

The British
Museum

The Portable
Antiquities Scheme
Annual Report
2011

Edited by Michael Lewis
Published by the Department of Portable
Antiquities and Treasure, British Museum



Foreword



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



Neil MacGregor
*Director of the
British Museum*

We are pleased to introduce this report on the work of the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) and Treasure Act 1996, which also highlights some fascinating and important finds reported in 2011. We are especially grateful to *Treasure Hunting* who once again agreed to publish this report free within their magazine.

The PAS and Treasure Act continue to be a great success, highlighted by the fact that ITV have made a primetime television series – *Britain's Secret Treasures* – about the top 50 finds found by the public. It is thanks to the efforts of the finders and to the work of the PAS, particularly its network of Finds Liaison Officers, that 97,509 PAS and 970 Treasure finds were reported in 2011. This recording work was supported by interns, volunteers and finders who record their own discoveries, and we are particularly grateful to the Headley Trust and the Institute for Archaeologists/Heritage Lottery Fund who funded interns in the period of this report. We are therefore delighted that the Headley Trust has agreed to extend its funding for interns for a further two years, 2012/13 and 2013/14. We are also grateful to the generosity of an American philanthropist who has funded the post of assistant to the Finds Adviser for Iron Age and Roman coins, for two years.

Archaeological finds discovered by the public are helping to rewrite the archaeology and history of our past, and therefore it is excellent news that the Leverhulme Trust has agreed to fund a £150k project, 'The PAS database as a tool for archaeological research', to examine in detail the factors that underlie this large and rapidly growing dataset. Indeed, it is a testament to the PAS that this data is now being used by academics and researchers to advance archaeological knowledge, as well as by members of the public interested in learning more about the archaeology of where they live. Importantly, there are a number of instances this year when finders have stopped digging when

they have discovered something important (as in the case of the Vale of Wardour Hoard) so that the find can be recovered archaeologically, thus preserving important information about how and why such hoards were deposited.

The Treasure Act continues to ensure that the most important archaeological objects are acquired by museums so they can be enjoyed by all. The Government will shortly begin a review of the Treasure Act Code of Practice, to ensure that the guidance contained in the Code is up-to-date and useful.

External funding has contributed enormously to the ability of museums to acquire Treasure finds, and therefore we are particularly grateful to the Art Fund, the Headley Trust, the Heritage Lottery Fund, the National Heritage Memorial Fund and the V&A Purchase Grant Fund, as well as various individuals. 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 would like to thank the members of the Portable Antiquities Advisory Group, who have provided the PAS with important guidance, and the Treasure Valuation Committee members, who have provided expert advice to the Secretary of State.



The Vale of Wardour Hoard, as found (WILT-E8DA70)

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:

- 97,509 finds were recorded by the PAS; a total of 810,000 finds recorded on the PAS database (finds.org.uk/database) to date.
- 970 Treasure cases were reported; it is hoped that many of these will be acquired by museums for public benefit.
- 78 parties waived their right to a reward in 40 Treasure cases, allowing them to be acquired by museums at no or reduced cost. Most PAS finds are returned to the finder.
- 86% of PAS finds and 92% of Treasure finds were found by metal-detectorists.
- 83% of PAS finds were found on cultivated land, where they are susceptible to plough damage and artificial and natural corrosion processes.
- 91% of PAS finds were recorded to the nearest 100m², the minimum requirement for findspot information for Historic Environment Records.
- New sites discovered through finds recorded by the PAS include a Roman villa on the Isle of Wight, Anglo-Saxon cemeteries in Leicestershire and North Lincolnshire and a post-medieval pottery kiln in Somerset.
- Currently 261 people have full access to PAS data for research purposes, and there are a further 3,940 registered users. To date, PAS data has been used in 313 research projects, including 12 pieces of large-scale research and 62 PhDs.
- 463,160 unique visitors visited the PAS websites, making over 677,965 visits and 4,485,956 page requests.
- Publications associated with the work of the PAS include reports in *Britannia*, *Medieval Archaeology* and *Post-Medieval Archaeology*.
- 881 outreach events took place, including talks, finds days and exhibitions. These were attended by at least 39,996 people, including 6,614 children.
- The Scheme's Finds Liaison Officers had regular contact with 199 metal-detecting clubs, attending 927 club meetings.



The Silverdale Hoard
(LANCUM-65C1B4)

Introduction

Portable Antiquities Scheme

Thousands of archaeological objects are discovered every year, many by members of the public, particularly by people while metal-detecting. If recorded, these finds have great potential to transform archaeological knowledge, helping us understand when, where and how people lived in the past. The PAS offers the only proactive mechanism for systematically recording such finds, which are made publicly available on its online database (finds.org.uk). This data is an important educational and research resource that can be used by anyone interested in learning more.

38 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 others based at the British Museum, six period specialists, and a Leverhulme funded research post. The PAS also benefitted from 9 interns and 258 volunteers (including 89 self-recorders) in 2011, as well as the finders themselves.

The PAS is managed by the British Museum, and funded by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) through a ring-fenced grant, the British Museum 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 facilitates 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 increases opportunities for museums to acquire archaeological finds for public benefit.

Treasure Act 1996

Under the Treasure Act 1996 (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; 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 payment 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. If the object is of prehistoric date it will be Treasure provided any part of it is precious metal;
- any group of two or more metallic objects of any composition of prehistoric date that come from the same find;
- 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 they believe is Treasure, or is not sure whether it is Treasure or not, it is best they contact their local FLO for advice.



The near Lewes Hoard (SUSS-C5D042)

Outreach

The proactive nature of the PAS is vital to its success. It is an important part of every FLO's work to go out and meet finders (at metal-detecting clubs and through outreach events) to encourage the reporting of finds, highlight best archaeological practice and demonstrate the contribution these finds can make to archaeological knowledge. Learning is therefore a key outcome of the Scheme's outreach work.



David Carthy and students of Kibworth High School in a test pit they excavated

Volunteer recording finds for the Clodgy Moor Project

People become interested in archaeology and history in various ways, and at different times in life. Many finders say they were not too interested in history at school, but handling objects brings the past to life. It is therefore the case that the PAS reaches out to people in different ways: through talks, object handling sessions, digital media, and other events in museums and elsewhere.

Children

Most children find handling archaeological objects a fascinating experience. It is also an excellent way of engaging young people with archaeology and history, as well as other subjects learnt at school. This method of teaching also reaches out to those less responsive to traditional teaching methods, and it also helps children develop new skills and experiences.

It is common for PAS staff to go into schools and work with children. An interesting approach developed by Debbie Miles-Williams (University of Leicester) and Wendy Scott (Leicestershire & Rutland FLO) was to work with university students who developed sessions for primary and secondary school children to introduce them to archaeological techniques. Wendy secured Find Your Talent funding from Leicestershire County Council to take this project forward. The students produced sessions on key archaeological themes, including object identification, typology, recording, bones and environmental sampling. The initiative provided the children with an opportunity to see how archaeology works, but also was a valuable learning experience for the university student volunteers. The Scheme has been very successful and is still being co-ordinated by Debbie. Several of the student volunteers have been inspired by taking part and since graduating have either qualified as teachers or gained employment in related professions.

“Most of the children we deliver sessions to have no previous experience of archaeology, so this makes the work rewarding since they enjoy our sessions so much – it is a great feeling!” David Carthy, student volunteer.

Stephanie Smith (Sussex FLO) and Garry Crace (IfA/HLF-funded intern) organised an ‘Archaeology for Kids’ event with the Sussex Past education team at Lewes Castle. The children had the opportunity to use a metal-detector to find metal artefacts buried in a ‘sandpit’ and understand how a detector works. They also played finds related games, such as ‘concentration’, where the children would pick out a find and (after observing the object for a few minutes) describe it (blind) to a parent. The parent then had to guess which find the child was describing. Stephanie also gave talks on how finds recorded with the PAS are helping to understand the local area.



Finds Recording Events

All FLOs attend metal-detecting clubs and organise finds recording days in museums, to encourage people to come forward with their discoveries.

As part of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Andrew Brown, Jane Carr and Faye Minter (Suffolk FLOs) have developed a successful and easily achieved 'archaeology event' with the county Library Service. As there are many more libraries than museums in the county they have proved to be excellent venues for displays and finds identification days. Librarians are pleased to welcome a ready-made display, which is left for a period of two to three weeks, before the FLOs return to provide a finds identification session. Libraries advertise events locally and use prepared posters which are stored digitally in the County Council database, simply altering place and date details as required. Local librarians will arrange a display of relevant archaeology books and there is an upbeat feel to the occasion. The FLOs also come with a handling collection, and they have sometimes found small queues of people waiting for the event to begin as soon as they arrive to set up!

