



## **MEMORIAL BRASSES** **BY** **YETI**



**Latest News  
INSIDE !!**



## **Pt 2 OF GOLD COINS FEATURE**



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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

Well the detecting has been fairly messed up these past four weeks. The weather for most of us has been atrocious and quite a few of us have had our fields full of snow for much of this time. We have had a brief respite these past few days and this has thankfully allowed most of the planned club and commercial rallies to take place. Let's hope that winter has finally gone.

Tom Redmayne's Easter Competition is now under way as we go to print. Get in there quickly and have a go as the main prize is this years Coins of England book.

The forum has suffered a couple of small technical hitches this month and this is down to changes we are making over this coming year to the forum software. We suggest that you sign up to the UKDN Facebook page if only so that you can keep in touch should anything ever happen to our forum. The Index Page in this magazine has a link to that Facebook page.

We are always looking for articles of course so if you have a story to tell then please contact any member of the UKDN Team.

Until next month .....



## 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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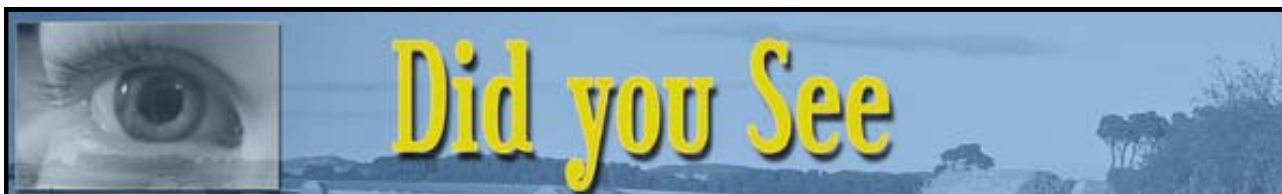
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**[Link to UKDN Shop](#)**



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

<a href="#"><u><b>Black Death pit uncovered</b></u></a>	<a href="#"><u><b>New CTX3030</b></u></a>
<a href="#"><u><b>Bronze Age treasure uncovered</b></u></a>	<a href="#"><u><b>Minelab any good?</b></u></a>
<a href="#"><u><b>lost ring recovered</b></u></a>	<a href="#"><u><b>Most underrated</b></u></a>
<a href="#"><u><b>Medieval knight in Edinburgh</b></u></a>	<a href="#"><u><b>How to cut a spade</b></u></a>
<a href="#"><u><b>UKDN Easter compo</b></u></a>	<a href="#"><u><b>Best Finds Pouch</b></u></a>
<a href="#"><u><b>UKDN Facebook group</b></u></a>	<a href="#"><u><b>New Field</b></u></a>
<a href="#"><u><b>FID?</b></u></a>	<a href="#"><u><b>Best Day out</b></u></a>
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<a href="#"><u><b>1st Hammered</b></u></a>	<a href="#"><u><b>Strange new planet</b></u></a>
<a href="#"><u><b>PAS Annual Conference</b></u></a>	<a href="#"><u><b>What is This?</b></u></a>

# Coin of The Month

## ***Winner - Morayhunter Mary Billon Penny***



This coin was minted when Mary was only 6 years old.

The story of the Mary penny cannot be told in isolation but as part of a bigger story concerning these two fields one of where the coin was found. And this tale starts in 2005 when I found the head of a Roman trumpet brooch. Little did I know what was to follow.

Reading magazines like Treasure Hunting over the years I wondered if I would ever find anything as good as

the pictures displayed in the magazine as well as the finds on the UKDN forum. All I could do was dream. But dreams do come true as I was going to find out.

Things started slowly with mainly Victorian finds, with plenty of oil lamp fragments, broken cheap Victorian jewellery and the odd viddy penny. But no more Roman and the fields had gone quite quiet with no significant finds appearing.

*(Continued on page 7)*



## MONTHLY COMPETITIONS

*(Continued from page 6)*

Then I found a short cross hammered of Richard I which sparked my interest again in the area. Two days later an Edward penny popped up.

It's possible that the reason for the change in fortunes in the field was due to the fields being deep ploughed for potatoes and carrots as they were now alive so to speak.

That first season after the deep ploughing the finds tally was at four Roman brooches, about 9 hammered and one or two much worn Scottish coppers dating to the 17thc and half a dozen Victorian silvers.

One of the fields has also produced one of the highest concentrations of Viking artefacts in Scotland.

By this time most of the fields had been swept of the bigger items and also I did "dig everything" days where I removed the big chunks of iron and nails and other unidentifiable bits of scrap.



A lot of the early Scottish copper coinage is quite small and these started to make an appearance with James black money pennies and Mary hard heads and of course the small bits of copper alloy scrap. I could go on and on about this field but this is the background to the Mary penny.

When I first dug the signal on the T2 and recovered the find I thought it was a James black money penny and it wasn't till I returned home and studied the coin that I realised that in fact what I had found was a rare Mary penny.

As I said earlier this is a reportable find under Scottish law and when handing it in to the local museum they asked if it was returned to me could they buy it or would I donate it. Even when I posted it on a Scottish forum of which I am a moderator (morayhunter) no one had ever seen one.

Thanks to all who voted.

**Copyright Morayhunter April 2013**

# Artefact of the Month

## Winner - Tinner Roman Knife Handle.



I would just like to say thank to all the people who voted for me.

This was a great find and as so often in our hobby totally out of the blue. We had a field which has produced finds from all ages but not that much Roman. So when I had a large signal the last thing I was expecting was the knife handle

I was using my Deus which gave a good signal. I dug down about 6 inches and turned over the mud. I could see something green and as I pushed the mud off I realized what I had found.

