

The Portable
Antiquities Scheme
Annual Report 2019





Foreword



Hartwig Fischer
Director of the
British Museum

I am very pleased to introduce the Portable Antiquities Scheme annual report for 2019, which, once again, has been a very successful year for the Scheme.

The Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) is a key part of the British Museum’s national activity, working closely with our colleagues in Wales and our local partners across England that employ, host, manage and support the team of Finds Liaison Officers (FLOs). It is the FLOs who are the front-line of this work, reaching out to local people to identify and record their finds so they can be added to the national dataset: finds.org.uk/database. This data is being used to help archaeologists and others learn more about past peoples and the historic landscape.

In particular I would like to thank all those who have offered finds for recording in 2019. Some of these discoveries are spectacular, others more common, but all help paint a more comprehensive picture of the past. Most of these finds have been discovered by members of the metal-detecting community, and responsible metal detecting makes a positive contribution to archaeology through this work with PAS. Britain has a diverse landscape, but much of its arable land is cultivated putting archaeological sites at risk. Therefore, recovering these finds from the plough-zone not only saves them from the plough but also (when recorded) enables us to all enjoy them and learn from them. While I appreciate that people enjoy metal-detecting for many reasons besides its contribution to archaeology, it is heartening to see that the guidelines on best practice are followed so widely.

I would also like to thank the FLOs, who I know are a dedicated and hardworking team, and one that enables the British Museum to reach out to people in every part of England, from Land’s End to Berwick-upon-Tweed, and from Carlisle to Dover. Also, the other PAS staff, both in the British Museum and elsewhere across the country, but particularly the Scheme’s local managers and host organisations, that help us manage and support the FLOs and their work. The PAS partnership is a very special entity, joining together people whom are extraordinarily passionate about archaeology, but also about enabling public involvement in our shared past.

The Scheme is also very fortunate in having a number of external organisations and individuals who are keen to support it. In 2019, the Headley Trust again generously funded PAS Interns to work alongside FLOs across the country, and the National Heritage Lottery Fund funding the very successful PAsT Explorers: finds recording in the local community, which has provided many opportunities for people to volunteer with the PAS and develop new skills along the way. Special thanks are also due to Graham and Joanna Barker, who have helped fund local FLOs and the PAS more generally, and Treasure Hunting magazine who have, once again, printed this report and made it available through the pages of their magazine.

This report has been produced at a time when the heritage sector, due to the current global pandemic, is facing a troubled time. However, throughout 2020 the PAS and its network of FLOs has worked diligently, finding new ways to reach out to finders, record their finds and process Treasure (as much as is practical), in doing so showing an extraordinary ability to adapt to the new realities when face-to-face contact with finders was previously a fundamental part of its approach. Indeed, it is only a few months ago that the PAS recorded its 1,500,000 find, demonstrating why its work to record finds and connect people with those of the past continues to be so important.

Micro-excavation of the
Merton Bronze Age Hoard
at the British Museum.

Key points

The PAS in 2019

- 81,602 finds were recorded; at the time of publication the PAS database (finds.org.uk/database) holds 1,511,589 objects and coins within 967,610 records.
- 4,143 individuals offered finds for recording, and almost 90% of finds were found by metal-detectorists.
- Over 86% of finds were found on cultivated land, where they are susceptible to plough damage and artificial and natural corrosion processes.
- Over 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 high-status dispersed Iron Age to Roman settlement with associated burials in Kent, a possible Medieval manor or lodge in Shropshire, and an Anglo-Saxon cemetery in Lincolnshire.
- Currently 511 researchers have full access to PAS data, and there are 50,171 registered account users in total.
- 765 research projects have used PAS data to date, including 28 major pieces of large-scale research and 159 PhDs.
- 404,324 unique visitors visited the PAS websites and database, making 795,191 visits and 6,043,179 page requests.
- Publications associated with the work of the PAS include reports in *Britannia*, the *British Numismatic Journal*, *Medieval Archaeology* and *Post-Medieval Archaeology*.
- At least 674 outreach events took place, including talks and finds days. Through these, PAS staff had direct contact with at least 15,086 adults and 1,324 children.
- Finds Liaison Officers had regular contact with 117 different metal-detecting clubs, and engaged with many finders via email and social media.

The Treasure Act 1996 in 2019

- 1,311 Treasure cases were reported – a record year. It is hoped that many of these will be acquired by museums for public benefit.
- Interesting new Treasure finds include: a Bronze Age gold armring from St Bees, Cumbria (LANCUM-C6B5FC), an Anglo-Norman coin hoard from the Chew Valley, Somerset (GLO-D815B3), and silver and gold Medieval coin hoards from Hambledon, Buckinghamshire (OXON-1AA62C, OXON-1AAA88).
- 75 parties waived their right to a reward in 49 Treasure cases reported in 2018; this figure is likely to increase as cases are completed. Examples include a Bronze Age gold penannular ring (HAMP-425F0D), acquired by Hampshire Cultural Trust, and an Early Medieval silver-gilt sword pommel (NMS-5E409D) acquired by Norwich Castle Museum.

Introduction



SUR-19BC54
Early Medieval silver hooked tag with Trehwiddle style decoration, c.9th-10th centuries AD, from Quarley, Hampshire.

PAS is a British Museum and Amgueddfa Cymru - National Museum Wales partnership, working with at least 98 partners across England and Wales.

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 (in England) and hosted by the Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales (in Wales), working with at least 98 partners across both countries.

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. In England, this is coordinated by a Central Unit of two plus five period specialists (Finds Advisors). In 2019, four posts were also employed as part of PAST Explorers: finds recording in the local community. Last year, 254 volunteers (including 97 detectorists who record their own finds onto the PAS database) and 7 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 includes archaeological, landowner and metal-detecting organisations.¹

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.

Treasure Act 1996

Under the Treasure Act 1996 (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 – 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.

¹ The membership of the PAAG are 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, Royal Commission on the Ancient & Historical Monuments of Wales, and the Society for Museum Archaeology.

Outreach and research

The PAS reaches out to all those who might find archaeology, and highlights the value of responsible metal detecting.



BH-AFA0EA
Stirrup-strap mount from Sherington, Buckinghamshire – its design influenced by Viking Age art.



SWYOR-1494DB
The Brookfield Hoard which was studied by Rachel Wilkinson as part of her PhD on Iron Age metalwork hoards.

The Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) records 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. In England, the Scheme is managed by the British Museum, with local partners hosting, managing and supporting Finds Liaison Officers (FLOs). These posts reach-out to anyone who might find archaeological material, encourage them to follow best practice while searching and record what they find with the PAS.

Advancing knowledge

Archaeological small finds (portable antiquities) are key to understanding past landscapes. Although most finds recorded with the PAS have no immediate context – the majority are found in the plough-zone where agricultural activity has brought them closer to the surface – they still provide crucial clues about human activity in the past, such as where and how people lived, and the types of items they used. As the case studies below demonstrate, the recording of these finds is crucial to those exploring and researching the past.

Understanding the material culture of the Norman Conquest

The PhD thesis *Conquest and Continuity* was introduced in the 2013 PAS Annual Report. Since then, Rob Webley (University of York) has explored changes in portable metalwork between the 10th and 12th centuries, noting, for example, the persistence of objects with decoration in Late Viking Age art styles well past 1066. PAS data has been invaluable in examining the range of forms for the object types studied, particularly for horse gear, most of which was lost in transit in the countryside and therefore infrequently recovered through archaeological excavation. Data from the PAS forms around 80% of a dataset of over 11,000 records for the period, allowing for far more nuance in mapping the distribution of this metalwork. This PhD has now been submitted for examination.

‘Rob’s PhD is providing significant new insight into the production, distribution, and use of material culture in the Anglo-Norman period, demonstrating the incredible value of PAS material to advancing our knowledge of the past, and the vital importance of recording public finds. The quantity and character of metalwork of the 11th and 12th centuries has been difficult to discern from excavated evidence alone, so a project of this scale depends on the unique volume and geographic range of finds that the PAS database provides’

Aleksandra McClain, Lecturer, University of York.

