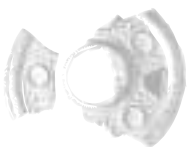


Portable Antiquities Scheme

Annual Report 2001/02–2002/03



Portable
Antiquities
Scheme

www.finds.org.uk

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Foreword



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I am very pleased to introduce the fifth *Portable Antiquities Scheme Annual Report*, which assesses the work of the Scheme from 1 October 2001 until 31 March 2003.

I am delighted that in April 2002 Resource: The Council for Museums, Archives and Libraries was successful in its bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund to extend the Portable Antiquities Scheme to all parts of England and Wales from 2003. Together with funding from this Department there is now provision for a total of 46 posts and the Scheme's future is assured until April 2006.

I would particularly like to thank the 1,704 finders who have volunteered 49,590 objects for recording in the period of this report. This contribution is vital to the existence of the Portable Antiquities Scheme. The support of the National Council for Metal Detecting for the Scheme has been particularly welcome. However, whilst the majority of the finds recorded have been made by metal-detector users, nearly 40 per cent of them have been discovered by non-detector users: it is important to stress that the Finds Liaison Officers are enthusiastic to record objects found by all members of the public, however these finds are discovered. It is the long-term aim of the Portable Antiquities Scheme to change public attitudes to recording archaeological discoveries, so that it becomes normal practice for finders to report them.

I would also like to pay tribute to the dedication and hard work of the Finds Liaison Officers, and the other members of the Scheme, who have an important educational and outreach role in that they proactively go and meet finders to record their finds. Over the period of this report they have given talks, organised exhibitions and involved the public in many archaeological and museum-based activities, such as site surveys and Finds Days. The government also recognises the work of the Finds Liaison Officers in ensuring the efficient and smooth running of the Treasure Act, helping finders to report discoveries of potential Treasure, and helping to satisfy the government's obligations under European and international law: this report demonstrates that the presence of a Finds Liaison Officer may increase the reporting rate of Treasure finds by a factor of between three and five.

The contribution of the Scheme to our understanding of the past has also been recognised by the All Party Parliamentary Archaeology Group (APPAG), a cross-party group of both Members of Parliament and the House of Lords. In its first report, *The Current State of Archaeology in the United Kingdom*, APPAG dedicated a whole chapter to its support of the work of the Portable Antiquities Scheme.

All the activities of the Scheme are focused on raising awareness of the importance of recording archaeological finds discovered by the public for understanding the past. This has been highlighted in a new BBC television series, *Hidden Treasure*, screened in the autumn of 2003, which brought the work of the Scheme to a much wider audience than would otherwise have been possible.

The Scheme also has an important educational role, and helps to provide a framework for members of the public to develop an interest in archaeology and become involved. The Scheme is part of the National Grid for Learning, underlining its importance as an educational resource. The Scheme's finds database is available online (www.finds.org.uk) for public benefit. Its redevelopment in the course of 2003 will lead to increased functionality and accessibility, adding to its educational potential. Data generated by the Portable Antiquities Scheme is also to be made available to Historic Environment Records, the key holders of information about the historic environment.

Over the period of this report there has been much work, especially on the part of Resource, to prepare for the expansion of the Scheme across the whole of England and Wales. The main aim is to provide a comprehensive and proactive mechanism to record finds made by the public, allowing all to contribute to our understanding of our past and build a database of information for public benefit. Without a Scheme in place such opportunities for public involvement would be vastly reduced and the loss of information about the historic environment would be extremely damaging. Therefore, this government will look favourably at the question of how to sustain the long-term future of the Portable Antiquities Scheme after 31 March 2006.

A handwritten signature in brown ink that reads "Estelle Morris". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Estelle Morris
Minister of State for the Arts

December 2003

Preface

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Resource: The Council for Museums, Archives and Libraries and its predecessor, the Museums & Galleries Commission, have been key supporters of the Portable Antiquities Scheme since the start in 1997. One of our many roles has been to Chair the Portable Antiquities Project Board & Advisory Group (formerly known as the Portable Antiquities Steering Group), taking the lead on financial responsibilities for the Scheme, passing on the funding from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) as grants to the local partners.

It has been vital that this project has been taken forward by an active consortium of national bodies comprising English Heritage, the British Museum, the National Museums & Galleries of Wales and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales. These organisations form the heart of the Project Board, which is augmented by an advisory group that includes the Council for British Archaeology, the National Council for Metal Detecting, the Society of Museum Archaeologists and the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers.

Thanks to the success of our bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund, we now lead a consortium of 63 national and local museums and archaeological bodies working together to realise the project's vision.

Resource is very proud to be leading this project, because it fits in very well with our goal to provide strategic leadership, advocacy and advice to enable museums, archives and libraries to touch people's lives and inspire their imagination, learning and creativity.

In October 2002 my predecessor, Anna Southall, and Neil MacGregor, Director of the British Museum, were delighted to welcome the then Minister for the Arts, Baroness Blackstone, to the British Museum for the launch of the previous Portable Antiquities Annual Report. This was followed by a seminar on the preparation for a national Scheme for all the partners and other key stakeholders.

We have secured funding for a national Scheme until April 2006 and are confident that the expanded Scheme will be able to demonstrate the full potential of this project in a way in which the pilot schemes never could. During the course of 2004 the government will be carrying out its Spending Review for the period 2005-08, which will have a major impact on whether the project will have the long-term future that it richly deserves. It is therefore encouraging to read the Minister's positive words in her Foreword.



*Chris Batt, Acting Chief Executive
Resource: The Council for Museums, Archives and Libraries*

December 2003

Introduction

The Portable Antiquities Scheme is a voluntary scheme that records archaeological objects found by members of the public.

Every year many thousands of archaeological objects are discovered, most of these by metal-detector users, but also by people whilst out walking, gardening or going about their daily work. These objects offer an important and irreplaceable source for understanding our past.

The Portable Antiquities Scheme offers the only proactive and comprehensive mechanism for systematically recording such finds for public benefit. This data is to be made available to Historic Environment Records and published on the Scheme's website – www.finds.org.uk

Organisation

During the period of this report 12 Finds Liaison Officers,¹ based at local partner organisations, covered about half of England and the whole of Wales; recording finds made by the public and publicising the work and educational value of the Scheme. This work was co-ordinated and supported by the Scheme's Co-ordinator and Outreach Officer, based at the British Museum.

The Portable Antiquities Scheme is managed by a consortium of national bodies led by Resource: The Council for Museums, Archives and Libraries and includes the British Museum, English Heritage, the National Museums & Galleries of Wales and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, together with the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers, the Council for British Archaeology, the National Council for Metal Detecting, the Society of Museum Archaeologists and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS).

Resource acts as the channel for funding the Scheme and monitors the grants on behalf of the DCMS (who funded all posts in the Scheme for the period of this report).

'The [Portable Antiquities] Scheme has provided vital information about Scandinavian settlements in East Anglia and about the characteristics of early English settlements. Coins are also revealing about Iron Age trading patterns. Metal-detectorists show an increasing interest in having their finds recorded.'

David Miles (Chief Archaeologist, English Heritage
and Member of the Portable Antiquities Steering Group)
The Guardian 10 May 2002

1. Hampshire, Kent, Norfolk (two posts), Northamptonshire, Northern Lincolnshire, the North West, Somerset & Dorset, Suffolk, Wales, West Midlands and Yorkshire

Aims

- To advance knowledge of the history and archaeology of England and Wales by systematically recording archaeological objects found by the public.
- To raise awareness among the public of the educational value of archaeological finds in their context and to facilitate research in them.
- To increase opportunities for active public involvement in archaeology and to strengthen links between metal-detector users and archaeologists.
- To encourage all those who find archaeological objects to make them available for recording and to promote best practice by finders.
- To define the nature and scope of a scheme for recording portable antiquities in the longer term, to assess the likely costs and to identify resources to enable it to be put into practice.

Key Points

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The main achievements of the Portable Antiquities Scheme in the period 1 October 2001–31 March 2003 can be summarised as follows:

Extent of the Scheme

During the period of this report 12 Finds Liaison Officers covered about half of England and the whole of Wales. The central unit comprised the Scheme's Co-ordinator and Outreach Officer. In April 2002 Resource was successful in its bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund to extend the Portable Antiquities Scheme to all parts of England and Wales from 2003.

Recognition of success

The success and contribution of the Scheme was recognised by the All Party Parliamentary Archaeological Group in its first report, *The Current State of Archaeology in the United Kingdom* (2003).

Objects recorded

A further 49,590 archaeological objects have been recorded, some of which are illustrated in this report. Of these, over 60 per cent have been discovered by metal-detector users, but a significant minority has also been found by people not actively seeking archaeological material. Further, this report shows that the presence of a Finds Liaison Officer may increase the reporting rate of Treasure Finds by a factor of between three and five.

Finders

The Finds Liaison Officers have liaised with over 1,704 finders, maintaining regular contact with 61 metal-detecting clubs and amateur archaeological groups.

New sites discovered

Many important new archaeological sites have been discovered as a result of the finds recorded by the Finds Liaison Officers. These include a site of an unofficial Roman mint in Norfolk and hitherto unknown Anglo-Saxon sites in Kent, Northamptonshire and Yorkshire.

Finds spot information

Almost 92 per cent of finds recorded have been recovered from cultivated land, where they are susceptible to plough damage and artificial and natural corrosion processes. Seventy per cent of finds are now being recorded to the nearest 100 square metres (a six-figure National Grid Reference) or better.

Finds data

The finds data generated by the Scheme is to be made available to Historic Environment Records – the key record-holders for information about the historic environment – and is published on the Scheme's website, www.finds.org.uk

Outreach

193 talks have been given about the Portable Antiquities Scheme, 135 finds (identification and recording) days, exhibitions and displays have been organised, and 122 articles have been published or broadcast in the media.

Website

There have been 1,809,412 page requests of the Scheme's website – www.finds.org.uk – in the period of this report. At the end of this reporting period the online database allows public access to 47,605 records and 4,684 images.

Publication

Several publications associated with the work of the Scheme have appeared in the period of this report, including the *Treasure Annual Report 2000*, the Portable Antiquities section of *Medieval Archaeology* volumes 45 (2001) and 46 (2002) and a *Guide to Conservation for Metal-detectorists* (Tempus, 2002).

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Summary Report

Advancing our Knowledge

The Portable Antiquities Scheme has made a major contribution to our knowledge and understanding of the archaeology and history of England and Wales.

Since the Scheme was established in 1997 its Finds Liaison Officers have identified over 150,000 archaeological objects. These finds have the potential to transform our understanding of where and how people lived in the past, as the following case studies of new sites discovered and interesting finds recovered seek to demonstrate.

Case Study

Metalworking in Late Bronze Age Wales

(fig 1)

Since October 2001 eight important Late Bronze Age metalworking assemblages have been found in South East Wales and reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme. Of these, five hoards were recovered from the Vale of Glamorgan. They can be assigned to a specific type of metalworking tradition known as 'Ewart Park' (dating to about 950–750 BC). These assemblages have the potential to enhance our knowledge of Late Bronze Age material culture found in this part of the country.

Together these hoards contain over 250 pieces of metalwork and their study will illuminate our understanding of depositional practices in the Late Bronze Age. They also provide a significant body of material evidence for regional metalworking in South East Wales, providing new insights into metalwork treatment, including the possible deliberate colouring of axeheads and spearheads in antiquity and patterns of deliberate damage to tools and weapons prior to their deposition. Further evidence has been gleaned from archaeological

1. Mark Lodwick (Finds Co-ordinator, Wales) investigates a Late Bronze Age hoard with the finder, Alan Jenkins.



investigations of the findspots involving the help and support of the finders and landowners. All of the investigated 'Ewart Park' hoards appear to have been deposited in pits on dry land or scattered around the edges of previously waterlogged deposits showing variability in deposition.

'The Portable Antiquities Scheme is an ideal academic research tool. I always advise researchers to use the database, as new finds appear there straight away without any of the delays involved in traditional publication. The records should provide all the essential information – measurements, weights, descriptions and images – and allow everyone, everywhere, to keep up to date with new discoveries.'

Colin Pendleton (Sites and Monuments Records Officer, Suffolk)

Case Study

Unusual copper-alloy Roman 'leopard' cup (fig 2)

While detecting on farmland near Abergavenny, Gary Mapps unearthed an inverted copper-alloy vessel with handle (which became detached upon removal) approximately 60cm below the surface. The find was promptly reported to Newport Museum & Art Gallery and recorded under the Portable Antiquities Scheme.

This Roman cup is of high quality craftsmanship and the decorative handle depicts a leopard, with its head leaning over the rim of the vessel. The handle has been finely cast and silver inlay represents the leopard's spots. The cup, probably of first century AD date, has a gently rounded shoulder with a slight foot at its base and had been turn-finished on a lathe.

'This bronze cup is one of the highest quality Roman vessels to have been found in Wales. Imported from Italy, the naturalistic leopard handle, with silver and tin spots, captivates all who have seen it. The cup has been acquired for the national collections and is now undergoing detailed analysis and research, before going on display for the enjoyment of our visitors. Prompt reporting of the discovery enabled the findspot to be investigated and this has added considerably to our knowledge of Roman Abergavenny.'

Richard Brewer (Keeper of Archaeology and Numismatics, National Museums & Galleries of Wales)

The significance of the find prompted an investigation conducted by the Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust, supported by Portable Antiquities and funded by Monmouthshire Museum Service. The excavation

revealed a possible funerary context for the vessel, for it was associated with cremated bone and pot shards of Roman date.

Case Study

At least four new Anglo-Saxon sites discovered in Kent (fig 3)

Four potentially significant Anglo-Saxon sites have come to light through the work of the Portable Antiquities Scheme in Kent since October 2001.

A number of finds of late-fifth to sixth century metalwork from Hollingbourne has led to the probable identification of a previously unknown Anglo-Saxon cemetery. Another possible site of sixth to seventh century date is suggested at Eastry by a combination of metal-detector finds and desktop research. A third probable Anglo-Saxon cemetery, again previously unknown, has also been identified to the west of Dover as a result of information supplied to Andrew Richardson (Kent Finds Liaison Officer). At Cliffe, on the Thames estuary, finds of a number of silver 'sceats' in a concentrated area have been interpreted as possible evidence of an eighth century trading site, although the possibility that these represent a dispersed hoard has not been entirely discounted.

Notably, there are marked concentrations east of the Stour valley and in the northwest of the county along the Thames estuary. When the totality of early medieval metal finds from Kent is considered, the limited distribution pattern of early finds (that is, fifth to early-eighth century date) seems striking. Objects from this period are wholly or almost completely absent from the high ground of the North Downs, from the Weald, or from Romney Marsh. Only from the mid-Saxon period onwards do metal finds appear to be found in these regions, implying a direct relationship between artefact loss and the spread of settlement and activity beyond the primary areas of Anglo-Saxon settlement. The Portable Antiquities data is thereby strengthening a picture that has been apparent from the Historic Environment Record.

'The Portable Antiquities Scheme is revolutionising our understanding of the early Anglo-Saxon presence in the English landscape because it is very difficult to pinpoint early Anglo-Saxon cemeteries by traditional fieldwalking methods. Once they have been damaged by ploughing, however, they are one of the easiest archaeological sites to identify through metal-detecting.'

Helen Geake (Finds Adviser, Medieval & Post-Medieval Objects)

Raising Awareness

The Finds Liaison Officers have an important educational and outreach role, which will be greatly expanded by the appointment of a network of Finds Liaison Officers across England and Wales and enhanced by the appointment of an Education Officer in August 2003. They work with a variety of people of all walks of life – including finders, school children, museum professionals, and staff and students at universities and colleges – to raise awareness of the educational value of finds for understanding our past. The following case studies give some indication of the scope of the work of the Finds Liaison Officers and their achievements in the period of this report.

Case Study

Working with Schools (fig 4)

In March 2003, as part of a Finds Day in Tenterden Library, Kent, Andrew Richardson (Kent Finds Liaison Officer) gave a talk to 26 Year 5 pupils from Tenterden Primary School, in conjunction with Debbie Greaves of Tenterden Museum. After a general introduction about the work of the Finds Liaison Officer, the children were divided into groups of two or three and each given an archaeological find discovered by a metal-detectorist, a simple Finds Recording Form and a pencil and ruler, and asked to try to identify and describe their find.

The finds used were of a wide range of materials and dates, ranging from fossils and Mesolithic flint implements to Roman and Medieval finds. The event was considered a great success, and the children clearly enjoyed the chance to handle 'real' archaeological finds.

'This was the first Finds Day at Tenterden Museum. The informal approach to learning through investigation, using museum artefacts, has inspired a different style to all the school visits the museum has conducted since. The children especially liked examining items of local interest.'

Debbie Greaves (Curator, Tenterden & District Museum)

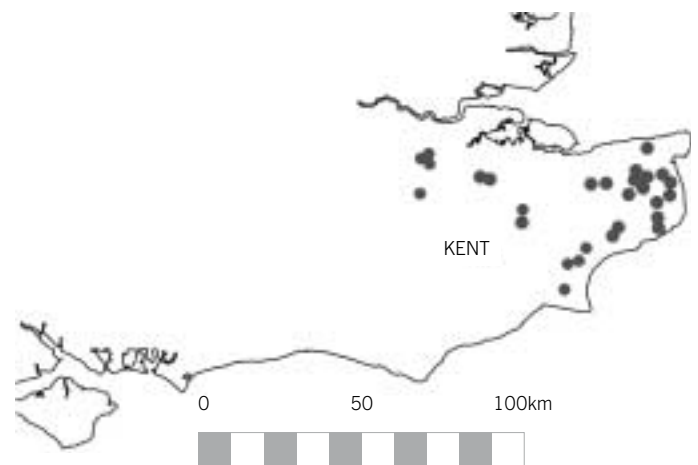
Case Study

Working with Finders (fig 5)

Katie Hinds and Adrian Marsden (Norfolk Finds Liaison Officers), working as part of Norfolk Museum's Identification & Recording Service, visit five metal-detecting clubs on a monthly basis. Each month they judge the 'Find of the Month' competition and at two of the clubs regularly give a general talk about the finds on the table. They also organise speakers to go to the clubs,



2. The Roman 'leopard' cup from Abergavenny.



3. Distribution map of Early Anglo-Saxon finds from Kent recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme.



4. Andrew Richardson (Kent Finds Liaison Officer) demonstrating how a Global Positioning Systems device works.

Increasing Opportunities

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which have included talks on local archaeological projects and finds. The Finds Liaison Officers encourage finders to bag up their objects according to which field they were found in, and to mark each bag clearly with name, parish and grid reference or enclose a map. They also encourage finders to look for flint and pottery whilst they are detecting. In the past certain classes of object (such as the tiny coin blanks and fragments of cast bronze bars) have not been reported because finders were unaware of what they were. By recording such objects finders have themselves been made aware of the importance of these objects and can make an even greater contribution to our understanding of the past.

'The Portable Antiquities Scheme is the perfect system for dealing efficiently with finds offered for recording by responsible detectorists. It encourages those previously less willing to record their finds to do so. Also, because the system improves feedback of information to finders it must surely increase the levels of awareness and interest in all things historical amongst the general population.'

Andy Carter (Metal Detectorist from Norfolk)

Case Study

Working with the General Public (fig 6)

Between March and July 2002 Nick Herepath (North West Finds Liaison Officer) curated a successful exhibition of metal-detector finds from Cheshire at the Salt Museum, Northwich and at Nantwich Museum. This was opened by Roger Bland (Co-ordinator) to coincide with Cheshire Archaeology Day. The exhibition looked at how objects were discovered, who finds them and how to record them. The displays also featured work of the Portable Antiquities Scheme and details of objects recorded.

There were a number of interactive activities which explored what survives in the archaeological record, but the highlight of the exhibition was the objects themselves. Some of these were from the museum collections, but most were loaned by local metal-detector users and had never before been put on public display.

'We were delighted with the exhibition, as it not only raised awareness of archaeology but also the importance of finds recording. The exhibition was very popular and the quality of the objects on display was really stunning.'
Ruth McKew (Curator, Salt Museum, Northwich)

Over 60 per cent of the finds recorded with the Portable Antiquities Scheme in the period of this report have been found by metal-detectorists (of which over 90 per cent have been recovered from disturbed agricultural land). The Finds Liaison Officers have worked hard to strengthen links between metal-detectorists and archaeologists, as well as increasing opportunities for active public involvement in archaeology more generally.

Case Study

Kent Archaeological Metal-detecting Support Unit (fig 7)

It has been an important aim of the Portable Antiquities Scheme to increase the role and use of metal-detectorists in archaeological projects. In Kent there has been a strong tradition to build on in this respect, as some archaeological groups and units, notably in Dover and Thanet, have regularly worked with local metal-detectorists. In order to foster further co-operation, and to give more an opportunity to work on archaeological sites, Andrew Richardson (Kent Finds Liaison Officer) and the National Council for Metal Detecting (Southern Region) have recently worked together to establish the Kent Archaeological Metal-detecting Support Unit (KAMSU).

KAMSU, currently co-ordinated by Brian Waterhouse of the Romney Marshland Metal-detecting Club, has a set of operational procedures and draws on volunteers from all the Kent metal-detecting clubs to assist with archaeological projects. In the period of this report a number of teams had been provided to assist on excavations, including a metal-detecting survey for the BBC television series *Two Men in a Trench* and development control projects carried out by units such as Archaeology South East and Wessex Archaeology. Already KAMSU is proving beneficial to both the archaeological and detecting communities in Kent.

'On every Two Men in a Trench project we have always relied on the experience of metal-detectorists, since archaeological work on battlefields would otherwise not be possible. Hopefully the soon to be expanded Portable Antiquities Scheme will continue to foster better relations between metal-detectorists and archaeologists. We would like to see more archaeological projects using metal-detectorists and more detectorists adopting best practice, recording the location of their finds and passing this information onto their local Finds Liaison Officer.'
Tony Pollard (Archaeologist and Presenter, *Two Men in a Trench*).

Case Study

White Ladies Aston Parish Survey (fig 8)

In January 2002 the 'Unearthing the Past' exhibition opened in Worcester, focusing on the parish of White Ladies Aston, with events taking place in the parish itself. A metal-detectorist's collection of finds discovered locally and displayed in the exhibition evolved into a project to study the archaeology of the parish more generally. School activities, a talk to the residents of the parish in the local village hall, finds identification sessions, workshops and a programme of re-enactors all complemented the exhibition.

Overall this project was seen as very successful in giving a range of people the opportunity to work together. The Worcester City Museums, Worcestershire Archaeological Service, the metal-detectorist and the Portable Antiquities Scheme produced the exhibition. However, once the parish was chosen the residents of the parish, and surrounding parishes, were particularly active in advertising the varied events and arranging for a talk to be given to the Whites Ladies Aston Discussion Group. The whole project had positive community participation, but the wider message of the exhibition was that anyone can research the archaeology of his or her parish without having to dig a hole. The exhibition highlighted the Sites and Monument Records, archives, museums, Portable Antiquities Scheme and libraries as sources of information.

