

The British  
Museum

The Portable  
Antiquities Scheme  
Annual Report  
2009 & 2010

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# Foreword

Given the constraints on public finances it is very welcome that the British Museum, working with the Museums, Libraries & Archives Council (MLA) and the Department for Culture Media and Sport (DCMS), has found a way to ensure the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) continues as a nationwide project to record archaeological finds found by the public. We are also very pleased that *Treasure Hunting* has agreed to publish this annual report within their magazine, ensuring the maximum possible readership – besides saving the PAS publication costs.

It is widely recognised that both the PAS and the Treasure Act 1996 have been a great success. It is a tribute to both the finders of such objects and to the work of the PAS, particularly its network of Finds Liaison Officers, that 157,188 finds were recorded in 2009 and 2010 (67,089 and 90,099 respectively), and 1,638 Treasure cases (778 and 860 respectively) were reported in the same period. Through these finds the public, in partnership with professional archaeologists, are helping to rewrite the archaeology and history of our country, and it is a testament to the PAS that this data is being used by academics and researchers, as well as members of the general public interested in learning more about the archaeology of their local area.

The PAS is extremely grateful to the Headley Trust and the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), who have helped fund interns in the period of this report, thus training the Finds Liaison Officers of tomorrow, as well as those who are taking advantage of the new facility to record their own finds onto the database, and other volunteers who have supported the work of the PAS, ensuring as many as possible of the finds found have been properly recorded so they can add to our knowledge of the archaeology of England and Wales.

The work of the PAS, particularly through the Treasure Act, is also helping to enrich museum collections, with the most important archaeological discoveries being acquired – the Staffordshire and Frome Hoards are now happily in public collections. While the number of finds acquired by museums has declined slightly in recent years, we are very grateful to the funding bodies, particularly the Art Fund, the Goldsmiths Company, the Headley Trust, the Heritage Lottery Fund, the National Heritage Memorial Fund and the V&A/MLA Purchase Grant Fund, as well as various individuals, who have helped museums acquire archaeological finds. We should also like to thank those finders and landowners who have generously waived their right to a reward, allowing museums to acquire such finds at reduced or no cost.

Finally, we are very grateful to both the members of the Portable Antiquities Advisory Group, who have provided the PAS with their insights and guidance, and also the Treasure Valuation Committee, who have provided expert advice to the Secretary of State.



Ed Vaizey  
*Minister for Culture,  
Communications &  
Creative Industries*



Neil MacGregor  
*Director of the  
British Museum*

## Key points

The main achievements of the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) and the Treasure Act 1996 in the period of this report can be summarised as follows:

- 158,088 finds were recorded by the PAS in 2009 and 2010 (67,089 and 90,099 respectively). Since 1997 over 740,000 finds have been recorded on the PAS database (finds.org.uk).
- 1,638 Treasure cases were reported in 2009 and 2010 (778 and 860 respectively). Of those found in 2009, 34% were acquired by museums; the outcome of 29 cases is still to be determined.
- 113 parties waived their right to a reward in 71 Treasure cases in 2009, allowing them to be acquired by museums at no or reduced cost. Most PAS finds are returned to the finder.
- 88% of PAS finds found in 2009 and 2010 were found by metal-detectorists. Metal-detecting accounted for 95% of 2009 Treasure cases.
- 72% of PAS finds in 2009, and 74% in 2010, were found on cultivated land, where they are susceptible to plough damage and artificial and natural corrosion processes.
- 90% of PAS finds in 2009, and 88% in 2010, were recorded to the nearest 100m<sup>2</sup>, the minimum requirement for findspot information to be most useful for Historic Environment Records – the key record holders for information about the historic environment.
- New sites discovered in 2009 and 2010 include a Mesolithic occupation site in Herefordshire, a Roman villa site in Oxfordshire, and Anglo-Saxon cemetery sites in Northumberland.
- Currently 197 people have full access to PAS data for research purposes, and the data has been used in 12 large-scale research projects, 47 PhDs and 196 other pieces of research.
- 368,858 unique visitors in 2009 and 2010 (158,266 and 210,592 respectively) visited the PAS websites, making over 677,876 visits (306,568 and 371,308) and 7,794,035 page requests (3,560,941 and 4,233,094).
- Publications associated with the work of the PAS in 2009 and 2010 include PAS reports in *Britannia*, *Medieval Archaeology*, *Post-Medieval Archaeology*, and *A Decade of Discovery* (British Archaeological Reports 520), *The Staffordshire Hoard* and *The Frome Hoard* (both British Museum Press).
- 3,622 outreach events were organised in 2009 and 2010 (1,741 and 1,881 respectively), including talks, finds days and exhibitions. These were attended by at least 176,048 people (71,226 and 104,822), including 42,659 children (12,865 and 29,794).
- During 2009 and 2010 the PAS's Finds Liaison Officers had regular contact with 177 metal-detecting clubs, attending 1,619 club meetings in 2009 and 2010 (732 and 887 respectively).

# Introduction

## **Portable Antiquities Scheme**

Every year members of the public find many thousands of archaeological objects, mostly through metal-detecting. If recorded, these finds have great potential for transforming knowledge, helping archaeologists understand when, where and how people lived in the past. The PAS offers the only proactive mechanism for systematically recording such finds for public benefit. This data is made available to Historic Environment Records and is published on the PAS website – [finds.org.uk](http://finds.org.uk). This data is an important educational and research resource that can be used by anyone interested in learning more about the past.

39 locally based archaeologists, known as Finds Liaison Officers (FLOs), are employed as part of the PAS, covering the whole of England and Wales. This work is co-ordinated by a Central Unit of four staff, based at the British Museum, and five period specialists. The PAS also benefitted from 15 interns and 295 volunteers (including 44 self-recorders) in 2009 and 2010, as well as the contribution of the finders themselves.

The PAS is managed by the British Museum, and during the period of this report was funded by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), Renaissance and local partners. Its work is guided by the Portable Antiquities Advisory Group, whose membership includes leading archaeological, landowner and metal-detecting organisations.

## **Aims of the PAS**

The PAS is a partnership project which records archaeological objects found by the public in order to advance our understanding of the past. In order to do this the PAS:

- promotes the maximum public interest and benefit from the recovery, recording and research of portable antiquities
- promotes best practice by finders/landowners and archaeologists/museums in the discovery, recording and conservation of finds made by the public
- in partnership with museums and others, raises awareness among the public of recording archaeological finds in their context and facilitate research in them
- creates partnerships between finders and museums/archaeologists to increase participation in archaeology and advance our understanding of the past
- supports the Treasure Act, and increase opportunities for museums to acquire archaeological finds for public benefit

## **Treasure Act 1996**

Under the Treasure Act 1996 (see [finds.org.uk/treasure](http://finds.org.uk/treasure)) finders have a legal obligation to report all finds of potential Treasure to the local coroner. The PAS and its network of FLOs play an essential role in the operation of the Act, advising finders of their legal obligations, providing advice on the process and writing reports for coroners on Treasure finds.

The Act allows a national or local museum to acquire Treasure finds for public benefit. If this happens a reward is paid, which is (normally) shared equally between the finder and landowner, though the interested parties may wish to waive their right to a reward, enabling museums to acquire finds at reduced or no cost. Rewards are fixed at the full market value of the find,



determined by the Secretary of State upon the advice of an independent panel of experts, known as the Treasure Valuation Committee (TVC).

The administration of the Treasure process is undertaken by the Department of Portable Antiquities and Treasure at the British Museum. This work involves the preparation of Treasure cases for coroners' inquests, providing the secretariat for the TVC, and handling disclaimed cases and the payments of rewards.

