PORTABLE ANTIQUITIES SCHEME
Annual Report 2006

PORTABLE ANTIQUITIES SCHEME ANNUAL REPORT 2006

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FOREWORD

I am very pleased to introduce the ninth Portable Antiquities Scheme Annual Report, which outlines the work of the Scheme between 1 January and 31 December 2006. The Portable Antiquities Scheme once again has demonstrated how it enhances our shared knowledge of the past.

This year a further 58,290 archaeological objects were recorded by the Finds Liaison Officers and published on the Scheme's finds database (www.finds.org.uk). The fact that this data is published online means that anyone, not just specialists, can learn about finds and the archaeology of their local area. The most effective way for a finder to ensure that his or her finds add to the archaeological record is to record them with the Portable Antiquities Scheme. It is welcome news, therefore, that 54 Historic Environment Records have agreed to incorporate Portable Antiquities Scheme data. The quality and value of this data is impressive, and is a testament to the hard work of the Finds Liaison Officers, the Finds Advisers and all involved with the work of the Scheme.

I would also like to pay tribute to the 6,126 finders who offered finds for recording in 2006, of whom almost 64 per cent were metal-detector users. It is widely recognised that responsible metal-detecting has an important role in helping to advance archaeological knowledge. Some 90 per cent of finds recorded with the Portable Antiquities Scheme in 2006 were recovered from cultivated land, where they were likely to have been susceptible to plough damage, and therefore the finders have not only ensured the recovery of these finds but also the preservation of a record of the find and its findspot.

It has also been a great achievement of the Scheme and its Advisory Group in 2006 that the main archaeological, metal-detecting and landowners organisations have agreed and endorsed a *Code of Practice for Responsible Metal Detecting in England and Wales*. For the first time this outlines what is meant by being responsible, with an emphasis on the importance of recording finds and avoiding damage to archaeological sites, and provides a benchmark for best practice.

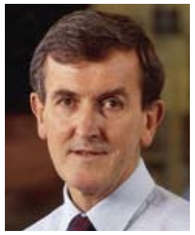
Another great achievement of the Scheme is the extent and benefits of its learning and outreach work. It is impressive that in 2006 the Portable Antiquities Scheme organised 776 outreach events, which were attended by at least 37,445 people, including 7,522 children, and that there have been more than 247,000 visitors to its website. Furthermore, by the end of 2006 the Scheme's database allowed public access to 234,253 records and 143,632 images. Through this, more and more people are learning about finds and the past and this certainly complements my Department's aim to 'support talent and excellence in culture, media and sport'. The Scheme also has been very successful in breaking down barriers and encouraging a wider participation than might normally be expected from a project of its size, helping meet another of my Department's aims, to 'encourage more widespread enjoyment of culture, media and sport'.

I also welcome the success of the agreement which the MLA and the British Museum concluded with eBay in October 2006 to monitor the site for potential cases of unreported Treasure, as instances of potential Treasure on eBay have already started to decrease. In this work the operators of the Scheme work closely with the Metropolitan Police Service's Art and Antiques Unit, HM Revenue and Customs, local police forces and MLA's Export Licensing Unit.

It is clear, therefore, that the PAS offers an impressive range of benefits and I look forward to further building on the excellent work of the Scheme in the future.

Margaret Hodge

Margaret Hodge
Minister for Culture
November 2007



PREFACE

The MLA and British Museum have been keen supporters of the Portable Antiquities Scheme since its inception in 1997. We are therefore grateful for the consistent support of the DCMS for the Scheme, as the Minister has confirmed in her foreword.

MLA and the British Museum jointly chair the Portable Antiquities Advisory Group, a consortium of national bodies that helps take the project forward. In this capacity we would like to thank the members of that group, the 104 local partners, and the local managers of Finds Liaison Officers, for all their work making the Scheme the success it is.

In 2006 the Advisory Group discussed key issues that impact on the work of the Scheme, such as agri-environment schemes and the illicit trade in antiquities, of which a notable success was agreement on a *Code of Practice for Responsible Metal Detecting*, highlighted by the Minister in her foreword. Next the Group will turn its efforts to producing advice for landowners regarding the importance of recording archaeological finds found on their land and guidance for organisers of metal-detecting rallies to ensure finds are properly recorded and sensitive archaeological sites are better protected.

Since spring 2006 the British Museum has managed the Portable Antiquities Scheme on behalf of the MLA, and has also taken on most of the remaining functions for the administration of the Treasure Act 1996 from the DCMS, which it is hoped will improve the efficiency of the Treasure process for finders, landowners and museums. As a result the Museum established the Department of Portable Antiquities and Treasure.

It has long been recognised the Finds Liaison Officers are vital to the efficient running of the Treasure process and the reporting of Treasure finds. This is highlighted by the fact that there has been an average 174 per cent increase in the reporting of potential Treasure finds since the Scheme was extended to the whole of England and Wales in 2003.

The Portable Antiquities Scheme also has clear benefits for both MLA and the British Museum. As a sponsored project it fits in well with other MLA programmes, such as Renaissance, Inspiring Learning for All and Cultural Property, and to helps us to build connections with new partners and to illustrate the ways in which our sector contributes to building communities.

Likewise the Portable Antiquities Scheme adds value to the work of the British Museum, in particular through its outreach work and advancing public understanding of the museum and its collections, complementing that of Partnership UK, such as plans for a touring exhibition highlighting the work of the Scheme.

Both MLA and the British Museum are delighted by the success of the Scheme and will continue to work with the PAS to achieve our collective aims.

Roy Clare, Chief Executive Officer, Museums, Libraries and Archives Council

Neil MacGregor, Director, British Museum

KEY POINTS

The main achievements of the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) in the period 1 January 2006 until 31 December 2006 can be summarised as follows:

Outreach: 776 outreach events, including talks, finds days and exhibitions, were organised in 2006; these were attended by at least 37,445 people, including 7,522 children. At least 416 articles about the work of PAS were published or broadcast, including academic publications, articles in the popular press, and reports on television and radio.

Liaison: In 2006 the Finds Liaison Officers (FLOs) maintained regular contact with 167 metal-detecting clubs, and also liaised with local archaeological and history groups. They also attended at least 1,067 meetings to promote the Scheme and liaise with finders. *The Searcher* magazine organised an annual competition – 'The Nation's Greatest Detecting Finds' – to promote finds recording with the PAS.

Social inclusion: In 2006 a socio-economic analysis of postcode data shows that 47 per cent of people recording finds with the Scheme (since 1997) are from groups C2, D and E, which compares favourably to visitors to museums (31 per cent)[1].

Website: In 2006, 247,103 unique visitors visited the website – www.finds.org.uk – (the total number of visitors was 720,369) and there have been almost 82 million user hits on the website in the period of this report; a 62 per cent increase on 2005–6. At the end of this reporting period the online database allows public access to 234,253 records and 143,632 images.

Code of Practice for Responsible Metal Detecting: In 2006 a Code of Practice for Responsible Metal Detecting in England and Wales was agreed. For the first time this provides an objective statement of what is meant by responsible metal-detecting and is endorsed by the main archaeological, metal-detecting and land-owners' organisations. Its main focus is the recording of archaeological finds and avoiding damage to archaeological sites.

Objects recorded: A further 58,290 archaeological objects have been recorded on the PAS finds database in 2006, some of which are illustrated in this report. Of these, more than 77 per cent have been discovered whilst out metal-detecting; the rest have been found by other means. This report also shows that since 2003, when the PAS was expanded to the whole of England and Wales, there has been an average 174.03 per cent increase in the reporting of potential Treasure finds.

[1] 10.5 million people visited museums in 2005, of which 30.6% were C2, D and Es (Great Britain Target Group Index, Spring 2006).

Findspot information: Almost 90 per cent of finds recorded have been recovered from cultivated land, where they are susceptible to plough damage and artificial and natural corrosion processes. Almost 90 per cent of finds are now being recorded to the nearest 100m^2 (a six-figure National Grid Reference) or better, and almost 42 per cent of all finds are being recorded to the nearest 10m^2 (an eight-figure National Grid Reference).

Finds data: The finds data generated by the PAS is made available to Historic Environment Records (HERs) – the key record holders for information about the historic environment – and is published on the Scheme's website: www.finds.org.uk. A protocol has been agreed on the transfer of PAS data to HERs, which 54 (more than two-thirds) have now signed.

New sites discovered: Many important new archaeological sites have been discovered as a result of the finds recorded by the FLOs. These include previously unknown Anglo-Saxon cemetery sites in Derbyshire, Suffolk and Warwickshire.

Research: New research is showing that PAS data has the potential to radically alter our understanding of the historic environment and further archaeological knowledge. 355 people, including academics and professionals, have full access to PAS data for research purposes, of which 143 signed to have access in 2006. Three students are undertaking collaborative Arts & Humanities Research Board-funded PhDs analysing PAS data.

Publications: Several publications associated with the work of the Scheme have appeared in the period of this report, including the Portable Antiquities sections of *Britannia* volume 37, *Medieval Archaeology* volume 50, and *Post Medieval Archaeology* volume 40.

Monitoring the illicit trade in UK antiquities: In October 2006 the MLA and British Museum reached a memorandum of understanding with eBay (with support of the Art & Antiques Unit, Metropolitan Police Service), by which the Department for Portable Antiquities and Treasure at the British Museum monitors eBay for finds of unreported Treasure. In the period of this report 80 cases were investigated and the intelligence passed to the police.

The PAS works closely with relevant colleagues in HM Revenue & Customs, the MLA Export Licensing Unit, and has a member of staff seconded as a Special Police Constable with ArtBeat, a partnership scheme between the Metropolitan Police Service and heritage sector employers.

Extent of the Scheme: A network of 37 Finds Liaison Officers (FLOs) covers the whole of England and Wales. This is co-ordinated and supported by a central unit of a Head and Deputy Head, Resources Manager, Education Co-ordinator, ICT Adviser and six Finds Advisers. In 2006, 87 people worked part-time or volunteered with PAS.

Recognition of success: In June 2006 an independent evaluation of the Scheme (PAS User Survey 2006 – see www.finds.org.uk/news/ac.php) carried out by Rachel Edwards (Arboretum Archaeological Consultancy) showed that 87 per cent of people thought the PAS was sucessful in advancing archaeological knowledge. With regards to its other aims, the Scheme has achieved an approval rating that is between 6 and 16 per cent higher than was achieved in 2004.

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

The Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) is a voluntary scheme to record archaeological objects found by members of the public. The Scheme also has an important educational role, enabling children and adults alike to learn about archaeology, get involved, and bring the past to life.

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 way of understanding our past. The PAS offers the only proactive and comprehensive mechanism for systematically recording such finds for public benefit. This data is made available to Historic Environment Records (HERs) and is published on the Scheme's website: www.finds.org.uk

This data is an important educational resource, not only of benefit to archaeologists, but anyone interested in learning more about the past, who we are and where we have come from. Archaeological finds offer a unique way to teach young people (in particular) about the past, in an exciting and innovative way.

ORGANISATION

In the period of this report 37 Finds Liaison Officers (FLOs), covering the whole of England and Wales, were employed in the work of the Scheme; the FLOs are based with local 'host' partner organisations, who manage them on a day-to-day basis. The work of the FLOs is co-ordinated and supported by a central unit of eleven post holders: a Head and Deputy Head, Resources Manager, Education Co-ordinator, ICT Adviser and six Finds Advisers. The Central Unit is based at the British Museum, though five of the six Finds Advisers are based elsewhere. In 2006, 87 part-time assistants (known as Finds Liaison Assistants – FLAs) and volunteers provided an invaluable contribution to the work of the Scheme.

Since 1 April 2006 the PAS has been managed by the British Museum on behalf of the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA), and funded by the Department for Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) and local partners[2].

The work of the Scheme is guided by the Portable Antiquities Advisory Group, which meets bi-annually. Members of the group are the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers, the British Museum, the Council for British Archaeology, the Country Business & Landowners Association,

[2] Before this date (since April 2003) the PAS was funded by the HLF, though the MLA.

the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, English Heritage, the Institute of Archaeology (University College London), the MLA, the National Council for Metal Detecting, the National Farmers Union, the National Museums & Galleries of Wales, the Society of Museum Archaeologists and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales.

Issues discussed by this group include agreeing a code of practice for responsible metal-detecting, environmental stewardship schemes, the illicit trade in UK antiquities, metal-detecting rallies and the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007.

AIMS OF THE PORTABLE ANTIQUITIES SCHEME

1. To advance knowledge of the history and archaeology of England and Wales by systematically recording archaeological objects found by the public.

2. To raise awareness among the public of the educational value of archaeological finds in their context and facilitate research in them.

3. To increase opportunities for active public involvement in archaeology and strengthen links between metal-detector users and archaeologists.

4. To encourage all those who find archaeological objects to make them available for recording and to promote best practice by finders.

The PAS User Survey 2006 (Arboretum Archaeological Consultancy), based on a user survey of 556 respondents, provides independent confirmation that the PAS is delivering in all its aims.

LEARNING AND OUTREACH

Learning and outreach is at the heart of the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS). Not only is it fundamental to its core activity of recording finds, but it is also a vital outcome of the project. Through the Scheme's education work adults and children develop an interest in archaeology and become involved. The data generated by the Scheme is also proving itself to be a valuable resource for all to learn about the past and advance archaeological knowledge.

Ceinwen Paynton (PAS Education Co-ordinator) facilitates the educational work of the Finds Liaison Officers (FLOs). The Scheme's Finds Advisers (Geoff Egan, Helen Geake, Kevin Leahy, Sam Moorhead, John Naylor and Sally Worrell) also support this educational work by training the FLOs, ensuring the data recorded is of the highest standards, informing the academic community about new discoveries and the research potential of PAS data, and supervising undergraduate and postgraduate students.

In 2006, over 7,500 children attended education and outreach events organised by the PAS. This work often complements that done by school teachers, local museum educators, community archaeologists and others, offering children an exciting learning experience and the opportunity to learn more about the past and the history of their local area.

CHILDREN: FORMAL LEARNING

Object-based learning is a great way to bring history lessons to life for children at school, and to help invigorate the teaching of other core subjects, such as ICT, Science and Maths. The PAS has developed online resources for teachers (www.pastexplorers.org.uk) to help them to use archaeology to deliver a wide range of fun and interesting lessons in school.

In the classroom

Romans at Lutley Primary School, Halesowen, West Midlands

Caroline Johnson (Staffordshire & West Midlands FLO) organised a Roman artefact workshop for 120 children aged 7–11 (Key Stage 2) at Lutley Primary School. The children were learning about the Romans, so the workshop was designed to further their knowledge of Roman life by studying the objects (part of Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery's school loan collection) used at the time. Working in small groups, the children had the opportunity to learn through a range of activities, which included identifying, drawing and recording Roman artefacts, comparing Roman artefacts (such as brooches and coins) with those used today, and presenting information about what they had learnt. As at previous workshops the children (and teachers!) are always extremely enthusiastic and excited about handling Roman artefacts and usually have lots of questions to ask.

Children of Lutley Primary School recording Roman finds

Anglo-Saxons at Combe Bank School, Kent

Andrew Richardson (Kent FLO) and Laura McLean (Kent FLA) held a workshop entitled 'The Anglo-Saxons: What did they wear?' with children aged 7–11 (Key Stage 2) at Combe Bank School, which complemented their work in class. This interactive session explored Anglo-Saxon clothing, and how archaeologists can interpret the past based upon limited information. In small groups the children were asked to discuss what they thought Anglo-Saxons wore, after which they presented their ideas to the class. They were then asked to examine actual artefacts, including grave goods, and reconstruction artwork to compare interpretations of Anglo-Saxon clothing. The session ended with a handling session of Anglo-Saxon dress accessories, with children looking in detail at the quality of craftsmanship and questioning how people of the past could make such detailed metalwork. Artefacts from other periods were also examined, to illustrate how technology changes over time.

The children were very enthusiastic about meeting real archaeologists, and found it particularly exciting that they might find an artefact while out walking or digging in the garden. As a direct result of the sessions with Andrew and Laura, the school is hoping to develop the use of archaeology in history lessons further. They have integrated West Mucking Anglo-Saxon village (www.pastexplorers.org.uk) into their ICT lessons, and are considering organising a playground excavation.

'I liked looking at and touching real live Anglo-Saxon things found under the ground. Seeing all the different types of brooches was fascinating. I didn't know the Angles, Saxons and Jutes made such wonderful brooches. I didn't think they could use so many colours. They were very beautiful.' Harriet (Combe Bank School)

The outdoor classroom

The PAS supports the Department of Education and Skills' 'Outside Classroom Manifesto'. The Scheme's education and outreach activities also link well outdoor and non-traditional learning.

Archaeological activities at Lyppard Grange Junior School, Worcester, Worcestershire

The PAS was involved in a collaborative project with Sheena Payne (Historic Environment Record Officer, Worcester City Council) and Heather Bainbridge (Lyppard Grange Wildlife Ranger, Worcester City Council) organising a day of archaeological activities with pupils aged 9–11 (Years 5 & 6) at Lyppard Grange Junior School. The activities were designed to cover a range of subjects including History, Geography, ICT, Science and Art.

With Angie Bolton (Worcestershire & Warwickshire FLO), the children learnt how to identify the metals Roman coins were made from, date them – just by looking at the style of clothes and headwear the emperors wore – and understand how artefacts they might discover tell the story of Worcester's archaeology. The children also used historic maps and pictures to reconstruct how their local area might have looked before their school was built and learnt how to date the surrounding hedgerows by identifying species of plants and trees. The archaeology day inspired the launch of the school's 'History Week' and was followed up by a whole range of other activities organised by teachers.

'I learnt that archaeology is not just about digging.' Student (Lyppard Grange Junior School)

Angie Bolton (Worcestershire & Warwickshire FLO) talking to the pupils of Lyppard Grange Junior School

Digging up School
Over the last three years, the PAS has partnered with Leeds Metropolitan University's Carnegie Faculty of Education and West Yorkshire Archaeological Services to provide an innovative approach to school history teaching that combines archaeological theory, excavation, drama and role play. Over 1,000 children from inner-city schools in West Yorkshire have been involved in the project so far. In July 2006, Anna Marshall (South & West Yorkshire FLO) and Ceinwen Paynton (Education Co-ordinator) were part of the teaching team, which consisted of teachers, trainee teachers, lecturers and local government educators. The PAS staff worked with children aged 8–11 (Years 4, 5 and 6) at Smawthorne Henry Moore School, Castleford and Oyster Park School, Featherstone, West Yorkshire.

The children undertook a rolling programme of three different activities. Activity 1 was an archaeological excavation where the young learners could get a chance actually to do their own dig. Activity 2 used real archaeological finds and active learning to bring the past to life through objects. Activity 3 used role play to add another dimension to the children's discovery of history, with trainee teachers using hot-seating and historical sources to add a personal touch. The project aimed to engage children in history and heritage and make them and the trainee teachers involved more confident.

'The school excavation encouraged the confidence and skills in student teachers which will be embedded in their professional life.' Andy Bowles (Senior Lecturer, Carnegie Faculty of Education, Leeds Metropolitan University)

CHILDREN: INFORMAL LEARNING

Experience shows that many children's learning styles mean that they learn best in an informal environment, where they have opportunities for active learning and can express themselves in ways that they cannot inside the classroom. Many opportunities for this type of learning have been organised by the PAS throughout 2006.

Art inspired by artefacts
Dot Bruns (Lancashire & Cumbria FLO) ran a craft and artefacts session for Kendal's Young Archaeologists Club combining museum objects and imagination. Tim Padley (Tullie House Museum) kindly lent some amazing artefacts from the museum's collection of objects from the Roman fort at Birdoswald, including a gold earring, an eagle and standard intaglio and a figurine of a deity. Inspired by these objects the children created artworks showing how the artefacts may have been used, including drawings of an altar (showing the genius), a jeweller's shop (at which the jeweller was about to sell the gold earring), a document and candle (the seal with eagle intaglio was about to be used to seal the letter) and a scene from a tavern where two Roman soldiers were gambling (showing the bone die found at Birdoswald).

'Wow!!!' Adam (aged 10) and *'Is this really real?'* Harvey (aged 9) – when handling the finds from Birdoswald (Kendal Young Archaeologists Club).

Learning projects inspired by archaeological excavations at Llanmaes, Vale of Glamorgan
Creative learning projects inspired by the archaeological excavations at Llanmaes, which began as a result of the reporting of archaeological finds to the PAS in Wales, gathered further momentum throughout 2006. So far, the project has successfully engaged with pupils from three local primary schools, the local Young Archaeologists Club, university students and other members of the local community.

Following the 2006 Llanmaes excavation season, a schools' animation project was devised with funding from 'On Common Ground', an initiative to help young people living in disadvantaged areas of Wales to work with artists in exploring aspects of their cultural heritage. A group of students from Aberdare Girls School, near Llyn Fawr – the findspot of a hoard of Late Bronze Age cauldrons, tools and weapons – were chosen to work on the project. The group worked with artist Sean Harris, poet and crown bard Iwan Llwyd, and musician John Kenny, to produce an animated film inspired by fusing Llanmaes archaeology, the iconic cauldrons from Llyn Fawr, and the ancient stories from the Mabinogion. The group was initially introduced to animation technology and art-style by Sean Harris before exploring the archaeology and viewing the artefacts recovered from Llanmaes and Llyn Fawr. Later the same day the team visited the field where the excavations are taking place and sat on the ground, above one of the excavated roundhouses, listening to storyteller Michael Harvey narrating the story of Branwen from the Mabinogion.

Back at school, the group composed story-boards, inspired by key finds from the excavations including a Dobunnic (Iron Age) silver coin depicting a three-tailed horse, a shark's tooth deposited in a post-hole of the roundhouse, and the huge assemblage of pig bones recovered from the site. The resulting 12-minute film *Dadeni* (rebirth) fuses art, archaeology, poetry, music and folklore, and is of considerable artistic merit and insight.

Dadeni was premièred at the National Museum Wales in February 2007 and was received with great enthusiasm. As part of the première, the young people worked together as live guides, escorting visitors and guests around the museum, exploring new ways and techniques of presenting their work and the collections to their audience. The project has enabled the school group to benefit from a unique cross-curricular learning experience and has provided the students with a massive sense of achievement and pride in their work.

Helping Young People Aim Higher
Jane Carr (Suffolk FLO) was involved with the Higher Education Field Academy (HEFA) led by Carenza Lewis (Cambridge University).The aim of the field academies is to encourage school children to consider higher education as a realistic option, and ties in with the rationale behind the Government-funded project 'Aim Higher'.

The Suffolk Field Academy had the aim of investigating the historical development of post-Roman settlement across the county (as part of a wider, national investigation into post-Roman Britain), and with Jane's help three village sites within Suffolk were selected for investigation. Groups of high school students, their teachers and archaeologists dug test pits within the historic core of the villages, thanks to the co-operation of local residents. In each garden a 1m^2 test pit was dug, with students recording their sites and finds. Jane visited all the test pits in Coddenham, Suffolk, to assist with finds identification. It is intended to publish the field investigations locally, and draw together the results on a country-wide basis as the project progresses.

'Being out of doors and taking part (in the project) was so much better than learning about history in the classroom.' High School student at the Coddenham dig

HIGHER & FURTHER EDUCATION

The PAS offers enormous opportunities for students studying in higher and further education. The data generated by the Scheme has obvious research potential, but the FLOs and other members of the Scheme are also enthusiastic to talk to people at college and university about the work of the PAS in general. Students often volunteer for their local FLOs too.

In 2006 Tom Brindle (formerly Northamptonshire FLO) and Ian Leins (formerly Finds Adviser) began collaborative Arts and Humanities Research Council funded PhDs, evaluating the impact of PAS data for understanding Roman Britain and Iron Age coin distribution (respectively). Also in 2006 the Arts and Humanities Research Council awarded the PAS and the Institute of Archaeology, University College London, funding for a PhD student to research Roman coin finds recorded on the PAS database.

Students, teachers and archaeologists excavate test pits at Coddenham, Suffolk

Field-walking and metal-detecting survey with A Level students
Volunteers from Hills Road Sixth Form College and the Perse School, Cambridge, assisted in a field-walking and metal-detecting survey of a Romano-British site in Milton, Cambridgeshire. The site had been identified by a local historian, Derek Booth, after he noticed abundant sherds of Roman pottery on the surface of one particular field after ploughing. For two days students undertook field-walking and then processed the material they had collected. David Crawford-White (Outreach & Learning Officer, CAM ARCH) and Philippa Walton (Cambridgeshire FLO), provided on-the-spot identification and dating for the finds which included Roman *sestertii* as well as Samian, Nene Valley Colour-Coated Ware, *mortaria*, quernstone fragments and Horningsea Ware storage vessels. The material will be analysed and distributions plotted by the students and a report written as part of their A Level studies.

Working with history undergraduates at Gloucestershire University
Kurt Adams (Gloucestershire and Avon FLO) and Tim Copeland (Gloucestershire University) organised an afternoon of talks for undergraduate history students, with a focus on community archaeology and how responsible metal-detecting is improving our understanding of the past. Talks were given by Tim Grubb (Gloucestershire County Council) on the Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record, metal-detectorist Peter Twinn, who talked about metal-detecting and how this has enabled him to become actively involved in archaeology, as well as adding to the historical record through detailed recording, and Kurt, who talked about the work of the PAS in Gloucestershire and the importance of finds recording. So fascinated were the students with what they had learnt that most chose to examine the archaeological potential of metal-detected finds for their coursework.

'It was brilliant to hear how everyday people can have such an impact on our past when working with the Portable Antiquities Scheme.' Undergraduate (Gloucestershire University)

Workers' Education Association Course on Fabulous Finds
A six-week course on the recovery, analysis, identification, and conservation of artefacts, entitled 'Fabulous Finds', was held in Leominster, Herefordshire, in conjunction with the Hereford Museum & Art Gallery and the Workers' Education Association. Three of the six sessions were led by Peter Reavill (Shropshire & Herefordshire FLO), including those on finds, conservation and the recovery of artefacts. Finds from both the PAS database and Herefordshire Museum Services' permanent collection were used to illustrate the talks.

One of the aims of the course was to enable the students to gain practical knowledge and experience of handling and recording finds, therefore a large number of artefacts were used, and practical techniques, such as basic illustration, were taught. Another key aim was to explain the role that artefacts play in our understanding of the past, both on a national, regional and local level. The course also highlighted the roles of specialists, such as that of Fran Yarroll, a local osteo-archaeologist, and examined major issues relevant to archaeologists, including the role of metal-detectorists, the lack of published archaeological information about the West Midlands, and the future role of museums in society.

All the students enrolled on the course felt that they had improved their skills in identifying artefacts, recognising the materials of which they were made, understanding the finds process from excavation to display, and knowing how to record specific artefact types. When asked what the students thought was the best thing about the course, many commented on being able to handle the artefacts.

'The course was a summary of everything I wanted to know.' Pat Keye (student on the WEA course)

Tutoring GCSE archaeology students at the Isle of Wight College
Every Wednesday night 13 GCSE Archaeology students made their way to the Isle of Wight College to indulge their passion for archaeology. They were attending the College's Adult Education course run by Delian Backhouse-Fry (Education Liaison Officer for the Council for British Archaeology, Wessex Region). The students learnt to field-walk, identify artefacts and study the archaeological landscape of the Isle of Wight. Frank Basford (Isle of Wight FLO) organised an object handling session, an introduction to the PAS finds database (www.finds.org.uk) and supervised finds illustration. This course was the very last GCSE Archaeology course to be run in Britain, so next year's students will study at AS Level.

'Frank Basford's involvement in the course and access to the PAS database via the Internet gave great encouragement and knowledge to the students.' Delian Backhouse-Fry (Education Liaison Officer for the Council for British Archaeology, Wessex Region)

FINDERS & THE PUBLIC

Finders themselves are one of the largest groups of individuals learning though the work of the PAS. In 2006 the FLOs liaised with 6,126 finders, identifying finds, updating them on the work of the Scheme and educating them on best practice. 89 per cent of people surveyed in the PAS User Survey 2006 said the PAS was successful in informing finders about the importance of finds recording.

The FLOs regularly visit metal-detecting clubs; in 2006 they liaised with 167 metal-detecting clubs, representing a membership of at least 6,065 finders. However, the FLOs also organise Finds Days in museums and elsewhere to record finds made by the public, including independent metal-detector users. Sometimes these events are local drop-in sessions, but others are organised to tie in with national events, such as National Archaeology Week.


Katie Hinds (Wiltshire FLO) recording finds at Salisbury Museum

FINDS DAYS

In 2006, 403 Finds Days were organised by the FLOs attracting at least 18,184 people. Below are a few examples of these events.

Finds Day at Salisbury Museum
Following on from the national Fabulous Finds Days that took place in 2005 to celebrate National Museums Week, Salisbury Museum decided to hold another in April 2006. This was combined with tours of the museum and Wiltshire County Council conservation laboratory, children's activities, and metal-detector finds displays, and it was a tremendous success. The majority of visitors were metal-detectorists, having travelled from all over the county, as well as from Hampshire, Dorset and Somerset, largely due to fantastic coverage before the day in *The Searcher* magazine. Katie Hinds (Wiltshire FLO) recorded at least 100 finds and four items of potential Treasure were also reported. The Avon Valley and the Wessex & Sarum Prospecting Society's displays proved very popular, as did the Conservation Tours, where those attending were given a free goodie bag containing grip-seal bags and acid-free tissue paper.

'There was a real buzz around the museum.' Annette Jack (Salisbury Museum)

Finds Day at Madeley, Telford, Shropshire
One of the best-attended Finds Days organised by Peter Reavill (Herefordshire & Shropshire FLO) took place as part National Archaeology Week at Madeley, Telford. This was organised in conjunction with the Madeley Living History Project and the Council for British Archaeology West Midlands. The event was attended by over 700 people (of whom more than 400 were children of school age). The aim of the day was to offer an insight into the work of archaeologists and help people learn more about the past. Besides finds recording, Paul Mower, a local detectorist, organised a finds display, re-enactment groups gave an insight into life in Iron Age and Roman Britain, and there were demonstrations of ancient building techniques, flint knapping and burial practices. The success of the event was clearly evident from the large numbers of people who attended and enjoyed the day.

'Peter's contribution made a real difference to our day. There is no substitute for seeing and handling real artefacts, especially when they are interpreted by someone young and enthusiastic who is able to make the children feel at ease and talk to them at a level they can understand.' Shelagh Lewis (Co-ordinator Madeley Living History Project and CBA West Midlands Education Officer)

Regular Finds Days at the Potteries Museum & Art Gallery
The Finds Identification or 'What is it?' sessions at The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent, organised by Caroline Johnson (Staffordshire & West-Midlands FLO) are regularly attended every month by independent metal-detectorists, field-walkers and people belonging to local metal-detecting clubs. The event, held during the afternoon on the first Wednesday of each month, has attracted many new finders who have just started to record their finds, as well as other people who have recorded with the PAS for a few years. Many metal-detectorists who attend this event live in the nearby area, but a large majority of artefacts they find come from Shropshire. In 2006, 559 finds, including Roman and Medieval pottery sherds, were brought in for identification, and the majority of these have been recorded on the PAS database.


David Williams (Surrey FLO) examining finds made by children

COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECTS

The PAS has an important contribution to make in increasing community participation in archaeology and further local archaeological knowledge.

Leskudjack Hillfort, Penzance, Cornwall
In June 2006, Penwith District Council held an open day at Leskudjack Hillfort, Penzance. The hillfort, situated on the edge of the town, was open to the public to discuss the future of the site as it had recently been bought by Penwith District Council. About half of the area on the top of the hillfort had in the past been converted to allotments, belonging to local residents. Visitors to the site were given the opportunity to vote on how they wanted to see the hillfort maintained, which included developing new seating and tending to the land around the allotments. Anna Tyacke (Cornwall FLO) was involved in talking about the hillfort and identifying finds found by local people, which included Medieval silver hammered coins and lead tokens. Some of the school children who came dressed up as 'Celts' and performed a dance on the top of the hillfort.

Hitcham Community Archaeology Project: the excavation
The last PAS Annual Report discussed the results of the work of a Local Heritage Initiative project on the Hitcham, Suffolk, Roman villa prior to June 2006, which included geophysics, metal-detecting and field-walking surveys. From the outset this has been a collaborative effort between the people of Hitcham, professional archaeologists from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, and the PAS in Suffolk. The final phase of the project took place in June 2006 when several areas of the site were excavated by about 60 local volunteers over a two-week period.

During the excavation Faye Minter (Suffolk FLO) was responsible for the plotting and recording of the small finds, which were mainly discovered by local detectorist Alan Smith. Faye also conducted tours and on-site activities for local schools; over 200 children aged between 9 and 13 visited the site over the two-week period. Talks were also given to the local Young Archaeologists Club and the Stowmarket Farmers Group.

The results of the excavation showed that there was a small Roman villa with a detached bath house in a double-ditched enclosure. There was also evidence for subsidiary activity, perhaps workers' homes or workshops outside the enclosure. The excavated walls, combined with the geophysics evidence, suggest that the villa has a rectangular plan, with around half a dozen rooms and probably a corridor or veranda along the south side. The separate bath house was damaged by the robbing out of building material, either in the late fourth century or later, but a lot of evidence for several phases of this building survives, including fragments of the painted plaster which originally covered the walls. The excavation has therefore confirmed the character of the villa as a moderately affluent farmhouse built in the Roman style. The farm seems to have been established on a vacant site, perhaps adjacent to woodland, during the late first or second century AD and the farmhouse was abandoned by around AD 350.

'The Hitcham Roman Villa Project was an outstandingly successful example of community involvement in planning and carrying out an archaeological project, with equal emphases on high academic standards and community accessibility.' Edward Martin (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Officer)

BEST PRACTICE

The PAS has an important role in educating finders on best practice, such as the importance of recording finds, plotting and recording precise findspot information or conservation and storage advice. In 2006 a *Code of Practice for Responsible Metal Detecting* was agreed by the main archaeological organisations and metal-detecting and landowners bodies. For the first time this outlines what it means by being responsible and outlines guidelines for responsible detectorists, with an emphasis on finds recording and minimising damage to archaeological sites.

Using handheld Global Positioning Systems (GPS) devices to record finds
Detectorists on the Isle of Wight have agreed with Frank Basford (Isle of Wight FLO) to record all finds using a handheld GPS device. On club sites members use two-way radios to communicate with one another to ensure that finds can be recorded using GPS, as not all detectorists have them. Once the GPS reading is taken it is written on a finds bag, together with the finder's name and date, and bagged. The fact that all detectorists on site hear the radio message creates a break in the proceedings as the other detectorists stop detecting to go and see what has been found! At first some finders were reluctant to co-operate, but most now enjoy taking the readings, in the knowledge that if finds are properly recorded, they are adding to the archaeological knowledge of the island.

'The reason our club has a policy of providing the FLO with the location of findspots measured with GPS is that this information is really important for people carrying out research.' Allan Hall (Chairman, Isle of Wight Metal Detecting Club)

Excavations in Chichester, West Sussex
In 2006 Liz Andrews-Wilson (Sussex FLO) was asked to supply a small team of detectorists to help on a large redevelopment site in Chichester, being excavated by Pre-Construct Archaeology. The site (Shippams Paste Factory) became one of the largest archaeological sites ever to be excavated in Chichester, and needed detectorists on the site every day from January to June 2006. Four metal-detectorists volunteered their services. As part of this work two separate coin hoards were identified and many hundreds of coins and artefacts were recovered that would otherwise have been missed. The detectorists also found the project to be a valuable experience, learning about archaeological methods and best practice.

'We very much enjoyed our months of hard work at the site, and the archaeologists had welcomed us as part of the team; it was a pleasure to work with them all.' Jim and Val Peters (metal-detectorists)

Hadrian's Wall national trail
Rob Collins (North East FLO) has been working with Hadrian's Wall Heritage Management team about raising awareness on the part of local residents, tourists, and heritage specialists of the importance of portable antiquities discovered in the vicinity of Hadrian's Wall, with a particular emphasis on the importance of recording chance finds found by the public and the susceptibility of the site to illegal metal-detecting. As a result it has been agreed that regular encouragement should be directed at local residents to report all finds from the Wall corridor and that trail volunteers should report any incidents of illicit metal-detecting to the English Heritage World Heritage Site Inspector. It has also been agreed that all trail volunteers are trained by the local FLO on the basics of the PAS and the Treasure Act; at present, a guide is currently being produced for the trail volunteers.

Far left, top to bottom: Children dressed as Celts, dancing at Leskudjack. Anna Tyacke (Cornwall FLO) identifying finds found by local people at Leskudjack. Excavations at Hitcham. Excavations in Chichester. Left: Frank Basford (Isle of Wight FLO) taking GPS readings with members of The Isle of Wight Metal Detecting Club.

'It is important that the National Trail volunteers are aware of potential finds of archaeological objects as well as the condition of the trail and monument, and Rob's involvement has been vitally important in this respect.' Andrea Bonnaker (Trail Volunteer Manager, Hadrian's Wall Heritage Management)

'King Alfred the Great' metal-detecting rally at Letcombe Regis, Oxfordshire
Metal-detecting rallies can be problematic, as often the organisers of such events make no provision for recording finds and also the large numbers of detectorists present make it impossible to record all finds to the highest standards.

When the rally organisers are co-operative it makes things easier, but still the time and resources invested by the local FLO can be considerable. On the August Bank Holiday weekend (2006), over 2,000 detectorists attended the Weekend Wanderers' King Alfred the Great rally at Letcombe Regis, Oxfordshire. Kate Sutton (Berkshire & Oxfordshire FLO), with the help of Paula Levick (Oxfordshire & Berkshire Finds Liaison Assistant), neighbouring FLOs and members of the local community, attempted to record as many finds as possible. Kate invested a great deal of time planning and organising the recording effort, which was helped very much by the good will of Peter Welch (Weekend Wanderers). In the event, 700 objects were seen, of which about 550 were recorded, but still many more must have been found that were not recorded.

The finds discovered were exceptional, ranging from a Mesolithic macehead to a Medieval dropped purse hoard. Thorough recording of the rally finds are also offering new opportunities for interpreting the area: a number of complete or almost complete Bronze Age objects, normally only seen in a hoard, were recovered suggesting an earlier occupation of the area than previously recorded. Also 58 Roman brooches were found hinting at a ritual or possibly military use of the site.

EXHIBITIONS, DISPLAYS & OBJECT-HANDLING SESSIONS

Exhibitions, displays and object handling sessions are an important way to highlight the work of the PAS to a wider audience. People like learning about finds and sites discovered in their local area and handing objects, which are normally exhibited behind glass or are stored out of public view.

Exhibition at Shrewsbury Museum and Art Gallery
Peter Reavill (Herefordshire and Shropshire FLO) helped to organise a number of exhibitions in 2006, at both Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery and Hereford Museum & Art Gallery. The largest and most significant of these was a display of recently discovered artefacts from Shropshire in Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery, and was part of their final exhibition before closing for redevelopment. This display was aimed at highlighting the work of the PAS and its involvement in the Treasure process, as well as showing some recently donated artefacts found by metal-detectorists, including some Iron Age spoons from near Nescliffe (Treasure case 2005 T228) found by Trevor Brown in 2005. The exhibition was covered by both the local and national press, and also by the detecting magazines.

'Peter's input is extremely valuable to the current redevelopment process within Shrewsbury Museums Service. His work has helped the service maintain a high public profile and strengthen links with metal-detector users and other finders. It has led to us acquiring some significant and nationally important artefacts for the collections and we were delighted to feature these and the work of the PAS in a major exhibition in December 2006.' Mary White (Manager of Shrewsbury Museums)

Lune Valley Metal Detecting Cub finds display at Lancaster City Museum
In 2006 Dot Bruns (Lancashire & Cumbria FLO) and Lancaster City Museum invited Lune Valley Metal Detecting Club to display their finds in a temporary display case at Lancaster City Museum, which had been set up to promote the museum's work with local clubs and societies. This provided an ideal opportunity for club members to put their finds on public display and give others an opportunity to see them and learn about the archaeology of the local area. The case was so popular with museum visitors that instead of having to take it down in July, the exhibition was extended until February 2007!

'It was an excellent display; many thanks to Dot for arranging it, showing the finds and information on the hobby [of metal-detecting] as well as highlighting our co-operation with the PAS in such a great way.'
William Hargreaves (Chairman, Lune Valley Metal Detecting Club)

English Heritage Festival of History
In August, 2006 Kevin Leahy (Finds Adviser), his wife Dianne, Geoff Egan (Finds Adviser) and several FLOs attended the English Heritage Festival of History Weekend at Kelmarsh, Northamptonshire. The purpose of the day was not about recording finds but educating people about the PAS and raising awareness of the educational value of recording finds.Visitors were able to rummage through trays of metal-detected finds from North Lincolnshire, talk to staff, and handle real and replica finds from a handling kit. There were also panels on display showing distribution maps of recorded finds for each period surrounded by large images of some recent finds that have been recorded.

CONFERENCES AND TALKS

An important part of the Scheme's outreach work is talking to people about the PAS and archaeology. In 2006, 373 talks were given, which were attended by 19,261 people. These talks vary from international and national conferences, such as the International Medieval Conference, Leeds, to local clubs and societies, such as the Epping Farmers' Discussion Group and Preston North Rotary Club. The PAS also organised a conference at the British Museum entitled 'Advancing Archaeological Knowledge', attended by about 130 people, which explored how the PAS was contributing to finds research, the understanding of archaeological sites and educating in best practice.

National Blood Service
The National Blood Service based in Oxford invited its staff as part of Adult Learning Week to give a talk to colleagues about their hobbies. Roger Smith, a driver with the Blood Service, asked Kate Sutton (Berkshire & Oxfordshire FLO) if she would support him with his talk about responsible metal-detecting. The talk was well received and Roger's colleagues enjoyed handling some of the artefacts and coins from the local area.

'Without Kate's help and guidance in this talk, I would have been lost. Kate answered questions that I couldn't have. It was brilliant to have Kate present by my side; by just her being there it gave me the confidence to attempt my first ever talk on my hobby.' Roger Smith (metal-detectorist and National Blood Centre, Oxford)

Conference on Roman Lincolnshire
Adam Daubney (Lincolnshire FLO) gave a paper at a day conference on Roman Lincolnshire. The paper compared two large metal-detected site assemblages recorded by the PAS, and drew conclusions based on their spatial distributions, artefact types and varieties, and other information gained from the Historic Environments Records Office in Lincoln.

National Archaeology Week at North Lincolnshire Museum
As a part of National Archaeology Week, museum staff at North Lincolnshire Museum gave a series of lunchtime lectures in the Archaeology Galleries. Lisa Staves (North Lincolnshire FLO) gave a talk on 'Pilgrim Souvenirs and Papal *Bullae*' showing examples that had been recorded on the PAS database and Kevin Leahy (Finds Adviser) gave a talk on Bronze Age Axe Moulds.

Top to bottom: Children handling finds at the English Heritage Festival of History. The Lune Valley Metal Detecting Club finds display at Lancaster City Museum. Lisa Staves (North Lincolnshire FLO) giving a talk at North Lincolnshire Museum.

WORKING WITH HERITAGE PROFESSIONALS

Learning is a two-way process. Everyday the FLOs learn more about finds and local archaeology by talking to the people they meet, whether they are archaeologists, finders, museum curators or others. However, the FLOs are also experts in their own right and often talk about their experiences to their colleagues and pass on skills learnt.

Geophysics training programme at Stanstead Roman villa, Suffolk

Following the success of a collaboration last year between Faye Minter (Suffolk FLO), Professor Martin Millett (Cambridge University) and Jude Plouviez (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service) to facilitate geophysics and topography training for Cambridge University archaeology students and professional archaeologists from Suffolk on Roman sites discovered by local metal-detectorists, a second project has now been successfully completed.

This project was conducted on a Roman villa site at Stanstead and was supported by a grant from the Roman Research Trust. Helen Woodhouse and Paul Johnson (Cambridge University) ran the survey and just over seven hectares were covered. Prior to the survey the site was known to have produced numerous finds of Roman material and evidence for buildings, most notably the corner of a flint-walled structure uncovered by a local amateur in 1994 and recorded by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service. The results suggest that the villa complex is amongst the largest known in Suffolk, perhaps most comparable to the Ipswich (Castle Hill) villa with discrete groups of substantial buildings, including an aisled structure and a bath house arranged around a central courtyard or garden area.

'It is tremendously exciting to get this new information about Roman sites in the countryside.' Jude Plouviez (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service)

Creative Minds Investigates Archaeology: INSET day for teachers

In July 2006 Creative Minds, a Yorkshire-based project that offers children creative opportunities in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths, organised an INSET day to provide teachers with information and ideas to teach science through archaeology. Ceinwen Paynton (Education Co-ordinator) and Lisa Staves (North Lincolnshire FLO) demonstrated the Past Explorers website (www.pastexplorers.org.uk) and teaching resources that are available to download from the website. One activity demonstrated was called 'Rot or Not', where children can investigate which objects would decompose if they were buried with a body. Evaluation of the day showed the teachers found the activities enjoyable and realistic and many planned to use them in after-school clubs.

Geophysics training at Stanstead Roman villa

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers play an increasingly important role in the work of the PAS. Volunteers come from all sorts of backgrounds and experiences, and are both young and old. In 2006, 87 people worked part-time or undertook voluntary work with the PAS, including:

- Maha Munhir and Afra Thomas who have volunteered for the PAS Central Unit, as part of the Global Graduates for Museums programme for students in higher education. They did some invaluable work monitoring eBay for unreported Treasure, helping analyse the Roman coin data and working on the database.

- Richard Henry, an undergraduate student at the University of Wales, Lampeter, who assisted Rob Webley (Hampshire FLO) identifying and recording Roman coins, which are the most common category of find in Hampshire.

- William Bee, who is retired, and volunteers every Thursday afternoon to record lithics reported to Adam Daubney (Lincolnshire FLO). He is an expert both in identifying flints and knapping them, and his expertise has been invaluable.

- David Hallam, a metal-detectorist who has been mostly assisting Rachel Atherton (Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire FLO) photographing, weighing, measuring and identifying finds that have been brought in for recording. He has also helped out on archaeological excavations in Derbyshire.

Top to bottom: David Hallam working on an archaeological excavation in Derbyshire. William Bee recordings lithics reported to Adam Daubney (Lincolnshire FLO).

