

Portable Antiquities

Annual Report 1998-99



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Foreword



I am pleased to be able to introduce this second annual report on the Portable Antiquities scheme. In its second year the Scheme has gone from strength to strength. Thanks to support from the Heritage Lottery Fund the pilot schemes have increased from six to eleven and there is a new post for an Outreach Officer, so that the Scheme now covers almost half of England and Wales.

This report assesses the results of the eleven Portable Antiquities pilot schemes, together with the work of the Project Co-ordinator and the Outreach Officer, up to the end of the second year of the Scheme in September 1999. I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the contribution that the finders have made to the Scheme, who have so willingly volunteered their artefacts for recording.

The work of the Scheme is becoming increasingly widely appreciated. Last year's Annual Report was well received and the Portable Antiquities website (www.finds.org.uk) is receiving a growing number of visits. Last August we published a leaflet about the Scheme, *Finding our Past*, followed by the first issue of a national newsletter in November, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. The first issue of a Welsh newsletter was published in September, also with the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Through their outreach work the Liaison Officers are developing new audiences for heritage and this Report illustrates the great range of activities undertaken by them, all of which are focused on raising public awareness of the importance of our archaeological heritage.

I therefore welcome the fact that the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council has agreed to take on the Museums & Galleries Commission's role as the lead body in a consortium that will take the Scheme over from my Department at the end of this year. This consortium, which also includes English Heritage, the British Museum, the National Museums & Galleries of Wales and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, and which is supported by the Association of Local Government Archaeologists, the Council for British Archaeology and the Society of Museum Archaeologists, has recently made a lottery bid for a fuller network of liaison officers to start early next year (more details are given in Section 10).

This bid represents a unique partnership between 67 national and local museums and archaeological bodies working together to realise the project's vision. My Department has enabled this very important project to get off the ground and will continue to support it. I believe that the partnership approach will give strength to the Scheme as it moves forward to the next stage.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Alan Howarth'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'A' and 'H'.

ALAN HOWARTH MP CBE

March 2000

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State - Minister for the Arts

1. Key Points

The achievements of the second year of the Scheme (1998–99) can be summarised as follows:

- **Expansion:** The pilot schemes have expanded to cover more than half of England and the whole of Wales. This came through the establishment of five additional liaison officer posts funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. The public profile of the Scheme has also been significantly improved since the appointment of an Outreach Officer funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.
- **Outreach:** Through outreach all involved in the Scheme have significantly raised public awareness of the importance of recording finds for our archaeological heritage, and reached new audiences for museums and the heritage sector:
 - 224 talks have been given about the Scheme (140 to metal detecting clubs and 84 to other bodies);
 - 166 finds identification days and exhibitions have been staged;
 - 114 pieces in the media have been published or broadcast.
- **Objects recorded:** 20,698 archaeological objects have been logged which would otherwise have gone unrecorded, adding significantly to our understanding of the material culture and archaeology of England and Wales. Some of these finds are illustrated in this report.
- **Website:** The Portable Antiquities website (www.finds.org.uk) was launched in March 1999 and has been receiving an average of 30,000 ‘page requests’ a month. The website allows access to 3000 objects recorded under the Scheme. An additional 7,000 objects and over 500 images will appear on the website in early 2000.
- **Publications:** Four major publications about the Scheme appeared in the last year:
 - the first *Annual Report* was launched in March 1999;
 - the leaflet *Finding our Past* was published in August 1999;
 - the first issue of the *Finding our Past* newsletter was published by the Museums & Galleries Commission in November 1999 with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund;
 - the first issue of the newsletter of the Welsh pilot scheme, *Portable Antiquities: Wales*, was published in September 1999, also with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

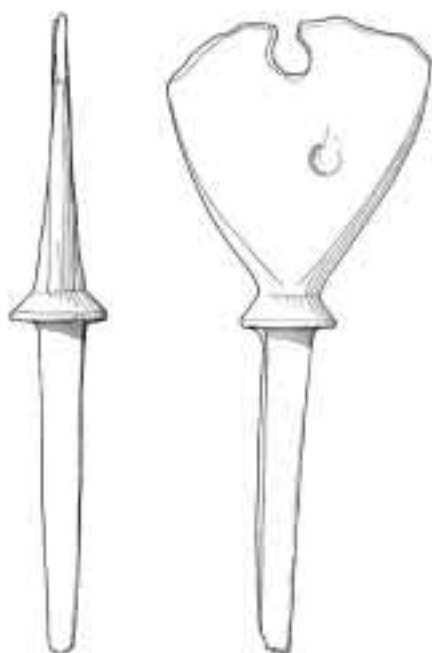


Figure 1

Figures 1, 2, 18, 20, 22 and 48 illustrate some of the most important finds recorded in Suffolk in 1999, together with a brief commentary on them. Twenty-one new pieces of Bronze Age metalwork from Suffolk have come to light during the first nine months of the Scheme. These are mainly small fragments of socketed axes, though more substantial finds have also come to light including: a rare middle Bronze Age copper–alloy torc, a late Bronze Age tanged and collared chisel (seen here: it was found by Richard Drew of the Mildenhall and District Detector Club and is 87 mm long; illustrator: Sue Holden), and a late Bronze Age hoard, which contains socketed axes, a spearhead and fragment of a rapier.

- **Sites and Monuments Records:** The data being gathered by the Liaison Officers has now started to be passed on to Sites and Monuments Records, the primary sources of information about the historic environment. This process will be greatly facilitated in early 2000 when an electronic link with the Program developed by exeGesIS for Sites and Monuments Records will be completed.
- **Findspot information:** The Liaison Officers are meeting with increased success in obtaining precise findspot information from finders, with 59 per cent of finds now being recorded to the nearest 100 square metres or better.
- **Finders:** The Liaison Officers have recorded objects found by over 1900 finders, double the first year's total of 994, and maintain regular contact with 95 metal detecting clubs, an increase from 47 in the first year.
- **Number of finds recorded:** Where statistics were kept on the numbers of finds recorded before the Liaison Officers took up their posts, they have generally at least doubled the number of finds being recorded and have often achieved much higher increases.
- **Non metal-detected finds:** The numbers of objects being recorded from members of the public other than detector users has increased from ten per cent to thirteen per cent of the total (for examples see figs. 6, 21, 45, 46 and 47). Worked stone and pottery account for twelve per cent of all objects recorded (for examples see figs. 21, 45, 46 and 47).
- **Portable Antiquities database program:** A new version of the Portable Antiquities program was released in July 1999. This includes the capacity for images and greatly enhanced facilities for producing reports and exporting data.



Figure 2

Sixty-four pieces of middle to late Anglo Saxon metalwork from the Suffolk have been recorded under the Scheme, a significant figure considering the comparative rarity of this material.

The silver-alloy reliquary fragment shown above, found by Mickey Seager and Andy Slinn of the Ipswich and District Metal Detecting Club, is a discovery of national importance. It is the front plate from a reliquary or encolpium and is in the shape of a cross. It depicts the figure of Christ with the hand of God above. It would originally have been hinged to a back plate containing the relic, and worn suspended around the neck of the owner. The object is about 8 cm long and is likely to date to the 11th or early part of the 12th century AD. The find is extremely important particularly for the archaeology of central Suffolk, as it provides strong evidence for Anglo-Scandinavian links during the Viking period. The closest stylistic parallels are from Scandinavian graves. It is likely that the cross represents a casual loss rather than the presence of an occupation site, as the archaeology of the area in central Suffolk is fairly well documented. Given the rarity of the piece, it seems likely that the owner was of high status and potentially a high ranking ecclesiastical figure.

2. Background

The problem of portable antiquities

The origin of the Portable Antiquities scheme lies in the fact that every year in England and Wales hundreds of thousands of chance archaeological finds are made by members of the public. The majority are found by metal detector users, the rest through other outdoor activities such as rambling and gardening. Only a small proportion of these finds are recorded by museums or archaeologists.

The amount of archaeological material found by the public each year is vast:

- There are an estimated 30,000 metal detector users operating in England and Wales;¹
- metal detectorists find as many as 400,000 archaeological objects a year;¹
- over 95 per cent of all Treasure cases are metal-detected finds.

The Government has also recognised that not recording these finds:

‘...represents a considerable loss to the nation’s heritage. Once an object has left the ground and lost its provenance, a large part of its archaeological value is lost. The result is a loss of information about the past which is irreplaceable.’

– *Portable Antiquities. A Discussion Document (1996)*

Reform of the law of Treasure: the seeds of a Portable Antiquities scheme

In September 1997 the Treasure Act came into force in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.² The Treasure Act removes the worst anomalies of the old law of Treasure Trove, and defines more clearly what qualifies as treasure. The Treasure Act has proved highly successful, having led to a sevenfold increase in the number of cases of treasure.³ However, the great majority – at least 95 per cent – of archaeological objects are still excluded from its scope.

In *Portable Antiquities. A Discussion Document* the Government accepted that there was an urgent need to improve arrangements for recording all Portable Antiquities. It therefore set out proposals for voluntary and compulsory schemes for the reporting of finds that fall outside the scope of the Treasure Act, and sought views on their relative merits. All those who responded agreed that the recording of all archaeological finds was essential, but stressed that this could not be done without additional resources. There was also a consensus among both archaeologists and metal detector users that a **voluntary** scheme offered the best way forward.

Pilot schemes: aims and objectives

As a result, Ministers announced in December 1996 that the Department for Culture, Media and Sport would provide funding to establish pilot schemes for the voluntary recording of archaeological finds as a first step and six posts were established in autumn 1997. The aims of the pilot schemes are:

- to advance our knowledge of the history and archaeology of England and Wales;
- to initiate a system for the recording of archaeological finds and to encourage and promote better recording practice by finders;
- to strengthen links between the detector users and archaeologists;
- to estimate how many objects are being found across England and Wales and what resources would be needed to record them.

The first six pilot schemes

The following posts were established in autumn 1997:

- **Kent: Richard Hobbs** and **Catherine Read**, Kent County Council. Richard remained at Kent until March 1999 when he left to take up the post of Museums & Galleries Commission Outreach Officer and was succeeded by Catherine Read in June. The post was established in response to a bid submitted by the Kent Archaeologists and Detectorists Liaison Group.

1 Colin Dobinson and Simon Denison, *Metal Detecting and Archaeology in England* (Council for British Archaeology and English Heritage, 1995).

2 It was not needed in Scotland, where under the common law principle of *bona vacantia* all ownerless objects are the property of the Crown.

3 See *Report on the Operation of the Treasure Act 24 September 1997 – 23 September 1998* (The Stationery Office, 2000).

- **Norfolk: Kate Sussams and Samantha Hyde**, Norfolk Museums Service. Kate transferred to another post within Norfolk Museums Service from May 1999 and was succeeded by Samantha Hyde in June. Samantha works as part the Identification and Recording Service (I&RS) of Norfolk Museums Service, which also includes Andrew Rogerson, Helen Geake and Katie Hinds. John Davies, now Chief Curator at Norwich Castle Museum, has continued to identify the very large number of coins submitted for recording in the county throughout the whole of the period covered by this report. The I&RS is also able to draw on the services of an archaeological illustrator, Sue White, and a photographer, Dave Wicks. In addition two volunteers also make an important contribution to the work of the Service: Dr Peter Robins identifies and records all flint artefacts, while Anne Holness helps with artefact illustration. The I&RS was relocated from Norwich Castle Museum to Gressenhall in May 1999.
- **North Lincolnshire: Marina Elwes**, North Lincolnshire Museum, Scunthorpe. Marina was originally employed as an archaeological illustrator to work in conjunction with the curator **Kevin Leahy**, but she now carries out the full range of tasks of a liaison officer.
- the **North West** (Cheshire, Lancashire, Merseyside, Greater Manchester and Cumbria): **Nick Herepath**, Liverpool Museum. Nick reports to regular meetings of archaeologists and museum curators in the North West. Since October he has been working for one day a week at Manchester Museum in order to give the Scheme a higher profile in another part of the region and to offer finders living within easy travelling distance of Manchester the opportunity to bring their finds to a local centre for recording.
- the **West Midlands: Angie Bolton**, West Midlands Regional Museums Council. The post was established in response to a bid submitted by the West Midlands Archaeological Collections Research Unit (WeMACRU) on behalf of the West Midlands Regional Museums Council (WMRMC) and its remit is to record finds from only the central part of the West Midlands region: the former West Midlands County, northern Worcestershire, northern Warwickshire and southern Staffordshire. The post-holder's main base is at Birmingham City Museum and Art Gallery, although Angie also regularly attends Worcestershire County Museum, Worcester City Museum, Warwickshire Museum and the Potteries Museum, Stoke on Trent.
- **Yorkshire: Ceinwen Paynton**, who works jointly for the Yorkshire Museum and the York Archaeological Trust. Ceinwen covers the City of York, North Yorkshire and the East Riding of Yorkshire.

The second tranche of pilot schemes

In response to six bids submitted in summer 1998 the Heritage Lottery Fund is currently funding a second tranche of six posts for eighteen months from spring 1999:

- **Dorset and Somerset: Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevarthen**, started February 1999. The lottery bid was made jointly by Somerset County Museums Service and Dorset County Council Archaeology Service and the post is supervised by a Management Group which includes, besides the two main partners, the Somerset County Sites and Monuments Record and Dorset County Museum.
- **Hampshire: Samantha Hyde and Sally Worrell**, Winchester Museums Service. Samantha was originally appointed to the post and started in January 1999; she then transferred to Norfolk Museums Service in June and was succeeded by Sally Worrell, who started in August. The post-holder reports to a Management Committee which includes representatives from Hampshire Museums Service, Hampshire County Council Planning Department, Southampton Cultural Services and Portsmouth Museums.



Figure 3
Late Bronze Age socketed spear head. Found in Lancashire by Matt Hepworth of the Lune Valley Metal Detecting Club.

- **Northamptonshire: Rhiannon Harte**, Northamptonshire Archaeology, started in February 1999. The bid was submitted by the Northamptonshire Councils' Association Heritage Group. The post is based in Northamptonshire Archaeology and is managed by a steering group led by the chair of the Northamptonshire Councils' Association Heritage Group. The Group includes representatives from the museums in Northampton, Kettering and Daventry.
- **Suffolk: Gabor Thomas**, started January 1999. The post is based at the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council at Bury St Edmunds, which has been systematically recording detector users' finds for the last twenty years (thanks largely to the efforts of Judith Plouviez and John Newman) and the post-holder works with Ipswich Museum and Moyses's Hall Museum, Bury St Edmunds.
- **Wales: Philip Macdonald**, started March 1999. The lottery bid was made by the Council of Museums in Wales and consists of one full-time post for a Finds Co-ordinator: Wales, based at the National Museum & Gallery, Cardiff, together with grants to the four Welsh Archaeological Trusts. For more details on the organisation of the Scheme in Wales see pp. 29-30.

- **Outreach Officer: Richard Hobbs**, Museums & Galleries Commission, London, started March 1999. This lottery-funded post, which is based at the British Museum and reports to the Portable Antiquities Steering Group, is intended to increase public and specialist awareness of the Portable Antiquities scheme, working with the Liaison Officers.

Co-ordination and management of the Scheme

The Museums & Galleries Commission acts as the channel for the funding for the first six pilot schemes and monitors the grants on behalf of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. The Scheme is co-ordinated by Roger Bland, who has been seconded from the British Museum to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and who reports to the Portable Antiquities Steering Group which is a consortium of bodies that has agreed to take the Portable Antiquities initiative forward. This consortium is led by the Museums & Galleries Commission and also includes English Heritage, the British Museum, the National Museums & Galleries of Wales and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, while the Council for British Archaeology, the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers and the Society of Museum Archaeologists are also represented on the Steering Group. Future plans for the Scheme are discussed in Section 10.

Figure 4

A number of artefacts have been acquired by museums as a direct result of the Scheme, including a unique hoard of Roman bells discovered in Essex by Northamptonshire detectorist Andy Patchett (one of the bells is shown here).

Having heard about Rhiannon Harte, the liaison officer, from a detecting colleague, who had recorded finds with her and had been happy to recommend the service, the finder telephoned to report this remarkable discovery. The bells had been carefully deposited in a circle, but despite taking care in removing them, the finder was not able to find any trace of a container, or to see any changes in soil colour. The find was photographed in situ, and the finder did not attempt to clean the bells. This forethought means that the soil inside the bells will be available for analysis, and that the iron clappers extant in at least half of them can be properly studied. Indeed the methods by which such iron clappers were fixed to the copper alloy body of such bells has been the subject of debate. It is possible that, when conserved, this important find will reveal a great deal about the manufacture of such artefacts. The bells will be displayed in Braintree District Museum this year.

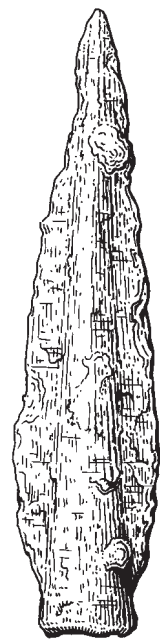


Figure 5

Post-Medieval iron spear hand found by Mrs M Hamilton of the Stour Valley Search and Recovery Club in Dorset. Illustration: Mike Trevarthen.

3. Outreach at a Local Level: The Work of the Liaison Officers

Outreach to the general public

The Liaison Officers are all spreading the message about the importance of recording finds not just to those who search for them with metal detectors, but also to the wider public. The Liaison Officers gave a total of 56 talks to non-detecting organisations, staged 166 finds days and exhibitions and contributed to 94 reports in the media on their work. The following examples show the range of activities they have undertaken over the last year.

Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevarthen (Dorset and Somerset) notes that non-detector users have been reached very successfully through local press coverage and finds surgeries (see pp. 16-17). The majority of those attending the surgeries are people who have made discoveries in their own back gardens or while out working or walking in fields and so on (fig. 6). While much of the material they bring in is too modern for recording under the Scheme, the Liaison Officer will identify the finds and suggest alternative sources of information or other people who may be interested. The finds surgeries offer an excellent opportunity to make contact with finders who do not belong to organised groups and who may find objects of interest and relevance to the Scheme.

Angie Bolton (West Midlands) has given ten talks to local archaeological and community societies in an effort to bridge the gap between archaeologists and metal detecting. These talks have been well received and have often generated numerous questions relating to metal detecting, treasure items, local finds and what types of finds are on display at museums. Angie has also given talks about the Scheme in more established events, including Museums Week, Heritage Open Day and the West Midlands Council for British Archaeology Group 'News From the Past' Day. She notes that the finds discovered by the general public are normally worked pottery or flint and seventeen members of the general public have recorded their finds with her during the past year.