It is at this point you think who was the last person to touch this. I saved it from the plough it was a cracker with a dog chasing a hare or rabbit.



*(Continued on page 9)*



## MONTHLY COMPETITIONS

*(Continued from page 8)*

It is said that it cannot be a rabbit as they were not even in the country as the Normans introduced them. It has been established by excavations that the Romans imported the rabbit into Britain and would have been accustomed to eating the animal. It is believed that they became established in the wild during the time of the Normans, but they were certainly around and eaten by the Romans.

I just love the history you can find with luck and a lot of hours put in.

Happy hunting and good luck

**Copyright Tinner April 2013**



**Monthly Competitions Runners up**



**Puffin — Hadrian Denarius**



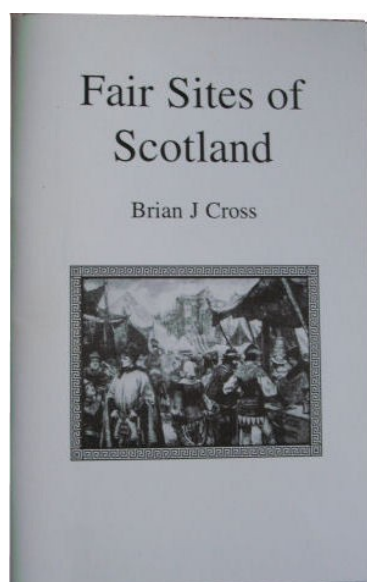
**Grumpy John — Heraldic Pendant**



# UKDN FUN DSLR - Camera PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

**Winner — Chris Hall**

**Sheffield Park House, East Sussex. Canon 7D + Canon 17-40mm lens**



## *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.*



# **UKDN FUN POINT, PRESS & PRAY PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION**



**Winner - Nick Morgan**

**The Lone Detectorist**

**Nikon Coolpix S3100**

**Runner up - Puffin**

**Shopping**

**Canon Powershot A2400IS  
and Photoscape  
software processing.**





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 IN ADULT ANIMALS  
 PLUS CAP reform update

## Latest News

### Emergency talks as sheep death toll climbs

[Tuesday 26 March 2013](#)

**Farm leaders are in emergency talks amid fears that thousands of sheep have perished in snow drifts.**

It comes as companies responsible for collecting fallen stock are being asked to offer bulk discounts for the disposal of dead animals.

National Farmers Union of Scotland (NFUS) president Nigel Miller held an emergency teleconference with Scottish rural affairs secretary Richard Lochhead on Tuesday (26 March) to discuss the crisis.....

### Sheepfarmer documents snow struggle

[Monday 25 March 2013](#)

**A Cumbrian farmer has gained an avalanche of new followers after posting incredible pictures of his sheep battling to survive in the snow on Twitter.**

The farmer - known as @herdyshepherd1 - took the images using his iPhone, which show the daily struggle of battling the elements to keep his stock of pure Herdwick and Swaledales fed.

"Livestock farmers have been having a hell of a struggle to feed their animals," he said. "For two days we couldn't get to some of our sheep that were blocked on an intake....."

### Poor harvest hits food and drink exports

[Robyn Vinter - Tuesday 26 March 2013](#)

The value of cereals exports fell by nearly one-third in 2012, with agricultural

commodities bringing down total food export figures.

Total food and drink exports remained at almost exactly the same level as 2011, as drops in some commodities and locations were offset by growth in others, HMRC figures show.....

### Cornish farmer's Schmallenberg spring carving hell

[Philip Case - 23 March 2013](#)

**Schmallenberg virus has wreaked havoc on a dairy farm in Cornwall, with 93% of calves born in early spring showing deformities.**

The high levels of defects in newborn and aborted calves have horrified Clive Keam, owner of Tregarrick Farm, in Luxulyan, Bodmin.

Calving started in earnest last week on the farm and there were 14 out of 15 cows with deformed calves, resulting in serious calving problems.....

### Crop Watch: Winds cause complete OSR crop

[Adam Clarke- 26 March 2013](#)

**The cold easterly winds have caused more crop failure this week, as already stressed oilseed rape crops are made to suffer further.**

After a relatively kind February, March has seen a cold spell that has halted crop growth and spring fieldwork and Devon agronomist Neil Potts has seen instances of severe crop scorch..... [Crop Watch Blog](#)