Edited by Michael Lewis and Ceinwen Paynton

UNDERSTANDING THE PAST: 2006 HIGHLIGHTS

This section of the report contains a selection of the 58,290 finds recorded by the Finds Liaison Officers (FLOs) in 2006. Further details of these, and some 240,000 other finds, can be found on the Portable Antiquities Scheme's finds database (www.findsdatabase.org.uk). Wherever possible database references (e.g. KENT-9BDC62) are included for all objects discussed in this chapter and can be retrieved using the advanced search option.

INTRODUCTION

The data collated by the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) is an important resource for helping archaeologists and others understand the past. Archaeological finds (portable antiquities) can tell us where, how and when people lived in the past. By bringing this evidence together we can gain a better understanding of the past and develop ways to preserve our knowledge of it for future generations to appreciate and enjoy.

FINDS ADVISERS

The PAS employs six Finds Advisers: Sally Worrell (Prehistoric & Roman Objects), Sam Moorhead (Iron Age & Roman Coins), Helen Geake (Medieval Objects), Geoff Egan (Post-Medieval Objects), John Naylor (Medieval & Post-Medieval Coins) and Kevin Leahy (Metals & Metalworking). The main role of the Finds Advisers is to train the FLOs in identification and recording, support their work, validate records of finds entered onto the Scheme's finds database, talk about finds and the PAS to the wider academic community, contribute to academic journals, and identify areas for future research.

PREHISTORIC PERIOD (500,000 BC – AD 100)

In 2006 the PAS recorded 7,452 worked stone implements, found by individuals whilst field-walking, metal-detecting or by chance. As well as some interesting single finds, such as the unusual 50,000-year-old flint flake from near South Gower, Swansea (NMGW-5939E4), the Late Paleolithic scraper from Fransham, Norfolk (NMS-834325), the late Mesolithic to early Neolithic flaked pick from Calbourne, Isle of Wight (IOW-DF8993) and the Neolithic dagger from Scalford, Leicestershire (LEIC-7F2043), there have been a number of large lithic assemblages. Several of these come from Wales, for example the assemblages from Port Eynon, Swansea, Mathern and St Arva, Monmouthshire and Llanrhian, Pembrokeshire as well as from England, as at Warnham, West Sussex and Newington, Kent. These groups of flint tools and waste significantly enhance our understanding of settlement within the landscape in earlier prehistoric times.

The fine Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age flint arrowheads, particularly leaf-shaped and barbed and tanged forms are amongst the most distinctive classes of Prehistoric stone artefacts. These objects appear to have held a symbolic significance and, when excavated, have frequently been found in ceremonial contexts. This year 58 Neolithic leaf-shaped arrowheads and 46 Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age barbed and tanged arrowheads have been recorded by the PAS.

Neolithic and Bronze Age pottery was handmade locally, often fired in pits or on bonfires, and does not survive very well in ploughsoil contexts. However, an important assemblage of hand-made Late Bronze Age pottery along with Early to Late Bronze Age metalwork has continued to be found at Brailes, Warwickshire, with 45 sherds recorded from the site this year. Investigations are currently underway for future fieldwork and a research bid for a geophysical survey of the site has been submitted. It is likely that it is a 'midden' complex, a type of site of which an example at Whitchurch, also in Warwickshire, has recently been part-excavated by Cardiff University.

A diverse range of Bronze Age metal weapons, tools and ornaments has been recorded by the PAS this year, including some particularly unusual finds such as the Middle Bronze Age palstave adze from Brockenborough, Wiltshire (WILT-DBCAF4), the miniature chisel from Tickhill, South Yorkshire (SWYOR-C63D62) and the Late Bronze Age socketed faceted axehead from Mistley, Essex (ESS-F8DBC4) which is without a known parallel. A significant quantity of copper-alloy Bronze Age awls, which were used for decorating metalwork and organic materials, was also recorded by the PAS. Awls rarely occur in Late Bronze Age scrap hoards and although they sometimes occur in burials their discovery is more likely to indicate a settlement site. This year more findspots of awls have been recorded in the East Anglian counties, including Norfolk (8), Essex (4), Hertfordshire (5) as well as single examples in Suffolk, Leicestershire, North Lincolnshire, Warwickshire, Oxfordshire, Surrey, Somerset and Wiltshire. This significantly extends the previously established distribution.

During the year, 39 Bronze Age Treasure cases have been reported, of which there are 22 base metal hoards and 17 single gold finds. The distribution of the base metal hoards, which are predominantly Late Bronze Age scrap hoards, is concentrated in East Anglia with six cases from Essex, five from Suffolk and single hoards from Cambridgeshire and Norfolk. Elsewhere there have been single base metal hoards from Durham, East Yorkshire, North Lincolnshire, Lincolnshire, Oxfordshire, Bedfordshire, Devon and West Sussex. The distribution of the gold Treasure finds is rather different from that of the base metal hoards with three cases in Hampshire, two cases in each of Leicestershire, Dorset, West Sussex and Kent and single cases in Cornwall, Essex, Hertfordshire, Shropshire, Wiltshire and the Isle of Wight. The majority of the gold Treasure cases are examples of Late Bronze Age penannular rings. There is a definite distributional bias towards the southern coastal counties, which does not match the bias in the Late Bronze Age base metal hoarding patterns evident in the eastern counties. The Late Bronze Age gold hair ornament from the Isle of Wight (IOW-EB7460; Treasure case 2006 T95) is an interesting object which demonstrates the technological skills of goldsmiths working at this time.

In the Late Iron Age there was a very considerable increase in the volume of material culture in circulation. This increase may be the result of changing practices of artefact disposal and deposition, as well as the increasing availability of metal, the production of greater numbers of artefacts and population increase. This is particularly well illustrated by brooches, the so-called 'fibula event horizon' describing a massive increase in the quantity being worn and deposited in the Late Iron Age, particularly in southern and eastern Britain. Within the PAS data recorded this year, Late Iron Age brooches massively outnumber those of the Early and Middle Iron Age, echoing the trend observed among brooches from excavated settlement contexts. Of the 191 Iron Age examples recorded, 21 date to the Early to Middle Iron Age. The Early Iron Age brooch types are varied and often have elaborate decoration which is frequently difficult to closely parallel, as is the case for the late Hallstatt brooch from Denton, Oxfordshire (BUC-3197B7). The most frequently recorded type of brooch, with 60 examples, is the Colchester type, dating from the Late Iron Age to Early Roman period, AD 25–60. Excluding brooches, items of personal adornment are comparatively rare finds. The Middle to Late Iron Age knobbed bracelet fragment

An Early Palaeolithic handaxe (KENT-9BDC62) from Ryarsh, Kent (126.14 x 78.62 x 33.62mm)

A Middle Palaeolithic flake (NMGW-5939E4) from near South Gower, Swansea (68.6 x 40.7 x 14.8mm)

A Late Palaeolithic scraper (NMS-834325) from Fransham, Norfolk (79 x 45 x 13mm)

A Mesolithic microlith (DEV-987001) from Topsham, Devon (25 x 8 x 2.5mm)

from Kingston Deverill, Wiltshire (WILT-513BB5) and the Late Iron Age glass 'eye-bead' from Higham Ferrers, Northamptonshire (NARC-AA9664), are notable finds. The Late Iron Age copper-alloy comb found in Warwickshire (WAW-250340) is a find that has no known parallel among excavated or metal-detected artefacts and demonstrates the contribution to artefact research that data collected through the PAS can offer. The study of material culture is key to the understanding of regional variations among Iron Age societies as well as questions of status, identity and site function. Within the PAS data, there are very marked differences in the types and proportions of Iron Age artefacts between regions. In some important respects, the distribution of PAS data does not mirror the patterns of artefact deposition established on the basis of earlier chance finds and excavations. The West Midlands counties of Warwickshire, Worcestershire and Staffordshire have previously been noted for the considerable quantities of horse and vehicle equipment and other fine metalwork. The discovery and reporting of this unique comb adds further evidence that the conspicuous consumption and deposition of metalwork was taking place in regions that are not within the traditional 'heartlands' of the Iron Age landscape.

STONE AGE

An Early Palaeolithic handaxe from Ryarsh, Kent
A worn and abraded Early Palaeolithic Acheulian handaxe (KENT-9BDC62) from Ryarsh was reported to Laura McLean (Kent FLA) by Mrs Bygrave on behalf of the finder Mr Bartholimu. This bi-faced axe, dating to c. 250,000 BC, was created not by a modern human *homo sapiens*, but by the earlier *homo erectus*. Not only is this artefact the first Palaeolithic artefact to be recorded from this area, it is the only one from the parish of Ryarsh recorded with the PAS.

A Middle Palaeolithic flake from near South Gower, Swansea
Over a number of years Ron Sanders has collected and reported a vast assemblage of flint tools and waste while metal-detecting near South Gower; these finds have been reported to Steve Sell (Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust) and recorded by Elizabeth Walker (National Museum Wales) on behalf of the PAS. These finds have significantly increased our understanding of settlement in the Gower during prehistory. Early in 2006 a flint flake (NMGW-5939E4) probably dating to the Palaeolithic period was identified amongst Ron's finds. This flint is probably more than 50,000 years old and represents the unusual discovery of an artefact of this period found outside of a cave site.

A Late Palaeolithic scraper from Fransham, Norfolk
In 2005 Julia Rogerson found a worked flint (NMS-834325) whilst gardening in Fransham. The flint blade is retouched at both ends to create a double-ended

Mesolithic microliths (SUSS-A98AD5) from Warnham, West Sussex (various sizes)

A Mesolithic flint core (SUSS-A94F56) from Warnham, West Sussex (29.16 x 32.19mm)

A Late Mesolithic to Early Neolithic pick (IOW-DF8993) from Calbourne, Isle of Wight (191 x 61 x 46mm)

A Neolithic arrowhead (NLM-D4C5C1) from Appleby, North Lincolnshire (53 x 23.9mm)

A Neolithic axe (DEV-88F3F7) from Kilmington, Devon (69.5 x 39 x 16mm)

scraper. Worked flints are common finds in Norfolk, but when this one was examined in 2006 by the PAS in Norfolk it turned out to be far more interesting than first thought as it was made at the end of the last Ice Age, between 12,000 and 10,000 BC.

A Mesolithic microlith from Topsham, Devon
A microlith (DEV-987001) from Topsham was found by Mark Hanley and recorded with Danielle Wootton (Devon FLO). It is an obliquely blunted point, and would originally have measured about 35–40mm but has been broken at one end. Microliths of this size and form date to the early Mesolithic period, around 8000 to 7000 BC. Mr Hanley did well to see this small object and realise that it was important to record it.

A collection of Mesolithic flints from Warnham, West Sussex
David Montgomery has systematically collected and recorded nearly 300 Mesolithic flints, including flakes, blades, bladelets, microliths and cores from Warnham (see SUSS-A94F56, -A8DDC1, -A98AD5 & -398EB5 for example). These have been reported to Liz Andrews-Wilson (Sussex FLO) and reveal previously unknown sites which, it is hoped, will contribute to the re-evaluation of Mesolithic sites in the South East and the Horsham area of the Weald in particular.

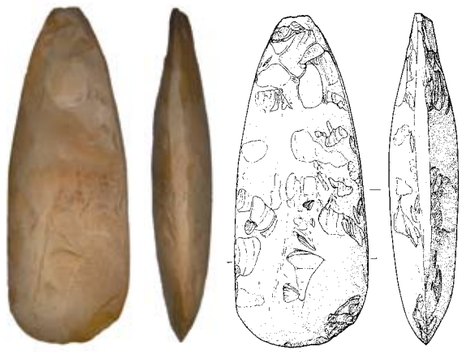
A Late Mesolithic to Early Neolithic pick from Calbourne, Isle of Wight
A flaked pick (IOW-DF8993), probably made from an elongated flint pebble, was found by Cyril Hawes in 1956 at Calbourne and reported by his son, Richard Hawes, in 2006 to Frank Basford (Isle of Wight FLO). This is a fine example of a crude type of implement. It has been flaked all over and sharpened by striking flakes off the cutting edge, the 'tranchet' method that characterises these objects. As flint is readily available in the Isle of Wight the pick was probably a local product. Although discovered many years ago a precise findspot was known as the pick was found on Mr Hawes's garden boundary.

A Neolithic arrowhead from Appleby, North Lincolnshire
An incomplete Neolithic leaf-shaped arrowhead (NLM-D4C5C1) was found by Simon Deva whilst field-walking at Appleby and reported to Lisa Staves (North Lincolnshire FLO). The translucent grey coloured kite-shaped flake has been beautifully worked to produce an object of gem-like quality.

A Neolithic axe from Kilmington, Devon
Whilst out metal-detecting near Kilmington, Mark Hanley spotted a Neolithic axe (DEV-88F3F7), which he recorded with Danielle Wootton (Devon FLO). The flint is a light-brown, honey colour. Both the faces have been carefully knapped leaving the axe regular in shape

A Neolithic axe (KENT-D6EE67) from Offham, Kent (142 x 70.48 x 32.42mm)

A Neolithic axe (NCL-A13204) from Thornton Le Street, North Yorkshire (150 x 58 x 28mm)



A Neolithic axe (WAW-376AC1) from Cropthorne, Worcestershire (122.69 x 49.27 x 23.64mm). Illustration: Candy Stevens

A Late Neolithic axe (LANCUM-61CFB7) from near Preston, Lancashire (135 x 53 x 15mm)

and section before the surface was polished. Finds like this are allowing us to fill out and understand the landscape during the fourth millennium BC.

A Neolthic axe from Offham, Kent
Nicola Mackrill found a Neolithic axe (KENT-D6EE67) in Offham, which she recorded with Andrew Richardson (Kent FLO) at a Finds Day in Offham. This axe is interesting as we can see the way in which it was made. After the flint had been knapped to rough-out the shape of the axe, it was not fully polished leaving flaking scars still visible on the surface.

A Neolithic axe from Thornton Le Street, North Yorkshire
A Neolithic groundstone axe (NCL-A13204) was spotted by Paul Devlan while metal-detecting at Thornton Le Street and reported to Rob Collins (North East FLO). The axe is made from an igneous rock, but its source could not be specified without petrological sectioning. Although its surface is now rough it was originally polished.

A Neolithic axe from Cropthorne, Worcestershire
Whilst working on the land in Cropthorne, during the early 1970s, Arthur Mason discovered a polished flint axe (WAW-376AC1). At the time Mr Mason was unaware of the archaeological importance of the axe, so he put it in his toolbox, where it remained for the next 36 years! Only when a friend wanted to borrow a tool from Mr Mason was the axe re-discovered and reported to Angie Bolton (Warwickshire & Worcestershire FLO).

The axe is made of flint, polished to give a smooth surface but, occasionally, a slight indentation on the axe's surface shows where the originally flake scar on the surface was too deep to be polished completely flat. The polishing process can be quite lengthy, using water and sand or sandstone to grind the surface. Despite the length of time from the axe's initial discovery and it being recorded, Mr Mason remembered where he found the object allowing us to understand more about the find. The axe has since been donated to Worcestershire County Museum.

A Late Neolithic axe from near Preston, Lancashire
Ian Harper, a wildlife warden, found a polished stone axe (LANCUM-61CFB7) near Anglezarke Moor, near Preston, on an important Mesolithic and Neolithic site. Ian reported the object to Peter Iles (County Archaeologist, Lancashire), and it was recorded by Dot Bruns (Lancashire & Cumbria FLO).

The axe appears to be made from volcanic tuff from Great Langdale which was used on a large scale in the later Neolithic. Its general shape is that of a Langdale axe and flaking scars show that it was chipped to

A Neolithic awl (CORN-E60C66) from St Neot, Cornwall (74 x 21 x 9mm)

A Neolithic dagger (LEIC-7F2043) from Scalford, Leicestershire (52 x 17 x 5mm)

A Neolithic knife (CORN-D53825) from St Ives, Cornwall (94 x 31.8 x 9mm)

A Neolithic scraper (NCL-B05453) from Warkworth, Northumberland (27.47 x 21.34 x 8mm)

shape before polishing which is a feature of Langdale products. However it lacks the flat facets down its sides which are often found on Langdale axes and it may represent a variant.

A Neolithic awl from St Neot, Cornwall
A Neolithic flint awl (CORN-E60C66) was found by Trevor Renals while field-walking in St Neot, around the edge of a reservoir, where flint often appears after a period of drought. Subsequently the object was recorded with Anna Tyacke (Cornwall FLO). The awl has been worked onto the end of a struck blade, which does not appear to be local flint.

A Neolithic dagger from Scalford, Leicestershire
A Neolithic leaf-shaped flint blade (LEIC-7F2043) was found at Scalford. The object was reported by Ray Howitt on behalf of the finder to Wendy Scott (Leicestershire & Rutland FLO). At the time of discovery the finder was investigating a signal whilst metal-detecting, and found the Neolithic dagger in a lump of soil.

The flint has a grey patina and is finely worked. It shows clear signs of being hafted into a handle, being markedly thinner and more roughly worked. The rest of the object has been very finely worked and has a possibly deliberate nick out of one side of its blade.

A Neolithic knife from St Ives, Cornwall
A flint knife (CORN-D53825) was recently found in a cabinet drawer where it had been kept since its discovery in 1961; the object had originally been found at St Ives by Brett Guthrie, an eminent archaeologist at the time. It was brought into the Royal Cornwall Museum where it was identified and recorded by Anna Tyacke (Cornwall FLO).

The flint is a mottled light to dark grey colour and probably came from a local beach pebble, part of its original cortex (outer surface) running down one edge, the opposite edge being retouched with fine chipping. It appears that the blade was snapped in two in antiquity but was repaired by the finder.

A Neolithic scraper from Warkworth, Northumberland
A flint scraper (NCL-B05453), probably of Neolithic date, was found by Wayne Clines in Warkworth, and recorded with Rob Collins (North East FLO). The scraper is semi-circular, with a sub-triangular section. The whole of its curved edge was retouched and retains a sharp edge.

A Prehistoric mace-head from Cold Aston, Gloucestershire
A possible mace-head (GLO-8D26E7) was found by Thony Shackell at Cold Aston, and reported to

A Prehistoric mace-head (GLO-8D26E7) from Cold Aston, Gloucestershire (103 x 70mm)

An Early Bronze Age pottery sherd (CORN-B60B38) from Paul, Cornwall (21 x 16.7 x 4.6mm)

An Early Bronze Age saddle quern (CORN-A6C2C6) from St Keverne, Cornwall (260 x 250 x 160mm)

An Early Bronze Age flat axehead (DENO-37DD20) from near Newark, Nottinghamshire (89.57 x 55.67 x 10.1mm)

Kurt Adams (Gloucestershire & Avon FLO). The object is a quartz pebble with a hole in its centre, formed by pecking cones from either side to produce an hourglass-shaped hole. In the past these objects have been described as mace-heads, and examples have been found during excavation in both Mesolithic and Neolithic contexts, making dating difficult.

BRONZE AGE

An Early Bronze Age pottery sherd from Paul, Cornwall

Graham Hill found a Beaker period (about 2700 to 1900 BC) pottery sherd (CORN-B60B38) while field-walking in Paul. The rim sherd has a bevelled, everted rim and is decorated with fine comb-impressed dashed lines in bands of six. The sherd's core was oxidised to light brown and the exterior and interior surfaces to a more orangey-brown. The external surface has been sooted and still has carbonised remains surviving. Microscopic investigation shows that the fabric has mica, white feldspar, quartz sands and killas inclusions, which is typical of the Beaker wares made in Cornwall during the Early Bronze Age. Beaker vessels with similar inclusions and decoration have been found at sites in Penwith, such as Trevedra and Praa Sands.

An Early Bronze Age saddle quern from St Keverne, Cornwall

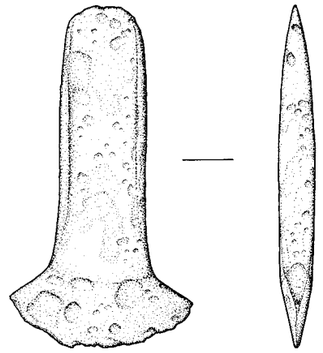
A saddle quern (CORN-A6C2C6) dating to the Early Bronze Age was found by Chris Hosken while farming in St Keverne, and subsequently reported to Anna Tyacke (Cornwall FLO). The quern is made of gabbro stone, which includes feldspar and augite. It has a central reservoir, worn through its use in grinding grain. One edge of the quern has been lost and may have been dressed in more recent times for re-use as building material. The quern is similar to other saddle querns found on Bronze Age sites around Cornwall, such as Trethellan, Newquay, where various examples were found.

An Early Bronze Age flat axehead from near Newark, Nottinghamshire

A flat axe (DENO-37DD20) was found by Brian Somerfield near Newark, and reported to Rachel Atherton (Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire FLO). The axe dates from the Migdale phase of the Early Bronze Age, about 2200 to 2000 BC, when metal-working was a new technology in this country. From a different area of the same parish, Mr Somerfield also found an Early Bronze Age chisel (DENO-37F827), which is contemporary with the flat axe.

A late Early Bronze Age low-flanged axe from Combs, Suffolk

A complete, though corroded copper-alloy axe (SF-957C57) dating to the late Early Bronze Age was found at Combs by Paul Smith. It was identified by



A late Early Bronze Age low-flanged axe (SF-957C57) from Combs, Suffolk (86 x 46 x 9mm). Illustration: Donna Wreathall

A Middle Bronze Age chisel (SWYOR-C63D62) from Tickhill, South Yorkshire (38.49 x 10.27 x 3.62mm)

A Middle Bronze Age dirk (WMID-A934D4) from Fazeley, Staffordshire (161 x 37 x 5.5mm) and rapier (WMID-A78747) from Alrewas and Fradley, Staffordshire (120 x 45 x 5.5mm)

Colin Pendleton (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service) and recorded by Jane Carr (Suffolk FLO). It is a low-flanged axe of Arreton type. Although there is no trace of a central bevel or stop ridge, a bevel divides the blade end from the axe body and the butt end is gently convex. Arreton type axes are the most common Early Bronze Age metal axe finds and 16 examples have so far been recorded in Suffolk. This type of axe tends to be complete when found, although this may be because any broken examples were re-used in the Bronze Age and the complete ones were lost or even intentionally deposited. Twelve of those recorded in Suffolk were found singly and the other four were found as a hoard.

A Middle Bronze Age chisel from Tickhill, South Yorkshire

Malcolm Hibbard found a copper-alloy thin-bladed miniature chisel (SWYOR-C63D62), whilst metal-detecting at Tickhill, which he recorded with Anna Marshall (South & West Yorkshire FLO). Full-size examples of this form of chisel with flanged sides date to the Acton phase of the Middle Bronze Age (1500–1400 BC). This example is just 38.5mm long and although it is diminutive in size, it mirrors the form and proportions of full-sized examples.

A Middle Bronze Age dirk from Fazeley, and a rapier from Alrewas & Fradley, Staffordshire

Whilst attending a monthly meeting of the Bloxwich Research & Metal Detecting Club, Staffordshire, two Middle Bronze Age artefacts were handed by brothers Ken and Steve Wood to Caroline Johnson (Staffordshire & West Midlands FLO) for recording.

Three fragments from a copper-alloy dirk (WMID-A934D4) dating to between 1500 and 1150 BC were found by Steve Wood in Fazeley, Staffordshire. Although fragmentary, the dirk is almost complete, but is missing the blade tip. There are the remains of two incomplete rivet holes on the haft and there is a flat mid-rib down the centre of the upper two fragments of the artefact.

Part of the butt, shoulder and tapering blade of a copper-alloy rapier (WMID-A78747) dating to the Penard phase of the later Middle Bronze Age, between 1300 and 1000 BC, was found by Keith Wood in Alrewas & Fradley. At the shoulder there is a notch at each side and the blade has a prominent mid-rib with a further rib on each side.

A Middle Bronze Age palstave adze from Brokenborough, Wiltshire

Andrew Griffiths found a Middle Bronze Age palstave adze (WILT-DBCAF4) in Brokenborough. Puzzled by its unfamiliar appearance, Andrew showed the axehead to Katie Hinds (Wiltshire FLO), who later consulted Brendan O'Connor (Bronze Age Specialist). Brendan

A Middle Bronze Age palstave adze (WILT-DBCAF4) from Brokenborough, Wiltshire (132.6 x 32.5mm)

A Middle to Late Bronze Age bracelet (Treasure case 2006 T34) from the River Perry, Shropshire (70 x 44.5mm)

A late Middle to Late Bronze Age spearhead (BERK-2D0061) from Brampton, Oxfordshire (180.13 x 32.37 x 18.7mm)

A Late Bronze Age chisel (YORYM-9D1E47) from Snape Castle, North Yorkshire (83 x 26 x 7mm)

recognised the object as a palstave adze; an unusual form of axehead which has the hafting end turned through 90° to the side of the blade. Palstave adzes would have been used with a swinging motion, usually downwards, unlike the chopping motion of other axes. This example is the first of its kind to be recorded by the PAS.

A Middle to Late Bronze Age bracelet from the River Perry, Shropshire
Robert McArthur found a hollow penannular gold bracelet (Treasure case 2006 T34) in the River Perry, which was reported potential Treasure via Peter Reavill (Herefordshire & Shropshire FLO). The object is made from thick gold sheet rolled into a tube with either end fitted with terminal caps, of which only one remains. The bracelet has been crushed and distorted in the soil. It is likely to date from the transitional period between the Middle and Late Bronze Age. The style of this bracelet is common to other Middle Bronze Age examples. However, these are usually formed from solid gold (rather than a hollow sheet). The technology of this bracelet is more common in the Late Bronze Age, when the use of sheet gold was more prevalent. It is hoped that Shropshire County Museum Service will acquire the bracelet.

A late Middle to Late Bronze Age spearhead from Brampton, Oxfordshire
Pete Mander and Bryan Hewitson found a copper-alloy side-looped spearhead (BERK-2D0061) in Brampton, which they reported to Kate Sutton (Berkshire & Oxfordshire FLO). The spearhead dates from the Middle Bronze Age, to about 1500 to 800 BC. Its leaf-shaped blade has an angled mid-rib and clearly defined edge bevels demonstrating that the blade edge had been re-sharpened. The socket, mid-rib and blade, but not the edge bevel, are covered in small parallel incised lines which are probably file marks which were removed from the edge bevel when the edges were sharpened. Approximately halfway down the socket are the lozengiform side loops which are almost flat in section. The socket has a broad groove close to the end. Of particular interest is a fragment of the wooden shaft which has a pointed end to fit deeply inside the socket. Although side-looped spearheads have been found throughout the country, there is a concentration in Wiltshire, Berkshire, Oxfordshire and the Thames Valley. Examples with flattened loops, such as this example, have been found in late Middle Bronze Age and Late Bronze Age contexts.

A Late Bronze Age chisel from Snape Castle, North Yorkshire
A complete copper-alloy Late Bronze Age chisel (YORYM-9D1E47) was found by Robert Mitchell during a metal-detecting rally at Snape Castle, and recorded with Simon Holmes (North & East FLO).

Two Bronze Age axeheads (DENO-6877D2 & DENO-67D9A3) from Stanton, Derbyshire (26 x 49.82 x 11.06mm & 124.21 x 60.14 x 17.95mm)

A Late Bronze Age socketed axe (ESS-F8DBC4) from Mistley, Essex (107.4 x 55.02 x 24.88mm)

A Late Bronze Age sword blade (LVPL-25C375) from Weaverham, Cheshire (225 x 35 x 5.5mm)

The tanged and collared chisel or leather working knife has an integrally cast tang that is flat and rectangular in section.

Two Bronze Age axeheads from Stanton, Derbyshire
James Millward found two Bronze Age axeheads at Stanton, which he subsequently reported to Rachel Atherton (Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire FLO). There are examples of a palstave and a socketed axe of the Middle and Late Bronze Age respectively. The palstave axe is a complete, developed flat axehead with low flanges and a slight stop bevel (DENO-67D9A3) and dates to the Middle Bronze Age, 1700–1500 BC. The flange sides are decorated with diagonal, wide, shallow grooves. Also found was a blade fragment of a socketed axehead (DENO-6877D2), which dates from the Ewart Park phase of the Late Bronze Age, 1000–800 BC. Stanton is well known for its Bronze Age archaeology which includes stone circles, barrows, cairns and an urnfield cemetery, although previously no Bronze Age activity has been recorded in the area in which these axeheads were found. The axeheads were found at different ends of the same field, and may indicate that this is another area of significant Bronze Age activity over a period of many centuries.

A Late Bronze Age socketed axe from Mistley, Essex.
A complete socketed faceted axehead of unusual type (ESS-F8DBC4) was discovered by David Haffenden and reported to Caroline MacDonald (Essex FLO) who showed it to Stuart Needham (formerly British Museum). The axe was at first considered to be an import from the Continent. However, Dr Needham did not recognise it as a known foreign type and suggests rather that it is a rare native innovation. In fact the axe, with its is long faceted body mimics the shaped end of a wooden haft gripping a flat, rather spatulate blade. Unfortunately the example recorded here has lost its mouth, but Dr Needham suggests that the faceted body indicates that the axe is most probably of the Ewart Park phase of the Late Bronze Age, about 1000 to 800 BC.

A Late Bronze Age sword blade from Weaverham, Cheshire
James Rawling discovered a Late Bronze Age sword blade fragment (LVPL-25C375) dating to the Ewart Park phase of the Late Bronze Age, 1000–800 BC, whilst metal-detecting in Weaverham, which he recorded with Nick Herepath (Cheshire, Greater Manchester & Merseyside FLO). The large fragment is 225mm long and is gently bent at the centre. It has a low mid-rib on both surfaces and at the hilt end the blade edges have been chipped through corrosion. It is unusual to find such a large sword fragment in the Late Bronze Age, as at this time objects were more commonly chopped into small fragments for incorporation in founder's hoards.

Late Bronze Age spearhead (LEIC-96FB06) from near Middleton, Northamptonshire (297 x 53 x 28mm)

A Late Bronze Age sword chape (SOMDOR-9ADF54) from Chedzoy, Somerset (206.5 x 51.4 x 14.8mm)

A Late Bronze Age hair ornament (IOW-EB7460) from the Isle of Wight (d.19mm)

Late Bronze Age spearhead from near Middleton, Northamptonshire
A Late Bronze Age copper-alloy pegged leaf-shaped spearhead (LEIC-96FB06) was found in Middleton, by Mr Smith, whilst digging foundations. He reported the find to Harborough Museum where it was recorded by Wendy Scott (Leicestershire & Rutland FLO). The spearhead has a well-defined mid-rib with narrow ribs on each side and edge bevels close to the blade edge on each side which demonstrate that the blade was re-sharpened. Pegged spearheads were in use throughout the Late Bronze Age.

A Late Bronze Age sword chape from Chedzoy, Somerset
Jon Pettet found a Late Bronze Age copper-alloy sword-scabbard chape (SOMDOR-9ADF54) while metal-detecting at Chedzoy, which he subsequently reported to Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevarthen (Somerset and Dorset FLO). The chape is a 'tongue-shaped' type and dates to between about 1150 and 900 BC. The body is of rhombic section with a sharp median rib and flattened edges. The mouth is wide with deeply concave upper edges. The butt has a solid oval 'button' terminal with three moulded ridges above it. The chape is damaged and incomplete at both the top and base and has been broken into two pieces. The fragments were found separately on two different occasions by the same finder.

A Late Bronze Age hair ornament from the Isle of Wight
A gold penannular hair ornament (IOW-EB7460; Treasure case 2006 T95) was discovered by metal detectorist, Mark Penn on the Isle of Wight, and was reported potential Treasure via Frank Basford (Isle of Wight FLO). The object consists of two circular face-plates joined by a flat strip of gold. The joins were soldered but have largely sprung apart although the soldered join remains intact at each end. Each face-plate is composed of thirteen gold wires soldered together concentrically.

This object belongs to a well-known series of Bronze Age ornaments known as 'lock-rings' and is datable to the Ewart Park phase of the Late Bronze Age, 1000–800 BC. The object's manufacture demonstrates the technological skill of goldsmiths at this time. The technique of soldering individual wires together to form the face-plates appears to be an Irish variant. George Eogan noted a total of 62 examples from Britain, Ireland and France, a number since augmented by a handful of examples from England.

A fifth-century BC brooch (SUR-604411) from West Clandon, Surrey (37 x 17 x 10mm)

A mid-fifth- to early fourth-century BC brooch (LANCUM-685EF5) from near Lancaster, Lancashire (65 x 16mm)

A fourth- to third-century BC Iron Age brooch (BUC-3197B7) from Denton, Oxfordshire (37.81 x 10.74 x 7.27mm)

IRON AGE

A fifth-century BC brooch from West Clandon, Surrey
Among a large collection of finds made over some years by Robert Mintern, and reported to David Williams (Surrey FLO) at his monthly Finds Surgery at Guildford Museum, was an unusual Early Iron Age brooch (SUR-604411) dating from about 500–450 BC which was found at West Clandon, Surrey. The incomplete brooch is a later Hallstatt Hull and Hawkes Group L brooch. The wide bow is 'leech-shaped', humped and hollow beneath. The foot reverts forward and terminates with a flat circular disc. The missing spring would have been mounted on an axis bar, probably of iron, held in the centre by a narrow finial which extends from the head. The finial has two holes which suggest that this brooch would originally have held a double spring similar to an example excavated from Hillingdon, London. This is the second Group L Iron Age brooch from Surrey to be recorded by the PAS; the first example was found at Leatherhead (SUR-41D522) and is also missing its spring.

A mid-fifth- to early fourth-century BC brooch from near Lancaster, Lancashire
Ken Sedgwick found a complete copper-alloy Early Iron Age brooch (LANCUM-685EF5) near Lancaster, which he recorded with Dot Bruns (Lancashire & Cumbria FLO). The brooch is a La Tène Type 1A dating from the mid-fifth to early fourth century BC. The brooch has a spring of four coils with an external chord, a well-arched bow and a foot reverted nearly level. The reverted foot has an oval terminal disc with a concentric circular recessed for a missing inlay which would have been pinned at the centre. The bow is decorated along its length with close-set lines traced down both its sides and a line of small dots on the front.

A fourth- to third-century BC Iron Age brooch from Denton, Oxfordshire
Dave Tombs found an unusual copper-alloy Iron Age brooch (BUC-3197B7) in Denton, which he recorded with Ros Tyrrell (Buckinghamshire FLO). The brooch is a Late Hallstatt British Group L type; a type recognised for its various forms and described as a 'motley but instructive group'. This brooch has a curved bow with knobbed mouldings on its upper surface. The underside of the central four mouldings is hollow, as in brooches with 'leech-shaped' bows. The head is pierced and a crossbar, which is also ribbed, perhaps imitates spring-coils. Essentially, the spring has been reduced to a crossbar and the pin would have been carried between a pair of lugs, which are now missing. This is one of the earliest examples of a hinged brooch.

A Middle to Late Iron Age bracelet fragment (WILT-513BB5) from Kingston Deverill, Wiltshire (28.7 x 8.8mm)

Two mid-second-century BC continental 'Armorican' *staters* (IOW-EC66D3 & IOW-1661C1) from near Gurnard, Isle of Wight (d.20mm & d.19mm)

A second- or first-century BC mount (SF-6C83F7) from Dalham, Suffolk (d.20mm). Illustration: Donna Wreathall

A Middle to Late Iron Age bracelet fragment from Kingston Deverill, Wiltshire

Paul Bancroft found a segment of a Middle to Late Iron Age copper-alloy knobbed bracelet (WILT-513BB5) in Kingston Deverill, which was subsequently recorded by Katie Hinds (Wiltshire FLO). The fragment consists of four adjoining hollow bosses, each of which is C-shaped in profile. The terminal bosses each have two perforations and a C-shaped opening with bevelled edges at the end. The perforations would have been used to secure a fastening in the attachment of the other segment of this hinged bracelet.

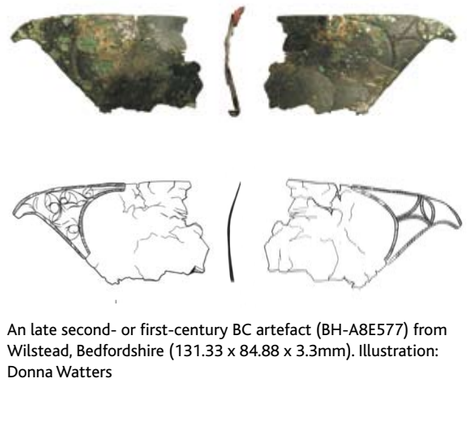
This type of bracelet relates to an Early Iron Age form of knobbed necklace found south of the Marne, France and in north-western France. Knobbed bracelets are not common finds and generally have solid rather than hollow bosses. An example of a hinged bracelet with hollow bosses filled with fired clay is known from a third-century BC context in Northern France. There are no traces of fired clay within the bosses of the Kingston Deverill example, but other completely hollow bracelets are known from sites in Eastern Europe. Within this country, several knobbed bracelets with solid bosses were discovered during excavations of Middle to Late Iron Age inhumation graves in East Yorkshire.

Two mid-second-century BC Continental 'Armorican' coins from near Gurnard, Isle of Wight

A gold *stater* (IOW-EC66D3) was discovered by Kevin Tigwell while metal-detecting near Gurnard and recorded with Frank Basford (Isle of Wight FLO). It is of a type produced on the Continent and attributed to the Veneti, a tribe thought to have inhabited part of modern Brittany (ancient 'Armorica'). The coin, which dates to the mid-second century BC, includes a human head on the obverse and a man-headed horse on the reverse. The second coin (IOW-1661C1) is of an almost identical type. It was discovered at the same location by Mick Kent in 1984 and reported to the Celtic Coin Index. This has subsequently been added to the PAS database for the benefit of researchers. Only eight coins of this type are known, six of which come from France and these two from the Isle of Wight.

A second- or first-century BC mount from Dalham, Suffolk

An Iron Age copper-alloy enamelled mount (SF-6C83F7) was found by Ross Davis in Dalham, and was identified and recorded by Faye Minter and Jane Carr (Suffolk FLOs). The object is circular with a domed upper face decorated with a raised curvilinear spiral of copper-alloy which terminates in a rounded knop and is surrounded by red enamel. The underside of the mount is concave and no attachment device is visible which suggests that it was probably soldered into position, perhaps as part of a composite object. The mount is likely to have decorated a larger object such as a shield or scabbard. Other mounts of similar size and design but also of uncertain function are known and an example from Woodeaton, Oxfordshire, has a very similar design to this example.



An late second- or first-century BC artefact (BH-A8E577) from Wilstead, Bedfordshire (131.33 x 84.88 x 3.3mm). Illustration: Donna Watters

A first-century BC bronze unit (SUSS-4ECF02) from near Chichester, West Sussex (d.15.8 x 2.3mm)

A late first-century BC or early first-century AD *stater* (NLM-E5E962), attributed to the Corieltavi, from Binbrook, Lincolnshire (d.19mm)

An late second- or first-century BC artefact from Wilstead, Bedfordshire

An interesting piece of Late Iron Age metalwork (BH-A8E577) was found by Graham Keel whilst metal-detecting in Wilstead, and reported to Bedford Museum, where it was recorded by Julian Watters (Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire FLO). The copper-alloy object has a short hooked point and one face has decoration entirely achieved by the use of ropework arcs, possibly to give the impression of a bird's head. Interestingly, the opposite side of the plate is also decorated, although here the complex geometric pattern appears to be unfinished. The piece is noteworthy in that there is no known direct comparison. However, the La Tène style triskele ornaments can be paralleled with those seen on Late Iron Age mirrors, an example of which was recorded from nearby Bromham, Bedfordshire (BH-B85CF3). The object probably dates from the late second or first century BC and its function is uncertain, although it might perhaps be a form of harness decoration.

A first-century BC coin from near Chichester, West Sussex

An unusual Iron Age uninscribed bronze unit (SUSS-4ECF02) was found by Pete Sheffield near Chichester, and reported to Liz Andrews-Wilson (Sussex FLO). The type was originally thought to be a Continental import from Belgic Gaul (modern north-west France and Belgium), but six examples with British findspots have been recorded on the Celtic Coin Index. Four have known findspots, at Marlborough in Wiltshire, Oving and Warningcamp in West Sussex and Eastbourne in East Sussex, while two others possibly came from Hampshire or Sussex. The type should probably be seen as related to the more common 'Chichester cock' bronzes produced in southern Britain, somewhere around the Solent, in about 50–30 BC.

A late first-century BC or early first-century AD coin, attributed to the Corieltauvi, from Binbrook, Lincolnshire

A worn, Iron Age gold *stater* (NLM-E5E962) was found by Stan Little at Binbrook, and reported to Lisa Staves (North Lincolnshire FLO). The coin is an example of a type known as a South Ferriby gold *stater* that was produced in about 30 BC–AD 10. One side shows an abstracted head of Apollo, which has become little more than an elaborate wreath pattern, while the other depicts an abstract horse facing to the left.

An early first-century AD *stater* (CORN-EAC6E8) from Piddletrenthide, Dorset (d.17mm)

A first-century AD *stater* (WMID-006112), attributed to the Corieltauvi, from Shenstone, Staffordshire (d.20mm)

A first-century comb (WAW-250340) from Tanworth-in-Arden, Warwickshire (52.66 x 63.56 x 2.04mm)

An early first-century AD coin from Piddletrenthide, Dorset
An Iron Age coin (CORN-EAC6E8) was found by Steve Collins while using a metal-detector at Piddletrenthide, which he recorded with Anna Tyacke (Cornwall FLO). The coin is of a type that was produced in the south-western part of coin-using Britain (modern Dorset, south Wiltshire and the Isle of Wight) and is therefore traditionally attributed to the Durotriges, who are thought to have inhabited this area during the Iron Age. As the coin is plated (made of copper-alloy and plated with a surface layer of silver) it can be identified as an ancient forgery. It was probably produced in the early decades of the first century AD.

A first-century AD coin attributed to the Corieltauvi, from Shenstone, Staffordshire
A British Iron Age gold *stater* of north-eastern (Corieltauvian) type (WMID-006112) was found by metal-detectorist John Hastilow at Shenstone, and reported to Caroline Johnson (Staffordshire & West Midlands FLO). The coin, which is inscribed 'VOLISIOS DVMNOCOVEROS', was produced between about AD 30 and 60. The inscription on the obverse is split into two lines, reading 'VOLI' and 'SIOS' and further divided by a central wreath pattern. The reverse shows an abstract horse, facing left, with 'DVM – NOCO – VEP – OS' around. This coin is only the sixth Iron Age coin recorded on the PAS database from Staffordshire, a county which lies beyond the main circulation area of Iron Age coins.

A first-century comb from Tanworth-in-Arden, Warwickshire
Russell Peach found a Late Iron Age copper-alloy comb (WAW-250340) in Tanworth-in-Arden, which he recorded with Angie Bolton (Warwickshire & Worcestershire FLO). The upper edge of the comb is curved and at its centre there is a perforation, presumably for suspension. The upper surface of both sides of the comb is elaborately decorated with motifs, which are cast, rather than incised as might be expected on an object such as this. Around the curved edge the decoration is set within a plain border and consists of mirror-style 'armadillo' motifs with a basket-weave background. The perforation is incorporated into the design of the mirror-style motifs. There is further decoration on the side of the handle consisting of small, circular dots. The intact teeth are complete, but that missing from one end was lost in antiquity as the comb was later re-shaped to disguise this break. Due to the re-shaping of the border edge at this point, the area around the decoration is narrowed and the remaining prong is slightly off-set.

The 'armadillo' motif is similar to that on Late Iron Age mirrors and in particular occurs in the mirrors from Holcombe, Devon, Birdlip, Gloucestershire and Desborough, Northamptonshire. Jody Joy (British Museum) suggests that that these mirrors were deposited between AD 40 and 70, and this date may also apply to the comb due to the similarity in decoration. This concurs with Adam Gwilt's (National Museums Wales) view that the comb may date to about AD 25 to 75 when comparing the comb to other similarly decorated artefacts, such as spoons and terrets.

Mary Davis (National Museums Wales) analysed the metal composition of the comb. The tin content was shown to be between 12 and 15 per cent, and although this is high, this could be partly due to tin enrichment at the surface. Arsenic is often found as a minor element in Iron Age bronze and is also present in this object's metallic composition.

The precise function of the comb is uncertain. The widths of the teeth are quite stout perhaps suggesting the need for a robust comb which led Sara Wear (Warwickshire Museum) to suggest that it may be a type of comb, used for horses' manes and tails. Copper-alloy Iron Age combs are extremely rare and only one other example, excavated at the Late Iron Age Gaulish town at Bibracte, Saone et Loire, France, is known. This example has finer teeth and a pair of birds along its upper edge, probably indicating that it was likely to have been used for personal grooming.

Two Late Iron Age cheekpieces (NMGW-31C972 & NMGW-7CFAB2) from Maescar, Powys and Woolaston, Gloucestershire (101.5 x 13mm & 77.41 x 11.6mm)

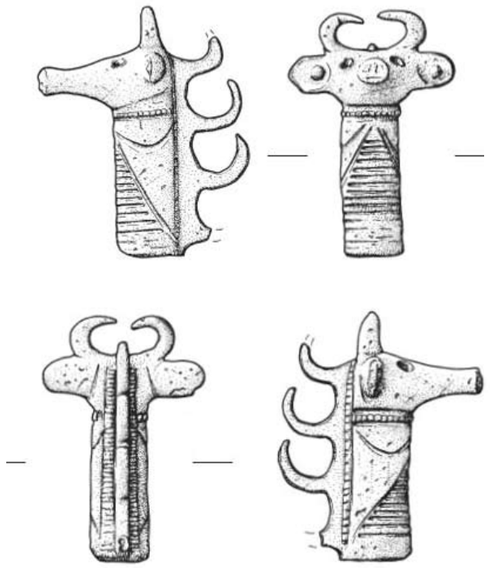
Two Late Iron Age cheekpieces from Maescar, Powys and Woolaston, Gloucestershire
Two copper-alloy Late Iron Age harness fittings or cheekpieces (sometimes called toggles) were recorded with the PAS in Wales during 2006. Cheekpieces often have a central sub-rectangular box containing a perforation to accommodate the straps. Two circular-sectioned bars are waisted near the box, before flaring out to the terminals. Current thinking suggests that these artefacts were horse harness pieces, possibly used to link the trace leathers on a chariot to the body of the vehicle. They were likely to have been in use from the first to the early second century AD.

One such cheekpiece (NMGW-31C972) was recovered by Bernard Kershaw at Maescar, and was probably associated with a copper-alloy bell of early Roman date. The cheekpiece is the first known example recorded from Wales and was decorated with red enamel in the La Tène Stage V art style. The ends of the cheekpiece also have circular cells of enamel.

