PORTABLE ANTIQUITIES SCHEME
Annual Report 2005/6

PORTABLE ANTIQUITIES SCHEME ANNUAL REPORT 2005/6

CONTENTS

FOREWORD

I am very pleased to introduce the eighth Portable Antiquities Scheme Annual Report, which outlines the work of the Scheme between 1 April 2005 and 31 March 2006.

This report covers the final period of Heritage Lottery Fund funding, which ended on 31 March 2006. As from this date my department, via the Museums, Libraries & Archives Council and with support from 62 local partners, has taken responsibility for funding the Portable Antiquities Scheme. This will ensure that the Scheme continues to make a vital contribution to the Government's aims of increasing and broadening the impact of culture now and for future generations, as well as enhancing access for children and other priority groups. The Museums, Libraries & Archives Council has done an excellent job managing the Scheme and ensuring its long-term funding to date. I would also like to thank the British Museum, which, since April 2006, is managing the Scheme on behalf of the Museums, Libraries & Archives Council, and the other members of the Portable Antiquities Project Board & Advisory Group.

The extent of the Portable Antiquities Scheme's learning and outreach work is a testament to its success. A 2006 User Survey showed that satisfaction that the Scheme is meeting its aims has dramatically improved since 2004. It is impressive that in 2005/6 the Finds Liaison Officers and other members of the Scheme have talked to over 13,390 people about finds and their importance for understanding our past. They have also organised events and activities, such as Finds Days, object handling sessions and archaeological work, for a further 14,123 people. I was impressed to learn that 86 per cent of finders who attended Portable Antiquities Scheme Conservation Workshops said they had learned something new and had been inspired. Further, a monthly average of 14,405 people visited the Portable Antiquities Scheme website (www.finds.org.uk) in 2005/6. Together, this outreach work demonstrates that the Scheme has enormous potential to reach new and varied audiences.

It is a priority of my department to enhance access to culture for children and give them the opportunity to develop their talents to the full and enjoy the benefits of participation. It is therefore particularly encouraging that this year the Scheme offered 5,439 children a different and exciting opportunity to learn and get involved. I experienced this first hand in October 2005 when I launched the Portable Antiquities Scheme's children's website – PASTexplorers (www.pastexplorers.org.uk) – an innovative learning resource aimed at 7 to 11 year olds. The fact that 77 per cent of children who experienced the educational work of the Scheme said they understood more about things from a long time ago shows the benefits of this type of learning.

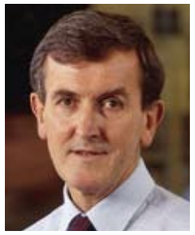
The Portable Antiquities Scheme has shown itself to be extremely successful in breaking down social barriers and involving people who traditionally feel excluded from the work of the sector. This year a socio-economic analysis of postcode data for finders who have recorded archaeological finds with the Scheme shows that 47 per cent of people recording objects with the Scheme since 1997 are from groups C2, D and E, which compares favourably with museum visitors (31 per cent). The Portable Antiquities Scheme is undoubtedly successful in attracting new audiences to museums. This was demonstrated by the fact that 46 per cent of visitors to a series of Fabulous Finds Days, held nationwide to launch Museums & Galleries Month in April 2005, said that they had never previously been to that museum before.

The Portable Antiquities Scheme offers the only proactive mechanism for recording archaeological finds found by the public, without which information about these finds would be lost, to the detriment of archaeological knowledge. It is indeed remarkable that the Scheme's Finds Liaison Officers have recorded a further 57,556 objects in 2005/6; a two-fold increase on 2003/4. In no small part this is due to the 5,855 people who have offered finds for recording this year. Of these, 59 per cent were brought forward by metal-detector users (who actively search for archaeological objects) but a significant minority offered for recording were found by other finders, such as field-walkers or people out walking or digging in their gardens. It is excellent news that since the protocol on the transfer of Portable Antiquities Scheme data to Historic Environment Records – the key record holders for information about the historic environment – was agreed last year the data is starting to be used by the HERs so that it can play its role in protecting the historic environment.

The Government recognises that the Portable Antiquities Scheme plays a major role in supporting the Treasure Act through its network of Finds Liaison Officers. It is largely down to their work that we have seen a substantial rise in the reporting of Treasure Finds. It is truly impressive that the rate of reporting of potential Treasure has risen by an average of 154 per cent since the expansion of the Portable Antiquities Scheme across all of England and Wales in 2003.

As I said last year, the Portable Antiquities Scheme offers an impressive array of benefits and I hope that the Scheme is able to continue to go from strength to strength and build upon its excellent work to date.

David Lammy, Minister for Culture
November 2006



PREFACE

The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) and the British Museum have been key supporters of the Portable Antiquities Scheme since it was established in 1997. MLA co-ordinated the Scheme's successful Heritage Lottery Fund bid (which funded the Scheme in 2003/6), sponsored the Scheme through the last Government Spending Review (which funds the Scheme in 2006/8) and will do so again in the forthcoming Government Spending Review (2008/11). Likewise, the British Museum has provided a home for the Central Unit and now manages the day-to-day running and administration of the Scheme on behalf of MLA. Everyone involved in the Portable Antiquities Scheme is delighted with the support the Government has given it to date and we are grateful for the Minister's kind words in his foreword to this report.

MLA and the British Museum jointly chair the Portable Antiquities Advisory Group (formerly Portable Antiquities Project Board & Advisory Group), the consortium of national bodies that co-ordinates the Project and takes it forward. A recent and notable achievement of this group is agreement on a Code of Conduct for Responsible Metal Detecting in England and Wales which, for the first time defines 'responsible metal-detecting' and provides a clear and unambiguous definition of what constitutes best practice, and has been endorsed by all key archaeological bodies, metal-detecting and landowners' organisations. This group has also discussed other important issues related to the aims of the Scheme, such as metal-detecting rallies, agri-environment schemes and the illicit recovery and sale of antiquities. On the latter issue MLA and the British Museum (with the support of the Art & Antiques Unit, Metropolitan Police) have now agreed a protocol with eBay, by which eBay will remove from its site tainted cultural objects, such as unreported potential Treasure.

However, it is the Finds Liaison Officers who, with the support of their managers and local partners in the Scheme, deliver the project's aims and objectives on the ground, as the Minister has stressed in his foreword. It is well recognised that the Finds Liaison Officers, and their assistants and volunteers, work diligently and professionally to ensure the Scheme is as successful as it is, helping to foster good relations between finders, archaeologists and museum professionals, widen an interest and understanding of archaeological finds, and ensure that the data collated is of the maximum benefit for advancing knowledge of the past. It is a tribute to the success of such partnerships that the Portable Antiquities Scheme continues to break down barriers, and encourage learning and knowledge for the benefit of all.

The Portable Antiquities Scheme is an important and valuable part of MLA's vision to improve people's lives by building knowledge, supporting learning, inspiring creativity and celebrating identity, and ties in well with other MLA programmes and responsibilities such as Renaissance in the Regions, Inspiring Learning for All and Export Licensing. Likewise, the Scheme adds value to the British Museum's aim to advance public understanding of its collections and the cultures they represent through programmes such as Partnership UK; between November 2003 and January 2006, 155,000 people were able to learn about the work of the Scheme through the British Museum's *Buried Treasure* exhibition which toured five museums in England and Wales. Given the positive contribution this Scheme has made to our understanding of the past, it is hoped that the government will continue to support the scheme in the forthcoming Spending Review.

Chris Batt, Chief Executive Officer, the Museums, Libraries & Archives Council

Neil MacGregor, Director, the British Museum

KEY POINTS

The main achievements of the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) in the period 1 April 2005 until 31 March 2006 can be summarised as follows:

Extent of the Scheme: A network of 36 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 2005/6, 42 part-time Finds Liaison Assistants (FLAs) and 83 volunteers assisted the work of the Scheme.

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 successful in advancing archaeological knowledge. With regards to its other aims (see page 9) the Scheme has achieved an approval rating that is between 6 and 16 per cent higher than was achieved in 2004.

The PAS has been recommended as a model to follow in the Normand Review (2003) on Treasure Trove in Scotland and the Report of the DCMS Working Group on Salvage and Reporting, Protecting our Marine Historic Environment (2006). The British Marine Aggregate Producers Association Protocol for reporting finds of archaeological interest (2005) also draws on the experience of the PAS.

Outreach: 360 talks (attended by 13,390 people) have been given about the PAS. At least 468 Finds Days, exhibitions and other events (attended by 14,123 people) have been organised. More than 5,439 children have experienced the educational work of the Scheme. 294 articles about the work of the Scheme have been published or broadcast in the media.

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). 46 per cent of visitors to a series of Fabulous Finds Days, held nationwide to launch Museums & Galleries Month in April 2005, had never previously been to that museum before.

Liaison: The FLOs have liaised with 5,855 finders, attended at least 697 metal-detecting club meetings and 877 other meetings. They maintain regular contact with both metal-detecting clubs and amateur archaeological groups. *Treasure Hunting* produced 15,000 copies of a 32 page 'round-up' of finds recorded through PAS, which reached a wider audience than the PAS normally reaches with its own publications. *The Searcher* organised an annual competition – 'The Nation's Greatest Detecting Finds' – which promoted finds recording with the PAS.

Website: There have been over 53 million user hits on the Scheme's website – www.finds.org.uk – in the period of this report; a 148 per cent increase on 2004-5. At the end of this reporting period the online database allows public access to 129,613 records and 93,337 images.

Objects recorded: A further 57,556 archaeological objects have been recorded on the PAS finds database in 2005/6, some of which are illustrated in this report; double that of 2003/4. Of these, just over 68 per cent have been discovered whilst out using a metal-detector; 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 154 per cent increase in the reporting of potential Treasure finds.

Findspot information: More than 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. Nearly 86 per cent of finds are now being recorded to the nearest $100m^2$ (a six-figure National Grid Reference) or better, and almost 40 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 – in the first year of this agreement – 48 HERs (over half) 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 a new Roman kiln site in Leicestershire, a previously unknown Anglo-Saxon cemetery in Norfolk and a nineteenth-century gunflint production site in Suffolk.

Publication: Several publications associated with the work of the Scheme have appeared in the period of this report, including the *Treasure Annual Report 2003*, the Portable Antiquities section of *Britannia volume 36 (2005)*, *Medieval Archaeology volume 49 (2005)*, and *Post Medieval Archaeology volume 39 (2005)*.

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 – itself an important educational resource – 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 to anyone interested in learning more about the past, who we are and where we have come from. Archaeological finds themselves 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 36 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 2005/6, 42 part-time Finds Liaison Assistants (FLAs) and 83 volunteers provided an invaluable contribution to the work of the Scheme.

In 2005/6 the PAS was managed by a consortium of national bodies led by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA). This group, known as the Portable Antiquities Project Board & Advisory Group, meets quarterly. Members of the Board (who make financial decisions) are MLA, the British Museum, English Heritage, the National Museums & Galleries of Wales and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales. Members of the Advisory Group (who advise on policy) include the above, together with the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers, the Council for British Archaeology, the Country Business & Landowners Association, the National Council for

Metal Detecting, the National Farmers Union, the Society of Museum Archaeologists and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. Issues discussed by this group include the Code of Practice for Responsible Metal Detecting in England and Wales, Countryside Stewardship Schemes and the illicit trade in UK antiquities. MLA acts as the channel for funding the Scheme and monitors the grants on behalf of the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). The work of the Scheme, including the financial management of the Scheme, is monitored by a Project Monitor appointed by the HLF.

From 1 April 2006 the PAS has been funded by the DCMS, and is managed by the British Museum on behalf of the MLA. The Portable Antiquities Project Board and Advisory Group now meet as the Portable Antiquities Advisory Group, all members having an equal role advising the Scheme and taking the work of the PAS forward.

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.

5. The final aim 'To define the nature and scope of a scheme for recording portable antiquities in the longer term, to assess the likely costs and to identify resources to enable it to be put into practice' has now been achieved.

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 (see page 19).

LEARNING AND OUTREACH

Learning and outreach is a fundamental part of the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS). Education underpins its core activity of recording finds, but is also a vital outcome of the project. Through the Scheme's outreach work, adults and children alike develop an interest in their past, learn more about archaeology and become involved. The finds data generated by the Scheme is a valuable resource for academics, archaeologists and others, helping to advance archaeological knowledge.

Since 2003 the PAS has employed an Education Co-ordinator (Ceinwen Paynton) who facilitates and supports the work of the FLOs. The Scheme also employs a team of Finds Advisers (Julian Baker, Geoff Egan, Helen Geake, Kevin Leahy, Ian Leins and Sally Worrell) who train the FLOs in identification and recording, ensure data generated by the PAS is of the highest standards, further the research potential of the data collated and contribute to academic knowledge and learning.

CHILDREN: FORMAL LEARNING

The PAS offers a different and exciting learning experience that is based around real archaeological objects which provide a tangible link with the past. Artefact learning with a local focus provides an ideal way to encourage children to be interested in where they come from and how we got here. 77 per cent of children who completed evaluation forms in 2005/6 said the PAS helped them learn more about things from a long time ago, and 82 per cent said they found out something new.

Working with Museum Education Officers, community archaeologists, Local Education Authorities and other educators and learners, the FLOs help bring archaeology into the classroom, offering children an unforgettable experience that inspires learning in subjects that include History, Geography, ICT, Maths and Science. In 2005/6, 5,439 children attended education events organised by the PAS.

Andrew Richardson (Kent FLO) talking about finds to children at a local school

"Thanks to help and guidance from Peter Reavill [Herefordshire & Shropshire FLO] *we have put together an education session called 'Meet the Anglo-Saxons'. During the morning the children were finding out about how archaeology can provide clues to our history using a replica burial site. In the afternoon the children used the PAS 'Past Explorers' website, to reinforce the work we had done together in the morning. The children had a very positive attitude towards using the website; they engaged well and were stimulated in a different way. It was a wonderful tool to communicate knowledge in a fascinating way, and it enhanced their museum experience."*
Anita White (Shropshire Museum Service Educator)

Inner city schools
Faye Simpson (London FLO) has been working in inner city London schools, including those that are on Government special measures, such as Godwin's Estate School, Dorking, where over half of the children have specific learning difficulties. This has involved working with Schools' Special Needs Co-ordinators and education psychologists, devising teaching programmes with an emphasis on creative and practical skills, for which archaeology, and specifically the new interactive PAS education site – www.PASTexplorers.org.uk – is particularly useful. Teachers have reported that these handling, drawing and interactive sessions have provided a new confidence as well as a great learning tool for children.

Springwood Primary School, South Yorkshire
Anna Marshall (South & West Yorkshire FLO), Lisa Staves (North Lincolnshire FLO) and Rose Nicholson (Archaeology Assistant, North Lincolnshire Museum) spent a day with the pupils of Springwood Primary School, South Yorkshire, where they put together a whole day of archaeological activities, all revolving around archaeological objects. Activities included 'investigating objects' – where children used identification, recording and drawing skills, 'field-walked finds' – an activity which looked at plotting finds and interpreting find distribution patterns, and 'the skeleton game' – where children thought about the survival of materials in different burial environments.

"I enjoyed all of the day because it taught me a lot more about archaeologists and archaeology, but they made it really fun." Charlotte Osguthorpe (Springwood Primary School)

"I most enjoyed being able to touch real artefacts from different times because it felt like a part of history was in my hands." James Johnson (Springwood Primary School)

A pupil of Springwood Primary School recording a find

...but most children like the 'skeleton game' best, because they liked playing dead!

