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Foreword



I am very pleased to be able to introduce the third annual report on the Portable Antiquities Scheme.

I am delighted that last November the Scheme received the Spear and Jackson Silver Trowel award for the best initiative in archaeology in the country, as well as the Virgin Holidays award for the best-presented

archaeological project, at the British Archaeological Awards ceremony in Edinburgh. These awards demonstrate recognition of the potential of the Portable Antiquities Scheme to arrest a great loss of information by actively recording archaeological finds made by members of the public. The awards are also, I believe, a fitting recognition of the commitment and hard work of the staff in the Scheme.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the 1,800 finders who have volunteered their finds for recording under the Scheme during the last year. Without their contribution, the Scheme would not exist. Although the majority of finds recorded have been made by metal detector users, it is important to stress that the finds liaison officers are anxious to record objects found by all members of the public, however they are discovered.

All the activities of the Scheme are focused on raising public awareness of the importance of recording finds for the benefit of our archaeological heritage, helping to develop new audiences in the process.

The information about finds is being made available on the Scheme's website (www.finds.org.uk) and is also being passed on to Sites and Monuments Records, the key record holders of information about the historic environment, and this Report gives detailed information on progress in that direction.

The year covered by this Report has been a period of consolidation as the second wave of finds liaison officers, who started in spring 1999 with the support of the

Heritage Lottery Fund, established themselves alongside the original six finds liaison officers who started in autumn 1997. The present report covers the first full year of all eleven pilot schemes and the post of outreach officer. Although the schemes cover a wide diversity of regions, they undoubtedly show that there is a need for the services of the finds liaison officers throughout the whole of England and Wales.

From 1 April this year, the management of the Scheme will pass to a consortium of national bodies led by Resource: the Council for Museums, Archives and Libraries. Other members include English Heritage, the British Museum, the National Museums & Galleries of Wales, the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers, the Council for British Archaeology, the Society of Museum Archaeologists and the National Council for Metal Detecting.

Last year Resource made a lottery bid for three-year funding for a national network of finds liaison officers across England and Wales. This bid represents a unique partnership between 67 national and local museums and archaeological bodies working together to realise the project's vision. Last September the Trustees of the Heritage Lottery Fund deferred consideration of this bid pending further assessment of the work that had been carried out so far. Accordingly, a consultant, Dr Gill Chitty of Hawkshead Archaeology and Conservation, carried out an assessment of the impact of the pilot schemes on key stakeholders. Her assessment of the work done so far has been encouraging and it is the intention of the Consortium to return to the Heritage Lottery Fund with a revised bid later this year.

In the meantime I am delighted that the Heritage Lottery Fund have agreed to continue funding six posts for a further year in 2001-02 and that my Department has been able to fund another eight posts for the same period.

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

RT HON ALAN HOWARTH CBE MP

March 2001

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State – Minister for the Arts.

1. Key Points

The achievements of the third year of the Scheme (1999-2000) can be summarised as follows:

- **Extent of the Scheme:** the number of liaison officers has remained at eleven full-time and one half-time post, which means that the Scheme currently covers about half of England and the whole of Wales. In addition the central unit consists of a co-ordinator and an outreach officer based at the British Museum. During the reporting period, six posts supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund came to an end, but funding for all the posts was continued by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.
- **Recognition of success:** the Scheme's successes were recognised by the British Archaeological Awards where it received both the Spear and Jackson Silver Trowel for the Best Initiative in Archaeology and the Virgin Holidays Award for Best Presented Archaeological project.



Figure 1

At the biennial British Archaeological Awards 2000 held at Edinburgh Castle, the Portable Antiquities Scheme won the Spear and Jackson Silver Trowel. The top prize at the awards, the Silver Trowel is presented for the best initiative in archaeology. The Scheme also picked up the Virgin Holidays Award for best presented archaeological project. Above from left to right: Sally Worrell (Hampshire liaison officer), Roger Bland (co-ordinator), HRH Prince Hassan of Jordan, Richard Hobbs (outreach officer).



Figure 2

The seventh-century AD is not well represented by many sites or individual finds. This gold and cloisonné garnet mount, probably from a sword scabbard, was recovered in 1995 in south-west Norfolk by Kevin Wright, but only recently reported. No further material of similar date has been found in the surrounding area and it is almost certainly a stray loss.

- **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:
 - 198 talks have been given about the Scheme (124 to metal detecting clubs and 74 to other bodies);
 - 196 finds identification days and exhibitions have been staged;
 - 98 pieces in the media have been published or broadcast.
- **Objects recorded:** a further 31,783 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) has continued to expand with the number of 'page requests' increasing to around 47,000 a month, representing an increase of 40 per cent on the previous year. The website currently allows access to 9,000 objects recorded under the Scheme and about 600 images. This number will be increased to around 18,000 with about 2,300 images during 2001. The search screen for viewing the data has also been significantly improved.

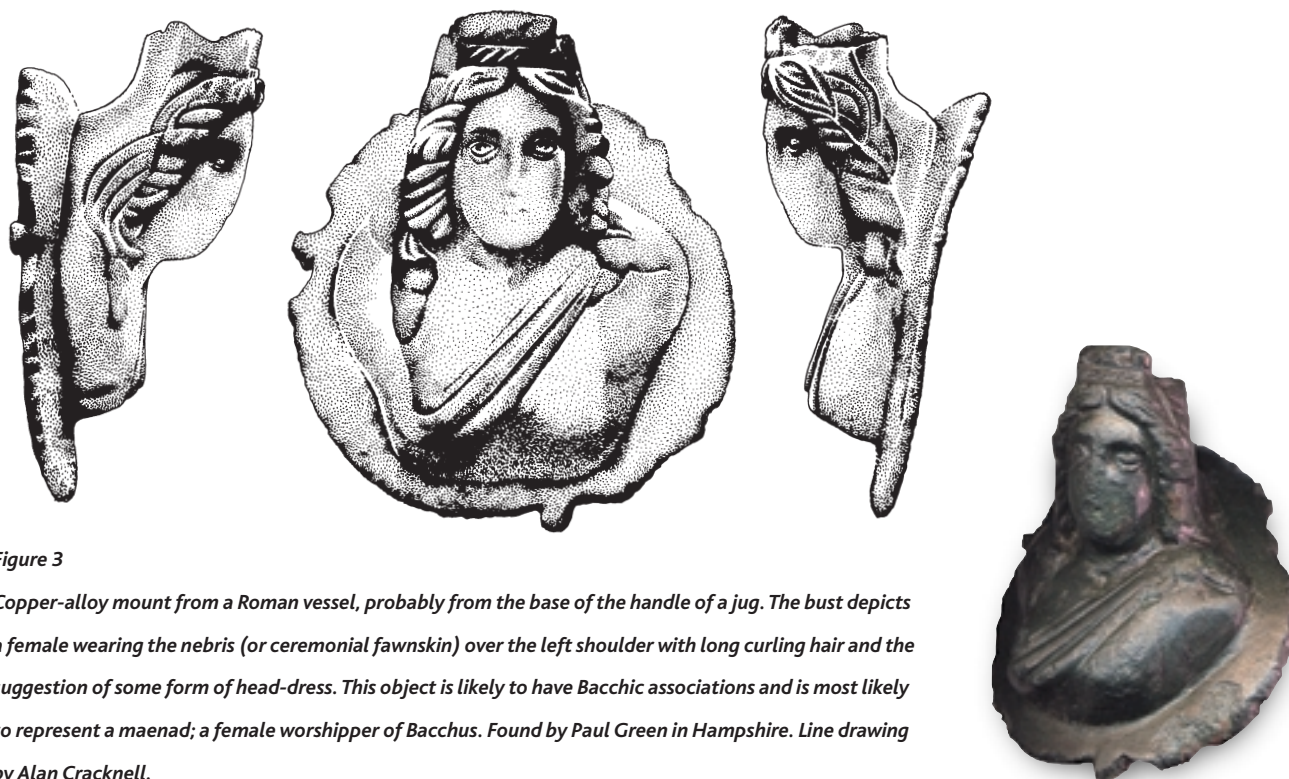


Figure 3

Copper-alloy mount from a Roman vessel, probably from the base of the handle of a jug. The bust depicts a female wearing the nebris (or ceremonial fawnskin) over the left shoulder with long curling hair and the suggestion of some form of head-dress. This object is likely to have Bacchic associations and is most likely to represent a maenad; a female worshipper of Bacchus. Found by Paul Green in Hampshire. Line drawing by Alan Cracknell.

- Publications:** Three major publications about the Scheme appeared in the last year:
 - the second *Annual Report* was launched in March 2000;
 - the second issue of the *Finding our Past* newsletter was published by Resource: the Council for Museums, Archives and Libraries (formerly the Museums & Galleries Commission) in Summer 2000, with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund.
 - the second issue of *Portable Antiquities: Wales*, was published in April 2000, also with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund.
- Sites and Monuments Records:** A large amount of data being gathered by the Liaison Officers has been passed on to Sites and Monuments Records, the key record holders for information about the historic environment. Two major developments have also occurred to greatly enhance the transfer process: a conversion table to allow data to be converted to the exeGesIS SMR software has been completed, and a working group to oversee the transfer to all SMRs has been established.
- Findspot information:** The liaison officers are meeting with increased success in obtaining precise findspot information from finders, with 60 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 1,788 finders, and maintain regular contact with 108 metal detecting clubs, an increase of 13 from the previous year.
- Non metal-detected finds:** The numbers of objects being recorded from members of the public other than detector users has increased from thirteen per cent to 21 per cent of the total. Worked stone and pottery account for 32 per cent of all objects recorded, and major increase on last year's figure of twelve per cent.
- Assessment exercise:** an assessment of the impact of the pilot Scheme on key stakeholders has been conducted by Dr Gill Chitty of Hawkshead Archaeology and Conservation.

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 and amateur field-walkers, the rest through other outdoor activities such as rambling or 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 about 10-15,000 metal-detector users operating in England and Wales;¹
- metal-detectorists find as many as 400,000 archaeological objects a year;²
- 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.³ The Treasure Act removed the worst anomalies of the old law of Treasure Trove, and defined more

clearly what qualifies as treasure. The Treasure Act has proved highly successful, having led to a nine-fold increase in the number of cases of treasure.⁴ However, the great majority – probably 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.



Figure 4
Edward the Confessor
'Radiate type' silver penny
(1042-66) minted by
Wulfic (Wulfric) of
Rochester, found by Carol
Little near New Romney
(South East London Metal
Detecting Club and
Romney Marshland Metal
Detecting Club).

¹ This is rather lower than the figure quoted in Dobinson and Denison (see footnote 2). Estimates are hard to make, but some indication is provided by the circulation figures of the two metal-detecting magazines, *Treasure Hunting* (which has a circulation of 10,000 (PIMS Directory of Media contacts) and *The Searcher* (a circulation of between 7 and 9,000). There is an unquantifiable number of individuals who metal-detect in England or Wales who are not members of either the National Council for Metal Detecting or the Federation of Independent Detectorists, and an equally unquantifiable number of other amateur field-walkers and chance finders.

² Colin Dobinson and Simon Denison, *Metal Detecting and Archaeology in England* (Council for British Archaeology and English Heritage, 1995).

³ It was not needed in Scotland, where under the common law principle of *bona vacantia* all ownerless objects are the property of the Crown.

⁴ *Report on the Operation of the Treasure Act 24 September 1998 – 31 December 1999* (DCMS, 2001), which gives details of 373 cases of treasure.

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 and, as a first step, 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.

During the progress of the Scheme a more refined set of objectives has been established:

- 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.



Figure 5
One of the more unusual items to be recorded this year under the Scheme, a carved stone head found by a JCB driver near Hartley Bottom, Otford, Kent.

The current pilot schemes

Six posts were established initially with funding from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.⁵ A further six posts were set up in Spring 1999 with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, initially for a period of 18 months, and with an extension of this funding from April 2001. All the current posts are being funded in the interim period by DCMS. The following six posts were established in autumn 1997, and below are set out any changes which have occurred in the last year:

- **Kent:** Catherine Read and Michael Lewis, Kent County Council. Catherine remained in Kent until 5th May 2000, and was succeeded by Michael, formerly of the National Maritime Museum, who took up the post on 1st August 2000. The post was established in response to a bid submitted by the Kent Archaeologists and Detectorists Liaison Group. Michael also liaises with the Kent Archaeological Society Fieldwork Committee and the Kent Museums Group.
- **Norfolk:** Samantha Hyde occupied the position of finds liaison officer until the end of March 2000, and was succeeded by Adi Popescu in August, a Romanian numismatist with a special interest in the Roman period. Adi's arrival followed close on the departure of Helen Geake who took up the finds liaison post in Suffolk. Her successor in

⁵ Funding for the West Midlands post initially coming from the British Museum.

Norfolk is Steven Ashley (who although a member of the Identification and Recording Service is not funded through the Portable Antiquities Scheme). Since Autumn 2000 a second post is being part-funded by the Scheme in Norfolk, that of **Katie Hinds**, who assists Adi with finds recording. She is also responsible for entering data on the Portable Antiquities Database. The Identification and Recording Service (I&RS) is headed by Andrew Rogerson, who has long been involved in detector liaison and finds recording in the county. The I&RS is also supported by the work of Professor Peter Robins (prehistoric flints), Anne Holness (illustration) and David Wicks (photography).

- **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. Nick has continued to work 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, southern Staffordshire, Worcester and Stoke on Trent. 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 following six posts were established in Spring 1999, initially for a period of 18 months. Since Autumn 2000, these posts have been funded directly from DCMS, but the Heritage Lottery Fund will resume funding of these posts from April 2001:

- **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: Sally Worrell**, Winchester Museums Service. Sally reports to a Management Committee which includes representatives from Hampshire Museums Service, Hampshire County Council Planning Department, Southampton Cultural Services and Portsmouth Museums.



Figure 6
Early sixteenth century copper-alloy miniature book with Latin inscription which translates as 'Peace to you, Mark my Evangelist'. It is possible that this object was associated with a library, perhaps linked to a church, due to the small number of personal libraries in existence in the early sixteenth-century and the ecclesiastical nature of the inscription. Alternatively, it may have been a religious souvenir, although no parallels are known for this example. Found in Hampshire by Barry Wood.

- **Northamptonshire: Rhiannon Harte**, Northamptonshire Archaeology, started in February 1999. The bid was submitted by the Northamptonshire Councils' Association Heritage Group. As a result of a review, since August 2000 the post has been based with Northamptonshire Heritage (NH), the branch of Northamptonshire Council responsible for the conservation of archaeological sites, buildings and historic landscapes within the county, in addition to maintaining the SMR. The post was formerly based with Northamptonshire Archaeology. The post 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.



Figure 7
A rare mid-Saxon 'waisted' silver strap end engraved with serified runes. The finder was totally unaware that this was a silver artefact (and therefore treasure), neither did he realise it was ancient. It was recorded by Rhiannon Harte (Northamptonshire), and eventually acquired by Daventry District Museum.

- **Suffolk: Gabor Thomas and Helen Geake**, Suffolk County Council. Gabor left his post at the end of his contract in July 2000, with Helen (formerly of the Identification and Recording Service in Norfolk) taking up the post in September. The post is based with the county's Archaeological Service 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 Moyse'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 in Cardiff, together with grants to the four Welsh Archaeological Trusts. For more details on the organisation of the Scheme in Wales see Section 5.
- **Outreach Officer: Richard Hobbs**, Resource: Council for Museums, Archives and Libraries, London, started March 1999. The post was originally based with the Museums & Galleries Commission, which was replaced by Resource in April 2000. 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. Richard works closely with the co-ordinator, Roger Bland.

Co-ordination and management of the Scheme

Resource: the Council for Museums, Archives and Libraries acts as the channel for the funding of all the 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 chaired by Resource 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, the Society of Museum Archaeologists and the National Council for Metal Detecting are also represented on the Steering Group. Future plans for the Scheme are discussed in Section 10.

3. Outreach at a local level: The work of the liaison officers

Outreach to the general public

While the main focus of the liaison officers' outreach work continues to be metal-detector users, as they are responsible for finding most recorded objects, the general public, historical societies and other interest groups are of equal importance. The liaison officers seek to share their knowledge with the wider public and encourage active participation in heritage activities via talks, finds identification days and the media. The liaison officers gave a total of 57 talks to non-detecting organisations, conducted 196 finds days and contributed to 77 reports in the media about their work. Some examples of these activities aimed at the wider public are provided below.

Nick Herepath (North West) attended the first Wirral History Fair held at Port Sunlight, Wirral in September 2000 with a small self-produced display panel on the Portable Antiquities Scheme in the North West. The event was very well attended.

Angie Bolton (West Midlands) writes: *'During the summer the Nuneaton Museum and Art Gallery held an archaeological roadshow on a Saturday. The roadshow consisted of a series of events in which the public could participate, meeting staff from the Warwickshire Museums and archaeological services. Events included Anglo-Saxon re-enactment, making flint tools and pottery, Sites and Monuments Record Office activities, archaeological displays, and historical food. The finds liaison officer held a Finds Identification day which eleven people attended. The majority were children who had made finds in their gardens. The identification day became a series of educational sessions, investigating what their finds told us about local history and archaeology.'*

Adi Popescu and **Katie Hinds** (Norfolk) were involved in an open day held at Gressenhall (where Norfolk's Identification and Recording Service (I&RS) is based) in July 2000. Displays were seen by a total of 350 visitors, 274 of whom were also given a tour of

the I&RS office, and 46 objects were taken in for recording. The event led to the establishment of contact with detectorists and finders who had previously not recorded their finds. The I&RS were also present on Norfolk County Council's Cultural Services stand at the Royal Norfolk Show.

Catherine Read (Kent) held a finds day in February 2000 at the 'Rock and Relic Roadshow' organised by Canterbury Royal Museum. Ten local archaeological and geological groups were invited to the event, which was dedicated to found objects. The day proved very successful, attracting around 1,500 visitors.