Another cheekpiece (NMGW-7CFAB2) was recovered by Stan Phillips at Woolaston. This example is incomplete, missing one terminal and it is decorated with inlaid red enamel in 'Celtic' style. Unusually, the broken bar of the cheekpiece is hollow and contains a black sooty deposit, possibly the remains of the casting core. X-ray analysis has shown that the complete bar

A Late Iron Age to early Roman mini terret ring (CAM-5D7F05) from Stapleford, Cambridgeshire (25 x 6mm)

An Iron Age strap fastener (ESS-1D1BC2) from Wickham Bishops, Essex (45.1 x 28mm)



A Late Iron Age to early Roman object (NCL-51AB07) from Hutton Sessay, North Yorkshire (50.11 x 33 x 12.56mm). Illustration: Mark Hoyle

is also hollow with a very thin wall on one side. It remains unclear why the bar needed to be hollow, which would, technologically, be far more difficult to cast and would result in the bars being weaker. It would seem unlikely that the manufacturer was attempting to reduce the weight of the item or to save on metal content, but may possibly have been demonstrating metalworking expertise.

A Late Iron Age to early Roman mini terret ring from Stapleford, Cambridgeshire

A copper-alloy mini lipped terret (CAM-5D7F05) dating from the first century BC to the first century AD was found by Stephen Fordham in Stapleford, and recorded with Philippa Walton (Cambridgeshire FLO). The hoop is circular, unlike the larger terrets which are generally oval. There is a pair of transverse mouldings which flank the bar and a further five pairs of prominent transverse mouldings arranged around the hoop. Mini terrets are not common finds and are usually plain. This example of a lipped mini terret is particularly unusual.

One suggestion of the function of mini terrets is that they were attached using a leather thong passed through the perforation on the head of a linch-pin and then connected to its foot in order that it could be tightened and locked in place through the axle of the cart or chariot. Mini terrets have been found in association with linch-pins in vehicle burials in East Yorkshire. In addition, mini terrets might also have been used as belt or baldric fittings on sword belts and an example was found in association with an Iron Age scabbard in Cumbria.

An Iron Age strap fastener from Wickham Bishops, Essex

Stanley Holmes recovered an unusual strap fastener (ESS-1D1BC2) dating from about 100 BC to AD 50 while metal-detecting in Wickham Bishops. Cast in copper-alloy, the sub-circular frame with opposing triangular knops and a short integrally cast shank may potentially have been used as a button and loop fastener. Alternatively, it has been suggested that they may form part of a sword-belt fitting in the manner of a baldric ring which would have been used as a means of fastening the scabbard to the sword-belt. This strap fitting is similar to examples recently recorded in West Sussex (SUSS-D82452, -913C68, -4C9825 & -4C8491), which form the subject of research currently being undertaken by Liz Wilson-Andrews (Sussex FLO).

A Late Iron Age to early Roman object from Hutton Sessay, North Yorkshire

Paul Linford found an unusual copper-alloy and iron object (NCL-51AB07) in Hutton Sessay, which he subsequently recorded with Rob Collins (North East FLO). The object shows an ox head with strongly curving horns, protruding ears, a narrow muzzle and circular eyes. The head rests above a cylinder with an iron rod in its centre. Sharply curving spikes form a crest running down the back of the head and the cylinder. Located on either side of the crest are vertical ridges composed of small squares. In the centre of each ear is a large pellet. The nose and mouth are at the end of the narrow muzzle, and these are represented by two small holes for the nostrils and a small, straight line for the mouth. The front of the cylinder is decorated with a triangle enclosing horizontal ridges.

The function of this interesting artefact is uncertain although it shows similarities with the copper-alloy handle with a bovine head discovered in an Iron Age inhumation at Birdlip, Gloucestershire, and interpreted as a possible knife or cup handle.

A Late Iron Age vessel handle fragment from Urchfont, Wiltshire

Dave Cobb found a Late Iron Age copper-alloy vessel handle fragment (SOMDOR-8B7966) whilst metal-detecting at Urchfont, which he reported to Naomi Payne (Somerset & Dorset FLO). The surviving fragment consists of the incomplete attachment plate and part of the projecting handle. The attachment plate is curvilinear with a circular perforation on each side. The section projecting from the central lobe of the attachment plate is partially hollow and has an oval cross-section. It narrows slightly into a larger knop with a D-shaped cross section. The external face of the knop is convex and the back flat. Below the knop the handle forks into a (presumably central) open-work section, but it is at this point that it has broken. Broadly similar tankard and other vessel handles, including an open-work example have been found at Bulbury, Dorset.

A Late Iron Age vessel handle fragment (SOMDOR-8B7966) from Urchfont, Wiltshire (37.3 x 31.5 x 13.6mm)

A Late Iron Age or early Roman harness fitting (BUC-6FF468) from Akeley, Buckinghamshire (35.29 x 27.15 x 10mm)

A Late Iron Age or early Roman harness fitting from Akeley, Buckinghamshire

An interesting copper-alloy strap-union (BUC-6FF468), possibly a harness-fitting, was found by Mike East whilst metal-detecting near Akeley, which he recorded with Ros Tyrrell (Buckinghamshire FLO). The object has a rectangular frame with two circular-sectioned side bars. The upper and lower edges of the frame project beyond the side bars and are in the shape of three conjoined semi-circles. The central bar of the strap-union is wider than the side bars and extends to a wide semi-circular band around the centre of the bar. This is decorated with three raised circular bosses, each of which contain six pellets arranged in a circle around a central pellet. There is a ridge around the top and bottom edges of this central band. Incised lines indicate the division between the central and side bars on the reverse and sides. The reverse of the elaborately decorated central bar is flat. This strap-union does not closely resemble other Type I strap-unions as the flat, central discs or figure-of-eight shape common to this type have been replaced by the central bar.

A first-to second-century AD harness fitting (HAMP-7794C4) from Buriton, Hampshire (30.5 x 31.65 x 8.3mm)

A first-century AD brooch (SUSS-B429C3) from Patching, West Sussex (79.4 x 39.05mm)

A first-century AD fitting (DEV-5BBFF4) from near Kingsbridge, Devon

A first-to second-century AD harness fitting from Buriton, Hampshire
A copper-alloy harness fitting (HAMP-7794C4) was found by Peter Child in Buriton, and reported to Rob Webley (Hampshire FLO). It comprises three conjoined loops and is likely to have been a strap-junction. Centrally between the two upper loops and above the bottom loop is a stylised 'Celtic style' human head. Such tri-looped strap-junctions often depict either a human face or the face of a stylised animal, usually a bull or a horse. The PAS has recorded similar examples with a human head from Ludgershall, Wiltshire (HAMP2961), Tiffield, Northamptonshire (NARC-565894), Nether Whitacre, Warwickshire (WAW-C477E6) and Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire (WAW-CA0CC0). An example from Rothersthorpe, Northamptonshire (NARC-0739A4), depicts an ox head at the centre.

A first-century AD brooch from Patching, West Sussex
A copper-alloy Rosette brooch (SUSS-B429C3) dating to about AD 25–60 was found by Tyndall Jones at Patching, and recorded by Liz Andrews-Wilson (Sussex FLO). It is almost complete and survives in a very good condition. The spring case is an open cylinder and is decorated with incised diagonal lines. The upper bow is arched and reeded. The central disc is cast integrally with the bow and represents a later Rosette brooch as earlier examples have a separately-made disc which was threaded onto the bow. This brooch is the first of its type recorded in Sussex by the PAS.

A first-century AD fitting from near Kingsbridge, Devon
A copper-alloy object (DEV-5BBFF4) in the form of a human head was found near Kingsbridge, by Michael Workman and recorded with Danielle Wootton (Devon FLO). The head is in a very schematic style of Late Iron Age to early Roman date. Although incomplete, the full face is flattened at the crown above the ill-defined brows, but is otherwise full and rounded. The hollow almond-shaped eyes are deeply recessed and no ears are represented. There is a transverse groove immediately below the short, straight and slender nose. A wide groove of equal length to that below the nose depicts the mouth. The chin is large and rounded and no hair is depicted. On the reverse is a robust circular socket with very slight traces of iron corrosion within it. The simplistic facial physiognomy is similar to that on a fitting from St Austell, Cornwall, interpreted as a cart fitting. A terminal of uncertain function, in the form of a human head in a similarly schematic style was recently recorded by the PAS in Puddletown, Dorset (SOMDOR-86B238).

Two fragments of an early first- to mid second-century AD torc (DENO-304F42 & DENO-306A31) from Mansfield, Nottinghamshire (36.34 x 11.82 x 11.52mm & 73.15 x 13.82 x 12.48mm)

A pair of Late Iron Age Penannular brooches (NCL-3E3208) from Thwing, East Yorkshire (both d.23 x 3mm)

Two fragments of an early first- to mid second-century AD torc from Mansfield, Nottinghamshire
David Murphy and Graham Hall found two fragments of a Late Iron Age or early Roman beaded torc (DENO-304F42 & DENO-306A31) near Mansfield, which they reported to Rachel Atherton (Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire FLO). The first fragment consists of four beads. Each of the inner two beads has a raised central undecorated band with a beaded line to either side, whilst the terminal bead has a wide central undecorated section with a beaded line on the inside surface. The hole in the terminal bead is set to one side and tapers towards its base. The second fragment consists of eight beads with each inner bead having a raised central undecorated band with a beaded line to either side. The terminal bead has a wide central section with a beaded line on the inside and an undecorated band on the other.

Copper-alloy beaded torcs are neck ornaments, and were made in two sections; the undecorated back section making up about two-thirds of the ring and the beaded front section the remaining third. Torcs were worn by pulling the back section apart slightly while around the neck and then slotting the front section in. These uncommon finds date from the early first to the mid second century AD. From the Bronze Age through to the Late Iron Age decorative neck ornaments appear to have carried some sort of message of authority. The most well known are the Late Iron Age gold and silver torcs such as those found at Snettisham, Norfolk. While the distribution of these is concentrated around Norfolk with a few exceptions from Staffordshire, North Lincolnshire, the West Country, Scotland, and more recently Newark in Nottinghamshire, the distribution of the Roman copper-alloy beaded torcs appears to be quite different. Of the nine definite examples recorded on the PAS database, six are from the Midlands (with a cluster of three in Lincolnshire), with outliers in Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Buckinghamshire and interestingly, none come from Norfolk. Fraser Hunter (National Museum of Scotland) is currently researching beaded torcs, looking at both published and unpublished examples as well as PAS data, and is building up a more detailed distribution map which extends into Scotland and Wales.

A pair of Late Iron Age Penannular brooches from Thwing, East Yorkshire
David Bryden found two complete Fowler Type C Penannular brooches (NCL-3E3208) in excellent condition in Thwing, which he subsequently recorded with Rob Collins (North East FLO). This type of Penannular brooch has spiral terminals set at right angles to the plane of the brooch and is found almost entirely on first-century BC sites. The pins are dramatically bowed and have been attached by the coiling of a flattened end around the brooch.

The copper-alloy brooches were found linked together and were almost certainly a paired set. In association with these brooches was found a rim sherd of a greyware jar.

A Late Iron Age or early Roman cosmetic mortar and pestle from Micklefield, West Yorkshire
At Micklefield, in an area close to the A1 motorway, previously the main Roman road to the North, Andrew Diamond has been finding some well-preserved objects including a Late Iron Age or Roman cosmetic pestle (SWYOR-172273) and mortar (SWYOR-170A20) which he recorded with Amy Cooper (South & West Yorkshire FLO). The centre-looped pestle and mortar were found within metres of each other and represent a cosmetic set. The pestle has a crescentic rod which tapers at both ends to plain terminals and a large, circular loop which is very worn at the top. The deep, centre-looped mortar is triangular in profile and the terminals are plain. The incomplete suspension loop is unusual as it has a stem extending from the mortar. 135 cosmetic mortars and pestles have been recorded on the PAS database, although this is the first set (both items found together) to be reported.

A first-century BC to first-century AD glass bead from Higham Ferrers, Northamptonshire
A Late Iron Age to early Roman annular glass bead (NARC-AA9664) was found by Roy Cox whilst metal-detecting at Higham Ferrers and reported to Tom Brindle (Northamptonshire FLO). The glass is very dark opaque blue and has four applied glass 'eyes' or concentric rings with a white outer ring and a bright blue inner ring. The eyes are of uneven size and are irregularly spaced around the circumference of the bead. 'Eye-beads' with a dark blue ground and bi-chrome blobs or 'eyes' are found on first century BC sites and many have also been found on early Roman sites.

A Late Iron Age or early Roman cosmetic mortar (SWYOR-170A20) and pestle (SWYOR-172273) from Micklefield, West Yorkshire (46.1 x 14.8 x 7.2mm & 40.5 x 13.9 x 3.9mm)

A first-century BC to first-century AD glass bead (NARC-AA9664) from Higham Ferrers, Northamptonshire (26 x 15mm)

Edited by Sally Worrell, Kevin Leahy, Ian Leins and Michael Lewis

Once again, the Roman artefacts recorded with the PAS in 2006 include some extremely unusual and unique finds as well as an enormous range of artefacts which represent most aspects of Romano-British life. Everyday items include a very well-preserved and complete cheese press (CAM-EF8798), a roof tile (BERK-794D32) (with a tantalising glimpse of the individual whose hobnail boot or shoe was imprinted on to the tile while wet), knives (or razors) depicting hares and hounds (WILT-C775A5 & WILT-6BA337) and a cremation burial (CAM-1D6290). The latter is represented by cremated bones and pottery vessels, one of which is stamped with the name of the maker. Other objects which relate to 'everyday' activities, but which are very unusual in their own right include a steelyard weight (BH-C53040) depicting the head of the young Hercules; it is rare for a weight to depict a figure. Findspots of Roman material are now more broadly and evenly distributed across southern, central and eastern England than in the earlier years of the Scheme. In particular, there are higher densities of findspots recorded in 2006 in North Yorkshire, Shropshire, Herefordshire, Hertfordshire, Essex, Cambridgeshire and East Sussex than in previous years.

There is regional variation in the types and quantities of artefact recorded. In the 2006 Roman data, brooches, always the most numerous of the non-coin finds, constitute 9.3 per cent and other items of personal adornment 2.4 per cent of all non-ceramic artefacts recorded. However, in counties with larger samples of brooches (over 50), the proportions vary from 3.7 per cent (Norfolk) to 21 per cent (Leicestershire). The types of brooch recorded also vary by region, perhaps reflecting different local fashions. For example, the plate brooches from the Isle of Wight (IOW-992993, IOW-8723E4 & IOW-ECE7B4) reflect the unusually high ratio of plate brooches (37) to bow brooches (72) recorded since 2003 in that county. While brooches are more frequently found than other items of personal adornment, such as pins, finger rings, bracelets and other forms of jewellery, in Northamptonshire more of the latter (42) were recorded in 2006 than brooches (39). This difference is caused by an exceptional collection recorded from Higham Ferrers, Northamptonshire. Of the 28 Roman hair or dress pins from Northamptonshire recorded on the PAS database since 1999, 25 examples were recorded from this parish in 2006. This may indicate the location of a workshop or reflect special deposition, perhaps votive. The distribution of second- to third-century finger rings inscribed with 'TOT', an abbreviated form of the god's name Toutatis, was concentrated in Lincolnshire. The research project undertaken by Adam Daubney (Lincolnshire FLO) has so far documented 43 examples, 22 of which have been recorded by the PAS or reported Treasure. This may reflect a regional cult in the East Midlands.

A first-century brooch (NMGW-439B82) from St Nicholas & Bonvilston, Vale of Glamorgan (69.39 x 14.03 x 3.26mm)

A first-century armour scale (WILT-D97556) from Marston Maisey, Wiltshire (28.6 x 21.4 x 0.75mm)

Many other religious objects have also been recorded by the PAS in 2006. The remarkable 'Horse and Rider' figurine from Cambridgeshire (SF-99E3E4) is exceptional and represents the best-executed example of its type so far recorded from this country. The 23 figurines known represent either the rider or horse, but rarely both, and have a distribution which also focuses on the eastern counties and the East Midlands. Tripod mounts with depictions of Bacchus and other deities are known from sites on the Continent, but the example from Lincolnshire (LIN-1632D1) is the first example of its type recorded in this country.

The purpose of other unusual figurines, such as that of a sleeping African boy from Essex (ESS-6F60D3) is difficult to understand fully and in this case is without a known close parallel.

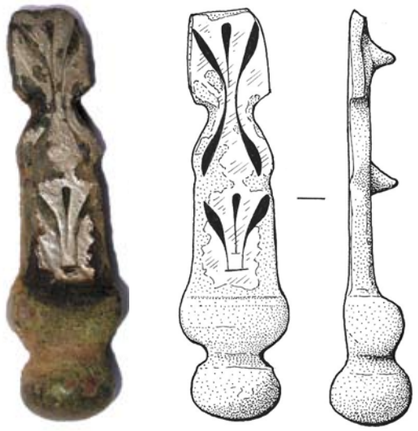
A first-century brooch from St Nicholas & Bonvilston, Vale of Glamorgan

Tom Kelly reported an interesting Roman copper-alloy Strip Bow brooch (NMGW-439B82) from St Nicholas & Bonvilston to the PAS in Wales. Strip Bow brooches derive from Langton Down, Aucissa and Hod Hill brooches and date from just before the invasion to about AD 60. This example is almost complete, missing only the end of the hinged pin which was secured with an iron axis bar at the rolled-under head. The narrow, flat bow is decorated below the head with a pair of parallel, transverse incised lines, below which a pair of converging incised lines border the edges of the bow as far as the lower bow. The leg is decorated with a series of incised transverse marks defining panels, which appear to have been enhanced through faceting of the sides.

The distribution of Strip Bow brooches, which are not a common type, concentrates in the south-western counties, particularly Dorset, Somerset and Wiltshire, with smaller quantities in adjacent counties.

A first-century armour scale from Marston Maisey, Wiltshire

Jim Belk discovered an incomplete fragment of Roman sheet copper-alloy *lorica* or armour scale (WILT-D97556) while metal-detecting in Marston Maisey, which he recorded with Katie Hinds (Wiltshire FLO). The object is rectangular, broken at one end and now with a jagged edge. The opposite end has two semi-circular cut-outs at the edge, presumably for rivet attachments. Running vertically along the centre of the scale is a ridge with a corresponding furrow on the reverse. To either side is a wavy line of rocker-arm decoration.



A first-century strap fitting (SUR-60FDA2) from Guildford, Surrey (10 x 12mm). Illustration: David Williams

A first-century vehicle fitting (HAMP-E88954) from West Ilsley, Berkshire (47.8 x 38.1 x 26.75mm)

Jim thought the object was little more than a piece of scrap sheet copper-alloy but luckily he regularly takes everything he finds to show Katie. Examples of decorated *lorica* scale date to the first century, while those of late Roman date are generally undecorated. Other examples include a stray find from Chichester, West Sussex and from excavations at Newstead, Scottish Borders.

A first-century strap fitting from Guildford, Surrey
A Roman cavalry strap fitting (SUR-60FDA2), dating to the first century, was found by Jeff Hills at a local metal-detector rally near Guildford and reported to David Williams (Surrey FLO). The fitting comprises a slightly waisted, flat rectangular plate on the back of which is a pair of worn spikes for attachment to leather. The terminal is a rounded knob with no decoration. The plate has a thick white-metal coating, now worn, on which are two symmetrical groups of highly stylised leaf motifs, each inlaid with niello (a black metallic alloy of silver, copper, sulphur and lead). The object belongs to a group of distinctive Roman military strap fittings with similar examples from Colchester, Camerton, Newstead and Fremington Hagg. Military objects are not common finds from the south-east and this example is one of a very small number, all horse harness fittings, found in Surrey and recorded by the PAS.

A first-century vehicle fitting from West Ilsley, Berkshire
A copper-alloy terminal in the form of an eagle's head (HAMP-E88954) was recorded by Rob Webley (Hampshire FLO) having been found thirteen years earlier in West Ilsley by Richard Baier. Sally Worrell (Finds Adviser) identified the find as part of an early Roman vehicle fitting, onto which the reins would have been tied when the vehicle was stationary. The head, which emerges from a calyx consisting of three petals, is well rendered with feathers depicted both by moulded and incised decoration. The eagle holds a spherical object, perhaps a cake or pellet of food within its beak. Within the hollow casting an iron tang is surrounded by lead. Examples for which the body element is complete suggest that the socket would have continued for about 40mm and would probably have had a hooked projection in the form of a swan's head. Excavated examples include finds from Cirencester, Colchester, Leicester, Water Newton and elsewhere. The PAS has recorded a further three examples from Gedgrave, Suffolk (SF-97C2C8), Butley, Suffolk (SF-9CC792) and Berwick, East Sussex (SUSS-18A703), thereby making a very useful contribution to the distribution pattern of this type of object.

A first- to second-century ox-head bucket mount (HESH-178702) from near Cannock, Staffordshire (45.9 x 24.3 x 21.2mm). Illustration: Lisa Chapman

A first- to second-century tripod mount (LIN-1632D1) from Lincoln, Lincolnshire

A first- or second-century steelyard weight (BH-C53040) from Hadham, Hertfordshire (47.1 x 40.8 x 39.7mm)

A first- to second-century ox-head bucket mount from near Cannock, Staffordshire
A copper-alloy ox-head bucket mount (HESH-178702) was found by Dean Field near Cannock, and recorded with Peter Reavill (Herefordshire & Shropshire FLO). At the top of the head are the remains of an integral, circular loop to hold a handle. The ears extend to the side whilst the two horns, one of which is near complete, project forward. The head tapers to a long, rather slender nose. The sides of the mount are slightly faceted and the rear face is hollow. This mount is relatively unusual for two principal reasons: the use of enamel decoration forming the circular eyes is rarely encountered, and the preservation of mineralised wood-like material in the hollow back is a rare survival. Due to the use of enamel and the shape of the eyes being circular (rather than oval), this example is likely to date from the early Roman period. However, it forms part of a much longer tradition of vessel ornamentation, which dates back into the Iron Age.

A first- to second-century tripod mount from Lincoln, Lincolnshire
A copper-alloy tripod mount (LIN-1632D1) discovered just outside Lincoln by Rob Marshall was recorded by Adam Daubney (Lincolnshire FLO). The mount depicts the bust of a young male, probably representing Bacchus, emerging from a calyx of leaves above a hollow, rectangular base. The bust wears a tunic which covers one shoulder only, has a rope-like border across the chest and a decorative motif consisting of four petals or leaves on the left breast. The facial features are worn and the wavy, mid-length hair covers most of the forehead. At the crown there is moulded circular feature with a central circular moulded pellet and above each ear, there is a leaf and a bunch of grapes. An integral, copper-alloy circular-sectioned shank extends horizontally from the centre of the figure's back, turns upwards almost at right angles and has a rounded terminal. Each of the tripod legs would have had a similar mount which would have suspended a copper-alloy bowl by means of rings attached to the rim of the vessel. The base below the calyx appears to take the form of a column capital decorated with a leaf on each side. No decorated copper-alloy tripod mounts of this type are known from Britain, but similar tripod mounts with depictions of Bacchus are known from sites on the Continent.

A first- or second-century steelyard weight from Hadham, Hertfordshire
A steelyard weight (BH-C53040) in the form of a male head was found near Hadham by Kevin Easton and recorded with Julian Watters (Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire FLO). The object, which was identified by Martin Henig (Oxford University) as a representation of the young Hercules, is of very high quality. It has been hollow-cast in copper-alloy and the inner void

filled with lead, with a weight of 246.58g, which is roughly equivalent to nine *unicae*, or three quarters of a Roman *libra* (pound). Hercules' facial features are clearly depicted and his hair is mostly covered by a garment made from the skin of a lion's head. A damaged loop on top of the head confirms that this piece would have been used in conjunction with a steelyard. The vast majority of Roman steelyard weights were made of lead with an iron suspension loop and are fairly simple in form, being mostly bi-conical. Anthropomorphic examples in the form of deities and emperors are rare and are generally considered to be products of the first or second century.

A first- to second-century beehive quernstone (LANCUM-43F4B6) from near Newby, Cumbria (370 x 320 x 300mm)

A first- to second-century beehive quernstone from near Newby, Cumbria

The upperstone of a beehive quern (LANCUM-43F4B6) was found by Steven Carruthers near Newby, and reported to Dot Bruns (Lancashire & Cumbria FLO) at a Finds Day at Penrith Museum. Its underside is flat and the upper side is dome-shaped and has a cylindrical expansion in its hopper-feedpipe. Beehive querns replaced heavy duty saddle-mills and were in use in the north-west from the second century BC. Small numbers of beehive quernstones frequently occur on Roman military sites and the type remained current into the second century AD, although in the countryside some examples might have remained in use into the Late Roman period. Beehive querns were largely replaced by imported Mayen lava stones, which represent a new technology of milling-stones.

A first- to second-century brooch (IOW-992993) from Shorwell, Isle of Wight (24.7 x 37.3 x 2.6mm)

A first- to second-century brooch from Shorwell, Isle of Wight

An almost complete copper-alloy and enamelled zoomorphic brooch (IOW-992993), dating to the late first to mid third century, was found by Roy Atkinson at Shorwell, and reported to Frank Basford (Isle of Wight FLO). The brooch is in the form of a flattened swimming bird, possibly a duck. The body consists of a flat disc with small projections at either side representing the wings and a triangular projection for the tail. The head and neck project up from the disc and the head has deep dots for the eyes. The body has notching on the outer rim and within it are three copper-alloy rings containing what appears to be orange enamel. The recessed area is likely to have held enamel, but none now survives. The tail flares out from a rib at the junction with the body and two areas have stamped arcs and represent the tail feathers.

Despite being incomplete and having lost most of its enamel, this unusual brooch is in a remarkably good condition. It is of local importance as it is the first of its type to have been recorded in the Isle of Wight. Three similar brooches have been recorded with the PAS from Charsfield (SF-5704E4), Hitcham (SF-3BAC53) and Icklingham (SF-33BCC6) in Suffolk.

A first- to second-century pottery assemblage (SOMDOR-ADAAD1 *et al.*) from Westbury-sub-Mendip, Somerset (various sizes)

A first- to second-century assemblage of pottery from Westbury-sub-Mendip, Somerset

A large assemblage of Roman pottery (SOMDOR-ADAAD1, -AF3EC3, -AF3EC3, -AFA4B5, -B04702, -B0A052, -AFA4B5, -B0F2F6, -B13AB6, -40E612, -432494, -43BBA6, -45A141, -D593A7, -B13AB6, -D6B8D1 & -D705D8) was discovered by Christopher and Elaine Hann within a discrete area of 1.5m² whilst gardening at Westbury-sub-Mendip. The assemblage was shown to Naomi Payne (Somerset and Dorset FLO) after a talk on the PAS, to which members of the Westbury-sub-Mendip Local History Group were asked to bring along any archaeological finds they wanted to know more about. The majority of the 219 sherds are coarse wares, including Black-burnished wares, Severn Valley ware, Savernake grey ware, Alice Holt-Farnham grey ware and various other probably local grey wares. A few fine ware fabrics were also found, including seven sherds of Oxfordshire red- and brown-slipped ware, two conjoining sherds of New Forest slipped ware, two sherds of Samian ware, probably of South Gaulish origin, and one small sherd of possible south-east English glazed ware. The same area produced an early Roman T-shape brooch (SOMDOR-D6DCF3), two pieces of tile (SOMDOR-D76CB8), several lumps of mortar (SOMDOR-260945), a piece of lead tap slag or run off (SOMDOR-264CD5) and a number of unworked animal bone fragments. The Somerset Historic Environment Record mentions two Roman coin finds close by (PRN 24872) but there is no other previously recorded Roman archaeology in the vicinity.

A second-century figurine of an African boy (ESS-6F60D3) from Essex (57.42 x 38.2mm). Illustration: Roger Massey-Ryan

A second-century figurine of an African boy, from Essex

The figurine, found by Robert Rogers, portrays a sleeping young African boy (ESS-6F60D3). The figure is realistic in its rendering of the figure, with detailed casting of the face, hands and feet and may be a representation of a slave boy who has fallen asleep waiting for his master at a party whom he will later guide home by lamplight. Such figures are shown on lamps and those shown asleep with amphorae may hint at a party taking place 'off-stage'. Although a close parallel for this figurine is thought to be a Hellenistic original, it is more likely that this figurine is a second-century copy rather than a Hellenistic original surviving as an heirloom in Roman Britain.

There is a circular depression at the top of the head, which may have held a soldered loop, so that the figure possibly acted as a steelyard weight. However, though the depression is central to the figure, enabling it to hang straight, other figured steelyard weights normally have an integral copper alloy suspension loop. Alternatively, the depression may have held a soldered spike for a candle, although the candle would have been extremely slender. More likely perhaps, is that the depression held some sort of lamp arrangement.

An early second-century Samian bowl from a cremation burial (CAM-1D6290) from Snailwell, Cambridgeshire

A mid- to late-second-century Samian ware bowl (HAMP-C65476) from Chilton Candover, Hampshire (50.65 x 39 x 5.5mm)

A late first- to second-century brooch (DENO-E39AE7) from Wells-next-the-Sea, Norfolk (33.81 x 27.64 x 10.24mm)

The flat base of the figure may suggest it was soldered to a base, which would have given greater stability. However, a parallel for such a lamp could not be found.

An early second-century cremation burial from Snailwell, Cambridgeshire

A small assemblage of pottery (CAM-1D6290) was collected from the surface of a field in Snailwell in the late 1970s by Sylvia Dalton, after it had been ploughed for the first time. The assemblage had been stored in Mrs Dalton's shed for thirty years until she heard about the PAS and reported her finds to Philippa Walton (Cambridgeshire FLO). The assemblage is clearly the remains of a mid-Roman cremation burial. It comprised fragments of burnt human bone, sherds of a coarse ware jar as well as large sherds from several Samian ware vessels. One of the Samian bowls also has a potter's stamp on the inside of the base which reads 'AVITV MA' and translates as 'made by the hand of Avitus'. Avitus was a potter working in Lezoux in central Gaul in the early second century.

A mid- to late-second-century Samian ware bowl from Chilton Candover, Hampshire

A sherd from a Samian ware bowl (HAMP-C65476) was found by Mr Jackson in the 1970s in Chilton Candover, and recently brought to Rob Webley (Hampshire FLO) by the current landowner, Charles Marriott. The sherd was identified by Helen Rees (Winchester Museums Service) as a convex lower body and base sherd of a Form 31 bowl. Its dark red-brown slip is typical of the Samian factories of Lezoux in central Gaul. Further, we know from the stamp, which bears the inscription 'RIIOGENI M' that this bowl was probably made by Ritogenus. The discovery of Form 31 bowls on the Antonine Wall with the same stamp ties this sherd in with the period of the Antonine campaigns of the mid to late second century.

A late first- to second-century brooch from Wells-next-the-Sea, Norfolk

An unusual early Roman 'Buckler' disc brooch (DENO-E39AE7) was found by Peter Reid at Wells-next-the-Sea, and reported to Rachel Atherton (Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire FLO). The flat, sub-circular brooch has a scalloped outline which carries eight projections with rounded terminals, each of which is decorated with a ring-and-dot motif. The projection in front of the long catchplate is bifurcated and has two small joining lobes, each with a ring-and-dot motif.

Two second-century brooches from Carisbrooke, Isle of Wight

A pair of incomplete second-century Trumpet variant 'fly' brooches (IOW-8723E4 & IOW-ECE7B4) from Carisbrooke, were found close together by Terry Barrett and Derek Johnson during a metal-detecting rally and reported to Frank Basford (Isle of Wight FLO).

Two second-century brooches (IOW-8723E4 & IOW-ECE7B4) from Carisbrooke, Isle of Wight (22.2 x 15.1 x 1.1mm & 23.3 x 17 x 1.2mm)

A second- to third-century button and loop fastener (SUR-76F6E1) from West Clandon, Surrey (d.22mm)

A second- to third-century finger ring with glass *intaglio* (SOMDOR-62D6A1) from Pamphill, Dorset (22.4 x 22.3mm)

The surviving part of the first brooch (IOW-8723E4), consisting of the leg and foot knob, is in the form of an insect's wings and head, with the foot knob representing the head. Each wing has a semi-circular recess to contain enamel, no traces of which now survive. Below these cells is a central cell in the shape of an inverted heart which would originally have contained enamel, which is now missing. The second brooch (IOW-ECE7B4) has a hollow trumpet head with two pierced lugs which would have held the missing sprung pin. The recess on one of the wings contains a fragment of blue enamel.

This type of brooch is not common, but has a wide distribution extending from Northumberland to the Isle of Wight. Similar brooches have been recorded on the PAS database (see WAW-F8DEE7, LIN-5E5C67, LIN-5E2B37 & NLM177). The two complete brooches from Lincolnshire (LIN-5E5C67 & LIN-5E2B37) are enamelled and coated with white metal and are particularly significant as they, like the Isle of Wight examples, form a pair.

A second- to third-century button and loop fastener from West Clandon, Surrey

An elaborately decorated Roman button and loop fastener (SUR-76F6E1) was found by Robert Mintern near West Clandon, and reported to David Williams, Surrey FLO. The fastener is a Wild's Class Vb and has a circular, enamelled disc head which is decorated with a six-pointed star at the centre which has a red circular, central cell and alternating red and blue triangular cells between the points. Surrounding this is a concentric border and a further border at the outer edge with the area between infilled with alternating red and blue enamel cells. This example represents the second button and loop fastener to be recorded by the PAS from Surrey. The PAS has currently recorded 80 button and loop fasteners, with their distribution being very biased to counties in the north, particularly Lincolnshire, North Yorkshire, East Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire and Durham, although Suffolk is the county which has recorded the highest number of examples to date.

A second- to third-century finger ring with glass *intaglio* from Pamphill, Dorset

Stephen Hopkins found a copper-alloy Henig Type XII finger ring (SOMDOR-62D6A1) whilst metal-detecting at Pamphill, which he recorded with Naomi Payne (Somerset and Dorset FLO). The oval, circular-sectioned hoop becomes thicker around the oval glass *intaglio* setting which projects from the hoop. The *intaglio* has three layers in different colours; the lowest is dark blue, the middle is white and the upper layer is an orangey-brown, in imitation of sardonyx. On a true sardonyx, the blue layer would be dark brown or black. The motif is lightly engraved as a simple rudder with its cross

A second- to third-century finger ring (LIN-6773B1) from Frampton, Lincolnshire (22 x 18 x 13mm)

A second- to third-century lock bolt (NCL-7F9275) from Warkworth, Northumberland (78 x 14 x 8mm)

A second- to third-century fitting (GLO-41D3F6) from Highnam, Gloucestershire (35 x 19 x 8mm)

A second- to fourth-century figurine (GLO-058493) from Corse, Gloucestershire (75 x 42 x 12mm)

bar representing the steering oar, an attribute of the goddess Fortuna. Rudders feature, with other symbols, on two other glass gems from Hod Hill and Waddon Hill, Dorset. A number of Roman coins and brooches have been found on the same site at Pamphill, which may have had links to the Roman settlement at nearby Maumbury Rings.

A second- to third-century finger ring from Frampton, Lincolnshire

Chris Godfrey found a rare second- or third-century copper-alloy finger ring (LIN-6773B1) while metal-detecting at Frampton, which he recorded with Adam Daubney (Lincolnshire FLO). The Henig Type XI finger ring has a flat bezel bearing the inscription 'TOT', which is currently thought to relate to the Celtic god Toutates/Toutatis. Of the 34 known examples bearing the letters 'TOT', 18 come from Lincolnshire, and the rest are from surrounding regions. Of these, there is only one other copper-alloy example known. Adam's research on this type of finger ring will be published in the *Proceedings of the PAS Conference* 2007.

A second- to third-century lock bolt from Warkworth, Northumberland

Wayne Clines found a copper-alloy slide lock bolt (NCL-7F9275) at Warkworth, which he recorded with Rob Collins (North East FLO). The tumbler lock bolt would have functioned with the projections on a slidekey fitting the voids on the lock bolt pressing thetumblers of the lock out of the lock bolt and consequently freeing it to be slid sideways. This lockbolt is likely to have been used with a chest or cupboard. Similar lock bolts have been found at sites in northern England, but unlike the Warkworth example, these have usually been found within or near a Roman fort or other military installation. This find, along with a third-century coin (NCL-350130) and harness fitting (NCL-344F84) highlights a possible new Roman site.

A second- to third-century fitting from Highnam, Gloucestershire

A copper-alloy mount (GLO-41D3F6) was found by David Chapple at Highnam, which he recorded with Kurt Adams (Gloucestershire & Avon FLO). The mount has a central, rectangular bar with a pelta on each side. The reverse has two integral rivets with expanded terminals. The mount dates to the third century and would have been a decorative fitting on equine equipment.

A second- to fourth-century figurine from Corse, Gloucestershire

An incomplete copper-alloy anthropomorphic figurine (GLO-058493) was found by Nigel Davis at Corse, and recorded with Kurt Adams (Gloucestershire & Avon FLO). The figurine, probably representing Apollo, the archer-god of medicine and healing, light and truth,

A mid-third- to fourth-century cheese press (CAM-EF8798) from Stilton, Cambridgeshire

A third-to fourth- century figurine (HESH-57C8E2) from Weston-Under-Penyard, Herefordshire (26.4 x 12.4 x 26.2mm)

shows a young, naked, standing male. The musculature is well-defined, the arms hang down and the hands and lower legs and feet are missing. The full hair curls and there is a frontal peak. The facial features are slightly corroded and chipped, but there is a slit mouth and deep hollows for the eyes. The weight is placed on the right leg, the left shoulder is slightly lower than the right and the breasts are too high. This figurine is very similar to the example found in the Thames, London, in 1837, which although depicting a classical pose, is also executed in a rather provincial style.

A mid-third- to fourth-century cheese press from Stilton, Cambridgeshire

A shell-tempered ware cheese press (CAM-EF8798) was found in a ditch near Stilton, by local potter Richard Landy and recorded with Philippa Walton (Cambridgeshire FLO). The coarseware pottery fabric is beige to brown in colour and has very frequent shelly inclusions and is of the type which was produced in eastern England and distributed widely in Britain in the third and fourth centuries. The cheese press is circular with almost straight sides and a flat base. The vessel has two basal ridges and a central circular knob. Between the basal ridges, there are two rows of small circular drainage holes arranged in a cross. The central circular knob is also perforated with a drainage hole. The outer surface of the bowl is decorated with eight circumferential grooves. To use the cheese press, curds would be poured into cheese cloth placed in the mould and the whey forced to drain away by the application of pressure (probably in the form of a weight). The cheese would be removed and stored in a cool place before being salted and compressed again.

Although fragments of cheese presses have been found during excavations as at Longthorpe, near Peterborough, this cheese press is the most complete example ever discovered. Besides the cheese press, Mr Landy has also collected hundreds of sherds of Roman pottery from the vicinity which suggested that this was an area of intense activity in the Roman period.

The story of Roman cheese making at Stilton tempted Time Team to investigate the site in June 2006, which included excavation, geophysical survey, metal-detecting and field-walking. The excavations revealed a Roman tile or pottery kiln and two burials which were thought to be Anglo-Saxon in date, whilst the metal-detector survey recovered an Iron Age *stater* and an Anglo-Saxon porcupine sceatta, proving that the site had been occupied for far longer than just the Roman period.

A third-to fourth-century figurine from Weston-Under-Penyard, Herefordshire

A copper-alloy figurine (HESH-57C8E2) was found by

Third- to fourth-century fragments of a knife or razor handle (WILT-C775A5 & WILT-6BA337) from Witham Friary, Somerset (23 x 15 x 4mm & 24.2 x 14.9 x 3.8mm)

A third- to fourth-century horse and rider figurine (SF-99E3E4) from Cambridgeshire (94.12 x 67.69mm)

David Young near Weston-Under-Penyard, and recorded with Peter Reavill (Herefordshire & Shropshire FLO). The figurine depicts a ram carrying a saddle with bags suspended from either side. It is likely that the figurine was originally part of a larger group, probably associated with the god Mercury. Mercury is often depicted with horns, and animals such as goats and rams are frequently associated with his cult. The ram's saddle bags probably represent two purses, a votive gift to the god. This is an unusual figurine but a similar, though more stylised, example was found close to a late third-century coin hoard also containing coin blanks and a pair of iron coin dies at Bow Brickhill, Buckinghamshire.

Third- to fourth-century fragments of a knife or razor handle from Witham Friary, Somerset

Dave Crisp discovered two fragments from two different copper-alloy openwork knife handles (WILT-C775A5 & WILT-6BA337) in the same field in Witham Friary, which he recorded with Katie Hinds (Wiltshire FLO). Both would have originally depicted a hound running left and biting the hind-quarters of a hare. Only the hound survives on one of the knives and on the other, only the hare. One fragment in particular (WILT-C775A5) is very similar to an example from Wickwar, Avon (GLO-020D81). This form of folding knife is relatively common and the representation of the hunt is a theme occurring on a variety of other forms of Roman material culture, particularly in the fourth century. The PAS has currently recorded 30 examples of this form of knife handle.

A third- to fourth-century horse and rider figurine from Cambridgeshire

An extremely fine copper-alloy horse and rider figurine (SF-99E3E4) was found by Duncan Pangborn in Cambridgeshire and recorded with Faye Minter (Suffolk FLO). The horse and male rider are both almost complete and were made as separate, solid three-dimensional castings. They were discovered together as one piece but subsequently became detached due to the disintegration of the heavily corroded iron spike that had held them together. Copper-alloy figurines of mounted and armoured men representing rider gods, probably a native version of Mars, are known from several sites in Britain, most of which are in the East Midlands and northern East Anglia. It is most similar to a figurine found in Lincolnshire, near Brough, Nottinghamshire. The Cambridgeshire figurine is distinguished by the attention to detail in its modelling and is, as Martin Henig (Oxford University) has suggested, the most artistically distinctive and accomplished example discovered to date.

The rider's right arm is raised and the hand, which is likely to have held a spear, is missing. The figure wears a crested helmet and a short pleated tunic with short sleeves, a belt and a cloak. He has short hair. The horse advances at a canter with its forelegs extended, unlike other examples with the four feet on the ground or in a trotting forward motion. The pricked ears, similar to those on the Lincolnshire example, also indicate that the horse is alert. The proportions of the horse are anatomically incorrect; the slender body is very narrow and the legs are elongated. Wavy mouldings and grooves down either side of the horse's neck depict the mane. The body is adorned with an elaborately decorated band, which passes around the front of the horse's chest and beneath its tail, presumably representing a harness strap. This horse has neither a halter nor saddle, although a fragment of sheet copper-alloy wrapped around the body may have represented a saddle-cloth. A corroded, circular-sectioned iron shaft passes through the centre of the horse's body, the possible saddle-cloth and the base of the rider and would originally have held the rider in position.

The gait of the horse is interesting. Catherine Johns (formerly British Museum) looked in detail at the exact pose represented by the Lincolnshire horse and in the light of this the gait of the Cambridgeshire example has been examined. The gait can possibly be further identified as an extended canter due to the extreme extension of the horse's front legs. The pricked ears, similar to those on the Lincolnshire example, may also indicate, as Catherine Johns suggested, that the horse is alert and paying direct attention to the commands given by the rider. Therefore, like the Lincolnshire example, this figurine could be used to emphasise the high level of horsemanship in Roman Britain.

A third- to sixth-century spear butt (GLO-41E0E8) from Highnam, Gloucestershire (43 x 33 x 2mm)

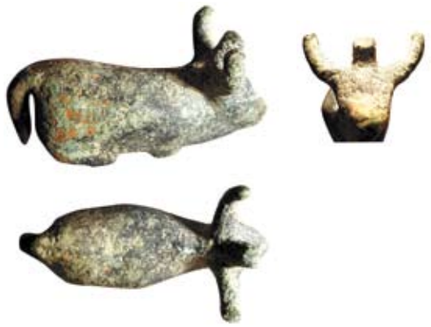
A late fourth-century spoon (WMID-F70F42) from Ancaster, Lincolnshire (152 x 28 x 17.5mm)

A third- to sixth-century spear butt from Highnam, Gloucestershire

A copper-alloy 'Door Knob' spear butt (GLO-41E0E8) was found by Kath Harcomb at Highnam, and recorded with Kurt Adams (Gloucestershire & Avon FLO). The hollow circular shaft tapers slightly before expanding at the rounded butt, which is very badly damaged at the base. There is a linear groove close to the junction of the shaft and base and two further grooves at the top of the shaft. Door Knob spear butts date to either the late Roman or Early Medieval period. They are relatively common finds in Ireland, and moulds are known from northern Scotland. Recent finds of Door Knob spear butts in England include two examples excavated in Bedfordshire which indicate that these objects were present in the late fourth century. Similar, although slightly larger, examples were found at Ellingham Harbridge & Ibsley, Hampshire (HAMP-EFC828) and at Titchmarsh, Northamptonshire (NARC1664).

A late fourth-century spoon from Ancaster, Lincolnshire

An almost complete copper-alloy Roman spoon (WMID-F70F42), dating to the second half of the fourth century, was found by Clive Rasdall at Ancaster,



A third- to fourth-century figurine of a bull (BUC-668F82) from Watlington, Oxfordshire (50.73 x 17.74 x 15.75mm)

A third- to fourth-century figurine of a panther (SF-6E91C7) from Buxhall, Suffolk (41.5 x 39mm)

and recorded with Caroline Johnson (Staffordshire & West Midlands FLO) but earlier identified by Catherine Johns (formerly British Museum). The spoon's oval bowl which is still mostly covered by tin plating, has been attached to the arched neck of the stem or 'volute'. This stem is stamped with seven ring-and-dots motifs to one side of the neck, and eight to the other side. On both sides of the neck, the ring-and-dot decoration is also surrounded by numerous irregularly placed dots to the left and right. The 'volute' resembles a stylised animal's head, probably representing a boar or horse. The animal's head has five incised lines along the ridge representing a mane or hackles and the mouth is slightly open. The integral stem/shank of the spoon has approximately eight twists. Of particular importance on this form of spoon is the development of the offset between the handle and bowl into a stylised animal head; a feature which occurs commonly on silver spoons of the late fourth century. The British Museum carried out scientific analysis of the spoon which revealed that it was made of tin-plated bronze, rather than silver-plated bronze which creates an effect similar to silver.

