The British Museum

The Portable Antiquities Scheme Annual Report 2013

Foreword

One million finds have now been recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) since 1997. This is a remarkable milestone and represents a considerable contribution to archaeological knowledge. It is also a testament to the success of the PAS in breaking down barriers between archaeologists and metal-detectorists. I would therefore like to thank all of those involved with the Scheme, from its local Finds Liaison Officers (FLOs) and their managers, through the support given by museum curators and other finds experts across the country, to the many hundreds of people who have offered finds for recording over the past 17 years.

The PAS is funded through the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's grant in aid to the British Museum, with local partner contributions. The PAS is a significant part of the British Museum's outreach work in the regions, which we are committed to maintain and develop through its network of FLOs. Although the FLOs are the frontline, they are supported by a small Central Unit at the British Museum, as well as the Scheme's Finds Advisers, other experts in museums and institutions across the country and in the wider research community. These partnerships are crucial to the delivery and success of the PAS. It is therefore excellent news that the Heritage Lottery Fund has agreed to fund 'PASt Explorers: finds recording in the local community', a project designed to widen the PAS's volunteer base and also excite people about the archaeology of their local area. This project will ensure that over the next five years (and beyond) there are opportunities for local people to work more closely with the PAS, ensuring that even more finds are recorded. This is particularly necessary since the existing network of FLOs is at recording capacity.

The public appetite for archaeology was again highlighted through another successful series of ITV's *Britain's Secret Treasures*, with an average of 2.6 million people tuning in to learn more. The number of finds reported Treasure shows no sign of declining, accounting for 993 cases in 2013. The Treasure Act depends on the PAS for its success as well as colleagues at the British Museum, the network of national coroners and museum curators, and the Treasure Valuation Committee. I would also like to thank the generosity of the Art Fund, the Headley Trust, the Heritage Lottery Fund, the National Heritage Memorial Fund and the V&A Purchase Grant Fund, who all have funded museum acquisitions of Treasure. Also, thanks to all those who have waived their right to a reward, allowing museums to acquire Treasure finds at no or reduced cost.

The PAS continues to grow as an important research project, with its data being used by academics and the public alike. It is tremendous news that to date this data has been used in 422 research projects, including 15 pieces of large-scale research and 87 PhDs. It is incredible to think that local people are not only rewriting the history of their local area, but (through the PAS) are rewriting the history of this country.

Lastly, I would very much like to thank the generosity of *Treasure Hunting*, who again have generously sponsored the publication of this report.

Neil MacGregor
Director of the
British Museum

Key points

The main achievements of the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) in 2013 are as follows:

- 80,861 PAS finds were recorded on the PAS database (finds.org.uk/database).
- 90% of finds were found by metal-detectorists.
- 91% of PAS finds were found on cultivated land, where they are susceptible to plough damage and artificial and natural corrosion processes.
- 99% of PAS finds were recorded to the nearest 100m^2 (a 6-figure NGR), the minimum requirement for findspot information for Historic Environment Records.
- New sites discovered through finds recorded by the PAS include a Romano-British shrine site from Hampshire and a previously unknown Roman road in Shropshire.
- Currently 815 people have full access to PAS data for research purposes, and there are a further 6,723 registered users. To date, PAS data has been used in 422 research projects, including 15 pieces of large-scale research and 87 PhDs.
- 505,793 unique visitors visited the PAS websites, making over 767,340 visits and 4,775,018 page requests.
- Publications associated with the work of the PAS include reports in *Britannia*, *Medieval Archaeology* and *Post-Medieval Archaeology*.
- 1,849 outreach events took place, including talks, finds days and exhibitions. These were attended by at least 48,541 adults and 3,714 children.
- The Scheme's Finds Liaison Officers had regular contact with 197 metal-detecting clubs, attending 757 club meetings.
- 60 self-recorders added 2,768 finds to the database (recorded with the prefix PUBLIC).

The main achievements of the Treasure Act 1996 in 2013 are as follows:

- 993 Treasure cases were reported. It is hoped that many of these will be acquired by museums for public benefit.
- 93% of Treasure finds were found by metal-detectorists.
- Important new Treasure finds included eight Bronze Age gold bracelets from Woollaston, Gloucestershire (2013 T805), a Civil War coin hoard from Staveley, North Yorkshire (2013 T635) and a post-medieval silver ewer from Kingston Russell, Devon (2013 T476).

In 2012, 137 parties waived their right to a reward for 79 Treasure cases, allowing them to be acquired by museums at no or reduced cost. Most PAS finds are returned to the finder.

Introduction

Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS)

The PAS was established to record archaeological finds found by the public, in order to advance our knowledge of the past. It is the only proactive mechanism for recording such finds, which are made publicly available on its online database (finds.org.uk/database) so that this data can be used by archaeologists, researchers, and those with a more general interest in the archaeology and history of England and Wales.

On the front line of the PAS are its 38 locally based archaeologists, known as Finds Liaison Officers (FLOs), covering the whole of England and Wales. Their job is to liaise with the public and record finds of archaeological interest. This work is co-ordinated by a Central Unit (based at the British Museum) of four others, as well as six period specialists and four research posts funded by the AHRC and Leverhulme Trust. In 2013, 193 volunteers (including 66 self-recorders) plus nine Headley Trust interns also contributed to the work of the Scheme.

The PAS is managed by the British Museum, and is a key way in which the Museum reaches out to local people in the regions. It is funded through the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS)'s grant in aid to the British Museum, with local partner contributions. 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 in the district in which the find was made. The success of the Act is only possible though the work of the PAS, with its staff 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 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:

1. 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.
2. Any group of two or more metallic objects of any composition of prehistoric date that come from the same find.
3. Two or more coins from the same find provided they are at least 300 years old when found and contain 10 per cent gold or silver. If the coins contain less than 10% of gold or silver there must be at least ten of them.
4. 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.
5. 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, they should contact their local FLO for advice.

Excavation of Elizabethan coin hoard (2011 T89)

Bronze Age bracelets from Woolaston, Gloucestershire (2013 T805)

Outreach and learning

It is principally through the work of the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) and Partnership UK (PUK) that the British Museum reaches out to the regions. The PAS (in particular) owes its success to proactively liaising with local people (through talks, finds days and local displays etc.), since is through this work that finders and others come to learn about the PAS and the importance of reporting and recording archaeological discoveries.

Learning is also a key outcome of the PAS. Its data is used to help people understand the finds they have made and the archaeology of their local area. This data is also made available to professional archaeologists, especially those interested in exploring the historic landscape, as well as those researching small finds.

Young people

Young people love to get close to archaeology and handle 'real' artefacts. These finds offer a tangible link to the past, and complement traditional class-based methods of learning. From time to time FLOs have the opportunity to work with children (both in the formal and informal learning environment) as highlighted below.

Angie Bolton (Worcestershire & Warwickshire FLO) helped pupils aged 8 to 9 (Year 4) at Warden Hill Primary School, Cheltenham, understand the Romans, through PAS finds. In the classroom the children re-enacted the battle between Gaius (the Roman soldier) and Queen Boudicca (of the Iceni). Once Gaius was killed (and lay dead on their classroom floor) the children swept through time looking at the changes which occurred since – as the battlefield site became cultivated, hedges were planted, the town encroached and a local supermarket sought planning permission to expand. It was at this stage, as young archaeologists, the children unravelled the story, reaching back to finding Gaius' remains and investigating what would have been left of him and his belongings in 2013.

'The session was well run and organised, and built upon the children's enthusiasm and excitement for history. They were also very excited to meet a real archaeologist! Angie brought history to life and contextualised the work the children had been learning about in class. It also helped develop their understanding of historical analysis and improved their thinking skills. They were particularly amazed by what did not survive in the archaeological record, and had to think hard to develop their ideas about the past.'
(James Antonious, teacher, Warden Hill Primary School, Cheltenham)

Understanding archaeological evidence through play

Museums and displays

People are excited to learn about new archaeological discoveries, especially significant finds or those found close to where they live. If these can also be displayed in museums, for people to learn about and enjoy, that benefits all. In 2013 several FLOs worked closely with museum colleagues to highlight local finds through various displays and exhibitions.

Leicestershire Museums developed an exhibition for its museum at Snibston – *Treasure: Shedding Light on Leicestershire's Past*. Through recent finds and other objects from the museum's collection, the exhibition sought to explain the Treasure process and highlight how these objects can transform our knowledge of the past. The centrepiece of the exhibition was the Hallaton Hoard, including a helmet and coins dating from the Iron Age to Roman period. Also on display was a silver boar badge from the Battle of Bosworth – which helped pinpoint the spot where Richard III (r. 1483–1485) fell in battle, the Thurcaston Hoard of Viking Age coinage (deposited c. 925) – identifying that the Vikings were present in the area even after it was re-conquered by the Anglo-Saxons, and the Welby Hoard – part of a very large Bronze Age metalworking hoard that was saved from being melted down in the late Victorian period. Visitors could also get involved through 'interactives', such as a metal-detecting game, or deciding whether objects in the 'Treasure or Not' display were legally Treasure or not! The exhibition attracted an average of 300 visitors a day in its first week, and 24,390 throughout the period 23 March to 3 November.