'The outreach work was super, particularly the Finds Identification Day and the lecture to the parish Discussion Group.'

Lynn Gorman (Resident of White Ladies Aston)



5. Adrian Marsden (Norfolk Finds Liaison Officer) examining finds found in Norfolk.

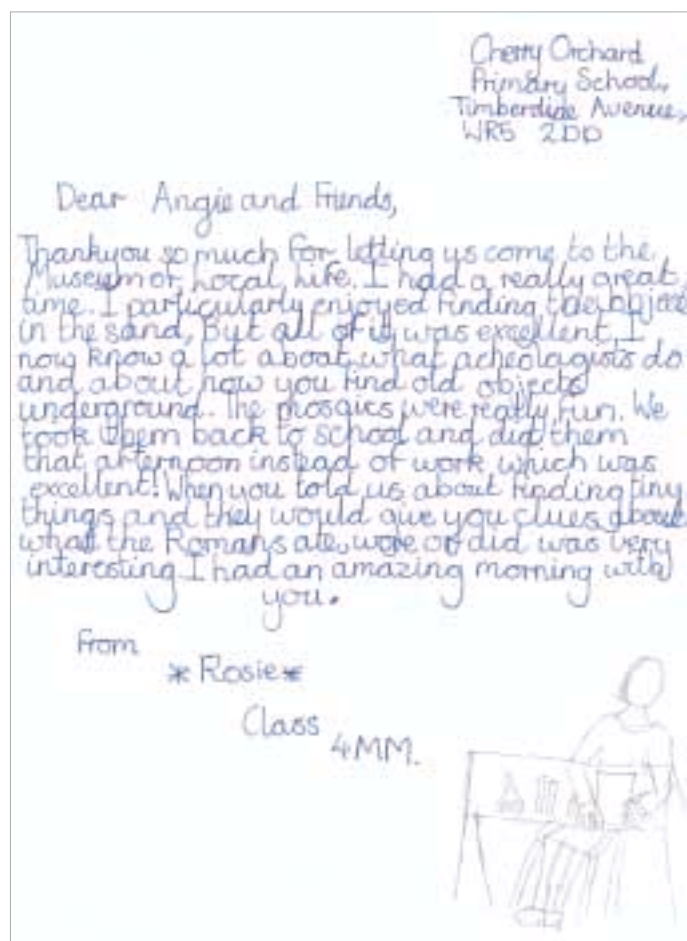


6. Exhibition of metal-detecting finds at the Salt Museum, Northwich.



7. Andrew Richardson (Kent Finds Liaison Officer) working with a member of the Kent Archaeological Metal-detecting Support Unit.

8. 'Thank You' letter from one of the pupils at Cherry Orchard Primary School, involved with the White Ladies Aston Parish Survey.



Recording Finds

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The main role of the Finds Liaison Officers is to record archaeological objects found by the public. These finds are published on the Scheme's website, www.finds.org.uk

It is the belief of the Scheme that all have a responsibility to our heritage and should ensure any objects discovered are properly recorded so that this information can be used to enhance our knowledge and understanding of the past. The case studies below illustrate that it has been an important part of the Finds Liaison Officer's recording work to ensure finders follow best practice when searching for and discovering finds.

Case Study

Hollingbourne Late Bronze Age Hoard

(figs 9 and 10)

On 12th January 2003, just 12 days after the definition of Treasure was extended to include prehistoric base-metal objects from the same find, David Button found a Bronze Age copper-alloy blade and a large socketed axehead in close association whilst detecting on farmland near Hollingbourne in Kent. Realising that the objects were possibly part of a dispersed hoard – and therefore could constitute Treasure – he telephoned Andrew Richardson (Kent Finds Liaison Officer).

They agreed to meet at the site the following Wednesday afternoon, along with the tenant farmer, Michael Summerfield. Upon arriving at the site the positions of the two findspots were located and marked, and a sweep of the area around these was made using a metal-detector. Further signals were immediately noted, and these were plotted and then dug. This resulted in the finding of a further 11 Bronze Age artefacts of which all were copper-alloy and all were incomplete – damaged in antiquity. The finds were deposited in the British Museum the following day, and it was confirmed that this hoard represented the first find in the country to fall within the scope of the extended Treasure Act. A further sweep of the area some days later resulted in the finding of two more objects.

Since it was clear that the material recovered probably derived from a hoard of metalwork that had been dispersed by ploughing, it was decided to organise an excavation to see if any further finds could be located, and in particular whether any of the hoard remained in situ. The excavation was organised and led by Andrew Richardson in partnership with Simon Mason (Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council). Stuart Cakebread (Sites and Monuments Record Officer) also

assisted, along with volunteers from Kent County Council, the Maidstone Area Archaeological Group, the Kent Archaeological Society, the Lenham Archaeological Society and Giles Guthrie (Curator of Maidstone Museum). David Button, finder of the hoard, also took part, along with fellow detectorists.

Several trenches were opened along with sweeps across the general area using metal-detectors. During the detector search Gill Davies located a socketed axehead downhill from the scatter found previously. Four further finds were then located in a very concentrated area, and more signals were noted. It seemed probable that the source of the hoard, or indeed a second hoard, had been located, and the following day another trench was opened around the area of these finds, revealing three pieces of copper cake and an axehead, which had been disturbed by ploughing, distributed around an in situ group of metal work.

The latter consisted of three socketed axeheads, all placed vertically, blade downwards, with a complex of cake, spearheads and a blade wedged in between them. These were recorded and photographed before lifting, and the soil from the small pit that they were placed in was collected and bagged for later analysis. It was not until about 8pm on the Sunday night that the hoard was eventually lifted, and the excavation could not have continued without the assistance of local man Gordon Reeves, who kindly provided lights and a generator. The excavation was filmed by BBC *Hidden Treasure* for a forthcoming television series.

The finds are comparable to the material recovered from other Late Bronze Age hoards from south east England, notably the Monkton and Minster hoards in Thanet, and fall within the Carp's Tongue industry, which dates to the very end of the Bronze Age, c.1000–800BC. It is hoped that further fieldwork on the site will be carried out in the near future, and it is expected that the finds will eventually be acquired by Maidstone Museum.

'The archaeological dig arranged by Andrew Richardson (Kent Finds Liaison Officer) was a very positive experience. Archaeologists and metal-detectorists (without whom the site would not have been found) co-operated fully throughout the two days of the dig and the dig, as such, would not have been the success it was for either group without the other. A never to be forgotten experience for me.'

Gill Davies, (Co-finder, Detectorist and member of Lenham Archaeological Society)

Case Study

Metal-Detecting Survey on Countryside Stewardship Land (fig 11)

Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevarthen (Somerset & Dorset Finds Liaison Officer) worked closely with members of the Yeovil and District Bottle and Metal-detecting Club in the planning of a rally at Dillington, Somerset, which took place over the weekend of 14–15 September 2002. Because a proportion of the land is under the Countryside Stewardship Scheme the arrangements had to be checked with the Department for the Environment, Foods and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and the County Archaeologist. This required a great deal of time, pre-planning and organisation to advise and pull the relevant parties together. The Finds Liaison Officer organised meetings with the County Archaeologist and Sites and Monuments Record and then liaised with DEFRA on behalf of the Yeovil Club to gain permission to detect on the land. Advice was then given on which areas to avoid, so as not to damage underlying archaeology, and in the correct recording of finds.

The involvement of the Finds Liaison Officer paved the way to a satisfactory conclusion for all parties. Not only did this result in a successful rally at which the finds were recorded in more detail than is usual at these events (the Finds Liaison Officer also assisted with the recording of finds), but the rally also produced a cluster of five pilgrims' ampullae, rare objects in Somerset. One was donated to the Somerset County Museum, others were drawn and photographed. They may indicate a road through the area along which pilgrims passed and possibly broke their journey.

'The rally was held on a Somerset estate which had joined the Countryside Stewardship Scheme, so we had to apply for permission from DEFRA. I contacted Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevarthen (Somerset & Dorset Finds Liaison Officer) and arranged a meeting with herself, Steve Minnitt (Somerset County Museum) and Bob Croft (County Archaeologist for Somerset). At the meeting we discussed the site to be used for detecting, as some areas were archaeologically sensitive and had to be kept off. When everybody was happy, and with a lot of input and advice from Ciorstaidh, we made an application to DEFRA, which proved successful.'

Mark Cowan (Somerset Metal Detectorists)



9. The Hollingbourne hoard in situ.



10. The BBC *Hidden Treasure* team discussing filming of the Hollingbourne excavation.



11. Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevarthen (Somerset & Dorset Finds Liaison Officer) recording finds at the South Somerset metal-detecting rally at Dillington.

The Future

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Since the autumn of 1997, when the six pilot Schemes to record archaeological objects were established, we have gained a much better picture of the resources needed to sustain a nationwide Scheme of Finds Liaison Officers after March 2006, when the current period of funding ends.

By December 2003 the Scheme will comprise of 46 posts: a central and support unit of nine posts (four Finds Advisers, an Education Officer, an ICT Officer, an Administrator, a Head and a Deputy Head), and 37 locally based Finds Liaison Officer posts. At a cost of about £1.5 million a year the Scheme will provide a proactive and comprehensive finds recording service for members of the public across the whole of England and Wales – which is excellent value for money.

The decision whether or not to fund the Scheme in the long term is expected during 2004. However, politicians from all the major parties have already welcomed the success of the Scheme to date and hope long-term funding will be forthcoming in due course.

The establishment in July 2001 of the All Party Parliamentary Archaeology Group by Lord Redesdale, with Lord Renfrew as Chairman, has been a very positive step forward. The Group is now one of the largest all-party groups in Parliament with 146 members. Its first report was published in January 2003, after a very thorough process of public consultation and five committee sessions in Parliament, at which evidence was taken from all the key players. *The Current State of Archaeology in the United Kingdom* included the following as one of its ten key recommendations:

'The government should give long-term support to the network of Finds Liaison Officers which is to be established across the whole of England and Wales next year under the Portable Antiquities Scheme, since the current lottery funding will end in April 2006. Such a development needs to be seen in the context of both regional and local museums as well as inputs to SMRs'. All Party Parliamentary Archaeological Group Report, *The Current State of Archaeology in the United Kingdom*, January 2003

In February 2002, the British Museum hosted a reception for the Group focusing on the results of the Portable Antiquities Scheme and Treasure Act. This was attended by over 50 members of the Group and served an important role in raising awareness of these issues amongst Parliamentarians.

Political Interest in Portable Antiquities (fig 12)

A selection of other statements made by MPs and Peers on the Portable Antiquities Scheme:

'This has been a successful Scheme. The early piloting showed that quite quickly. Putting the Portable Antiquities Scheme on a permanent footing will obviously be a decision for the next spending round, but...it has proved to be successful and we ought to try to ensure that we can fund it in the long term.'

Rt Hon Tessa Jowell MP (Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport)...to the Culture, Media and Sport Committee on 8 July 2003

'[The] DCMS (Department for Culture, Media and Sport) is giving active consideration to the question of long-term sustainability of the Portable Antiquities Scheme. We will consider sympathetically the Scheme's future funding requirements in the course of the normal Spending Review process, as part of our analysis of all our resource needs.'

Dr Kim Howells MP (Under Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport) in reply to a Parliamentary Question by Mark Oaten MP, 9 April 2003

'One project that should be supported under the Renaissance [in the Regions] banner is the Portable Antiquities Scheme, which is intended to record archaeological objects found by members of the public – metal detector users and others – for public benefit. Pilot schemes have been running since 1997. Everyone agrees they have been very successful. Thanks to a lottery grant, a regional network of...Finds Liaison Officer posts are being established in regional museums across England and Wales. However, the present lottery-funded Scheme will end in April 2006 and there is an urgent need to establish funding on a long-term basis. Renaissance in the Regions provides an ideal framework, which the [Arts] Minister [Tessa Blackstone] has acknowledged.'

Lord Redesdale (Liberal Democrat Spokesperson on Archaeology)...during a debate on the arts in the House of Lords, 12 February 2003

'It is particularly to be welcomed that the Department for Culture, Media and Sport facilitated the establishment of the Portable Antiquities Scheme...and that the Scheme has now been expanded to cover the whole of England and Wales with a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund funding a further 32 [Finds] Liaison Officers, thereby establishing a national network. But it is known that the Heritage Lottery Fund grant ends on 31 March 2006 and that it will not be repeated from that source. Can the Minister confirm that the department will undertake the necessary long-term funding of this essential service when the Heritage Lottery Fund payments come to the end of their term in 2006? The Statement made to this House on 10th October 2002 that the government, "will give active thought to the question of the long-term sustainability of the scheme" is welcome, but after a year of "active thought" the time may now be ripe for some concrete planning and indeed budgeting.'

Lord Renfrew (Archaeologists and Conservative Peer)
...during debate on the Dealing in Cultural Objects
(Offences) Bill, 12 September 2003

'The Portable Antiquities Scheme has been incredibly successful' and 'in no way can't it continue.'

Malcolm Moss MP (Conservative Spokesperson on
Archaeology)...to the Historic Environment Forum,
Society of Antiquaries, 27 November 2002

'I salute the work of the Portable Antiquities Scheme. It is splendid news that the number of [Finds] Liaison Officers will increase from the pilot scheme number...to cover the whole of England and Wales. I ask the [Arts] Minister (then Baroness Blackstone) for an assurance that her department is examining ways in which the Scheme will continue to be funded after April 2006. It is a national responsibility, and I hope for some encouragement from the Minister that the department regards it as such.'

Lord Renfrew (Archaeologists and Conservative Peer)
...during debate on the Treasure (Designation) Order
2002, 10 October 2002



12. Baroness Blackstone (then Minister of the Arts) launching last year's Portable Antiquities Annual Report at the British Museum.

2

Main Report

A selection of finds recorded by the Finds Liaison Officers during the period of this report (1 October 2001 to 31 March 2003) and which are discussed in the text. Many of these finds would have not otherwise been recorded by archaeologists, highlighting the value and importance of the Scheme. Further details of these, and some 80,000 other finds, can be found on www.finds.org.uk

New Sites



13. Coin blanks and copper-alloy rods recovered from the Roman mint sites in Norfolk. About half actual size. (see page 25)



14. Some of the metal-detected finds from Wickham Skeith, Suffolk. Brooch (top left) 38 x 20mm. (see page 26)



15. The harness mounts from The Fleet, Wyke Regis, Dorset. Mount (left) 56.5 x 11mm. Mount (right) 44.5 x 44 x 5.5mm. (see page 26)

Finds



16. The Stone Axe hammer from Mullock, Pembrokeshire. 260 x 60 x 40mm. (see page 26)



17. The Gündlingen sword fragment from Norfolk. © Norfolk Landscape Archaeology. 218mm long. (see page 27)



18. The bowman's wrist-guard from Offham, Kent. 80 x 45 x 4mm. (see page 27)



19. The Iron Age linch pin from Devon. 35 x 18.5 x 16mm. Illus: Gary Saunders. (see page 27)



20. An Iron Age strap union from the West Midlands. 102 x 79 x 14mm. (see page 27)



21. The Iron Age linch pin terminal found near Leigh in South Worcestershire. 45 x 22 x 24mm. (see page 28)



22. The Roman artefact found near Bullington, Hampshire. 61.5 x 14 x 3mm. (see page 28)



23. The fragment of the Roman military diploma found near Dereham, Norfolk.
© Norfolk Landscape Archaeology
27 x 23 x 1mm. (see page 28)



24. The goat figurine from near Basingstoke, Hampshire. 20 x 24.5mm. (see page 28)



25. The Roman brooch from near Calne, Wiltshire. 29 x 23 x 5mm. (see page 28)



26. The Roman strap-end from Wall, Staffordshire. 50.5 x 38 x 6mm. (see page 29)



27. The Roman brooch from near Sittingbourne, Kent. 35 x 31 x 9mm. (see page 29)



28. The Roman brooch from Worlington, Suffolk. 32 x 21mm. (see page 29)



29. The wax spatula handle from Goldsborough, North Yorkshire.
53 x 33 x 16mm. (see page 29)



30. The Anglo-Saxon brooch from Riccall, North Yorkshire. 62 x 48 x 5mm. (see page 29)



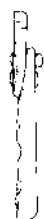
31. The penny of Regnald Guthfrithsson found near Middleton, North Yorkshire. diameter 20mm. (see page 29)



32. The early medieval mount from Cowbridge, in the Vale of Glamorgan. 45 x 60 x 7mm. (see page 30)



33. The dress pin or stylus from Arnside, Cumbria. 32 x 20 x 5mm. Illus: Donna Wreathall. (see page 30)



34. X-ray of the 'Viking Age' sword from near Llantwit Major, the Vale of Glamorgan. 234 x 104.5 x 27mm. (see page 30)



35. 'Viking Age' weight from near Ilchester, Somerset. 27.5 x 24.5 x 12mm. (see page 31)



36. The medieval mount from Princethorpe, Warwickshire. 32.5 x 15.5 x 6mm. (see page 31)



37. A sketch of the motif on the stirrup-strap mount from Matheron, Monmouthshire. 26.5 x 25.7 x 2mm. Illus: Tony Daly. (see page 31)



38. The intaglio (and impression) of a mounted knight from near Brigg, North Lincolnshire. 18 x 18 x 4mm. (see page 31)



39. The ampulla from Henhull, Cheshire. 50 x 32 x 15mm. Illus: S White. (see page 31)



40. The 'boy bishop' token from Blaxhall, Suffolk. Diameter 26mm. (see page 31)



41. The seal matrix from New Romney, Kent. 38 x 24mm. (see page 32)



42. The copper-alloy folding clasp from Barton Stacey, Hampshire. 35.5 x 23mm. Illus: Alan Cracknell. (see page 32)



43. The reading glass from South Walsham, Norfolk © Norfolk Landscape Archaeology 105 x 55 x 3mm. (see page 32)



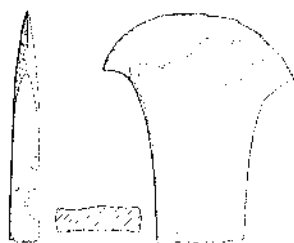
44. The oak chest front found near Wellington, Somerset. 1390 x 460mm. (see page 32)



45. The French cannon found in Cardiff. 2800 x 560 x 375mm. (see page 32)



46. Illustration of a late Anglo-Saxon hooked-tag from East Meon, Hampshire. Illus: Catherine Cooper. (see page 39)



47. The flat axe from Mapperton, Dorset. 73 x 63.5 x 9mm. Illus: Michael Trevarthen. (see page 40)



48. One of the Minerva bust spatula handles recorded with the Portable Antiquities Scheme. 112 x 105mm. Illus: Alan Cracknell. (see page 44)



49. The copper-alloy figurine from Caterham, Surrey. 90 x 15mm. (see page 46)



50. The penny of Eadgar found near Middleton, North Yorkshire. Diameter 21mm. (see page 29)



51. Some of the finds of Mr Pettet recorded with the Portable Antiquities Scheme and on display in Somerset County Museum. (see page 54)



52. A hoard of prehistoric base metal jewellery found in Kent. This hoard was not reported as Treasure as it was found before January 2003. (see page 55)

Treasure Finds



53. The Ringlemere cup. 112 x 105mm.
(see page 56)



54. Part of the Rossett hoard. (see page 57)



55. The Beverley hoard of Iron Age coins.
About actual size. (see page 57)



56. The West Bagborough Roman coin hoard.
About half actual size. (see page 57)



57. The Anglo-Saxon brooch from near Eastry.
34 x 16 x 2mm. (see page 58)



58. The Anglo-Saxon brooch which the
landowner had hidden away in a cupboard.
Diameter 48mm. (see page 58)



59. The 'Viking Age' pendant from near
Wickham Market. Length 40mm. (see page 58)



60. The posy ring from Fleet.
Diameter 25mm. (see page 58)

Advancing our Knowledge

Archaeological finds (portable antiquities) are evidence of where and how people lived in the past. By bringing this evidence together we can gain a better understanding of the past and develop ways to preserve it for future generations to enjoy.

Historic Environment Records

All finds recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme are made available to Historic Environment Records (formally known as Sites and Monuments Records), the key record-holders of the historic environment. In this way data generated by the Scheme is made available both to inform the development control process and to advance archaeological knowledge.

The Finds Liaison Officers and local Historic Environment Records maintain regular contact to share information. In Suffolk, for example, the Scheme's data is added as a MapInfo layer, so it is immediately available for development control work.

The potential of this data is significant, greatly enhancing the archaeological record. For example in 2002–03 the data generated by the Scheme in Norfolk (part of Norfolk Landscape Archaeology's Identification and Recording Service) accounted for 27 per cent of the new data on the county's Historic Environment Record.

In the period of this report the Portable Antiquities Scheme has added to our knowledge and understanding of new sites discovered and interesting finds recovered, as the case studies below help to demonstrate.

New Sites

Every find recorded with the Scheme adds to our knowledge of the history and archaeology of England and Wales. Of course many finds add to what we know already, but others have the potential to transform our understanding of the history and archaeology of a particular village, community or region.

Evidence for unofficial Roman mints found in Norfolk (fig 13)

Coin blanks, and fragments of bronze rods used to make them, dating from the third century AD have been recovered by metal-detectorists Shaun O'Reilly, Mervyn Bone and David Johnson from two sites in Norfolk – at Colkirk and Rocklands – and recorded by Adrian Marsden (Norfolk Finds Liaison Officer). These finds provide important evidence for the production of local imitations

of contemporary Roman coins – known as 'barbarous radiates'.

It is now becoming apparent that there was a large number of these unofficial mints scattered across Roman Britain in the third and fourth centuries AD. Therefore these discoveries in Norfolk not only contribute to our understanding of the historic environment locally, but also to our knowledge of the economy of the Roman province of Britain, as well as providing material for further work in other areas.

Possible cemetery area identified near Roman settlement site in Suffolk

In the parish of Barking in Suffolk, overlooking the Gipping valley, a substantial Roman settlement has been identified over many years from surface finds of coins, brooches, other copper-alloy objects and pottery, which covers about four hectares. All these finds have been recorded with the Portable Antiquities Scheme, adding to our picture of the archaeological landscape. In 2002 a small group of finds was found about 200 metres away from the main site, including a Roman copper-alloy lion-head stud and a ring; both are typical box fittings likely to derive from a cremation burial. Hopefully future investigation will show whether these objects come from an isolated burial or a formal cemetery for the settlement.

Remains of a 'ploughed out' Anglo-Saxon cemetery identified

A probable 'ploughed out' Anglo-Saxon cemetery has been located by Mr Castka whilst metal-detecting on agricultural land in East Northamptonshire. To date, the site – of which there was no previous knowledge, except for finds reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme – has yielded a pair of identical small long brooches, part of a cruciform brooch and the cruciform head plate of another small long brooch. This area around the district of Corby is proving to have an interesting Early to Middle Saxon history: three possible cemetery sites have now been identified in the area due to finders reporting their discoveries to Rhiannon Harte (Northamptonshire Finds Liaison Officer) and it is hoped that further research will show whether the sites discovered may indicate a previously unknown pattern of settlement in the Anglo-Saxon period.

