

The Portable  
Antiquities Scheme  
**Annual Report 2017**





# Foreword



Hartwig Fischer  
Director of the  
British Museum

The unique partnership nature of the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) is crucial to its success. It brings together management, expertise, financial and in-kind support, as well as lots of goodwill, in order to deliver the Scheme’s aims – the primary one being to record archaeological finds made by the public to advance knowledge. I would therefore like to thank the Scheme’s 33 principle partners that host and employ PAS posts, as well as the wider partnerships that support the Scheme, both nationally and locally.

The aims and objectives of the PAS, looking to 2020, are being delivered though the PAS Strategy (2015), and taken forward by a series of Working Groups, supported by the Portable Antiquities Advisory Group. I would like to thank all of those involved with these groups, particularly those based in institutions outside the British Museum and its partners directly involved in delivering the PAS; this external expertise is of great value to us all, and once again demonstrates the affection there is for the PAS and what it delivers for archaeological knowledge and public interest in the past.

In 2017 the PAS has also benefited from sources of external funding, not least the Headley Trust (which has once again generously funded PAS Interns), the Heritage Lottery Fund (that is funding PAS Explorer: finds recording in the local community, which supports the PAS volunteer base) and Graham and Joanna Barker (for their funding of the work of the PAS locally). Also, *Treasure Hunting* magazine (which has funded this report) and Historic England and The Searcher magazine (which have supported new leaflets on the revised *Code of Practice for Responsible Metal Detecting and Advice for Landowners*).

Metal-detecting represents a broad spectrum of people, including many individuals with an enthusiastic interest in the past and with a keenness to ensure that their hobby is undertaken responsibly and adds to archaeological understanding. I would especially like to thank these people, and the other finders that discover archaeological objects completely by chance, that have undertaken care with the recovery of these finds, offered them for recording, and – in some cases – also donated them to museums for public benefit. Examples of this generosity are highlighted within the pages of this report.

I would also like to thank the Scheme’s network of Finds Liaison Officers and other staff, not least the managers of those posts, and also the many interns and volunteers who have worked alongside them to help deliver the PAS. It is a great testament to this work that a further 79,353 archaeological finds have been recorded this year and added to the PAS database ([finds.org.uk](https://finds.org.uk)) for archaeological and research purposes, and also for others to enjoy and learn about. It is a remarkable fact that this database of finds, found by people in the community who are not archaeologists, is transforming the archaeological map of England and Wales, and shaping investigation and research for generations to come.

Visiting 'Derbyshire  
Unearthed' at Derby  
Museum & Art Gallery.



## Key points



NMS-B1F206  
Anglo-Saxon pendant  
from Gayton, Norfolk.

### The PAS in 2017

- 79,353 finds were recorded; a total of 1,370,671 within 878,511 records on the PAS database ([finds.org.uk/database](https://finds.org.uk/database)) to date.
- 4,378 individuals offered finds for recording; almost 93% of finds were found by metal-detectorists.
- 93% 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 100m (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 complex later prehistoric riverine wetland ‘ritual’ landscape in Shropshire, a substantial boundary and walled enclosure of Roman date in the Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire, and a post-medieval kiln site at Crockerton, Wiltshire.
- Currently 399 researchers have full access to PAS data, and there are 12,767 registered users in total.
- 657 research projects have used PAS data to date, including 27 major pieces of large-scale research and 132 PhDs.
- 348,376 unique visitors visited the PAS websites and database, making 713,301 visits and 6,045,761 page requests.
- Publications associated with the work of the PAS include reports in *Britannia*, the *British Numismatic Journal*, *Medieval Archaeology* and *Post-Medieval Archaeology*.
- Over 644 outreach events took place, including talks and finds days. Through these, PAS staff had direct contact with at least 38,479 adults and 4,396 children.
- Finds Liaison Officers had regular contact with 133 different metal-detecting clubs, attending 609 club meetings.

### The Treasure Act in 2017

- 1,267 Treasure cases were reported, the largest number ever in a single year. It is hoped that many of these will be acquired by museums for public benefit.
- Interesting new Treasure finds include: an Anglo-Saxon pendant from Gayton, Norfolk (NMS-B1F206), to be acquired by Norwich Castle Museum; a hoard of 45 medieval silver pennies from near Lanchester, County Durham (DUR-8EEC64), acquired by Durham University Museum; and a post-medieval pocket-watch from Nash, Buckinghamshire (BUC-7A4E6C), which the British Museum hopes to acquire.

122 parties waived their right to a reward in 86 Treasure cases reported in 2016; this figure is likely to increase as cases are completed.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> This is the latest year for which figures are compiled.

## Introduction

### Portable antiquities

The Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) records archaeological finds found by the public to advance knowledge, tell the stories of past communities and further public interest in the past. It is a partnership project, managed by the British Museum and the Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales, working with at least 120 partners across England and Wales.

The PAS consists of 40 locally based Finds Liaison Officers (FLOs), covering England and Wales, whose job it is to record archaeological finds made by the public through liaison with finders. In England, this work is coordinated by a Central Unit of two others and five period specialists (Finds Advisers). Additionally, four posts are employed as part of PAST Explorers: finds recording in the local community. In 2017, 303 volunteers (including 102 detectorists) and 13 Headley Trust interns contributed to the work of the PAS.

The PAS (in England) is funded through the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport’s (DCMS) grant in aid to the British Museum, with local partner contributions. Its work is guided by the Portable Antiquities Advisory Group (PAAG), whose membership consists of archaeological, landowner and metal-detecting organisations.<sup>2</sup>

The PAS has five strategic goals (PAS Strategy 2020):

- Advance archaeological knowledge to tell the stories of past peoples and the places where they lived.
- Share archaeological knowledge so that people might learn more about the past, and the archaeology and history of their local area.
- Promote best archaeological practice by finders so that the past is preserved for future generations to learn about and enjoy.
- Support museum acquisitions of archaeological finds so that these discoveries can be saved for future generations, and enjoyed by local people.
- Provide the PAS with long-term sustainability so that archaeological finds found by the public can continue to rewrite our history.

These goals are being taken forward by ‘working groups’, which include PAS staff and local managers, national and local partners, as well as other interested parties.

### Treasure Act 1996

Under the Treasure Act 1996 ([finds.org.uk/treasure](https://finds.org.uk/treasure)) finders have a legal obligation to report finds of potential Treasure to the local coroner in the district in which they were found, though in practice most finders report Treasure finds via their local FLO. The success of the Act is only possible through the work of the PAS.