'The exhibition not only brought all of Leicestershire's Treasure finds together in one place, but also connected with a new visitor audience, including those who might not have previously engaged with our archaeology collections, and those who have a pre-existing interest in archaeology but had never visited Snibston Discovery Museum.' (Philip Warren, Head of Collections and Resources, Leicestershire County Council)

In Lancashire, the Museum of Lancashire's new 'Through Time' gallery displays objects from around the county, revealing an extensive period of activity, as well as what happens to archaeological finds from when they are found through to conservation and display. Now the gallery also incorporates the work of the PAS. The 'History of Collecting' area displays objects from a local metal-detecting club, while the 'Find Out More' interactive computer is linked to the PAS database as well as the British Museum's collection online.

It is particularly welcome that for the last two years the Art Fund has a grant (Treasure Plus) to enable museums to display and interpret Treasure and non-Treasure finds.

Exhibits in the *Treasure* exhibition at Snibston, Leicestershire

Many PAS outreach events, including finds days and talks, take place in local museums. These provide an idea opportunity for people to bring in their discoveries and learn about the archaeology and history of the local area, but also allow them to get to know their local museum and its collections.

Katie Marsden (Essex FLO) attended two finds days in autumn 2013 at Epping Forest District Museum, Waltham Abbey. The days were designed to provide an identification service for the Epping Forest region, but also encourage closer working relations between the FLO and the museum. Local newspaper coverage provided exposure for both, and Katie was able to meet finders who might not otherwise have recorded with the PAS due to the fact they lived far away from other museums with established recording days.

Work with community groups
The PAS also reaches out to community groups, including local archaeological and historical societies. Much of this work is delivered through talks and organising displays, sometimes as part of larger events, such as a local heritage day or fete.

In June 2013, Rob Webley (joint Somerset FLO) delivered a training session on metal small finds, which took place at Dovery Manor Museum, Porlock. This was aimed at local volunteers taking part in the DIG Porlock community archaeology project run by the Exmoor Landscape Partnership. Alongside separate pottery and flint training days, run by local practitioners, these sessions aimed to equip volunteers with skills they needed to identify and record items recovered during archaeological fieldwork. More widely, this session also introduced them to the work of the PAS, and making use of this data for local research.

'Through the DIG Porlock community archaeology project, a series of finds sessions were programmed to enable volunteers to learn about, handle and recognise materials they were likely to encounter during archaeological excavations on two moorland sites later in the year. The days were both enjoyable and informative, and really enabled the volunteers to increase their confidence before participating in an archaeological excavation for the first time.' (Faye Balmond, Moorland Heritage Officer, Exmoor Moorland Landscape Partnership)

The PAS team in Suffolk has been involved in archaeological survey work at Rendlesham, where a team of skilled metal-detector users has worked with archaeologists from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service to identify an early medieval site of international importance. The exceptional discoveries, including Merovingian coinage, gold and garnet jewellery, and numerous copper-alloy objects spanning the Anglo-Saxon period, throw new light on early East Anglia and the origins of Anglo-Saxon kingdoms (see *British Archaeology* 137).

Rob Webley (Somerset FLO) talking to people involved with Dig Porlock

Detecting survey at Rendlesham, Suffolk

Volunteers

In April 2013 the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) funded development of 'PASt Explorers: finds recording in the local community' – a project designed to widen the PAS's volunteer base – leading to the submission of a round two bid which received funding in August 2014. It is planned to recruit four posts to deliver the project: a full-time Outreach Officer, who will coordinate the project, implement volunteer recruitment and provide support; two part-time Project Officers, who will check data recorded and deliver training and online resources; and an ICT Officer to monitor data flow and develop online resources. The project will start in November 2014 for five years.

The aim of PASt Explorers is to create a sustainable national network of trained volunteers from local communities who will operate as Community Finds Recording Teams (CFRTs) based around their FLO, getting involved in local archaeological finds work including recording finds on the PAS database. Volunteers will be trained on finds recording work, finds photography, artefact identification and outreach work, as appropriate. The project also aims to reach out to new audiences, especially people who have never before had the opportunity to participate in archaeological heritage. Dedicated 'County Pages' will be created on the PAS website that will provide information, presenting background information and case studies on each area in the form of blogs, features about finds and research, finds recording guides and other resources that will help people appreciate their local heritage.

As part of the development process, a pilot project was set up by Wendy Scott (Leicestershire FLO), working with local colleagues. Role descriptions for volunteers were created, with the view that these can form templates for the national project. Modules from the training programme were trialled, which included database training. The role of Senior Volunteer was trialled at Ironbridge Gorge Museum. Here the volunteer received training from Peter Reavill (Herefordshire & Shropshire FLO) which enabled her to record finds and provide basic training for other volunteers.

'Finds identification is really fun, with that sort of eureka moment, when you realise what something is.' (Meredith Laing, PASt Explorers volunteer, Leicestershire)

In 2013, Richard Henry (Wiltshire FLO) ran two training sessions for students from the universities of York and Winchester at Salisbury Museum, taking advantage of the closure of the archaeology gallery. The sessions provided the students with a unique opportunity to learn about the use and manufacture of objects and closely study them. Also using PAS finds, the training sessions included both complete and fragmentary artefacts, providing the students a range of artefacts to study from the Neolithic to post-medieval periods.

Filming *Britain's Secret Treasures* at the British Museum

TV and the media

In 2013 a second series of *Britain's Secret Treasures* was screened on ITV1, with average viewing figures of 2.6 million people. Each hour-long programme featured interesting finds from across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, introduced by guest presenters such as Russell Grant, John Prescott and James Purefoy. At the same time a book, featuring finds from series 1 and 2 – *Britain's Secret Treasures: extraordinary finds uncovered by members of the public* – was published. Written by Mary-Ann Ochota, this had a section on how to get involved, which highlighted the contribution made by responsible metal-detectorists recording finds with the PAS.

There is much local coverage of finds recorded through the PAS and reported Treasure. It is common for the press to attend Treasure inquests and then report on the finds that have been recently discovered. Often the Central Unit at the British Museum will get calls from journalists wanting to learn more about local discoveries, such is the public interest in finds from their local area. This year Martin Barber from BBC Norfolk met with the Treasure team at the British Museum to learn more about how the Treasure process works. It is welcome that his particular interest is the archaeological and historical significance of these finds, rather than their market value, which is so often attractive to the press.

Universities

The PAS records archaeological finds in order that this data can add to archaeological knowledge. Increasingly the PAS works closely with universities across the country, not only to discuss the benefits of archaeologists and metal-detectorists working together and the value of finds recording, but also to provide students with experience of working with finds.

Stephanie Smith (Sussex FLO) was previously a student at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London, and took a placement with the PAS while studying there. Every year she returns to the university to talk to current MA Artefact Studies students about the PAS and delivers a session on recording small finds. For many students it is the first time they have had the opportunity to work with metal finds – certainly it is the first time they will have seen a typical metal-detected finds assemblage. Through such events, Stephanie hopes to kindle enthusiasm in future finds specialists, and also recruit at least five volunteers for the PAS annually. Several people currently employed as FLOs have previously worked as interns via this route, or through the generosity of the internships funded by the Headley Trust.

'The lecture and finds handling session that Stephanie delivered was an immensely valuable addition to the MA Artefact Studies course. It allowed us to engage with metal finds from a range of different periods, and provided considerable insight into the research potential of metal-detected finds reported through the PAS. As a direct result of this session I opted to complete a placement with the Scheme and have subsequently spent the last few years working with this material in my roles as Finds Liaison Assistant and Assistant Treasure Registrar.' (Lucy Ellis, former student, University College London)

Research

The data collected by the PAS is an important research tool, used by archaeologists, academics and those with an interest in their local area. Currently 815 people have full access to PAS data for research purposes. The data has also been used in 422 research projects, including 15 pieces of large-scale research and 87 PhDs. There are also a further 6,723 registered users, who are able to interrogate PAS data relating to their own finds.

An Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) funded research project, 'Crisis or continuity? Hoarding in Iron Age and Roman Britain with special reference to the 3rd century AD', is currently underway at the British Museum and University of Leicester. Three research associates (Adrian Chadwick, Eleanor Ghey and Adam Rogers) are investigating the contents and archaeological contexts of coin hoards found in Britain dating from the Iron Age to the end of the Roman period, with a view to understanding the reasons for their deposition. At least 3,000 hoards are known at present, almost certainly a greater concentration than anywhere else in the Roman Empire. This number has greatly increased since the advent of the Treasure Act and the project database will provide a much needed update to the last published corpus. A particular emphasis is being placed on the landscape location of findspots and a selection of sites will be investigated through geophysical survey. The project is working closely with the *Coin Hoards of the Roman Empire Project* at Oxford University, which is gathering data on Roman coin hoards from the rest of the Empire.

The Leverhulme Trust-funded project *The Portable Antiquities Scheme Database as a Tool for Archaeological Research* started in 2012 and is due to be completed in March 2015, with Katherine Robbins as the Research Assistant. This project is producing exciting new insights into the interpretation of distributions of PAS finds and an online guide for researchers on how to interpret the data will be published on the PAS website in 2014, while the project monograph will be published as a British Museum Research Publication in 2015.