### **What is Treasure?**

The following finds are Treasure if found after 24 September 1997 or, in the case of category 2, if found after 1 January 2003:

- Any metallic object, other than a coin, provided that at least 10% by weight of metal is precious metal (gold or silver) and that it is at least 300 years old when found.
- Any group of two or more metallic objects of any composition of prehistoric date that come from the same find. Any object of prehistoric date will be Treasure provided any part of it is precious metal.
- All coins from the same find provided they are at least 300 years old when found. If the coins contain less than 10% of gold or silver there must be at least ten of them.
- Any object, whatever it is made of, that is found in the same place as, or had previously been together with, another object that is Treasure.
- Any object that would previously have been Treasure Trove, but does not fall within the specific categories given above.

If someone finds something that he/she believes is Treasure, or is not sure whether it is Treasure or not, it is best they contact their local FLO for advice.



The Staffordshire Hoard: gold and garnet sword scabbard mounts (2009 T394).

## Outreach

Outreach is crucial to the work of the PAS. Its FLOs (and other members of the PAS) are proactive in meeting finders, highlighting the benefits of recording and best archaeological practice, and disseminating the results of research using PAS data. Learning, therefore, is also a key outcome of the PAS's principal aim to record archaeological objects to advance knowledge about the past.



## Learning

Object-based learning (handling artefacts) is a fantastic way of engaging young people with archaeology and history. It helps children develop new skills and experiences, reaches out to those less responsive to traditional teaching methods, and also overlaps with key subject areas.

As part of the Festival of British Archaeology 2010, Peter Reavill (Herefordshire & Shropshire FLO) went to Bitterley Church of England Primary School to look at some of the children's finds. Bitterley School has an active out-of-hours archaeology club called the Bitterley Archaeology Team (BAT) run by June Buckard and attended by Year 5 and 6 children (ages 10–11). They have been studying their village and looking at its rich medieval history, especially a Deserted Medieval Village close by. The children had found a large selection of medieval pottery and, with some help from local metal-detectorists, some metal finds, including a 14th-century box mount. Peter led a session with the class using an archaeological handling collection from Ludlow Museum Resource Centre. The children looked at lots of medieval pottery, as well as some comparable Roman and modern pot sherds. The BATs also showed off their new-found skills by sorting three big bags of pottery into Roman, medieval and modern piles. What they liked best was the fact that they could put their fingers into the thumb impressions made by potters hundreds of years ago.

'I just want to give a very warm thank you to Peter for all the time and effort he put into supporting our project, without who this work just couldn't happen and all that enthusiasm in the children would be lost.' *June Buckard, Bitterley C of E Primary School*

PAS staff regularly work with students in higher and further education, particularly to highlight the benefits of archaeologists and metal-detectorists working together to better understand the historic environment. It is increasingly the case that archaeologists are recognising the benefits of responsible metal-detecting and its role within controlled archaeological excavation.

During 2009 and 2010, Rob Collins (North East FLO) lectured and taught seminars on the PAS at the Universities of Durham, Edinburgh and Newcastle, and has taken five undergraduate placements from the archaeology course at Newcastle University. These students have assisted in all aspects of the FLO role, including identifying and recording finds, attending metal-detecting clubs, and assisting in the reporting of a Treasure find. During the course of the placement the students also attended training provided by the PAS, as well as that provided by the FLO.

'The skills I learnt in my placement with the PAS will be invaluable in any archaeological job.' *Emma Morris, PAS placement student*

Peter Reavill (Herefordshire & Shropshire FLO) discusses finds with children at Bitterley Primary School.

Emma Morris (undergraduate student) volunteering with the PAS in the North East.

Lauren Proctor, an Archaeology undergraduate student at Newcastle University, developed an interest in medieval coinage during her second year placement with the PAS and decided to complete her final year dissertation on the circulation of Edward I's coinage in northern England, looking at both





Kurt Adams (Gloucestershire & Avon FLO)  
talking about finds at a History Day.

Stephanie Smith (Sussex FLO)  
and Garry Crace (Sussex IfA intern)  
recording finds.

archaeological assemblages and data gathered by the PAS. She observed that the differential regulation of towns in Northumberland and Durham impacted on the distribution of coins in a markedly different manner than in North Yorkshire. A more widespread distribution of coins is found in Yorkshire, due to the greater frequency of older market towns than in the counties to the north where fewer magnates had greater control. In County Durham there remained a high proportion of coins of the Durham mint in circulation, in contrast to the more standard patterns elsewhere in which coins of the Canterbury and London mints strongly dominate circulation patterns.

One of the aims of PAS is to increase opportunities for participation in archaeology, and particularly welcome are community archaeological projects that see archaeologists, detectorists and others working together with a common interest in the past. Another way of engaging with people interested in learning more are talks, exhibitions and displays.

To celebrate 300 years of the Society of Antiquaries of London, the exhibition *Making History: antiquaries in Britain*, which opened at the Royal Academy of Arts, London, toured the UK. In many places the exhibition featured the work of the PAS, and the display at The Collection, Lincoln, was no exception. Around half the finds reported to Adam Daubney (Lincolnshire FLO) are from previously unknown sites, as demonstrated by the group of about 1,500 Roman finds discovered by Keith Kelway at Wickenby, including coins and jewellery, suggesting the site was a market place. Another important collection on display included Anglo-Saxon gilt copper-alloy brooches, glass beads and a girdle-hanger, found by Dave Robinson near Sleaford.

Interns (kindly funded through the Headley Trust and the Institute for Archaeologists) and volunteers continue to make an important contribution to the PAS. Most are involved with the recording of finds, and recently there had been a push to encourage self recording, whereby finders themselves (with training) are recording some of their own discoveries. Volunteers come from all walks of life, including students, finders and those with a general interest in archaeology.

In October 2010 Garry Crace, a member of the Sussex Pastfinders metal-detecting group, was awarded an IfA workplace learning bursary in small finds identification, research and recording with the Sussex FLO. Garry was already a self-recorder and had been using the new PAS database to record his and other people's finds.

'I joined the PAS with a degree in Metallurgy, 36 years' detecting experience and a few hundred self-recorded finds under my belt. With the aim of finding permanent employment in archaeology this internship has been a fantastic learning opportunity, and to help underpin some of the experience and knowledge gained I'm currently pursuing an NVQ in Archaeology. I've been welcomed into the PAS community with trust, camaraderie, openness and the very best of training. Protecting security is a fundamental priority for the PAS and in deference to the public whose finds I am



Roman pewter dinner set from Somerton, Oxfordshire (BERK-C55677).

recording there were a number of professional formalities to be undertaken, such as a confidentiality agreement and restricted findspot access. One of my primary tasks has been to record on the database a backlog of detecting rally finds, and at the last count I have finished over 1,000 records.

‘There is a genuine professional integrity and pride in the job within the PAS, and as a detectorist who was initially seeing it from the outside this job has opened my eyes to the extent of what is involved in being an FLO; not only in the diversity and extent of their professional remit, but in the skill, time and effort involved in creating quality records. With ever-present deadlines looming they are helped along the way by a team of local volunteers, who willingly give of their time to help get the job done.

