

For further information about the Portable Antiquities Scheme or the Treasure Act, visit finds.org.uk

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The British
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The Portable Antiquities Scheme Annual Report 2014

113,794 finds

*Medieval pilgrim badge, Vale of Glamorgan.
Bronze Age spearhead, Suffolk. Iron Age toggle, Hampshire.
Iron Age linch-pin, Dorset. Medieval spindle whorl, Cheshire.
Roman figurine, Lincolnshire. Medieval harness pendant, County Durham.
Mesolithic microlith, South Yorkshire. Romano-British brooch, Oxfordshire.
Roman pottery sherd, Kent. Medieval reliquary pendant, North Lincolnshire.
Neolithic scraper, Sussex. Bronze Age arrowhead, North Yorkshire.
Bronze Age palstave, Lancashire. Tudor dress-hook, Norfolk.
Palaeolithic handaxe, Cornwall. Elizabethan sixpence, Warwickshire.
Medieval jetton, Somerset. Post-medieval toy, London.
Anglo-Saxon sceat, Leicestershire. Early medieval strap-end, Surrey.
Medieval buckle, Wiltshire. Roman denarius, Hertfordshire.
Post-medieval crotal bell, Shropshire. Anglo-Norman penny, Gloucestershire.
Civil War musket ball, Nottinghamshire.*





Foreword

Through the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) people are rewriting the history of England and Wales. Whether or not the finds recorded are unique, aesthetically pleasing, damaged or broken, they all have their own stories to tell, enabling people to understand better the archaeology of Britain and their local area. These finds also drive academic research, and help archaeologists protect the historic environment.

Key to the PAS's success is the fact that so many people are willing to share their finds, of which 113,794 were recorded in 2014. It is important that these discoveries are recovered according to best practice to avoid accidental damage to archaeology, which finders can help do by following the *Code of Practice for Responsible Metal Detecting*.

I would also like to pay particular tribute to the PAS's network of Finds Liaison Officers (FLOs), their managers and the local partners that host them, as well as the interns and volunteers who work alongside them – once again the Headley Trust has kindly supported another tranche of PAS interns which have made a tremendous impact. Through the PAST Explorers Programme, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), more people are now volunteering with the PAS, undertaking finds-related work, and helping to share knowledge about archaeological finds. Importantly, PAS finds recording work is also supported by experts in museums, universities and heritage organisations across the country, to whom we are also indebted.



Neil MacGregor
*Director of the
British Museum*

The PAS also has an important role in ensuring the effective working of the Treasure Act, of which a further 1,008 cases were reported in 2014. The most important finds have been acquired by museums (166 in 2013), as the process allows, of which 119 have been donated. The Treasure team and colleagues at the British Museum, museum curators across the country, the network of national coroners and the Treasure Valuation Committee have all worked hard to ensure the process works as smoothly and efficiently as possible. I would like to extend my gratitude to those who have generously supported museums in securing Treasure acquisitions this year: the Art Fund, the Headley Trust, the National Heritage Memorial Fund and the HLF, and the V&A Purchase Grant Fund.

The PAS is a key part of the British Museum's work, complementing other aspects of our national programme. Looking forward, the British Museum is keen to build on the success of these partnerships to benefit people across the UK, and help take forward the excellent work of the PAS.

Excavation of the Knutsford Hoard

Upon discovering this important Roman assemblage the finder stopped digging and called for archaeological assistance.

Key points

The main achievements of the PAS in 2014:

- 113,794 finds were recorded; a total of 1,127,586 recorded on its database (finds.org.uk/database) to date.
- 96% of finds were found by metal-detectorists.
- 91% of finds were found on cultivated land, where they are susceptible to plough damage and artificial and natural corrosion processes.
- 99% of PAS finds were recorded to the nearest 100m² (a 6-figure NGR), the minimum requirement for findspot information for Historic Environment Records.
- New sites discovered through finds recorded by the PAS include a Neolithic ceremonial monument from West Yorkshire, an Iron Age farmstead in Shropshire, a Roman furnace for iron smelting in Wiltshire, and skirmish sites associated with the English Civil War in Lincolnshire and Worcestershire.
- Currently 830 people have full access to PAS data for research purposes, and there are a further 8,527 registered users. To date, PAS data has been used in 455 research projects, including 20 pieces of large-scale research and 95 PhDs.
- 499,481 unique visitors visited the PAS websites and database, making 789,253 visits and 5,214,822 page requests.
- Publications associated with the work of the PAS include reports in *Britannia*, *Medieval Archaeology* and *Post-Medieval Archaeology*.
- 1,432 outreach events took place, including talks, finds days and exhibitions. These were attended by at least 39,442 adults and 2,597 children.
- The Scheme's Finds Liaison Officers had regular contact with 197 metal-detecting clubs, attending 856 club meetings.

The main achievements of the Treasure Act 1996 in 2014:

- 1,008 Treasure cases were reported. It is hoped that many of these will be acquired by museums for public benefit.
- 96% of Treasure finds were found by metal-detectorists.
- Important new Treasure finds included a Roman jewellery and coin hoard from Fenwick, Essex (2014 T577), an early medieval zoomorphic pendant (2014 T886) from Market Weighton, East Yorkshire, and a hoard of 5,248 late Anglo-Saxon coins from Lenborough, Buckinghamshire (2014 T973).

In 2013, 166 parties waived their right to a reward for 119 Treasure cases, allowing them to be acquired by museums at no or reduced cost. Most PAS finds are returned to the finder.

Introduction

The Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS)

The PAS is a partnership project to record archaeological finds discovered by the public in order to advance knowledge of the archaeology of England and Wales. This data is made available through its online database (finds.org.uk/database), where it is used by archaeologists, researchers and others interested in the past.

The PAS consists of 38 locally based FLOs, covering the whole of England and Wales, whose job is to record archaeological finds and liaise with finders. This work is co-ordinated by a Central Unit (based at the British Museum) of two, and five period specialists (three based elsewhere). Additionally four posts are employed as part of PAsT Explorers (finds recording in the local community), and four others work on externally funded research projects. In 2014, many volunteers (including self-recorders), plus Headley Trust interns, also contributed to the PAS.

The PAS is managed by the British Museum, based in the Department of Learning and National Partnerships. It is funded through the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's grant in aid to the British Museum, with local partner contributions. Its work is guided by the Portable Antiquities Advisory Group, whose membership includes leading archaeological, landowner and metal-detecting organisations.

Treasure Act 1996

Under the Treasure Act (finds.org.uk/treasure) finders have a legal obligation to report finds of potential Treasure to the local coroner in the district in which it was found. The success of the Act is only possible though the work of the PAS – its staff advise finders of their legal obligations, provide advice on the process and write Treasure reports for coroners.

The Act allows a national or local museum to acquire Treasure for public benefit. If this happens a reward is paid, which is (normally) shared equally between the finder and landowner. Parties may waive their right to a reward, enabling museums to acquire finds at reduced or no cost. Rewards are fixed at the full market value, determined by the Secretary of State upon the advice of an independent panel of experts, the Treasure Valuation Committee (TVC). The administration of the Treasure process takes place at the British Museum and involves the preparation of Treasure cases for coroners' inquests, providing the secretariat for the TVC, and handling disclaimed cases and the payment of rewards.

The PAS achieves its aims thanks to the British Museum's local partners, who host FLO posts and support the work of the PAS



WILT-0EEEE23

Roman bust of a female, which was perhaps once part of a vessel or decorated a piece of furniture.

Outreach and learning

Outreach is an important part of the work of the PAS, as it is by talking to the public that the FLOs learn about new discoveries. This information is then shared as widely as possible, so that it can be used by anyone interested in the past, and as many people as possible can learn about the archaeology and history of their local area.

Engaging with young people

Archaeological finds offer a tangible link with the past, proving particularly engaging for younger people, enabling them to get close how people worked and lived long ago. In 2014, 2,597 children experienced the work of the PAS, through handling 'real' archaeological finds, understanding how they were used and hearing about stories of discovery.