Conquest and Continuity webpage on the British Museum's website

A pilot for the 'Origins of Wessex' project ran at the University of Oxford during the period of this report. Its aim was to investigate the Upper Thames Valley from AD c. 400 to 750 to reveal how the *Gewisse* – the forerunners of the West Saxons – emerged to form the region's first post-Roman 'society'. The project mapped PAS finds alongside data from archaeological excavations and other landscape sources, such as crop marks and LiDAR, showing that some areas were 'hot spots' of activity in this period. The analysis of certain types of object, including imports and precious metals, also hinted at a possible 'riverine' cultural zone with links to eastern Kent. Now the pilot project is completed the lead investigator, Helena Hamerow, hopes to secure funding for further study. The current results are fully published in the journal *Oxoniensia* 78.

A number of PhDs are using PAS data, including Collaborative Doctorial Awards (CDAs) funded by the AHRC. PhDs completed in 2013 include Sophie Adams (University of Leicester) – *A Study of Late Hallstatt and Early to Middle La Tène Brooches in Britain* and Rosie Weetch (University of Reading) – *Brooches in late Anglo-Saxon England within a north-west European context*. Ongoing PhDs include those of Anna Booth (University of Leicester) – *A New Study of the Penannular Brooch in Britain*, Adam Daubney (University of Leicester) – *Portable Antiquities, Palimpsests and Persistent Places: the contribution of PAS data in Lincolnshire, c. 10,000BC – AD 1700*, Michelle Statton (University College London) – *Dress, Adornment and Identity in Late Iron Age and Roman Britain*, and Felicity Winkley (University College London) – *On the Map: a study of metal-detectorists' attitudes to landscape*.

Rob Webley (University of York) continues to work on his PhD – *Conquest and Continuity* – which seeks to characterise portable metalwork in Late Saxon and Anglo-Norman England (AD 900–1250). The 11th century was a period of huge social and political change in England, given the impact of both the Danish (1016–1042) and Norman (1066–1070) conquests, hence a general shift of influence from Scandinavia towards continental Europe. The complexities of the political history of this period offer problems for archaeologists trying to understand the material culture left behind, particularly metal finds. Therefore the purpose of this PhD is to discover whether or not these changes are apparent in the finds data, as they are in elite material culture such as architecture, sculpture and manuscript illumination.

'Collaborative Doctorial Awards provide unique opportunities for universities and others to work together on exciting topics of mutual interest. Rob Webley's PhD highlights the value of PAS data in answering serious questions about how conquest may impact on society, and how material culture is implicated in such social and political transitions.'
(Steve Ashby, Lecturer, University of York)

The 2013 PAS conference, jointly held with the Finds Research Group, examined 'The Forgotten Past: post-medieval small finds and their contribution to our understanding of the past'. Speakers included Gary Bankhead (University of Durham) on leaden cloth seals, Helen Geake (University of Cambridge) on medical implements and Brian Read (finds specialist) on thimbles. The 2014 conference will examine how portable antiquities contribute to our understanding of past landscapes.

PAS staff regularly contribute to *Britannia, Medieval Archaeology, Post-medieval Archaeology* and the *British Numismatic Journal* (which since 2013 has included a summary publication of all coin hoards from Britain), to the *Coin Register* (which records all important single finds), as well as various other specialist and local journals to highlight important discoveries and their relevance for furthering archaeological knowledge.

The PAS is envied in many countries, especially where there is no proper mechanism to record archaeological finds found by the public. Indeed, in many European counties metal-detecting is illegal or otherwise restricted, though still practised.

In 2013 Michael Lewis (Deputy Head) and John Naylor (Finds Adviser) spoke to students at Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium, about the PAS and the benefits of recording metal-detected finds. The background to this visit was a change in the heritage laws of Flanders, allowing there to be an opportunity to liaise with metal-detectorists on a more formal basis. Although (until recently) metal-detecting was illegal in Flanders, the law was not enforced, and many archaeologists recorded metal-detecting finds on an ad hoc basis. Funding of 350,000 euros has recently been awarded to develop a recording system for these finds akin to the PAS. Similar discussions have also taken place with colleagues in the Netherlands; it is hoped this can be taken forward in 2014.

'In Flanders, awareness of the archaeological significance of metal-detected artefacts is gradually increasing among both archaeologists and detector users. The achievements of the Portable Antiquities Scheme have contributed greatly to this change in attitude, and the Scheme itself is considered a model for the development of a Flemish system for recording metalwork finds.'
(Dries Tys, Professor, Vrije Universiteit Brussel)

Best practice

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, highlights best practice. Key elements of this are to avoid damaging *in situ* archaeology, recording finds with the PAS, and seeking archaeological help if something significant is discovered.

This year a hoard of approximately 22,000 Roman coins was found in Devon (2013 T763). Realising the significance of the discovery, and that much of it was *in situ*, the finders immediately contacted the landowner, as well as Danielle Wootton (Devon FLO) and Bill Horner (County Archaeologist). As a result it was possible to arrange for the prompt archaeological excavation and recording of the hoard and its context. The excavation team included professional archaeologists, detectorists and the landowner's family. The coin hoard is now at the British Museum for further study.

The Treasure Act provides a mechanism for museums to acquire Treasure finds. On average about 40% of Treasure finds end up in museum collections, with the others being disclaimed and returned to the finder and landowner. Increasingly it is the case that one or more parties waive their right to a reward, so museums are able to acquire Treasure finds at no or a reduced cost. Full data is not yet available for 2013, but in 2012, 137 parties generously waived their right to a reward for 79 separate cases, at a total value exceeding £11,000.

It is also the case that finders of non-Treasure finds have donated them to local museums. In 2013 items include a Roman brooch from Cornwall (CORN-DE55F7; acquired by the Royal Institution Cornwall), an Anglo-Saxon assemblage from Appleby (SWYOR-B296F6 etc; North Lincolnshire Museum), a medieval seal matrix from Wiltshire (WILT-5F2594; Salisbury Museum) and a medieval pilgrim's badge associated with Gottsburen, Germany, found in London (LON-1C0853; Museum of London). Also a rare Roman anthropomorphic nail cleaner from Northamptonshire (NARC-733D28) was donated to the British Museum.

Although many finders are keen to hold on to their finds in the short term, it is good to think about what might happen to them in the future, and therefore make plans accordingly.

Medieval seal matrix donated
to Salisbury Museum (WILT-5F2594)

Medieval pilgrim's badge donated to
the Museum of London (LON-1C0853)

Recording finds

Recording archaeological finds found by the public is central to the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS). Through this work people are rewriting the archaeology and history of their local area on a daily basis. This data is incredibly useful to archaeologists, allowing them not only to better understand the historic landscape, but also how people worked and lived in the past. Metal-detecting and fieldwalking have an important role to play, since these activities often take place in areas otherwise unlikely to be investigated archaeologically, thus bringing to light new sites and those that are little known. However, these new finds can only properly contribute to archaeological knowledge if they are offered for recording.

Palaeolithic handaxe from London
(LON-C5F0E2)

Mesolithic adze from Garboldisham,
Norfolk (SF-5DD878)

Neolithic axe from Wangford, Suffolk
(SF-58F111)

Neolithic scraper from Chaffcombe,
Somerset (SOM-F008E5)

Prehistoric Flint and Stone (c. 500,000–2100 BC)

Objects made from flint and stone have an importance of their own, representing (for more than 700,000 years) almost our only evidence of human presence in Britain. If the pages of this report were proportioned out according to the time-spans involved, flint and stone objects would occupy all but five lines on the last page, and the post medieval period would have one letter! During the past year 2,799 items of prehistoric flint and stone were recorded.

While flint objects are found all over the country they are most common in the east and south. Some major concentrations exist, but these need to be treated with caution; they can often be explained by the efforts of particularly energetic field-walkers! Last year the PAS recorded 159 worked flints from the Yorkshire Moors (see FAKL-03DD92 for a typical record), an area known to have a rich prehistoric heritage, but now, with the finder using a handheld GPS, it becomes possible to see patterns of finds emerging which date from the Mesolithic period to the Bronze Age (c. 10,000–2350 BC).

42 Palaeolithic handaxes have been recorded in the last year, of which 25 came from around Tamworth, Staffordshire. Unlike most handaxes, these were made not from flint but quartzite, which has much poorer flaking qualities (see WMID-2DD114). These can be compared with the more typical flint handaxe from London (LON-C5F0E2). These objects are breathtakingly old, being made between 700,000 and 150,000 years ago.

Seven axes have been recorded from the Mesolithic period (c. 10,000–4000 BC), including an adze from Garboldisham, Norfolk (SF-5DD878). These tools were sharpened by the removal of a large flake from their cutting edge and may have been used in woodworking. With the end of the Ice Age (c. 8000 BC), trees spread across the landscape and tools like this would have been important. The pattern of Mesolithic finds recorded is interesting as there appears to be major concentration of finds in a broad band across Yorkshire and Lancashire and in Cornwall. This, again, might be a result of concentrated fieldwork and ease of discovery on moorlands, but these observations are worthy of investigation so we might learn what they can tell us about this remote period. The Mesolithic period was followed by the Neolithic, which was characterised by the use of polished stone axes, of which 46 have been found, including a fine example from Wangford, Suffolk (SF-58F111).

In addition to the axes many small flint objects have been recorded, with 91 arrowheads being added to the database this year. Flint scrapers continue to be the most common tool found, with 491 examples, including finds from Chaffcombe, Somerset (SOM-F008E5), and Clodgy Moor, Cornwall (PUBLIC-A611D0), the latter being recorded by the finder. The function of scrapers is uncertain. They are likely to have been used in the preparation of skins, but other roles, such as bone or woodworking, are not impossible.

