender status, the latter is merely a raw commodity. Gold has an international currency code of XAU under ISO 4217. ISO 4217 includes codes not only for currencies, but also for precious metals (gold, silver, palladium and platinum; by definition expressed per one troy ounce, as compared to "1 USD") and certain other entities used in international finance, e.g. special drawing rights.

Gold bullion coins usually come in 1 oz, 1/2 oz, 1/4 oz, 1/10 and 1/20 oz. sizes. Most countries have one design that remains constant each year; others (such as the Chinese Panda coins) have variations each year, and in most cases each coin is dated. A 1/10 oz bullion coin is about the same size as a U.S. dime. A 1 oz. gold bullion coin is about the size of a U.S. half dollar.

1 Tonne Gold Coin

The largest legal tender gold coin ever produced was unveiled in 2012 by the Perth Mint in Western Australia. Known as the "1 Tonne Gold Kangaroo Coin" and with a face value of one million dollars, it contains one metric tonne of 9999 pure gold, and is approximately 80cm in diameter by 12cm thick.



1 Tonne Gold Kangaroo Coin

Fineness of gold coins

Coins are usually made of an alloy as other metals are mixed into the coin to make it more durable. Fineness is the actual gold content in a coin or bar and expressed as a "per mil," or thousandths. For example, a gold ingot identified as being .999 fine will be 999/1000 pure gold, with the other 1/1000 being an alloy.

Carat weight is a traditional fraction-based system used to denote the fineness of gold, with one carat being equal to 1/24 part of pure gold in an alloy.

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With the precision of modern assaying techniques, however, the fineness of gold ingots and bullion is more likely to appear as a decimal measurement. In this system, pure gold would be denoted as 1.000 fine. However, since absolutely pure gold is very soft and therefore not suitable for coinage or ingots, it is generally accepted worldwide that anything above .999 fine qualifies as 24K. Below is a carat weight to fineness conversion chart.

Correlation between carats and fineness

24 carats	=	.999 fine or above
23 carats	=	.958 fine
22 carats	=	.917 fine
(the UK gold coin standard)		
21 carats	=	.875 fine
20 carats	=	.833 fine
18 carats	=	.750 fine
16 carats	=	.667 fine
14 carats	=	.583 fine
10 carats	=	.417 fine

The fineness is often converted to a percent, as well. If a gold coin has a fineness of .900, that is 90.0% pure gold. If a gold coin has a fineness of .850, then the gold coin is 85.0% pure.

Coins have varied greatly in fineness through history. Notable historical standards that were closely adhered to include the crown gold (22 carat) used in all English gold coins intended for circulation from 1526 onward, and 0.900 fine (21.6 ct), the standard for all American circulation-coins from 1837 onward.

Fineness is not the only way to value a gold coin; a great deal of value in collector coins comes from condition and rarity. To a far lesser extent, even the value of gold bullion coins is influenced by their physical condition.

Next month we shall finish the article after discussing grading coins, rarity factor and counterfeits.

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Gold Eagle photo (page 15) **Source:** English Wikipedia, original upload 6 April 2005 by [Mb1000](#)

Double Eagle Photo: Source: English Wikipedia, original upload 12 August 200 by Saperaud

Krugerrand Photo. **Source:** English Wikipedia, original upload 17 October 2003 by [Hephaestos](#)

Gold coin with diamond Photo courtesy of [businessinsider.com](#)

1 Tonne Kangaroo Coin Photo courtesy of [lunaticg.blogspot.co.uk](#)



SILVER - Silver's chemical symbol is Ag

It can be hammered out into sheets so thin, that it would take 100,000 of them to make a stack an inch high.

These sheets are so thin that light shines through them. Silver can be drawn into wires that are finer than a human hair. It is the best conductor of heat and electricity among the metals.

The Atomic weight of silver is 107.87 and has an Atomic Number of 47. Silver melts at a temperature of 961.8 degrees Celcius, has a density of 10.49 and when melted can absorb 20 times its own volume of Oxygen.

Pure silver is too soft to withstand constant wear; it is usually mixed with copper to form an alloy before it is made into commercial articles.

Silver coins in the U.S.A. used to be made of 90% silver and 10% copper, but in 1965, Congress passed a bill to eliminate all silver from new dimes and quarters and to reduce the silver in half dollars from 90% to 40%.