Iron Age metalwork hoards

Rachel Wilkinson recently completed an AHRC (Arts & Humanities Research Council) funded, Collaborative Doctorial Award (PhD) on ‘Iron Age metalwork hoards in Britain 800 BC – AD 100’ with the British Museum and the University of Leicester. This examined the objects and landscape associations of Iron Age and early Romano-British hoards, collating a national list of hoards into one database for the first time and providing an overview of object hoarding for the Iron Age. This has revealed fascinating insights into the hoarded objects, their containers and their relationships with coin hoards. PAS data was integral in collating the locations and contents of recent Iron Age object and coin hoards. After completing her PhD, Rachel worked for English Heritage as Curator for the North East and Hadrian’s Wall.



PAS Explorers coin training session in Sheffield.

PAS Publications

Every year PAS staff write about their work and how this impacts our understanding of the past. In 2019, roundups of finds from the previous year were published in many county-based archaeological society journals alongside national roundups in the leading scholarly journals *Britannia*, *Medieval Archaeology*, *Post-Medieval Archaeology* and the *British Numismatic Journal*. Academic research undertaken by PAS staff – and in collaboration with other researchers – used PAS-recorded finds to address topics including specific objects or finds, as well as books on inscribed vervels and the art of human figures in Anglo-Saxon graves. Articles in magazines including *BBC History*, *Treasure Hunting*, *The Searcher* and *Current Archaeology* presented PAS work to wider audiences covering topics from metal-working and iron hoards to Q&A articles with FLOs.

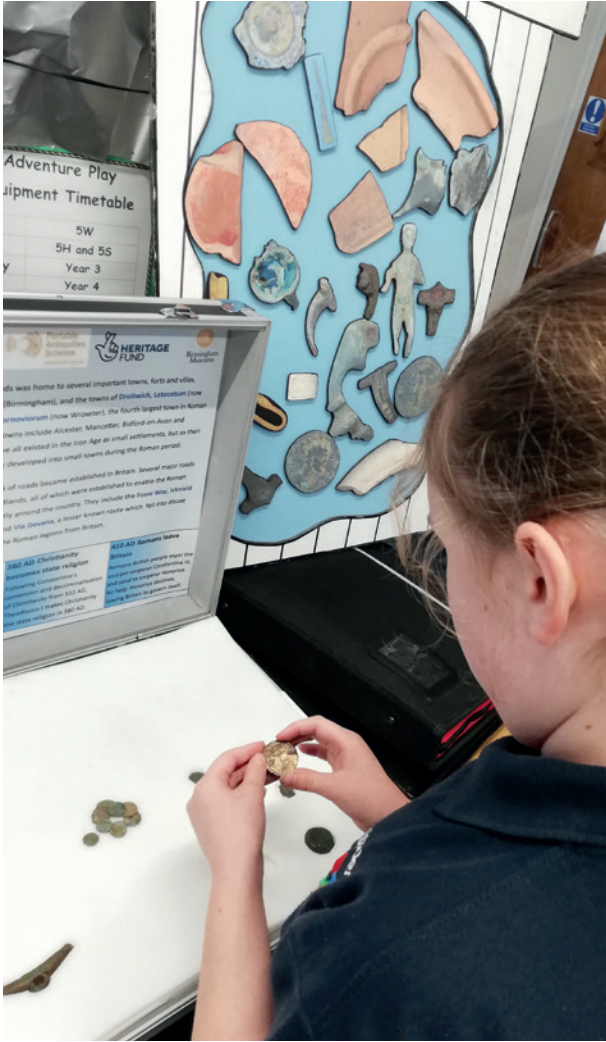
Sharing knowledge

Besides collecting data, to produce a virtual (online) collection of archaeological finds discovered by the public, the PAS also aims to make that information as widely available as possible, and also involve the public in archaeology through archaeological finds. The partnership nature of the PAS – the fact that many of its FLOs are based in museums and other heritage organisations, and work closely with them – facilitates public outreach, including finds days, public talks and other outreach.

PAS Explorers reaches out for the final time

2019 marked the final year of the National Lottery Heritage Fund supported PAS Explorers: finds recording in the local community project. In addition to continuing the successful programme of training, the project team created a range of digital resources to support FLOs and volunteers (including metal-detectorists who are self-recorders) after the project ended; although Lauren Speed (PAS Explorers Outreach Officer) remains in post till end April 2021. These include the County Pages – an online hub for finds and archaeology in the local area – and the Finds Recording Guides, which are a series of 86 detailed guides to aid in recording finds onto the PAS database. The project was granted an extension at the end of the year which has enabled the outreach programme to continue, starting with a partnership project to create learning resources for the Young Archaeologists Club.

PAS Explorers YAC training session in Liverpool.



PAS object handling cases being used.

Handling cases for outreach

The West Midlands FLO team benefited from the PAS Explorers project to create two new cases for object handling sessions to be used by FLOs and volunteers. These were produced by volunteer Aimee Hinds, who sourced the materials and created the text for the display panels. The collection itself comprised of objects kindly donated by local finders, mainly metal detectorists. Originally these finds were kept in multiple bags and boxes, but now they have two dedicated cases with integrated information panels. This has made it easier to carry out object handling sessions, especially for volunteers, as the information panels provide more detail on specific items. One case has been created to display Stone Age artefacts, including flint tools, such as a handaxe, arrowheads and scrapers. The other displays Roman finds, including brooches, coins, a bracelet fragment, cosmetic mortar and pottery. In 2019 the cases were used during Fantastic Finds Day events open to the public at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery. The Roman handling case has also been utilised during a school visit to Year 4 (8-9 years) classes studying Roman Britain as part of the Key Stage 2 national curriculum.

What do you collect? collectors case exhibition

The Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter, Devon, reserve one case for local people to display their collections – it has had all kinds of objects inside, from a Hello Kitty! collection to a selection of Victorian skirt lifters. In April 2019 local detectorists were given the opportunity to display their finds. All these items had to be recorded with PAS before they could be shown, resulting in several new records and two new Treasure cases; the finders had believed objects to be under 300 years old prior to bringing them in for display. The case was very popular and definitely caught the eye with its grass backdrop and wide range of objects, from jars of musket balls and ring pulls – reflecting the reality of detecting – to star finds, like a stunning Bronze Age axehead and rare for Devon early medieval strap-fitting.

‘The Royal Albert Memorial Museum’s ‘What do you collect?’ case was filled with an amazing diversity of recorded detected finds. The display was popular, and around 43,000 people visited that gallery during the course of the exhibition – a great chance to celebrate our relationship with PAS and our hosting of the Devon FLO’.

Thomas Cadbury, Curator, Royal Albert Memorial Museum.

20 Years of PAS in Dorset and Somerset

In December 2019, Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevvarthen (Dorset FLO) and Laura Burnett (formerly Somerset FLO) organised a day school celebrating 20 years of the PAS in Dorset and Somerset. This was held at County Hall, Dorchester, and was attended by many local people of various backgrounds and interests. A range of speakers spoke on many subjects, helping to give an overview of the important contribution made by the PAS to the archaeology of Dorset and Somerset since 1999. These included the current FLOs, Rob Webley (former FLO and PAS Explorers Officer), Eleanor Ghey (British Museum), Paul Cheetham (Bournemouth University) and Claire Pinder (Dorset Council).

Republican and early Imperial silver denarii from the Roman coin hoard at Gobowen, Shropshire.



Promoting best practice

Metal-detectorists make some of the most remarkable archaeological discoveries in Britain, but for these finds to realise their potential it is essential that finders follow the *Code of Practice for Responsible Metal Detecting in England and Wales* (2017) – this means getting the necessary permissions in place, stop digging if anything in-situ (undisturbed) or unusual is found and getting archaeological help, and recording their finds with the PAS. It is also essential that important finds end up in museum collections for all to learn about and see.