Displays & Exhibitions

PAS staff continue to be involved in organising numerous displays and exhibitions in local museums. These included display cases in the new Museum of Somerset, Taunton, and Tullie House Museum & Art Gallery, Carlisle, finds in the Lancashire Through Time gallery at the Museum of Lancashire, Preston, and the Treasure from the Earth exhibition which toured museums in the South West. Also a small selection of the Bredon Hill coin hoard (see Roman section) and artefacts from the excavation was displayed in Worcester Museum & Art Gallery to raise funds for its acquisition; over 3,400 members of the public visited this exhibition.

Most Treasure finds come to the British Museum, so they can be studied by the museum's curators, examined for independent valuation, and also considered by the Treasure Valuation Committee. Never before has there been an opportunity for the public to view these finds before they are acquired, but in 2011 the Department of Prehistory & Europe made available a case in Room 2 (alongside the famous Sutton Hoo Treasure), so that these objects can be displayed. Recent displays in the case include a Bronze Age hoard from near Lewes, the Silverdale Hoard of Viking Age material and a display of medieval pilgrims' badges from the River Thames foreshore.

"The PAS and Treasure Case in the British Museum offers an excellent opportunity to display recent finds of archaeological importance to the public before they are acquired by local museums."

Dr Jonathan Williams, Director of Collections, British Museum.

Finds Day in Sudbury Library
(Val Herbert, Sudbury Museum Trust)

The Silverdale Hoard (LANCUM-65C1B4) being installed in Room 2



Filming *Britain's Secret Treasures*

Volunteer working on the Clodgy Moor Project

TV

In 2011 the PAS worked closely with ITV Productions developing a television series about important discoveries recorded through the PAS and reported Treasure – *Britain's Secret Treasures*. This was screened over six days during the week of 16 July 2012, primetime, on ITV1. The series was important since it highlighted the valuable contribution made by the public to our understanding of the past and also reached a new audience. An average of 3.5 million people watched the series. The PAS was also involved in History's *Mud Men*, made by ITN, in which Michael Lewis (PAS) advises Johnny Vaughan and Steve Brooker on their foreshore discoveries.

Volunteers

Interns (funded through the Headley Trust and Institute for Archaeologists/Heritage Lottery Fund bursaries) and volunteers (including finders) continue to make important contributions. In 2011, 9 interns and 258 volunteers worked for the PAS.

A major piece of work dependent upon volunteer help was the Clodgy Moor Project, established to record a large assemblage of prehistoric lithics and pottery, run by Anna Tyacke (Cornwall FLO) and Cornwall Council's Historic Environment Team and funded by English Heritage. The finds, mostly discovered by Graham Hill and David Edwards, included over 300 sherds of Late Neolithic Grooved Ware pottery, which is the earliest decorated pottery to be found in Cornwall. Also recorded were 45 stone implements, including axes, adzes, pestles, whetstones, mullers and hammer stones, some of which may have been used in axe manufacture. Six of the best examples have been cored and petrologically analysed. The ten Cornwall Archaeological Society volunteers have worked tirelessly since May 2011 and have managed to record over 3,700 flints and over 3,200 pieces of flint debitage. The results of the project are to be published in due course.

Universities

PAS staff regularly work with staff and students in universities, to highlight the positive contribution that can be made when archaeologists and metal-detectorists work together, and also to demonstrate the value of PAS data for advancing archaeological knowledge. Often university students undertake placements with the FLOs, which enables them to gain valuable work experience.

The PAS enjoys a good relationship with Newcastle University, with 3rd year undergraduate placement students from the archaeology course regularly working with Rob Collins (North East FLO). 2011 provided further opportunities. A new Roman site in the Hadrian's Wall corridor has been identified through the recording of artefacts with the PAS, and Rob organised a brief fieldwork project to determine the extent of surviving archaeological deposits with remote sensing. Over the course of two weeks, eight students assisted Rob and Alan Biggins (Timescape Surveys) to conduct a geophysical resistivity survey over two fields. This provided the students with an opportunity to learn geophysical survey techniques as well



as appreciate how the survival of objects may differ from the survival of stratified archaeological deposits. Final analysis is not yet complete, but these results, with PAS data, will feed into future investigations of the site.

Research

The PAS exists to advance archaeological knowledge. The data collected is an important resource for academics and researchers, as well as people wanting to know more about their local area. Currently 261 people have full access to PAS data for research purposes. The data has also been used in 313 research projects, including 12 pieces of large scale research and 62 PhDs. There are also a further 3,940 registered users, who are able to interrogate the data relating to their own finds.

Recently, Katherine Robbins (University of Southampton) completed a collaborative doctoral award looking at the factors underlying PAS data within three study areas: Hampshire, the Isle of Wight and Northamptonshire. She explored the relationship between the distribution of PAS finds and a variety of modern collection factors, for example the location of constraints against metal-detecting and the survey patterns used by different types of finders. Katherine found that the distributions of finds were significantly affected by the choices made by individuals at different stages of the collection process, in particular those concerning where to search and what to record. Katherine is now undertaking a three-year post-doctoral research project funded by the Leverhulme Trust, to explore the distribution of PAS finds from a much wider area and across a variety of scales. This project seeks to understand the variability in the density and distribution of finds seen across England and Wales, and also to explore the potential PAS data offers to researchers working on much smaller scales. As part of the project, a range of methods will be developed that will allow other researchers to more effectively interpret the distribution of finds discovered by those searching for them. A conference will be held in 2014 and a monograph will be published at the end of the project; in addition there will be a web resource to help researchers using PAS data.

The Arts and Humanities Research Council has funded a number of Collaborative Doctorial Awards using PAS data. This year PhDs were completed by Tom Brindle (Kings College London) – Analysis of Roman Rural Landuse in Britain Comparing PAS and HER data – and Katherine Robbins (Southampton University) – on An Analysis of the Distribution of PAS data. Ongoing PhDs include Sophie Adams (Leicester University) – A Study of Late Hallstatt and Early to Middle La Tène Brooches in Britain, Anna Booth (Leicester University) – A New Study of the Penannular Brooch in Britain, Richard Kelleher (Durham University) – Monetisation and Coin-use in Medieval England and Wales, Ian Leins (Newcastle University and Birkbeck College) – An Analysis of Iron Age Coinage recorded by the PAS and the Celtic Coin Index, and Michelle Statton (University College London) – Dress, Adornment and Identity in Late Iron Age and Roman Britain.

The Vale of Wardour Hoard
(WILT-E8DA70) being excavated



Romano-British harness fitting (NCL-74DE87) donated to the Great North Museum, Newcastle-upon-Tyne
51.12mm x 46.68mm x 11.91mm

Frisian brooch (FAKL-044964) donated to The Collection, Lincoln
29.8mm x 21.2mm x 1.7mm

Hiberno-Norse mount (HESH-E9D295) donated to Shropshire Museums
45.4mm x 34.9mm x 4mm

The 2011 PAS conference on 'Hoarding and Deposition of Metalwork: a British perspective' was very successful, and is to be published as a British Archaeological Report in 2013. As a result of the questions prompted by the Frome Hoard, a bid has been submitted to the AHRC for a major project to study hoarding in Britain in the 3rd century AD in partnership with Professors Colin Haselgrove and David Mattingly (Leicester University).

Best Practice

By following the *Code of Practice for Responsible Metal Detecting in England and Wales* (endorsed by the main archaeological, metal-detecting and landowner organisations) detectorists are ensuring that their discoveries are of maximum benefit to archaeological knowledge. Besides highlighting the importance of recording finds and avoiding digging through undisturbed archaeology, the Code also stresses the benefits of seeking archaeological help if something significant is discovered.

A good example of this is the case of an important Early Iron Age hoard of 114 bronze and iron weapons, tools and ornaments found by a metal-detectorist in the Vale of Wardour, Wiltshire (WILT-E8DA70), who stopped digging and called Katie Hinds (Wiltshire FLO). Subsequently the hoard was excavated by archaeologists from Wiltshire County Council and the PAS. This provided an important opportunity to learn more about why the hoard was buried and its archaeological context; found in the same area was a hoard of Iron Age coins and also Roman coins with nails through them. The hoard is remarkable because of the variety of objects found and the fact that the object range stretches over 1000 years. The excavation was filmed by Ian Richardson, Treasure Registrar, ([youtube.com/watch?v=KpbdIVn03A4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KpbdIVn03A4))

"The Vale of Wardour Hoard is an exceptionally rare and important find. It is the first of its type to be recovered archaeologically. It was fantastic for us that the finder resisted the temptation to excavate the hoard and instead called for archaeological support",

Ben Roberts (formerly Curator, European Bronze Age, British Museum, now University of Durham).