Teaching history with objects

As part of the national curriculum in England primary schools now teach pupils about Prehistoric Britain. Peter Reavill (Herefordshire & Shropshire FLO) and Victoria Allnatt (Headley Trust Intern) visited Year 3 at St Laurence's C of E Primary School, Ludlow, so that the children could share what they had been learning about their prehistoric past. Peter and Victoria took some finds along from Shropshire Museum for the children to explore and record as well as answer their questions about the Stone, Bronze and Iron Ages.

'It was fantastic because we got to see all of the objects from the Stone Age and we got to touch and draw them.'

Taia, pupil, St Laurence's C of E Primary School

'History comes alive for the children when they can actually see, touch and draw artefacts. The children were fascinated to see the objects and felt very privileged to be able to have them in their classroom.'

Vanessa Watts, teacher, St Laurence's C of E Primary School

St Laurence Primary School, Ludlow
School children learn about prehistoric finds during a PAS handling session.





Museum displays

Archaeological discoveries are fascinating. Most objects recorded by the PAS are returned to those who find them, but others are displayed in local museums for all to enjoy.

Treasure revealed

In July 2014 the Royal Cornwall Museum opened a new display of local Treasures, curated by Anna Tyacke (Cornwall FLO), which was made possible by a grant from the Art Fund and supported by the Headley Trust through their Treasure Plus programme. This enabled the Museum to conserve and display a Late Bronze Age hoard from St Buryan (CORN-37D710), a Roman coin hoard from Luxulyan (CORN-E0E652) and a rare medieval silver *piedfort* from Boscastle (GLO-050FC0). The new displays also include many other finds recorded through the PAS or reported as Treasure.

‘This new exhibition celebrates the best of recent discoveries that have been recorded by the PAS and acquired by the Royal Institution of Cornwall. It demonstrates how important the PAS is for ensuring that Treasure is reported and rescued for the nation.’

Ian Wall, Director, Royal Cornwall Museum

People's choice display

Following the refurbishment of Colchester Castle there is now a display case dedicated to reflecting the ways in which local communities play a vital role in the continuing success of the local museum service. First to be showcased was the PAS, and its contribution to the understanding of local history through cooperation with metal-detectorists. Curated by Katie Marsden (Essex FLO), this included a wide range of finds covering many periods. Some had been acquired or donated to the museum, while others were on temporary loan from the finders, therefore showing both a representative sample of material found and also reflecting the different routes by which an object can make its way from field into a museum.



GLO-050FC0
Medieval silver piedfort
from Boscastle, displayed
at the Royal Cornwall
Museum thanks to Treasure
Plus funding.

(Left)
Royal Cornwall Museum display
of PAS and Treasure finds.

Public talks

FLOs and other members of the PAS often talk to members of local archaeological and historical societies, as well as metal-detecting clubs and others.

Knutsford Hoard

Vanessa Oakden (Cheshire, Greater Manchester, Merseyside FLO) gave talks to nine of her metal-detecting clubs on the Knutsford Hoard (LVPL-B44185), a find of 103 Roman coins, three large silver-gilt trumpet brooches, two silver finger rings and fragments of a ceramic vessel. These talks focused on the recovery of the hoard, its excavation and what has been learned from its discovery. The earliest coin in the group is a legionary *denarius* of Mark Antony (issued c. 32–31 BC) and the latest a *denarius* of Commodus (issued AD 190–191), which helped date the find. Upon discovering several of the coins the finder realised he had unearthed a hoard, stopped detecting, marked the findspots and contacted Vanessa. The hoard was subsequently excavated with help from a team of archaeologists from National Museums Liverpool and Cheshire Archaeological Advisory Service. Vanessa's talks were well received among club members who enjoyed hearing about a local discovery which also emphasised best practice. The Knutsford Hoard is to be acquired jointly by the Museum of Liverpool and Congleton Museums.

Volunteers

The PAS has had a long tradition of working with volunteers, and is now developing this further with 'PAST Explorers: finds recording in the local community', supported by HLF. Four posts were appointed in 2014 to deliver the initiative, in order to recruit and train volunteers from local communities, increase the recording capacity of the PAS, and promote its activities to new audiences.

Clemency Cooper joins the PAS from the University of Cambridge as a full-time Outreach Officer, supporting volunteers and FLOs and helping to coordinate the project. Helen Geake and Rob Webley are employed part-time as Project Officers to check data and deliver the volunteer training programme. Mary Chester-Kadwell is employed full-time on PAST Explorers to develop and maintain online recording resources and its dedicated 'County Pages'.

PAST Explorers have been working with Voluntary Action Islington to deliver a bespoke management training course for PAS staff on the recruitment, supervision and retention of volunteers. The PAST Explorers team has also run induction sessions for PAS staff in Birmingham, York, Taunton and London to review best practice for database recording, ready to be disseminated to volunteers as part of the training programme. After volunteering for an agreed amount of time with their local FLO, volunteers will be given the opportunity to join the PAST Explorers training programme which will be provided regionally and comprises modules of various aspects of finds work, including finds photography, and coin and artefact identification.

'Give it a go. It's really worthwhile. I've met a whole new group of people that I wouldn't have imagined coming across before. I'm gaining new skills. It's really good and it's not scary. It's actually good fun.'

Bill Goodman, PAS volunteer



LVPL-9BCE31
Silver trumpet brooch
found as part of the
Knutsford Hoard.

PAST Explorers also aims to train more finders so that they can record their finds onto the PAS database. This work builds on the development of the self-recording facility previously pioneered in Kent. In 2014, Kurt Adams (Gloucestershire & Avon FLO) ran workshops on finds photography and recording findspots for members of the Taynton Metal Detecting Club and so far they have contributed over 400 new records. In order to understand better the needs of existing self-recorders and their interaction with the PAS, an online survey was circulated, as was a survey of student volunteers to coincide with Student Volunteering Week.

TV and the media

The main focus of national media interest is usually large Treasure finds, such as the Lenborough Hoard of 5,248 Anglo-Saxon silver pennies and two cut halfpennies found in Buckinghamshire (BUC-7FE6F2) just before Christmas 2014. The discovery of the hoard was picked up following reports on social media. Such interest works in conjunction with the local press, which tends to highlight an array of archaeological discoveries, from the fantastic to the curious.

It is also common for PAS and Treasure finds to feature in the metal-detecting press and archaeological magazines, including *Treasure Hunting* and *British Archaeology*. In 2014 more unusual outlets that discussed the PAS were *Country Life* and *Buckinghamshire Life*.

Television interest in archaeology remains high, and there is a particular fascination in the stories behind discovery. Several finds recorded through the PAS were filmed in 2014 for a new series of *Digging for Britain*, including a massive Bronze Age dirk from Norfolk (NMS-C7EEF3) and gold bracelets of similar date from Gloucestershire (GLO-E9EC16).

This year saw the screening of the popular BBC4 series *The Detectorists*, written by Mackenzie Crook, which mentioned the role of the PAS. A PAS team also appeared on the television quiz show *Eggheads*. While they failed to win the £8,000 prize (although one Egghead was knocked out) it was an opportunity to advertise the PAS to a wider audience than usual.



PAST Explorers volunteers
being trained on how to record
finds on the PAS database.

(Right)

The PAS team on the BBC2
quiz show *Eggheads*.



Research

It is a key aim of the PAS to record archaeological finds so that these might contribute to archaeological knowledge. The PAS has developed strong links with universities across the UK and abroad, and also with researchers at museums and in other institutions.

PAS data is a rich resource, embedded within the research landscape for those studying British archaeology. Currently 830 people have full access to the PAS database. The data has also been used in 455 research projects, including 20 pieces of large-scale research and 95 PhDs. There are also a further 8,527 registered users, who are able to interrogate PAS data relating to their own finds.

The Portable Antiquities Scheme Database as Tool for Archaeological Research, funded by the Leverhulme Trust, is proving important for researchers. A major outcome has been an online guide on how to interpret PAS data (published in 2014 on the PAS website), which will be followed by a monograph in 2016.

With the University of Leicester, work continues on the research project funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) to investigate the contents and archaeological contexts of coin hoards found in Britain dating from the Iron Age to the end of the Roman period, with a view to understanding the reasons for their deposition. Geophysical surveys are being carried out at selected findspots, including the Frome Hoard, and the project database will be made available through that of the PAS when complete.

