

UKDN WORD

WORLD OF RESPONSIBLE DETECTING

Issue no: 98
October 2015



Ripping Ryal
P9



Super Saxon
P12



Photo Comp Winners
P20



Treasure Report
P26

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

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](#)

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enquiry@ukdetectornet.co.uk

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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.

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UKDN would like to thank

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



Popsandme

Here since 2009

Detecting since 2009



Kev Woodward

Here since 2005

Detecting since 1990



Puffin

Here since 2007

Detecting since 2007



Meandmydreams

Here since 2007

Detecting since 2002

Junior Admin



Tinner

Here since 2006

Detecting since 2001



Baldric

Here since 2004

Detecting since 2003



Littlebloke

Here since 2004

Detecting since 2000



Old Git John

Here since 2005

Detecting since 2005



Firty77

Here since 2006

Detecting since 1970



Welcome to another packed edition of the UKDN WORD magazine. There are some great stories to read and the usual informative articles along with some brilliant artefacts and coins from the finds of the month competitions. And that sums up the current situation nicely, with nearly all of the crops off and plenty of land available now, the quality and number of finds being shown on the forum is outstanding. We all went through a very quiet patch over the past month or two, but the detecting season is now well and truly upon us again.

We continue to have a very mild and dry start to autumn which is starting to affect detector performance due to the dry soil, surely this will not last much longer and normal conditions will prevail.

Remember that we run the monthly coin and artefact 'find of the month' competitions with a final 'find of the year' one to decide the best from all of the year's winners. Get your finds entered and give our monthly competitions a boost! And don't forget to vote for your favourites in the polls each month. UKDN has this month signed up it's 7000th member. We must be doing something right.

This year has also seen the introduction of the coin and artefact league tables, another aspect to the best competitions on the web.

Another Milestone reached this month is the news that PAS has recorded it's 1 millionth find. Now that is astonishing. Please make sure you all continue to record, as your finds are changing the historical map and facts about this country. Congratulations PAS, a stunning record.

And lastly our sympathies go out to the family and friends of one of our members Sirlikealot who has passed away. Always very sad when we lose a member, and his will be a great loss to the hobby,

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>



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

<u>Double headed Roman coin</u>	<u>possible saxon?</u>
<u>What events changed your life?</u>	<u>Bronze Age Finger Ring</u>
<u>Finding Live Ammo</u>	<u>Silver Seal Matrix Info Request</u>
<u>Are there enough of us?</u>	<u>Trade weight and dress hook</u>
<u>First for me</u>	<u>Another Mixed Bag.</u>
<u>An afternoon in the stubble.</u>	<u>Hack silver? Merchant ring?</u>
<u>15 years in - My best find yet. Can anyone help</u>	<u>Saturday finds</u>
<u>A good day in stubble.</u>	<u>Tiny gold bead.....</u>
<u>The Axe Head</u>	<u>Roman partifacts and as-sorted..</u>
<u>largest prehistoric site</u>	<u>R.I.P Sirlikealot aka Abbey (Chief)</u>

News and Views from September 2015

[Under carpark without phones](#)

[metal detectorist to be British Museum star](#)

[Archeologists find mass grave.](#)

[The helpful detectorist](#)

[From The Local News.....](#)

[Battle of Britain Flypast, 15th Sept.](#)

[New Lincolnshire PAS Facebook page](#)

[News by PMDG members](#)

[Largest prehistoric site](#)

[From The Local News.....](#)

[Windows 10](#)

[Museum sells medals!!](#)

[British Museum offers virtual reality tour](#)

Coin of The Month

Winner - JCMaloney Edward IV York Mint Half Ryal



As a dig organiser/club general secretary and pretty much a permission gaining addict I often don't find time to actually detect!

After a particularly busy time on the dig front the club had had a very successful 6 weeks of digs with a range of finds surfacing.

Initially an Iron Age woad grinder and a brace of Charles the Bold Double

Patard's were the highlights from the first visit. The next visit had revealed more hammered silvers and a Victorian sovereign. The members were still keen to revisit a productive field which then turned up a superb VEP CORF Iron Age Gold Stater on the third visit and a mix of Medieval hammered as well as a huge amount of Victorian & Edwardian copper coinage.

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Treasure
hunting

BRITAIN'S BEST SELLING
METAL DETECTING MAGAZINE

MONTHLY COMPETITIONS

(Continued from page 9)

Convinced "Yeomanry", a 100+ acre field on a North West Leicestershire private Estate, had more to yield we asked the members if they wanted to revisit over the August Bank holiday.

As many had alternative arrangements with family, personal permissions etc there wasn't enough interest to run a dig so myself and my two trusty dig assistants, Gerry & Andy, took the chance of a day out without the pressures of being organisers/scrap buckets collectors/parking attendants/sign fitters/points of contact etc!

Surprisingly, for a Bank Holiday, it absolutely chucked it down from the moment we parked the cars! Needless to say we set off and were soon well spread across the cultivated stubble digging lots of non-ferrous targets. Andy was first to hit a hammered with a rather worn James I and we both commented how many targets were still in a field that had been visited by, effectively, 60-80 people over the preceding weeks. Good signs for missed coins we both commented.

A brief lunch break led to the usual "wish list" being drawn up... I plumped for "an early hammered" as there are hints of Saxon activity in the area.

We set off again with Andy & Gerry heading right and me heading in a straight line towards some elevated land. As I walked I saw a line of footprints in front of me from previous searches but just thought to myself "Wonder what they found...or missed?".

A solid but soft signal brought me to a halt, the signal was in a footprint, "1 step from being found" I chuckled as I flicked out a small spit of soil, the Explorer SE had indicated it was a shallow target. I glanced at the scattered pile of mud and decaying stubble and thought... "Is it?"

The glint of Gold happens many times in this hobby.... gilded buttons, milk bottle tops etc etc....thats what I expected. I knelt down and gingerly touched the edge "Gold hammered....its a Gold hammered....its a Gold hammered" I don't know how many times it went through my head.