A third- to fourth-century figurine of a bull from Watlington, Oxfordshire

Paul Saunders found a copper-alloy figurine of a three-horned bull (BUC-668F82) whilst metal-detecting at Watlington, which he recorded with Ros Tyrrell (Buckinghamshire FLO). Three-horned bulls are a well-known Gallo-Roman iconographic symbol with the third horn perhaps indicating increased supernatural power. The bull's featureless face widens to the branching, upward curving horns which have slightly knobbed terminals. A third horn in the centre of the head is wider than the side horns and curves forwards. The forehead is flat, the ears are not represented, the nose is short and rounded and the mouth is depicted by a horizontal groove. The neck is thick and there are very slight transverse mouldings defining musculature. Only traces of the legs are present and the angle of the hind left leg suggests that the bull was seated and it is possible that the legs were not further defined. Other three-horned bulls have been found in Britain and northern Gaul, for example a figurine from the late Roman temple at Maiden Castle, a mount from Cookham now in Reading Museum and a pipeclay figurine from a child's grave in Colchester. This figurine represents the second three-horned bull figurine recorded by the PAS; a previous example was found at Holbrook, Suffolk (SF-DCB627).

A third- to fourth-century figurine of a panther from Buxhall, Suffolk

A copper-alloy mount depicting a panther emerging from a calyx of leaves (SF-6E91C7) from Buxhall, was found by Mark Wilding and recorded by Faye Minter (Suffolk FLO). The upper body of the panther emerges from the calyx, which forms the flattened base of the mount. It is leaning forwards with its head twisted to one side and both forelimbs stretched upwards and outwards, one of which is missing due to an old break. The surviving forelimb has a large paw with four toes shown. The neck is slender and the head is square in shape, the ears are oval and eyes represented by circular indentations, the snout is short and the mouth open. Panthers are connected to the cult of the Roman god Bacchus and the calyx is often associated with rebirth and regeneration so this could have been a religious ornament perhaps used in a shrine. A very similar panther also emerging from a calyx has been found in Layham, Suffolk (Sites & Monuments Record reference LYM 005).

A late fourth- or early fifth-century buckle fragment (NMS-6B32A1) from East Winch, Norfolk (50mm)

A late fourth- or early fifth-century buckle fragment from East Winch, Norfolk

Stephen Brown found a fragment of a late-fourth- or early-fifth-century Hawkes and Dunning Type IIA copper-alloy buckle (NMS-6B32A1) at East Winch, and reported it to the PAS in Norfolk. Part of one side and just over half the outside edge is formed by a dolphin with a prominent crest and wide open mouth grasping a ball in the form of a human mask with the 'lips' of another dolphin on the other side. More recently, Mr Brown found a joining buckle fragment which consists of the rest of the second dolphin, although the buckle is still incomplete.

A late fourth- or early fifth-century buckle plate (SF-9EFED0) from Drinkstone, Suffolk (47 x 40mm)

A late fourth- or early fifth-century buckle plate from Drinkstone, Suffolk

A copper-alloy buckle plate (SF-9EFED0) was found in Drinkstone by Philip Sage and recorded with Faye Minter (Suffolk FLO). This buckle plate is from a Hawkes and Dunning Type IIA buckle, which consists of a separate loop, tongue and plate held together by a bolt. The rectangular buckle plate has an open work arcade of three round-headed arches arranged with two curved piercings. Each arch has a human head projecting into it, with circular indentations representing eyes and a straight groove representing the mouth. There are also three ring-and-dot indentations across the centre of the plate and one beneath the larger arch. The edges of the plate have small transverse grooves along them and in each corner of the plate there is a rounded projection.

A Roman roof tile (BERK-794D32) from Sutton Courtenay, Oxfordshire (254.04 x 279.37 x 54.64mm)

A Roman roof tile from Sutton Courtenay, Oxfordshire

A Roman ceramic roof tile or *tegula* (BERK-794D32) was found by Tom Aldridge in Sutton Courtenay, and reported to Kate Sutton (Berkshire & Oxfordshire FLO). A *tegula* is a flat oblong tile with raised sides and this fragment has part of the flange on one edge. This is a particularly interesting example as it includes the stamp of part of a contemporary hobnail shoe or boot. It indicates the presence of a building.

A Roman jug handle (NMS-C7CC44) from Stanfield, Norfolk (74 x 47mm)

A Roman *tessera* (LON-8C0467) from Southwark, London (16 x 12 x 3mm)

A Roman figurine of Mercury (BUC-831267) from Wendover, Buckinghamshire (65.2 x 35.54 x 8.37mm)

A Roman jug handle from Stanfield, Norfolk
Dolphins were a popular decorative theme in the Roman period, appearing on a variety of objects, including vessels. A handle from a jug (NMS-C7CC44) found by Ray Davis at Stanfield, Norfolk was reported to the PAS. The lips of the dolphin form a right angle that would have abutted and overlapped the rim, the body curving down to a twisted tail with a tear-shaped plate for attaching the handle to the vessel. The detail was very finely cast with pointed oval eyes with dots for pupils, engraved grooves on the crest and fine scales over the curved surface of the body.

A Roman *tessera* from Southwark, London
Peter Olivant found an oval lead object (LON-8C0467) in Southwark, which he reported to Kate Sutton (London FLO). The front of the object depicts a retrograde bust of Mars, helmeted and facing right, and the reverse is plain. This may be a *tessera* or token, perhaps used as a pass to allow entry into a military building or a bath house, for example. A token from the Thames foreshore with the head of Venus engraved upon it is suggested to have been used to secure entrance to a brothel. Alternatively, the object might be the sealing for a package, but there are no transverse perforations for a cord to attach it.

A Roman figurine of Mercury from Wendover, Buckinghamshire
Steven Hunt found a copper-alloy figurine of Mercury (BUC-831267) at Wendover, on a Weekend Wanderers rally, and the find was subsequently recorded by Ros Tyrrell (Buckinghamshire FLO). The standing figure is naked apart from a cloak over one shoulder. The right arm is close to the figure's side and appears to hold a purse. A bird stands by the figure's right foot; this lacks detail but may represent a cockerel, a common attribute of Mercury. The facial features are indistinct but the god may be bearded and wearing a *petasos* (cap) with wings folded on the back of the head. File marks are visible on the sides of the object and the style of the figurine and the poor quality of its casting suggests a Romano-British rather than classical Roman origin.

Edited by Sally Worrell and Michael Lewis

Distribution of Roman Republican coins recorded on the PAS database since 1997.

A second-century BC Republican *denarius* (LIN-739914) from near Sleaford, Lincolnshire (d.17 x 1mm)

A second-century BC Republican *denarius* (CORN-6A9432) from St Winnow, Cornwall (d.17.8 x 1.9mm)

A second-century BC Republican *denarius* (LVPL-6896E7) from Warburton, Greater Manchester (d.19mm)

ROMAN COINS

In 2006, 9,593 Roman coins were recorded on the PAS database, bringing the total to just under 45,000. A wide variety of coins has been identified, ranging from fine gold coins to poorly preserved, but highly important, early Byzantine coins. This report shows the research potential of PAS data to present new insights into Roman Britain.

Roman Republican coins

Another tranche of Republican coins has been recorded on the PAS database, taking the total to around 400. We now have a clear distribution pattern across England with the majority south of the Fosse Way (Exeter to York), but with notable groups in Cheshire, the Vale of York and on the frontier with Hadrian's Wall. This distribution does suggest that many of the coins came to Britain after the conquest in AD 43, although it is probable some arrived before. Below is a selection of these finds:

A second-century BC Republican coin from near Sleaford, Lincolnshire
A silver Republican *denarius* (LIN-739914) was found near Sleaford whilst metal-detecting and reported to Adam Daubney (Lincolnshire FLO). The coin was struck at Rome by C. Maianius in 153 BC. The obverse shows Roma with a banker's mark (reversed C) on her cheek, and on the reverse Victory rides in a two horse chariot. This is the earliest recorded Roman Republican coin from Lincolnshire on the PAS database.

A second-century BC Republican coin from St Winnow, Cornwall
A silver Republican *denarius* (CORN-6A9432) minted by Caius Antestius in Rome in 146 BC was found by Jonathan Clemes while metal-detecting in St Winnow, and recorded with Anna Tyacke (Cornwall FLO). The obverse depicts the head of Roma facing right, wearing a winged helmet. The earring is of a single drop and there is an X under her chin. The cheek of Roma has been countermarked with an upside down VI, possibly referring to the 6th Roman Legion which later fought under Julius Caesar in Gaul in the 50s BC. The reverse depicts the two Dioscuri, the mythical twins Castor and Pollux, on horseback charging right with a dog running to the right under the forelegs of horses; the Romans believed Castor and Pollux helped give them victory over the Etruscans and Latins at the Battle of Lake Regillus in around 500 BC.

A second-century BC Republican coin from Warburton, Greater Manchester
A silver Republican *denarius* (LVPL-6896E7) was found by James Balme whilst metal-detecting in Warburton, and recorded with Nick Herepath (Cheshire, Merseyside & Greater Manchester FLO). The coin was minted under the chief magistrates at the Roman colony of

A first-century BC Republican *denarius* (SUR-835547) from Wanborough, Surrey (d.20mm)

A first-century BC Republican *denarius* (NLM-7C3197) from Rothwell, Lincolnshire (d.19 x 1.5mm)

An *aureus* (SF-9E7B96) of the emperor Tiberius from north east Suffolk (d.19.15mm)

A *denarius* (BH-5BD67) of the emperor Otho from Shenley, Hertfordshire (d.18.3 x 2.3mm)

Narbo (Narbonne) in southern Gaul in 118 BC, the year that the colony was founded following Roman victories in the region. The obverse depicts the head of Roma. The reverse shows a naked Gallic warrior in a two horse chariot, holding a shield and war-trumpet and hurling a spear. This is one of a number of *denarii* struck with a serrated edge which made forgery more difficult.

A first-century BC Republican coin from Wanborough, Surrey
A silver Republican *denarius* (SUR-835547) was found by Chris Lacey at Wanborough and reported to David Williams (Surrey FLO). The coin was struck during the dictatorship of Sulla, at Rome, in 81 BC. The moneyer, A. Postumius Albinus, commemorates the Spanish command of an ancestor on the coin which shows Hispania (Spain) on the obverse and L. Postumius Albinus on the reverse between a legionary eagle and the fasces and axe (symbols of judicial power).

A first-century BC Republican coin from Rothwell, Lincolnshire
A silver Republican *denarius* (NLM-7C3197) of Mark Antony was found at Rothwell and reported to Lisa Staves (North Lincolnshire FLO). This coin was struck by a mint which travelled with Mark Antony in 32–31 BC, just prior to the Battle of Actium (31 BC) where Antony and Cleopatra were defeated by Octavian (later Augustus). Because *denarii* of Mark Antony were slightly debased (with lower value metal), they often survived the various debasements from the reign of Nero (r.AD 54–68) onwards. It is not unusual to find worn Mark Antony *denarii* in third-century hoards; for example, there were 260 such coins in the Shapwick hoard of 9,238 silver *denarii* found in Somerset in 1998.

Roman Imperial coins

A coin of the emperor Tiberius (r.AD 14–37) from north-east, Suffolk
A gold *aureus* (SF-9E7B96) of Tiberius, minted in Lugdunum (Lyon), was found in north-east Suffolk, and reported to Faye Minter (Suffolk FLO) and Judith Plouviez (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Unit). It is the second such coin recorded with the PAS (see also ESS-F8A767). It is most probable that these coins came over with or just after the Claudian invasion of AD 43. Fifteen gold *aurei* of this type were found in the Bredgar Hoard from north Kent in 1957; in this hoard of 34 coins the latest examples are dated AD 41–2, so it has been suggested that the hoard was buried by a soldier during or shortly after the Roman landings at Richborough in AD 43.

A silver coin of the emperor Otho (r.AD 69) from Shenley, Hertfordshire
Graham Batt reported a rare *denarius* (BH-5BD67) of Otho to Julian Watters (Hertfordshire & Bedfordshire FLO), which he found whilst metal-detecting at Shenley. The coin was struck at Rome for an emperor who only ruled for three months in early AD 69. This is a very rare type with Ceres on the reverse, of which there is only one other published example, in the Bibliothèque nationale, Paris.

A medallion (SUSS-5C54B2) of the emperor Antoninus Pius from Ticehurst, East Sussex (d.38.7 x 6.7mm)

A medallion (SWYOR-9A9EF5) of the emperor Gallienus from Menwith with Darley, North Yorkshire (d.24.46 x 2.6mm)

A coin die (LVPL-AA6A55) of Marcus Aurelius from Skirpenbeck, East Yorkshire (d.21.4 x 11.5mm)

Roman medallions

A medallion of the emperor Antoninus Pius (r.AD 138–61) from Ticehurst, East Sussex
A copper-alloy medallion (SUSS-5C54B2) of Antoninus Pius, struck in Rome between AD 140 and 144, was found by Robin Hodgkinson at Ticehurst, and recorded with David Rudling (University of Sussex) and Liz Andrews-Wilson (Sussex FLO). Three other examples are recorded, from Milan, Paris and Vienna.

Medallions are normally larger than regular coins and were struck for special occasions. They were probably given as presents at the New Year or were presented as marks of honour to officials, soldiers or even rulers outside of the Roman Empire. Antoninus Pius did issue a famous series of medallions celebrating the 900th anniversary of Rome. These pieces showed scenes from Roman mythology; the Ticehurst medallion shows Jupiter, Minerva and Juno, worshipped in Rome's oldest temple on the Capitoline Hill. How this medallion came to Britain is a mystery; it might have been presented to a senior soldier or official. The object has since been cleaned and consolidated by Brigid Gallagher (University of Sussex).

A medallion of the emperor Gallienus (r.AD 253-68) from Menwith with Darley, North Yorkshire
A base silver medallion (SWYOR-9A9EF5) was found by Laurie Flood at Menwith with Darley, and recorded with Anna Marshall (South & West Yorkshire FLO). The medallion depicts Gallienus armed with a spear and shield on the obverse and the goddess Salus, who is feeding a snake from a *patera* (pan), on the reverse. The object dates to between AD 260 and 268 and was struck at Rome during Gallienus's sole reign. Like the Ticehurst medallion (above), it was struck for special occasions. One example already exists in the British Museum collection.

Second-century AD coins

A coin die of Marcus Aurelius (r.AD 139–80) from Skirpenbeck, East Yorkshire
A copper-alloy coin die (LVPL-AA6A55) of Marcus Aurelius was found in Skirpenbeck by Glen Lister and recorded with Nick Herepath (Cheshire, Greater Manchester & Merseyside FLO). The die was probably used to strike imitation *denarii* in Britain. The inscription reads AVRELIVS CAESAR AVG PII F (Aurelius Caesar, son of [Antoninus] Pius, Augustus). It is the third die of its kind to be discovered in Britain and the first obverse die (with a portrait of

A *denarius* (LANCUM-EDC5E1) of the emperor Marcus Aurelius from near Brampton, Cumbria (d.19 x 1mm)

A *denarius* (ESS-091A22) of the emperor Didius Julianus from Wicken Bonhunt, Essex (d.13.7mm)

Two contemporary copies of *denarii* (SUSS-34B064 & 34BD47) of the Severan Period from Eastbourne, East Sussex (d.17.86 x 2.46mm & d.17.97 x 2.61mm)

the emperor). It was made during the reign of Antoninus Pius (AD 138–161) and shows his adopted son Marcus Aurelius as Caesar (junior emperor). The inscription suggests the coin was produced sometime after AD 144. The coin die has been acquired by the British Museum.

A coin of the emperor Marcus Aurelius (r.AD 161–80) from near Brampton, Cumbria
Derek Jones found a *denarius* (LANCUM-EDC5E1) of Marcus Aurelius as senior emperor (Augustus) near Brampton, which he recorded with Dot Bruns (Lancashire & Cumbria FLO). The obverse shows a laureate bust facing right and the inscription M ANTONINVS ARM PARTH MAX (Marcus Antoninus, great conqueror of Armenia and Parthia). The reverse shows Pax sitting facing left with cornucopiae (a goat's horn overflowing with flowers, fruit and corn) and the reverse inscription FORT RED TR P XXII IMP V COS III (to fortune who brings back the emperor; power of Tribune for the twenty-second time; victorious commander for the fifth time; Consul for the third time). The coin was struck in Rome and dates to AD 168. Coin hoards ending with coins of Marcus Aurelius are common in Britain, and some are even found in the north of the country.

A coin of the emperor Didius Julianus (AD 193) from Wicken Bonhunt, Essex
A *denarius* (ESS-091A22) of Didius Julianus, the first to be recorded on the PAS database, was found by Julian Sells at Wicken Bonhunt and reported to Caroline McDonald (Essex FLO). Didius came to the throne after the death of Pertinax on 28 March AD 193. He was a wealthy senator who 'bought' the empire by paying the Praetorian Guard 25,000 *sestertii* each. When Septimius Severus was advancing on Rome, the Guard deserted him and he was deposed by the Senate. He was executed on 2 June after a reign of only 66 days. The coins of Didius Julianus and his family are very rare and only a few have been found as casual losses in Britain.

Two contemporary copies of denarii of the Severan Period (AD 193–235).
Two plated *denarii* (SUSS-34B064 & 34BD47), one copying a coin of Septimius Severus (r.AD 193–211) and the other Caracalla (r.AD 198–217), were found at Firle and Eastbourne (respectively) by Stan Ellis and reported to Liz Andrews-Wilson (Sussex FLO). In the Severan period there were many copies made of silver *denarii*. They are of varying quality, some being cast, others plated, some of very base silver and others silver-washed. The better quality examples, like these two, are found in hoards, but the poorer examples generally tend to be found as casual losses. The PAS database is beginning to build up an important corpus of these coins which will play a significant role in future

A coin (SWYOR-4C4EF8) of the emperor Commodus from Norwood, North Yorkshire (d.25.6 x 3.68mm)

A coin (BH-9909C7) of the emperor Elagabalus from Ashwell, Hertfordshire (d.23.5 x 2.6mm)

A *radiate* (Treasure case 2006 T370) of the Emperor Postumus from the hoard from Kings Langley, Hertfordshire

Metal-detecting on the site of the hoard from Kings Langley, Hertfordshire

research. Why exactly there are so many forgeries made at this time is not known for certain, but it is possible that due to the rarity of Severan period base metal coins, such as *sestertii* and *dupondii*, these debased *denarii* circulated as lower denominations to the official *denarii*. It is even possible that the army issued such pieces, especially during Septimius Severus' campaigns against the barbarians in Scotland between AD 208 and AD 211.

Provincial Roman coins

Copper-alloy Roman provincial coins, struck under license from the Roman emperor to facilitate local trade, were produced by numerous cities in the Eastern Mediterranean region. Such coins rarely reached Britain which relied on copper-alloy coins from the mints of Imperial Rome.

A coin of the emperor Commodus (r.AD 180–92), struck at Alexandria, from Norwood, North Yorkshire
A bronze coin of Commodus, struck at Alexandria (SWYOR-4C4EF8), was found by Laurie Flood at Norwood, and recorded with Anna Marshall (South & West Yorkshire FLO). The obverse shows Commodus, and the reverse shows Zeus Ammon with his ram's horn. The imperial mint at Alexandria struck many coins, but they were intended only for use in Egypt. It is of interest that a significant number of such coins are now being recorded with the PAS.

A coin of the emperor Elagabalus (r.AD 218–22) struck at Cium, from Ashwell, Hertfordshire
A copper-alloy coin (BH-9909C7) struck for the emperor Elagabalus (r.AD 218–222) at the town of Cium in north-west Turkey was found at Ashwell, and recorded with Julian Watters (Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire FLO). What is remarkable about this find is that another coin of the same issue was found near Ashford (Kent) a few years ago. It is quite possible that these coins were part of the same batch of coins that arrived in Britain.

Third-century AD coins

A coin hoard from Kings Langley, Hertfordshire
Since 1954, a woman living in Kings Langley had been finding coins in her garden (Treasure case 2006 T370). In 2006, 52 years after her initial discovery, she decided to donate the twelve surviving coins (a further coin having been given to an interested relative) to Kings Langley Local History and Museum Society who, in turn, brought them to Verulamium Museum, St Albans, where they were identified by Julian Watters (Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire FLO).

The twelve coins were all identified as base silver *radiates* (antoniniani) of the Emperor Postumus (r.AD 260–269). Given the unlikelihood of such

a concentration occurring by chance, it was decided that the group probably represented a hoard and that further investigation was needed. In August 2006, Julian, accompanied by members of the Kings Langley Local History and Museum Society, local metal-detectorist Dave Rayment, and University College London work experience student Zoë Hudson, undertook a metal-detecting survey of the findspot. A further four coins were recovered on the day. The hoard, which was reported as Treasure, was kindly donated to Dacorum Heritage Trust.

A coin of Laelian (r.AD 269) from Bickmarsh, Warwickshire
A base-silver *radiate* (WAW-05D402) of Laelian was found by Clive Kibblehite at Bickmarsh, and recorded with Angie Bolton (Warwickshire & Worcestershire FLO). The obverse of the coin shows a bust right wearing a *radiate* crown and is draped and *cuirassed* (armoured). The inscription reads IMP C LAELIANVS P F AVG (The emperor Caesar Laelianus, most dutiful and fortunate Augustus). The reverse shows victory advancing right, holding a wreath and palm and the inscription VICTO - RI - A AVG (to the victory of the emperor). Coins of Laelianus are extremely rare and are usually found in hoards; for example the Cunetio Hoard, Wiltshire, had 39 coins of Laelian out of a total of 54,951, and the hoard from Normanby, Lincolnshire, had 12 out of a total of 47,912 coins. However, this coin is of particular interest because it was found on a Romano-British site in Warwickshire rather than within a hoard. The only known example from an excavation was found by Time Team at a Roman temple in Greenwich Park, London. There are three other coins of Laelian recorded on the PAS database, from Leicestershire (NARC-751), and North Lincolnshire (YORYM-9C0BC8 & 6DEB51).

A *radiate* (WAW-05D402) of Laelian from Bickmarsh, Warwickshire (d.21.52mm)

Laelian usurped power at the end of the reign of the first Emperor of the Gallic Empire, Postumus, in AD 269. The exact length of this rebellion is not known, but the limited quantity of Laelianus's coins produced suggests it was a matter of weeks. Cologne, Germany was thought to be the location of Laelian's mint, although it was Mainz where Laelian's rebellion was centred.

A contemporary copy of a coin of the emperor Tetricus I (r.AD 271–4) from Stansted Mountfitchet, Essex
A unique find of a cliché type contemporary coin copy (FASA-FC2B63) of Tetricus I was found by Clive Gudgeon whilst metal-detecting at Stansted Mountfitchet, and reported to Caroline McDonald (Essex FLO). Cliché coins are made by making impressions on thin metal from a real coin. The two impressions are then joined together to make a single piece, with solder or a filler in between. This was a method also used in Medieval times to produce forgeries of gold and silver coins. What remains a mystery is why someone in the Roman period would create a cliché coin of a very low value coin of Tetricus I, especially when so many other normal struck copies (such as barbarous *radiates*) were being produced.

A contemporary copy of a coin (FASA-FC2B63) of the emperor Tetricus I from Stansted Mountfitchet, Essex (d.17mm)

A coin of the emperor Carinus (r.AD 283–5) from Collingham, Nottinghamshire
An extremely rare gold *aureus* (DENO-3B3AF6) of Carinus was found by Gordon Walters in Collingham, and reported to Rachel Atherton (Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire FLO). This coin, which is in extremely fine condition, was minted in Siscia (Croatia) in AD 284. The reverse shows Victory advancing left holding a wreath and palm and reads VICTORIA AVG (to the victory of the emperor). Research by Sylvanie Estiot (Centre national de la recherché scientifique, Paris) has determined that just one other coin of this type is known, made using different dies.

Roman gold coins are seldom found in this country, and most have been found in hoards, but this one was a casual loss. Roger Bland (Head of the PAS) has shown they appear to be mainly concentrated in military areas, such as Hadrian's Wall, and towns. However, the Nottinghamshire Historic Monuments Record lists another gold *aureus*, but of Maximian, minted within 10 years of the Carinus coin, and found just a few kilometres away. These unrelated finds hint at the significance of the area during the mid to late third century.

An *aureus* (DENO-3B3AF6) of the emperor Carinus from Collingham, Nottinghamshire (d.19mm)

A *solidus* (CAM-1E75C4) of the emperor Constans found near Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk

Fourth-century AD coins

A coin of the emperor Constans (r. AD 337–50) found near Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk
A gold *solidus* of Constans (CAM-1E75C4), struck at Trier in Germany, was found near Bury St Edmunds and reported to Philippa Walton (Cambridgeshire FLO). The coin celebrates Constans' decisive victory over the Franks in AD 342, and his Decennalia (ten year anniversary on the throne – he was made Caesar in AD 333). *Solidi* of this period are very rare as casual losses – at this time there was rampant inflation and it is reckoned that one *solidus* was worth between 6,000 and 12,000 small copper-alloy *nummi*, commonly found by detectorists.

A fourth-century coin hoard from Snodland, Kent
In September 2006, a geotechnical survey was being carried out in Snodland. The process involved digging four 2m-deep trenches, filling them with water, and timing how long it took the water to drain away. However, when digging the second trench the JCB bucket lifted what appeared to be hundreds of small green discs, which in fact were fourth-century Roman coins, mixed with sherds of Roman pottery and tile. Realising the potential significance of the find the team leader, Matt Bulmer, informed the Heritage Conservation team at Kent County Council. Wendy Rodgers (Kent County Council), Andrew Richardson (Kent FLO), Laura McLean (Maidstone Museum) and metal-detectorist Nigel Betts arrived on site at short notice to assess the discovery.

Andrew observed two further trenches excavated by the Geo-Environmental team while Laura, Nigel and two volunteers completed a careful search of the spoil heap and area surrounding the trench that had produced the coins. Laura then led the cleaning up and excavation of the trench, and uncovered the lower half of a grey pottery vessel in situ. The vessel contained a large quantity of coins which was clearly the undisturbed portion of the coin hoard and vessel that had been truncated by the JCB bucket. Due to security considerations, the decision was made to lift the hoard and pottery vessel immediately.

The following day Andrew and Laura returned along with metal-detectorist Gill Davies and archaeologist Tay Keen (Kent County Council) to complete the excavation and planning of the hoard's context. It became apparent that the vessel containing the hoard had been placed upright between some tiles in a small pit. The pit cut through the upper fill of a large Roman ditch. The ditch contained Roman pottery and large quantities of Roman tile, and it is unclear whether the upright tiles surrounding the hoard had been deliberately placed as such, or whether the pit containing the hoard simply revealed them. Due to the size of the ditch it was not fully excavated, however

Excavation of a fourth-century coin hoard from Snodland, Kent

A *siliqua* (LANCUM-697453) of the emperor Eugenius from Northleach with Eastington, Gloucestershire (d.14 x 1mm)

A *nummus* (CORN-737D16) of the emperor Valens from Padstow, Cornwall (d.17.7 x 2mm)

the pottery and tile in the ditch confirms that Roman activity on the site predates the deposition of the coin hoard.

The hoard was found to comprise almost 3,600 copper-alloy coins which had been contained in a narrow-necked pottery vessel. A preliminary examination suggests that all the coins were official issues dating from between AD 330 and 348. The year AD 348 saw a major currency reform, with previous issues being demonetised, and it seems likely that this was the reason for the deposition of the hoard. As an official collection of coins, it is surprising that they were not exchanged for new coinage as part of the currency reform – rampant inflation at the time probably meant that these coins represented between a quarter to half a gold *solidus*. The hoard is now being studied by the British Museum as potential Treasure.

A coin of the emperor Eugenius (r.AD 393–5) from Northleach with Eastington, Gloucestershire
A scarce silver *siliqua* of Eugenius (LANCUM-697453) found by Paul Walley at Northleach with Eastington, was reported to Janny Baxter (Lancashire & Cumbria FLA). The coin is a VRBS ROMA (City of Rome) type *siliqua* and was struck for Eugenius at Lyon. Eugenius, a teacher of rhetoric and grammar, was declared emperor of the Western part of the Roman Empire by the Frankish general Arbogastes. Theodosius I (r.AD 379–95), however, did not accept Eugenius so marched into Italy, defeated and killed the usurper at the Battle of Frigidus (AD 394), after which Arbogastes committed suicide. His coins are rare as casual losses, normally occurring in late Roman silver hoards.

A coin of the emperor Valens (r.AD 364–78) from Padstow, Cornwall
Brian Parker found a copper-alloy *nummus* (CORN-737D16) while metal-detecting at Padstow, which he recorded with Anna Tyacke (Cornwall FLO). The obverse of the coin depicts the *diademed*, draped and *cuirassed* (armoured) bust of Valens facing right and has the inscription D N VALENS P F AVG (our Lord Valens, dutiful and fortunate Augustus). The obverse shows Victory advancing left holding a wreath in her right hand and the inscription SECVRITAS REIPVBLICAE // PCON (the security of the Republic). The coin was minted in Arles. Coins of the House of Valentinian are very common in the West Country and this extends their coverage further, into Cornwall.

A contemporary copy of a coin of Julian II (r.AD 360–3), found at Wanborough, Surrey
An unusual ancient forgery of a coin (SUR-82D915) of Julian II was found by Chris Lacey at Wanborough, and reported to David Williams (Surrey FLO). The coin is a contemporary forgery of a silver *siliqua* which appears to take its type from an issue of Lyons, but has a mintmark for Arles. No known such type was struck at Arles so the forger was probably mixing prototypes. The style of the piece is quite reasonable, but the mintmark unexpected, suggesting that the forger was working from a group of different original coins. The VICTORIA DD NN AVG (to the victories of our lords the emperors) issue is not represented in the hoards from Bishops Cannings, Wiltshire and by only one coin in that from Hoxne, Suffolk. Neither hoard has any irregular Victory types. Therefore, this is a most unusual coin. Nevertheless, in general, copies of silver *siliquae* are quite common.

A contemporary copy of a *siliqua* (SUR-82D915) of Julian II from Wanborough, Surrey

A *decanummium* of Justinian I (CORN-72D1D7) from Padstow, Cornwall (d.13.3 x 3mm)

Four sixth-century Byzantine *folles* (DEV-464726) from Otterton, Devon

Byzantine coins

A coin of Justinian I (r.AD 527–65) from Padstow, Cornwall
A rather poorly preserved copper-alloy *decanummium* (10 *nummus* piece) (CORN-72D1D7) was found by Jonathan Clemes at Padstow and recorded by Anna Tyacke (Cornwall FLO). It was probably struck at Cyzicus, on the coast of the Sea of Marmara in Western Turkey. Much sixth-century pottery from the Eastern Mediterranean has been found at Tintagel on the north Cornwall coast, so it is quite plausible that Byzantine coins should be found in the region as well. This coin, and the ones noted below, do provide increasing evidence for direct maritime links between the Mediterranean world and the south-west peninsula after the fall of the Roman province of Britannia in around AD 410.

Four sixth-century Byzantine folles found at Otterton, Devon.
Four Byzantine *folles* (DEV-464726) were found by George Fox at Otterton, and reported to Danielle Wootton (Devon FLO). The coins were struck in the reigns of Anastasius I (r.AD 491–518), Justin I (r.AD 518–527) or Justinian I (r.AD 527–65) and are very commonly found in the eastern Mediterranean region. A few, however, have been found in Britain. The large 'M' on the obverse/reverse of the coins represents 40; the *follis* was worth 40 *nummi*. Finds of sixth-century Eastern Mediterranean pottery were made in the sand dunes at Bantham in south Devon, so these coins appear to be further evidence for links between the south west and the Mediterranean after the fall of Roman Britain.

Edited by Sam Moorhead and Michael Lewis

EARLY MEDIEVAL PERIOD (AD 410 – 1066)

The range of early Anglo-Saxon finds recorded in 2006 has, above all, emphasised that PAS finds provide an essential counterpart to objects recovered through conventional archaeological investigation. Object types which seem at first to be highly unusual, such as the fifth-century sword chape from Sproxton (LEIC-7F2E18), turn out to have several parallels among metal-detector finds. Although rarely or never recorded before the PAS began, their significance now has to be reconsidered. Early Anglo-Saxon horse-harness fittings, rarely found in graves and so at one time thought to be the preserve of kings and princes, are becoming almost common, and their links to human jewellery and dress accessories are starting to come into focus. Similarly, as utilitarian tools rarely occur in early Anglo-Saxon graves (with the notable exception of women's weaving tools), these have also been enigmatic items. The PAS, however, is beginning to record some easily identifiable copper-alloy metalworking dies from the sixth and seventh centuries.

What these categories of artefact share is that they tend to be casual losses. As they are not placed in graves, they are not conveniently available to the archaeologist. Furthermore, if they were lost in settlements (the other major class of site which can be readily recognised and so excavated) they appear normally to have been recovered. Random losses in the countryside are not easy for conventional archaeological methods to recover, but are as likely to be found by metal-detectorists as plough-damaged cemeteries or settlements. As a result a fuller, and perhaps more reliable, picture of the early Anglo-Saxon period is beginning to be built up.

The role of the PAS in continuing to draw our attention to the erosion of conventional archaeological sites by modern agriculture should not be downplayed. Early Anglo-Saxon cemeteries are still being discovered, notably in 2006 near Rugby, Warwickshire and at Barrow upon Soar, Leicestershire and Barrow on Trent, Derbyshire (both place-names deriving from the Old English bearu 'grove, wood' rather than having anything to do with a burial mound). It is to be hoped that the prompt reporting of these cemetery sites may enable some record to be made of aspects of the cemetery other than just the objects. The cemetery at Sandy, Bedfordshire found almost fifty years ago and not reported at the time, is now almost certainly completely destroyed, but as the finder has kept the objects together and now brought them to public attention, we do at least know something of this important site.

Finds of early Anglo-Saxon brooches highlight the differences between PAS finds and conventional archaeological finds. The research project being carried out by Andrew Richardson (Kent FLO) and Laura McLean (Essex FLO) on the early Anglo-Saxon brooches of southern England is finding substantial differences between the types of brooch reported to the PAS and the types found in cemetery excavations. At the same time, Barry Ager (British Museum) has pointed out that several of the radiate-headed brooches recorded on the database appear to have Scandinavian affinities rather than the more commonly quoted links to contemporary French and German material.

A wide range of international contacts is also apparent within middle and later Early Medieval material. The number of items of Carolingian manufacture is now beginning to suggest that there was some systematic import of this material direct from eighth- or ninth-century France, although the inclusion of some Carolingian artefacts within Viking Age hoards reminds us that these objects could have a long and busy life before loss or deposition. Analysis of the variety of Carolingian artefact types being reported from England and Wales, as well as their findspots, may help eventually to distinguish the two.

The number of objects of Irish manufacture is also continuing to rise, and Susan Youngs (formerly British Museum) has tentatively identified several as strap-unions from horse-harness. The PAS has, as with so many artefact types, reinvigorated the study of these in established museum collections in conjunction with the new finds.

Of course, the most obvious international links in the Viking Age are with the Scandinavian world. A steady stream of objects which are likely to be of Scandinavian manufacture has been recorded, including the metalworker's die which appears to bear only the second known representation of the giantess Hyrrokkin (HESH-4844A4). Objects with a very Scandinavian appearance, but apparently no exact parallels in these regions, such as the Tong brooch (WMID-F8C502), are enigmatic at present.

Finds of Early Medieval coins also continue to be made across the country. In the Midlands, north and west of England, where discoveries from this period are less common than elsewhere, pennies of the late Anglo-Saxon kings Æthelred II (DENO-1BE7F4, WMID-B34EA1 & LANCUM-EDE0E0) and Edward the Confessor (LANCUM-C1F302) provide significant new evidence for the circulation of coins before the Norman Conquest. The find of an early eleventh-century Irish penny of Sihtric Anlafsson in Shropshire (HESH-E20370) adds to this and provides more evidence for contact with Ireland. The finds of a number of coins minted in Continental Europe, including a French seventh-century gold *tremissis* (LEIC-6BAA60) and a ninth-century *denier* of the Carolingian ruler Charles the Bald (IOW-C218C6), illustrate the broad international contacts enjoyed throughout the period.

A fifth-century sword chape (LEIC-7F2E18) from Sproxton, Leicestershire (28.7 x 25.06 x 2.7mm)

A sixth-century cruciform brooch (LEIC-9AF5B3) from Barrow upon Soar, Leicestershire (119 x 29 x 16mm)

A fifth-century sword chape from Sproxton, Leicestershire
A Frankish copper-alloy sword chape fragment (LEIC-7F2E18) was found by Ray Howitt in Sproxton, and recorded with Wendy Scott (Leicestershire & Rutland FLO). The object is in the form of a human figure between a pair of birds' heads. Both birds and human have ring-and-dot eyes; the human has, in addition, a raised brow ridge and nose, and above the brow ridge a series of radiating incised lines which may represent hair or a helmet. A series of wider chevron grooves below the nose may represent a moustache. The reverse is flat and undecorated. Four circular holes would have held the chape onto the scabbard. The lower edge of the chape is broken, but it would originally have tapered to a point, probably reinforced with a bulbous terminal.

This type of scabbard chape is not at all common in England. Continental chapes have been classified and dated, and three chapes on the PAS database fit well into this classification: from Mildenhall, Suffolk (SF-2799), Greywell, Hampshire (SUR-72CF23), and near Newark, Nottinghamshire (DENO-061D23). Two other chapes on the PAS database, however, seem to be distinctly different. These two, from the Isle of Wight (IOW-C1B525) and Norfolk (NMS-751713), are very similar to each other, and can be paralleled by a chape of similar form excavated in 1988–9 at Redcastle Furze, Thetford; this was residual (left behind) in a middle Anglo-Saxon ditch fill.

Wilfried Menghin's (Berlin Museum) 1983 study of these scabbard chapes in England and on the Continent suggested that his Type 3a may start as early as the first half of the fifth century and does not appear to continue into the sixth. Whether this is true for the increasing number of English finds, however, remains to be established.

A fifth- to sixth-century burial site in Barrow upon Soar, Leicestershire
Martin Rose carried out metal-detecting at Barrow upon Soar, next to an area being archaeologically evaluated in advance of development; the finds were reported to Wendy Scott (Leicestershire & Rutland FLO). Although the evaluated area produced no evidence of past occupation, the metal-detected area yielded several finds of early Anglo-Saxon metalwork, including a near-complete narrow cruciform brooch with full-round knobs (LEIC-9AF5B3), two detached full-round knobs which may also be from this brooch, and another possible full-round knob from a cruciform brooch. All of these can be dated to the fifth century. Two other finds, a fragment of the foot of another cruciform brooch which shows signs of heat damage, and a horse-head terminal from another cruciform brooch, can be dated to the later fifth or sixth century.

A mid fifth- to mid sixth-century disc brooch (SOMDOR-BC1877) from Otterhampton, Somerset (d.27.7 x 3.8mm)

A fifth- or sixth-century penannular brooch (NMGW-FF0EE5) from Llanfihangel Cwmdu with Bwlch and Cathedine, Powys (20.7 x 18.4 x 3.4mm). Illustration: Tony Daly

Although the fragments are relatively few in number, taken together they provide a very strong indication of a mixed inhumation/cremation cemetery on the site starting in the fifth century and probably continuing into the sixth.

A mid fifth- to mid sixth-century disc brooch from Otterhampton, Somerset
Tim Phillips found a cast copper-alloy variant of a disc brooch (SOMDOR-BC1877) whilst metal detecting at Otterhampton, and reported it to Naomi Payne (Somerset and Dorset FLO). The flat circular brooch has a double raised ring in the centre, with two small circular depressions and a raised area inside; the resemblance to a face may be deliberate. Outside the rings, the brooch has been silvered or tinned, and it is decorated with a border of rounded crescentic stamps. The back of the brooch is also intriguing. The integrally cast pin lug survives, but where the catchplate should be there is nothing but a patch of solder. It seems unlikely that the brooch should have been made with a separate catchplate; it is more probable that the original broke off, the stub was smoothed down and a replacement was soldered on as a repair in antiquity. This repair has at some point become detached again. Finding a parallel for this brooch has proved difficult. The stamped decoration and the design of the pin lug shows that it is certainly early Anglo-Saxon, but it is unlike any early Anglo-Saxon brooch ever found. The face-like design on the front is reminiscent of button brooches, but the faces on these are made in an angular style and look very different. The white-metal coating and the ring of stamps, on the other hand, recall disc brooches, and here the parallel is a little closer. Disc brooches are thought to date from the mid fifth to the mid sixth centuries, and it is particularly interesting that a brooch with such an early date should be found in western Somerset, an area thought to be outside the Anglo-Saxon sphere of influence at this time. Perhaps this, at least in part, explains its odd appearance. This very interesting brooch has been donated to the Somerset County Museum, and so will be available for closer study if comparative material comes to light.

A fifth- or sixth-century penannular brooch from Llanfihangel Cwmdu with Bwlch and Cathedine, Powys
While out walking, Mike Williams recognised a small piece of metalwork (NMGW-FF0EE5) lying in an upland spring in an area between the Brecon Beacons and the Black Mountains, at Llanfihangel Cwmdu with Bwlch and Cathedine. Realising the artefact might be significant, Dr Williams photographed the findspot and took a precise National Grid Reference. The metal object was subsequently reported to Mark Lodwick (Finds Co-ordinator, Wales), who was able to identify it as a copper-alloy penannular brooch, probably dating

to the fifth or sixth centuries. The brooch has since been studied by Mark Redknap (National Museums Wales).

The brooch is incomplete, missing one terminal and the pin. The frame is of circular cross-section and the surviving terminal is cuboid with faceted corners, now worn and rounded. Two lightly incised lines on one face of the terminal form an asymmetric cross; these appear to be a secondary addition.

The brooch is of Type G1.8, with undecorated hoop and terminals; the terminal form and hoop size of this brooch matches those of a silver example from St Kew's Steps near Worlebury, Avon. Type G brooches derive ultimately from small Romano-British antecedents, and are not easy to date; their occasional occurrence in early Anglo-Saxon burials may suggest a date-range in the fifth and sixth centuries. The National Museum Wales and the PAS hope to follow up the discovery with further research at the site.

A fifth- or sixth-century equal-armed brooch from Shalfleet, Isle of Wight
An unusual copper-alloy equal-armed brooch (IOW-08DCB1), dating to the fifth or sixth century, was found by Ron Lewis at Shalfleet, and reported to Frank Basford (Isle of Wight FLO).

The brooch is symmetrical, with an identical headplate and footplate separated by a central bow. Both headplate and footplate are decorated with lines of semi-circular stamps. The only way to tell the head and footplate apart is to look at the reverse; the headplate has a lug on the reverse, with iron corrosion from the bar and spring, and the footplate has the catchplate. The bow is decorated with oblique grooves, and on top has a small rounded hole which probably once contained a glass or gemstone setting. The brooch is in a remarkably good condition and has extensive remains of a white-metal coating. The fronts of both plates have a large number of longitudinal and transverse striations or scratch marks which may have been deliberately inscribed as subtle decoration, rather than being the result of filing or finishing. Barry Ager (British Museum) has suggested that this brooch's unusual appearance may be explained by it being an Anglo-Saxon version of the Scandinavian type of equal-armed brooch, rather than the more usual north German type.

A fifth- or sixth-century equal-armed brooch (IOW-08DCB1) from Shalfleet, Isle of Wight (81 x 22 x 5mm)

An early sixth-century brooch from Rodmell, East Sussex
A cast copper-alloy fragment from a cruciform brooch (SUSS-E0E037) was found by Richard Lyon at Rodmell, and reported to Liz Andrews-Wilson (Sussex FLO). The fragment consists of part of the foot of the brooch, including the catch plate; the start of the bow can be seen, and the top of the horse-head terminal, but both end in worn breaks. The foot is relatively narrow and simple, and probably dates to the early sixth century. Very few cruciform brooches have been recorded in Sussex. The PAS database contains only one other example (SUSS-2122B4), from the Chichester area, and yet there are ten fifth- and early sixth-century such examples from Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, and at least 39 from Kent. It seems that although there are cultural links along the south coast during the fifth and early sixth centuries, these do not penetrate into Sussex, which at this period seems to be remarkably resistant to influences from its neighbours.

An early to mid sixth-century harness fitting from Lambourn, Berkshire
A copper-alloy pendant mount from horse harness (BERK-461026) was found by Mr Povey in Lambourn, and reported to Kate Sutton (Berkshire & Oxfordshire FLO). The mount appears to have been modified in antiquity and is now incomplete, but its form can be reconstructed by comparing it with better-preserved examples from graves such as Eriswell (grave 4116) in Suffolk, Beckford (B12) and Lechlade (180) in Gloucestershire, and Bifrons (92) in Kent.

The most recognisable element on the mount is the 'Style I' human mask. This has two eyes (one now a hole) and a small projection with a sunken centre to either side, which look like ears, but are probably intended as the curled hair or head-dress that can be seen on better-made examples. Above the mask, the mount curves and flares, and has no decoration other than traces of a white-metal coating. The upper corners of the mount are rounded and projecting, and in the centre is a small rectangular tab which may have been broken and subsequently filed down. Below the mask the mount begins to flare again, and is decorated with two vertical incised grooves down the centre and a single similar groove around the outside. The mount is then broken. Traces of gilding survive in the relief and incised ornament. The upper end of the mount has a pair of iron rivets which would probably have been used to attach it to the harness. A parallel from Bifrons (grave 92) has separate rivets in a similar position, their heads concealed by a soldered-on silver sheet.

There are several indications that this pendant may have been mended, or perhaps re-used, in antiquity. A rough hole has been pushed through one of the eyes of the mask, perhaps to add a rivet. There are

An early sixth-century brooch (SUSS-E0E037) from Rodmell, East Sussex (42.32 x 16.89 x 14.11mm)

An early to mid sixth-century harness fitting (BERK-461026) from Lambourn, Berkshire (49.67 x 38.78 x 2.17mm)

A sixth-century wrist clasp (LVPL-F15235) from Foxley, Norfolk (50 x 25mm)

Two fragments of a sixth-century square-headed brooch (DENO-A99037) from near Barrow upon Trent, Derbyshire (30.9 x 36.08 x 7.9mm & 32.02 x 28.21 x 9.91mm)

two possible circular scars on the reverse, one below the mask and one above, perhaps the remains of integrally cast rivets which have subsequently been filed away. An uneven line across the bottom of the object obscures the gilding, and may be the remains of a strip of solder attaching a modification or repair.