Figure 8

Roman Republican coin, 42-40 BC. On the obverse is the Pharos of Messana with a statue of Neptune, on the reverse is the Scylla with a rudder. Roman Republican coins are very rare finds in this country, and it is still unclear if they circulated in any number before the Roman invasion in AD 43. Found by Mr J Bevan of Dorset.



Figure 9

Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevarthen (Dorset and Somerset) using a handling collection of finds for teaching purposes at an Adult Education class held at the Somerset College of Art and Technology.

Michael Lewis, Catherine's successor in Kent, held a finds day to coincide with the 'Time Team Live' event held in Canterbury over the August Bank Holiday. This event demonstrated how such activities have the potential for material to be brought forward which may otherwise have gone unrecorded. Michael writes: *'It was interesting to note that many items brought to the finds day had been handed down as family heirlooms, and as such, unfortunately so, had uncertain findspots. Nonetheless the quality and rarity of such items was quite stunning, in particular the case of a Celtic votive offering of two figures holding hands found by the owner's father in the 1920s.'*



Figure 10

Adrian Side (left) shows **Michael Lewis (Kent liaison officer)** and **Clive Sinclair (South East London Metal Detecting Club)** a Bronze Age axe head which his father found in the 1970s. The finds day was held over the August Bank Holiday weekend in conjunction with the 'Time Team' visit to Canterbury. With the support of Ken Reddie and Martin Crowther of Canterbury Museum and Pete Clark and Ian Riddler of the Canterbury Archaeological Trust, the day was a resounding success. Michael Lewis was assisted by Clive Sinclair and Phil Talbot (Swale Metal Detecting Club) and they saw over 50 finds, many of which were recorded. The event was also followed up with an article in *The Searcher*.

Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevvarthen (Dorset and Somerset), working in partnership with the Dorset County Council Metal Detecting Liaison Scheme (administered by Claire Pinder, Senior Archaeologist), set up the 'Dorset Discovered' exhibition, a display of finds and information, at the Dorset Record Office. Running from December 1999 to March 2000, and visited by around 400 people, the exhibition included over 400 finds of all dates from a number of metal-

detectorists. The finds liaison officer assisted in the identification and display of material.

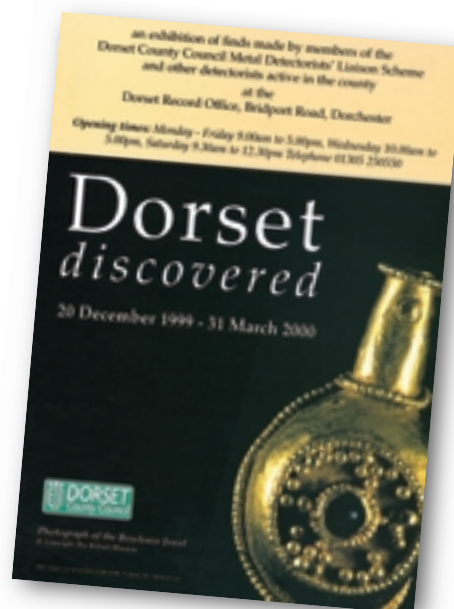


Figure 11

A publicity leaflet for the *Dorset Discovered* exhibition.

Sally Worrell (Hampshire) staged an exhibition at the Historic Resources Centre, Winchester, from April to October 2000. The exhibition was entitled 'Metal Detectives – the Portable Antiquities Scheme in Hampshire'. Sally designed eight information panels (see figure 12 for an example) and the layout of the display cases, which included both metal-detected and non-metal-detected finds. Each metal-detecting club was invited to participate directly in the exhibition for one month at a time, exhibiting finds in one display case and contributing to the production of the accompanying panel. The exhibition was formally opened by the Mayor of Winchester and the Scheme co-ordinator Roger Bland, and this provided a good opportunity for members of both the club-based and independent metal-detecting fraternity to meet and discuss issues with archaeologists and museum staff. Articles about the exhibition also appeared in two local newspapers, giving further publicity to the Scheme.

Reaction to the exhibition was very positive.

One visitor commented:

'Having been involved in an acrimonious correspondence regarding irresponsible metal-detectorists in the local press recently, I applaud this splendid event: every Hampshire

school and college should hear of it. Such an occasion is the only way of dispelling ignorance, including my own....'



Figure 12
A panel from the 'Metal Detectives' exhibition held in Winchester between April and October 2000.

Involving the public in archaeological projects

In the last year all the liaison officers have sought to provide metal-detector users and other members of the public who express an interest with opportunities to participate in archaeological projects. This is a very important part of the work of the Scheme and is undoubtedly beneficial to all sides. In Suffolk, for instance, the County Archaeological Service has been keen to involve metal-detectorists in excavation and survey work as a means of strengthening links with the detecting fraternity and improving general archaeological awareness. In the context of developer-led archaeology, briefs issued under PPG 16 by Suffolk County Council usually include metal-detecting by an experienced user as part of the fieldwork requirement. To this end the county field projects team is currently employing two detectorists full-time as site assistants.

Also in East Anglia, members of the East Norfolk Metal Detecting Club have been working on a University of East Anglia and Norfolk Archaeology Unit research project at Bromholm Priory near the north-east Norfolk coast. The priory and its immediate area are now almost completely under

arable crops, and the project is designed to see how much information can be recovered about the zoning of activity within and outside the precinct wall at a monastery which was also a centre of pilgrimage. A combination of field-walking, metal-detecting and aerial photography has been used at the site.

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 undertaken over a number of years had revealed a previously unknown villa site. A geophysical survey was conducted by Northamptonshire Archaeology, and an exploratory excavation was undertaken by post-graduate students from Nene University College, Northampton, in conjunction with detectorists from Northampton Detecting Association. As a result, club members learned a great deal about archaeological field techniques and archaeological context. The excavation was followed up by two 'Open days' about the site. These proved very popular, the Summer 2000 open day attracting over 300 people to the site. A further two-day open weekend is planned for 2001 with the liaison officer, landowner, local detectorists and archaeologists.'

One of the areas where there has been a very substantial amount of involvement in archaeology by the local metal-detecting groups is Kent, with the liaison officer post being an integral part of the Heritage Conservation Unit at Kent County Council.

Michael Lewis writes:

'Some of the detector groups in Kent have established good working relations with both professional and amateur archaeological groups. In the last year members of Dartford Area Relic Recovery Club have worked with the Wessex Archaeological Trust on a Roman site at Springhead. Swale Search & Recovery Club have worked with Pre-Construct Archaeology on an excavation at Iwade. Mid Kent Search and Recovery Club have worked on several archaeological surveys, including an excavation at Thurnham Roman villa under the direction of the Oxford Archaeological Unit. The White Cliffs Metal Detecting Club has excellent relations with the Dover Archaeological Group, and members from the club have worked with archaeologists on numerous excavations and surveys,

including a Roman settlement site near Sutton and on the high-profile 'Time Team' excavations at Canterbury. South East London Metal Detecting Club were involved in pre-excavation work on the Transco Pipeline project with Network Archaeology Ltd. on a site in Shorne, near Gravesend.'

Another very important development in Kent was the conducting of a survey on National Trust-tenanted land. The National Trust's policy generally presumes against metal-detecting on its land. However, the National Trust recognised that an exception could be made in the case of the land in question. Michael Lewis writes:

'Detectorists from the Mid Kent club sought to survey land owned by the National Trust, adjacent to private arable land which had previously revealed important archaeological finds. Due to the special conditions that existed in this instance the National Trust agreed to a licensed metal-detector survey under the supervision of the liaison officer and the outreach officer.'

A project proposal and a final report, and arrangements for recording, conservation and curation of any finds were required by the National Trust who retain title to the finds that have been recovered.

In Hampshire there was a large amount of amateur involvement in the excavations at Lankhills. Sally Worrell writes:

'Between July and August 2000, Hampshire County Council commissioned the Oxford Archaeological Unit to excavate the nationally important late Roman cemetery at Lankhills School, Winchester (figure 15). Metal-detection during the excavation was recognised in the project specification as a key objective and was co-ordinated by the finds liaison officer. Local independent detectorists and members of the detecting clubs were invited to participate. In total, 35 detectorists were involved. The fill from each grave was detected as it was excavated, and detectors were used to scan over the graves to guide the excavators to pinpoint the location of iron coffin nails in particular, which in turn facilitated the quick and careful excavation of the burials. The archaeologists were impressed both with the results and



Figure 13

John Darvill (Mid Kent Search and Recovery Club) in action during a survey conducted on National Trust land in Kent.

the level of expertise required to operate a metal-detector. For their part the detectorists considered the whole experience an 'eye-opener', in several cases having heard only of the antagonisms existing between archaeologists and detectorists. The archaeologists were willing to explain the principles behind archaeological excavation and contextual recording. With both sides working together, participation in the archaeological fieldwork has proved to be a highly effective method of fostering mutual co-operation.'



Figure 14

The finders of the 'Weedon Warrior' during the excavation

of the site. This early to mid Saxon grave, complete with sword, knife and possible razor (all currently being examined by the British Museum) is of considerable importance. The finder reported the initial ploughsoil discovery of a small section of sword and associated bone, which he left undisturbed. Northamptonshire Heritage were able to fund a small-scale excavation in which both finder and landowner participated.



Figure 15

Metal-detecting and excavation at Lankhills Roman cemetery, Winchester, July to August 2000. The site is being scanned at the beginning of the excavation.

But there are strong regional variations, with the main factor being the availability of suitable archaeological projects: **Nick Herepath** (North West) writes:

As far as I am aware there has been no involvement of metal-detector users on any archaeological investigations in the North West this year. The potential for the use of controlled metal-detecting on archaeological excavations remains low.

Education: working with schools and colleges

In the last year the liaison officers have continued to work with schoolchildren and archaeology students to demonstrate the educational benefits of handling archaeological material, as the following examples demonstrate.

Ceinwen Paynton (Yorkshire) says:

During May 2000 I held a number of events aimed at school children as part of Museums Month. These included the 'rubbish game', where children were given the chance to examine an assemblage and work out what kind of people might have left it. The assemblage took the form of cleaned, washed, safe rubbish such as crisp packets and toiletry containers. The assemblages were carefully skewed to lead the children to a particular conclusion and the game introduced them to key elements of archaeological theory.

Ceinwen also held 'Bronze Age' pottery workshops in

local libraries during half-term. Children were shown how to make a coiled pot using air-drying craft clay and published examples of Bronze Age pottery decoration as templates. After making their pots, they were encouraged to handle objects and talk about them, for example why Romano-British pottery sherds felt different to their coiled pots, and why metal would be used instead of pottery for some containers.

Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevarthen (Dorset and Somerset) nominated Andrew Gould, aged 10, (pictured in last year's *Annual Report*, p. 9) for the biennial Dorset Archaeological Committee's archaeological awards. Andrew has reported a number of finds which he has collected from his family's farm in east Dorset. In September 2000, Andrew and his family were invited to the awards ceremony at Bestwall Quarry, Wareham. Andrew received a special award for his efforts (presented by Julian Richards from BBC2's 'Meet the Ancestors'), and his nomination has prompted the committee to consider including a category for young archaeologists in the near future. The awards received coverage in the Council for British Archaeology Wessex newsletter.

Sally Worrell (Hampshire) was involved with National Archaeology Weekend (July 22nd-23rd 2000). This included an event aimed at both children and adults and had the additional benefit of publicising the Scheme. Archaeology was made more accessible through a series of hands-on artefact based events and quizzes, including finds identification, artefact handling, excavating, surveying, metal-detecting and coin striking. The children's quiz was based upon objects on display in the 'Metal Detectives' exhibition (see page 11).



Figure 16

Striking coins during the National Archaeology Weekend in Winchester, July 2000. Thanks to the Southern Daily Echo for providing this image.

Andrew Rogerson, head of the Identification and Recording Service in Norfolk, visited two primary school classes to talk about how archaeologists know about the past, and more specifically about the Anglo-Saxon period in East Anglia.

The liaison officers have also been involved in the teaching of students at undergraduate and post-graduate level. **Michael Lewis** (Kent) gave three seminar presentations to first-year undergraduate archaeologists at the University of Kent in Canterbury. The students were given an introduction to the Portable Antiquities Scheme and the work of the liaison officer. A detectorist from a local club joined the liaison officer to talk about conscientious detecting and the importance of finds recording. Students were then presented with detector finds, which they examined and discussed, particularly with regard to metal composition, date and typology.

Michael Lewis says:

'...students were able to meet detectorists, ask questions and handle small finds. Such opportunities are rare in UK universities and are a valuable experience for all involved. It is hoped that there will be increased liaison in the forthcoming year, with the opportunity for students and detectorists to work together on field work projects and research.'

Sally Worrell (Hampshire) writes:

'In the general absence of artefact-based courses at undergraduate level, a number of students, whilst on work experience placements at Winchester Museums Service, have benefited from learning the basics of artefact handling and identification. One student also assisted the liaison officer in the production of an exhibition panel and artefact display. An increasing number of detectorists are now studying archaeology at GCSE, A level and undergraduate level. This has come about through participation on excavations and also through an enhanced understanding of heritage issues which a greater involvement with archaeological professionals affords.'



Figure 17

Sally Worrell (Hampshire) identifying finds at a recent event held at Winchester Museums Service. Events such as this have been a particularly effective means of encouraging non-detector users to record their chance archaeological finds.

Ceinwen Paynton (Yorkshire) writes:

'During the course of the last year, several post-graduate and undergraduate students have shadowed the work of the liaison officer in Yorkshire. Three post-graduate students, all on Heritage Management courses at York University have been placed. Three undergraduates have come to the museum and to the Archaeological Resource Centre sessions to see the finds and the liaison side of the job 'in action'. In addition, the liaison officer has given lectures to the post-graduate archaeology students at the University about the Scheme's recording work and the Treasure system.'



Figure 18

Children at a 'Finds day' with their grandmother. Ceinwen Paynton, Yorkshire liaison officer, shows the oldest boy how to examine a Roman coin. The coin is a find brought in by a finder attending the event. The museum provides a safe, friendly environment for people of all ages and backgrounds to explore artefacts.

Museum-based outreach

The finds surgery or finds identification day has now been established as integral to the work of all the liaison officers. It is not only a means of physically recording finds and providing information about objects, but is also a very good way of reaching the wider community as it is museum-based rather than being related to specific interest groups (for example metal-detector clubs). During the year the liaison officers conducted 196 such days. Some examples of these events are described below.

Philip Macdonald (Wales) organised two finds identification days: the first, in conjunction with Chris Morgan (Caerphilly County Borough Museum Service), was held at Drenwydd Museum, near Rhymney on Saturday 28th August 2000 as part of a 'Meet the Time Detectives' event to promote archaeology in general. The event proved to be a useful opportunity for Philip to meet several local detectorists and although only a small number of finds were recorded, Philip believes it was a worthwhile exercise. A second finds identification day took place in the interactive Glanely Gallery at the National Museum & Gallery in Cardiff on Saturday 6th May 2000.

Nick Herepath (North West) held a dedicated finds surgery at the Salt Museum, Northwich, Cheshire. The response was favourable with a small number of metal-detector finds being recorded. As a result finders continue to take finds to the Salt Museum for identification and recording and Nick visits the museum on a regular basis in order to record these finds.

Angie Bolton (West Midlands) holds regular finds identification days across the whole of her area of responsibility at the following venues: the Potteries Museum, Stoke-on-Trent; Worcestershire County Museum, Hartlebury; Worcester City Museum and Art Gallery/Worcester Archaeological Service; and at the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery. At the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery Angie works in conjunction with the museums' monthly opinion service.

Ceinwen Paynton (Yorkshire) holds weekly finds days at the Archaeological Resource Centre in York. These are informal sessions aimed mainly at metal-detector users and also allow finds to be taken in for recording. For these finds days Ceinwen is joined by Jim Halliday, a local detectorist well-known throughout the county. In addition, Ceinwen holds monthly finds days at The Yorkshire Museum, York (serving the North Yorkshire region), Hull and East Riding Museum, Kingston-upon-Hull, and Beverley Art Gallery (both serving the east of the county). Ceinwen also holds one-off events, for instance at the Craven Museum in Skipton.

Rhiannon Harte (Northamptonshire) held an 'antiques roadshow' at the Reading Rooms in Whittlebury as part of the Whittlewood Landscape Archaeology Project alongside a panel of experts which included 'Time Team's' Carenza Lewis, Birmingham University's Chris Dyer, pottery specialist Paul Blinkhorn and local detectorist Bob Kings. The event was a great success with more than 400 members of the public attending.

The Identification and Recording Service team at **Norfolk** visited each of the county Museums Service branch museums, in Great Yarmouth, King's Lynn and Cromer. Their visits were previewed in local newspapers and attracted both locals and holiday-makers, some with finds to be identified. The day in King's Lynn also provided the first contact with a detectorist who had not previously reported his finds – an increasingly rare event in Norfolk.

Outreach to metal-detector groups and historical societies

Liaison officers have continued to target metal-detecting groups as the main source of material found in England and Wales outside controlled archaeological investigations. The number of detector clubs and historical societies with which liaison officers have regular contact with is set out in the table 1.

Table 1. Number of metal-detecting clubs and other groups liaison officers have regular contact with.

Dorset and Somerset	6
Hampshire	7
Kent	9
Norfolk	5
North Lincolnshire	7
North West	18
Northamptonshire	11
Suffolk	4
West Midlands	7
Yorkshire	22
Wales	12
Total	108

It should be noted that although the number of liaison officers has not risen in the last year, the overall number of clubs and societies visited in comparison to last year has, from 96 to 108 (*Annual Report, 1998-99*, p. 17). In Yorkshire at least, this has been due to greater involvement of historical and general interest societies in the recording scheme: here involvement from non-detecting interest groups has risen to nearly 28 per cent of the total. Overall, it would seem that the hobby of metal-detecting is buoyant, regardless of the activities of the Portable Antiquities Scheme, with club membership high and the number of new clubs possibly on the increase, although exact figures are hard to establish. It may also be the case that the sustained interest in the hobby is due to there being fewer opportunities for amateurs to become involved in archaeology as a volunteer, with the commercialisation of archaeology over the last decade or so resulting from introduced planning guidance (PPG 16).

Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevarthen gave a lecture at the One Hundred and Fifty Years of Somerset Archaeology Conference in November 1999, attended by a number of local detectorists and historical society members, and the paper was subsequently published.¹

Gabor Thomas (Suffolk) gave a talk entitled 'Metal-detecting and the discovery of Anglo-Saxon metalwork in Suffolk' to several of the detector clubs in the region. He also spoke about the scheme at a Suffolk County Council lunchtime seminar and to a

meeting of the Bures Historical and Archaeological Society. A set of display boards with information about the Scheme and finds in Suffolk is now available for such events.

Angie Bolton (West Midlands) extended her outreach outside her immediate area of geographical responsibility. Angie gave a talk at the Hinckley Search Society, Leicestershire, and the Cheltenham Historical and Detector Club, Gloucestershire, which are not in the West Midlands Recording Scheme. Angie writes:

'These talks were successful in explaining and defining the Treasure Act (1996) and the Portable Antiquities Scheme, and prepared the foundations if the Scheme is eventually extended to this area. Feedback from the Cheltenham club suggested that the club was confusing the Treasure Act (1996) and the Portable Antiquities Scheme and had a negative view of both. The talk was very well received, generating many questions.'

Angie also arranged for her colleagues to be involved in talking to detecting clubs, as a very useful way of sharing knowledge and exchanging ideas. Thus Tim Bridges, Worcester City Collections Manager, gave a talk to the Kidderminster club on the subject of 'Churches in Worcestershire'. Angie says:

'This subject was of interest to the club as everyone knew at least one of the churches mentioned. The talk encouraged the audience to look at these churches in more detail, for example the architecture and church furniture, and suggested ways in which the finds discovered in the church's parish may relate to the church community. The talk was very well received by the club, and gave members the opportunity to meet a local specialist who they could contact, if necessary, in the future. Club members were very positive and encouraged by the talk and the event strengthened the link between the local archaeological community and metal-detectorists.'

Angie Bolton also sought to involve one of her local metal-detecting clubs more closely with the work of their local museum. Angie writes:

'The Worcestershire County Museum allowed the Wyre Forest Search and Seek Club (Kidderminster) to have a

display of metal-detected finds. Discussions between the finds liaison officer and club members led to the idea that the exhibition should be thematic. It was decided that the theme would be 'Dress Fastenings'. This was agreed, as there were a large variety of relevant finds in the collections of club members. The theme also allowed the audience of the display to explore where the fastenings on their clothing may have originated, and to have an active role of comparing the buttons and buckles they were wearing with those in the display.

'It was then necessary to discuss what would be written on the labels and information panels. Three information panels were produced. One introduced the club and their activities, the second provided an outline of the Portable Antiquities Scheme, how finds were recorded and why recording is important. The third panel drew the previous two panels together under the theme of 'Dress Fastenings' as an example and demonstrated the type of information that could be gained from recorded chance finds.

'The start of the display coincided with National Archaeology Day. The display encouraged members of the club to visit the Worcestershire County Museum and become involved with activities. Some members commented that even though the museum was local to where they lived, they had never visited it.'

Rhiannon Harte (Northamptonshire) has extended her club visits outside the county to the Milton Keynes Searchers Club, as many of the members detect in Northamptonshire. Rhiannon regularly attends their weekend events which take place in Northamptonshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire. Initially maps were provided by the liaison officer, but the club is now providing members with maps to ensure that findspots are recorded accurately. Rhiannon has also given an introductory talk to the members of the Oxford Bus Detecting Club, many of whom are so keen to record finds that they often pass items on to the liaison officer through members who are also in the Milton Keynes club. This interaction is proving very beneficial to both clubs as well as the liaison officer, who recently dressed in medieval costume to hand out prizes at the Milton Keynes

Searchers Find of the Year competition, which she judged alongside local archaeologists Paul and Charmaine Woodfield.

Helen Geake, when part of Norfolk's Identification & Recording Service, spoke to King's Lynn Archaeological Society on 'Recent Metal-Detector finds in Norfolk'. A traditional title for Norfolk talks, it was structured around what portable antiquities with minimal archaeological context could add to our knowledge of the past. King's Lynn has both a thriving metal-detector club and an active Archaeological Society, with overlapping membership. The talk was well attended by members of both clubs, some of whom came to see their finds up on the screen.

Outreach to independent detector users and other chance finders

Not all detectorists are members of clubs and there is also a large body of finders who do not use detectors at all, preferring instead to fieldwalk and pick up lithics and pottery. The Scheme is seeing an increasing number of non-metallic objects being recorded and the number of finders of the latter type has also increased in the last year, from 316 overall to 383 (see table 11, p. 46).

Philip Macdonald (Wales) describes how independent detectorists learn about the Scheme:

'It is not known how many independent detectorists there are in Wales, but their numbers are probably equal to those of Welsh club members, which suggests that there are approximately nine hundred detectorists in Wales.

Informing Welsh metal-detectorists who are not members of one of the twelve Welsh clubs about the Scheme is difficult. However, anecdotal evidence suggests that articles in the local press (see page 22) has had a positive effect in promoting the Welsh pilot to non-club members.

Estimating how many of the detectorists who have already reported finds are not members of detecting clubs is difficult because many finders send their discoveries by post to the National Museums & Galleries of Wales and do not indicate whether they are club members. Of the estimated 132 detectorists who have reported finds, twelve are definitely not club members. It is possible, however, that several more reporters are also not members of clubs.'

Philip also describes his involvement with amateur field-walkers:

'Not all archaeological finds are made by members of the public using metal-detectors. Indeed to focus purely on finds made by detectorists would be to ignore antiquities which pre-date the discovery of metallurgy. A number of field-walkers regularly report the discovery of lithic artefacts. Amongst the oldest finds recorded as part of the Welsh Pilot Scheme, so far, 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; these 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 & Galleries of Wales.'

Graham Thomas, one of the amateur field-walkers who has recorded finds with Philip, has made the following comment about the Scheme:

'The Portable Antiquities Scheme meant very little to me before I contacted you. I had thought of professional archaeologists as rather frosty individuals with little time for enthusiasts like myself. The reality of meeting [the finds co-ordinator] was, of course, entirely different. The Scheme seems to me to be a long overdue bridge between amateur and professional from which both can equally benefit. I have learned a great deal from our contacts, far more than I would have done from books alone, and hope to build on that in the future.'

Angie Bolton (West Midlands) has recorded finds from 47 independent metal-detectorists, compared to 36 in the previous year, and the number of 'other' finders has increased from seven to 29. The number of individual metal-detectorists recording their finds is gradually increasing as the scheme becomes established.

Thirty-three non-club members record finds on a regular basis with **Rhiannon Harte** (Northamptonshire). Most of these were contacted as they had previously reported finds to local museums or heritage services. Rhiannon believes that these contacts are a means of slowly gaining introductions to other finders. In addition, Rhiannon sees a dozen local enthusiasts who are non-detectorists, and this has recently led to the discovery of a previously unknown Mesolithic site in Northamptonshire.

Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevarthen

(Dorset & Somerset) writes:

'Non-detectorists have been reached very successfully through local press coverage and finds surgeries. Fifty-two people have attended the nine surgeries held. An effort is being made to take the surgeries out to new venues in addition to the County Museums. The majority of those attending the surgeries are people making discoveries in their own back gardens or whilst out walking in fields and so on whilst much of the material they bring in is too recent for recording under the Scheme, the finds liaison officer will identify the finds and suggest alternative sources of information or other people who may be interested.'

Sally Worrell (Hampshire) describes two very interesting instances of non-detected finds which have been reported to her. Of the first case she writes: *'At a recent event held at Winchester Museums Service, a couple arrived with several large boxes containing fragments of Roman pottery, quern-stones, glass and a Neolithic stone axe. This important assemblage, collected whilst walking their dogs in a field near their home, is particularly significant as it brought to light the existence of a previously unrecorded probable Roman villa site, thus demonstrating the importance of recording field-walked material.'*

And of the second case:

'Having worked on archaeological excavations in the past, Mr and Mrs Harris decided to excavate part of their garden prior to building a small extension onto their home. Amongst the finds they discovered were fragments of late Saxon and 16th-17th century pottery and a collection of artefacts from two small rubbish pits including clay-pipes,

a 15th-16th century copper alloy spoon, ivory knife handles and silver coins of Henry VII, Henry VIII, Edward VI and Charles I. Through the initiative of Mr and Mrs Harris and their interest in local history, other villagers were encouraged to collect artefacts found in their gardens in order further to enhance and understand the history of their parish.'

Liaison with landowners and other national bodies

All those involved in the Scheme have had to target their efforts in the main at finders, the general public and professional museum and archaeological staff. There are however two other groups with which the Scheme does as much as it can (and more will be done in the future) in order that the importance of recording these finds is made clear and the aims of the Scheme understood. One group are landowners and associated bodies. **Marina Elwes** in North Lincolnshire has good contacts with a number of bodies, including the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (whose members act as land agents), the National Farmers' Union, the Country Landowners' Association (CLA) and the Historic Houses Association. The regional representatives of the CLA are kept updated on the development of the Scheme, and Marina wrote a comprehensive article on metal-detecting and the Scheme for the body's magazine, *The Country Landowner* (published in September 2000).

Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevarthen also has contact with the National Farmers' Union as a member of the Dorset Archaeological Committee; and **Rhiannon Harte** (Northamptonshire) gave a talk about the Scheme to the Country Landowners' Association.

In addition, **Richard Hobbs** (Outreach) supplied material for an article in *The Field* entitled 'An unexpectedly fine crop this season' (subsequently published in February 2001), a monthly magazine with a circulation of almost 33,000 and widely read by farmers and landowners. The article provides important information about the Treasure Act and the Portable Antiquities Scheme.

Both **Roger Bland** and **Richard Hobbs** were involved in discussions with the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) who were seeking to develop a set of guidelines, similar to the Country Code, on how to use the countryside in a manner which would have the least damaging effect on delicate flora and fauna. In conjunction with the National Council for Metal Detecting and the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers, the situation with regard to metal-detectorists and the historic environment (as important as the natural environment) was able to be fed into these discussions.

Angie Bolton has targeted another very important body, her local police force, in order to raise awareness about illicit metal-detecting. Angie writes:

'In Staffordshire a working group was formed to discuss illegal metal-detecting, and how to educate the public and police officers about it. The working group consisted of Debbie Ford, Potteries Museum, Chief Inspector Hood, Staffordshire Police Force, Chris Wardle, Staffordshire Sites and Monuments Records Office and the finds liaison officer. The group produced a leaflet which described the hobby of metal-detecting, and how a minority of metal-detectorists operated illegally. The leaflet explains what illegal metal-detecting involves, and suggested whom to contact if people felt illegal metal-detectorists were operating on their land, or if they knew someone detecting illegally. The leaflet is aimed at the general public, landowners and metal-detectorists.'

An aide memoir was also designed by the group for each police officer in the Staffordshire force to carry in their notebooks (figure 19). The aide memoir is a brief guide to the metal-detecting hobby and the law, particularly with regard to Scheduled Ancient Monuments. Debbie Ford, Chris Wardle and the finds liaison officer are listed as useful contacts to provide officers with further advice. Details of the aide memoir have been placed on a national police database, thereby allowing other police forces access to this information.'

Figure 3: Staffordshire Police Aide Memoir

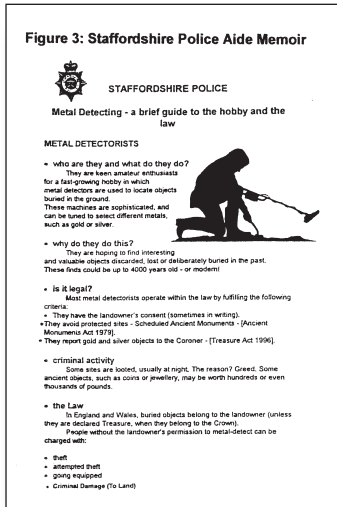


Figure 19

The aide memoir developed by Angie Bolton (West Midlands) to assist the Staffordshire Police in their understanding of the laws relating to metal-detecting and ancient monuments.

'There is a suggestion to repeat this project in other counties within the West Midlands, and Warwickshire is the most likely county due to its large rural area and existing problem of illegal detecting. In Worcestershire the finds liaison officer will be liaising with the countryside advisor to increase the awareness of illegal detecting with landowners and discuss what practical steps can be taken about this issue.'

In Norfolk and Suffolk, the police have had similar leaflets for a number of years, and the Norfolk Constabulary has gone one step further by employing an archaeology liaison officer.

Conservation advice

The need for conservation advice has been clear right from the beginning of the Scheme. Finders in particular are keen to establish how they can look after their objects and how they can clean their finds without damaging them. For this reason, work on a booklet, to be endorsed by the UK Institute of Conservation (UKIC) (mentioned in last year's annual report, p. 21) is now nearing completion. It is hoped that it will be able to be circulated for use at least by liaison officers in early Summer 2001. The guide and the problems faced by liaison officers in relation to conservation advice was also discussed recently by **Richard Hobbs** in a paper given to a study day in London organised by the UKIC² during December 2000.

The liaison officers in advance of the booklet make as much effort as possible to provide advice.

Angie Bolton (West Midlands) writes:

'Conservation advice is considered an important issue to pursue with metal-detectorists. The aim of the conservation advice is to encourage better storage conditions of finds and increase awareness of corrosion issues and treatments which should be avoided.'

'Jane Thompson, a conservator at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery and the Discovery Centre, has given a talk to the Wyre Forest Seek and Search Club. The talk included practical advice on how to store collections in people's homes and how to safely remove soil from objects without them deteriorating, and knowing when to stop cleaning. The talk was very well received and increased the awareness of storage conditions of finders' collections amongst the club members. Since this talk, finders have asked the finds liaison officer questions concerning conservation.'

Ceinwen Paynton (Yorkshire) hands out copies of the Appendix to the Treasure Act Code of Practice booklet, which provides information on the storage and care of finds and 'signs of trouble'. She also supplies finders with a list of UKIC members. Ceinwen has also arranged for local metal-detector clubs to be taken around the York Archaeological Trust's conservation laboratories by Dr J Spriggs, the Head of Conservation.

Treasure

The numbers of treasure cases from each of the pilot areas is set out in Table 2. Last year the liaison officers were involved with 154 cases in total, which means that they have seen an increase in the number of cases by a factor of 20 per cent. This is in keeping with the general increase in the number of cases reported nationally: in the recently published *Treasure Annual Report for 1998-99*, 223 new cases are listed, which represents a nine-fold increase in the number of cases before the Act came into force in 1997.

2 The study day, entitled 'Death by a thousand cuts', was concerned with the decline in local conservation services within local authorities.

Table 2. The number of treasure cases from each of the pilot areas.

Dorset and Somerset	13*
Hampshire	13
Kent	22
Norfolk	41
North Lincolnshire	10
North West	5
Northamptonshire	6
Suffolk	21
West Midlands	8
Yorkshire	40
Wales	13
Total	192

* 10 for Dorset, 3 for Somerset

The degree to which liaison officers are involved in the Treasure process varies between regions. It must be emphasised that the responsibility for Treasure lies with coroners, museums and local authority archaeological services that have been designated as reporting centres and the national museums. The involvement of liaison officers is a natural consequence of their high profile amongst finders, and the fact that they tend to be more closely involved with the work of the national museums (for example, they can courier finds when they need to travel to the British Museum).

However, it does seem apparent that more finds of treasure are reported from areas where liaison officers are based than elsewhere. At present, the whole system is under review, a process which is looking at two main aspects of the Act: the definition of Treasure, and the system of administration. A consultation paper has been circulated to a large number of bodies with a variety of interests: these include representatives of the metal-detecting hobby, national bodies such as Resource and English Heritage, coroners and local and national museum services. The consultation paper is also available on the DCMS website (www.culture.gov.uk/heritage/index.html). The liaison officers also have the opportunity to feed their views into the consultation process.

Figure 20

Making Roman helmets at Kettering Museum. Rhiannon Harte (Northamptonshire) holds regular weekend finds days at Kettering Museum. On this particular occasion, Rhiannon was taking part in a 'theme' day entitled 'Meet the Romans'.



Publicity

The liaison officers have continued to publicise their work through their local media, for instance by producing press releases for local newspapers and talking about finds and events on local television and radio. 77 reports were made in the local media overall in the reporting period.

Angie Bolton (West Midlands) has written a number of articles for the West Midlands Council for British Archaeology Journal, *West Midlands Archaeology*. These have included both updates about the progress of the Scheme and specific pieces about important finds which have been recorded, for instance a late Iron Age harness mount from Kingsbury and Anglo-Saxon stirrup mounts from Maxstoke, Toddtenham, Drakes Broughton and Wadborough.

Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevarthen (Dorset and Somerset) has sent out a number of press releases publicising finds identification days, which has resulted in coverage in ten local newspapers (for instance, the *Dorset Evening Echo* and the *Taunton Times*), local archaeological newsletters and local radio and television (for instance Wessex FM and Westcountry Television).

Sally Worrell's work in Hampshire has received publicity in eight local newspapers (for example in the *Daily Echo*). Sally has also been interviewed on two local radio programmes, and Meridian TV featured a finds activity day in one of their programmes. Advertising for the 'Metal Detectives' exhibition and National Archaeology Day events was widely distributed through local schools, museums, libraries and local history and archaeological society meetings.

3 Western Telegraph – 'Rare stone axe revealed from 5,500 years ago', 21.4.99; The Western Mail – 'Discovery pins down city's Viking origins', 23.4.99; Western Telegraph – 'Robert discovers second stone axe', 23.6.99; South Wales Echo – 'Detector finds hoard of Bronze Age axes', 2.8.99; South Wales Echo – 'Museum experts offer help', 27.4.00; Western Telegraph – 'Stone Age discovery on the doorstep', 26.7.00.

In Wales, **Philip Macdonald's** work in conjunction with the regional archaeological trusts and finders has led to a number of pieces appearing in the local press (for example, the *South Wales Echo* and the *Western Telegraph*³), and unsolicited praise for the work of the Scheme written by members of local detecting clubs have appeared in the two metal-detecting magazines, *Treasure Hunting* and *The Searcher*.