Next thing.... "Where is everyone?" I looked around... Andy & Gerry were some distance away. I popped my cap over the coin.... why? I have no idea!! I shouted something along the lines of "HAAAMMMMEERREEDDD ANNDDD ITTSS SPECCIIIAALLLL" at some volume!

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MONTHLY COMPETITIONS

(Continued from page 10)

As the lads made their way over they could tell from the stupid smile that it was a bit special..... and I got as much pleasure from a second "reveal" as I removed my hat from the coin.

The usual congratulations and picture taking followed, what I hadn't realized was the Gamekeeper had also heard the "roar" and was coming over to investigate the excitement. He's not really into detecting finds unless they are shooting related but even he was impressed as I dropped

the Edward IV, First Reign, York Mint Half Ryal into his hand.

And that is my membership of the Gold Hammered Club well & truly delivered!

(c) jcmaloney Sept 2015





Artefact of the Month

Winner - Son of the Sands Saxon Cruciform Brooch



Steve (Flipperbrownsnout) and I have several farms down Northamptonshire way but it's a long hike from Lancashire so we don't go that often. I spent most of last year working at Addenbrookes Hospital in Cambridge and as I was on my own in a hotel I went detecting most weekday evenings. Getting land didn't seem to be a problem and I had some excellent finds including Roman items, hammereds and even an American gold coin.

So this August bank holiday we decided to make a weekend of it and use up some of the thousands of Holiday Inn points I had accumulated from my year in the hotel.

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Artefact of the Month

(Continued from page 12)

We started off in Cambridgeshire on the Saturday but didn't turn up much. Most of the farmers in that area don't seem to plough as the land is very heavy clay. They just use a subsoiler so the churn of the soil is less than full ploughing. We had an enjoyable day despite few finds and the weather held up which is a good thing as if it rains, the mud sticks to you by the ton.

After an evening of beer and curry in Huntingdon we moved further up the A14 on the Sunday to some land we have done before and has produced Roman and the odd hammered. On arriving we discovered that the target fields had just been sewn with beet into soil that had been lightly disked. We spoke to the farmer who was happy for us to proceed and so onto the field we went. Weather again was ideal.....not too hot and a light breeze although rain was forecast for the afternoon.

Steve went to an area where there is Roman pottery to be seen and I struck out towards the far end of the field where the brook runs through. The field in general was very quiet (sometimes a good thing, not much junk) and I was two thirds across before I dug my first decent tone.....a small but well preserved roman bronze. I zigged and zagged at random until I found myself in the corner of the field where I thought I would take a comfort break.....only to find the area already occupied by a large and busy hornets' nest.

I hastily headed back across the field towards Steve who had found a couple of bronzes but nothing spectacular. This half of the field seemed a bit busier so we went slow and low. After pulling out a couple more coins and buckles I got a high ding and a silver denarius of Caracalla surfaced...happy with that. By now the clouds were rolling in and I wasn't sure we were going to get much more detecting in.

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Treasure
hunting

BRITAIN'S BEST SELLING
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Artefact of the Month

(Continued from page 13)

I was wandering up another strip and got a fairly large signal. In the first spade full was a 2 inch piece of metal. As I gently rubbed it I realized it was old, and possibly zoomorphic. I took it over to Flipper and he identified it as part of a Saxon cruciform brooch. I was over the moon....Saxon is not something I do.

I spent the next half hour up and down the area digging all signals no matter how small or deep but sadly

to no avail. The rest of it is still there somewhere but we will return and who knows, there may be Saxon coins there as well. By 3 o'clock the rain had set in and the hills had disappeared so we knew it was in to stay. We trudged back to the car and packed up, then made the 4 hour drive home.

I still can't believe I did that drive twice a week for a year.

(c) Son of the Sands Oct 2015



Treasure
hunting

BRITAIN'S BEST SELLING
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Monthly Competitions Runners up