A large number of PhDs are using PAS data, including Collaborative Doctoral Awards (CDAs) funded by the AHRC. They encompass a wide range of topics including *Iron Age and Early Roman Chariot Fittings from Western and Central Britain* (Anna Lewis, University of Leicester), *Regional Variation in the Coins of the Norman Conquest* (Anja Rohde, University of Nottingham), and *More than Treasure Hunting: the motivations and practices of metal-detectorists and their attitude to landscape* (Felicity Winkley, University College London).

PAS publishes reports in the most important archaeological journals, including *Britannia*, *Medieval Archaeology*, *Post-medieval Archaeology*, and the *British Numismatic Journal*. Contributions are also made to various other specialist and local journals, highlighting important discoveries and their relevance for furthering archaeological knowledge.

In 2014 the PAS conference 'Finds in the landscape' examined how portable antiquities contribute to our knowledge of past landscapes. The conference highlighted the fundamental role of PAS data (alongside other types of archaeological evidence) in our assessment and understanding of the historic environment.



(Above)
Map of finds recorded with the PAS (Katherine Robbins).

(Right)
WILT-178257
Early Bronze Age developed flat axe found in the vicinity of Stonehenge and donated to Salisbury Museum.



Best practice



IOW-E2E708

Miniature Roman axe from the Isle of Wight donated to the Isle of Wight Heritage Service.

(Left)

LEIC-4A3194

Silver penny of Henry II, found as part of a hoard of 24 coins, and displayed at Charnwood Museum.

Most finders are aware of the importance of being careful not to damage undisturbed archaeology while detecting. This, and other best practice guidance, is given in the *Code of Practice for Responsible Metal Detecting in England and Wales*, which has been endorsed by the main archaeological, metal-detecting and landowner organisations. Occasionally, important finds are discovered *in situ* (where they were deposited), and it is important that these are excavated by experts to ensure essential information about context is preserved.

Roman Burial north of Whitchurch, Buckinghamshire

In October 2014 an American holidaying with the Weekend Wanderers unearthed a complex Roman burial group, which was reported to Ros Tyrrell (Buckinghamshire FLO). Consequently Eliza Alqassar (Archaeological Officer, Buckinghamshire County Council) commissioned Oxford Archaeology to excavate the find. Within a wooden box was recovered a number of pottery and bronze vessels, and an iron lamp holder. Also found was an urned cremation burial, which included a fine jasper *intaglio* among the bones. The finder (who helped with the dig) and landowner kindly donated their interest in the objects, and now they have been acquired by Buckinghamshire County Museum Trust.

Detector finds add to collection of Winchester Museums

Given the time metal-detectorists spend searching the fields it is understandable that many want to hang on to their finds (at least for a while) to show to friends and family. Fewer detectorists, however, plan for the future. A prolific finder from Hampshire, who passed away in January 2014, was very keen his collection should pass to Winchester City Museum. It was acquired with help from the Arts Council England/V&A Museum Purchase Grant Fund and includes finds from an Anglo-Saxon cemetery and a Civil War battlefield site, as well as a large amount of Roman and medieval material. Joanna Cole (PAS Headley Trust intern) has been recording the collection, much of which was found before the PAS existed. This work has been supported by Katie Hinds (Hampshire FLO), Sam Moorhead and Vincent Drost (Finds Advisers), and funding has also been obtained to record the medieval coins and jettons in the collection.

It is also the case that finders and landowners donate single finds to museums, knowing them to be of public interest. This includes a hoard of 24 silver pennies of Henry II (LEIC-4A3194), dating to 1158–1170, found by members of the Loughborough Coin and Search Society, and displayed at Charnwood Museum. A Bronze Age flat axe was found in the vicinity of Stonehenge (WILT-178257), which was donated to Salisbury Museum, and a miniature axe believed to be of Roman date (IOW-E2E708) was given to the Isle of Wight Heritage Service. The Treasure Act also provides a mechanism for finders and landowners to waive their right to a reward, so that museums can acquire these finds at reduced or no cost. Full data is not yet available for 2014, but in 2013, 166 parties generously waived their right to a reward for 119 separate cases, at a total value exceeding £3,500.

Recording finds

Only when a find is properly recorded can it truly contribute to knowledge. Metal-detecting and field-walking have a tremendously important role in helping archaeologists understand the past, bringing to light new sites and object types. These finds, discovered by the public and recorded by the PAS, are transforming our understanding of Britain’s past.



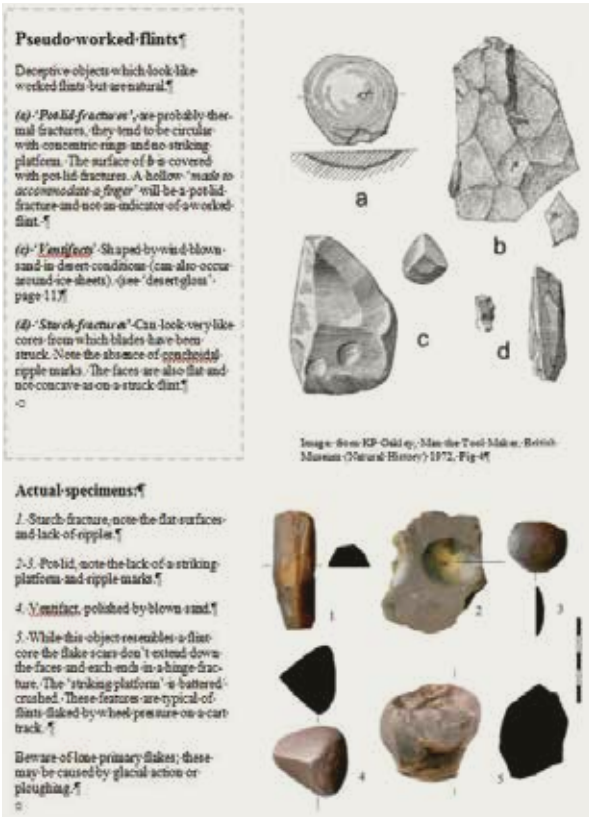
CAM-5EAB98
Stone axe from Maxey, Peterborough. Without a petrological section it is not possible to be sure of its source, but its shape and side facets suggest that it belongs to Group VI, Great Langdale in Cumbria, so it travelled c. 280km.

Prehistoric flint and stone c. 500,000– c. 2100 BC



Map and spread
Maps showing the distribution of stone axes recorded by the PAS (Katherine Robbins).

(Below)
A page from *Recording Flint and Stone: a guide and protocol*.



Prehistoric flint and stone finds can be spectacular, but unlikely to grab the headlines. PAS data instead represents the slow, incremental, build-up of knowledge of remote times from which little else survives. 2,463 records of prehistoric flint and stone were added to the PAS database in 2014. Of the flints, 313 were groups of multiple finds from one location.

Scrapers, flakes and arrowheads

Flint scrapers were the most commonly discovered tool, with 651 examples. Even more frequently found were waste flakes, providing crucial evidence for sites where flint tools were made. 178 arrowheads were also recorded, which are particularly important as they can be assigned to a relatively precise period of the past. These included 81 Mesolithic (c. 9000–c. 4000 BC) microliths, 44 Neolithic (c. 4000–c. 3300 BC) leaf-shaped arrowheads, 18 late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age (c. 3300–c. 1500 BC) oblique types, and 35 Early Bronze Age (c. 2400–c. 1500) barbed-and-tanged arrowheads.

Stone axes

36 Neolithic (c. 4000–2400 BC) stone axes were added to the 316 already recorded with the PAS. Since 1952 the Implement Petrology Group (IPG) has recorded about 9,000 English, Welsh and Scottish stone axes. The distribution of these datasets complement each other (see map), but with PAS additions in Cumbria and the Isle of Wight. Using petrological microscopes to examine thin sections of rock cut from stone axes the IPG has been able to identify the sources of many of the axes. Much comes from outcrops of hard rock in the north and west, then distributed across Britain. Stone axes are widely distributed but patterns exist: axes made from a green coloured volcanic rock originating at Great Langdale, Cumbria, are common in Lincolnshire and East Yorkshire, where axes originating in Cornwall are also found. It remains unclear how and why these stone axes were transported so far and in such numbers. The term ‘stone axe trade’ has been used to describe this phenomenon but the use of stone axes in recent traditional societies suggests that something far more complex and interesting was going on. Hopefully a closer working relationship between the PAS and IPG can help further this debate.