Mounts from horse-harness were frequently re-used, mainly as brooches but also as mounts on other objects such as boxes. In graves it is, in fact, rare to find these items buried as part of a full horse-harness, and much more common to find them re-used as jewellery. Finds recorded by the PAS, however, can help to round out the picture of horse use in the early Anglo-Saxon period, because as with horse-harness mounts from other periods, the loss rate from the harness is likely to have been relatively high, and metal-detecting is a particularly effective way of recovering casual losses. We now have at least 14 horse-harness mounts from the sixth or seventh centuries recorded on the database, all of which may be casual losses.

A sixth-century wrist clasp from Foxley, Norfolk
A gilded copper-alloy hook-piece from a wrist-clasp (LVPL-F15235) was found by Ray Lander whilst metal-detecting in Foxley, and recorded with Nick Herepath (Cheshire, Greater Manchester & Merseyside FLO). Although wrist-clasps are not particularly rare, this discovery is particularly interesting, as it is paralleled only by a single pair of clasps, from Morningthorpe (grave 153), Norfolk.

The Foxley clasp-half is not entirely identical to the Morningthorpe pair. The rear edge of the clasp has the remains of three sewing holes rather than the two at Morningthorpe, and it lacks the central raised boss which on the Morningthorpe pair is probably imitative of a garnet setting. The principal shared element is the raised band running in an oval to divide an inner from an outer field, both filled with gilded relief decoration in 'Style I'. Both clasp designs also have a full-face human mask in the centre of the rear edge.

The ornament on the Foxley clasp-half is not easy to decipher. In the centre there appears to be a pair of animal-men; whether they can be seen as animals or humans depends on which way up the object is held. Around the outside are several elements of further animals or birds, with legs and perhaps beaks visible, and there are some strong parallels here with the ornament of the Morningthorpe clasps.

Both the Morningthorpe and the Foxley clasps should be dated to the sixth century, and perhaps early in that century. Foxley is in central Norfolk, and Morningthorpe 25 miles away in the south of the county.

A sixth-century horse-harness mount (DENO-A99AB3) from near Barrow upon Trent, Derbyshire (42.5 x 20.83 x 7.68mm)

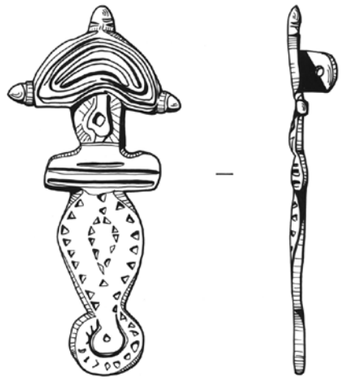
A sixth-century radiate-headed brooch (CAM-AD3CF2) from Pampisford, Cambridgeshire (49 x 19mm)

A sixth-century cemetery site near Barrow upon Trent, Derbyshire
Metal-detectorists Rob Davis and Gary Palmer have discovered an early Anglo-Saxon cemetery site near Barrow upon Trent, the finds from which were reported to Rachel Atherton (Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire FLO). The finds all appear to date to the sixth century, and include eleven fragments from cruciform brooches, two fragments from small-long brooches and four fragments from square-headed brooches including two joining fragments (DENO-A99037), which come from a brooch most closely paralleled by the Hines Group III brooch from Chessell Down (grave 22), Isle of Wight.

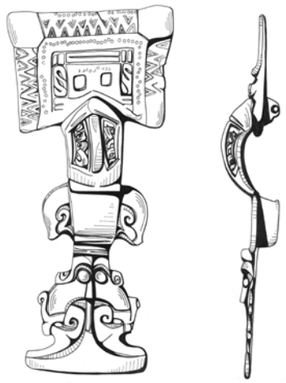
A more unusual find from the cemetery site is an incomplete horse-harness mount (DENO-A99AB3). This would originally have been cruciform; the single surviving arm has a 'Style I' human face above a sheet silver appliqué, with a single integral rivet on the reverse. The centre of the mount has a silvered border echoing the convex-sided lozenge shape of the mount itself; within this, each of the corners appears to be filled with a 'Style I' animal leg, although all of these are now largely obscured by corrosion. The legs are joined by a transversely ribbed circle which may represent the body of an animal; in the very centre is a silvered boss with a broad circular groove within. A circular wooden washer survives on the reverse, preserved through contact with corroding iron, but it is not clear whether the wood and iron belongs to the mount, or to another object which has corroded onto it. The parts of the mount that were not silvered were gilded, and this 'Bichrome' style dates it to the middle or later part of the sixth century.

The PAS is recording an increasing number of early Anglo-Saxon horse-harness mounts, both of sixth- and seventh-century date, which appear to be casual losses. The discovery of this particular example, within what appears to be a cemetery site and with organic remains surviving, is more unusual. Both context and condition suggest that the mount was deposited within a grave, and although most grave-finds of these mounts have been deposited at the end of a period of re-use, often as a brooch, this cannot be the case for the Barrow upon Trent mount, as it retains its integral rivet. It is possible that the mount was buried as part of an intact harness, which raises the possibility in turn that the Barrow upon Trent cemetery included the burial of a horse, a rare and prestigious event in the early Anglo-Saxon world.

A sixth-century radiate-headed brooch from Pampisford, Cambridgeshire
An unusual copper-alloy radiate-headed brooch (CAM-AD3CF2), dating to the sixth century, was found by metal-detectorist Stephen Fordham in Pampisford, and recorded with Philippa Walton (Cambridgeshire



A sixth-century radiate-headed brooch (BH-58CFE4) from near Sandy, Bedfordshire (59.8 x 27.9 x 7mm). Illustration: Donna Watters



A sixth-century a hybrid great square-headed/florid cruciform brooch (BH-588FD1) from near Sandy, Bedfordshire (129.6 x 58.8 x 20.3mm). Illustration: Donna Watters

A sixth-century pendant (KENT-CC59C7) from Hollingbourne, Kent (43.14 x 39.3 x 2.45mm)

FLO). The object is amongst a number of similar brooches, mostly from Kent and the Isle of Wight, recently reported to the PAS. These brooches all have small semi-circular or triangular heads, and are often assumed to be Continental in origin. The number now being reported, however, suggests that a distinctively English type may now be recognisable. Barry Ager (British Museum) has suggested that the Pampisford brooch has affinities with Scandinavian rather than Continental radiate-headed brooches, particularly 'Style I' decorated brooches from Ösby and Öland, Sweden; further study is needed to understand the relationships between Continental, Scandinavian and English brooch forms from this period.

A group of sixth-century brooches from near Sandy, Bedfordshire

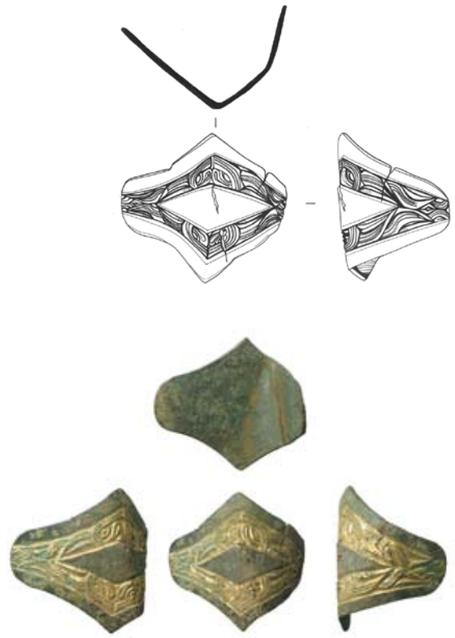
Almost fifty years ago, using one of the first commercially available metal-detectors, Dave Rayment found a large amount of Early Medieval material near Sandy. Encouraged by the new-found co-operation and trust between metal-detectorists and archaeologists, Dave recently decided to report the objects to Julian Watters (Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire FLO).

The group was uncovered during road construction, and includes at least sixteen small-long brooches, three cruciform brooches, two hybrid small-long/cruciform brooches, a radiate-headed brooch (BH-58CFE4) and a hybrid great square-headed/florid cruciform brooch (BH-588FD1), plus two non-matching wrist-clasp halves. Taken together, this group strongly suggests the presence of a hitherto unknown sixth-century Anglo-Saxon cemetery. Several of the pieces are currently on display in the PAS case at Bedford Museum.

A sixth-century pendant from Hollingbourne, Kent

A bell-shaped pendant (KENT-CC59C7) was found by David Button while metal-detecting at Hollingbourne, and reported to Andrew Richardson (Kent FLO). The gilded copper-alloy pendant is now rather corroded, but has an oval garnet setting flanked by a pair of 'Style I' animals with open, curling jaws. Between the two animal heads is a triangular ungilded area, which may originally have been silvered or tinned. There is a small suspension loop at the top.

This one of only twelve bell-shaped pendants known, and is the first to be found in Kent. The group is widely distributed, from Kent to Dorset in the south and Suffolk to Warwickshire in the Midlands; a northern outlier comes from near Market Rasen, Lincolnshire. It has been suggested in the past that bell-shaped pendants are belt pendants or purse fittings, although Tania Dickinson (York University) has suggested the possibility that they originally functioned as horse-harness pendants.



A mid to late sixth-century object (BH-9E8934) from Houghton Regis, Bedfordshire (51 x 47.8 x 2.3mm). Illustration: Donna Watters

A mid to late sixth-century brooch (WILT-F561A1) from West Ashton, Wiltshire (d.38.2 x 1.2mm)

A mid to late sixth-century object from Houghton Regis, Bedfordshire

A fine (albeit bent) copper-alloy object (BH-9E8934) was found by Udo van den Brock of Houghton Regis, who was levelling his garden prior to the construction of a patio, and subsequently recorded with Julian Watters (Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire FLO).

The function of the object is mysterious. It is lozenge-shaped and was probably originally flat, and has a gilded border of chip-carved decoration. The border on each side of the object has two inward-facing animals executed in very fine 'Style I'. The border then appears to run off the edge of the object, as if the ends have been trimmed. The flat reverse provides no clues as to how the mount may have been attached, or, indeed, as to what it may have been attached; there is no solder and no trace of any rivet or attachment hole. It is possible that any trimming of the ends may have removed rivets or attachment holes, but if so two functions have to be found, one for the original object and one for it in modified form. In fact, no parallel could be found for the object, but the decorative style fits into Haseloff's Phase D of 'Style I', and this, together with the partial gilding of the object, suggests a date in the mid to late sixth century.

A mid to late sixth-century brooch from West Ashton, Wiltshire

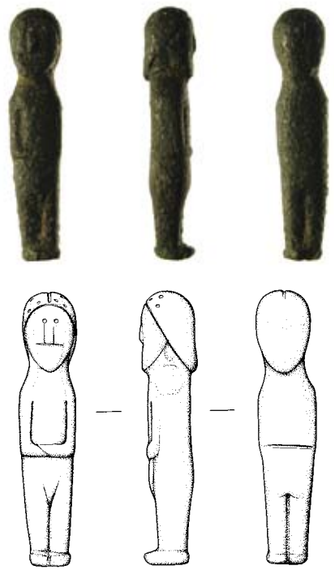
A copper-alloy keystone garnet disc brooch (WILT-F561A1) was found by Mr Puddy in West Ashton. The object was taken to Wiltshire Heritage Museum, Devizes where it was recorded by Katie Hinds (Wiltshire FLO).

The find is surprisingly thin and flat for a brooch of this type. It is decorated with three triangular cells, now empty, which would originally have contained settings, perhaps of garnet. Between the cells are three panels of relief decoration, each containing two confronting animals in 'Style I'. Each animal has a clearly visible leg and head, and it is possible that a rounded central element is a very attenuated body. Above the animals are three more geometric elements, which do not appear to relate to them and may be space-fillers. A double groove surrounds both cells and relief panels; although the brooch appears very worn, some gilding survives in the grooves and the relief panels, and it seems likely that the entire brooch was originally gilded.

This brooch is a clear copy of those made in Kent from the second quarter of the sixth century onwards. Interestingly, another copy, also with alternating garnet cells and Style I panels, was recorded earlier in 2006 from the Wiltshire/Hampshire border (WILT-6F2B84). Andrew Richardson (Kent FLO) is making a study of Early Anglo-Saxon brooches recorded through the

A late sixth- or seventh-century basal ring (LIN-75B9C3) from a hanging bowl from Lissington, Lincolnshire (38 x 14 x 1mm)

A late sixth- or seventh-century Merovingian *tremissis* (LEIC-6BAA60) found near the Langtons, Leicestershire (d.11 x 1.25mm)



A seventh-century figurine (SF-01ACA7) from Friston, Suffolk (51.2 x 10.6mm). Illustration: Donna Wreathall

PAS in southern England, and has commented that these examples may indicate a localised production of Kentish disc brooches. This, combined with the distribution of small square-headed brooches, provides further evidence of cultural, artistic, social and economic links between Kent and the Wiltshire/ Hampshire area during the sixth century.

A late sixth- or seventh-century basal ring from a hanging bowl from Lissington, Lincolnshire
Metal-detectorist Dave Wells found part of a flat enamelled copper-alloy basal ring (LIN-75B9C3) from a hanging bowl at Lissington, which he recorded with Adam Daubney (Lincolnshire FLO). When complete, the escutcheon would have been decorated with six spiralled roundels forming an unbroken running pattern; only two whole spirals are now visible, along with fragments of two others. The spirals show two different types of internal triskeles, and between them are smaller spirals. Although an exact parallel to this mount would not be expected, it is firmly in the tradition of other hanging bowl escutcheons and basal rings. The dating of the manufacture and deposit of hanging bowls in general has still not been firmly established, but a late sixth- or seventh-century date is probable for the manufacture of the Lissington mount.

A late sixth- or seventh-century Merovingian *tremissis* found near the Langtons, Leicestershire
A Merovingian gold *tremissis* (LEIC-6BAA60) was found by Eric Dudley near the Langtons, and recorded with Wendy Scott (Leicestershire & Rutland FLO). The obverse of the coin shows a left facing bust and the inscription BETOREGAS FIT. This can be translated as 'it was made in Betorex' (Bourges, France). The reverse of the coin shows a *croix chrismée* (a chi-rho with a Latin R in place of the rho) with an alpha and omega in two of the angles of the chi, and the inscription MVMMOL (probably denoting a moneyer called Mummolus). The coin is a rare example, minted in Bourges between 590 and 670, and is the first to be found in Britain.

A seventh-century figurine from Friston, Suffolk
A copper-alloy male figurine (SF-01ACA7) was found by Richard Newman in Friston, and recorded with Faye Minter (Suffolk FLO). Leslie Webster (formerly British Museum) has dated the figurine to the first half of the seventh century, and confirmed that it belongs to a small group of related figurines, all from sites near the east coast of England, between Lincolnshire and Kent. She has suggested that these figures functioned as amulets and may even be images of specific Germanic gods; perhaps they represent the pagan Anglo-Saxon equivalents of the Norse gods of fertility Freyr and his sister Freyja.

A seventh-century metalworking die (NLM-468D41) from Fen Drayton, Cambridgeshire (56.2 x 30.9 x 3.3mm)

A seventh-century metalworking die (SUR-C7A354) from West Clandon, Surrey (28.2 x 18.25mm). Illustration: David Williams

The figure is three-dimensional, and is standing in a distinctive pose with the arms folded across the midriff and the legs and feet fused together. It is in very poor, corroded condition, and many of the details of the decoration may have been lost, but it is still possible to see that the head is large, and that the oval face has closely set indented circular eyes, a shallowly protruding nose, and a straight groove for a mouth. The figure wears a cap, which tapers at the back of the head to finish at a point at the base of the neck. The shoulders are narrow and sloping, and the figure appears to be naked apart from a pair of tightly fitting trousers. The top of the trousers is shown by a groove across the back, but the arms are folded across the waist at the front. The trousers have a central bulge, allowing the interpretation of the figure as male. Gilding survives in the small circular indentations of the eyes and cap, but the corroded condition of the object makes it impossible to suggest how extensive the gilding originally was.

Five other figurines of this kind are known, two female and three male. The closest parallel is a male example, also from Suffolk, a metal-detector find from the area of the late sixth- and seventh-century settlement and cemetery at Carlton Colville, near Lowestoft. The Carlton Colville figurine, now in the British Museum, is made of partly gilded silver and has a loop projecting from the top of the head. The other parallels lack the loop and, like the Friston figurine, are made from copper-alloy. The two female figurines were both found in Kent, a metal-detector find at Higham and an excavated find from the Bradstow School early Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Broadstairs. The other male figurines come from the area of the early Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Breach Down, Kent, and from Caistor-on-the-Wolds, Lincolnshire. Although none is identical, their postural details are similar, and they all have a naturalistic portrayal of the human body with distinctive arm positions and costume details.

The Friston figurine was found on a newly discovered early Anglo-Saxon cemetery site, which seems to be of a similar date and nature to that of nearby Snape, 2 km to the west. Snape is a mixed-rite (cremation and inhumation) cemetery of late fifth- to seventh-century date, with the normal finds typical of early Anglo-Saxon graves as well as several more exotic finds and features including ship and boat burials. Without excavation, we will not know what range of burial types existed in the Friston cemetery, although early Saxon pottery fragments have been discovered which may be from cremation urns.

Two seventh-century metalworking dies, from Fen Drayton, Cambridgeshire and from West Clandon, Surrey
Two copper-alloy metalworking dies, both dating to

the seventh century, have recently been found. The first (NLM-468D41) was found by Tim Jackson at Fen Drayton, reported to Kevin Leahy (Finds Adviser) and recorded by Lisa Staves (North Lincolnshire FLO). The second (SUR-C7A354) was found by Robert Mintern at West Clandon, and reported to David Williams (Surrey FLO). These dies both date to the seventh century, and were used in a technique known as Pressblech. This technique involves covering the die with a thin sheet of malleable metal and then a flexible pad; striking the pad then transfers the design onto the sheet metal. The metal foils thus produced could be used to decorate other objects.

The Fen Drayton die is triangular, with a pair of projections at the wider top. It appears to be complete, although one projection is damaged, it is now slightly curved along its long axis, and a perforation has been added at the pointed tip. It is quite corroded, but clearly depicted in low relief on the die is a human figure with the head of a wolf. The head and feet are in profile, facing left, but the torso is facing front. The warrior is wearing a hauberk or tunic, its surface covered with cross-hatching suggesting either mail or textile; a beaded tail hangs down below the back of the garment. The right arm is bent at the elbow, with the hand on the hilt of a sword worn at the waist. The left arm is also bent to hold a spear with the point upwards. Wear and corrosion makes it hard to see all the details of the wolf-head, but the open mouth is clearly visible, with three sharp triangular teeth; a large circular eye can also be seen. It appears that the decoration was cast, not cut, into the face of the plate. The reverse of the die is plain and roughly cast, and has traces of iron staining.

The best parallel for this object is one of the four dies found at Torslunda, Sweden in 1870; this also has a depiction of a wolf-warrior which is strikingly similar to the Fen Drayton example. The position of the body, the shape of the head and teeth, the form of the feet, the weapons, and the tail hanging behind the legs is similar on both objects.

The West Clandon die was originally rectangular, but is now incomplete. It is again worn, but traces of 'Style II' decoration, with interlace and transverse ribbing, can be seen together with possible animal elements, perhaps legs, to the right and left. The reverse has traces of a hard gritty white mortar-like paste, possibly for mounting the die into a block.

The impressed foil produced by the Pressblech technique is fragile, and is normally strengthened in the early Anglo-Saxon period by the use of a raised, beaded border. The surviving edges on the West Clandon die have this characteristic beaded border, as does one edge of the Fen Drayton die; it can also be seen on other Pressblech dies from Europe and Scandinavia. Until recently, although objects decorated with Pressblech mounts have been found, the dies used to make them have been very rare. This may be because, unlike the decorated objects, the dies do not normally make their way into furnished graves and only enter the archaeological record as casual losses. Metal-detecting over extensive areas is a particularly good method for finding casual losses, and so the rise in the recording of metal-detector finds may well be responsible for the rise in the number of these dies known.

A seventh-century mount from Haversham, Buckinghamshire

A well preserved and finely decorated mount (BUC-24D605) was found by Ivan Clark at Haversham, and recorded with Ros Tyrrell (Buckinghamshire FLO) and Eleanor Ghey (Buckinghamshire FLA). The mount is made from gilded copper-alloy and is circular, with five integral rivets on the reverse, one in the centre and four around the edge; one has a separate copper-alloy rove surviving. The mount is bordered by a narrow angled ridge separated by a groove from an inner undecorated flat-topped raised circular ring. In the centre is a similar arrangement of narrow angled ridge, groove and flat-topped undecorated ring. Between the two is a field of relief decoration in 'Style II', depicting six identical animals each holding the middle of the body of the next animal in their fused jaws. The animals have elongated oval bodies and circular heads, each with a large pellet eye. They each have two legs with large prominent three-toed feet. Below the middle of each animal is an S-shaped motif. The motif within the central circle is unclear; it may be a single animal in relief, but it appears to have three body or head elements and three two-toed legs, so may alternatively be an abstract triskele.

The way in which the animal ornament has been finished is unusual. There appear to be platings or coatings in two different metals. The animals' bodies have a thick coppery or silvery coating, through which the underlying copper-alloy has worn through in places. This coating appears also to have been applied to the triskele or single animal in the centre, and the narrow ridge around both the inner and outer flat-topped ridges. The background around the six chasing animals is, in contrast, clearly gilded, perhaps to create a deliberate contrast with the animals.

These animals and their arrangement can be closely paralleled on a repoussé silver disc found at Caenby, Lincolnshire. The Caenby disc has long been recognised as of importance in understanding the origins and development of 'Style II' in England; one of the crucial features here is a curious vestigial loop in the rear leg of each Caenby animal, which on the Haversham mount has now become entirely separated from the rear leg, and has developed into an S-shaped motif. This loop appears to be descended from the long curled-up toes found on animals in Swedish Vendel-style art. Other similarities between the Haversham and Caenby discs and Vendel-style art (and indeed the small animal on the end of the gold buckle from Sutton Hoo Mound 1) are the fused biting jaws and the relatively large feet. It seems likely that the Haversham mount was originally fixed to a horse-harness. The arrangement of five rivets on the reverse would have reinforced a pair of crossing straps, either on the bridle or on a body harness. It dates from the seventh century, a period when horse-harness mounts in a wide range of shapes (long, cruciform, bell-shaped) were being replaced by a smaller range of circular and axe-shaped mounts.

A seventh-century mount (BUC-24D605) from Haversham, Buckinghamshire (d.37.42 x 2.67mm)

A seventh-century coin from Sleaford, Lincolnshire

A rare gold *thrymsa* (LIN-D82D76) was discovered near Sleaford, by metal-detectorist Dave Panton, and recorded with Adam Daubney (Lincolnshire FLO). The coin's obverse shows a right facing bare-headed bust, with a trident in front, but has no inscription. The reverse shows a cross potent within two dotted circles and the inscription 'WV[N]EETTON' in retrograde. The meaning of this inscription has never been firmly established, and it is impossible to say whether it may refer to a mint or moneyer. The type was produced between about AD 620 and 655.

A seventh-century *thrymsa* (LIN-D82D76) from Sleaford, Lincolnshire (d.13 x 0.7mm)

A newly discovered late sixth- to late seventh-century cemetery near Rugby, Warwickshire

A group of early Anglo-Saxon objects has been discovered near Rugby, by metal-detectorists Jason Shorthouse, Wayne Powell and David Taylor, who recorded their finds with Angie Bolton (Warwickshire & Worcestershire FLO). The group consists of two fragments from a florid cruciform brooch, a disc brooch and a possible fragment of workbox.

The disc brooch (WAW-F604A2) consists of a thin plate of gilded copper-alloy, decorated with panels of triple-strand interlace between circular and rectangular cells. The design has a large circular cell at the centre, now empty, with a triple-strand cross leading from it. The arms of this cross end in circular cells with traces of white material, which may have been an inlay in its own right or which may have been a backing paste for a garnet. Between the circular cells are four rectangular cells, all now empty, which may originally have held glass or garnet settings. Beyond these cells is a further ring of eight square cells, all empty. The triple-strand interlace fills the gaps in between the cells; it consists of loose knots and detached body elements, and is perhaps closer to 'Style II' than 'Style I'. Around the outside of the brooch is a narrow outer border divided into long rectangular cells. These cells are filled with an encrusted material which may be decayed glass.

A late sixth- to late seventh-century disc brooch (WAW-F604A2) from near Rugby, Warwickshire (d.52.94 x 3.64mm)

Two fragments of a late seventh-century florid cruciform brooch (WAW-0AB8D3) from near Rugby, Warwickshire (80.19 x 43.78 x 21.04mm & 34.77 x 32.61mm)

Part of a late seventh- or early eighth-century workbox (WAW-DA3434) from near Rugby, Warwickshire (42 x 32.5 x 0.7mm)

A fragment of late seventh- or early eighth-century workbox (GLO-DA7D75) from Wootton under Edge, Gloucestershire (30 x 22 x 1mm)

The two rings of gem settings, the 'Style II' decoration and the jewelled border recall the later Kentish disc brooches, Avent's Classes 6 and 7, which were made at the very end of the sixth or early in the seventh century. This brooch is not exactly like any Kentish brooch, however, and has closer affinities with imitations made outside Kent, such as the brooch excavated at the cemetery of Winnall II (Grave 21), Hampshire. Almost all the Kentish brooches are made of silver, whereas the majority of the non-Kentish imitations are of copper-alloy.

The two fragments from a gilded copper-alloy florid cruciform brooch (WAW-0AB8D3) represent the final and most lavishly decorated phase of cruciform brooches, dating to the later part of the sixth century. These brooches are chunky and robust and survive well in the ploughsoil.

A much more unusual find was the fragment of sheet copper-alloy decorated with repoussé dots (WAW-DA3434). This was initially identified as part of the binding strip from a wooden bucket, but the unusual decoration of a lattice of paired dots led to the alternative suggestion that it may have been part of a late seventh- or early eighth-century workbox (see below for more information on workboxes).

The objects have come from an area about 30m^2, and are most likely to have come from a disturbed burial site dating from the late sixth to at least the late seventh century. Warwickshire already has a good number of excavated early Anglo-Saxon cemeteries, providing information about settlement distributions, tribal or folk identities, communications, and the transition from the Romano-British to Anglo-Saxon periods. Metal-detecting, however, is showing us that there may be many more cemeteries which have not been lucky enough to have been discovered before significant damage is caused by agricultural activity. Ideally, excavation of these damaged cemeteries would be able to retrieve data on the artefact assemblages, skeletal positions, grave structures and palaeopathology from the individual graves, but the resources required means that excavation is unlikely. In the meantime, careful and responsible detecting can effectively monitor the continuing damage.

A fragment of late seventh- or early eighth-century 'workbox' from Wootton under Edge, Gloucestershire

A fragment of decorated copper-alloy sheet (GLO-DA7D75) was found by Stuart Grey at Wootton under Edge, and recorded with Kurt Adams (Gloucestershire & Avon FLO). Kurt was able to identify it as part of a workbox, a small enigmatic cylindrical container mostly found in female graves dating to the end of the seventh century or the beginning of the eighth.

The fragment is a small area of curved sheet, which is decorated with repoussé dots. Not enough survives to be able to reconstruct the entire pattern, but it is clear that there is a border of dots along the top (or bottom) edge, plus at least the start of a zig-zag line of dots. A more erratically curving line runs along the line of the break. Repoussé dots are the most common form of decoration on workboxes, although the decorative scheme varies. Under magnification, scratched lines can be seen roughly parallel to the neater zig-zag line; these are present on both front and reverse, and may represent laying-out lines. Down one edge is a strip of solder, and a series of closely spaced rivet holes; these would have been used to close the seam around the workbox's body.

Most workboxes have been found at the hip or leg, suggesting that they were suspended from a belt. The usual contents are fragments of fine-weave textile and plant remains, which led to them initially being identified as handy containers for fabric scraps and herbal remedies. Subsequent work has suggested that these fragments are too small to be of practical use, and that workboxes could instead be early examples of personal reliquaries. They are rarely found in ploughsoil due to their fragility. There are now four workboxes recorded by the PAS, from Warwickshire, Gloucestershire (see above), Lincolnshire (LIN-E32932) and North Yorkshire (LVPL1644).

A penny of Offa (WILT-31A183) from Chirton, Wiltshire (d.16mm)

A mid-eighth- to ninth-century mount (SWYOR-1AA507) from Lea, Lincolnshire (25.8 x 14.5 x 5.32mm)

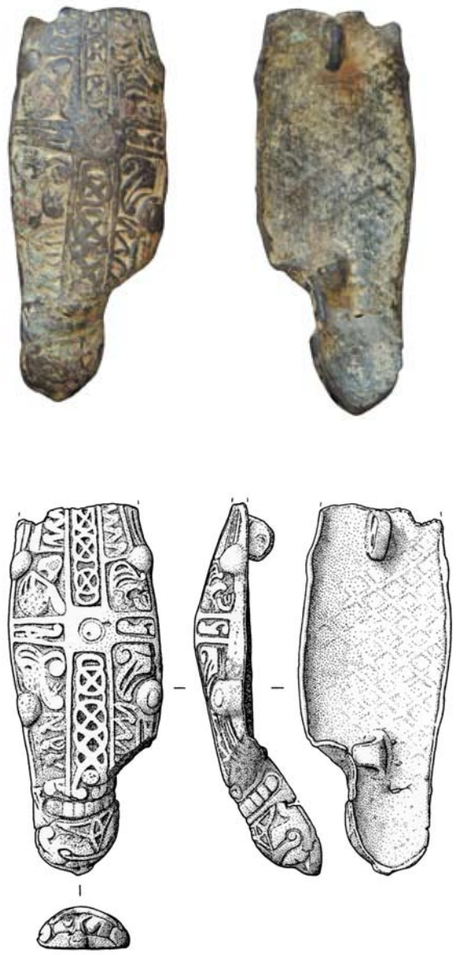
A coin of Offa (r.757–96) from Chirton, Wiltshire

Richard Miller found a silver penny of Offa (WILT-31A183) at Chirton, which was recorded by Katie Hinds (Wiltshire FLO); the coin was also studied by David Algar (Salisbury Museum) and Paul Robinson (Wiltshire Heritage Museum). The obverse of the coins shows O F Rx and A, the Rx ligatured and retrograde, probably representing Offa Rex Anglorum (Offa King of the English). The letters are in the angles of an elaborate cross fleury with a lozenge centre. Within this is a plain cross with pellets in each angle. The reverse reads ALH MUN D ([E]alhmund – the moneyer) in three lines, the first two divided by a line of pellets with fleury ends; a Latin cross is above.

The coin is of Ealhmund's substantive light coinage, and was most probably minted in London from about the mid 780s to 792. Very few of Ealhmund's coin of this type are known. The Early Medieval Corpus of Coin Finds database has recorded two, one from near Winchester, Hampshire (EMC1996.0158) and one from Staines, Surrey (EMC1988.0146), and so a possible south-central England distribution is beginning to emerge.

A mid-eighth- to ninth-century mount from Lea, Lincolnshire

A cast copper-alloy mount (SWYOR-1AA507) was found by Graham Dale at Lea, and reported to Anna



A late eighth- or early ninth-century brooch (NMS-F26AB7) from Great Dunham, Norfolk. Illustration: Jason Gibbons

A penny of Cuthred of Kent (BERK-78D8C5) from Ipsden, Oxfordshire (d.18.88mm)

Marshall (South & West Yorkshire FLO). The mount is triangular, and its gilded front is decorated with a symmetrical Carolingian-style foliage pattern consisting of a central stem with two pairs of curling leaves or tendrils to either side. The stem ends in a trefoil or fleur-de-lys at the wider end, and in a leaf at the apex; it is interrupted in at least one place by a transverse band. The reverse has two small integrally cast rivets.

Until now it had been thought that most, if not all, Carolingian metalwork found in Britain was brought to this country by Viking Age raiders or traders a century or two after its manufacture; this was due to the variety of objects found, which argued against organised imports. The quantities now being recorded, however, raises the possibility that at least some of these objects were imported directly from the Continent at the time of their manufacture in the eighth or ninth century.

A late eighth- or early ninth-century brooch from Great Dunham, Norfolk

Vince Butler found an incomplete late eighth- or early ninth-century Scandinavian copper-alloy brooch (NMS-F26AB7) at Great Dunham, which was reported to Steven Ashley (Norfolk Landscape Archaeology) and recorded by Nellie Bales (Norfolk FLO). The brooch is oval in shape, cast-in-one, broken at one end and squashed at the other. The elaborate moulded decoration includes four small bosses, knot interlace and an animal head at the surviving end. The hollow reverse has a single pin lug and catchplate, and textile impressions as a result of the casting process. This brooch is much earlier than most other Scandinavian artefacts found in Norfolk, probably arriving here before the Viking conquest. It is also particularly interesting as so far no parallel for this particular type has been found from the British Isles. Alice Cattermole (Norfolk Historic Environment Record) is continuing to investigate this fascinating artefact.

A coin of Cuthred of Kent (r.798–807) from Ipsden, Oxfordshire

Geoff Pettett found a silver penny (BERK-78D8C5) of King Cuthred of Kent at Ipsden, which he recorded with Kate Sutton (Berkshire & Oxfordshire FLO). The obverse of the coin shows a diademed bust facing right, and the inscription CUÐRED REX CANT (King Cuthred of Kent). The reverse shows a cross pommée, with wedges and angles, and the inscription SIGEBERHT I MONETA (Sigeberht the moneyer). It is particularly interesting that the reverse of this coin has been gilded. This does not make sense in monetary terms, as apart from a very few Arab dinars there was no contemporary gold coinage to imitate. It is also hard to explain in terms of re-use as jewellery, as there is no apparent perforation, solder or other evidence of re-use.

An eighth- or early ninth-century mount (BUC-B9B352) from Moulsoe, Buckinghamshire (34.64 x 34.53 x 8.48mm)

An eighth- to eleventh-century strap-end (NCL-DBCED5) from Spennymoor, County Durham (35.29 x 2.9 x 3.19mm)

An eighth- or early ninth-century mount from Moulsoe, Buckinghamshire

Emily Baker found an intricately decorated copper-alloy mount (BUC-B9B352) at Moulsoe, which was recorded with Ros Tyrrell (Buckinghamshire FLO) and Eleanor Ghey (Buckinghamshire FLA). The mount is square, with a semi-circular panel centrally placed on each side. In the centre is a square cell with a raised border, which may originally have held a setting. Two further fields surround this, each surrounding field slightly lowered from the thickest central cell. No decoration can now be seen on the inner field, but the surface is extremely corroded and some fine decoration may be obscured or obliterated. The outer field is divided into four by pointed ovals joining the corners. Here the mount is less badly corroded, and two opposing sides certainly contain three successive interlace knots; the other two each have a single row of repeating interlace. The decoration of the curved panels also consists of opposing pairs of different interlace motifs. Traces of gilding are visible across much of the mount, apart perhaps from the innermost square. On the reverse are two parallel rectangular lugs, both now broken, which appear to have been pierced for attachment.

The Moulsoe mount belongs to a growing number of Irish mounts found in Britain and dating from the eighth or early ninth century, characterised by their robustness, interlaced decoration in panels, and integral pierced lugs for attachment on the reverse. Many mounts of this type were used on wooden boxes or portable shrines, but Susan Youngs (formerly British Museum) has suggested that some of the new finds appear instead to have been used as strap-unions from horse harness. Other mounts belonging to this group recorded by the PAS include those found at Sapcote, Leicestershire (LEIC-09D1C8) and Freckenham, Suffolk (SF8875); their wide distribution suggests that they may have circulated through Viking trading networks, resulting in a date of deposition perhaps much later than their date of manufacture.

An eighth- to eleventh-century strap-end from Spennymoor, County Durham

A copper-alloy strap-end (NCL-DBCED5) was found by Craig Allaker at Spennymoor, and recorded by Rob Collins (North East FLO). The strap-end, of Thomas's Class B, Type 1, has a split attachment end (one half missing), a narrow but thick body and a very stylised animal-head terminal. This type of strap-end began to be used in the late eighth or early ninth century, and continued to be popular until the eleventh century. Examples are concentrated in the south of England; apart from one from West Yorkshire (SWYOR-3F6B52) this is the only example on the PAS database yet to have been found north of the Wash.

A ninth-century hooked tag (CAM-A1B9B1) from Sawston, Cambridgeshire (23 x 15mm)

A ninth-century strap-end (WMID-DFCCD4) from Worfield, Shropshire (40 x 14.5 x 4mm)

A ninth-century hooked tag from Sawston, Cambridgeshire
A copper-alloy hooked tag (CAM-A1B9B1) decorated with silver wire scrolls was found by Stephen Fordham whilst using a metal-detector near Sawston, and recorded by Philippa Walton (Cambridgeshire FLO). The tag has a pair of sewing holes in projecting lobes at the top, and is decorated with a central circular panel of niello inlaid with three back-to-back C-shaped scrolls of silver wire. There is a border of a border of blind-drilled dots around both the sewing holes and the central panel, and a pair of tiny lobes to either side of the (now missing) hook.

Hooked tags and strap-ends with decoration of silver wire scrolls set in niello or, occasionally, black enamel, are a well-known ninth-century type, whose distribution is generally confined to East Anglia. Fourteen hooked tags with this type of decoration are now recorded on the PAS database, seven from Norfolk and six from Suffolk; the Sawston tag is the first from outside these two counties. All have borders of dots or blind-drilled holes, but vary considerably in their quality of manufacture and decoration; the Sawston example falls near the middle of the range.

A ninth-century strap-end from Worfield, Shropshire
A complete ninth-century silvered copper-alloy strap-end (WMID-DFCCD4) was found by Barrie Taylor whilst metal-detecting at Worfield, and reported to Caroline Johnson (Staffordshire & West Midlands FLO). The strap-end is of Thomas's Class A, Type 1, and is decorated in slightly clumsy but absolutely mainstream Trewhiddle-style decoration. At the top is a semi-circular motif divided into three, now partly obscured by iron corrosion from the pair of rivets. Down either side of the main decorative panel below is a strip of neat ladder-pattern engraving. The main panel is divided into three sunken areas decorated in low relief. In the centre is an oval pattern of eight petal shapes, which recalls some of the circular eleven-petal roundels on the Fuller brooch; above and below are shorter panels, each containing a disjointed and not very expertly executed single animal. At the bottom is the animal-head terminal always found on these strap-ends, in this case very stylised. A pair of large ears can be seen, almost rectangular and each defined by a semi-circular groove. The eyes are simply formed from an opposed C-shaped groove on either side. In the centre of the head is a sunken trapezoidal panel filled with a low-relief symmetrical motif which may possibly be derived from another single animal. The reverse, although otherwise undecorated, is also silvered. The use of Trewhiddle-style decoration dates this strap-end broadly to the ninth century.

A *denier* of Charles the Bald of France (IOW-C218C6) from Calbourne, Isle of Wight (d.20mm)

A ninth- or tenth-century brooch (NMS-7F7086) from Loddon, Norfolk (45 x 24mm)

A ninth- or tenth-century finger-ring (Treasure case 2006 T629) from near Pocklington, East Yorkshire (20mm)

A coin of Charles the Bald of France (r.840–77) from Calbourne, Isle of Wight
A silver *denier* (IOW-C218C6) was discovered by David Mortimer-Kelly whilst metal-detecting at Calbourne, and then reported to Frank Basford (Isle of Wight FLO). The coin's obverse has a central cross pattée within a circle of pellets surrounded by the inscription +CARLVS REX FR (Charles King of the Franks). The reverse has the central monogram KRLS (Karolus or Charles) with the inscription +METVLLO (Melle) denoting that the coin was minted at Melle near Poitiers, France. Coins of Charles the Bald have often been found in the area of the Danelaw, where they evidently circulated in fairly large numbers in the late ninth and early tenth century, but this coin is the first of its type to be recorded from the Isle of Wight. Seven other examples are known from southern or south-western England, including one from Cornwall (CORN-E96645), the others being listed on the Early Medieval Corpus of Coin Finds database.

A ninth- or tenth-century brooch from Loddon, Norfolk
Lead objects are often unidentifiable or undatable, and it is tempting to overlook them. However, an incomplete and distorted late-ninth- or tenth-century brooch (NMS-7F7086), found by Steven Carpenter near Loddon, which was identified by Andrew Rogerson (Norfolk Landscape Archaeology) and recorded by Nellie Bales (Norfolk FLO), is an example of an extremely interesting and important lead object. The rectangular plate brooch, originally flat, has concave long sides and is decorated with cast relief ornament consisting of volute mouldings at both ends, a central moulding and pellets. Lead examples of objects usually made from copper-alloy are sometimes interpreted as models for the manufacturing process, but the catchplate, and double pin lug with the remains of an iron pin attached on the reverse show that this brooch was meant to be used.

The rectangular plate brooch is a well-known form on the Continent, where they date from the late seventh to the early eleventh century, and are known in both lead and copper-alloys. In Britain, however, they are uncommon in any material. There are only two other examples currently recorded on the PAS database (LIN-5FCA06 & SF178), both made from copper-alloy. These brooches also have expanded corners like those on the Loddon brooch, as does an excavated example from a late ninth- to early tenth-century context in Winchester.

A ninth- or tenth-century finger-ring from near Pocklington, East Yorkshire
Tony Laverack found a finger-ring (Treasure case 2006 T629) near Pocklington, East Yorkshire, which he reported via Simon Holmes (North & East Yorkshire FLO). The ring has a slightly convex gold band which

A ninth- or tenth-century sword pommel (NCL-42A632) from Warkworth, Northumberland (6.4 x 2.4mm)

A late ninth- to eleventh-century brooch (WMID-F8C502) from Tong, Shropshire (34 x 23 x 7mm)

tapers towards each end, and is decorated with two rows of interlocking punched triangles each containing single pellets. Both the form of the ring and the decoration are typical of Viking Age gold or silver finger-rings of the ninth to tenth centuries, normally found in Scandinavian graves and hoards. There have been only two other punch-decorated gold rings of broadly similar form found in Britain, one at Thetford, Norfolk in 1905, and the other at Beachamwell, Norfolk (Treasure case 2004 T267) in 2004.

A ninth- or tenth-century sword pommel from Warkworth, Northumberland

A hollow, cast copper-alloy sword pommel (NCL-42A632) was found by Arthur Patterson at Warkworth, and recorded with Rob Collins (North East FLO). The pommel has a flat base, and although it has five lobes, from either side it appears nearly semi-circular. This is because the small outermost lobes continue the line of the large, rounded central lobe, being divided from it by a pair of relatively tall narrow lobes. The outermost pair of lobes have integral rivets for attaching the pommel to the upper guard or pommel bar, and a square perforation at the top of the central section would have accommodated the tip of the sword's iron tang, which was probably hammered over to hold the pommel firmly in place.

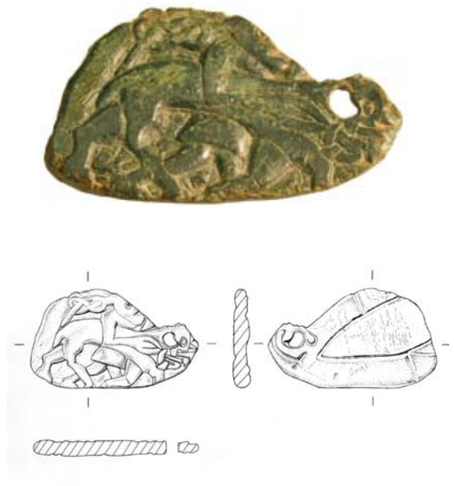
This pommel can be compared to examples of Petersen's types K and S, such as the iron examples from Sigdal, Buskerud and Vaage, Oppland (both in Norway). No exact parallel has been found, however, perhaps because metal-detecting focuses on the rarer copper-alloy pommels which are difficult to parallel among the better-known excavated iron examples.

A late ninth- to eleventh-century brooch from Tong, Shropshire

A copper-alloy brooch in the shape of an animal (WMID-F8C502) was found by Clive Rasdall while metal-detecting at Tong, and recorded with Caroline Johnson (Staffordshire & West Midlands FLO). The brooch is worn and is now incomplete, but can be identified as an animal in the Jellinge style, with the head turned round over the back to grip the tail in the mouth. The rear haunch has an outer ridge with a small surviving area of niello in the sub-circular sunken area within. The animal's body has the remains of two strips of inlaid niello running lengthways, and there may be another two niello strips across the neck. The surviving niello has some zig-zag patterning on it, which may have contained an inlay of fine silver wire; this technique can be paralleled on eleventh-century stirrup-strap mounts (such as BUC-DC8057 & HAMP2610).

All of the legs, whether originally two or four, are now missing; the stub of a foreleg suggests that this

A contemporary imitation of a penny of Edward the Elder (HAMP-232C50) from Vernhams Dean, Hampshire (15.25 x 9.7 x 0.9mm)



A late tenth- to eleventh-century metalworking die converted into a pendant (HESH-4844A4), from near Oswestry, Shropshire (46.3 x 27.6 x 4.3mm). Illustration: Lisa Chapman

may originally have been raised. The head has a small projecting ear and outward-curling jaws, and the tail is bent at a right angle to enter the mouth. The reverse has a pierced lug onto which the pin would originally have been secured, but no catchplate or trace of one survives.

The brooch is exceptionally unusual, and no parallel has yet been found, although the animals have a similarity to the Jellinge-style openwork animals in the centre of a tenth-century harness-bow from Søllested, Denmark. The brooch was originally identified by Mike Stokes (formerly Rowley's House Museum, Shrewsbury). In a letter to the finder he noted that 'very few finds of this date or type are known from the West Midlands – especially this far west, even though we know of Scandinavian activity in the area from the records of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle', particularly the Viking defeat at the Battle of Tettenhall in 909 or 910.

A contemporary imitation of a coin of Edward the Elder (r.899–924) from Vernhams Dean, Hampshire

A fragmentary silver penny (HAMP-232C50) was brought to Rob Webley (Hampshire FLO) for recording by Derek Robinson, who found it at Vernhams Dean; the coin was identified by Martin Allen (Fitzwilliam Museum).

The obverse shows a diademed bust facing right, with the inscription [EADW]EAD. R[EX] (King Edward). The reverse has a blundered and incomplete inscription, which may read PT[...] ++[+] LII[...]; the P probably represents a W. This inscription should give the moneyer's name in two lines, divided by a row of three crosses; one and a half of the crosses are now visible. The right-facing bust gives this coin away as an imitation of a penny of Edward the Elder's diademed bust type. It is thought that these imitations were made in Norwich or nearby; this coin is the first securely provenanced example to have been found outside Norfolk.