Kevin Leahy

Bronze Age (c. 2350–700 BC)

954 Bronze Age finds were recorded in 2013. Within this number are 46 Treasure cases, of which 27 were base-metal hoards or groups. The material recorded is representative of objects in use in Bronze Age Britain, with some significant individual exceptions.

Precious metal finds reported as Treasure include two torcs, nine penannular rings, one probable bracelet, and an intriguing hoard of eight others from Woolaston, Gloucestershire (2013 T805), as well as one bead. The unusual bi-conical and annular gold bead, of Middle Bronze Age date (c. 1500–1100 BC), was found at Salthouse, Norfolk (NMS-AEC678). Gold beads of this date are relatively rare finds, but can be contextualised with reference to the so-called 'ornament horizon', which see a proliferation of bronze and gold ornaments in southern England and Britain (respectively) during the period c. 1400–1100 BC. The nine examples of gold penannular beads, an artefact type which dates from the Middle to Late Bronze Age, include two examples of Middle Bronze Age composite penannular rings. These comprise three penannular solid rods of gold possibly soldered together; their findspots are Bolnhurst, Bedfordshire (SF-A6DEC7), and Fincham, Norfolk (NMS-ACBFA4). A gold strip from Harrold, Bedfordshire (WMID-3CBCF0), decorated with a series of ribbed embossed bands, dating from the Early to Middle Bronze Age, may be a bracelet.

Among the 22 base-metal hoards, none are Early, only three date from the Middle Bronze Age, and the remainder are Late Bronze Age. The Late Bronze Age hoards are widely distributed with cases from Cumbria, Devon, East Yorkshire, Essex, Herefordshire, Lancashire, Norfolk, Northamptonshire, Northumberland and Suffolk. The largest hoard this year is the hoard from Docking, Norfolk (NMS-37F7D3), consisting of 17 objects or fragments thereof, with two swords, six socketed axe heads of Type Meldreth, Type Yorkshire and axe fragments of unidentifiable type. It is highly likely that two socketed axe heads previously recorded from the same area in 1988 and 1955, as well as a palstave axehead found in 1969, formed part of the original deposit.

A Late Bronze Age hoard from Sutton, Herefordshire (HESH-A81AA5), is of special interest, since it comprised a sword hilt fragment wedged within a ribbed and socketed axehead. During the later Bronze Age a number of object types are often deposited together within specific locales in the landscape. These can sometimes be manmade structures, such as hillforts or settlements, but are more commonly natural places often near water, such as spring heads, slow moving streams, or bogs and meres.

So-called 'founder's hoards' can contain broken or unfit metal objects, ingots, casting waste, as well as often complete objects in a finished state. This year large hoards of this kind were not forthcoming, though that from East Bergholt, Suffolk (SF-A786E1), is noteworthy since it was found in the vicinity of other hoards of this type, which may allude to ritual deposition rather metalworking.

Bead from Salthouse, Norfolk
(NMS-AEC678)

Bead from Bolnhurst, Bedfordshire
(SF-A6DEC7)

Axehead containing sword hilt from
Sutton, Herefordshire (HESH-A81AA5)

Base-metal single finds are very diverse and in 2013 cover all periods of the Bronze Age. Included are flat axeheads (including PUBLIC-905653), palstaves, socketed axeheads, dirks, rapiers, sword fragments, scabbard chapes, a pin, a bracelet fragment and one finger-ring.

The four Bronze Age razor or knives recorded in 2013, from St Agnes, Cornwall (CORN-28E916), Routh, East Yorkshire (YORYM-4525A3), Marham, Norfolk (NMS-B7FBC7), and Barton, Bendish (NMS-B7FBC7), are noteworthy. That from St Agnes is semi-circular in plan and is particularly unusual in having part of the circular perforation remaining where a wooden shaft or handle was probably attached. Similar perforated triangular examples have been found at Phillack, Hayle in Cornwall and in north-west France. These have been traditionally associated with 'Hog's back' knives, dated to the Late Bronze Age, but have more in common with the 'Racloir' types of north-west France. That from Routh is also striking, being a complete though damaged copper-alloy leaf-shaped and tanged double-edged razor, dating from the early part of the Late Bronze Age. The razors from Norfolk are leaf-shaped, but slightly flatter and missing the tang.

Bronze Age spearheads are common finds. In a recently published national corpus of Early and Middle Bronze Age spearheads by Richard Davis (University of Nottingham), PAS examples made up 7% of the corpus, underlining the importance of this data for current research (see *Prähistorische Bronzefunde* 2012). Of particular note is a Late Bronze Age pegged leaf-shaped socketed spearhead from near Wallingford, Oxfordshire (BERK-FCF913), which has punched and incised decoration.

Axe moulds are not common finds, but a number have been recorded by the PAS, including a copper-alloy single valve from a two-piece late Bronze Age socketed axe mould from Sutton, Suffolk (SF-839555). The interior shows that the mould served for the casting of an undecorated socketed axe of South Eastern Type with double-mouth moulding. Around the edges of its interior surface the valve has a single deeply incised groove that would have enabled it to lock into place with the now missing second half of the mould, thus creating a secure joint to enable the casting of the axe. It is a remarkable and interesting find.

Sally Worrell

Flat axehead from Knighton, Powys
(PUBLIC-905653)

Razor from St Agnes, Cornwall
(CORN-28E916)

Spearhead from near Wallingford,
Oxfordshire (BERK-FCF913)

Axe mould from Sutton, Suffolk
(SF-839555)

Axe fragment from Little Wilbraham,
Cambridgeshire (SF-581FD5)

Torc from Caistor, Lincolnshire
(NLM-605352)

Brooch from Letcombe Bassett,
Oxfordshire (BERK-D08268)

Pin from Preston Candover,
Hampshire (HAMP-A3A892)

Iron Age (c. 800 BC–AD 43)

Iron Age finds are comparatively uncommon, accounting for 1,637 objects recorded with the PAS in 2013, of which 441 were coins. The range of items continues to offer significant insights into life and society at this time, highlighted by the examples below.

Early Iron Age (c. 800–500 BC) metalwork finds are rare, so it is of note that three Sompting Type socketed axe fragments came to light this year. Complete axes of this type are large. They can also be elaborately decorated, such as with rib-and-pellet or rib-and-roundel motifs, as seen on the body fragment of the Sompting Type from Little Wilbraham, Cambridgeshire (SF-581FD5). Much rarer is an iron socketed axe from Middleham, North Yorkshire (FAKL-38D115), as only 30 to 40 others are known.

Other uncommon artefacts include an anchor-shaped La Tène I scabbard chape, dating to the 6th century BC, from Ropley, Hampshire (HAMP-0219F8); a similar example being known from West Hanney, Oxfordshire (LVPL-FCE522). Also a large fragment of a highly decorated gold torc, dating to c. 450–300 BC, was found at Caistor, Lincolnshire (NLM-605352). It is similar to continental types which have a distribution centred on north-east France and western Germany, but to date no gold torcs of this type have been discovered in the British Isles. It is therefore likely to have been imported.

A significant quantity of Iron Age brooches was found in 2013. A small number (27 in all) date to the early and middle periods; all but one are early (La Tene I type), the other, from Letcombe Bassett, Oxfordshire (BERK-D08268), of middle Iron Age date (La Tene IIB). Another 372 brooches are late Iron Age to early Roman, highlighting the popularity of brooch wearing (and deposition thereof) from the 1st century BC – a phenomenon known (by archaeologists) as the 'fibula event horizon'. Of these later brooches, 151 were recorded from the Eastern region (including 77 from Norfolk), 71 from the South West, 71 from the South East, 42 from the Midlands and 37 from the North.

Six late Iron Age pins, five of which are ring-headed, were also recorded. One from Preston Candover, Hampshire (HAMP-A3A892), is exceptional because of its decoration; it has a coral roundel below the head and each face has a teardrop-shaped recess, which probably also once held enamel.

In the late Iron Age there was an increase in both the quantity and variety of harness and vehicle equipment. This year's finds included 19 terrets, of simple, miniature, flat-ring, lipped and knobbed varieties. Especially unusual is a flat-ring terret from near Peterborough (CAM-CFFBD1), which is decorated on both sides with red and blue enamel. Also of interest is a miniature terret, from Marham, Norfolk, embellished with three ovoid projections (NMS-44F9E6). Of the eight linch pins recorded in 2013, one from Temple Bruer with Temple High Grange, Lincolnshire (LVPL-6801D6), is of particular interest since it has a copper-alloy 'wheel' head. This motif can be compared to miniature wheels found in hoards and within religious contexts,

Terret from near Peterborough
(CAM-CFFBD1)

Mount from Newport, Isle of Wight
(IOW-341935)

Scabbard chape from Ropley,
Hampshire (HAMP-0219F8)

supporting the belief that these might relate to a solar deity. Other unusual harness fittings include a fragment of an elaborate copper-alloy harness mount from Hevingham, Norfolk (NMS-005B75), which is decorated with the remains of two opposed scrolls of red enamel.