It is also the case that some finders, realising the importance of their finds, have donated them to museums so that they can be enjoyed by local people. These have included a Romano-British harness fitting (NCL-74DE87) donated to the Great North Museum, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, a 6th-century Frisian brooch (FAKL-044964) to The Collection, Lincoln and a Hiberno-Norse mount (HESH-E9D295), dating to AD 650–850, to Shropshire Museums.

It is also significant that in 2011, 43 finders and 35 landowners waived their right to a reward in 40 Treasure cases, so that museums could acquire these finds at no or reduced cost. This generosity enabled museums to acquire important archaeological finds that they might not have otherwise been able to.

Recording finds

The main role of the FLOs is to record archaeological finds made by the public in order to advance archaeological knowledge. Although many finds are interesting in their own right, their place in the landscape (the findspot) is crucial for understanding their importance. Without a findspot an object loses much of its archaeological value and tells us nothing or little about how, when and where people lived in the past.



Stone tools & implements (c. 500,000–2100 BC)

The PAS database now includes over 20,000 records of worked flint of which 4,411 were added in 2011. This includes 953 of the ubiquitous flint scrapers and 169 arrowheads. Some of these items are made not from flint but chert, such as a Mesolithic microlith from Bishops Lydeard, Somerset (SOM-8D9385) which dates from c. 8300–3500 BC. A further 26 polished stone axes have been added to the database, including a flint scraper from Taunton, Somerset, which was made from a fragment broken from a flint axe (SOM-330D25).

Some items of particular interest have been recorded, including another eleven Lower Palaeolithic handaxes, one of which, a find from the Isle of Wight (IOW-85F5A5), remarkably has a hole through it. This feature, however, owes nothing to Lower Palaeolithic skill, but is the result of a chalk fossil which has dissolved out of the original nodule. At Clothall, Hertfordshire (BH-0DC5A0) a large fragment of a Neolithic or early Iron Age saddle quern was discovered. These large and robust objects are surprisingly uncommon finds. While not an antiquity, a carefully flaked flint ring from Otley, West Yorkshire (SWYOR-95AB74) is worthy of note. Objects like this were made for collectors during the 19th century by flint workers whose skills were only surpassed by their imagination; nothing resembling this object ever existed in any period of the past.

Lithics, particularly flints, are not easy to record. For example, finished tools can be difficult to photograph, and the sheer quantity of worked flint found on some sites has serious resource implications if the finds are to be properly recorded; some locations yielding hundreds of waste chips and flakes left behind from knapping. The help of finders and volunteers in drawing and recording these finds is therefore particularly welcome. Therefore, although worked flints are very common finds, the recording of them presents the PAS with both a challenge and an opportunity.

Kevin Leahy

Microlith from Bishops Lydeard,
Somerset (SOM-8D9385)
21.5mm x 7.3mm x 2.4mm

Flint scraper from Taunton,
Somerset (SOM-330D25)
32.9mm x 23.05mm x 7.55mm

Hand axe from the Isle of Wight
(IOW-85F5A5)
132.4mm x 97.5mm x 44.8mm



Copper-alloy torc from Sherborne,
Dorset (SOM-5E0AB6)
64.8mm x 8mm x 3mm

Gold torc fragment from Shorewell,
Isle of Wight (IOW-C0C054)
40.76mm x 6.71mm

Axe and gold rings from near
North Cove, Suffolk (SF-BDA986)

Bronze Age (c. 2350–700 BC)

Amongst the 1,530 Bronze Age finds recorded in 2011 is an extremely diverse range of metalwork. Noteworthy is the discovery of a fragment of a Middle Bronze Age copper-alloy twisted ribbon torc near Sherborne, Dorset (SOM-5E0AB6).

Of the ceramic vessel fragments recorded, almost half were found near Paul, Cornwall. Some, made of a hard-fired fabric, were decorated with impressed dots. Part of a rectangular lug protruding from the exterior of one of the sherds suggests it could be rarely found Trevisker Ware, of Middle Bronze Age.

51 Bronze Age Treasure cases were reported this year, of which 38 are base-metal hoards or groups – including the aforementioned Vale of Wardor Hoard (WILT-E8DA70). The rest are gold finds, half of them being penannular rings.

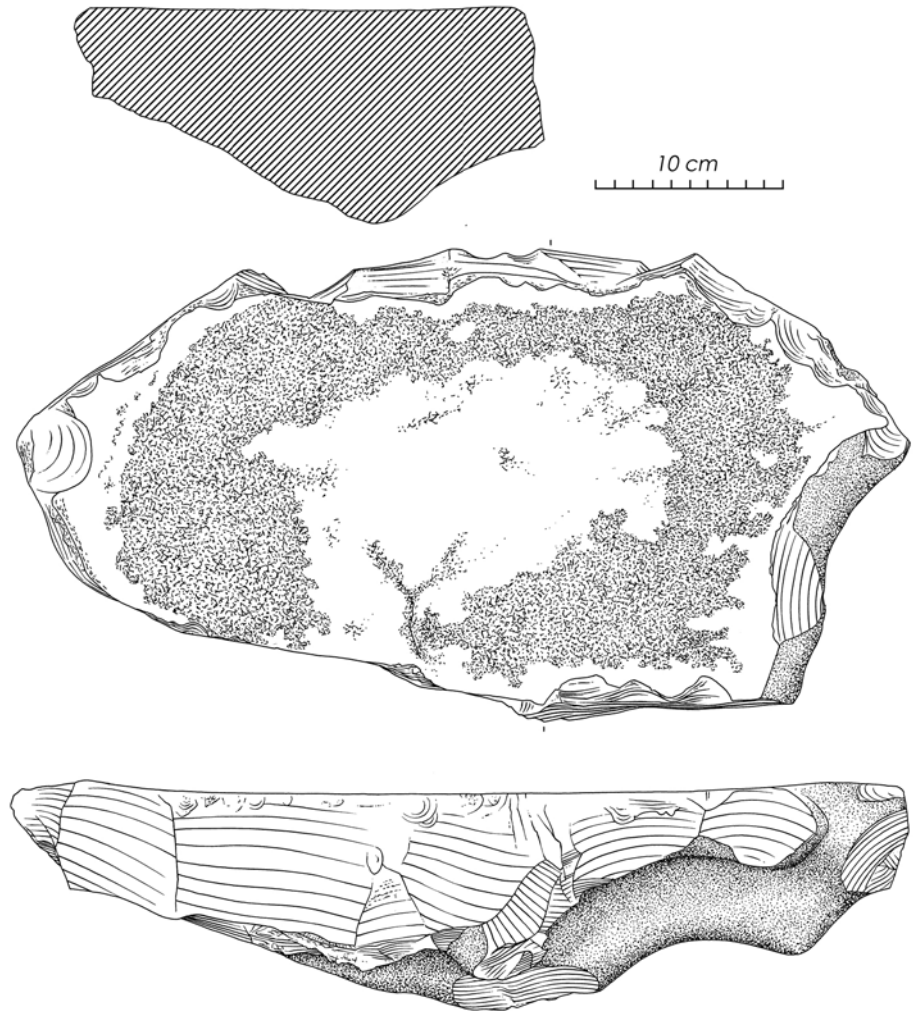
Gold ornaments reported (representing all periods of the Bronze Age) include Early Bronze Age gold beads from Horton, Berkshire (2011 T763), a gold flanged-twisted torc fragment of the Middle Bronze Age from Shorewell, Isle of Wight (IOW-C0C054) and from the Late Bronze Age a socketed axe with five gold-plated tress rings inside from near North Cove, Suffolk (SF-BDA986).

All the base-metal hoards discovered in 2011 were either Middle or Late Bronze Age. Those of the Middle Bronze Age are distributed predominantly in the South East, of which one of the most important is the near Lewes Hoard (SUSS-C5D049, see p.6). This contained three palstaves and a large spectrum of items of personal adornment (including four gold foil bosses of a continental type, five ‘Sussex Loop’ bracelets and amber beads) found within the remnants of a pot.