‘It will be a sad day for me when my time is up but if I cannot ultimately find a permanent job in archaeology, I sense a volunteering opportunity coming on!’ *Garry Crace, PAS Intern*

### Best practice

Metal-detecting, like archaeological fieldwork, can be destructive. It is therefore crucial that detectorists follow the *Code of Practice for Responsible Metal Detecting in England and Wales*, which has been endorsed by the main archaeological, metal-detecting and landowner organisations, to limit archaeological damage. Crucially, detectorists should take care to avoid archaeologically sensitive sites, record finds (and their findspots) and seek archaeological help if they find something important, as did the finders of the Frome (see page 19) and Burnham-on-Crouch Hoards (see page 14 and [finds.org.uk/blogs/essex](http://finds.org.uk/blogs/essex)), and also the finder of a Roman ‘dinner set’ from Oxfordshire.

Following the discovery of a pewter dinner set (BERK-C55677) by Peter Steanson during a metal-detecting rally organised by the Weekend Wanderers in 2009 at Somerton, Oxfordshire, Anni Byard (Oxfordshire & West Berkshire FLO) undertook an excavation of the findspot. This unearthed part of a burnt building dating to the first half of the 4th century and lots of domestic pottery. The discovery of this ‘Roman kitchen’ led to geophysical survey of a large part of the field with Reading University, the results of which confirmed the presence of a large, multi-roomed building, as well as other features both under, and possibly over-lying, a chambered building. It is hoped that test pitting can be conducted in spring 2012 to understand the extent of survival of features and, depending on the results, a possible community/student excavation.

Some finds recorded by the PAS are locally or nationally important, and therefore finders have given, loaned or sold them to museums. Many finders recognise that they are temporary custodians of these discoveries and therefore it is best practice to think about what will happen to their collection in the future. If it is the finder’s intention that objects end up in a museum it is important that the collection is well organised (so that finds are clearly labelled with a findspot and/or PAS database number) and that they have discussed the matter with the museum in question.





Tony Pilson has been mudlarking on the Thames foreshore since 1976 and systematically recording his finds with the Museum of London and the PAS, as required by the terms of his mudlarking permit. In 2009 Tony donated his collection of over 2,500 buttons and cufflinks to the Museum of London. These finds offer an amazing insight into the style of Londoners throughout the medieval and post-medieval periods, enriching the museum's own collection. This is just the most recent example of Tony's generosity. In the past he has also donated his collection of lead tokens, some dating to the 13th century and in extremely fine condition, to the British Museum. He donated his extensive collection of lead toys to the Museum of London, many of which have since been published by Hazel Forsyth and Geoff Egan in *Toys, Trifles & Trinkets*. Tony has also funded the research and publication of objects close to his heart.



## Research

The PAS collates information about finds to advance archaeological knowledge, and it is a tribute to the finders who volunteer their discoveries for recording that this dataset is now a powerful research tool for academics, archaeologists and others. Currently 197 people have full access to PAS data for research purposes, and the data has been used in 12 large-scale research projects, 47 PhDs and 196 pieces of other research.

In 2010 Dave Haldenby and Julian D Richards published a paper in *Antiquity* 84 'charting the effects of plough damage using metal-detected assemblages', in which they demonstrated that artefacts in the plough soil are much more vulnerable to damage than those in stratified archaeological contexts. The focus of their study was metal-detected finds of Anglo-Saxon pins and strap-ends from Yorkshire, contrasted with five excavated assemblages of similar material. The study found that pins, in particular, suffered most damage in the plough soil (on average 16% of pins were found complete, compared with 81% of those from a stratified context) entertaining the possibility that such finds probably entered the 'ploughzone' complete. The study also demonstrated that fragmentation of finds is increasing over time, probably due to more destructive agricultural methods. In conclusion Haldenby and Richards argue that if left in the plough soil metal artefacts will degrade completely, and therefore recovery by metal-detecting is preferable to the alternative of doing nothing.

Philippa Walton (University College London) recently completed her PhD thesis which used the Roman coin data recorded by the PAS as a resource for understanding Roman Britain. It examined coin loss throughout the whole of England for the very first time and was only made possible by the large number of coins recorded by metal-detector users. As a result, many new Roman sites have been discovered (including more than 30 on the Isle of Wight) and a range of interesting patterns identified. These included a north-south divide in coin loss, a link between cut and mutilated coins and votive or temple sites, and a gradual decline in coin use during the 4th century AD. Philippa, who has now taken up post as Deputy National Finds Adviser for Iron Age & Roman Coins (thanks to funding provided by Richard Beleson), aims to publish these exciting discoveries in 2011/12.

Tony Pilson and fellow mudlark Ian Smith on the Thames foreshore.

Dave Haldenby and Julian Richards surveying an Anglo-Saxon site in Yorkshire.

Map of Roman coins recorded by the PAS in 1997–2010.



## Recording finds

The main role of the FLOs is to record finds to advance archaeological knowledge. While a number of finds recorded in 2009 and 2010 are extremely important in their own right, the significance of most is explained by their relationship with one another and their landscape context. Like the small pieces of a jigsaw puzzle they are best viewed together, giving an overall (though incomplete) picture of where and how people lived in the past.



## Stone Age (c. 500,000–2100 BC)

2,459 Stone Age objects were recorded in 2009, with a further 3,724 discovered in 2010, demonstrating that increasing numbers of lithic implements are now being recorded by the PAS. Some sites can produce large numbers of implements and pieces of flint knapping waste. With the availability of hand-held Global Positioning Systems (GPS) devices, it is now possible to log findspots with unprecedented precision allowing researchers to study flint scatters and, using Geographical Information Systems (GIS), to begin to understand the nature of these sites.

An Early Bronze Age stone axe from Leeds, West Yorkshire (CORN-BA3487), discovered in the 1930s during building work but only recently recorded, is remarkable on a number of counts. In addition to its importance as a prehistoric find it also demonstrates the work of the PAS in recording important discoveries made in the past. The axe is made from dolerite, a hard, green volcanic rock which was chipped and ground to produce an elegant shape to which incised lines were added. A hole was then drilled or chipped to hold a wooden haft.

A Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age stone arm guard found by William Fitch at Hainton, Norfolk (NMS-FED6F2) is an interesting example of a type of object made from a piece of fine-grained green stone through which have been chipped six holes. Objects like this have been found in prehistoric graves where they are placed on left forearm suggesting that they were a form of 'bracer' which protected the archer's arm from the bow-string when the arrow was released. This object is unusual in that it has six holes rather than the more common four.

*Kevin Leahy*



Early Bronze Age stone axe from Leeds, West Yorkshire (CORN-BA3487).  
123mm x 58mm x 47mm

Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age stone arm guard from Hainton, Norfolk (NMS-FED6F2).  
92mm x 37mm x 77mm

Field-walking: the way many flints are recovered.



## Bronze Age (c. 2350–c. 700 BC)

The last eight years has seen a dramatic increase in the discovery of Bronze Age hoards and single finds in England and Wales. This is due, in part, to the extension of the definition of Treasure which requires finders to report new discoveries of prehistoric base-metal hoards found after 1 January 2003 (in addition to all prehistoric precious metal objects), but also reflects the overall improvement in the relationships between archaeologists and metal-detectorists fostered by the PAS. An impression of the scale of new finds can be seen in a recent study by Ben Roberts and Alessia Murgia (British Museum) which demonstrated that nearly 60% of all Bronze Age gold objects known from England and Wales were found between 1997 and 2010.

The Bronze Age gold objects discovered in the period of this report include several spectacular and very rare objects of adornment such as two Middle Bronze Age gold ribbon torcs from Ellesborough, Buckinghamshire (BUC-C07E88), a Middle Bronze Age twisted wire ornament with five rings threaded onto it from near Windsor, Berkshire (BERK-A5FFE5), a Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age basket earring/hair ornament from Shorwell, Isle of Wight (IOW-62FFD2), and a Late Bronze Age gold bead from Glemsford, Suffolk (LVPL-B28293).