Metal vessels found in 2013 include a copper-alloy spout from a late Iron Age strainer bowl, found at Cranfield, Bedfordshire (BUC-FBC5A5). This takes the form of a mythical sea creature, with fish-like head, oval bosses for its protruding eyes, and (what appears to be) a projecting tongue emerging from its cylindrical mouth. Such spouts from vessels of this type are unusual, so it is especially generous that the finders of this object donated it to Bedford Museum. A close parallel is known from Felmersham (also Bedfordshire), and it is possible both objects were made by the same workshop. Also of interest is a mount in the form of a bovine's head, from Newport, Isle of Wight (IOW-341935). The back of the horned head is flat and incised with oblique grooves forming a fringe between the horns. On the underside is an integral cylindrical shaft with a rectangular slot through which the mount was attached near to a vessel rim. Two other Iron Age artefacts displaying bovine imagery include a spout with a bull's head and neck from Lea, Lincolnshire (LIN-C01145), and an escutcheon from Nether Wallop, Hampshire (HAMP-05B845).

A late Iron Age copper-alloy bowl from Ropley, Hampshire (SUR-8EA776), was found in association with a fragmentary pair of ceramic pedestal beakers and cremated human bones; the latter was probably originally deposited within the bowl. The profile of the vessel is typical of Rose Ash type bowls of southern Britain, rather than the deeper rounded bowls of northern British tradition. In addition, the fragments of tankard found at South Wraxall, Wiltshire (WILT-1DFF82), Fincham, Norfolk (NMS-3A8CC0), Towton, North Yorkshire (SWYOR-1B7422), and Saxton with Scarthingwell, North Yorkshire (SWYOR-1B5433), make significant additions to the corpus of vessels of this type.

Of numismatic interest is a copper-alloy coin die which used to strike the reverse of Gallo-Belgic gold *staters*. It was found at Bredgar, Kent (KENT-2EEAF0), and dates to c. 150–100 BC. The design shows a stylised horse and chariot, based upon a Greek design used by Philip II of Macedon (r. 359–336 BC). The discovery of this die in Kent raises the intriguing possibility that some Gallo-Belgic coins were in fact struck in Britain. This unique object has been acquired by the British Museum.

Sally Worrell & Sam Moorhead

Linch pin from Temple Bruer with Temple High Grange, Lincolnshire (LVPL-6801D6)

Spout from Cranfield, Bedfordshire (BUC-FBC5A5)

Bowl and beakers in situ at Ropley, Hampshire (SUR-8EA776)

Coin die from Bredgar, Kent (KENT-2EEAF0)

Roman (c. AD 43–410)

Roman material accounts for the highest proportion of PAS recorded finds, accounting for 36,141 items in 2013 (46% of the total). Object types vary considerably, from dress accessories to the many thousands of Roman coins recorded, of all denominations.

Items associated with religious belief include fragments from statues. At Terrington, North Yorkshire (YORYM-F46085), was found a larger than life-size eye, its baggy eyelid suggesting the subject was mature. Found at Ravensthorpe, Northamptonshire (BH-6411F4), was part of a bare foot from a half-size statue of a (probable) deity. This year 33 smaller figurines were also discovered, including a fine feline from Tisbury, Wiltshire (WILT-5A8A35), and a lion (with integral pedestal) from Bledlow cum Saunterton, Buckinghamshire (BUC-0C7D27). A number of naked male figures, both bearded and shaven, which cannot be identified as specific deities, were also reported to the Scheme. Among the 13 miniature objects logged in 2013 is a horse and rider figurine from Warham, Norfolk (NMS-32FEA3), as well as eleven votive axes. A lead-alloy plaque from Clare, Suffolk (SF-301791), has relief decoration showing a figure (statue) on a base within a niche, flanked by a pair of columns topped by pediments. The scene may represent an element of a temple complex or other public building.

Roman coins continue to be found in large numbers, with a further 17,853 being recorded in 2013, bringing the total on the PAS database to 193,602. Many of these come from large assemblages which are often from previously unknown Roman sites. A number of rare coins were found, including a gold *solidus* of Constantine II, struck at Trier in AD 337–340, from Baldock, Hertfordshire (BH-0E7A61), and a unique *denarius* of Carausius, struck at London in c. AD 287–288, from Lincoln (LANCUM-5CE838). Discovered on the Isle of Wight (IOW-634EB0) was a late Roman *nummus*, struck at Antioch in AD 401–403. Although quite common in the Mediterranean, this is the first such example found in Britain.

Besides coins, brooches are the most abundant Roman find type, with 1,730 Romano-British examples, plus another 372 of Late Iron Age or early Roman date, being recorded with the PAS this year. One of the most interesting is a very attractive (if somewhat gaudy) and unparalleled Birdlip brooch from Thorpe Audlin, West Yorkshire (YORYM-D5BBD5). The head has been reduced to a disc and there is a single pierced loop behind for the spring. The head and bow are decorated extensively with retained enamel in alternate yellow and red. The extremely varied nature of the design suggests that the form of this brooch was possibly a one-off, or more likely, made in very small quantities.

Sally Worrell (Finds Adviser) has examined the distribution of Roman brooches recorded by the PAS. This data has significant potential for understanding the circulation of objects in the countryside, and hence the character of rural societies. In any one region there is a complex mix of types, with no single form accounting for more than a minority of examples. This regional

Statue fragment of eye from Terrington, North Yorkshire (YORYM-F46085)

Lion figurine from Bledlow cum Saunterton, Buckinghamshire (BUC-0C7D27)

Plaque from Clare, Suffolk (SF-301791)

Solidus of Constantine II from Baldock, Hertfordshire (BH-0E7A61)

variability can be brought into clearer focus through the PAS. Taking, for example, headstud brooches, a type characterised by a raised stud near the top of the bow and often embellished with enamel decoration (e.g. YORYM-3802A0), it can be seen they are widely distributed, though occurring with greater frequency in north-eastern England. The 1,105 examples recorded account for nearly 6% of all brooches, their findspots significantly sharpening the focus of known distribution. This is focused on the eastern side of the Pennines, with brooches being widely found across Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire and Yorkshire; indeed, in the latter region headstuds account for 33% of all PAS brooches here, being second only to the trumpet type. There is also an outlying cluster in East Anglia, although here the brooches account for a much smaller percentage of the overall corpus. Within the core area, finds are associated with Roman roads, especially the routes from Lincoln northward. There are striking clusters, for example in East Yorkshire, on the Wold edge, around the road from York to Brough. Such brooches are likely to have been manufactured by peripatetic craftsmen, working the towns, markets and fairs, along the roads to the northern frontier. However, the distribution of these brooches spans diverse group territories, including colonial lands around Lincoln and York, and the *civitates* of the Corieltauvi, Parisi and Brigantes. Although they are a marker of regional costume, they are not specific to the identity of one particular group.

42 zoomorphic plate brooches were recorded this year, including a particularly interesting example in the form of a horse, from Whittington, Northumberland (NCL-2B2752), a very unusual brooch representing a goat decorated with blue and dark red enamelled dots, from Hickling, Leicestershire (LEIC-D80772), and an extremely unusual one in the shape of a sea monster with two heads from Somerton, Somerset (SOM-7ED8B2). A complete oval plate brooch from Denton with Wootton, Kent (DOR-1A0981), is remarkable. It has a fish at the centre, surrounded by a panel of two rows of red and turquoise enamelled triangles, and twelve knops around the outer edge. Plate brooches of this type are extremely uncommon, with only six examples known from Britain, France, Germany and Switzerland.
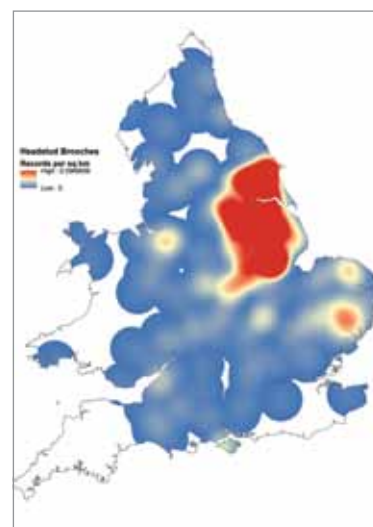
Brooch from Thorpe Audlin, West Yorkshire (YORYM-D5BBD5)

Brooch from Welton, East Yorkshire (YORYM-3802A0)

Brooch from Denton with Wootton, Kent (DOR-1A0981)

Map of findspots of Headstud Brooches.

Map of density of Headstud Brooches

Other forms of personal adornment were also very numerous. Included are 182 Roman finger-rings, of which 45 were Treasure finds. Of particular interest is a silver finger-ring found at Chedworth, Gloucestershire (GLO-30DC46), which has its bezel decorated with the recessed image of a human bust. Also 158 bracelet fragments were found, among them an extremely elaborate and unusual silver example from Urswick, Cumbria (PAS-A7DC11), with a twisted hoop and hinged bezel. The bezel is set with an oval gem showing Jupiter, seated, with wreath and full-length drapery. He holds a sceptre in his left hand and in his right hand a *patera* (pan) above a stylised flaming altar.