National Museum Wales School Project
Excavation and research of a Prehistoric site at Llanmaes, Vale of Glamorgan provided an exciting opportunity to offer innovative approaches for learning and engagement with the past. Three modules for local school children (aged 9 and 10) were devised by Ken Brassil (History & Archaeology Education Officer, National Museum Wales), Mark Lodwick (Finds Co-ordinator, Wales) and local teachers.

Children at Llanilltyd Fawr Primary School were designated the excavation's visiting journalists. After some pre-visit work in the classroom they visited the excavation, interviewed archaeologists and discussed the excavation methodology. A storyteller used a replica cauldron (of a type similar to those found at the site) as a focus for developing storylines with the group. Back at school, the notes were edited and a selection of stories and articles presented as a newspaper – The Llanilltyd Times.

Children at St Illtyd Primary School were challenged with the task of creating film archives and narratives inspired by the experience of visiting the excavation. Two half days were spent with Clwyd Jones, cameraman and editor, who involved the children in experimenting with digital video technology. The film explored how we respond to personal possessions and was inspired by artefacts recovered through excavation. Pupils were encouraged to bring their favourite object from home and supported each other in the process of recording and filming. Their interpretations were personal and in some cases profound.

Children at Eagleswell Primary School were given the task of being landscape detectives. On arrival at the excavations they focused on the context of the fieldwork (a pasture field adjacent to a farmyard). The group interrogated the contemporary and historic landscape using gradually more detailed maps, before exploring the immediate context of the excavation field. The process enabled a confident engagement within the class and provided greater freedom to question the archaeologists and students. Within a single visit and limited introduction, they had begun to develop their own individual identity with the excavation project.

The project directly involved some 150 primary school children in 2005. The children's work (including film) was displayed at National Museum Wales in Cardiff alongside finds excavated at Llanmaes and was viewed by thousands of visitors.

CHILDREN: INFORMAL LEARNING

Experience shows that an informal approach to learning often works best. The FLOs regularly help organise events and activities for children that help bring the past alive in a way a formal lesson or talk might not.

Ask an Archaeologist
Jane Carr (Suffolk FLO and branch leader of Bury St Edmunds YAC) organised a hands-on event with the Council for British Archaeology (East Anglia) at Haughley Barn, Suffolk. This provided a range of archaeological activities for 70 children (and their parents), including finds handling, sifting soil for archaeological finds, geophysics, using aerial photographs and the Suffolk Historic Environment Record and finding out about careers in archaeology. This was followed by a question and answer session. Most questions were prompted by *Time Team* viewing, but also included 'what's the oldest/best thing you have found?' and 'why did you want to become an archaeologist?'

BBC Berkshire Radio Competition
Radio BBC Berkshire ran a children's competition with the prize being the opportunity to visit and spend time with professionals in the career of their choice – and archaeology proved the most popular choice. In November 2005 the winners visited the archaeology team in West Berkshire Museum and got to see behind the scenes at the Museum. They explored the Historic Environment Record and Kate Sutton (Berkshire & Oxfordshire FLO) showed them some recent finds. Kate told them what the objects were, where they came from, what they reveal about the past, and about some of the detective work involved in identification. The favourite moment of the afternoon proved to be when they helped Kate to identify a Post-Medieval sword brought in by a member of the public.

Top to bottom: Pupils of Llanilltyd Fawr Primary School interviewing an archaeologist at Llanmaes; Children handling archaeological finds; Children examining archaeological finds on the Prehistoric site at Llanmaes.

FINDERS & THE PUBLIC

The finders themselves constitute a majority of the people learning through the PAS: in 2005/6 the FLOs liaised with 5,855 finders, identifying finds, updating them on the work of the Scheme, local archaeological work and 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 recording finds.

FINDS DAYS
The FLOs regularly visit metal-detecting clubs, as (unlike most members of the public) metal-detectorists actively search for finds: in 2005/6 the FLOs had regular contact with 163 clubs which represented a membership of at least 5,642 finders. However, the FLOs also organise Finds Days in museums and elsewhere to record finds made by the public at large. Sometimes these are regular 'drop in' sessions, but can be specially organised events to tie in with National Archaeology Week or other major archaeological or museum events.

Time Team's Big Roman Dig
In July 2005, FLOs organised Finds Days to coincide with *Time Team's Big Roman Dig* – a week-long TV series following the investigation of Roman sites across the country.

In Herefordshire, *Time Team* and Herefordshire Archaeology investigated a 'proposed' crossing point/bridge at the New Weir on the River Wye. The site was open to the general public on the last Saturday of the week attracting over 600 people. Events organised by Hereford Archaeology, Hereford Heritage Services, Hereford Museum Service and the PAS focused on the excavations and the finds from the site. During the day a number of finds were seen by Peter Reavill (Herefordshire & Shropshire FLO) and the importance of the recording of Roman archaeological finds across the county was emphasised.

In Northamptonshire, Tom Brindle (Northamptonshire FLO) organised a Finds Day at Piddington Roman Villa Museum, where *Time Team* and the Upper Nene Archaeology Society were undertaking further archaeological work. Many people brought in finds for identification and recording. One family brought in finds they had found in their garden, including Post-Medieval clay pipe stems, nineteenth-century pottery and modern glass bottles. Whilst none of these finds were recorded on the PAS finds database, Tom explained what the objects were. The family were fascinated to learn about the artefacts and what they could tell them about people who had lived on the site of their house in the past.

Museums & Galleries Month 2005 – Fabulous Finds Days
On Saturday 30 April 2005 the PAS, in partnership with Renaissance and the 24-Hour Museum, organised a series of Fabulous Finds Days across the country to launch Museums & Galleries Month (May 2005). These events took place at the Ashmolean Museum (Oxford), Hancock Museum (Newcastle), Liskeard Museum, the Manor House (Donnington Le Heath), Museum of Lancashire (Preston), the Museum of London, the Potteries Museum & Art Gallery (Stoke on Trent), Roots of Norfolk (Gressenhall), and the Yorkshire Museum (York). The public were invited to bring along any finds they have made – not just archaeological finds – for identification by experts, including archaeologists, geologists, social historians and other museum professionals. Besides recording finds other activities, such as flint knapping, coin striking and activities for children, were organised to attract the public. Overall the events were extremely successful in attracting new visitors to the museums involved: 46 per cent of visitors who visited a Fabulous Finds Day said they had never previously been to that museum before.

COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECTS
The work of the FLOs has potential to increase community participation in archaeology and further local archaeological knowledge.

Hitcham Community Archaeology Project
Faye Minter (Suffolk FLO) has been working with Hitcham Parish Council and Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS) to implement and advise best practice on a Local Heritage Initiative project to look at a probable Roman villa in Hitcham. The site was identified from surface finds in the ploughsoil, collected and recorded with SCCAS and the PAS. These include Roman finds of brick, tile, pottery, coins and other metal artefacts, suggesting a prosperous settlement occupied from the first to mid-fourth century.

Local residents are deeply involved in the organisation and execution of the project and in 2005/6 geophysical, metal-detecting and field-walking surveys have been carried out. Geophysical gradiometer and resistance surveys have revealed probable archaeological features, including parts of a rectilinear ditched area and possible buildings inside it. In September 2005 the ploughed field was gridded and systematically metal-detected by ex-Rolling Stone Bill Wyman, which generated local media interest in the project. Over a weekend it was then field-walked by over 60 local people who rapidly learned to recognise Roman tile fragments and pottery: 175kg of Roman brick and tile was collected! The results are not yet fully analysed but there is some correlation between higher densities of finds and the rectilinear enclosure identified by the geophysics.

Finders conserving finds at Doncaster Museum

The next stage of the project is a small-scale excavation to be conducted in June 2006, again involving large numbers of the local community.

BEST PRACTICE

The PAS plays an important role in educating finders on best practice. This has included recent work on a Code for Responsible Metal-Detecting - endorsed by key archaeological bodies, metal-detecting and landowner organisations - which for the first time clearly defines what is meant by being responsible and provides useful advice and guidance for finders. In the 2006 PAS User Survey 71 per cent of people surveyed agreed that the PAS is succeeding in changing attitudes so that there is a common understanding of the need to report finds.

As part of a contract to deliver conservation advice to the PAS, the York Archaeological Trust (YAT) was seconded to deliver regional Conservation Workshops for finders which took place in Aylesbury, Cardiff, Colchester, Exeter, Leicester, Liverpool, Maidstone, Singleton, Taunton and York. Although the activities offered at each event differed, all provide practical conservation advice for finders: indeed, 86 per cent of finders who attended the PAS/YAT Conservation Workshops and completed evaluation forms said they had learnt something new and had been inspired.

"Useful information, an insight in to some of the less well known aspects of archaeology, provides inspiration to pursue local archaeology." Anonymous feedback, Conservation Workshop in York

Conservation Workshop in West Sussex

One of three Conservation Workshops in the South East was held at the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum, Singleton (near Chichester). The venue is situated on the border of West Sussex and Hampshire and is not too far from Surrey, so finders from across the South East were able to attend. Dana Goodburn-Brown (conservator) provided practical advice to finders - as well as other museum professionals! Besides this, presentations (drawing on PAS data) were given on Anglo-Saxon brooches (Andrew Richardson, Kent FLO) and eleventh-century horse furniture (David Williams, Surrey FLO). Nick Stoodley (University of Winchester) also discussed his Anglo-Saxon research and organised a display of archaeological work being carried out by the University. Staff at the Weald and Downland Museum helped make the event a success. Julian Bell (Curator) led several tours around the Agricultural Artefacts stores and laid out some of the museum's restorations projects for visitors to look at, Richard Harris (Director, Weald & Downland Museum), an expert in vernacular timber framed buildings, led 'Under the Surface' tours around the museum's houses, and John Roberts (member of staff) showed visitors how to prepare a fifteenth-century wooden beam using nothing but a flat axe! Tickets were sold for the Conservation Workshop, which covered entry to the museum and also provided free conservation materials and leaflets for all those who attended.

The PAS is committed to continuing to provide conservation advice to finders and will also continue to hold Conservation Workshops. The FLOs are now working with local conservators to ensure finders get good and consistent conservation advice.

"If you are in a metal-detecting club then talk to your FLO or local museum and see if it's possible for your group to get some hands on conservation. Trust me, you will not be disappointed!" Craig Slatter (Wakefield District Relic Hunters)

The PAS actively supports the use of Global Positioning Systems (GPS) devices by finders to ensure findspots are recorded to the highest level of precision possible, and this has helped to improve the precision of findspots recorded in 2005/6 (now 84 per cent of finds are recorded to a National Grid Reference of six figures (100m^2) or greater). FLOs now have GPS devices, which they often loan to finders.

Donald Sherratt and Dave Hutton

Donald Sherratt and Dave Hutton have been in contact with the Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record for a number of years, and this relationship was further strengthened with the appointment of Kurt Adams (Gloucestershire & Avon FLO). Donald and Dave record all of their finds to a ten figure National Grid Reference (1m^2) using a hand held GPS device. Moreover, both have actively encouraged all of their friends to do the same - even travelling to the site to record findspots as precisely as possible! As a result of their increasing contact with independent detector-users in the area they have decided to set up a new metal-detecting club called the Taynton Metal Detecting Club. Consequently, and because of their close association with the PAS, the primary aim of the club is to record findspots as precisely as possible, with the aim of making this information available to the archaeological record so as to add to our knowledge of the area in which they live. Donald and Dave are now working closely with Kurt in order to start a community-based fieldwalking survey of the parish of Newent, which will also involve local historical societies, volunteers and others.

"If finds are properly recorded metal-detecting has the potential to greatly add to our understanding of our past. Finders who don't record their finds are depriving future generations of this knowledge of their history." Donald Sherratt (metal-detectorist)

Large metal-detecting rallies can be problematic, as often the organisers of such events make no provision for recording finds – indeed FLOs are not always invited or are even actively discouraged from attending! Also the numbers of detectorists involved – often several hundred – make it impossible to record all finds to the highest standards.

Rallies in North Yorkshire

This said, some organisers do help the PAS to help record finds from their rallies, and in 2005/6 Simon Holmes and Dave Evans (North & East Yorkshire FLOs) continued to work closely with the organisers of rallies in North Yorkshire. Liaising with North Yorkshire County Council, English Heritage and other interested parties such as the Battlefields Trust and York Archaeology Forum, they established an agreed recording methodology, and then mobilised volunteers from York University and the Yorkshire Museum. With these volunteers and additional PAS support from Philippa Walton (North East FLO), Anna Marshall (South & West Yorkshire FLO), Lisa Staves (North Lincolnshire FLO) and Adrian Marsden (Norfolk Museums Service) they successfully attended three major rallies at Marston Moor, Well and Ripon, making contact with hundreds of detectorists and recording hundreds of new finds. Most finds recorded were Roman and Medieval, but others also shed more light on the Civil War battlefield

Anna Marshall (South & West Yorkshire FLO) and Lisa Staves (North Lincolnshire FLO) recording finds at a metal-detecting rally

at Marston Moor and revealed a new Anglo-Saxon site outside Ripon. Most pleasingly, over 60 detectorists recorded a find with the PAS for the first time at one of the rallies, continuing to build awareness of, and engagement with, the PAS.

EXHIBITIONS, DISPLAYS & OBJECT-HANDLING SESSIONS

Exhibitions, displays and object-handling sessions are an important way to highlight the work of the Scheme and allow the public to see local finds made by local people: The British Museum's *Buried Treasure* exhibition (which toured Newcastle and Norwich in the period of this report, having already been seen in London, Cardiff and Manchester) attracted 155,000 museum visitors in total. Most exhibitions, however, will be small displays organised by the FLO with a particular museum and metal-detecting group, such as that at Moyses Hall Museum: Chris Mycock (Museum Officer, Moyses Hall Museum, Suffolk) commented that

Anna Tyacke (Cornwall FLO) explains the PAS to a member of the public

"an exhibition on the PAS and its work with the Mildenhall & District Metal Detecting Club attracted visitors that would not normally come to the museum, especially metal-detectorists; in fact we have never had so many metal-detectorists in before."

Exhibition Case at Doncaster Museum
Anna Marshall (South & West Yorkshire FLO) has been working with local metal-detecting clubs in her area to put together a selection of loaned finds for an exhibition case at Doncaster Museum & Art Gallery. Finds from the local area were lent by members of the South Yorkshire Metal Detecting Club for six months and displayed in the museum so that visitors could learn more about the PAS and the significance of metal-detected finds in adding to our knowledge of local archaeology and heritage.

But sometimes events are much larger...

'Treasures of the Past' Exhibition at Verulamium Museum
Throughout the summer of 2005 Verulamium Museum, St Albans was the setting for a major exhibition of finds - 'Treasures of the Past' - which showcased objects found by the public in Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire since the introduction of the PAS to both counties in 2003. It was organised by Julian Watters (Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire FLO) and staff from Verulamium Museum. The exhibition featured nearly three hundred artefacts loaned by thirty-five individual finders, many from local metal-detecting clubs including a late Iron Age bronze mirror (BH-B85CF3), a fine Medieval bronze steelyard weight (BH-951F53) and a case entitled 'Fakes, forgeries, foreign finds and fossils'. A series of graphic panels highlighted the work of the PAS, encouraged responsible recovery and storage of finds, and provided advice on the reporting of Treasure. The exhibition was accompanied by a series of lectures covering a wide range of archaeology-related topics.