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.

<sup>2</sup> The membership of PAAG is the Arts Council England, Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers, British Museum, Council for British Archaeology, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, Country Land and Business Association, Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport, Federation of Independent Detectorists, Historic England, Institute of Archaeology (University College London), National Council of Metal Detecting, National Farmers Union, Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales, Natural England, Royal Commission on the Ancient & Historical Monuments of Wales, and the Society for Museum Archaeology.

*The PAS is  
delivered through  
a network of  
national and local  
partners who are  
crucial to the  
Scheme’s success.*

# Outreach and research

The PAS is a partnership project which meets with local people and records their finds to better understand the past.



Alan Graham excavating the Frome Hoard.

The primary aim of the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) is to record archaeological finds made by the public in England and Wales to advance knowledge, tell the stories of past communities and further public interest in the past. Fundamental to achieving this is the way the Scheme reaches out to local people through its network of locally-based Finds Liaison Officers (FLOs). To do this, the PAS also benefits from being a partnership project, working with museums and other heritage institutions across England and Wales, supported by the British Museum and Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales.

## Treasure 20

In 2017 the PAS celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Treasure Act 1996; this law was enacted in 1996, but came into force on 24 September 1997. The British Museum worked with *The Telegraph* to highlight the 'Top 20 Treasure finds' found over the last 20 years as identified by a panel of experts, which was then put to a public vote. Over 10,000 votes were cast, with the Frome Hoard of 52,503 Roman coins topping the list, narrowly ahead of the Staffordshire Hoard of around 4,000 pieces of Anglo-Saxon war-gear.

A Treasure 20 logo was also created, and museums across England, Wales and Northern Ireland (where the Treasure Act is law) were encouraged to make a special effort to exhibit Treasure finds. Over 100 museums across the UK participated, displaying more than 600 Treasure finds, from Maidstone to Newcastle and Belfast to Wrexham.

Many of the FLOs worked with local museums in their area to help celebrate Treasure 20. The Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock, organised an exhibition – *20 Years of Treasure: the Portable Antiquities Scheme in Oxfordshire* – which displayed recent Treasure acquisitions alongside loaned detector finds recorded by the PAS. At Derby Museum & Gallery, Alastair Willis (Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire FLO) curated a display – *Derbyshire Unearthed* – which brought together some locally important Treasure finds, including two coins from the Ashbourne Hoard, one of which was acquired by the British Museum. The Museum of Archaeology, Durham also put on an exhibition – *Everyone's History: 20 Years of the Treasure Act and Portable Antiquities Scheme*.

FLOs also helped organise events around the country on the theme of Treasure 20 to raise awareness of local Treasure finds and the work of the PAS more generally. They were particularly active on social media, and gave talks and organised educational events. In Shropshire a Treasure Trail on finds in the county's museums was produced; this proved very popular. The PAS Conference at the Yorkshire Museum, York, was dedicated to the anniversary of the Treasure Act, where discussions highlighted issues associated with Treasure acquisition, including whether or not there should be a national collecting strategy and how many museums struggle to fundraise for Treasure finds. At the British Museum there was a 'Treasure 'smack-down'', where PAS staff and British Museum curators championed their favourite Treasure finds as part of the Being Human festival for the humanities on the theme of 'lost and found'.





**LON-18B1E4**  
Medieval Mirror case  
from the City of London.



**LIN-2D8870**  
Lead seal matrix of William,  
son of Osbert, from  
Saltfleetby, Lincolnshire.



**LON-890B55**  
Fragment of a Roman  
inscribed plaque from  
Wandsworth, London.

### Advancing archaeological knowledge

The PAS database ([finds.org.uk/database](https://finds.org.uk/database)) is a powerful research tool, being used by archaeologists and academics to learn about the past. The data is not only used to understand the historic landscape and sites of past human habitation, but also the objects these people used and local and regional differences in artefact distribution. Highlighted below are some examples of this research.

### Excavating Anglo-Saxons

In May 2017 an unstratified assemblage of early 6th-century date was found near Spilsby, Lincolnshire. The metal-detected finds included fragments of sleeve clasps, various types of brooches, shield bosses and spears – all of which were indicative of plough-damaged burials. Subsequent excavation directed by Dr Hugh Willmott (University of Sheffield) and Dr Adam Daubney (Lincolnshire FLO) established this to be a previously unknown inhumation cemetery. A further season of fieldwork is planned for 2018 with the aim of assessing the extent, chronology, and state of preservation of the site.

### Reflecting on medieval mirrors

Alison Bazley is a PhD candidate at Royal Holloway, University of London, studying mirrors in later medieval culture. Her research will be use the PAS database to build a comparison between base metal mirror cases found in London and those discovered across Britain, particularly analysing typology and design. Manufacture, trade, perception, use and disposal will be among other themes explored.

### Non-Armigerous seals

Research by Alister Sutherland (University of Leicester) is exploring the non-elite seals and sealing practices of English rural society, during the period c. 1200–1400, addressing themes of identity, status, literacy, locality and region. To do this he is taking an interdisciplinary approach by combining the evidence of seal matrices recorded by the PAS with wax seal impressions and documentary evidence. Geo-referenced PAS data has greatly expanded his source base and enabled the analysis of the seal matrices spatially.

### Latin inscriptions

King's College London is running a project led by Dr John Pearce, examining writing in Latin in rural Roman Britain, by investigating inscriptions on Roman-period objects reported to the PAS. It will involve the participation of a graduate intern, Bethany Waters, who is the recipient of a grant in the King's College London Undergraduate Research Fellowship scheme (KURF).

*‘The PAS is a key source of new discoveries of Latin inscriptions from Britain, from legal texts on military diplomas and invocations on amulets, to names scratched on everyday objects. Individually they offer tantalising glimpses of ancient biographies, collectively they allow us better to understand literacy in the province.’*

Dr John Pearce, Senior Lecturer, King's College London.



Student volunteers at the University of Nottingham recording PAS finds.

### Sharing archaeological knowledge

The PAS is keen to share knowledge about the past with as many people as possible. The partnership nature of the Scheme is a major benefit in this respect. Given FLOs have strong links with museums and other heritage organisations they have a platform to reach audiences impossible to impact alone. Examples of this work include finds days, talks, school activities and object handling sessions. The PAS also benefits from its team of volunteers – as part of PAST Explorers: finds recording in the local community – establishing local community finds recording teams that support the work of FLOs.