A new way to record flint

In 2014 the PAS published *Recording Flint and Stone: a guide and protocol*, which describes how to identify worked flint and record a range of lithic implements. When recording flint and stone finds, consistency is vital. In the past similar objects could be classified in a number of ways, but the guide provides a standard set of terms. Flints are notoriously difficult to photograph, but now, by using a simple code, PAS staff can define what they see. Likewise, waste flakes left by flint working are important but some sites yield hundreds of examples. It is impractical to describe each piece and a simple methodology has been developed to allow these large groups to be recorded for future analysis.

Kevin Leahy

Bronze Age c. 2350–c. 700 BC

Of the 879 Bronze Age finds recorded in 2014, 49 are Treasure cases, of which 21 are base-metal groups or hoards. This material is generally representative of metal objects used in Britain at this time but also includes some significant individual pieces.

Spectacular gold finds

Among the precious metal finds was a spectacular Early Bronze Age (c. 2400–c. 2000 BC) gold *lunula* from Dorset, found in two pieces (DOR-2198F8). These are extremely rare finds for Britain, being more common in Ireland. The findspot is also unusual as most of the previous examples were recovered in coastal or upland locations. The surface of the object is richly adorned with geometric decoration, which is likely to have been repeated on the missing horn. Other gold items reported include beads, penannular rings and bracelets, including a very unusual folded fragment of Middle Bronze Age date from the Isle of Wight (IOW-0195D2), found with a bundle of compressed ribbons wedged within the fold.



DOR-2198F8
Gold lunula from Dorset,
found in two pieces.

(Below)
IOW-0195D2
Middle Bronze Age folded
fragment of gold ornament.



BERK-2C1FC7
Early Bronze Age dagger
from Oxfordshire.

(Below)
NMS-301E17
Massive Middle Bronze
Age dirk, now in Norwich
Castle Museum.

Base-metal finds

Most base-metal hoards (which are all Treasure) are Late Bronze Age in date, and are widely distributed. These so-called ‘founder’s hoards’ can contain broken or unfit metal objects, ingots, casting waste, as well as often complete objects in a finished state. From Suffolk (SF-2596D4) was found an example of 47 fragments, consisting of a hammer, spearhead, blades and a very rare plate scrap that dates to c. 1140–c. 1020 BC. Base-metal single finds found are of diverse types, covering the whole Bronze Age. Included are flat axeheads, palstaves, flanged axeheads, socketed axeheads, dirks, rapiers, sword fragments, scabbard chapes, two pins and a bracelet fragment.

Bronze Age blades

Knives and daggers include an Early Bronze Age example from Oxfordshire (BERK-2C1FC7). The findspot, close to two (now destroyed) burial mounds, suggests that the object’s deposition is related to the surrounding burial complex. Another Early Bronze Age ‘Wessex-type’ dagger found this year was discovered in Cambridgeshire (NMS-E5876E).

An offering to the gods?

A Middle Bronze Age copper-alloy dirk from Kenninghall, Norfolk (NMS-301E17), the first recorded example from the county, is an exceptional object. It was probably never meant to be used as a weapon and is likely to have been deliberately bent, perhaps when it was given as an offering to the gods. It was ploughed up 12 years ago and acquired by Norwich Museums Service in 2014, having been used as a doorstep (!) for more than a decade.

Scabbard chape

Chapes (to protect the end of scabbards) are uncommon, but include one found in Dorset (DOR-6844E1). This is triangular in shape with a sub-ovular knob at the base. There is a small hole on either side to attach it to a scabbard, which was probably leather. This typical and relatively widespread form dates to the Late Bronze Age, c. 1050–c. 800 BC.





DOR-6844E1
Late Bronze Age
chape from Dorset.

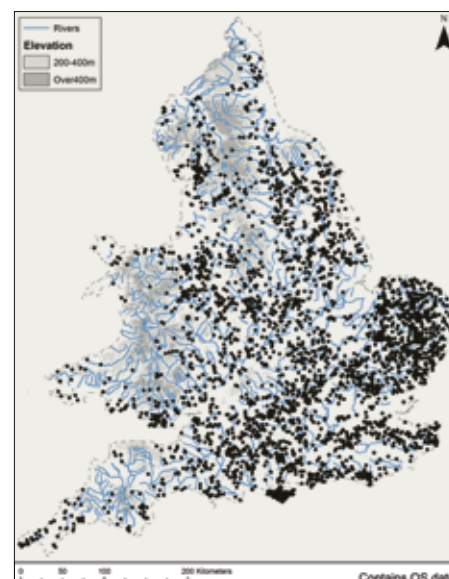
Axeheads

Flanged axeheads include a complete specimen from South Yorkshire (SWYOR-036213), of the Middle Bronze Age, dating to c.1400–c.1300 BC. Relatively common are Late Bronze Age socketed axeheads, of which a complete bronze ribbed example with a square mouth and relatively straight sides from Shropshire (HESH-ECF938) is of particular interest. This axehead fits well with those known from the Ewart Park phase, c. 950–c. 750 BC, though due to its straight sides, it might date to the transition period of the Bronze and Iron Ages known as Llyn Fawr, extending the date range for this object to c. 650 BC.

Sally Worrell

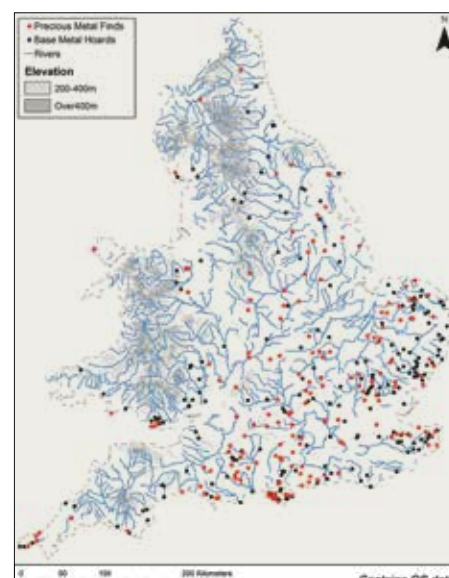
MAP 1: Bronze Age finds

(Katherine Robbins)
Between 1997 and March 2015, 11,272 metal finds of Bronze Age date have been recorded. Careful plotting of these finds reveals a very widespread distribution, the only gaps occurring in upland, low-lying and modern urbanised areas.



MAP 2: Bronze Age precious metal finds and base-metal hoards

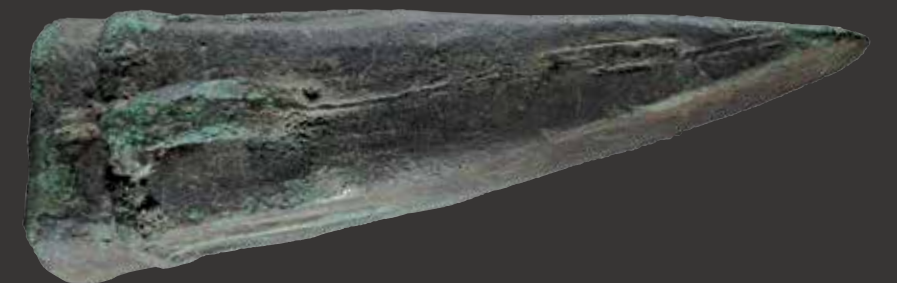
(Katherine Robbins)
In the same period 757 Bronze Age Treasure cases have been reported, of which 190 are gold and 567 are base-metal groups. The distribution of the precious metal finds shows that they are most common in southern and central England, though there is significant local variation.



SWYOR-036213
Middle Bronze Age flanged
axehead from South Yorkshire.



HESH-ECF938
Unusual type of Late Bronze
Age axehead from Shropshire.



Iron Age c. 800 BC –AD 43

1,118 Iron Age finds were reported to the PAS in 2014. Of these, 473 were coins, including a very interesting ‘three wheels’ type gold quarter *stater* from Hampshire (HAMP-9E612E).