Among the Bronze Age copper-alloy objects reported as Treasure via the PAS in 2009 and 2010 is a unique decorated fitting, found with 46 other Late Bronze Age bronze objects, discovered when Darren Little was clearing bracken on St Michael's Mount, Cornwall (CORN-A8B9A0). Various theories have been put forward for the use of this object, but the most likely relate to it being a buckle for a person or horse, or alternatively a decorative part of a scabbard.

The sheer size of many copper-alloy hoards is striking. Recent finds include the Burnham-on-Crouch (Essex) Hoard (ESS-CC3994) which was placed inside a ceramic vessel during the Late Bronze Age, and the 191 objects and fragments found at near Attleborough, Norfolk (2010 T240). The latter is the third Late Bronze Age hoard to be found within an 800m area in the parish, indicating an entire landscape of votive offerings in copper alloy. The majority of the objects in these large hoards are swords, spears, axes and ingots that were broken, perhaps deliberately, before being placed in the ground. As in previous years, the concentration of new Bronze Age bronze hoards in 2009 and 2010 has been in East Anglia and south-east England. Beyond these regions, a smaller hoard of 19 objects from Stanington, Northumberland (2010 T442), comprised parts of a wagon or chariot in addition to the more usual socketed axes. This relatively rare evidence for Bronze Age transport is a reminder that the increasingly large quantities of copper alloy being found in south-east and eastern England would have needed to be moved using people, wheeled vehicles and boats over hundreds of miles from the nearest copper and tin ore sources in western Britain, Ireland, Iberia or the Alps.

*Ben Roberts*



Middle Bronze Age gold wire ornament from near Windsor, Berkshire (BERK-A5FFE5).  
40mm x 40mm

Late Bronze Age copper-alloy fitting from St Michael's Mount, Cornwall (CORN-A8B9A0).  
82mm x 56mm

Excavation of the Burnham-on-Crouch Hoard, Essex (ESS-CC3994).

## Iron Age (c. 800 BC–AD 43)

Iron Age finds, of which the vast majority are coins, account for only 1.53% (1,301) of the total number of finds recorded in 2009 and 4.48% (3,978) in 2010. Even so, researchers are usefully exploiting PAS data. For example, Michelle Statton (University College London) is studying dress, adornment and identity in late Iron Age and Roman Britain, and Anna Booth (University of Leicester) is examining penannular brooches from the Iron Age to early medieval periods.

Torcs are a quintessentially Iron Age class of neck-ring, which often have ornately decorated terminals. Until recently the vast majority of British torcs have been found in Norfolk. However, recent discoveries of torcs reported as Treasure via the PAS are helping to change our understanding of their use and distribution. The highest profile find in recent years was probably the discovery of the beautiful torc from near Newark, Nottinghamshire, in 2005 (2005 T52), but perhaps of more interest archaeologically is the discovery of a torc, or more correctly a torc bracelet, from near Towton, North Yorkshire (2010 T350). A second torc bracelet (2011 T326) was recently found in the same vicinity and it is thought that the two bracelets probably originate from the same hoard. Alongside the Newark torc, the Towton discoveries indicate a more northerly distribution for torcs than previously thought. The Towton objects also come from a far rarer class of objects than the torc – the torc bracelet. These are too small to have been worn around the neck and were probably worn as bracelets or armlets, as other than their size they are identical to torcs. 2010 T350 is almost identical to a torc bracelet sold at Christie's in 1990 but which frustratingly has no other provenance. The sheer number of torcs and torc bracelets from Norfolk indicates that they were probably made in that county. The Newark and Towton discoveries are very similar to those found in Norfolk, indicating that they were also made in Norfolk. These discoveries therefore also provide evidence for trade and possibly the exchange of objects as gifts in the period.

In 2009 and 2010, 19 Iron Age coin hoards and a further 756 individual coin finds were reported. At the end of 2010 there were 41,988 Iron Age coins on the database, which includes 37,925 coin records imported from the Celtic Coin Index. Currently Ian Leins (Newcastle University) is using PAS Iron Age coin data as part of his PhD thesis, which is a major reappraisal of Iron Age society using numismatic evidence, and David Holman (independent researcher) is working on a new classification of *potins*.

The most significant Iron Age coin found in the period of this report is a gold *stater* from near Dover, Kent (FASAM-FCD3A2), that gives the name of a hitherto unknown British king of Kent, probably called Anarevitos. The reverse of the coin names another well-known king called Eppillus, so it is possible to date the coin to around 20 BC–AD 10.

*Jody Joy, Sam Moorhead & Philippa Walton*



Iron Age gold torc from Newark, Nottinghamshire, found in 2005 (2005 T52). 130mm (internal diameter)

Iron Age gold torc bracelet from Towton, North Yorkshire (2010 T350). 75.1mm (diameter)

Iron Age gold *stater* of Anarevitos, from near Dover, Kent (FASAM-FCD3A2). 19.3mm

## Roman (AD 43–c. 410)



More than half of the finds recorded by the PAS in 2009 and 2010 date to the Roman period, and include some unique and notable pieces which attracted wider attention than most. These include a copper-alloy portrait head found near Brackley, Northamptonshire (BERK-E24C84), made in a provincial workshop in Britain or Gaul in the mid to late 2nd century, and a two-piece cavalry sports helmet from Crosby Garrett, Cumbria (LANCUM-E48D73). Although a treasure in almost every sense of the word, the Crosby Garrett helmet did not fall under the Treasure Act and its sale at Christie's in October 2010 prompted a great deal of public concern, including calls for the review of the Act. Its current whereabouts are unknown.



Exciting though these are, it is the large numbers of more ordinary finds that are of real archaeological importance since they can advance knowledge of particular artefact types or help identify new sites, as highlighted by Tom Brindle's (King's College London) recently completed PhD on *The PAS and Roman Britain: an evaluation of the potential for using amateur metal-detecting data as an archaeological resource*.

Votive deposits can be identified from the types of objects included. A Roman assemblage of 61 objects was found near Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk (SF-D4D044), including copper-alloy 'feathers' and figurines that may have been staff terminals. A figure of the god Attys from near Reigate, Surrey (SUR-488165), identified as a fitting from a table leg, may also have had a votive function as it was found with two figurines and a pendant in the form of a human leg. A further figurine that appears to have been a fitting from furniture is the finely modelled representation of a lion holding some other creature between its front paws from Shenley, Hertfordshire (BH-2159D4).



Brooches are always frequent finds, but several unusual plate brooches have been reported in 2009 and 2010. Among these are one in the form of a boat from Chelsea, London (LON-8265B7), paralleled in Switzerland. Another of a naturalistically modelled mouse, with the tail picked out in silver, is from Risby, North Lincolnshire (NLM-A19B05). Also of note is a brooch showing two swans on a red enamel background from Wetherby, North Yorkshire (SWYOR-788BE1), and one from Owermoigne, Dorset (SOM-1FBF61), beautifully decorated with red, white and blue millefiori enamel.

Not all the finds reported to the PAS are metal. A Roman example is a naturalistically carved soapstone bovine (ox or cow) figure, which was found at Atcham, Shropshire (HESH-FF83C3). It is without direct parallel, though similar carving has been found on a bone knife-handle from nearby Wroxeter. Although soapstone is not found in England, it is likely that the figure was carved here. Collectively these are important finds adding new knowledge about life in Roman Britain.

79 Roman coin hoards, and a further 33,080 individual coins were recorded in 2009 and 2010. At the end of 2010 there were 161,065 Roman coins on the database, including 52,804 coins imported from the corpus of Welsh coin finds compiled by Peter Guest and Nicholas Wells (Cardiff University).