### PAST Explorers at Nottingham University

As part of PAST Explorers, Alastair Willis (Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire FLO) visits the University of Nottingham Museum twice a month for volunteer sessions. Here, university students (mostly post-graduates) come along to identify and record objects, as well as write blog posts for the PAST Explorers county pages ([finds.org.uk/counties](https://finds.org.uk/counties)) and also help at outreach events. Some of the volunteers, given their academic research, bring with them specialist knowledge about certain periods or object types which is valuable to the Scheme.

*‘The PAST Explorers volunteer recording group based at the university museum is an excellent way to meet other postgrads from different disciplines and to share our expertise, as well as providing social occasions. Being a PAS volunteer also opens up new training and employment opportunities.’*

Natasha Harlow, former PhD Student, University of Nottingham, and PAST Explorers volunteer.

Excavating at Spilsby.







Laura Burnett (Somerset FLO) examining finds.

#### Anglo-Saxon Archaeology Day

Helen Fowler (Cambridgeshire FLO) was invited to visit Kingfisher Class (Years 3 and 4), at Swaffham Bulbeck CofE Primary School, for a special day on Anglo-Saxon archaeology. Various activities were used to help the children understand archaeology, and how archaeologists interpret the past. The children studied where the Anglo-Saxons had come from, their language, its similarities to modern English, and the art styles used by their craft-workers: they coloured in animal images from PAS finds to understand Anglo-Saxon art, and also drew and designed their own artefacts. There was also an opportunity to handle objects from the Cambridgeshire County Council's archaeological store.

#### Young Archaeologists Club

In March 2017 the Leicestershire Young Archaeologists' Club (YAC) visited Harborough Museum to view the Hallaton Treasure - a spectacular Roman cavalry helmet and some 5,000 Iron Age and Roman coins. Wendy Scott (Leicestershire & Rutland FLO) conducted a handling session of some of these items. As part of the session the group discussed the Treasure process, the contribution of metal-detecting to archaeology, and heritage crime. They also explored the Treasure gallery with Wendy, who answered lots of questions about the objects on display. Many of the YAC members dressed up as Iron Age people, tried on Roman helmets and tried their hands at striking their own Iron Age coins.

*'One of the themes that gave the greatest impact was when we explored heritage crime. As soon as the YAC left the session some parents were asked by their children if they had registered with landowners to get permission for their metal detecting!'*

Debbie Frearson, Leicestershire YAC leader.

People of all ages enjoy working on finds.



'Take One' hands-on activity with Somerset school-children.



Members of the Leicestershire YAC exploring the Hallaton Treasure with Wendy Scott (Leicestershire & Rutland FLO).

#### Take One

The Museum of Somerset, in partnership with local schools, delivered a project to facilitate enquiry-based cross-curricular learning as well as stimulating imaginative teaching. This was inspired by the National Gallery's Take One Picture initiative, and focused on the Taunton Civil War Hoard (SOM-6511E2) – reported as Treasure through the PAS. Project activity included the development of a new Key Stage 2 museum workshop on the English Civil War, staff training at museums across Somerset, and high-quality activities in local schools. The project culminated with an exhibition at the Museum of Somerset. Laura Burnett (Somerset FLO) helped with teacher training at the Museum, to be applied in local schools.

*'This is just the best thing we've done in school for ages... So hands-on, and the children have loved every minute'*

J. Hopkins, teacher, St Benedict's Junior School, Glastonbury.







Excavating the Otterden Hoard.

### Promoting best archaeological practice

The *Code of Practice for Responsible Metal Detecting in England and Wales* (2017) outlines what is meant by responsible metal-detecting and has been endorsed by the leading archaeological and land-owner organisations. It provides a base-line for those detectorists wishing their hobby to contribute to our understanding of Britain's past, and distinguishes those with a genuine interest in the past from treasure hunters. Highlighted below are the contributions individuals have made to our knowledge of the past through best practice, and how that data can be used to contribute to archaeological and academic research.

### Excavating the Bronze Age

In November 2017, Robin Goldsmith found three palstave axes in the topsoil while metal-detecting at Otterden, Kent. Encountering further strong signals on his detector, hinting at bronze objects deeper down, he contacted Jo Ahmet (Kent FLO) for help. Together, with the community archaeologists and their volunteer team from Kent County Council, and the landowner, an excavation was organised, revealing a further 15 palstave axes (KENT-FC6918) – 12 of which were found in situ, bundled together. Dover Museum has expressed an interest in acquiring the hoard.

*'After my discovery, detector signals at the same spot, I felt that the find may be important and didn't want to disturb any archaeology, so I contacted Jo. He gave me suggestions on how to proceed and arranged for a team of local archaeologists to excavate the findspot.'*

Robin Goldsmith, finder.

### Harbridge Roman coin hoard

A hoard of 4,805 Roman base silver coins was found by Mark Deacon at Harbridge, Hampshire (WILT-D0A939). The bulk of the hoard was in situ, in a broken grey-ware vessel, but the top had been disturbed by the plough and some coins were found scattered in the soil around. The hoard was block-lifted by Richard Henry (Wiltshire FLO) and brought to the British Museum, where it was excavated in the laboratory by Saray Naidorf (conservator). There was no evidence to suggest the contents of the vessel had been sorted or deposited at different times, although the remains of plant material and insects were found associated with the hoard.

### European Archaeological Association conference

The PAS, with colleagues in Belgium and the Netherlands, led a session at the European Archaeological Association (EAA) conference in 2017 – sponsored by the Medieval Europe Research Community – themed 'Small Things Do Matter: detecting the medieval period through archaeological finds made by the public'. Papers considered all aspects of material culture, including an Anglo-Saxon settlement site at Little Carlton, Lincolnshire, brought to light through metal-detecting, understanding metal mounts from belts and purses discovered in the Netherlands, and interpreting elements from purses, known as a 'Lithuanian type', from Poland. A follow-up session took place in 2018, again at the EAA conference, in Barcelona.

*'The EAA session on public finds of the medieval period really did show that 'Small Things Do Matter'! It was clear from the papers given that our understanding of this period is greatly enhanced by detector finds data, and this is especially true for many countries in north-western Europe'* – Annemarieke Willemsen, Curator, National Museum of Antiquities, Leiden, the Netherlands.



### WILT-D0A939

Saray Naidorf excavating the Harbridge Hoard at the British Museum.