Rhiannon Harte (Northamptonshire) has given a number of interviews on local radio about the Scheme, and has also instigated a poster and leaflet campaign in the county's museums and libraries. The Annual Report has also been made publicly available through the local library service.

In Norfolk, finds identification days were publicised through the local press and several treasure cases appeared in the *Eastern Daily Press*. **Helen Geake** appeared on Radio Norfolk twice, talking once about Treasure and once about a Viking strike-a-light handle.

Newsletters and other information

The second *Finding our Past* newsletter was produced during the Summer of 2000, edited by the outreach officer **Richard Hobbs** but containing information from all the pilot areas within the Scheme. 5,000 English and 300 Welsh copies were produced and distributed. The newsletter provides an important means of disseminating information about the Scheme and important finds which have been made.

In addition local newsletters are also produced which are aimed mainly at finders. **Nick Herepath** (North West) writes:

'Three editions of the Portable Antiquities North West Newsletter were produced in this year. These are well received and popular with detectorists.'

Angie Bolton (West Midlands) has produced four newsletters in the last year. She says:

'The response to the Newsletter is positive and encouraging. People, having read an article within the Newsletter, have discussed the topic with the finds liaison officer. For

example, after the Newsletter containing an article on lead tokens was distributed, the finds liaison officer was shown a larger number of these items from a large number of metal-detectorists, some of whom had not recorded finds previously. The article looked at whether lead tokens were a form of currency, gaming counters or farm workers' piece tallies. Lead tokens are not, perhaps, the most exciting archaeological finds: however, a large number of people discover them and by generating discussion and enthusiasm for studying them, this can be followed up with other finds. Through this article the number of finders who recorded other finds increased.'

Sally Worrell (Hampshire) has produced the first copy of a regular newsletter which summarises the successful results of the Scheme and details of events, and is circulated to detectorists and local museums.

Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevarthen (Somerset and Dorset) has produced two editions of her newsletter in the last year which details dates and location of finds surgeries, interesting recent finds and other events of interest.

Liaison officers have also produced other types of in-house publications to complement their work.

Rhiannon Harte in Northamptonshire has prepared a series of fact sheets on a number of topics aimed at helping finders, dealing with the following topics: post-excavation finds handling, understanding archaeological context (in preparation), map reading and plotting finds.

Two local schemes now have websites devoted to their pilot projects, both of which are linked to the main Scheme site at finds.org.uk. In Yorkshire, information about the Scheme and recent local finds are featured as part of the York Archaeological Trust's site (www.yorkarchaeology.co.uk/portable/index).

In Somerset, the Scheme is publicised through the County Council's site and provides information for finders about how to report their objects, as well as very useful section of relevant contacts including a list of all local coroners. The site can be found at: www.somerset.gov.uk/museums/portant.

4. Outreach at a national level: the work of the outreach officer and the co-ordinator

Talks, seminars and other events

Since the last annual report, the co-ordinator, **Roger Bland**, and the outreach officer, **Richard Hobbs**, have continued to raise the profile of the Scheme at a national level by acting as advocates for the initiative. They have given a total of 17 talks and generated 21 reports in the national media.

A number of events can be highlighted:

- British Archaeological Awards, Edinburgh Castle, November 2000: the work of the Portable Antiquities Scheme, particularly during the preceding year, was recognised by the highest honour awarded at these biennial awards, the Spear and Jackson Silver Trowel for the Best Initiative in Archaeology (see Figure 1). The Scheme was also presented with the Virgin Holidays Award for the best presented archaeological project. In addition, the contribution the finders had made to the Scheme was also recognised as finders from both Wales (nominated by **Philip Macdonald** and Elizabeth Walker) and Hampshire (nominated by **Sally Worrell**) received first and second prize in the finders' award category respectively.
- Launch of Treasure Report and Annual Report for Portable Antiquities Scheme, 28th March 2000, British Museum, London: Alan Howarth CBE MP launched both reports. The event was chaired by Dr Robert Anderson, Director of the British Museum, with other speakers being Val Bott, Deputy Director of the Museums and Galleries Commission, David Miles, Chief Archaeologist of English Heritage, Richard Brewer, Keeper of Archaeology & Numismatics at the National Museums & Galleries of Wales and Roger Bland, co-ordinator.
- A seminar for coroners was held on the workings of the Treasure Act at the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, London, 9th February 2000: the meeting was held to review the way in which the

Treasure Act was operating and was chaired by **Roger Bland**. Speakers included Victor Round (Coroner for Worcestershire and Dudley), **Angie Bolton** (West Midlands), to provide the perspective from the liaison officer's side; and David Gaimster, Department of Medieval and Modern Europe, British Museum, to outline the role of the Museum in the process.

- **Roger Bland** gave a paper on the Scheme to a seminar organised by the Royal Archaeological Institute on applying for Heritage Lottery Fund grants in April and a talk on the Treasure Act to the Conference of the Coroner's Officers' Society in February.
- **Richard Hobbs** delivered two papers on the work of the Scheme to two national archaeological conferences, the annual conference of the Society of Museum Archaeologists, Stoke-on-Trent, November 1999, and the Institute of Field Archaeologists Conference, Brighton during April 2000.

In addition to these events, the co-ordinator and outreach officer also gave talks to a number of diverse bodies including the Royal Numismatic Society (February 2000), English Heritage contract conservators (May 2000), and at the National Archaeology Day held at Fort Cumberland (July 2000). In addition both members of the central unit were closely involved with the work of FISH (Forum for Information Standards), the mda Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Working Group, the Portable Antiquities Working Group, the Roman Finds Group, the Historic Environment Resources Network, the Standing Conference on Portable Antiquities, the Treasure Valuation Committee, the Advisory Panel on Illicit Trade, the Archaeology Data Service advisory group and the Wreck Amnesty Steering Group. The Steering Group for the Scheme also met five times during the year.

Publications

A number of publications have raised the profile of the Scheme with finders, museum staff and archaeologists. All in-house publications are distributed to metal-detectorists and other finders via the liaison officers and outreach officer, the latter also sending copies to all museums with archaeological collections, relevant university departments and archaeological units.

- *Annual Report for 1998-9*: 3,000 copies of the annual report, published in March, were produced and all have been distributed.
- *Finding our Past*, Newsletter 2, Summer 2000: the second newsletter included articles on an important lead cloth seal from West Lancashire, the 'Metal Detectives' exhibition in Hampshire and rare Iron Age glass beads from Wales. 5,000 English and 300 Welsh copies were produced.
- *Treasure Report for 1997-8*: 500 copies of the annual report were published in March.
- *Portable Antiquities: Wales*, Newsletter 2, April 2000: the second newsletter of the Welsh pilot included articles on mesolithic flints from Breconshire, an early Bronze Age axe hoard from the Gower and post-medieval objects. 1,000 English and 200 Welsh copies were produced.

In addition, work on a Conservation Advice Booklet co-ordinated by **Richard Hobbs** has continued and is nearing completion. A series of conservation advice leaflets were commissioned from three professional conservators when the pilot scheme began, as good practical conservation advice for finders was not available. These have now been collated into a draft advice booklet in consultation with the UKIC (UK Institute for Conservation). It is hoped therefore that this important piece of work will be available to the finds liaison officers and finders in the near future.



Figure 21
Roman strap fitting found in Lancashire by Daniel Daly of the West Lancashire Metal Detecting Club.



Figure 22

Finding our Past, Newsletter 2, Summer 2000. This was edited by the outreach officer and funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund in both English and Welsh versions. The newsletter provides information on important finds from a number of areas covered by the Scheme. It also demonstrates the links with academics and archaeologists, for example the section on an important cloth seal from West Lancashire benefited hugely from the comments provided by Geoff Egan of the Museum of London Specialist Services, the leading expert on these objects.

The Media and the Internet

Richard Hobbs in his role as outreach officer has continued to raise the profile of the Scheme in the media, which now covers a diverse range from the national press to the Internet.

In the national printed press, pieces have appeared in *The Daily Telegraph*, *The Guardian* and *The Independent* regarding the Shapwick coin hoard from Somerset; a career profile of Ceinwen Paynton, Yorkshire finds liaison officer was published in *Marie Claire* magazine; and as a result of the press launch in March of the annual report and the treasure report, articles appeared in the *London Evening Standard*, *The Times*

and *The Guardian*. In the specialist press articles have also appeared in *Trench One* (the magazine produced to accompany the Channel Four series 'Time Team'), *The Searcher*, *British Archaeological News*, *Minerva*, the *Roman Finds Group Newsletter*, *The Field* and the *SMR Users Group Newsletter*.

Television: last year's annual report outlined the outreach officer's involvement with the Granada Media programme 'Find a Fortune'. **Richard Hobbs** was also involved in advising the producers of the second series (transmitted during the summer of 2000), which featured the Shapwick hoard from Somerset. The outreach officer worked closely with Somerset Museums Service on this item. In addition, material on the Treasure Act and the Portable Antiquities scheme was provided for the extensive website which accompanied the series. 'Midweek Lottery Live': the producers of this programme approached the outreach officer with a view to featuring a finder who had discovered something suitable for their 'Amazing luck stories' item, which forms the basis of their 10-minute midweek lottery programme. An important medieval silver statuette from Hertfordshire was suggested as a suitable object, and the programme was transmitted on October 4th 2000. The item was successful particularly as the Arts Minister, Alan Howarth MP, appeared on the programme and explained how finders were rewarded when they declared finds in the correct manner.

Richard Hobbs was also involved in the making of a pilot programme for the Discovery Channel about amateur archaeology and metal-detecting. His role was to ensure that the programme makers sought to put the right messages across about responsible reporting of finds.

The website: the website has continued to expand in the last year with the outreach officer acting as the site manager. In particular, the facility to search on finds recorded under the Scheme has been greatly improved and the number of objects available publicly greatly increased (discussed more fully in section 6 of

this report). In addition, **Richard Hobbs** has made the second *Finding our Past* newsletter available on-line, continued to highlight important events in the news section, and has added an addition section entitled 'Finds Guide'. This is an important new part of the site, because it provides background information about different types of finds and will be an ever-expanding resource.



Figure 23

A new section to the website providing users with information on different types of find.

Training of liaison officers

The co-ordinator and outreach officer have continued to hold bi-monthly meetings with all the finds liaison officers. These meetings are essential to ensure that the national aims of the Scheme as decided by the steering group are discussed amongst all the Scheme personnel. It also provides liaison officers with a means of feeding information back from their local areas. In addition, training has also been provided on using the Finds Recording Guide (discussed in section 6) and the identification of medieval coins by British Museum staff during October. A session on the identification of Roman pottery was also provided by J D Hill of the Department of Prehistory and Early Europe at the British Museum during November. The Lithics Study Society day mentioned in last year's annual report, took place at the National Museum & Gallery in Cardiff during December 1999. And finally, Dr Clive Cheesman conducted a session on heraldry at the College of Arms during June 2000.

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 finds 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 two seminars, held in June 1999, which introduced Welsh museum staff to the Scheme. At these 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 24
Fragment of an Upper Palaeolithic backed flint blade fragment found by field-walker Ken Palmer in the Monnow Valley, Monmouth. The backed blade is the oldest find recorded under the Welsh pilot and illustrates the important contribution made by amateur field-walkers to the success of the Portable Antiquities Scheme.

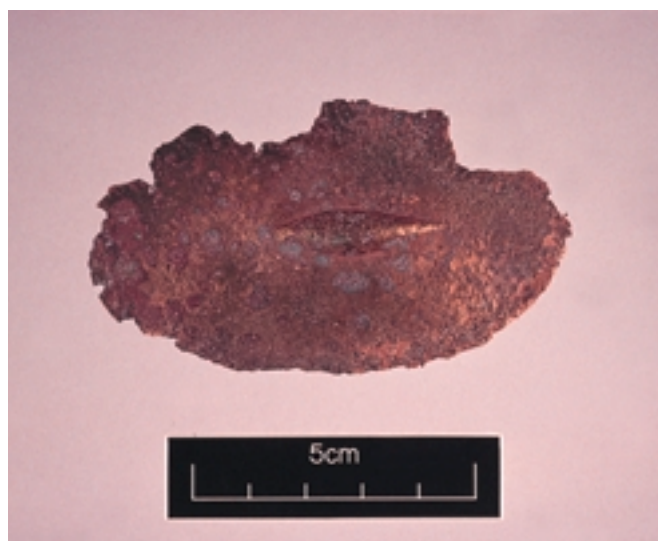


Figure 25
Perhaps the most important find to be recorded during the first eighteen months of the Welsh pilot Scheme was a copper alloy model of a Late Iron Age shield which had been reportedly discovered in the mid 1990s near Barmouth in Merionethshire. Although the model shield was discovered several years ago it was only reported after the finder read an article written by the finds co-ordinator in The Searcher metal-detecting magazine. It is made from a single sheet of copper alloy (probably bronze) apart from a separate handle which is riveted to its reverse. Model shields are an unusual find type, only a small number are known from the British Isles and none has previously been recorded from Wales. Although they superficially resemble modern children's toys, they are unlikely to have had this function in antiquity. The contexts of those examples of the type recovered during controlled archaeological investigations suggest that they were probably votive items which were deposited during religious rituals. Study of aerial photographs of the model shield's reported findspot suggests a possible archaeological context for its deposition. The aerial photographs contained evidence of a small rectilinear enclosure, which survives as a slight earthwork, on the findspot described by the finder. Potentially, the reporting of the model shield may have resulted in the discovery of a hitherto unrecognised Iron Age site.



Figure 26
Cast copper-alloy medieval rotary key found near Llantwit Major in the Vale of Glamorgan.

6. The Portable Antiquities program and the website: www.finds.org.uk



Figure 27

A fine cast copper-alloy box, strengthened with ribs. This probably originally contained a set of weights, but when found had a small annular brooch made of iron, as shown in the lower view. Boxes such as this one are rarely found, but appear to have been made in the same way for hundreds of years. From its decoration, this one must be medieval, probably 13th to 15th century. Recorded by Helen Geake (Suffolk).

The key objective of the Scheme is to create a permanent record of chance archaeological finds currently being discovered in the soil of England and Wales and to make this information available and accessible to all. This is achieved principally through the provision of Information & Communication Technology which has two main aspects:

- a common database program (the Portable Antiquities program) which the liaison officers use to record archaeological finds;
- The Portable Antiquities Website (www.finds.org.uk), where a database of finds recorded is maintained and thus made publicly accessible.

As in the previous year, records of finds are passed on to the outreach officer, who then edits the records and oversees their transferral to the Website.

The Portable Antiquities Program

Since last year's annual report a number of minor changes have been carried out to the Portable Antiquities program. The main change has been the development of an export routine which allows the liaison officers to export their data quickly and efficiently to the central unit. A version of the application has also been developed which is able to run in both Access 97 and Access 2000.

Finds Recording Guide

The Portable Antiquities program is accompanied by a User's Guide which provides users with basic information on how to enter data into the program. However the guide does not extend to providing guidance on consistent standards for the recording of information about different classes of object (apart from coins, for which there are well established guidelines and a separate screen to allow this material to be recorded in a consistent manner).

For this reason, the Scheme sought to develop a Finds Recording Guide which needed the aid of an external consultant. A grant was obtained from the Sharing Museum Skills Millennium Awards Scheme, and **Helen Geake** of Norfolk Museums Service (and subsequently the Suffolk finds liaison officer) was seconded to the British Museum to work on the guide, with curators at the British Museum acting as mentors. This was produced in draft form in July 2000. The draft has now been circulated to a number of finds specialists for comment and is being used by all the finds liaison officers. It is hoped that in the near future a second draft can be produced which will also include original illustrations. Such guidelines, although principally developed for use by the liaison officers for the Portable Antiquities Program, are also potentially of enormous help to museum staff and archaeologists who need to describe archaeological objects in a consistent manner. It is also essential that the development of these guidelines fits in with the

work of the mda Archaeological Object Thesaurus, as this is a complementary project. And there is also a plan to make the guide available on the Internet.

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

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 British Archaeological Awards held in November 2000;
- **Newsletters:** both *Finding our Past* newsletters, published in November 1999 and Summer 2000 have been made available on-line. Some images which were not included in the printed version appear here;
- **Reports:** the text of both previous annual reports for 1997-8 and 1998-9;
- **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;
- **Finds Guide:** a new feature of the website, a developing resource providing users of the site with information about common types of artefact (see Fig. 23, p. 26). At the moment it provides

information about common coins and coin related objects, information kindly provided by the Department of Coins and Medals, British Museum.

During the last year the number of ‘page requests’ the website has received can be set out as follows (see page 32 of last year’s report for comparable figures for March 1999 to January 2000):

Table 3. The number of ‘page requests’ to the finds.org.uk website during 2000.

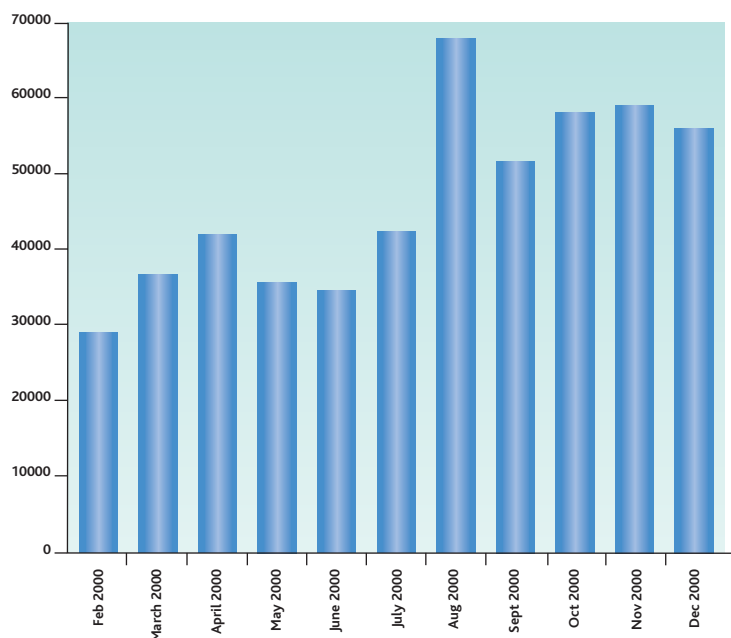
February 2000	29,179
March 2000	37,302
April 2000	42,148
May 2000	35,917
June 2000	34,090
July 2000	42,545
August 2000	68,976
September 2000	51,033
October 2000	58,344
November 2000	59,512
December 2000	57,143

The number of ‘page requests’ has shown a very encouraging upward trend from the previous year of reporting. The average number of requests in the 11 months covered in last month’s report was 27,934; from February to December 2000, the average was 46,926. This represents an increase of 40 per cent in the number of requests to pages on the site.