Rare axe

A rare Sompting type socketed axe, dating to c. 800–600 BC, was found in South Yorkshire (YORYM-FB2336). It was discovered in unusually good condition, and is decorated with collar mouldings and rib-and-circle and rib-and-pellet motifs. Its elaborate decoration and small size (62 mm) suggest it was used as a pendant or charm, even though it has been sharpened and polished.

Dagger scabbard

An incomplete Early Iron Age (La Tene I) copper-alloy dagger scabbard, dating to the late 4th century BC, was found in London (LON-0012B7). Like other objects of its kind it is formed of multiple parts – a scabbard plate, the chape and two rivet bands. It is one of several examples from southern England, forming a compact group of discoveries from the Thames west of central London. Their form suggests British manufacture, perhaps in the south. On the continent many examples come from graves, but the majority in Britain are found in river beds.

Beautiful brooches

319 Iron Age brooches have been recorded this year, of which 32 date to the Early and ten to the Middle Iron Age. Most striking is a very unusual Middle Iron Age (La Tene II) brooch from Shropshire (HESH-B7DED5) for which no direct parallel has been found. The wheel-like brooch is formed from three conjoining circular hoops, within each is a saltire-cross formed of spokes emanating from a central projecting boss. The remaining brooch discoveries date to the Late Iron Age and early Roman periods, highlighting the increasing popularity of brooch wearing (and deposition) from the 1st century BC onwards (see for example DOR-51B466). The distribution of these is skewed to the eastern counties.

DOR-51B466

Late Iron Age brooch from Dorset. Such objects highlight the increased popularity of brooch wearing in the Iron Age.



HESH-B7DED5

Middle Iron Age brooch without known parallel, found in Shropshire.



YORY-FB2336

A rare axehead from South Yorkshire, beautifully decorated.

LON-0012B7

Early Iron Age dagger scabbard from London.



HAMP-85188B

Unusual toggle of baluster form found in Hampshire.

**Horse gear**

Late Iron Age finds of harness and vehicle equipment include 43 terrets of different varieties and 12 linch-pins. The creation of these elaborately decorated items is closely linked to the display of status and power by political and warrior elites. This includes a flat-ring terret, decorated with triangular motifs inlaid with red enamel, from Oxfordshire (BERK-684B94) and a very unusual and crescent-headed linch-pin from Norfolk (NMS-F36EDA). An incomplete copper-alloy three-link bridle bit, dating to 100 BC–AD 80 from Cambridgeshire (BH-9EDAF7), is another unusual piece. Although no exact parallel could be found, a group of similar three-link bridles was found in a ritual deposit of Middle to Late Iron Age metalwork at Llyn Cerrig Bach, Anglesey. A triangular mount with openwork decoration from Lancashire (LANCUM-DC3370), dating to c. 100 BC–AD 200, is another rare item of horse gear.

Toggles

The diversity of style of the 33 toggles (probably used as harness equipment) recorded in 2014 is noteworthy. Of particular interest is an example of baluster form found in Hampshire (HAMP-85188B). Strap distributors or junctions formed from three rings joined with a central boss decorated with a stylised human head in relief are also a characteristic find of harness equipment of this period, including a newly reported example from Oxfordshire (BERK-D68FC4). Also very unusual is a strap junction with three circular rings and a horse's head extending from the centre that was found in Cheshire (LVPL-271241). A recent find from Norfolk (NMS-C04BC6) illustrates another type. It consists of a triangular arrangement of three globular elements conjoined by short bars. One globe is attached to and is partly enclosed within a casting sprue. This is rare evidence of the manufacturing process, as it would have normally been removed.

Feasting equipment

Elaborate feasting equipment became more frequent in the Late Iron Age. Fragments of tankard handles found in County Durham (BM-C91BD1), North Yorkshire (SWYOR-BEC04D), Northamptonshire (NARC-708393) and Dorset (DOR-EA34FA), are significant additions to the corpus of these vessels.

LANCUM-DC3370

This triangular mount with openwork decoration from Lancashire is a rare find.

**BERK-684B94**

Red enamelling is used to show-off this flat-ring terret from Oxfordshire.

**Iron Age head**

The most important Iron Age object recorded this year in terms of its iconography is the seemingly complete copper-alloy head from the Wetwang area, East Yorkshire (YORYM-C0BAAA), dated to the Late Iron Age and Roman interface. It is hollow and spherical with stylised features rendered by moulding and incisions. Similar heads are known from other objects, including a mount from Kent (KENT-9AF2C1). This has been interpreted as a possible vessel mount and the Wetwang head may have served the same function.

Sally Worrell, Sam Moorhead and Vincent Drost

YORYM-C0BAAA

Unusual Late Iron Age head from East Yorkshire, thought to be a vessel mount.





LVPL-1F8252
Copper-alloy figure of
Minerva, Roman goddess of
wisdom, from Lincolnshire.

Roman c. AD 43–410



BERK-B60E47
Figure of 'boy with goose'
from Berkshire, which was to
become a popular image.

Roman material accounts for the highest proportion of PAS recorded finds, representing 37% of 2014's total. Object types vary considerably, from dress accessories to many hundreds of coins.

Religious beliefs

Interesting items associated with religious belief include a copper-alloy figurine of Minerva from Lincolnshire (LVPL-1F8252), showing the deity in a classicising form, with crested helmet and short-sleeved shirt. Another figurine, from Berkshire (BERK-B60E47), is unusual, depicting a seated boy gripping a goose around the neck and shoulders. This is a small-scale representation of a genre figure of Hellenistic origin, derived from the 'Boy with Goose' series of sculptures, attributed by Pliny to the sculptor Boethos of Chalcedon. In this case the boy is naked and a pair of small wings sprouts from his back, an attribute of the god Cupid.

Animal figurines

Animal figurines are especially numerous. A near complete solid copper-alloy figurine of a standing bull from Hertfordshire (BH-98132A) conveys the potency of the beast through the modelling of its powerful forelimbs and dewlap. Unlike some other examples, it lacks the band (*dorsuale*) around its stomach marking it out for sacrifice.



BH-98132A
Figurine of a standing
bull from Hertfordshire.

Roman coins
(from top left)
Gold *solidus* of Magnentius (IOW-923F8F), bronze medallion of Marcus Aurelius (LON-8553C1), and *radiata* of Maximian I (HAMP-DD7E6B).

Celebrating the human form

Anthropomorphic depictions include a furniture mount from Norfolk (NMS-800B35), showing a bust of a young male, combining attributes of two gods – a wreath of vine leaves associated with Bacchus and the winged cap (*petasos*) of Mercury. Other gear used for ‘the symposium’ (drinking party) include a jug handle from near Milton Keynes (WMID-0503C1), the base of which shows a boy with eyes inlaid with white metal, and a mount from Kent (KENT-FE87D8) depicting the bust of a young male figure. While these are not identifiable individuals, their presence evokes a world of luxury. Also of note is a mount from Staffordshire (WMID-4CEB20), which probably adorned a *chamfron*, armour for horses’ faces. The object is in the form of a human head wearing a high cap. A similar mount was excavated at the Roman fortress in Caerleon, Wales.

Roman coins

18,195 Roman coins were added to the PAS database this year, bringing the total to 212,085. The PAS continues to record a considerable number of large assemblages which are contributing significantly to our understanding of settlement pattern in Roman Britain. Significant coin finds include two gold *solidi* for the emperors Magnentius (r. 350–353) (IOW-923F8F) and Magnus Maximus (r. 383–388) (WILT-B5E616). Previously unpublished coins have also come to light, such as a medallion of Marcus Aurelius as Caesar (r. 139–161) found in the River Thames (LON-8553C1) and a *sestertius* of Clodius Albinus as Caesar (r. 193–196) (FASAM-92F583). In his research for a new volume of *Roman Imperial Coinage*, Sam Moorhead (Finds Adviser) is finding a large number of previously unpublished coins of Carausius and Allectus recorded by the PAS, such as a piece struck for Maximian by Carausius in around AD 291–292 (HAMP-DD7E6B).

Diverse selection of brooches

After coins, brooches are the most abundant Roman find, with 2,101 Romano-British examples, plus another 277 of Late Iron Age or early Roman date, recorded in 2014. Zoomorphic brooches are especially numerous and diverse, and include one depicting a lion from Cumbria (LANCUM-9166A9), a hippocampus (horse-fish hybrid) from Oxfordshire (BERK-451FB5) and a horse from Suffolk (SF-D19B27). A stag brooch from Oxfordshire (SUR-AC2EFB), of likely continental origin, is very finely modelled with stylised rendering of its musculature using enamel.