Functional items recorded include a copper-alloy steelyard (scale with beam) for weighing, which has a lozenge sectioned arm with notched calibrations, and a lead-alloy suspension weight, from Lapley, Stretton and Wheaton Aston, Staffordshire (WMID-184456). Also of note is a copper-alloy handle escutcheon in the form of a human head, found at Weedon, Buckinghamshire (LON-43C5D4). The eyes have been created by blue glass set within a white substance. Other rare finds include two fragments of large decorated lead vessels, one from Lincoln (LIN-9C11F6), the other (a smaller example) from Thompson, Norfolk (NMS-4CEB66). In both cases the fragments had been deliberately cut, but nonetheless preserve elements of how the complete vessels would have been decorated. The Lincoln example carries the inscription *Meledo fecit felix*, referring to its making (or commissioning) by Meledo and wishing good fortune on the user. Vessels of this type, many of which are known from the East Midlands, may have served as baptismal fonts or for purification or ablution in other religious or secular settings.

Sally Worrell & Sam Moorhead

Finger-ring from Chedworth, Gloucestershire (GLO-30DC46)

Steelyard from Lapley, Stretton and Wheaton Aston, Staffordshire (WMID-184456)

Escutcheon from Weedon, Buckinghamshire (LON-43C5D4)

Vessel fragment from Lincoln (LIN-9C11F6)

Early Medieval (c. 410–1066)

2,950 records of 3,639 early medieval objects were made in 2013, representing almost 5% of all the records made this year.

Several objects gave valuable evidence for early medieval metalworking. A fragment of an early Anglo-Saxon copper-alloy girdle-hanger from East Winch, Norfolk (NMS-7E8544), was clearly unfinished, its uncleaned casting seam around the edges showing that it was cast in a two-piece mould. No other early Anglo-Saxon material has been recorded from the vicinity, so its appearance here is enigmatic. It dates to the late 5th to mid-6th centuries, a time when metalworking sites are elusive, suggesting that craftsmen moved around and did not have established workshops. Also highlighting Anglo-Saxon craft-working is a very beautifully preserved copper-alloy die stamp from Thwing, East Yorkshire (DUR-3C5813), with Style II animal decoration which dates it broadly to the 7th century. The die is a long, thin triangle in shape, and is decorated with two asymmetrically interlaced snakes with small heads, and two larger birds' heads with curled beaks. It would have been used to make impressed foils used on composite objects such as drinking horns, with the beaded border adding strength to the foils. A fragment of lead from North Duffield in North Yorkshire (YORYM-D6E0A2) bears a motif which appears similar if not identical to that on the Thwing die-stamp. The same birds' heads with pointed-oval eyes and interlace between the beaks can be seen, as well as the start of double-strand interlace beyond and the beaded rim around the edge. Experiments using replica dies and thick aluminium foil have shown that pads are necessary to spread hammer-blows evenly, give a good result on the foil and prevent damage to the die. Lead sheet is more stable than a textile pad and gives a better result; a by-product is that the motif is also transferred to the lead, giving an appearance just like that on the North Duffield die.

There were also a number of exotic imports recorded in 2013, including several recently broken fragments of a copper-alloy Coptic bowl made in Egypt from Gimingham, Norfolk (NMS-5F2A81). This bowl differs from all others so far found in Europe in being fluted externally; the only parallels so far found are in the Coptic Museum, Cairo. In contrast, the usual type of Coptic bowl found in England (Werner's type B1) is now known from at least 25 examples, and it has been suggested that this type was made with the export market in mind. Most other types, like the Gimingham bowl, are known from single examples and will have made their way to England by different means. Their findspots include the high-status 7th-century sites of Taplow, Sutton Hoo, Cuddesdon and Faversham. It seems likely that this bowl was originally deposited in a grave of similar date, but as no other objects have yet come to light, it may have been the only grave good.

A copper-alloy buckle plate found at Cropton, North Yorkshire (YORYM-BA8B84), was made in Visigothic Spain in the 7th or early 8th century. At some point during its life it was broken and mended with a separate sheet of copper alloy attached

Bowl from Gimingham, Norfolk (NMS-5F2A81)

Buckle plate from Cropton, North Yorkshire (YORYM-BA8B84)

Buckle plate from Lakenheath, Suffolk
(SF-0D63A6)

Die stamp from North Duffield,
North Yorkshire (YORYM-D6E0A2)

Die stamp from Thwing, East Yorkshire
(DUR-3C5813)

to the reverse; it then broke again, and only one end survived to be found. It can be compared with a smaller but complete example from Spain, now in the British Museum (1991,1004.2). Another Visigothic object recorded is a small 6th-century gold coin, known as a *tremissis*, minted in Spain and found in south Cambridgeshire (CAM-13B6F3). These coins are devolved copies of Byzantine issues and have been found in small numbers in England.

A small gilded silver object from Lakenheath, Suffolk (SF-0D63A6), is likely to be a buckle plate. It is almost circular, with deeply recessed faces on both front and back; the front is decorated with four clockwise-turning spirals in chip-carving. At some point three holes were cut through the ornament. The best parallels to this object come from 5th- and 6th-century Scandinavia, where they were used on sword belts.

A series of finds shedding light on Viking Age brooches included a fragmentary gold brooch from Attleborough, Norfolk (NMS-73CD11). It was hollow, and made from gold sheet with filigree and granulation forming an animal head at each corner. The design seems to be a prototype for the small 10th-century copper-alloy openwork lozengiform brooches well known from examples found in both Britain and Scandinavia. A recent study found that 32 of these brooches are known from England, some being types well known from Scandinavia and others being of a hybrid Anglo-Scandinavian type. The four-headed design is also similar to that found on a 9th-century Anglo-Saxon mount from near Carnforth, Lancashire (LANCUM-EBB0D6), and it seems likely that there was constant cross-fertilisation between Anglo-Saxon and Scandinavian craftsmen.

Another group of finds emphasises the eclectic range of sources that Viking Age craftsmen drew on. A trefoil mount from Ivinghoe, Buckinghamshire (PUBLIC-B801A4), and another from Grimston, Norfolk (NMS-1E32C1), are both Carolingian in style, and join a growing group of objects of late 8th- or 9th-century date. Until recently their presence in England has been thought a by-product of Viking activity, but there are now so many of them that it seems equally likely that they are direct imports from France. Whichever is true, they were certainly used as inspiration for Viking Age women's jewellery, with the classic trefoil brooch being developed from these mounts.

Lastly, a late 9th- or early 10th-century Thor's hammer pendant made from lead was found in Attleborough, Norfolk (NMS-A388C5). Although the object is small, undecorated and might be seen as unattractive, it is one of only eleven such hammers recorded by the PAS. These are thought to be a pagan version of Christian cross pendants, so are a response to the spread of Christianity; they are rare in Britain. The finder should be congratulated for recognising it as worthy of recording, and also for donating it to Norwich Castle Museum.

Brooch from Attleborough, Norfolk (NMS-73CD11)

Mount from Grimston, Norfolk (NMS-1E32C1)

Thor's hammer from Attleborough, Norfolk (NMS-A388C5)

Mount from Carnforth, Lancashire (LANCUM-EBB0D6)

Alongside these, 298 early medieval coins were also recorded. Many are standard issues, but there were nevertheless some unusual and interesting finds. These include a pierced 7th-century gold shilling, or *thrymsa*, of 'Constantine type', probably modified for use as a pendant, found at Mildenhall, Suffolk (SF-4AA4E3), and a Viking imitation of a penny of Alfred of Wessex (r. 871–899), found near Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk (SF-428C73). Another imitation, this time a plated contemporary copy, came from Lawford, Essex (ESS-8DB9E4), and is based on a gold *solidus* of the Carolingian ruler Louis the Pious (r. 814–840). Foreign coins are regular finds until the late 8th century, after which they become much rarer. Apart from some Islamic dirhams, cut up as hacksilver, the only non-English find from the 9th to mid-11th centuries is a *denier* of Charles the Bald (r. 840–877), King of the West Franks, which was found near Eye, Suffolk (SF-BD9681).

A few Late Anglo-Saxon coins modified as badges or brooches are found every year. 2013 was no exception and included a gilded penny of Æthelstan (r. 924–939), found at Wantage, Oxfordshire (BERK-39FCC8), which would once have had a pin attachment on the reverse, although only a rivet now remains. Such badges are most common in the reign of Edward the Confessor (r. 1042–1066) and so this badge is an interesting early example.

Helen Geake & John Naylor

Thrymsa from Mildenhall, Suffolk (SF-4AA4E3)

Viking imitation penny from Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk (SF-428C73)

Coin-brooch from Wantage, Oxfordshire (BERK-39FCC8)

Medieval (c. 1066–1500)

As in previous years, medieval finds have been found in significant quantities, accounting for 17,791 items in 2013, including 5,288 coins (excluding hoards). Such artefacts vary in range, material and quality, reflecting all aspects of everyday life in the Middle Ages.

Typically found are dress accessories, with some fabulous items being reported Treasure. These include a particularly stunning 15th-century gold annular brooch from Arreton, Isle of Wight (IOW-506491), embellished with a chevron motif that combines letters to spell *bien va* (be well). Equally impressive is another, dated between 1200 and 1350, from Tetney, Lincolnshire (NLM-587343), representing a coiled serpent. Its inscription is hard to read since it is both garbled and abbreviated, but is probably intended to be a version of '*Je suis ici en lui d'amor*' (I am here in place of a love or friend). Such items clearly adorned elite garments, contrasting with base-metal examples typically found. Brooches recorded with the PAS include those imitating precious metal types, such as annular brooches with collets (see YORYM-07F0B2 & ESS-35C062), but now missing their settings. Others, though decorative, are simple products (see NMS-5A35F1), cheaply made and cheap to buy.