Ceinwen Paynton (Yorkshire) keeps in regular contact with five local archaeological societies and has given ten talks to non-detecting organisations, including the British Association of Numismatic Societies and the



Figure 6

Andrew Gould of Dorset showing Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevarthen, the Dorset and Somerset liaison officer, some pieces of pottery during a finds surgery held at Dorset County Museum. This case study illustrates the positive results that can come from working with the general public. Early on in Dorset a family arranged to see Ciorstaidh at the Dorset County Museum. They brought along their ten year old son, Andrew, who had been collecting finds from his family's farm in east Dorset. They arrived with three large Jacobs Cream Cracker tubs of pot sherds and clay pipe fragments. The majority of the material was Victorian and modern china, but amongst it were a flint blade, a Bronze Age flint discoidal knife (see figure 46) and several sherds of medieval and post-medieval pottery. On returning the items after recording, Ciorstaidh went through the material in some detail, in order to explain how to recognise older pottery types and worked flint. A few months later, Andrew and his family returned with a smaller collection of finds, all of which were relevant to the Scheme. This group included a flint scraper and a medieval jug handle.

Council for British Archaeology, while **Rhiannon Harte** (Northamptonshire) has given nine lectures to seven local historical and archaeological societies in Northamptonshire. **Gabor Thomas** (Suffolk) has given a talk to the North Essex Farmers' Wives association, while **Philip Macdonald** (Wales) has given five talks to non-detecting bodies. Philip says:

A number of individuals regularly report the discovery of lithic artefacts and to focus purely on finds made by detector users would be to ignore antiquities which pre-date the discovery of metallurgy. Amongst the oldest finds recorded as part of the Welsh pilot scheme are three worked flint blades found by two amateur researchers beneath a bank of eroding peat on the edge of Llyn y Fan Fach on the Black Mountain which date to the Mesolithic period. These are the first Mesolithic finds recorded from this site which during the Mesolithic would have been a small lake in an area of extensive upland grazing. The flint blades from Llyn y Fan Fach presumably represent a hitherto unrecognised Mesolithic occupational site. Their discovery contributes to our understanding of Mesolithic settlement and subsistence patterns in South Wales and emphasises the importance of recording lithic finds. The finders intend to donate the flints to the National Museum & Gallery Cardiff.'

Involving the public in archaeology

All of the Liaison Officers have become involved to a greater or lesser extent in arranging opportunities for metal detector users and other members of the public to participate actively in the archaeological process. One of the most high profile events arranged by the Liaison Officers was in connection with the visit of 'Time Team Live' (Channel 4) to York on 3-5 September 1999. Ceinwen Paynton organised a metal detecting survey and a finds surgery for the programme (see figs. 7 and 8).

Last year's Annual Report described a metal-detecting survey organised by the then Kent Liaison Officer, **Richard Hobbs**, at a site near Ashford. Volunteers from five detecting clubs in the county spent a week surveying the site and recovered some 2,000 artefacts in the process, objects that would otherwise have been lost forever. Because this survey was so successful Richard's successor **Catherine Read** was asked to arrange for metal detector users to be involved when the Oxford Archaeological Unit excavated the site between July and October 1999 in advance of development (figs. 9 and 10). Catherine writes:



Figure 7

Ceinwen Paynton, Yorkshire liaison officer, searching through spoil during the 'Time Team Live' event in York in September 1999.

Over the weekend of 3rd, 4th and 5th of September the City of York hosted the largest live televised excavations ever seen in this country. The Channel 4 television programme 'Time Team' came to York to investigate a range of sites representing different points in York's life and development over the last two millennia. Investigated were a Roman cemetery complex under what is now the garden of the Royal York hotel (illustrated here), a Viking house under Walmgate and the site of the medieval hospital of St Leonards.

Ceinwen organised the metal detector survey of the topsoil and spoil removed from the excavations and also held a finds surgery to record non-excavated objects that members of the public found (fig. 8). The spoil from all three of the sites was surveyed with a metal detector. The survey work was carried out by members of the York and District Metal Detecting Society, with at least one detector user on site at all times. The results of the detector survey were very impressive and the involvement of the local detecting community in this high profile project has been a positive step forward in showing that detector users and archaeologists can work together as part of the same team. It has also brought the work of the Portable Antiquities scheme to a national audience.

'This year a seven hectare area of land was excavated. All seven metal detector clubs in Kent were approached and all wished to participate. Each club was allocated one day a week, with the exception of two clubs which shared a day. The detector users worked alongside the other volunteers under the direction of the Oxford Archaeological Unit (figs. 9 and 10).



Figure 8
A finds identification day held at Barley Hall, York, as a complementary activity to the 'Time Team Live' event held in September 1999. This was extremely busy, with over 250 finds being brought in and recorded, including a prehistoric bolster mace and part of a Severan coin hoard. Several finders travelled from throughout Yorkshire and the North to attend.



Figure 9
Metal detectorists working on the Roman small town site in Ashford, Kent. Increasing co-operation between metal detector users and archaeological groups is a key objective of the Scheme.



Figure 10
Catherine Read, Kent liaison officer, examining a metal object found by the metal detecting survey during excavations by the Oxford Archaeological Unit at Ashford.

'There have been numerous benefits in involving detector users in this excavation. Without doubt large numbers of metallic artefacts were recovered which would otherwise have been lost. On this particular site the recovery of coins is of paramount importance for dating evidence as the soil conditions were so corrosive that pottery has proved to be of limited use. Additionally the project has proved to be an extremely useful learning exercise for all parties concerned. The Site Supervisor for the Oxford Unit said that he was delighted with the results and the benefits of using detectors to survey the site in advance of machine-stripping and to recover artefacts that could have been missed by manual excavation were evident.

'Equally, the detector users had an enjoyable and informative time whilst working on the site. The exercise proved helpful in explaining to detector users how the archaeological process works in practice. It was also possible to emphasise the importance of collecting unstratified material, particularly coins. A number of detector users asked me what was the point of collecting unstratified coins from spoil heaps as presumably all possible evidence was lost when they were removed from their place of deposition. I was able to explain the uses of coins not just for dating but also for producing site profiles of coin loss.

'The work at Ashford has proved to be extremely beneficial as it has helped to break down a number of barriers and common misunderstandings on both sides. Other similar projects are being planned for next year.'

However, the opportunities to involve amateurs in archaeological investigations are not evenly distributed across the country. There are fewer suitable events in the North West, although **Nick Herepath** reports that the Manchester University Field Archaeology Unit were assisted by a small group of detector users from the Bolton Prospectors Club during the excavation of the moat at Bury Castle. Cheshire Archaeology continue the policy of including the use of metal detectors within project briefs where considered appropriate and **Sally Worrell** reports that the Winchester Museums Service Archaeology Section has adopted a similar policy.

Gabor Thomas (Suffolk) describes the following field-walking project he helped to organise:

‘During the past two years a local detector user has regularly reported significant quantities of prehistoric pottery and flint in conjunction with metallic artefacts from a site in the parish of Freckenham, Suffolk. Due to the importance of this assemblage, the landowner was approached for permission to allow an organised fieldwalking event to take place on the relevant site. The fieldwalking, which took place on a Sunday in October 1999, was attended by members of the Mildenhall and District Detector Club, under the supervision of Colin Pendleton, the County Sites and Monuments Record Officer, and the Liaison Officer. The day proved to be a resounding success; the quantity of handmade prehistoric pottery recovered was greater than for any other walked field in the county, while preliminary analysis of the worked flint has highlighted two distinct chronological phases, the earliest of which is datable to the late Neolithic. In addition, the detailed recording of findspots using a grid-system revealed that the distribution of these two flint assemblages was focused in two distinct areas. While significantly enhancing our archaeological understanding of this site, the event was also educational, as detector users not only learnt the basics for recognising prehistoric flint and pottery, but also gained an appreciation of the significance of archaeological context and the importance of recording findspots precisely.’

Philip Macdonald’s (Wales) account of a discovery of a Bronze Age axe hoard shows how liaison officers can play a crucial role in preserving the archaeological context of important finds:

‘A member of a local detecting club was searching near Newport, South Wales when he discovered two late Bronze Age axes. Passing his metal detector over the area where the axes were found he picked up a further signal which suggested that there was at least one more axe buried in the ground. Realising the potential archaeological importance of the find the metal detector user contacted the Finds Co-ordinator whom he had previously met at a club meeting. The Finds Co-ordinator and two colleagues from the National Museum & Gallery Cardiff, promptly visited the site and, working late into the evening with the assistance of the finder, excavated an area around the find spot and recovered a further seven axes.’

‘Excavation (see fig. 11) suggested that the axes had been deliberately buried in a small pit during antiquity. The pit had been truncated, presumably by modern agricultural activity, and one of the axes was recovered in a disturbed context immediately adjacent to the pit. A resistivity survey conducted in the immediate vicinity of the find spot suggested that the pit was an isolated feature. A variety of different axe forms, all cast from different moulds, are represented in the hoard (see fig. 12). Five are examples of the Stogursey type, three are examples of a ‘hybrid’ three-rib type and one of the axes is a small example of the plain faceted type. Investigative cleaning produced no evidence for surviving wooden haft fragments but did reveal impressions on both sides of one of the probable Stogursey type axes which probably represent mineral replacement of textile. These impressions suggest that at least that particular axe, if not the entire hoard, was wrapped within a cloth or placed in a bag prior to its deposition.’



Figure 11
Philip Macdonald, Finds Co-ordinator: Wales (right) and the finder during the excavation of the hoard of late Bronze Age axes near Newport in South Wales.

'The discovery and excavation of the axe hoard is an excellent demonstration of the potential benefits of collaboration between metal detector users and archaeologists. By contacting the Finds Co-ordinator and allowing archaeologists to excavate the site of the axes, the finder ensured that important information about the character of the deposit, which might have otherwise been lost, was recovered. The axes are currently being studied by specialists at the National Museums & Galleries of Wales in advance of publication.'

Rhiannon Harte (Northamptonshire) writes:

'During the summer of 1999 the Liaison Officer was asked to visit a site to the west of Northampton where metal detecting over a number of years had revealed a previously unknown Roman villa. A geophysical survey was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology, and an exploratory excavation was subsequently undertaken by post-graduate students from Nene University College Northampton as part of their fieldwork requirement. The excavation team worked closely with experienced detector users from the Northampton Detecting Association, who found a number of artefacts that would otherwise have been missed. Co-operation between archaeologists and metal detector users continued with an open day arranged before the site was back-filled. The Liaison Officer has since returned to the fields with the metal detector users involved and a club visit was arranged to widen the scope of the study. A number of Roman coins and pottery sherds were discovered and it is anticipated that continuing metal detecting and field-walking on this site will prove very useful in providing a more complete picture of the area during the Roman period.'

Kevin Leahy (North Lincolnshire) writes:

'Detector users have been directly involved in excavations carried out by North Lincolnshire Museum and, indeed, were directly responsible for the discovery of Sheffield's Hill Anglo Saxon cemetery which was fully excavated by the Museum over four seasons. They have also carried out detector surveys of sites being excavated as part of the development control process. Speaking personally, I would not want to excavate an Anglo Saxon cemetery without the assistance of an experienced metal detector user who can provide a preview of the nature and position of grave goods, thus informing the way in which the grave is excavated.'



Figure 12

The hoard of late Bronze Age axes.

Not all such events need involve metal detector users.

Marina Elwes writes about a field-walking survey organised by the North Lincolnshire Museum:

'Thanks to a field-walking initiative by the Museum, we are now seeing large numbers of non-metallic finds. During thirteen days of systematic field-walking more than 1300 bags of finds were collected. Finds included pottery from all periods of the past and a wide range of worked flint. Metal detectors were not used in this survey but, should we move from an extensive to intensive surveys on specific sites, detectors will be used to carry out detailed searches. Extensive work of this sort will make a massive contribution to our understanding of the pattern of land use over the last 10,000 years.'

Working with schools

A detailed plan for maximising the educational potential of the Scheme has been drawn up as part of the lottery bid for the extension of the Scheme and it would certainly be possible to do much more with additional resources. Nevertheless a considerable amount of educational work is already being done by the Liaison Officers at a local level, as the following examples show.

Ceinwen Paynton says: 'The crossover potential between amateur and professional archaeology has never before been this high in Britain. Paid and unpaid enthusiasts are working towards common goals and communicating effectively through the network of Liaison Officers to further our *shared knowledge* about our *shared past*. The Scheme is not only working with the existing heritage infrastructure in England and Wales, but augmenting it and creating new linkages of its own.' Ceinwen has cited the following examples of her work with schoolchildren:

'As the second year of the Yorkshire pilot scheme started, I was approached by a local public school, St Peter's, asking if I would help to demystify the subject of archaeology for some of their students who had expressed an interest. I was also approached at the same time by the Council for British Archaeology's Young Archaeologists Club (YAC) in connection with the National Archaeology Days events.

'By becoming involved in both the St Peter's school question and answer session and the YAC events, I was able to liaise with a new catchment group, namely that of 16-18 year olds at St Peter's and 6+ year olds through the YAC. Both events proved enormously successful with enquiries during the sessions and afterwards from not only pupils, but also teachers interested in incorporating real, local, portable antiquities in to their Key Stage 2 and 3 teaching and beyond, in areas such as not only Archaeology/History A-levels, but Geography (Cultural Geography modules) AS, A and A2-levels. I have maintained contact with St Peter's school and now regularly come in to speak to students during time set aside for vocational guidance and local studies.

'Another positive knock-on from this event has been the contact with other schools and organisations through outreach events such as those described above. Recently, I have been liaising with a Special Needs School, Fulford Cross School, to try and take handling collections to the children to help bring history alive. Through the few preliminary meetings and sessions that I have had with their special needs teachers, I have begun to realise how important a tool an object that can be handled can be for these children. Many of the children at Fulford Cross have physical as well as emotional or learning impairments and could not safely visit an archaeological site or look around stately homes, the usual 'field trips' used by teachers to make history 'real'. These children, though, can have a whole world of history brought to them in the classroom by way of objects that were used by people in the past and by the searchable Portable Antiquities database on the internet. By searching for 'Roman brooches' in 'York' through the website and then by seeing or touching the physical object, archaeology can be made accessible to children who have not had this resource made available to them before.'

Angie Bolton, West Midlands liaison officer, has also worked with schools (see fig. 13). She writes:

‘The West Midlands pilot scheme feels it is important to contact children. In our schools today there are thousands of young people who will potentially discover archaeological chance finds in their lifetime. Now is the time to encourage some habits such as:

- having an enthusiasm for and appreciation of the chance finds that are discovered;
- encouraging thought for others by allowing other people the opportunity to gain knowledge from the chance finds by recording them;
- thinking of museums and archaeologists when chance finds are discovered, and allowing these small fragments of archaeology to contribute to local history and archaeology.’



Figure 13

Angie Bolton, West Midlands liaison officer, using a replica Roman helmet to teach local school children about the Boudiccan revolt. This was part of an event organised by the Coleshill Civic Society to help generate awareness of the Coleshill Museum. The Society and the Warwickshire Museum held an exhibition of local archaeology, and Angie held a variety of events. In the morning an event was organised for children, however adults gradually participated as well. A replica of a Roman soldier’s armour was kindly lent to Angie by the Worcestershire County Museum. This enabled both the children and adults to investigate the weight of the armour, how the plates of the armour fitted together with buckles, how the sandals were made, and to try them on (illustrated above). The ability to handle the armour generated an enthusiasm within the audience for their local archaeology.

The afternoon event was a finds identification surgery, where people could bring in local chance finds to be identified and recorded. A number of people from the morning session returned in the afternoon to show Angie their finds. Again this session proved to be popular with children and adults. People did comment that they do not get the opportunity to visit museums to have their finds identified due to a lack of time or the expense of travelling to a museum. The evening session concluded the day with a talk by Angie on local archaeology. The talk included both excavated sites and chance finds.

She gives the following example of her work with schools:

‘Tim Bridges, Collections Manager for the Worcester City Museums, and the Liaison Officer were invited to hold a finds identification surgery at the St George’s Primary School, Worcester for their annual Medieval Fayre. This gave the community an opportunity to bring in chance finds to be identified and to talk to museum staff. As the museum staff talked about the childrens’ finds this encouraged others to come and listen and find out what the chance finds were and how they related to local archaeology. The finds identification surgery was held next to the Worcestershire County Archaeological Service display, which was hosted by the County Archaeologist, Malcolm Atkin. The two activities demonstrated to the pupils and their parents the contribution of the professional archaeologist to local archaeology, as well as the equally important contribution of museum staff and the general public.’

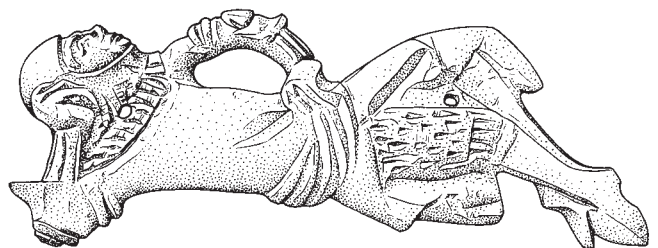


Figure 14

Cast-bronze figure of a knight reclining found by Mr Michael Carlile in Norfolk (illustration: Steven Ashley). He lies with one knee raised slightly higher than the other and feet crossed, with one hand on his hip and the other bent at the elbow propping up the head. He appears to be wearing a combination of plate armour, chain mail and draped textiles. It seems likely that this little figure (it is about 8.5 cm long) is one of the soldiers lying asleep at the tomb of Christ, a scene which was popular in the medieval period. It is not clear exactly how the scene would have been assembled; the armour is that of a knight of the 13th century.

Museum-based outreach

Between them the Liaison Officers have been very active in holding finds days or finds surgeries and in staging exhibitions, mostly in local museums. There were 166 such events during the course of the year and some examples are described below.

Ceinwen Paynton (Yorkshire) held 54 finds days over the year: she holds weekly finds days at the Archaeological Resource Centre, York; monthly days at the Yorkshire Museum and the Hull and East Riding Museum and a one-off day at the Craven Museum, Skipton.

Angie Bolton (West Midlands) holds monthly finds identification days at the four principal archaeological museums across the region and held a total of 46 such days over the year. All these identification days have been attended by both metal detector users and the general public. She has also helped to arrange a display of metal-detected finds at the Warwickshire Museum (fig. 15). Angie also has a handling collection which she has found to be a useful tool in her work:

‘The Liaison Officer gave a talk to the West Midlands Region of the National Council for Metal Detecting. The talk was an up-date of the Pilot Scheme with a brief session on the identification of worked flint. The handling collection of worked flint includes many waste flakes, blades, a hand axe and a polished stone axe. During the session everyone handled the flint items, so when the Liaison Officer was describing the ‘bulb of percussion’ and the ‘concentric semi-circular lines’ everyone was able to discover these for themselves. At the following West Midlands Region meeting a gentleman approached the Liaison Officer with a waste flake which he found whilst metal detecting. The finder said he did not know what to look for concerning worked flint until he was able to handle the handling collection and to hear what to look for at the previous meeting.’