Late Bronze Age base-metal hoards on the other hand are distributed across the country, and 2011 saw finds from Devon, East Yorkshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Kent, Norfolk, Nottinghamshire, Suffolk and West Sussex. That from Boughton Malherbe, Kent (KENT-15A293) was the most significant in size, being the third largest Bronze Age hoard ever found in Britain. This consisted of 352 copper-alloy objects and fragments, including weapons, tools, and items of ornamentation and production. This hoard has its best parallels in northern and north-western France where its production is dated to c. 950–800 BC. It is not clear how finds in Britain relate to this tradition; were they of localised manufacture related to continental style or just imported as scrap?

More typical from these shores is a Late Bronze Age hoard from Stockbury, Kent (KENT-916575), again consisting of weapons and tools, and fragments thereof, as well as a pinhead fragment and copper-alloy ingot fragments, dating to c. 1000–800 BC. Some finds in this hoard, such as the ‘south-eastern type’ socketed axe, have a south-eastern distribution, hence its name.

Sally Worrell



Saddle quern from Clothall,
Hertfordshire (BH-0DC5A0)
465mm x 235mm x 100mm



Bracelet from Bishops Waltham,
Hampshire (HAMP-93A632)
33.6mm x 10.4mm x 6.65mm

Brooch from Baydon,
Wiltshire (WILT-E2D3B2)
55.68mm x 48.27mm x 10.29mm

Pin from Spofforth,
North Yorkshire (YORYM-12C251)
39.6mm x 19.1mm x 5.6mm

Figurine of a dog from Owslebury,
Hampshire (HAMP-8F0C57)
32.1mm x 18.25mm x 15.65mm

Iron Age (c. 800 BC–AD 43)

1,343 Iron Age objects were recorded in 2011, including 467 coins, of which some discoveries are extremely important.

Among the items of personal adornment found were a fragment from a copper-alloy knobbled bracelet from Bishops Waltham, Hampshire (HAMP-93A632), an elaborately decorated brooch from Baydon, Wiltshire (WILT-E2D3B2), and an unusual pin found at Spofforth, North Yorkshire (YORYM-12C251) – this has cells that may have once held glass enamel (or possibly coral), and the only known parallels originate from Ireland.

Figurines of this period are not common, but a very fine copper-alloy example in the form of a well-moulded half-lying dog was recorded from Owslebury, Hampshire (HAMP-8F0C57). Its head and the shape of the face are fox-like, with a pointed nose, and the eyes are formed of drilled holes. The lower surface is hollowed out at the centre in a similar manner to a 'reindeer' figurine from the Iron Age site at Milber Down, Devon, which helps date it.

An extremely unusual cast copper-alloy pendant consisting of an openwork disc divided into four segments by crossing bars (one broken), from each of which extends an L-shaped projection, was found at Kilham, East Yorkshire (FAKL-126BD7). It has not proved possible to find a parallel for this object but the form of its pear-shaped loop may be compared to that on Iron Age and Romano-Celtic bridle bits and harness fittings.

As in previous years, the majority of Iron Age finds are later in date; at this time there was a noticeable increase in the volume of material culture in circulation, especially coinage, brooches and harness equipment. Of particular interest are Iron Age strap-unions, of which there are fewer than 50 examples recorded on the PAS database, mainly with a southern distribution. More northerly finds include those with a figure-of-eight form from Wakefield, West Yorkshire (SWYOR-6EE012), which has red and yellow enamelling, and from Horncastle, Lincolnshire (SWYOR-50E5F6), where the inlay is now lost.

The possible helmet fragment from Greens Norton, Northamptonshire (NARC-771411) could also have functioned as a decorative fitting on a vessel or casket. There is no precise parallel for an Iron Age object with one inwardly-curved and one straight edge, and an overall convex form, but the closest match is a thin iron plate with traces of silver found during excavations at Croft Ambrey Hillfort, Herefordshire, which was interpreted as a helmet cheek-piece. The form and size of the Greens Norton fragment can also be paralleled to some extent in a number of imported gilded helmets, such as that from Hallaton, Leicestershire.

Horse harness equipment has been present in three Iron Age hoards reported in 2011, the earliest of which was found in Stockbury, Kent (KENT-CD6A33) and included a horse-bit and harness fitting. Horse-bits of this kind are widely known



Possible pendant from Kilham,
East Yorkshire (FAKL-126BD7)
139.8mm x 46.3mm x 3.9 mm

Strap-union from Wakefield,
West Yorkshire (SWYOR-6EE012)
46.9mm x 36.7mm x 3.8 mm

Strap-union from Horncastle,
Lincolnshire (SWYOR-50E5F6)
27.08mm x 26.93mm x 7.43mm





Possible helmet fragment from Greens Norton,
Northamptonshire (NARC-771411)
104mm x 49mm x 2.8mm

Helmet from Hallaton, Leicestershire



in continental Western Europe, but this seems to be the first copper-alloy example found in Britain. It dates to 800–625 BC, and probably came here as a result of the networks which stretched throughout temperate Central and Western Europe at that time.

An interesting hoard comprising of an oval winged (or lipped) terret, an oval terret with a rectangular plate and a mount in the form of a stylised bull's head was found near Shipdham, Norfolk (NMS-E51D37); this mount can be paralleled with examples from Freckenham, Suffolk (SF8686) and Wadworth, South Yorkshire (SWYOR-8447B2).



A significant number of Iron Age brooches were also recorded in 2011, including several of La Tène (I and II) style. Besides the elaborately decorated Middle Iron Age brooch from Baydon, Wiltshire (WILT-E2D3B2) – mentioned above – another of contemporary date, from Longbridge Deverill, Wiltshire (WILT-8A5D32), is also of note. This is formed of two roundels decorated with concentric rings. Its catch-plate is riveted, suggesting that the object was made into a brooch at a later date.



As in previous years, the Late Iron Age to early Roman period brooches (c.100 BC–AD 100), including Colchester one piece, La Tène III, Nauheim derivative, Langton Down, Rosette and Strip brooches, massively outnumber earlier Iron Age brooches found. Of special note is an incomplete silver Birdlip (or beaked) bow type which was found at Marston, Lincolnshire (LIN-FA49B4).



The 467 Iron Age coins recorded in 2011 include several coins minted on the continent. Of particular interest are two Belgic cast copper-alloy coins which were found at different sites in Essex: Matching (ESS-13C8C0) and Little Maplestead (SUR-9E2D47); the latter and two other continental examples (SUR-AFF157 & -B636A3) were donated to the British Museum. Attributed to the Suessiones, from Northern Gaul, they date to the period 100–60 BC and are very unusual finds in a British context.

Sally Worrell & Philippa Walton

Terret from near Shipdham, Norfolk
(NMS-E51D37)
78mm x 61.5mm

Brooch from Longbridge Deverill,
Wiltshire (WILT-8A5D32)
52.03mm x 21.16mm

Coin from Matching, Essex
(ESS-13C8C0)
20.31mm

Coin from Little Maplestead, Essex
(SUR-9E2D47)
20.47mm



Vessel fragments from Crowle, North Lincolnshire (FAKL-9900E3)
107mm x 41mm x 2.2mm

Pedestal from a vessel from Twyford, Hampshire (HAMP-FE1374)
39.5mm x 2.3mm

Brooch from Owslebury, Hampshire (HAMP-29A5F1)
28.35mm x 18.4mm x 6.1mm

Roman (c. AD 43–410)

More than half of the finds recorded by the PAS in 2011 date to the Roman period, accounting for 42,683 finds this year.

Uncommon are copper-alloy vessels with enamelled decoration. Three important enamelled pans have been recorded with the PAS, the most recent from Crowle, North Lincolnshire (FAKL-9900E3). Unfortunately, most of its enamel is now missing but the champlevé cells show the decorative scheme (which consisted of a series of circular panels set around the circumference, each containing a three-armed whirligig) was once impressive. It appears that the whirligigs were inlaid with mid-blue and light green enamel and each was surrounded by a ring inlaid with red. It is likely that this pan, like those found in the Staffordshire moorlands (WMID-3FE965) and at Winterton, North Lincolnshire (NLM-F50443), were products of the same workshop.

An unparalleled copper-alloy base or pedestal from a vessel, perhaps for a lamp, was found at Twyford, Hampshire (HAMP-FE1374). The upper body is decorated with a detailed foliate pattern of *fleur-de-lis* and vine scroll motifs within an inverted heart-shaped border in relief. The lower body has narrow triangular cells in red enamel above the base of four globular knobs.