Markc - Elizabeth I Shilling



Tinnersdad - Bodvoc Celtic Silver Stater



Allan Davies - William The Lion Penny



Wet Feet Again - Edward III Quarter Noble

Monthly Competitions Runners up



Tinner - Six Spoked Pellet Ring Quarter Stater



JBM1 - F Heath Half-penny Token



Arfrage - Lead Amphora

Below: Tannersdad - Saxon Strap Mount



Monthly Competitions Runners up



**Oldfossil -
Stirrup Strap
Mount**



**Tinner - Silver Love
Token**



Jimmyb - 2ndC Roman Disc Brooch



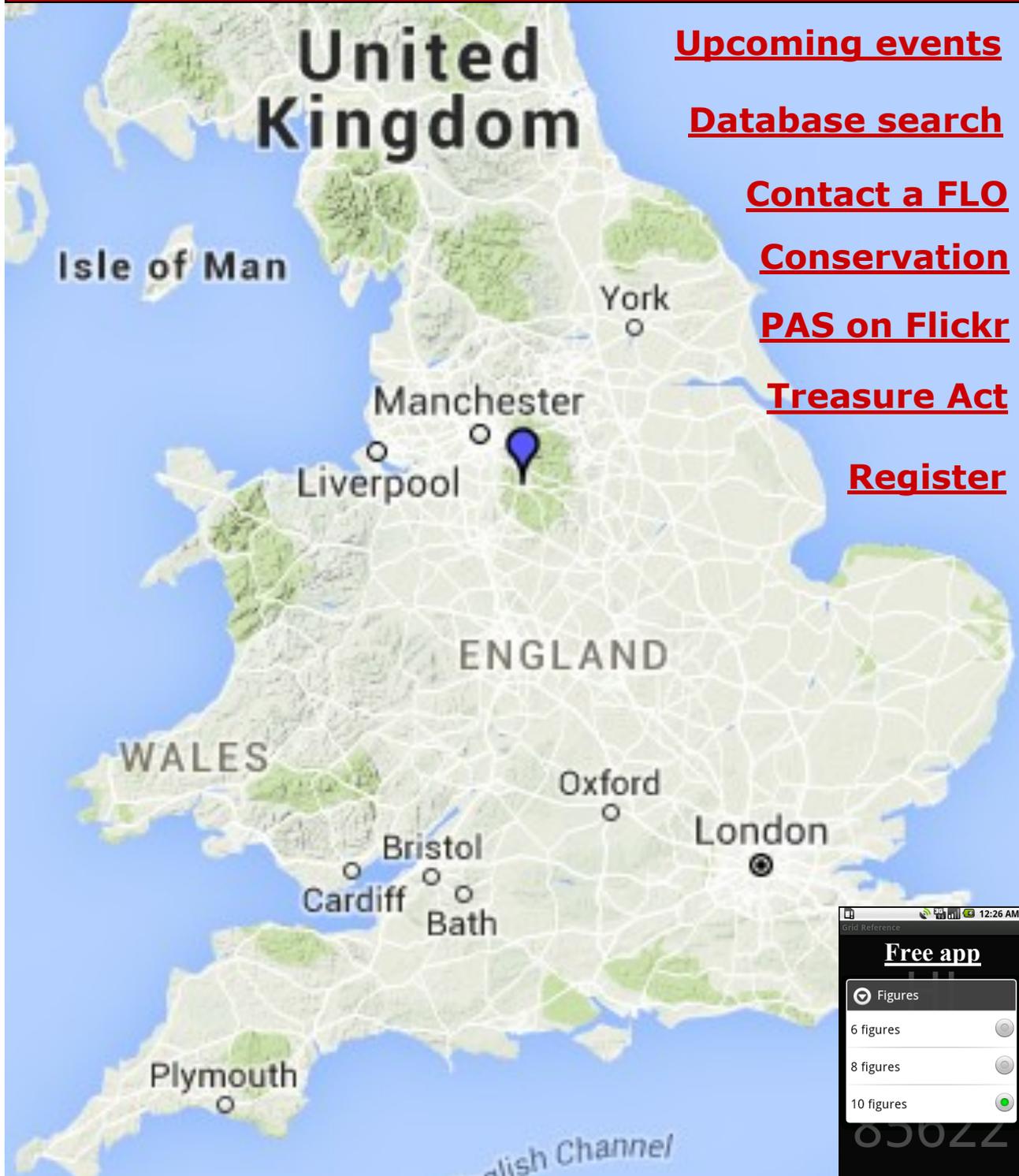
**Tomredmayne -
Medieval 'Kings Head'
Strap Mount**



**Midhurst - Saxon
Saucer Brooch**

PAS Upcoming Events

Click on text



[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.](#)

UKDN FUN DSLR - Camera PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

**Winner - Chris Hall
Humpback Whale Breaching**



Runners Up Featured Overleaf

UKDN FUN DSLR - Camera PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

Runners-up -



Popsandme
Sunset over Croyde Bay



MTB154
The Green Trees of Boughton



Restyler
Perseid Meteor passing over Shropshire



Astonmt
Air Race ride at Brighton Pier

UKDN FUN DSLR - Camera PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

Runners-up -



*Sqonk
Fly Macro*



*Tinner
Meadow Blue*



*Coenwolf
Avro Vulcan Bomber*

UKDN FUN POINT, PRESS & PRAY PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

**Winner - Smudger
Muskets Firing**



UKDN FUN POINT, PRESS & PRAY PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

Runners-up -



***Son of the Sands
View from the top of a field***



***Jif
The Green's of Summer***



***Above: redzed - Castlerigg, Cumbria
drizzly day***



***Left: Casa-Dos - Great Spotted
Woodpecker***

UKDN FUN POINT, PRESS & PRAY PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

Runners-up -



Jayhay69
At a Bedford dig



Bodvoc
***An afternoon of pretty
weird weather***



Tinnersdad
Steam engine

PAS Explorers Event
An Introduction to PAS and Treasure
British Museum 20th July 2015.
Part 2 By Popsandme

On reconvening at 1.30pm we were split into two groups, the group I was in were taken to the Treasure department first where we were ushered around a large table where a selection of 10 finds were on display that were going through the treasure process at the moment, Iron age to present day. Dr Ian Richardson and Dr Helen Geake took us through a discussion on each piece but unfortunately there wasn't enough time to view them all. Amongst the items we did get to see at very close quarters were a gold Viking finger ring, a gold Roman finger ring with an exceptionally detailed engraved intaglio of a horse and rider and a superb Anglo-Saxon zoomorphic silver strap end but for me the highlight was getting to hold the container of a VERY nice Saxon buckle (fig.3) and view it close at hand. I asked whether there were traces of gold inlay on the tine of the buckle that gave it a zoomorphic style to which Helen Geake took another look and said that it would need closer investigation as she hadn't got that far in her initial report but agreed that it would appear so. I told her she could cite me as secondary identifier but I think that fell on deaf ears. Such a shame. Sadly due to time constraints we had to cut our visit short to the Treasure department and were ushered to our next port of call.



Once in the Roman and Greek Coin department we were initially shown around by Dr Sam Moorhead, head of recording and research of Iron Age and Roman coins with the PAS. He is a very likable, engaging and obviously VERY knowledgeable chap. He showed us drawer upon drawer of genuine and contemporary fake gold, silver and bronze Roman coins to which he explained that the general public would never see these coins. Sam went on to further explain that the coins stored deep within the bowls of his department were definitely not a collection in a financial capacity but they have been collected for a visual source of information, a timeline of Roman coinage at hand, readily available to compare the finer details of such a fine coinage against the plethora of Roman coins that are unearthed every year, be them genuine or contemporary forgeries.