### Video: Winter weather takes toll on crops

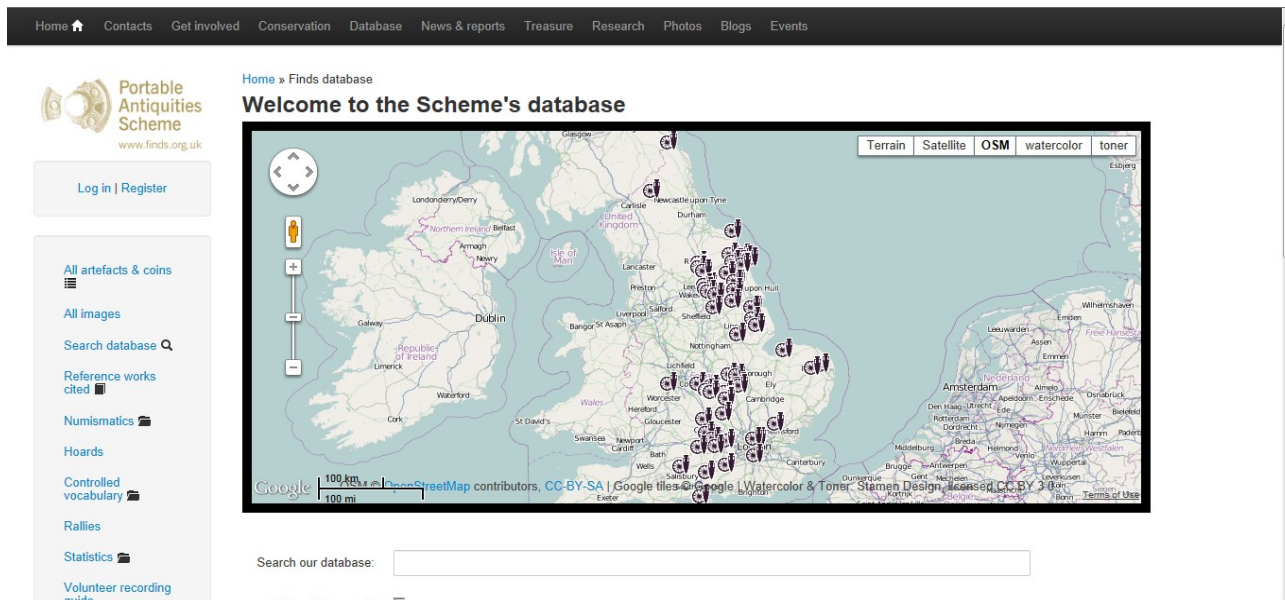
[Johann Tasker - 25 March 2013](#)



## A basic guide to identifying your find by using the Portable Antiquities Scheme database search function.

The simple aim of this guidance note is to try and help you locate a close parallel on the PAS database to any unknown find, and in doing so discover more information about it. This type of search can be carried out by any member of the public able to access the internet, and does not require additional registration on the PAS database. The Homepage address of the database is <http://finds.org.uk>. There are a number of ways to access and search the PAS database and detailed below is the simplest and most direct.

From the PAS Homepage (web address above) click on the **Database** tab at the top of the page and you will be directed to the page shown below.



The search box highlighted in red uses so called *Boolean Search Operators*. The Boolean search operator **OR** is the default setting of any internet search engine; meaning, search engines will return **all** the words you type in, automatically. So if you type in coin, silver, clipped, it will return all records with the words coin OR silver OR clipped in them. The Boolean search operator **AND** is equal to the "+" symbol. The Boolean search operator **NOT** is equal to the "-" symbol. The Boolean search operator **NEAR** is equal to putting a search query in quotes, i.e., "French Jetton". You are essentially telling the search engine that you want all of these words, in this specific order, or this


specific phrase. The entries you put in the search box need to be based around using these terms and symbols. We will now use this search function to try and identify the adjacent object by finding a parallel. The first key step is to ask yourself what it might be, and what terms a PAS recorder may use to describe it. In this instance the terms **circular**, **hole**, **rivet**, **rove**, and **mount** could all be appropriate. Obviously you could use different terms and other Boolean operators as outlined above to perform alternative searches.










So by way of illustration, in the 'search our database' box type **"circular hole" + rivet**. Then tick the small square box below to indicate that you only wish to see records with images attached, and then click on the blue **Search** button. The database will then search over half a million records for the attributes you have specified in the search box

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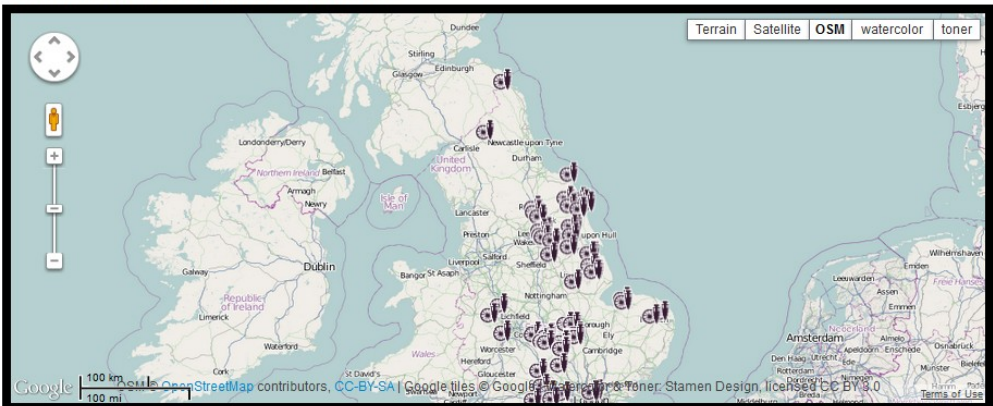
 **Portable Antiquities Scheme**  
www.finds.org.uk

[Log in](#) | [Register](#)

[All artefacts & coins](#)  
[All images](#)  
[Search database](#)   
[Reference works cited](#)   
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[Hoards](#)  
[Controlled vocabulary](#)   
[Rallies](#)  
[Statistics](#)   
[Volunteer recording guide](#)

Home » Finds database

## Welcome to the Scheme's database



Search our database:

Only with images? ☒

[Search!](#)

You will then be given a summary list of finds with photographs that have the terms **Circular hole** and **rivet** in the Record. If needs be, on the right hand side of the page you will see in blue underneath the search statistics a list of further "facets" or attributes you can select in order to filter or refine your search. If you use this, the refined list it will create can easily be cleared afterwards and you will be returned back to the full list.