Following coins, brooches are always the most abundant metallic Roman object type recorded, in particular bow, plate and penannular brooches (see DENO-69C885). Interesting are two zoomorphic brooches found this year, both depicting an eagle, from Owslebury, Hampshire (HAMP-29A5F1) and from near Sleaford, Lincolnshire (LIN-0F5071).

Using both PAS and non-PAS data, Sally Worrell (Finds Adviser) has examined the quantity and distribution of bow- and fantail-brooches, demonstrating the potential of PAS data to characterise an artefact type which occurs in reasonable numbers but has received limited previous attention. The brooch type is defined by a hinged pin, a fixed headloop, short wings, a gently curving narrow bow and a fantail decorated with either a Celtic broken back motif or a variety of motifs. The distribution of the latter (the fantail) has been noted as mainly occurring in the East Midlands, with outliers further north through Yorkshire, into Cumberland and as far south as Kent. The PAS has added a very considerable number (166) of new examples of most of the variants identified above, and the new data confirms the pronounced regional focus in the distribution of the type, with a particular concentration of PAS finds in Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, and East, North and West Yorkshire. The core of the distribution fits within the areas commonly attributed to two *civitates* (sub-divisions of Roman Britain): the Corieltauvi and Parisi. Therefore this brooch type might be interpreted as a regional identity marker and the regional emphasis in this distribution may indicate shared traditions among artisans making brooches to meet local tastes.



Roman artefacts are not always colourful and 'pretty'. Steel-yard weights are generally thought to be mundane objects, but that from near Sleaford, Lincolnshire (LIN-1213A7) appears to be far from that. This is an exceptional example in the form of a grotesque human head, which is probably a cruel caricature. It depicts the head of an adult male, with two pellets of copper-alloy on the forehead, presumably representing large boils or spots, as well as a large boil on the right hand eyebrow, large sticky-out ears, an arched nose whose tip extends prominently and a large, slightly open mouth with the tongue sticking out the side. There are no known parallels from Roman Britain and only a small number known on the continent.



Objects associated with religious beliefs and practices recorded in 2011 include amulets, miniature objects and figurines. Of particular note are the figurines of Salus feeding a snake found near Swindon (WILT-D40CD5), of 'Genius-Paterfamilias type' from Maulden, Bedfordshire (BH-B6AF26), of Attis found at Somerton, Oxfordshire (BERK-817A95) and a the lower leg and foot of a large and exceptionally fine barefooted male, perhaps representing Apollo or Mercury, which was found at Acle, Norfolk (NMS-3CECC3).



Fantail brooch from Thorpe,
Derbyshire (DENO-69C885)
45.79mm x 17.61mm

Steel-yard weight from near Sleaford,
Lincolnshire (LIN-1213A7)
34mm x 16mm x 20mm

Figurine of Salus from near
Swindon (WILT-D40CD5)
69.79mm x 33.35mm x 9.98mm



45 Roman coin hoards and a further 19,707 individual coins were recorded in 2011. This brings the total number of Roman coins on the PAS database to 180,762, including the 52,804 coins imported into the database compiled by the Iron Age and Roman Coins of Wales project (Cardiff University).

The response to a plea for metal-detectorists to present ‘grots’ for recording, as well as easily identifiable Roman coins, has been immense. As a result, Sam Moorhead (Finds Adviser) and Philippa Walton (Deputy Finds Adviser) have been inundated with coins and have helped FLOs record numerous large assemblages from throughout the country. These large assemblages are useful for studying where and when people were using coinage in Roman Britain and frequently they come from sites which were previously unknown to archaeologists. For example, an assemblage reported to Danielle Wootton (Devon FLO) has led to the discovery of the largest Romano-British settlement in Devon outside Exeter. This settlement will be the subject of a research excavation in 2012 led by Exeter University, Devon County Council and the British Museum.

Although nothing on the scale of the Frome Hoard was discovered in 2011, an important find of 3,874 radiates in a ceramic vessel was discovered at Bredon Hill, Worcestershire (WAW-04E186). The hoard and vessel dated to AD 282 but subsequent archaeological excavation suggested that it was actually deposited in the mid 4th century AD.

The PAS records very few gold coins dating to the Roman period due to their scarcity as finds in Britain, though some go unreported since they are not Treasure. However, following the publication of *Roman and Early Byzantine Gold Coins Found in Britain and Ireland* by Roger Bland and Xavier Loriot (in 2010), seven gold coins were recorded in 2011, bringing the total number of examples on the PAS database to 116. Among these is an *aureus* of Vespasian dating to AD 72 which was found in North Lincolnshire (FASAM-2CD627) and has recently been acquired by the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford. It is a unique find – the only other example of this issue was in a French collection melted down during the French Revolution.

Sally Worrell, Philippa Walton & Eleanor Ghey

The Bredon Hill Hoard (WAW-04E186)

Radiates of Probus (r. 276–82) from the Bredon Hill Hoard (WAW-04E186)
25mm

Aureus of Vespasian found in North Lincolnshire (FASAM-2CD627)
19mm



Needlecase from Southwark London
(LON-E3F661)
64.05mm x 6.36mm

Possible hairpin from Somerton,
Oxfordshire (BH-DB46C1)
94.4mm x 29.1mm x 3.6mm

Iron axe from Longwick,
Buckinghamshire (BUC-B7ACE2)
260mm x 250mm x 4mm

Early Medieval (c. 410–1066)

2,425 early-medieval objects were recorded in 2011, which have continued to add to our knowledge of life between the 5th and 11th centuries. One of the thorniest debates among early-medievalists is the size and scale of the early Anglo-Saxon migrations, and the objects recorded by the PAS this year have contributed evidence to support both sides. Among the earliest Anglo-Saxon items was a hollow bone object decorated with ring-and-dot motifs, from Southwark (LON-E3F661). It is thought to be a needle-case, a rare find from England but often found in late 4th- and 5th-century cremation burials in northern Germany, the traditional homeland of the early Anglo-Saxons. To balance the picture, part of a penannular brooch was found near Loughborough, Leicestershire (LEIC-9CDC85) with close links to other brooches known to be of British (rather than Anglo-Saxon) origin. Continental imports of the 5th and 6th centuries, including brooches, a scabbard-slide from Barham, Kent (KENT-B9EB67), and a mysterious gilded copper-alloy object from Somerton, Oxfordshire (BH-DB46C1), which may be a western Frankish hairpin, show that early Anglo-Saxon England was also in close and continuous contact with neighbours across the Channel.

The traditional source of surviving early Anglo-Saxon objects is excavated graves, which have a standardised set of dress accessories and equipment buried with the body. PAS finds, with a high proportion of accidental losses, include valuable object types not found in graves, such as copper-alloy metalworking dies. Several of these were recorded in 2011, all dating to the 7th and 8th century. They suggest a degree of mass production which is not yet apparent from the finished objects known.

Other significant 8th-century finds include a gilded silver thimble-like object from Melton, Leicestershire (LEIC-15A132). Its only parallels are three enigmatic conical items from St Ninian's Isle, Shetland; it is thought that they may be scabbard mounts, and a development of the 7th-century sword-scabbard pyramids. The Melton mount is decorated with high-quality animal ornament in a style sometimes known as 'Mercian Style'. Finds such as these are important as they can shed light on the royal and aristocratic patronage of artists and craftsmen in particular areas; at present the 'Mercian Style' is largely confined to the Midlands, and this pattern may have implications for kingdom rivalries or regional identities at an elite level of society.

Iron objects are rarely recorded by the PAS, but two interesting examples were found in 2011. An iron axe from the Longwick area in Buckinghamshire (BUC-B7ACE2) is noticeably asymmetric, with the upper half of the blade being longer; the socket has a small projection or spur both above and below. These two features suggest a Scandinavian origin and a date in the later 10th or 11th century. A complete early 11th-century stirrup was found in Butlers Marston in Warwickshire (WAW-989551). It is made entirely from iron and is distinctly different from the type of stirrup that uses a copper-alloy stirrup-strap mount. The usual crop of late Anglo-Saxon or Anglo-



Iron stirrup from Butlers Marston,
Warwickshire (WAW-989551)
280mm x 116mm x 74.7mm

Harness pendant from Skidbrooke,
Lincolnshire (PUBLIC-1FCD40)
48mm x 35mm x 3mm

Crispus type *thrymsa* from Wilton,
Wiltshire (DEV-E8CCA1)
20mm

'Porcupine' *sceat* type from Leominster,
Herefordshire (HESH-B37EA8)
12.1mm

Scandinavian copper-alloy horse-harness items includes two of particular interest. A fragment of a zoomorphic bridle cheek-piece from Newent, Gloucestershire (GLO-49AC57) extends the widespread distribution of this object type substantially further west. An unusual openwork harness pendant in Ringerike style from Skidbrooke, Lincolnshire (PUBLIC-1FCD40) adds to the small number of late Anglo-Saxon or Anglo-Scandinavian horse-harness pendants recorded on the database, still fewer than a dozen.