Dr. Moorhead discussed with us the importance of recording even the grottiest of Roman "grots" and if possible with a GPS location, this was illustrated to us by way of an aerial map of an archaeological dig. By plotting the GPS locations of the finds made on the site they were able to determine how the site had grown over the centuries during the Roman occupation by the rulers of the coinage that they had found and where they had found them. Although I have only given you a brief overview and a few sentences of our time with Dr. Moorhead I can assure you that he spoke at great length and with enormous passion and the time just flew by.

Next we were met by Vincent Drost who is a Finds Adviser for Iron Age and Roman Coins and is a Project Curator for Romano-British coin finds dealing with both Roman coin hoards and single finds. He explained the process of cleaning the coins of a hoard and cited the Frome hoard as an example (fig.4).



Every Roman coin found within a hoard goes through at least 20 minutes of restoration before recording so when you consider that the Frome hoard contained 52,503 coins by my calculations that equates to an astonishing 17.5 thousand man hours of restoration! Vincent also explained that there are on average at least 20 hoards of Roman coins found within the UK every year but obviously not all are as large and significant as the Frome hoard as it only takes 10 coins or more of a base metal content to constitute a hoard.

The day ended with a guided 30 minute tour of the Early medieval, Viking, Sutton Hoo and other galleries led by Dr Ian Richardson, he told us that although the Sutton Hoo find is often misinterpreted as a hoard, it was in fact placed in the ground as burial goods and as such was not left there for later retrieval so for this fact is ruled out of the previous Treasure Trove laws. Finally we went on to see a display of a few of the most recent items/hoards that the BM are hoping to acquire, amongst them is a hoard of Roman Denarius, a hoard of Bronze age socketed axe heads, and Gold rings to name but a few.

Upon finishing we all agreed that the day had been a most enjoyable and worth while experience, not only from a PAS/PASt Explorers perspective but also it afforded those of us who have never had the chance to visit the British Museum to do just that. Myself, our very own JCMaloney and Ralph who is a South and West Yorkshire self recorder/volunteer decided to "wet our whistles" in the Museum Tavern and have a chat about our day. Thanks to JC for plying me with a few pints I reminded him that if it was an attempt to curry favour with a member of admin that it wouldn't work and thanks to him I only just made my return train at Kings Cross with only five minutes to spare and in desperate need of the gents lav.

The most embarrassing moment of the day?... Right at the start of the day, whilst seated in the conference room and having a discussion on Roman coinage with a fellow detectorist and volunteer, I was asked by a lady if I needed a handout containing the itinerary of the day. Without thinking and without even looking up I ignorantly replied in my common as muck Yorkshire twang "No thanks Luv" upon looking up I thought to myself "My God I cant believe I have just called Dr Helen Geake, Luv!!" she took it well though.

Questions asked by myself and other attendees

Q) Will anything be done regarding extra cover when local FLO's are on maternity/paternity leave? And likewise the lack of attendance of local FLO's to metal detecting clubs as a result of said leave?

A) Due to lack of funding/cut in the budget, the likelihood is that the work load will more than likely be passed on to neighbouring FLO's, though not the best ideal. However if a club contacts the line manager of their FLO they can discuss the issue with them and request either an intern or a PAS volunteer.

If any potential treasure items need to be declared, take high resolution pictures of the item and email them along with Dimensions, metal type etc to your FLO's line manager, the treasure team direct or contact your local Coroners office, they will then advise you what to do next. The law states that you have to "declare" the find within 14 days of you realising its potential, you don't necessary have to hand it over within that time, unless of course it is a significant find.

Q) Will there be at some point in the future the possibility of a dedicated Coroner of Treasure, which could in effect help speed up the Treasure process?

A) This was considered a number of years ago but it was down to lack of funding that this possibility was discounted.

Q) Where do all the finds go that are found on archaeological digs?

A) If they are of a non-treasure status and if the land owner wishes to donate them then they will be stored within the archaeological dig archive, unless they are suitable for display. If they are of a Treasure status then the land owner can claim their 50% of the Ex-Gratia reward, however this is on average waived, the other 50% of the reward goes towards the funding of the dig

Q) Do the PAS have a definitive answer on digging something like a hoard or other important large item on a Saturday/Sunday afternoon when you can't get hold of the FLO?

A) As we already know leave it in place for the archaeologists to remove it, this is for the sheer fact that important information can be lost in terms of deposition context if removal is done in a none professional way. As for the issues of if an archaeologists/FLO might not be available for a few days then unfortunately due to financial constraints the PAS have their hands tied, so it is up to the individual finder on how best to secure the find spot.

Unfortunately we were limited to the time allowed for a Q&A sessions throughout the day due to the packed itinerary and the theme for the majority of the answers were funding, funding, funding or sadly the lack of it.

But the PAS are trying to do their utmost and very best to circumvent any obstacles in their way be them financial or otherwise. Hopefully I have portrayed in my article some of the questions that were asked in the departments that we visited.

I had been asked to see if I could ask about the long term future of the PAS and although they didn't speak about it I got the impression that at present and through no fault of their own they are presenting the organisation like the proverbial swan, on the surface its trying to be graceful but underneath its paddling like mad due to the various funding issues, the restructuring and the many other things that we don't get to hear about, but on the whole I think that the future is a good one rather than a bleak one.

I have tried to be as accurate as possible but where I have surmised and generalised, the thoughts I have written are purely my own and not of the PAS/BM and I am in no way a spokesperson for The Portable Antiquities Scheme or The British Museum.

Frome hoard picture reproduced under The Portable Antiquities Scheme creative common license.

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The Portable Antiquities Scheme - <https://finds.org.uk/>
Finds Liaison Officers and other PAS contacts - <https://finds.org.uk/contacts>
PAST Explorers County Pages - <https://finds.org.uk/counties/>
The Treasure Act - <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1996/24/contents>
The Frome Hoard <https://finds.org.uk/news/story/208>



MCDONALD'S TO USE ONLY BRITISH POTATOES IN FRENCH FRIES



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500 medium bags - £9.90 inc. postage

1000 medium bags - £15.50 inc. postage

100 large bags - £4.99 inc. postage

500 large bags - £14.50 inc. postage

1000 large bags - £23.00 inc. postage

[Link to UKDN Shop](#)

IT CAN BE EXCITING TOO

BY

OLD GIT JOHN

I started detecting a little over ten years ago, and was pointed in the direction of UKDN by my brother, a detectorist for over 30 years, and within a short time, became a member. I have been ever since.