Faye Simpson (London FLO) being interviewed by a London radio station

Object-handling sessions provide an opportunity for the public to handle real archaeological finds, speak to an expert, and learn more about them.

Object-handling session at The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery
Caroline Johnson (Staffordshire & West Midlands FLO) organised two Roman artefact workshops for families at The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery as part of the Roman 'Pan-tastic' month of events that took place in February 2006 to celebrate the tri-partite museum acquisition of the Staffordshire Moorlands Pan (WMID-3FE965). This unique Roman find was found in the local area by Kevin Blackburn and Julian Lee whilst metal-detecting and reported to the PAS. The children who attended this event were of varying ages, with their parents being as enthusiastic as they were about studying and handling real Roman artefacts!

MEDIA
Archaeology captures the public imagination, so the media are always interested in stories about finds and sites that come to light through the PAS. The launch of the PAS and Treasure Annual Reports always attracts media interest; this year was no exception, with David Lammy (Culture Minister) launching both reports at the Museum of London. Members of the PAS staff, particularly Helen Geake (Finds Adviser, Medieval Objects) also appear on Channel 4's *Time Team* and finds recorded through PAS have featured on ITV's *This Morning*. There is also significant local media interest in the PAS: Finds Days and exhibitions are regularly reported in local newspapers and local Radio always likes to cover a PAS story. In 2005/6, 294 articles about the PAS were published or broadcast, and about 52.5 million viewers were exposed to the work of the PAS through TV.

CONFERENCES & TALKS
It is an important part of the Scheme's outreach that talks are given to local groups and societies, including Bramhope History Society, Owston Ferry Historical Society and Sutton Coldfield Archaeological Society. In 2005/6, 1,073 talks, attended by 35,688 people, were given about the work of the PAS.

Norfolk Greenfingers
Erica Darch (Norfolk FLO) gave a talk at the 'Greenfingers' Christmas meeting (2005) entitled 'Treasures I might find in my Garden' which was attended by over 30 keen gardeners. Recent artefacts discovered in Norfolk gardens include a Bronze Age hoard consisting of over 140 objects (2005 T234) and an early Anglo-Saxon cruciform brooch (NMS-F2CEB1), so it was an ideal opportunity to show members of the public who might easily find important artefacts by chance what they might look like, how to avoid damaging them and why it is important to record them. One artefact type the Greenfingers members were very familiar with was pottery, as Grimstone and Pott Row (where Greenfingers meet) was where Grimstone Ware was produced in the Medieval period.

Members of the Scheme also gave papers to major conferences. In 2005/6 these included papers at 'Buried Treasure: Building Bridges' at the University of Newcastle (June 2005), the International Medieval Congress at Leeds (July 2005) and 'Horrid Treasure' at Norwich Castle Museum (September 2005), as well as papers at conferences organised by the Institute of Art and Law (November 2005) and the Institute of Field Archaeologists (April 2006). The PAS also holds its own annual conference, which in 2006 was held at the British Museum:

PAS Conference – Advancing Archaeological Knowledge
In 2006 the PAS held a one-day conference to explore how the PAS is helping to advance archaeological knowledge. Papers examined the contribution of the Scheme to small finds research, understanding particular sites and the broader historic environment, as well as the benefits of working with conservators to further our understanding of finds and sites that have come to light through the Scheme. Papers included recent research on Late Iron Age and Roman bovine vessel mounts, a Roman site at Beckfoot, Cumbria, that is eroding into the sea, and the recovery and conservation of an Iron Age mirror found on a metal-detecting rally at Bromham.

ARCHAEOLOGISTS

The FLOs receive a lot of support from fellow archaeologists, including finds experts in universities and museums, HER officers and others. However, as well as learning from other archaeologists, the FLOs are experts in their own right and often are involved in talking about their experience and passing on skills to colleagues.

Training programme for Suffolk archaeologists
In August 2005 Faye Minter (Suffolk FLO) collaborated with Professor Martin Millett (Cambridge University) and Jude Plouviez (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service) to facilitate 10 days of geophysics and topography training for Cambridge University archaeology students and professional archaeologists from Suffolk. The project had a dual purpose: to provide a good training opportunity and also to investigate sites discovered by local metal-detectorists. The project is the first of what will hopefully be a yearly training event further investigating Roman sites in Suffolk which have been identified through the work of the PAS. It is hoped that members of the public and local metal-detectorists will also be trained in the future.

Lisa Staves (North Lincolnshire FLO) explaining the PAS children's website to an audience of museum education officers

The site investigated was an especially complex one near Mildenhall, Suffolk. The site had come to light as a result of the activities of Mick King, who had reported a wealth of metal artefacts and pottery from all periods to the Suffolk FLOs. Paul Johnson and Helen Woodhouse (Cambridge University) ran the survey and the results confirmed that the archaeological potential of the site was very high and that it was occupied throughout antiquity. Especially striking was the discovery of two probable Bronze Age round barrows as well as of a group of structures and enclosures, perhaps of Medieval date. A systematic fieldwalking survey is now planned.

Hands-On Archaeology Workshop for Museum Archaeologists
In January 2006, Creative Minds, a Yorkshire based project that aims to offer children inspirational and creative learning opportunities in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths, invited the PAS to a Hands-On Archaeology workshop in York to demonstrate to other heritage educators in the audience some of the types of education work that the Scheme is undertaking. Anna Marshall (South & West Yorkshire FLO) and Lisa Staves (North Lincolnshire FLO) talked to the group about the types of education work they had done with children and demonstrated the PASt explorers children's website and interactive games (www.pastexplorers.org.uk) whilst Simon Holmes (North & East Yorkshire FLO) gave examples of his work with adult, further and higher education institutes, such as lecturing and providing placement and volunteer opportunities for University students, as well as finds identification and handling sessions.

HIGHER & FURTHER EDUCATION

Data generated by the PAS offers an important educational and research resource for archaeology students and other academics. Members of the Scheme regularly talk to students at colleges and universities across the country about the work of the Scheme and particular archaeological work or aspects of research.

Day School for Truro College

In April 2005 Anna Tyacke (Cornwall FLO) ran a day school for Truro College students and Cornwall Archaeological Society members on 'Understanding early metalworking and metalwork' with the help of Martin Page (Truro College). The day school was held at the Royal Cornwall Museum where Anna illustrated her talk with artefacts from the Royal Institution of Cornwall's collections, many of which had come off display and are not normally allowed to be handled. These included an Early Bronze Age gold lunula and a Saxon silver hoard. These complex and intricate artefacts were used to illustrate the various techniques and materials used and to give members a first-hand look at the details of the decoration and the feel and look of the metals. Anna also looked at the cleaning and conservation of metals and the recording of finds on the PAS finds database. In the afternoon, Martin continued the day school in the workshop at Truro College using various tools and equipment to show the manufacture of metal objects, the decoration processes and the metallurgy involved. The students were also able to try their hand at sand casting and chip-carving the surface of the metal with chisels!

Birmingham University

Wroxeter (Viroconium) was the fourth largest Roman town in Britain and unlike others does not have a modern city built on top which has destroyed much of the underlying archaeology. As such, the site has long been a target for illegal metal-detecting (night-hawking). With this in mind Simon Buteux and Roger White (University of Birmingham) wished to involve the PAS and local metal-detector users as part of the archaeological team investigating the site. In 2005 a small archaeological evaluation, supported by Birmingham Archaeology, was undertaken by post-graduate archaeology students at the University of Birmingham.

Following the excavation Peter Reavill (Herefordshire & Shropshire FLO), along with Arthur Evans and Colin Sharratt, metal-detectorists who worked on the site, were invited to talk to students. In the morning Peter talked about the PAS and the Treasure Act. In the afternoon Colin and Arthur brought in some of their collection and talked about metal-detecting and their experiences of archaeology and archaeologists. This led on to a frank discussion about the impact of metal-detecting and the importance of the recording of finds. Other topics discussed included the lack of archaeological opportunities for metal-detectorists and the attitudes of some people to the hobby. It was interesting to observe the reaction of the students who openly admitted that they had had very little or no prior contact with metal-detectorists before they started the excavations at Wroxeter.

"The collaboration at Wroxeter between metal-detectorists and archaeologists is an excellent example of how two different interest groups, sometimes hostile to each other, can collaborate successfully. The best part of the experience was for both groups to achieve a much better understanding of each other and their concerns and interests." Simon Buteux (Birmingham University)

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers play a very important role in the work of the PAS. People volunteer for many different reasons – to gain experience of working as an archaeologist or in a museum, out of interest in the past or to develop a new skill. The types of finders vary too – including students, finders and retired people. At least 83 volunteers have worked for the PAS in 2005/6; an increase from 34 last year.

- Luke Leech is home schooled and worked one day a week with Lisa Staves (North Lincolnshire FLO) at North Lincolnshire Museum recording a pottery assemblage recovered by a finder whilst out metal-detecting.

- Liz Walker was looking to get involved in archaeology after she retired and contacted Liz Andrews-Wilson (Sussex FLO) to volunteer her services after seeing an article about the PAS in a local newspaper. She has worked for a couple of years recording and identifying finds and aims to continue.

- Following completion of a degree at University of York Shona Williams volunteered to work with Rob Webley (Hampshire FLO) recording finds and helping out at metal-detecting rallies. This has been useful work experience and she is now hoping to work full time in archaeology.

- Geoff Burr, a member of the West Kent Detecting Club, works with Andrew Richardson (Kent FLO), recording finds found by club members - with images and precise findspot information - direct onto the PAS finds database.

PAS USER SURVEY 2006

In 2006 Rachel Edwards (Arboretum Archaeological Consultancy) undertook an independent evaluation of the PAS (PAS User Survey 2006) to assess the extent to which the Scheme was meeting its aims. 576 people were surveyed, compared to 424 in 2004, when a similar study took place. A considerable majority of respondents to the survey 'strongly agreed' or 'agreed' that the PAS was making a positive change; Table 1a shows the Scheme has achieved an increase between 6 and 16 percent in meeting its aims since 2004.

Volunteer, Luke Leech recording finds on the PAS database

Table 1a: **Progress towards the aims of the PAS (2004 result is given in brackets):**

How far has the Scheme has made a positive change:	Strongly agree	Agree	Partly agree	Needs to do more	Don't know	Percentage of all responses
By advancing knowledge of the past by systematically recording archaeological objects found by the public?	287 50%	200 35%	48 8%	26 5%	8 1%	569 99%
By informing finders about the importance of recording their finds?	268 47% (42%)	230 40% (40%)	44 8% (7%)	20 3% (5%)	6 1% (4%)	568 99% (98%)
In raising general awareness about the importance of archaeological finds for appreciating our heritage?	222 39% (33%)	242 42% (44%)	58 10% (12%)	36 6% (6%)	7 1% (2%)	565 98% (98%)
By educating about conservation good practice for finds and sites?	179 31% (25%)	243 42% (35%)	81 14% (20%)	49 9% (13%)	12 2% (4%)	564 98% (97%)
By increasing opportunities for public involvement in archaeology?	171 30% (26%)	202 35% (30%)	92 16% (19%)	77 13% (17%)	20 3% (4%)	562 98% (97%)

It was also welcome news that 67 per cent of people surveyed thought that the PAS was succeeding in changing attitudes and improving awareness, so that there is a common understanding of the need to record and report archaeological finds.

Table 1b: **Perceptions of change brought about by the PAS: the extent to which the PAS is succeeding in changing attitudes and improving awareness so that there is a common understanding of the need to record and report archaeological finds**

	Number of Respondents 2006	Percentage of responses 2006	Percentage of responses 2004
Strongly agree	161	28%	24%
Agree	226	39%	46%
Partly agree	95	16%	15%
Needs to do more	56	10%	8%
Disagree	9	2%	3%
Don't know	12	2%	4%
Total	559	97%	98%

UNDERSTANDING THE PAST: 2005/6 HIGHLIGHTS

This section of the report contains a selection of the 57,556 finds recorded by the Finds Liaison Officers (FLOs) in 2005/6. Further details of these, and some 170,000 other finds, can be found on the Scheme's finds database (www.findsdatabase.org.uk). Wherever possible database references (e.g. LEIC-8CD938) 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 archaeologists, historians and others. 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 it for future generations.

FINDS ADVISERS

The PAS employs six Finds Advisers: Sally Worrell (Prehistoric & Roman Objects), Ian Leins (Iron Age & Roman Coins), Helen Geake (Medieval Objects), Geoff Egan (Post-Medieval Objects), Julian Baker (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)

12,761 worked stone artefacts were recorded this year, found by individuals whilst metal-detecting, field-walking or by chance. Very significant numbers have been recorded in the South West (2,087) and Wales (7,777), where large collections of lithic material, which can often date from the Mesolithic to Bronze Age at the same site, are identifying new sites and providing important new evidence for Prehistoric landscapes. Of the objects recorded this year, of particular note is an assemblage of six Neolithic axes from Cissbury Ring, West Sussex (SUR-766EA7, SUR-75FA91, SUR-75E8C4, SUR-75DE50, SUR-75D444 & SUR-75AC14), the site of a flint mine, and a re-worked Neolithic flint axe from Priddy, Somerset (SOMDOR-25BCE7) which highlights that objects have been adapted for re-use throughout history.

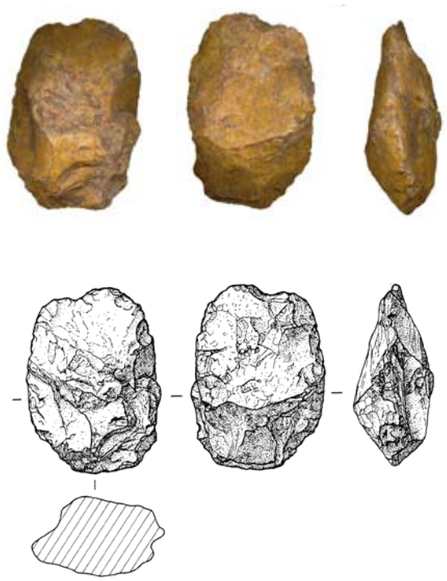
Since the extension of the Treasure Act 1996 in 2003 to include base metal Prehistoric hoards or groups of material, the number of cases of base metal Bronze Age hoards has risen annually. This year has seen the very significant total of 22 Bronze Age base metal Treasure cases. The distribution of these cases extends across the country although is still biased to the eastern counties, with five cases from Norfolk, four from Essex, three from Suffolk and one from each of Cambridgeshire and Kent. The distribution of other cases is widespread with two cases from Devon and single cases from the Isle of Wight, Cornwall, Buckinghamshire, Durham, Herefordshire and Shropshire. Once again this year the value of undertaking fieldwork involving the finder after their initial discovery has been illustrated. The discovery of the Late Bronze Age hoard from Copdock and Washbrook, Suffolk (SF-684635) was followed by the excavation of the finds by both local archaeologists and the finder and enabled important information concerning the archaeological context of the hoard to be fully recorded and interpreted. As a result, it has been possible to suggest that the hoard of 60 objects was placed in either in a leather bag or covered with a layer of vegetation within a small pit.

Some important and unusual single finds of Bronze Age metalwork from a diverse range of weapons, tools and ornaments were recorded this year. Socketed gouges such as that represented by the find from Margate, Kent (KENT-ACD9F3) are not particularly unusual objects, but the survival in this case of its wooden handle is an exceptional and exciting discovery. Other noteworthy finds include a sickle found in the Mendips, Somerset (GLO-D4D0A6), a bronze tanged arrowhead from Mildenhall, Suffolk (SF-FC9814), a gold bracelet from Cowbridge, Vale of Glamorgan (NMGW-E48854) and a dagger from Kendal, Cumbria (LANCUM-EDDE97).