A late tenth- to eleventh-century metalworking die converted into a pendant, from near Oswestry, Shropshire

A copper-alloy Viking Age die (HESH-4844A4), subsequently converted into a pendant, was found by Trevor Brown near Oswestry, and recorded with Peter Reavill (Herefordshire & Shropshire FLO). The die is engraved, not cast, with a scene showing a human figure in profile, wearing a short garment, with hair (or a hood) knotted in an 8-shaped loop. In front of the figure is an animal; the figure's arm passes over the animal's body and neck. The hand holds a loop of reins, the other end of which interlaces with the animal's jaws, the lower of which also appears to contain a large fang. The animal has a round eye and short tail but is not otherwise very clearly depicted; the subsequent

A coin of Sihtric Anlafsson (HESH-E20370) from near Whitchurch, Shropshire (d.19mm)

A tenth- to mid eleventh-century strap-end (NCL-897E02) from Felton, Northumberland (66 x 33mm)

modification of the die has removed some edge detail, particularly around the heads of the human and animal.

Neil Price (Stockholm University) has tentatively identified the figure as that of the giantess Hyrrokkin, who in Norse mythology comes to Balder's funeral riding on a giant wolf and using snakes for reins. She dismounts to help launch his funeral ship and hands the wolf to four berserkirs who have trouble holding the animal still. The scene perhaps shows the moment of handing the wolf over. It is possible that the reins originally ended in snakes' heads – one may survive in front of the animal's front foreleg – but the missing edges to the object make this uncertain. The best parallel is a depiction of Hyrrokkin riding the wolf on a carved stone from Hunnestad, Sweden, which also shows her wearing a short garment and with what appears to be a knotted hood. The knot is more characteristic of women's hairstyles than men's hoods, and together with the clothing may be intended to depict a figure neither truly male nor truly female. The Hunnestad stone dates from around AD 1000 and so may give us a more precise date for the die, which would originally have been used to create thin foil panels in the Pressblech technique (see above, p.82).

At some point the die has been re-shaped, decorated on the reverse and pierced to create a pendant. The pendant is sub-triangular, with engraving added to give squarish panels at the lower corners and a bird's head at the apex; the bird's head also has parallels in Viking Age art, and it seems likely that the re-use took place when the die was not more than a century old. The re-shaping of the object appears to have been designed to cause minimal disruption to the original design of the die, perhaps because the mythological scene, although not now on public display, retained some significance. The smoothly worn edges suggest that the object received a good deal of handling subsequent to its modification, perhaps also showing its enduring importance.

A coin of Sihtric Anlafsson (r.995–1035?) from near Whitchurch, Shropshire
A silver Hiberno-Norse long cross type penny (HESH-E20370) of Sihtric Anlafsson (Silkenbeard) was discovered by Gary Dunn near Whitchurch, Shropshire, and recorded with Peter Reavill (Herefordshire & Shropshire FLO). The obverse of the coin shows a bust facing left with the inscription SIHTRC RE + DYFLIN ([King] Sihtric of Dublin). The reverse shows a long cross, which divides the coin and inscription [FÆ]REMIN O [DYFLI] (Faeremin of Dublin), which shows the penny was minted in Dublin by the moneyer Faeremin. There is a single pellet at the centre of the cross. The coin itself is based on an Æthelred II type long cross penny, and is thought to have been struck between about 995 and about 1020. Although Sihtric ruled Dublin for many years the precise dates of his reign are uncertain, but he is thought to have ruled from about the mid to late 990s to the early to mid 1030s.

A tenth- or eleventh-century scabbard chape (KENT-476C48) from Cliffe and Cliff Woods, Kent (39.53 x 21.37 x 9.09mm)

A penny of Æthelred II (DENO-1BE7F4) from Perlethorpe cum Budby, Nottinghamshire (d.20.12mm)

A tenth- to mid eleventh-century strap-end from Felton, Northumberland
Fenwick Lynn found a strap-end (NCL-897E02) at Felton, which he recorded with Rob Collins (North East FLO). The strap-end consists of two-pieces, an attachment plate and a hinged openwork terminal. The attachment plate is made from a flat strip of copper-alloy, and is decorated with relief or perhaps repoussé decoration of a diagonal cross with further, now very worn, ornament in the angles. The terminal is made from cast copper-alloy; it is convex, and has relief decoration of symmetrical foliage around a central element which may be a broad stem or which may include an animal head. The best parallels for this object and its decoration are found among tenth-century objects decorated in the Winchester style, but as yet no exactly similar object has been found.

A tenth- or eleventh-century scabbard chape from Cliffe and Cliff Woods, Kent
A zoomorphic gilded copper-alloy scabbard chape (KENT-476C48) found at Cliffe and Cliff Woods was reported by Cliff Turner to Laura McLean (Kent FLA) via Maidstone Museum. The incomplete chape dates from the tenth to eleventh century and is of an openwork zoomorphic design. The backwards-looking quadruped, perhaps a dragon, tapers towards the tail, which curves back on itself and joins the hind legs. There is a fold running along the animal's back, and there are small rivet holes on the front leg and at the knee of the back legs. Each side is decorated with a subtly different design of small punched circles and incised lines, with traces of gilding surviving. Variations of this chape form are found across the Continent, but are not commonly found in Britain.

A coin of Æthelred II (r.978–1016) from Perlethorpe cum Budby, Nottinghamshire
A silver 'crux' penny of Æthelred II (DENO-1BE7F4) was found by Peter Reid at Perlethorpe cum Budby, and reported to Rachel Atherton (Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire FLO). The obverse of the coin shows a bare-headed bust of a king facing left, holding a sceptre which terminates in a trefoil (double-struck) and the inscription [Æ]DELRED REX ANGLO[X] (Æthelred King of the English). The reverse shows a voided short cross with the letters C R V X (cross) in the angles, within a plain border and a beaded outer border. The inscription reads +LIFINC M-O LVND (Lifinc moneyer of London). The coin was minted in about 991 to 997 in London. Although the coin is not unusual in itself, finds of late Anglo-Saxon pennies are rare in

A penny of Æthelred II (LANCUM-EDE0E0) from near Kendal, Cumbria (d.19.5 x 0.5mm)

A penny of Æthelred II (WMID-B34EA1) from Mavesyn Ridware, Staffordshire (14 x 12 x 0.5mm)

An eleventh-century strap-end (SUR-DA1752) from East Clandon, Surrey (48.84 x 10.43mm)

Nottinghamshire; this is one of only four on the PAS database (the others being DENO-29BD36, SWYOR-878587 & LVPL-590945).

A coin of Æthelred II (r.978–1016) from near Kendal, Cumbria

Rocky Hall found a silver penny of Æthelred II's 'First Hand' type (LANCUM-EDE0E0) near Kendal, Cumbria, which he recorded with Lisa Keys (Lancashire & Cumbria FLA). The coin is in three pieces, but can be reconstructed to show a diademed bust facing right on the obverse, with the inscription +Æ[THELRED RE]X ANGLOX (as above). The reverse shows the Hand of Providence issuing from clouds, with an alpha and omega at the sides and the moneyer's inscription, probably OBAN O[N EOFER]P (Oban of York). Although the surviving pieces of the coin fit together there is still a large proportion missing. Coins of Æthelred II are rare in Cumbria, and this example appears to be the first single find anywhere in the country of a coin minted by Oban.

A coin of Æthelred II (r.978–1016) from Mavesyn Ridware, Staffordshire

A fragment of a penny of Æthelred II's 'Second Hand' type (WMID-B34EA1) was found by John Hastilow whilst metal-detecting at Mavesyn Ridware, and recorded with Caroline Johnson (Staffordshire & West Midlands FLO). The obverse shows a diademed bust of the king facing right, holding a sceptre with a trefoil head in front; the inscription reads [+ÆTH]EL RE [D REX ANG (LOX)] (as above). The reverse depicts the Hand of Providence with a curve at each side of the sleeve, issuing from the clouds, and an alpha and omega at the sides, with pellets below. The reverse inscription reads +B[---]ND, which is the moneyer's name. Possible candidates for the moneyer are Beorhtlaf, Beorhtsige or Beornwulf of London. The coin was minted between about 985 and 991. This is the first Æthelred II penny to be recorded with the PAS from Staffordshire, illustrating its importance as a find.

An eleventh-century strap-end from East Clandon, Surrey

An Anglo-Scandinavian strap-end (SUR-DA1752) was found by Chris Lacey near East Clandon, and reported to David Williams (Surrey FLO). The strap-end is of Thomas's Class G, and has a split end with a single rivet to hold the strap. At the base of the split end is a stylised animal head with an upturned snout. The jaws grip the edge of a chunky ring, and on the opposite side of the ring is a fragment of interlace. On the original East Scandinavian prototypes for this strap-end the interlace can be seen to belong to the body of a separate animal. Although on English examples the ornament is very much less clear, it appears to be an English variant of the Urnes style, current during the second half of the eleventh century.

An eleventh-century strap fitting (HAMP-1733D0) from Monk Sherborne, Hampshire (61.08 x 25.48 x 12.12mm)

An eleventh-century harness link (SOMDOR-E14156) from Compton Abbas, Dorset (77.7 x 22.8 x 9.2mm)

There are perhaps a dozen examples of Thomas's Class G strap-ends known from Britain, both imports and local copies. The PAS has now recorded three; the East Clandon example, one from Suffolk (SF3485) and one from Norfolk (NMS-110365).

An eleventh-century strap fitting from Monk Sherborne, Hampshire

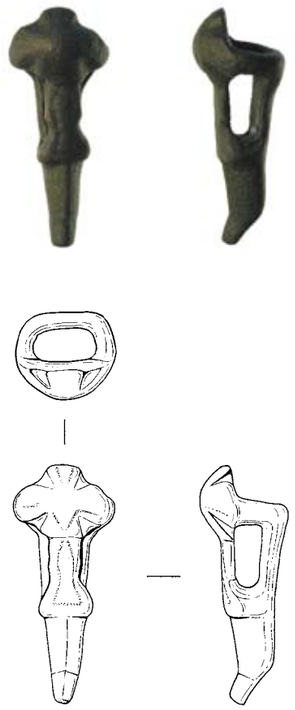
A strap-fitting (HAMP-1733D0) was found by John Honour in Monk Sherborne, reported to Rob Webley (Hampshire FLO) and recorded by Laura McLean (Hampshire FLA). The fitting is copper-alloy and was attached by a single iron rivet at one end and a hook at another. It features engraved decoration in the form of a pair of back-to-back animals whose open jaws point towards the hooked end; the other end, with the iron rivet, is decorated with a lobe flanked by scrolls, reminiscent of the later Medieval *fleur-de-lys*.

Four other hooked strap fittings are recorded on the PAS database (HAMP-177E22, ESS-48C441, NMS-C0E720 & BUC-D4F937), but these four are of a slightly different shape. All are essentially V-shaped, with the open ends of the V each ending in a lobe flanked by scrolls pierced by a rivet hole. The point of the V is formed by a pair of open-jawed animals whose jaws point away from the hooked end to bite the arms. The Monk Sherborne example, therefore, is a more unusual form. All of these strap-fittings are decorated with Ringerike-style engraving, an Anglo-Scandinavian art style which dates to the eleventh century. Their use is uncertain, but it has been suggested that they may be clasps from leather bags.

An eleventh-century harness link from Compton Abbas, Dorset

A cast copper-alloy double-ended harness link (SOMDOR-E14156) was found by John and Verena Harper at Compton Abbas, and recorded with Naomi Payne (Somerset and Dorset FLO). The harness link has lozenge-shaped ends with oval perforations, and a central boss in the shape of an animal's head. The animal has small upright ears and a wide rounded snout, and may be a dog.

Most harness links of this type have simple rounded bosses in the centre, but there are some which are more elaborate. A few are known with animal-head bosses: SF-DD8BC4 has a probable fox; SUSS-482A02 has a cat- or dog-like head; SF-A96551 has what appears to be a complete sheep shown in profile. Others have flat areas with engraved abstract decoration which dates the links to the eleventh century. The lower edges of both of the perforations on this link are worn, the left-hand loop more than the right-hand one. This wear would have been caused by the leather straps of the harness which would have fed through it. The exact use of harness links such as



Two eleventh-century strap fittings (SF-FCF566 & SF-FD3563) from Bures St Mary, Suffolk (38.9 x 16.4 x 14.8mm & 36.1 x 17.6 x 16mm). Illustration: Donna Wreathall

A tenth- to thirteenth-century textile tool (NARC-B790B1) from Wellingborough, Northamptonshire (103.1 x 6.8 x 10.8mm)

these is still uncertain beyond the joining of leather straps, and analysing the wear patterns of complete examples may eventually help to identify a function or functions.

Two eleventh-century strap fittings from Bures St Mary, Suffolk

Two copper-alloy fittings of 'socketed hook' type (SF-FCF566 & SF-FD3563) have been found by Mr B Porter in Bures St Mary. They were identified by Helen Geake (Finds Adviser) and recorded by Faye Minter (Suffolk FLO).

Both examples originally had a terminal in the shape of an incomplete loop or almost-closed hook; both of the hooked ends have now broken. Beyond the hooked ends are surviving hollow openwork sockets, formed from two opposing bars, which are then joined at the open end by a flat-backed ring. The front bar on each object is decoratively shaped, and at the junction with the ring expands into a cross-shaped boss which is further embellished by engraving.

Ten other examples of 'socketed hooks' are recorded on the PAS database, from Buckinghamshire (two), Cambridgeshire, Hampshire, Kent, Lincolnshire (three) and Norfolk (two); the Norfolk Historic Environment Record has recorded four other pre-PAS examples. Their function was a mystery until the find of two socketed hooks in Osbournby, Lincolnshire, one still in place hooked into a perforated disc (LIN-F29FC4). The disc was similar to the type of discs occasionally found linked to strap-distributors; two examples of the discs were found singly in Norfolk in the 1990s, and two more have been found in excavated contexts, in Brighthampton, Oxfordshire and at New Fresh Wharf, London.

The late Sue Margeson (formerly Norwich Castle Museum) was the first to recognise both the socketed hooks and the discs as belonging to the eleventh century, on the basis of their Ringerike-style engraved decoration. Although the Ringerike style is a Scandinavian art style, it seems that no socketed hook has been found in Scandinavia, and they appear to be a distinctively English innovation. Their function is still to some extent a mystery; although they look very much like strap-distributors, their wide sockets suggest that they were made to accommodate something other than a single flat strap.

A tenth- to thirteenth-century textile tool from Wellingborough, Northamptonshire

During building work in Wellingborough district, Kevin Bird found a bone or antler textile tool (NARC-B790B1), which he reported to Tom Brindle (Northamptonshire FLO). The tool has one pointed and one blunt end, and has become polished through use; there are indentations on either side, presumably representing where the user's thumb and forefinger lay.

Pin-beaters come in double-ended and single-ended form. The double-ended form was used on a warp-weighted loom, together with a sword-shaped weaving batten, to even out the warp threads and to give a preliminary beating-in of the weft. The single-ended form, as here, was used in much the same way but on a two-beam vertical loom; single-ended pin-beaters are found in England in contexts from around AD 900 to around AD 1300. The two-beam vertical loom, like the warp-weighted loom, was a tool of domestic cloth production, and by the middle of the eleventh century it was being supplanted by the treadle loom. This new loom allowed the production of longer pieces of cloth at a much faster rate, and from this time onwards cloth production became a specialised craft.

The find is an unusual one for the PAS, being made of an organic skeletal material. It can be difficult from visual examination alone to distinguish bone, antler or ivory, particularly if they are as smoothly finished as this object. The choice of a skeletal material was a sensible one, as the more the tool was used, the smoother and more effective it would become.

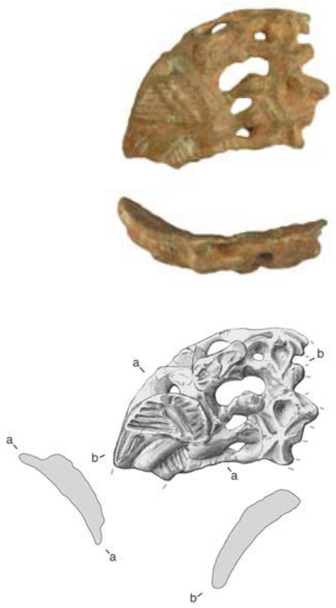
Edited by Helen Geake, John Naylor and Michael Lewis

MEDIEVAL PERIOD (AD 1066 – 1500)

As more material is discovered it is satisfying to see our knowledge of Medieval society increasing. Objects once thought to be rare are now seen as being relatively common. Staff terminals, like the examples from Fillongley, Warwickshire (WAW-8E2FA3), Great Barton, Suffolk (SF-A69D93) and Finningham, Suffolk (SF-E1DB04), are being found in increasing numbers. These objects were thought to be sword pommels but some of the recent finds seem too fragile for this purpose, so we are calling them 'staff-terminals' until we get a find that will tell us what they were really used for! The work being done by Adam Daubney (Lincolnshire FLO) on mace heads, like the examples from Barneby in the Willows, Nottinghamshire (LIN-9570B5) and North Kelsey, Lincolnshire (LIN-6DD211), is proving interesting. We can see that these nasty looking objects are more common than we thought and they seem to be concentrated around Lincolnshire. Again, there is some doubt as to their function. It is good to have been able to resolve the problem of the 'mercury flasks', like the example from Hale, Cheshire (LVPL-5646E7), which were shown by the inscription on a similar find from Surrey to have probably contained holy oil.

Religion formed the basis of Medieval life and this is reflected by the number of finds that relate to the church. *Ampullae*, like the example form Birchington, Kent (KENT-CAEA33), originally containing oil or water brought back from a pilgrimage, are common finds. The striking figure of Christ from the crucifix found near Newton Abbott, Devon (DEV-0CE774) shows the strength of religious feeling in the intensely pious Medieval period. Considering that they were issued by the Papal chancellery, lead *bullae*, like the three from Shinfield, Berkshire (BERK-47DE41, BERK-247FAF2 & BERK-480137), are surprisingly common finds and we can only wonder how these important objects came to be on the fields where they were found. Not everything that has been recorded has been made of metal and we are seeing pieces of decorated Medieval stone, such as the examples from Clothall, Hertfordshire (BH-6CEE62 & BH-6D3D05), which can confirm the site of a lost church or provide interesting examples of Medieval sculpture.

While heraldic harness fittings show the need in the Medieval period to display status and social links, some of the more mundane objects tell us more about how people lived. The box that contained a set of weights from Yarmouth, Isle of Wight (IOW-D1CE76), and the delightful candle holder from Hockley Heath, West Midlands (WAW-40EAC7), show commerce and the struggle to deal with life after sunset. Brooches and strap-ends show the human need to have their possessions decorated. It is particularly interesting to see eleventh- and twelfth-century finds becoming more common; at one stage finds from this part of the Medieval period seemed rare.



An eleventh- or twelfth-century buckle (NMGW-D7AF23) from Portskewett, Monmouthshire (33.45 x 26.94 x 4.45mm). Illustration: Tony Daly

An eleventh- or twelfth-century stone fragment (BERK-CF5653) from Haddenham, Buckinghamshire (78.78 x 71.49 x 15.72mm)

Seal matrices continue to be found in surprisingly large numbers and the discovery of crude lead matrices shows that the use of seals was not restricted to the aristocracy. Some seals bear the names of women, showing that they, too, were involved in legal transactions. The seal from West Ilsley, Berkshire (HAMP-56E6E3), appears to show Master Thomas at work as a mason, carving a figure. The use of two Roman intaglios in seals (IOW-944917 & Treasure case 2006 T126) suggests that, like ourselves, the people of Medieval England had an appreciation of the past.

An eleventh- or twelfth-century buckle from Portskewett, Monmouthshire

Nigel Jones reported the discovery of an eleventh-century gilded copper-alloy buckle (NMGW-D7AF23) from Portskewett to the PAS in Wales. The buckle is of D-shaped form, but is incomplete and is represented by a little over half of the outside edge. The frame is convex, and has elaborate openwork decoration with cast ornament in high relief, showing a winged beast with a long snout biting a central device, possibly a 'tree of life'. The central device contains triangular and lozenge-shaped recessed cells, but no notch to receive the pin. The frame was likely to have been symmetrical about the centre.

The design of the buckle, with a wide edge accommodating openwork decoration, can be paralleled among eleventh-century buckles decorated in the Urnes style, an art-style which originally arose in Scandinavia but was adopted and modified in Britain. This particular buckle, however, is more solid than most Urnes-style metalwork, and the style of the winged beast is perhaps a development towards the early Romanesque style. The provenance of the find may be seen as significant because of a mention in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle of the building of a hunting lodge by Earl (later King) Harold (II) at Portskewett in 1065.

An eleventh- or twelfth-century stone fragment from Haddenham, Buckinghamshire

A carved sandstone fragment (BERK-CF5653) was found by Dai Devonald in Haddenham, and reported to Kate Sutton (Berkshire & Oxfordshire FLO). The fragment is decorated with two figures carved in high relief. Both are bearded men wearing flowing gowns; one is holding a staff, the other a book, and each stands within an arch. It is likely that they represent apostles or saints. Rosemary Cramp (Durham University) has suggested that the fragment might be part of a piscine (a basin with a drain, normally set into a church wall, used for washing the vessels used in Mass) of eleventh- or twelfth-century date.

A late eleventh- or twelfth-century buckle (SOMDOR-861648) from Margaret Marsh, Dorset (35.23 x 24.38 x 18.24mm)

A late eleventh- or twelfth-century mount (BH-68B972) from Shillington, Bedfordshire (40.4 x 33.6 x 0.7mm)

An eleventh- to fourteenth-century swivel (HESH-BACB38) from near Telford, Shropshire (38.7 x 31.8 x 9.4mm)

An eleventh- to fifteenth-century staff terminal (WAW-8E2FA3) from Fillongley, Warwickshire (44.77 x 37.99mm)

A late eleventh- or twelfth-century buckle from Margaret Marsh, Dorset
Diana Barrett brought a Romanesque cast copper-alloy openwork buckle (SOMDOR-861648), found in her garden, to a Finds Day at Sturminster Newton, where it was recorded by Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevarthen (Somerset & Dorset FLO). The buckle has a D-shaped frame which, while thin, is deeply modelled with a concave back. Projecting from the frame are three moulded animals, probably dogs, in Romanesque style. Only recently has metalwork of this period come to light, and such finds are filling a gap in our knowledge of the centuries after the Norman Conquest.

A late eleventh- or twelfth-century mount from Shillington, Bedfordshire
A rectangular copper-alloy mount, perhaps a belt plate (BH-68B972), was found by Mark Bowles in Shillington, Bedfordshire, and recorded with Julian Watters (Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire FLO). The central panel contains a skilfully engraved animal, probably a lion, with pointed ears, a short mane, and a tail passing behind the flank and ending in a foliage-like trefoil at which the lion is biting. Around the edge of the mount is a wide decorated frame made up of geometric motifs. Along the two short edges are repeated flower-like squares; along the bottom are crosses contained within triangles; along the top are similar triangles, but this time containing three-leaved plants. More three-leaved motifs, this time very simple, are scattered within the frame around the lion.

The mount was identified as Romanesque by Steven Ashley (Norfolk Landscape Archaeology). Similar lions, with rounded toes, manes of three curls, and biting at the ends of their tails, can be seen in the borders of the Bayeux Tapestry. Curling tendrils, three-leaved plants and repeating geometric motifs are common in Romanesque art.

An eleventh- to fourteenth-century swivel from near Telford, Shropshire
A copper-alloy zoomorphic swivel (HESH-BACB38) was discovered by Mike and Karen Jarvis near Telford, and recorded with Peter Reavill (Herefordshire & Shropshire FLO). The fitting comprises a single D-shaped loop decorated with two animals' heads set either side of a small swivelling circular ring. A number of similar swivels have been recorded by the PAS. They are dated broadly to the Medieval period, and it has been noted that the style of the terminals is very similar to Romanesque designs of the late eleventh or twelfth century. It has, however, also been suggested that swivels in much the same form may have continued in use into later centuries. The decoration on many of these swivels suggests that they were used on dog leashes.

Two eleventh- to fifteenth-century staff terminals (SF-A69D93 & SF-E1DB04) from Great Barton and Finningham, Suffolk (40.48 x 28.43mm & 34.16 x 29.5mm)

Two eleventh- to fifteenth-century pieces of worked stone (BH-6CEE62 & BH-6D3D05) from Clothall, Hertfordshire (128 x 91.3mm & 265 x 207 x 215mm)

A twelfth-century figurine (DEV-0CE774) from Newton Abbott, Devon (75 x 64mm)

An eleventh- to fifteenth-century staff terminal from Fillongley, Warwickshire
A staff terminal (WAW-8E2FA3) was discovered by Byron Tosh while metal-detecting in Fillongley and recorded with Angie Bolton (Warwickshire & Worcestershire FLO). Until a decade ago the function of these objects was uncertain; they were thought to be sword pommels, but in many cases the lattice openwork would be too fragile for this purpose.

Parallels for this object are widespread, other examples being known from Warwickshire as well as Canterbury, London, Nottingham and Cambridgeshire. An example from Dublin was excavated from a mid eleventh-century context. By comparison with later Medieval illustrations, they are now thought to be the lower terminals from ceremonial staffs, perhaps with a specialised liturgical use. Illustrations showing knob-like terminals on ecclesiastical staffs continue as late as the fifteenth century, suggesting a long life for these objects.

Two eleventh- to fifteenth-century staff terminals from Great Barton and Finningham, Suffolk
Two terminals from staffs of Medieval date have recently been found in Suffolk. The first was a complete example (SF-A69D93), found by Graham Borley in Great Barton, and the second was a fragmentary example (SF-E1DB04), discovered in Finningham, by Chris Bayliss. Both examples were recorded by Jane Carr (Suffolk FLO). These objects can be compared to the staff heads from Fillongley, Warwickshire (above), and were once considered to be rare finds.

Two eleventh- to fifteenth-century pieces of worked stone from Clothall, Hertfordshire
Don Varty found two pieces of worked stone (BH-6CEE62 & BH-6D3D05) at Clothall, which he believes are part of an ancient chapel. Both pieces were reported to Julian Watters (Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire FLO) and have been identified by Chris Green (St Albans Museums) as architectural fragments from a Medieval church. One piece is a section of a column, and the other is a carved capital, both made in non-local stone. Enquiries to the Hertfordshire Sites and Monuments Record have confirmed the presence, between 1181 and 1638, of references to a nearby chapel dedicated to St Paul. It is hoped that further discoveries will shed more light on the possible nature and location of this building.

A twelfth-century figurine from Newton Abbott, Devon
A gilded copper-alloy Romanesque figurine (DEV-0CE774) was found by Adina Parnell near Newton Abbott and recorded with Danielle Wootton (Devon FLO). The figurine represents the crucified Christ, and was probably attached to a wooden crucifix. The head,

A twelfth- or thirteenth-century flask (LVPL-5646E7) from Hale, Cheshire (34 x 24.5mm)

A twelfth- or thirteenth-century mace head (LIN-9570B5) from Barnby in the Willows, Nottinghamshire (52 x 46mm)

A twelfth- or thirteenth-century mace head (LIN-6DD211) from North Kelsey, Lincolnshire (38 x 27mm)

A twelfth- or thirteenth-century *ampulla* (KENT-CAEA33) from Birchington, Kent (97.18 x 65.98 x 8.85mm)

body and loincloth have been intricately detailed. A setting, probably of glass, remains intact in the left eye, but is missing from the right.

Figurines showing the crucified Christ are becoming better known thanks to finds recorded with the PAS, and it seems possible now that most parish churches might have had a crucifix for use both on the altar and in processions. This example, however, is unusual in its early date and in that the head of Jesus is angled to his left, rather than the right. It seems most likely to be twelfth century, and is almost certainly of Continental manufacture.

A twelfth- or thirteenth-century flask from Hale, Cheshire

Thomas MacCormack discovered a Medieval flask (LVPL-5646E7) while metal-detecting in Hale, which he recorded with Nick Herepath (Cheshire, Greater Manchester & Merseyside FLO). The flask is made from cast copper-alloy with a pair of handles or suspension loops at the neck. It contains an organic, fibrous material and, when found, was sealed with a hard clay plug.

Until recently these objects had been tentatively identified as mercury flasks, but an example found in Surrey (SUR-FA2AB0) was inscribed with the words OLEVM CHRISM, which suggests it contained one of the three holy oils used in the Medieval church. The date of these small flasks is still uncertain, but they seem likely to belong to the twelfth or, perhaps more probably, the thirteenth century.

Two twelfth- or thirteenth-century mace heads from Barnby in the Willows, Nottinghamshire and North Kelsey, Lincolnshire

Two copper-alloy mace heads have been recently recorded by Adam Daubney (Lincolnshire FLO). The first (LIN-9570B5) was found by Brian Hillier at Barnby in the Willows. The other (LIN-6DD211) was found by Paul Cowburn at North Kelsey. The recent finds strengthen the East Midlands distribution of the 24 known mace heads, which centre on Lincolnshire.

A twelfth- or thirteenth-century *ampulla* from Birchington, Kent

A pilgrim's *ampulla* (KENT-CAEA33) was discovered by Jason Hart at Birchington, and reported to Andrew Richardson (Kent FLO). This cast lead *ampulla* depicts an ecclesiastical figure, probably Thomas Becket of Canterbury, above a quatrefoil design. The very accomplished early examples show a different Becket miracle in each roundel of the quatrefoil, but here the roundels appear to be blank. The other side is largely obscured, but seems to show a figure with a spear at the top, and a standing figure with a sword at their belt is visible in the lower right-hand corner. The two handles may also represent figures. This very elaborate pilgrim's souvenir, dating to between 1170 and 1220, was found about thirteen miles from Canterbury.

A late twelfth- or early thirteenth-century horse-harness mount and pendant (NMS-6A8637) from near Fakenham, Norfolk (65 x 63mm). Illustration: Steven Ashley

A mid twelfth- to mid fourteenth-century buckle (SUSS-949481) from East Meon, Hampshire (31.37 x 27.91 x 8.32mm)

A thirteenth-century horse-harness mount (DEV-0D02F2) from Newton Abbott, Devon (d.70mm)

A thirteenth-century enamelled mount (WMID-2661B5) from an altar cross from Newton Regis, Warwickshire (61 x 38 x 8mm)

A late twelfth- or early thirteenth-century horse-harness mount and pendant from near Fakenham, Norfolk

Jason Gibbons found a suspension mount for a Medieval horse-harness pendant (NMS-6A8637), with circular foliage-decorated terminals, near Fakenham, which was recorded by Nellie Bales (Norfolk FLO). Later in the year Nigel Abrams found, in the same location, a gilded copper-alloy cruciform horse-harness pendant, the three surviving terminals each decorated with pairs of birds either side of a plant stem. Both pieces were studied by Steven Ashley (Norfolk Landscape Archaeology), who believes that the two pieces were part of the same object. In the spring of 2006, Jason visited the site again, and found the missing lower arm of the pendant. All three pieces were brought together to be recorded and drawn. However, the object is not quite complete – half of one of the circular terminals from the suspension mount is still missing. Perhaps with the same persistence and a little luck the last fragment will also be found!

A mid twelfth- to mid fourteenth-century buckle from East Meon, Hampshire

A cast copper-alloy buckle (SUSS-949481) with ornate plate was found by Pam Boakes at East Meon and reported to Liz Andrews-Wilson (Sussex FLO). In the past the dating of this form of buckle has caused some difficulties, as it resembles late Roman buckles. It has now become clear from excavated parallels, including one from King's Lynn (a Medieval town with no Roman precursor) and others from Denmark (outside of the Roman empire), that the type is securely Medieval.

A thirteenth-century horse-harness mount from Newton Abbott, Devon

A copper-alloy *chamfrain* roundel or mount (DEV-0D02F2) was found by Win Weller at Newton Abbott, and recorded with Danielle Wootton (Devon FLO). This may have been attached to a *chamfrain* (armour worn on the head of a horse) at the centre of the horse's forehead. The mount is roughly octagonal, and at the centre is a small circular hole through which a boss is attached with a split pin. Although decorative *chamfrain* roundels can be seen on surviving Medieval horse armour, such as that on display at the Royal Armouries Museum, it is most unusual to find one in the field.

A thirteenth-century enamelled mount from an altar cross from Newton Regis, Warwickshire

A complete thirteenth-century altar cross mount (WMID-2661B5), complete with its cast copper-alloy figure of a saint, was found by William Harding

A thirteenth-century seal matrix (LVPL-9E9384) from Marbury cum Quoisley, Cheshire (41 x 21.8 x 1.7mm)

A thirteenth- or early fourteenth-century seal matrix containing a Roman *intaglio* (IOW-944917) from near Arreton, Isle of Wight (28.5 x 23.4mm)

A thirteenth- or early fourteenth-century *ampulla* (SWYOR-4543B1) from Harworth Bircotes, Nottinghamshire (39.6 x 36 x 23.9mm)

while metal-detecting in the parish of Newton Regis, and recorded with Angie Bolton (Warwickshire & Worcestershire FLO). The mount is decorated with enamel and gilding, and was probably made at Limoges, France. The enamel colours are particularly vivid, mainly blue, but white, green and yellow areas also survive. The mount is flat and T-shaped with four rivet holes which would originally have held it onto the wooden cross. Riveted onto it is a heavily draped figure, probably representing the Virgin Mary, whose robes retain traces of gilding.

A thirteenth-century seal matrix from Marbury cum Quoisley, Cheshire
A copper-alloy personal seal matrix (LVPL-9E9384) was found by Thomas MacCormack whilst metal-detecting in Marbury cum Quoisley, and recorded with Nick Herepath (Cheshire, Greater Manchester & Merseyside FLO). The seal matrix is pointed-oval shaped with a central motif of a fleur-de-lys surrounded by the inscription, in neat and clear Lombardic lettering, +S'. ROB.FIL'.AL'.PILAT (Seal of Robert son of Al(ain?) Pilat).

A thirteenth- or early fourteenth-century seal matrix containing a Roman *intaglio* from near Arreton, Isle of Wight
A complete silver seal matrix (IOW-944917, Treasure Case 2006 T375), re-using an oval Roman jasper *intaglio*, was found by Peter Jones near Arreton, and recorded by Frank Basford (Isle of Wight FLO). The inscription is cut into the oval silver surround and reads SIGILL WALTERI DE LONGEDVNE (Seal of Walter of Longdown). The letter Ns have reversed bars. Enclosed by the inscription is a first-century Roman red jasper *intaglio* depicting Victory facing right and standing on a globe, and holding a wreath and a palm-branch. In front of her there are a crescent moon and three stars representing eternity.

Although a well-educated man in the Middle Ages may have known about the classical personification of Victory, it must have been very tempting to re-interpret the figure as an angel, perhaps Gabriel, and the stars as the Heavens glorying in the birth of Christ. This was not ignorance of the classical past, but a subtle reinterpretation of a piece of first-century Roman art.

Martin Henig (Oxford University) has provided a detailed report on the Roman intaglio, and this can be viewed on the PAS database. The Isle of Wight County Museum Service is hoping to acquire the find.

A thirteenth- or early fourteenth-century *ampulla* from Harworth Bircotes, Nottinghamshire
A barrel-shaped lead *ampulla* (SWYOR-4543B1) was found by Malcolm Hibbard at Harworth Bircotes, and recorded by Anna Marshall (South & West Yorkshire FLO). It has an oval opening and two small triangular

A thirteenth- or fourteenth-century spearhead (NMGW-9928A6) from near Brecon, Powys (279mm)

A thirteenth- or fourteenth-century brooch (NMGW-D8FB76) from Llancarfan, Vale of Glamorgan (d.47.3 x 7.34mm)

A thirteenth- or fourteenth-century seal matrix (Treasure Case 2006 T126) with reused Roman *intaglio* from Bayston Hill, Shropshire (25.2 x 8.4mm)

handles from which it would have been suspended on a strap or string. This shape of *ampulla* began to be made at Canterbury in the later thirteenth century, perhaps to commemorate the centenary, in 1270, of the martyrdom of Thomas Becket. Moulds were still being made for them around the middle of the fourteenth century. Two-thirds of the 40 or so examples known from London are decorated with scenes of Becket's martyrdom. It is an open question as to whether all *ampullae* of this shape, however, were produced at Canterbury.

A thirteenth- or fourteenth-century spearhead from near Brecon, Powys
While out fishing near Brecon, John West and his grandson spotted an iron spearhead (NMGW-9928A6) eroding out of a riverbank, 1.5m beneath the modern surface. The find was reported to Mark Lodwick (Finds Co-ordinator, Wales) who dated it to the Medieval period, perhaps the thirteenth or fourteenth centuries, although it could be earlier.

The weapon is nearly complete, missing only a small part of the socket base. Its blade has an elongated angular or lozenge shape.

Medieval spearheads are rare finds in Wales, but other examples have been found at White Castle, Monmouthshire and Pant Asaph, Denbighshire. They may have been used in hunting or military activity, or both. Mr West has kindly donated the spearhead to National Museum Wales.

A thirteenth- or fourteenth-century brooch from Llancarfan, Vale of Glamorgan
A large, fine and intricate copper-alloy annular brooch (NMGW-D8FB76) was found by Tom Kelly at Llancarfan, and reported to the PAS in Wales. The brooch is nearly complete, missing only the pin and the stones from the settings. Its frame has a plain outer bevelled edge, leading to the central ring with eight raised collets which contain a white calcium cement on which the stones would have been set.

A thirteenth- or fourteenth-century seal matrix with reused Roman *intaglio* from Bayston Hill, Shropshire
A silver seal matrix (Treasure Case 2006 T126) was found by Russell Edwards at Bayston Hill, and reported as Treasure through Peter Reavill (Herefordshire & Shropshire FLO). The seal is pointed-oval in shape, and set with a central oval gemstone. The gemstone is a mild, milky-blue colour, and has been identified by Martin Henig (Oxford University) as chalcedony, an onyx with a white upper layer on a dark ground. Cut into it is the figure of a kneeling satyr, holding two pipes (*auloi*). The stone is likely to date to the Augustan period, dated to the end of the first century BC.

A thirteenth- or fourteenth-century heraldic horse-harness pendant (ESS-CBB892) from Castle Hedingham, Essex (35.8 x 23.04 x 2.62mm)

A thirteenth- or fourteenth-century horse-harness fitting (SUR-F76721) from Crondall, Hampshire

A thirteenth- or fourteenth-century horse-harness pendant (NMS-6B42E2) from Langley with Hardley, Norfolk (46 x 33mm)

The inscription on the seal matrix reads, in Latin, + SERVITE • DOMINO • IN TIMORE (Serve the Lord in fear). The inscription is taken from the Psalms 2:11 verse 'serve ye the Lord with fear: and rejoice unto Him with trembling', and may relate to the choice of the *intaglio*. The *satyr* is depicted on bended knee, as a supplicant pose with religious connotations, and is therefore an appropriate motif for a pious inscription. It is hoped that Shrewsbury Museum Service will acquire the find.

A thirteenth- or fourteenth-century heraldic horse-harness pendant from Castle Hedingham, Essex
A Medieval heraldic horse-harness pendant (ESS-CBB892) was found by Mr Bird at Castle Hedingham, and reported to Caroline MacDonald (Essex FLO). The arms on the pendant show a field of crosses with two back-to-back fish with heads upwards. The blue enamel background survives well on the front of the pendant, but the enamel forming the crosses and the fish has all disappeared and so the original colour(s) cannot be identified. There is no trace of gilding. Irene Szymanski (an expert in such objects) identified the arms as French, belonging to one of several possible Counts of Bar in north-eastern France who, around the time of this pendant's manufacture in the thirteenth or fourteenth century, were strategically important allies of the English kings. This lovely object helps confirm cross-channel links in those troubled times.

A thirteenth- or fourteenth-century horse-harness fitting from Crondall, Hampshire
A decorative harness fitting (SUR-F76721) was found by Peter Crook during a metal-detecting rally at Crondall, and reported to David Williams (Surrey FLO). The rectangular fitting is copper-alloy, and is known as a 'banner'. It would have revolved on a vertical pin, perhaps mounted on the horse's head. Normally the same motif is used on each side of the banner, but this mount is unusual in having a butterfly on one side and a bird of prey, less well preserved, on the other.

A thirteenth- or fourteenth-century horse-harness pendant from Langley with Hardley, Norfolk
Steven Carpenter found a lozenge-shaped horse-harness pendant (NMS-6B42E2) at Langley with Hardley. It was reported to Adrian Marsden (Norfolk Museums & Archaeological Service) and recorded by Andrew Rogerson (Norfolk Landscape Archaeology). The pendant depicts a grotesque figure, part human, part animal; it has the head of a woman, wearing a headdress, and the body of a lion. Traces of silvering survive, but it was probably also enamelled. Other examples of harness pendants with a similar design have been found at Beachamwell and Cranworth, both in Norfolk, Salisbury in Witshire, Abingdon in Oxfordshire, and Cliffe at Hoo in Kent. The motif also appears on Medieval tiles.

A thirteenth- or fourteenth-century heraldic horse-harness mount (NLM-E07A05) from Scawby, North Lincolnshire (26.4 x 23.6mm)

A thirteenth- or fourteenth-century horse-harness pendant and frame (YORYM-FF09A6) from Barmby Moor, East Yorkshire (77.7 x 65.4 x 7mm)

A thirteenth- or fourteenth-century horse-harness pendant (BUC-89A216) from Marston Mortaine, Bedfordshire (30.96 x 24.27 x 4.76mm)

A thirteenth- or fourteenth-century heraldic horse-harness mount from Scawby, North Lincolnshire
A complete cast copper-alloy horse-harness pendant suspension mount (NLM-E07A05) was found by John Lockwood at Scawby, and reported to Lisa Staves (North Lincolnshire FLO). The rectangular mount is decorated with gilding and blue and red enamel depicting what is probably the arms of England, although there are only two gilded lions *passant guardant* (used by earlier kings) rather than the normal three. Attached to the suspension mount is a fragment of the pendant. Enamelled suspension mounts are not common; a very similar example, although with three lions, has been found at Cranworth, Norfolk.

A thirteenth- or fourteenth-century horse-harness pendant and frame from Barmby Moor, East Yorkshire
A complete gilt copper-alloy horse-harness pendant and suspension mount (YORYM-FF09A6) was found by Colin Popplewell at Barmby Moor, and recorded with Simon Holmes (North & East Yorkshire FLO). The pendant is in the form of a six-petalled flower housed in a corresponding frame, which is attached by a swivelling pin to a cross-shaped suspension mount. One of the copper-alloy rivets of the suspension mount survives, together with its circular rove. Remarkably, leather from the original harness survives between the mount and the rove.

A thirteenth- or fourteenth-century horse-harness pendant from Marston Mortaine, Bedfordshire
A copper-alloy pendant (BUC-89A216) was found by Kathleen Manning at Marston Mortaine, and recorded with Ros Tyrrell (Buckinghamshire FLO). The pendant is lozenge-shaped, with rounded lobes extending from each of its four straight sides and smaller knops at the corners. Some traces of gilding survive. In the main area of the pendant is a robed figure, perhaps seated, wearing a crown with his arms upraised. Behind the figure is a well-preserved blue and red enamel background. A pendant of similar shape and size, also with a bi-coloured blue and red background, was found unstratified at Rattray, Aberdeenshire, but this had the central motif of a fleur-de-lys. A rather closer parallel comes from Mattishall, Norfolk, again of similar size and shape and with the bi-coloured background in blue and red, but this time bearing the motif of a crowned head. Whether these represent the crowned Christ, or a monarch, is not known.

A thirteenth- or fourteenth-century heraldic horse-harness pendant from Elmswell, Suffolk
A complete copper-alloy heraldic horse-harness pendant (SF-6A6245) was found by Peter Hewett in Elmswell and recorded with Faye Minter (Suffolk FLO). The face of the pendant bears a heraldic device consisting of a central gilded crown through which

A thirteenth- or fourteenth-century heraldic horse-harness pendant (SF-6A6245) from Elmswell, Suffolk (37.29 x 28.72mm)

A late thirteenth- or early-fourteenth-century seal matrix (HAMP-56E6E3) from West Ilsley, Berkshire (33.15 x 21.9 x 3.4mm)

A papal *bulla* of Pope Gregory IX (BERK-480137) from Shinfield, Berkshire (d.38.76 x 5.73mm)

A papal *bulla* of Pope Martin IV (BERK-47DE41) from Shinfield, Berkshire (d.35.87 x 7mm)

are two downward pointing arrows, all set on a background of blue enamel. This is the badge of Bury St Edmunds Abbey, which held a manor at Elmswell Hall, close to the findspot.

A late thirteenth- or early-fourteenth-century seal matrix from West Ilsley, Berkshire
A copper-alloy personal seal matrix (HAMP-56E6E3) was found by Richard Baier thirteen years ago in West Ilsley, but only recently recorded by Rob Webley (Hampshire FLO). The matrix bears the inscription + S' MAGRISTRI ThOME D' WESEhA (Seal of Master Thomas of ?Weseha[m]). It depicts two figures, the smaller of which is kneeling and is receiving a chisel to the back of the neck from the other figure! Perhaps Master Thomas was a mason, shown here carving an image; a surgeon has been ruled out by various experts consulted. Tantalising documentary references to people of the same name, along with the seal's design, suggest a date for this matrix between about 1250 and 1325.

Three lead papal *bullae* of the thirteenth to early fifteenth century from Shinfield, Berkshire
Cath Atkins found three papal *bullae* (BERK-480137, BERK-47DE41 & BERK-47FAF2) within 1m^2 at Shinfield, which were reported to Kate Sutton (Berkshire & Oxfordshire FLO). *Bullae* were the formal lead seals attached to papal documents also known as 'bulls'; these included judgments, papal indulgences and letters. The *bullae* demonstrated that a document was issued with the pope's authority.

The obverses of the *bullae* show the faces of St Paul and St Peter. Their reverses bear the name of the pope followed by the letters PP for 'Pastor Pastorum' 'Shepherd of Shepherds'. The Shinfield *bullae* are from Popes Gregory IX (r.1227–41), Martin IV (r.1281–85) and Boniface IX (r.1381–1404), a date range possibly spanning 177 years. Tim Pestell (Norwich Castle Museum) has studied these *bullae* and suggests they could have been deliberately hidden, lost or cleared from Reading Abbey or one of the nearby manors. They might also have been attached to documents taken during the Reformation.