Recently I was invited to join the team, which was entirely unexpected, but was something I was delighted to do.

In my early days I regularly visited the various sections available to all members, and, as a result learned an awful lot. Then I "settled in", and although I have over the years looked in on quite a few of the things which UKDN has on offer for us all, be we new to the hobby, or experienced detectorists, not as often, or as much as I should have done, and it took me far too long.

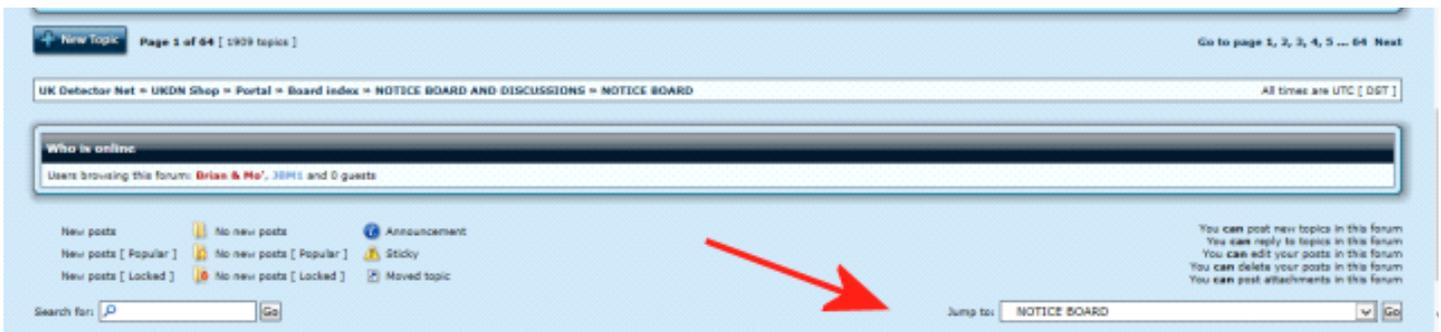
Today I decided to take a proper look through as much as possible of what there is available to us all. I will not say that I am surprised, but will say that I was amazed by just how much I have been missing. It was this which prompted this article.

Nobody could ever cover in one visit all which is there for us, the list is almost unending.

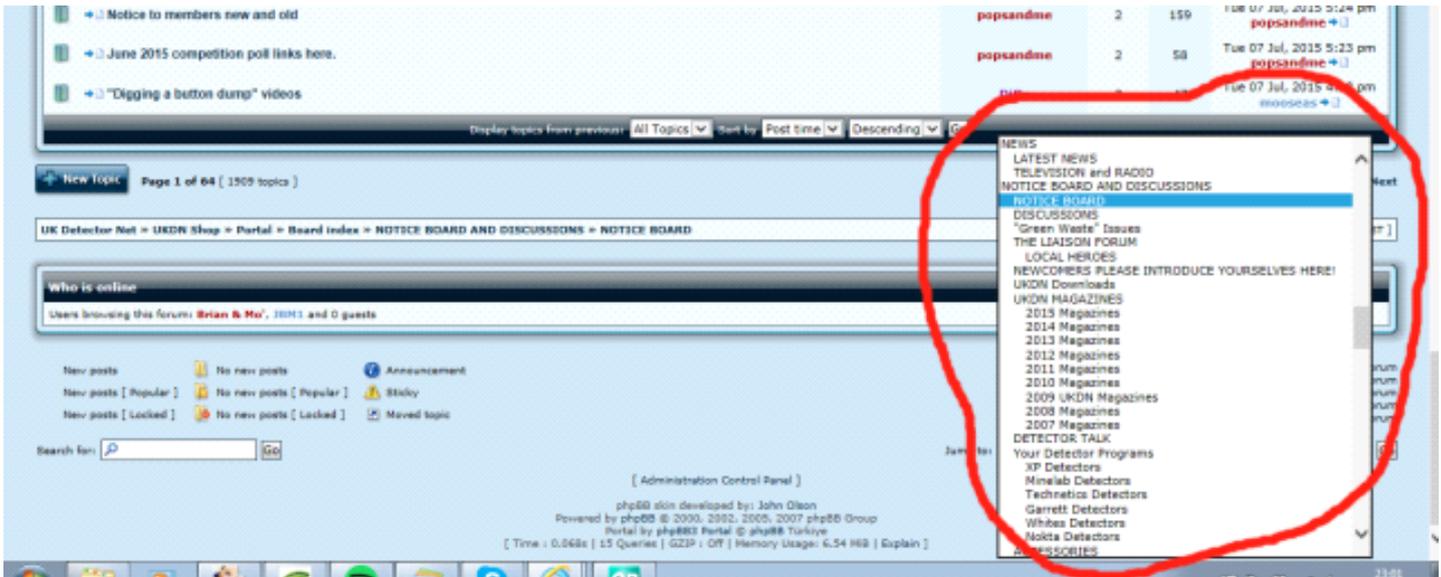
There are sections for new members, photography, detector settings, finds identification, and many more. If you have not yet looked through the list you are missing out. Here's how to find the section you need. At the very bottom of the page you will see a small box with jump to by the side of it. (see screen shot 1 overleaf) Tap on the arrow, and this box headed, "Select a Forum" will appear. Just scroll down until you find what you need, but, be warned, there is so much to see, you may stop several times.

Let's take identifications first, headed "Please identify my Finds" Here we have a place where requests for an ID, are dealt with. The section contains just about every type of find you can imagine. There are coins in this section numbering into thousands. For that reason any member can research, on UKDN, a vast database going back to when our great forum began.