In-situ 'block-lift' of a Roman coin-hoard

In September 2019, Peter Reavill (Shropshire & Herefordshire FLO) and Susie White (North Wales FLO) were contacted by Darren Booth (finder) and members of his local metal detecting club (The Historical Search Society, Mold) following the discovery of significant numbers of Roman silver coins in a ploughed field in Gobowen, Shropshire (HESH-9E8532). On discovery, the finder followed the *Code of Practice for Responsible Metal Detecting in England and Wales* (2017) by leaving the find in situ and contacting PAS for further advice. Peter and Susie were able to undertake a site visit. Then with the support of members of the club and the landowner excavated and recorded the find archaeologically. This investigation included block lifting the fragile hoard, probably originally deposited within an organic container, for more detailed investigation at the British Museum.

Excavation of the Roman coin hoard at Gobowen, Shropshire.



Excavation of the Merton Bronze Age Hoard.

Excavation of an important Bronze Age hoard in Oxfordshire

On 23 December 2018, detectorist Simon Windsor-Smith was attending the Metal Detectives' Christmas rally near Merton, Oxfordshire. At 2pm he dug a signal, c.30cm deep, and discovered two Middle Bronze Age palstave axeheads (OXON-508051). After seeing another in the ground he stopped digging and called the rally organiser for assistance. Anni Byard (then Oxfordshire FLO) was attending the rally and, after preliminary investigations suggested more axeheads were present, the decision was made to try and block lift the hoard before darkness set in, especially as the security of this important find could not be guaranteed over the Christmas period. The excavation was hasty, with detectorists helping Anni isolate the find. Consequently, a block weighing over 30kg was removed and stored until after Christmas. Early in the New Year, the block was taken to the British Museum so it could be excavated in its conservation department. This revealed that the hoard consisted of 13 axeheads, making it the biggest hoard of Bronze Age axes ever found in Oxfordshire. The responsible actions of the finder and rally organiser ensured this important find could be studied and recorded professionally, enabling much important information to be retained. Oxfordshire Museum Service hopes to acquire.

LVPL-55FB97

Rick Firth (finder) and Matthew Knight (Bronze Age specialist at the National Museum Scotland) viewing the Bronze Age sword found at Swettenham, Cheshire



Congleton museum donation

In 2019, a nationally important Bronze Age sword (see Bronze Age section that follows) – though broken and incomplete – was donated to Congleton Museum by metal-detectorist Rick Firth; it was found at Swettenham, Cheshire (LVPL-55FB97), and reported to Ben Jones (then Cheshire FLO) for recording on the PAS database. The sword is of the ‘carp’s tongue’ type, though has a transitional hilt, so can be dated to c.1000–900 BC. It is one of only five such transitional examples found in Britain, and the first from north-west England.

Supporting museums and the heritage sector

The fact that the FLOs are based within museums or other heritage organisations, and also have strong links with museums across their area, provides them with ideal opportunities to work with colleagues to benefit the wider heritage sector. This type of work can vary from supporting the local acquisition of important finds to lending their knowledge to exhibitions on local archaeology. This support is reciprocal, with the FLOs (and the PAS partnership more widely) benefitting greatly from the expertise of many across the country.

Found in the ground

One of the events inspired by the ‘What do you collect?’ collector’s case exhibition (see above) was the first Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter, Devon, ‘Found in the Ground’ Junior Finds Day. A group of 12 children aged between 8 and 12 came to spend an afternoon with Lucy Shipley (Devon FLO), who provided them with artefacts from the Museum’s handling collection to record. They practised measuring, photography, and exploring objects under the microscope – some of the skills employed by FLOs. The most popular artefact was an Elizabethan coin where the children were delighted to learn about the secret code of initial marks. The day was so successful that a second fully-booked event was run in November 2019, and more are planned for the future.



LVPL-55FB97

Bronze Age copper-alloy sword handle from Swettenham, Cheshire.

Treasures of Essex

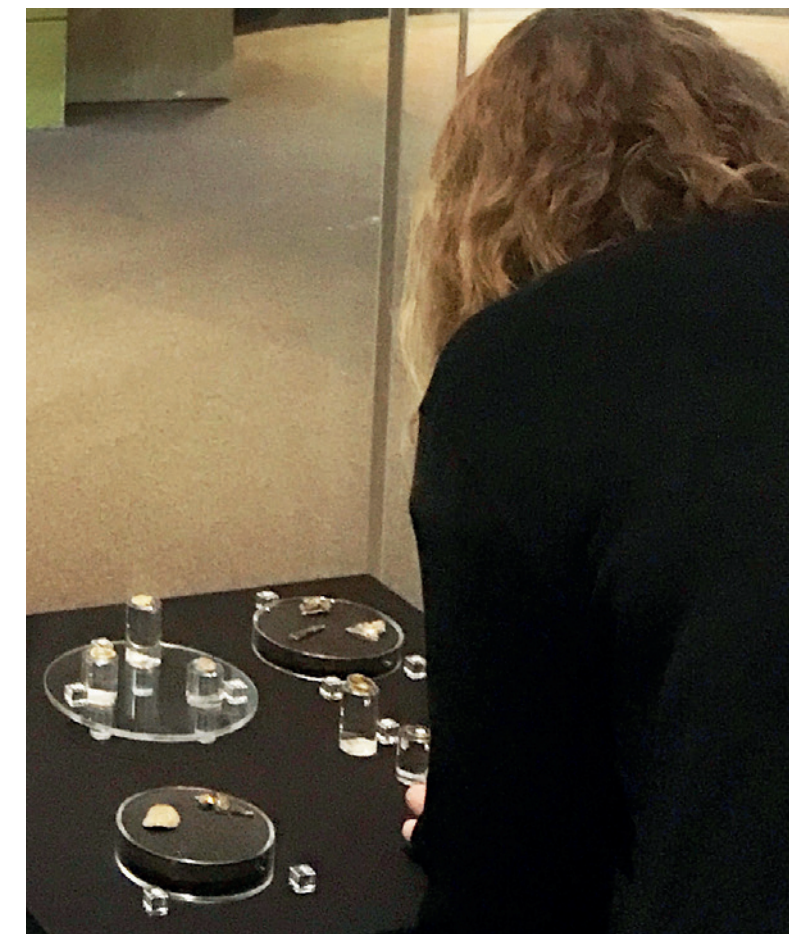
Sophie Flynn (Essex FLO) and colleagues from Colchester & Ipswich Museums Service worked together to curate an exhibition at Colchester Castle – ‘Treasures of Essex’. Fourteen Treasure finds featured, all being found locally and acquired by the Museum. The exhibition sought to highlight the work of the PAS in Essex and showed how co-operation between finders and FLOs makes it possible to allow these amazing items to end up in museum collections. The display, which opened in November 2019, acted as a taster for the Museum’s major exhibition ‘Adorn: jewellery, the human story’, which itself featured many artefacts also acquired through the Treasure process.

‘Treasures of Essex really complimented our first major exhibition at Colchester Castle since it reopened in 2014. It allowed visitors to see the contribution members of the public have made to the museum collections and how this can enhance larger exhibitions, such as ‘Adorn: jewellery, the human story’. It was also a great opportunity to promote the work of the PAS in Essex.

Ben Paites, Curator, Colchester & Ipswich Museums Service.

Roman coin training

For over a decade, Sam Moorhead (National Finds Adviser), now with Andrew Brown (Assistant National Finds Adviser), have been holding Iron Age and Roman coin training sessions at the British Museum for museum professionals, FLOs, PAS volunteers and metal-detectorists who ‘self-record’ their own finds. This has reached well over 500 people, many of whom are members of the public, who feedback the results of training in the form of thousands of wonderful coin records on the PAS database. After training, Sam and Andrew continue to assist attendees online with the recording process.



Treasures of Essex exhibition at Colchester Castle.