Catherine Read (Kent) held a finds day at Dartford Museum in October 1999 at which 80 finds were reported, compared with 55 at the same event the previous year. She plans to hold more finds days in museums next year.

Kevin Leahy (North Lincolnshire) writes:

‘Since it is based in a museum the North Lincolnshire pilot scheme has an excellent public interface and people are able to visit us at any time during the week. A finds surgery is held at North Lincolnshire Museum on the last Saturday of every month. This has proved an excellent way of maintaining contact with those detector users who do not belong to a club. It is also a useful point of contact for other members of the public who are unable to get to the Museum during the working week. The Museum has held an exhibition of detector finds in one of its main galleries. As well as proving popular with detector users many members of the public were interested in this raw material of history and enjoyed looking at the large number of finds shown. It was not the treasure that interested them but the common-place objects left by previous generations.’



Figure 15

The display panel for an exhibition of finds from the Coventry Heritage Detector Society at Warwickshire Museum. The museum kindly lent the Society a display case and the skills of the resident museum designer. The end result was an exhibition of metal detected finds from all periods and the exhibition also promoted the Scheme. The exhibition allowed the public to work with the museum service to provide a three-month display. This partnership allowed the metal detectorists to have an insight into producing an exhibition and the shared ideas produced a well-attended and informative exhibition.

Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevarthen (Dorset and Somerset) has held five finds surgeries which have been advertised through the local press and posters (fig. 25). She has found that these have been a good way of reaching non-detector users. **Philip Macdonald** (Wales) held a Finds Day at Drenwydd Museum, near Rhymney. **Gabor Thomas** (Suffolk) is based with the Suffolk County Sites and Monuments Record and not in a museum, but keeps in close contact with Ipswich and Bury St Edmunds Museums, as well as with the County Council Museums Officer who published a profile of the Portable Antiquities scheme in the yearly Suffolk Museums newsletter. **Rhiannon Harte** (Northamptonshire) holds monthly half-day 'Access Days' at four museums across the county at which members of the public can bring their finds in to be identified. She notes that although these days do not always result in great number of finds being brought in, they do increase her public accessibility, as well as her working relationship with the museum staff. Rhiannon has also organised six all-day finds surgeries at various locations in the county and has recently started to hold a monthly access day at Peterborough Museum to cater for those living in the north east of the county.

Outreach to metal detector users: detecting clubs

Since the great majority of objects are found by metal detector users, the Liaison Officers have directed their main efforts at making contact with detector users, firstly through metal detecting clubs. The following table summarises the number of detecting clubs visited by each of the Liaison Officers:

Dorset and Somerset	5
Hampshire	7
Kent	7
Norfolk	5
North Lincolnshire	13
North West	17
Northamptonshire	6
Suffolk	4
West Midlands	7
Yorkshire	14
Wales	11
Total	96

Angie Bolton (West Midlands) logged 106 recording 'events' at detecting clubs during 1998-99, compared with 76 during the previous year (an 'event' being defined as an occasion when one or more objects are received from an individual for recording). She is also given access to records of finds made by the Coventry Heritage Detector Society at their regular club rallies, of which eighteen were held during the last year. In addition to the clubs in the West Midlands area, Angie also gave a talk about the Portable Antiquities scheme to a metal detecting club in Leicestershire. She writes:

'Leicestershire is not within the West Midlands pilot scheme. The Liaison Officer heard rumours from members of this club concerning the pilot scheme. Metal detector users who were not involved with the Pilot Scheme relied on rumours and articles in metal detecting magazines to gain their understanding of the Scheme. The result was these metal detector users did not understand why did they not have a liaison officer and thought that the Pilot Scheme was a compulsory scheme (confusing it with the Treasure Act). They also believed that precise findspot information would be given out on the internet and that museums would take months to record their finds. The Liaison Officer was able to correct these mis-guided views and to leave the club with a positive impression of the Scheme, besides giving them further information relating to the future of the Scheme and how it will affect them. As this talk was successful it is likely that it will be repeated to a club in Gloucestershire.'



Figure 16

Angie Bolton, West Midlands liaison officer, recording finds at a local metal detector club.

Kevin Leahy (North Lincolnshire) writes:

‘The North Lincolnshire Museum has regular dealings with metal detecting clubs in the region and has developed an excellent relationship with them. The clubs are visited and talks given on a wide range of topics, not all of which are directly related to metal detecting. Most of the clubs are now receptive to talks on other aspects of archaeology. Some are moving to history groups, although maintaining their interest in a direct involvement in the past through detecting.’

Ceinwen Paynton (Yorkshire) keeps in regular contact with fourteen metal detecting clubs, visiting them in rotation, including three outside Yorkshire. **Catherine Read** (Kent) visits seven detecting clubs bi-monthly and also gave a talk to the Eastbourne Metal Detecting Club in East Sussex which, she notes, ‘proved to be an interesting experience as it really did bring home how far we have come in Kent with the understanding between the museum, archaeological and detecting communities’.

Figure 17

These two coins found during metal detecting in south-west Norfolk cast doubt on a previous known coin type attributed to Prasutagus, the husband of Boudicca.



The type was previously thought to be inscribed SVB RI PRASTO ESICO FECIT, interpreted as ‘under king Prasto, Esico made (me)’. The name PRASTO on these few earlier examples was the reason for the coins’ association with Prasutagus, ruler of the Iceni, the tribal group that occupied Norfolk and parts of Cambridgeshire and Suffolk in the Iron Age.

As Jonathan Williams of the British Museum noted, the new coins appear to read SVB ESVPRASTO ESICO FECIT, which casts doubt on the association with ‘Prasto’ and therefore Prasutagus. Also of interest is the fact that there are strong links with another name found on Corieltavian coins, a tribal grouping from Lincolnshire, East Yorkshire and Humberside, which bear the inscription ESVPRASV or IISVPRASV. Coins of both Icenian and Corieltavian type are sometimes found hoarded together, which means that they must have circulated alongside each other. These coins therefore seem to suggest that there may have been strong political links between tribal groupings in East Anglia and north-east England before the Roman conquest, modifying the traditional view that these areas were stable and independent political entities. This discovery was important enough to be the subject of a report in The Times.

Nick Herepath (North West) visits all the metal detector clubs affiliated to the North West Region of the National Council for Metal Detecting. In the last year the number of clubs has increased by two to seventeen and he has made 40 visits to detecting clubs over the year. He notes that it remains difficult trying to cover a large geographical area and that visiting clubs is the most effective method of seeing finds for identification/recording. This year he has given eight slide presentations on the progress of the Scheme to metal detector clubs in the region. By contrast, the number of visits to Liverpool Museum by detector users for identification/recording purposes was nine to October, some of these being repeat visits by certain individuals.

In late 1998 Nick circulated a questionnaire to some 500 detector users seeking feedback on the Pilot Scheme in the North West. Although only 38 replies were received the majority of those who did reply had favourable views of the Scheme. For example, in answer to the question ‘How high do you rate the identification service the Scheme provides?’, fifteen rated it as ‘very high’ or ‘high’, eight as ‘average’, while none rated it as ‘poor’. Similarly seventeen respondents said that the information about their finds provided by Nick was either ‘excellent’ or ‘good’, while five said it was ‘average’ and none felt that it was ‘poor’ or ‘inadequate’. The questionnaire also asked ‘How do you think the Liaison Officer’s time could be better spent at club meetings?’. The responses include such comments as ‘Nick is doing a good job’ and ‘I think the Liaison Officer makes himself available to everyone who wishes to ask his advice and is approachable’ and ‘Very pleased with the input’.



Figure 18

Twenty-two Iron Age coins from Suffolk were recorded under the Scheme, including examples of the local ‘Freckenham’ and ‘Bury’ series, and these will form an important contribution to the Celtic coin index based at the Institute of Archaeology, Oxford. This is a gold ‘Gallo-Belgic A’ stater found by Mr and Mrs Spaul of the Saffron Walden Detector Society.



Figure 19

Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevarthen, the Dorset and Somerset liaison officer, discussing finds with the Weymouth Metal Detecting club.

Philip Macdonald (Wales) reports that there are nine active Welsh metal detecting clubs known to the Scheme and he has established arrangements for either himself, or one of the partners from the four Welsh regional archaeological trusts, to maintain regular contacts with each of these clubs. **Gabor Thomas** (Suffolk) and colleagues from the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service attend the monthly meetings of four metal detecting clubs, one of which holds weekend rallies which the Liaison Officer regularly attends.

Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevarthen (Dorset and Somerset) has given talks about the Scheme at five detecting clubs in the two counties (fig. 19) and has attended subsequent meetings of these clubs either by invitation or, in two cases, by being made an honorary member of them.

Rhiannon Harte (Northamptonshire) has regular contact with six metal detecting clubs, two of which are in adjoining counties, but which have members who regularly detect in Northamptonshire. She offers these clubs an introduction to pottery and other non-metal artefacts through the use of handling collections. She writes:

‘...these have proved a popular feature with club members, and as a result many detector users are now collecting pottery and lithics while detecting and the percentage of such finds being offered for recording is rising rapidly. A series of talks on plotting finds and on understanding post-depositional processes on archaeological sites has also proved popular. Regular attendance at club meetings has proved very beneficial and while some members prefer to contact the Liaison Officer individually, many bring their finds to clubs on a monthly basis and are happy to allow the Liaison

Officer to take them away for recording. It is essential to provide as flexible and open arrangement as possible, in order to encourage both new finders to use the Scheme and regular finders to continue bringing in objects. The knowledge and experience of many finders is very high, while others are eager to learn. Club finds officers can be a great source of information, and one club keeps a photographic record, to which the Liaison Officer has been offered access, of objects entered in the find of the month competition.’

Samantha Hyde and **Sally Worrell** (Hampshire) made initial contact with metal detecting clubs both within Hampshire and also in neighbouring counties. Sally Worrell writes:

‘Establishing relationships with detector users in Hampshire’s neighbouring counties is important, in the absence of a liaison officer in these areas at present. Finds have been recorded in significant quantities from Wiltshire, Berkshire, Surrey, Oxfordshire and West Sussex. The Liaison Officer has attended and/or given lectures at three clubs in Hampshire, three in Surrey and one in Wiltshire. As well as explaining the aims of the project, outlining the progress made in Hampshire to date and recommending the precise recording of findspots, the Liaison Officer has been able to answer questions and queries about the Portable Antiquities scheme, the Treasure Act, the scheduling of sites and other relevant issues. Importantly, the Liaison Officer can take on board the detector users’ concerns and opinions and can learn about the most effective ways of developing relationships between archaeologists and metal detector users. It is hoped that members of other detecting clubs which have not yet responded to approaches by the Liaison Officer may be encouraged to report their finds after hearing of the success of the Scheme through other metal-detecting contacts.

‘The great majority of finds have been recorded by the Liaison Officer at the Winchester Museum Service. Finders are issued with copies of recording sheets, photocopies of published information relevant to their finds and colour slides, where applicable. The finders are particularly encouraged by the provision of slides of their objects and it is probable that this acts as an encouragement for the reporting of more finds.

'The standard of recording by some detector users is very high. The Hampshire Detector Club employs an excellent method of recording finds from their various 'club sites'. The finds catalogue and photographic record from one of these sites has recently been made available to the Liaison Officer for incorporation onto the Portable Antiquities database. This consists of a total of 715 finds from three fields within the same parish, found by 38 members. It is estimated that approximately 460 of these finds will be added to the Portable Antiquities database. It is not possible at this stage to estimate the number of similar site records in existence, but clearly this represents a very significant addition to the database. It is very unlikely that this information would have been made available through the normal museum channels without the existence of a liaison officer in the area.'

Outreach to independent detector users

However, not all metal detector users are club members and it was noted in last year's Annual Report that it was more difficult to contact independent detector users than club members, for obvious reasons. **Catherine Read** (Kent) describes some of the ways in which independent detector users can be reached:

'A growing number of independent detector users are now recording their finds with the Scheme. They are hearing about the Scheme in a number of different ways. Word of mouth amongst detector users is the most common alongside coroners' officers and museum staff telling people about our existence when they report potential treasure finds. The website has also proved useful as a number of individuals discovered it after the address appeared on the 'Find a Fortune' television programme. Finally, sending the *Finding our Past* leaflets to local libraries as well as museums is an extremely useful way of catching people.'

Angie Bolton (West Midlands) notes that individual detector users were contacted initially through existing museum connections, but that now metal detector users who have not had any contact with museums are contacting her. A positive article on the West Midlands pilot scheme in *The Searcher* was extremely productive in generating new contacts. **Rhiannon Harte** has recorded finds from 23 independent detector users who were also contacted through local museums, Northamptonshire Heritage or Northamptonshire Archaeology. **Sally Worrell** has made contact with a similar number of independent detector users in Hampshire.

In one of the pilot scheme areas, Dorset, a liaison scheme has been running for six years which includes both independent detector users as well as club members. **Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevarthen** writes:

'In Dorset the County Council Archaeology service has operated a liaison scheme with metal detector users since 1994 and this currently contains 120 members. Through this objects have been identified and the information added to the Sites and Monuments Record. The existence of the Scheme has provided a basis for co-operation between detector users and archaeologists in the county on which the Liaison Officer has been able to build, besides enabling her to make contact with all its members. The Scheme also has regular meetings which the Liaison Officer attends.'

In fact the Liaison Officers are having growing success in recording finds from independent detector users: the figures are given in Table 10 on p. 45. The new Liaison Officers have recorded finds from 433 detector users, of whom at least 90 are not members of a detecting club (20.8 per cent).



Figure 20

During the past nine months 14 Anglo Saxon coins, including nine silver 'sceattas', have been reported from the county. This information will provide a significant addition to the Corpus of Early Medieval coins based at the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge. This silver Anglo Saxon 'Series B sceatta' is of a type that circulated around AD 700. It was found in Suffolk by an independent detector user, Michael Moroney.

Liaison with landowners

Several of the Liaison Officers have sought to develop closer links with landowners, as it has become clear that there is often as much need to educate them about the archaeological process in general and the importance of recording finds in particular as finders. **Marina Elwes** (North Lincolnshire) has played a leading role in this, as she has personal connections with the Country Landowners Association and the National Farmers Union. Besides being actively involved in her own area, she has initiated meetings with these bodies elsewhere on behalf of the other Liaison Officers. Ceinwen Paynton has also worked closely with the Yorkshire branch of the Country Landowners Association and had a stand promoting the Scheme at the CLA pavilion at the Great Yorkshire Show in July 1999.

Angie Bolton (West Midlands) reports that she and **Rhiannon Harte** (Northamptonshire) arranged a meeting with the East Midlands representative of the Country Landowners Association to promote the Scheme. This provided an opportunity to discuss issues relating to metal detecting, findspots, the Treasure Act and the ownership of chance finds.

Nationally the Co-ordinator and Outreach Officer have made contact with the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group, jointly with the Association of Local Government Archaeologists, English Heritage and the National Council for Metal Detecting. It is hoped to develop a new environmental protocol on access to the countryside which will encompass metal detecting, among other things.

Conservation advice

It was noted in the Portable Antiquities Annual Report for 1997-98 (p. 18) that 'The question that liaison officers are most frequently asked by finders is 'how can I clean my finds?', and it is a priority for the Scheme to develop clear and simple advice on the basics of conservation for finders.'

Three conservators, Sarah Watkins of the British Museum, Adrian Tribe, formerly of English Heritage and Celia Honeycombe of Cambridgeshire County Council, generously participated in training sessions for the Liaison Officers on conservation and also drafted a booklet providing advice on conservation. This issue has also been discussed with the Archaeology Section of the UK Institute of Conservation and it is intended to publish the booklet jointly with the UK Institute of Conservation.

It is clear that there is a great demand for simple and practical advice on the conservation of metal objects from the public in general and from metal detector users in particular. Such advice is difficult to obtain at present: there are no readily available handbooks on the conservation of archaeological objects for the general public and few conservators have time to give personal advice. It is important that the advice given should enable finders to understand how to protect the archaeological evidence that is contained within the object. The booklet, which is currently being edited, will undoubtedly be very useful, but it is clear that there is also a need for conservation advice to be provided in person by professional conservators. So it is very welcome that English Heritage have generously offered to commit the time of their five contract conservators for five days a year to provide advice on conservation issues as part of their contribution to the Scheme.



*Fig. 21
Stone sculpture found by Mr Keith Story in his garden in Winchester, Hampshire. Mr Story brought this object, one of the more unusual finds to have been reported this year, to Sally Worrell, the Liaison Officer, for identification. The sculpture, which is 16 cm high, is worn, but depicts a male figure with matted locks holding an object in his arm and standing within an arched niche. It has been identified by the British Museum as a probably depiction of Brahma in the Gandharan style and would have been made in what is now Pakistan in the 9th century AD. It is possible that this rare find, which would originally have adorned a temple, was brought to this country by a member of the army serving in India or perhaps by a private collector, although how it found its way to a Winchester flower-bed will never be known!*

Mr Story also reported that numerous other objects had been found in the same flower-bed, including a mass of 19th-20th century pottery, clay-pipe and glass fragments. However, he also found a complete Roman copper-alloy bracelet of the 3rd century AD with double-spiral decoration and a fragment of a stamped Roman amphora handle.

Some of the Liaison Officers have also been able to enlist the help of conservators in their area to provide advice.

Angie Bolton (West Midlands) writes:

‘Many questions asked by metal detector users relate to conservation, therefore the Liaison Officer is encouraging conservators to meet metal detector users. A conservator has attended the Coventry Heritage Detector Society, with members of the Arley Metal Detecting Club attending as guests to help reduce costs. The talk and advice was practical with consideration of health and safety in people’s homes. The conservator suggested avoiding recipes such as dipping finds in lemon juice, vinegar etc. and gave advice that centred on storage conditions. The talk was enthusiastically received by the audience. The Scheme’s aim is to try and allow the public access to a valuable resource which may not be considered otherwise. The information disseminated to the audience will ultimately benefit the finds, even if only a portion of the advice is taken.’

In Yorkshire, **Ceinwen Paynton** has been able to draw on the services of conservators based at the York Archaeological Trust, one of the partners in her post, and fig. 23 illustrates the type of information that can be obtained from careful conservation.

Treasure

The Treasure Act led to a sevenfold increase in finds reported as treasure during its first year, from 25 cases to 178.⁴ The figures for the second year appear to be running at an even higher level. The Liaison Officers have a key role to play in ensuring the successful implementation of the Act by being an accessible source of advice about treasure. Increasingly in England they are taking over from local museums the role of local reporting centres.

In England both coroners and the British Museum have sometimes found it difficult to cope with the number of cases with the result that delays and misunderstandings have occurred. This can cause bad feelings among finders and, unless action is taken to rectify the problem, can mean that finders are less willing to report their non-treasure finds. The smooth running of the Act is therefore essential for the success of the Portable Antiquities scheme.