### Supporting museums

Many of the FLOs are based within museum services or otherwise have close links with local museums. As part of this role they work with curators and other museum staff, particularly in relation to new finds that might enter museum collections (such as Treasure) and help with interpreting information about finds within their displays.

### Generous donations

Detector finds can make important additions to museum collections, showcasing important discoveries and enabling the wider public to better understand the role of responsible metal-detecting. It is not common for detectorists to donate their finds to museums, but there are several examples from 2017 that highlight the generosity of both finders and landowners. This included two fragments of a Bronze Age sword from Madron, Cornwall (CORN-3B62D1) – donated to the Royal Cornwall Museum, Truro, a lead-alloy Roman curse tablet from Lidgate, Suffolk (SF-BA1337) – gifted to Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service, and part of a copper-alloy figurine of Christ from a medieval crucifix found at Kingston Deverill, Wiltshire (WILT-3D303B) – donated to Salisbury Museum, Wiltshire.

*'Thanks to the work of the Wiltshire FLO liaising with local detectorists, a number of significant finds have been donated to Salisbury Museum. This is important because many of these objects would otherwise not be available for the public to see. These acquisitions have also plugged important gaps in our collection, helped with research and have been used for exhibitions'* Adrian Green, Director, Salisbury Museum.

### Training for museum professionals

The PAS offers several introductory and specialist training courses on Iron Age and Roman coins at the British Museum. These are open to PAS staff, volunteers, self-recorders (metal-detectorists trained to record their own finds) and museum professionals. A number of curators from across the country have attended these in 2017, enabling them to better understand, curate, interpret and display their ancient coin collections. This is another way in which the PAS is having a broad impact on artefact studies at museums and archaeological archives in England.

### WILT-3D303B

Medieval Christ figure from Kingston Deverill, Wiltshire, donated to Salisbury Museum.



### SF-BA1337

Roman curse tablet from Lidgate, Suffolk, donated to Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service.

# Recording finds

The main role of the PAS is to record finds to advance archaeological knowledge. Metal-detecting, if carried out in accordance with the *Code of Practice for Responsible Metal Detecting in England and Wales*, can make an important contribution to archaeology. Archaeological small finds are not only important for telling us about past peoples and the types of objects they used, but also about the places where they lived and worked.

## Prehistoric flint and stone 800,000–2100 BC

Items made of flint and stone continued to be recorded in significant numbers last year. Of the 3,009 flint and 178 stone items documented onto the PAS database most were prehistoric, but more recent items included whetstones and querns. All together 2,727 Stone Age objects were recorded in 2017, representing just under 3.5% of all items logged.

### Axe-hammers

Axe-hammers are a curious phenomenon, and not well understood. They are large, ponderous and often poorly shaped, but many are made from stone brought from selected (therefore prized) sources: the so-called axe-factories, such as at Whin Sill in Northumberland. We can only speculate as to their function. They are too blunt to be axes, and the holes through them suggest that it is unlikely that they would survive use as hammers. While they could be effective weapons (if someone was hit with an axe-hammer) combat with a more nimbly-armed opponent would be risky. Alternatively, they may have formed the point of a plough, or played a part in some ritual or exchange. The dating of axe-hammers is also uncertain. They have the same general shape as some of the ‘battle axes’ found in Early Bronze Age graves, suggesting a date range of c. 2500–c. 1500 BC, but an axe hammer has never been found in a grave and ‘battle axes’ are smaller and better finished. Much of the fascination of archaeology is not knowing, but trying to learn more.

Kevin Leahy



#### WMID-42A930

Stone axe hammer from Fawfieldhead, Staffordshire. Weighing a hefty 2.2kg and 199mm long, this object impresses by its size. Although fairly well-finished its shape is not particularly symmetrical.



#### DUR-DFD949

This polished greenstone adze from Western Parishes, Stockton-on-Tees, has a shape and rectangular cross-section unlike any of the other axes recorded by the PAS. For parallels we need to look further afield, as it looks remarkably like the axes used by the Maoris in New Zealand. It is known that the 68th Durham Light Infantry fought in the New Zealand Wars (1845–72), so perhaps the axe was brought back by a returning soldier. It is a reminder that not everything found in Britain was necessarily made here or imported in ancient times.

#### CPAT-6FCE17

This 240mm long axe hammer from Abergele, Conwy was made from an igneous rock and was shaped by pecking and grinding, leaving its surface covered by chip marks. Typically, the hole was made by chipping from both sides to produce an hour-glass shaped perforation, narrowing in the middle.





## Bronze Age 2350–700 BC

Although Bronze Age finds are the least common of all time periods recorded with the PAS, the numbers of items found and logged are by no means insignificant. 1,529 objects were recorded in 2017 (just under 2% of the total), which included items in 45 Bronze Age hoards.

### The 'Ornament Horizon' in Hampshire

Objects from a Middle Bronze Age hoard found at Hurstbourne Priors, Hampshire (SUR-590F5D), and dating to the Taunton phase (c. 1400–1250 BC), are an important addition to the so-called 'Ornament Horizon', which marked a proliferation in metalwork ornaments. As well as a palstave axehead and a socketed hammer, the hoard contained three highly decorated armrings or bracelets of Liss-type (all carrying complex motifs), one spiral coiled finger-ring and a spiral twisted torc. Three other recent finds of Middle Bronze Age objects from Hampshire represent the same continentally-influenced transformation in personal ornaments. These include a hoard of 20 (mostly fragmentary) armrings or bracelets from Winchfield (HAMP-EF62CF), another of two torcs and two bracelets from Buriton (SUR-9A711C), and a Liss-style bracelet from near Petersfield (FASW-DA4387).

### Close shave

A copper-alloy Hallstatt razor of Unterstall or Poiseul type, dated to the Llyn Fawr phase of the Late Bronze Age to the Early Iron Age transition (c. 800–600 BC), was found at Greenham, West Berkshire (CORN-D78C78). This well-preserved razor has a trapezoidal shaped blade, with a strengthening rib between the two suspension loop rings above a row of four hanging openwork triangles. The Western European distribution of this type of razor can now be underlined with seven new finds from the southern half of England. Such items had a close association with the Urnfield culture, which was active in Central Europe during the late Bronze Age and early Iron Age. Therefore this object was perhaps imported.

Sally Worrell

#### NMGW-1D36B5

Early Bronze Age hoard from Coity Higher, Bridgend comprising one flat axe and one axe-chisel. Metallurgical analysis shows that both items are made of a tin bronze, with significant presence of arsenic as an impurity. This alloy composition adds weight to their dating to the very beginning of bronze casting in Britain (c. 2200/2150–2050 BC).