Within the Iron Age, the later period is characterised by a very considerable increase in the volume of material culture in circulation, particularly coins, brooches and items of horse and vehicle equipment. Looking specifically at brooches, the Late Iron Age examples recorded this year massively outnumber those of the Early and Middle Iron Age and as usual comprise a much wider range of types. Nevertheless the 20 Early to Middle Iron Age examples out of the 212 Iron Age or possibly Iron Age brooches recorded this year is a very significant number. The variation within these Early and Middle Iron Age brooch classes and their decoration is particularly interesting. Several examples found this year are without close parallel and illustrate the elaboration and inventiveness in decoration that is sometimes present. This characteristic is well illustrated by the examples from Freshwater, Isle of Wight (IOW-4DA383), Godmanchester, Cambridgeshire (CAM-DC0942), Frilsham, Berkshire (BERK-CA5154) and Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria (LANCUM-520697).

Other particularly notable Iron Age finds include a pair of base metal Late Iron Age spoons from the Nesscliffe area, Shropshire which was reported as a case of potential Treasure. Iron Age spoons are extremely rare finds and the discovery of two spoons adds to both the regional and national importance of this type of find. The discovery of the complete Middle to Late Iron Age beehive quern from Chapel Brampton, Northamptonshire (NARC-B9F8A6) is an interesting and unusual chance find, discovered during the levelling of a field to create a paddock!

Handaxe (LEIC-8CD938) from Ashby Parva, Leicestershire (138 x 125 x 55mm)



Handaxe (WAW-7538B2) from Bidford-on-Avon, Warwickshire (92.63 x 67.72 x 37.88mm) Illustrator: Candy Stevens

STONE AGE

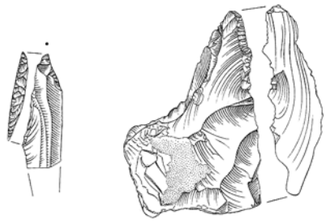
A Palaeolithic flint handaxe from Ashby Parva, Leicestershire

A Lower Palaeolithic Acheulian bifacial flint handaxe (LEIC-8CD938), made from yellow flint, was found by Brian Bellamy at Ashby Parva, Leicestershire, and reported to Wendy Scott (Leicestershire & Rutland FLO). It was found on the surface of a quarry in the south of the county. This is the oldest object recorded with the PAS in Leicestershire and could be almost half a million years old!

A Palaeolithic handaxe from Bidford-on-Avon, Warwickshire

A Palaeolithic flint artefact, probably a handaxe (WAW-7538B2) was found by Robert Laight by chance at Bidford-on-Avon, Warwickshire and recorded with Angie Bolton (Warwickshire & Worcestershire FLO). It is heavily weathered, and has been 'rolled' showing that it has been in water-tumbled gravel. Dr Jenni Chambers (National Ice Age Network) studied the axe, and said the its small size would suggest that this may be a Mousterian or Middle Palaeolithic handaxe of the Acheulian Tradition, and as such would be associated with the Neanderthals. Mr Laight has since kindly donated the axe to Warwickshire Museum.

Axe (SOMDOR-F9B3B8) from Compton Abbas, Dorset
(59.23 x 32.63 x 14.75mm)



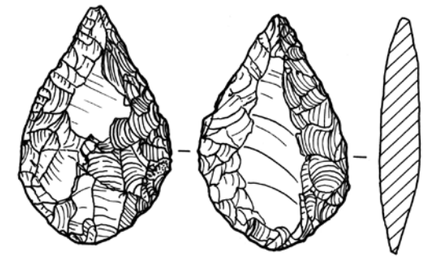
Mircrolith and borer (ESS-506E73) from Halstead, Essex
Illustrator: Hazel Martingell

Axe (SUR-75AC14) from Cissbury Ring, West Sussex
(130 x 83 x 48mm)

A Prehistoric lithic assemblage from Compton Abbas, Dorset
Prehistoric material from Compton Abbas, Dorset is continuing to be found by Denise Parsons and John and Verena Harper, and reported to Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevarthen and Naomi Payne (Somerset and Dorset FLOs). So far the assemblage comprises 27 flint tools and flakes – dating from the Mesolithic to Bronze Age, ten sherds of prehistoric pottery – dating from the Bronze Age to Iron Age, and a fragment of a Late Bronze Age socketed axe (SOMDOR-F9B3B8). The recovery of non-metal finds from this site continues to be vital in providing evidence of Prehistoric activity, as the single axe fragment alone would not necessarily show this site to be of such potential interest. The presence of flint scatters and particularly the Prehistoric pottery (a rare survival in topsoil) suggest there could be important archaeological remains nearby, perhaps a burial or settlement site.

A collection of Prehistoric flints from Halstead, Essex
In 2005 James Northfield field-walked a site at Halstead, Essex, in search of Prehistoric worked flints (ESS-502A62, ESS-506E73 & ESS-507A86), which he reported to Caroline McDonald (Essex FLO). Caroline sought assistance from Hazel Martingell, Prehistoric flint expert, who recorded the flints. The earliest artefacts are Early Mesolithic in date, which include an obliquely blunted microlith (ESS-506E73), two blade cores made on a broken tranchet axe, a retouched blade, blades, bladelets and blade flakes. Microliths are particularly rare in Essex, probably due to their small size, as they are not easily identified in the clay soil of the county. The remaining pieces are from the Neolithic, Bronze Age or even Iron Age. One piece is a fine large borer made on a core nodule (ESS-506E73). Both groups of flints are from the Colne Valley. This valley has produced Post-Glacial and Mesolithic worked flints (and later prehistoric artefacts) from various excavations carried out during the twentieth century; most notably those sites excavated by Nina Layard in the 1920s. Mr Northfield kindly donated the collection to Braintree Museum.

Neolithic axes from Cissbury Ring, West Sussex
An assemblage of six Neolithic axes (SUR-766EA7, SUR-75FA91, SUR-75E8C4, SUR-75DE50, SUR-75D444 & SUR-75AC14) found in the 1960s within Cissbury Ring in West Sussex, and in the possession of Ian Williams, was reported to David Williams (Surrey FLO). Cissbury is the site of flint mines of Neolithic date and these axes were almost certainly made there. The group includes an unusual ovate axe (SUR-75AC14). They probably date to the third millennium BC.



Arrowhead (WAW-6FC8E6) from Worcester, Worcestershire
(24.53 x 15.71mm) Illustrator: Candy Stevens

Axe (SWYOR-9055F1) from Wetherby, West Yorkshire
(89.02 x 53.81 x 33.11mm)

Axe (IOW-513382) from Shorwell, Isle of Wight
(161 x 61 x 32mm)

Axe (SOMDOR-25BCE7) from Priddy, Somerset
(48.91 x 51.15 x 12.62mm)

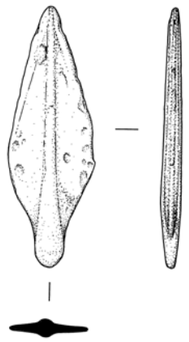
A Neolithic arrowhead from Worcester, Worcestershire
A flint leaf-shaped arrowhead (WAW-6FC8E6) was found by David Hales in Worcester, Worcestershire, whilst digging potatoes in his garden. He took his find to Angie Bolton (Warwickshire & Worcestershire FLO) for identification and recording. Leaf-shaped arrowheads date to the early Neolithic period (about 3500 to 2900 BC). A search of the Worcester City Historic Environment Record (HER) showed that only a few other Prehistoric lithic flakes or implements have been discovered in Warndon. The discovery of this arrowhead prompted a Finds Identification, Prehistoric Tool Handling and Local Archaeology Enquiry Session at Warndon Library involving the PAS, Worcester City HER and Worcestershire Library and Information Service. The day was useful for advising local people what worked flint and stone tools look and feel like when they search their own gardens for flints.

A Neolithic stone axe from Wetherby, West Yorkshire
A polished Neolithic axe (SWYOR-9055F1) was found by Mr Crossley in Wetherby, West Yorkshire and recorded with Anna Marshall (South & West Yorkshire FLO). The axe is damaged and incomplete although the smooth polished surface survives in some areas. It has a slightly pointed oval section and is made from greenstone, probably from Great Langdale in Cumbria. This Neolithic axe factory was in use about 5,500 years ago. Discoveries like the Wetherby axe add to our knowledge of the spread of these axes though Britain.

A Neolithic axe from Shorwell, Isle of Wight
A complete Neolithic flint axe (IOW-513382) was found by Gay Baldwin in the parish of Shorwell, Isle of Wight and recorded with Frank Basford (Isle of Wight FLO). The implement is a mottled buff/grey colour. It is regular in both shape and section with both faces carefully knapped. The axe was probably locally made as flint is readily available in the Isle of Wight. It dates to between about 4500 and 2000 BC. It is interesting that the axe was never ground or polished, suggesting that it may be unfinished.

A re-used Neolithic axe from Priddy, Somerset
A Neolithic polished flint axe (SOMDOR-25BCE7) from Priddy, Somerset was found by Robert Elliott by chance and reported to Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevarthen (Somerset & Dorset FLO) through the Somerset County Museum, Taunton. The cutting edge was highly polished but the axe was broken and has been re-worked by chipping two notches behind the cutting edge so that it could still be fixed to a haft. This is an interesting example of the repair of a flint implement and shows the need to keep them in use even after severe damage.

Sickle (GLO-D4D0A6) from the Mendips, Somerset (132 x 32 x15mm)



Arrowhead (SF-FC9814) from Mildenhall, Suffolk (47 x 15.5 x 3.9mm) Illustrator: Donna Wreathall

Axehead fragment (NLM-3FD436) from Barton upon Humber, North Lincolnshire (31.5 x 29.1mm)

BRONZE AGE

A Late Bronze Age sickle from the Mendips, Somerset

An incomplete bronze sickle (GLO-D4D0A6) was found by Peter George whilst metal-detecting in the Mendips, Somerset, which he brought in to Bristol Museum to be identified and recorded by Kurt Adams (Gloucestershire & Avon FLO). It is likely to be a socketed sickle, although no trace of the socketed handle now survives. The slightly curved blade has a broad moulded ridge on the upper edge on one face only. The blade runs three quarters of the length of the sickle from the tip. The back surface is flat and has striations and scratches, particularly along the blade edge from use and re-sharpening. Bronze Age sickles are rare finds and this example represents one of only 11 examples that have been recorded on the PAS database.

A Bronze Age arrowhead from Mildenhall, Suffolk

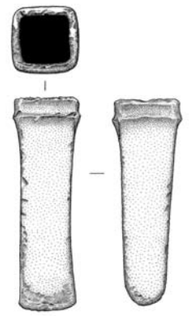
A complete, though corroded, bronze tanged arrowhead (SF-FC9814) was found near Mildenhall, Suffolk by Steve Foster. It was identified by Colin Pendleton (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service) and recorded by Faye Minter (Suffolk FLO). The arrowhead is cast and has a narrow central mid-rib which becomes flatter and broader on the tang. The leaf-shaped blade is relatively flat, its mid-rib is narrow and the bevels are more prominent on the leading edges. The wings are also thin at the edges close to the tang, which survives largely as cast. This demonstrates that this object was originally deliberately made as an arrowhead rather than being cut down from a larger implement. Bronze arrowheads are extremely rare in Britain, despite being relatively common on the continent. Interestingly, there are more bronze arrowheads known from Suffolk than elsewhere in the country - at least 15 have been found to date. This may be significant in terms of the area's relationship with the continent and could demonstrate the movement of people. Alternatively, bronze arrowheads could be more common than previously thought in Britain, but we will only know this if and when more are found and reported from elsewhere in the country. Dating is difficult, some undoubtedly date from the Early Bronze Age and others are known to date from the Middle and Late Bronze Age.

A Bronze Age socketed axehead fragment from Barton upon Humber, North Lincolnshire

A fragment of a Bronze Age socketed axehead (NLM-3FD436), with part of the casting gate still attached, was found by Margaret Allen in Barton upon Humber, North Lincolnshire and was reported to Lisa Staves (North Lincolnshire FLO). One corner of the miscast mouth is all that survives of the axehead. This object was never worked after casting and we can assume that as a miscast it would have been placed with other scrap for recycling and possible hoarding. The fact that part of the casting gate is still attached makes this find particularly interesting. It is possible that finds such as this might be disregarded as nondescript pieces of copper-alloy, but this find shows the importance of handing over all finds for identification.

Pot sherd (CORN-EF0EF1) from Paul, Cornwall (27.8 x 33.8 x 14mm)

Spearhead (NARC-C411F6) from Wellingborough, Northamptonshire (201 x 41.6 x 22.5mm)



Hammer (HAMP-1F3730) from Basingstoke, Hampshire (71.1 x 24.4 x 4.6mm) Illustrator: Alan Cracknell

Middle Bronze Age pottery from Paul, Cornwall

While field-walking, Graham Hill found a large quantity of Middle Bronze Age pottery (including CORN-F12712, CORN-F0E2C2 & CORN-F027F1) from two ploughed out Bronze Age hut circles in the parish of Paul, Cornwall. The finds, which he recorded with Anna Tyacke (Cornwall FLO), include decorated sherds which compare well with finds of Trevisker ware, dating from about 1500 to 1150 BC, from the Middle Bronze Age settlement site at Trethellan, near Newquay. The most interesting sherd (CORN-EF0EF1) retains a carbonised twisted cord, used during the decoration process, still impressed into the surface of the vessel. This suggests that these cords were left attached to the pot during firing, so that the decoration would not expand. Once fired, the cords would simply burn away once the pot had hardened. In particular the flattened and flanged rim and distinctive decoration make this sherd comparable to pottery of the Trevisker type.

A Middle Bronze Age spearhead from Wellingborough, Northamptonshire

A basal-looped spearhead dating from the later part of the Middle Bronze Age (NARC-C411F6), found in Wellingborough, Northamptonshire, was reported to Tom Brindle (Northamptonshire FLO). The artefact was discovered by the finder whilst digging the garden in the mid 1980s and for many years sat on the mantelpiece. It was never thought to be of any great age until an advert in 2005 in the local paper for a PAS Finds Day caught the finder's eye and she brought it along. Tom explained, to the astonishment of the finder, that it was Bronze Age in date and over three thousand years old. The spearhead has a triangular blade, loops at its base and the mid-rib is circular in cross-section. This spearhead dates from the Penard, or final phase of the Middle Bronze Age, dating from about 1300 to 1150 BC.

A Middle to Late Bronze Age hammer from Basingstoke, Hampshire

A cast copper-alloy socketed hammer (HAMP-1F3730) was found by Trisha Window in Basingstoke, Hampshire and reported to Jodi Puls (Hampshire FLO). Socketed hammers, which are comparatively rare finds, are known from both Middle and Late Bronze Age contexts, but it is most likely that this example is Late Bronze Age in date. Hammers are not common in Bronze Age assemblages and are likely to have been metalworker's tools. They more commonly occur in Late Bronze Age hoards, unlike this example which was a single find.