Of the finger-rings found this year is a gold band from Bolnhurst and Keysoe, Bedfordshire (BH-E6D3F8), its ornate bezel adorned with a pyramidal red stone and flanked by peals. Also set with colourful stones is a gold ring from Hursley, Hampshire (HAMP-0B7C35), both examples representing the tastes of the highest social echelons. Rings were also popular amongst the less well off, with many base metal examples being recorded with the PAS. The iconic 'stirrup' shape is represented by rings from Uttlesford, Cambridgeshire (CAM-23C041), and Coverham with Agglethorpe, North Yorkshire (DUR-52FF61). Other rings doubled for use as seal matrices, having bezels embellished with simple letters; these included a crowned 'T' (WMID-54F164), 'W' (or 'M') (NMS-216257) and 'R' (BERK-B906D2).

Nowadays it is hard to imagine not knowing what oneself looked like – most of us look in 'the mirror' (at least) once a day, and also see ourselves as a passing reflection. This did not commonly happen in medieval times, though mirrors were used. Important, therefore, are mirror cases, which are mostly known through metal-detecting, and generally date to the 13th and 14th centuries. Leaden cases are rare, with none being recorded in 2013, but copper-alloy examples are quite common (accounting for 12). These are constructed of two identical parts, hinged on one side, and probably fastened with thread or wire. The mirror within rarely survives. Cases are normally decorated in two standard (but quite different) designs: those punched with a cruciform motif (see ESS-DE8948 & HAMP-36B010), and those decorated with alternating mounts (for glass) and collets (for stones) (see WILT-3CA276). These items are broadly related to contemporary French-made ivory mirror cases given to elite women, probably as love-gifts, which are often embellish with scenes of the hunt, the 'castle of love' and suchlike – analogies of the romantic chase.

Brooch from Arreton, Isle of Wight (IOW-506491)

Brooch from West Acre, Norfolk (NMS-5A35F1)

Finger-ring from Bolnhurst and Keysoe, Bedfordshire (BH-E6D3F8)

Finger-ring from Hursley, Hampshire (HAMP-0B7C35)

Mirror case from Thruxton, Hampshire
(HAMP-36B010)

Mirror case from Silchester,
Hampshire (WILT-3CA276)

Reflecting the role of the Church, particularly the power of the Roman Curia, are papal *bullae*, which were attached to documents issued by the Pope – essentially decrees or privileges. These are found in surprising numbers, with no less than 15 popes being represented by the 23 examples from 2013, covering the period c. 1198 to c. 1431. It is therefore of interest that at least three found this year show evidence of reworking; one of Nicholas III (BH-256B91), seemingly used to create an ounce weight, another of Boniface VIII (WMID-82FF84), to be a spindle whorl, and a worn example, as a seal matrix (NMS-5E37A6). Another *bulla* of note is that of Paul II (SOM-FBA501), who remodelled the (usual) busts of St Peter and St Paul to show them seated. It also has the simple legend of the papal name on the reverse altered to a depiction of Paul II enthroned, flanked by cardinals, with his 'flock' before him. The design is intriguing since Paul II was criticised for his abuse of appointing cardinals in secret so as to advance his personal interests.

Of the coins found this year, the vast majority were common types belonging to the circulating currency. A number of very rare finds include a round halfpenny of Henry I (r. 1100–1135) from Cliffe, Kent (KENT-92CB47). This is not only an unusual coin but one that also includes a previously unrecorded mint/moneyer combination – Thordred (probably) of London. Also of note is a penny from Stagshaw, Northumberland (NCL-DF1BD2), minted in the name of Prince Henry, Earl of Northumbria, at Corbridge during the 'Anarchy' in the reign of Stephen (r. 1135–1154). Alongside these were a number of coins modified to be worn as brooches, badges or pendants, such as a small short cross penny of John (r. 1199–1216) from near Winteringham, North Lincolnshire (DUR-A20215). This has been converted into an annular brooch by the removal of its centre. These brooches usually date to the period around the Norman Conquest or to the reign of Edward I, and so this is a very rare find.

An interesting coin-related item was found last year at Forrabury and Minster, Cornwall (GLO-050FC0). This silver object, based on a *gros blanc au chattel fleurdelisé* of John II of France (r. 1350–1364), is known as known a *piedfort*, and was struck from official coin dies but using a blank of unusual thickness and weight. Their use remains unclear but may have been used by important officials as reckoning counters.

Michael Lewis & John Naylor

Papal *bulla* of Nicolas III from Baldock, Hertfordshire (BH-256B91)

Papal *bulla* of Paul II from Cheddon Fitzpaine, Somerset (SOM-FBA501)

Penny of Prince Henry from Stagshaw, Northumberland (NCL-DF1BD2)

Coin brooch from Winteringham, North Lincolnshire (DUR-A20215)

Piedfort from Forrabury and Minster, Cornwall (GLO-050FC0)

Post-Medieval (c. 1500–present)

Given that FLOs are necessarily selective in recording post-1700 material it is remarkable that 15,736 post-medieval and modern finds (including coins) were recorded in 2013. Material produced in industrial quantity is generally ignored in favour of unique and unusual items.

Probably one of the most impressive post-medieval finds recorded in 2013 was a large silver ewer of simple, sparely, ornamented form, typical of a style favoured in Jacobean England. It was found in Kingston Russell, Dorset (DOR-D03CB6), by three friends while metal-detecting, who captured the discovery on film. The ewer has four hallmarks which date it to 1635–1636. Perhaps it was originally buried for safe-keeping during the English Civil War (1642–1651). Also of the Civil War period is a pierced gold coin, known as a half unite, minted in Oxford in 1643, found at Priston, Somerset (WILT-852CB5). The piercing may indicate it was used as a 'Touch Piece' by the king in a Touching Ceremony, although gold angels were more normally used. Throughout the Middle Ages, and until the 18th century, it was believed that a monarch's touch possessed the power of healing, principally for a range of skin diseases known collectively as 'scrofula'. The monarch touched sores with the coin, and then hung it around the person's neck as a kind of healing amulet.

Religion was a factor in that conflict, and continuing belief in God (by both Catholics and Protestants) is attested by a number of religious objects found by the public this year. This includes a gold crucifix reliquary from Skellow, South Yorkshire (SWYOR-7346E4), which contains a possible relic, perhaps associated with the 'True Cross' upon which Christ was executed and St Helena (the mother of the emperor Constantine I, r. 306–337) rediscovered. The sides of the object are inscribed 'IN/HOC/SIGNO/VINCES' (under this sign you shall conquer), evoking a vision experienced by Constantine before his victory over Maxentius near Rome in AD 312 – a reminder of the power of religion. Suggesting intercession with some relatively obscure saints, namely St Anastasius and St Venantius, is a round copper-alloy medallion from St Michael, Hertfordshire (BH-8CC398), which is believed to be of 17th- or 18th-century date. At Brewood, Staffordshire (WMID-2E3B70 & -2E0771), were found (in the same place) two pointed-oval medallions, one copper-alloy, the other leaden, depicting St Peter and St Paul under an architectural canopy, with the inscription 'Church of Saint Peter Wolverhampton'. They seem to have been made for choristers of this church, which is about 10 miles from the findspot, and are based on medieval seals.

Reflecting the human need for love are posy-rings, of which a significant number each year are reported Treasure, as many are gold, and some silver. Most are formed of plain bands, giving little away of the romantic sentiments expressed by one individual to another, inscribed (hidden) inside the hoop. These include, 'I LIKE MY CHOYCE' (DUR-5ED560 & SUSS-FC97D5), 'MY HART YOV HAVE' (SOM-914708), 'True to thee I ever be' (NMS-6501E3), 'let reason rule affection'

(SUSS-FC7C46) and the more carefree 'Love and Live Happily' (YORYM-389B36). Others are decorative, including a ring from near Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk (SF-26C7C0), consisting of two hands holding a heart, with the inscription reads 'my hart and I until I dy'. One from Preston Capes, Northamptonshire (LEIC-97DE14), decorated with enamelled scrolls, has the words (on two lines) 'LIVE AND LOVE TOGETHER'. Also of note is a ring from Asfordby, Leicestershire (LEIC-2E0A04), showing a fox being chased by a hound, with the ominous legend 'IN TIME MAY I'!

Post-medieval coinage recorded in 2013 includes a rare sovereign penny of Edward VI (r. 1547–1553) found at Stow Bedon, Norfolk (NMS-EA22A2), produced in fine silver after many years of debased coinage. Alongside this were a number of foreign coins, some of which were inevitably rare in this country, such as a fragmentary gold half real of the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V (Charles I of Spain, r. 1516–1556), minted at Antwerp (then in the Spanish Netherlands), found at Charndon, Buckinghamshire (HAMP-88F6A5). A few coins of Charles V are known from England, mostly from hoards and this is the first stray find recorded by the PAS.

Michael Lewis & John Naylor

Finger-ring from Arlington, East Sussex (SUSS-FC97D5)

Finger-ring from Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk (SF-26C7C0)

Penny of Edward VI from Stow Bedon, Norfolk (NMS-EA22A2)

Half real of Charles V from Charndon, Buckinghamshire (HAMP-88F6A5)

Reliquary cross from Skellow,
South Yorkshire (SWYOR-7346E4)

Statistics

In 2013 the PAS website has continued to develop, with many new features being implemented and also a continued effort to push data and source code into the Open Data and Open Source community.