Recording finds

The primary role of the PAS is to record archaeological finds to advance knowledge. It is generally acknowledged that metal-detecting can make an important contribution to knowledge if carried out responsibly and respectfully, in accordance with the *Code of Practice for Responsible Metal Detecting in England and Wales*. The finds illustrated below can be interesting in their own right, but it is collectively – as a digital record on the PAS database (finds.org.uk/database) – that they help us understand Britain's past.

Flint and stone 800,000 BC– Present



NMS-0C6FD3
Lower Palaeolithic handaxe
from Happisburgh, Norfolk.



2019 saw the addition of 7,573 items of worked flint to the PAS database. Scrapers were the most common flint object recorded with 611 finds, followed by 387 pieces of debitage (waste chips from flint working).

Over the course of the year 325 stone objects were also added to the database. Axeheads were the most common with 31 recorded finds, then whetstones (usually of uncertain date) of which 26 were recorded. Unlike the flints, not all of the stone objects were prehistoric; five post-medieval stone objects were recorded and 36 finds were undated.

Flint handaxes

Lower Palaeolithic handaxes are remarkable for their great age and long period over which they were made and used, from about 800,000 until 150,000 years ago. They are sometimes referred to as 'bifaces' which does describe them as they were carefully flaked on both faces. The PAS has recorded 431 handaxes, which is not a large figure compared with the large numbers found in the gravels of river valleys but is important, providing a background to these other finds and helping to fill out knowledge of their distribution.

Important examples discovered this year include one from Happisburgh, Norfolk (NMS-0C6FD3). It dates from a time before modern human beings arrived in Europe, being made by an earlier type of hominid. Despite its great age it still strikes us as beautiful – it is symmetrical and elegantly shaped. Another from Norfolk, found at Guestwick (NMS-558D58), impresses by its sheer size: at 213mm long it is something of a giant. The exact function of such handaxes is uncertain, but it is likely that they were multi-functional tools; the Lower Palaeolithic version of the Swiss army knife.

NMS-558D58
Lower Palaeolithic handaxe
from Guestwick, Norfolk.

LEIC-C697E3
Neolithic handaxe from
Glenfields, Leicestershire.
Worked flint can have a
gem-like quality with the light
being reflected by the facets
and ripple marks. Unlike earlier
Neolithic flint axes, which were
polished all over, on these later
axes polishing was restricted
to the cutting edge – the part
that mattered. Axes were
polished by working them
against sandstone using water
to flush away the dust. Limiting
the area to be polished would
have led to a great saving in
time and effort.





IOW-2D4B90
Neolithic or later saddle quern
from Brighstone, Isle of Wight.



KENT-C296C3
Roman quern stone from
Eastchurch, Kent.



SOM-D9C047
Medieval or later quern stone
from Otterhampton, Somerset.

CAM-492E0C
Early medieval quern stone
from West Wrating,
Cambridgeshire.



Quern and mill stones

Quern stones represent an important part of human existence. It is thought that, working constantly, a skilled operator could grind about 3kg of flour in an hour; enough to make 4 modern-sized loaves for a lot of hard work. The stone querns contributed grit to the flour which abraded people's teeth.

The earliest were saddle querns which are surprisingly uncommon considering as they were in use from c. 4,000 to c. 100 BC, even later in some areas. The PAS has recorded only eight saddle querns compared to 308 rotary querns, perhaps because saddle quern fragments are hard to recognise. One from Brighstone, Isle of Wight (IOW-2D4B90), has the characteristic concave surface on which a second stone was worked back and forth.

Rotary querns first appeared around 100 BC making the grinding of flour easier. From Eastchurch, Kent (KENT-C296C3) was found a Roman low 'bun-shaped' quern. To use a rotary quern cereal was poured into the hollow at the top and, as the stone revolved on top of the missing lower stone, flour spilled out around the edges. With the Romans came the introduction of the watermill, although most flour was still ground by hand.

Not pretty, but the discovery of a quern stone fragment from West Wrating, Cambridgeshire (CAM-492E0C) represents progress. It is made from volcanic lava from the Eifel Mountains in Germany. Lava was light, hard wearing, with a naturally rough surface making it an ideal material for quern or mill stones. The carved grooves on the face helped transport the flour out to the edge.

Lava querns and millstones were imported by the Romans but continued to be used into the medieval and later periods, and were employed on water mills. At Otterhampton, Somerset (SOM-D9C047), was found a pot quern made from imported lava. While this came from a post-medieval context it had been built into a wall suggesting that it was medieval and being reused.

Kevin Leahy

WAW-7440AD

Palaeolithic handaxe from
Stoneleigh, Warwickshire.
Not all handaxes were made
from flint - this example was
made from a volcanic andesite
tuff. In spite of the use of this
intractable material, the maker
has produced a presentable
handaxe.



Bronze Age 2350–800 BC

1,845 Bronze Age items were added to the PAS database in 2019, representing just over two per cent of the finds total. Many of the items were weapons or tools, some found in hoards, and include 174 axeheads, of various types, and 70 spearheads.

Rare sword for Britain, particularly the north-west

A sword found at Swettenham, Cheshire (LVPL-55FB97), now in five parts, but complete save for the tip, is a rare find of a complete Late Bronze Age weapon from north-west England. Its straight blade has decorative ribbing on each face, with some discolouration at the tip, possibly indicating the remains of a scabbard which has decayed in situ. Analysis shows that the sword is poorly cast. Deliberate breakage of swords in the Bronze Age is widely known – either to re-use the metal or as a depositional rite – as such they are considered as hoards and should be reported as potential Treasure. In this case it is not easy to determine the cause; some damage at least has happened since the sword was deposited. The sword is of a transitional so-called ‘carp’s-tongue’ type, named after the shape of the blade, and dates probably to the late 10th century or early 9th centuries BC. There are very few of this type known from Britain and this is the first from north-western England. Different aspects of its form are paralleled across continental Europe.

Important Late Bronze Age assemblage from the north-east

A rich assemblage of Late Bronze Age objects, dated to the ‘Ewart Park phase’, c.950–750 BC, came to light near Eggleston, County Durham (DUR-F9B0D6). The hoard is comparable in some respects to other assemblages from the western part of the Durham (such as Gilmonby and Heathery Burn Cave) but unusually diverse in its contents. It comprises 62 fragments from at least 27 objects of gold, copper alloy, iron, jet, amber, and flint. Among these are spearheads, knives, decorated terminals, pins, a fragment of gold foil, as well as amber and jet beads. The four terminals are of particular note. All are similar in form with the front face of each being decorated with concentric rings positioned around a central raised dot. On one side of each terminal was a connection flange, all are now damaged or broken away. Two terminals were associated with fragments of worked wood and possible plant-based fibrous cordage. The purpose of these objects is not clear, but they may have been decorative end mounts to a composite material artefact.

Sally Worrell

LVPL-55FB97
Copper-alloy sword
found at Swettenham,
Cheshire.



LANCUM-C6B5FC
Heavy (311g) solid gold
bracelet carrying ‘spotty’
punched decoration and with
massive round section and
relatively plain terminals. It is
of a rare form, either of Irish or
British type, with evidence for
wear. It was found at St Bees,
Cumbria, and represents a
spectacular complement to
personal appearance in the
last century (1200–800 BC)
in the Late Bronze Age.

DUR-F9B0D6
Hoard of Late Bronze Age
objects from near Eggleston,
County Durham.





Iron Age 800 BC–AD 43



SWYOR-F6BB91
Copper-alloy sword pommel and guard dating from Belton, North Lincolnshire.

LON-E78C8A
Copper-alloy handle mount from the bucket found at Lenham, Kent.

LON-E78C8A
Copper-alloy binding-strip from the bucket found at Lenham, Kent.

Finds dating to the Iron Age are least common of all PAS finds, encompassing 1,343 items in 2019; so not quite two per cent of the entire dataset. Coins are the most common of all Iron Age finds, with 531 being recorded, followed by 185 brooches (of which 148 were late Iron Age to Roman) and 82 harness fittings of various types.