New early Anglo-Saxon cemetery identified on multi-period site in Yorkshire

In December 2002 a collection of metal-detected finds, including a large quantity of Anglo-Saxon material, was deposited at the Yorkshire Museum at the behest of the York Archaeological Trust. These finds had been recovered by two metal-detectorists, Stephen Reynolds and Sean Hogarth, working on a site at Kilham in the East Riding of Yorkshire.

On studying the material recovered, the Yorkshire Finds Liaison Officer (Simon Holmes) was of the opinion that the assemblage would seem to suggest that the site in question is a multi-period site dating at least from the Roman to the medieval period. Most of the objects, however, are Anglo-Saxon in date. The quantity of women's jewellery items of the fifth and sixth centuries, such as brooches, wrist-clasps and girdle-hangers, suggest that part of the site was used as an early Anglo-Saxon cemetery. Material from the middle and later Anglo-Saxon period, such as pins, strap-ends and the copper-alloy Northumbrian coins known as stycas, suggest that the site then continued in use as a domestic or trading site.

Metal-detecting reveals further information about Suffolk in the Anglo-Saxon period

(fig 14)

At Wickham Skeith, on the main Roman road running north-south through central Suffolk, a substantial villa-type Roman settlement was discovered through field-walking in the 1970s, but subsequent metal-detecting has yielded some new surprises. The coins recently recovered have shown the site to be occupied right up to the end of the Roman period at the start of the fifth century, unlike settlements in eastern Suffolk which tend to be abandoned at least 50 years before this. Among the other metal-detecting discoveries have been fragments of three brooches, two wrist-clasps and a buckle, all of early Anglo-Saxon date, suggesting the presence of some sixth century Anglo-Saxon graves on the site. Metal-detecting at Wickham Skeith has thus both given detail to the field-walking results and has produced an unexpected new dimension to the site. Further research will be needed to show if the Early Anglo-Saxon activity can be connected to the Late Roman presence.

Shipwrecked cargo adds to knowledge of Post-Medieval Dorset (fig 15)

In 2002 Mr Hinchcliffe of Dorset recovered 14 cast lead harness mounts, whilst metal-detecting at The Fleet, Wyke Regis. The objects were taken to the British Museum by Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevarthen (Somerset & Dorset Finds Liaison Officer) and identified by Rachel Elwes (British Museum) as 17th to 18th century harness decorations. Interestingly, all but one of them were of identical design and appear unused. These are shield-shaped mounts with a central shield-shaped boss. Cast decoration in floral design (a pattern of a sexfoils alternating with foliate curlicues and a single bell-shaped flower at the centre top) in a band around the edge. The back is irregular and has the remnants of four evenly spaced fixings (two on each side). They may have been part of a ship's cargo and derived from one of the many shipwrecks in the area.

Single Finds

Whilst the archaeological context of an object (where it was found) adds to its archaeological interest, many of the finds recorded with the Portable Antiquities Scheme are also important in their own right. All these objects are recorded on the Portable Antiquities finds database – www.finds.org.uk

Stone axe hammer from Pembrokeshire (fig 16)

A large and complete, but unfinished Early Bronze Age axe hammer was discovered in a ploughed field in Mullock, Pembrokeshire by Arthur Duncan while out walking, and recorded by Mark Lodwick (Finds Co-ordinator, Wales). The implement, dating to about 2500–1450 BC, had been made from a medium-grained carboniferous sandstone. A band of similar material can be found to the north of the findspot, stretching from St Brides Bay to Saundersfoot, so the axe hammer had probably been made close to where it was found.

The axe hammer is large and heavy and has been roughly shaped giving it a somewhat irregular appearance, as is usual with this implement type. Because of their large and heavy nature these objects have been interpreted as mining or agricultural tools. This find is of interest, not only because of the relative scarcity of this type of artefact, but also because of the abandonment of the tool prior to its completion despite a significant amount of time having been invested in the initial preparation and shaping of the tool.

Miniature Early Bronze Age flat axe from Gloucestershire

A small copper-alloy object in the form of an Early Bronze Age flat axe was found at Little Dean, Gloucester by Martin Pope whilst using a metal-detector and recorded by Mark Lodwick (Finds Co-ordinator, Wales).

A small number of similar objects, presumed to be 'votive flat axes', have been found in recent years. These interesting but enigmatic artefacts are difficult to identify positively when they are not discovered from a sealed archaeological context. In this case Mary Davis (Archaeological Conservator at the National Museums & Galleries of Wales) was able to conduct metallurgical analysis using a Scanning Electron Microscope to ascertain the metallic composition of the artefact and compare it to known compositions of other Early Bronze Age flat axes. Three areas on the surface of the axe were cleaned and examined, giving consistent results of copper (76 per cent) and tin (21 per cent) only. Previous analyses of flat axes from Wales suggest two main composition types, one of which is almost entirely copper and another of between 83 and 90 per cent copper with the majority of the remaining metal being tin.

While this artefact does not entirely correspond with this trend, the complete absence of additions, such as lead or zinc to the metal composition, does suggest an Early Bronze Age date for the artefact. In this case the Portable Antiquities Scheme, with the support of the expertise of the National Museums & Galleries of Wales, was able to provide a likely identification for a poorly understood, but important artefact type.

Gündlingen sword hilt found in Norfolk (fig 17)

A fragment of a variant Gündlingen sword hilt was found in the ploughsoil near the nucleus of a 'Ewart Park' and 'Carps Tongue' founder's hoard from central Norfolk, reported in the *Portable Antiquities Annual Report 2000–2001* (pages 74–5). The finder, Andy Carter, was metal-detecting the area to check if any more of the hoard was present in the plough soil. The find was subsequently recorded by Katie Hinds (Norfolk Finds Liaison Officer) and will be included in the forthcoming publication of the hoard.

Such finds are very rare in Late Bronze Age hoards in Britain and the latest thinking is that they date to the early eighth century BC. Its presence in a ninth century hoard raises some interesting questions about the dating of Late Bronze Age metalwork assemblages adding a question of whether Gündlingen swords from Britain were developed here or are related to those found on the continent.

Bowman's wrist-guard from Kent (fig 18)

A fragment of a polished stone bowman's wrist-guard was found by Nigel Betts, which he spotted on the soil surface whilst metal-detecting at Offham in Kent.

The object, which is broken at both ends, was not immediately recognised for what it was, but fortunately was retained by the finder and subsequently recorded by Andrew Richardson (Kent Finds Liaison Officer).

Very few such wrist-guards are known from Kent. They usually occur in Beaker burials of the Early Bronze Age and seem to have been very high-status objects. This object has been donated by the finder to Maidstone Museum.

Iron Age lynch pin discovered in Devon (fig 19)

A small grant given to the Cookworthy Museum to record archaeological objects discovered by members of the public drew dividends when an Iron Age chariot lynch pin terminal – of great scarcity in this particular region – was recovered by Terence Hockin whilst using a metal-detector and recorded by Gary Saunders (volunteer). Subsequently the finder has agreed for this unique find to be displayed at the museum.

Iron Age strap unions from the West Midlands (fig 20)

The Portable Antiquities Scheme in the West Midlands has recorded two Iron Age strap unions. One in particular (not pictured) is an unusual design for a strap union, using curvilinear trumpets and bulbous knops. On one edge there is a break which occurred in antiquity (it is debatable whether this was by accident or was deliberate). However the union has since been broken into three fragments by the plough. The finder, Jim Stanfield, discovered the three fragments over three consecutive years, whilst searching the plough soil.

Although the strap union may not allow us to say with certainty anything about the site from which it came, it has highlighted the findspot, and the artefact can be studied for information on cultural associations through its style and typology. This object will also contribute information to the Historic Environment Record, which has only recorded a medieval spearhead and prehistoric linear crop marks in this area to date.

Iron Age linch pin terminal found in 'junk box' (fig 21)

In 2002 Paul Dunmall found a copper-alloy linch pin terminal whilst metal-detecting near Leigh in south Worcestershire. The external face of the object is a circular 'disc' with rounded edges. The surface of this 'disc' has a sub-circular central hole, through which the iron pin is visible. The iron pin has 'exploded' which distorts its original shape.

When discovered the finder was not aware what the object was and had put it in his 'junk box'. Intrigued by the find Paul Dunmall showed it to Angie Bolton (West Midlands Finds Liaison Officer) for identification, dating and recording. It was therefore a surprise to both finder and Finds Liaison Officer that this important object had been stored in a junk box without anyone knowing what it was.

The Portable Antiquities Scheme in the West Midlands has recorded many Iron Age artefacts, but these have tended to come from north Warwickshire and south Staffordshire. Until this find was recorded no Iron Age artefacts had been recorded by the Scheme in south Worcestershire, although it has the highest concentration of recorded Iron Age coins.

Unusual Roman find from Hampshire (fig 22)

An unusual Roman artefact was found by Tracy and Brian Jenner near Bullington, Hampshire and was reported to Sally Worrell (Hampshire Finds Liaison Officer). The function of this object is a little difficult to identify – it has a curving panel which tapers to a circular-sectioned terminal at one end. Both surfaces are elaborately decorated with leaf-shaped features and the recesses between are infilled with red and yellow enamel. It was clearly intended to be viewed from both sides, which suggests that it may be a handle rather than an item of harness furniture.

Roman military diploma from Norfolk (fig 23)

A fragment of Roman military diploma – only the second to be found in Norfolk – was recovered by Michael de Bootman near Dereham, whilst using a metal-detector and recorded by Adrian Marsden (Norfolk Finds Liaison Officer). The object is thought to be the earliest example of a military diploma discovered in Britain. It would have been awarded to a Roman auxiliary soldier after 25 years service and recent work on this item suggests that it dates to the first year of the Emperor Trajan's reign (98–117 AD) and that the soldier in question was recruited in the Roman province of Pannonia (in the Balkans).

The existence of this diploma is very important for understanding settlement of Norfolk in Roman times. It implies the settlement of retired auxiliary soldiers in the area and provokes interesting discussion on the social and racial makeup of the inhabitants of Roman Norfolk. Other finds in the vicinity, such as an intaglio of early third century date, point further to the importance of Caistor's hinterland in the Roman period. The Roman diploma is being acquired by Norwich Castle Museum.

Unusual goat figurine from Hampshire (fig 24)

A very interesting copper-alloy miniature goat figurine on a base was found near Basingstoke in Hampshire by Chris Sole. The goat is 20mm long and is well-moulded with incised curving lines to represent the animal's hide. Goats and cockerels are the cult animals associated with the god Mercury and they may have been intended to stand on pedestals flanking Mercury figurines.

Roman brooch from Wiltshire (fig 25)

A very fine third-century Roman brooch was found by detectorists Gwen Stokes and Cindy Wise near Calne, Wiltshire and was reported to Sally Worrell (Hampshire Finds Liaison Officer). It is an oval plate brooch with an intaglio setting produced in layered light and dark blue glass imitating *nicolo*. The intaglio is engraved with a figure of Mercury standing right, holding his money-bag and herald's wand. He is naked apart from a cloak over his shoulder and an item of head-gear. There are three ropework borders around the central setting on the surrounding field and much gilding survives on the upper surface. The glass settings in this type of brooch are most often plain, but simple stick figures are found on some examples; this example is rare because the setting is properly engraved.

Late Roman strap-end from Staffordshire

(fig 26)

An unusual Late Roman strap-end was found by Andy Kyriakou whilst metal-detecting near Wall in Staffordshire, and subsequently recorded by Angie Bolton (West Midlands Finds Liaison Officer). The body of the strap-end is circular with a trapezoid shape protruding from the outer edge, by which it was attached to the leather. The body of the strap-end has a border of 11 bulbous pellets which are joined together. The design within the centre has a 'cross' shape whose terminals divide into internal facing spirals. Nearly half of this design is missing owing to damage which has occurred quite recently, possibly due to agricultural activity. Its design is chip carved.

The object is thought to be associated with the military and is perhaps continental in manufacture. Similar strap-ends have been found in the Rhineland, suggesting where this object may have originated.

Rare chatelaine Roman brooch from Kent

(fig 27)

Independent metal-detectorist Andy Stepney found a rare chatelaine brooch of the second century AD near Sittingbourne, and recorded it with Andrew Richardson (Kent Finds Liaison Officer). These brooches are characterised by having a horizontal bar along their lower edge, from which a series of small toilet implements are suspended (hence the term chatelaine). The brooch is of the more unusual flat 'geometric' type, rather than the more commonly seen 'umbonate' type. Unfortunately, but perhaps not surprisingly, the small toilet implements that would have been suspended from the horizontal bar attached to the base of the brooch were missing.

Unique 'imported' Roman brooch from Suffolk

(fig 28)

A Roman brooch, broadly of knee type, dating to the second or third century AD, was found at Worlington and recorded by the Portable Antiquities team in Suffolk. The brooch is adorned with enamel scroll decoration on its squared bow, of which there are no known British parallels. It is almost certainly an import, probably from the Rhine/Danube provinces.

Unusual spatula handle found in Yorkshire

(fig 29)

In February 2003 a Romano-British 'wax spatula handle' in the likeness of Hercules was found at Goldsborough, North Yorkshire by Mr G Clark, and recorded by Simon Holmes (Yorkshire Finds Liaison Officer). Wax spatulas were used to apply the wax to writing tablets. Made of copper-alloy, this artefact housed the tang for an iron 'blade'. Nina Crummy, a Roman artefacts specialist, has confirmed that this is a new variety, for it is Minerva and not Hercules that is usually portrayed.

Unique variety of Anglo-Saxon brooch discovered in Yorkshire

(fig 30)

In September 2002 a unique variety of an early seventh-century Anglo-Saxon disc brooch was found by Wilf Robinson whilst metal-detecting at Riccall, North Yorkshire, and recorded by Simon Holmes (Yorkshire Finds Liaison Officer). The brooch is gilded, and would have been set with keystone garnets and coral. Barry Ager (British Museum) has confirmed that this piece is the first of its type to be made from copper-alloy, and the first to be recorded outside of Kent. This brooch has been acquired by the Yorkshire Museum and is currently on display in the Portable Antiquities show case.

New moneyers known for York minted coins

(figs 31 and 50)

In February 2002 Roger Stocks discovered a Circumscription Cross Penny of Eadgar (959–75, fig 50) whilst using a metal-detector near Middleton on the Wolds, North Yorkshire, which was subsequently recorded by Simon Holmes (Yorkshire Finds Liaison Officer). The inscription of this coin refers to Thorstan, a moneyer for York who, until the discovery of this piece, was only thought to strike earlier coin types for Eadgar. This coin, therefore, has added a second York moneyer to the list for issues of this type and date.

Roger Stocks discovered a second coin also found near Middleton on the Wolds in November 2002. This is a rare Penny of Regnald Guthfrithsson (c. 943–4, fig 31) and was also recorded by the Yorkshire Finds Liaison Officer. Being only the third known example, this coin also records a new moneyer for York. It is hoped that both of these coins will be acquired by the Yorkshire Museum.

Early Medieval gilded copper-alloy mount from Wales (fig 32)

A mount, probably dating to the seventh or eighth century, was discovered by Steve McGory whilst metal-detecting on farmland near Cowbridge in the Vale of Glamorgan, recorded by Mark Lodwick (Finds Co-ordinator, Wales) and reported on by Mark Redknap (Medievalist, National Museums & Galleries of Wales). The copper-alloy mount has cast ornament over its front face and traces of gilding survive over much of the surface. The mount is in four fragments and was of cruciform shape, with one of the arms now missing. Two of the opposing arms are smaller than the third intact arm, each having two groups of four ridges representing the body of a sinuous beast. Both arms terminate in zoomorphic heads with eyes, brows and V-shaped ears. Each of the beasts' mouths bites the pelleted body of its partner, whose body ends with a pointed, pelleted tail. The wide arm is parallel-sided with opposed animal heads at the expanded terminal. The ribbing encloses an interlace pattern. There is a central setting of a spherical blue glass bead with a broad rope-work border. The back is plain and carries slight scars on each arm suggesting the location of small spikes or lugs for attachment to wood or leather.

The decoration of the largest terminal and the pellets within ribbon borders may be paralleled on the seventh-century pelta-shaped mount from Barham near Ipswich, whose curved edge terminates in bird heads with curving beaks. However, the insular style on the Cowbridge mount suggests a later date. Here the ribbon bodies and heads are in the insular tradition of seventh to eighth century manuscript art. The body of the Cowbridge mount is infilled with a single row of closely-set oblique parallel lines, which was the popular way of decorating the bodies of animals on insular metalwork. The lugs to facilitate attachment on the reverse of the mount appear to have been filed, perhaps suggesting the mount may have had a secondary use as a pendant prior to loss. The mount represents an important example of insular art, and was acquired by the National Museums & Galleries of Wales.

Unusual dress pin or stylus found in Cumbria (fig 33)

An unusual composite dress pin or stylus was found by David James whilst metal-detecting at Arnside, Cumbria and recorded by Nick Herepath (North West Finds Liaison Officer). Manufactured in antiquity, it appears to be a decorative plate of Anglo-Saxon style, probably part of a box fitting, re-used as an improvised head for a dress pin or stylus. It seems to have been later modified by drilling very close to one edge before the final mounting onto the second piece and decorative modification of the back corners. The decorated plate dates to about the eighth century in terms of style. Such re-use of decorative gilt bronze off-cuts of Irish or Anglo-Saxon metalwork is typical of recycling in the Viking world in the ninth century. However, few such examples have been found in the North West.

First 'Viking Age' sword found in Wales (fig 34)

The upper portion of an iron sword, probably dating to the tenth or eleventh century, was recovered by Steve McGory while metal-detecting on farmland near Llantwit Major in the Vale of Glamorgan, recorded by Mark Lodwick (Finds Co-ordinator, Wales) and reported on by Mark Redknap (Medievalist, National Museums & Galleries of Wales).

The find comprised of the hilt and upper blade of an iron sword. The pommel was constructed in two sections, with the pommel cap being of broad flat, trilobate form. It is comparatively wide and the guard has a slight upward curvature, growing more pronounced towards the ends. The guard is also of iron and has a slight downward curvature. The blade is straight and two-edged, with probably around 75 per cent of its original length now missing.

The pommel shares some characteristics with Peterson type L, of the ninth to the eleventh centuries, but the slight curvature of the guards and the subdued, flat profile may suggest a slightly later date for the sword. This find represents the first recorded 'Viking Age' sword from Wales with a known provenance. It has been acquired by the National Museums & Galleries of Wales.

Rare 'Viking Age' weight found in Somerset (fig 35)

In the summer of 2002 Anne Laverty reported a 'Viking Age' weight to Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevarthen (Somerset & Dorset Finds Liaison Officer). This object is a rare find for the South West. It was discovered near Ilchester, Somerset, and comprises an earlier copper-alloy stud with enamelled decoration of Irish origin, which was subsequently set in lead for use as a weight. It is of a type used by traders during the eighth to ninth century, and is a unique find for Somerset. It has been acquired by Somerset County Museum.

Medieval book mount from Warwickshire (fig 36)

A mount representing St Mark the Evangelist was recovered by Andy Kyriakou, whilst metal-detecting at Princethorpe in Warwickshire, and subsequently recorded by Angie Bolton (West Midlands Finds Liaison Officer). The object shows a figure of St Mark, seated with a lion (his Evangelist symbol) at his feet. His arms are crossed and presumably he is holding a book, though this is not clear. It is possible that the mount once decorated a book, and probably dates to the mid-11th or early-12th century.

Interesting copper-alloy stirrup-strap mount from Wales (fig 37)

A copper-alloy stirrup-strap mount of the 11th or 12th century was found by John Stewart while metal-detecting at Mathern, Monmouthshire, and was subsequently recorded by Mark Lodwick (Finds Co-ordinator, Wales).

The object is interesting for it has only one perforation through its upper apex, and in this respect makes its functionality as a stirrup mount problematic; the mount would be unstable, implying that it did not utilise a fitting behind the stirrup strap. The stirrup mount contains a zoomorphic design. The design is of a lion or dog turning its head to face the left (rather than looking up which is more common on many of these mounts). The beast appears to be winged, or possibly has a bird wing in its mouth.

Unfortunately, the mount has been extensively cleaned, resulting in the stripping of the original surface and thus causing some difficulty in interpreting the finer details of the design. This object appears to represent the most westerly find of this artefact type and is the first stirrup-strap mount recorded from Wales.

Medieval intaglio of mounted knight (fig 38)

A medieval intaglio depicting a mounted knight was found by Derek Capp near Brigg in North Lincolnshire and recorded by Kurt Adams (Northern Lincolnshire Finds Liaison Officer). It is possible to see that the knight is wearing what appears to be a mail hauberk or patterned jerkin. Stirrups are also visible together with a lance that has a banner attached to its end. It is possible that this object dates to the 13th century.

Unusual pilgrim's ampulla found in Cheshire (fig 39)

An unusual lead pilgrim's ampulla in the form of a relief-cast human face was found by Kevin Guest at Henhull, Cheshire and recorded by Nick Herepath (North West Finds Liaison Officer). The flabby cheeks, heavy brows and down-turned mouth lend a sad expression to the face; there appears to be a moustache and beard, but no hair. The suspension loops to either side form the ears, and give the face an almost comical appearance. The shape of the hat, with a low point to either side, suggests a sideways-turned mitre. Although this might suggest a representation of St Thomas of Canterbury, the face does not conform to those on St Thomas pilgrim badges. Also, there are no other known ampullae which take the form of the head of St Thomas.

New Suffolk mint for 'boy bishop' token (fig 40)

A token minted in Blaxhall was found by Alan Calver whilst metal-detecting in Blaxhall, Suffolk, and subsequently recorded by Helen Geake (Suffolk Finds Liaison Officer). The obverse has a mitre in profile, and a ring of zig-zag in place of an inscription. The reverse has a long cross fourchée with three pellets in each quarter. Despite its large size, there is only one ring of inscription, reading 'VIL/LA/BLA/XAL'. Identified by Chris Mycock of Moyses Hall Museum, Bury St Edmunds – it is of a new class, as all previous examples were minted in Ely, Bury St Edmunds, Ipswich and Sudbury.

'Boy bishop' tokens, made of lead alloy, are known on the Continent, particularly in Picardy and Flanders, but in England are restricted to Suffolk and Cambridgeshire. The main centres of production are Ipswich, Ely and Bury, and one is known from Sudbury. They appear to have been issued to celebrate the reign of the children's bishop, a Christmas custom known across Europe from at least the 13th century. The East Anglian tokens copy designs current on coins from the late 15th century onwards (the cross fourchée) and perhaps continued into the second half of the 16th century.

Unusual seal matrix found in Kent (fig 41)

An elliptical copper-alloy seal matrix bearing the inscription '*MATTHEW VICKERY OF IVYCHURCH*' was found by a member of the Romney Marshland Metal Detecting Club at New Romney and recorded by Andrew Richardson (Kent Finds Liaison Officer). The matrix was of particular interest as Ivychurch is a parish very near New Romney, and it may be hoped that documentary research may eventually tell us more about its owner – Matthew Vickery.