NMS-800B35
Furniture mount from Norfolk showing the bust of a young male.





BERK-451FB5
Brooch in the form of a hippocampus, a horse-fish hybrid, from Oxfordshire.

SWYOR-C74924
Copper-alloy chatelaine in the form of a cockerel with enamelled eye, from East Yorkshire.



NMS-065376
Finger-ring inscribed 'long life to you Dominica', found in Norfolk.

DOR-695A14
Copper-alloy padlock in the form of a human head from Dorset.



Personal adornment

Other forms of personal adornment were also numerous, and include 255 finger-rings and eight isolated *intaglios*. A 'Brancaster type' gold finger-ring from Norfolk (NMS-065376) has an inscription on its bezel *Domnica Vivas* (Long life to you, Dominica), a typical good fortune motto. In addition there are also bracelets, hairpins, necklaces, ear-rings and mirrors, including a lead mirror-case fragment from Suffolk (SF-109D27).

Animal art

Zoomorphic objects reported include part of a copper-alloy *chatelaine* (manicure set) in the shape of a cockerel (SWYOR-C74924). No parallel for this object is known. Other items relating to the care of the body and cosmetic modification include nail-cleaners, tweezers, ear scoops, *ligulae* (an item used as a scoop), spoon-probes and a possible *strigil* (tool for scraping dirt from the body). Items associated with Roman medical equipment extend to a scalpel from Norfolk (NMS-66D8D8), a pair of iron epilation forceps from County Durham (BM-1F8675), and a handle, probably from a pair of uvula forceps, from Somerset (SOM-6EA483), probably used for uvulectomy and haemorrhoidectomy. These items are a rare witness to the repertoire of medical techniques introduced to Britain during the Roman period.

A rare padlock

An incomplete copper-alloy padlock in the form of a human head was found in Dorset (DOR-695A14). The padlock is almost identical to examples recently recorded in North Yorkshire (YORYM-89CD53) and Lincolnshire (LIN-3BC5E5). Objects of this type have never been previously recorded through excavation, highlighting the archaeological value of metal-detector finds.

Roman tools

A find of special note this year is the assemblage from Wiltshire (WILT-0E9BA9) of 18 iron tools including awls, knife, shears, lock elements, linch-pin, a possible latch-lifter and a mower's anvil (a Roman introduction into Britain used for sharpening scythes). This assemblage is likely to date from the 4th century.

Sally Worrell, Sam Moorhead and Vincent Drost

Early medieval c. 410–1066



GLO-4E0EBD
This equal-armed Anglo-Saxon brooch is an unusual find for Gloucestershire.

NLM-7F954A
A gilded silver pendant from North Lincolnshire, which shows Odin and his ravens.

Unexpected discoveries

As more and more early medieval finds are recorded some well-known Anglo-Saxon object types are being found well outside their main distribution area. A late 5th- or 6th-century wrist clasp found north of Telford, West Midlands (WMID-029DED), is a common type, but was found 80 miles west of any other of its type on the PAS database. An equal-armed brooch (GLO-4E0EBD) from Gloucestershire is an unusual find so far west. Its form, with long thin triangular ends, appears to only be found in England, although it may have been influenced by Frankish or Scandinavian designs. It is mainly found in Kent and the Isle of Wight, and was probably in fashion during the 6th century. A rectangular buckle of similar date (LVPL-BFBC1E) was found in Cheshire. It has a wide curved groove for decoration, which is now missing, but a series of surviving raised triangles suggests that the ornament may have been a zigzag. It is intriguing to find an Anglo-Saxon object of this type so far west at a surprisingly early date – the best parallel on the PAS database is from Hampshire, also found in 2014 (HAMP-A0905A). These finds remind us that although early Anglo-Saxon culture was concentrated in the south and east, people still travelled, communicated and interacted, and as part of this occasionally dropped and lost their possessions. These finds are not readily recoverable by any means other than metal-detecting, giving a unique window into medieval life.

Scandinavian influence

From the later part of the period, several finds of personal jewellery have emphasised the contribution of Scandinavian culture to early medieval life. A gilded silver pendant from North Lincolnshire (NLM-7F954A) is decorated with an image of the god Odin flanked by his ravens. They are shown with their beaks close to Odin's ears, speaking to him. This 10th-century pendant is of a type not found in England or Wales before – several are known from Russia, and two from Sweden. Another pendant from Kent (KENT-0CE794) is of similar date, but is more likely to have been made in England. It appears to be a copper-alloy copy of a very famous pair of silver pendants found in a burial at Saffron Walden, Essex, in 1876. These pendants have generated considerable academic interest since their discovery, and their idiosyncratic design suggests English design and manufacture. The new find is alike in almost every respect, and strengthens the argument for local manufacture somewhere in south-east England.



DENO-698D71
Die for making Viking Age pendants. Examples of objects from such dies are known to be made of gold.

Pendant die

A worn and corroded copper-alloy object from Nottinghamshire (DENO-698D71) is a die for making Viking Age pendants. It would have been used to create pressed silver or gold sheet appliques which formed the centre of a sandwich, with a backplate behind and filigree work on top. This type of pendant was found in the hoard of gold jewellery found in the 19th century on Hiddensee, off the German Baltic coast. The finding of the die not only sheds light on how the pendants were made, but also shows us they were being manufactured in England. Across Scandinavia and Europe these pendants and dies are found at royal and aristocratic Viking sites, but there is as yet no hint of any other prestige finds from the findspot area.

A spectacular hoard

One of the more spectacular early medieval finds in 2014 was the hoard of 5,248 Anglo-Saxon pennies and two cut halfpennies found at Lenborough, Buckinghamshire (BUC-7FE6F2). The coins date to the reigns of Æthelred II (r. 978–1016) and Cnut (r. 1016–1035) and initial study suggests the hoard may comprise two separate groups of coins, though buried together. They were wrapped up in a lead sheet which was pinched at each end to ensure the coins stayed inside.

Unusual coins

Several hundred single finds of early medieval coins were also recorded this year, including a 7th-century gold Merovingian *tremissis* minted at Orléans, France (BH-9B6B89). These are found in small numbers in England and come from the initial phase of regular coin use in Anglo-Saxon England. The find of a silver penny of Ragnald I, the Hiberno-Norse king of York (r. c. 919–921) from East Yorkshire (NLM-F304C3) is also important. Ragnald's coins are extremely rare, most being known from the Bossal/Flaxton Hoard (Yorkshire) of 1807, meaning that any new finds add vital new information.

Old coins, new uses

The re-use of silver coins to exhibit the cross, presumably as a form of Christian devotion, is an interesting phenomenon of the early medieval period. A pierced *styca*, in the name of Æthelred II of Northumbria (r. 841–848), from Oxfordshire (WMID-836844), is noteworthy since it is copper-alloy. It is also unusual for *styca*s to be found outside Yorkshire.

Helen Geake and John Naylor



WMID-836844
Pierced styca of Æthelred II from Oxfordshire.

NLM-F304C3
Hiberno-Norse silver penny of Ragnald I of York.



BH-9B6B89
Gold Merovingian *tremissis* minted at Orleans and found in Buckinghamshire.



Medieval c. 1066–1500



HAMP-F1A5D8
Seal matrix of Herbert the Cleric, which was found in Hampshire.

WILT-22DED4
Purse bar from Wiltshire with a garbled inscription.

16,744 medieval finds were recorded by the PAS in 2014, reflecting all aspects of life in the Middle Ages.

Seal matrices

Matrices, for producing wax seals on documents, are particularly interesting as they often have inscriptions that identify their owner. The variety of metals used, and quality of craftsmanship, show seals were used by both the wealthy and less well off, serving as their signature on official documents. An important example names Fulk FitzWarin (BERK-FDCFD2), styling himself as a mounted warrior, in full armour, blazoned with heraldry. This Fulk is believed to be the powerful knight who was banished by King John (r. 1199–1216) in 1201, and subsequently took refuge at Stanley Abbey, Wiltshire, only 20 miles from where this object was found. Religious seals recorded include that of Herbert the Cleric (HAMP-F1A5D8), who chose for the design on his seal a pelican (in piety) taking flesh from its own body to feed its young, a symbol associated with Christ's sacrifice. Matrices were also commonly owned by women. PAS examples include the personal seals of Isabella Bernon (SF-6076E3), Florence (SUR-DC6383) and Isabella de Exstene (SWYOR-9CA78A), who chose simple (but popular) designs – a star, a flower and a bird of prey.