#### SUR-590F5D

Middle Bronze Age hoard from Hurstbourne Priors, Hampshire.



#### CORN-D78C78

Late Bronze Age razor from Greenham, West Berkshire.

#### SWYOR-BF7F41

Well-preserved looped and socketed copper-alloy spearhead, dating from the Middle Bronze Age (c. 1550–1250 BC), from Thornton-le-Dale, North Yorkshire.





**Iron Age**  
**800 BC–AD 43**



**BERK-1CEE21**  
Complete copper-alloy anthropomorphic bucket or vessel mount from Winchfield, Hampshire, dating to the Late Iron Age. As one of a handful to carry decoration in the form of a human male head, it is a rare and important discovery.



**WMID-924C13**  
Fob or dangler from Alsager, Cheshire.

Finds of Iron Age date were slightly more common than those of the Bronze Age. In 2017, 1,566 items (2% of the total) were recorded with the PAS of which one-third (509) were coins. These finds offer significant insights into life, death and society at this time.

**Late Iron Age drinking**

Five objects found at Deane, Hampshire (HAMP-B37694), are likely grave goods from a burial. They date to the Late Iron Age to Roman transition period; the mid-first century AD. The find comprises two stave-built tankards (represented only by their copper-alloy fittings), a pair of iron shears, a circular iron knife and a ceramic vessel. Tankards were a native form of drinking vessel used for communal consumption of beer, cider and mead. They are rare, and fragments from only 33 examples having been recorded by the PAS to date – including a disc terminal with elaborate geometric decoration from a handle found at Pentyrch, Cardiff (NMGW-03EEE8).

**Fob dangler**

A complete copper-alloy fob or dangler (likely to be a harness fitting) of late Iron Age to early Roman date (c. 200 BC–AD 200) was discovered at Alsager, Cheshire (WMID-924C13). These are a poorly understood artefact type, and may have been hung from items of equipment, personal apparel or harnesses. When complete, most appear to be of triskele form (three pointed shape). This fob too has a circular disc with a moulded decoration of a triskele and a ring and dot design between each leg, flanked by a dot on either side. More of these items have now been documented by the PAS (numbering at least 78) than in existing corpora of excavated and museum finds.

**Iron Age coins**

The PAS database now contains data for more than 45,000 Iron Age coins found in Britain. New coin types and variants are identified each year, which, combined with continued recording of findspots, provides greater insight into British coinage prior to the Roman invasion of AD 43. In 2017 a silver quarter *stater* from West Tisbury, Wiltshire (WILT-E00F41), was recorded, that so far appears to be unlisted and may represent a new Durotrigian type. Rarely, contemporary issues of the Mediterranean Greek city-states find their way to Britain, perhaps as a result of trade or more direct contact between Britain and Gaul during the Iron Age. This was again demonstrated by a silver *obol* from Massalia (modern Marseille), found at Ide, Devon (LVPL-93DF5E), dating to c. 4th century BC.

Sally Worrell and Andrew Brown

**BERK-8995D7**  
Unusual Middle to Late Iron Age copper-alloy brooch with circular frame carrying small hemispheres, from Radnage, Buckinghamshire. Finds of this brooch type cluster on the Berkshire/Oxfordshire border, but they are also found more widely in southern England.



**LANCUM-1BEF5B**  
Copper-alloy pin, dating from the Middle or Later Iron Age (probably c. 400–200 BC) from Kirkby Lonsdale, Cumbria, which is complete and in extremely good condition. The ring head is decorated with moulded balls.



**WILT-E00F41**  
Silver quarter *stater* from West Tisbury, Wiltshire, which seems to be either a previously unknown Durotrigian type or is influenced by continental coins.



**LVPL-93DF5E**  
Silver *obol* from Ide, Devon, struck in c. 4th century BC at the Greek city-state of Massalia; demonstrated by the letters 'M-A' on the reverse.



**BM-6208EC**  
Gold quarter *stater* of the Belgae, from near Basingstoke, Hampshire. This coin is of a very rare type struck in southern Britain during the period c. 60–c. 20 BC and is the first example to be recorded through the PAS.



**IOW-E01586**  
Gold *stater* of Armorica (Gaul) dating to c. 2nd century BC, from the Isle of Wight. These Gallic issues, probably struck by the Veneti, with human headed horses on the reverse, are rare finds in Britain but demonstrate cross-channel contact at an early date.

**NMGW-03EEE8**  
Copper-alloy terminal from a vessel handle found at Pentyrch, Cardiff.



## Roman AD 43–410



**GLO-082F26**  
Unusual copper-alloy figurine of Neptune from Longdon, Worcestershire, in a highly classicised pose. The original figure probably held a trident and rested his front foot on a ship's prow.



**SUR-78ACA0**  
Copper-alloy openwork brooch from Letcombe Bassett, Oxfordshire. This takes the form of two dolphins framing a recess, which contains a facing clean-shaven male head and a lunette above. The brooch is closely paralleled by a find from Xanten, Germany, but not by British examples. It dates to the 1st or 2nd century AD.

**GLO-BE1187**  
Copper-alloy dog figurine from the founder's hoard from Gloucestershire.



**WILT-95F01A**  
Incomplete panel of a decorated late Roman lead tank, a possible baptismal font, found in Preshute, Wiltshire. One of its panels, split up into sections by chevron moulding, has a phallic motif.

36,297 Roman artefacts were recorded by the PAS in 2017, including 16,177 single coin finds. These represent a diverse range of items. Besides 36 Roman figurines, also logged were 2,295 brooches, 220 finger-rings and 164 bracelets, as well as fittings from belts, horse harness furniture, vessel mounts, tools and a decorated fragment of a lead tank (or coffin).

### Roman dog hoard

An important founder's hoard of copper-alloy scrap metal, including a figurine of a running hound and fragments of a larger statue, perhaps depicting Diana, was found in Gloucestershire (GLO-BE1187). The metalwork, perhaps originating from a temple, was probably intended for recycling. Included within the hoard is a sheet fragment inscribed '...VMCONLAT...', probably recording the collection of funds for a statue (*conlatio*). Also found were likely bases for caskets, statuettes and a candlestick, part of a *dodecahedron*, an early 4th-century copper-alloy coin (vital to dating the hoard's deposition), as well as a spoon of a similar date, and a late Roman buckle.