Interesting continental coin found in Staffordshire

Paul Robinson found an interesting imitation sterling penny minted in Brussels during the reign of John II (1261–1312), whilst metal-detecting in the parish of Penkridge. The obverse of the coins shows a bust facing, with crown made up of three mullets, with the inscription '*I. DVX BRABANTIE*'. The reverse shows a long-cross with the inscription '*BRV XEL LEN SIS*'.

Copper-alloy folding clasp from Hampshire (fig 42)

A 14th century copper-alloy folding clasp was found in Barton Stacey, Hampshire by Ursula Douglas and recorded by Sally Worrell (Hampshire Finds Liaison Officer). The clasp has a rectangular frame and its outer edge has a crowned head, with 3D facial features. Examples of this type of clasp are not particularly common and this is a fine example.

Unique reading glass found in Norfolk (fig 43)

A late medieval – apparently unique – reading glass was found in South Walsham, by Peter Rillings in November 2002 and subsequently recorded by Andrew Rogerson (Norfolk Museum Service) and Katie Hinds (Norfolk Finds Liaison Officer). This object is of interest as it demonstrates that literacy was becoming increasingly common by the end of the Middle Ages. The object has been acquired by Norwich Castle Museum.

'House of Stuart' Oak Chest found in Somerset (fig 44)

In April 2002 an elaborate, probably locally carved oak chest-front was brought to Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevarthen (Somerset & Dorset Finds Liaison Officer). The object, rediscovered by Judy Windwood, came from a barn near Wellington, Somerset, where it had been used for sorting seed potatoes. It is decorated with the Royal Crest and Coat of Arms of the House of Stuart, flanked by terms in foliate arches. The decorative style dates it to the 1620s. It probably came from a church (the most common place for the Royal Arms to be displayed) and may have been removed during the Commonwealth (1649–60) – when England was a Republic – owing to its Royalist decoration. The chest front is a rare survival, and has been acquired by the Somerset County Museum.

French cannon found in Cardiff (fig 45)

Developers in the docks area of Cardiff unearthed one of the largest and least portable of the finds recorded with the Portable Antiquities Scheme – a late-18th century gun, which was found whilst excavating a pipe trench on the site of the former in-filled Glamorgan canal. The gun was made of cast iron and was nearly three metres in overall length. It was found embedded in the ground at a near vertical angle with the cascabel down. It would appear the gun had been employed as a bollard on the side of the late 18th century canal.

The first reinforce had the raised inscription '*ÉGALITÉ LIBERTÉ*' (equality liberty). The second reinforce had the raised legend '*RAMUS AU CREUSOT LAN. 2*' giving the makers' name and standing for l'année 2 (de la République Française), indicating that the gun was produced in the second year of the French Republic – 1793–4. The left trunnion is incised with 'P' over '2486', indicating the weight of the gun. The right trunnion was corroded, but appeared to have a founder's mark or number.

It is recorded that at the Battle of The Nile on 1 August 1798, ten captured warships yielded 750 cannons. It is possible that this and two other French cannons recovered in Cardiff were spoils of war, and may have been part payment to one of the iron masters producing guns for the Admiralty or Board of Ordinance.

Raising Awareness

The Portable Antiquities Scheme plays an important role in raising awareness of the educational value of archaeological finds amongst the public and in facilitating research in them. In August 2003 the Scheme appointed an Education Officer to carry out this work.

In the period of this report the Finds Liaison Officers have made contact with a variety of individuals and groups of people to highlight the work of the Scheme, raise awareness of the importance of finds recording and encourage people to tell archaeologists about the discoveries they make. Between 1 October 2001 and 31 March 2003 a total of 193 talks have been given, 135 Finds Days have been organised and there have been 122 reports in the media about the work of the Scheme.

Outreach to Metal-detecting Clubs

The Finds Liaison Officers continue to develop relations with metal-detecting clubs, as club members are the principal source of archaeological objects discovered by members of the public. The number of metal-detecting clubs with which the Finds Liaison Officers have regular contact is set out in Table 1 (page 64).

At such meetings Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevarthen and Elaine Howard-Jones (Somerset & Dorset Finds Liaison Officers) take the opportunity to talk to finders about the benefits of the Scheme and how they can become involved. Advice is also given on the correct recording and storage of finds. Finds are collected for identification and detailed reports and information are provided on their return.

Likewise, when visiting metal-detecting clubs, Simon Holmes (Yorkshire Finds Liaison Officer), carries out finds identifications and gives advice on basic conservation. In the period of this report he also gave two talks on Roman coins.

Andrew Richardson (Kent Finds Liaison Officer) attends club meetings on a roughly bi-monthly basis (see fig 61). The majority of finds seen are those that appear on 'Find of the Month' tables, or unidentified objects brought in for identification. A significant minority of club members do record all their finds with the Finds Liaison Officer, but it is likely that many identifiable finds not considered worthy of the 'Find of the Month' competitions (perhaps because they are fragments or in very poor condition) are falling through the recording net – although the scale of the problem is difficult to quantify. It is worth re-stating that, especially for objects of medieval date or earlier, all finds, even fragments or illegible coins (such as

Roman 'grots') are worth recording, as their distribution in the landscape is archaeologically important even if the object itself is visually unimpressive.

Helen Geake and Faye Minter (Suffolk Finds Liaison Officers) visit three metal-detecting clubs in Suffolk. Each one meets monthly and they attend meetings to record finds which are returned the following month and answer any queries as they occur. Other members of Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service also attend and sometimes give talks to the clubs which emphasise the importance of context and bring together regionally significant material. For example, Jude Plouviez (Suffolk County Council) talked to Ipswich Club in 2002 about Roman artefacts from Suffolk associated with literacy.

Mark Lodwick (Finds Co-ordinator, Wales) also regularly attends metal-detecting club meetings, along with his colleagues Steve Sell of the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust, Karina Kucharski, County Archaeologist for Wrexham, Jenny Hall of Cambria Archaeology and Kate Geary of Gwynedd Archaeological Trust.

When visiting metal-detecting club meetings Angie Bolton (West Midlands Finds Liaison Officer) usually gives a 15-minute talk. This is an opportunity for her to update members on the Portable Antiquities Scheme, and any current issues such as the Countryside Stewardship Scheme, progress of the All Party Parliamentary Archaeology Group, and allows the club to discuss, sometimes at length, these issues with input from the Finds Liaison Officer. However most of the Finds Liaison Officer's time is spent socialising with members, answering individual questions and delivering and returning finds. This allows them the opportunity to focus on particular problems, or discuss particular finds in more detail.



61. Andrew Richardson (Kent Finds Liaison Officer) recording finds at the Mid-Kent Metal-detecting Club.

Rallies

Andrew Richardson (Kent Finds Liaison Officer) has attended metal-detecting rallies organised by the Swale Search and Recovery Club at Bethersden and Bodsham at which most finds were plotted and recorded. Whilst these events could not be considered archaeologically controlled, the results were comparable to a rapid survey, and contribute to our understanding of the local areas, as well as providing data on the sort of finds likely to be yielded by detector surveys in the Weald and Downs respectively. Reports on both rallies were prepared by the Finds Liaison Officer.

Likewise Faye Minter (Suffolk Finds Liaison Officer) regularly attends rallies run by the East Coast Searchers.

Sally Worrell (Hampshire Finds Liaison Officer) was invited to record finds at the Warren Rangers metal-detecting rally held at Ellisfield, near Basingstoke in September 2002 (see fig 62). Approximately 100 detectorists took part in the event and 50 archaeologically significant finds were recorded during the course of the day. These included an Iron Age coin, a Late Anglo-Saxon stirrup terminal, a Medieval seal matrix and lead ampulla, as well as a number of Roman and Medieval coins. A series of large Ordnance Survey maps were available to plot finds and local detectorist James Bradshaw was on hand to provide a digital photographic record of the artefacts discovered. A report has been prepared for the Club archives and for the landowner.

Outreach to Archaeological Groups and Historical Societies

The Finds Liaison Officers also maintain regular contact with local archaeological groups and historical societies, giving talks about the work of the Scheme and the benefits of liaison and recording archaeological objects found by the public.

As part of an event organised by Somerset County Council's Architectural and Historical Heritage Group, which took place at Burrowbridge, Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevarthen (Somerset & Dorset Finds Liaison Officer) gave a talk to 150 people about the Portable Antiquities Scheme. As a result of this event an open day was held at Athelney Abbey in June 2002 – following excavations by Time Team – which the Finds Liaison Officer attended and recorded finds (see fig 70).

Similarly, Ciorstaidh gave a talk to the South Cadbury Environs Project, which is a long-term multi-disciplinary project researching the prehistoric to Early Medieval

archaeology and environment of a large area surrounding the hillfort of Cadbury Castle, Somerset. A number of local metal-detectorists who have recorded finds with the Portable Antiquities Scheme assist on the project, as do local people, volunteers and archaeological students. On an open day in June 2002 the Finds Liaison Officer also held a Finds Day.

In March 2002 Roger Bland (Co-ordinator) and Nick Herepath (North West Finds Liaison Officer) gave a talk on the Treasure Act and the Portable Antiquities Scheme, and their impact on Cheshire to an audience of 300 at the Cheshire Archaeological Day in Middlewich.

Likewise in April 2002 Nick Herepath gave a paper on Roman brooch finds from Cheshire to a meeting of the Roman Finds Group at Segedunum Roman Fort, Wallsend, Tyne and Wear, and a public lecture on the Treasure Act and Portable Antiquities at Liverpool Museum in February 2003.

Rhiannon Harte (Northamptonshire Finds Liaison Officer) attended a meeting of the Market Harborough Archaeological Group, to meet members and advise them on the best way to undertake a field-walking exercise which was to take place in Northamptonshire. The group undertook a successful search of the area using the techniques learned. Since then the Finds Liaison Officer has attended another meeting of the group to identify Roman and Medieval pottery finds and to give a talk on pottery identification techniques.

Good links with the local historical society at Ruperra in Wales have provided an opportunity for Mark Lodwick (Finds Co-ordinator, Wales) to liaise with and subsequently introduce a local metal-detectorist to the society. Together the historical society, Caerphilly County Borough Museum Service and the detectorist hope to conduct a systematic survey of areas around Ruperra Castle resulting in the society and museum service planning a display of some of the detectorists' finds at Ruperra Castle.

Likewise Mark Lodwick has also spoken to the Society of Antiquaries and the Cambrians during their joint meeting in Cardiff on recent discoveries in the Late Bronze Age. He has also had the opportunity to show many of the recent Late Bronze Age hoard finds, and talk about the work of the Portable Antiquities Scheme in Wales, to the Forum of National Museum Archaeologists.

In July 2002 Angie Bolton (West Midlands Finds Liaison Officer) gave a lecture at the West Midlands Council for British Archaeology Annual General Meeting, which took place in Worcester. The lecture highlighted important and interesting finds recorded through the Portable Antiquities Scheme and how they have

contributed to the archaeological record and to the study of finds.

Sally Worrell (Hampshire Finds Liaison Officer) gave talks on the objectives and results of the Portable Antiquities Scheme, with detailed case studies on the Winchester Hoard and the Breamore Anglo-Saxon cemetery, to a number of local history and museum societies (see fig 63).

Outreach to Independent Metal-detectorists and Other Chance Finders

Since most metal-detecting clubs meet regularly (normally once a month) it is relatively easy for the Finds Liaison Officers to keep in contact with members and record finds. However it is more difficult for them to meet metal-detectorists who are not members of clubs (independents) and other chance finders, and then maintain regular contact. Of course, finders who are receptive to the importance of finds recording will make the extra effort to ensure the finds they discover are recorded. This said, many people are still unaware of the Scheme. To foster relations with them the Finds Liaison Officers have to maintain an active outreach programme.

Finds Identification and Recording Days

Finds Days, often held in local museums or heritage venues, provide a mechanism by which finders can bring in objects they discover for identification and recording (see fig 64). The events vary in size as do the number of people who attend. Often Finds Days attract people who might not otherwise travel to larger museums or who think their object is of limited interest, but are intrigued by what they have found.

One of the largest events in the period of this report was held in Norfolk. Every year Norfolk Landscape Archaeology holds an open day on National Archaeology weekend, which is attended by Katie Hinds and Adrian Marsden (Norfolk Finds Liaison Officers). Last year the event attracted over 450 visitors, of whom all heard about the work of the Portable Antiquities Scheme. It was also an opportunity for members of the public to bring in finds to be identified, which included a Neolithic carved stone axe, a Romano-British cosmetic mortar and a number of coins.

But even the less well-attended events can yield important discoveries. Nick Herepath (North West Finds Liaison Officer) held a Finds Day at Kendal Museum in November 2002. Although few came along to have their



62. Sally Worrell (Hampshire Finds Liaison Officer) recording finds at the Warren Rangers Metal-detecting Rally at Ellisfield, Hampshire.



63. Sally Worrell (Hampshire Finds Liaison Officer) talking to the Winchester Archaeological Rescue Group about recent finds.

finds identified and recorded, an enamelled Roman seal box lid found nearby by Mr Hall of the Kendal & District Metal Detecting Club was recorded and subsequently donated to Kendal Museum.

Mr Court from Merriot and his family attended the Finds Day held at the Crewkerne Heritage Centre, Somerset. He is a gardener working in the Merriot area who through his work has made a number of finds, which he brought to Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevarthen (Somerset & Dorset Finds Liaison Officer). His finds included many 17th century trade tokens from local towns as well as some from further afield, together with worked flints including two very good barbed and tanged arrowheads.

Both members of the public and independent detectorists attended these events, producing a number of interesting finds that would probably have otherwise gone unrecorded (see fig 65). For example, at a Finds Day at the Priest's House Museum in Wimborne, Dorset, Mr A Pike showed Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevarthen (Somerset & Dorset Finds Liaison Officer) numerous artefacts, including fifth century bracelets and strap fittings. It was apparent after study that these finds may indicate a previously unknown late Romano-British cemetery site.

Most Finds Liaison Officers hold regular Finds Days, often called Finds Surgeries, which commonly take place at local museums. For example, Kurt Adams (Northern Lincolnshire Finds Liaison Officer) holds a regular Finds Surgery on the last Saturday of each month at Scunthorpe Museum. Events have proven very successful at reaching members of the general public, including independent detectorists and field-walkers. Some Finds Liaison Officers have noted that finders develop a routine of delivering and collecting finds to be recorded in places where regular Finds Surgeries take place.

Angie Bolton (West Midlands Finds Liaison Officer) noted that at the Potteries Museum and Art Gallery, in particular, the morning session has become a regular fixture in people's diaries to record finds and discuss them with the Finds Liaison Officer as a group. Angie notes that these sessions are 'often lively, humorous and engaging discussions and only end when the parking meters of the visitors' cars start to call'.

In Yorkshire outreach to independent metal-detectorists continues through the weekly Finds Surgery at the Archaeological Resource Centre in York. For those who are unable to attend York, Simon Holmes (Yorkshire Finds Liaison Officer) organises bi-monthly Finds Surgeries at Beverley Library and Art Gallery and the Hull and East Riding Museum.

Finds Days often attract local media interest, both before and after the event. This in turn has led to some finders contacting the Finds Liaison Officer retrospectively to arrange identification and recording of their finds. Andrew Richardson (Kent Finds Liaison Officer) believes that this media coverage is the main method by which members of the public have become aware of the existence of the Scheme. Likewise in March 2003 Sally Worrell (Hampshire Finds Liaison Officer) organised a finds day at Winchester Museum to coincide with filming of the Winchester Hoard episode of the *Hidden Treasure* series, which was well attended by both metal-detectorists and other finders.

In contrast independent metal-detectorists seem to become aware of the Scheme through reading the metal-detecting press, through contact with museums, or by word of mouth via fellow detectorists. For people to come forward when prompted by word of mouth is the most flattering, as it means that people realise what the Scheme is doing is worthwhile. It also demonstrates that finders have confidence in the ability of the Finds Liaison Officers and recognise the importance of the aims of the Portable Antiquities Scheme.

Sometimes the Finds Liaison Officers will visit the homes of finders in order to record finds, or to collect finds for recording at a later date. Many of these visits are to meet independent metal-detectorists or members of the public. In many cases, good relations have been established with these finders, who have continued to provide information on any subsequent finds they make.

Exhibitions and Displays

The Finds Liaison Officers play an active educational role in organising displays and exhibitions about finds and the Portable Antiquities Scheme. These offer an important opportunity for members of the public to learn more about the Scheme and see some of the finds which have been recorded.

In the period of this report the Portable Antiquities Scheme gave a small grant to the Cookworthy Museum to record archaeological objects found in Devon. In August 2002 a two-day exhibition of recorded finds was organised at the museum. Gary Saunders (who managed the project at the museum) observed 'that visitors to the exhibition were surprised by the diversity of material'.

Rhiannon Harte (Northamptonshire Finds Liaison Officer) organised an exhibition at Daventry Museum, which highlighted the Portable Antiquities Scheme and displayed finds lent by local metal-detector users and other members of the public which had been recorded by

the Scheme. The event was very well received and will hopefully be repeated both in Daventry District and other venues around the county in the future.

The Portable Antiquities display case at the Somerset County Museum has been redisplayed and, together with a wide range of material on loan, now includes several new items acquired through the Treasure Act (see fig 66). Likewise in Dorset, Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevarthen (Somerset & Dorset Finds Liaison Officer) together with Claire Pinder, Senior Archaeologist responsible for the Dorset County Council Metal-detecting Liaison Scheme, mounted a joint exhibition of finds and information about the Scheme in the foyer of the County Hall, Dorchester.

At Norwich Castle Museum the 'Finds from Norfolk' display case has been reinstated and contains an interesting array of metal-detector finds found by local people. Similarly, Simon Holmes (Yorkshire Finds Liaison Officer) unveiled a display cabinet at the Yorkshire Museum, which is designed to educate visitors to the museum about our heritage by displaying discoveries made by metal-detectorists and other members of the public.

Sally Worrell (Hampshire Finds Liaison Officer) produced a poster for the 'Late Iron Age in Britain and Beyond' Conference at Durham University in March 2002, examining the Iron Age artefacts recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme since it was established. This work highlights the potential of the data collected by the Scheme to contribute to a general understanding of the period at both local and national levels. The most striking results of this study are the regional variation in the patterns of material culture use and loss throughout the areas covered by the Scheme. For example, there are very marked differences in the types and proportions of harness equipment recorded between the regions which hint at the importance of this data in revealing potential differences in depositional practices across the country. A number of interesting features emerge which suggest that, in some areas, the Portable Antiquities data does not mirror the patterns of artefact deposition that might be expected on the basis of what was already known from earlier chance finds and excavated results.

A study looking at the whole of the data recorded for a particular period demonstrates that chance archaeological finds do have the potential to fill in the gaps in the existing framework derived from archaeological excavation and other survey work.



64. Finds Liaison Officers recording finds at a Finds Day in Croydon, Surrey.



65. Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevarthen (Somerset & Dorset Finds Liaison Officer) recording finds at the Peat Moors Visitors Centre, Westhay, Somerset.



66. The Portable Antiquities display case in Somerset County Museum.

Working with Schools, Colleges and Universities

The Portable Antiquities Scheme continues to play an important educational role at all levels, helping to advance public understanding of archaeology and the historic environment. The Scheme's website – www.finds.org.uk – is part of the National Grid for Learning, a gateway to high quality educational resources on the internet. From August 2003 the Scheme is employing an Education Officer (Ceinwen Paynton) to facilitate this important educational role. Also the Finds Advisers will have a valuable educational role within universities.

Schools

Archaeological finds are a useful tool for bringing the past alive, especially for school children, and directly contribute to topics taught as part of the National Curriculum (see figs 67 and 68).

For example in November 2002 Andrew Richardson (Kent Finds Liaison Officer) gave a lesson on the Romans to a class of six to seven-year-old children at Capel-Le-Ferne Primary School, near Folkestone. A number of finds of Roman date, lent by Dover Museum and local detectorist David Barwell, were brought along. The children had the opportunity to handle these objects and learn about life in Roman times.

In 2002 Rhiannon Harte (Northamptonshire Finds Liaison Officer) helped run a summer school based around archaeology at Roade Comprehensive School. The week included looking at finds made both on site and in museum contexts, and two days digging and learning about other aspects of field archaeology at Piddington Roman Villa. The children enjoyed the week which ended with them giving a formal presentation to parents and teachers.

Winchester Museum Service hosts a number of students from local schools on work experience programmes (see fig 69). An integral part of this programme is working with Sally Worrell (Hampshire Finds Liaison Officer) in the procedures involved in finds identification and recording. For many of the students, this is the first opportunity to handle, examine closely and identify archaeological material. It also provides a good opportunity to explain the aims and objectives of the Portable Antiquities Scheme to a different audience.

Colleges

Increasingly archaeology is being studied at A-Level and therefore educational outreach to such groups is important.²

In the period of this report Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevarthen (Somerset & Dorset Finds Liaison Officer) assisted with the 'Archaeology, Archives and A-Levels Project' organised by the South Somerset Museums and Heritage Service. Ciorstaidh advised on archaeological material assembled for use in eight themed loan boxes to be made available to sixth form colleges. The project was funded by grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund and South West Museums, Libraries and Archives Council. The initiative aimed to produce a range of resources for the fast growing numbers of archaeology students in Somerset. As part of this Scheme the Finds Liaison Officer gave a talk at a day school for A-Level archaeology students at Somerset County Museum on legal and ethical issues relating to archaeology and museums.

Universities

Likewise the number of students studying archaeology at university has risen over the last few years.³

Traditionally undergraduate courses have a strong emphasis on theoretical archaeology, with little time given to finds identification work. With few finds experts in the country, the Finds Liaison Officers have a vital educational role.

As well as having good finds identification skills many of those employed in the Scheme are experts in their own right, and add a valuable contribution to university lecture programmes.

For example, Roger Bland gave four seminars to MA students of public archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, London, in 2002–03 and two more to Master of Laws students at the Faculty of Laws, University College London.

Helen Geake (Suffolk Finds Liaison Officer), who is an expert on Anglo-Saxon metalwork, gave lectures on seventh century burial to undergraduates in archaeology at the University of Cambridge and the University of Oxford.

Likewise, Mark Lodwick (Finds Co-ordinator, Wales), lectured to the Cardiff University research seminar programme on how recently reported finds are building up an important pattern of metalwork distribution and use during the Late Bronze Age of South Wales.

Sally Worrell (Hampshire Finds Liaison Officer) lectured to both undergraduate and postgraduate

students at King Alfred's College, Winchester, on the Treasure Act and the Portable Antiquities Scheme. She also spoke to the King Alfred's College seminar group on a similar subject.

University students also benefit from a wider understanding of the Scheme, finds liaison and legislation pertaining to portable antiquities, including the Treasure Act.