Figure 28
Four early Anglo-Saxon cemeteries have been identified in Norfolk in the last year. All are currently being damaged by agriculture. This sixth-century Anglo-Saxon great square headed brooch was found by Steve Brown in south-west Norfolk. It lost its foot in antiquity and its head-plate was smashed by recent tillage operation, probably when it was brought up from a grave into the topsoil by a plough.

Chart 1. Number of 'page requests' to the finds.org.uk website during 2000.



Improvements to the on-line database

Undoubtedly one of the main reasons the increase for interest in the website are the major improvements which have been made in the last year in the data available. The number of artefacts now available for consultation is in the region of 9,000. In addition, there are about 600 images of finds which significantly improves the amount of information available to researchers and the general public, as often far more can be learnt about an object when there is an accompanying image. At the time of writing, the number of finds available on-line is due to be increased to 18,000 with about 2,300 images.

In addition to increasing the amount of data available on the web, there have also been major improvements in the way in which that information can be accessed. The search screen for the database has been completely re-modified to allow far more detailed searches to be possible. The search screen (Fig 30) is now set up in a similar manner to other on-line databases to allow searches on a 'What?', 'Where?', 'When?' style format. Drop-down menus have also been provided, so that different classes of object can be selected, and searches can also be made down to parish level for findspots.



Figure 29

Gold staters of the Corieltavi found in East Yorkshire by metal-detectorists Mr Thompson and Mr Cooper. The coins were recovered from an area in excess of half-acre and from a depth of up to 3-4 inches.

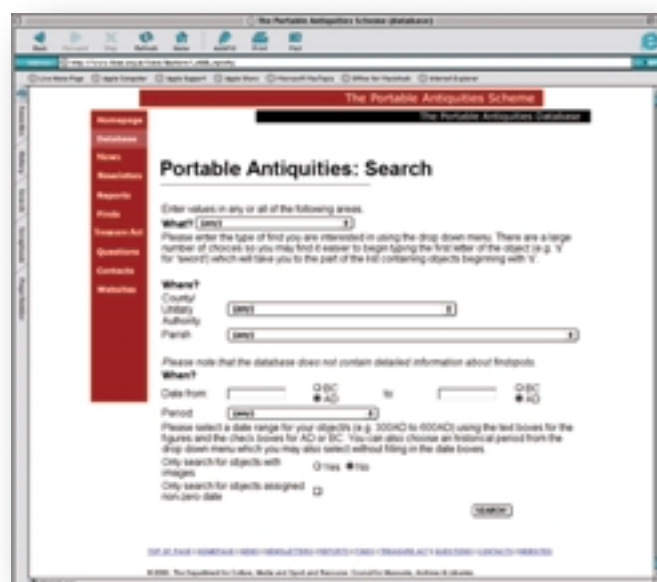


Figure 30

The new search screen for the database of finds recorded under the Scheme at www.finds.org.uk.

7. Portable Antiquities as a source for understanding the historic environment: the Scheme and Sites and Monuments Records

The Portable Antiquities Scheme is committed to the transfer of all data gathered to all relevant Sites & Monuments Records (SMRs). This is by no means a straightforward task. Each liaison officer has to deal with a number of different SMRs, and SMRs themselves are using a number of different systems. The Scheme also only currently covers less than half of England and the whole of Wales, so there are a number of areas where we have no information recorded about portable antiquities.

In the last year a number of steps have been taken to begin the process of data transfer. A large number of SMRs (around 40 per cent in England) have begun to use a windows-based SMR system developed by exeGesIS Spatial Data Management Ltd. The Portable Antiquities Scheme therefore commissioned exeGesIS to develop a conversion program which will allow Portable Antiquities data (which is in Access 97 format) to be transferred into the relevant fields on the exeGesIS system. The conversion program is being piloted in Kent (see Paul Cuming's comments below). This will allow at least those SMRs using exeGesIS to convert data in a straightforward manner.

In all the pilot areas, a large amount of data has already been transferred or is in the process of transferral. The state of play with each of the pilot areas is set out below.

Transfer of data to Sites and Monuments Records: the current state of play

Dorset and Somerset: Around half of the data recorded under the Scheme has been transferred to the two SMRs of Dorset and Somerset in paper form. Several sites of interest have now been identified and the Somerset County Council Archaeology Service has expressed interest in undertaking fieldwork on a number of them (and involving detectorists in the work).

Hampshire: Data related to Winchester district has been sent electronically to the Winchester City SMR. Transfer of data to the Hampshire County Council SMR will take place when the link with exeGesIS has been established.

Kent: Paul Cuming, Kent Sites and Monuments Records Officer writes:

'Over the last two years the Portable Antiquities Scheme in conjunction with exeGesIS Spatial Data Management Ltd have developed a conversion program which extracts data from the Portable Antiquities database and imports it into the exeGesIS Sites and Monuments Record database. The system has been tested by Kent County Council and although certain issues remain to be finalised the software works well and ensures that this important archaeological information is available to all SMR users.'

Norfolk: In Norfolk, all finds recorded are automatically added manually to the county's SMR or sent in paper form to neighbouring SMRs.

Northamptonshire: Northamptonshire Heritage funded the completion of the backlog of database input and then carried out the transfer of data into the SMR. A total of 1206 finds have been transferred to date, 1060 of which are from Northamptonshire itself. These finds comprise 283 SMR-defined 'monuments', 82 of which are new monuments, and up to 40 appear to be associated with known crop marks which have yet to be fully interpreted. Of the new sites, ten are thought to be of particular significance in terms of the types of artefact being recovered, and 201 represent enhancements improving our understanding of a known monument.

North Lincolnshire: The local SMR is based in the same location as the Portable Antiquities Scheme, which means that consultation between the two sources of data is very straightforward. Preliminary contact has also been made with the North East Lincolnshire SMR, with a view to providing some preliminary lists of material relevant to specific projects (for example, a survey conducted by the Grimsby Metal Detecting Club). The SMR at Lincoln is due to receive a relevant list of findspots recorded by Marina Elwes in due course.

North West: Data has been transferred as Excel files to Cumbria and Lancashire SMRs. Manchester and Merseyside have produced only a small number of finds between them so the data has been transferred as paper records. Data transfer to the Cheshire SMR is awaiting the completion of the exeGesIS conversion program.

Suffolk: 88 per cent of data has been transferred to the SMR; in any case, all the data is available to the SMR, and liaison with other counties is done in annual batches.

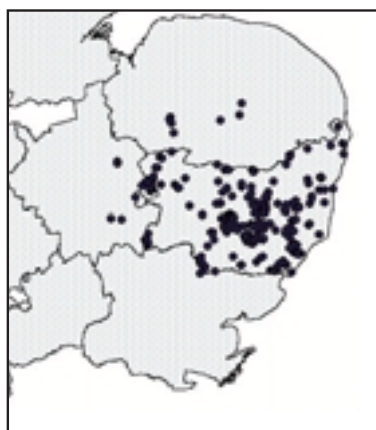


Figure 31

A key objective of the

Scheme is to improve ways of recording and disseminating the information about the past as represented by artefacts. Because the groups of finds are recorded by findspot with grid references on the database it is possible to extract these and show the information on a map. In the example above the total distribution of findspots in East Anglia recorded on the Suffolk database is shown. This highlights areas where less is being reported (such as the area south-west of Bury St Edmunds) which might be worth targeting in the future. Within the Archaeological Service the mapping is also useful when assessing new development proposals as a quick indication that recent finds have been made in a particular spot.

Wales: The transfer of information to the SMRs in Wales is greatly facilitated by the fact that organisations which sponsor and maintain them, that is the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales and the four Welsh archaeological trusts, are directly involved in the Scheme. It has been decided to run the SMRs and the Portable Antiquities database in parallel for the time being with full integration intended in the future.

West Midlands: No information has been passed to the SMRs; previously, paper records were being passed on, but this was abandoned as being bulky and inefficient. In Staffordshire there was an initiative to pass on material in Access format. However, **Angie Bolton** is a key member of the working party for the transfer of data (see below), so in the near future, many of these problems should be resolved.

Yorkshire: In North Yorkshire, **Ceinwen Paynton** and Linda Smith are exploring the possibility of putting the Portable Antiquities data on to the North Yorkshire SMR as a series of overlays using MapInfo. A joint paper on the subject is planned for the National Mapping Project's Day School in May 2001. In South Yorkshire, data is sent electronically and kept as a separate file. A similar system has been set up with the West Yorkshire SMR. Discussions are continuing in East Riding as to the best means for data transfer, which will also tie in with the work of the Working Group (see below).

Establishment of a Working Group to oversee transfer of data

It is clear from the outline above that the liaison officers have worked very hard to ensure that data is transferred as far as possible to SMRs. However, the issue of data transfer is a national one (as liaison officers have to deal with a number of different SMRs and record finds from outside their geographical areas). For this reason, a working group was set up at the end of 2000 (with its inaugural meeting to be held in February 2001), its brief being to ensure that data is transferred to all relevant SMRs from the Portable Antiquities database, and to resolve issues relating to

data access. The proposal was made by **Richard Hobbs**, the outreach officer, speaking at the SMR Users Group meeting in Swindon in November 2000.

The group comprises the following, of whom some are attending and some are corresponding members:

- The Scheme's central co-ordinating unit and representatives of the finds liaison officers;
- SMR users from the pilot scheme areas using a variety of different systems including exeGesIS and Wales is also represented;
- representatives from other interested parties, i.e. the National Monuments Record, Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers SMR committee, and the Royal Commission on the Ancient & Historical Monuments of Wales.

The group will be expected to look at the following key areas:

- practical ways of transferring data to SMRs, given the fact that there are a number of different systems in use and the fact that liaison officers have to deal with a number of different SMRs.
- guidance on the issue of access to data: finders, landowners and professional archaeologists are all concerned about the misuse of findspot information if SMRs are made publicly accessible. However, this has to be reconciled against the fact that SMRs are maintained as a public record with open access to all.

SMRs, Portable Antiquities and the historic environment: case studies from North Lincolnshire

In the last year in North Lincolnshire there are a number of examples where the recording of chance and metal-detected finds have been used, in conjunction with material recorded on the SMR, to further our understanding of the historic landscape.

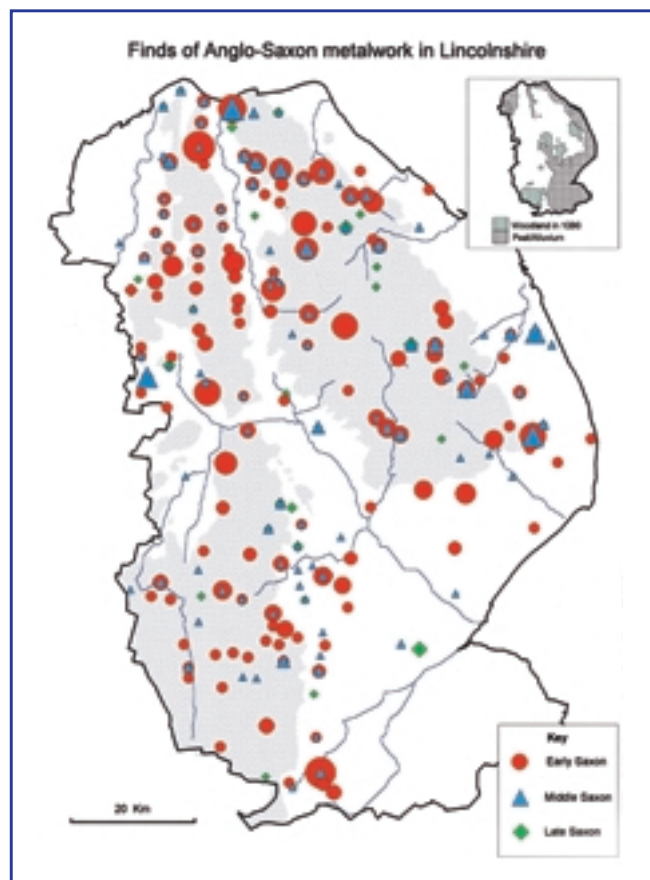


Figure 32

The results of systematic recording of chance metal-detected finds are beginning to have some dramatic effects on the way in which we are able to interpret the historic landscape. The map above shows metal-detected finds of Anglo-Saxon metalwork of the fifth-to-tenth-centuries. Data was collected by the North Lincolnshire Museum and the Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record prior to the start of the Portable Antiquities Scheme, but the project has allowed the large scale recording of finds which is in turn allowing us to see settlement patterns. Already we can see that the three parts of Lincolnshire have differing patterns of finds. Lindsey, to the north, has many finds and some large sites. Kesteven, in the south-west, lacks the large sites and Holland, to the south-east, has produced few finds. The lack of finds from some areas can be explained by the Domesday survey, which records these areas as marsh or woodland in 1086. The digital mapping was completed by Mike Hemblade, North Lincolnshire Museum.

Case Study 1: Landscape studies

Marina Elwes is involved in three landscape study projects. Two of these involve metal-detecting clubs which are carrying out detector surveys on large agricultural estates. The third aims to examine the broad pattern of land-use over the millennia. This involves large-scale systematic field walking with the

location of all finds being accurately plotted using a Global Positioning System (GPS). This latter project does not, at present, involve the use of metal-detectors although this will happen if detailed surveys are carried out on specific sites. The finds made on this survey are entered directly on to the North Lincolnshire SMR.

These large-scale projects are vital for our understanding of the historic landscape. In the past, effort has been concentrated on 'sites', but it is only by looking at non-site finds that these sites can be placed in context (see Figure 32).

Case study 2: the Anglo-Saxon site at South Newbald, East Yorkshire

In some cases, individual detector users have recorded their finds in such a way as to allow detailed work to be carried out on a site. During the 1980s, Dave Haldenby and some colleagues carried out a detailed survey of an Anglo-Saxon site at South Newbald. The findspot lay near the point where the Roman road from Brough and Humber divided, one arm going to Malton, the other to York. This was hence an important place in the communications network; in addition, the parish boundary was described on a charter of AD 963.



Figure 33

An Iron Age lynch pin terminal recorded by Angie Bolton (West Midlands). This is one of only five such pieces which have been recorded from Warwickshire and Staffordshire, and the site this particular piece was from had previously only produced Roman and Medieval material.



Figure 34

Mr Kevin Woods, a member of the Lune Valley Metal Detecting Club and a keen amateur archaeologist, found this rare Anglo-Saxon copper alloy work box or reliquary whilst prospecting in fields in Littondale in the Yorkshire Dales. The object, which was not

recognised at the time of discovery, was shown to the liaison officer, Nick Herepath (North West) at a club meeting. The small cylindrical container made of sheet copper-alloy has an attached base and a hinged lid, each decorated with a cross of punched dots. Its precise function is uncertain, but examples have been found containing scraps of textile and thread suggesting a possible practical function for storing sewing kits. Another suggestion is that the contents were in some sense relics or keepsakes. The boxes seem to have been worn slung from the waist of females. They are normally associated with female burials and indeed the finder reported seeing fragments of bone on excavation. The discovery prompted the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority to initiate the excavation of the findspot. This was carried out by archaeologist Kevin Cale assisted by Kevin Woods. The excavation produced very fragmented human bone but no distinct individual burial or grave. The site has so far proved an enigma, drawing no firm conclusions. However, the discovery of this rare item in a area of the country which not normally known for its Anglo-Saxon archaeology may prove very important in our understanding of the settlement of the Yorkshire Dales in this period in history.

The finds from the site are odd: they consist of a large number of coins ending at AD 867, when the Danes took York, a number of pins and strap-ends, but very little else. Pottery, loom-weights, knives or other iron objects are all absent from the assemblage, even though the finders were picking up this sort of material elsewhere. The collection was therefore very different to what would normally be expected from a middle-Saxon settlement site.

The best interpretation of the evidence would seem to be that the site was a market which had grown around the gate of an Anglo-Saxon Minster. This would fit well with the regional pattern, with the parish or estate later passing into the ownership of York Minster, a common fate for such areas.

8. Portable Antiquities and the study of culture through material

Important new finds

In a similar manner to last year's annual report, this document contains a large number of illustrated examples of important new artefacts which have been recorded by the liaison officers. Other examples from a number of areas are listed below. These brief descriptions of the finds also explain why they are important for understanding our history.

Norfolk

- Three coin brooches made from silver coins dating to the 1280s. Two are groats struck in Tours by the French King Philip IV between 1285 and 1290 and transformed into brooches in such a way as to show the gilded obverse which depicts a cross. The third is made from a sterling penny of Edward I, issued in 1280, and is the first recorded example of its kind. Should these objects be viewed as a fashion statement? How widespread were they?
- An elaborate enamelled complete late Iron Age bridle bit was recovered during the mechanised cleaning of a central Norfolk farmyard in 1995. Left unrecognised in an outbuilding until 2000, it was mentioned to the Identification & Recording Service photographer David Wicks during an otherwise non-archaeological conversation. It has now been drawn and photographed, and has been prepared for publication.
- An otherwise unremarkable 2nd-century AD Roman coin hoard from north-east Norfolk was found also to contain three finger rings and two cosmetic pestle and mortars sets. The latter objects are rarely found in sets and are exceptionally rare in dated contexts. One of the mortars was the largest and most ornate ever found.
- A middle Saxon prick spur was found on a settlement site in central Norfolk by Tracey and Benny Reeve. Only five other spurs of this type are known, two from west Norfolk and three from Suffolk. Spurs of this date are thus extremely rare, perhaps because of the absence of stirrups.