Search results from the database - Page: 1 - Database - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

finds.org.uk/database/search/results/q/"circular+hole"+%2B+rivet/thumbnail/1

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Created on: Friday 4th January 2013  
Last updated: Tuesday 15th January 2013  
**Spatial data recorded.** This findspot is known as 'Charlton Musgrove', grid reference and parish protected.

Record ID: [LIN-593C44](#)  
Object type: STRAP END  
Broad period: MEDIEVAL  
County: LINCOLNSHIRE  
Workflow stage: Awaiting validation  
An incomplete medieval strap-end. The strap-end is rectangular and has a [rivet](#) hole in both corners at the attachment end. Between these is a large [circular hole](#). The other end curves back on itself to grasp the terminal of the strap; it is broken shortly after.  
Created on: Thursday 3rd January 2013  
Last updated: Tuesday 8th January 2013  
**Spatial data recorded.** This findspot is known as 'near Louth', grid reference and parish protected.

Record ID: [IOW-064D43](#)  
Object type: STRAP FITTING  
Broad period: POST MEDIEVAL  
County: ISLE OF WIGHT  
Workflow stage: Awaiting validation

Total results available: 751  
You are viewing records: 1 - 20.


**Search statistics**

- Total quantity: 812
- Mean quantity: 1.081
- Standard deviation: 0.963
- Maximum quantity (one record): 23
- Minimum quantity (one record): 1
- Sum of squares: 1574

**Filter or refine your search**

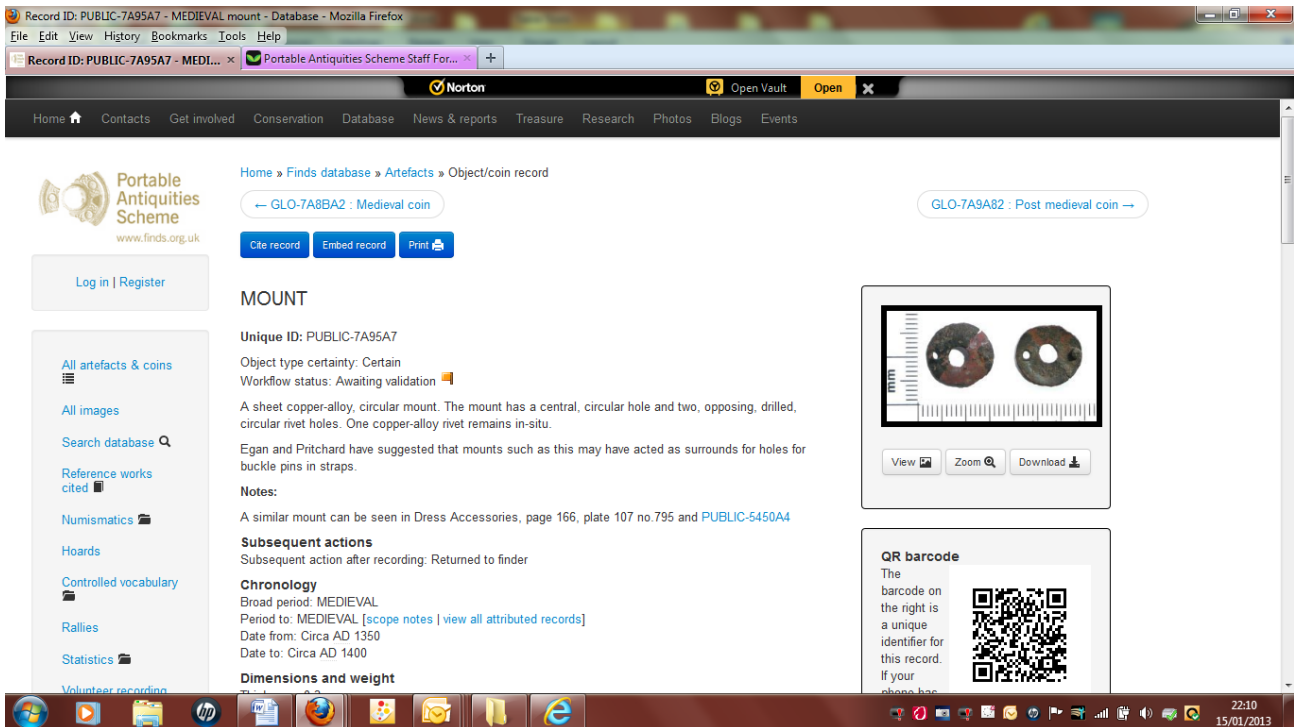
**Object type**

- [MOUNT \(141\)](#)
- [BUCKLE \(127\)](#)
- [STRAP FITTING \(106\)](#)
- [STRAP END \(66\)](#)
- [BOOK FITTING \(48\)](#)
- [STIRRUP \(29\)](#)
- [HARNES PENDANT \(27\)](#)
- [UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT \(27\)](#)
- [VESSEL \(21\)](#)
- [BROOCH \(19\)](#)