(Continued on page 33)



Above: Graphic shows the "Jump to" section



Above: Graphic shows the drop down forum list

(Continued from page 32)

Having mentioned PHOTOGRAPHY, let's take a look at how good it is for all of us.

The main section on photo's to mention is the most important in many ways, because, if you need help with an id, on any find, be it coin or artefact, you need to post images of the find. Please remember that flint items should be pictured from every possible angle, to allow the finds adviser the best chance to give an accurate identification.

Also do photograph items on a plain background.

There is a section for NON DETECTING PHOTO'S, those shots you just love, and want to share with others. This is the place for them, and, we all love to see good pictures.

Then, there are the two monthly competitions, open to everyone, and just for fun. DSLR or P&P cameras, set as two different comp's.

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Get shooting, on any subject you like, (within reason) and enter your pictures, you may win, finding your picture in the UKDN magazine Word.

There is CHIT CHAT, where you can post on virtually anything, detecting or not.

ITEMS for sale/swap is here for you to make use of and it's free to place an advert.

DISCUSSIONS, covers what it says, anything on which you wish to comment, and receive interaction.

The NOTICE BOARD is there to keep us informed of what is happening on UKDN and the wider world.

How about, TELL US YOUR STORY, which is just what the title says it is, a place where you can put together a story about you, your metal detecting exploits and events in your lifetime.

We have this very magazine, which you are reading. It is put together by members of our team, but, importantly anybody can contribute to the content of it. You may want to tell us your thoughts on a subject related to metal detecting. If you do, here is how... write your article, and send it by PM to a member of the team, with a suitable header (Title).

They will look at it and get back to you, to update you on its progress. If you do not want to write your own, but have an idea, let us know, via a PM what your idea is and we will be delighted to see if we can help. The finished article will be accredited to you. The magazine is for all to enjoy, and anybody to contribute to it.

There are numerous other areas which you can visit and post in UKDN. It is your posts which make our forum what it is. Whether you are new to this hobby, or, one of the band of experienced people who offer their advice, in one way or another, take a look at the sections. You will not be able to go through them in one, or even two trips in order to get the best out of the best. Once you begin you will be back for more, **IT CAN BE EXCITING TOO !!**

I know that I will.

Some Forum facts:

Over 7400 members

Over 571,873 posts in 68,489 topics

"Please ID my Finds" has 566 pages of finds to look through !!

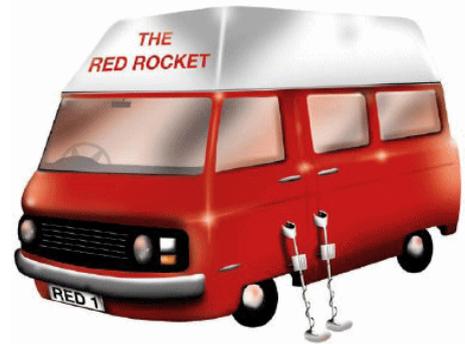
The "Index Page" contains 55 separate section to browse through.

ARTICLE ENDS.

OUT AND ABOUT WITH BRIAN & MO'

LOST MORE THAN WE FOUND!

Issue 186 - February 2001 By Brian Cross



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searcher

It was only a few weeks after our last trip when the Oxford M/D Club asked us if we could travel down to their club to give them a talk on water searching. It was to be a long way, about 160 miles each way, not something we could do in an evening. The talk was to be on a Tuesday, but the club kindly offered us the chance of joining them on their weekly dig on the Sunday, which very conveniently was to be held near a caravan camping site.

We left early on the Saturday and had an uneventful journey down to the site. We dropped all the goodies we were to use during the talk at the house of one of the Officers, so that Skidmark would be uncluttered. Arriving at the site we met one of the club members, 'Bertie Bassett' and his wife Teresa. That evening was spent chilling out, Mo and myself' dreaming of the goodies we were to find in this new area of detecting country.

"Staters in every field around here", we kept telling each other.

The next morning saw the club members slowly arriving for the rally, which was to be over several fields including one huge field next to the river. Unfortunately for me, Teresa and Mo' decided to look up the boot sale that was being held about nine miles away. I volunteered to take them there, knowing that we had all weekend but deep inside hoping that nothing would be found till we got back.

The day was to be a scorcher. We got back about mid-day to find the club members wandering around the field by the river. Nothing really special had been found, although one detectorist had found three Georgian shillings, one after the other as he headed across the field.

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We sweated our way around the field and through the first part of the afternoon but only had about four signals between us.

Bertie and Teresa surprised us by inviting us into their caravan in mid-afternoon where Teresa had put on a full Sunday dinner. That was fantastic and very much appreciated. After that we were fit for nothing but chatting about detecting.

The next day we decided to go to the Ashmolean but after parking Skidmark on the outskirts and travelling into Oxford by bus, we found it closed. It is closed on a Monday. We did our talk that evening. It was great to meet other detectorists whose names we knew but whom we had never met.

The following day we got to the Ashmolean and spent a full day in Oxford. It was time to get back to Runcorn.

Because the detecting season can be very short and the Red Rocket used to be parked up for month after month, we decided earlier this year to join a caravan club. This club organised weekend get-togethers, usually held fairly local to Runcorn and Warrington, but... it did give you the chance of using the van in the summer months.

At the beginning of the year you are given a book with every venue listed for the full year. When we got home we looked through this book and found there was a pensioners week two weeks later, held on the Gloucestershire/Oxford border.

The cost was very cheap so we decided to go for it. The site would make an ideal base to suss out the area. The fact that we weren't exactly pensioners didn't bother us too much, we were sure we would get around that when the time came.

As it was I was working on the Friday night when campers were supposed to arrive for the weeks' festivities. We had no choice but to leave home on the Saturday morning when I arrived home from work. We got to the site mid-afternoon and I promptly dropped us both in it by announcing to the steward, "I'm sorry we're late but I was on a 12 hour shift last night". The kick in the shin from Mo' came too late to stop my informing them we weren't retired but the steward didn't seem to take notice.