Roman copper-alloy parade helmet from Crosby Garrett (LANCUM-E48D73), prior to full restoration.  
407mm (height)

Roman copper-alloy lion figurine from Shenley, Hertfordshire (BH-2159D4).  
69.2mm x 47.8mm x 29mm

Roman copper-alloy boat brooch from Chelsea, London (LON-8265B7).  
34.75mm x 21.71mm x 14.8mm





Roman copper-alloy bust from Brackley,  
Northamptonshire (BERK-E24C84).  
This was found by a farm worker several  
years ago and brought to a finds day  
in Oxfordshire.  
160.4mm x 120.7mm





Excavation of the Frome Hoard (2010 T272).

Roman silver *denarius* of Carausius  
(r. AD 286–293) from the Frome Hoard.





Sam Moorhead (Finds Adviser) has been visiting metal-detecting clubs across the country highlighting the importance of recording Roman ‘grots’, as well as the more instantly recognisable varieties of Roman coins. Recent analysis of the Roman coin data shows that there are finds from over 900 Roman sites on the PAS database, many of them previously unrecorded; research on this is to be published by Sam with Philippa Walton (Deputy Finds Adviser) in *Britannia* 42.

The most notable hoard found in this period was the Frome Hoard (2010 T272), discovered by Dave Crisp in Somerset in April 2010. Containing 52,503 coins, it is the largest hoard of Roman coins from Britain found in a single pot. Furthermore, it contains the largest number of Carausian coins (around 800) ever discovered in a single find. Because archaeologists excavated the hoard it was possible to understand the circumstances of its burial – it was almost certainly deposited in one event, rather than representing a savings hoard added to over time. An introductory book, *The Frome Hoard*, has been written by Sam Moorhead, Anna Booth and Roger Bland, but there is still much conservation to be carried out on the coins before a full catalogue and report can be published. Thanks to donations from the general public and major assistance from the Art Fund and the National Heritage Memorial Fund, the hoard has been purchased by the Museum of Somerset, Taunton, where the pot and a selection of coins will go on display in autumn 2011.

The PAS is recording a small, but significant, number of Byzantine coins, including the first ever gold *semissis* found in Britain, a fine coin of Justin II (r. 565–578) found at Kelston, Avon, but struck in Sicily (GLO-A8A3F5). It has been argued by scholars that bronze Byzantine coins found in Britain are more recent losses, being brought back by soldiers, clergymen and tourists, but the increasing number of finds recorded with the PAS makes it clear that bronze Byzantine coins were arriving here in Britain in the early medieval period. Work on this subject has been published by John Naylor and Sam Moorhead (both Finds Advisers).

*Justine Bayley, Sam Moorhead & Philippa Walton*

Roman copper-alloy brooch with millefiori enamelling from Owermoigne, Dorset (SOM-1FBF61).

28.72mm x 24.48mm x 8.71mm

Roman soapstone bovine from Atcham, Shropshire (HESH-FF83C3).

51.3mm x 52.7mm x 21mm

Byzantine gold *semissis* of Justin II (r. AD 565–578) from Kelston, Avon (GLO-A8A3F5). 18mm x 0.9mm

## Early medieval (c. 410–1066)

Although early medieval objects (4,833 in 2009 and 2010) are found in lower numbers than those of the periods immediately before (Roman) and after (medieval) they are often the most spectacular, given the (seemingly) extensive use of gold (sometimes with garnet) and silver to produce high status finds, and the quality of craftsmanship, epitomised in the wealth of material found as part of the Staffordshire Hoard.

In July 2009 Terry Herbert discovered the Staffordshire Hoard (2009 T394) – the largest ever hoard of gold and silver Anglo-Saxon objects – while metal-detecting on farmland near Lichfield. The find was reported as Treasure via the PAS and a subsequent archaeological excavation recovered further finds. The 3,490+ objects (and fragments thereof) discovered included mostly war-gear, such as sword pommels, other hilt fittings and helmet fragments, but also three Christian crosses – one inscribed with a Biblical verse in Latin, possibly representing the booty amassed by an Anglo-Saxon warlord in the 7th century. One of the most important aspects of the hoard is that, as the material was (apparently) in use at one time and deposited together, it may help to refine the difficult chronology of 7th-century artefacts. In addition, some of the items discovered seem to be artefact types not previously known in Anglo-Saxon England. The discovery of the hoard aroused great public interest, who were updated on the discovery and the results of the analysis and research on the objects through the original Staffordshire Hoard website ([staffordshirehoard.org.uk](http://staffordshirehoard.org.uk)) built by Dan Pett (ICT Adviser). Much of the initial cataloguing and research on the find was undertaken by Kevin Leahy (Finds Adviser), and a conference on the hoard was also organised by the PAS in 2010 to further archaeological dialogue – the papers are now published online at [finds.org.uk/staffshoardsymposium](http://finds.org.uk/staffshoardsymposium)

Following the Coroner's Inquest which declared the find Treasure, the Staffordshire Hoard was valued at £3,285,000, and thanks to a public funding campaign led by the Art Fund was jointly acquired by Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery and the Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke on Trent. The British Museum and Kevin Leahy continue to be involved in the conservation and analysis of the hoard.

Recorded on the PAS database are a number of lead and copper-alloy Viking Age cubo-octahedral weights (e.g. see SWYOR-21CA16) of a type known throughout Viking Europe. They are generally marked with one to six punched dots or annulets on their six larger square faces. For some time archaeologists thought that these marks are not purely decorative but might indicate their weight, though it was not until the advent of the PAS that large enough numbers of well-preserved weights were recorded to draw any meaningful conclusions. In 2009 Helen Geake (Finds Adviser) analysed all those recorded through the PAS and found that each dot represented a value of about 0.75g, equal to about a half-penning; a penning is a twentieth of an øre, one of the weight-units in use in the Viking period.

One of the most important, yet unassuming, objects of 2010 was an inscribed lead spindle whorl (LIN-D92A22) from Saltfleetby, Lincolnshire, found by Denise Moncaster, and studied



The Staffordshire Hoard (2009 T394):  
fragment of silver plate, probably from a  
helmet, showing two warriors.

Viking Age copper-alloy cubo-octahedral  
weight from Torskey, Lincolnshire  
(SWYOR-21CA16).  
9.3mm x 6.9mm

Early medieval lead spindle whorl from  
Saltfleetby, Lincolnshire (LIN-D92A22).  
26mm x 25mm x 12mm

by John Hines (Cardiff University). Most importantly the object is inscribed with Norse runes, dating to the early 11th century, which read *þeir open ok einmtalr ok þalfa* (They Odin and Heimdallr and Þjalfa) on the side, and *þeruolfstok kiriuessialba* (...you, Ulfjot, and Geir?? ... help) on the upper face. While the exact meaning of the inscription, and its function on this object, remains unclear, Odin and Heimdallr are Norse gods, while Þjalfa is the name of a servant of the god Thor.

Helen Geake, Kevin Leahy &amp; Michael Lewis





## Medieval (1066–c. 1500)

Almost 27,000 medieval objects were recorded with the PAS in the period of this report. Common finds include dress accessories, domestic items, objects with religious associations and coinage. These offer great potential for researchers to explore new avenues and challenge long-held views of the medieval period.