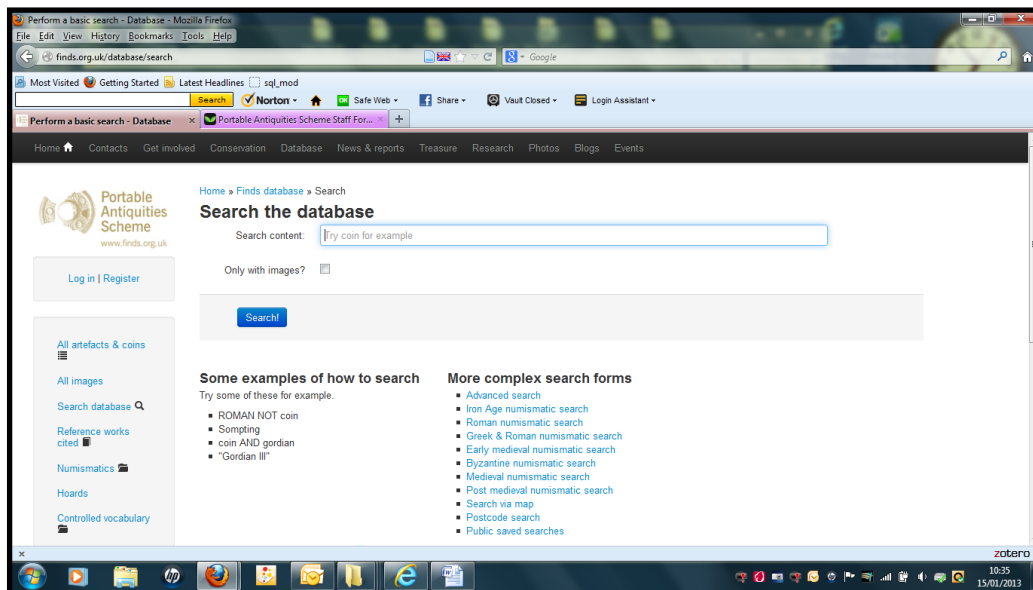
All Object type options 

zotero 22:03 15/01/2013

It is then a case of scrolling through the results presented, using the images to see if you can find an example similar to your find. In this search example some way down the list is PUBLIC find reference [PUBLIC-7A95A7](#), which is a very good parallel to the find being investigated and identifies it as a medieval mount, as shown in the screen shot below.



Note that the find has an amber flag status. There are four levels of validation or status for finds on the PAS database. These consist of a quarantine symbol, red flag, amber flag, and a green flag. An amber flag indicates that the find record has been approved by a Finds Liaison Officer, and a green flag indicates the find has been further validated by a Finds Advisor from the scheme. Only finds with amber or green flags can be seen in public searches.



If you are unable to find a parallel object to yours clearly you can change your search terms, or you may find an **Advanced search** more useful. This Advanced search option is principally designed for artefacts and is contained within the “**More complex search Forms**” menu shown highlighted on the adjacent screen shot. To get to this page go back to the

home page, click on database at the top as you did before, then select “**Search database**” from the *left hand* menu column. You will then be directed to the page shown. Most of the other search form options are specifically designed to enable precision searches for coins, but by way of illustration, for a more detailed artefact search...

- *Click on **Advanced search***

The screen shot below only shows a small number of the scrollable search fields, but there are in fact many more hidden on the remainder of the form, all of which serve to potentially refine the search. Each of the fields presented for completion is actually a data entry field that the original recorder of the find could enter information into, often

from a drop down box selection. Some of these fields are self explanatory, especially if you are already familiar with the structure of a full database record, others however are more esoteric and will only be fully understood if you partially or fully self-record your found-objects onto the database. Safe to say, when your page entry is completed, click on the blue **Submit your search** box at the

bottom of the data entry page and you will be presented with all the records that match the search criteria you entered.

Other than making you aware of these more advanced methods of searching, it is not the intention of this short guide to cover the more detailed use of the specific search templates.

Thanks to some very dedicated professional people and their volunteers, together with the majority of detectorists and other finders who have a responsible approach to recording what they discover, the PAS database is an unparalleled archaeological resource, of which we should all be proud. I hope this short guide has been useful - Happy searching, finding, and researching.

**Garry Crace, Feb 2013**



**Amber** is fossilized tree resin (not sap), which has been appreciated for its color and natural beauty since Neolithic times. Much valued from antiquity to the present as a gemstone, amber is made into a variety of decorative objects. Amber is used as an ingredient in perfumes, as a healing agent in folk medicine, and as jewellery. There are five classes of amber, defined on the basis of their chemical constituents. Because it originates as a soft, sticky tree resin, amber sometimes contains animal and plant material as inclusions. Amber occurring in coal seams is also called **resinite**, and the term ambrite is applied to that found specifically within New Zealand coal seams.

**Copyright Wikipedia.org**



# GOLD COINS - Pt 2



Last month we looked at gold coins in antiquity as well as studying gold coins minted as bullion coins. This month we take a final look at gold coins including the grading of gold coins as well as rarity and counterfeits.

## ***Grading coins***

A coin's "grade" is a visual evaluation of the amount of wear on a coin. Coins with little wear are graded higher and therefore assigned higher prices than those with a lot of wear. However, low-grade, extremely rare coins can easily be more valuable than more widely available, higher grade coins of common dates.

In the early years of coin collecting, three general terms were used to describe a coin's grade:

**Good** - Where details were visible but circulation had worn the surface

**Fine** - Features were less worn from circulation and a bit of the mint lustre showed on the surfaces.

**Uncirculated** - Details were sharp and there was a luster approaching the state of the coin at the mint, prior to general circulation

As the collector market for coins grew rapidly in the late 19th century and early 20th century, it became apparent that a more precise grading standard was needed. Some coins were simply more fine than others, and some uncirculated coins showed more lustre and far fewer marks than others. Terms like "gem uncirculated" and "very fine" began to see use, as more precise grading descriptions allowed for more precise pricing for the booming collector market.