Anthropomorphic sword fittings

Two fittings, a pommel cap and guard, from the same sword hilt were found at Belton, North Lincolnshire (SWYOR-F6BB91). They are of uncommon form and would have created a single cruciform shaped pommel with short arms which are angled upwards towards domed terminals. The tip is a human head, with a triangular face and cap of hair, with stylised details lightly incised. The hair locks positioned either side are not quite so long as the face and curls back on itself. At the top of the head, the end of the iron tang of the hilt is visible, standing slightly proud. The lower guard is a mirror image of the pommel but lacks the head. Traces of the iron tang are visible and a groove in the base is filled with iron corrosion; this is all that is left of the blade. This is the second such hilt documented by the PAS, the other being from nearby Nottinghamshire (DENO-B364C6). Swords of this type, Stead's Group G, are uncommon in Britain, and date from the third to first century BC.

Vessel with decorative elements repurposed for a cremation

Uncovered at Lenham, Kent, in 2019 was a hoard with decorated feasting gear (LON-E78C8A). The decoration occurs on the copper-alloy bindings of a wooden bucket, found along with a copper-alloy bowl, and part of a clay pot. Buckets like this are rare finds and, although very fragmented, the repoussé decoration on the featured piece, from the vessel rim, is very striking. It consists of pairs of hippocamps, hybrid creatures with horse heads and forelimbs and fish tails, facing one another over another animal on its back with legs in the air. Behind one hippocamp stands a bird-like creature with talons outstretched. The stylized animal forms present fluid movement, for example the short curling strokes on horse necks convey the mane lifting during motion. The evidence for wear and repair on the fittings suggest it was a cherished and much-used object. Buckets such as this are usually found in high-status cremation graves from the mid-first century BC, as this seems to be, alongside other pots, jugs and pans as drinking sets for serving alcohol at feasts.

HAMP-3F29A6
Uninscribed quarter *stater* of the Belgae, c.55–45 BC, found in Beech, Hampshire. This is only the fourth known example of this type and the first recorded through the PAS.





YORYM-B9EC9D

Complete copper-alloy cruciform 'bead' from a beaded torc of about 50 BC–AD 150 that was found at Brantingham, East Yorkshire. The bead has a flattened central panel through which is a central square aperture - this would have accommodated an iron rod onto which the beads would have been threaded.



HAMP-A63ECB

Incomplete copper-alloy pin, dated 300–150 BC, with a large knobbed head decorated in 'plastic style' (i.e. exuberantly moulded with swirling forms) and the remains of an iron shank. It was found at Wield, Hampshire.

Greeks in Berkshire

A remarkable find from Bisham, Berkshire, this year was a silver Greek drachm of Alexander III 'the Great' (336–323 BC) (BERK-66FE72) discovered apparently wrapped in a lead sheet (BERK-670856). This is a posthumous issue of Alexander struck in western Anatolia (modern-day Turkey) in c.310–301 BC and depicts the head of Herakles on the obverse and a seated Zeus on the reverse. Greek coins are hugely rare finds in Britain, and many are likely not genuine ancient losses. If this is an ancient loss, the process of wrapping it in lead may hint at its use for purposes other than as money.

Sally Worrell and Andrew Brown

BERK-66FE72

Silver *drachm* of Alexander III, found at Bisham, Berkshire.



KENT-4CB117

Crescent-headed linch-pin from Adisham, Kent, dating to 100 BC–AD 100. It is complete, with decorated copper-alloy terminals and iron shank, and was used to hold the wheel in place on the axle of a prestigious vehicle.

BERK-670856

Folded lead sheet found with the drachm of Alexander III, at Bisham, Berkshire.



Roman AD 43–410



DENO-C50164
Copper-alloy contemporary copy of an as, probably of Antoninus Pius (AD 138–161), found at Elvaston, Derbyshire.



SUR-1BA203
Copper-alloy *radiate* of Divus Nigrinian (AD 283–285), son of the emperor Carinus, from the mint of Rome, found in London. Coins of Nigrinian are extremely rare finds in Britain; this is the first example recorded through the PAS.

WREX-8D3982
Lead ingot from Rossett, Wrexham.



Roman finds are plentiful, with 30,456 items added to the PAS database this year, representing over 38 per cent of the total finds recorded in 2019. This includes 14,495 coins, 2,196 brooches, 185 bracelets, 178 finger-rings and 33 figurines.

Early contemporary copies

Sometimes, poorly preserved coins or irregular copies offer the most interesting perspectives on Roman Britain. In 2019, five coins of the emperors Trajan (AD 98–117; BM-710A84, LIN-997228), Hadrian (AD 117–138; NARC-C14BE0) and Antoninus Pius (AD 138–161; SF-D0063B, DENO-C50164) were added to a corpus of unofficial copies of Roman *sestertii*, *dupondii* and *asses* – the early Roman bronze denominations. Analysis of known examples demonstrates there are specific groups of British copies imitating official prototypes but often with mixed obverse and reverse types or semi-literate legends. These copies were clearly accepted as currency in Roman Britain and therefore must have performed a function within the economy.

Roman Pig – but not a snorting sort

A lead ingot or ‘pig’ discovered at Rossett, Wrexham (WREX-8D3982), offers new insights into the Roman conquest of Britain. The ingot, a little plough-damaged but otherwise intact, 53cm long and weighing 63.4 kg, carries an inscription recording that it was ‘British lead’ and that it was cast during the governorship of Trebellius Maximus (AD 64–68). The brief tenure of Trebellius is reported by the Roman historian Tacitus, who records him as notorious for his greed. This is among the earliest dated inscriptions attesting to Roman seizure of metal sources in Britain, and in particular is the first witness for Roman exploitation of the rich lead (and silver) resources from north-east Wales. The production of the ingot presupposes prospection for metals, expropriation of mine sites, the establishment of mining and transport infrastructure, and the recruitment of labour, forced or voluntary. The mine named on the inscription (perhaps) is likely to have been expropriated for Nero himself, the emperor reigning at the time it was made.

Enigmatic objects from the Roman past

At Much Hadham, Hertfordshire, was found a near complete cast copper-alloy dodecahedron (BH-692011) – the best-preserved example of this enigmatic object type ever discovered in Roman Britain. As the name suggests, the object has twelve pentagonal faces, each with a perforation at the centre, and knob projecting from each vertex. Dodecahedra are documented in small numbers across the northern Roman Empire and are difficult to date precisely since so few have been found in context. Previous finds come more commonly from urban and military sites, however this new find, like the five others previously recorded by the PAS, show them also to be used in the countryside. Their function remains unclear; more than 50 purposes have been suggested since the 18th century, the commonest are as measuring devices, sceptre heads, luxury household objects (for example candlesticks or dice) or for divining the future.

LIN-997228
Copper-alloy contemporary copy of a *sestertius* of Trajan (AD 98–117), found at Langton by Wragby, Lincolnshire.

BH-692011
Copper-alloy dodecahedron from Much Hadham, Hertfordshire.



Tetrarchic gold

A gold *solidus* of Constantine I (AD 306–337) found at Wanstrow, Somerset (SOM-A557C8), is only the fourth gold coin of the Tetrarchic period (AD c.293–324) recorded through the PAS. On the reverse it depicts the emperor on horseback spearing a fallen enemy and was struck at the mint of Trier in AD 313–315. Two other multiples of solidi for Licinius I (AD 308–324; NARC-A1A418 & WILT-D86FB6), also issued from Trier in the same period, are known. It has been suggested that these very rare gold issues may have been shipped to Britain in batches to be distributed by the emperor himself, perhaps during an Imperial visit by Constantine to the province.