Spearhead (NMS-80CE31) from Deopham, Norfolk (92 x 29mm)

'Moustache' (WILT-0C9A63) from Kingston Deverill, Wiltshire (38.5 x 16.5mm)

Penannular ring (IOW-240A63) from Newchurch, Isle of Wight (16.5 x 5mm)

Excavation of the axe hoard (SF-684635) from near Copdock and Washbrook, Suffolk

The PAS has currently recorded nine Bronze Age hammers. A further example was recorded in the Late Bronze Age hoard from Kings Heath, Northamptonshire and two were found in the large Late Bronze Age hoard from Crundale, Kent.

A Middle or Late Bronze Age spearhead from Deopham, Norfolk

A Bronze Age spearhead (NMS-80CE31), found by Mark Dover, was reported to the PAS in Norfolk. The spearhead dates to the period between the Middle and Late Bronze Age. It is socketed and has two rivet holes – both of which features are characteristic of the Late Bronze Age – but in addition it also has two un-pierced semi-circular projections on either side of the socket, which are almost certainly side loops which are a characteristic of Middle Bronze Age spearheads. These side loops are no longer of any practical use since they are not pierced, but are still incorporated into the design for aesthetic reasons. Artefacts from these transitional periods are interesting because they can show how changes to artefact types occur through time.

A Middle to Late Bronze Age or Iron Age 'moustache' from Kingston Deverill, Wiltshire

A copper-alloy 'moustache-like' object (WILT-0C9A63) was discovered in Kingston Deverill, Wiltshire by Paul Bancroft and reported to Katie Hinds (Wiltshire FLO). The three-dimensional drop-shaped part is hollow, has a rivet hole and is decorated with longitudinal grooves. It has an elongated narrow tip. When complete, 'moustache-type' objects normally have two solid drop-shaped parts either side of a central constriction, possibly also with a central perforation. While generally similar in form, the Kingston Deverill example shows no traces of having being joined to a second similar part and was therefore probably intended to be used singly. Although moustache-like objects were originally thought to be Medieval, an example in the Salisbury Hoard suggests an Iron Age or earlier date. Another from Mildenhall, Suffolk (SF-9183), found loosely associated with a scatter of middle Bronze Age finds, suggests a possible start date for the use of these objects. A continuation of their use into the Iron Age, which may represent their main period of use, is quite possible. It is frustrating that both date and function of this object type remain unclear.

A Late Bronze Age penannular ring from Newchurch, Isle of Wight

A Bronze Age gold coated penannular ring (IOW-240A63, Treasure case 2005 T201), dating from about 1150 to 700 BC, was found by Gavin Leng in Newchurch Parish, Isle of Wight and recorded by Frank Basford (Isle of Wight FLO). The ring has a base metal core, probably copper-alloy which is covered with plain gold foil. The space between the two terminals is now filled with corrosion products. Almost opposite the space, there is a wrinkle in the foil covering. The Isle of Wight County Museum Service is hoping to acquire the find.

Two Late Bronze Age hoards from Suffolk

In the period of this report two Bronze Age hoards (SF-684635 & SF-C5C244) have been recorded by Faye Minter (Suffolk FLO). In each case the hoard was either excavated or the findspot investigated by archaeologists from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS) allowing more information to be gathered and recorded.

In January 2006 Bob Kittl found a Late Bronze Age hoard near Copdock and Washbrook, Suffolk (SF-684635, Treasure case 2006 T11). He immediately reported his find to John Newman (SCCAS) and waited for archaeologists to arrive before helping them to fully excavate the find. 60 pieces of Bronze Age metalwork were recovered, weighing 13kg in total. The hoard consisted of five socketed axes, one incomplete leaf-shaped dagger, one bucket or cauldron fragment and 53 ingot fragments. The excavation of the hoard by Linzi Everett and Stuart Boulter (SCCAS) revealed that it had been deposited in a small oval pit and at the interface between the pit fill and pit sides a very thin layer of dark brown material was present. This was fibrous in places and interpreted as the remains of a container, possibly a leather bag or layer of organic material or vegetation that would have protected the metal objects.

A second Late Bronze Age hoard (SF-C5C244, Treasure case 2006 T67) was found by Mick Matthews in Cornard, Suffolk, and the findspot was excavated in February 2006. The area had already produced a bronze sword hilt fragment (SF-C5C244) and a piece of possible bronze ingot (SF-F97EC7) so the finder was aware of the possibility of a scattered Late Bronze Age hoard. When Mick discovered more axes he immediately reported them to Jude Plouviez (SCCAS) and then helped in the excavation. The excavation revealed that the hoard, consisting of 23 objects, including socketed axes, sword fragments, a gouge and ingots, was probably deposited in a small, possibly natural, hole, although agricultural damage makes this difficult to be certain. The irregular shape of the feature and the scattered locations of the deeper objects might be consistent with a tree bole. The objects closer to the surface had been caught and dragged out of context by the plough, with at least four pieces moved up to 10 metres away. Considering the broader context, the site overlooks the river Stour to the west, with a minor tributary immediately to the north. Although no other Prehistoric activity is recorded from the immediate vicinity of the hoard there is a developing pattern of sites and findspots all along this part of the Stour valley.

The Metalwork hoard (2005 T412) from Pencoyd, Herefordshire

A Late Bronze Age hoard from Pencoyd, Herefordshire

In September 2005 Andrew Coe and Russell White discovered a Late Bronze Age hoard – only the second found in the county – whilst metal-detecting at Pencoyd, Herefordshire (Treasure case 2005 T412) which they reported as potential Treasure. The hoard consists of four axes; two South Wales types, a Breiddin type, and an unusual Meldreth Aylsham variant. This fits well into the pattern of Bronze Age axe hoards from the Marches, which is dominated by the South Wales Stogursey type of axe with occasional exotic imports. The Meldreth Aylsham variant is interesting because it has a distribution pattern in the South and East of Britain, and is extremely uncommon in the South West, Wales, Northern Britain and Ireland. The hoard dates from the Ewart Park phase of the Late Bronze Age, approximately 1000 to 800 BC.

In February 2006 the findspot of the hoard was excavated by Peter Reavill (Herefordshire & Shropshire FLO), Keith Ray (Herefordshire County Archaeologist) and staff from Herefordshire Archaeology, with help from the finders. A small 2m x 2m trench was opened over the findspot and the excavation carried out by the two metal-detectorists was soon located. The underlying sub-soil had been disturbed by deep ploughing and no traces of the original depositional feature were discovered. However, during the excavation a small fragment of bronze blade, probably from a sword, was discovered in the area outside the initial detector excavation. This led to the opening of a larger 5m x 5m trench. Again this did not reveal any buried archaeological features. It is therefore suggested that the hoard was originally deposited in a shallow hole in the ground and that subsequent ploughing and the original excavation of the hoard by the detectorists removed all trace of the original context. The surrounding area was surveyed with geophysical equipment which revealed no buried archaeological features.

It is likely that the position of the hoard was significant. The findspot is located on the false crest of a hill overlooking a river valley. As this is only the second known Bronze Age hoard from Herefordshire and the first to be fully archaeologically investigated it is difficult to draw comparisons. Hopefully, in the future we can start to explore and understand how this hoard fits into the local Bronze Age picture. Hereford Museum has expressed an interest in acquiring the hoard.

A Late Bronze Age gold bracelet from Cowbridge, Vale of Glamorgan
A terminal fragment from a rare Late Bronze Age gold bracelet (NMGW-E48854), found by Paul Minton over ten years ago, was recently reported to Mark Lodwick (Finds Co-ordinator, Wales). The fragment was found at Cowbridge in the Vale of Glamorgan and represents approximately one third of the original length of the bracelet. The flaring 'buffer' terminal is flat and circular and the straight sides are 'worked-up' to form low flanges or lips on both faces. The 'ribbon' faces, thickening towards the terminal, have been hammered flat and are plain. Cracks resulting from metal stress are evident near the broken edge, which may indicate the deliberate cutting or tearing of the bracelet. Non-destructive analysis using a scanning electron microscope was carried out. The gold composition varied between 78 and 97 per cent, silver between 2 and 14 per cent and copper between 1 and 8 per cent. The results from the scraped and damaged areas show a general composition consistent with similar material from Wales and from Late Bronze Age bracelets from England.

This form of bracelet has been termed the 'Potterne Type' after a similar bracelet found at Potterne, Wiltshire. The form corresponds to Hook and Needham Class B1 bracelets (which may or may not have the flanges). 21 such examples of this type are known from Britain and Europe, with a clear concentration in southern England and a band stretching across north Wales and Cheshire. This find therefore represents the first recorded example from South Wales. Other examples of the 'Potterne Type' have been found at Llanarmon-yn-Iâl, Denbighshire, where a heavily worn bracelet with smaller terminals was found with other gold items (a bracelet, an ingot and a link), which had been deposited within the socket of a faceted axe. Excavations at Brean Down, Somerset, revealed an associated pair of Potterne Type bracelets and possibly a small fragment from a third. The dating of this bracelet type can be confidently placed in the Ewart Park period of the Late Bronze Age, about 1000 to 750 BC.

Bracelet (NMGW-E48854) from Cowbridge, Vale of Glamorgan
(38.95 x 12.56 x 3mm)

Sword fragment (CORN-30BC82) from Marazion, Cornwall
(47 x 38 x 7.5mm)

A Late Bronze Age sword fragment from Marazion, Cornwall
A copper-alloy sword fragment (CORN-30BC82) was found in November 1997 by Roy Powell using a metal-detector at Marazion, Cornwall, but was only recently recorded by Anna Tyacke (Cornwall FLO). The blade fragment is elliptical in section which is a characteristic of Ewart Park swords dated to about 1000 to 800 BC. This fragment was analysed, along with other Bronze Age metalwork finds from Cornwall, by Peter Northover (Oxford Materials). He found that the composition of the copper-alloy and the significant cobalt impurity in this fragment and another fragment of a socketed axe linked them to a hoard of copper-alloy fragments and ingots of the same date from nearby St Erth parish. The ingots were probably imported from the continent and may have been used to produce the sword and axe locally.

A Late Bronze Age socketed gouge from Margate, Kent
A socketed gouge (KENT-ACD9F3) with part of the wooden handle in the socket, dating to the Late Bronze Age, was found at Margate, Kent by Fred Cooper and recorded with Andrew Richardson (Kent FLO). The gouge is very worn, possibly from water action. The survival of the wooden handle is both unusual and extraordinary. Although it has shrunk slightly and now only fits loosely, it is clear that it was shaped to fit into the socket. The shape of the gouge's furrow has been impressed into the handle. The handle still projects some 20mm beyond the end of the socket and represents a remarkable survival for an object dating from about 1000 to 800 BC.

A Middle Bronze Age dagger from Kendal, Cumbria
Whilst examining Eric Bryers's collection Dot Bruns (Lancashire & Cumbria FLO) and Lisa Keys (Lancashire & Cumbria FLA) noticed a short copper-alloy dagger (LANCUM-EDDE97), which Eric had thought was Medieval or later. Dot thought that the dagger might be Bronze Age, but to be sure she consulted two Bronze Age metalwork specialists, Trevor Cowie (National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland) and Brendan O'Connor (Bronze Age expert). Coincidentally Brendan and Trevor were working on a sword of Ballintober Type from Stranraer, Dumfries and Galloway, Scotland, a rare type of sword in Northern England and Scotland. Dot was amazed to learn that the find from Kendal was also a Ballintober Type short sword, the second from Cumbria. It belongs to the Penard phase, the latest phase of the Middle Bronze Age, 1300-1150 BC. Most of the swords of this type have been found in the Thames Valley, South East England, South Wales and Ireland. However, the finds from Stranraer, Kendal and Ambleside show that they also found their way to Northern England and Scotland.

Gouge (KENT-ACD9F3) from Margate, Kent
(93.5 x 20.07 x 18.14mm)

Dagger (LANCUM-EDDE97) from Kendal, Cumbria
(212 x 31 x 6mm)

Button (WILT-FA2766) from Kingston St Michael, Wiltshire
(19 x 3mm)

Pin (NMGW-62BF56) from Penllyn, Vale of Glamorgan
(99.2 x 4mm)

Brooch (IOW-4DA383) from Freshwater, Isle of Wight
(38 x 22 x 9mm)

A Late Bronze Age button from Kingston St Michael, Wiltshire

A button (WILT-FA2766) of Late Bronze Age date, found by John Mellon in Kingston St Michael, Wiltshire, was brought along to the launch of Brian Read's book *Metal Buttons c.900 BC – c.AD 1700* at the Wiltshire Heritage Museum and recorded by Katie Hinds (Wiltshire FLO). The button has two concentric mouldings enclosing a circular boss. The back is flat and there is a sub-rectangular staple projecting from it for attachment. Buttons of this type and date are relatively uncommon finds, but a similar example is known from Casterley Camp, Wiltshire. Unfortunately it was too late for the Kingston St Michael button to be included in Brian's book, but Katie was able to record it on the PAS database!

A Late Bronze Age to Middle Iron Age pin from Penllyn, Vale of Glamorgan

Bernard Kershaw found an unusual copper-alloy pin (NMGW-62BF56) of ring-headed type in Penllyn, Vale of Glamorgan, which he recorded with Mark Lodwick (Finds Co-ordinator, Wales). The object dates from the Late Bronze Age to Middle Iron Age (about 750 to 100 BC). Pins of this form are known to have been used as dress fasteners in later Prehistory before brooches were more commonly used. The head of the pin forms an open circle. The neck forms a characteristic U-bend, before the near right-angle to the pin shaft. The only applied decoration evident on the pin is a single incised line on the front and sides of the head. This is only the twelfth recorded find of ring-headed or swan's-neck pins from south-east Wales, including the five recent examples excavated at Llanmaes, Vale of Glamorgan. Ring-headed pins of this form, without a solid ring, commonly carry simple decoration with notches on the front of the ring. This decoration can be paralleled with an example from Meare, Somerset and from Margam foreshore, Neath Port Talbot, Wales. Few ring-headed pins have been recovered from securely dated contexts, but the simple form and decoration on this example may suggest an early date within the suggested range.

IRON AGE

A fifth-century BC brooch from Freshwater, Isle of Wight

An incomplete cast copper-alloy Early Iron Age brooch, dating from about 500 to 450 BC (IOW-4DA383), was found by Brian Healey whilst using a metal-detector in the parish of Freshwater, Isle of Wight, and recorded by Frank Basford (Isle of Wight FLO). The brooch survives in an extremely good condition and is a late Hallstatt Hull and Hawkes Group L brooch. The bow is 'leech-shaped', humped and is hollow beneath. Its front is strongly convex and is decorated with two parallel incised lines around its outer edge. The space between the grooves has small and indistinct punch marks. The foot reverts forward and terminates with a small

Brooch (CAM-DC0942) from Godmanchester, Cambridgeshire
(27 x 17 x 9mm)

Brooch (BERK-CA5154) from Frilsham, Berkshire
(37.32 x 25.62 x 6.02mm)

Brooch (LANCUM-520697) from Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria
(54 x 37 x 0.6mm)

round flat boss which is integral with the lower part of the bow. The cast wings have vertical grooves, interrupted by a pair of deep transverse grooves and represent the dummy of a double spring, in mock-spring form. This is an interesting and unusual feature and has only been noted on a small number of other brooches of this type.