*(Continued on page 19)*

*(Continued from page 18)*

In 1948, a well-known numismatist by the name of Dr. William Sheldon attempted to standardize coin grading by proposing what is now known as the Sheldon Scale.

Sheldon's scale, included in his famous work "Penny Whimsy", was originally devised specifically for United States large cents, but it is now applied to all series. The scale runs from 0 to 70, where 0 means that you can tell that it was once a coin while 70 means that it is perfect. 60 is uncirculated, what the general public would consider perfect, with no wear whatsoever. There is a direct mapping from this scale to the older descriptive terms, but they are not always used in the same way.

Below are the general characteristics that define different coin grades in the United Kingdom system. When grading coins, any defect should be noted, such as bent, scratched, etc.. Cleaning or mutilations of any kind should be mentioned.

**Poor** - A piece of metal that can be identified as a coin.

**Fair** - The type of coin can be identified, the date may or may not be visible.

**Good (G)** - Legends, designs and dates are visible but heavily worn. 10% of design remaining.

**Very Good (VG)** - Designs and date are clear but lacking details. Coins in this or the previous grades are really only collectable if extremely rare. 25% of design remaining.

**Fine (F)** - All major details will be visible with the major details virtually complete. 50% of design remaining.

**Very Fine (VF)** - More details are visible with major details virtually complete. Traces of mint lustre may linger amongst the letters of the inscription. 75% of design remaining.

**Extremely Fine (EF)** - Light wear on the high points with some mint lustre present. 90% of design remaining.

**Uncirculated (UNC)** - Small trace of wear visible on the highest points with at least half of the mint lustre still present. There may be bag abrasions. Older coins may be tarnished or toned. 95% of design remaining.

**Brilliant Uncirculated (BU)** - No trace of wear with some small nicks or marks present. 100% of design remaining and lustre.

*(Continued on page 20)*

*(Continued from page 19)*

**FDC (Fleur de Coin)** - Perfect mint state, with no abrasions or marks, and full lustre. Usually applied to proof coins only, as coins intended for circulation are in contact with others during production.

**Proof** - Coins specially struck for collectors. Usually mirror-like surface. Sand blast and matte proof in some series.

The grading standards are different in different countries. Coin grading is not an exact science. It is a subjective exercise and depends on the qualification and the experience of the appraiser.

Coin dealers and collectors worldwide have often tried to standardise the grading of coins on an International level. The desire has accelerated in more recent years due to e-commerce however 'old habits die hard' and there is an unwillingness by too many collectors and dealers to adapt a new grading system for it to be a success. Many countries worldwide also have minted hammered coinage in the past and this is very difficult to grade because of the methods used in producing it. It is certainly fair to say that one system does not fit all and therefore appears that in the short to medium term the grading system will remain as it stands.

UK coin grading services will accurately assess the condition and guarantee the authenticity of English Milled Coins struck from 1660. Specimens that successfully pass through the system will be encapsulated in a tamper proof holder containing a description of the coin together with its own UK unique archive number and its own UK grade of preservation. There are a number of UK companies that specialise in this service.

A similar system exists in the US. This third-party appraisal of a coin's physical condition, backed by a guarantee, and a national network of reputable coin dealers provided an extremely reliable form of protection for rare coin consumers who could then participate in the coin market with greater confidence.

More details on grading can be seen in this Wikipedia article [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coin\\_grading](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coin_grading)

### ***Rarity factor***

The value of coins depends on their rarity. There are several scales which have been developed for the definition of the rarity of a particular coin.

*(Continued on page 21)*



*(Continued from page 20)*

The most common are the "Sheldon rarity scale" and the "Universal rarity scale"

### **Counterfeits**

For most of history, coins were valued based on the precious metal they contain. Whether or not a coin was actually made by the party as claimed was of secondary importance compared to whether or not it contains the correct amount of metal - that is, correct weight and fineness (purity).

Genuine appearance was simply a convenient shortcut to avoid time-consuming tests in everyday transactions.

Unlike silver, gold is denser than almost all other metals, hence whether something is made of gold is extremely hard to fake. Simple determination of weight and volume should be sufficient. A coin that is the right size but is not gold, or has too much base metal, will be "light"; alternately, a coin that weighs right will be somewhat larger.

*(Continued on page 22)*



**English:** Improved Registered Gold Weigher made by John Greaves and Son.  
For checking the weight of sovereigns and half sovereigns.

Copyright Wikipedia [Simon Speed](#)

*(Continued from page 21)*

Most metals that are of similar or higher density than gold are similarly or more expensive, and were unknown in ancient times (notably the platinum group); only two relatively inexpensive substances are of similar density to gold: depleted uranium and tungsten.

Of these, depleted uranium is government-regulated, but tungsten is more commonly available, hence more suited for counterfeiting. Alloying gold with tungsten would not work for several reasons but a coin with a tungsten center and gold all around it could not be detected as counterfeit by density measurement alone. This method (tungsten wrapped in gold) has found some use in counterfeiting of gold bars.

An old practice to test whether a gold coin was counterfeit was to bite down on it. Since pure gold is relatively soft any base metals mixed with the gold to lessen its value will also harden the coin, and so make it harder to bite on.

Another explanation of this practice is that historic gold coins were usually alloyed with silver and copper which make them harder than pure gold and less prone to wear.

Counterfeits could be made of lead to approximate the weight of gold and covered with a thin layer of real gold.