Table 1: Average number
of unique visitors, visits,
page views and average
page views on the PAS
websites and database
(2007 to 2013).

Year	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Page Views	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	7
2012	543,534	800,080	4,836,783	6
2013	505,793	767,340	4,775,018	6

The usage of web resources appears to have plateaued, but the figures are still very promising with over half a million unique visitors using both sites. In September 2013 a new server cluster was installed, bringing more resilience and capacity online.

Following on from 2012, Dan Pett (ICT Adviser) participated in the National Endowment for Humanities (NEH) and Office of Digital Humanities funded Linked Ancient World Data Institute project at Drew University, New Jersey, and also attended the NEH funded Project Andvari at the Catholic University of America, Washington DC, with Helen Geake (Finds Adviser). The PAS is now seen as a world-leading example of archaeological recording and is being used regularly as an exemplar for others.

County	PAS records 2013	PAS finds recorded 2013	Treasure cases 2013
Bath & NE Somerset	52	84	0
Bedfordshire	679	803	17
Berkshire	1,014	1,811	15
Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes	880	2,669	20
Cambridgeshire & Peterborough	1,319	1,584	29
Cheshire	240	256	10
Cornwall & Isles of Scilly	311	320	9
Cumbria	224	324	8
Derbyshire	127	133	6
Devon, Plymouth & Torbay	525	741	20
Dorset	611	730	41
Durham	204	204	2
Essex, Southend & Thurrock	1,127	1,300	68
Gloucestershire	674	747	15
Gloucestershire, S	266	302	4
Hampshire, Southampton & Portsmouth	2,313	2454	47
Herefordshire	231	779	10
Hertfordshire	1,039	1,045	17
Isle of Wight	1,552	1,862	30
Kent & Medway	1,328	1,399	50
Lancashire	384	422	6
Leicestershire	705	769	9
Lincolnshire	4,283	4,629	62
Lincolnshire, NE	182	183	4
Lincolnshire, N	1,048	2,861	22
London, Gtr	747	815	8
Manchester, Gtr	5	5	0
Merseyside	31	31	0
Norfolk	10,681	14,474	107
Northamptonshire	947	978	17
Northumberland	277	293	4
Nottinghamshire	504	520	9
Oxfordshire	1,542	1,960	19
Rutland	68	77	2
Shropshire & Telford	551	638	15
Somerset	647	830	19
Somerset, N	83	85	1
Staffordshire	981	1,100	14
Suffolk	4,244	6,469	61
Surrey	849	1,004	14
Sussex, E	395	1,099	11
Sussex, W	727	731	9
Teesside & Redcar & Cleveland	63	65	1
Tyne & Wear	10	10	0
Warwickshire	720	932	14
West Midlands	40	40	1
Wiltshire & Swindon	2,588	3,904	30
Worcestershire	573	659	8
York	224	228	0
Yorkshire, E	2,339	2,821	31
Yorkshire, N	1,775	2,252	41
Yorkshire, S	302	360	5
Yorkshire, W	171	222	1
Wales	174	5,077	26
Northern Ireland	0	0	4
data not yet available	1,560	4,771	0
TOTAL	**55,136**	**80,861**	**993**

In 2013 the most productive areas for PAS finds in England were Norfolk, Suffolk and Lincolnshire, with a significant quantity of finds being recorded in Wales also. Norfolk, Essex and Lincolnshire represented the highest proportions of Treasure finds.

	Stone Age	Bronze Age	Iron Age	Roman	Early medieval	Medieval	Post-medieval	Total
2013	2,799	954	1,637	36,141	3,639	17,791	15,736	78,697
%	3.56	1.21	2.08	45.92	4.62	22.61	20	

Roman finds account for the highest proportion of those recorded, followed by medieval, then post-medieval; PAS is selective in recording post-medieval material. A significant number of stone tools and implements were also recorded.

	4 fig	6 fig	8 fig	10 fig	12 fig
2013	746	21,573	24,902	22,762	56
%	1.07	30.8	35.55	32.5	0.08

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
2012	91
2013	99

In 2013, 99% of completed records had at least a 6-figure NGR (National Grid Reference). From 2014 FLOs will only be recording finds with good findspot information (that is to say at least a 6-figure NGR), apart from in exceptional circumstances.

	Metal-detecting	Chance find while metal-detecting	Field-walking	Other chance find/gardening	Controlled archaeological investigation	Building/agricultural work
2013	68,882	3,490	2,385	1,755	576	2,764
%	86.26	4.37	2.99	2.2	0.72	3.46

More than 90% of finds recorded with the PAS were found by metal-detector users, either while using their machines or spotted 'eyes only', representing the largest contribution to PAS data. 93% of Treasure cases were discovered by detectorists.

Land use	2013	%
Cultivated land	37,319	91.12
Grassland/heathland	1,059	2.59
Woodland	195	0.48
Coastland	349	0.85
Open fresh water	769	1.87
Wetland	1	0
Other	1,265	3.09

More than 91% of finds found in 2011 were discovered on cultivated land, followed by those on pasture (and suchlike) and those from the river foreshore, including the Thames.

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

Finds Liaison
Officers' locations
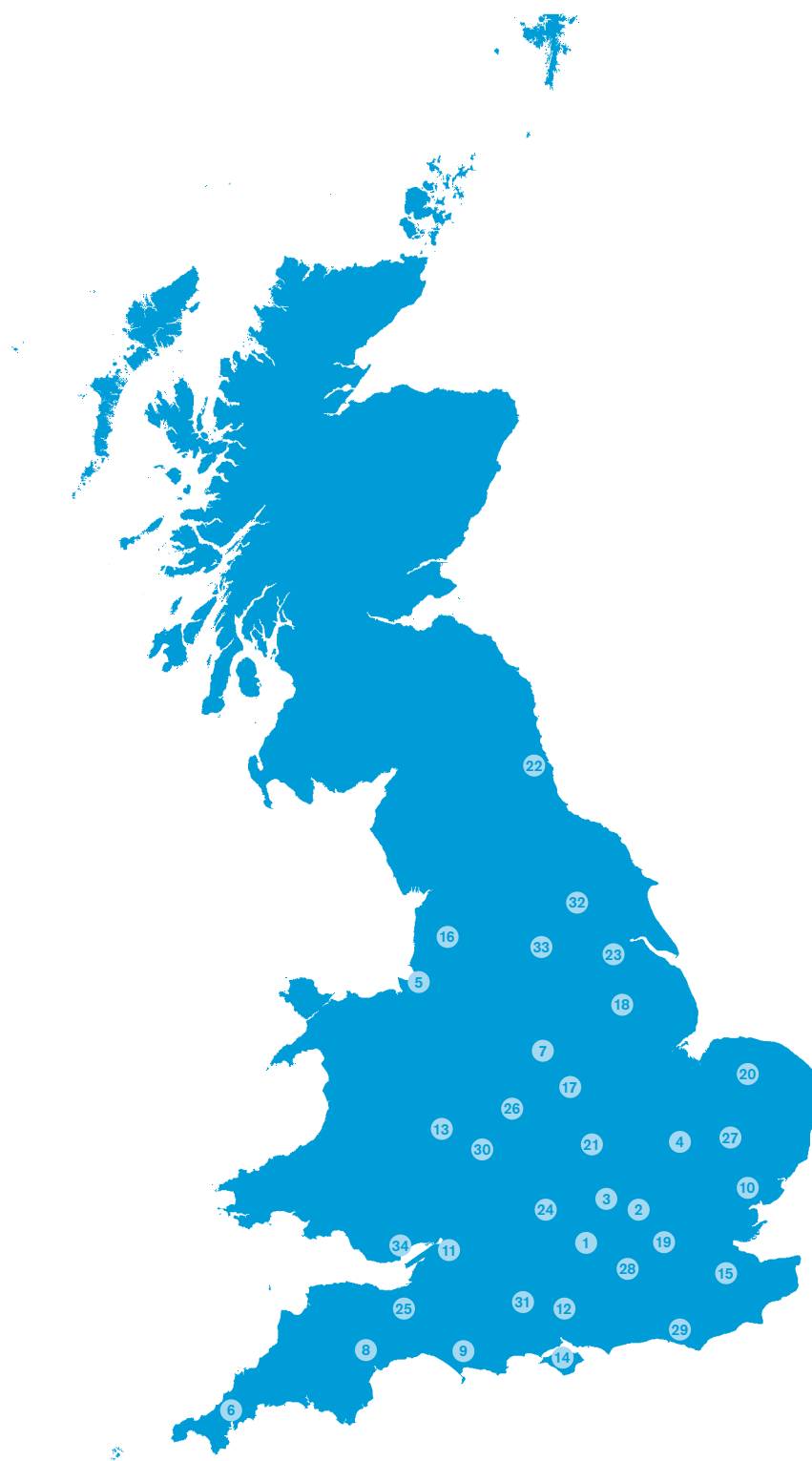
38
Finds Liaison Officers

197
Metal-detecting clubs

757
Metal-detecting club meetings attended in 2013

52,255
People attending outreach events in 2013

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Inside front cover:
Excavation of a Roman coin hoard
from Devon. © Devon County Council.

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