The Project Co-ordinator (who is also responsible for Treasure at the Department for Culture, Media and Sport) takes action on any such problems that are referred to him. He is also concerned to ensure that the other agencies involved (coroners and their officers, the national museums and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport) perform their roles as efficiently as possible, so minimising the scope for such problems. For this reason a seminar for coroners on treasure on 9 February 2000 was attended by all the Liaison Officers, as well as curators from the British Museum and the National Museums & Galleries of Wales. A clear message of the meeting was how important a role the Liaison Officers play in ensuring that treasure cases are dealt with smoothly and efficiently.



Figure 22

Large numbers of Roman artefacts from Suffolk have been recorded under the Scheme, including 1,099 Roman coins (these will be added to the existing database held at Suffolk of some

18,000 Roman coins). Another substantial group are the 128 Roman brooches. These have great potential for future analysis of regional workshop distributions and it is also possible to begin to characterise sites by their brooch assemblage – for example some mid 1st-century types are favoured by the army and some are much more common on civilian settlements. This is a copper-alloy brooch derived from the ‘Aesica’ type, made in the 1st century AD and found in Norfolk by Barry Hamilton of the Mildenhall and District Detector Club.

Figure 23

Mineral-preserved organic material on the reverse of a medieval buckle plate, found in North Yorkshire by Phil Lowery. Ceinwen Paynton, the Yorkshire liaison officer, notes ‘particularly exciting is the percentage of recent finds which are not purely metallic.

Organic, lithic and pottery finds have definitely increased, as has the number of examples of mineral-preserved organic being brought in for specialist analyses.

*The mineral-preserved organic with its accompanying buckle plate shown above has recently been examined by Penelope Walton Rogers of Textile Research in Archaeology, who found the textile to be a Z2S tablet weave with yarn made from the plant *Cannabis sativa L.* (hemp).’*



⁴ Report on the Operation of the Treasure Act 24 September 1997 – 23 September 1998 (The Stationery Office, 2000).

The Liaison Officers' role is to explain the requirements of the Act to finders and to encourage them to report treasure finds. In England the Liaison Officers may take delivery of their finds and report them to the Coroner on the finder's behalf; they will liaise with the Coroner and the British Museum and, in some cases, they will write reports on the finds for the Coroner and keep finders informed of the progress of their finds. This ensures that as high a proportion of treasure finds as possible are declared and several finds would not have been reported had it not been for the Liaison Officer's involvement. One such example from the West Midlands is described in p. 19 of last year's *Annual Report*; the West Midlands liaison officer, **Angie Bolton**, has noted that she still spends much of her time giving advice on matters relating to treasure.

Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevarthen cites an example where an independent detector user, Mr Slade, brought in a number of finds from west Somerset to be recorded, among which was a Tudor silver gilt dresshook (fig. 24). This was subsequently declared treasure and Ciorstaidh notes that the finder had not recognised this object as being a potential treasure find. It was therefore reported as a direct consequence of the Scheme.

In another case from Somerset three detector users brought in a hoard of Roman coins of the third century AD to the museum. They had previously unearthed a Romano-British lead cremation vessel and reported it to Somerset County Museum, where it is now on display, together with other metal-detected finds. Ciorstaidh received the hoard and reported it to the Coroner and it has now been declared treasure. One of the finders, Mr Usher, wrote an article on the find in which he said of Ciorstaidh 'she too has been most helpful and encouraging... Hopefully our experience goes to show that metal detectonists and archaeologists can work together.' (*Treasure Hunting*, October 1999).



Figure 24
Silver-gilt Tudor dress-hook found in west Somerset by Mr Slade. This has been subject to a treasure inquest and the Somerset County Museum intends to acquire it. Mr Slade found another dress-hook which was not treasure which he and the landowner have kindly donated to the County Museum.

The numbers of treasure cases from each of the pilot areas is as follows:

Dorset and Somerset	6
Hampshire	5
Kent	12
Norfolk	45
North Lincolnshire	8
North West	4
Northamptonshire	4
Suffolk	21
West Midlands	18
Yorkshire	22
Wales	9
Total	154

Publicity

All the Liaison Officers have been concerned to generate local publicity for their work (just as the Outreach Officer has done at a national level: see pp. 26-8), in order to reach as wide an audience as possible. Over the year there were 94 reports in the media featuring the work of the Liaison Officers. A specialist metal detecting magazine, *The Searcher*, has played an important role in publicising the Scheme among detector users, publishing a monthly column by the Outreach Officer, and has included profiles of many of the Liaison Officers. In the December 1999 issue there were no fewer than nine references to the Liaison Officers, showing how well-integrated their work is becoming into the metal detecting community. Some examples of the publicity generated are given below:

Ceinwen Paynton (Yorkshire) has appeared on 'The Antiques Show' (BBC 2) and 'Find a Fortune' (ITV) explaining her work. There have also been five reports in the local press featuring her work and she was interviewed in *Marie Claire* magazine. She has also contributed four short reports to *The Searcher*. Ceinwen also organised a metal detecting survey and a Finds Surgery when 'Time Team Live' visited York on 3-5 September 1999 (see fig. 7). Another important way in which the Yorkshire pilot scheme is publicised is through a website which was developed last year (www.yorkarch.demon.co.uk/portable/index.htm). This has greatly improved the accessibility of the Scheme to a large number of finders. Ceinwen writes:

'The website is an ongoing project, updated every two to three months and offering those on-line a chance to browse a digital version of the newsletter, e-mail the Liaison Officer, find out more about the background to the Scheme and access archaeological sites on the web through the embedded links with the York Archaeological Trust, the Council for British Archaeology and the Archaeology Data Service. A two way link between the Yorkshire portable antiquities scheme and the National Council for Metal Detecting has been established, as has a listing for the site with the 'Yahoo' search engine, to make finding the site easier for browsers. The establishment of a searchable national "Finding our Past" site has been enthusiastically received in Yorkshire. Yorkshire finders of portable antiquities like to be kept up to date on the development of the Scheme nationally as well as at the regional level.'

Other liaison officers are also planning their own web sites to complement the national one.

Richard Hobbs, while Liaison Officer in Kent, was interviewed three times on Radio Kent as part of live discussions on 'Metal detecting' and 'The Romans in Kent' and to promote a finds identification day held at Dartford Museum.

Gabor Thomas (Suffolk) writes:

'The Scheme was heavily publicised during a Suffolk County Council, Department of Environment and Transport open day at the Atheneum, Bury St Edmunds. To maximise the publicity generated by this event, a display of illustrated posters describing the Scheme was accompanied by a finds identification service which was advertised live on BBC Radio Suffolk and also in the local newspaper, *The Bury Free Press*.'

Rhiannon Harte (Northamptonshire) has featured in seven local newspaper articles and has written two articles in other publications. She has also carried out five local radio interviews and one local television broadcast. **Philip Macdonald's** work has featured in three reports in the regional press and in three reports in the specialist metal detecting magazines, including an article he contributed to *The Searcher* (December 1999) which provides a detailed introduction to the Scheme in Wales.

Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevarthen (Dorset and Somerset) sent out press releases which resulted in coverage in six local newspapers, five magazines, six local radio stations and Westcountry Television. She has also produced a leaflet about the Somerset and Dorset Scheme, intended to supplement the national *Finding our Past* leaflet. This has been distributed through museums, libraries, local history and archaeological society meetings and mailings and at metal detecting club meetings. In addition two posters, one to advertise the Scheme (fig. 25) and another to give information about finds surgery dates and locations, are regularly displayed in the County Museums, relevant local museums, libraries and the Dorset County Record Office.

Newsletters

Another way in which publicity can be generated is through newsletters. The first issue of national newsletter, *Finding our Past*, edited by the Outreach Officer, **Richard Hobbs**, was published in November 1999 (with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund: see fig. 28). Edited by the Outreach Officer, it contained contributions from each of the Liaison Officers. 3,500 copies in English and 500 in Welsh were printed and have been distributed. **Philip Macdonald** published the first issue of a Welsh newsletter in September 1999, also with support from the Heritage Lottery Fund, along with a leaflet promoting the Scheme in Wales. He also intends to produce a series of posters promoting the Scheme.



Figure 25

Poster produced by Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevarthen, Dorset and Somerset liaison officer, publicising the Portable Antiquities scheme.

In addition six of the Liaison Officers also produce their own newsletters. **Ceinwen Paynton** (Yorkshire) writes:

‘One of the most effective ways of reaching the finders of portable antiquities has been mailshots of a regular newsletter. The newsletter is general, friendly and very visual, with a tally of finds recorded so far, a picture of the ‘find of the month’, a news section and a list of forthcoming talks, slideshows and finds days. This is also published on the York Archaeological Trust’s website www.yorkarch.demon.co.uk/portable/index.htm.’

Angie Bolton (West Midlands) writes:

‘The Liaison Officer writes a quarterly newsletter which keeps people informed about the progress and activities of the pilot scheme. Four newsletters have been produced within the past year and distributed to approximately 300 people on a regular basis, and extra newsletters are distributed at other events. The demand for this newsletter is steadily increasing, as more people become interested in the pilot scheme. The newsletter is able to advertise forthcoming events, describe the type of finds which have been recorded and why they are important. The newsletter is also a forum for ideas; for example the idea of people keeping detailed topographical and geographical journals along with notes of their finds.’

Other newsletters have been produced by **Richard Hobbs** and **Catherine Read** in Kent, by **Nick Herepath**, in the North West, and by **Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevarthen** in Dorset and Somerset.

Measurements of success

In a number of cases it has been possible to measure the impact the Liaison Officers have had on the recording of archaeological finds. These are summarised below.

From the table below it can be seen that in every case the Liaison Officers have been able to achieve a very substantial improvement in the number of finds being recorded. The precise degree of improvement is normally in direct proportion to the number of finds being recorded before the Liaison Officer took up his or her post: thus as a percentage the improvement is lowest in Suffolk because the County Council Archaeology Service had a long tradition of proactively recording finds, but Gabor Thomas, the Suffolk liaison officer, has achieved a substantial increase in numbers of objects recorded. Elsewhere, where many fewer finds were recorded prior to the start of the pilot schemes, the increase in percentage terms has been startling.

Area	Measurement	Previous figure	New figure	Improvement
Hampshire	Objects recorded by Hants Museums Service and Winchester Museums Service	1998: 599 per year	1999: 674 objects over 5.5 months	246%
Kent	Finds entered on Kent Sites and Monuments Record	3729 on database: approx 150 per year	1997–99: 1008 per year	Approx 672%
North Lincolnshire	Finds recorded at North Lincolnshire Museum	1981–97: 71 per year	1997–99: 2472 per year	3482%
North West	Finds entered on Cheshire Sites and Monuments Record	1988–93: 14 per year	1997–99: 148 per year	1057%
North West	Finds entered on Cumbria Sites and Monuments Record	1988–93: 4.8 per year	1997–99: 80 per year	1667%
Suffolk	Finds recorded by Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service	Up to 1998: 3250 objects per year	1999: 3327 objects over 9 months	135%
Wales	Objects recorded by National Museums & Galleries of Wales	1986–98: 384 per year	1999: 696 objects over 7 months	310%
West Midlands	Finds recorded at 5 West Midlands museums	Jan–Sept 1997: 792 per year	Oct 1997– Oct 1999: 1608 per year (Note: the Liaison Officer is only recording finds from about half the catchment area of the museums)	203%
Yorkshire	Number of enquiries at Yorkshire Museum	Before Oct 1997: 804 per year	1997–99: 4,236 per year	527%

4. Outreach at a National Level: the Work of the Co-ordinator and Outreach Officer

Talks and seminars

Since the last annual report the Outreach Officer, **Richard Hobbs**, who was appointed in March 1999, and **Roger Bland**, the Co-ordinator of the Scheme, have worked to raise the Scheme's profile at a national level by acting as advocates for the initiative. They gave 32 talks and generated 17 reports in the national media.

Three events raised the profile of the Scheme with leading archaeologists and academics:

- British Archaeological Awards ceremony, House of Lords, 19 November 1998. Alan Howarth CBE MP, Minister for the Arts, gave an address to this ceremony, chaired by Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, which detailed progress in the Treasure Act and Portable Antiquities scheme.
- Launch of Annual Report for 1997-98 and the Portable Antiquities website: 24 March 1999, British Museum, London (fig. 26). Alan Howarth launched the report: other speakers included the Dr Robert Anderson, Director of the British Museum, Dennis Jordan, President of the National Council for Metal Detecting, Dr Peter Addyman, Chairman of the Council for British Archaeology's Portable Antiquities Working Group, and two of the Liaison Officers. **Richard Hobbs** gave a demonstration of the website.



Figure 26

The launch of the Annual Report for 1997-98 at the British Museum in March 1998. From left to right: Ceinwen Paynton (Yorkshire liaison officer), Dennis Jordan (President of the National Council for Metal Detecting), Alan Howarth MP, and Dr Robert Anderson (Director of the British Museum).

- Annual Meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists, Bournemouth, 16 September 1999. Alan Howarth gave the keynote speech, a key section of which concerned Portable Antiquities, the Treasure Act and the Portable Antiquities scheme. The Minister was also photographed with one of the major finds from the Scheme.

In March 1999 a one-day conference on the Scheme was organised by the Roman Finds Group, the Finds Research Group AD 700-1700 and the UKIC Archaeology Section at the Society of Antiquaries in London. This was called 'Recording our Past: the impact of the Treasure Act and the Voluntary Recording Scheme on small finds'. The Co-ordinator introduced the Scheme and then short papers were delivered by each of the first six Liaison Officers. **Marina Elwes** presented a paper on Tudor dress hooks, of which she has been making a special study, and **Ceinwen Paynton**, the Yorkshire liaison officer, presented an overview of the work of the Liaison Officers. The day was oversubscribed with over a hundred delegates representing 58 different organisations from the archaeological, academic, museum and conservation professions, the metal detecting world, the Government and the media and provided a good opportunity to promote the first results of the Scheme. There had been another such occasion in November 1998 when the Co-ordinator and each of the Liaison Officers gave short reports to the Standing Conference on Portable Antiquities.

The Co-ordinator and Outreach Officer also gave papers on the Scheme to the conferences of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (Glasgow, April 1999), the **mda** (Museums Documentation Association, London, September 1999), the European Association of Archaeologists (Bournemouth, September 1999) and the Society of Museum Archaeologists (Stoke on Trent, November 1999). In addition the Co-ordinator and Outreach Officer gave a total of 26 talks to a wide range of other bodies over the year. They have also ensured that the role of the Scheme is recognised in the wider archaeological, educational and academic spheres by attending and advising over 30 meetings of organisations with an interest in the Scheme in the last year.

Publications

Four publications significantly raised the profile of the Scheme with finders and the museum and archaeological world:

- Annual Report for 1997–8: this was published in March and the original print run of 1,750 copies quickly ran out. A further 1500 copies were reprinted in July.
- *Finding our Past* leaflet (fig. 27).
- *Finding our Past*, Newsletter 1, November 1999 (fig. 28): 3,500 English and 500 Welsh copies were produced.
- *Portable Antiquities: Wales*, Newsletter 1, September 1999, edited by **Philip Macdonald**: 1,000 copies in English and Welsh printed.

The Media and the Internet

Since his appointment in March 1999, **Richard Hobbs** has contributed significantly with raising the profile of the Scheme via the media and the internet:

- In the **national printed press** pieces have appeared in *The Times*, *The Independent* and *The Times Higher Education Supplement*. In the specialist press monthly updates on the Scheme have appeared in *The Searcher* and other articles have appeared in *Coin News*, *Co-ordinating Committee on Numismatics in Britain Newsletter*, *Museum Archaeologists News*, *Coins and Antiquities*, *British Archaeology*, *Minerva* and *Roman Finds Group newsletter*.
- Treasure finds: the Outreach Officer worked closely with Somerset Museums Service to publicise the Shapwick hoard of over 9,000 Roman silver denarii, which resulted in extensive coverage in all the national broadsheets and two of the tabloids. An article concerning Iron Age coin finds also featured in *The Times*.



Figure 27

Finding our Past leaflet, which provides information on the Scheme for finders: 20,000 copies were printed in August 1999 and 90 per cent of these have now been distributed via the Liaison Officers and the Outreach Officer.



Figure 28

Finding our Past, Newsletter 1, November 1999. This was edited by the Outreach Officer and funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. 2750 copies of the English version were distributed by the Liaison Officers and the Outreach Officer sent out about 400 newsletters to professional archaeological units, museums with archaeological collections in mainland United Kingdom, and university departments teaching archaeology. Five hundred copies in Welsh were supplied for distribution to Philip Macdonald, Finds Co-ordinator: Wales.

- **Television:** the Outreach Officer liaised closely with the production team for 'Find a Fortune' (Granada Media), with eight programme ideas suggested and three items eventually featuring (on the Salcombe wreck find, the Holderness Cross and the Treasure Act). It was important to stress to the producers that certain aspects of finds had to be treated with sensitivity (particularly find spots), which was successful, and also to switch the focus of the programmes away from the monetary value of finds featured to their historical value, which the programme did reasonably responsibly, providing advice on the Treasure Act and featuring the Portable Antiquities website (fig. 30).
- **The Website** (fig. 31): **Richard Hobbs** has expanded the website to include a news page, on-line access to the newsletter, and better contact details and links with other websites. Information has also been added to relevant sections of the websites of 'Time Team', the Museums & Galleries Commission and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

Training of Liaison Officers

A major part of the Co-ordinator's role has been to provide support, guidance and training for the Liaison Officers and in this he has been joined, since March 1999, by the Outreach Officer. The Co-ordinator organises bi-monthly meetings of the Liaison Officers, as it is important for them to be able to meet each other and exchange experiences on a regular basis. In addition, the new Liaison Officers attended a series of four training sessions on object identification and one on conservation issues at the British Museum in February, March and July 1999. A further study day, on the identification of lithics, kindly arranged by members of the Lithic Studies Society, was held in Cardiff in December 1999.



Figure 29
Late Bronze Age sword which was deliberately snapped in antiquity. Evidence suggests that metal objects from this period were often 'ritually killed' before being offered to the gods. Found in Lancashire by Matt Hepworth of the Lune Valley Metal Detecting Club.



Figure 30
When the address of the Portable Antiquities website was shown on 'Find a Fortune' (ITV) in August 1999 it led to a sudden increase in the usage of the site.



Figure 31
The home page for the Portable Antiquities website (www.finds.org.uk).



Figure 32
Small bronze votive figurine, possibly from the late Iron Age or Roman period. Found in North Yorkshire by Andrew Gee of the West Lancashire Metal Detecting Club.