Biting the coin would mark the softer lead or scratch through the veneer revealing the base metal underneath. The majority of bullion counterfeits (of all types) are rare, and fairly easy to detect when comparing their weights, colours and sizes to authentic pieces. This is because the cost of reproducing any given coin precisely can easily exceed the market value of the originals.

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Gold Eagle photograph  
English Wikipedia, original upload  
6 April 2005 by [Mb1000](#)

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## Gold in jewellery

**GOLD WASH** - Gold deposits with a thickness from 2 to 5 millionths of an inch

**GOLD PLATING** - Deposits with a minimum thickness of 7 millionths of an inch.

**GOLD INLAYS** - Solid pieces of gold or gold alloy attached to dovetailing (usually 14 - 24 carat)

**GOLD LEAF** - Gold leaf is very thin, 3 - 4 millionths of an inch, made so by flattening under pressure. Can be hammered thin enough to transmit light.

**GOLD FILLING** - Refers to a base metal such as Nickel that has gold sheet attached by soldering or some other means. Gold filling was once commonly used in watch cases.

**HEAVY GOLD PLATE** - A film of fine gold plated to other metals to a thickness of at least 100 millionths of an inch.

**ROLLED GOLD** - A layer of plating of 10 carat or better, mechanically bonded to a base metal. Gold content maybe less than 1/20th of the total weight.

**Copyright - James Cody, Widnes, Cheshire. April 2013**

Photo of Wedding ring, Byzantium 7thC AD nielloed gold. Copyright: Wikipedia



# MEMORIAL BRASSES BY Yeti



I found my piece of monumental brass nearly twenty years ago now and I must admit to having no idea of what it was at the time.

The field was in the middle of nowhere with just a couple of thatched cottages nearby but it produced a lot of finds from the middle Tudor to the eighteenth century, especially Elizabeth 1st coins, trade and coin weights, tokens etc. Something used to happen on this field as there were far too many finds for them to be casual losses.



*Yeti's own find of a piece  
of monumental brass*

Close to this find I had another piece of bronze which was part of a vessel and it had on it a circle with a makers mark which now makes me think perhaps some sort of trading in scrap metal might have occurred there in some type of market, but this is just me being hypothetical as I have no proof.

All my Norfolk finds from that month were taken away by senior archaeologist Dr Andrew Rogerson as usual and the following month I got them all back, and this is where I learnt what I had found.

He told me a bit more about my find and said he had contacted The Monumental Brass Society about it. Not long after I received a letter from the president Martin Stutchfield asking for more detail so they could record it.

*(Continued on page 25)*



*Late Medieval/Early Post Medieval copper alloy fragment of monumental brass*  
[See PAS Record](#)

*(Continued from page 24)*

It is not much of a find to some people but with my love of all medieval artefacts it deserves a pride of place along with anything else I have found of this period.

A monumental brass commemorates somebody who had died during the medieval period.

These brasses had come into fashion because of their durability and their use of church space where previous incised stone slabs, effigies and tombs were not as efficient and long lasting.

*(Continued on page 26)*

## RESEARCH FEATURE

*(Continued from page 25)*

The earliest surviving examples in the country of which there are not that many date from the end of the thirteenth century to the first half of the fourteenth, with two nice examples being in my county Cambridgeshire.



*Fragment of Medieval/Post Medieval  
monumental brass, strip, one end broken*

[See PAS Record](#)

One for Roger de Trumpington, although now thought to be his son Giles and another at Westley Waterless for Sir John de Creke and Alyne his first wife. Now what happened, or what was the reason for my fragment to turn up in the middle of a field? Let's go through the history books and find an answer

The first major factor was the Dissolution of the Monasteries which led to the large removal of brasses especially those of abbots and other members of religious orders.

They were removed, often cut up and either melted down or sold on to the brass workers who would rework it for future memorials. Quite a lot of the sixteenth century brasses in this country were made from earlier stripped examples.

Things were no better during the next reign which was Henry's son Edward the sixth. He sent out his commissioners to destroy anything popish which was a reminder of the Catholic religious belief.



*Fragment of Medieval monumental  
brass of a knight*

[See PAS Record](#)

*(Continued on page 27)*





*Medieval fragment of inscribed scroll from a monumental brass*  
[See PAS Record](#)



The above fragment is part of the missing scroll on the right-hand side of the brass of William de Grey.  
 For more details take a look at this [PAS Record](#)  
 Fascinating !!

*(Continued from page 26)*

So any imagery such as the Trinity on a brass for example would have been removed.

Luckily for these monuments they got a breather when the staunch Catholic Mary took the throne when the sickly Edward died in July of A.D.1553.

The next phase of destruction although not quite as severe was during the time of the civil war and the following period of the commonwealth.

*(Continued on page 28)*



*Fragment of early to mid 16th century monumental brass.*

[See PAS Record](#)

*(Continued from page 27)*

Cathedrals such as York, Lincoln and Canterbury were hit hard with the removal and destroying of brasses with again those popish Roman Catholic reminders such as crucifixes, the Virgin Mary etc the target.

In A.D 1643 the puritan and the Provost Marshall of my area William Dowsing was made "Commissioner for the destruction of Monuments of Idolatry and superstition" and in a year in Suffolk alone destroyed 192 brasses.

He then had the gall to charge the churches for his service whether they liked it or not.

During the next two centuries more brasses were lost during the restorations of the cathedrals and churches due to them being neglected, lost or stolen. One famous sexton and gravedigger, a man called William Wildblood just up in the road in Kings Lynn Norfolk, pinched, destroyed and sold on many brasses from St Margrets church. In A.D. 1804 he was accused of his crimes and duly went and hanged himself in the belfry there.