In 2009 and 2010 a number of silver seal matrices with *intaglios* were reported as Treasure, highlighting the reuse of Roman gemstones in the medieval period. A copper-alloy pointed-oval (*vesica*) seal matrix, unusually set within a silver mount, was found at Marlborough, Wiltshire (WILT-090CD8). It had a carnelian *intaglio* appearing to show two cattle beneath a tree. Its legend + AVE MARIA GRACIA PLENA (Hail Mary full of grace) is of a standard ‘off-the-peg’ variety. With the same inscription (on one side) is a silver pointed-oval double-faced seal matrix with a jasper *intaglio*, depicting a figure of Victory with staff, found at Wootton Bridge, Isle of Wight (IOW-5E8145). The reverse has the inscription CRVX PELLIT CRI (The cross of Christ wards off evil) around an ornate cross fleury. An unusual silver shield-shaped seal matrix with carnelian *intaglio* from Kirkby Fleetham with Fencote, North Yorkshire (DUR-6418D5), is another ‘off-the-peg’ matrix, reading + SIGILL SECRETI (secret seal). Its *intaglio*, which has been studied by Martin Henig (PAS adviser), is very finely engraved with a scene from Homer’s *Odyssey*, showing a bearded Ulysses, Polyphemus and another figure. The subject is unusual for a British *intaglio*, which may suggest it was imported to England in the Middle Ages.

Relatively common finds recorded with the PAS include lead-alloy pilgrim’s badges, also made of copper alloy or silver. Sometimes confused with these are livery, and other secular badges. Lead-alloy livery badges recorded in the period of this report include one in the form of the sun from Latton, Wiltshire (WILT-D190B2), which the late Geoff Egan believed had Yorkist connotations. Precious metal examples include a silver-gilt boar badge from Sheepy, Leicestershire (LEIC-A6C834), which was found during the Bosworth Battlefield metal-detecting survey, and is of a type related to Richard III. Accounts of the Royal wardrobe note that thousands of such badges were made for his coronation and (later) his son’s investiture, and it is therefore of great interest that this badge was found near to where Richard III was defeated and killed by the forces of Henry Tudor (VII) in 1485.

Richard Kelleher (Durham University) is using PAS data to explore the development of coin use between 1066 and 1544, in particular examining social and economic frameworks and how this affected their use and loss. Part of his research focuses on evidence for the non-monetary use of coins, exploring the meaning of their placement within the landscape and how coins have been manipulated into jewellery, amulets and devotional tokens. Of particular interest are the folded coins (see IOW-DBB500), which historical sources indicate may be the material residue of vows made by pilgrims. There is a good deal of documentary evidence to support this. Further study of this new body of data is exploring where these finds are occurring, the nature of the manipulations, and what might be inferred regarding the meanings invested in the objects.



Medieval silver seal matrix with *intaglio* from Wootton Bridge, Wootton Bridge, Isle of Wight (IOW-5E8145). 35.3mm x 24.7mm x 7.9mm

Medieval lead-alloy livery badge from Latton, Wiltshire (WILT-D190B2). 23.03mm x 24.62mm x 5.60mm

Medieval silver-gilt boar badge from Sheepy, Leicestershire (LEIC-A6C834). 28mm x 15mm x 2mm

Folded silver penny of Edward I (r. 1272–1307) from the Isle of Wight (IOW-DBB500). 18.7mm

Michael Lewis & John Naylor

## Post-medieval (c. 1500–present)

At Christmas 2010 Geoff Egan (Finds Adviser) sadly, and quite suddenly, passed away, depriving us all of one of the great experts on medieval and post-medieval small finds.

Significant numbers of post-medieval finds were reported in 2009 (10,005) and 2010 (19,321), accounting for 19% of the total number of finds recorded. This is perhaps surprising since although FLOs record 16th- and 17th-century finds, they are generally selective in recording post-1700 material, especially items produced on an industrial scale. As more and more post-medieval finds are being recorded archaeologists are gaining a better understanding of some types of finds, particularly cloth seals, some types of dress accessories, tokens and lead toys. There has also been a number of recent discoveries that are special in their own right.

One of the most exciting finds discovered in 2009 was an incomplete lead-alloy openwork toy coach found by Andy Johannesen on the Thames foreshore, City of London (LON-81D1C7). When discovered the object had been crumpled into a ball, seemingly intentionally, but has since been carefully restored. Besides the coach – which is decorated in great detail, perhaps representing the opulent carving and other embellishments of the finest coaches of the aristocracy at the time – were found its two horses (one missing its head, the other substantially damaged), a driver and a male passenger. The object has been assembled from eight component parts, and is similar to components of others found in London dated to the late 16th century.

The upper half of a biconvex pinhead formed from a complete, but worn, copper-alloy Nuremberg jetton of Hans Krauwinckel II was found by David Mortimer-Kelly at Newport, Isle of Wight (IOW-34BDF3). Complete biconvex pins constructed from dished jettons have also been recorded by the PAS, including one found in Alvediston, Wiltshire (SOM-EFB851), by Rodney Smith, also in 2010. However, what makes the Newport pinhead noteworthy is the fact that it is incomplete, enabling archaeologists to better understand its construction. While the reverse of the jetton on the Newport pinhead is barely visible due to wear, since it was the outward face of the pinhead, it is an interesting feature of all these pins that the reverse of the jetton seems to be favoured for the exterior face. Why this is so is not clear, but it may have been the case that the reverse was more aesthetically pleasing, or perhaps it was chosen for the legend. On the Nuremberg jettons, early to mid 16th century inscriptions are gibberish, but after the 1570s they are normally literate, if in German, naming the maker on one side and then usually praising God (as in this case) on the other.

*Michael Lewis*



Post-medieval lead-alloy toy coach from the City of London (LON-81D1C7).  
64.84mm x 39.1mm x 18.9mm

Post-medieval copper-alloy pinhead from Newport, Isle of Wight (IOW-34BDF3).  
21.7mm

Post-medieval copper-alloy pin from Alvediston, Wiltshire.  
44.9mm x 18.4mm



## Statistics

In March 2010 the new PAS website and database (designed and built by Dan Pett, ICT Adviser) was launched, providing a better user experience and enhanced facilities, especially with regards speed and ease of use, and the ability for the public to record their own discoveries. By the end of 2010 the PAS had increased the number of finds recorded on 2009, partly thanks to the new database and Headley Trust-funded interns.

Table 1: Average number of unique visitors, visits, page requests, user hits and average page views on the PAS website and database (2007 to 2010).

Year	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Page requests	Average page views per visit
2007	160,847	306,124	3,762,182	12
2008	184,995	336,937	3,771,070	11
2009	158,266	306,568	3,560,941	12
2010	210,592	371,308	4,233,094	11

Table 2: Objects recorded by geographical area (2009 & 2010).