Sally Worrell, Andrew Brown and Sam Moorhead



KENT-DD7BC3

Gold amulet, from Norton, Buckland and Stone, Kent, with stamped motifs showing a central evil eye under attack – its assailants including a scorpion, snake, elephant, winged phallus, thunderbolt, dog and birds. It is the second example recorded by the PAS, the other being from Norfolk (NMS-B9A004).

SF-9B73E9

Copper-alloy figurine, in the form of a stylised standing male figure with prominently moulded testicles and an erect penis, perhaps a British counterpart to the Roman fertility deity Priapus. The object was found at Great and Little Chishill, Suffolk.

SOM-A557C8

Gold *solidus* of Constantine I (AD 306–337) found at Wanstrow, Somerset.



FASAM-8F3066

Gold *aureus* of the Britannic emperor Allectus (AD 293–296), mint of London, AD c.293–296, found in south east Kent. Gold coinage of Allectus is rare (this is only the twenty-seventh specimen known) and this is the first example discovered in half a century.



Early Medieval AD 410–1066



DENO-121DD9
Silver pyramidal mount from Holme, Nottinghamshire.



GLO-706655
Copper-alloy pyramidal mount from Cherington, Gloucestershire.



BUC-62E90E
Silver sceat from Wendover, Buckinghamshire.



NMS-8FBCC9
'Bust crowned' type silver penny of Edmund I (r. AD 939–46). It is only the seventh of this type recorded by the PAS. Edmund was assassinated while attending Mass at Pucklechurch, Gloucestershire.

Finds of the early medieval period reflect many different cultures, including the Saxons, Carolingians and Franks, Irish, Ottonians and the Vikings, but also cultural fusion. As such the 5,090 items of early medieval date recorded by the PAS in 2019 are not only diverse but can be puzzling, especially as the relationships between these peoples cannot always be understood through their material culture.

Pyramidal mounts

Dating between the late 6th- and 7th-century, pyramidal mounts are uncommon detector finds – six were recorded on the PAS database in 2019. These include a silver example from Holme, Nottinghamshire (DENO-121DD9), with a single garnet at its apex and its sides decorated with incised mock cloisonné; similar is another from Kenninghall, Norfolk (NMS-498828), with the setting now missing but the incised pattern filled with niello. The embellishment of a copper-alloy example from Cherington, Gloucestershire (GLO-706655) is quite distinct, part of its design formed of triangular indentations.

Pyramidal mounts are not entirely understood, but it appears they were used on sword scabbards, perhaps as decorative features or as toggle-like objects that helped to secure the sword in the scabbard, by means of a strap running through the transverse bar on the base. They are more commonly found as stray finds than in grave assemblages, suggesting they were quite easily lost. The fact that many are silver (some 40 per cent recorded through the PAS) implies they were used mostly by people of high status.

Birds on early Anglo-Saxon sceattas

Silver pennies of the later 7th to mid-8th centuries, often called *sceattas*, are the most frequently found early-medieval coins recorded by the PAS in 2019, with 173 examples logged. They have diverse designs which can be interpreted through the lens of early Christianity. Birds are a good example and are represented in various ways. A 'Series U' *sceat* from Wendover, Buckinghamshire (BUC-62E90E), one of only two recorded last year, shows a bird eating a berry from a branch. This can be seen as Christ (the vine) providing safety for the soul (represented by the bird). This motif is rendered quite differently on a 'Series V' *sceat* from Exning, Suffolk (SF-16CC95), with the bird viewed from the front; it the first example from the county and only the fourth recorded by the PAS. A more common motif, a bird on a cross, is seen on several types including the widely-distributed 'Series J' (type 85) *sceat*. An example from the Isle of Wight (NARC-189F20) in excellent condition shows an outline bird as the Holy Spirit above the cross. It is likely influenced by designs seen on objects such as lamps from the eastern Mediterranean.

Michael Lewis and John Naylor (with Helen Geake)



NARC-189F20
Silver sceat from Yarmouth, Isle of Wight.



SUR-BFDCEE

Well preserved copper-alloy hanging bowl escutcheon dating to the 7th century, with its hook in the form of a bird's head and enamelled knot-work design on the plate. It was found at Firsdown, Wiltshire.



LIN-B6F0ED

Found near Cumberworth, Lincolnshire, this gold buckle plate with garnet cloisonné setting, dates to the late 6th or 7th century. Its stepped-pattern decoration is striking and has been executed with skill.



NMS-BECE1C

Silver disc brooch inlaid with niello, found at Great Dunham, Norfolk, and dated to the mid-late 9th century. It is decorated with zoomorphic beasts in the Trewiddle style, and parallels brooches in the Pentney Hoard (British Museum), found nearby.

Medieval AD 1066–1500

A wide variety of medieval objects and coins were recorded with the PAS in 2019, reflecting all aspects of life in the Middle Ages. In all, 18,057 items were logged on to the PAS database representing almost 23 per cent of the dataset.

Papal seals

Lead seals known as papal *bullae*, once attached to documents issued by the papal curia, are not uncommon detecting finds – 30 were recorded by the PAS in 2019. How they entered the ground is a bit of a mystery as until the Reformation of the mid-16th century documents ‘sealed’ with such *bullae* would have been important proof of papal directives and grants of privilege etc. Some – such as an example issued in the name of Honorius IV (r. 1216–27) from Steventon, Hampshire (HAMP-F2F814), have signs of possible iconoclastic damage – offering an explanation for their later loss. Although the *bullae* recorded this year date from c.1159 to c.1415 they cluster in the 13th century, particularly between 1227 and 1261, with 18 examples representing three popes: Gregory IX (r. 1227–41), Innocent IV (r. 1243–54) and Alexander IV (r. 1254–1261). This reflects a particularly active period for the papal curia issuing decrees and indulgences.

Medieval monetary union

In 1469, King Edward IV of England (r. 1461–70) and Charles ‘the Bold’, Duke of Burgundy (r. 1467–77), published an agreement which made each other’s currency legal tender in the other country with the exception of low denominations in base silver. The most common denomination found in England are double *patards*, equivalent to English groats, 19 of which were recorded by the PAS last year. These included two separate discoveries of double *patards* of Charles ‘the Bold’ from Cornwall, found at Launceston (CORN-35131D) and St Buryan (CORN-EA1884) which doubles the number known from the county. A later example, struck for Philip ‘the Fair’ as Duke of Burgundy (r. 1482–1506) was found at Warnham, West Sussex (SUSS-B6B062). Double *patards* continued to circulate into the 1530s and are often found in hoards also containing coins of Henry VIII (r. 1509–47); two such hoards were found last year at Churchstoke, Powys (WREX-96FFBA) and near Lodden, Norfolk (NMS-EEEABC).

Michael Lewis and John Naylor



HAMP-F2F814
Papal *bullae* of Honorius IV from Steventon, Hampshire.



LVPL-4E6C76
Found at Temple Bruer with Temple High Grange, Lincolnshire, silver-gilt brooch decorated with two lions, each being ridden by a naked individual. The object dates to the 13th or 14th century.



SOM-862DDC

Dating to the 13th century, or the first half of the 14th century, this gilded copper-alloy plaque found at Chiselborough, Somerset, is likely to have originated from the Meuse valley (modern-day Belgium). The enamelling suggests that it was made in a Mosan workshop. It is probably from a processional cross or similar.



HESH-237E03

Lead disc struck from the dies for a silver penny of William I (r. 1066–87) or William II (r. 1087–1100) found near Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire. Its function is uncertain, but may have been as a receipt to show that customs dues had been paid or a test-striking of the coin dies.



CORN-EA1884

Silver double *patard* of Charles ‘the Bold’ from St Buryan, Cornwall.



SUSS-B6B062

Silver double *patard* of Philip ‘the Fair’ from Warnham, West Sussex. Even though this coin has been pierced it does not seem to have been adapted for jewellery, such as a brooch or pendant, and therefore is not potential Treasure.