A fifth-century BC brooch from Godmanchester, Cambridgeshire

Simon Ashford discovered an unusual and incomplete brooch whilst using a metal-detector in Godmanchester, Cambridgeshire (CAM-DC0942), which he subsequently reported to Philippa Walton (Cambridgeshire FLO). Only the bow of this example survives, which is extremely close in form to a more complete example, identified as a Hull and Hawkes Group L brooch from Great Chesterford, Essex. The brooch from Godmanchester has two small circular lugs on either side of the bow, which have central recesses which are likely to have held coral settings, although no trace of these now survives. This brooch is a British late Hallstatt derivative and might date from the early fifth century BC. Although there is excavated evidence for Late Iron Age settlement in Godmanchester on Cambridgeshire's Historic Environment Record, there is very little evidence from the Early or Middle Iron Age. This brooch therefore provides interesting evidence for human activity in the area in this period.

A third-century BC brooch from Frilsham, Berkshire

A La Tène II Middle Iron Age copper-alloy brooch (BERK-CA5154) was found by Lindsey Bedford in Frilsham, Berkshire and reported to Kate Sutton (Berkshire & Oxfordshire FLO). It is a Hull and Hawkes Type 2B variant, dating to about 300-200 BC. Type 2B brooches are a very diverse group and have an inventive series of decorative features. The brooch from Frilsham is incomplete and its head, foot and hinged pin are now missing. The flat, openwork bow is made up of four connecting circular elements joined by five rounded 'beads', forming a lozengiform shape. Each has an outer groove surrounding a central circular recess which in each case is now empty. All have a highly polished appearance contrasting with the matt dark green patina on the rest of the brooch, which suggests that they have been burnished.

A third-century BC brooch from near Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria

A very unusual and rather flamboyant copper-alloy La Tène II Iron Age brooch (LANCUM-520697) was found by John Nichols in Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria and reported to Dot Bruns (Lancashire & Cumbria FLO). Although rather different in appearance to the brooch from Frilsham, Berkshire (above), it is also a Hull and Hawkes Type 2B. The flat circular bow has an openwork quatrefoil with a raised central knop and four roundels

Quern stone (NARC-B9F8A6) from Chapel Brampton, Northamptonshire (40 x 32 x 29mm)

Bracelet fragment (NLM-780507) from Binbrook, Lincolnshire (41.1 x 11mm)

Quarter stater of Tasciovanus (ESS-741591) from Manningtree, Essex (diameter 11.24mm)

on the front and two at each side of the bow, all with central recesses. The recesses are likely to have held beads or other settings, perhaps in shell, coral, glass or bronze possibly secured by a washer, which are now all lost. The decoration continues with the elaborate foot and head made up of circular bosses; five at the foot which would have surrounded a bead, and two groups of four bosses on either side of a loop at the head. No exact parallel for this brooch is known, but the distinctive decorative features can be seen on other brooches of this type, although not in the same combination.

A Middle to Late Iron Age quern stone from Chapel Brampton, Northamptonshire

A complete set of upper and lower stones from an Iron Age quern (NARC-B9F8A6) was an exceptional discovery found at Chapel Brampton, Northamptonshire and reported to Tom Brindle (Northamptonshire FLO). The object was discovered during the levelling of a field to create a paddock. The quern is of the so-called beehive type after its domed shape. More specifically it can be classified as a Hunsbury Hill type, named after a site in Northamptonshire from which around 150 examples were discovered. The upper stone has a socket which would once have housed a wooden handle to allow the quern to be rotated in order to grind the grain between the surfaces of the two stones. The grinding surface of the upper stone is flat and the distance from the handle socket suggests that this stone is comparatively unworn. The lower stone slopes and given that the upper stone exhibits little wear it is possible that the base was deliberately sloped as a means for channelling the grain once it had been ground. This is a very unusual discovery, as while finds of upper stones appear to be reasonably common, finds of lower stones are much less frequent and the find of a complete set is very rare indeed. It is interesting that a complete quern such as this should have been discarded or ceased to have been used when there was evidently plenty more wear left in it. Beehive querns originated in Britain in the Middle Iron Age. They continued in use until the end of the Iron Age and probably into the early Roman period.

A Middle to Late Iron Age knobbed bracelet fragment from Binbrook, Lincolnshire

A cast copper-alloy Iron Age knobbed bracelet fragment (NLM-780507) was found by Des Pearce in Binbrook, Lincolnshire and reported to Lisa Staves (North Lincolnshire FLO). The bracelet is distinguished from beaded torcs, which share the same general form but are dated to the first to second century AD, by its diameter and its flat internal edge. The bracelet would have had a mortice-and-tenon form of fastening as can be seen from the conical tenon projecting from its flat end. An incomplete, flat attachment lug at the other end illustrates the manner by which sections of the bracelet would have been connected. Knobbed bracelets were reasonably common in the Middle to Late Iron Age throughout western Europe. The majority of examples from England have been found in excavations in East Yorkshire and so the find from Binbrook is a welcome addition to this small data set.

Iron Age coin (DENO-EC7C07) from near Mansfield, Nottinghamshire (18.12 x 3mm)

Gallo-Belgic quarter stater (DENO-D6B0B4) from Bingham, Nottinghamshire (9.84 x 2.4mm)

Spoons (2005 T228) from the Nesscliffe area, Shropshire (1 – decorated: 107.1 x 65.3 x 10.8mm. 2 – undecorated: 106.6 x 63.7 x 10mm)

An Iron Age coin of Tasciovanus from Manningtree, Essex

A gold quarter *stater* of the Iron Age ruler Tasciovanus (ESS-741591) was found by Dave Haffenden whilst using a metal-detector at Manningtree, Essex and subsequently reported to Caroline McDonald (Essex FLO). The obverse of the coin includes a crossed-wreath design with the inscription TASCIO (unfortunately largely off the flan of the coin). The reverse shows an abstract 'Celtic-style' horse with the inscription CAM above. As this small coin was probably struck between about 20 BC and AD 10, it is the oldest surviving record of the name Camulodunon, the ancient name for Colchester. Although there are other specimens of this rare coin known, there was not an example in the collections at Colchester Museums. Mr Haffenden helped to facilitate the museum's acquisition of the coin, so providing the local community with one of the earliest links to its past.

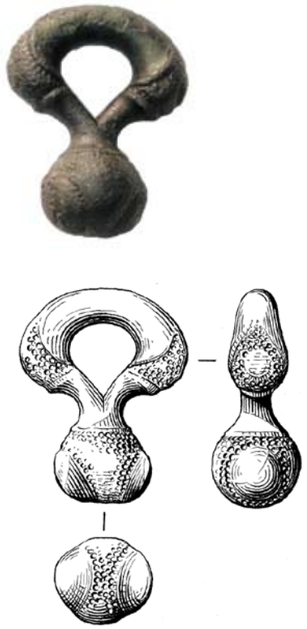
Two continental Iron Age coins from Bingham and Mansfield, Nottinghamshire

Two coins produced on the continent during the Late Iron Age were reported to Rachel Atherton (Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire FLO). The first (DENO-EC7C07) is a cast leaded-bronze coin of a type traditionally associated with the Carnutes or Aulerci Eburovices (both tribes from what is now France). The coin, datable to between about 50 and 20 BC, was found in the Mansfield area, Nottinghamshire by Dennis Brown. The second coin (DENO-D6B0B4) was discovered by Gary Tomlinson near Bingham, Nottinghamshire and is a Gallo-Belgic gold quarter-stater produced between about 80 and 60 BC in modern North France/Belgium. Both coins are extremely unusual finds in this country, as coins tend not to travel far from their place of production during the Iron Age. Although the second type formed the design prototype for a later issue of British Iron Age coins – known as 'British O' – only around four are known from this country and all were found in Essex and the South East. These finds amongst the most northerly continental Iron Age coins discovered to date.

Two mid first-century BC to first-century AD spoons from the Nesscliffe area, Shropshire

Two Iron Age base-metal spoons (Treasure case 2005 T228) were found by Trevor Brown whilst metal-detecting in the Nesscliffe area, Shropshire, and were subsequently reported under the Treasure Act 1996.

Brooch (CORN-25F8F2) from Kenwyn, Cornwall
(28.3 x 20 x 5mm)



Fastener (SUR-E19B71) from Tongham, Surrey
(29 x 23 x 12mm) Illustrator: David Williams

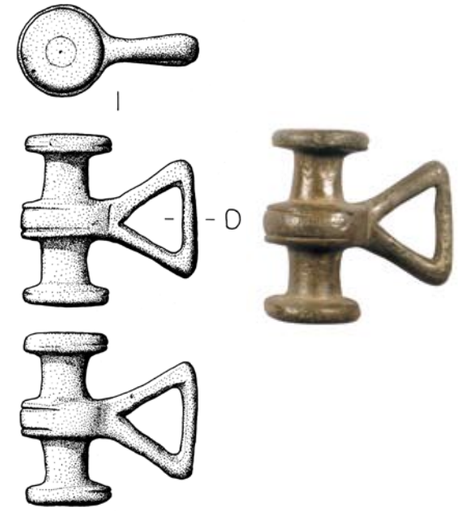
Each spoon has a very shallow bowl, pointed at one end and rounded at the other where there is a flat straight plain handle. The handle has a rounded end and a figure-of-eight profile/plan when seen from above. One spoon has an engraved design of a cross with a small circle highlighting where the two lines of the cross meet at the deepest part of the spoon. The other spoon is plain. The find is of regional and national importance.

J D Hill (British Museum) has commented that, 'until this discovery there were only 23 other known objects of this type. Their function is unknown, but they clearly belong as a pair. The perforated hole is missing on the plain spoon but would be expected to be in the area where there is the large irregular tear. On at least one of the spoons there is clear evidence for wear on the handle consistent with the spoons being held between the thumb and forefinger. It has been suggested that liquid (not water) was allowed to drip or pour through the hole in one spoon, perhaps on to the bowl of the other'.

The distribution of these spoons is also of interest as they are usually found in areas associated with water, either on the coast or by a river. A number of spoons have also been discovered in association with graves but the vast majority have little or no findspot information. In fact, this is the first discovery of a pair of Iron Age spoons since the 1930s. It is therefore hoped that further fieldwork can be initiated in order to achieve a fuller understanding of the findspot. Shrewsbury Museum Service have acquired the spoons.

A first-century BC brooch from Kenwyn, Cornwall
A copper-alloy incomplete Late Iron Age La Tène III bow brooch (CORN-25F8F2) was discovered by Luke Randall during the excavation of an Iron Age settlement site in Kenwyn parish, Cornwall. It belongs to Hull and Hawkes Group 6, sometimes referred to as the Glastonbury type. The brooch has a long bilateral spring, with nine or ten (two missing) coils on a solid bar. The foot and the catchplate are missing. J D Hill has noted that, 'technically, because of the foot being part of the bow, they should be La Tène III, but these brooches are a distinctly Somerset and Dorset (and further west) type. The dating is not clear. As they are derived from an earlier type, it need not be the case that they start at La Tène III, but slightly earlier. This type is probably dated to the first century BC, but perhaps a little earlier'. La Tène brooches are generally rare in Cornwall, and to excavate one from its context, outside an Iron Age house, is certainly a bonus.

A first-century BC fastener from Tongham, Surrey
A well-preserved but unusual form of decorated copper-alloy button-and-loop fastener (SUR-E19B71), probably dating to the first century BC, was found by Earle Lindsay near Tongham in Surrey, close to the site of an excavated settlement of similar date. The fastener, which was recorded with David Williams (Surrey FLO), is decorated with bands of minute punched dots. Such Iron Age objects are unusual finds from Surrey.



Toggle (SUSS-D17D34) from near Upper Beeding, West Sussex
(33.55 x 31.97 x 17.05mm) Illustrator: Dom Andrews

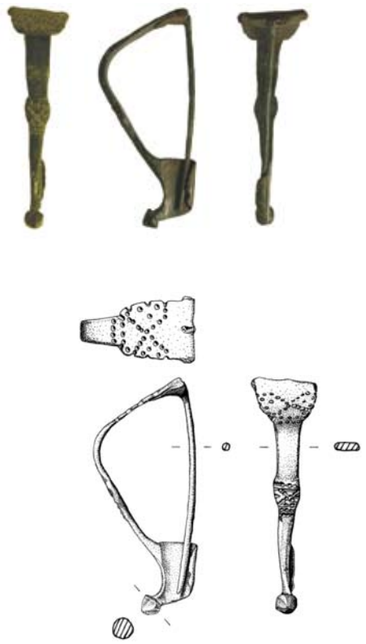
A first-century BC or first-century AD toggle from near Upper Beeding, West Sussex
A complete cast copper-alloy looped toggle (SUSS-D17D34), dating from the first century BC to the first century AD, was found by Richard Lyon and reported to Liz Andrews-Wilson (Sussex FLO). The toggle is shaped rather like a pair of conjoined 'bobbins', each with a cylindrical body, capped at each end by a flat disc which is decorated with an incised line. In the centre there is a raised block from which the triangular loop extends. The arms (between the central block and the terminals) have varying degrees of wear situated in precisely the areas where contact would occur when the toggle head was engaged. Interestingly, another very similar toggle was found during the excavations at Fishbourne, West Sussex although its loop is set at a different plane to this example.

A first-century BC to first-century AD figurine of a boar from Duncton, West Sussex
An incomplete cast copper-alloy figurine of a boar (SUSS-C6A000) dating to the Late Iron Age was found by Tony Gill at Duncton, West Sussex and was subsequently recorded by Liz Andrews-Wilson (Sussex FLO). A prominent bristled backbone runs the length of the body with small striations, probably representing hair. The boar's head is extremely stylised and is represented by a long cylinder with a small protrusion at the end representing the snout. The ears are represented by incised lines and the head and body are undecorated. Boar figurines are very rare finds although a small number have been found in East Sussex on sites close to the coast. The inland findspot of this example from West Sussex makes this boar very unusual.

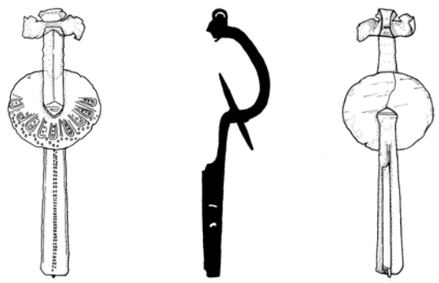
Figurine of a boar (SUSS-C6A000) from Duncton, West Sussex
(14.68 x 9.93 x 16.39mm)

A first-century BC to first-century AD cosmetic pestle from Cottam, Nottinghamshire
A complete copper-alloy cosmetic pestle (NLM-C6EDE2) was found by Peter Hall in Cottam, Nottinghamshire and was reported to Lisa Staves (North Lincolnshire FLO). It is end-looped and the curving stem is D-shaped in section with a curved facet on the edge of the tip. The original dark green patina has worn off around the tip and on the top of the stem and loop. Most cosmetic pestles and mortars have been found in the south-east of England with large numbers from East Anglia, although the examples recorded by the PAS are now significantly extending their distribution.

Cosmetic pestle (NLM-C6EDE2) from Cottam, Nottinghamshire
(60.7 x 9.1 x 12.6mm)



Brooch (HESH-BBBBA7) from West Herefordshire
(85.2 x 21.5 x 12.2mm) Illustrator: Lisa Chapman



Brooch (WMID-7ABF64) from Glynde, East Sussex
(66.1 x 14.8 x 23.7mm) Illustrator: Jane Stewart

A first-century AD brooch from West Herefordshire

An unusually large and complete brooch (HESH-BBBBA7) dated to the Late Iron Age or early Roman period was found by Mark Roberts in West Herefordshire, and reported to Peter Reavill (Herefordshire & Shropshire FLO). It is difficult to identify accurately the class of this brooch and it is considered perhaps to represent a local 'oddity' with the basic form of an Aucissa brooch and a central boss 'borrowed' from the La Tène III Boss-on-Bow type. The head tapers to form the gently angled bow which terminates in a large, convex and faceted foot.