Kent

- A rare Iron Age lynch pin, probably from a chariot, was recovered by Mr Punyer of the White Cliffs Metal Detecting Club and it is hoped it can be displayed locally. The piece is also due to be published in *Archaeologia Cantiana*.

Northamptonshire

- Three important Bronze Age finds of a copper-alloy axehead at Northampton, a copper-alloy dagger at Hackleton and a possible Bronze Age copper-alloy arrowhead at Norton, represent a significant enhancement to our knowledge of this period in Northamptonshire. This significance is emphasised when it is considered that there are only 32 other finds of Bronze Age metalwork recorded on the Northamptonshire SMR.



Figure 35
Early Bronze Age,
Wessex Culture dagger
found at Hackleton,
Northamptonshire.

Somerset

- A previously unpublished denarius of Carausius is to be published in the *British Numismatic Journal*.

Hampshire

- As reported in the second *Finding our Past* newsletter (published in Summer 2000), a Byzantine bucket with a Greek inscription and a hunting scene is an artefact of both local and national significance. A geophysical survey and small-scale archaeological evaluation has taken place and follow-up excavation work at the site is due to begin in the near future.



Figure 36
Mid-late Iron Age linch-pin, Spratling's Group III. The iron shaft is capped with bronze terminals, one shaped like an inverted pedestalled vase or baluster. The terminals were originally elaborately decorated with pieces of pre-cut glass heated until soft and then inlaid into the holes in the metal. There are also engraved curving motifs on the terminals. Linch-pins are not common, and those which had this amount of inlaid 'enamel' decoration are even rarer. Acquired by Winchester Museums Service. Found by Kevan Halls in Hampshire.

The Portable Antiquities scheme as a resource for research

The full potential of the finds recorded under the Scheme for understanding our past will take a long time to realise. However, research has already begun to be conducted on the data, either by established finds researchers, or by students at undergraduate and post-graduate level. Some examples are provided here. **Nick Herepath** (North West) writes:

'Information on Roman coin finds in the North West is passed to Dr David Shotter of Lancaster University, who has worked closely with metal-detector users in the region for many years. Metal-detected finds have contributed enormously to the understanding of Roman settlement and economy in the North West. The coins are also published in Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Archaeological and Antiquarian Society and in Dr Shotter's monographs and supplements.¹ Dr Shotter has also recently published two articles in the Journal of the Chester Archaeological Society² on the contribution of stray Roman coin finds from Middlewich and Chester to his research on pre- and early Flavian occupation.'

For the Iron Age, Roman and medieval periods, there are a large number of ongoing research projects known to the Scheme which are using data gathered by the project or which have used information provided by metal detector users. These include:

- Natasha Hutcheson's PhD research (University of East Anglia) on distributions of Iron Age metalwork in Norfolk.
- Tim Pestell's corpus of early-medieval styli.
- Anna Gannon's PhD research (Cambridge University) on the iconography of sceattas, completed and passed.
- Gabor Thomas's (former Suffolk finds liaison officer) PhD research (University College London) on strap-ends of the Anglo-Saxon period has now been completed and passed.
- Steven Ashley's work on medieval horse-harness pendants in Norfolk, passed as a Diploma of the Heraldry Society and now in preparation to be published as a book.
- Geoff Egan, Museum of London Specialist Services, has used data gathered under the Scheme as part of his research on medieval and post-medieval cloth seals.

Staff at the British Museum, the main focus for finds specialists in Britain, are also drawing heavily on the information gathered by the pilot project in their own research. For the medieval and modern periods, this includes projects on early Anglo-Saxon imports, enamelled artefacts of the early medieval period, Anglo-Scandinavian metalwork, personal seals, nummular and coin brooches and Tudor dress accessories. For the Iron Age and Roman periods, these include projects on the distribution of different types of Iron Age metalwork, cosmetic grinders and Roman brooches.

Personnel within the Scheme are also working on material which they themselves have recorded. In North Lincolnshire, **Marina Elwes** is conducting a research project on medieval hooked tags and **Kevin Leahy** research on late Roman belt fittings. In addition, liaison officers send information to the Celtic Coin Index in Oxford and the Early Medieval Corpus in Cambridge. Coin finds are also published annually in the *British Numismatic Journal* coin register.

¹ Shotter, D, *Roman coins from North West England*, University of Lancaster, 1990

² Volume 75, 1998-99.

9. Figures for finds and finders in 1999-2000

Numbers of objects recorded

During the third year of the Scheme a further 31,783 objects have been recorded by the liaison officers,¹ in addition to the 13,729² objects recorded in the first year (see *Annual Report 1997-98*, pages 8-9) and 20,698 objects recorded in the second year (see *Annual Report 1998-99*, pages 37-8). The third year is the first in which all the eleven pilot areas have been operating concurrently. Table 4 and Chart 2 set out the different results for each area, and also provides comparison between the different areas in terms of the monthly rates of recording. In some areas such as Kent, Suffolk and North Lincolnshire, a full year of recording did not take place due to staff changes or staff illness. Nevertheless, it is very encouraging that overall there has been a 34 per cent increase in the number of objects recorded. This is probably due to two factors. First, all the posts have now been in place for at least two years, which means that the liaison officers are more experienced and efficient in recording finds, and finders are more confident and familiar with the system. Secondly, there has been a major increase in the number of non-metallic finds and coins recorded under the Scheme. In 1998-99, there were a total of 1,071 items of worked stone recorded; in 1999-2000, 5,483, which represents an increase of 80 per cent. Likewise ceramics, where the number of pieces recorded has risen from 2,368 in 1998-99 to 6,832 in 1999-2000, an increase of 65 per cent. However, it should be noted that very large assemblages of worked lithics have been recorded in Wales in the last year, and there has also been a large number of ceramics recorded in Norfolk, and both these groups have a big influence on the overall total. Nevertheless, liaison officers are encouraging finders to bring in these classes of find, which are as important to record as metal artefacts.

In the last year five areas have recorded very high numbers (i.e. more than 2,000 artefacts), namely Norfolk, North Lincolnshire, Suffolk, Wales and



Figure 37

An Irish copper-alloy bowl mount dating to the eighth century found near Arnside, Cumbria, recorded by Nick Herepath (North West). It would originally have been one of a set to hold rings from which a bowl could hang. The style of the face and the lavish use of enamel are features of early medieval Ireland. Related

objects have often been found in Viking graves in Norway. Cumbria and Lancashire were settled by people of mixed Irish and Scandinavian roots in the tenth-century, which may explain how this unusual find came to be lost.

Yorkshire. The high figure for Wales is mainly due to the large number of lithic finds recorded, as mentioned above. The high figures for the other areas are due to two factors: firstly the number of finds being made in these areas, and secondly the willingness of finders to come forward to record them. These factors are significant in the other areas too, for example in the North West, where it is clear after three years that there are simply not as many finds being made as in other areas.



Figure 38

Copper alloy mount in the form of a human bust, found at Thoroton, Nottinghamshire, by D Smith. This attractive object is not easy to date and both a Roman and medieval date seem possible. However, in view of the other finds from the site and the unusual way in which the hair is shown a Roman date seems most likely. Drawing by Marina Elwes.

Table 4. Different classes of object recorded by the liaison officers, October 1999 – September 2000.

Region	Metal objects	Coins	Worked stone	Pottery	Other	Total	Months worked	Total per month
Dorset and Somerset	343	527	169	243	113	1,395	12	116
Hampshire	472	848	21	221	3	1,565	12	130
Kent	319	424	18	78	20	859	6	143
Norfolk	6,361	3,899	285	4,581	0	15,126	12	1,261
North Lincolnshire	1,574	1,155	1	1	32	2,763	10	276
North West	398	289	2	0	2	691	12	58
Northamptonshire	669	732	42	53	5	1,501	11	136
Suffolk	2,735	1,773	85	872	12	5,477	11	498
Wales	377	166	3,552	115	8	4,218	12	352
West Midlands	477	752	66	316	0	1,611	12	134
Yorkshire	662	1,884	1,242	352	0	4,140	12	345
Total	14,387	12,449	5,483	6,832	195	39,346		
Percentage of total	36.57	31.64	13.94	17.36	0.50	100.00		

Chart 2. Different classes of object recorded by the liaison officers.

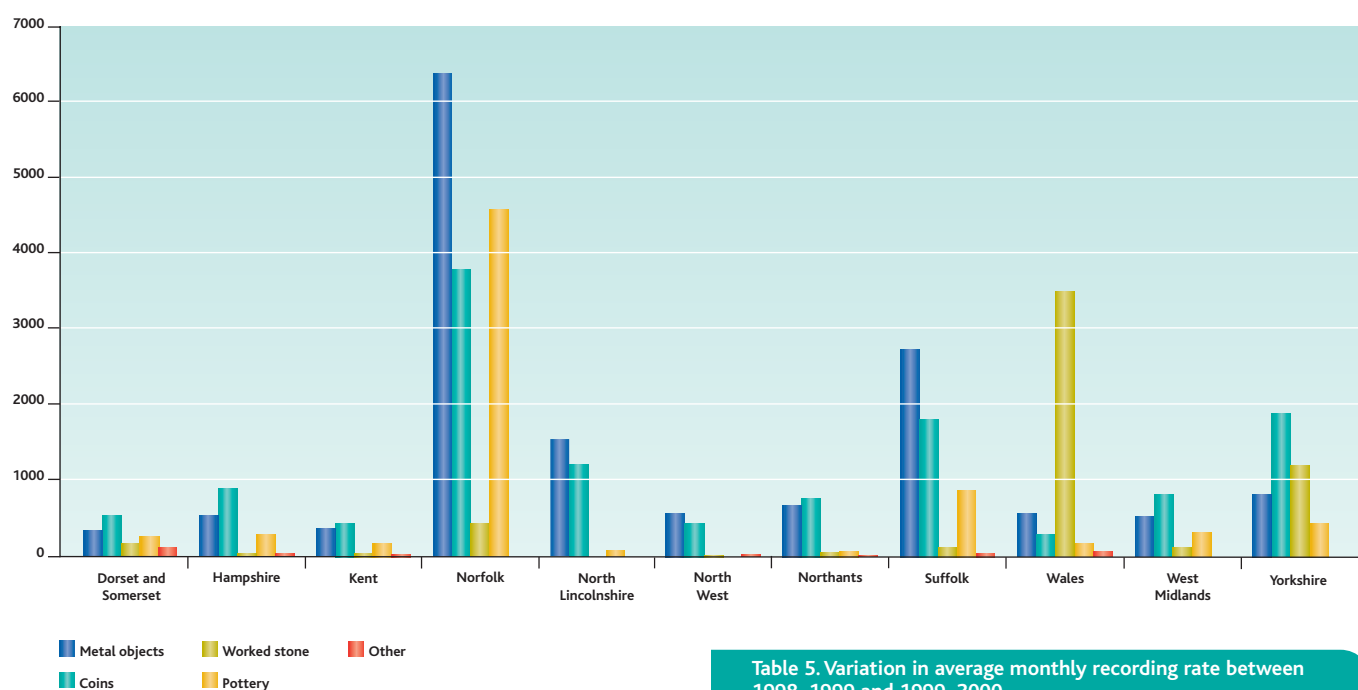


Table 5. Variation in average monthly recording rate between 1998–1999 and 1999–2000.

	1998–1999	1999–2000	Change
Dorset and Somerset	73	116	+37%
Hampshire	123	130	+5%
Kent	184	143	-28%
Norfolk (overall ³)	1,090	1,261	+14%
North Lincolnshire	226	276	+18%
North West	49	58	+15%
Northamptonshire	101	136	+26%
Suffolk	370	498	+26%
Wales	99	352	+72%
West Midlands	150	134	-12%
Yorkshire	329	345	+5%

1 This assumes that the two posts funded fully and partially by the Scheme in Norfolk recorded 7,563 (50 per cent) of the total of 15,126 objects recorded in 1999–2000.

2 This assumes that the liaison officer recorded 3,400 (25 per cent) of the total of 13,624 objects recorded in Norfolk in 1997–98.

3 These figures are for all the staff of the Identification and Recording Service (I&RS).

As with previous years, liaison officers continue to see more finds than they actually record. **Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevarthen** (Dorset and Somerset) saw around 1,600 artefacts in the last year, recorded 1,395 of these, and although the rest were identified, they were not recorded, as they did not fall within the remit of the Scheme. **Rhiannon Harte** (Northamptonshire) saw about 2,500 post-1700 objects during the 18-month period of Heritage Lottery Funding funding, which she identified but has not entered on to the database unless of particular interest. **Ceinwen Paynton** (Yorkshire) says: *'there are too many enquiries brought in for the finds liaison officer to actually process'*, and that this includes *'a huge amount of 'modern' objects'*.

Rate of recording

Table 5 shows the change in the average number of finds recorded each month between the second and third years. Once again, there are considerable variations between the individual pilot areas (discussed in last year's annual report, pages 38-9).

Very encouraging is the fact that there have been significant increases in the rate of finds recorded in seven pilot areas, namely Dorset and Somerset, Norfolk (overall), North Lincolnshire, the North West, Suffolk, Wales and Yorkshire.

Yorkshire has seen a small increase in the number of finds recorded, which demonstrates that there is a very stable recording system now established, although **Ceinwen Paynton** continues to be shown more finds than she has time to record, and the Yorkshire Museum continues to limit the number of items which finders can submit for recording. North Lincolnshire follows a similar pattern; this is another area where the level of trust between finder and museum has now become well established.

Wales has seen the largest increase in recording rate, which is mainly due to the very large number of lithics which have been recorded in the last year. These are often large assemblages in which each



Figure 39

Late eighth to early ninth century AD copper alloy cross with gold plaques on the arms. Found in Cheshire by John Gibbons.

fragment is counted as one object, consequently greatly increasing the recording rate. Kent has seen a fall in the level of recording, but this has been due to the fact that there was a period of several months during which there was no liaison officer in post, and the new liaison officer, **Michael Lewis**, required some time to establish his position in the county before he could begin recording material at a similar rate to previous years. The decrease in the recording rate in the West Midlands is due to the liaison officer's increased amount of outreach work and a larger number of treasure cases which needed to be dealt with.

Chronological distribution of objects recorded

Broadly speaking, the relative proportions of finds by period have remained at levels similar to last year (see Chart 2 in last year's annual report, p. 40), i.e. low levels for the prehistoric periods, a peak of Roman material, a fall off at the early medieval period and a peak again in the medieval and post-medieval

periods. However, this year the picture is slightly different (Chart 3). There is a higher overall percentage of Stone Age material than last year which, although in the main due to a large number of prehistoric flints recorded in Wales, is also due to rises in Yorkshire and Dorset and Somerset. These peaks are also evident in Chart 4 which shows the chronological distribution of finds by area.

Table 6. Chronological breakdown of objects: quantities.

	<i>Stone Age</i>	<i>Bronze Age</i>	<i>Iron Age</i>	<i>Roman</i>	<i>early-medieval</i>	<i>medieval</i>	<i>post-medieval</i>	<i>uncertain</i>	<i>No. of objects</i>
Dorset and Somerset	126	7	21	446	14	293	474	14	1,395
Hampshire	17	4	12	708	81	329	396	18	1,565
Kent	18	7	100	325	46	153	170	40	859
Norfolk	295	59	187	4,915	772	3,683	4,821	394	15,126
North Lincolnshire	1	1	21	2,310	89	236	87	18	2,763
North West	2	18	7	289	30	176	133	36	691
Northamptonshire	39	13	63	760	63	339	197	27	1501
Suffolk	84	53	69	1,966	231	1,086	1,637	351	5,477
Wales	3,553	13	3	222	5	40	382	0	4,218
West Midlands	38	15	28	725	40	425	264	76	1,611
Yorkshire	1,242	116	90	580	166	1,035	911	0	4,140
Total	5,415	306	601	13,246	1,537	7,795	9,472	974	39,346

Table 7. Chronological breakdown of objects: percentages.

	<i>Stone Age</i>	<i>Bronze Age</i>	<i>Iron Age</i>	<i>Roman</i>	<i>early-medieval</i>	<i>medieval</i>	<i>post-medieval</i>	<i>uncertain</i>	<i>No. of objects</i>
Dorset and Somerset	9.0	0.5	1.5	32.0	1.0	21.0	34.0	1.0	1,395
Hampshire	1.1	0.3	0.8	45.2	5.2	21.0	25.3	1.2	1,565
Kent	2.1	0.8	11.6	37.8	5.4	17.8	19.8	4.7	859
Norfolk	2.0	0.4	1.2	32.5	5.1	24.3	31.9	2.6	15,126
North Lincolnshire	0.0	0.0	0.8	83.6	3.2	8.5	3.1	0.7	2,763
North West	0.3	2.6	1.0	41.8	4.3	25.5	19.2	5.2	691
Northamptonshire	2.6	0.9	4.2	50.6	4.2	22.6	13.1	1.8	1501
Suffolk	1.5	1.0	1.3	35.9	4.2	19.8	29.9	6.4	5,477
Wales	84.2	0.3	0.1	5.3	0.1	0.9	9.1	0.0	4,218
West Midlands	2.4	0.9	1.7	45.0	2.5	26.4	16.4	4.7	1,611
Yorkshire	30.0	2.8	2.2	14.0	4.0	25.0	22.0	0.0	4,140
Total	13.8	0.8	1.5	33.7	3.9	19.8	24.1	2.5	39,346

Chart 3. Chronological distribution of finds: overall average.