Interesting inscriptions

Although literacy was uncommon in the Middle Ages, inscriptions on objects are common, even if the words are sometimes hard to decipher or prove nonsensical. An incomplete purse bar from Wiltshire (WILT-22DED4) has a confused inscription, apparently reading 'NON NIH [...] DEON', perhaps derived from a religious phrase. Words are often joined and abbreviated, as in the inscription on an annular brooch from Norfolk (NMS-917C53), which reads '+IHESVSNAZARENVS' (for Jesus of Nazareth) on one side, and '+AVEMARIAGRACIAP' (for Hail Mary, full of Grace) on the other. The Ave Maria prayer also appears on a brooch fragment from Warwickshire (SUR-FA91F6) and a buckle from Lincolnshire (LIN-D42378). Even humbler objects have inscriptions. A lead-alloy candle holder from London (LON-6C500D), has the legend 'DIEX:GART:TOVS:CHEVS:KI:CHI:SONT:ET:K E:M:F:' (for may God protect all those are here and those who made me), and on a spindle whorl (WMID-F50AEC) appears the word 'MARIA' (Mary). Both objects show how closely medieval people connected with the divine.



WMID-BC01F1
Gold lozenge plate of St George, probably from a reliquary, found in Warwickshire.

BERK-FDCFD2
Important seal matrix of Fulk FitzWarren, who was banished by King John. The object was found in Wiltshire, close to the site where this knight took refuge.

Saintly images

The importance of religion is also apparent through imagery, highlighting the need for pictures to convey messages, especially to the illiterate. A simple gold lozenge plate from Warwickshire (WMID-BC01F1) has the beautifully executed image of St George, shown impaling a dragon with his lance. The object has been likened to a backing-plate upon the extravagant 15th-century Middleham Jewel. Saints' images were particularly necessary on pilgrim badges, which were brought as souvenirs, show-pieces and for their wonder-working powers. An incomplete lead-alloy example from Swansea (NMGW-C39755), perhaps showing the Virgin and Child, is a rare find for Wales. Another lead badge, from London (LON-A918A5), shows the presentation of St John the Baptist's head following his beheading, and is associated with his shrine at Amiens.

Magnificent money

Religious imagery and inscriptions often come together on coins. A striking example from Devon (SOM-66F03F) is a gold angel of Edward IV (second reign, 1471–1483), which has the obverse showing St Michael slaying the dragon. The reverse depicts a ship bearing a large shield (of England) and cross, and has the inscription 'PER CRUCEM TVA[M] SALVA NOS XPC REDEMPT[OR]' (through thy cross save us, Christ, our redeemer). The utilisation of religious imagery can also be seen on brooches made from coins. Examples include a converted penny of William II (r. 1087–1100) found in Hampshire (HAMP-C95B44) and a French *gros tournois* of Louis IX (r. 1226–1270) from North Yorkshire (DUR-977A16).

Michael Lewis and John Naylor



SOM-66F03F
Gold angel of Edward IV, from Devon.



Post-medieval c. 1500 – present

The PAS is selective in recording post-1700 items, focusing on those that are particularly unusual, rather than industrially produced. Even so, the PAS recorded 16,026 post-medieval finds in 2014.

Knives

Objects from the River Thames foreshore can be found remarkably well preserved. Finds include an almost complete knife, from the early 16th century (LON-6EAAD0). It has an iron blade and wooden handle and is decorated with copper-alloy fittings. It is believed to be Flemish in origin. Also found was part of a knife (LON-6D00B8), made of bone, and decorated with a male holding a sword. This was also an import, probably from Germany or the Low Countries. Knife finds from arable land include a copper-alloy handle from Kent (KENT-963C46) in the form of an armed male figure in 17th-century dress with a small dog. More common are knife terminals, which can be decorative. Examples include a dog's head (NMGW-DEA35D), heads of males (IOW-0D565A & DOR-D84E88), a horse's hoof (SOM-479FAE), and hammers (FAKL-9FC993 & LIN-F8D002).

LON-6EAAD0
16th-century knife
from the River Thames
foreshore, originally from
the Low Countries.



KENT-963C46
Knife handle from Kent,
showing an armed male
with dog.



SUR-F49A73
Unusual cut-out of Britannia
from a penny of George V
from Berkshire.



SWYOR-12F767
Figurine from South
Yorkshire showing a male
in classical style.

Humans and animals

Figurines recorded this year show continued interest in the human form. A lead example from Cheshire (LVPL-9A23E2) is of a girl or woman carrying a pitcher in her right hand, with the left on her hip. Another, but of a naked female, discovered in West Yorkshire (SWYOR-9C72C7), is possibly from the 19th century. An incomplete figurine of a semi-naked male in athletic pose was discovered in South Yorkshire (SWYOR-12F76F), seemingly imitating Roman statuettes. Some animal statues are also of interest, and include a figurine from East Yorkshire (YORYM-902008), perhaps made as a plaything, seemingly of a goat or ram, lying down. Figurative art also forms part of the design of most coins, and sometimes this can be used for other purposes. For example, a penny of George VI (r. 1936–1952) found in Berkshire (SUR-F49A73) has been modified by cutting around the figure of Britannia.

100 years on

On the centenary of the start of the First World War it is fitting to highlight associated items recorded. A tobacco tin from Oxfordshire (SUR-961965), fashioned from an aluminium mess tin, shows a pair of crossed rifles and the flags of Great Britain and the United States, and has the inscription 'WORLD WAR'. Another legend, on the side, reads 'YPRES', the site of five battles in the Great War. A Victory medal, also from Surrey (SUR-424585), bears the name of Private F Wiltshire of the Army Service Corps. An unusual find from Cumbria (LANCUM-314B71) was a ten Pfennig *Notgeld*. Although rarely found in Britain, half a million pieces of this 'emergency money' were issued in 1918. A find in Kent of 10 centimes of Albert I of Belgium (r. 1909–1934) may also be related to the First World War (KENT-82D496). The coin has been modified into a brooch, and a glass setting placed into the hole in the centre, leaving the inscription 'ROYAUME DE BELGIQUE' (Kingdom of Belgium). It is possible that the brooch belonged to a British soldier, or a loved one, or to one of the 200,000 Belgian refugees who came to Britain as a result of the conflict.

Michael Lewis and John Naylor



LANCUM-314B71
10 Pfennig *Notgeld* issued
in Germany during the First
World War. It is an unusual
discovery in Cumbria.





Table 1
PAS records
and finds, and
Treasure cases,
by geographical
area (2014). ¹

¹ Data downloaded
26 January 2015 and
includes the Seaton Hoard
of c. 22,000 Roman coins.