For example, Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevarthen (Somerset & Dorset Finds Liaison Officer) and Steve Minnitt (Keeper of Archaeology for Somerset County Museums Service) have given joint talks and provided supporting information to visiting undergraduate and postgraduate groups from the universities of Bristol and Exeter.

Likewise Simon Holmes (Yorkshire Finds Liaison Officer) gave lectures on the Scheme and the Treasure Act to archaeology students at the University of York. Simon has also continued to supervise university placement students at both graduate and undergraduate levels.

Similarly, Angie Bolton (West Midlands Finds Liaison Officer) gave lectures to second year students participating in the Archaeology Professional Studies course at the University of Birmingham. The lectures were about the Portable Antiquities Scheme and how the Scheme has contributed to the archaeological record, particularly in the West Midlands. The Treasure Act was also covered, mentioning the review and potential revisions to the Code of Practice.

During October 2001 Michael Lewis (Kent Finds Liaison Officer), along with local metal-detector users, talked to five undergraduate seminar groups at the University of Kent. This was an opportunity for students to learn more about the contribution metal-detecting can make to the archaeological record, and handle metal-detector finds.

Undergraduate archaeology students have also gained valuable work experience by working with the Portable Antiquities Scheme in Hampshire. For example, Catherine Cooper, a student of Cambridge University spent a week illustrating artefacts found by metal-detectorists to a very high standard (see fig 46).



67/68. Mark Lodwick (Finds Co-ordinator, Wales) shows archaeological finds to school children.



69. Emma and Mulwinna of Perrins School on work experience with Sally Worrell (Hampshire Finds Liaison Officer).

2. In 1980 20 students studied A-Level archaeology, in 1990 the number was 102, and in 2000 the number was 628 (source: Council for British Archaeology)

3. In 1996/7 the number of students studying archaeology at university was 5,825. In 2001/2 the number had increased to 8,140 (source: Council for British Archaeology)

Others

The Finds Liaison Officers have also sought to educate many others about the benefits of liaison and the importance of recording archaeological finds made by the public.

A number of interesting finds have been brought to the Finds Liaison Officers (Somerset & Dorset) on behalf of farmers and landowners in Dorset by Rhodri Evans (Historic Environment Countryside Officer for Dorset). This illustrates the importance of awareness and active support of the Scheme from the wider archaeological community. In the autumn of 2002, Lady Sandwich of Beaminster, Dorset, gave Rhodri several objects to pass on for recording. One of these was a rare Early Bronze Age flat axe. Lady Sandwich, a member of the Heritage Lottery Fund South West Committee said, 'I was delighted to be able to participate in this Scheme. I had received the axehead a couple of months before Rhodri's visits from a farmer and, though aware of its high quality, jokingly said I thought it was an excellent shape for a letter opener!' Other objects recorded through the services of Rhodri Evans include a large Late Neolithic flaked axe roughed-out for polishing reported by Mr Gallia of Dorset (see fig 47).

Mark Lodwick (Finds Co-ordinator, Wales) has developed and maintained strong links with the South East Wales branch of the Young Archaeologists Club (YAC). He gave a talk at a YAC meeting on the Portable Antiquities Scheme and the importance of recording finds for understanding the historic environment. He also spent time talking to the group about finds discovered in proposed fieldwork.

Sally Worrell (Hampshire Finds Liaison Officer) gave a talk to the Turner's Club, a group of farmers and landowners from Hampshire and Wiltshire. The members were very interested to learn more about the background to the Treasure Act and Portable Antiquities Scheme, how they work in practice and their results in terms of the important archaeological information preserved. A number of the members brought artefacts for identification that they had found during the course of their work.

At the invitation of the Society of Museum Archaeologists, Angie Bolton (West Midlands Finds Liaison Officer) and Sally Worrell (Hampshire Finds Liaison Officer) ran a training day on Post-Medieval metalwork. The training was based around the handling of a variety of objects from the Tudor period through to recent times. The Finds Liaison Officers borrowed all of these objects from metal-detectorists, who were

enthusiastic and pleased that they could help in this way. Relevant reference books were also used during the course to enable the students to have an idea of what books were of most use.

Roger Bland gave a talk on the first five years of the Treasure Act to the British Numismatic Society in May 2002 and gave a talk to a training course on 'The Treasure Act for Archaeologists' at Oxford University Extra-Mural Department in February 2002. He was also invited to talk on the Treasure Act and Portable Antiquities Scheme at a seminar on Treasure Trove organised by the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland in Edinburgh in November 2002 and gave a talk on 'Highlights from last year's Treasure cases' at a seminar for coroners organised by the DCMS in December 2003. In March 2003 he gave a talk on the Treasure Act and Portable Antiquities Scheme to the Friends of the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust.

In October 2002, Andrew Richardson (Kent Finds Liaison Officer) and Michael Lewis (Outreach Officer), along with David Barwell of the National Council for Metal Detecting, gave presentations to a class of about 30 students of the Kent Archaeological Field School, based near Faversham. The talks focused on liaison between archaeologists and metal-detectorists in archaeological fieldwork.

A Guide to Conservation for Metal-detectorists, written by Hobbs, Watkins and Honeycombe, has been useful in informing metal-detectorists how to conserve their finds. Angie Bolton (West Midlands Finds Liaison Officer) has two copies which she lends to metal-detectorists on a one-month loan. So far this library system has been successful and has encouraged people to attempt the methods promoted within the book. One finder has joked how he now has enough acid-free tissue to last a lifetime, sealable bags of all varieties and crystal boxes to match.

Metal-detector clubs have been invited to the National Museum & Gallery in Cardiff and have been encouraged to adopt best practice in conservation through tours of the conservation laboratory and by being shown the work and discipline involved in archaeological conservation. Likewise the Pembrokeshire Prospectors have visited the National Museum & Gallery for an illustrated talk on the material culture of Welsh archaeology given by Adam Gwilt (Later Prehistorian) and Mark Lodwick (Finds Co-ordinator, Wales).

Publicity Material

Publications, the press, media and internet all help publicise the work of the Scheme and keep finders up to date on discoveries and events in their area.

Newsletters, Leaflets and other Publicity Material

In the period of this report the Portable Antiquities Scheme published Newsletter 4 – Spring 2002, which will be the final edition in this format (see fig 71). In the future there will be one national newsletter a year, while each of the regions will also produce newsletters. Newsletter 4 featured articles on national events, such as proposed revisions to the Treasure Act, and recent discoveries, such as a new Romano-British site at Brayton in North Yorkshire and an unusual copper-alloy Early Bronze Age arrowhead discovered in Suffolk.

However, the Finds Liaison Officers have also continued to produce their own local newsletters. For example in Somerset & Dorset the Finds Liaison Officer produces an occasional newsletter promoting the Scheme, detailing dates and locations of Finds Surgeries, interesting recent finds and forthcoming events. In addition the local *Recording our Past* leaflet has been revised, reprinted and widely distributed.

Likewise in Kent the Finds Liaison Officer has regularly produced the *FLO KENT* newsletter. Since March 2001 five issues have been produced, covering a range of topics, and showing recent finds of interest. In addition the newsletter also appears in digital form on the National Council for Metal Detecting (Southern Region) website. The October 2001 issue of the newsletter was a special edition dedicated to the Kent Anglo-Saxon Brooch Project (see page 44), and resulted in a number of brooches being brought forward for inclusion in this project. The newsletter also generally includes details of forthcoming Finds Days. Articles on the work of the Finds Liaison Officer have also recently appeared in Kent County Council's staff magazine *Ink* and also in *Around Kent* magazine, which has a very wide circulation within the County.

The Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service publishes an Annual Report which includes a report on the Portable Antiquities Scheme. This is distributed in hard copy locally and is also made available on the Suffolk County Council website.



70. Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevarthen (Somerset & Dorset Finds Liaison Officer) discussing finds with visitors at an open day at Athelney Abbey.

71. The Portable Antiquities Scheme's newsletter.



Articles

In the period of this report numerous articles have featured the work of the Finds Liaison Officers. For example a profile on Angie Bolton (West Midlands Finds Liaison Officer) was published in the March 2003 edition of the *Museums Journal*. This included a summary of her work and the types of finds identified and recorded.

Likewise Michael Lewis (Kent Finds Liaison Officer) contributed to *London Archaeologist* (Spring 2002) on the impact of the Portable Antiquities Scheme in Kent and how a Finds Liaison Officer post might operate in London. Also a finds day at the Big Dig in Canterbury (May 2002) resulted in a double page spread in the local press.

In Kent the discovery of the Late Bronze Age hoard at Hollingbourne (discussed above) has so far resulted in the publication of two articles. An article by Andrew Richardson (Kent Finds Liaison Officer) appeared in the *Kent Archaeological Society Newsletter* of spring 2003, which outlined the circumstances of the discovery and gave an account of the subsequent excavation, and a similar article was published on the Portable Antiquities Scheme website – www.finds.org.uk. A six-page article on the Hollingbourne finds also appeared in the May 2003 edition of *Treasure Hunting*. This was written by Gill Davies, one of the detectorists who had attended the excavation, and incorporated pictures supplied by the Finds Liaison Officer and Kent County Council.

An article by Andrew Richardson on the Kent Anglo-Saxon Brooch Project has also appeared on the Portable Antiquities Scheme website and is the subject of a short item in the forthcoming volume of *Medieval Archaeology*.

Likewise Nick Herepath (North West Finds Liaison Officer) published four articles on the Portable Antiquities Scheme in the *Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society Newsletter*. An update on the Scheme was also published in *Cheshire Archaeology News*.

The Portable Antiquities Scheme and finds resulting from the work of the Finds Liaison Officers have also received good coverage in the national press. Examples in the period of this report include the Ringlemere cup and a glass Anglo-Saxon bowl from Hampshire (both April 2002).

The Heritage Lottery funding for the Scheme also received national publicity: *The Guardian* (10 May 2002) ran the story 'Lottery Grant Comes to Rescue of Archaeological Research', while the *Museums Journal* (May 2002) reported 'Blackstone Steps in at 11th Hour to save Portable Antiquities Scheme'.

Television and Radio

The Finds Liaison Officers have also been able to promote the Scheme and encourage new finders to come forward whilst working with television and radio.

Roger Bland (Co-ordinator) gave an interview on the Scheme to *You and Yours* on BBC Radio 4, 25 April 2002. The launch of the *Treasure Annual Report 2000* at the British Museum on 14 August 2002, which was attended by Roger Bland, received very wide coverage in the media with stories in *The Guardian*, *The Independent*, *The Times*, *The Daily Telegraph*, *The Eastern Daily Press*, *The East Anglian Daily Times*, BBC News, Sky News, Meridian TV and LBC Radio.

Richard Allan's Private Members Bill, Dealing in Cultural Objects (Offences), which successfully passed through Parliament during 2003, also caused some interest in the media and Roger Bland gave interviews on the subject to *The Guardian* on 21 October 2003 ('Thieves pillage Iron Age fort') and on 18 December 2002 ('Bill to close legal loophole on buried treasures').

Some Finds Liaison Officers, such as Helen Geake (Suffolk Finds Liaison Officer), have regularly appeared on Channel 4's *Time Team* as a finds expert. Similarly, Andrew Richardson (Kent Finds Liaison Officer) appeared recording finds in an archaeological series called *Pastfinders*, which was shown on Meridian television. Roger Bland (Co-ordinator) appeared on a BBC programme called *Our Top Ten Treasures* to talk about Roman coins in the Hoxne Hoard.

In the period of this report all members of the Scheme have been working closely with the BBC on their forthcoming television programme *Hidden Treasure*, which will feature the work of the Scheme and investigate the importance of some of the finds recorded by the Finds Liaison Officers (see fig 72).

The Finds Liaison Officers have also been interviewed for television and radio.

For example, Andrew Richardson (Kent Finds Liaison Officer) was interviewed about the Treasure Act during a BBC Newsroom South East piece on the Ringlemere cup. Often Kent County Council's press office will assist in publicising the activities of the Finds Liaison Officer. The press release associated with the discovery of the Bronze Age hoard at Hollingbourne was particularly successful in generating local media coverage, including radio and television, with County Archaeologist Dr John Williams being interviewed about the site on BBC Radio Kent.

Angie Bolton (West Midlands Finds Liaison Officer) gave two interviews to West Midlands SAGA Radio, to promote the Portable Antiquities Scheme, particularly to

dog-walkers, gardeners and metal-detectorists. Angie also gave an interview to BBC Herefordshire and Worcestershire Radio to promote the 'Unearthing Our Past' exhibition at the Museum of Local Life, Worcester. The origins of the exhibition were explained, and the metal-detecting collection the exhibition was based on and the Portable Antiquities Scheme were discussed in particular. Further, Sally Worrell (Hampshire Finds Liaison Officer) gave a live radio interview on Radio Solent coinciding with the temporary loan from the British Museum of the Winchester Hoard to Winchester Museum.

BBC Website

In the period of this report Michael Lewis (Outreach Officer) has worked closely with Katherine Campbell at the BBC helping to develop the 'Treasure' page of the BBC website (www.bbc.co.uk). Besides guidance on the Treasure Act the site also features the work of the Portable Antiquities Scheme and offers advice to finders of archaeological objects. Some of the Finds Liaison Officers have also helped with this. For example, Sally Worrell (Hampshire Finds Liaison Officer) wrote an article about her work entitled 'Day in the Life of a Finds Liaison Officer'.

Portable Antiquities Scheme Website

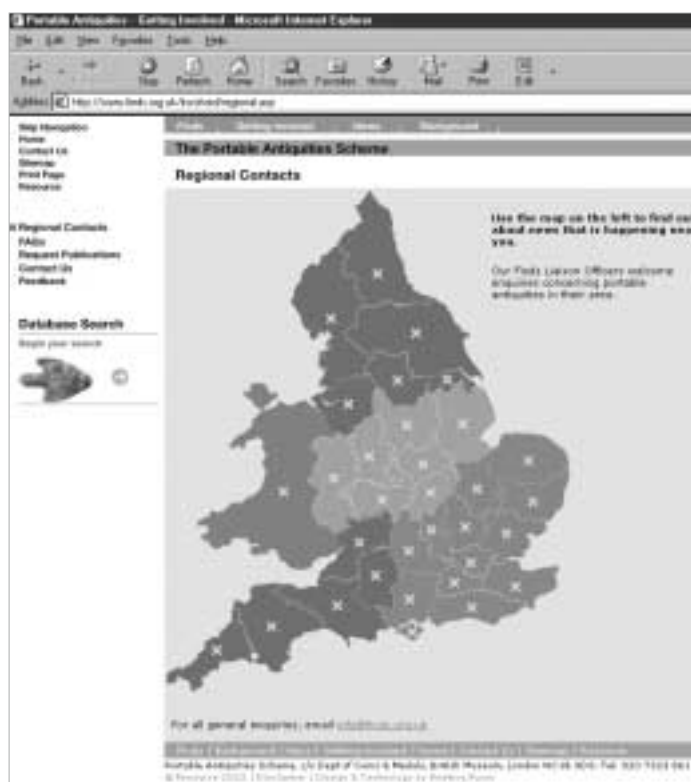
The Portable Antiquities Scheme website – www.finds.org.uk – is the principal means by which the data gathered by the Finds Liaison Officers is published and made accessible to the general public. It is also a very important tool for disseminating information about the Scheme, including 'frequently asked questions' and 'contact us' pages, and information about recently discovered finds and the 'Treasure Act'. It also features both national and regional news pages. These are updated centrally, but all the Finds Liaison Officers have their own pages in which they can highlight important discoveries and advertise public events (see fig 73).

In the period of this report the number of page requests to www.finds.org.uk has significantly increased, as Table 2 (page 64) demonstrates.

The Finds Liaison Officers also contribute to the websites of their 'host partner' organisations. For example, details of the Scheme in Somerset & Dorset are published on the Somerset County Museums Service (www.somerset.gov.uk/museums) and Dorset County Council (www.dorsetcc.gov.uk/portableantiquities) websites.



72. Filming for the *Hidden Treasure* series at a Finds Day in Croydon, Surrey.



73. The Regional Contacts map on the Portable Antiquities Scheme website – www.finds.org.uk

An edited version of the Portable Antiquities database, with information about the Scheme, including a 'find of the month' and explanation of the laws regarding metal-detecting, field-walking and Treasure has been developed for use by the general public in an interactive program located within North Lincolnshire Museum, Scunthorpe.

Research

The full potential of the data collated by the Portable Antiquities Scheme for understanding our past will take time to realise. However, information about the objects recorded with the Scheme has already contributed to academic research, of which examples are given below.

A major research project currently taking place under the auspices of the Portable Antiquities Scheme is the Kent Anglo-Saxon Brooch Project. This project was launched by local archaeologist Keith Parfitt and Michael Lewis (Kent Finds Liaison Officer) in August 2001, and is supported by Dr Martin Welch, Institute of Archaeology, University College London. The aim of the project is to help archaeologists and historians better understand the links between the kingdom of Kent and the Anglo-Saxon homelands. The shapes and forms of Anglo-Saxon brooches differ from region to region, and can provide evidence of the cultural and ethnic affinities of their wearers.

In Kent the types of brooches most commonly found in Anglo-Saxon graves are Kentish disc and square-headed brooches, and Frankish radiate-headed brooches. However the types of brooches recovered by metal-detectorists in Kent do not seem to match this pattern, with cruciform brooches in particular (a type very rarely found in graves) being common finds. This may be of considerable significance for our understanding of migration period Kent, representing archaeological evidence of links between fifth century Kent and southern Scandinavia.

Preliminary results indicate that amongst brooches found by metal-detectorists in Kent, cruciform, button and small long brooches are the most commonly found types. Further study and recording of more brooches will be necessary to see if this pattern is maintained. The apparent difference between the types of brooches recovered by metal-detecting, and the types recovered by the normal archaeological process, has implications beyond the field of Anglo-Saxon studies (see fig 74).

The evidence for third century coin production at Colkirk and Rocklands in Norfolk has generated an article on the Colkirk site – 'Evidence for a third century forger's

den near Colkirk, Norfolk' (forthcoming, *Britannia*) – and also led to metallurgical analysis of the material (see page 25). Continuing collaboration between Adrian Marsden (Norfolk Finds Liaison Officer) and metallurgist Matthew Ponting has suggested possible answers to some long-running questions on this coinage. Further work, involving active use of material and evidence uncovered under the auspices of the Portable Antiquities Scheme, will add to the importance of this research.

Steven Ashley's recent *East Anglian Archaeology* publication (EAA101) on Medieval Armorial Horse Furniture drew extensively on Portable Antiquities data and the value of this corpus to researchers provides another example of the benefits of the Scheme. As even more of these items are recorded a much greater body of evidence will be available to students of these objects.

The fifth instalment of 'Medieval Seal Matrices from Norfolk', published in *Norfolk Archaeology*, will bring the total number published in five years to 311. Out of these, 134 examples are made from lead. This information provides an important corrective to previously published collections, which were amassed before the introduction of metal-detectors, and which are heavily biased in favour of copper-alloy examples. The recording and publication of this material redresses the balance, proving that a far higher proportion of matrices than previously thought were produced from lead (precious-metal seal matrices are published in the Treasure Annual Reports).

Working with Roman small-finds expert Nina Crummy (Colchester Archaeological Trust) the Portable Antiquities Scheme in Hampshire, Suffolk and Yorkshire has recorded fire copper-alloy Minerva bust wax spatula handles, which have been incorporated in articles in the *Roman Finds Group Bulletin*. The finds recorded through the Portable Antiquities Scheme have increased the number of this type of spatula handle to 13 within Britain. This research has helped to show that these are not only found in towns and military contexts – as might be expected – but also occasionally in the countryside. It seems likely that these Minerva bust handles were being recycled as votive objects after becoming detached from the iron spatulae (see fig 48).

During the course of the reporting period numerous lithic artefacts have been recorded in Yorkshire. Of these, two Langdale Neolithic axe heads and other locally manufactured examples have been studied and added to Yorkshire's regional corpus by Terry Manby, an eminent local prehistorian.

Finds researchers who have made use of Portable Antiquities Scheme finds data in the period of this report include Dorothee Bruns (Oxford University) – Late Bronze

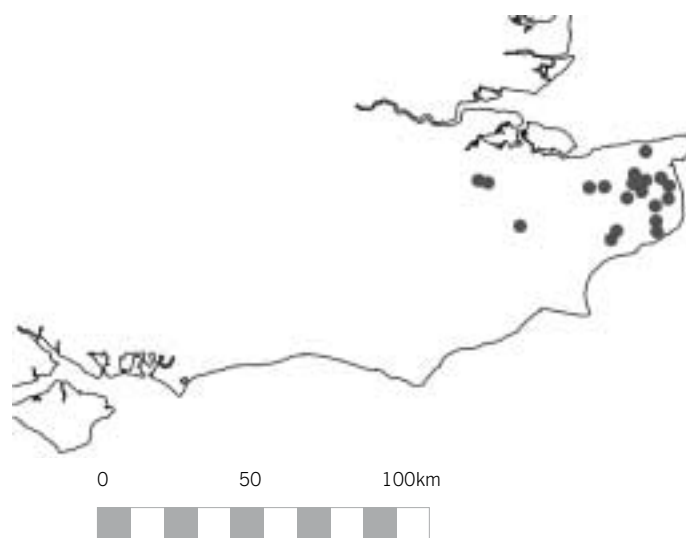
Age hoards, Richard Davis (Nottingham University) –
 Bronze Age basal-looped spearheads, David Gaimster
 (DCMS) – Dress Hooks, Ralph Jackson (British Museum)
 – Romano-British cosmetic grinders, Shannon Lewis –
 Simpson (York University) – Late Saxon brooches,
 Caroline Paterson (independent researcher) – ‘Viking Age’
 objects from the southern boundary of the Danelaw,
 Tim Pestell (Castle Museum, Norwich) – Papal Bullae,
 Ben Roberts (University of Cambridge) – Middle Bronze
 Age jewellery and John Sullivan (St Andrews University)
 – Russian Seals.

The Portable Antiquities Scheme in Yorkshire has also been involved with two regional archaeological surveys:

First, the Vale of York Project (commissioned by English Heritage and funded by the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund) aims to map patterns between archaeological evidence (recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme) and a range of geological, geomorphological and hydrological datasets. The intention is to produce a research and management tool for the archaeology in this area.

Second, the Yorkshire Archaeological Resource Framework (sponsored by English Heritage) hopes to provide an overview of the archaeological resources in the Yorkshire region. The Portable Antiquities Scheme has provided its data to help achieve this objective.

Likewise Andrew Richardson (Kent Finds Liaison Officer) has responded to several requests for Portable Antiquities Scheme data for archaeological and academic research. For example, Wessex Archaeology carried out a detailed desktop survey of the Hoo peninsula as part of the archaeological evaluation commissioned as a result of the proposed airport at Cliffe. As part of this Portable Antiquities Scheme records for the area were made available and a summary was prepared by the Finds Liaison Officer. Similar records were also made available to Ben Stuckey, an undergraduate student at the University of Southampton, whose dissertation examines the contribution of the Portable Antiquities Scheme to the archaeological record of the Gravesham District of Kent.