One of the most spectacular discoveries of 2011 was a Viking Age hoard found at Silverdale, Lancashire (LANCUM-65C1B4, see p.4). This consisted of 201 silver items, including jewellery, ingots, hack-silver and coins, found buried in a lead container, and can be paralleled to the much larger hoard discovered at Cuerdale, Lancashire in 1840. The metalwork is typical of the late 9th and early 10th centuries, but includes influences from Ireland and Russia, where the Vikings had settled and established trading centres. Also, amongst the 27 coins in the hoard, is one inscribed 'AIRDE CONVT', attributed to a so far unknown Viking Northumbrian ruler called Harthacnut.

The 282 early medieval coins recorded in 2011 have provided more information regarding the development of the state in early medieval England, as well as broader patterns relating to trade and communication. The earliest coins of this period were made from gold, and are a mixture of continental types, usually Merovingian and Visigothic (from France and Spain), and early English issues. Of note is a late 5th century plated imitation of a Visigothic *solidus* from Southease, East Sussex (SUR-5B13A4) which, like many finds of the 5th-and 6th centuries, has been pierced for use as a pendant, 7th-century English coins are particularly rare, but found at Wilton, Wiltshire (DEV-E8CCA1) was a very scarce 'Crispus' type, representing the later phase of English gold *thrymsas*.

For the first time, PAS recorded more than 100 silver *sceattas* last year, including a series E 'porcupine' type from Leominster, Herefordshire (HESH-B37EA8) which adds to a very small number of finds known from western England.

The growing control over the coinage by the state can be seen through the broader flan Middle Saxon pennies which name individual kings. A number of important finds have been made this year, with several previously unknown types added. These include a penny of Offa of Mercia (r. 757–96) from the Isle of Wight (IOW-C8BD83), one of Ecgherht of Wessex (r. 802–39) from Chrishall, Essex (BH-7ACDB2), and another of Æthelweard of East Anglia (r. c. 850–55) from Great Barton, Suffolk (SF-793F43). These finds are helping to show that the coinage of the Middle Anglo-Saxon kingdoms was extensive, and more complex than previously thought.

The coinage of Late Anglo-Saxon England is characterised by a wider range of denominations (pennies and cut fractions) than before, and in 2011 about 20% of finds were fractions, showing the beginnings of a multi-denomination currency which has



endured ever since. These were mostly of standard types, but a coin of Cnut (r. 1016–35) from Hayle, Cornwall (CORN-F52DB5) and two of Æthelred II (r. 978–1016) from Laugharne Township, Carmarthenshire (PUBLIC-F416D3 &-8CC232) provide evidence right at the edges of the known distributions of these coins.

Helen Geake & John Naylor



Penny of Offa of Mercia (r. 757–96)
from the Isle of Wight (IOW-C8BD83)
16.7mm

Penny of Ecgbert of Wessex (r. 802–39)
from Chrishall, Essex (BH-7ACDB2)
19.9mm

Penny of Æthelweard of East Anglia
(r. c. 850–55) from Great Barton,
Suffolk (SF-793F43)
16.72mm x 11.35mm

Cut half-penny of Æthelred II
(r. 978–1016) from Laugharne Township,
Carmarthenshire (PUBLIC-8CC232)





Badge of St Thomas' gloves from Greenwich, London (SUR-E42C11)
21.75mm x 11.07mm

Badge of St Hubert from Baintree, Essex (ESS-940232)
34.13mm x 31.76mm x 1.58mm

Badge of Richard Caister from Blythburgh, Suffolk (SF-640C85)
44.63mm x 34.65mm x 4.14mm

Badge of a stag's head from Beal, North Yorkshire (SWYOR-625C53)
26.88mm x 18.48mm x 3.74mm

Medieval (c. 1066–1500)

Medieval items, of which 13,311 were recorded in 2011, offer a fascinating insight into the life of both the rich and poor. The objects found are diverse, including ubiquitous dress fittings, domestic items and coinage, as well as high status finds – both ecclesiastical and secular. That said, most medieval people did not really appreciate any great difference between spiritual and earthly matters (though church/state relations very much impacted upon the political elite); it was universally accepted that God was proactive in day-to-day life.

This inter-relationship is reflected in badges of this period, rarely found archaeologically but occasionally found by detectorists. When touched upon a holy shrine, lead-alloy pilgrims' badges transformed from cheap tourist souvenirs to wonder-working objects that could be used to cure ailments and disease or to forgive sin. Some of these badges celebrate famous cults, such as Thomas Becket (see SUR-E42C11) or Our Lady (BH-B61A93 & IOW-D597E5), and others less well known. An important badge, found at Braintree, Essex (ESS-940232), and of probable 15th-century date, shows a saint – probably St Hubert (with a horn) – kneeling before a stag with a cross between its antlers. Apparently unique is the fact that this badge is mounted on a lozenge shape plate, decorated with a chequered design of dark blue-black enamel alternating with gilded squares. Also of note is a delicate, but unusually complete, lead-alloy badge of Richard Caister, vicar of St Stephens, Norwich and confidante of the mystic and spiritualist Margery Kempe (c.1373–1440), which was found at Blythburgh, Suffolk (SF-640C85). This badge shows that some unsanctified (unofficial) cults of radicals were also celebrated. Besides pilgrims' signs also recovered are those of a secular variety, including a silver livery badge of a stag's head (SWYOR-625C53). Other badges, such as those of St George, more obviously straddle the religious and secular spheres: these not only celebrated his cult, associated with Windsor, but also (by the early 15th century) were a symbol of English nationalism and military prowess, synonymous with the Order of the Garter. Interestingly, these badges more often than not were made of silver and vary considerably in form (see LANCUM-4501B2 & -619B37). Also made of silver is a large badge in the form of a female bust (LANCUM-61F133), shown wearing a 'kennel-shaped' head-dress, with hair (unusually) loose beneath, and a cruciform pendant around her neck. It has been suggested that this badge, from Preston, Lancashire, is a pilgrims' sign depicting a companion of St Ursula, but more likely it is an anonymous woman on a badge of secular variety.

Also made to embellish religious and secular items are Limoges enamels, which are periodically recovered by metal-detectorists. Most commonly found are cross-terminals or figurines (such as BERK-2BA546) – once attached to church caskets and such like – as well as mounts and buckle parts. In 2011, several important examples of Limoges enamelling were recorded, including a probable strap fitting from a small casket found at Albrighton,



Shropshire (WMID-247E87). This piece is ornately decorated with vegetal elements, which help date it to the late 12th or early 13th century.

An important item in its own right is an impressive copper-alloy monastic seal matrix depicting Our Lady and Child, with the inscription: '+S'ECCE SCE MARIE ET SCI W(V)LFADI MARTIRIS DE STANIS' (The Seal of the Church of St Mary and St Wulfade, Martyr of Stone) (SUR-B74173). The object was found in Cobham, Surrey, and intriguingly there is no obvious relationship between the findspot and the Augustine Priory from which it came, at Stone, Staffordshire. The finder, Tony Burke, and the landowner have generously made the seal available so it can be displayed locally.



Of the 4,582 medieval coins recorded in 2011, there were a number of important new finds. These include a rare penny of Henry, Earl of Northumberland (r. 1136–52) from Alnwick, Northumberland (NCL-A6C172). This was issued during the civil war, known as the 'Anarchy', which resulted from disagreement over the successor to Henry I (r. 1100–35).

Two important 14th-century coins were also recorded: a farthing of the Berwick-on-Tweed mint under Edward III (r. 1327–77) from Thwing, East Yorkshire (NCL-D6B492); also, a previously unrecorded penny type from the Calais mint for Henry VI (r. 1421–61) which was found at Bedale, North Yorkshire (DUR-88FA74). This may represent part of the last group of dies sent to Calais before the mint closed in c. 1450; Calais was finally lost to the French in 1558.