As we settled down to do our research ready for some serious door-knocking, we were constantly being interrupted by the other campers, "We're having a game of boules in a few minutes, would you like to join us?" and "Do you want to buy some

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Bingo tickets, we're having a game after tea?"

We're not the type to be spoilsports but we were on a mission. We were in 'Stater Country' and didn't want to sit around all day playing silly games. Half an hour after arriving we were setting off again to knock at our first farm door.

The campsite was very close to a Roman town with a river running through the town. We chose to call at a farm not too far away after having a quick walk around the town. Unfortunately, this farmer hadn't got his crops off yet; it was a touch too early. But he did say that we were welcome to come back when the crops were off.

The fact that no crops were out yet was going to be a problem, we were sure. But, there was a fair bit of grassland about and much of it had been cut for silage recently, so we could make do with that.

We drove to the next village and approached a farmer there. The farmer's wife, a cross between Attila the Hun and Ivan the Terrible met us at the door. She was so bad-mannered I was surprised that we just didn't give her a mouthful and then walk away.

Farmer's wives are often a problem when they answer the door instead of the farmer or one of his workers. Whereas a farm worker will simply tell you where he is, the wife will ask questions like, "Who wants to see him?" or "What's it about?" or worst of all, "I don't think he'll be interested!"

There's nothing worse than having to go through all the introductory rigmarole with someone who has already decided that you won't be walking on HER LAND! Mo' has already decided that she will be asking the next farmer that refuses us permission, "So, you don't believe in sharing the countryside with others then?"

Whilst on the subject of farmers' wives the following little anecdote should make you smile. A detectorist friend of ours knocked on a farm door early one morning. The wife answered and our friend asked if he could speak to the farmer. "Come in," she said, "He'll be back in a little while".

Our friend sat down. The wife told him she was doing breakfast and would he like some? Not wanting to offend, our friend said that he would. Within minutes he was tucking into what can only be described as a "Desperate Dan Brekkie".

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Whilst eating she enquired what our friend wanted her husband for. "To ask him permission to search his land with a metal detector" our friend replied trying not to expand on the subject with the farmer's wife.

A few minutes later, the farmer walked in. "Who's this then?" he enquired of his wife.

"He wants to use his metal detector here", the wife told him. "I'll be aving none of that on my land" he replied not even glancing back at our friend.

How embarrassing!! Our friend told us he couldn't finish his breakfast quick enough so that he could make his escape. The farmer never spoke to him once whilst he was there.

Anyway, we eventually got to see our farmer. He told us that we could go on two grass fields just outside the village. This would do us we thought, it was somewhere to detect. Twenty minutes later we were on the fields detecting.

The first disaster that befell us was when I gingerly touched the electric fence with my stainless steel trowel; there was no current. I told Mo' it was switched off. She got under it and Pow! She must have touched it with her trowel.

Detector, trowel and Mo' went everywhere. I was called for everything for the next hour or so.

These two fields were very similar to barren Cheshire fields in that little came off them that day. We got back to the campsite at 10.30pm to find most of the pensioners in the clubhouse. We joined them and were bored stiff with conversations revolving around gas bottles, electric hook-ups and what so-and-so did after the bar-b-que last year!

It was when we got back to Skidmark that Mo' noticed her gold bracelet was missing. It was one of those that had a habit of coming off when she took off her jacket if she wasn't paying attention to it. That day she had taken her jacket off twice. Once to try out a coat in a shop and again when we were on the grass field and she had got too hot. She had a feeling that she had lost it on the field.

The next day we went straight to the shop to no avail. They insisted it had not been lost there. We went to the fields and spent the rest of the day searching about there and in the adjoining field. The problem with a gold bracelet, even if it is lying on the top as this one would have been, is that it doesn't give off a very good signal at all.

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We didn't find this out till late in the evening when Mo' put another bracelet on the ground to discover that she could hardly pick it up. By this time, we had been searching all day listening for 'bangs'. We had probably passed over it and had ignored the faint signal. We decided we had to re-start our search only to see that a herd of cows were now on the field. I wasn't staying there with them on the field and so we had to leave a renewed search until the next day.

The next morning we were out fairly early again, leaving the pensioners to their lawn tennis, boules and afternoon naps.

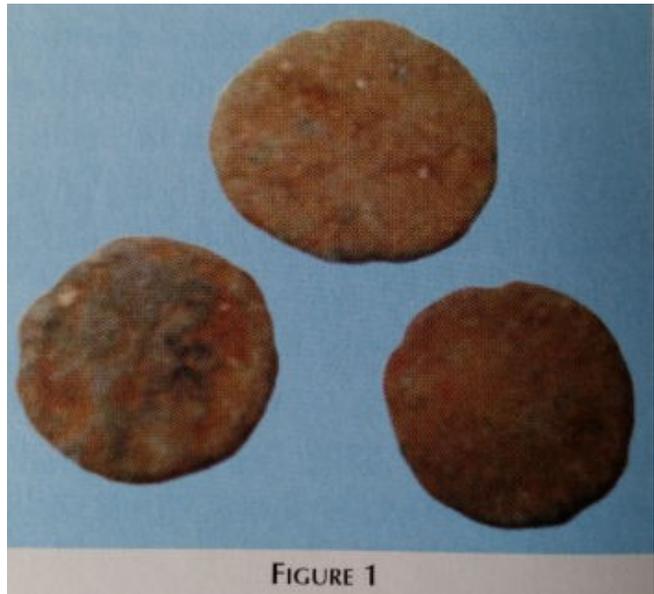
We decided to leave the search for the gold bracelet until later in the day and try to find some productive land. This was the second time we had travelled a long way to this area and felt we had to make a start in finding some better land... and some decent finds.