74. Distribution of Anglo-Saxon brooches recorded in Kent by the Portable Antiquities Scheme.

Academic Articles

Besides making the data collated available to others for research purposes, the Finds Liaison Officers regularly contribute to academic publications.

The Finds Liaison Officers regularly send information about recent discoveries to the Celtic Coin Index (Oxford) and the Early Medieval Coin Corpus (Cambridge).

Coin finds are also published annually in the *British Numismatic Journal* coin register. For example Vol. 71 (2001) included an unusual Postumus sestertius (260–9 AD) recorded by Michael Lewis (Kent Finds Liaison Officer), a Carausius laureate silver denarius (287–96) recorded by Roger Bland (Co-ordinator), and a Portuguese silver vintem of John II (1481–95) recorded by Angie Bolton (West Midlands Finds Liaison Officer).

Annually the Finds Liaison Officers contribute to a round-up of medieval finds, edited by Helen Geake (Suffolk Finds Liaison Officer) and published in *Medieval Archaeology*. In 2002 this included an unusual 12th century copper-alloy zoomorphic object found in Edmondsham, Dorset, recorded by Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevarthen (Somerset & Dorset Finds Liaison Officer) and a 14th century copper-alloy figurine, crowned and dressed in a robe, found in Caterham in Surrey, recorded by Sally Worrell (Hampshire Finds Liaison Officer) (see fig 49). Mark Lodwick (Finds Co-ordinator, Wales) contributes to a round-up of the more important finds found in Wales for publication in *Archaeology in Wales*.

With the appointment of a Prehistoric and Roman Objects Find Adviser post in 2003 there are plans to extend this to a 'round-up' of recent Roman finds, to be published in *Britannia*.

Both Katie Hinds and Adrian Marsden (Norfolk Finds Liaison Officers), regularly contribute to *The Quarterly*, the magazine of the Norfolk Archaeological and Historical Research Group. Recently Katie published the account of a Late Bronze Age Ewart sword hilt, which was found by a farmer on the soil surface (in Volume 46). Adrian Marsden published an article in the *Oxford Journal of Archaeology*, November 2002, on Roman intaglio gems, including an important example showing Caracalla, which was found in Lincolnshire.

Helen Geake (Suffolk Finds Liaison Officer) has also contributed to a number of publications including an article in *Antiquity* 76 (June 2002) about metal-detecting and ploughing. In Suffolk Portable Antiquities information is also included in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' summary published in the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History*. Significant bits are then extracted for inclusion in *Britannia*.

Likewise Mark Lodwick (Finds Co-ordinator, Wales) contributed to *Morgannwg* on the finds made from the Late Bronze Age in the Vale of Glamorgan (2001). Angie Bolton (West Midlands Finds Liaison Officer) contributed to the *West Midlands CBA Journal* 44 (2002) on 'Recent Coins Recorded with the West Midlands Portable Antiquities Scheme'. Sally Worrell (Hampshire Finds Liaison Officer) wrote an article on

three Roman finds from Hampshire and Wiltshire in *Lucerna Newsletter* 23 (the Roman Finds Group Bulletin) and another entitled 'More Minerva bust wax spatula handles' in *Lucerna Newsletter* 25. Sally also contributed an article on metalwork finds recorded through the Portable Antiquities Scheme in Hampshire to *Hampshire Field Club Archaeology Society* 57 (2002) and regularly writes short articles on finds recorded through the Scheme for the Winchester Museum Service quarterly newsletter.

Simon Holmes (Yorkshire Finds Liaison Officer) wrote two articles for the *Spink Numismatic Circular* 2002: 'A New Variety of a Penny of Eadgar?' and 'A Circumscription Cross Issue of Eadgar' (see page 29, also fig 50).

Increasing Opportunities

Archaeology is often viewed as being exclusive, with relatively few opportunities for amateur participation. The first report of the All Party Parliamentary Archaeological Group (see page 16) discusses the reduced opportunities for amateur involvement in archaeology owing to the increased professionalism caused by PPG16.

Since the vast majority of the finds recorded with the Portable Antiquities Scheme are discovered by members of the public it has been an important role of the Finds Liaison Officers to promote public interest in archaeology and encourage best practice amongst finders (see fig 75).

Metal-Detecting and Archaeological Fieldwork

Metal-detectors are a useful archaeological tool, used in both survey (prior to excavation) and during excavation. Often detectorists will be used to search spoil heaps and check for finds which have been missed by the archaeologists. Spoil might be heaped in its contextual layer so that archaeologists will know the basic context for any finds discovered. On some excavations detectorists will work beside archaeologists in trenches, identifying metallic signals so they can be excavated with care (and in context) by archaeologists.

Often the Finds Liaison Officers will have a role helping find detectorists to participate in archaeological excavation. For example, Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevarthen (Somerset & Dorset Finds Liaison Officer) was approached by Somerset County Council's Architectural and Heritage Group in 2002 to assist with finding a local metal-detectorist who would be interested in participating at the excavation of a Roman salt working site at Bleak Bridge in central Somerset. This proved to be a very successful co-operation between all parties involved: *'The use of metal-detectors on site helped to locate several metal objects which helped to ensure their sensitive excavation'*. Richard Brunning (Site Director, Bleak Bridge).

Likewise in the summer of 2002 Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevarthen (Somerset & Dorset Finds Liaison Officer) was contacted by Time Team to arrange for local detectorists to assist with work on the site of a Roman villa at Dinnington, Somerset. Several detectorists from the Yeovil and District Bottle and Metal-detecting Club volunteered to help out. Ciorstaidh assisted with finds identification and recording during the excavations.

Similarly, Katie Hinds and Adrian Marsden (Norfolk Finds Liaison Officers) have helped find local detectorists

to work on excavations undertaken by the Norfolk Archaeological Unit. They have also helped advise planning and development control colleagues within Norfolk Landscape Archaeology about the possible involvement of local detectorists on sites being examined prior to development.

The situation is similar in Suffolk where metal-detecting is specified for development-led excavation projects. The Field Team of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service always employs at least one detectorist on the permanent staff.

In the West Midlands the 'Four Parish Community Group' invited eight metal-detectorists to participate in a field-walking and metal-detecting survey workshop during October 2001. The group, in collaboration with the Worcestershire Archaeological Service and the West Midlands Portable Antiquities Scheme, organised the workshop. This involved metal-detectorists working with archaeologists to survey a site at Wyre Piddle, Worcestershire. After the survey, the artefacts discovered were then studied in relation to the site and the wider landscape. The aim of the workshop was for metal-detectorists and archaeologists to benefit from each other's experience and knowledge while working together on a joint project which will contribute important information to the archaeological record.

In Kent, controlled metal-detector surveys have been carried out at Hollingbourne, Herne Bay, Kingsnorth and Stelling Minnis Windmill as part of archaeological projects. Detectorists involved in the latter two projects



75. Kurt Adams (Northern Lincolnshire Finds Liaison Officer) surveying an archaeological site in North Lincolnshire.

attended under the auspices of the Kent Archaeological Metal-detecting Support Unit (see page 12) and were supervised by Andrew Richardson (Kent Finds Liaison Officer). At Herne Bay and Kingsnorth, where Archaeology South East and Wessex Archaeology directed the projects respectively, findspots were plotted using an all-stations Electro-magnetic Distance Measurement (EDM) machine. At Hollingbourne and Stelling Minnis – voluntary projects directed by Kent County Council – findspots were manually plotted using tapes. Triangulation was used at Hollingbourne, whilst at Stelling Minnis findspots were plotted by offsetting from a central baseline. In contrast, at events such as metal-detector rallies (see page 34), accurate plotting of findspots was carried out using a handheld Global Positioning Systems device, with less significant finds being plotted by reference to an Ordnance Survey map.

Likewise, in the period of this report metal-detectorists, under the direction of Nick Herepath (North West Finds Liaison Officer), have been involved in several archaeological investigations, most notably the excavation of a major Roman industrial salt processing site at Nantwich. Many important metal artefacts were retrieved which otherwise might have been missed.

Further Rhiannon Harte (Northamptonshire Finds Liaison Officer) has been involved with members of the Whitehall Villa Project. This is a fine example of archaeologists and amateurs working together on an exciting archaeology project based in Northamptonshire. The site was initially discovered by Dave Derby and Steve Pulley in 1996 during the course of a metal-detecting survey of the fields surrounding Whitehall Farm in the parish of Nether Heyford.

A significant spread of coins, pottery and building material suggested an extensive area of occupation in the Romano-British period. The site is adjacent to Watling Street and forms part of a larger regional landscape distribution of sites bounded by the Roman small towns of Whilton Lodge (Bannaventa), Towcester (Lactodorum) and Duston. Over 150 coins have been unearthed on the site over a number of seasons of systematic metal-detecting.

The coins are dominated by third and fourth century examples, the range of emperors and coin types represented is typical for rural Northamptonshire. However a bronze coin of Iron Age date attributed to the reign of Cunobelin and coins of second century emperors like Trajan and Hadrian were also found on site, possibly indicating longevity of occupation. The bodies of two Anglo-Saxon individuals discovered nearby (*Portable*

Antiquities Annual Report 1999/2000, page 13) shows that the site has a long history and will doubtless continue to prove important in future years.

'After finding the Whitehall Roman Villa whilst metal-detecting it very soon blossomed into a very important community project. A series of local talks on the find soon prompted many local villagers to want to become involved. The involvement and support of the Northamptonshire Finds Liaison Officer added to the credibility of the project and showed that detectorists were able to work successfully with the archaeological community.' Steve Pulley (Metal-detectorist)

Metal-detecting on Battlefield Sites

Archaeologists increasingly recognise the value of controlled detector surveys on battlefield sites. Most of these sites have no legal protection. Further, many battlefield sites are ploughed and hence the objects in the plough-soil are subject to agricultural damage and chemical corrosion processes. Therefore the Portable Antiquities Scheme often represents the only mechanism – though a voluntary one – by which finds discovered are recorded.

'On every Two Men in a Trench project we have always relied on the experience of metal-detectorists, since archaeological work on battlefields would otherwise not be possible. Hopefully the soon to be expanded Portable Antiquities Scheme will continue to foster better relations between metal-detectorists and archaeologists. We would like to see more archaeological projects using metal-detectorists and more detectorists adopting best practice, recording the location of their finds and passing this information onto their local Finds Liaison Officer.' Tony Pollard (Archaeologist and Presenter, *Two Men in a Trench*)

In January 2003 Simon Holmes (Yorkshire Finds Liaison Officer) was invited by the Battle of Fulford Survey Project to help with the field-walking and metal-detecting survey of the supposed site of the Battle of Fulford (20 September 1066). The Finds Liaison Officer was responsible for liaison between the metal-detectorists and the project co-ordinators and for the identification of the material recovered.

A good example of best practice by a finder working in the vicinity of a battlefield site is displayed by Jon Pettet of Somerset, who detects near the site of the Battle of Sedgemoor (1685). He has brought in to Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevarthen (Somerset & Dorset Finds Liaison Officer) a considerable number of finds to be recorded,

accompanied by very detailed maps showing their findspots. The finds include musket balls and several lead powder caps of the 17th century together with a tin farthing of Charles II or James II. Mr Pettet has undertaken detailed research into the history of the area and has generously offered the finds for display in the County Museum (see fig 51).

Liaison Groups

The Finds Liaison Officers also have an invaluable role building links between archaeologists, museum professionals and metal-detectorists, who traditionally had difficult relationships in the past. In some areas covered by the Scheme, Finds Liaison Officers attend liaison groups, which are intended to bring archaeologists and metal-detector users closer together, and discuss issues of common concern.

Local Liaison Groups

Nick Herepath (North West Finds Liaison Officer) established the Cheshire Detector Archaeology Liaison Group which consists of representatives from the detectorist clubs based in Cheshire and local archaeologists. The aim of the group is to establish and maintain a good working relationship between metal-detectorists and archaeologists in Cheshire. The group is currently working on a set of guidelines for the use of metal-detectorists on archaeological excavations.

Similarly, Andrew Richardson (Kent Finds Liaison Officer) is secretary to the Kent Archaeologist and Detectorist Liaison Group. He also attends meetings of the National Council for Metal Detecting (Southern Region) and liaises regularly with its officers.

Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevarthen (Somerset & Dorset Finds Liaison Officer) attends regular committee meetings of the Dorset County Council's Metal Detecting Liaison Scheme, which has 63 members. Some of these members have made regular use of the Historic Environment Record and have also provided material for identification and recording.

Likewise in 2002 Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevarthen (Somerset & Dorset Finds Liaison Officer) helped the Priest's House Museum at Wimborne, Dorset, to establish relations with the Stour Valley Search and Recovery Club. This resulted in Curator Emma Ayling accepting the club's invitation to address a monthly meeting, during which she suggested a space in the museum could be made to display finds discovered locally (see fig 76).



76. The Stour Valley Search & Recovery Club display case at the Priest's House Museum, Wimborne.

The club recognised that this was an ideal opportunity to demonstrate the thought and research that goes into metal-detecting and in identifying the finds recovered. Also, it was felt that it would help to dispel the notion that the hobby is all about 'treasure hunting' rather than uncovering information about our past and heritage. The exhibition opened shortly after Christmas 2002. The scope of the finds, coins and artefacts reflected more than 2000 years of local history.

'The Portable Antiquities Scheme demonstrates just how important a role detectorists are now playing in finding and preserving our national heritage. We are enthusiastic supporters of the Scheme and delighted that Ciorstaidh, the Finds Liaison Officer, is an honorary member of our Club. The Priest's House Museum exhibit is taking things a step further; it is demonstrating to the public the sense of responsibility with which we approach our hobby.' Reg Bruce (Chairman, Stour Valley Search and Rescue Club)

The Club and the Museum are to continue this association with a small display of local finds that will run through the year, updated from time to time.

'From the Museum's point of view, it has enabled us to strengthen our links with a local community group and demonstrate to a wider audience the developing relationship between the two. Hopefully, this will encourage members of the public who are metal-detectorists, but are not members of a group, that they can approach museums for advice and information. This can only be a positive advancement for the archaeology of a local area as hopefully we will learn more about the past from their finds.' Emma Ayling (Curator, Priest's House Museum, Wimborne)

National Liaison

Nationally, the Portable Antiquities Steering Group is the discussion forum which brings together representatives of the archaeological, museum and metal-detecting communities, and helps guide the work of the Scheme (see fig 77).

The group has discussed issues of common concern, such as internet publication of finds records and Countryside Stewardship Scheme, in the hope of finding a resolution. Such a forum is extremely valuable for it provides an important opportunity for all the major stakeholders to get together and serves as the national focus for the discussion of archaeological/metal-detecting related issues.

In addition both Roger Bland (Co-ordinator) and Michael Lewis (Outreach Officer) enjoy very good working

relations with the national executive of the National Council for Metal Detecting.

Involving the General Public

The Finds Liaison Officers have also helped organise archaeological projects to encourage wider public participation in archaeology and interest in the past.

For example, over the last four years North Lincolnshire Museum, together with the Northern Lincolnshire Finds Liaison Officer (currently Kurt Adams), has been running a Community Archaeology Project which involves large numbers of local people field-walking.

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, together with its Finds Liaison Officers, also has a tradition of encouraging local field-walking projects. One example, led by Mike Hardy and John Fairclough, has focused on the Thornham estate in north central Suffolk (see fig 78). Work here involves documentary research, field-walking and metal-detecting. To date, several new Iron Age and Roman sites have been identified.

Likewise during the early summer of 2002 parishioners from Osbaldwick, York, were invited by the York Archaeological Trust and Simon Holmes (Yorkshire Finds Liaison Officer), on behalf of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, to help with an archaeological survey of a Medieval field system in advance of the development of the area. The survey was carried out over the course of four consecutive weekends and the results confirmed that further surveys were needed.

The site of a probable Roman villa near Eastleigh, Hampshire, has been metal-detected by Nick Horne for several years. The artefacts are dominated by issues of third and fourth century bronze coinage which is consistent with the site of a Roman villa. What is interesting is that virtually no non-coin metallic artefacts have been found, but a range of interesting Roman pottery has been recorded. Working closely with the finder and Jenny Moorhouse, who is studying a course in archaeology at Alton College, Sally Worrell (Hampshire Finds Liaison Officer) organised a systematic field-walking exercise in order to identify the focus of the site as well as assisting in the chronology and interpretation of the site. The field was gridded out with walkers spaced 10m apart and with collection units 25m long. Over the course of a weekend, a total of 2,200 shards of Roman pottery and a shale spindle whorl were collected. A large proportion of the pottery was concentrated in a defined area measuring approximately 60 x 60m.

The field-walking team included two of Jenny's young children who took very proactive and positive roles within the project; learning a great deal about practical archaeological fieldwork (including pot-washing!) as well as the recognition and identification of pottery from a range of periods.

Further, during September 2002 John Oxley, City of York Archaeologist, and Simon Holmes (Yorkshire Finds Liaison Officer) invited members from the parish of Nether Poppleton, York, and the York and District Metal Detecting Club to carry out a field-walking and metal-detecting survey over two days in their parish. The site, which has since been converted into a series of sports fields, yielded a great quantity of Late Medieval pottery (evidence of night soiling from York) and a surprise Early Bronze Age flat axe head.

Steve Blencoe, a member of the Farnham and District Metal Detecting Club found a Bronze Age socketed axe near Froxfield, Hampshire in March 2003. Upon retrieving the axe from the plough soil he ran his detector over the findspot and got another positive signal. Along with other members of the club, Steve decided not to dig further for this signal, realising not only that what he has discovered may be a Bronze Age hoard and therefore qualifying as potential treasure, but that in order to gain more contextual information, an archaeological excavation would need to take place. Steve contacted Sally Worrell (Hampshire Finds Liaison Officer) who organised a small excavation which involved Steve and other club members. A small 1m² trench was excavated over the original findspot. In this case, no other items of Bronze Age metalwork were found; the positive signal was the result of a very high iron content within the soil. This example highlights the finder's awareness of the importance of the archaeological context of archaeological finds that may still be stratified, as well as giving the detectorists involved a practical experience of archaeological excavation (see fig 79).



77. The Portable Antiquities Steering Group outside Resource, 16 Queen Anne's Gate, London.



78. Metal-detecting and field-walking at Thornham, Suffolk.



79. Excavation of the findspot of the Bronze Age socketed axe found near Froxfield, Hampshire.

Recording Finds

Finds Database

All finds recorded by the Finds Liaison Officers are entered on the Portable Antiquities Scheme Finds Database, of which a version (without finder's details and precise findspot information) is published on the Scheme's website (www.finds.org.uk). The edited entries allow the data to be made publicly available, but also mitigate the chances of archaeological sites being illicitly detected.

The database is a founding partner in HEIRPORT (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/hierport>), which is an historic environment information gateway enabling searches to be carried out on multiple web-based databases from a single search screen. HEIRPORT was launched by Tam Dalyell MP (Linlithgow) at the British Museum on 23 January 2002.

During the period of this report all finds were recorded on local versions of the Finds Database, which were periodically transferred to the central database. However the Scheme has been working with Oxford ArchDigital to develop a web-based database, which will allow the

Finds Liaison Officers to upload immediately their local data to the central database. The four Finds Advisers, to be appointed during 2003, will have a role checking the data for inaccuracies, before it is published online. The new finds database will allow all members of the Scheme to see the recording work as it happens. Work has also begun on developing the database's public interface so that it is much more interactive and user friendly than before. As well as allowing comprehensive searches of the database it will include high-tech mapping and more basic search facilities (see fig 80).

Figures for Objects and Finders

Number of Objects Recorded

During the period of this report (1 October 2001 until 31 March 2003) a further 49,590 objects have been recorded by the Finds Liaison Officers, in addition to 13,729 in 1997/98, 20,698 in 1998/99, 31,783 in 1999/2000 and 37,518 in 2000/01.

Table/Chart 3 (see page 65) sets out the objects recorded in each area covered by the Scheme in the period of this report.

As with 2000/01 the finds recorded from area to area vary quite considerably, with most finds being recorded in East Anglia. The monthly average between 2000/01 and the period of this report shows some interesting changes in the numbers of objects recorded. In some areas, such as Hampshire and Yorkshire, the number of finds increased significantly, indicating that large quantities of objects are still being found by members of the public. In some areas, such as Somerset & Dorset and the West Midlands, the number of finds recorded remains broadly static, and this may suggest the number of finds recorded has reached the optimum number that the Finds Liaison Officer can reasonably cope with. It is therefore significant that in both of these areas additional staff will be appointed in the course of 2003. In some areas the numbers of finds recorded has decreased, notably in Kent, North Lincolnshire and Wales. It is perhaps no coincidence that all of these posts were vacant for periods during the report (Table 4, see page 66), and demonstrates the importance of having a Finds Liaison Officer in post to ensure we know more about the finds being discovered by members of the public. It may also be a factor that in the earlier part of this report there were restrictions still in place due to the foot and mouth crisis.



80. The Finds Screen of the new look Portable Antiquities Scheme Finds Database which went live in summer 2003.

Chronological Distribution of Objects Recorded

Table/Chart 5 (see pages 66–7) sets out the objects recorded in each area covered by the Scheme in the period of this report.

Broadly speaking, the relative proportions of finds recorded by period have remained at similar levels to 2000–01, with the largest percentage of finds recorded being Roman, followed by finds from the Medieval and Post Medieval periods. The least common finds are Bronze Age, Iron Age and Early Medieval material. Table/Chart 5 shows that these chronological trends are similar in most parts of the country. However, in Wales and Yorkshire significantly higher quantities of Stone Age material were recorded in relation to that of Medieval and Post Medieval date. This is perhaps less surprising in the case of Wales, where there is a general dearth of Early Medieval finds in contrast to the prehistoric periods, than Yorkshire, which was flourishing in the Middle Ages.

Findspot Accuracy

Table/Chart 6 (see page 68) sets out the accuracy with which findspots have been recorded in each area covered by the Scheme in the period of this report.

Table 7 (see page 69) demonstrates that the number of findspots recorded to a National Grid Reference of six figures (that is 100 square metres) is increasing from 56 per cent in 1997–99 to 70 per cent in the period of this report. The number of findspots being recorded to eight or ten figures is also rising. The latter must represent the increasing use of handheld Global Positioning Systems devices – an invaluable tool of the modern-day detectorist who recognises the importance of recording findspots to the highest degree of accuracy. It is fundamental that detectorists, who recover the finds, and archaeologists, who interpret them, have as good as possible knowledge of where finds are being discovered so they can understand their distribution and spatial patterning.

Most areas covered by the Scheme are having increased success in recording findspots to a greater degree of accuracy. Significant rises can be noted in Somerset & Dorset, North Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire and the West Midlands, which shows that finders are becoming more aware of recording findspots to a higher degree of accuracy. However, in some areas there has been a significant decrease, including Hampshire and Yorkshire, which is not so easy to explain.