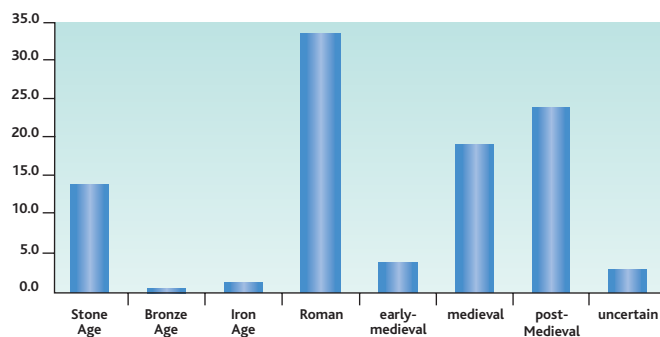
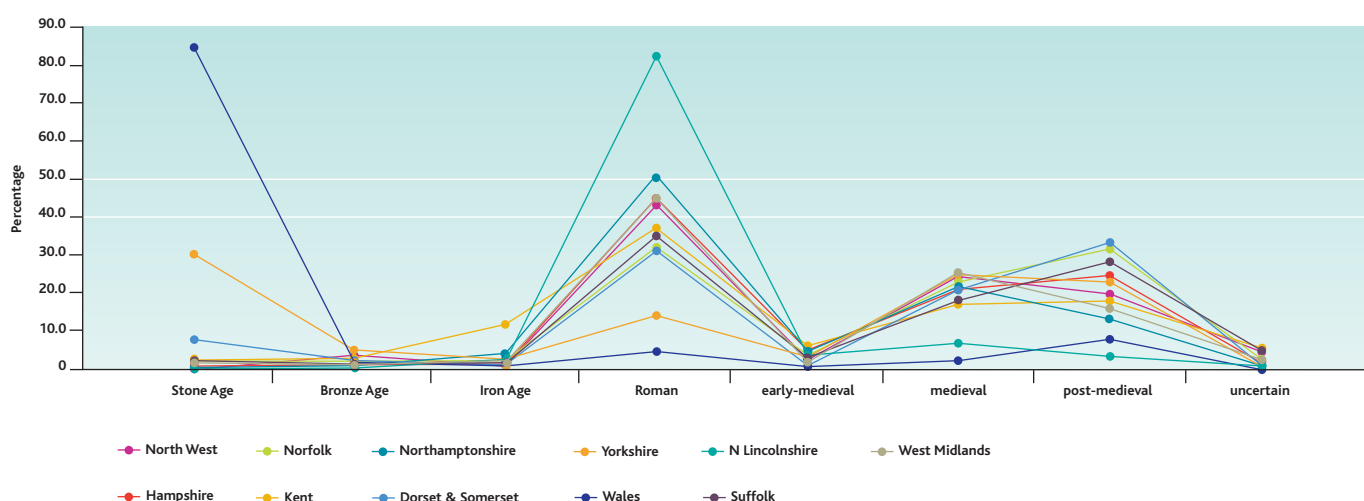


Figure 40
A fifteenth-century AD pilgrim badge showing St Roch, a saint associated with pilgrimage and plague. Found by Mr A Riste and recorded by Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevarthen (Dorset and Somerset).

Chart 4. Chronological distribution of finds by area: percentages.



As for the later periods, a very similar overall pattern is followed to last year. The only major differences are a very high level of Roman finds recorded this year in North Lincolnshire (over 80 per cent of the total number of finds recorded in that area). This can be explained quite simply as a reflection of the type of material brought in to North Lincolnshire Museum for recording: last year **Kevin Leahy** and **Marina Elwes** saw a large amount of Roman material from rich ploughed-out sites visited by local detectorists. This demonstrates that at this early stage in the project, large assemblages of material of particular date from productive sites will have a major influence on the chronological distribution of finds recorded. The medieval and post-medieval periods are broadly similar to last year in most areas apart from Wales, which last year had a peak of 78 per cent for its post-medieval finds. This can be accounted for however by the fact that last year **Philip Macdonald** recorded a

number of large collections of metal-detected finds that contained a high proportion of post-medieval objects.



Figure 41
Upper Poppleton (Yorkshire) strap ends and brooch fragment. These rare Anglo-Saxon strap ends were recovered by several detectorists and are now on display after acquisition by Yorkshire Museum. The strap ends were made around AD 850 and are decorated with depictions of animals in the Trehwiddle style. Also published in Treasure Annual Report 1998-1999, no. 76.

The accuracy of findspot information

Table 8. Overall figures for findspots: percentages, based on data on database.

	Parish (%)	4 fig. (%)	6 fig. (%)	8 fig. (%)	No. of findspots
Dorset and Somerset	17.0	7.9	46.7	28.4	229
Hampshire	49.7	0.0	27.5	22.8	167
Kent	9.9	5.0	48.5	36.6	1,065
Norfolk	7.3	0.0	5.5	87.3	55
North Lincolnshire	50.8	17.3	31.6	0.2	427
North West	31.4	12.4	40.0	16.1	595
Northamptonshire	29.1	1.6	25.8	43.5	306
Suffolk	7.8	0.0	40.9	51.3	489
Wales	57.1	0.0	28.6	14.3	21
West Midlands	59.9	2.0	29.0	9.1	549
Yorkshire	15.5	42.2	36.4	5.9	374

Table 9. Improvement in findspot information since last year: (proportion of findspots with at least a six-figure grid reference).

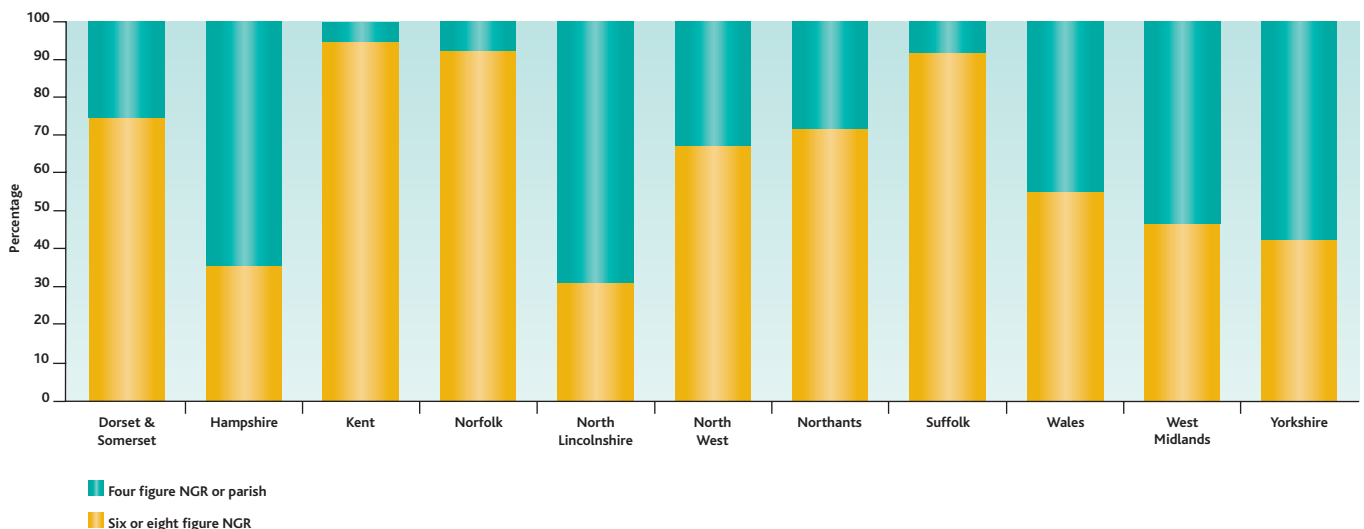
	97/8-99 (%)	99-00 (%)
Dorset and Somerset	78	74
Hampshire	32	36
Kent	84	94
Norfolk	n/a	n/a
North Lincolnshire	27	31
North West	63	68
Northamptonshire	60	72
Suffolk	100	92
Wales	43	55
West Midlands	28	47
Yorkshire	47	43
Overall	56	60



Figure 42

Eighth-century AD 'motif' or trial piece. This is possibly the result of a craftsman or apprentice practising his art. This example shows several different art styles and depths of chip carving. Similar examples are known in early Christian, Viking and Romanesque art (see 'Motif pieces from Ireland', Theses and Papers in North Eastern Archaeology 17, Uaininn O'Meadhra). Recorded by Ceinwen Paynton (Yorkshire).

Chart 5. Quality of findspot information by area.



Discussion of findspots

Most areas within the scheme are showing healthy levels of findspot precision, as shown in table 9. These figures are calculated on the basis of information on the central Portable Antiquities database. Many have shown a steady increase in the number of findspots with six or eight national figure references (NGRs): for example, in the West Midlands, this has risen from 28 per cent for the period 97/8-99, to 47 per cent in the last year. Some areas have shown a decline, but this is either marginal (for example, Dorset and Somerset, which has fallen by four per cent), or from a very high figure to a still very high figure (for example Suffolk, from 100 per cent of findspots with six or eight figure references to the highest overall figure of 92 per cent). For the Scheme as a whole over the pilot period (three years in some areas, a year and a half in others), the overall accuracy of findspots has risen to 60 per cent, which is very encouraging. This must reflect the fact that finders are increasingly prepared to provide accurate information about where they are making discoveries. This level of accuracy, i.e. six or eight figure, is what is required by Sites and Monuments Records if this data is to be used in conjunction with other information about the historic environment.

Nick Herepath (North West) provides an example of how the situation has improved over the course of the Scheme and some of the problems he has encountered. Nick writes:

'The percentage of findspots with at least a 6 figure NGR has increased by five per cent in the year 1998-99 to 68 per cent in 1999-2000. I have noted that as the Scheme progresses the revealing of detailed findspot information is becoming less of an issue with metal-detectorists. I have also recorded a large number of finds from outside the region, which tend to be less accurate as I do not have map coverage of the relevant find location and/or the finder him/herself is unfamiliar with the locale and cannot pinpoint an exact findspot location. Of the 191 findspots from outside the region only 70 (37 per cent) have an NGR of six figures or more. Conversely, of the five north-west counties 70 per cent of the findspots recorded have an NGR of six figures or more.'

Nick has also looked at the proportion of findspots from different areas within and outside of his remit. Cheshire produces the highest percentage of finds (43 per cent). Nick believes there are several possible explanations for this:

- a more intensive agricultural economy compared to other north-west counties, which tend to have more upland moorland.
- a genuine reflection of the 'amount' of archaeology in the county.
- the liaison officer is based in the south of the region and is therefore more likely to see and record finds from Cheshire.
- there are more metal-detector clubs in the south of the region.

It should also be noted that over the three years of the pilot scheme's operation in the North West, Nick has recorded finds from 28 English and Welsh counties and Unitary Authorities outside of his area of responsibility.

Land-use statistics

In last year's annual report (1998-9) it was possible for the first time to analyse the type of land on which finds were being discovered. This analysis was based upon the central Portable Antiquities database, with information about land-use provided through a classification drawn up by the former Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England.⁴

This year a similar exercise was conducted for 2,133 findspots recorded on the central database. As with last year's figures (Table 9, p. 44), the vast majority of finds (just over 88 per cent) have been discovered on cultivated land (Table 10). Detectorists tend to target cultivated land, as it is generally more productive of finds. This is mainly due to modern farming processes continuing to deepen the topsoil at the expense of buried archaeological deposits. Ploughing scrambles the archaeological layers and brings any artefacts closer to the surface.

Although cultivated land clearly dominates the picture, there are some interesting figures which emerge from the other types of land from which finds have been reported. Coastland is an area where finds are not as rare as might be expected (30 findspots overall), and may perhaps be related to coastal erosion. Of other areas, it is interesting that finders are reporting material which they have found in their gardens (52 findspots overall), showing that even private gardens can retain archaeological significance. Some finds have also come from built-up areas (32 findspots overall).

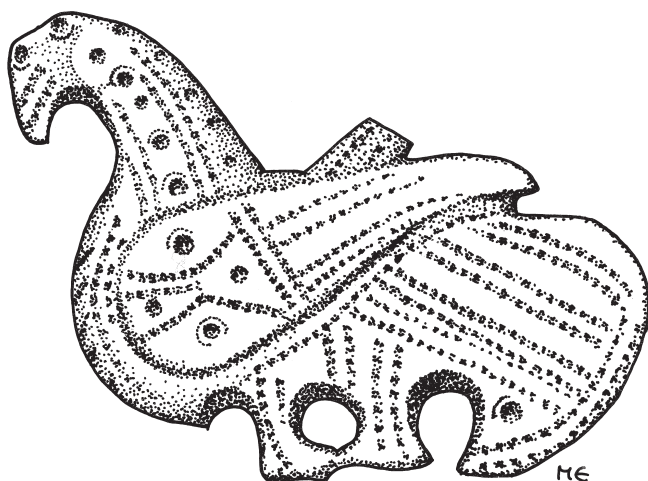


Figure 43

A bird brooch from Ealand, North Lincolnshire, found by Mr David Seddon. These copper-alloy brooches were imported from Scandinavia during the tenth to eleventh-centuries and demonstrate continued contacts across the North Sea. Drawing by Marina Elwes.

Chart 6. Distribution of findspots by landuse type.

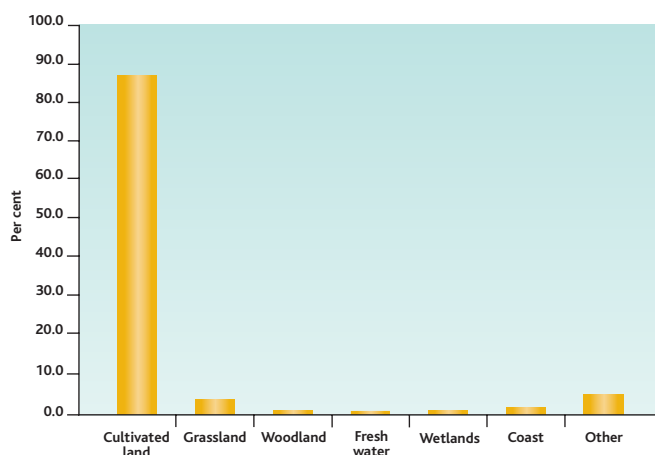


Table 10. Landuse of findspots recorded on database.

	No. of findspots	Percentage
Cultivated land		
Minimal cultivation	21	0.98
Operations to a depth <0.25 m	470	22.03
Operations to a depth >0.25 m	152	7.13
Character undetermined	1239	58.09
All cultivated land	1882	88.23
Grassland and Heathland		
Heathland	3	0.14
Undisturbed grassland	6	0.28
Disturbed grassland	7	0.33
Regularly improved	24	1.13
Character undetermined	46	2.16
All Grassland and Heathland	86	4.03
Woodland		
Mixed	1	0.05
Other	6	0.28
All Woodland	7	0.33
Open fresh water		
Running water	6	0.28
Wetlands		
Wetlands	5	0.23
Coastland		
Marine	1	0.05
Inter-tidal	14	0.66
Above high water	6	0.28
Cliff and related features	2	0.09
Other	7	0.33
All coastland	30	1.41
Other		
Orchard	1	0.05
Thoroughfare	3	0.14
Verge	2	0.09
Waste ground	4	0.19
Recreational usage	18	0.84
In use as building	1	0.05
Built over	32	1.50
Garden	52	2.44
Mineral extraction	3	0.14
Subterranean	1	0.05
All other	117	5.49
Total	2133	

Statistics relating to finders

Table 11 and chart 7 set out the number of individuals who have reported finds in each of the pilot areas during the last year. Figures are provided for detector users (club members and independent detector users), and other chance finders (for example fieldwalkers and people who have found objects during work or recreational activities). These figures can be compared to last year (*Annual Report 1998-99*, Table 10 and Chart 6 a and b, p. 45). Overall the number of finders seems to have fallen (from 1,917 to 1,788), but this is entirely due to the fact that the figures for Norfolk this year only account for those finders who have been recorded on the Portable Antiquities database. If we exclude Norfolk from the figures, the number of finders has increased as a total for all the other areas by 197 from last year. Particularly in the area of ‘other’ finders, there has been a very encouraging upward trend: the Scheme is keen to ensure that finders of all types, not just detector-users, take the opportunity to record their finds with the liaison officers.

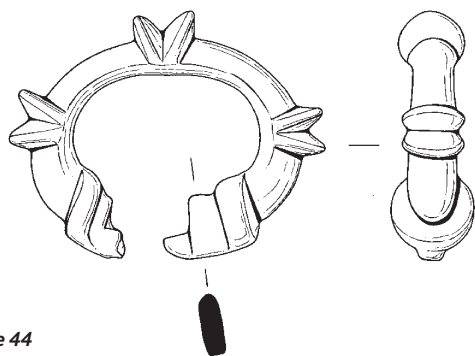


Figure 44
An almost-complete Iron Age terret found in East Bergholt, Suffolk.



Figure 45
Neck and handle fragment of an uncommon form of late fourth-century AD blue/green glass jug. Other examples of this form have been noted from both

settlement and burial contexts in Roman Britain, but they are extremely scarce from other areas of the north-western provinces. Recorded by Sally Worrell (Hampshire).

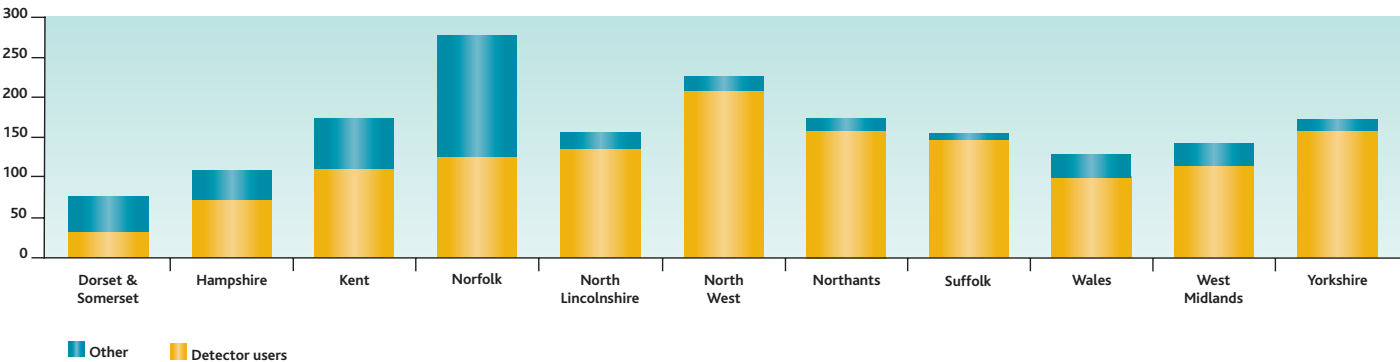
Table 11. Numbers of finders recording finds in each area.