County	PAS records	PAS finds	Treasure cases
Bath & NE Somerset	89	95	4
Bedfordshire	479	503	12
Berkshire	879	1,096	16
Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes	1,245	6,700	24
Cambridgeshire & Peterborough	1,514	2,685	22
Cheshire	716	946	13
Cornwall & Isles of Scilly	471	476	14
Cumbria	381	512	11
Derbyshire	152	212	3
Devon, Plymouth & Torbay	716	22,880	25
Dorset	1,173	1,274	35
Durham	468	471	10
Essex, Southend & Thurrock	1,398	2,128	81
Gloucestershire & S Gloucestershire	1,315	1,874	17
Hampshire, Southampton & Portsmouth	2,117	2,537	40
Herefordshire	179	197	4
Hertfordshire	1,413	1,494	25
Isle of Wight	1,525	1,713	17
Kent & Medway	1,222	1,405	33
Lancashire	390	415	13
Leicestershire	604	656	10
Lincolnshire	4,947	6,617	53
Lincolnshire, NE	66	66	1
Lincolnshire, N	1,052	1,205	8
London, Gtr	659	800	5
Manchester, Gtr	16	53	2
Merseyside	40	42	1
Norfolk	11,524	15,209	119
Northamptonshire	683	730	20
Northumberland	190	193	4
Nottinghamshire	536	787	10
Oxfordshire	1,632	2,151	28
Rutland	174	206	1
Shropshire & Telford	516	597	9
Somerset & N Somerset	1,416	1,943	22
Staffordshire	644	712	11
Suffolk	7,424	11,256	72
Surrey	819	1,043	6
Sussex, E	725	754	10
Sussex, W	630	643	9
Teesside, Redcar & Cleveland	11	11	0
Tyne & Wear	6	6	0
Warwickshire	934	1,128	16
West Midlands	32	32	2
Wiltshire & Swindon	3,173	6,939	31
Worcestershire	1,051	1,208	18
Yorkshire, E	1,928	2,020	19
Yorkshire, N	2,183	2,316	55
Yorkshire, S	378	1,246	8
Yorkshire, W	423	1,626	7
Wales	579	622	29
Northern Ireland	0	0	2
data not yet available	1,259	1,364	1
TOTAL	64,096	113,794	1,008

YORM-902008
Goat or ram figure from
East Yorkshire, which was
perhaps used as a toy.

The counties recording the most PAS finds were Norfolk, followed by Suffolk and Lincolnshire. Most Treasure cases were reported in Norfolk, Essex and Suffolk.

Table 2
PAS records
by period,
where known/
recorded
(2014).

	Stone Age	Bronze Age	Iron Age	Roman	Early medieval	Medieval	Post- medieval	Total
2014	2,065	879	1,118	23,434	2,458	16,774	16,026	62,754
%	3.29	1.4	1.78	37.34	3.92	26.73	25.54	

Roman finds accounted for the highest proportion of finds recorded, followed by medieval, then post-medieval finds. Together these represent almost 90% of all PAS recorded finds.

Table 3
Method of
discovery,
where known
recorded
(2014).

	Metal- detecting	Chance find while metal- detecting	Field- walking	Other chance find/ gardening	Controlled archaeological investigation	Building/ agricultural work
2014	60,241	1,417	1,341	740	296	47
%	94.01	2.21	2.09	1.16	0.46	0.07

More than 96% of finds recorded were found by metal-detector users, either while metal-detecting or spotted 'eyes only'.

Table 4
Metal-detecting
clubs and club
members
(2008 v 2014).

	Metal-detecting clubs	Club Members	Independents
2008	160	5,968	1,320
2014	201	6,692	1,844
	+26%	+12%	+40%

Between 2008 and 2014 the number of known metal-detecting clubs has increased by 26%, with membership increasing by 12%. In addition, the number of known independent detectorists has increased by 40%.

Table 5
Findspot
precision
(2014).

	4 fig	6 fig	8 fig	10 fig	12 fig
2014	392	15,626	21,267	24,358	56
%	0.63	25.33	34.47	39.48	0.09

In 2014, 99% of completed records had at least a 6-figure National Grid Reference. This level of precision is necessary if finds are to contribute to archaeological knowledge.

Table 6
Land use,
where known/
recorded
(2014).

Land use	Finds	%
Cultivated land	32,870	91.87
Grassland/heathland	1,149	3.21
Woodland	142	0.4
Coastland	203	0.57
Open fresh water	1,017	2.84
Other	398	1.11

More than 91% of finds were discovered on cultivated land, where they are vulnerable to agricultural damage and natural corrosion processes.

Table 7
Number of
unique visitors,
visits and page
views on the
PAS websites
and database.

Year	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Page views
2010	210,592	371,308	4,233,094
2011	463,160	677,965	4,485,956
2012	543,534	800,080	4,836,783
2013	505,793	767,340	4,775,018
2014	499,481	789,253	5,214,822

Over the last five years the number of unique visitors to the PAS websites and database has increased significantly, though reducing slightly in 2014. This decrease in visitors did not impact on visits and page views, both of which increased this year.

Michael Lewis, Katherine Robbins, Dan Pett and Ian Richardson
Image manipulation: Janina Parol

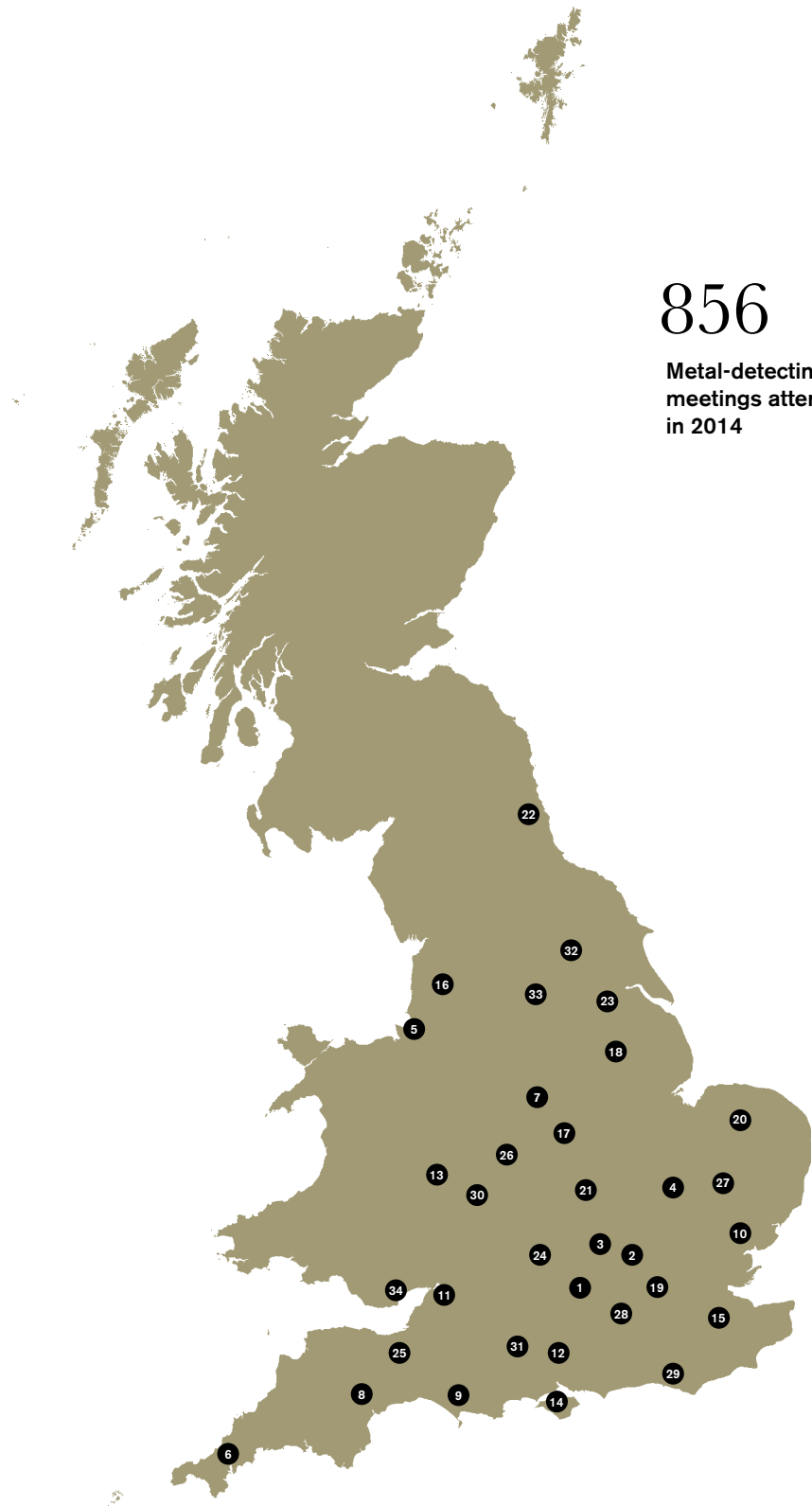


NMGW-C39755
Pilgrim badges such as
this are very rarely found in
Wales, though are relatively
common in England.

Finds Liaison
Officers' locations

38

Finds Liaison Officers



856

Metal-detecting club
meetings attended
in 2014

39,442

People attending
outreach events in 2014

197

Metal-detecting clubs

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