A thirteenth- to fifteenth-century weight box from near Yarmouth, Isle of Wight
A cast copper-alloy weight box, together with its lid (IOW-D1CE76), was found by Richard Daniels during a metal-detecting rally near Yarmouth, and recorded by Frank Basford (Isle of Wight FLO). Both the box and the lid are basically circular in plan. The sides of the box taper inwards, towards the plain flat base, and bear four evenly spaced vertical ribs. The lid has ring-and-dot decoration, and is secured to the box by a hinge formed by a single perforated lug on the lid and a pair of parallel perforated lugs on the box, through which passes a small copper-alloy pin. There is

A thirteenth- to fifteenth-century weight box (IOW-D1CE76) from near Yarmouth, Isle of Wight (46.5 x 32 x 17mm)

A fourteenth-century badge (LON-8603D0) from the City of London (45 x 30mm). Illustration: Faith Vardy

A quarter noble of Edward III (WMID-FFF874) from Shenstone, Staffordshire (d.19 x 0.5mm)

A fourteenth-century seal matrix (SWYOR-341D17) from Darrington, West Yorkshire (19.5 x 17.2 x 14.2mm)

a similar arrangement of lugs at the opposite side, but these are not perforated; wire or string could have been tied around these lugs to hold the box closed. When the box was opened it was found the expected set of cup-like weights was missing.

Around 85 coins, ranging in date from 1154 to 1327, have been found on the same field, which was probably a fair or market site.

A fourteenth-century badge from the City of London
A cast lead-alloy secular badge (LON-8603D0) was found by Andy Johanessen and Steve Brooker in the City of London and reported to Faye Simpson (London FLO). The badge is in the shape of a garter, with a large square buckle and strap-end at the base. It is similar to a funerary badge of the Black Prince, perhaps a souvenir from his tomb at Canterbury Cathedral, found in a late fourteenth-century context in London. This has an inscription on the garter, but on the new find this is replaced by a row of dots. In the centre of the garter is an openwork crown, a simpler motif than appears on the other examples. This badge may be a souvenir of a pilgrimage to the Black Prince's tomb, but alternatively the lack of specific reference to the Prince may instead suggest that it was the livery badge of another Garter knight.

A coin of Edward III (r.1327–77) from Shenstone, Staffordshire
A gold quarter noble of Edward III (WMID-FFF874), was found by John Hastilow whilst metal-detecting at Shenstone, and reported to Caroline Johnson (Staffordshire & West Midlands FLO). The obverse shows a shield quartered with the arms of England and France within a *tressure* of eight arches, and the inscription +EDWARD x DEI GRA x REX x ANGL (Edward, by the grace of God, King of the English). The reverse depicts a floriated cross with a *lys* at the end of each arm, with a lion *passant guardant* in each angle, again all within a *tressure* of eight arches. There is also a *lys* in the centre of the reverse. The reverse inscription reads +EXALTABITVR x IN x GLOR[ ] (he shall be exalted in glory). This coin was minted in London during the Treaty Period (1363–9).

A fourteenth-century seal matrix from Darrington, West Yorkshire
Colin Harland found a copper-alloy seal matrix (SWYOR-341D17) at Darrington, which he recorded with Anna Marshall (South & West Yorkshire FLO). The design on the matrix appears to be a bird with plumed tail upon the back of a straight-tailed quadruped, apparently a bird of prey making a kill. It is unusual that this non-heraldic motif has been engraved onto a shield-shaped matrix. Another strange feature of this matrix is the inscription – LEL SV (I am loyal).

A fourteenth-century seal matrix (NARC-67FCC6) from Paulerspury, Northamptonshire (29 x 19.2mm)

A fourteenth-century candleholder (WAW-40EAC7) from Hockley Heath, West Midlands (51.82 x 17.34 x 12.22mm)

A fourteenth-century official seal matrix (HESH-F166B5) from Shrewsbury, Shropshire (d.28.5 x 36.6mm)

Normally, seal matrices with hunting motifs are circular and have an inscription reading something like 'alas ie su pris' (alas, I am caught). It is thought that this is an amatory allusion, the user of the seal having been 'caught' by the charms of the receiver of the letter. Here, though, it seems that the inscription, although still amatory, is not very appropriate – or is, perhaps, ironic.

A fourteenth-century seal matrix from Paulerspury, Northamptonshire

Steve Barker found a copper-alloy seal matrix (NARC-67FCC6) while metal-detecting at Paulerspury, which he reported to Tom Brindle (Northamptonshire FLO). The central field contains a human head looking upwards, lying in a dish; this represents John the Baptist, who was beheaded by King Herod Antipas and whose head was brought to his stepdaughter Salome on a platter. Around the head is a beaded circle and then a wide zig-zag; the zig-zag is compressed at four places around the edge to allow a tiny inscription in four parts. The inscription cannot now be read, but is likely to have said something like CAPVT IOHANNIS IN DISCO (The head of John in a dish).

A fourteenth-century candleholder from Hockley Heath, West Midlands

Russell Peach found a travelling candleholder (WAW-40EAC7) at Hockley Heath, and recorded it with Angie Bolton (Warwickshire & Worcestershire FLO). The candleholder originally consisted of several parts; the socket and stem, which survive, and a folding arm and swivelling tab, which are missing. The folding arm could be fixed in three different positions by the swivelling tab, either closed, for travel or storage; fully open, for use on a table-top; or half-open, so that the arm could be stuck in a wall yet the socket and candle remain upright. It is nice early example of a gadget!

A fourteenth-century official seal matrix from Shrewsbury, Shropshire

Paul Oakley found a seal matrix (HESH-F166B5) near Shrewsbury, which he reported to Peter Reavill (Herefordshire & Shropshire FLO). Originally the matrix would have been circular, and it has a hexagonally faceted conical handle, ending in a double collar and trefoil terminal. The central design shows three feathers with a fleur-de-lys above them, and around the edge is the black-letter inscription 'sigillm subsidii. ul...'. The 'm' is made up of two vertical lines with a horizontal abbreviation mark above them, and there is an arrow-shaped mark at the start of the inscription and again between 'sigillm' and 'subsidii'.

The inscription means 'seal of the subsidy of ...' and then, tantalisingly, the name of the product and from where it came is missing. The subsidy was a tax on cloth, which seems to have been first introduced in 1353. It seems most likely that the missing word begins with 'ul', perhaps meaning 'wool'; there may possibly have been room for an abbreviated county name at the end of the inscription. The central motif, the three feathers, then as now associated with the Prince of Wales; it may be that a Prince of Wales officially administered the tax. The feathers are 'differenced' by a small fleur-de-lys, but the significance of this is unknown. The matrix is of the normal type used to authenticate documents, not the type which was used to stamp the seals that were fixed to lengths of cloth on which the subsidy had been paid. The wax seal that it impressed must have been used by a tax-collecting official, presumably on a document relating to the product.

At some stage part of the inscription was neatly cut away. It appears that some care was taken during this process, and it probably occurred before the matrix was lost. As this was an official seal, it was probably carefully cancelled at the end of its life.

A fourteenth- or fifteenth-century or later badge or mount from Grafton Regis, Northamptonshire

Steve Barker found a copper-alloy badge or mount (NARC-7D1DB1) while metal-detecting in Grafton Regis, and reported it to Tom Brindle (Northamptonshire FLO). The object depicts a moon with a human face, clasping a seven-pointed star or sun. On the reverse are two pointed lugs, which may suggest that the object was not intended to be pinned to clothing but was instead attached more permanently to a leather or wood backing.

The sun and moon were used as emblems of Christ and the Virgin Mary respectively, and so it is possible that there is a religious significance to this artefact. However, the sun and moon were also used heraldically and it may alternatively be a livery badge, denoting loyalty to a lord. A third possibility is that, as the moon has been a popular decorative motif for millennia, it may be that the badge was intended to be primarily decorative with no additional significance. Badges became popular items of fashion in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. An alternative view is that this object is in fact seventeenth century (David Williams, *pers. comm.*).

A fourteenth- or fifteenth-century or later badge or mount (NARC-7D1DB1) from Grafton Regis, Northamptonshire (37.8 x 24.1 x 2.3mm)

A fourteenth- or fifteenth-century tumbrel (NCL-741C73) from Houghton-le-Side, Durham (79 x 10mm)

A fourteenth- or fifteenth-century tumbrel from Houghton-le-Side, Durham

Paul Milne found a complete copper-alloy tumbrel (NCL-741C73) while metal-detecting in Houghton-le-Side, and recorded it with Rob Collins (North East FLO). The tumbrel is a device for checking the weight of coins and consists of two parts, a vertical bar and a separately cast balance arm, on the end of which is a small tray on which the coin is placed. A pin near the point of balance holds the two parts together so that

A fourteenth- or fifteenth-century metalworking die (HAMP-8A5E03) from Hursley, Hampshire (43.95 x 35.2 x 3.2mm). Illustration: Alan Cracknell

A fourteenth- or fifteenth-century stirrup (WILT-816DA6) from Wootton Bassett, Wiltshire (62.8 x 40.6mm)

when the balance is not in use it can be folded flat. When in use, the end of the vertical bar was held and the balance arm naturally swivelled to a horizontal position. If a good coin was placed in the tray it would tip the balance arm and fall off; an underweight coin would just sit there. This example has lost the bottom of its vertical bar, and is now firmly fixed through corrosion in its folded-up position. It is similar in its form and decoration to an example in the Ashmolean Museum, which appears to have been designed to balance pennies of 1.15g, a reduced weight current between 1351 and 1412.

A fourteenth- or fifteenth-century metalworking die from Hursley, Hampshire

An unusual metalworking die (HAMP-8A5E03) was found by Gervase Gregory in Hursley, and reported to Rob Webley (Hampshire FLO). The object is an incomplete flat copper-alloy disc bearing two engraved motifs; one a fleur-de-lys within a lozenge-shaped border, and the other a fleur-de-lys with a well-rendered sub-triangular human face in its centre. Copper-alloy metalworking dies are rare finds or, perhaps, rarely recognised as such. Part of a much larger example is in the British Museum, and this has the same crowding of motifs as the Hursley die; one design is superimposed over another, and the motifs appear to have been engraved over three or four generations during the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries.

The dies may have been used by placing a thin sheet of metal over them, and then a thicker piece of lead over that. Striking the lead with a hammer pushes the sheet-metal into the void so that it takes up the pattern. Alternatively, it is possible that individual stamps with identical motifs were used to press the sheet-metal into the die; the use of this technique would explain the lack of finds of the lead cushioning pads needed for the former method.

A fourteenth- or fifteenth-century stirrup from Wootton Bassett, Wiltshire

Part of a copper-alloy stirrup (WILT-816DA6), dating to the thirteenth or fourteenth century, was discovered by Mark Gillett at Wootton Bassett and recorded by Katie Hinds (Wiltshire FLO).

The fragment is of one-piece construction, and consists of a wide decorated plate at the top of the stirrup, concealing a loop behind to which the strap would have been attached. Short stubs of the stirrup sides extend downwards from the plate, but are broken off a short distance from it. The stirrup is very dark in colour, which may have been created by applying hot linseed oil to the surface. The dark surface has been engraved and scratched through to reveal the contrasting coppery colour beneath. On the front, the rectangular plate is decorated with engraving in the form of a conventional Medieval crown, with a fleur-de-lys at the centre and half of another on either side. The band of the crown is engraved with a central lozenge-shaped jewel flanked by a pair of oval jewels, and the interior of the crown is cross-hatched. The crown is set within a rectangular panel and the background to this panel has also been covered with fine scratched lines. The sides of the stirrup are also decorated, with an engraved plant-like motif resembling the club on a playing card, again set within a panel.

Copper-alloy stirrups of this type are still uncommon finds and not easy to date. An example in the Museum of London has a distinctively shaped footrest, and another footrest of this type was excavated from a late fourteenth-century context in London. The technique of adding a black coating to copper alloy is, however, well attested from the late fifteenth century, so it may be that this form of stirrup had a long life. The stirrup was discovered in the parish of Wootton Bassett which includes the royal hunting ground of Vastern, used by Norman and later Medieval kings. This object has been beautifully crafted, which may indicate some connection with these royal hunting parties.

A late fourteenth- or fifteenth-century strap-end (WMID-6479C3) from Tong, Shropshire (55 x 30 x 4.5mm). Illustration: Jane Stewart

A fifteenth-century purse bar (GLO-1C2B48) from Wraxall and Failand, North Somerset (68 x 35 x 12mm)

A late fourteenth- or fifteenth-century strap-end from Tong, Shropshire

A complete cast copper-alloy ornamental strap-end with a white-metal coating (WMID-6479C3) was found by Clive Rasdall while metal-detecting at Tong, and reported to Caroline Johnson (Staffordshire & West Midlands FLO). Four rivets fixed the end of the strap into an open U-shaped socket which would originally have had a sheet-metal blackplate attached. The engraved decoration may show a flying bird. In the central section is of the strap-end is a more definite bird; an openwork eagle standing with its wings raised and looking back over its own body. The terminal of the strap-end is in the shape of a three-branched tree, with each branch ending in a fleur-de-lys. Large strap-ends like these, often with an elaborate tree-shaped terminal, belong to the late fourteenth or fifteenth century and can be seen on monumental brasses of this period.

A fifteenth-century purse bar from Wraxall and Failand, North Somerset

Part of a cast copper-alloy purse bar (GLO-1C2B48) was found by Jon Hill at Wraxall and Failand, and recorded with Kurt Adams (Gloucestershire & Avon FLO). The bar has a shield-shaped central section which is decorated on one side with a large 'H' in the centre, a small 'A' above and small 'T' below, and on the other with a rose. All of this decoration is recessed and inlaid with *niello*. The central section is flanked by two moulded beasts with gaping jaws in which the bar itself is held; both ends of the bar are now missing.

A fifteenth-century lead bottle-plug (WILT-F46577) from Coombe Bissett, Wiltshire (40 x 28 x 13mm)

A fifteenth-century papal *bulla* of Pope Sixtus IV (CORN-E71360) from Padstow, Cornwall (d.34.5 x 6mm)

A fifteenth- or sixteenth-century dagger or knife pommel (NMGW-D61CA0) from Cynffig, Bridgend (29.86 x d.20.35mm). Illustration: Tony Daly

A rod passes through the centre of the central section, and would originally have held a suspension loop at the top. The artefact dates to the late fifteenth century.

A fifteenth-century lead bottle-plug from Coombe Bissett, Wiltshire

An irregular lead object (WILT-F46577) was discovered by Nick Booth at Coombe Bissett and recorded with Katie Hinds (Wiltshire FLO). The upper surface of the object is impressed with the reverse of a late fifteenth-century Tournai jetton, clearly showing a cross. The lower surface has a circular projection and further lead seems to have been added around the plug, presumably to improve the seal. It was examined by David Algar (Salisbury Museum), who compared it with a previous find from Salisbury, also impressed with a late fifteenth-century jetton, and suggested that both may have been lead plugs from ceramic or glass bottles. It seems possible that the cross on the Coombe Bissett plug is significant, and it may be that these plugs were used to securely seal witch-bottles. These were used to keep witches at bay, and were commonly made from German stoneware bottles, particularly those decorated with faces; such bottles have occasionally been found plugged with lead.

A fifteenth-century papal *bulla* of Pope Sixtus IV (r. 1471–84) from Padstow, Cornwall

A lead papal *bulla* (CORN-E71360) of Pope Sixtus IV was found by Jonathan Clemes while metal-detecting in Padstow, and recorded with Anna Tyacke (Cornwall FLO). The obverse shows the heads of St Peter and St Paul, and on the reverse is the inscription SIXTVS / PAPA / IIII (Pope Sixtus IV).

A fifteenth- or sixteenth-century dagger or knife pommel from Cynffig, Bridgend

Phil George reported a dagger or knife pommel (NMGW-D61CA0) found at Cynffig to the PAS in Wales. Iron corrosion on the apex of the pommel is likely to have come from the tang of the iron blade and an internal yellow-white deposit may be evidence of an adhesive used to secure the pommel to the organic (wood or bone) handle. This pommel is more elaborate than other examples of similar date and is difficult to parallel closely, although the form can be recognised in hexagonally faceted quillon dagger pommels.

A fifteenth- or early sixteenth-century pilgrim's souvenir from Caistor, Lincolnshire

A complete cast lead-alloy pilgrim's souvenir pendant (NLM-665C35) was found by Wayne Bealey at Caistor, and reported to Lisa Staves (North Lincolnshire FLO). The flat circular disc has an integral sub-rectangular lug at the top and two large attachment holes on the disc near the lug. The holes may have been added later, since they appear to pierce through the design on both faces. On one face is St Margaret of Antioch standing

A fifteenth- or early sixteenth-century pilgrim's souvenir (NLM-665C35) from Caistor, Lincolnshire (33.5 x 26.2 x 2.9mm)

A fifteenth- or early sixteenth-century pitcher (SUSS-5A97A2) from Climping, West Sussex

A late fifteenth- or early sixteenth-century pilgrim's badge (GLO-D4BD11) from Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire (33 x 18 x 3mm)

facing, holding a cross in her right hand and a book in her left. She stands upon her emblem the dragon; according to legend, she was swallowed by the devil in the form of a dragon but later miraculously escaped alive. The reverse has the letters 'IHS', representing the first three letters of Jesus in Greek characters.

Souvenirs of St Margaret are not common, yet this is the fourth to have been found within a ten-mile area of northern Lincolnshire. All are very similar, and it is possible that they may have been produced at the shrine of the saint at King's Lynn some 80 miles to the south. They appear, from their shape and the style of lettering, to date to the fifteenth or early sixteenth centuries.

A fifteenth- or early sixteenth-century pitcher from Climping, West Sussex

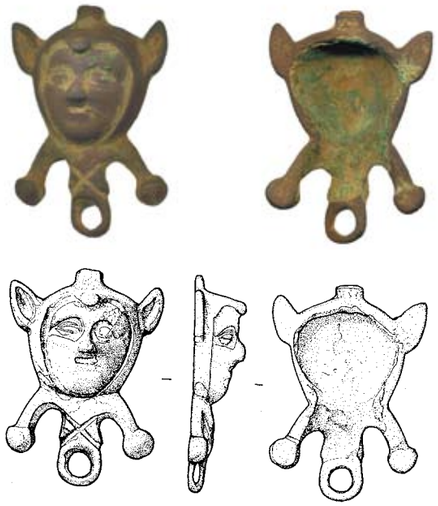
An almost complete fifteenth- or early-sixteenth-century wheel-made bung-hole pitcher (SUSS-5A97A2; Receiver of Wreck number DROIT No: 033/06) was found by Bill Watkins while walking on the beach at Climping. It was initially taken to an Antiques Roadshow shoot, where the experts recommended that it be reported to Liz Andrews-Wilson (Sussex FLO). Liz arranged for the pitcher to be examined by local pottery expert Luke Barber (Sussex Archaeological Society), who was able to identify and date it.

The pitcher has a convex, sagging base and it does not sit well on a flat surface, but would stand nicely on on an uneven floor. It has a white slip-painted decoration, and a band of green glaze applied below its neck. Its handle survives, but has been broken off. Similar pitchers are known from across Sussex, with a particular concentration at West Tarring on the coastal plain of West Sussex. The pitcher was found eroding from the sand after a particularly low tide, and it seems to have been from a wreck, as timber planks, one measuring at least 0.5 x 2m, were found in association.

A late fifteenth- or early sixteenth-century pilgrim's badge from Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire

A cast copper-alloy pilgrim's badge (GLO-D4BD11) was found by Nick Pain at Minchinhampton, and recorded with Kurt Adams (Gloucestershire & Avon FLO). The badge depicts St Barbara standing, dressed in a robe with folds of drapery, with a halo around her head. In her left hand she holds a palm branch, the symbol of the martyr, and in her right hand she holds a roughly rectangular object, perhaps a chalice or book. To her right is a tower, representing the place where, according to legend, she was imprisoned by her father. He was eventually responsible for her martyrdom and was subsequently struck down by lightning. St Barbara gave protection from sudden death, and became very popular in the late fifteenth and early sixteenth

A late fifteenth- or early sixteenth-century plaque (SUR-959317) from Dorking, Surrey (34.88 x 28.55 x 1.34mm)



A late fifteenth- or early sixteenth-century strap-fitting in the form of a jester's head (WAW-406321) from Severn Stoke, Worcestershire (49.5 x 35.31 x 13.68mm). Illustration: Candy Stevens

A late fifteenth- or early sixteenth-century strap-end (SOMDOR-988384) from Ilchester, Somerset (27.3 x 22.6 x 3.8mm)

centuries. For some reason, her badges are more common in copper-alloy than in lead.

A late fifteenth- or early sixteenth-century plaque from Dorking, Surrey
A gilded copper-alloy plaque (SUR-959317) depicting St Barbara was found by Phil Vallis while metal-detecting for an archaeological survey on the line of a water pipe near Dorking, and reported to David Williams (Surrey FLO). On the face of the shield-shaped plaque, which may have been attached to a casket, is an engraved image depicting St Barbara holding a martyr's palm branch in her left hand. To her right is a three-storey tower with a domed roof. Like the Minchinhampton badge (above), the plaque dates to the late fifteenth or early sixteenth century.

A late fifteenth- or early sixteenth-century strap-fitting in the form of a jester's head from Severn Stoke, Worcestershire
A large copper-alloy strap-fitting in the form of a jester's head (WAW-406321) was found by Mrs Wooderson at Severn Stoke and recorded with Angie Bolton (Warwickshire & Worcestershire FLO). The jester is wearing a tight-fitting hood with two pointed, ass-like ears and a pair of probable dangling bells. A lock of hair curls upwards from under the hood.

Jesters or fools provided entertainment for noble households, with juggling, wit, clowning and music. Geoff Egan (Finds Adviser) suggests the object dates to the late fifteenth or early sixteenth century, and may have been fixed either to the jester's costume or to his bauble, a staff ending in a miniature jester's head. In addition, the jester was a popular motif at the time, known from items as disparate as pottery whistles and knife handles. The book *The Ship of Fools* appeared in English in 1509, and may have contributed to this popularity.

A late fifteenth- or early sixteenth-century strap-end from Ilchester, Somerset
A sheet copper-alloy strap-end (SOMDOR-988384), dating from the late fifteenth or early sixteenth century, was discovered by Ray Merrell while metal-detecting at Ilchester, and recorded by Naomi Payne (Somerset & Dorset FLO). The strap-end is rectangular and has been formed from a folded sheet, with two iron rivets close to the open end. It is decorated with a line of cabling, and two lines of beading which flank a black-letter-like inscription. This inscription is made up solely of minims, the vertical lines that form the basis of the black-letter style of writing. The edge of the strap-end appears to cut through the lettering, rendering it unreadable, but it may be that it was never intended as a real inscription. Instead, these strap-ends were probably mass-produced, with a long strip folded and decorated with black-letter, then cut up into individual strap-ends. Geoff Egan (Finds Adviser) has pointed out that the strap-end appears to be similar to some from the assemblage at Blossoms Inn, London, which represents waste from a single workshop; the Ilchester strap-end may even have come from this workshop, and is among the last strap-ends known in the Medieval tradition. The iron rivets are unexpected, as strap-ends of this date normally have rivets to match the rest of the object. They were probably replacements, showing that the strap-end had a long life. It has been acquired by Somerset County Museum.

Edited by Kevin Leahy, Helen Geake and Michael Lewis

POST-MEDIEVAL PERIOD (AD 1500 – 2006)

Although the Finds Liaison Officers (FLOs) are selective in recording Post-Medieval and Modern finds, a significant number were recorded in 2006, accounting for nearly 7,000 objects or 13.38 per cent of the total number.

The expanding variety within categories of objects, familiar from previous reports, is also evident in 2006. The range of precious- and base-metal hook tags from the early sixteenth century continues a theme noted for several years, with another silver version (IOW-C9F555) and there are a couple of less familiar mid seventeenth-century clasps (KENT-9578D3 & 958B28) which may have had similar functions. From the later end of the period considered, an eighteenth-century cameo (LANCUM-61E562), and eighteenth- and nineteenth-century military (SUR-003EC1) and livery buttons, the latter for the staff of known prominent individuals in Cornwall (CORN-D755C7 & D5FB20), also make further appearances.

Knives feature below for the first time, with several finds of very different handles; these are in some cases representational, such as Jonah and the Whale (LIN-F16D33) and a (perhaps) satirical version of James II (WILT-9203F7), and in other cases just decorative. A fine seal from the period of the Reformation (LEIC-AE7A93) is almost a symbol of the changes in the administration of the Church in England.

Some coins of particular interest include foreign issues (such as SUSS-75E284, CORN-D3AF51 & 35CC66), some of them current in England for different periods, and there is a Civil War siege piece from Newark (NLM-1A8F94). A cannon ball (SUR-563F66), also from that conflict, probably relates to a short-lived and unsuccessful rising in Surrey to restore Charles I (r.1625–49) in 1648. An unusual pewter vessel (LON-C7E3E5), possibly an adaptation, is one of several finds from London.

Early toys, too, have been added to the database during 2006, and this time one in the form of a most unusual multiple vessel (SWYOR-6C64B4) is featured, apparently a kind of puzzle in its full-sized versions, and all the more unexpected in miniature form.

Two seventeenth-century cloth seals are significant enough to be singled out for attention: one is the first recorded in England from the city of Gouda in the Netherlands (NCL-801996), and the other is a London Dyers' Company issue from a dyehouse with a known location beside the Thames in the City of London (SF-586A31), but found in Suffolk, at the end of the trade route taken by the cloth to which it was attached. An early fire-insurance mark (DEV-5BDD52) made of lead with the motif of a sun could be from one of two early insurance companies. Giving even further variety is a pipe tamper (NARC-B2B1B7) from Northamptonshire in the form of an erotic encounter, an unusual instance of an early piece of three-dimensional pornography.

A *soldino* of Doge Leonardo Loredan of Venice (CORN-D3AF51) from Paul, Cornwall (d.13 x 0.4mm)

A Spanish colonial half *real* of Charles and Johanna (SUSS-75E284) from Warbleton, East Sussex (d.24.05 x 0.87mm)

An early sixteenth-century hooked tag (IOW-C9F555) from near Brighstone, Isle of Wight (19 x 10.1mm)

A sixteenth-century end-cap from a knife (SF-F677A2) from Great Glemham, Suffolk (28.3 x 9.51 x 8.04mm)

A coin of Doge Leonardo Loredan (in office 1501–21) of Venice from Paul, Cornwall
David Edwards found a silver *soldino* (CORN-D3AF51) while metal-detecting in Paul, which he recorded with Anna Tyacke (Cornwall FLO). The coin was issued by Doge Leonardo Loredan in Venice, and is one of four that have been found recently in the parish of Paul. Venetian *soldini* arrived during the fifteenth century with the annual trading fleet and were used as halfpennies, since those were in short supply, although they were closer in value to a farthing. The English government tried unsuccessfully to suppress their use.

A Spanish colonial coin of Charles (r.1516–58) and Johanna (1506–55) from Warbleton, East Sussex
Alan Charman found a silver half *real* (SUSS-75E284) in the name of Charles and his mother, Johanna of Spain at Warbleton, which he report to Liz Andrews-Wilson (Sussex FLO). The obverse has the crowned Pillars of Hercules with waves, and an inscription reading [H]IS[PA]NIAR[V]M ET [INDIARVM]PLVSVL (of the Spain and Indies [and] more beyond) divided by pillars (the Pillars of Hercules – the boundary of the Old World). The mint mark is 'O', indicating a late coin in the series and that it is an American issue, minted in Mexico, probably between 1538 and 1542.

An early sixteenth-century hooked tag from near Brighstone, Isle of Wight
A gilded silver hook tag (IOW-C9F555; Treasure case 2006 T500) was found near Brighstone by Gavin Leng, and reported via Frank Basford (Isle of Wight FLO). The object has a raised square central panel within a rebated border, and at the centre of the panel is heart-shaped recess. Around three edges it has seven evenly-spaced knops, including one at each corner. In the centre of the lower edge, at the junction between the hook and the plate, is a trefoil motif. The separate hook is soldered to the back of the plate, and it tapers to a sharp point. A separate transverse bar is also soldered on to the back, allowing the tag to be attached to a garment or strap. This hooked tag is broadly similar to a pair of gilded silver hooked tags from Parham, Suffolk (*Treasure Annual Report* 2000, no. 182).

A sixteenth-century end-cap from a knife from Great Glemham, Suffolk
An unusual copper-alloy end-cap for a knife handle (SF-F677A2) was found by Paul Berry in Great Glemham, and recorded by Faye Minter (Suffolk FLO). Handles of knives at this period are extremely varied in design, and no exact parallel has been found for this one. It is in the shape of a human head and shoulders,

A tripartite sixteenth-century sword-belt mount (GLO-BAF1E7) from Minsterworth, Gloucestershire (69 x 64 x 12mm)

A sixteenth-century knife handle (NMS-877601) from Wacton, Norfolk (64 x 9mm)

A sixteenth- to mid seventeenth-century needle holder (NLM-EC1D37) from Barton-upon-Humber, North Lincolnshire (50.1 x 15mm)

wearing a bonnet-like head-dress flattened at the back. The eyes are small, circular indentations, the triangular nose protrudes and a horizontal line represents the mouth. The neck is narrowed, and expands into a base that is oval in cross-section, with a V-shaped groove on the front and diagonal lines on the back. A central slot contains the corroded remains of the iron tang. This end-cap strongly resembles the more familiar sixteenth-century horse's hoof type, and this design may have been modified to produce the novelty of a woman's head.

A tripartite sixteenth-century sword-belt mount from Minsterworth, Gloucestershire
Three parts of a copper-alloy sword-belt mount (GLO-BAF1E7) were found by Raymond Williams at Minsterworth, which he recorded with Kurt Adams (Gloucestershire and Avon FLO). The three parts were still joined when found, and all are decorated in similar style with relief foliage ornament. The mount has a long plate, narrowing in the middle, with three holes for attachment and two loops on the lower edge. This mount would have been fixed to the belt. Each of the loops holds the hook from a shield-shaped hanger, in similar style to that of the long mount; these hangers also have three holes each, and would have been fixed to the scabbard, which could then have been hooked in or out of the loops as necessary.

A sixteenth-century knife from Wacton, Norfolk
Leslie Laing found the composite handle of a sixteenth-century scale-tang knife (NMS-877601) at Wacton, which was identified by Steven Ashley (Norfolk Landscape Archaeology) and recorded by Nellie Bales (Norfolk FLO). The copper-alloy end-cap is in the form of two back-to-back animal heads, and the grip is made up of a pair of wooden scales secured to the iron tang by two copper-alloy rivets, both of which have a rove on each face. Three smaller copper-alloy rivet heads form a decorative triangle between the rivets on each side. The metal parts of knives are relatively common finds, but organic materials like wood rarely survive in most soils, and corroded iron parts are usually impossible to identify or date. Although this particular implement is still incomplete, the preservation of the different elements together make it especially interesting.

A sixteenth- to mid seventeenth-century needle holder from Barton-upon-Humber, North Lincolnshire
A sheet copper-alloy container (NLM-EC1D37), probably a needle holder, was found by Margaret Allen at Barton-upon-Humber, and reported to Lisa Staves (North Lincolnshire FLO). The incomplete, tongue-shaped case is pointed-oval in section, open at the top and closed at the pointed lower end. One side has two panels of decoration, one with an animal that has a long swirling tail and the other has alternate triangles with foliate patterns. The second side is very worn, encrusted and incomplete near the open end, but two panels of interlacing decoration are still visible near the lower end. The complete side has a sub-rectangular loop near the top; there may have been another on the other side, but this part is incomplete. The object probably dates to between 1500 and 1650.

Sixteenth- or seventeenth-century dividers (SUSS-D045F2) from East Dean and Friston, East Sussex (70.82 x 16.6 x 10.8mm)

A sixteenth- or seventeenth-century book clasp (NCL-6B9241) from Spennymoor, Durham (32.67 x 10.15 x 0.85mm)

A half-crown of Henry VIII (CORN-3706A0) from Mabe, Cornwall (d.19.6 x 0.7mm)

Sixteenth- or seventeenth-century dividers from East Dean and Friston, East Sussex
Stan Ellis found a pair of copper-alloy dividers (SUSS-D045F2) at East Dean and Friston, which he reported to Liz Andrews-Wilson (Sussex FLO). The implement consists of two cast arms which fit snugly together, joined by a hinge mechanism. They have a globular, collared terminal above the hexagonal shaft housing the hinge. Below this the arms curve outwards, forming an oval void, and then re-join on their original line, each with a raised collar on the outer edge. The arms are semi-circular in section and taper to their integral points, which are intact. These tools were regularly used by architects and builders on land, as well on ships to aid navigation.

A sixteenth-or seventeenth-century book clasp from Spennymoor, Durham
Craig Allacker found a copper-alloy decorated book clasp (NCL-6B9241) while detecting in Spennymoor, which he recorded with Rob Collins (North East FLO). The book clasp is rectangular, with a semi-circular hook at one end, and flared at the other where a strap was attached. The original rivet which fixed the clasp to the strap is now missing, and a large iron replacement has been added. This is made from a small flat strip of iron, folded at the ends to create a rectangular head above the book clasp and two feet below the strap, much like a modern paper fastener. The clasp has stamped decoration. These clasps can still be seen on many surviving books, but because they were attached to separate straps, also had a tendency to drop off, and so are frequently found by metal-detectorists.

A coin of Henry VIII (r.1509–47) from Mabe, Cornwall
A gold half-crown (CORN-3706A0) of Henry VIII was found by Harry Manson while metal-detecting in Mabe, and recorded with Anna Tyacke (Cornwall FLO). The coin has a crowned Tudor rose on the obverse and the arms of England on the reverse, and dates to Henry's second coinage of about 1526 to 1544. The arrow mintmark was used between about 1532 and 1542. To the sides of the rose the initial 'H' refers to Henry, while an 'I' refers to Jane Seymour (queen, 1536–7), providing a close date for this find.

A mid sixteenth-century seal matrix (LEIC-AE7A93) from near Melton, Leicestershire (59 x 38 x 20mm)

A mid sixteenth- to mid seventeenth-century drinking vessel (LON-C7E3E5) from the City of London (85 x 72mm)

A late sixteenth- or seventeenth-century miniature toy cauldron (SWYOR-6C64B4) from Sutton upon Derwent, East Yorkshire (33.4 x 19.22mm)

A mid sixteenth-century seal matrix from near Melton, Leicestershire

A copper-alloy seal matrix (LEIC-AE7A93) was found by Chris Bursnell near Melton, and reported to Wendy Scott (Leicestershire and Rutland FLO). It was kindly identified by John Cherry (formerly British Museum). The matrix is pointed-oval in shape, with a tall curved pierced plate on the back. It shows the royal arms of England (three lions quartered with three fleurs-de-lys), supported by a crowned lion and a winged dragon. The edge legend reads SIGILLVM : REGIE : MAIESTIE : AD : CAVSAS : ECCLESIASTIC[A]S : (Seal of His Majesty the King for church matters) continuing below the coat of arms with OFFICIA / LITAT / ARCNNAT / NOT (by authority of the office of the archdeaconry of Nottingham). The seal was used under Edward VI (r.1547–53) for authenticating ecclesiastical documents by royal authority following changes during the Reformation. John Cherry comments that there was a series of these seals, for different locations, of which seventeen are now known.

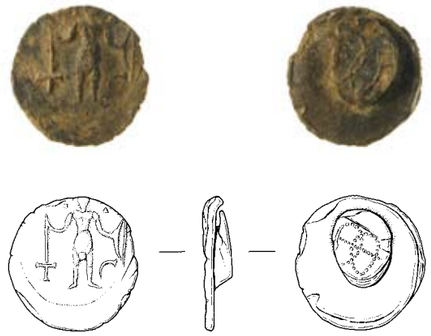
A mid sixteenth- to mid seventeenth-century drinking vessel from the City of London

A pewter drinking vessel (LON-C7E3E5) was found by Andy Johanessen and Steve Brooker on the Thames foreshore, and reported to Faye Simpson (London FLO). The cup has two maker's marks, one on the outside on the base, reading IG, and another on the inside, less clear but probably a dagger with an initial on each side. Unusually, this cup has a very simple handle, and it is possible that it began life as a handle-less beaker, made by the person indicated by the internal stamp, and it was then modified by 'IG' who added the handle; alternatively, it is possible that the second mark is the owner. The context suggests that the find dates to between 1550 and 1650.

A late sixteenth- or seventeenth-century miniature toy cauldron from Sutton upon Derwent, East Yorkshire

Cast copper-alloy miniature toy cauldrons dating from the late sixteenth or seventeenth centuries are coming to be relatively common finds. An unusual example (SWYOR-6C64B4) was discovered by Julian Szulc at Sutton upon Derwent, and recorded by Anna Marshall (South & West Yorkshire FLO). It comprises three of these circular vessels which are joined together in a triangle, each with a handle lug but sharing just three feet. It would have required an elaborate mould, which has caused difficulty as some parts of the vessels' walls have been cast so thinly that there are voids.

It is not certain why this complicated item, presumably a plaything, was made. Vessels known as 'fuddling cups' have been recorded as full-size ceramics and were produced as novelty or joke pieces – created to befuddle. 'Fuddling cups' were vessels with three or more small conjoined cups with interlinked handles; the idea was to drink from one without spilling the contents of the others. No full-size 'fuddling' parallel is known for cooking vessels, however.



An early seventeenth-century cloth seal (SF-586A31) from Gedgrave, Suffolk (d.20.45mm). Illustration: Donna Wreathall

A nine-pence siege piece of Charles I (NLM-1A8F94) from Mareham Le Fen, Lincolnshire (38.6 x 29.1mm)

A mid seventeenth-century cannon ball (SUR-563F66) from Redhill, Surrey (d.51mm)

An early seventeenth-century cloth seal from Gedgrave, Suffolk

An interesting cloth seal (SF-586A31) was found by Alan Calver in Gedgrave, and reported to Faye Minter (Suffolk FLO). The seal was identified by Geoff Egan (Finds Adviser) as a London Dyers' Company issue from the early seventeenth century. Only one disc of the seal survives complete, and stamped on it is what appears to be an American Indian figure with a bow and arrow, along with the initials 'TC'. Parallels for this design are known from elsewhere. One was found near Trig Lane on the Thames foreshore, City of London, which is thought to be the location of a dyehouse where these particular seals would have been put on newly coloured cloths. The rivet on the other face of the surviving disc has a partial stamp with the cording of a madderbag, which was the general symbol of the dyers. The actual dye used is likely to have been woad, for a blue cloth, coloured in the capital before it was sent to Suffolk.

A siege piece of Charles I (r.1625–49) from Mareham Le Fen, Lincolnshire

A Charles I silver nine-pence piece from the siege of Newark during the Civil War (NLM-1A8F94) was found by Peter Mallett at Mareham Le Fen, and reported to Lisa Staves (North Lincolnshire FLO). The lozenge-shaped coin has a similarly shaped perforation at the top, suggesting re-use as a keepsake. On one face is a large crown between the letters C R (Carolus Rex) with IX (9) below and on the other face is OBS NEWARK 1645 (Newark besieged 1645) on three lines. These coins are quite rare, and were struck because ordinary change was not available in sufficient amount for commerce within the besieged town. The distinctive shape is because flattish pieces of silver vessels made available by the community under siege were cut up to produce these emergency issues, which do not respect the usual weight conventions of the regular coinage of the time.

A mid seventeenth-century cannon ball from Redhill, Surrey

An iron cannon ball (SUR-563F66) was found by Carol Murray in her garden in Redhill, and reported to David Williams (Surrey FLO). The ball, which is in good condition and weighs just over one pound, was probably fired by a falconet, a light calibre cannon with a range of about 1,000 paces, which was in use in the middle of the seventeenth century. This is the second of two cannon balls from the Redhill area and it can be justifiably linked to a short-lived rising in the summer of 1648 under the Earl of Holland, which had the aim of restoring Charles I (r.1625–49). The rising

A mid seventeenth-century dress clasp (KENT-9578D3 & KENT-958B28) from Cliffe and Cliff Woods, Kent (both parts 70.26 x 20.63mm)

A mid seventeenth-century farthing trade token (CORN-D67222) from Phillack, Cornwall (d.15.7 x 1mm)

A mid seventeenth-century hooked tag (LIN-79D1C5) from Heckington, Lincolnshire (54 x 24 x 2mm)

was 'wretchedly organised and quickly suppressed' and involved stationing outposts on Redhill Common to watch for Parliamentary troops approaching from Sevenoaks. These outposts were themselves routed by the advance from the north by three troops of horse led by Major Lewis Audeley. The findspot is about 1km from the Common.

A mid seventeenth-century dress clasp from Cliffe and Cliff Woods, Kent
The two parts of a copper-alloy clasp (KENT-9578D3 & KENT-958B28) were found by Paul Prenczek whilst metal-detecting at Cliffe and Cliff Woods, and recorded with Andrew Richardson (Kent FLO). The corresponding components were found separately in the same field, and the finder recognised that they were part of the same accessory. They have matching floral designs and both have three holes for attachment. The hooked part is in better condition than that with the loop, which is heavily worn. Fasteners of this date are not common and it is particularly unusual for both halves to be discovered.

A mid seventeenth-century farthing trade token from Phillack, Cornwall
A copper-alloy farthing trade token (CORN-D67222) was found by Graham Dyer while metal-detecting at Phillack, and recorded with Anna Tyacke (Cornwall FLO). The token was issued by Humphry Penhellick of Helston, and although not dated was probably issued in about 1659. This is the first example of this token found on which the whole name is recognisable and so could be recorded. The obverse has three butterflies in a square shield, which was the arms of the Penhellicks of St Clement's, Truro. A branch of the family settled in Helston in the mid-sixteenth century, but little is known of Humphry.

A mid seventeenth-century hooked tag from Heckington, Lincolnshire
An unusual copper-alloy hooked tag (LIN-79D1C5) was found by Dave Panton at Heckington, and recorded with Adam Daubney (Lincolnshire FLO). Although presumably used for a broadly similar purpose to those from the early sixteenth century (see IOW-C9F555, above), the ones of this present series are distanced by up to two or three generations from the more varied earlier ones. The clasp is in the form of the stylised head and torso of a man facing forward. He has abundant, wavy hair, including a beard. A conventional scroll covers the upper part of his chest and flanks his sides. A (possible) lion's head motif, perhaps intended for armour, covers his midriff. It terminates in a pair of smaller loops and a larger, oval one. Three similar clasps are recorded on the PAS database (LIN-311D84, SUR-D2C7B2 & HESH-9F8A61); and another, which is virtually identical to the present example (dated from its

A seventeenth-century knife handle (LIN-F16D33) from Fishtoft, Lincolnshire (71 x 19 x 5mm)

A seventeenth-century cloth seal (NCL-801996) from Warkworth, Northumberland (d.24mm)

A late seventeenth-century mourning ring (LVPL-072347) from Little Budworth, Cheshire (d.21 x 3.2mm)

A late seventeenth-century knife terminal (WILT-9203F7) from Mildenhall, Wiltshire (46.9 x 12.8 x 10.5mm)

context to the mid seventeenth century) was excavated at Flowerdew Hundred, Virginia, USA, one of the earliest original land grants in colonial America.

A seventeenth-century knife handle from Fishtoft, Lincolnshire
An unusual form of moulded copper-alloy knife handle (LIN-F16D33) was discovered at Fishtoft, by Dave Panton, and recorded with Adam Daubney (Lincolnshire FLO). The handle is in the form of Jonah rising from the mouth of the whale, representing the story found in the biblical Book of Jonah. The anatomical features of the 'whale' are remarkably consistent with much earlier representations, for example on Roman second- and third-century artefacts, which show a mythical sea-creature having a slender head with a fin-like crest in the centre of the head, and mammal-like ears. Jonah has a long straight beard and hair, perhaps shown wet, and his hands together in prayer. The only other knife handle with this distinctive design traced from England was found at Tolleshunt Major, Essex (ESS-C12B55), but three further examples are known from Germany (one is in the Bonn Museum, one was discovered in Andernach and is now at Cologne, and the other was found in Wesel).

A seventeenth-century cloth seal from Warkworth, Northumberland
Wayne Clines found a lead cloth seal (NCL-801996) near Warkworth, which he recorded with Rob Collins (North East FLO). It has an inscription around the edge that reads HEPERSEE[R or K], probably the name of a clothier. The other side reads GOV/DA. This seal is from Gouda, Netherlands, and Geoff Egan (Finds Adviser) has confirmed that it is the first from there to be recorded in Britain. It probably dates to the seventeenth century, and is evidence for Northumberland's contribution to the important North Sea cloth trade, exporting wool and importing linens.

A late seventeenth-century mourning ring from Little Budworth, Cheshire
A gold mourning ring (LVPL-072347; Treasure case 2005 T334) dating to the late seventeenth century was found by Joy Beresford while metal-detecting in Little Budworth, and reported to Nick Herepath (Cheshire, Greater Manchester & Merseyside FLO).

The exterior of the hoop is decorated with an engraved skull, and the inside is engraved with 'JR Dyed June 28th 85'. This, together with the style of the ring, dates it to 1685. Rings had been bequeathed for remembrance since the Medieval period, but during the seventeenth century they began to be made especially for the purpose, and to be engraved with the details of the decreased. Both men and women left money in their wills to provide mourning rings for friends and family.

A half-escudo of John V of Portugal (CORN-35CC66) from Mylor, Cornwall (d.17 x 0.6mm)

One of the eighteenth-century pots (DEV-A85854 *et al.*) recovered from the River Taw, Devon

Searching for pottery in the River Taw, Devon

A late seventeenth-century knife terminal from Mildenhall, Wiltshire

Mark Gillett discovered a copper-alloy knife terminal (WILT-9203F7) while metal-detecting in the parish of Mildenhall, which he recorded with Katie Hinds (Wiltshire FLO) at a Finds Day at Swindon Museum. The terminal represents a crowned lion standing on short, bent legs. The object is broken at the knees and shows that the terminal is hollow. The forelegs, small in comparison with the rest of the body, rest upon the top of a pointed-oval plate decorated with a caricature crowned head. The crown is rather like a paper one, the nose is long and points slightly downwards, and the chin curves slightly upwards. Below this head, filling up the rest of the plate, is an inscribed shield with a crown above it. The inscription on the shield reads 'RI', probably R(ex) I(acobus) for King James II (r.1685–88). Comparison with another, more complete example from Derbyshire (DENO-63EDB7) shows that the very bottom of the plate is probably missing; the Derbyshire example, however, has no decoration surviving on the plate. Nick Griffiths (Salisbury Museum) suggests that this object is a parody of a 'King's Beast'. Usually carved in stone along palace rooflines, King's Beasts sit upright holding a shield, normally the royal coat of arms. The design may be intended to celebrate the end of the unpopular James II's reign (December 1688), when William of Orange (r.1688–1702) landed and deposed him. The style of the lion's four-arched crown tends to confirm a late seventeenth-century date.