Badge of St George from Cumbria (LANCUM-4501B2)
40mm x 9mm x 5mm and
30mm x 15mm x 4mm

Badge of a female from Preston, Lancashire (LANCUM-61F133)
45mm x 30mm x 10mm

Strapfitting from Albrighton, Shropshire (WMID-247E87)
65.83mm x 31.03mm x 2.6mm

Seal matrix from Cobham, Surrey (SUR-B74173)
73.45mm x 44.28mm x 6.26mm





Alongside these, foreign coins are a good indication of the contacts which medieval England enjoyed; finds from Venice, France and the Low Countries are now relatively common. However, foreign gold coins are always rare discoveries, and a half noble of Philip the Bold, Duke of Burgundy (r. 1384–1405) found at Hook, Hampshire (SUR-54DB38) is the first such coin recorded by PAS, and joins a very small corpus of imported late 14th-century gold coins found in this country. From further afield was a coin of the Crusader states, a ‘helmet *denier*’ of Bohemond III of Antioch (r. 1163–1201) found in Whatcombe, Berkshire (BERK-891293) and a *soldino* from the Republic of Genoa found at Plumpton, East Sussex (SUSS-A584F5) which dates to 1397. Although Genoa was a major trading power in this period, finds of Italian coins prior to the 15th century in England are uncommon.

Some of the coins found this year, whilst not rare types in themselves, are nevertheless of archaeological interest. One of these was a halfgroat of Edward IV’s first reign (1461–70) found during excavations in Northampton, Northamptonshire (NARC-03B111) in 1889 and recorded with PAS this year. The coin was found in the mouth of a skeleton, a rare practice in medieval England, and may have originally been folded, which may relate to vows of pilgrimage.

There was also more evidence for the conversion of coinage into brooches, notably in the late 11th century and the turn of the 14th century. Examples this year included a *denier* of Bishop Conrad of Utrecht (r. 1076–99) from Bradenham, Norfolk (NMS-66F9A5) and a gilded and mounted *gros tournois* of Philip IV of France (r. 1268–1314) from North Duffield, North Yorkshire (YORYM-91F842). In all of these cases, the gilded side (the one on show) has a religious symbol, and it is therefore thought that they were worn as an expression of faith.

Michael Lewis & John Naylor

Penny of Henry, Earl of Northumberland (r. 1136–52) from Alnwick, Northumberland (NCL-A6C172)
20.11mm

Half noble of Philip the Bold of Burgundy (r. 1384–1405) from Hook, Hampshire (SUR-54DB38)
27.09mm

Denier of Bohemond III of Antioch (r. 1163–1201) from Whatcombe, Berkshire (BERK-891293)
17.62mm

Coin brooch made from a *denier* of Bishop Conrad of Utrecht (r. 1076–99) from Bradenham, Norfolk (NMS-66F9A5)
14mm





Vervel from Micheldever,
Hampshire (HAMP-039157)
13.5mm x 0.65mm

Clay pipe from South Hams,
Devon (DEV-295696)
125mm

Wooden pipe mould from Southwark
London (LON-FD1184)
179mm x 35.9mm x 13.4mm

Post-medieval (c. 1500–2011)

Post-medieval finds often attract less interest than those of earlier periods, but increasingly (through metal-detecting and those recovered by chance) their potential for understanding the past is being better understood by archaeologists. In 2011 the PAS recorded 14,549 post-medieval and modern finds, accounting for almost 18% of the total number recorded; by no means an insignificant number given that FLOs are necessarily selective in recording post-1700 (often mass produced) material.

An intriguing category of artefact-type reported Treasure are hawking vervels (rings), invariably made of silver, which were used to connect the leather jesses (straps) – attached to the legs of hunting birds – to a block when the bird was grounded. Though most are unassuming and simple objects, they are of particular interest since they are often engraved with the name of an owner who can be traced in historical records. For example a vervel from Micheldever, Hampshire (HAMP-039157), inscribed ‘Mr Will Russell of Stratton /in Hampshire’, probably came from the bird of Lord Russell (1639–83) of the manor of East Stratton (from 1667), who was executed in 1683 for his part in the Rye House Plot, a plan to assassinate King Charles II and (his brother) James (II), Duke of York. Also lost close to the place where the bird was presumably flown is a vervel from Wymondham, Norfolk (NMS-A8D4D7) with the inscription ‘+HENRYE CLARE / OF STANFELD’, who lived at Stanfield Hall between 1593 and 1608. Notable, because it is of a different form, is a vervel from Pulham Market, Norfolk (NMS-F39863), on which is inscribed (on its side, unlike the others mentioned above) ‘Edward Hunne’ and upon a separate shield fixed to it, a lion rampant, which matches the arms of the Hunne family of Ilketshall St Margaret, Suffolk: *azure* (blue) *a lion rampant guardant argent* (silver/white). Like the others it dates to the 17th century.

One of the commonest finds found are clay tobacco pipes, though most are fragmentary and/or relatively modern. A complete clay pipe, dating from c. 1850–1920, found while gardening in South Hams, Devon (DEV-295696), has ‘Dublin’ moulded on both sides of the stem. Much rarer, unique in fact, and therefore extremely important, is a wooden pipe mould that was found on the River Thames foreshore at Southwark (LON-FD1184). From the style of the pipe it appears to date to the late 16th or early 17th century.

Found in significant numbers are post-medieval toys, which in 2011 included miniature guns and cannon, two watch/clock faces – in one case fragments thereof, part of a hornbook (used to read the alphabet), a cauldron and plate. Intriguing are finds of buzz-wheels (flat discs with serrated edges), with examples from Somerset (SOM-76B0F3) and the Isle of Wight (IOW-22A881 & F44114). Such toys would have been mounted on



Buzz-wheel from the Isle
of Wight (IOW-22A881)
40.4mm x 1.6mm

Figurine from Homer Green,
Merseyside (LVPL-115092)
55.5mm x 18.85mm x 8.03mm

looped string/cord and made to spin, thus producing a whirring noise. Their serrated edge also made them dangerous to use, and therefore it is easy to imagine that children playing with such things were also tempted to cause each other pain!

A cast lead figurine shown wearing (what seems to be) an ecclesiastic's habit was found at Homer Green, Merseyside (LVPL-115092). The figure has lost its head, which has been replaced with three dice. Perhaps the toy was much loved and therefore restored (if somewhat insensitively), or, more likely, it might be a homemade shy from a series, with the different numbers on the visible sides of the dice representing its value when hit. We will never know for sure.

Michael Lewis



Statistics

Following on from the successful re-launch of the Scheme's online presence in March 2010, the usage of its resources has continued to increase with a significant growth over 2011. A 219% increase in unique visitors to the website was returned during 2011, with new information and resources being added monthly.

Table 1: Records/Finds/
Cases recorded by
geographical area (2011).

County	PAS records 2011	PAS finds recorded 2011	Treasure cases 2011
Avon	1358	1500	3
Bedfordshire	645	655	11
Berkshire	934	1170	11
Buckinghamshire	2090	3178	23
Cambridgeshire	1631	2002	22
Cheshire	441	479	7
Cleveland	28	28	1
Cornwall	3798	3861	3
Cumbria	527	721	10
Derbyshire	153	211	6
Devon	417	646	8
Dorset	582	4675	23
Durham	257	296	7
Essex	1214	2580	91
Gloucestershire	993	1158	18
Gtr London	649	755	22
Gtr Manchester	23	23	0
Hampshire	2007	2182	29
Herefordshire	617	658	7
Hertfordshire	1067	1193	11
Isle of Wight	1743	2472	33
Isles of Scilly	1	1	0
Kent	2135	7551	39
Lancashire	344	623	5
Leicestershire	1344	1382	15
Lincolnshire	5183	5828	75
Lincolnshire, NE	102	105	0
Lincolnshire, N	1195	1356	7
Merseyside	82	82	1
Norfolk	14,071	14,176	80
Northamptonshire	1128	1253	15
Northumberland	212	323	8
Nottinghamshire	1182	1270	15
Oxfordshire	1558	1763	10
Rutland	58	68	0
Shropshire	410	508	12
Somerset	1303	2840	24
Staffordshire	529	630	15
Suffolk	3358	5144	76
Surrey	1369	1634	17
Sussex, E	674	681	13
Sussex, W	486	565	12
Tyne & Wear	2	2	0
Warwickshire	603	1308	18
West Midlands	12	12	1
Wiltshire	2522	3143	41
Worcestershire	381	4288	13
Yorkshire, E	2403	2670	24
Yorkshire, N	2235	3032	50
Yorkshire, S	520	1017	3
Yorkshire, W	402	1152	6
Other	1409	1758	1
Wales	884	901	28
TOTAL	69,271	97,509	970

This includes a download of Excel data of
13,256 coins recorded in 2011

In 2011 the most productive areas of the country for PAS finds were Norfolk, Kent and Lincolnshire; Norfolk's records include a massive download of Excel data, and Kent's include large assemblages. The most productive areas for Treasure were Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk.