### Keeping time

A fragment of a very rarely documented Roman time-keeping device of disc form was found at Hambledon, Hampshire (SUSS-BA3CBE). The surviving letters show part of the month of August with the letters 'N' and 'D' below – N being an abbreviated reference to the *nonae* (*nonae*, for the ninth day of the month), and what looks like a D alone (presumably ID) for idus (*ides*, for the middle day). A similar fragment was excavated at Vindolanda in 2008, showing part of the month of September on a bronze disc. The new find is only the fourth example of a sophisticated time-reckoning device of this type to be documented from the Roman world, and therefore of great significance.



**SUSS-BA3CBE**  
Copper-alloy time-keeping device found at Hambledon, Hampshire.







**BERK-6C41FC**  
Sestertius of Agrippina Senior (14 BC–AD 33) from Noke, Oxfordshire. Large early Roman bronze denominations of Imperial women are rare in Britain and this is only the second coin of Agrippina Senior recorded through the PAS.



**KENT-D28379**  
Copper-alloy or base silver Siculo-Punic coin from Denton with Wootton, Kent, probably struck in Carthage or Sicily between c. 320 and c. 280 BC.



**LEIC-222A4D**  
Nummus of Constantine II (AD 317–340) from Rutland. This is an anepigraphic issue struck in AD 326 at the mint of Trier, naming Constantine on the reverse rather than the obverse.



**SUR-0374F0**  
Siliqua of Constantius II (AD 323–361) from Bishops Sutton, Hampshire. This is a contemporary copy of an official coin from the mint of Lyon, which is in itself somewhat unusual; this example has also been modified for re-use, perhaps as a votive offering. It was reported as Treasure (2017 T150) before being donated to the British Museum.

**LVPL-BCE783**  
Aureus of Gallienus (AD 253–268) from Murton, Yorkshire. Gold coins of the 3rd century AD are extremely rare in Britain. Although Gallienus is well represented in the base coinages recorded through the PAS, this is only the second recorded example of an aureus from the joint reign with his father Valerian I (AD 253–260) known from Britain.

## Punic coins

Among the Roman, Roman Provincial and related coins recorded through the PAS in 2017, was a rare example of a Siculo-Punic bronze coin, found at Denton with Wootton, Kent (KENT-D28379). It was produced by the Carthaginian Empire that controlled Sicily, Sardinia and parts of North Africa, before its defeat in the Third Punic War with the Roman Republic in 146 BC. Just 27 examples of Punic coins dating to the 4th–2nd centuries BC are known on the PAS, with a distinct concentration (of twelve examples) in east Kent, suggesting their distribution in Britain is similar to that of contemporary Iron Age and Roman coins.

## Anepigraphic coins

Another group of scarce finds are the distinctive anepigraphic *nummi* of Constantine I (AD 306–337) and family, struck after AD 324, in commemoration of the Imperial family and perhaps in celebration of Constantine's *Vicennalia* (20th anniversary) and rebuilding of Constantinople. Unusually, these coins carry no obverse legend with the Emperor and family members, instead named on the reverse. One, probably struck for Constantine II (AD 317–340), found in Rutland (LEIC-222A4D), is of only 49 coins of its type recorded on the PAS database.

Sally Worrell, Andrew Brown and Sam Moorhead





## Early medieval AD 410–1066



**IOW-4E474A**  
Class A, Type 12 stirrup-  
strap mount from Newport,  
Isle of Wight.



**SF-9A5D22**  
Class A, Type 8 stirrup-strap  
mount from near Bury St  
Edmunds, Suffolk.



**LVPL-74EDA0**  
Class A, Type 11A stirrup-  
strap mount from Huxley,  
Cheshire.

Finds dated to the early medieval period are important to record, not least because they are relatively rare discoveries, but also because many are unique or without clear parallels. 2,999 items of early medieval date (almost 4% of the total) were recorded in 2017, much being coinage, personal dress accessories and horse gear.

### Stirrup-strap mounts

Relatively common amongst finds of early medieval date are stirrup-strap mounts, with over 100 being recorded in 2017. Their purpose was to protect the stirrup leathers where they threaded through the apex loop of an iron stirrup. David Williams classified these mounts, distinguishing three ‘classes’ based on their shape and decoration. Even within these classes there is great variety. Take Class A, for example. Of simple form are Type 12, openwork mounts with sub-lozengiform frames, as found last year at Newport, Isle of Wight (IOW-4E474A). Others have more complex designs, such as that on a Type 8 mount with Anglo-Scandinavian zoomorphic decoration from near Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk (SF-9A5D22). Most are late Saxon in date, but some mounts, such as a Type 11A example from Huxley, Cheshire (LVPL-74EDA0), are probably Anglo-Norman. As is typical, these show a lion reminiscent of beasts in Romanesque art.

### Ecclesiastical coinage

During the early-medieval period kings were not alone in issuing coins. In Anglo-Saxon England the archbishops of Canterbury and York had rights to issue coins, either named alongside the king or alone. These ecclesiastical coins are only found in small numbers, some being very rare indeed. The earliest coin of an archbishop found in 2017 was a silver sceat naming both Ecgberht, Archbishop of York (r. 735–66), and his brother, King Eadberht of Northumbria (r. 737–58). They were discovered in Skirpenbeck, East Yorkshire (YORYM-26FC8D), and show a standing figure on the reverse holding a cross and crozier. Only two other coins of the archbishops of York were found last year, both copper-alloy *stycas* of Wigmund (r. 837–54), including a fine example from Yapham, East Yorkshire (YORYM-6D2CAD). Coins of the archbishops of Canterbury are equally rare, with only two being recorded. One is a silver penny of Wulfred (r. 805–32), from Witherley, Leicestershire (WAW-A5B442), showing a bust of the Archbishop with tonsured hair, and the other is a small fragment of a silver penny of Ceolnoth (r. 833–70), from Wye, Kent (KENT-EA792D).

Michael Lewis and John Naylor



### David Williams

In December 2017, David Williams (right) (Surrey & East Berkshire FLO) passed away. He had worked for the PAS since 2003, but was recording metal-detector finds long before. David was a loyal colleague, always ready to respond to a call for help from his fellow FLOs, whether it be attending a metal-detecting rally or excavating an in situ find: the most recent example of this was his excavation of the Watlington Hoard (SUR-4A4231). David was also passionate about forging good relationships with both finders and landowners. At rallies he was often to be seen walking the fields, chatting to finders and encouraging them to record their finds. He had many loyal finders and David always had time for them. David was an involved member and great supporter of the Finds Research Group and contributed a number of datasheets. His best known publication is *Late Saxon Stirrup-Strap Mounts* (1997), where he proposed a much used typology for these finds. David was also a talented illustrator. He will be greatly missed by us all.