A coin of John V of Portugal (r.1707–50) from Mylor, Cornwall

A gold half-escudo (CORN-35CC66) of John V of Portugal was found by Harry Manson while metal-detecting in Mylor, and recorded with Anna Tyacke (Cornwall FLO). The obverse shows a laureate head facing right and the inscription IOANNES.V.D.G.PORT. ET.ALG.REX.M.1730 (John V by the Grace of God King of Portugal and the Algarve, Minas Gerais, 1730). Minas Gerais was a mint in Brazil, at that time a Portuguese colony. On the reverse the coin shows the crowned shield of Portugal with banners and flourishes. Brazilian gold coins came to England as a result of the Methuen Treaty of alliance with Portugal in 1703. The English fleet guaranteed Portuguese naval protection, and there was free trade between the two countries. England's main export to Portugal was woollen cloth, and Portugal's main export was port wine. The trade balance was always in England's favour, and was paid in Brazilian gold.

A collection of eighteenth-century pottery from a sandbank on the River Taw, Devon.

Mike Palmer has been collecting pottery (DEV-A85854 et al.) from the sandbank on the River Taw for some time, which he has recorded with Danielle Wootton (Devon FLO) at Barnstaple Museum. Many different types of vessel are represented in the assemblage, including chamber pots, tankards, porringers and cisterns. The site from which the pottery was collected was under threat from the construction of a bridge, which would alter the flow of the river and cause the sandbank, and with it the pottery, to be lost. Consequently, Danielle organised a site meeting between the finder, Barnstaple Museum and Devon County Council, resulting in Wessex Archaeology being asked to investigate the site, including the sandbank. During the 1700s North Devon pottery was exported in quantity from the River Taw to Virginia, USA, so the site is of international significance. Several previously unknown forms have been recovered and many of the pots are almost whole, further enhancing the importance of the site.

An early eighteenth-century fire insurance plaque (DEV-5BDD52) from the South Hams, Devon (140 x 110 x 2mm)

A late eighteenth-century seal matrix (LANCUM-61E562) from near Lancaster, Lancashire (25 x 17 x 8mm)

An eighteenth-century pipe tamper (NARC-B2B1B7) from Nether Heyford, Northamptonshire (35.3 x 13.2 x 6.9mm)

An early eighteenth-century fire insurance plaque from the South Hams, Devon

Andrew Parkinson found a fire insurance plaque (DEV-5BDD52) in the South Hams, which he recorded with Danielle Wootton (Devon FLO). After the Great Fire of London in 1666 people began to insure their homes against fire and to show that they had paid their insurance plaques would be attached to the properties. Quite soon, plaques were left permanently on buildings as advertisements for the insurance companies, who also employed fire brigades to minimise their losses. This plaque depicts the sun, which was a symbol of the Bath Sun and also the Sun Alliance fire insurance companies. It can be dated to the early 1700s because it is made of lead-alloy, whereas later examples tend to be made of copper-alloy.

A late eighteenth-century seal matrix from near Lancaster, Lancashire

Carol Poole found a gilded copper-alloy fob seal matrix and chain (LANCUM-61E562) near Lancaster, which she recorded with Dot Bruns (Lancashire & Cumbria FLO). The back is domed, with a sturdy openwork frame decorated with grapes and leaves, and there is a central piercing to take the fob chain. The oval *intaglio* is light purple in colour, and probably made from glass. A thin metal foil was inserted between *intaglio* and frame to catch the light and make the design stand out. At the centre is a bust of a male figure dressed in late eighteenth-century-style clothes and with a hairstyle of the period. The matrix was either attached or repaired with an iron ring, which has corroded to merge with the suspension loop. This fragile object was cleaned under the supervision of Jenny Truro (Lancashire Conservation Studios).

An eighteenth-century pipe tamper from Nether Heyford, Northamptonshire

Dave Derby found an intriguing anthropomorphic fragment (NARC-B2B1B7) when metal-detecting in Nether Heyford, which he reported to Tom Brindle

A late eighteenth- or early nineteenth-century button (SUR-003EC1) from Sutton Green, Surrey (d.16.19 x 8.48mm)

A nineteenth-century livery button (CORN-D755C7) from Illogan, Cornwall (d.16 x 2mm)

A nineteenth-century livery button (CORN-D5FB20) from Camborne, Cornwall (d.26 x 1.5mm)

(Northamptonshire FLO). The copper-alloy tamper depicts an erotic scene. Although the head of the female partner is missing, and the base is lost, the representation of a standing couple engaged in sexual intercourse is clear enough. The base of this implement has now been lost. Bawdy scenes were important features of eighteenth-century popular art, literature, and material culture, and it is this tradition into which this tamper fits. A closely dated, complete parallel comes from the wreck of the Colossus, which sank in 1798.

A late eighteenth- or early nineteenth-century button from Sutton Green, Surrey

Among the many finds submitted for recording to David Williams (Surrey FLO) by Mark Stonard was a military button (SUR-003EC1) found near Woking, which belonged to a member of the Woking (spelt Wokeing) Volunteer Cavalry, one of several short-lived units set up to counter the threat of Napoleonic invasion. This particular group was formed in 1798 and was disbanded in about 1802, before reforming under a different name. The Woking Cavalry consisted of one troop (approximately 80 to 100 men) under the command of Captain T W Weston of Sutton Park, very close to the findspot.

Two nineteenth-century livery buttons from Illogan and Camborne, Cornwall

An incomplete, silver-coated copper-alloy livery button (CORN-D755C7) was found by John Stokes while metal-detecting in Illogan, and recorded with Anna Tyacke (Cornwall FLO). It is convex, and in relief on the front is the head of a unicorn on a wreath, which is the crest of the Basset family of Cornwall. Above is a baron's coronet, which dates the button to the time when the Basset family were also the Barons de Dunstanville, between 1797 and 1855. The button would have been worn on the uniform of coachmen and other liveried servants. The Basset family lived at Tehidy, about two miles from the findspot, until the 1890s.

Mr Stokes also found another button of similar form and materials (CORN-D5FB20) at Camborne. This has the initials 'FB' under a baron's coronet, and so was probably made between 1797, when Sir Francis Basset was created Lord de Dunstanville, and 1835, when he died. It has on the reverse the maker's mark of BIDDELL. DRURY LANE, dating its manufacture even more precisely; this maker's mark was used between the 1820s and 1840s, and so the button can be said to date to between the 1820s and 1835.

Edited by Geoff Egan, Helen Geake and Michael Lewis

All finds recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) are entered onto its finds database – www.findsdatabase.org.uk. The aim is to make as much of this information available as possible (for research and education) whilst protecting finders' details and archaeological sites from damage; although full data is made available for archaeological and research purposes, the public database does not provide finders' details or precise findspot information.

PAS website and finds database

During 2006 the PAS website (www.finds.org.uk) continued to evolve and grow substantially, under the direction of Dan Pett (ICT Adviser). The installation of Google's analytical software has proved beneficial to measuring the continuing success of the Scheme's website portfolio. Webmetric data collated by the Scheme shows that in 2006, 247,103 unique visitors visited the website (the total number of visits was 720,369) and the average user now spends around 16 minutes on the database and views over 21 pages per visit (Table 1). We now also have a better understanding of what parts of the website are particularly popular, how people find the site, what they look for and when they leave.

Table 1: Average number of visitors, visits, page requests and user hits on the PAS website and finds database 2004 to 2006

Year	Unique Visitors	Number of Visits	Pages	Hits	Average Page Views per Visit
2004	84,174	289,595	4,847,892	27,017,211	16
2005	152,711	555,289	9,639,621	50,760,264	18
2006	247,103	720,369	15,469,127	81,986,373	21

This data complements the results of the PAS User Survey 2006, conducted by Rachel Edwards (Arboretum Archaeological Consultancy), which shows why people use the PAS website and finds database (Table 2).

Table 2: Reasons why people visit www.finds.org.uk based on the PAS User Survey 2006 conducted by Rachel Edwards (Arboretum Archaeological Consultancy)

	Number of responses 2006	Percentage of website users 2004	Percentage of website users 2006
To find out about finds in my local area or region	299	61%	69%
To find information about a particular type of find	246	51%	56%
To report a find or find out who to contact	45	8%	10%
To use the Forum for a query or to post a find for identification	41	10%	9%
To learn about archaeology and archaeological finds in general	129	30%	30%
To visit the interactive Anglo-Saxon village and educational resources	35	n/a	8%
For general interest	194	43%	44%
Other	43	17%	10%

New developments on the website in 2006 have included the introduction of a greater variety of web 2.0 features, for example, a wider array of RSS feeds for syndication of content, expansion of the blog and experimentation with services such as Flickr and del.icio.us to bring in a wider audience. The database has been further enhanced by an overhaul of our numismatic facilities, making recording far simpler, and some archaeological principles have been introduced, such as 'Reece Periods' for Roman coins. The use of the database by academics and others is increasing; 355 people now have full access rights to interrogate the data for their research.

2007 will bring more developments including a newly redesigned Celtic Coin Index on behalf of Oxford University, introduction of Google maps and Google Earth layers, and some dynamic database analysis tied to county profiles.

Objects recorded by quantity

58,290 archaeological objects were recorded on the PAS finds database in 2006. Table 3a shows objects recorded by geographical area, whilst Table 3b shows objects recorded by recording area. The most productive geographic areas were Suffolk (7,966 finds), Wales (5,440) and Lincolnshire (3,975), whilst the most prolific 'recording areas' were Suffolk (8,170 finds), Wales (5,933) and Sussex (5,698). Many factors influence the numbers of finds recorded, such as archaeology, land use, and traditions of liaison with finders. The PAS hopes to be a partner in a bid to the Arts & Humanities Research Council for a research project to try and quantify these different factors.

FLOs record finds found anywhere in England and Wales, as people may find objects away from where they live. For example, whilst the Lincolnshire FLO recorded 2,747 finds in 2006, at least another 1,228 finds from Lincolnshire were recorded by FLOs in other areas. This highlights the fact that it is important recording is convenient for the finders to ensure maximum participation in the Scheme.

Table 3a: Objects recorded by geographical area in 2006

	Records	Finds Recorded
Avon	210	370
Bedfordshire	437	458
Berkshire	267	330
Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes	1,200	1,385
Cambridgeshire & Peterborough	1,297	2,516
Cheshire	104	114
Cornwall	369	369
Cumbria	314	342
Derbyshire	200	230
Devon	278	317
Dorset	399	665
Durham	96	96
Essex	1,073	1,818
Gloucestershire	522	1,091
Greater London	762	841
Greater Manchester	20	20
Hampshire	1,741	1,883
Herefordshire & Worcestershire	594	814
Hertfordshire	1,034	1,034
Isle of Wight	762	827
Kent	1,162	1,245
Lancashire	283	290
Leicestershire & Rutland	1,136	1,266
Lincolnshire	2,520	3,975
Lincolnshire, North	427	427
Merseyside	6	6
Norfolk	2,793	2,854
Northamptonshire	612	631
Northumberland	122	180
Nottinghamshire	572	590
Oxfordshire	1,406	1,794
Shropshire	510	609
Somerset	698	1,700
Staffordshire	455	762
Suffolk	3,559	7,966
Surrey	936	978
Sussex, East	1,620	1,925
Sussex, West	885	1,804
Teesside	3	3
Tyne & Wear	4	4
Warwickshire	864	1,689
West Midlands	20	152
Wiltshire & Swindon	1,470	2,024
Yorkshire, East	359	364
Yorkshire, North & City of York	1,554	1,574
Yorkshire, South	133	249
Yorkshire, West	43	90
Wales	1,341	5,440
Other	316	2,179
Total	**37,488**	**58,290**

Table 3b: Objects recorded by recording area in 2006

	Posts	Months	Records	Finds Recorded
Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire	1	12	1,437	1,443
Berkshire & Oxfordshire	1	12	1,516	1,962
Buckinghamshire	1	12	1,174	1,360
Cambridgeshire	1	12	1,011	2,215
Cheshire, Gtr Manchester & Merseyside	1	11	288	299
Cornwall	0.5	12	371	371
Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire	1	12	1,175	1,236
Devon	1	12	263	271
Essex	1	12	1,067	1,864
Gloucestershire & Avon	1	12	719	1,917
Hampshire	1	12	1,426	1,485
Herefordshire & Shropshire	1	12	575	686
Isle of Wight	0.3	12	760	880
Kent	1	12	1,218	1,255
Lancashire & Cumbria	1	12	697	731
Leicestershire & Rutland	1	12	1,154	1,270
Lincolnshire	1	12	1,408	2,747
London	0.5	11	811	894
Norfolk	1.8	12	2,717	2,750
Northamptonshire	1	9	462	478
North East	1	12	427	487
North Lincolnshire	1	12	949	976
Somerset & Dorset	1.5	12	1,110	2,411
Staffordshire & West Midlands	1	12	779	1,299
Suffolk	1.5	12	3,720	8,170
Surrey	0.5	12	1,163	1,223
Sussex (East & West)	1	12	2,618	5,698
Warwickshire & Worcestershire	1	12	1,072	1,531
Wiltshire	1	12	1,537	1,963
Yorkshire (North & East)	1.5	12	1,809	1,917
Yorkshire (South & West)	1	10	369	532
Wales	1	12	1,652	5,933
Other	-	-	34	36
Total			**37,488**	**58,290**

Table 3c shows monthly average number of objects recorded in 2006 by recording area. The most productive areas were Suffolk (681 finds recorded a month), Wales (494) and Sussex (475). Various factors explain such regional variation, though it should be made clear that finds recording is only one aspect – though a very important one – of an FLO's work.

Table 3c: Monthly average number of objects recorded in 2005/6 and 2006 by recording area

	Posts	Average 2005/06	Average 2006
Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire	1	104	120
Berkshire & Oxfordshire	1	122	164
Buckinghamshire	1	81	113
Cambridgeshire	1	138	185
Cheshire, Gtr Manchester & Merseyside	1	25	27
Cornwall	0.5	32	31
Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire	1	123	103
Devon	1	19	23
Essex	1	205	155
Gloucestershire & Avon	1	189	160
Hampshire	1	121	124
Herefordshire & Shropshire	1	48	57
Isle of Wight	0.3	161	73
Kent	1	176	104
Lancashire & Cumbria	1	56	61
Leicestershire & Rutland	1	157	106
Lincolnshire	1	236	229
London	0.5	101	81
Norfolk	1.5	227	229
Northamptonshire	1	147	53
North East	1	131	41
North Lincolnshire	1	134	81
Somerset & Dorset	1.8	84	201
Staffordshire & West Midlands	1	101	108
Suffolk	1.5	513	681
Surrey	0.5	90	102
Sussex (East & West)	1	244	475
Warwickshire & Worcestershire	1	119	128
Wiltshire	1	115	164
Yorkshire (North & East)	1.5	86	160
Yorkshire (South & West)	1	50	53
Wales	1	772	494

The month-by-month breakdown of finds recorded in 2006 is outlined in Table 3d. This shows the month the finds were recorded, not when they are discovered. Most finds were recorded in March (10,474), followed by September (6,299) then October (5,940). Least finds were recorded in April (2,022), followed by July (2,826) then May (3,554).

Table 3d: Month-by-month breakdown of finds recorded in 2006

	Records	Finds Recorded
January	3,192	4,951
February	2,889	5,169
March	5,504	10,474
April	1,811	2,022
May	2,858	3,554
June	2,365	4,076
July	1,946	2,826
August	2,999	4,376
September	3,300	6,299
October	3,755	5,940
November	4,063	4,902
December	2,806	3,701
Total	**37,488**	**58,290**

Objects recorded by class

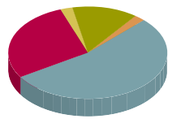
Table 4 shows the number of objects record by class (where known) in 2006. The highest percentage of finds recorded is metal objects (36.67 per cent) and coins (27.37 per cent), but there are notable regional variations. In the North West and Yorkshire & the Humber substantially higher than average numbers of metal objects were recorded (53.72 and 48.87 per cent respectively) whereas in the West Midlands the figure is relatively low (23.55 per cent). In the East Midlands proportionally high numbers of coins (38.39 per cent) were recorded, unlike in Wales where relatively few are recorded (2.04 per cent). The number of worked stone finds recorded in Wales (58.07 per cent) is notably higher than average, whereas in the North West and the East the relative proportion is substantially low (2.39 and 3.03 per cent respectively). Higher than average numbers of pottery are recorded in the East (35.73 per cent), in contrast with Yorkshire & the Humber and Wales (8.84 and 1.14 per cent respectively).

Table 4: Objects recorded by class (where known) in 2006 – Percentages in brackets (%)

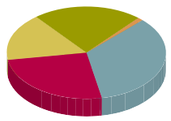
	FLOs	Metal Objects	Coins	Worked Stone	Pottery	Other	Total
North West	2	404 (53.72)	214 (28.46)	18 (2.39)	101 (13.43)	15 (2)	752
North East	1	95 (34.55)	70 (25.45)	46 (16.73)	61 (22.18)	3 (1.09)	275
Yorkshire & the Humber	4	1,322 (48.87)	921 (34.05)	181 (6.69)	239 (8.84)	42 (1.55)	2,705
West Midlands	3	761 (23.55)	706 (21.84)	915 (28.31)	799 (24.72)	51 (1.58)	3,232
East Midlands	4	3,295 (34.09)	3,711 (38.39)	765 (7.91)	1,704 (17.63)	191 (1.98)	9,666
East	7	4,106 (37.94)	2,335 (21.57)	328 (3.03)	3,867 (35.73)	184 (1.7)	10,823
South West	6	2,173 (25.09)	2,489 (28.73)	1,327 (15.32)	2,513 (29.01)	160 (1.85)	8,662
South East & London	8	6,023 (43.83)	4,579 (33.33)	713 (5.19)	2,178 (15.85)	247 (1.8)	13,740
Wales	1	2,096 (38.53)	111 (2.04)	3,159 (58.07)	62 (1.14)	12 (0.22)	5,440
Total	**36**	**20,275 (36.67)**	**15,136 (27.37)**	**7,452 (13.48)**	**11,524 (20.84)**	**905* (1.64)**	**55,292**

* 'Other' includes finds made from leather, wood, bone etc, but not the 1153 finds recorded in 2006 for which data was not recorded in the 'primary material' field of the PAS database.

Table 4 (cont.): Objects recorded by class (where known) in 2006



North West



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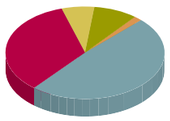
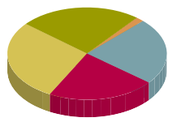


Yorkshire & the Humber



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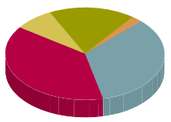

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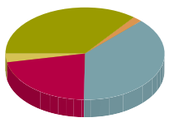
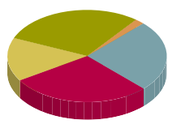
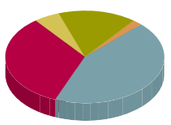


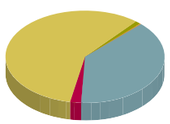
East



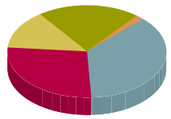
South West



South East & London



Wales



Total

Metal Objects
Coins
Worked Stone
Pottery
Other/Unknown

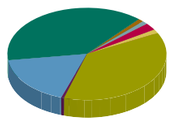
Objects recorded by period

Table 5 shows the number of objects recorded by period in 2006 according to region. Roman finds account for the highest percentage of finds of any period (37.78 per cent), followed by Medieval (24.50 per cent) and then Stone Age (13.78 per cent) finds. Whilst FLOs aim to record all objects more than 300 years old and only record more recent finds if they are of particular interest, a significant proportion of Post-Medieval finds (13.18 per cent) were recorded this year.

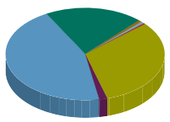
There are regional differences. The percentage of Stone Age finds recorded in Wales and the West Midlands (84.11 and 27.47 per cent respectively) was higher than average, which contrasts with the North East (0.87 per cent). Roman finds were relatively common in the East and South West (52.12 and 48.87 per cent respectively), whereas in Wales only 3.63 per cent of finds are Roman. Medieval finds account for the highest percentage of finds recorded in the North East and Yorkshire & the Humber (44.54 and 39.61 per cent respectively), but in Wales the number of Medieval finds recorded was proportionally low (2.92 per cent). In the North West a higher than average proportion of Post Medieval finds were recorded (38.47 per cent), whereas in Wales Post Medieval finds account for only 2.22 per cent of the total number.

Table 5: Objects recorded by period (where known) in 2006 – Percentage in brackets (%)

	Stone Age	Bronze Age	Iron Age	Roman	Early Medieval	Medieval	Post Medieval	Modern	Total
North West	9 (1.21)	19 (2.55)	10 (1.34)	277 (37.13)	5 (0.67)	131 (17.56)	287 (38.47)	8 (1.07)	746
North East	2 (0.87)	1 (0.44)	0 (0)	73 (31.87)	4 (1.75)	102 (44.54)	46 (20.09)	1 (0.44)	229
Yorkshire & the Humber	155 (5.84)	36 (1.36)	49 (1.84)	623 (23.46)	139 (5.23)	1,052 (39.61)	600 (22.59)	2 (0.07)	2,656
West Midlands	881(27.47)	102 (3.18)	24 (0.75)	850 (26.51)	54 (1.68)	930 (29.00)	362 (11.29)	4 (0.12)	3,207
East Midlands	762 (7.96)	64 (0.67)	753 (7.86)	4,117 (43)	673 (7.03)	2,142 (22.37)	1,059 (11.06)	5 (0.05)	9,575
East	462 (4.21)	329 (2.99)	398 (3.62)	5,727 (52.12)	610 (5.55)	2,689 (24.47)	771 (7.02)	2 (0.02)	10,988
South West	1,212(14.29)	226 (2.66)	238 (2.81)	4,146 (48.87)	200 (2.36)	1,503 (17.72)	923 (10.88)	35 (0.41)	8,483
South East & London	612 (4.82)	333 (2.62)	512 (4.03)	3,804 (29.95)	482 (3.79)	4,152 (32.68)	2,761 (21.74)	47 (0.37)	12,703
Wales	3,107(84.11)	239 (6.47)	13 (0.35)	134 (3.63)	10 (0.27)	108 (2.92)	82 (2.22)	1 (0.03)	3,694
Total	**7,202 (13.78)**	**1,349 (2.58)**	**1,997 (3.82)**	**19,751 (37.78)**	**2,177 (4.16)**	**12,809 (24.5)**	**6,891 (13.18)**	**105 (0.2)**	**52,281**



North West



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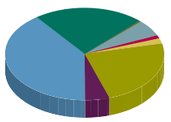
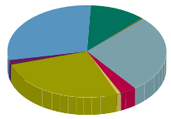


Yorkshire & the Humber



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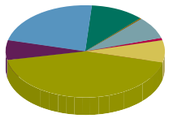
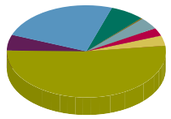
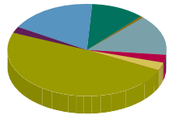


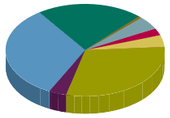
East Midlands



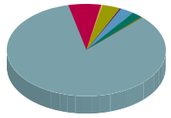
East



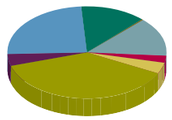
South West



South East & London



Wales



Total

Stone Age
Bronze Age
Iron Age
Roman
Early Medieval
Medieval
Post-Medieval
Modern

Findspot precision
Finders are asked to record findspots of finds to at least a six-figure National Grid Reference (NGR) – accurate to 100m² – and almost 90 per cent did so in 2006. With the ready availability of handheld Global Positioning Systems (GPS) devices, it is increasingly common for finders to provide eight-(10m²) or ten-(1m²) figure NGRs; in 2006 almost 42 per cent of findspots were recorded to at least an eight-figure NGR.

Table 6a shows that there are regional differences in findspot precision. The areas that achieved the greatest proportion of finds recorded at a least a six-figure NGR were Cornwall, Isle of Wight and Sussex (99.73, 99.61 & 99.24 per cent respectively). The lowest were Lincolnshire, Wiltshire and North Lincolnshire (67.37, 74.02 & 74.24 per cent respectively). The areas that achieved the greatest proportion of finds recorded at a least an eight-figure NGR were Norfolk, Suffolk and the Isle of Wight (89.58, 86.63 & 86.49 respectively). The lowest were Staffordshire & the West Midlands, South & West Yorkshire and Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire (3.64, 9.66 & 10.88 per cent respectively).

Table 6a: Findspot precision by recording area 2006

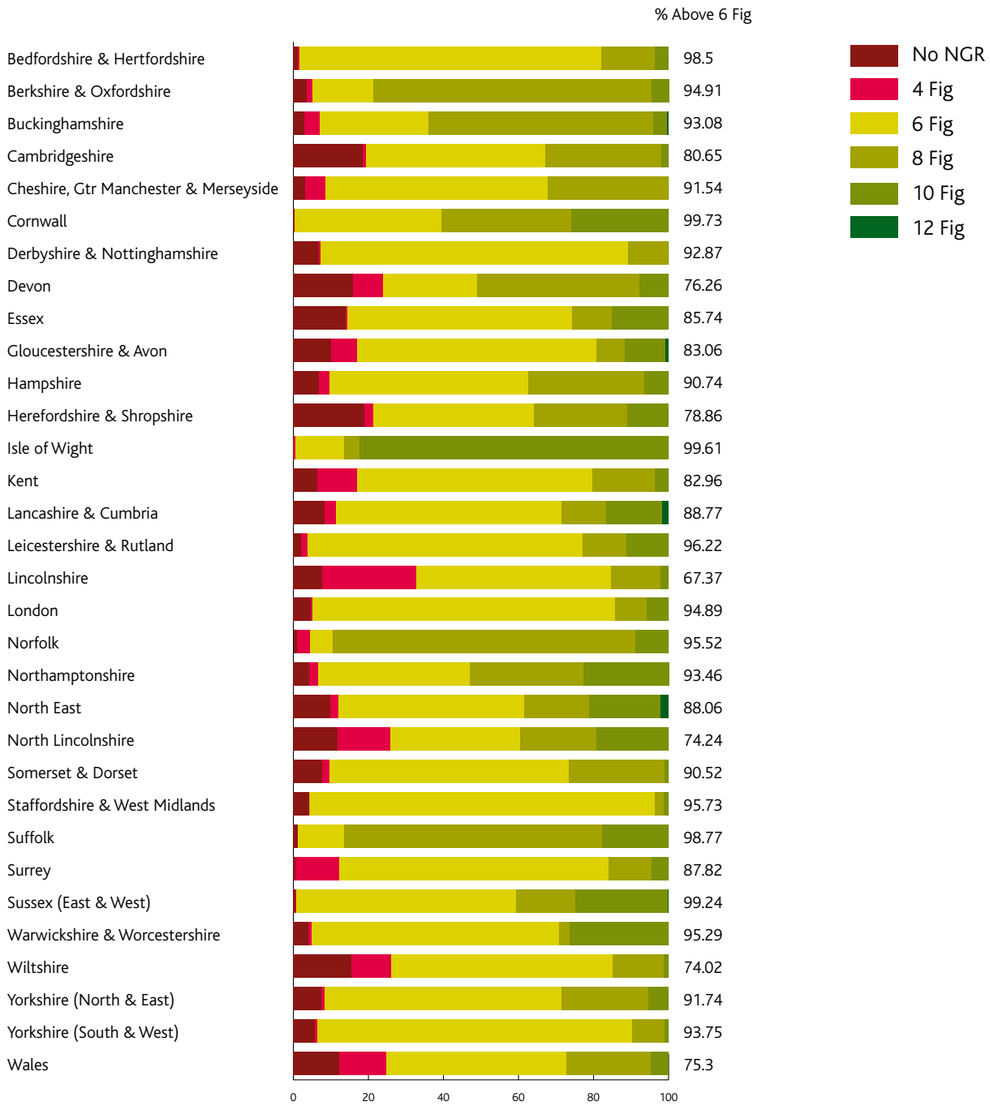


Table 6b shows the change in findspot precision since 1997. In 2006, almost 90 per cent of finds were recorded to a NGR of 6 figures, a further 4 per cent improvement on 2005/06 and a vast improvement on the early days of the PAS.

Table 6b: Change in findspot precision since 1997; percentage of findspots with at least a 6-figure NGR

Year	Average (%)
1997–1999	56
1999–2000	60
2000–2001	68
2001–2003	70
2003–2004	73
2004–2005	75
2005–2006	86
2006	90

Finders
Table 7a shows that 6,126 individuals offered finds for recording with the PAS in 2006, an increase on the 5,855 people who offered finds for recording in 2005/6. Of these, 63.83 per cent were metal-detectorists, but more than a third were other types of finders.

Table 7a: Number of individuals offering finds for recording in 2006

	Metal-detectorists	Others	Total
Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire	190	75	265
Berkshire & Oxfordshire	135	45	180
Buckinghamshire	316	20	336
Cambridgeshire	40	150	190
Cheshire, Gtr Manchester & Merseyside	51	2	53
Cornwall	40	45	85
Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire	160	45	205
Devon	49	200	249
Essex	100	31	131
Gloucestershire & Avon	37	12	50
Hampshire	58	20	78
Herefordshire & Shropshire	200	422	611
Isle of Wight	80	15	95
Kent	300	85	385
Lancashire & Cumbria	81	51	132
Leicestershire & Rutland	125	75	200
Lincolnshire	78	3	81
London	41	144	185
Norfolk	170	35	205
Northamptonshire	26	75	101
North East	305	111	416
North Lincolnshire	34	35	69
Somerset & Dorset	74	108	192
Staffordshire & West Midlands	64	4	68
Suffolk	170	10	180
Surrey	63	8	71
Sussex (East & West)	205	85	290
Warwickshire & Worcestershire	54	74	128
Wiltshire	82	66	148
Yorkshire (North & East)	80	30	110
Yorkshire (South & West)	234	39	273
Wales	268	96	364
Total	**3,910**	**2,216**	**6,126**

The FLOs continue to visit metal-detecting clubs regularly as metal-detectorists continue to discover the majority of archaeological finds found by the public. Table 7b shows that of the 186 clubs known to exist, the FLOs have contact with 167 of them on a regular basis [3]. Whilst it is evident that most metal-detecting clubs welcome the FLO, a minority do not.

Table 7b: Metal-detecting clubs and those with which the FLOs have regular contact

	No. of clubs (membership)	No. in regular contact (membership)
Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire	6 (425)	4 (305)
Berkshire & Oxfordshire	4 (230)	2 (150)
Buckinghamshire	4 (100)	4 (100)
Cambridgeshire	2 (70)	2 (70)
Cheshire, Gtr Manchester & Merseyside	9 (422)	9 (422)
Cornwall	3 (90)	3 (90)
Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire	9 (295)	9 (295)
Devon	5 (125+)	4 (125+)
Essex	6 (310)	6 (310)
Gloucestershire & Avon	5 (158)	5 (158)
Hampshire	3 (130)	3 (130)
Herefordshire & Shropshire	4 (100)	4 (100)
Isle of Wight	3 (130)	3 (130)
Kent	14 (426)	14 (426)
Lancashire & Cumbria	5 (250)	5 (250)
Leicestershire & Rutland	4 (155)	4 (155)
Lincolnshire	4 (105)	4 (105)
London	2 (108)	2 (108)
Norfolk	5 (207)	5 (207)
Northamptonshire	5 (72+)	4 (52+)
North East	16 (264+)	13 (239+)
North Lincolnshire	2 (77)	2 (77)
Somerset & Dorset	4 (120)	4 (120)
Staffordshire & West Midlands	5 (293)	5 (293)
Suffolk	2 (230)	2 (230)
Surrey	9 (212)	8 (177)
Sussex (East & West)	10 (238)	10 (238)
Warwickshire & Worcestershire	3 (85)	3 (85)
Wiltshire	5 (132)	3 (85)
Yorkshire (North & East)	5 (115+)	4 (115)
Yorkshire (South & West)	14 (323+)	8 (298)
Wales	9 (420+)	9 (420+)
Total	**186 (6,417+)**	**167 (6,065+)**

Method of discovery

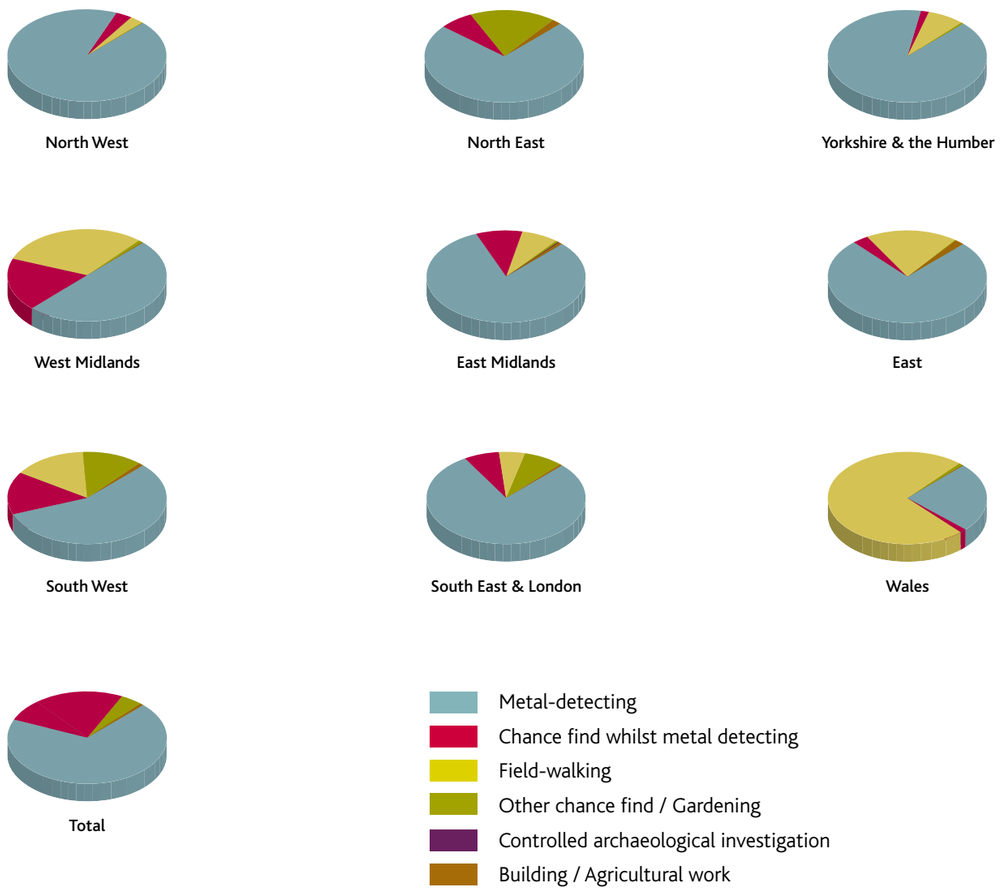
Table 8 shows that 76.84 per cent of the finds recorded in 2006 were found by metal-detectorists, of which 7.78 per cent were non-metallic finds (such as pottery and worked stone) spotted by finders whilst out metal-detecting. FLOs are enthusiastic to record non-metallic finds, as they can provide important archaeological information.

The regional trend broadly reflects the national one, but there are differences. The proportion of metal-detected finds recorded was higher than average in the North West, Yorkshire & the Humber and the East Midlands (93.62, 90.39 and 81.59 per cent respectively), which contrasts with the West Midlands and Wales (49.97 and 24.45 per cent respectively). Field-walked finds accounted for a high proportion of those in recorded in Wales and the West Midlands (73.14 and 30.54 per cent respectively), but in the East Midlands, Yorkshire & Humber, South East & London and North West relatively few finds recorded were found this way (7.51, 7.47, 5.34 and 3.46 per cent respectively); no field-walked finds were recorded in the North East. Other chance finds were proportionally high in the North East and the South West (17.56 and 12.28 per cent respectively).

[3] This chart shows metal-detecting clubs by FLO area; some FLOs visit clubs outside their area. This table excludes metal-detecting groups such as the Weekend Wanderers (1,200 members) which organise outings for detectorists who are both members of other clubs and independents. It should also be noted that some detectorists are members of more than one club or not members of a club at all.

Table 8: Method of discovery (where known) in 2006 – Percentage in brackets (%)

	Metal detecting	Chance find whilst metal detecting	Field-walking	Other chance find/Gardening	Controlled archaeological investigation	Building/ Agricultural work	Total
North West	704 (93.62)	1 (0.13)	26 (3.46)	20 (2.66)	1 (0.13)	0 (0)	752
North East	206 (73.84)	19 (6.81)	0 (0)	49 (17.56)	0 (0)	5 (1.79)	279
Yorkshire & Humber	2,445 (90.39)	48 (1.77)	202 (7.47)	10 (0.37)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2,705
West Midlands	1,615 (49.97)	599 (18.53)	987 (30.54)	30 (0.93)	0 (0)	1 (0.03)	3,232
East Midlands	7,865 (81.59)	911 (9.45)	724 (7.51)	48 (0.5)	37 (0.38)	55 (0.57)	9,640
East	8,222 (75.99)	363 (3.35)	2,014 (18.61)	37 (0.34)	0 (0)	184 (1.7)	10,820
South West	4,922 (56.86)	1,296 (14.97)	1,288 (14.88)	1,063 (12.28)	3 (0.03)	85 (0.98)	8,657
South East & London	10,844 (79.04)	985 (7.18)	732 (5.34)	1,109 (8.08)	4 (0.03)	45 (0.33)	13,719
Wales	1,330 (24.45)	78 (1.43)	3,979 (73.14)	48 (0.88)	0 (0)	5 (0.09)	5,440
Total	**38,153 (69.06)**	**4,300 (7.78)**	**9,952 (18.01)**	**2,414 (4.37)**	**45 (0.08)**	**380 (0.69)**	**55,244**



Date of discovery

Most finds recorded by the FLOs were discovered in recent years. Table 9 shows that finds found in 2005 and 2006 account for 90.04 per cent of finds recorded in 2006. While the FLOs concentrate their efforts on recording the most recently discovered finds, since these are more likely to have more precise findspot information, they will record finds found many years ago, particularly if the find has good findspot data.

Table 9: Date of discovery in 2006 (where known)

Date of Discovery	Finds	Percentage of Total
Before 1980	656	1.41
1980–9	287	0.62
1990–9	650	1.39
2000	213	0.46
2001	516	1.11
2002	149	0.32
2003	701	1.51
2004	1,463	3.14
2005	15,005	32.22
2006	26,928	57.82
Total	**46,568**	**100**

Landuse

Table 10 shows that 89.59 per cent of finds recorded by the FLOs in 2006 were found on cultivated land, where they are especially vulnerable to agricultural damage and natural and artificial corrosion processes.

Table 10: Landuse of findspots in 2006 (where known)

Landuse	Finds	Percentage of Total
Cultivated land	42,951	89.59
Grass and heathland	688	1.44
Woodland	356	0.74
Coastland	539	1.12
Open fresh water	713	1.49
Wetland	4	0.01
Other	2,688	5.61
Total	**47,939**	**100**

Treasure

Under the Treasure Act 1996 finders have a legal obligation to report all finds of potential Treasure[4]. The process allows a national or local museum to acquire Treasure for public benefit. If this happens, a reward will be paid, and this is normally shared equally between the finder and landowner. The reward is fixed at the full market value of the finds, determined by the Secretary of State on the advice of an independent panel of experts (the Treasure Valuation Committee). Although Treasure finds account for a relatively small proportion of archaeological finds found in England and Wales by the public, the FLOs play an increasingly important role in the effective operation of the Act, such as advising finders of their legal obligations, providing advice on the process and writing reports on Treasure finds.

Table 11a shows that the number of Treasure cases continues to increase, from 595 in 2005 to 673 in 2006. Particularly significant is the impact of FLOs on the reporting of Treasure. Table 11b shows that since 2003, when the PAS was expanded to the whole of England and Wales, there has been an average increase of 174.03 per cent in the reporting of Treasure. The most significant increases have been in the Isle of Wight and Sussex (1,233 and 990 per cent respectively); both areas had an FLO for the first time in 2003. The only area to have a decrease is Northern Ireland (-37.5 per cent), which is not covered by the PAS.

[4] For a full definition see the leaflet Advice for Finders of Archaeological Objects, Including Treasure. See also www.finds.org.uk/treasure

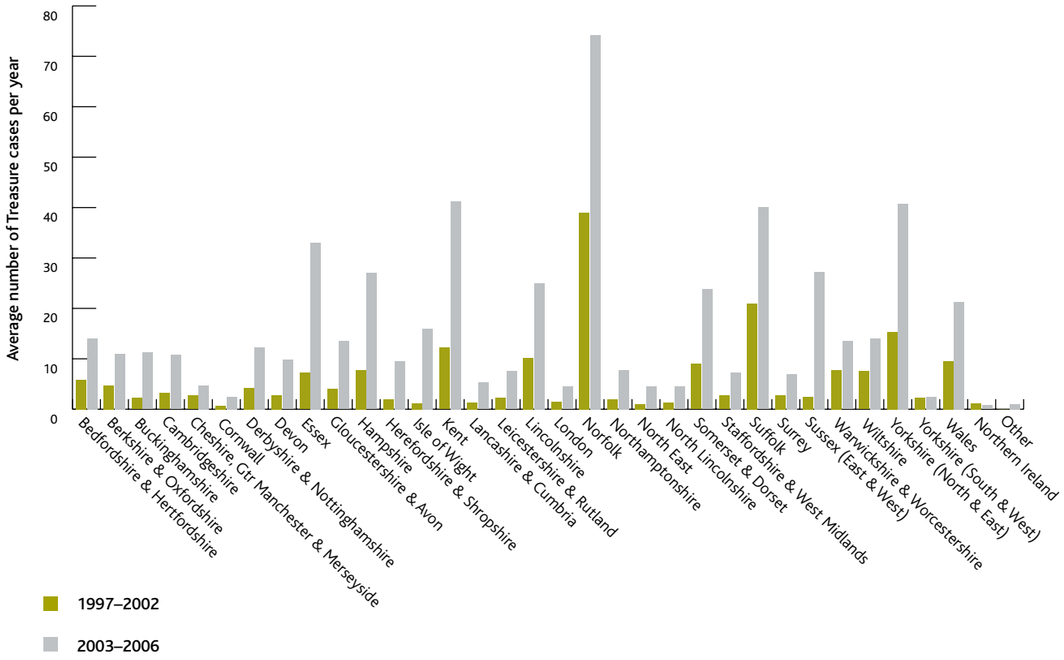
Table 11a: Number of Treasure cases reported 1988–2006 (England, Wales & Northern Ireland)

Year	No. of Treasure Cases
1988	19
1989	23
1990	22
1991	16
1992	34
1993	37
1994	36
1995	20
1996	24
1997	79
1998	201
1999	236
2000	233
2001	214
2002	240
2003	427
2004	506
2005	595
2006	673

Table 11b: Treasure reporting 1997–2002 and since 2003

	Treasure cases 1997–2002	Average per year 1997-2002	Treasure cases 2003-6	Average per year 2003-6	Average increase (%)
Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire	35	5.8	56	14	141.38
Berkshire & Oxfordshire	28	4.7	44	11	134.04
Buckinghamshire	13	2.2	45	11.25	411.36
Cambridgeshire	19	3.2	43	10.75	235.94
Cheshire, Gtr Manchester & Merseyside	16	2.7	19	4.75	75.93
Cornwall	4	0.7	10	2.5	257.14
Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire	25	4.2	49	12.25	191.67
Devon	17	2.8	39	9.75	248.21
Essex	43	7.2	132	33	358.33
Gloucestershire & Avon	24	4	54	13.5	237.5
Hampshire	47	7.8	108	27	246.15
Herefordshire & Shropshire	12	2	36	9.5	350
Isle of Wight	7	1.2	64	16	1,233.33
Kent	73	12.2	165	41.25	238.11
Lancashire & Cumbria	8	1.3	21	5.25	303.85
Leicestershire & Rutland	14	2.3	30	7.5	226.09
Lincolnshire	61	10.2	100	25	145.1
London	9	1.5	18	4.5	200
Norfolk	234	39	297	74.25	90.38
Northamptonshire	12	2	31	7.75	287.5
North East	6	1	18	4.5	350
North Lincolnshire	8	1.3	18	4.5	246.15
Somerset & Dorset	54	9	95	23.75	163.89
Staffordshire & West Midlands	16	2.7	29	7.25	168.52
Suffolk	126	21	160	40	90.48
Surrey	17	2.8	28	7	150
Sussex	15	2.5	109	27.25	990
Warwickshire & Worcestershire	47	7.8	54	13.5	73.08
Wiltshire	45	7.5	56	14	86.67
Yorkshire (North & East)	92	15.3	163	40.75	166.34
Yorkshire (South & West)	14	2.3	18	2.5	8.7
Wales	57	9.5	85	21.25	123.68
Northern Ireland	7	1.2	3	0.75	-37.5
Other	0	0	4	1	-
Total	**1,205**	**200.8**	**2,201**	**550.25**	**174.03**

Table 11b (cont.): **Treasure reporting 1997–2002 and since 2003**



On 2 October 2006 the British Museum and the Museums, Libraries & Archives Council (MLA) agreed a memorandum of understanding with eBay, whereby the British Museum's Department of Portable Antiquities and Treasure monitors eBay for items of potential Treasure, questions vendors and notifies the Metropolitan Police's Art & Antiques Unit of any unreported items. In 2006, 80 cases were investigated further. Upon formal notification from the police, eBay are required to end the sale, which the police may investigate further. Following monitoring work to date it is estimated that between 150 and 200 unreported potential Treasure finds are sold on eBay each year. Already this work has met with some success with useful intelligence being supplied to the police and several vendors handing over potential Treasure items for reporting. In this work the Department of Portable Antiquities and Treasure liaises with other law enforcement authorities, such as county police forces, HM Revenue & Customs, and MLA's Export Licensing Unit.

eBay has produced it own guidance (Antiquities Buying Guide) published alongside the antiquities listings on its website. This complements the Advice for People Buying Archaeological Objects from the UK (see www.finds.org.uk/treasure/advice.php) produced by the PAS, in partnership with colleagues in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Edited by Michael Lewis and Dan Pett

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Photographs on pages 22, 45, 71, 97, 129, 130 by Benedict Johnson

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Portable Antiquities Scheme

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