Table 2: Objects recorded by class (2011)

	Metal objects	Coins	Worked stone	Pottery	Other	Total
2011	27,197	39,831	7323	5481	4635	67,089
%	32.2	47.16	8.67	6.49	5.49	

Coins account for the majority of objects recorded in 2011 followed by metal objects, which is unsurprising given that most finds recorded with the PAS are found by metal-detectorists.

Table 3: Objects recorded by period, when known/recorded (2011)

	Stone Age	Bronze Age	Iron Age	Roman	Early medieval	Medieval	Post-medieval	Total
2011	6673	1530	1343	42,683	2425	13,311	14,549	82,514
%	8.09	1.85	1.63	51.73	2.94	16.13	17.63	

Roman finds account for the highest proportion of those recorded, followed by post-medieval and then medieval. A significant number of stone tools and implements were also recorded.

Table 4: Findspot precision (2011)

	No NGR	4 Fig	6 Fig	8 Fig	10 Fig	12 Fig
2011	6567	1428	32,468	18,019	21,866	3905
%	7.79	1.70	38.54	21.39	25.95	4.63

Table 5: Findspot precision since 1997: percentage of findspots with at least a 6-figure NGR

Year	Average (%)
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
2011	91

The number of finds recorded to at least a 6-figure NGR (National Grid Reference) has increased slightly on 2010 to 91% in 2011. Key to this level of precision is greater awareness amongst finders of the importance of good findspot information, which is crucial to ensure the data has maximum archaeological benefit.

Table 6: Method of discovery, where known/recorded (2011)

	Metal detecting	Chance find while metal detecting	Field walking	Other chance find/gardening	Controlled archaeological investigation	Building/agricultural work
2011	70083	2075	6549	2681	1848	1017
%	83.19	2.46	7.77	3.18	2.19	1.21

Almost 86% of finds recorded with the PAS were found by metal-detector users, either while using their machines or spotted ‘eyes only’. A significant contribution is also made by field-walkers. 92% of Treasure cases were discovered by detectorists.

Table 7: Land use, where known/recorded (2011)

Land use	2011	
Cultivated land	47,831	82.51%
Grassland/heathland	5073	8.75%
Woodland	157	0.27%
Coastland	838	1.45%
Open fresh water	638	1.10%
Wetland	10	0.02%
Other	3417	5.90%

Most finds recorded are found on cultivated land, where they are vulnerable to agricultural damage and natural and artificial corrosion processes. A significant number of finds are found on pasture, where it is important that finders take care not to damage underlying archaeology.

Table 8: Average number of unique visitors, visits, page requests and average page views on the PAS websites and database (2007 to 2011)

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
2011	463,160	677,965	4,485,956	6.62

The PAS website won a best-of-the-web award for ‘research/online collection’ at the International Museums and the Web conference; previous winners include the Victoria and Albert Museum and the current holder of this award is the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. The database is now being re-written and fully documented to alleviate some usability issues that have surfaced in this period, and to create a more powerful search system. Public recording has continued with over 5,000 objects recorded by 36 people; it is expected that this figure will increase significantly in 2012.

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



Finds Liaison Officers' locations



38

Finds Liaison Officers

199

Metal-detecting clubs

927

Metal-detecting club
meetings attended in
2011

39,996

People attending
outreach events in 2011

Contacts

1 Berkshire (East)

David Williams
07968 832740
info@berkshirearchaeology.org.uk

2 Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire

Julian Watters
0172 775 1826
julian.watters@stalbands.gov.uk

3 Buckinghamshire

Ros Tyrrell
0129 662 4519
rtyrrell@buckscc.gov.uk

4 Cambridgeshire

Helen Fowler
0122 372 8571
helen.fowler@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

5 Cheshire, Greater Manchester & Merseyside

Vanessa Oakden
0151 478 4259
vanessa.oakden@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk

6 Cornwall

Anna Tyacke
0187 227 2205 ext 219
anna.tyacke@royalcornwallmuseum.org.uk

7 Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire

Charlotte Burrill
0133 264 1903
charlotte.burrill@derby.gov.uk

8 Devon

Danielle Wootton
0139 272 4327
danielle.c.wootton@exeter.ac.uk

9 Dorset

Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevarthen
0130 522 8254
c.h.trevarthen@dorsetcc.gov.uk

10 Essex

Katie Marsden
0120 650 6961
katie.marsden@colchester.gov.uk

11 Gloucestershire & Avon

Kurt Adams
0117 922 2613
kurt.adams@bristol.gov.uk

12 Hampshire

Katie Hinds
0196 284 8558
khinds@winchester.gov.uk

13 Herefordshire & Shropshire

Peter Reavill
0158 481 3641
peter.reavill@shropshire.gov.uk

14 Isle of Wight

Frank Basford
0198 382 3810
frank.basford@iow.gov.uk

15 Kent

Jennifer Jackson
0162 222 1544
jennifer.jackson@kent.gov.uk

16 Lancashire & Cumbria

Dot Boughton & Stuart Noon
0177 253 2175 & 0122 861 8760; dot.boughton@lancashire.gov.uk / dot.boughton@tulliehouse.org & stuart.noon@lancashire.gov.uk

17 Leicestershire & Rutland

Wendy Scott
0116 305 8325
wendy.scott@leics.gov.uk

18 Lincolnshire

Adam Daubney
0152 255 2361
adam.daubney@lincolnshire.gov.uk

19 London

Kate Sumnall
0207 814 5733
ksumnall@museumoflondon.org.uk

20 Norfolk

Erica Darch & Mary Chester-Kadwell
0136 286 9289
erica.darch@norfolk.gov.uk & mary.chester-kadwell@norfolk.gov.uk

21 Northamptonshire

Julie Cassidy
0160 436 7249
jucassidy@northamptonshire.gov.uk

22 North East

Robert Collins & Lauren Proctor
0191 222 5076 & 03000 267 011
robert.collins@ncl.ac.uk
lauren.proctor@durham.gov.uk

23 North Lincolnshire

Martin Foreman
0172 484 3533
martin.foreman@northlincs.gov.uk

24 Oxfordshire & West Berkshire

Anni Byard
0782 782 2617
anni.byard@oxfordshire.gov.uk

25 Somerset

Laura Burnett
0182 334 7457
lburnett@somerset.gov.uk

26 Staffordshire & West Midlands

Teresa Gilmore
teresa.gilmore@birmingham.gov.uk
0121 303 4636

27 Suffolk

Andrew Brown, Faye Minter & Andrew Woods
0128 474 1236
andrew.brown2@suffolk.gov.uk,
faye.minter@suffolk.gov.uk &
andrew.woods@suffolk.gov.uk

28 Surrey

David Williams
07968 832740
david.williams@surreycc.gov.uk

29 Sussex

Stephanie Smith
0127 340 5731
flo@sussexpast.co.uk

30 Warwickshire & Worcestershire

Angie Bolton
0190 525371
abolton@worcestershire.gov.uk

31 Wiltshire

vacant
01722 332151

32 Yorkshire (North & East)

Rebecca Griffiths
01904 687668
rebecca.griffiths@ymt.org.uk

33 Yorkshire (South & West)

Amy Downes
01924 305359
adownes@wyjs.org.uk

34 Wales

Mark Lodwick
02920 573226
mark.lodwick@museumwales.ac.uk

For further information about the
Portable Antiquities Scheme, or the
work of the Department of Portable
Antiquities and Treasure at the
British Museum, visit finds.org.uk

**Department of
Portable Antiquities and Treasure**

British Museum
London WC1B 3DG
info@finds.org.uk
+44 (0)20 7323 8611/8618

Inside covers : Excavation of the
Vale of Wardour Hoard
(WILT-E8DA70)



**Portable
Antiquities
Scheme**

www.finds.org.uk



Supported using public funding by

**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

Printed with the generous support of
Treasure Hunting magazine