Landuse Statistics

Table/Chart 8 (see page 69) sets out the accuracy with which findspots have been recorded in each area covered by the Scheme in the period of this report.

Of the 4,495 findspots recorded (where landuse could be determined) on the central database in the period of this report the vast majority (91.99 per cent) were on cultivated land, where finds are especially vulnerable to agricultural damage and natural and artificial corrosion processes. In such circumstances and where finds are being recorded by an archaeologist – such as the Finds Liaison Officer – knowledge of them can add to the archaeological record and there is a good argument that they are being rescued from further damage.

Finders' Statistics

Table 9 (see page 70) sets out the number of individuals who have recorded finds in the period of this report.

As in 2000–01 the group of finders most actively recording objects with the Scheme in the period of this report are metal-detectorists, who account for nearly 84 per cent of the total. However, the Finds Liaison Officers are meeting increased success in recording finds discovered by other finders, through Finds Days and other events, as discussed above (see pages 35–6).

Method of Discovery

Table/Chart 10 (see pages 70–1) sets out the method of discovery of finds in the period of this report. This is broken down into the following categories: Metal-detecting, Building Work, Field-walking, Controlled Archaeological Investigation, Gardening, Agricultural or Drainage Work, other Chance Find or Other/Unknown.

It is significant that in the period of this report nearly 40 per cent of finds were recovered by non-detector users. This suggests that the Finds Liaison Officers are meeting with increased success working with other chance finders. This is particularly noticeable in areas such as Somerset & Dorset, Hampshire, Norfolk and Yorkshire, where a significant number of finds were recovered by field-walking. It is notable that in the West Midlands a large proportion of finds were found by other chance finders, and this may also reflect the community outreach work of the current postholder.

Date of Discovery

Table/Chart 11 (see page 72) sets out the date of discovery of objects found in the period of this report (where known).

The Portable Antiquities Scheme concentrates its efforts on recording the most recent discoveries, not least these are likely to have a higher level of findspot accuracy. Many finders still do not take a note of the findspot when they make a discovery, hence – over time – finders become less certain of where the object was found. Table/Chart 11 shows that over 81 per cent of the finds recorded in the period of this report were actually found within the last three years. That said, the Finds Liaison Officers are anxious to record collections of objects found before the Scheme was established, as long as the finder knows where they were discovered.

Best Practice

The Portable Antiquities Scheme has an important role in advising finders on best practice, especially metal-detectorists and field-walkers, who proactively search for objects rather than discover them by chance.

As we have seen above (page 53) the Finds Liaison Officers place great emphasis on knowing exactly where finds are discovered. Without knowing where objects are found as precisely as possible, they are of limited archaeological value. Only finds with a context help build up a picture of how a site was occupied or used in the past.



81. A meeting of the Treasure Valuation Committee.

A good example of best practice by a finder is displayed by Jon Pettet of Somerset. He has brought in to Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevarthen (Somerset & Dorset Finds Liaison Officer) a considerable number of finds to be recorded, accompanied by very detailed maps showing their findspots. The finds include musket balls and several lead powder caps of the 17th century together with a tin farthing of Charles II or James II. The site he has been detecting on is of great historical importance, as it is close to the site of the Battle of Sedgemoor (1685) – the last battle fought on English soil. He has undertaken detailed research into the history of the area and has generously offered the finds for display in the County Museum (see fig 51).

Angie Bolton (West Midlands Finds Liaison Officer) has noted how the distribution of Iron Age material found in the West Midlands and recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme has contributed significantly to numismatic and artefact studies, as well as complementing continuing and future excavation. However, she has also noted that distribution patterns of these finds are also indicative of the areas where finders are in favour of recording. For example the high density of Dubonnic coins recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record and with the West Midlands Portable Antiquities Scheme found in South Worcestershire is mainly due to a single diligent and responsible detectorist, Dean Crawford, who records all his finds with Angie.

Some metal-detecting clubs have designated Finds Recording Officers to facilitate the recording of finds, and to ensure that the Finds Liaison Officer is aware of finds discovered when he/she cannot make a club meeting.

For example at the Romney Marshland Detecting Club the Club Recording Officer – Duncan Pennock – records and photographs all finds entered in the 'Find of the Month' competition, and passes these records to Andrew Richardson (Kent Finds Liaison Officer). Similarly Geoff Burr of the West Kent Detecting Club makes detailed records found on club sites, which are forwarded to the Finds Liaison Officer. At the Royal Phoenix Detecting Club finds-recording is a mandatory requirement of membership. Likewise the Club Recording Officer – Martin Miles – passes on all his records to the Kent Finds Liaison Officer.

Treasure

Although the Portable Antiquities Scheme is a voluntary scheme to record archaeological objects found by the public, there is a legal obligation to report all finds of potential Treasure to a coroner within 14 days of discovery, or upon realising that the find may be potential Treasure.

The following finds are Treasure under the Act if found after 24 September 1997:

1. Any metallic object, other than a coin, provided that at least 10 per cent by weight is gold or silver, and that it is at least 300 years old when found. If the object is prehistoric it will be Treasure provided any part of it is gold or silver.

2. All coins from the same find provided they are at least 300 years old when found (but if the coins contain less than 10 per cent gold or silver there must be at least ten of them).

3. Any object, whatever it is made of, that is found in the same place as, or had been previously been together with, another object of Treasure.

4. Any object that would previously have been Treasure Trove, but does not fall within the specific categories given above.

From 1 January 2003 the Treasure Act was extended to include the following category of finds:

5. Any group of two or more metallic objects of any composition of prehistoric date that come from the same find (see fig 52).

The extension of the Treasure Act followed a review of the Act, the recommendations of which were published in October 2001 (*Report on the Operation of the Treasure Act: Review and Recommendation*, available at www.culture.gov.uk/cultural_property.htm).

The Order that gave effect to the extension of the Act and the revised *Treasure Code of Practice* was approved by Parliament in October 2002, following debates in both Houses. At the same time the *Treasure Code of Practice* was revised and the new edition was published in December 2002. It contains a number of clarifications and improvements to the previous Code. It also contains more practical information: for example, all the local advisers on Treasure are listed (in England these are the Finds Liaison Officers), as well as the principal funding bodies. In March, the DCMS published a new version of its leaflet providing information for finders of Treasure. Both these publications are available on the Department's website (www.culture.gov.uk/cultural_property.htm).

The process allows a national or local museum to acquire Treasure items. If this happens the finder will be rewarded, and the reward is normally shared equally between the finder and the landowner. The reward is fixed at the full market value of the find, which is determined by the Secretary of State on the advice of an independent panel of experts known as the Treasure Valuation Committee (see fig 81).

Between the Act becoming Law on 24 September 1997 and 31 December 2001, 945 finds of potential Treasure have been reported from England and Wales, representing an eightfold increase on the numbers of cases of Treasure Trove before September 1997. About half of these finds have been acquired by museums for public benefit, with the remainder being returned to the finders. Many of these objects are of great archaeological and historical importance, and some have led to the discovery of hitherto unknown archaeological sites (for more details see the *Treasure Annual Report 2001*).

The Treasure Act and the Portable Antiquities Scheme

In the period of this report there has been a sharp increase in finds reported as Treasure: in 2001 there were 214 cases; in 2002 there were 306 cases; in the first six months of 2003 there were 150 cases. Further, the *Treasure Annual Report 2001* shows that most finds reported as Treasure – 94.7 per cent – are found by metal-detectorists. Therefore liaison with this particular group of finders is very important if the Treasure Act is going to continue to be a success.

Since the Treasure Act came into effect it has become evident that the reporting of Treasure in areas covered by the Scheme is significantly higher than in regions without a Finds Liaison Officer. For example Norfolk, which has 1.5 Finds Liaison Officer posts, recorded 188 finds between 1997 and 2001 (the equivalent of one find per 28 km² of land), whereas Lincolnshire (which in the period of this report did not have a Finds Liaison Officer) produced 45 finds (one per 131 km²). Likewise Suffolk, which also has 1.5 Finds Liaison Officer posts, had 96 cases (one per 23 km²), whereas neighbouring Essex (again, which did not have a Finds Liaison Officer in the period of this report) only had 37 (one per 53 km²). Therefore, the presence of a Finds Liaison Officer may increase the reporting rate of Treasure finds by a factor of up to five.

It is also apparent that the reporting of Treasure finds declines when a Finds Liaison Officer post is vacant. For example during the period from October 2001 to March 2002, six Treasure cases were reported in Kent (of which three were dealt with directly by the Finds Liaison Officer) – representing an average of one case per month. In the period between April to early July, when the post of Finds Liaison Officer was vacant, only two cases were reported in Kent – about 0.6 cases per month. Since July 2002, with a Finds Liaison Officer again in post, 21 cases had been reported by the end of March 2003, an average of approximately 2.4 cases per month. Although these results might be circumstantial, it is nonetheless evident that Finds Liaison Officers play an important role in the reporting of Treasure, even in areas of the country with established relations between museums, archaeologists and finders (Table 12, see page 72).

The Finds Liaison Officers, therefore, have a vital role in ensuring that the Treasure Act works effectively and ensuring that finds are reported. Indeed, without the Portable Antiquities Scheme it is probable that the Treasure Act would not properly function, with the great loss to our understanding of the past (not only of Treasure objects) that this would cause. Therefore we can expect that the extension of the Portable Antiquities Scheme across the whole of England and Wales by the end of 2003 will lead to a considerable increase in both Treasure and non-Treasure finds reported.

The Portable Antiquities Scheme has an important role in raising awareness amongst finders of their obligations with regard to Treasure. This is highlighted on the Scheme's website (www.finds.org.uk), in literature and leaflets produced by the Scheme and by the Finds Liaison Officers when meeting finders. Since the Finds Liaison Officers are proactive in recording objects they will invariably come across finders who have discovered potential Treasure, but are unaware of their obligation to report it.

The Finds Liaison Officers can also be called upon to provide initial advice about the status of the item, give evidence at inquest and guide the local press regarding sensitive findspots. They also have an important role in explaining the Treasure process to landowners, helping finders report Treasure and addressing any queries that may arise.

In January 2003 the important role that the Portable Antiquities Scheme plays in the operation of the Treasure Act was formally recognised, with the Finds Liaison Officers being designated as Treasure Co-ordinators for their respective areas in England.

Examples of Treasure Cases dealt with by the Finds Liaison Officers

In the period of this report many interesting and important Treasure finds have been reported. Below are some of the cases involving the Finds Liaison Officers.

Bronze Age gold cup found at Ringlemere in Kent (fig 53)

A most spectacular Bronze Age gold cup – only the second of its kind – was discovered in November 2001 by Cliff Bradshaw, whilst using a metal-detector on ploughed farmland at Ringlemere, Kent. The finder immediately reported the object to local archaeologists, including Michael Lewis (Kent Finds Liaison Officer).

The cup (dating to about 1700–1500 BC) had been partly crushed, particularly on one side, which may have resulted from a single blow from agricultural machinery. Whatever the exact circumstances, had Cliff Bradshaw not discovered the object when he did it is seems likely that this important discovery would have been destroyed by subsequent ploughing.

Following the discovery, a consortium of archaeologists and museum curators inspired by the find came together to investigate the feasibility of excavation of the findspot. Aerial photographs demonstrated the presence of barrow ring ditches nearby, though their existence had previously gone unrecorded. Despite the presence of crops the landowners kindly agreed to allow a geophysical survey, extensive field-walking and a metal-detecting survey.

An English Heritage-funded excavation, led by Keith Parfitt (Canterbury Archaeological Trust) took place during March and April 2002. The excavation team rediscovered the findspot and the evidence that agricultural machinery had indeed dislodged the cup from its original location. Excavation also revealed a barrow with a very large ditch and evidence for a central burial; this, it seems, had been disturbed by later animal habitation. The barrow itself produced Late Neolithic flint tools and pottery, showing that people have been living near the site since at least 2,500 BC.

Further excavation took place in October 2002, funded by the British Museum, and in April 2003, funded by the BBC as part of the *Hidden Treasure* series. This resulted in the finding of two small pieces of amber, one of which has been identified as a pommel stone from a dagger; further testament to the high-status associations of the site.

The Ringlemere cup has now been declared Treasure, and has been acquired by the British Museum.

A Late Bronze Age hoard found at Rossett, Wrexham in Wales (fig 54)

Two associated pieces of Late Bronze Age metalwork were discovered by P Williams and Mike Sheen at a metal-detecting rally at Rossett, Wrexham. The metalwork consisted of a faceted axe and a tanged knife and both pieces were reported to Karina Kucharski (County Archaeologist for Wrexham) as a non-Treasure hoard (since this hoard was found before 1 January 2003), under the Portable Antiquities Scheme for Wales.

Upon subsequent cleaning of the faceted axe, four fragments of gold were discovered within its socket and the assemblage was promptly reported to the local coroner as potential Treasure. The assemblage was sent to Adam Gwilt (Curator of Prehistory, National Museums & Galleries of Wales) for identification. The findspot was subsequently investigated by Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust in order to determine the depositional context of the find. The excavations suggested the assemblage may have been moved during the Post Medieval period and deposited at the recent findspot.

This small hoard comprises four gold bracelet fragments, a tanged knife (in two fragments) and a faceted axe. All can be assigned to the 'Ewart Park' phase ('Dowris' phase in Ireland) of the Late Bronze Age (c. 1000–800 BC). The bracelet fragments vary in length from 25 to 42mm and contain two terminal fragments. Three of the fragments have a circular cross-section, while the other fragment was once circular in cross-section, but has been hammered flat. The two terminal fragments can be identified as belonging to one or two Irish-type penannular bracelets, and the mid-section fragments are likely to belong to the same or similar bracelets, but are less diagnostic. The associated artefacts are also of considerable interest, the tanged knife represents the first find of this object type recorded from Wales. The faceted axe is of Meldrith Type and can be best paralleled with examples from Northern Britain. The hoard was acquired by Wrexham County Borough Museum for public benefit.

Iron Age coin hoards found at Beverley and Driffield in Yorkshire (fig 55)

Two interesting and important Iron Age coin hoards were reported to Simon Holmes (Yorkshire Finds Liaison Officer) as potential Treasure.

The first was found by Jack Cooper and Alec Thompson whilst metal-detecting near Beverley in the East Riding of Yorkshire. This is a late first century BC hoard of gold staters of the Corieltauvi, of three different

types: 'South Ferriby', 'Kite' and 'Domino'. The 21 coins discovered in the period of this report are addenda to an existing hoard, bringing the total recovered from the site to 67.

The second hoard was found by David Scott whilst metal-detecting near Driffield in the East Riding of Yorkshire. This is also a Late Pre-Roman Iron Age hoard of gold staters. To date, over 30 coins, including several inscribed issues of the Corieltauvi (South Ferriby types), have been recovered.

Both hoards are very interesting as they are geographically relatively close to each other and are also very similar in content and context. The composition and date ranges for both these hoards reinforce the notion that the East Riding of Yorkshire was a very affluent area of the British Isles in the decades leading up to the Roman Invasion in AD 43. Both are being acquired by Hull and East Riding Museum.

Roman coin hoard from West Bagborough, Somerset (fig 56)

In October 2001 James Hawkesworth unearthed 15 silver Roman coins in a field at West Bagborough, Somerset, which he reported to Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevarthen (Somerset & Dorset Finds Liaison Officer). The finder was advised of the requirements of the Treasure Act and the discovery was duly reported to the local coroner. The following day the finder returned to the field to metal-detect further and discovered an important hoard of silver coins and hacksilver, which lay in a compacted, undisturbed group. This hoard comprised of two denarii, eight miliarenses, 659 siliquae and 64 cut fragments of hacksilver (weighing 722.29g). Most of the coins date to between AD 337 and 367, and hence it is probable the coins were buried shortly after AD 367. The hoard was declared Treasure at an inquest in Taunton in April 2002 and was subsequently acquired by Somerset County Museums Service. An archaeological excavation was carried out by the Museums Service and Architectural and Historic Heritage Group with the active support and co-operation of the finder, but failed to shed light on the context of the hoard.

Whilst hoards of silver coins buried in the late fourth and earlier fifth century are relatively common, very few dating from the middle decades of the fourth century have been found. The West Bagborough hoard helps shed light on two important current themes of debate concerning late fourth to early fifth century silver coinage, specifically the peculiarly British phenomena of clipping and copying. None of the coins is clipped, helping provide confirmation that this practice occurred later in

the century, whilst some eight per cent of the coins are copies, demonstrating their production on a considerable scale by the middle decades of the fourth century.

Anglo-Saxon brooch from Eastry in Kent (figs 57 and 58)

Whilst filming near Eastry as part of a television programme on metal-detecting called *Pastfinders*, Alan Elliott of the White Cliffs Metal Detecting Club found part of what he at first thought was a piece of Victorian jewellery (see fig 57). On closer inspection, however, it proved to be part of the front plate of an early seventh century Anglo-Saxon plated disc brooch. The brooch is gold, decorated with gold cells set with garnets and blue glass, and some extremely delicate gold filigree work. Unfortunately it is very badly damaged, but it would clearly have been a very high quality piece of jewellery when complete. It was probably made at Faversham, which appears to have been established as a high-status craft centre, perhaps under the patronage of the Kentish royal house, in the second quarter of the sixth century.

When the gold brooch fragment was shown to the landowners, they remarked that they had a similar item in their cupboard (see fig 58). This was duly produced and turned out to be two parts of a gilt silver Kentish disc brooch. This had been found by a metal-detectorist on the same field as the gold example, about 15 years previously, and again had been mistaken as Victorian. Typologically it is slightly earlier in the sequence of high-status Kentish jewellery than the plated disc brooch, and was probably manufactured during the last decade of the sixth century, again probably at Faversham.

Viking Age pendant from near Wickham Market in Suffolk (fig 59)

A Viking Age silver pendant or appliqué from near Wickham Market was reported to John Newman (Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service). The object is cast in the form of a human figure, shown holding a circular shield (unusually shown from the back) and sword. The figure, probably male, wears a long dress-like tunic covering the feet and leaving the visible arm bare.

The object parallels a similar series, usually showing female figures, of the ninth century from Scandinavia and England. These are made either as items of jewellery in silver or gilded bronze, or occasionally carved in amber. They were also embroidered on textile hangings and resemble other figures incised on standing stones on the island of Gotland. The figures may be portrayed singly, with or without the addition of a spear or sword, or else (the female ones) in front of a warrior on horseback,

either holding out a drinking-horn or beaker to him as a sign of welcome, or carrying a shield. It is generally thought that the women represent the valkyries of Norse myth, the maids of Odin who, on the one hand, acted as the guardians of young warriors, presenting them with splendid swords, but who, on the other, also chose who was to die in battle, welcoming the fallen warriors to Valholl (Valhalla), the hall of the slain, where they served them with mead and beer.

Surface metal analysis conducted at the British Museum indicated an approximate silver content of approximately 90 per cent, and therefore the pendant constitutes Treasure. It is hoped the pendant will be acquired by Ipswich Museum or the British Museum.

Post-Medieval posy ring from Fleet in Dorset (fig 60)

In March 2002 a posy ring, seemingly made from copper-alloy with a gilt surface, was found at Fleet, Dorset, by E H Moore. It was taken to the British Museum for detailed examination by Judy Rudoe (Department of Prehistory and Europe). It bears the inscription 'FEARE GOD ONLY', with stars between each word, and the 'N' and 'L' of 'only' conjoined. It has a maker's mark of 'RG' or 'RC' in a shield, which is unusual on a base metal ring. As most surviving posy rings are gold it was thought that a goldsmith may have been trying to pass this one off as such. The ring had been broken, possibly deliberately. Surprisingly, an X-ray fluorescence analysis conducted at the British Museum indicated that the ring had an approximate silver content of 98 per cent, and therefore the ring was subject to the Treasure process. The use of capital letters and the short inscription suggests a date in the late 16th or 17th century. Dorset County Museum hopes to acquire this object.