5. The Portable Antiquities Scheme in Wales

Organisation of the Scheme in Wales

The Welsh pilot of the Portable Antiquities scheme is structured differently to the comparable pilot schemes in England. This is as a response to the difficulties presented by extending the Scheme to cover the whole of Wales (8,015 sq. miles / 20,758 sq. km) which is mainly an upland area, albeit with fertile coastal belts in the north and south, with a poor transport infrastructure. Travel through the region is often a difficult and time-consuming affair. Consequently, it is not practical for a single post-holder to promote the Scheme successfully throughout Wales as well as to undertake the identification of reported objects throughout the region within a reasonable time scale. Therefore the Scheme in Wales consists of a reporting network of different organisations located throughout the region which is co-ordinated by a single full time post-holder based at the National Museum & Gallery Cardiff. In addition to the full time post of Finds Co-ordinator (**Philip Macdonald**), funding has been made available to purchase services from the four Welsh Archaeological Trusts to enable them actively to participate in the Scheme. The Trusts were not previously funded to undertake either the identification of finds or education liaison work. As well as the National Museums & Galleries of Wales and the Welsh Archaeological Trusts, the reporting network is made up of local museums. Although local museums previously undertook the identification of archaeological finds made by the public as part of their duties this work was not co-ordinated and records made were rarely integrated into the archaeological record. Currently, 28 local museums participate in the Welsh Scheme.

The role of the partners

The great strength of the Welsh Scheme is that it involves a variety of different organisations working in partnership. The Find Co-ordinator's post is based in the Department of Archaeology and Numismatics at the National Museum & Gallery Cardiff, but by working closely with the Welsh Archaeological Trusts and local museums it has been possible to establish a network of reporting centres throughout Wales where finders can take their finds for recording. Initially finds are recorded

on paper forms and then these are collated by the Finds Co-ordinator and transferred to the Portable Antiquities database. It is a priority of the Scheme to disseminate the data being gathered as widely as possible and details of recorded finds are made available to the public on the Internet (www.finds.org.uk). Information is also passed to the relevant Sites and Monuments Records which form a primary source of information about the historic environment for both academic and planning purposes. The transfer of information to the Sites and Monuments Records in Wales is greatly facilitated by the organisations which maintain them, that is the four Welsh Archaeological Trusts, being directly involved in the Scheme. Although a large number of museums throughout Wales had previously been conducting excellent work identifying and recording finds, the Scheme provides a structure of support to local museums in identification and recording, as well as a mechanism to disseminate the information as widely as possible.

The role of local museums in Wales

Participation in the Scheme provides local museums with a series of challenges and opportunities. Perhaps the greatest difficulty that local museum staff face is in correctly identifying and dating finds brought in by the public. This problem is particularly acute in those museums which do not have a member of staff with an archaeological background. Concerns about this issue were raised at the two seminars, held in June 1999, which introduced Welsh museum staff to the Scheme. At those seminars it was decided to initiate an ongoing series of training days in finds identification which were specifically aimed at local museum staff. The first training day, organised jointly with the Lithic Studies Society, on the identification of flint and stone artefacts was held in Cardiff in early December 1999; and a second training day on coins, organised through the Council of Museums in Wales, took place in Cardiff during March 2000. In addition, a short bibliography of cheap and in-print books which detail the most common find types brought into museums by the public is currently being prepared for circulation to participating Welsh museums.

The wider role of the Scheme in Wales

The Scheme provides participating organisations with an excellent opportunity to engage with members of their local communities who may not normally visit museums or have contact with archaeologists. Through recording archaeological finds made by members of the public, organisations participating in the Scheme are helping a large number of people to make an important contribution to the archaeological process in Wales. In passing details of those records on to the Sites and Monuments Records the Scheme provides a mechanism within which the public can help to protect the historical landscape and improve our understanding of our past. Such an approach invests the public with an active stake in the archaeological heritage of Wales, and thereby contributes to the Government's initiative to combat social exclusion and promote equality of opportunity.



Figure 33
Decorated Iron Age mount fragment also found in Hampshire by Brian Vaughan and shown to the Finds Co-ordinator: Wales (see also fig. 34). This is decorated with an incised design consisting of three infilled three-sided curvilinear panels. This distinctive shape is a common motif in late Iron Age art and is frequently used to delineate undecorated areas. Study of the mount suggests that the deeper incised lines, which define the edges of the infilled panels, were applied to the mount after the incised infilling. Although there is no evidence for their use the close proximity of the infilling to the incised borders suggests that guidelines were probably scored on to the mount prior to the application of the infilling. Presumably, the guidelines were either polished out during the finishing of the mount or the incised borders exactly follow their line. This careful application of probable guidelines, infilling and incised borders demonstrates the high level of skill and craftsmanship current in the British Iron Age.



Figure 34
Iron Age strap-ring from Hampshire shown to the Finds Co-ordinator: Wales. A large number of Welsh detectorists regularly travel into England to detect rather than search in Wales and a number of important archaeological finds from England discovered by Welsh metal detectorists have been recorded as part of the Welsh pilot scheme. These include two Iron Age finds found in Hampshire by Brian Vaughan (see also Fig. 33).

This find is an unusual copper alloy object known as a strap-ring or sometimes as 'mini-terret'. Strap-rings look like the harness loops, known as terrets, which were fixed to the yoke of horse-drawn vehicles and through which the reins were collected and passed. Strap-rings are considerably smaller than terrets and are too small to have ever worked as harness rings. Until recently their real function was unknown. Recent archaeological excavations of Iron Age vehicle burials conducted by staff at the British Museum, however, have suggested that strap-rings were mounted on to vehicle axles and a cord was tied between them and the top of the adjacent wheel's linch-pin. This arrangement helped to secure the linch-pin and prevent it becoming lost.



Figure 35
Elaborate medieval key found in Cheshire by Andy Harper of the Rolls Royce Historical Artefacts Association.

6. The Portable Antiquities Program and Website

The principal product of the project is a permanent record of the archaeological objects currently being discovered in the soil of England and Wales which is publicly accessible. So far this has been achieved by:

- developing a common database program (the Portable Antiquities Program) for the Liaison Officers to use to record archaeological finds and
- by publishing the data on the Internet, via the Portable Antiquities Website (www.finds.org.uk).

Currently, the records entered by the Liaison Officers are passed on to the Co-ordinator and Outreach Officer who maintain a central database of all finds. These data are then edited and transferred to the website.

The Portable Antiquities Program (fig. 36)

The first version of the Program was distributed in May 1998 together with a detailed User's Guide (which sets out the standards to be used by the Liaison Officers in recording finds so far as they had been developed). A substantially revised version of the Program was distributed in July 1997. During 1999 the Program was rewritten in Access 97 (so as to be millennium-compliant) and now has the capacity to include images, besides greatly improved reporting facilities. The Program is being offered, free of charge, to interested organisations. In this way a much wider body of users than the Liaison Officers will be able to contribute to this project to the wider benefit of our understanding of the past.

The Portable Antiquities Program was developed in close conjunction with the Standards section of the former Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (now part of English Heritage) and has used standards developed by them wherever possible.

The Portable Antiquities Website (www.finds.org.uk) (fig. 31)

The website is the main means by which the data gathered by Liaison Officers is published and made accessible to the general public and how general information about the Scheme is disseminated. The site currently includes the following pages:

- **Database:** an edited version of the data on the Portable Antiquities database, omitting personal details such as finders' names and addresses and also precise locational information;
- **News:** up to date information about the development of the Scheme and topical issues relating to Portable Antiquities, for example the Shapwick hoard of Roman silver coins;
- **Reports:** the text of the Annual Report for 1997-8;
- **Finds:** interesting finds from the first year of the Scheme;
- **Treasure Act:** both the full text of the Treasure Act and Code of Practice and the summary leaflet;
- **Questions:** commonly asked questions about the Scheme, as in the *Finding our Past* leaflet;
- **Contacts:** contact details for all the Liaison Officers and other personnel in the Portable Antiquities scheme, as well as contact details of other relevant partners;
- **Websites:** links with sites hosted by organisations involved in the Scheme, relevant resources and local Portable Antiquities scheme sites.



Figure 36

The opening screen for the Portable Antiquities database program.

The website was launched in March 1999 and the monthly numbers of 'page requests' it has received are as follows:

March 1999	22,576
April 1999	21,165
May 1999	25,272
June 1999	26,161
July 1999	22,468
August 1999	38,759
September 1999	26,797 (the site was not accessible for one week during this month)
October 1999	29,995
November 1999	29,248
December 1999	29,619
January 2000	35,219

It is encouraging that the number of 'page requests' on the site show an upward trend, so that between the launch in March 1999 and the latest figures for January 2000 there has been a more than 50 per cent increase in 'page requests'. The sharp increase in 'page requests' during August is probably the result of the national TV coverage the Scheme and the website address received on the programme 'Find a Fortune' (fig. 30: see above).

A major upgrade of the data on the website is planned for early 2000. The search screen will be improved, some 7,000 new records will be added, as will images of over 575 objects, and locational information down to parish level will be included (except for the most sensitive findspots).

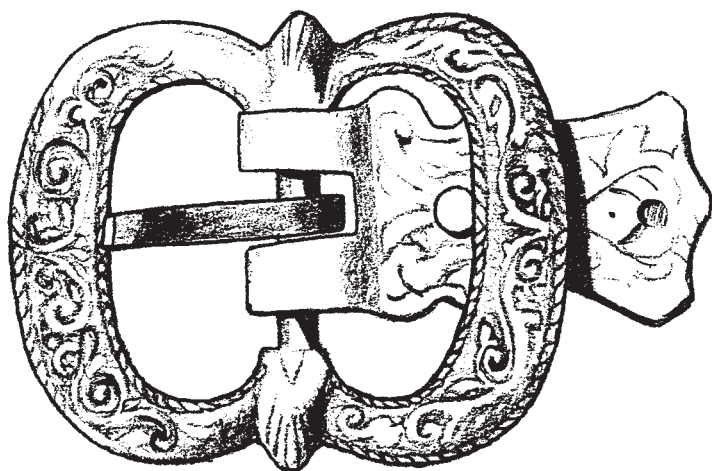


Figure 37
Record drawing by Marina Elwes of a fine copper-alloy buckle of the 15th or 16th centuries AD found in Lincolnshire.

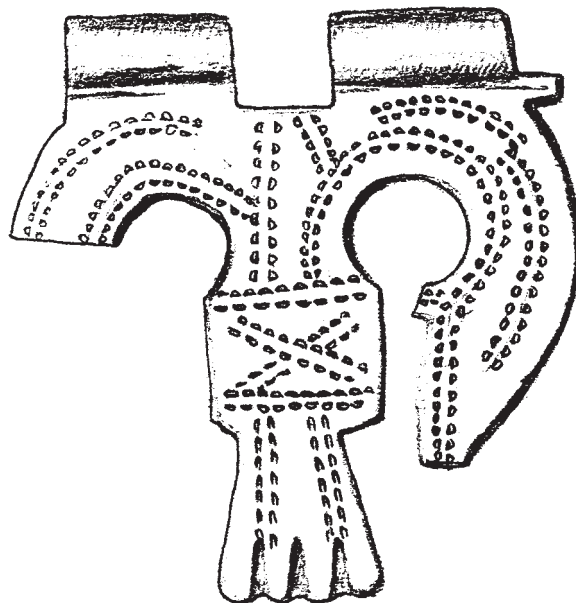


Figure 38
Record drawing by Marina Elwes of a Roman military copper-alloy buckle of the 3rd century AD found in Lincolnshire.



Figure 39
Two fragments of cast-bronze Coptic bowl footing found in Norfolk by Mr Ken Robinson. The first fragment was brought in on 28 July 1997 and the second on 17 November 1998. The two fragments do not join and the breaks are old. These bowls are made in Egypt and are only found in Anglo Saxon burials dating to the first half of the seventh century, usually in Kent and East Anglia. There are only about 30 or so in the whole country so these fragments are a very important find.

7. Portable Antiquities as a Source for Understanding the Historic Environment: The Role of Sites and Monuments Records

Archaeologists increasingly acknowledge the importance of the new evidence provided by chance archaeological finds, particularly those discovered with metal detectors, and there are two principal reasons for recording this material: for the information they give us about their archaeological contexts and for the information they give us about the objects themselves.

The potential of portable antiquities to enhance our understanding of the historic environment

In Norfolk, where a liaison scheme with detector users has been running for the last twenty years, metal detected finds are the largest single source of new entries on the county Sites and Monuments Record. Over the last ten years as a whole detector finds have accounted for a third of all new Sites and Monuments Record entries while in 1998–9, of the 800 records added to the Sites and Monuments Record, 434 (54 per cent) were as a result of metal detected finds. In Suffolk 11,000 of the 18,000 entries on the county Sites and Monuments Record relate to archaeological finds (although not all of these are metal detected).

The potential of the Scheme for increasing the number of sites recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record can be illustrated by the fact that between 1988 and 1993, 70 finds (detected and casual) were entered on to

the Cheshire Sites and Monuments Record, whereas in his two years the Liaison Officer for the North West gathered records of 296 finds from this county, a more than tenfold increase. Other examples are given on p. 25 above.

Anglo Saxon cemeteries are one type of site that are now mostly discovered through metal detector finds. In Norfolk, for example, eighteen out of twenty Anglo Saxon cemeteries discovered since 1973 have come to light as a result of metal detector finds – a direct consequence of Norfolk Museum Service's policy of establishing liaison with detector users. In North Lincolnshire nine previously unrecorded Anglo Saxon cemeteries have to light as a result of metal detector finds, while another example from Northamptonshire is illustrated in fig. 40.

In Lincolnshire the County Council was able to employ a Portable Antiquities officer for three months in spring 1999 in order to evaluate whether a longer-term post was needed in the county. During this period the officer was able to record onto the Sites and Monuments Record several previously unidentified sites ranging from a Neolithic site, indicated by the discovery of a single fragment of a Neolithic polished stone axe-head, to two putative Anglo Saxon cemeteries.



Figure 40

Anglo Saxon cruciform brooch from a previously-unknown Anglo Saxon cemetery near Corby. An independent detectorist from the Corby area has been returning to detect on one field for a number of years. Although much of the assemblage has been handed to the landowner, the finder has recorded detailed descriptions and precise findspots. When plotted the large number and types of early- to mid-Anglo Saxon finds indicate a strong possibility that there had been a cemetery in the field during the 6th to 8th centuries AD. Unfortunately the field has been under the plough since the 1940s and therefore the metal detected artefacts are likely to be the only extant evidence for this site. The very fine Anglo Saxon brooch illustrated here provides a remarkable example of the determination of the finder. The brooch is broken just below the bow. The first half was found in 1996 and the second three years later in 1999. The two halves are a perfect match.

Transfer of data to Sites and Monuments Records

Since Sites and Monuments Records are the key record holders for information about the local historic environment one of the fundamental elements of the Portable Antiquities scheme is the transfer of data to local Sites and Monuments Records. It is clearly stated in the leaflet *Finding our Past* that all records of finds gathered by the Liaison Officers will be made available to the relevant Sites and Monuments Record.

However, the transfer of data has taken longer than expected for a number of reasons, but mainly because the first version of Portable Antiquities database program (see p. 31) did not enable data to be exported easily. The revised version of the Program, completed in July 1999, does allow data to be exported and it has been a priority to develop a conversion table to allow data to be exported from the Portable Antiquities Program to the exeGesIS Sites and Monuments Record Program, which is currently used by about a third of Sites and Monuments Records. exeGesIS has been commissioned to develop this table and it is currently being tested; when it is fully operational it will greatly facilitate the transfer of information. In the meantime the Liaison Officers have made contact with their local Sites and Monuments Records to discuss the transfer of data and a considerable number of records have already been passed on. Methods for transferring data to those Sites and Monuments Records that are not using this Program will also need to be addressed.

The potential of portable antiquities data to enhance the Sites and Monuments Record in Kent

The following case study provides an example of the potential contribution that the Scheme can make to Sites and Monuments Records:

- There are currently 2015 finds recorded on the Kent Portable Antiquities database, of which 977 are coins (48 per cent);
- there are 3729 small finds recorded on the Kent Sites and Monuments Record, of which 638 are coins. These are single finds unrelated to known sites, so are very similar in nature to the data gathered under the pilot project. (There is an unquantified, but no doubt very large, number of finds associated with monuments). Therefore

- transferring the current number of records from the Portable Antiquities database in Kent at this stage to the Sites and Monuments Record would increase the total number of small finds by 54 per cent of the current number, and the number of coins by 153 per cent of the current total.

A specific example of the potential contribution that data gathered by the Scheme in Kent can make is provided below.

Romney Marsh, Kent

Under the pilot scheme in Kent, many finds have been recorded from Romney Marsh, many of which have been volunteered by the Romney Marshland Metal Detector Group. In one area of the Marsh these have included a Saxon silver hooked tag (currently being processed under the Treasure Act); an Anglo Saxon pin head consisting of 11 flat faces; a medieval seal matrix inscribed SHVOVONISE. HAMOHIS; a Saxon 'U' shaped terminal of a strap fitting; and a silver groat of Edward III (AD 1327-77). All the evidence from chance finds therefore points to Anglo Saxon and medieval activity in this particular area.

A search on the Sites and Monuments Record was conducted in the area of these finds within a radius of 2000 metres. There are no monuments in the precise area around the general *foci* of the various single finds (particularly the seal matrix and the hooked tag). However, to the west two monuments are recorded: (1) about 30 pottery sherds ranging in date from the 3rd century to the 15th century AD, recovered during work by the Romney Marsh Research Trust; and (2) another pottery scatter located during field survey, which included 12th and 13th century local coarse wares, again by the Romney Marsh Research Trust.

Romney Marsh in general is poorly understood in archaeological terms. From the evidence of the pottery scatters in the area it is already recognised on the Kent Sites and Monuments Record as an area of archaeological potential. The single finds from the area correspond well with the dating evidence of the pottery, strengthening the case for this status. Therefore a greater understanding of the historic landscape is provided when the data gathered under the Scheme are added to the Sites and Monuments Record in Kent.

8. Portable Antiquities as a Source for the Study of Artefacts

The potential of portable antiquities

Aside from the information about their archaeological context that such finds can give us, the objects can in themselves be of the highest importance. One of the most significant objects to be recorded during the first year of the Scheme was a gold and garnet Anglo Saxon pectoral cross from Holderness in East Yorkshire, described in last year's Annual Report (see p. 10). It was found by a farmer about 30 years ago and its importance was only recognised when the finder brought it to a finds day held by the Yorkshire liaison officer at Hull Museum in March 1998. The cross was the subject of a treasure trove inquest and has now been acquired by the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford.