*(Continued on page 29)*



Further joining part of fragmentary Medieval monumental brass, the first piece of which was discovered in April/May 2006 (PAS number [NMS-FE4E63](#)),  
[See PAS Record](#)

*(Continued from page 28)*

Just to show you how bad it was then in those days, ten stone of brass in 1787 was sold by the churchwardens to a Mr Coward for five pence a pound. There are only two remaining memorial brasses there now but they are two of the biggest in England and date to the fourteenth century and are well worth a look if you are ever in the area

So here are some of the factors that could have been the cause of my fragment being found and you can use your imagination as much as you want but we will never know.

I have only just touched on the subject of memorial brasses and I have no intention of doing the old hobby of brass rubbing but I do find them very interesting and we can get a lot of formation from them especially with military, ecclesiastical, civil etc costumes and styles.

Heraldry, jewellery, merchant's marks, genealogy etc you name it, it can all be found and studied. There are some great characters out there from history remembered in brass such as for instance Sir William Calthorp at Burnham Thorpe Norfolk.

*(Continued on page 30)*



*(Continued from page 29)*

He was in command of a company of archers from East Anglia during the famous battle of Agincourt in A.D 1415. There are far too many out there to talk about in this article - just wish I had the time and space to tell you more.

I will urge that if any of you are lucky enough to find part of a monumental brass could you please contact [The Monumental Brass Society](#) and get it recorded, or contact me and I will do it for you.

And if you are very fortunate, as I know it has happened in Norfolk, have it replaced to its rightful home in the church. The society have been around since the nineteenth century and do some great research and restoration and are the top people to talk to.



*Letter, from inscription. Cast Lombardic N, upright member with serifs*

[See PAS Record](#)

They will give you the best detailed information about your artifact that you can imagine and is worth the effort contacting them.

Happy hunting Yeti

**Copyright Yeti - April 2013**



Whether you like it or not Facebook has a lot of use for keeping in touch with friends, family or even fellow detectorists.

UKDN realised this some time back and created its own group. This group has been great for notifying members of things like competition launches, launch of this magazine, Word and would be an ideal way of keeping members informed should we suffer a server outage.

Click the Facebook logo above to join. Simple !!



# 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 March 2013***

***Cirencester Roman cockerel 'best find' in 40 years***

***Medieval gold ring found in North Yorkshire field***

***Metal detectors turn up bronze age treasures***

***'Black Death pit' unearthed by Crossrail project***

***'Medieval knight' unearthed in Edinburgh car park***

***Tackling Illegal Metal Detecting - Man Arrested***

***Hoard of Worcestershire treasure goes on show***

***Funds needed to keep 17th century ring on display***

***Shrewsbury Roman Hoard returns to Shropshire***

***National Museum Wales bid for Bronze Age treasure***

***Important manchester club found***

***No room for archive in 27% of Museums***

***Coining it in for the heroes***



<b>Useful Weblinks</b>
<a href="#"><i>PAS - getting involved</i></a>
<a href="#"><i>PAS - Upcoming Events</i></a>
<a href="#"><i>PAS - self recording</i></a>
<a href="#"><i>PAS -Recording Timeline</i></a>
<a href="#"><i>PAS - Advice for finders of archaeological objects including treasure</i></a>
<a href="#"><i>PAS - Conservation advice notes</i></a>
<a href="#"><i>PAS - Guidance to landowners, occupiers &amp; tenant farmers in England &amp; Wales</i></a>
<a href="#"><i>PAS - News from the scheme</i></a>
<a href="#"><i>PAS - Blogs</i></a>
<a href="#"><i>Responsible detecting code of practice</i></a>
<a href="#"><i>Frome hoard time lapse video of excavation</i></a>
<a href="#"><i>Press coverage of the Frome hoard discovery</i></a>
<a href="#"><i>Burnham hoard excavation</i></a>
<a href="#"><i>Staffordshire hoard excavation</i></a>
<a href="#"><i>Staffordshire hoard at the BM</i></a>
<a href="#"><i>Definition of Treasure</i></a>
<a href="#"><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></a>
<a href="#"><i>Rallies &amp; Events - Searcher Magazine</i></a>
<a href="#"><i>Rallies &amp; Events - Treasure Hunting Magazine</i></a>
<a href="#"><i>Wheresthepath - For O/S &amp; Aerial Maps &amp; National Grid References</i></a>
<a href="#"><i>Post code finder</i></a>
<a href="#"><i>Getting involved in archaeology</i></a>

## New members in March 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](#)

emmak78	JonnyAlpha
westkirby01	Harrierphil
golddigger3	glappylad
therhino	xkaza
scampy1	chesh
levien66	yoda62
davesport	michael p
kath4paddy	Petedigginghistory
Trident25	ZestyB
GrandmasterP	doctorhibbert
cheeky-bob	johnwenesq
boghonk	tr6paul
Spudrick187	DetectoristDave
steveenglish	Stevie1time
Desbold	TheTeaDrinker
jagsteve	TreasureHunter9
midsguy123	barrypendas
mark1970	Angus Files
wes-bez	Magnetic Jim
caravan222	Jbminky1
kiwidigger	Hammie
Dave Whitney	Mike826
Tackletart	Poundcoin
Krungthep56	nrg19uk
niggle	Antideluvian
daster1952	Hookone63
Amber888	Christineelaine
GGP	Glideman
billy123	Tomkeys
Tony Hunt	Spiderweb

# 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.