	Detector users	Others	Total
Dorset and Somerset	37	39	76
Hampshire	75 (28)	32	107
Kent	108 (19)	64	172
Norfolk	124 ¹	155	279
North Lincolnshire	148	5	153
North West	219 (32)	7	226
Northamptonshire	168 (48)	5	173
Suffolk	149 (66)	6	155
Wales	100	32 ²	132
West Midlands	115 (47)	29	144
Yorkshire	162	9	171
Total	1405	383	1788

1 36 independent detectorists and field-walkers are included in the figure for detector users. The overall number of finders who regularly report finds is likely to be far higher, at least 600 (see last year’s annual report). The figures given here are based on the number of finds recorded on the Portable Antiquities database for the county.

2 About ten of these are field-walkers, the rest are finders who have made discoveries during work or other activities.

Chart 7. Numbers of individuals reporting finds.



Method of discovery of objects recorded

Table 12 and Chart 8 set out the different methods of discovery of objects from each of the pilot areas. This is broken down into a number of different categories, which provides a little more detail than in last year's report (Table 11 and Chart 7, pages 45-6). It should be noted that these figures are based on data collected over the whole time which the Scheme has been operating, which means that this analysis is based on the best part of 18,500 finds which have been collated centrally.

As is to be expected, the vast majority of finds recorded still come through random metal-detecting, over 95 per cent overall. However, there are some marked regional variations. In Wales in particular, only 30 per cent of finds have come through metal-detecting; the largest proportion have come through amateur field-walkers (almost 60 per cent). There are also lower proportions of detected finds in other areas, for example Dorset and Somerset, where a fair number of finds have also been found through field-walking once again and gardening (7 per cent and 4 per cent respectively). It is also encouraging that in some areas, a small number of finds recorded have been recovered during controlled archaeological investigations, notably in Kent, Suffolk and Yorkshire, all areas which have been very proactive in involving local metal-detectorists in archaeological projects.

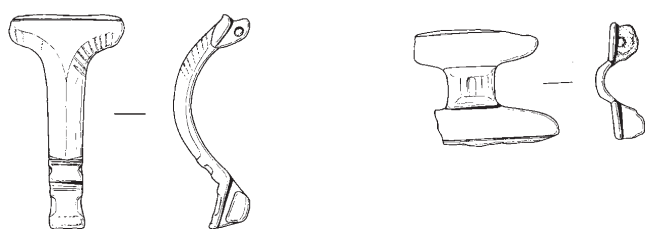


Figure 46

Of interest for study of the early stages of the transition from Roman Britain to Anglo-Saxon England are finds of fifth-century Germanic-type brooches - the two shown above were found in central and north-east Suffolk. It is of particular interest that the one on the left was found close to a late Roman buckle fragment. It is a common misconception that sites of late Roman and early Anglo-Saxon occupation do not coincide, and finds such as these show that the real picture is somewhat more complicated.

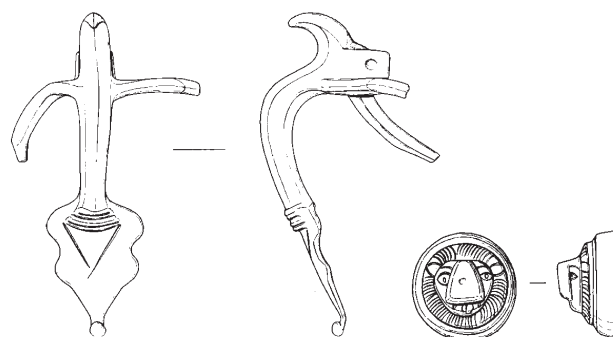


Figure 47

A group of Roman objects from a single findspot in Otley parish, Suffolk, including a copper-alloy flagon handle, a lion headed stud, brooches, coins and pottery. The combination suggests that the site may represent a number of cremation burials destroyed by agriculture, as these are well-known examples of accessory vessels found with Roman cremation burials. Very few Roman burials are known from Suffolk and this is an important addition to the corpus. The drawing shows the rather bent jug handle above the lion stud.



Figure 48

Network Archaeology, under commission by Transco, contacted the finds liaison officer, Angie Bolton (West Midlands) and asked her to arrange for a metal-detectorist to work with the archaeologists on the site of a pipeline. The metal-detectorist was asked to detect along the route of the pipeline where the archaeologists had revealed a number of anomalies, which may have indicated an industrial process. The metal-detectorist did not receive any signals from these anomalies, but this in itself helped to interpret the site. The metal-detectorist also detected the rest of the site and spoil heaps. Lead was the only metalwork found on the site but not as recognisable artefacts. However, it was agreed that without the aid of the metal-detectorist this information would not have been recovered.



Figure 49
This hoard of Late Bronze Age axes and metal fragments found in the Ipswich area, Suffolk, is an excellent example of co-operation between

metal-detectorists and archaeologists. The find was discovered and excavated by two detectorists, Ian Roberts and James Woodrow (a retired policeman and former chairman of the Ipswich and District Metal Detector Club), during April 2000. Mr Woodrow photographed the finds in situ and carefully mapped the location of the find. After excavation, Mr Woodrow conserved the objects himself, carefully cleaning them and removing corrosion. He then photographed all the axes and fragments and produced a catalogue and a report on the find. Throughout the whole process, Mr Woodrow liaised closely with John Newman, Archaeological Field Officer with Suffolk County Council. The hoard has been kept intact and is in the ownership of the landowner, and will be made available for show at selected museums in the future.

Table 12. Method of discovery of objects recorded on database: percentages.

	MD	BW	F	CAI	G	A or D	Other	Total no. of objects
Dorset and Somerset	84.93	1.04	7.48	0.00	3.74	0.00	2.81	962
Hampshire	93.00	0.32	0.64	3.18	1.91	0.00	0.95	629
Kent	96.82	0.08	0.12	0.94	0.37	0.04	1.63	2,452
Norfolk	97.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.30	87
North Lincolnshire	99.58	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.03	0.00	0.37	3,780
North West	98.61	0.13	0.13	0.00	0.13	0.13	0.86	1,511
Northamptonshire	96.31	0.26	2.02	0.00	0.70	0.00	0.70	1,138
Suffolk	97.33	0.31	0.00	1.48	0.11	0.09	0.68	3,522
Wales	30.99	0.00	59.15	3.76	0.00	0.00	6.10	213
West Midlands	94.46	0.00	2.58	0.00	0.61	0.00	2.35	2,131
Yorkshire	91.31	0.00	2.60	1.37	0.34	0.10	4.27	2,037
Total	95.21	0.16	1.83	0.71	0.50	0.04	1.54	18,462

For a key to abbreviations see Chart 8 below

Chart 8. Method of discovery of objects on database: percentages.

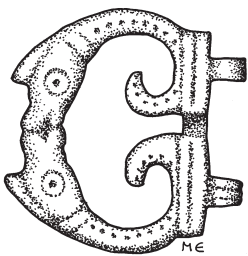
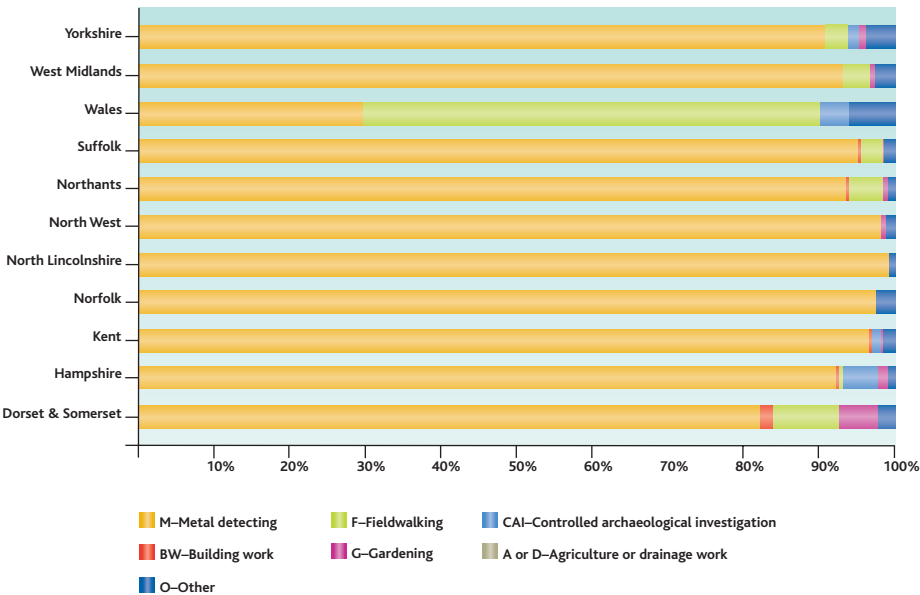


Figure 50
A late Roman

buckle from Stickford, Lincolnshire. Brass buckles of this type are included in an important study as part of the Portable Antiquities Scheme. Long thought to represent part of the equipment of Germanic mercenaries, it is only by looking at the national distribution of this material will we be able to understand its historical significance. Drawing by Marina Elwes.

Date of discovery of objects recorded

The Portable Antiquities Scheme continues to concentrate its efforts on material which has come to light recently. Clearly many finders have very large collections which we would like to record, but more recent finds have to be prioritised. This year it has been possible to analyse a very large body of data to provide information on this aspect of the project (last year's report, Table 12, only looked at about 3,700 finds). Table 13 and Chart 9 are based on more than 16,600 finds recorded on the database. It is very clear that the vast majority of finds recorded have been made in the last three years: a total of 13,992 finds or 84 per cent of the total. There is therefore no indication that the amount of new material being discovered is declining; the fact that this report is interspersed with examples of the large number of recently discovered objects of archaeological importance is a reflection of this.

Table 13. Date of discovery of objects recorded.

Before 1980	184
1980	4
1981	1
1982	3
1983	2
1984	2
1985	5
1986	5
1987	13
1988	29
1989	10
1990	143
1991	45
1992	412
1993	118
1994	228
1995	202
1996	245
1997	970
1998	3,900
1999	6,990
2000	3,102
Total	16,613

Chart 9. Date of discovery of objects recorded on the database.

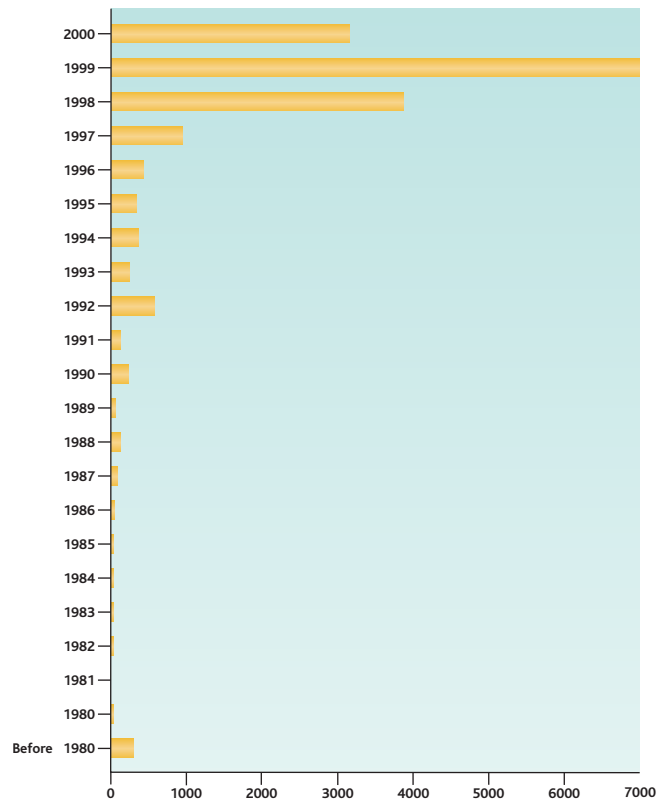


Figure 51

A Neolithic discoidal knife from Dorset. Not only are these objects exceedingly rare nationally, the find is an excellent example of the impact of the Scheme. The knife had remained unrecognised for more than 30 years, the artefact originally having been found by the lady's father. It was reported to Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevvarthen (Somerset & Dorset) at one of her regular finds surgeries held at Dorset County Museum which had been advertised through the local press.

10. Conclusions and the future

The next stage

An outline bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund to extend the Scheme over the whole of England and Wales was submitted in March 2000. In September, the trustees of the Heritage Lottery Fund decided to defer a decision on funding until an independent assessment of the pilot project had been conducted. This assessment has now been completed by Dr Gill Chitty of Hawkshead Archaeology and Conservation. This report was complemented by four additional assessments of the academic value of the data on finds generated under the Scheme by Dr Geoff Egan, Dr Hilary Cool, Prof Michael Metcalf and Prof Colin Haselgrove.

Dr Chitty's evaluation examined six main strands of activities carried out by the Portable Antiquities Scheme:

- Providing information and advice to the public
- Strengthening links and connections between finders, museums and archaeologists
- Increasing knowledge and understanding of archaeology
- Securing long-term heritage conservation aims
- Supporting the Treasure Act process
- Providing access to a national database and information network.

The evaluation reaches the following conclusions:

‘...the Scheme is well placed to meet a real need, and to fill a gap in provision by public services, both by providing an information service about archaeological finds for the interested public and local people, and encouraging their participation in archaeology as part of the outreach of local museums and archaeology services. Users value this aspect of the Scheme consistently highly together with the strengthened links it has created between the public, especially detectorists, and archaeologists and museums.



Figure 52

A Roman buckle plate discovered by a metal-detector user in Worcestershire.

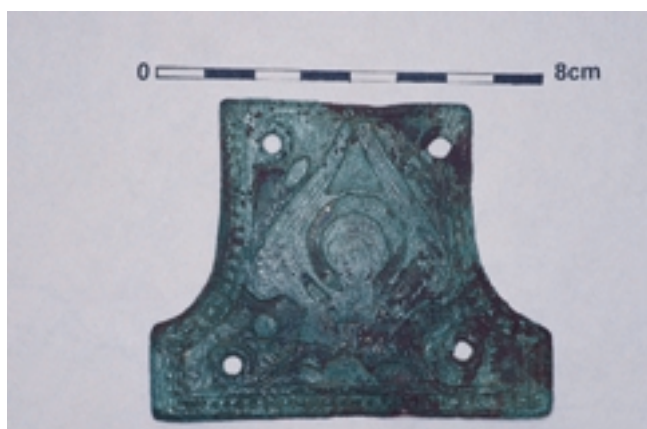


Figure 53

A reliquary cross mount discovered by a metal-detector user in mid-Warwickshire, showing the winged figure of St. Matthew.



Figure 54

A copper-alloy purse bar of the 16th century. The piece is important because it still has the remains of leather thongs inside its central section; the thongs would have been looped at double thickness to secure the purse or bag to a belt. Recorded by Ceinwen Paynton (Yorkshire).

'The potential long-term legacy of the Scheme would be a network of public information about archaeological objects that has been built out of the discoveries that individuals, especially metal-detector users, have made. It will be both recognition of the public value of archaeological finds, as well as the personal enthusiasm of many individual finders. One of the long-term aims of the Scheme is to change public attitudes towards archaeological finds, 'to establish a situation where recording archaeological finds becomes accepted by the public as the normal thing to do'. The evaluation shows that that a perceptible change in attitudes is gradually building and that progress must be based on mutual confidence in which the Scheme's officers will continue to have a key role as mediators.

'Exploring the value of the Scheme will be achieved most effectively through a series of partnerships with others. The research possibilities will become more apparent when Portable Antiquities information can be searched in parallel with other information resources. Its wider potential will be seen as it is integrated and interpreted in regional and local authority environment records, in national and regional research, in relation to museum collections, to the work of specialist study groups, schools and local community projects.'



Figure 55
Medieval copper-alloy elaborate openwork buckle-plate, showing a lion passant regardant with tail in mouth and cross potent on flank. Found in central Norfolk by Bill Dodgson, this is one of a growing number of high quality dress accessories to have been found recently in the county.

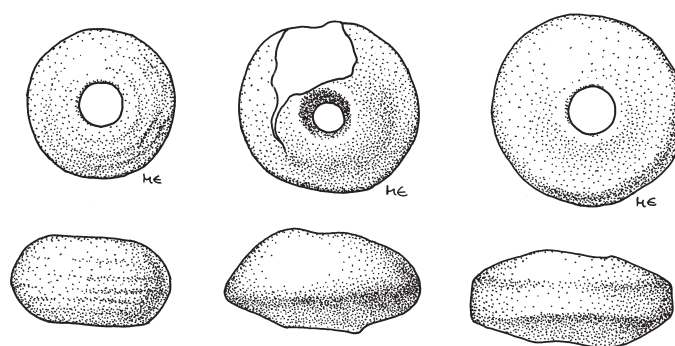


Figure 56

Anglo-Saxon spindle whorls, found in the Bourne area, Lincolnshire, by Steve Critchley. These spindle whorls are very interesting finds, not only because of their age, but also because they are made from pottery (two of the whorls illustrated) and limestone (the other). Non-metallic finds are increasingly being reported to liaison officers. Drawing by Marina Elwes.

The assessment provides a clear lead on the direction of the project in the coming months, and these can be summarised as follows:

- a revised bid can now be submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund
- the liaison officers will continue to build bridges with the public and record finds for the benefit of everyone
- the Scheme as a whole will work hard to ensure that information continues to be passed to Sites and Monuments Records and that the project is tied in with other heritage initiatives at both a local and national level
- it is clear that the Scheme has had a great deal of success with metal-detector and historical societies in general. More, however, can be done to build upon relations already established with other interest groups. These will include field-walkers who collect non-metal objects from ploughed land, landowners and their representatives and the manufacturers of metal-detectors.

It is hoped that this report has shown quite clearly that the Scheme has continued to go from strength to strength and that the importance of recording these objects is of benefit to everyone in England and Wales and future generations.

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