We decided that we would seek permission for some grass fields that lay beside the Roman road that ran through the area. Finding the farmer proved difficult and it was some hours later when we finally gained permission to search three large grass fields on the farm.

Unfortunately what looked like short grass from the main road turned out to be over one foot long. It was workable but only just.

The first field produced a mass of finds from a search lasting several hours but not a single thing was of any age. We decided to try the next field. To get to this we deduced that we should walk through a yard where waste silage was stacked and then climb over a wire fence. As we got halfway through the yard we found the floor covered in cow poo, that got deeper and deeper.

When we got to the fence it was almost up to the tops of our wellies and it was going to be difficult to get over it without having an accident. The fence looked electric.



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I tentatively touched it with my stainless trowel and felt just a slight tingling. "It's OK" I told Mo', "it must be a dead low current. I can just about feel something". Holding the strands of the fence apart with my trowel I allowed Mo' to get through.

Mo' then went to do the same for me and "BANG" she got another big electric shock. We were just grateful she didn't fall back into the mess. Talk about moan, for the next half hour she accused me of trying to get rid of her, jokingly of course. We weren't having a good time at that present moment especially with Mo' not having found the gold bracelet yet.

We had problems on this field because of the long grass and the electric fences. But we did start to find some Roman bronze coins. Mo' found three in one area. These are shown in Fig1. In all we found about seven Roman coins but the condition of them all was terrible.

In the early evening we went back to the field where Mo' lost the bracelet but it didn't turn up. But we did find the late 16th century buckle shown in Fig 2. That night we drank at the club again deciding to sit with a few of the locals and not the old campers.

We pick up a few snippets of useful info, including the details of where Roman coins had been found some years ago.



The next day we drove around a bit looking at fields where locals had told us we should try. The problem was some of the fields were recreation fields, others were barren, devoid of crop, maybe having been set-aside for building. The locals sometimes forget the fact that you need to have permission to search or that you can only search certain types of ground e.g. farmland. They say coins have been rumoured to have been found years ago on so-and-so piece of ground.

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When you ask if they know who owns it they often turn around and say something like, "Oh, you can go on there, no-one uses it"

We chilled out quite a bit that day, ending the day with a search on the 'lost bracelet' fields coming off with just a few Georgian coins.



The next day we decided to try to find out who owned the two large grass fields just on the main Roman road, right beside where the Roman town was reputed to have been situated. We had ogled these fields since we had arrived and thought we'd go for it that day. Nothing ventured, nothing gained.

We got permission after tracking down the farmer. We commended ourselves on the fact that so far we had gained three out of the three farms we had approached. We walked out of the farmyard and both gave out a 'Yes' yell. These were surely to be the productive fields we had been searching for.

We had only been on these two large fields for a few hours when we came to the conclusion that something was wrong. We were digging up an unusual amount of modern rubbish with not a single sign of anything old. During a break a little while later Mo' got talking to one of the locals who told her that during most winter months the fields we were on were under WATER! quite deep water at that.

We plodded on for a few more hours but eventually gave up the search. For the remaining few days our activities followed much the same.

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We got permission to search another farm and got refused at another, where a woman slammed the door in our face as soon as we introduced ourselves. Mo' didn't get the chance to try her 'Not sharing the countryside spiel'.

We found nothing of note and were beginning to feel that maybe this wasn't the land of 'Golden Staters' and that we should have gone back to our old stomping grounds, after all we had travelled almost 700 miles to find seven grotty Roman coins! and lose a solid gold bracelet to boot! We were certainly very much out of pocket. It was definitely a case of 'We've come back with less than we started', very unusual for detectorists.

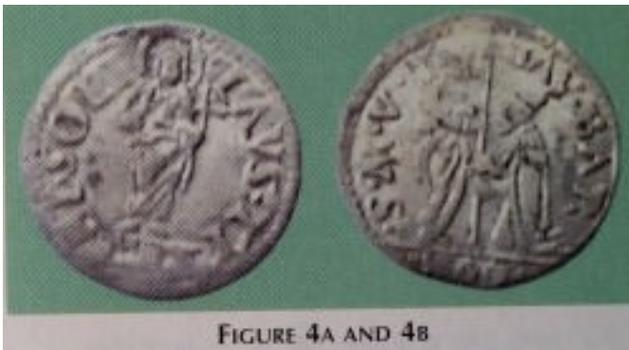


FIGURE 4A AND 4B

We were actually back in Oxfordshire just a week later to meet up with Mike Chambers and 'Colonial Cousin' who had a piece in The Searcher recently. Mo' made some particularly good finds and we will cover that trip in the next article.



FIGURE 5A AND 5B

This article and the coming one basically brings us up-to-date. At present fields all over the country are flooded and detecting seems to have come to a full stop although we will probably gain from it if the rain stops. Many farmers have not been able to seed the fields before winter crept in.

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We managed a two day trip to the York area but picked up just one coin, the broken hammered shown in Fig 3a & 3b, found by Mo'. Our club, the South-Lancs & Cheshire had a few rallies and we went on a couple of other local rallies.

Fig 7 - Roman Disc Brooch found by Brian

We hope to report back to you all as soon as the fields start drying out.

Good Hunting



We made a few finds on these rallies they are listed as follows:

Fig 4a & 4b - Ventian Soldino, found by Mo'

Fig 5obv & 5rev - 1730 Eight Skilling found by Brian

Fig 6 - Roman Unbonate Brooch in corroded condition, found by Brian

We think that there is just one article left in this series of Red Rocket and Skidmark articles which were written by Brian & Mo' all those years ago.

The final story will be reprinted in the December 2015 issue—the 100th edition of Word magazine.



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

New members in September 2015

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](#)

Donnyboy

Mr Kurtz

Davidnurthen

chrismartin89

DALLAN

Rod Glover

sponge

Hammie adams

Bloodhound2435

Steve Brown

the signman

mrbaker

tman

leedsfankev

mojoman81

dalektus

arthurevans

monman

Astronut

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Vindaloo

erickj

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