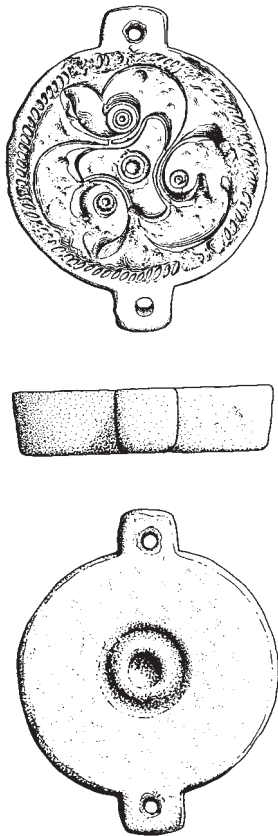


Figure 41
Die used in the manufacture of repoussé plates which were applied to Roman disc brooches found by Mr N Paul in Norfolk (illustration: Sue White). It is a thick cast-bronze disc 33 mm in diameter and 7 mm thick. One face of the disc has a large central ring-and-dot motif; the other face is decorated with a border of oblique nicks set just inside the edge, around a swirling late Celtic-style pattern. Catherine Johns of the British Museum believes that the small holes in the lugs served to hold the disc down onto an anvil. It could then be used to produce the repoussé plates that were used on Celtic-style disc brooches of the type described in C Johns, *The Jewellery of Roman Britain* (London, 1996), pp. 180–3.

Hitherto it was believed that these repoussé plates were individually produced freehand. The use of a die implies that lots of identical brooches would have been produced, so this find could change the way we look at Roman brooches and their mass production. It is therefore a very important find.

Other examples of objects of international importance are:

- bronze moulds for Roman brooches, the only examples found anywhere in the Roman Empire, which have changed our ideas about brooch technology (see fig. 41);
- Carolingian and Scandinavian material of the ninth to eleventh centuries, which has revolutionised our ideas about Viking Age East Anglia and Lincolnshire (see fig. 2).

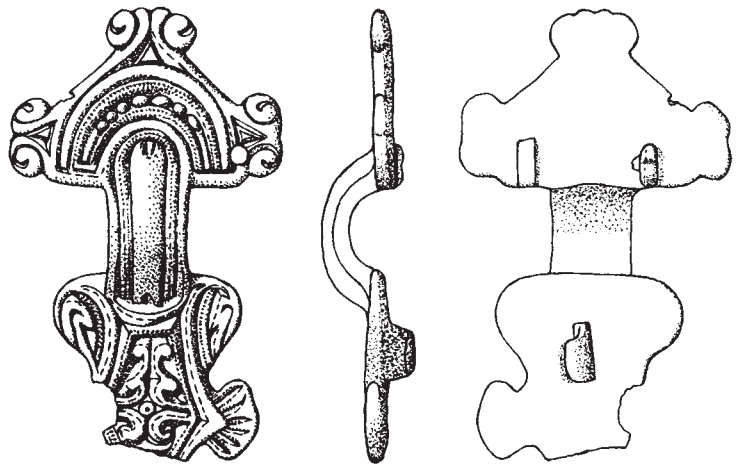


Figure 42
Relief brooch made of gilded copper alloy found by Mr M Willis in Norfolk in December 1998 (illustration: Anne Holness). Barry Ager of the British Museum has commented that this brooch is extremely unusual. Although it is of a well-known South Scandinavian type, it is odd in its material (gilded copper alloy instead of the usual gilded silver), in its findspot (outside South Scandinavia) and in certain elements of its design (such as the fan-shaped lobe(s) on the footplate). Although there is nothing specifically Anglo Saxon in its form or decoration, its odd design, material and findspot should combine to suggest that it may be a hitherto unknown Anglo Saxon variant of the South Scandinavian type of the late fifth to early sixth century.

A selection of the more significant finds from Suffolk recorded by **Gabor Thomas** is illustrated in figs. 1, 2, 18, 20, 22 and 48 together with a discussion of their contribution to our knowledge of the archaeology of the County. Many more examples of artefacts of considerable importance will be found illustrated throughout this Report. However, most of the objects recorded by the Liaison Officers are not so spectacular, but even the most mundane objects can yield important information when substantial numbers of well-provenanced finds are recorded. Such records can make it possible to build up distribution patterns of, for example, Iron Age coins, Bronze Age axe-heads or Romano-British brooches.

The Portable Antiquities scheme as a resource for research

The research potential of the Portable Antiquities scheme recently received recognition when it was selected as one of the examples of research and scholarship in museums highlighted in a series of case studies published to accompany a report on the state of scholarship in museums.⁵

The data gathered by the Liaison Officers, the first part of which is now available on the Portable Antiquities website, is increasingly being exploited by researchers. At least twelve undergraduate and postgraduate university students are known to have research projects on the Portable Antiquities scheme or on the data it has generated. All the staff involved in the Scheme have worked to promote the results being obtained to an academic and archaeological audience. For example, the Co-ordinator gave five talks to university students, several of the Liaison Officers have supervised students on placements and many reports on the Scheme have been published in archaeological journals.

Kevin Leahy (North Lincolnshire) has a long involvement in the use of metal detector finds in archaeological research and publication and is currently working on a number of projects. Detector finds are proving to be fundamental to our understanding of the

Viking settlement of Lincolnshire in the late ninth century. The discovery of more than two hundred items of Viking and Anglo-Scandinavian metalwork has shown that Danish conquest involved a settlement of people from Scandinavia and cannot simply be explained away merely as a change in overlords. Two research papers have been given on this topic at international conferences (the 1999 'Vikings in Europe' conference at Hull and the 13th Viking Congress in Nottingham). Kevin Leahy also has a long-running project on late Roman belt fittings, a group of objects which have been interpreted as part of the uniform of Germanic mercenaries in fourth-century Britain, but whose significance is being reassessed.

Kevin Leahy has two publications drawing on portable antiquities recorded from Lincolnshire in preparation (*The Viking Settlement of Lincolnshire* and *The Anglo Saxon Settlement of Lindsey*) and has contributed to five other publications which are in press. One of these is the detailed publication in the *British Numismatic Journal* of the more than 400 medieval coins in the Carlisle collection of some 12,000 artefacts, all metal detected from the parish of South Ferriby and acquired by the North Lincolnshire Museum. This collection was described in the first Annual Report (p. 29). The article is written jointly with Dr Barrie Cook of the British Museum, who notes that this is one of the most substantial groups of stray finds of late medieval coins to have been recorded from this country.

All of this new information has been produced by the wide scale use of metal detectors in Lincolnshire and is revolutionising our knowledge of the county. We are at last beginning to see distribution patterns of archaeological finds that reflects reality and not concentrations of fieldwork. It is now possible to compare different sets of data and produce convincing evidence for human activity in the past: for example the distribution of Viking metalwork has been compared with that of Anglo Saxon material of similar date. This shows that the Viking settlers were concentrated in certain areas of Lincolnshire and were absent elsewhere.

⁵ *Research and Scholarship in Museums and Galleries. Case Studies to Accompany Lifting the Veil*, (Museums & Galleries Commission, 1999), pp. 12-13 (Ann V Gunn and R G W Prescott, *Lifting the Veil. Research and scholarship in United Kingdom Museums and Galleries* (Museums & Galleries Commission, 1999).

9. The Recording of Finds

Numbers of objects recorded

During the second year of the Scheme a further 20,698 objects have been recorded by the Liaison Officers,⁶ in addition to the 13,729⁷ objects recorded in the first year (see *Annual Report 1997–98*, pp. 8–9). Of these, 14,605 objects were recorded by the first six pilot schemes and 6,093 by the five new Liaison Officers. As in the previous year there are very wide variations and each of the two groups need to be analysed separately. Table 1 shows the results of the first year (1997–98) for comparison, while Table 2 shows the results of all eleven pilot schemes for the second year (1998–99). These results are shown graphically in Chart 1. Since the five new Liaison Officers have not been working for a full year, and since three of the posts were vacant during the course of the year, the total number of finds has been divided by the number of months worked in order to give a figure that offers a basis for comparison.

It is important to note that the Liaison Officers examine many more objects than they record. As a general guideline all objects made before about 1660 are recorded; objects of the later seventeenth and eighteenth centuries are recorded more selectively and those of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries are only recorded if they are of particular interest. In **Hampshire**, Samantha Hyde and Sally Worrell saw 2,396 objects, but only 674 (28 per cent) were recorded; in **Dorset and Somerset** Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevarthen has examined 1,036 objects and recorded 586 of them (56 per cent), while in **Northamptonshire** Rhiannon Harte estimates that she has examined nearly twice as many objects as she has recorded. However, the Liaison Officers emphasise the importance of being shown all the objects that an individual might have found. In last year's report it was noted (p. 24) that some of the Liaison Officers have reported that some finders wrongly tend to assume that the Liaison Officers are only interested in recording their better finds – for example, those that are entered for 'Finds of the Month' competitions – and that this is not so is something that the Liaison Officers still need to stress in their contacts with metal detector users.

Table 1. Objects recorded by the Liaison Officers, October 1997 – September 1998

Region	Metal Objects	Coins	Worked stone	Pottery	Other	Total
Kent	666	808	12	8	–	1,494
Norfolk	6,213	6,355	248	677	131	13,624
North Lincolnshire	1,823	765	15	168	5	2,776
North West	232	235	7	1	–	475
West Midlands	611	381	150	287	–	1,429
Yorkshire	1,080	2,077	416	582	–	4,155
Total	10,625	10,621	848	1,723	136	23,953

⁶ This assumes that the Liaison Officer in Norfolk recorded 4,361 (33.33%) of the total of 13,083 objects recorded in 1998–99.

⁷ This assumes that the Liaison Officer recorded 3,400 (25%) of the total of 13,624 objects recorded in Norfolk in 1997–98.

Table 2. Objects recorded by the Liaison Officers, October 1998 – September 1999

Region	Metal objects	Coins	Worked stone	Pottery	Other	Total	Months worked	Total per month
Kent	823	914	12	–	–	1,749	9.5	184
Norfolk	5,275	6,150	663	995	–	13,083 ⁸	[...]	[...]
North Lincolnshire	1,062	1,050	52	2	–	2,166	9.6	226
North West	310	257	13	7	–	587	12	49
West Midlands	708	540	33	315	199	1,795	12	150
Yorkshire	1,735	1,539	166	505	–	3,945	12	329
Total, first pilot schemes	9,913	10,450	939	1,824	199	23,325		
Dorset and Somerset	151	132	15	258	31	587	8	73
Hampshire	236	194	54	57	133	674	5.5	123
Northamptonshire	335	374	8	91	1	809	8	101
Suffolk	1,730	1,497	11	89	–	3,327	9	370
Wales	362	234	44	49	7	696	7	99
Total, new pilot schemes	2,814	2,431	132	544	172	6,093		
Total	12,727	12,881	1,071	2,368	371	29,418		
Percentage of total	43.3	43.8	3.6	8.1				

Chart 1. Numbers of objects recorded: (a) existing pilot schemes

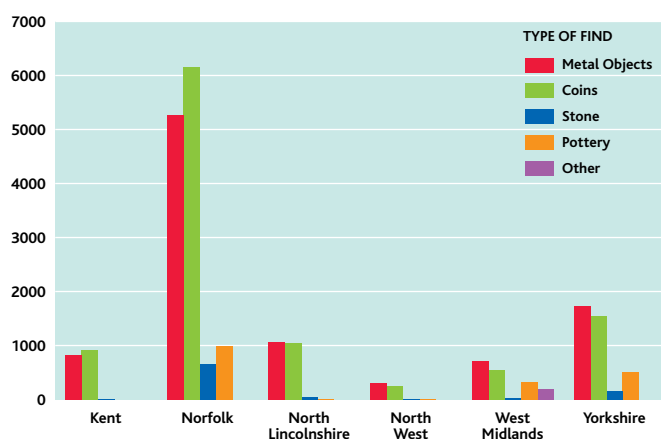
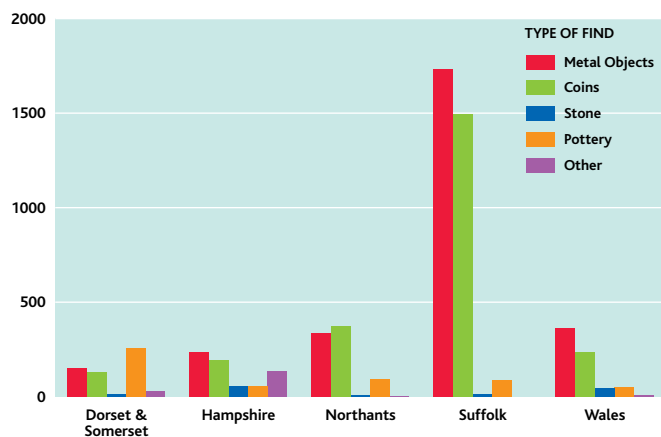


Chart 1. Numbers of objects recorded: (b) new pilot schemes



Existing pilot schemes

The second year's results broadly confirm the patterns established in the first year (the figures for the first year are shown in Table 1 for comparison), both in terms of quantities and types of objects recorded. Three areas account for very high numbers of finds (Yorkshire, Norfolk and North Lincolnshire), two are in between (Kent and West Midlands) and one area is significantly lower (the North West). The reasons for this were discussed in last year's report: essentially the differences reflect (a) the numbers of objects being found in each area and (b) the willingness of finders to make them available for recording. As the Liaison Officers become better established the second factor should become less significant and the differences should provide an increasingly accurate reflection of the relative quantities of objects actually being found in each area.

Table 3. Variation in average monthly recording rate between 1997–98 and 1998–99

	1997–98	1998–99	Change
Kent	136	184	+35%
Norfolk (overall)	1,135	1,090	–4.1% ⁹
North Lincolnshire	308	226	–36%
North West	40	49	+23%
West Midlands	119	150	+26%
Yorkshire	346	329	–5%

⁸ The actual number of objects seen by Norfolk Museums Service in 1998–99 was higher than this: see p. 39.

⁹ However, the overall number of finds seen by Norfolk Museums Service in 1998–99 was in fact higher than this: see p.39.

Table 3 shows the change in the average number of finds recorded each month between the first and second years. Overall the total number of objects recorded by the first pilot schemes in the second year was, at 23,327, slightly lower than in the first year (23,953). However, there are considerable variations between the individual pilot areas. The three pilot areas that had lower numbers of finds in the first year all saw increases, while the three areas with high numbers of finds all saw decreases.

Yorkshire, which had an exceptionally high number of finds in the first year, saw a small decrease of five per cent, while in North Lincolnshire there was a larger decrease of 36 per cent. The decrease in the Yorkshire figure no doubt partly reflects the fact that a number of existing collections of detector finds were made available to the Liaison Officer, Ceinwen Paynton, during her first year, but is chiefly due to the fact that she is being shown more finds than she has time to record. Consequently the Yorkshire Museum has had to limit the number of objects per enquiry to a maximum of twenty.

In **North Lincolnshire** the decrease is also probably due in the main to the fact that the figure for the first year was exceptionally high because Marina Elwes was able to record a number of large existing collections of detector finds by drawing them, whereas in the second year more time has been devoted to data entry and to outreach, making new contacts and consolidating earlier work. The level of recording achieved in the second year still remains above average and this is more remarkable given that Marina draws a very high proportion of the objects that she records (for example see figs. 37 and 38).

The **Norfolk** data are difficult to interpret partly because the finds are recorded by a team, the composition of which has changed this year; in 1997-98, the Liaison Officer's contribution was estimated at one quarter of the whole (equivalent to 3,400 objects), but this year, because of changes in the Identification and Recording Service, the Liaison Officer's contribution is estimated at one third of the total (4,361 objects). However, the overall total number of finds is also difficult to interpret: in Tables 1 and 2 it is given as 13,624 in 1997-98 and 13,083 in 1998-99, thus implying a very slight decline. Samantha Hyde notes in her report that a further 1,307 objects were recorded from outside the county (mostly from Suffolk) during 1998-99 and that there were in addition 1,437 objects awaiting recording as at October

1999. Therefore the total number of objects brought in to the Identification and Recording Service in 1998-99 was 15,827, substantially higher than in the previous year.

It is encouraging that the remaining pilot schemes have all seen substantial increases in the numbers of finds recorded: 23 per cent in the **North West**, 26 per cent in the **West Midlands** and 30 per cent in **Kent**. This reflects the success that the Liaison Officers are having in establishing growing trust with finders in these areas and in persuading more of them to make their finds available for recording.

New pilot schemes

The first results of the new pilot schemes, which are also summarised in Table 2 and Chart 1, show much less variation than the first pilots, with one exception, **Suffolk**. The other four areas (**Dorset and Somerset**, **Hampshire**, **Northamptonshire** and **Wales**) are all reasonably close in numbers of finds recorded, at between 73 and 104 per month. This in itself is perhaps surprising given the great differences between these four areas in terms of size, population and landuse. However, it is important to note that these are the results of the first eight months and it is very early to draw any firm conclusions. The fifth new pilot scheme, **Suffolk**, has seen a very much higher number of finds at 416 per month. This is chiefly because the County Archaeological Service in Suffolk has systematically been recording detector users' finds for many years and is second only to Norfolk in the numbers of objects recorded. Before the present Liaison Officer started the Archaeological Service had been recording an average of 3,000-3,500 finds per year, but in his first nine months in post as Liaison Officer Gabor Thomas has been able to achieve a 35 per cent increase.

Chronological distribution of objects recorded

This year for the first time it has been possible to provide a chronological analysis of the objects recorded in each of the pilot schemes. The results are shown in Tables 4 and 5 and Charts 2 and 3. Table 4 gives the numbers of objects recorded from each period, while Table 5 gives percentages of the total to enable comparisons to be made. Chart 2 shows the results for all the pilot schemes put together as a bar chart, while Chart 3 shows the proportions of objects from each period from each pilot scheme as a line chart.