### DEV-264F62

Early-medieval strap-ends come in a variety of forms, but the openwork design on this example from Folk, Dorset, showing two so-called ‘Winchester style’ entwined beasts, is of exceptional craftsmanship. The object dates to the 10th or 11th century.





**YORYM-26FC8D**  
Silver sceat of Archbishop  
Ecgberht of York, jointly  
issued with his brother,  
King Eadberht of  
Northumbria.



**YORYM-6D2CAD**  
Copper-alloy styca of  
Archbishop Wigmund of York.



**WAW-A5B442**  
Silver penny of Archbishop  
Wulfred of Canterbury.

**IOW-A6DB92**  
Brooches made from coins  
are a feature of the late Saxon  
and Anglo-Norman period,  
this example being made from  
a silver penny of Æthelred II  
(r. 978–1016), which has then  
been gilded (unusually) on  
both sides. The penny was  
minted at York by the  
moneyer Frostulf, but found  
near Chillerton, Isle of Wight.



**HAMP-9A3655**  
Unusual and interesting is this  
gilded silver mount, probably  
from a belt, found at Martin,  
Hampshire. Its four large  
triangular cells have within  
them yellowish coloured glass  
or gemstones; the surrounding  
area being embellished with  
punched triangles, some  
retaining niello. It dates to the  
6th or 7th century.





## Medieval AD 1066–1500



**YORYM-93518C**  
Spindle whorl from  
Bellerby, North Yorkshire.



**DENO-318C9D**  
Spindle whorl from  
Cotham, Nottinghamshire.



**LVPL-C66E67**  
Spindle whorl from  
Swettenham, Cheshire.

**BERK-31F9D9**  
Purse bar from  
Inkpen, Berkshire.



**KENT-BB3F94**  
Purse bar from  
Gravesend, Kent.

A great variety of medieval objects and coins were recorded in 2017, represented by 17,189 items (almost 22% of all PAS records). Most common – after coins – are buckles, other strap fittings (including strap-ends), as well as mounts, weights and harness pendants.

### Keeping things safe

It was common for people in the Middle Ages to carry money, and also (given the high numbers of medieval coins found by metal-detectorists) to lose it! Medieval garments, as far as we know, did not have pockets, so money and other valuables were carried in purses hung from their belts; these are sometimes shown in medieval paintings. Normally it is only the metal purses' bars and frames that survive, as their bags were made from leather or other materials. An interesting example, found near Gravesend, Kent (KENT-BB3F94), has upon it the depiction of a male head, suggested to be the royal (though unofficial) saint Henry VI, and an inscription of part of the Ave Maria prayer. Commonly found are purse bars that swivel, such as one, complete with loop, from Inkpen, Berkshire (BERK-31F9D9). Like handbags today, such hanging purses must have offered rich-pickings for petty thieves.

### Spinning yarn

Many spindle whorls have been recorded by the PAS, dating from prehistory onwards, and made of all sorts of materials – most commonly lead. They were used on wooden drop spindles to give momentum in the spinning of textile fibres. Not all spindle whorls can be dated, but there are some distinctive medieval decorated types. Typically these have raised lines and pellets, as shown on one from Bellerby, North Yorkshire (YORYM-93518C). Highly decorative is a spindle whorl from Cotham, Nottinghamshire (DENO-318C9D), which has one side embellished with linear motifs and the other with raised pellets. Even more elaborate is one from Swettenham, Cheshire (LVPL-C66E67), which has a moulded border that appears to be filled with letters, too worn to decipher. The distribution of medieval lead spindle whorls is interesting, as they show the spinning of thread was, as expected, widespread, particularly in the Midlands and the North. There are hotspots of use, such as around Chester; however, this might be explained by a local recording bias.





**HAMP-1952C6**  
Folded silver penny of King John (r. 1199–1216) from Pamber, Hampshire, found with a piece of fabric.



**SUR-B7660D**  
Folded gold noble of Edward III (r. 1327–77) from Kimpton, Hampshire.



**WAW-565B1A**  
Zoomorphic barrel padlocks, such as this example from Tysoe, Warwickshire, show medieval people had a sense of humour. Its spring mechanism, which is likely to have been iron, has not survived. This example is of particular interest, as pendants (commonly recorded with PAS) decorate the animal's harness.

### Money for saints

Every year the PAS records a small number of coins which have been folded, last year accounting for around 50 items. Contemporary documents describe the folding of coins in conjunction with prayers to saints, for example to heal the sick or protect the owner from danger. The act of folding may represent a binding promise to go on a pilgrimage to the shrine of the saint being venerated, where the coin would subsequently be offered. Most of the folded coins recorded by the PAS are silver pennies, which appear to be the customary denomination; a short cross penny of King John (r. 1199–1216) from Pamber, Hampshire (HAMP-1952C6), appears to be such an offering, although it includes the rare addition of a piece of fabric, suggesting it was worn around the neck or tied to an afflicted part of the body. Much less common are folded gold coins, for example a gold half noble of Edward III (r. 1327–77) found in Kimpton, Hampshire (SUR-B7660D); perhaps because their intrinsic value was too high for such an act of piety for most people. Although not itself manipulated, a silver groat was found within a piece of folded lead sheet at Newton on Derwent, East Yorkshire (YORYM-B1EB3D), with a quote from the Bible inscribed in Latin, translating as 'I have made God my helper' – perhaps acting as a healing charm.

Michael Lewis and John Naylor



### WILT-EACA46

This mount from Brixton Deverill, Wiltshire was once fixed to the reverse of a processional cross. It shows upon it an angel, the evangelist symbol for Saint Matthew. The style and enamelling is typical of the workshops of Limoges, France, which were responsible for producing such metalwork for medieval churches.

### WMID-01D66A

Gold 14th-century Genovese ducat, found near Admaston, Staffordshire, which has been neatly folded to form a triangle; the obverse of the coin is on the outside. Quite why it is folded in this way is uncertain but it may have been used as a bezel for a ring.