County	PAS records 2009	PAS finds recorded 2009	Treasure cases 2009	PAS records 2010	PAS finds recorded 2010
Avon	148	388	5	534	772
Bedfordshire	549	551	14	604	656
Berkshire	99	104	4	733	847
Buckinghamshire	1,438	1,579	14	1,745	1,875
Cambridgeshire	1,169	1,801	8	983	1,135
Cheshire	440	485	10	442	462
Cornwall	199	263	9	325	336
Cumbria	193	201	6	530	1,587
Derbyshire	254	392	9	219	739
Devon	330	591	3	1,076	1,389
Dorset	580	932	17	684	1,455
Durham	118	165	1	473	561
Essex	1213	2,292	54	1,432	1,607
Gloucestershire	490	614	10	631	1,189
Gtr London	661	733	15	566	567
Gtr Manchester	10	10	0	20	20
Hampshire	2,084	2,335	22	2,542	15,511
Herefordshire	240	266	4	291	339
Hertfordshire	1,111	1,126	19	1,219	3,867
Isle of Wight	1,340	1,772	47	1,525	2,100
Isles of Scilly	1	1	0	0	0
Kent	960	1,158	41	1,440	6,278
Lancashire	262	282	5	172	183
Leicestershire	1,074	1,152	16	1,129	1,235
Lincolnshire	3,548	3,904	40	4,725	5,648
Lincolnshire, NE	1	1	0	101	109
Lincolnshire, N	487	503	5	717	806
Merseyside	20	20	0	38	84
Norfolk	1322	1,490	82	681	1,045
Northamptonshire	870	903	17	884	1,008
Northumberland	117	489	8	304	391
Nottinghamshire	1,188	1,236	14	915	1,034
Oxfordshire	688	1,263	13	1,231	1,589
Rutland	32	32	1	138	162
Shropshire	463	10,715	16	782	1,055
Somerset	810	2,705	17	626	943
Staffordshire	622	728	15	879	947
Suffolk	3,106	5,629	65	4,468	6,571
Surrey	906	2,491	8	881	1,237
Sussex, E	1,016	1,149	10	902	1,142
Sussex, W	1,100	1,664	10	1,330	1,857
Teesside	19	29	0	69	84
Tyne & Wear	4	4	0	11	11
Warwickshire	1,367	2,913	12	1,214	5,034
West Midlands	36	128	0	56	71
Wiltshire	1288	1,712	20	1,316	3,111
Worcestershire	279	328	4	433	1,221
Yorkshire, E	1,776	2,241	20	2,129	2,415
Yorkshire, N	2,389	3,594	40	2,509	2,856
Yorkshire, S	384	674	3	350	573
Yorkshire, W	281	399	3	220	242
Other	391	456	0	1,016	1,176
Wales	400	496	20	509	2,967
<b>TOTAL<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>39,873</b>	<b>67,089</b>	<b>778</b>	<b>48,749</b>	<b>90,099</b>

1. This data does not include the Staffordshire Hoard (3,490+) in 2009 or the Frome Hoard (52,503) in 2010, or a download of the Celtic Coin Index (37,931 finds) the Iron Age & Roman Coinage of Wales (52,812 finds) datasets, also 2010.

In 2009 the most productive areas of the country regarding PAS finds were Shropshire, Suffolk and Lincolnshire; Shropshire's large total is explained by a hoard of 9,315 Roman coins. The most productive areas for Treasure were Norfolk (82 cases), Suffolk (65) and Essex (54). In 2010 the most productive areas for PAS finds were Hampshire, Suffolk and Kent; Hampshire's large total is explained by two large hoards, one of 4,387 Roman coins and another of 7,083 post-medieval coins. 860 Treasure cases were reported in 2010.

Table 3: Objects recorded by class (2009 & 2010).

	<b>Metal objects</b>	<b>Coins</b>	<b>Worked stone</b>	<b>Pottery</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Total</b>
2009	20,129	35,333	2,665	8,444	518	67,089
%	30	52.67	3.97	12.59	0.77	
2010	25,422	49,970	4,193	9,610	904	90,099
%	28.22	55.46	4.65	10.67	1	

Coins account for the majority of objects recorded in 2009 and 2010 followed by metal objects, which is unsurprising given that most finds recorded with the PAS are found by metal-detectorists. This said, significant numbers of pottery are also being recovered.

Table 4: Objects recorded by period, when known/recorded (2009 & 2010).

	<b>Stone Age</b>	<b>Bronze Age</b>	<b>Iron Age</b>	<b>Roman</b>	<b>Early medieval</b>	<b>Medieval</b>	<b>Post-medieval</b>	<b>Total</b>
2009	2,459	1,014	1,301	35,424	2,170	13,897	10,005	66,270
%	3.71	1.53	1.96	53.46	3.27	20.97	15.1	
2010	3,724	1,324	3,978	44,831	2,663	13,006	19,321	88,847
%	4.19	1.49	4.48	50.46	3	14.64	21.74	

Roman finds account for the highest proportion of those recorded in both years. In 2009 this was followed by medieval then post-medieval finds, which is then reversed in 2010. The doubling of post-medieval finds recorded is largely explained by the aforementioned coin hoard from Hampshire.

Table 5: Findspot precision (2009 & 2010).

	<b>No NGR</b>	<b>4 Fig</b>	<b>6 Fig</b>	<b>8 Fig</b>	<b>10 Fig</b>	<b>12 Fig</b>
2009	6.9%	3.59%	51.54%	20.13%	17.52%	0.35%
2010	8.08%	3.8%	47.4%	19.83%	20.76%	0.13%

Table 6: Findspot precision since 1997: percentage of findspots with at least a 6-figure NGR.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Average (%)</b>
1997–1999	56
1999–2000	60
2000–2001	68
2001–2003	70
2003–2004	73
2004–2005	75
2005–2006	86
2006	90
2007	90
2008	89
2009	90
2010	88

The number of finds recorded to at least a 6-figure NGR (National Grid Reference) decreased slightly from 90% in 2009 to 88% in 2010. It is apparent that this degree of precision has been relatively consistent the last few years. Key to this level of precision is greater awareness amongst finders of the importance of good findspot information and the wider use of hand-held GPS (Global Positioning Systems) devices by finders, highlighted in the *Code of Practice for Responsible Metal Detecting in England and Wales*.

Table 7: Method of discovery, where known/recorded (2009 & 2010).

	<b>Metal detecting</b>	<b>Chance find while metal detecting</b>	<b>Field walking</b>	<b>Other chance find/gardening</b>	<b>Controlled archaeological investigation</b>	<b>Building/agricultural work</b>
2009	82.7%	5.36%	2.31%	5.83%	2.81%	0.99%
2010	86.41%	2.02%	4.32%	3.61%	3.52%	0.12%

As in previous years, most finds are found by metal-detector users, either while using their machines or spotted ‘eyes only’ while metal-detecting, though a significant contribution is also being made by other finders, such as those field-walking or by chance. As far as Treasure is concerned 95% of cases were discovered by detectorists.