Table 4. Chronological breakdown of objects: quantities

	Stone Age	Bronze Age	Iron Age	Roman	Early Medieval	Medieval	Post-Medieval	Uncertain	No. of objects
Dorset and Somerset	7	10	8	150	2	182	221	7	587
Hampshire	65	8	29	201	35	108	205	23	674
Kent	12	22	275	632	113	497	421	43	2,015
Suffolk	11	25	39	1,304	139	855	954	–	3,327
Norfolk	348	203	242	3,540	449	2,537	2,205	–	9,524
Northamptonshire	8	15	25	437	35	172	117	–	809
West Midlands	189	9	26	627	52	435	346	71	1,755
North Lincolnshire	52	45	37	1,287	178	445	118	4	2,166
Yorkshire	51	11	21	668	82	535	340	72	1,780
North West	7	36	13	305	42	238	236	23	900
Wales	42	15	5	40	–	49	545	–	696
Total	792	399	720	9,191	1,127	6,053	5,708	243	24,233

Table 5. Chronological breakdown of objects: percentages

	Stone Age	Bronze Age	Iron Age	Roman	Early Medieval	Medieval	Post-Medieval	Uncertain	No. of objects
Dorset and Somerset	1.2	1.7	1.4	25.6	0.3	31.0	37.6	1.2	587
Hampshire	9.6	1.2	4.3	29.8	5.2	16.0	30.4	3.4	674
Kent	0.6	1.1	13.6	31.4	5.6	24.7	20.9	2.1	2,015
Suffolk	0.3	0.8	1.2	39.2	4.2	25.7	28.7	0.0	3,327
Norfolk	3.7	2.1	2.5	37.2	4.7	26.6	23.2	0.0	9,524
Northamptonshire	1.0	1.9	3.1	54.0	4.3	21.3	14.5	0.0	809
West Midlands	10.8	0.5	1.5	35.7	3.0	24.8	19.7	4.0	1,755
North Lincolnshire	2.4	2.1	1.7	59.4	8.2	20.5	5.4	0.2	2,166
Yorkshire	2.9	0.6	1.2	37.5	4.6	30.1	19.1	4.0	1,780
North West	0.8	4.0	1.4	33.9	4.7	26.4	26.2	2.6	900
Wales	6.0	2.2	0.7	5.7	0.0	7.0	78.3	0.0	696
Total	3.3	1.7	3.0	37.9	4.8	24.1	24.3	1.0	

Chart 2. Chronological distribution of finds: overall average

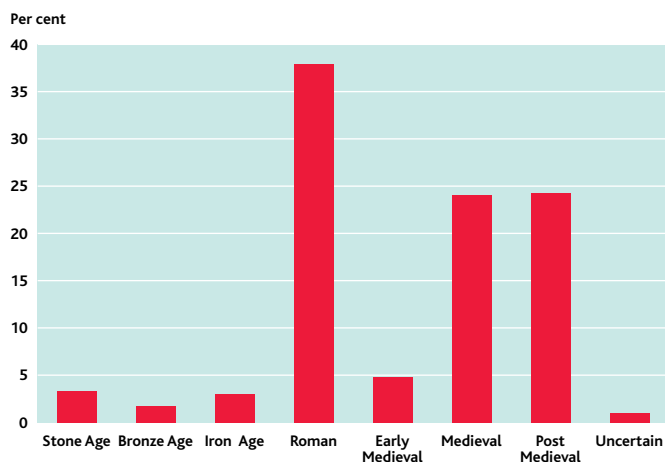
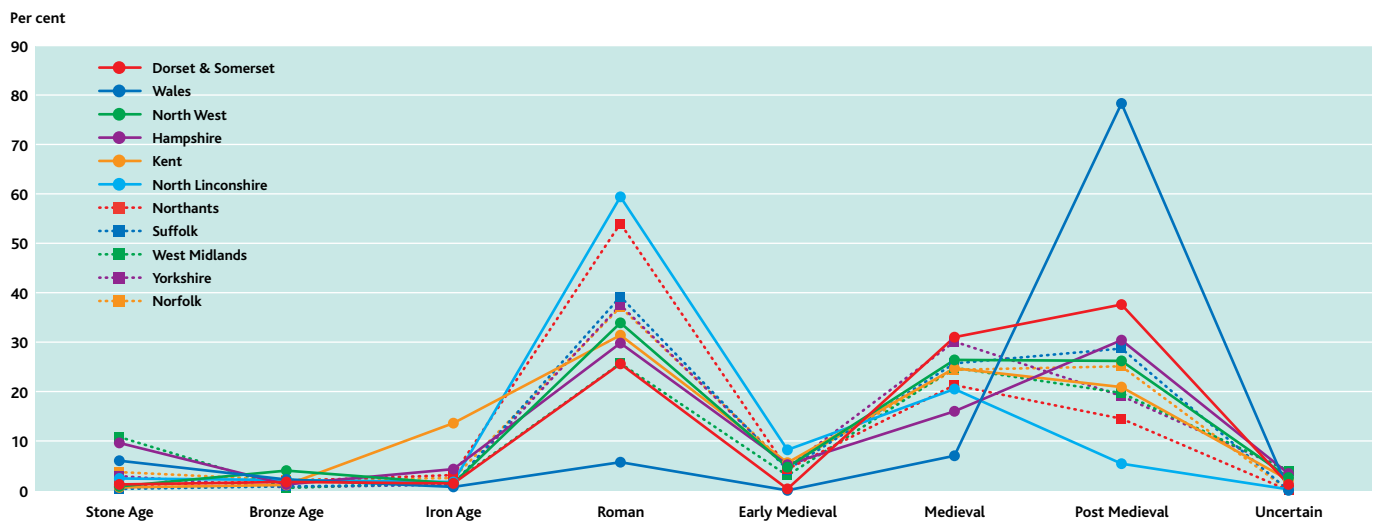


Figure 43

Pilgrim badge found by Mr Slade in west Somerset. Mr Slade, an independent metal detectorist, brought in a group of finds early in the Scheme and has subsequently brought in several others. Almost all are unusual for the area of west Somerset where they have been unearthed. West Somerset as a whole has produced few archaeological objects. They include Roman coins and brooches, medieval coin weights, a late Saxon stirrup strap mount and a medieval pilgrim badge (shown above). This is a probably unique find for the whole county. It depicts St Anne teaching the Virgin Mary to read and dates from the 15th century.



Chart 3. Chronological distribution of finds by area



Discussion of chronological distribution

These data have the potential to give a totally new insight in patterns of artefact loss across England and Wales, but a number of distorting factors need first to be taken into account. Some of the Liaison Officers have drawn on specialist collections of finds which affect the overall pattern: for example, the very high proportion of Iron Age material from Kent is in part due to the fact that the database includes records of 94 Iron Age coins from the county collected over a number of years by David Holman. If these are excluded from the calculations the proportion of Iron Age objects recorded in Kent would fall from 13.6 per cent to 9.4 per cent, but this would still give Kent a higher proportion of Iron Age artefacts than any other area.

The high proportion of early medieval finds recorded in North Lincolnshire is no doubt in part due to the fact that **Kevin Leahy** is a noted authority in this period and is shown objects of this period from all over the country. Another distorting factor stems from the way objects are recorded, as individual objects are counted separately, even if they are individual pot sherds or fragments of debitage. Thus the high proportion of Stone Age objects from the West Midlands can partly be accounted for by the 124 fragments of debitage recorded on a single occasion: if these were counted as a single item, the proportion of Stone Age objects recorded from the West Midlands would fall from 10.8 per cent to 4.0 per cent.

It is also likely that the figures reflect some differences in emphasis in the recording of post-medieval finds. These distorting factors can be identified and quantified: there may be others as yet unidentified.

Having made those caveats, clear differences are emerging in the chronological pattern of finds being recorded from different regions of England and Wales. The Welsh finds in particular follow a very different pattern from the English finds, with an extremely high proportion of post-medieval finds (78 per cent). The next highest proportion of post-medieval finds comes from Somerset and Dorset, with only 38 per cent. This difference is so high that it must reflect an actual difference in object loss. Clearly with more data from more areas these regional differences could be investigated much more thoroughly.

Findspots

It was noted in last year's Annual Report (pp. 25–6):

‘For historical reasons detector users and landowners can sometimes be reluctant to reveal precise findspots to archaeologists, who would agree on the importance of keeping the precise locations of new sites or finds confidential, at least initially, in order to protect them from being attacked. In some areas, where there has been less tradition in recording finds, the Liaison Officers have found that finders are sometimes only willing or able to give four-figure grid references or a parish name at present.’

The quality of findspot information at the end of the second year of the Scheme is set out in detail in Table 6, summarised in Table 7 and shown graphically in Chart 4. Table 8 notes the change in the percentage of findspots recorded to at least a six-figure grid reference (accurate to 100 square metres) recorded in the first six pilot schemes over the last year.

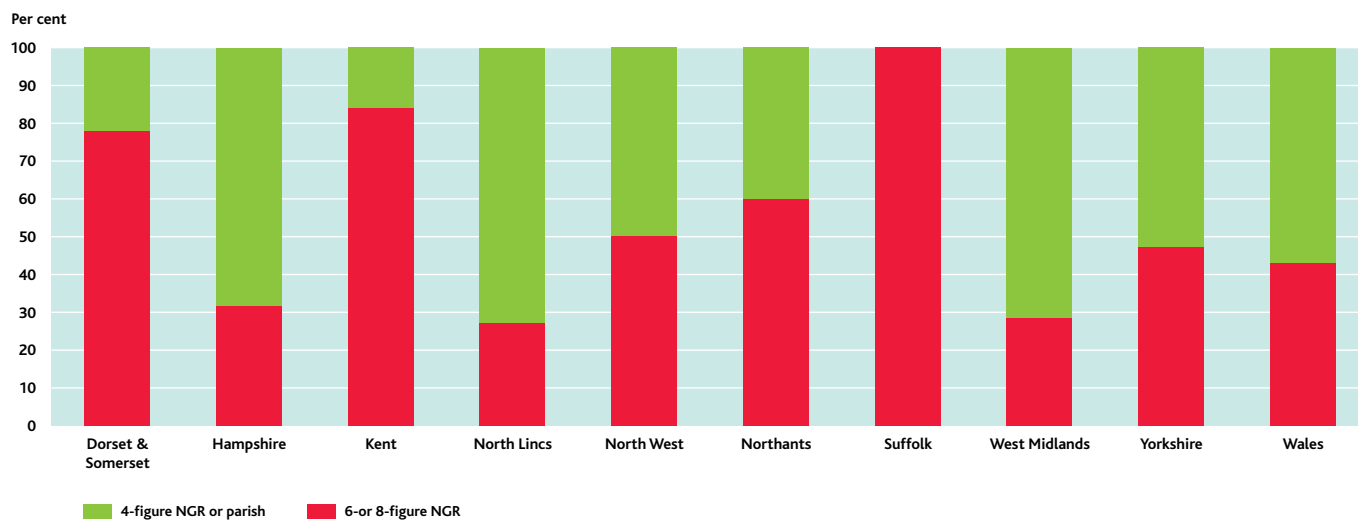
Table 6. Overall figures for findspots (based on data on database)

	Parish (%)	4 figs. (%)	6 figs. (%)	8 figs. (%)	Qty
Kent	10.4	5.6	47.9	36.1	933
North Lincolnshire	49.4	23.6	27.0	0	267
North West	38.3	11.7	29.8	20.2	420
West Midlands	70.5	1.1	27.7	0.7	278
Yorkshire	10.3	42.5	41.0	6.2	293
Dorset and Somerset	16.2	5.9	23.5	54.4	68
Hampshire	68.5	0	10.9	20.7 ¹⁰	92
Northamptonshire	35.6	4.4	13.3	46.7	45
Suffolk	0	0	64.9	35.1	37
Wales	57.1	0	28.6	14.3	21

Table 7. Summary figures for findspots (based on database)

	6/8 figs.	Total on database	6/8 figs.	Total on database	
Kent	84.0	933	Dorset and Somerset	77.9	68
North Lincolnshire	27.0	267	Hampshire	31.6	92
North West	50.0	420	Northamptonshire	60.0	45
West Midlands	28.4	278	Suffolk	100.0	37
Yorkshire	47.2	293	Wales	42.9	21 ¹¹
Overall	58.6	2,454			

Chart 4. Quality of findspot information by area



¹⁰ Fifteen findspots have ten-figure grid references.

¹¹ However, the finds recorded onto the database in Wales do not provide an accurate reflection of the overall quality of findspot information in the Welsh pilot scheme. Of the total of 126 findspots recorded during the first seven months, only 20 were recorded to at least six NGR figures (16.1%). This partly reflects a lack of trust among finders in Wales and partly reflects the fact that, as in the North West, many Welsh detector users go detecting outside Wales and it is always more difficult to obtain precise findspots for non-local finds. It also reflects the fact that many of the finds recorded in Wales are sent to Philip Macdonald by post, making it more difficult for him to obtain precise findspots.

Table 8. Improvement in findspot information since last year (proportion of findspots with at least a six-figure grid reference)

	1997-98	1998-99
Kent	72%	84%
Yorkshire	15%	47%
North West	47%	63%
North Lincolnshire	24%	27%
West Midlands	26%	28%
Overall	49%	59%

Discussion of findspots

Every pilot area has shown an improvement and the majority of findspots now on the database (58.6 per cent) are recorded to an accuracy of at least 100 square metres. In the first pilot schemes 4.9 per cent of all findspots were recorded to this standard after the first year; the cumulative figure at the end of the second year now stands at 5.9 per cent. Not only are the Liaison Officers obtaining substantially better information for the objects they recorded in their second year than in their first but in a number of cases they have been able to obtain enhanced findspots for objects they recorded in their first year. This is very encouraging.

However, there remain substantial differences in the quality of information being obtained between the different regions: in **Kent** 84 per cent of all findspots are now recorded to a high standard of precision; in the **North West** and **Yorkshire** the figure stands at around half (both Liaison Officers achieved substantial improvements during the second year);¹² whereas in **North Lincolnshire** and the **West Midlands** this figure remains considerably lower, at 27 and 28 per cent respectively (both these Liaison Officers secured more modest improvements).¹³ Clearly this an area that still needs work.

There are some considerations that will always make it difficult to obtain precise findspots in every case. One of these concerns the number of objects discovered by finders in non-local areas: in the **North West**, for example, 35 per cent of all objects recorded by Nick Herepath were discovered by finders travelling outside the region (Yorkshire, Lincolnshire and Norfolk being

the most popular destinations) and he notes that it is more difficult to obtain accurate findspots for these finds than it is for local finds, partly because the finder (and the Liaison Officer) is not so likely to have local knowledge of the area and partly because the Liaison Officer will not have detailed maps of these areas. Thus Nick Herepath has been able to obtain 6- or 8- figure grid references for 37.6 per cent of the 141 non-local findspots, as opposed to 56.3 per cent of the 279 local findspots.

So far as the new pilot schemes are concerned, the quality of findspot information is again variable. In **Norfolk** and **Suffolk**, where there has been a long tradition of recording detector finds, all findspots are recorded to a high degree of precision, whereas in **Hampshire** only 31.6 per cent of findspots are recorded to at least six figures. The other areas fall in between these two extremes, with **Wales** at 42.9 per cent,¹⁴ **Northamptonshire** at 60 per cent and **Dorset and Somerset** at 77.9 per cent. There can be little doubt that these variations reflect the degree of trust (or otherwise) that the Liaison Officers have encountered when they made initial contacts with finders in these areas. The experience of Norfolk and Suffolk shows what can be achieved after several years of sustained effort.

Landuse statistics

The Portable Antiquities Program includes provision for recording the type of land in which objects are found. This incorporates a classification drawn up by the former Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England.¹⁵ The landuse of the findspots of 3,503 objects has been recorded on the database and the results are shown in Table 9 and, in simplified form, in Chart 5.

The data in this table represents the first systematic attempt to analyse the different types of land from which archaeological objects found by the public are recovered. Since overall 87.2 per cent of all objects recorded on the database have been recovered through metal detecting (see below), this table effectively provides an analysis of the types of land from which archaeological objects are recovered by detector users.

¹² In the case of Yorkshire, Ceinwen Paynton reports that she is now securing six-figure grid references for 90 per cent of all findspots that she records.

¹³ In North Lincolnshire a number of large collections have been recorded for which the detailed findspots are forthcoming.

¹⁴ But see note 11 above.

¹⁵ *Recording England's Past. A Data Standard for the Extended National Archaeological Record* (RCHME, Swindon, 1993).

The clear conclusion is that the great majority of objects – 91 per cent on these figures – are found on cultivated land. This fact has long been suspected, but this is the first time that it has been possible to quantify it. In fact the true proportion of objects recovered from cultivated land is likely to be higher, as the 3,503 objects analysed above do not include any finds from Norfolk or North Lincolnshire and only 269 objects from Suffolk. These are all areas that are very rich in detector finds and nearly all of them are recovered from cultivated land.

Of the other types of land from which objects are recovered, grassland and heathland accounts for 3.9 per cent, coastland for 1.3 per cent, other types of land, including built over land and gardens, for 3.2 per cent, and the remaining categories (woodland, open fresh water and wetlands) for less than one per cent between them.

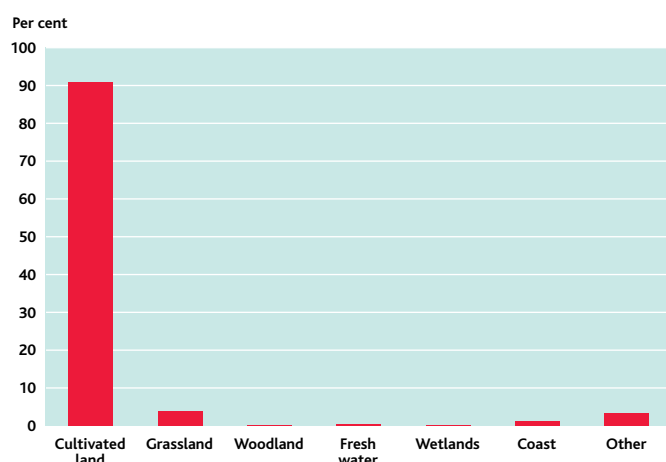
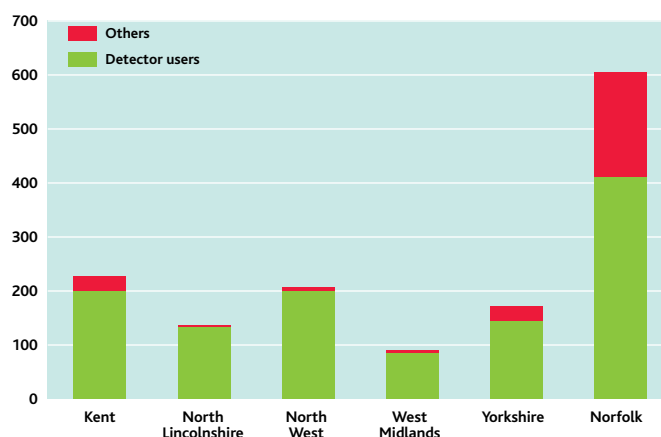


Fig. 44

Two Roman gold solidi found by Mr A and Mr M Parker, of the Camberley and Bagshot Association of Metal Detectorists in Hampshire and Berkshire. The coin on the left is of the emperor Theodosius I (AD 379–95), from the mint of Constantinople, and the coin on the right is of Valentinian II (AD 375–92), from the mint of Trier. Roman gold coins are only rarely found in this country: a survey in 1973 uncovered records of 267 single finds up to that time. However, the advent of metal detecting has greatly increased the numbers that have come to light and it is likely that the corpus has at least doubled since 1973.