The edge of the rectangular catchplate is rolled back upon itself to form a deep pin rest. The head and bow of the brooch are both decorated with a series of incised and stamped motifs in the form of a saltire. At the bottom of the head at the junction with the bow is a double horizontal band of incised dots. Sally Worrell (Finds Adviser, Prehistoric & Roman Objects) has suggested that this brooch is an Aucissa derivative due to the hinge mechanism and projecting foot knop; however, a direct parallel has not been found.

A first-century AD brooch from Glynde, East Sussex

An unusual and finely decorated copper-alloy Rosette brooch (WMID-7ABF64), dating to the first half of the first century AD was found by Keith Bickmore whilst metal-detecting in Glynde, East Sussex and recorded with Caroline Johnson (Staffordshire & West Midlands FLO). Early Rosette brooches, such as this example, have a separately made disc which is threaded onto the bow and pre-date Rosette brooches with applied repoussé plates and decorated spring cases. The decoration on the disc consists of nine 'petals' with three circular stamps arranged in a line within them. There are further circular stamps around the lower edge of the disc and two parallel lines of similar stamps run down the centre of the lower bow.

A mid first- to mid second- century AD harness mount from Llandudno, Conwy

An elaborate and unusual late Iron Age to early Roman harness mount (NMGW-7642E7) was found in Llandudno, Conwy approximately 20 years ago and was recently reported to Mark Lodwick (Finds Co-ordinator, Wales). The harness mount is a cheek-ring or side-ring from a derivative form of three-link bridle bit and dates to the mid-first to mid-second century AD. It is likely that the bridle link and ring were cast onto each other, resulting in the poorly defined loop terminal. On each side of the loop is a rectangular panel with incised horizontal decoration, which is now eroded. The ring displays evidence of wear on the left-hand side. If the rein was applied with upward pressure, the position of the wear would suggest that this ring was placed on the right-hand side of the bridle. This form of derivative three-link bridle bit can be paralleled with two examples from the Seven Sisters hoard from Neath Port Talbot and elsewhere. It has been noted that one of the side-rings is often more ornate than the other as can be seen on the examples from Burnswark in Dumfriesshire, Rise, Holderness in the East Riding of Yorkshire and Seven Sisters in Neath Port Talbot. In this example the rectangular geometric motif may be seen as easily mirrored in a corresponding strap-union. The type is known to be late in the sequence of late Iron Age bridle bits and was not produced before the mid- first century AD. The 'geometric' style of decoration on this piece reiterates a sense of a devolved 'Celtic' tradition. The harness mount has now been acquired by Llandudno Museum.

Edited by Sally Worrell (Finds Adviser, Prehistoric & Roman Artefacts), Ian Leins (Finds Adviser, Roman & Iron Age Coins) & Michael Lewis (Deputy Head).

Harness mount (NMGW-7642E7) from Llandudno, Conway
(71.9 x 65 x 9.5mm) Illustrator: Jackie Chadwick

ROMAN PERIOD (AD 43 – AD 410)

The Roman artefacts recorded this year represent a very significant dataset, both quantitatively and qualitatively, with some interesting and unique finds. Brooches are the most frequently recorded non-coin artefact with 1,780 examples reported. As always they dominate the category of personal adornment, which also includes pins, finger-rings, bracelets, earrings and beads. Brooches account for 14 per cent of the total non-ceramic artefacts recorded, but in counties with more than 100 brooches recorded, the proportions vary considerably; Suffolk (7 per cent) and Leicestershire (29 per cent) illustrate the range of variation. Lincolnshire has certainly seen its fair share of extraordinary brooches this year including a distinctive and unparalleled plate brooch from Fulbeck, depicting a seated greyhound (SWYOR-BFE1C5), the eagle brooch from North Rauceby (WMID-0501A1) and the European P-shaped brooch (DENO-304361) from Scopwick. The lead brooch pattern from Chaddesley Corbett, Worcestershire (WMID865) is an important find; although brooches are prolific discoveries, evidence relating to their manufacture is extremely uncommon. The nail cleaner from Norton, Northamptonshire (NARC-733D28) is a fascinating example of a type of object which rarely carried figural decoration.

Among the items associated with religious activity there have been some remarkable finds, in particular figurines of a three-horned bull from Holbrook, Suffolk (SF-DCB627) and that of a hound from Newchurch, Isle of Wight (IOW-B354E4). A rarely encountered form of miniature object is the hearth shovel from near Guildford, Surrey (SUR-1AC0D5), which is likely to have held a religious function as a votive gift. Other items with striking zoomorphic forms include a key handle from Winthorpe, Nottinghamshire (SWYOR-F1D5D6), which depicts a lion grasping a ram's head between its front paws - a very fine example of this form. Other artefacts which probably relate to 'everyday' activities, but which are unusual objects include the handle from Long Benington, Lincolnshire (LIN-E78643) and the strainer or dipper handle from Marr, South Yorkshire (SWYOR-1CD5F6). The probable furniture mount decorated with the head of Medusa from Beeston with Bittering, Norfolk (NMS-650F10), demonstrates a tendency in the Roman period to use religious iconography to decorate what were essentially secular objects.

A considerable number of objects (58 items) associated with writing have been recorded this year, including 31 seal boxes, one Minerva wax spatula handle and 20 lead sealings. The seal box lid from Stroud, Gloucestershire (GLO-B305D6) is an unusual example of a type with a separately cast zoomorphic motif. Lead sealings (tags for bundles of documents or goods) such as that represented by the example from

Denarius of Gnaeus Lucretius Trio (LEIC-9D14B2) from Hoby with Rotherby, Leicestershire (19 x 2mm)

Republican coin (ESS-05C304) from Roxwell, Essex (diameter 20.5mm)

Denarius of Caius Fonteius (NMS-785C43) from Syderstone, Norfolk (diameter 19mm)

Denarius of Vespasian (SUSS-92E8E5) from Patching, West Sussex (18.88 x 2.03mm)

Godmanchester, Cambridgeshire (CAM-3793F4), are not commonly found artefacts but are particularly well represented this year by 19 discovered by divers in the Tees at Piercebridge, Durham. From the same site also comes a substantial ceramic assemblage. The lipid analysis being undertaken on mortaria sherds in this group has the potential to provide insights into Roman diet in the north.

Roman coins from the second century BC to the late fourth century AD have been found across the country and recorded with the PAS. A large number of Republican coins have been recorded from various counties, including probably the first Republican copper coin (ESS-05C304) to be found in Britain, which was discovered at Roxwell, Essex. Other silver coins included a rare denarius of the emperor Carausius (NMS-784AF4) from Hindringham, Norfolk. Two gold solidi (HAMP-F927E7 & YORYM-6F08B4) for the last emperor to rule Britain, Honorius, have been recorded from Stubbington, Hampshire and Well, North Yorkshire. Amongst the many common bronze coins found are a number from Phillack Towans, Cornwall (see below) which come from mints which are rarely represented in British site assemblages. Finally, from the many coins that attest to the forging of Roman coins in Britain is a lead trial piece for testing a forger's dies for a coin of Septimius Severus (LIN-EADFB6) from Washingborough, Lincolnshire.

To some extent the distribution of the findspots of Roman artefacts continues to be skewed towards counties where the PAS is longest established (such as Suffolk, Northamptonshire, Hampshire). Overall however there is a broader and more even distribution of findspots across south, central and north-east England in comparison to previous years. In some counties where the Scheme has only been in operation since 2003 very considerable numbers of Roman artefacts are now being recorded (for example Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Wiltshire). An increase in the absolute quantity of artefacts of this period recorded is particularly noticeable in Durham, Lincolnshire, Leicestershire and Northamptonshire.

A denarius of Gnaeus Lucretius Trio (136 BC) from Hoby with Rotherby, Leicestershire
A silver denarius of Gnaeus Lucretius Trio (LEIC-9D14B2), dating to 136 BC, was found by Chris Davies in Hoby with Rotherby, Leicestershire and reported to Wendy Scott (Leicestershire & Rutland FLO). It is the oldest Roman coin recorded by the PAS in Leicestershire. Although it is quite worn, it is still in good condition for a coin that probably arrived in Britain over 150 years after it was struck.

A Roman Republican coin from Roxwell, Essex
A copper as (ESS-05C304) was found by Rob Abbott whilst metal-detecting at Roxwell, near Chelmsford, Essex, and reported to Caroline McDonald (Essex FLO). The coin dates to 88 BC and is apparently the first ever Roman Republican copper coin to have been found in Britain. The Roman town at Chelmsford was founded early in the Roman period, but about 150 years after this coin was struck. This part of Britain, however, did have close contacts with the Roman world prior to the Roman invasion of AD 43 so the coin might have come to the region with merchants in the Iron Age. The obverse shows the two-headed god Janus and the reverse shows the prow of a galley. It is not certain whether the piercing was intentional – if it was, the coin might have been used as jewellery.

Roman silver denarii from sites near Hindringham, Norfolk
Metal-detecting at a site in Hindringham, Norfolk by Simon Gray and Paul Buckenham has produced a number of early Roman silver denarii, which have been recorded by Adrian Marsden (Norfolk Museums Service).

These include a Republican denarius of L. Aemilius Lepidus Paullus struck in 62 BC (NMS-772800), and two legionary denarii of Mark Antony issued in 32-31 BC, just prior to his defeat by Octavian at the Battle of Actium (NMS-775C68 & NMS-77AA57). A fourth denarius was struck in Gaul by partisans of the emperor Vitellius in AD 69 (NMS-77BB18). This assemblage demonstrates occupation at the site comparatively early in the Roman period.

Another site, half a kilometre away, has yielded further finds of a similar nature, including another denarius of Mark Antony (NMS-77CDD4).

Other Republican denarii have been found in the county, including an issue for Caius Fonteius, dating to 114-113 BC, which was found by Malcolm Higginbotham at Syderstone (NMS-785C43). It features a Janiform head on the obverse and the prow of a galley on the reverse. This coin would have been over a century and a half old at the time of the Roman invasion of Britain and its presence at Syderstone, together with an iron spearhead of probable Roman date, suggests an early Roman presence of a military nature.

Bucket handle escutcheon (SOMDOR-B23561) from Compton Abbas, Dorset (58.4 x 31.9 x 5.46mm)

A denarius of Vespasian (reigned AD 69-79) from Patching, West Sussex
A silver denarius of Vespasian (SUSS-92E8E5) was found by Tyndall Jones near Patching, West Sussex and recorded with Liz Andrews-Wilson (Sussex FLO). It shows a corn measure (called a modius) which refers to the free grain dole given to the people of Rome by the state. Around thirty years before this coin was struck, Vespasian had probably passed close by to Patching when he was commanding the Second Legion Augusta on its thrust down towards the south-west during the Claudian conquest.

A first- to second-century AD ox-head bucket handle escutcheon from Compton Abbas, Dorset
A copper-alloy ox-head bucket mount (SOMDOR-B23561) was found by John and Verena Harper whilst metal-detecting at Compton Abbas, Dorset. The Harpers record their metallic and ceramic finds discovered through field-walking, with precise findspot information, with Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevarthen and Naomi Payne (Somerset & Dorset FLOs). The upper part of the mount has a circular perforation for attachment to a vessel and is decorated with a number of linear ridges. The ox's horns are simple and straight, with slightly protruding pointed ends and linear grooves in the area above the head, some of which have short transverse lines between them. The ox's face is rounded around the eyes, narrows and then flares out again at the nose. The circular eyes have a dark blue glass setting and the area around them is decorated with wide, stamped arcs, enclosed at the lower edge by slightly irregular oblique incised line below each eye. Although ox-head mounts also appear in the late Iron Age, round eyes are generally a sign of Roman date. Immediately below the nose, which has a flat straight lower edge, is another circular perforation. The mount is flat and may therefore have adorned quite a large vessel. There is no close parallel for the Compton Abbas mount but it is broadly similar to one found during excavations at the Roman villa at Shakenoak, Oxfordshire, although the blue glass settings in the eyes of the Compton Abbas mount are unusual and unparalleled. Angie Bolton (Warwickshire and Worcestershire FLO), has been carrying out a research project on these objects. The Compton Abbas mount is one of 19 recorded by the PAS between Autumn 1997 and June 2006; one in Bedfordshire, Dorset, Leicestershire, Warwickshire, Newport, Denbighshire, two in Cheshire, three in Suffolk and four each in Staffordshire and Lincolnshire.

Seal box lid (GLO-B305D6) from Stroud, Gloucestershire (17 x 4mm)

Nail cleaner (NARC-733D28) from Norton, Northamptonshire (55 x 6 x 5.8mm)

A first- to early second-century AD seal box lid from near Stroud, Gloucestershire
A copper-alloy circular seal box lid (GLO-B305D6) was found by Mary Mayers near Stroud, Gloucestershire and reported to Kurt Adams (Gloucestershire & Avon FLO). A separately cast bird, representing an eagle, is attached to the lid by a rivet. The eagle's wings are splayed outwards and a series of curving stamps cover the body and wings representing feathers. There are the remains of a pierced lug from the broken hinge on the outer edge of the lid beyond the bird's head. Circular seal boxes decorated with separately cast zoomorphic motifs are uncommon finds. As well as eagles zoomorphic motifs on seal boxes from Britain include frogs, hares, panthers, crouching animals, cockerels, bees and goats, though the eagle motif is the most common. In Roman iconography the eagle is the king of birds, companion of Jupiter and was the symbol of the Imperial legions. The example from Stroud is similar to an excavated example from the fort at Cirencester, Gloucestershire.

A first- to second-century AD nail cleaner from Norton, Northamptonshire
A Roman copper-alloy nail cleaner (NARC-733D28) was found by Michael Goodman at Norton, Northamptonshire and reported to Tom Brindle (Northamptonshire FLO). The form of this nail cleaner is very unusual, primarily because it terminates in a stylised human head. At the back, and at an angle of 90° to the head, is a suspension loop. Below the head, the narrow neck expands to a rectangular plate with two forward projecting protrusions, perhaps intended to represent breasts. This plate is inscribed with an 'X' on the back and on both sides. This nail cleaner is difficult to parallel and date, but the leaf-shaped blade is similar to others from the first and second centuries AD.