1 Postholders in the period of this report 1 October 2001 – 31 March 2003

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Administrator	Claire Costin (from March 2003)

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Norfolk	Katie Hinds Adi Popescu (until March 2002) Adrian Marsden (from July 2002)
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Suffolk	Helen Geake (maternity leave from September 2002 until June 2003) Faye Minter (from October 2002)
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3 Tables/Charts

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1 Metal-detecting clubs with which the Finds Liaison Officers have regular contact

	<i>Clubs</i>
Somerset & Dorset	4
Hampshire	7
Kent	10
Norfolk	5
North Lincolnshire	2
North West	10
Northamptonshire	4
Suffolk	3
Wales	9
West Midlands	3
Yorkshire	4
Total	61

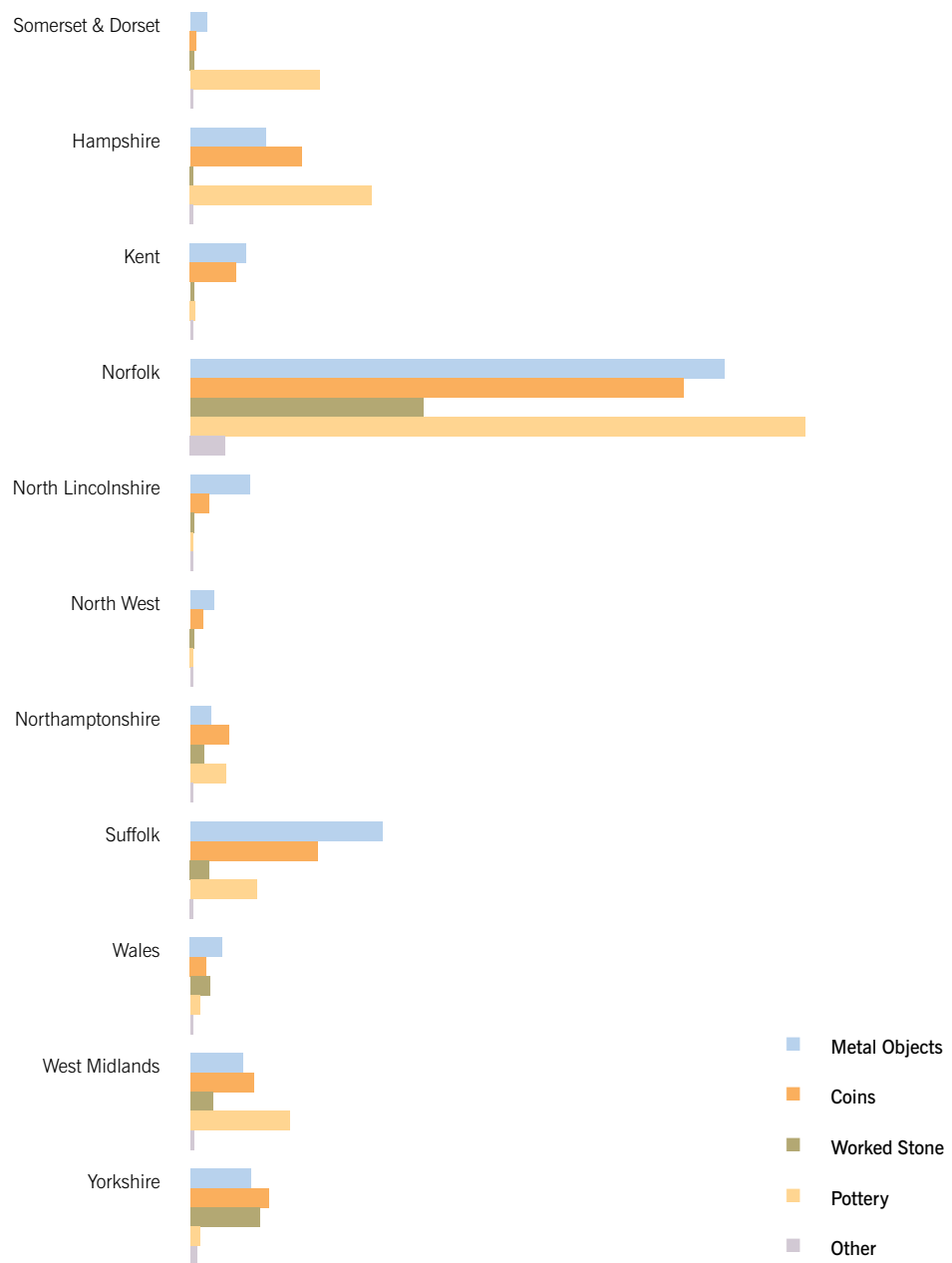
2 Page requests to www.finds.org.uk October 1999–March 2003

	1999–2000	2000–01	2001–02	2002–03
October	29,995	58,344	77,215	124,818
November	29,248	59,512	76,233	108,058
December	29,619	57,143	68,594	114,929
January	35,219	61,498	84,387	178,419
February	29,179	59,351	81,132	137,839
March	37,302	62,089	90,279	127,497
April	42,148	57,592	106,952	
May	35,917	61,245	108,380	
June	34,090	59,787	84,821	
July	42,545	64,916	90,736	
August	68,976	103,358	69,592	
September	51,033	96,274	79,531	
Total	465,271	801,109	1,017,852	791,560

3 Objects recorded in the period of this report – by class

A. Paper records of which 3,768 were recorded on the finds database.
 B. Paper records only.

	Metal Objects	Coins	Worked Stone	Pottery	Other	Totals
Somerset & Dorset	221	82	55	1,716	9	2,083
Hampshire	1,003	1,479	43	2,409	16	4,950
Kent	742	609	50	69	28	1,498
Norfolk ^a	7,086	6,540	3,091	8,159	467	25,343
North Lincolnshire	792	250	46	22	9	1,119
North West	311	167	9	6	5	498
Northamptonshire	271	516	177	468	15	1,447
Suffolk	2,558	1,689	255	882	42	5,426
Wales ^b	425	216	259	125	1	1,026
West Midlands	700	842	303	1,317	52	3,214
Yorkshire	806	1,043	918	131	88	2,986
Totals	14,915	13,433	5,206	15,304	732	49,590
Percentage of Total	30.08	27.09	10.50	30.86	01.47	



4 Monthly average of objects recorded in 2000–01 and 2001–03

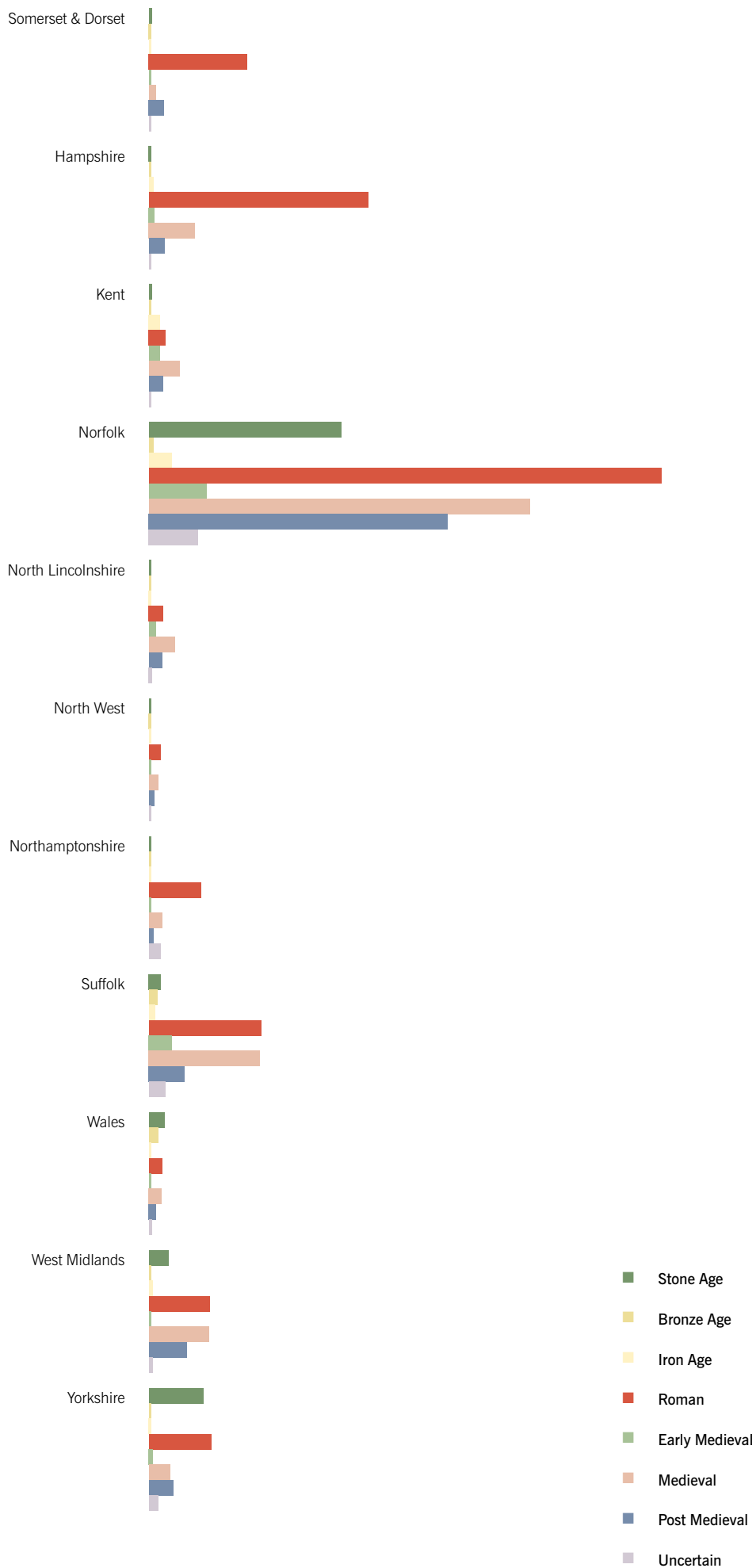
In Kent the post was vacant for three months, two months in North Lincolnshire and four months in Wales. One post was vacant for three months in Norfolk.

	2000–01		2001–03	
	Total (12 months)	Monthly Average	Total (18 months)	Monthly Average
Somerset & Dorset	1,369	114	2,083	116
Hampshire	1,763	147	4,950	275
Kent	1,985	165	1,498	83
Norfolk	17,334	1,445	25,343	1,408
North Lincolnshire	1,579	132	1,119	62
North West	432	36	498	28
Northamptonshire	1,346	112	1,447	80
Suffolk	5,599	467	5,426	301
Wales	2,755	230	1,026	57
West Midlands	2,256	188	3,214	178
Yorkshire	1,100	92	2,986	166

5 Objects recorded in the period of this report – by chronological quantity

Also see chart opposite.

	Stone Age	Bronze Age	Iron Age	Roman	Early Medieval	Medieval	Post Medieval	Uncertain	Total
Somerset & Dorset	47	4	15	1,642	2	118	255	0	2,083
Hampshire	34	13	78	3,663	95	771	262	34	4,950
Kent	48	17	188	279	182	511	237	36	1,498
Norfolk	3,214	77	375	8,549	960	6,355	4,990	823	25,343
North Lincolnshire	39	5	14	242	113	429	224	53	1,119
North West	6	16	4	191	13	158	86	24	498
Northamptonshire	28	26	15	865	19	225	79	190	1,447
Suffolk	202	143	101	1,874	387	1,852	596	271	5,426
Wales	258	157	7	218	7	212	121	46	1,026
West Midlands	321	12	61	1,111	30	992	623	64	3,214
Yorkshire	909	13	40	1,039	68	354	409	154	2,986
Totals	5,106	483	898	19,673	1,876	11,977	7,882	1,695	49,590
Percentage of Total	10.30	00.97	01.81	39.67	03.78	24.15	15.90	03.42	

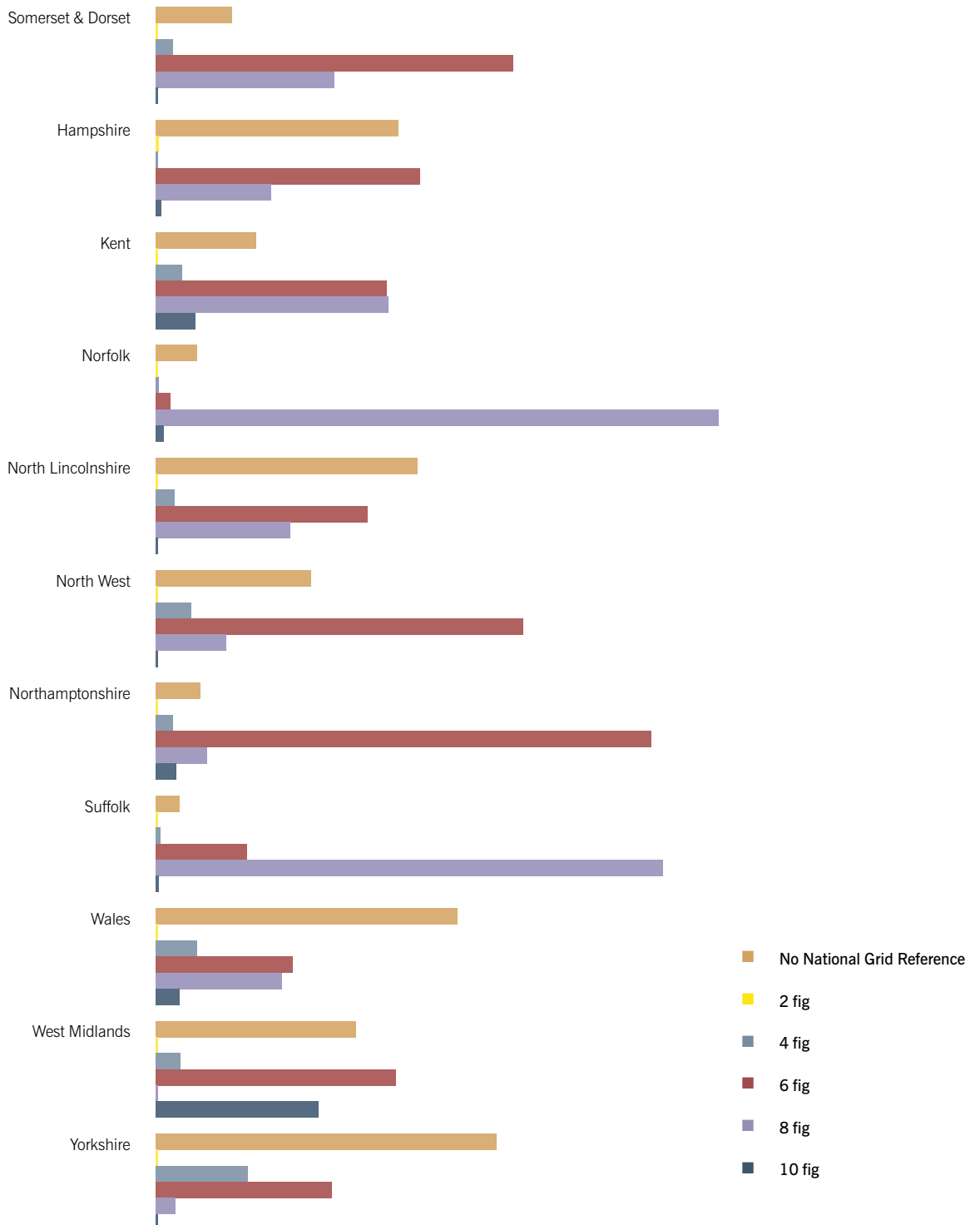


6 Findspot accuracy in the period of this report – by percentage

Statistics, except Wales, are based on data on finds database (i.e. excludes Norfolk's paper records).

68

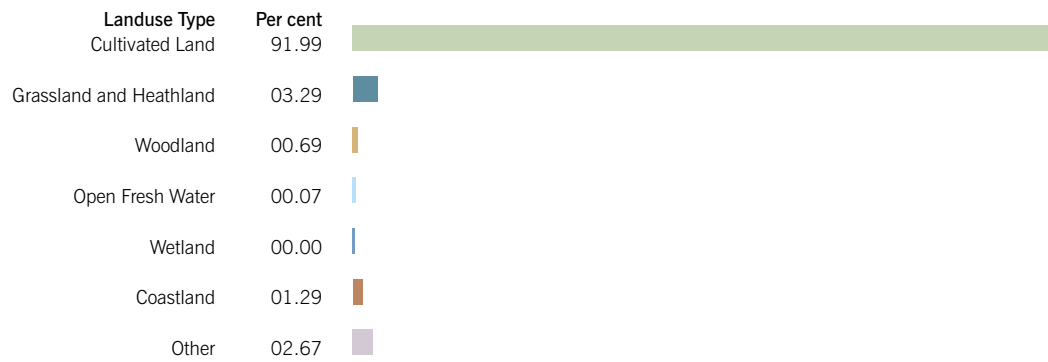
	Total Findspots	No NGR	2 fig	4 fig	6 fig	8 fig	10 fig
Somerset & Dorset	74	12.16	00.00	02.70	56.76	28.38	00.00
Hampshire	355	38.59	00.00	00.28	41.98	18.31	00.84
Kent	961	15.92	00.00	04.16	36.73	36.95	06.24
Norfolk	475	06.53	00.00	00.42	02.31	89.48	01.26
North Lincolnshire	300	41.66	00.00	03.00	33.67	21.33	00.33
North West	178	24.72	00.00	05.62	58.42	11.24	00.00
Northamptonshire	184	07.07	00.00	02.72	78.80	08.15	03.26
Suffolk	829	03.75	00.00	00.72	14.47	80.58	00.48
Wales	904	47.90	00.00	06.53	21.79	20.02	03.76
West Midlands	546	31.87	00.00	03.85	38.10	00.36	25.82
Yorkshire	382	54.18	00.00	14.66	28.02	03.14	00.00



**7 Change in findspot accuracy
since 1997 – proportion of findspots
with at least a six-figure National Grid
Reference**

	1997–99	1999–2000	2000–01	2001–03
Somerset & Dorset	78	74	76	85
Hampshire	32	36	80	61
Kent	84	94	71	80
Norfolk	n/a	n/a	87	93
North Lincolnshire	27	31	50	55
North West	63	68	72	70
Northamptonshire	60	72	81	90
Suffolk	100	92	93	96
Wales	43	55	30	46
West Midlands	28	47	50	64
Yorkshire	47	43	57	31
Overall Average	56	60	68	70

**8 Landuse of findspots in the period
of this report – where landuse was
determined**



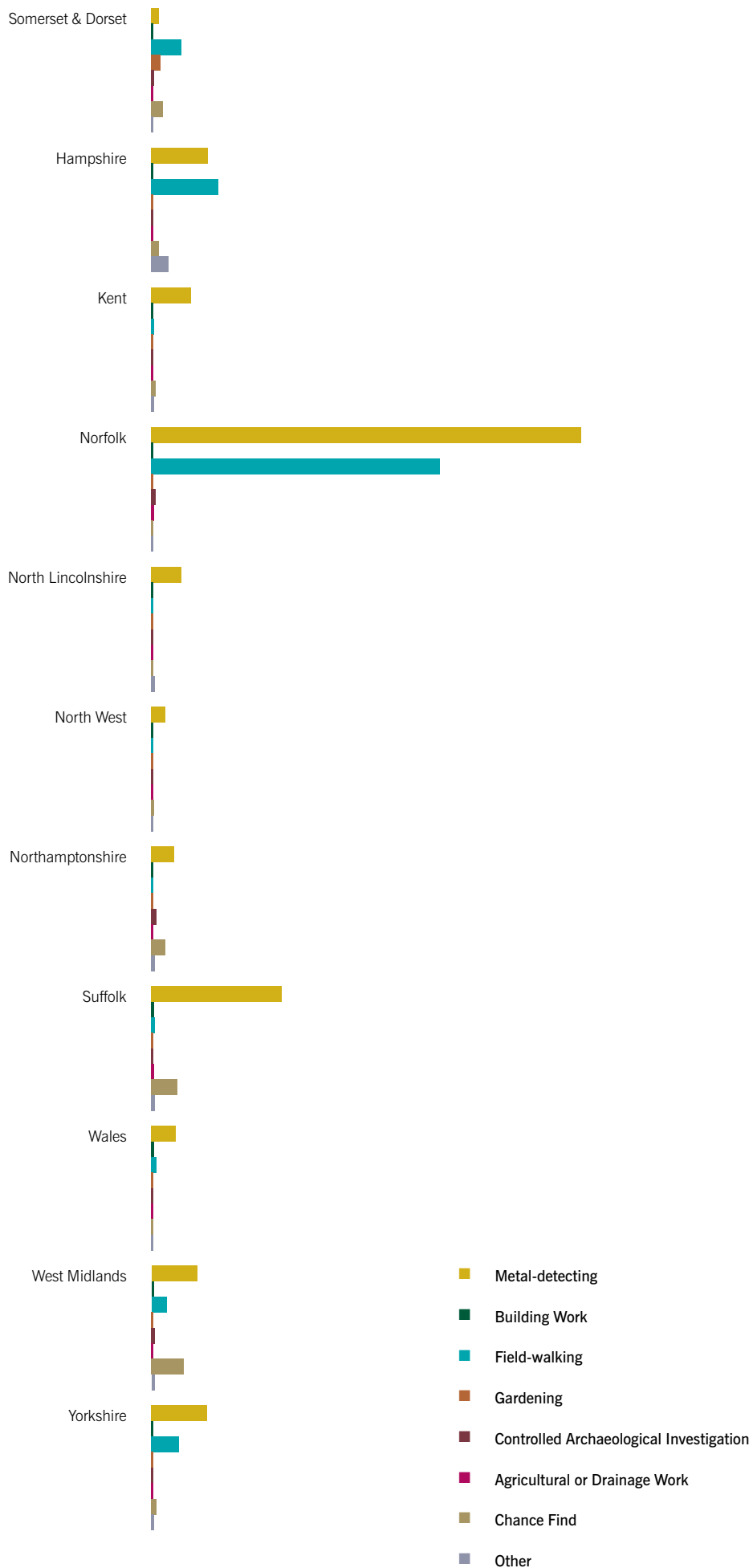
9 Number of individuals recording finds in the period of this report

	Detectorists	Others	Total
Somerset & Dorset	46	32	78
Hampshire	95	21	116
Kent	212	40	252
Norfolk	163	56	219
North Lincolnshire	160	12	177
North West	81	2	83
Northamptonshire	86	14	100
Suffolk	178	10	188
Wales	197	43	240
West Midlands	89	10	99
Yorkshire	123	34	157
Total	1,430	274	1,709

10 Method of discovery in the period of this report

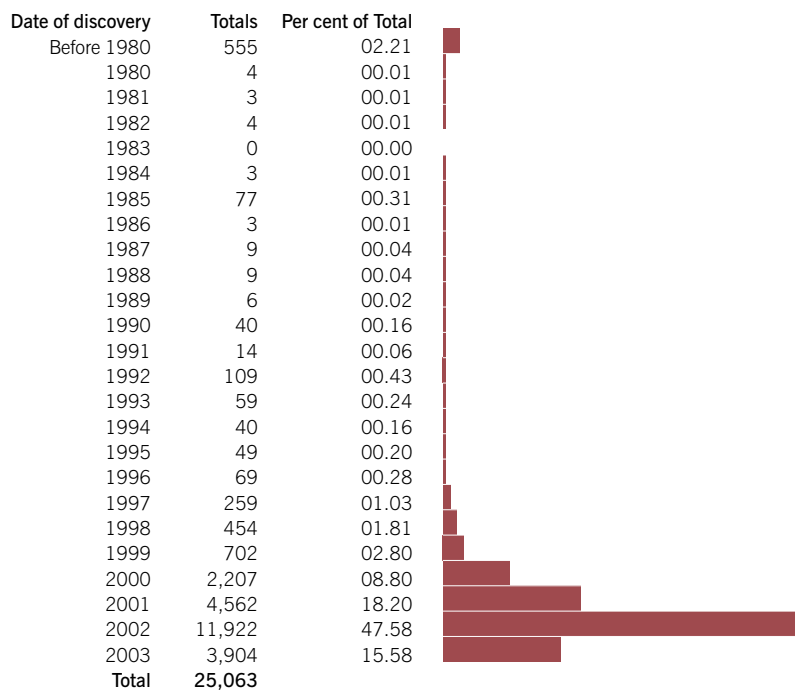
Also see chart opposite.

	Metal-detecting	Building Work	Field-walking	Controlled Archaeological Investigation	Gardening	Agricultural or Drainage Work	Chance Find	Other	Total
Somerset & Dorset	246	0	985	306	103	0	375	68	2,083
Hampshire	1,874	1	2,200	2	29	0	258	586	4,950
Kent	1,314	3	43	15	9	3	69	42	1,498
Norfolk	15,635	31	9,549	2	67	43	16	0	25,343
North Lincolnshire	1,021	1	1	0	1	0	37	58	1,119
North West	478	0	1	3	1	0	10	5	498
Northamptonshire	771	0	0	0	163	0	459	54	1,447
Suffolk	4,395	4	127	1	8	5	859	27	5,426
Wales	796	28	160	0	7	0	22	13	1,026
West Midlands	1,547	1	526	0	36	0	1,073	31	3,214
Yorkshire	1,832	1	902	6	3	7	163	72	2,986
Total	29,909	70	14,494	335	427	58	3,341	956	49,590
Percentage of Total	60.31	00.14	29.23	00.67	00.86	00.12	06.74	01.93	



11 Date of discovery of objects recorded since the Portable Antiquities Scheme was established (where the date of discovery is known)

Only finds recorded on finds database.



12 Number of Treasure cases with which the Finds Liaison Officers have been involved in the period of this report

Region	Cases
Somerset & Dorset	24
Hampshire	16
Kent	29
Norfolk	84
North Lincolnshire	26
North West	12
Northamptonshire	6
Suffolk	52
Wales	13
West Midlands	1
Yorkshire	31
Total	294

Back cover:
Andrew Richardson (Kent Finds Liaison Officer) demonstrating how a Global Positioning Systems device works.

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