IOW-AE8184

Copper-alloy ‘personal’ seal matrix belonging to a certain Peter Fourdirt, showing a bird of prey resting on a falconer’s arm. It was found at Calbourne, Isle of Wight, and dates to the 13th or 14th century.



Post-medieval AD 1500 onwards



BERK-AD2BA7
Gold touch-piece of Queen Anne (r. AD 1702–14) from Eton, Berkshire.

Although the PAS is selective in recording post-medieval finds, a further 16,310 items dating to after 1540 were logged onto its database in 2019. This represents a wide array of material culture, reflecting the lives of both ordinary people and those much more well-off.

Disease, medals and the monarchy

The lack of medical knowledge in the past resulted in practices that may seem odd to use today. A debilitating condition known as ‘scrofula’ – probably a disease of the lymph glands resulting in painful sores and skin-related ailments – became associated with royalty in the belief that the sores would heal if touched by the monarch. In medieval and post-medieval England this was accompanied by the gift of a gold ‘touch-piece’, pierced to wear around the neck as an amulet. By the reign of Charles II (r. 1660–85) these touch pieces were no longer coins but specially-made medals copying the gold Angel coinage. Only two were reported last year, one an example for Queen Anne (r. AD 1702–14) from Eton, Berkshire (BERK-AD2BA7). The other, produced for James II (r. 1685–7), was found at Hartley Wintney, Hampshire (HAMP-ECDEB8). Both have the characteristic large piercings at the top of the object, the James II piece also being sharply bent.

Laura Burnett and John Naylor

KENT-4C5F3B

Cast copper-alloy handle of a late 16th century skillet. The inscription ties it to the foundry of Thomas Hatch at Broomfield, Kent, and links work under his name to that of his apprentice.



OXON-EC89DC

Copper-alloy farthing trade token of Humphry Bodicott, a vintner at the Three Tuns pub in Oxford, dating 1652–60, and found at Horton-cum-Studley, Oxfordshire. The obverse design has a ‘vintner’s bush’ (hung outside the inn to advertise the sale of wine) and on the reverse three tuns (large beer or wine casks).



WMID-FAEC68

Silver shilling of Elizabeth I (r. 1558–1603) which has been modified into a mount or similar decorative item of unclear function. It was found at Flagg, Derbyshire.

Statistics

Table 1
PAS finds
recorded and
Treasure cases
reported by
geographical
area.²

Area	PAS finds	Treasure cases
Bedfordshire (inc. Luton)	303	14
Berkshire	528	11
Buckinghamshire (inc. Milton Keynes)	1,797	33
Cambridgeshire (inc. Peterborough)	1,471	18
Cheshire (inc. Warrington & Wirral)	406	9
Cornwall	391	11
Cumbria	373	25
Derbyshire	258	9
Devon (inc. Plymouth & Torbay)	1,127	27
Dorset (inc Bournemouth)	2,522	46
Durham, Co. (inc. Darlington & Gateshead & Hartlepool & South Tyneside & Sunderland)	763	11
Essex	544	81
Gloucestershire (inc. Bristol & South Gloucestershire)	1,070	13
Hampshire (inc. Portsmouth)	6,319	104
Herefordshire	1,601	16
Hertfordshire	1,139	14
Isle of Wight	1,211	19
Kent (inc. Medway)	1,732	57
Lancashire (inc. Merseyside)	331	13
Leicestershire	3,760	16
Lincolnshire (inc. North & North East Lincolnshire)	5,966	94
London, Gtr	681	15
Manchester, Gtr (inc. Wigan)	158	1
Norfolk	10,613	88
Northamptonshire	2,474	30
Northumberland	176	6
Nottinghamshire	597	26
Oxfordshire	2,441	56
Rutland	205	2
Shropshire (inc. Telford)	530	28
Somerset (inc. Bath & North East Somerset, & North Somerset)	4,652	44
Staffordshire (inc. Stoke-on-Trent & Walsall & Wolverhampton)	590	11
Suffolk	6,057	70
Surrey	749	15
Sussex (East & West, inc. Brighton)	1,217	27
Warwickshire (inc. Birmingham & Solihull)	898	15
Wiltshire (inc. Swindon)	4,534	60
Worcestershire	660	17
Yorkshire, East	1,939	43
Yorkshire, North (inc. Redcar & Cleveland, & York)	3,475	51
Yorkshire, South	461	9
Yorkshire, West	1,408	4
Wales (all counties)	521	45
Northern Ireland (all counties)	0	4
data not yet available	2,954	3
TOTAL	81,602	1,311

The counties recording the most PAS finds in 2019 were Norfolk (10,613 finds), Hampshire (6,319) and Suffolk (6,057). Most Treasure cases were reported in Hampshire (104 cases), followed by Lincolnshire (94) and Norfolk (88).

² Data downloaded
2 January 2020.

Table 2
PAS finds recorded (and number of finders recording finds) by recording institution.

FLO Area	PAS finds	Finders	Average
Berkshire (BERK)	700	64	11
Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire (BH)	2,043	74	28
Buckinghamshire (BUC)	844	52	16
Cambridgeshire (CAM)	379	55	7
Cheshire etc (LVPL)	1,049	105	10
Cornwall (CORN)	471	77	6
Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire (DENO)	1,292	83	16
Devon (DEV)	1,542	143	11
Dorset (DOR)	4,874	120	41
Durham (DUR)	1,014	104	10
Essex (ESS)	460	59	8
Gloucestershire (GLO)	3,952	85	46
Hampshire (HAMP)	5,038	116	43
Herefordshire & Shropshire (HESH)	1,772	60	30
Isle of Wight (IOW)	1,205	103	12
Kent (KENT)	1,137	150	8
Lancashire & Cumbria (LANCUM)	934	91	10
Leicestershire (LEIC)	3,974	69	58
Lincolnshire (LIN)	1,518	95	16
London (LON)	559	100	6
Norfolk (NMS)	10,855	273	40
Northamptonshire (NARC)	2,469	58	43
North Lincolnshire (NLM)	3,767	98	38
Northumberland etc (NCL)	82	10	8
Oxfordshire (OXON)	2,038	315	6
Somerset (SOM)	2,412	165	15
Staffordshire & West Midlands (WMID)	1,037	117	9
Suffolk (SF)	6,034	231	26
Surrey (SUR)	2,437	112	22
Sussex (SUSS)	1,056	47	22
Warwickshire & Worcestershire (WAW)	1,434	95	15
Wiltshire (WILT)	1,937	115	17
Yorkshire, North & East (YORYM)	2,676	119	22
Yorkshire, South & West (SWYOR)	3,505	150	23
Wales (NMGW etc)	908	190	5
Finds Advisers etc (BM etc)	1,147	66	17
Public – self recorders (PUBLIC)	3,051	177	17

The institutions recording the most finds in 2019 were Norfolk (10,855 finds), Suffolk (6,057) and Hampshire (5,038). In total 4,143 people had finds recorded with the PAS in 2019, though a greater number of people will have offered finds for recording that were not recorded (including non-archaeological material). With training and support, 177 people (self-recorders) were recording their own finds directly onto the database. Otherwise the FLOs liaising with the most finders were in Oxfordshire (315 finders), Norfolk (273) and Suffolk (231). The average number of ‘finds recorded by finder’ varies tremendously across England from six per finder in Cornwall, London and Oxfordshire to 58 in Leicestershire. ³

³ The finders statistics for Oxfordshire are of interest, as the relatively high number of finders but low ratio of finds recorded by these finders are probably explained by finds recording at rallies.

Table 3
PAS finds recorded by government region.⁴

Government Region	FLOs (FTE)	PAS finds	Average per FLO
North West	2	1,224	612
North East	1.8	947	526
Yorkshire	3	8,323	2,774
West Midlands	2.8	4,195	1,498
East Midlands	5	11,704	2,341
East	7.5	16,237	2,165
South West	4.7	12,745	2,711
South East & London	7.2	15,559	2,161

Most PAS finds were found in the East (16,237), followed by the South East and London regions (15,559) and then the South West (9,398). Table 3 shows where the finds were discovered not where they were recorded, so therefore these are not necessarily an indicator of the productivity of the region or its FLOs. Even so, most finds per FLO (FTE) were found in Yorkshire (2,774), followed by the South West (2,711) and the East Midlands (2,341).