Under the Coinage Act of 1920, British coins were 92.5% silver and 7.5% copper. The 1920 Act reduced the silver content to 50%. The 1946 Act eliminated all silver in British coins; now made of a Copper-Nickel alloy.

Sterling Silver contains as much or more silver as British coins did. The word Sterling has been used to mean high quality silver since the 1200's. Silver items marked Sterling means they contain at least 92.5% silver.

Some jewellery, especially some of foreign make, may be marked .925, instead of the word Sterling. Silver Plate is made by coating base metals with pure silver or silver alloy by electrolysis. Silver Plate being a lot less expensive than pure silver is more widely used for tableware.

Silver is not changed by moisture, dryness, Alkaline or vegetable oils but sulphur will cause silver to turn black. Copyright: J Cody, Widnes, Cheshire



HERITAGE CRIME

What are heritage crimes?

Heritage crimes are, first of all, offences that damage the historic environment – so things like vandalism, graffiti, arson and theft.

Why should the public care about heritage crimes?

Heritage crimes are criminal activities, which can have serious effect on neighbourhoods and society.

Things like arson, graffiti, and criminal damage scar beautiful buildings. Anti-social behaviour such as substance misuse debase the places we live and enjoy visiting; theft and illegal metal detecting take away the physical evidence valuable to our understanding of the past. On top of that, all of these can incur financial loss on property owners.

If heritage crimes are not tackled better we all stand to lose something of our history and well-being.

How serious are these crimes?

There is **no national statistics on heritage crime** by the police so the true extent is difficult to ascertain. Through our work in the regions and our experience with many sites across the country, we know the crimes are widespread and they tend to be under-reported by victims.

A recent assessment identified that arson, architectural theft, removal of artifacts from protected sites and vehicle nuisance pose the greatest threat.

Illegal metal detecting in Lincolnshire is growing and reported cases are only the tip of the iceberg.

The level of **metal theft** is also of great concern.

- In 2005, there were 84 metal theft claims from churches totalling £325,326. In 2010, this has soared to 1763 claims costing £3,310,488 (data from Ecclesiastical)
- In 2010 Manchester diocese tops the list of metal theft claims with more than 90 claims recorded up to the end of November. It is closely followed by Lincoln, with more than 70 claims

Our understanding of the volume and extent of crime in the historic environment continues to develop. Neighbourhood Policing and local involvement will contribute considerably to gathering intelligence and data on the ground. We will also be developing systems that will allow us to accurately record crimes and ASB and thereby place our resources in the right place at the right time.

For crimes in progress - call 999

More action, less crime. It all adds up.

For crimes that have happened - report to your local Police
[click here for the non emergency reporting number](#)

LINCOLNSHIRE POLICE

[Click here to take part in the English Heritage Crime Survey](#)

policing with PRIDE

News and Views from February 2013

[***Battle of Hastings Called off***](#)

[***Celtic Treasure in Jersey***](#)

[***Stolen Treasure***](#)

[***Hampshire Treasure***](#)

[***£Billion in Berlin Lake***](#)

[***Bronze Age Treasure on Dartmoor***](#)

[***Thieves Targeting Sites***](#)

[***Medieval Graffiti***](#)

[***One Million Romans in Britain***](#)

[***Essex FLO***](#)

[***knights body found***](#)

[***Traprain Law treasure***](#)

[***Richard III Injuries***](#)

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

New members in February 2013

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](#)

cookymichelle

Deano64

Bully

ian84

steveling

dazza52

byron

ironariel

tobytyke6287

025eh

thyrotron

adrianc

oadamo

Jeffmx

krisy

The old man

barnold33

punkass

steveh1960

metalmartin

fudge1983

jony walton

copperballs1

dennishutchinson

thomp19

BrianCadoret

crazycarb

manicmudman

jap-man

gopher

Lovelylinda

stevebe

BigDave7891

zigzag

dug IT

Olldog

onceasdestiny

vitraux1

LozSiBen

johnhether

halfasheep

pod25

andy rogers

P J

jwal

harold waller

mickgf62

pjg

shadaboot27

geesee

Fareeloo

togman123

icedout84

sword dancer

yoyo

hydraglide

ScotFree

dylan1

royuk

nelly

Tin Man

sunshinesusie_uk

Jim Bexley

iloveoldthings1962

bignuk1972

kingbee

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

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.