## Post-medieval AD 1500 onwards



**DUR-7675A8**  
Lead-alloy figurine of a couple touching the genitalia of each other, from Skeeby, North Yorkshire. Similar finds are thought to come from pipe tampers, but this has a lug on its reverse, perhaps suggesting it had another use.

**LIN-4D7C18**  
Rare toilet set in silver, comprising a nail cleaner, ear scoop and probable toothpick, all surmounted by a classical bust. It was found in Mareham le Fen, Lincolnshire.

**WILT-120692**  
Crockerton ware chafing dish waster from Crockerton, Wiltshire.

The PAS is selective in recording finds dated after 1540, but nonetheless 15,955 post-medieval items (over 20% of the total) were logged last year. These items sometimes have a curiosity value, rather than archaeological significance, but are nonetheless important to record, especially if they have been crafted by hand, rather than industrially produced.

### Wasters

A significant group of misfired ceramic vessels known as ‘wasters’ has been found, indicating a probable kiln site in Crockerton, Wiltshire (WILT-8F6ED2). So-called ‘Crockerton ware’ is known from the 12th century through to the 1840s, but so far only kilns datable to the 15th and 16th centuries have been discovered. This new find of substantial sherds, and even complete vessels, including later slipped wares, reveals the location of a kiln dating from the 17th or 18th century. The forms produced included candlesticks, drip trays and porringers, as well as the more common bowls and storage vessels.

Michael Lewis, Laura Burnett and Robert Webley



**KENT-E39CFB**  
Strap-ends are far less common finds than in the centuries before 1500. This example, from Brookland, Kent, is unusual in its style and is probably of continental manufacture, being similar to examples from the Netherlands, Belgium and Northern France.



Table 1  
PAS records  
and finds, and  
Treasure cases,  
by geographical  
area (2017).<sup>4</sup>

Area	PAS finds	Treasure cases
Bedfordshire	225	6
Berkshire	603	3
Buckinghamshire, inc. Milton Keynes	1,000	33
Cambridgeshire, inc. Peterborough	1,982	14
Cheshire	353	7
Cornwall , inc. Isle of Scilly	612	9
Cumbria	615	16
Derbyshire	434	11
Devon	415	22
Dorset	1,228	71
Durham, Co.	220	10
Essex	738	113
Gloucestershire	1,908	14
Hampshire	7,072	70
Herefordshire	316	7
Hertfordshire	572	15
Isle of Wight	1,187	21
Kent, inc. Medway	1,850	81
Lancashire	633	8
Leicestershire	1,296	17
Lincolnshire	10,552	81
London, Gtr	1,089	15
Manchester, Gtr	69	0
Merseyside	30	1
Norfolk	13,442	121
Northamptonshire	1,709	17
Northumberland	23	4
Nottinghamshire	1,366	9
Oxfordshire	3,251	48
Rutland	388	6
Shropshire, inc. Telford	1,068	15
Somerset, inc. Bath	3,436	59
Staffordshire	802	12
Suffolk	5,721	83
Surrey	554	8
Sussex, E & W	1,356	37
Warwickshire	1,432	19
West Midlands	35	2
Wiltshire, inc. Swindon	3,412	55
Worcestershire	638	16
Yorkshire, E	1,401	15
Yorkshire, N	1,895	55
Yorkshire, S	241	4
Yorkshire, W	266	4
Wales (all counties)	337	28
Northern Ireland (all counties)	0	1
data not yet available	1581	4
TOTAL	79,353	1,267

The counties recording the most PAS finds were Norfolk (13,442 finds), Lincolnshire (10,552) and Suffolk (5,721). Most Treasure cases were reported in Norfolk (121), Essex (113), Suffolk (83) and Kent and Lincolnshire (both 81), all in the east of England and closest to the continent.

<sup>4</sup> Data downloaded  
2 January 2018.



**Table 2**  
PAS records  
by period,  
where known/  
recorded (2017).

	Stone Age	Bronze Age	Iron Age	Roman	Early medieval	Medieval	Post- medieval	Total
2017	2,727	1,529	1,566	36,297	2,999	17,189	15,955	78,262
%	3.49	1.95	2.00	46.38	3.83	21.96	20.39	

Roman finds accounted for the highest proportion of finds recorded (46.38%), followed by those that are medieval (21.96%), then post-medieval (20.39%). Prehistoric finds are relatively rare.

**Table 3**  
Method of  
discovery,  
where known/  
recorded (2017).

	Metal- detecting	Chance find while metal- detecting	Field- walking	Other chance find/ gardening	Controlled archaeological investigation	Building/ agricultural work
2017	71,079	2,587	3,123	1,498	984	65
%	89.59	3.26	3.94	1.89	1.24	0.08

Almost 93% of PAS finds were found by metal-detectorists, either while metal-detecting or spotted 'eyes only', highlighting the contribution of the hobby to archaeology.

**Table 4**  
Findspot  
precision  
(2017).

	4 fig	6 fig	8 fig	10 fig	12 fig
2017	952	18,981	17,990	38,979	14
%	1.23	24.68	23.39	50.68	0.02

Almost 99% of completed records had at least a 6-figure NGR (National Grid Reference), which is the minimum level of precision needed for public finds to contribute to archaeological knowledge. Almost three-quarters had at least an 8-figure NGR.

**Table 5**  
Land use,  
where known/  
recorded (2017).

Land use	2017	%
Cultivated land	43,441	93.22
Grassland/heathland	1,081	2.32
Woodland	105	0.22
Coastland	289	0.62
Open fresh water	982	2.11
Other	706	1.51

Over 93% of finds were discovered on cultivated land, where they are vulnerable to agricultural damage and natural corrosion processes.

**Table 6**  
Number of  
unique visitors,  
visits and page  
views on the  
PAS website  
and database  
over the last  
five years.

Year	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Page views
2013	505,793	767,340	4,775,018
2014	499,481	789,253	5,214,822
2015	361,368	680,949	5,647,064
2016	326,502	652,079	5,777,326
2017	348,376	713,301	6,045,761

In 2017 the number of unique visitors to the PAS website and database increased slightly, as did the number of individual visits and page views.

Michael Lewis, Ian Richardson and Stephen Moon



**YORYM-B1EB3D**  
Silver groat found inside  
a folded sheet of lead  
from Newton on  
Derwent, East Yorkshire.



Finds Liaison  
Officers’ locations

40

Finds Liaison Officers  
covering 34 areas

99%

Finds recorded to  
the nearest 100m.

79,353

Finds recorded in 2017

657

Research projects  
have used PAS data

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