Table 4
PAS finds by period, where known/recorded.

	Stone Age	Bronze Age	Iron Age	Roman	Early-medieval	Medieval	Post-medieval
2019	6,542	1,845	1,343	30,456	5,090	18,057	16,310
%	8.21	2.32	1.69	38.24	6.39	22.67	20.48

Roman finds accounted for the highest number (and proportion) of items recorded (38.24%), followed by those of medieval (22.67%), then post-medieval (20.48%), date.

Table 5
Method of discovery, where known/recorded.

	Metal-detecting	Chance find while metal-detecting	Field-walking	Other chance find/gardening	Controlled archaeological investigation	Building/agricultural work
2019	71,300	1,566	6,629	1,740	196	80
%	87.47	1.92	8.13	2.14	0.24	0.10

Almost 90% of all PAS finds were found by metal-detectorists, either while metal-detecting or spotted by chance - ‘eyes only’. The next most common discovery method is through field-walking (accounting for 8.13% of all finds), mostly for prehistoric flint tools.

Table 6
Findspot precision.

	4 fig	6 fig	8 fig	10 fig	12 fig
2019	542	20,200	14,977	41,548	15
%	0.70	26.14	19.38	53.76	0.02

Over 99% of completed PAS finds records in 2019 had at least a 6-figure NGR (National Grid Reference - precise to 100m), with over 73% having at least an 8-figure NGR.

Table 7
Land use, where known/recorded.

Land use	2019	%
Cultivated land	43,172	86.49
Grassland/heathland	2,008	4.02
Woodland	187	0.38
Coastland	256	0.51
Open fresh water/wetlands	1,366	2.74
Other	2,926	5.86

Over 86% of finds (where land use was recorded) were discovered on cultivated land, where they are vulnerable to agricultural damage and natural corrosion processes.

Michael Lewis and Ian Richardson

⁴ This is based on where the finds are made and does not include PUBLIC records.

Finds Liaison Officers' locations

40

Finds Liaison Officers covering 34 areas

99%

Finds recorded to the nearest 100m.

81,602

Finds recorded in 2019

511

Researchers have full access to PAS data

Contacts

PAS Central Unit (British Museum)
+44 (0)20 7323 8611/8618
info@finds.org.uk

Treasure (British Museum)
+44 (0)20 7323 8243/8546
treasure@britishmuseum.org

PASt Explorers (British Museum)
+44 (0)20 7323 8293
pastexplorersoutreach@gmail.com

1 Berkshire
Philip Smither
+44 (0)1635 519397
philip.smither1@westberks.gov.uk

2 Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire
Matthew Fittock
+44 (0)1727 819379
matthew.fittock@stalbans.gov.uk

3 Buckinghamshire
Arwen Wood
+44 (0)1296 325227
+44 (0)7955 430589
finds@buckscountymuseum.org

4 Cambridgeshire
Helen Fowler
+44 (0)1223 728571
helen.fowler@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

5 Cheshire, Greater Manchester & Merseyside
Heather Beeton
+44 (0)151 478 4259
heather.beeton@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk

6 Cornwall
Lara Hogg
+44 (0)1326 564027
finds@museumofcornishlife.co.uk

7 Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire
Vacant
+44 (0)1332 641903

8 Devon & Somerset
Lucy Shipley & Maria Kneafsey
+44 (0)7398 455972 / +44 (0)1823 347457 /
finds@swheritage.org.uk

9 Dorset
Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevarthen
+44 (0)1305 228254
finds@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

10 Durham
Benjamin Westwood
+44 (0)3000 267011
benjamin.westwood@durham.gov.uk

11 Essex
Sophie Flynn
+44 (0)1206 282931 / +44 (0)7717 676518
sophie.flynn@colchester.gov.uk

12 Gloucestershire & Avon
Kurt Adams
+44 (0)117 922 2613
kurt.adams@bristol.gov.uk

13 Hampshire
Jenny Durrant & Simon Maslin
+44 (0)1962 678180
jenny.durrant@hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk
simon.maslin@hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk

14 Herefordshire & Shropshire
Peter Reavill
+44 (0)1743 254748
peter.reavill@shropshire.gov.uk

15 Isle of Wight
Vacant
+44 (0)1983 821000 ext 5866

16 Kent
Jo Ahmet
+44 (0)3000 410053
flo@kent.gov.uk

17 Lancashire & Cumbria
Ian Bass & Alex Whitlock
+44 (0)7557 030768 / +44 (0)7814 296173
ian.bass@lancashire.gov.uk/
alex.whitlock@lancashire.gov.uk

18 Leicestershire & Rutland
Megan Gard
+44 (0)1572 758131
mgard@rutland.gov.uk

19 Lincolnshire
Lisa Brundle
+44 (0)1522 552361
lisa.brundle@lincolnshire.gov.uk

20 London
Stuart Wyatt
+44 (0)20 7814 5733
swyatt@museumoflondon.org.uk

21 Norfolk
Helen Geake, Garry Crace & Andrew Williams
+44 (0)1362 869294 / 869289
helen.geake@norfolk.gov.uk /
garry.crace@norfolk.gov.uk /
andrew.williams@norfolk.gov.uk

22 Northamptonshire
Ellie Cox
+44 (0)1604 367249
elcox@northamptonshire.gov.uk

23 Newcastle & Northumberland
Andrew Agate
+44 (0)191 208 5031
andrew.agate@twmuseums.org.uk

24 North Lincolnshire
Martin Foreman
+44 (0)1724 297055
martin.foreman@northlincs.gov.uk

25 Oxfordshire
Edward Caswell
+44 (0)1865 300557
edward.caswell@oxfordshire.gov.uk

26 Staffordshire & West Midlands
Teresa Gilmore & Victoria Allnatt
+44 (0)121 348 8225 / +44 (0)7766 925351 /
+44 (0)7518 530904
teresa.gilmore@birminghammuseums.org.uk
victoria.allnatt@birminghammuseums.org.uk

27 Suffolk
Anna Booth & Philip Hughes
+44 (0)1284 741241 / 741235
anna.booth@suffolk.gov.uk /
philip.hughes@suffolk.gov.uk

28 Surrey
Simon Maslin
+44 (0)1483 404999 / +44 (0)7968 832740
simon.maslin@surreycc.gov.uk

29 Sussex
Jane Clark
+44 (0)1273 405731
flo@sussexpast.co.uk

30 Warwickshire & Worcestershire
Susheela Burford
+44 (0)1299 250416
susheela.burford@worcestershire.gov.uk

31 Wiltshire
Wil Partridge
+44 (0)1722 332151
wilpartridge@salisburyymuseum.org.uk

32 Yorkshire (North & East)
Rebecca Griffiths
+44 (0)1904 687668
rebecca.griffiths@ymt.org.uk

33 Yorkshire (South & West)
Amy Downes
+44 (0)113 535 0173
amy.downes@wyjs.org.uk

34 Wales
Mark Lodwick, Adelle Bricking, George Whatley & Susie White
+44 (0)2920 573226 / +44 (0)1978 297466
mark.lodwick@museumwales.ac.uk /
adelle.bricking@museumwales.ac.uk
george.whatley@museumwales.ac.uk
susie.white@museumwales.ac.uk

Jersey
Georgia Robinson
+44 (0)1534 833141
georgia.kelly@jerseyheritage.org

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Treasure Act 1996, visit finds.org.uk

**Learning and National
Partnerships**

British Museum
London WC1B 3DG
info@finds.org.uk
+44 (0)20 7323 8611/8618

Printed with the generous support of
Treasure Hunting magazine

Compiled and edited by Michael Lewis
with Andrew Brown



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