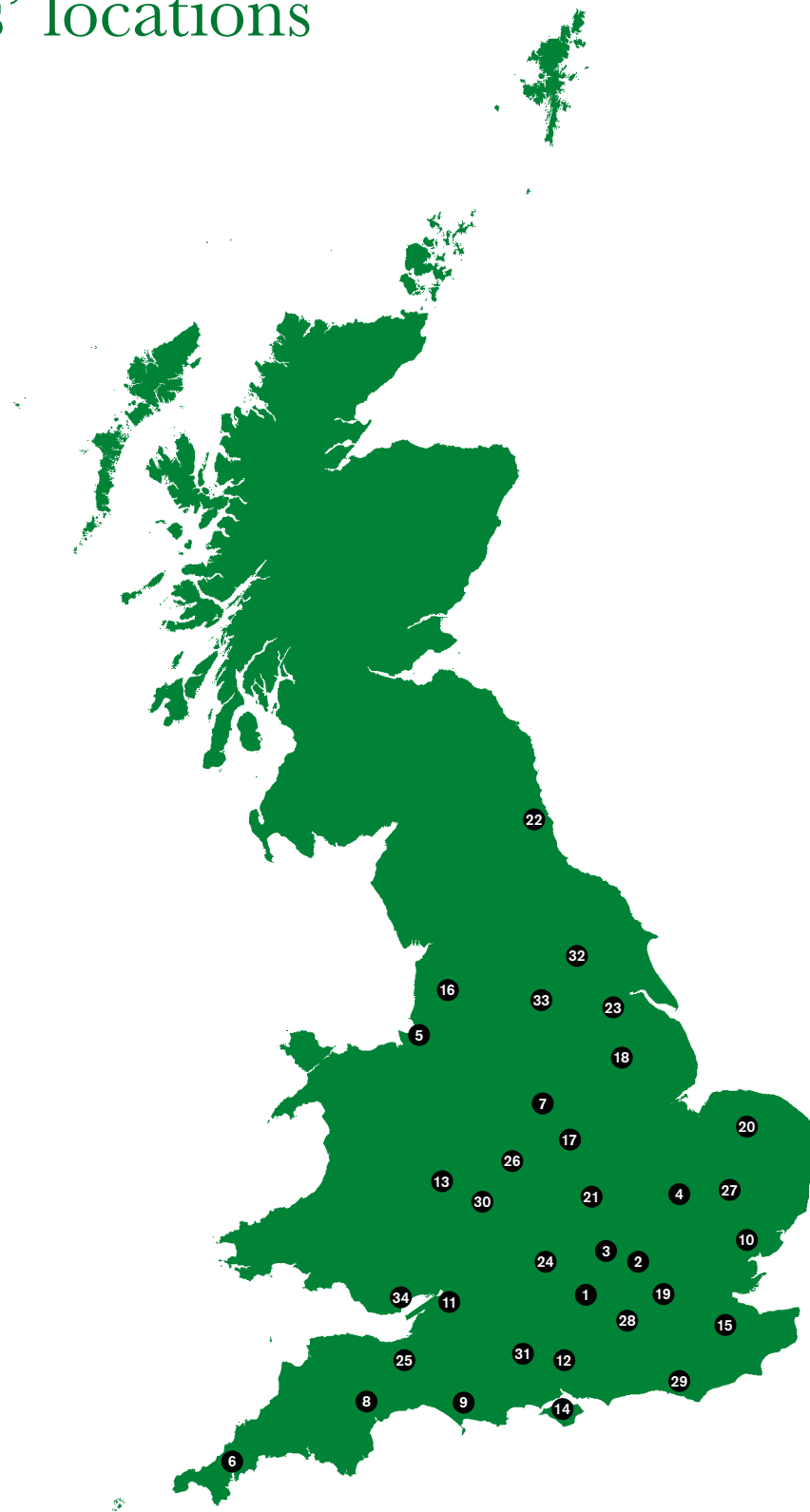
Table 8: Land use, where known/recorded (2009 & 2010).

<b>Land use</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>
Cultivated land	72.25%	74.08%
Grassland/heathland	2.19%	2.08%
Woodland	18.21%	0.32%
Coastland	0.78%	1.1%
Open fresh water	0.99%	1.03%
Wetland	0.01%	0.01%
Other	5.57%	21.39%

Most finds recorded by the PAS are found on cultivated land, where they are vulnerable to agricultural damage and natural and artificial corrosion processes. The proportion of Woodland finds in 2009 is explained by the aforementioned Roman coin hoard from Shropshire.

*Dan Pett, Michael Lewis & Ian Richardson*  
*Image manipulation: Janina Parol*

# Finds Liaison Officers' locations



39

Finds Liaison Officers

177

Metal-detecting clubs

1,619

Metal-detecting club  
meetings attended in  
2009–2010

3,622

Outreach events in  
2009–2010



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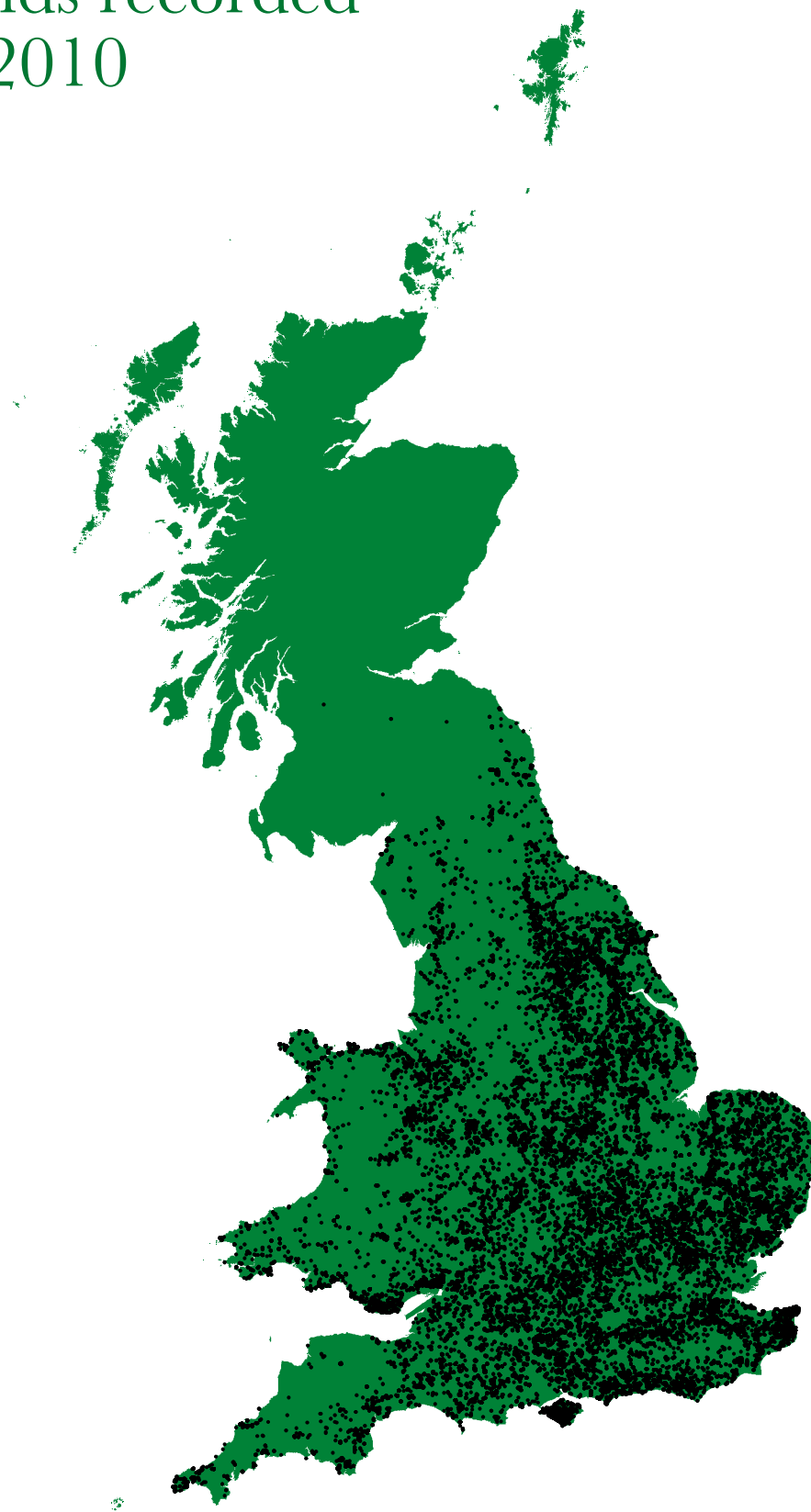
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# PAS finds recorded 2009–2010



**158,088**  
Finds recorded by the  
PAS in 2009–2010

**1,638**  
Treasure Cases  
recorded in 2009–2010

**88–90%**  
Finds recorded to  
the nearest 100m<sup>2</sup>

**72–74%**  
Finds found on  
cultivated land



The British  
Museum

For further information about the  
Portable Antiquities Scheme, or the  
work of the Department of Portable  
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Inside back cover: The Staffordshire Hoard:  
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