Table 9. Landuse of findspots of objects recorded on database

	Nos. of objects	Percentage
Cultivated land		
Minimal cultivation	45	1.28
Operations to a depth less than 0.25m	1,556	44.42
Operations to a depth greater than 0.25m	335	9.56
Character undetermined	1,249	35.66
<i>All cultivated land</i>	<i>3,185</i>	<i>90.92</i>
Grassland and Heathland		
Heathland	9	0.26
Undisturbed grassland	23	0.66
Disturbed grassland	9	0.26
Regularly improved	40	1.14
Character undetermined	57	1.63
<i>All Grassland and Heathland</i>	<i>138</i>	<i>3.94</i>
Woodland		
Mixed	1	0.03
Other	4	0.11
<i>All Woodland</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>0.14</i>
Open fresh water		
<i>Running water</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>0.29</i>
Wetlands		
<i>Wetlands</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>0.14</i>
Coastland		
Inter-tidal	41	1.17
Above high water	3	0.09
Cliff and related features	1	0.03
Other	2	0.06
<i>All Coastland</i>	<i>47</i>	<i>1.34</i>
Other		
In use as a building	7	0.20
Built over	49	1.40
Garden	36	1.03
Orchard	2	0.06
Thoroughfare	1	0.03
Waste ground	12	0.34
Recreational usage	6	0.17
<i>All Other</i>	<i>113</i>	<i>3.23</i>
Total	3,503	

Chart 5. Distribution of finds by landuse type

Chart 6. Numbers of individuals reporting finds: (a) existing pilot schemes


Statistics relating to finders

Table 10 and Chart 6 set out the number of individuals reporting finds in each pilot area, broken down into detector users and others. Footnotes to Table 10 note how many of the detector users in each area are known to be independent rather than members of a club.

Table 10. Numbers of finders recording finds in each area

	<i>Detector users</i>	<i>Others</i>	<i>Total</i>
Kent	199	28	227
Norfolk	410	195	605
North Lincolnshire	132	4	136
North West	199 ¹⁶	9	208
West Midlands	84 ¹⁷	7	91
Yorkshire	144	27	171
Dorset and Somerset	18 ¹⁸	16	34
Hampshire	49 ¹⁹	9	58
Northamptonshire	48 ²⁰	3	51
Suffolk	253 ²¹	10	263
Wales	65 ²²	8	73
Total	1,601	316	1,917

¹⁶ Of which up to 33 may be independent detector users.

¹⁷ Of which 36 are independent detector users.

¹⁸ Of which five are independent detector users.

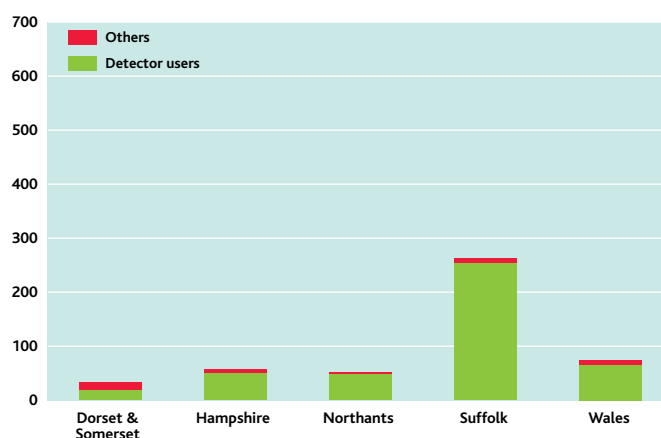
¹⁹ Of which 23 are independent detector users.

²⁰ Of which 23 are independent detector users.

²¹ Of which 30 are independent detector users.

²² Of which at least nine (and possibly more) are independent detector users.

²³ Although this information is not available for Norfolk, the fact that 195 of the 605 finders who reported finds were not detector users shows that a substantial proportion of the finds recorded from the county were not detector finds.

Chart 6. Numbers of individuals reporting finds: (b) new pilot schemes


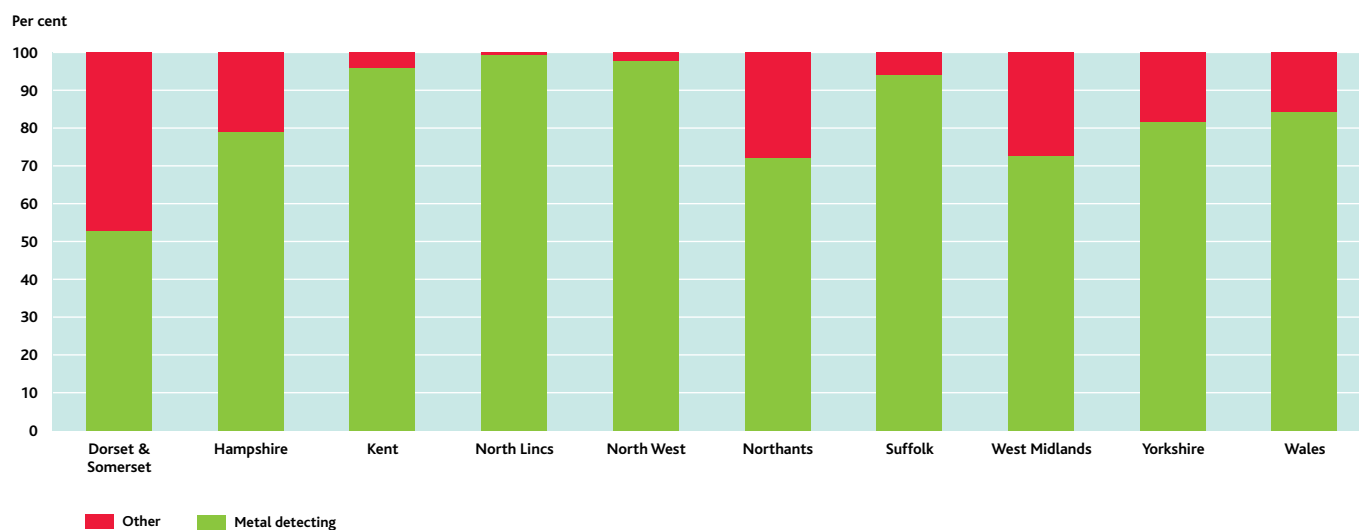
Method of discovery of objects recorded

Table 11 and Chart 7 summarise how the objects recorded in each of the pilot areas was discovered.

Table 11. Method of discovery of objects recorded on database

	<i>Metal detecting (%)</i>	<i>Other (%)</i>	<i>Qty.</i>
Dorset and Somerset	52.8	47.2	460
Hampshire	79.0	21.0	274
Kent	95.8	4.2	2,336
Norfolk ²³			
North Lincolnshire	99.4	0.6	1,931
North West	97.8	2.2	900
Northamptonshire	72.1	27.9	147
Suffolk	94.1	5.9	269
West Midlands	72.7	27.3	1,755
Yorkshire	81.7	18.3	1,749
Wales	84.2	15.8	90
Total	87.2	12.8	9,911

Chart 7. Method of discovery of objects recorded in each pilot scheme



Overall the great bulk of the objects recorded on the database (87 per cent) are metal detector finds, but within this figure there are considerable variations, with the percentage of detector finds ranging from 99 per cent in North Lincolnshire to 53 per cent in Dorset and Somerset. It should be noted, however, that the non-detector finds recorded in Dorset and Somerset include a number of large collections of pottery sherds which are counted individually; if each group of sherds is counted as one find, then the proportion of non-detector finds falls to 25 per cent (on the same basis the proportion of non-detector finds from the West Midlands would fall from 27.3 to 6.6 per cent and from Yorkshire from 18.3 to 8.4 per cent). Be that as it may, the Liaison Officers are placing increased emphasis on recording finds made by any member of the public, not just detector users (see, for example, figs. 6, 21, 45, 46 and 47).

Date of discovery of objects recorded

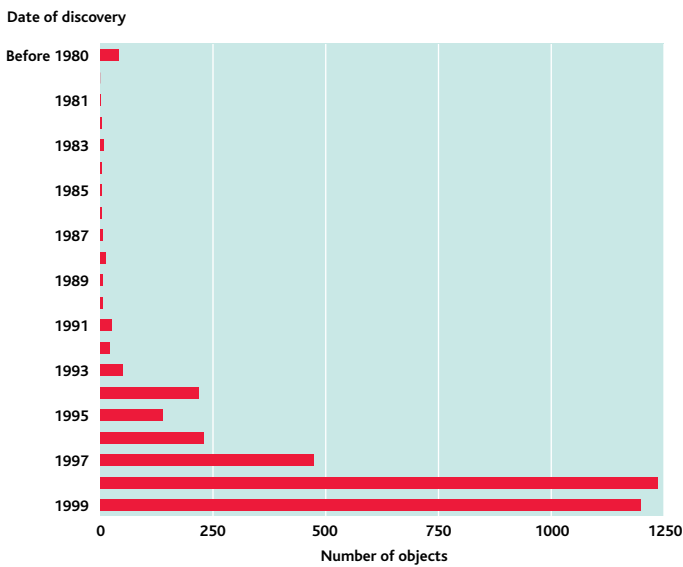
One of the aims of the pilot schemes has been to estimate more accurately the number of archaeological objects currently being found by members of the public in order to determine what resources would be needed for a scheme covering all of England and Wales. In order to do this it is necessary to distinguish between existing collections, which their finders may make available for recording, and objects which have been discovered recently. If it can be shown that the majority of the objects recorded by the Liaison Officers come from existing collections dating back twenty years or more, then it is reasonable to assume that once these collections have been recorded, the number of new finds will be much lower.

The first Annual Report included a chart analysing the date of discovery of 727 objects recorded in the Kent pilot scheme which showed that the great majority of the finds were discovered within the previous three years (*Annual Report*, p. 28). It is now possible to present an analysis of a much larger group of finds (3,685) from all of the pilot schemes. The results are shown in Table 12 and Chart 8:

Table 12. Date of discovery of objects recorded

Before 1980	42
1980	0
1981	1
1982	4
1983	7
1984	4
1985	3
1986	3
1987	5
1988	12
1989	5
1990	6
1991	26
1992	22
1993	49
1994	218
1995	139
1996	230
1997	473
1998	1,237
1999	1,199
Total	3,685

Chart 8. Date of discovery of objects recorded on database



The data presented above reinforce the conclusion in last year’s Annual Report, which is that the great majority of the finds being recorded are recent finds and not from existing collections: 89 per cent of these objects were found within the last five years.

However, that is not to say that substantial collections of finds do not exist in private hands. Last year’s Portable Antiquities Annual Report described the Carlile collection of some 12,000 objects, all found with a metal detector in the parish of South Ferriby (p. 29). This collection has been acquired by North Lincolnshire Museum so that is available for future study. Another large collection is described by **Sally Worrell**, the Hampshire liaison officer:



Figure 45
A Neolithic stone axe discovered by a local historian from Fotheringhay, Northamptonshire, who spotted the axe whilst out walking. Mrs Wilson discovered the axe at a point where the river was being dredged, which suggests that the axe may have been a votive deposit. The axe is even more unusual as the colour of the flint suggests that it may have been imported from Ireland.

‘One very large metal–detected assemblage in particular has been amassed from a single parish over a period of some 20 years. Whilst it is likely that other detector users have also investigated this site, the detector user in question holds a very wide range of material. This database is greatly enhanced by the fact a large proportion of the estimated 17,500 artefacts have been recorded with a 6 or 8–figure grid reference. The material from this site is of considerable archaeological importance and warrants analysis and synthesis beyond simply the recording of the finds. In particular, the accurate recording of 7,500 musket–balls from a Civil War site has allowed the direction of the battle to be plotted. An undergraduate student is undertaking a dissertation based upon aspects of this work.’

Other large collections are known to exist in Yorkshire, Worcestershire and elsewhere. Cataloguing such collections needs to be regarded as a separate exercise from the normal work of the Liaison Officers.

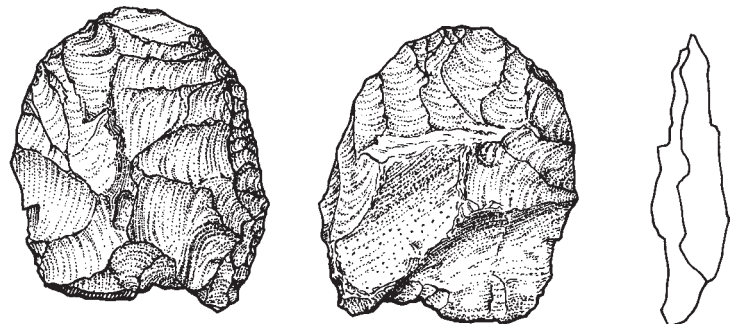


Figure 46
Bronze Age flint discoidal knife found by Andrew Gould of Dorset (see fig. 6). Illustration: Mike Trevarthen.



Fig. 47
Roman pottery flagon of Alice Holt or Farnham ware found in Hampshire by Ron Maunder during agricultural work.

10. Conclusions

The next stage

In view of the undoubted success of the pilot schemes and of the need to extend them a bid has been made to the Heritage Lottery Fund for three-year funding for a scheme to cover the whole of England and Wales. This bid is being submitted by the Museums and Galleries Commission, the lead organisation in the Portable Antiquities Steering Group, in partnership with English Heritage, the British Museum, the National Museums and Galleries of Wales and the Royal Commission for Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales. It is also supported by the Council for British Archaeology, the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers and the Society of Museum Archaeologists. The project represents an unprecedented partnership between national and local museums and archaeological bodies working together to realise the project's vision.

The proposal is for a network of 27 full-time and nine part-time finds liaison posts across the whole of England and Wales, supported by a Central Co-ordinating Unit of three and three Finds Advisers. It would involve 67 local partners including regional museums, local government planning departments and university departments. Funding is being sought from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and the partners in the Scheme.

Figure 48

The number of finds recorded from the medieval period from Suffolk has increased dramatically. Amongst this varied material, seal matrices and horse-harness pendants often provide the most tangible links with the past, since they can usually be attributed to individuals or individual families. Information on the eighteen seals recorded under the Scheme so far will be added to an existing database which is to be published in the Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History. This is a 14th-century enamelled copper-alloy horse-harness pendant from Suffolk, displaying the arms of Ralph de Monthermer, Earl of Gloucester and Hereford, found by Mick King of the Mildenhall and District Detector Club.



Aims of a national scheme

There is no doubt that such a network, if it can be achieved, will be able to make a very substantial contribution towards raising public awareness about our archaeological heritage. The aims of a national scheme are to build on and extend the work of the current pilot schemes. These can be summarised as follows:

- to increase opportunities for active public involvement in archaeology;
- to significantly raise awareness among the public, and across the educational spectrum, of the educational potential of archaeological finds;
- to arrest the large level of archaeological information lost every year by actively recording this material on a systematic basis for public benefit;
- to change public attitudes so that those who make finds accept that it is normal practice to make them available for recording;
- to test the appropriateness and effectiveness of the Portable Antiquities scheme over the whole of England and Wales, rather than just half of that area (the current pilot project);
- to define the nature and scope of a scheme for recording Portable Antiquities in the longer term, to assess the likely costs, and to identify resources to enable it to be put in place.

If successful, the project would build a wider appreciation of our heritage for future generations. Results from the second year of the Scheme, as outlined in this report, show clearly what is possible.



Figure 49

Romano-British strap fitment found in Cheshire by Mr M D Callow of the Vale Royal Metal Detecting Club.

Portable Antiquities: Contacts

Project co-ordinator: Roger Bland, Buildings, Monuments and Sites Division, Department for Culture, Media and Sport, 2-4 Cockspur Street, London SW1Y 5DH Tel.: 020 7211 6924; fax: 020 7211 6962. Also at British Museum: tel. and fax as for Richard Hobbs. E-mail: roger.bland@culture.gov.uk; rbland@british-museum.ac.uk

Outreach Officer: Richard Hobbs, Museums & Galleries Commission, c/o Department of Coins and Medals, British Museum, London WC1B 3DG
Tel.: 020 7323 8611; fax: 020 7323 8171.
E-mail: rhobbs@british-museum.ac.uk

Dorset and Somerset: Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevarthen, Somerset County Museum Service, Taunton Castle, Taunton, Somerset TA1 4AA Tel.: 01823 320200; fax: 01823 320229. E-mail: chtrevarthen@somerset.gov.uk also at: Archaeological Service, Environmental Services, Directorate, County Hall, Colliton Park, Dorchester DT1 1XJ Tel.: 01305 224921; fax: 01305 224835

Hampshire: Sally Worrell, Winchester Museums Service, Hyde Historic Resources Centre, 75 Hyde Street, Winchester, Hants SO23 7DW
Tel.: 01962 848269; fax: 01962 848299.
E-mail: sworrell@winchester.gov.uk

Kent: Catherine Read, Heritage Conservation, Kent County Council, Invicta House, Maidstone ME14 1XX
Tel.: 01622 221544; fax: 01622 221636.
E-mail: catherine.read@kent.gov.uk

Norfolk: Samantha Hyde, Archaeology and Environment, Norfolk Museums Service, Union House, Gressenhall, Dereham, Norfolk, NR20 4DR
Tel.: 01362 869031; fax: 01362 860951.
E-mail: samantha.hyde.mus@norfolk.gov.uk

North Lincolnshire: Kevin Leahy/ Marina Elwes, North Lincolnshire Museum, Oswald Road, Scunthorpe, North Lincs DN15 7BD Tel.: 01724 843533; fax: 01724 270474 E-mail: kevin.leahy@northlincs.gov.uk; marina.elwes@northlincs.gov.uk

North West (Cheshire, Cumbria, Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Merseyside): Nick Herepath, Liverpool Museum, William Brown Street, Liverpool L3 8EN
Tel.: 0151 478 4259; fax: 0151 478 4390.
E-mail: nick@nmgmaeant.demon.co.uk

Northamptonshire: Rhiannon Harte, Northants Archaeology, 2 Bolton House, Wootton Hall Park, Northampton, NN9 8BE Tel.: 01604 700493; fax: 01604 702822. E-mail: rharte@northamptonshire.gov.uk

Suffolk: Gabor Thomas, Archaeological Section, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 2AR
Tel.: 01284 352449; fax: 01284 352443.
E-mail: gabor.thomas@et.suffolkcc.gov.uk

Wales: Philip Macdonald, Department of Archaeology and Numismatics, National Museums & Galleries of Wales, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF10 3NP
Tel.: 02920 573226; fax: 02920 667320

West Midlands (southern Staffordshire, northern Warwickshire, West Midlands and Worcestershire): Angie Bolton, c/o Birmingham City Museum and Art Gallery, Chamberlain Square, Birmingham B3 3DH
Tel.: 0121 303 4636; fax: 0121 303 1394.
E-mail: angiebolton73@hotmail.com

Yorkshire: Ceinwen Paynton, The Yorkshire Museum, Museum Gardens, York YO1 7FR Tel.: 01904 629745; fax: 01904 651221. E-mail: ceinwen.paynton@york.gov.uk



**Department for Culture,
Media and Sport**
2-4 Cockspur Street
London SW1Y 5DH
PP296 March 2000