A first- to second-century Roman brooch pattern from Chaddesley Corbett, Worcestershire
A Roman object (WMID865) from Chaddesley Corbett, Worcestershire, and first recorded by the PAS in 1999, was previously considered possibly to be a Roman lead 'Polden Hill' brooch. Recently, Angie Bolton (Warwickshire & Worcestershire FLO) revisited the finds record for this brooch after learning about early Medieval lead brooch patterns at the 'Horrid Treasures' conference at the Norwich Castle Museum in September 2005. Angie was prompted to amend the record and to suggest the find might be a Roman lead brooch pattern. A pattern is created to form a basic model of an artefact. It is pressed into clay to form a mould into which molten copper-alloy would be poured to produce the final brooch. The Chaddesley Corbett lead brooch pattern has semi-cylindrical wings with wing caps. The wing caps do not have central holes, like their copper-alloy counterparts, to

Brooch pattern (WMID865) from Chaddesley Corbett, Worcestershire (47.36 x 26.19mm)

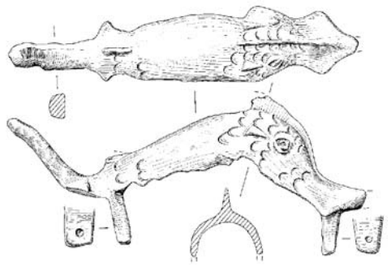
Pin head (HAMP-1E6536) from Itchen Stoke and Ovington, Hampshire (22.25 x 10.65mm)

Pendant (WILT-34E9B8) from Lacock, Wiltshire (28 x 17mm)

hold in place the axis bar. The upper bow is humped forward over the crossbar and is undecorated. The bow terminates with an over-sized foot and integral with the foot is a smaller, elongated curved knop. On the back of the bow, there is a crumpled catchplate.
The study of other lead Roman brooch patterns reveal similar features to that from Chaddesley Corbett. The hinge lug of a lead brooch from Poole's Cavern, Derbyshire also lacks a hole for the axis bar and spring. The lead brooches do not appear to be functional, for example the catchplate of a lead pattern from Brough-under-Stainmore, Cumbria is thickened along the edge, probably to allow the copper-alloy brooch to be hammered out. Additionally, below the foot of the Chaddesley Corbett example is a knop which is likely to be a 'runner', so that when the mould is formed there is a hole into which the molten metal could be poured. The Chaddesley Corbett brooch pattern is an exciting find since it suggests that metalworking probably took place in the vicinity.

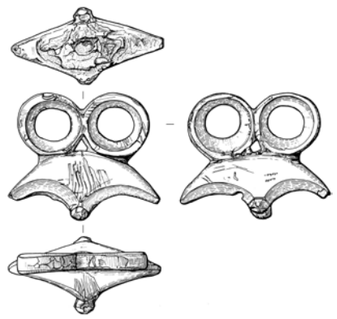
A first- to second-century Roman pin head from Itchen Stoke and Ovington, Hampshire
A copper-alloy pin head or mount in the form of a stylised male head and neck (HAMP-1E6536) was found by Pete Pynigar in Itchen Stoke and Ovington, Hampshire, and recorded by Jodi Puls (Hampshire FLO). The hair line is defined by a straight incised groove across the forehead with oblique incised lines extending to the crown of the head. The facial features are represented simply, the eyes by sub-circular recesses with a raised central dot, the wide nose by a raised triangle and the mouth by two lateral grooves separated by a ridge. The ears are crudely represented by large raised triangles with a central circular recess. Beneath the head the object is 'waisted' to form the neck before ending in a flat circular terminal from which a short rectangular-sectioned shaft projects. An object of very similar form and interpreted as a pin head, also probably representing a male, is known from Colchester. The object has been donated by the finder to Winchester Museums Service where it is on display.

A first- to second-century pendant from Lacock, Wiltshire
A Roman copper-alloy pendant in the form of a female bust probably representing the goddess Venus (WILT-34E9B8) was discovered by Dave Crisp in Lacock, Wiltshire and recorded by Katie Hinds (Wiltshire FLO). The facial features are reasonably well-modelled and the hair is centrally parted and swept back into a bun. There is a central circular perforation through the hair for suspension as a pendant. A similar example, also from Lacock, is in the collection of Wiltshire Heritage Museum and another is known from Braishfield, Hampshire (HAMP549).



Dolphin handle (LIN-E78643) from Benington, Lincolnshire (125 x 27 x 33mm) Illustration: Dave Watt

Jug (BH-1F0BA5) from Markyate, Hertfordshire (150 x 100mm)



Harness fitting (BERK-41B625) from Chinnor, Oxfordshire (54.65 x 43.29 x 27.65mm) Illustrator: Sarah Lucas

A first- to second-century handle in the form of a dolphin from Benington, Lincolnshire
A complete, but broken, copper-alloy handle in the form of a dolphin (LIN-E78643) was discovered by Sam Moore at a known Roman site in Benington, Lincolnshire, and reported to Adam Daubney (Lincolnshire FLO). The dolphin's head is slightly lowered and the body slightly arched, giving the appearance of movement through water. The central ridge of the snout continues up the centre of the face and forms a long narrow crest, now very worn, on the top of the head. The dolphin's face is decorated with two lozenge-shaped moulded eyes set within two pairs of wide concentric moulded crescentic lids. Beneath the snout and the tail fin are integral rectangular lugs with circular perforations at the end. The body is hollow and semi-cylindrical in cross-section. The handle, which is likely to have been from either a box or a vessel, is decorated with crescent-shaped stamps, representing scales. A handle in the form of a dolphin is known from Catterick, North Yorkshire. It has the dolphin mounted on a rectangular-sectioned stem and also has a hollow body and a solid stem and tail.

A first- to second-century Roman jug from Markyate, Hertfordshire
When metal-detectorist Duncan Hillyard found several fragments of a fine Roman bronze jug (BH-1F0BA5) near Markyate in Hertfordshire, he did not hesitate to contact Julian Watters (Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire FLO). The decoration on the handle shows a dancing female. Given that such vessels are often found in association with rich Roman graves and considering the fragmented condition of the artefact, it was decided that an excavation of the findspot should be carried out. This was conducted by Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd and revealed that the jug had probably been deposited within the terminal of a ditch, although the level of plough damage meant that the context was difficult to establish for certain.

A first- to second-century harness fitting from Chinnor, Oxfordshire
An unusual Roman copper-alloy harness fitting, possibly a pole-mounted terret (BERK-41B625), was found by Philip Pearce in Chinnor, Oxfordshire and recorded by Kate Sutton (Berkshire & Oxfordshire FLO). It comprises two circular conjoined hoops, aligned side by side and attached to a base or 'skirt'. The base is in the form of an inverted pelta, with bevelled outer edges and midway along each long edge is a peak with a knop projection, one of which is largely missing. The concave base has lumps of iron corrosion and a lead filling surrounding a central, roughly oval depression. Pole- and strap-mounted terrets frequently have a base or skirt, which is often either rectangular or scalloped to cover part of the fitting, which is most frequently, but not exclusively, made of iron.

The form of the Chinnor terret is difficult to parallel. Pole-mounted terrets with single hoops are the most common form, with examples known from Lowbury Hill, Berkshire, and Castleford, West Yorkshire. Terrets with multiple perforations, rather than an open hoop, are rare but an example with a plate with three perforations is noted from Kalkriese, Osnabrück, Germany.

A first- to second-century mini-terret from North Thoresby, Lincolnshire
Metal-detector user Tom Redmayne discovered an unusual copper-alloy mini-terret (LIN-FFF1B4) in North Thoresby, Lincolnshire, which he reported to Adam Daubney (Lincolnshire FLO). Most mini-terrets are of simple design, being oval and undecorated or knopped and are dated to the Iron Age. However, the mini-terret from North Thoresby is 'skirted' with a circular moulding surrounded by iron corrosion beneath the skirt which suggests that it is a pole-mounted terret. Mini-terrets have been found in association with linch pins in the Iron Age cemeteries of East Yorkshire. It is suggested that a leather thong was tied to the terret and the thong was passed through the perforation on the head of a linch pin to secure the foot. However the mini-terret from North Thoresby appears to have had a different function, closer to similar but larger terrets, perhaps holding narrow straps of leather, rather than acting specifically as a rein guide. Pole- and strap-mounted terrets with 'skirts' are fairly common, but miniature examples are particularly rare.

Mini-terret (LIN-FFF1B4) from North Thoresby, Lincolnshire (33 x 20 x 18mm)

Flagon (LANCUM-BA9242) from Beckfoot, Cumbria (166 x 109 mm)

A first- to third-century Roman cemetery at Beckfoot, Cumbria
Dot Bruns (Lancashire & Cumbria FLO) has done a considerable amount of work on the finds from the Roman cremation cemetery at Beckfoot, Cumbria in the past year. Situated on the edge of a cliff overlooking the sea, the cemetery is undergoing constant erosion and will be totally destroyed by 2030. Objects from the cemetery, including ceramic vessels, coins and brooches fall out of the cliff after major storms or at high tide. Some finders have established a good working relationship with the Senhouse Roman Museum at Maryport and bring their finds to be recorded. In May 2005, Dot helped to organise a Finds Day, at which a group of four complete and almost unblemished Roman ceramic vessels – a flagon (LANCUM-BA9242), a jar (LANCUM-BAD3B8) and two cups (LANCUM-BB0018 & LANCUM-BAEE35) – were brought in that had been found on the beach four or five years ago. These vessels will have been grave goods for one or more burials.

Hanger (HESH-927462) from Rudge, Shropshire
(32.3 x 14.2mm)

Brooch (SWYOR-BFE1C5) from Fulbeck, Lincolnshire
(45.4 x 22.5 x16mm)

Brooch (HESH-53EAC7) from Bayston Hill, Shropshire
(54.3 x 17.6 x 24.2mm)

A hanger or dangler from Rudge, Shropshire
An incomplete Roman copper-alloy hanger or dangler (HESH-927462) was found near Rudge, Shropshire by Ian Botley and recorded by Peter Reavill (Herefordshire & Shropshire FLO). The object is in two joining fragments and is broadly circular in plan with open-work decoration in the form of an irregular swastika motif. On the back of the hanger is an integral perforated bar projecting at an angle of 90°. At the centre of the swastika and at the end of each of the four arms are a series of irregular circular convex knops of variable size. On the circular band enclosing the swastika and between the four bosses is a series of irregularly arranged oblique and vertical incised lines. Openwork discs were attached to items of equipment either as a form of decoration or perhaps to act as a handle. They are most commonly decorated with a whirligig motif and so the swastika emblem on this example is unusual. No parallels have been found.

A second-century brooch from Fulbeck, Lincolnshire
An unusual copper-alloy plate brooch in the form of a seated greyhound (SWYOR-BFE1C5) was found by Mark Rossi at Fulbeck, Lincolnshire and recorded by Anna Marshall (South & West Yorkshire FLO). The brooch survives in excellent condition and is very finely cast and finished. The form of the dog is well-observed and anatomically correct, though slightly stylised. The eye is large, the ear long and down-turned, the tapered muzzle long with slightly parted lips. The curved body sits on muscular haunches, the legs are long and slender and the waist is hollowed and divided from the shoulders by a clearly-depicted rib-cage. The front surface and the rim of the hollow-cast back have a white metal coating. At the base of the brooch is a small triangular field, representing the ground on which the dog sits. At the base there is also a single pierced pin lug with the remains of the corroded iron pin. Parallels for this second-century brooch are difficult to find. The only similar, but less accomplished example, is said to come from Syria.

A second-century brooch from Bayston Hill, Shropshire
Russell and Sharon Edwards found a copper-alloy Roman trumpet brooch (HESH-53EAC7) in Bayston Hill, Shropshire and reported it to Peter Reavill (Herefordshire & Shropshire FLO). Trumpet brooches are a common type of brooch, probably originating in the Midlands and date to between 75 and 175 AD. The example from Bayston Hill is unusual and survives in exceptional condition. The upper bow is decorated with three circular dots on each side which are inlaid with red enamel. Each dot is enclosed by a concentric circle, inlaid with decayed enamel of uncertain colour. The concentric circles are connected by two vertical ribs. Projecting from the top of the head is a prominent and elongated spike which was intended to prevent the headloop from slipping forward. At the waist, there are three rounded mouldings which continue around the back of the bow and are decorated with a series of small circular impressed dots and incised vertical lines arranged in linear bands. The foot is bulbous and is formed from a series of three transverse mouldings decorated with linear bands of raised dots.

Brooch (WMID-0501A1) from North Rauceby, Lincolnshire
(34 x 20 x 6mm)

Bust (DENO-C83845) from Newark, Nottinghamshire
(58.5 x 66 x 34.5mm)

Strainer handle (SWYOR-1CD5F6) from Marr, South Yorkshire
(192 x 46.1 x 1.8mm)

A second- to third-century bird brooch from North Rauceby, Lincolnshire
A copper-alloy enamelled two-dimensional zoomorphic brooch representing a bird (WMID-0501A1) was found by Clive Rasdall whilst metal-detecting near Ancaster, Lincolnshire and recorded by Caroline Johnson (Staffordshire & West Midlands FLO). The bird, intended to represent an eagle with folded wings, faces to the right with the head bent and the pointed beak touching the ground. There is a large, shallow indentation for the eye which is inlaid with traces of red enamel. To represent the wing and feathering, the body is divided into eight cells of variable shape and size. The three cells representing the wing contain traces of blue enamel and the five cells below contain traces of white enamel. The tail feathers are defined by four incised lines. A very similar example of this apparently British type is known from Richborough, Kent.

A second- or third-century bust from Newark, Nottinghamshire
A Roman stone bust (DENO-C83845) found by Tony Knight in the Newark area of Nottinghamshire was reported to Rachel Atherton (Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire FLO). This small bust (just 6cm high) of a human, probably a male, may have served as a Lar, perhaps in a domestic shrine. A Lar was the personal protective spirit of the household, and a small figurine representing it would be kept in a household shrine called the lararium. Martin Henig (University of Oxford) dates this bust to the second or third century AD, and cites the best parallel in stylistic terms as a head and shoulders of a female, with simple eyes and wedge-shaped nose, from Cirencester. The bust is made from gritstone, the closest source being the East Moors of Derbyshire, roughly 40 miles away.

A mid second- to third-century strainer handle from Marr, South Yorkshire
A broken copper-alloy handle from a Roman strainer or dipper (SWYOR-1CD5F6) was found by Ron Hill at Marr, South Yorkshire and recorded by Anna Marshall (South & West Yorkshire FLO). At the terminal the handle flares out, becoming triangular at the end. At the waist the handle widens and there is a small curved lug on each side. The handle is undecorated but has a small and mis-struck maker's mark on the underside of the central section of handle. Roger Tomlin (University of Oxford) considers that the maker's mark looks like [...]C(or G)VSF, with the letter before C/G

Mount (BERK-EF1533) from Woodstock, Oxfordshire (35.05 x 32.42 x 5.83mm)

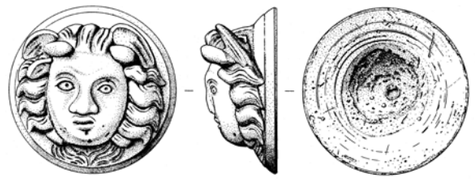
Vessel mount (WAW-2F4145) from Broughton Hackett, Worcestershire (32.64 x 29.44 x 10.85mm) Illustrator: Candy Stevens

possibly being an A. ACVS is a possible name-ending, although no appropriate stamp is known. However, there is a published strainer from London stamped SANGVSF, to which this example may be paralleled. Dippers and strainers were used in the serving of wine and were commonly placed in earlier Roman graves. However, by the third century they are found in hoards composed of kitchen utensils, which may suggest that they had become more general household vessels rather than specifically associated with drinking.

A Roman mount from Woodstock, Oxfordshire
A Roman copper-alloy anthropomorphic mount (BERK-EF1533) was found by Gerald Knight in Woodstock, Oxfordshire and reported to Kate Sutton (Berkshire & Oxfordshire FLO). The mount depicts a male figure with a large bulbous head, an angular and slightly flattened nose in relief and small circular eyes. There appears to be a neck-ring or collar and there are similar moulded ridges at the wrists and ankles. The arms are out stretched and the large hands with defined fingers and thumbs are disproportionate in size to the rest of the body. Each hand has a large central circular perforation and in line with these perforations is a larger circular hole through the centre of the chest with the remains of an iron rivet. The legs are placed together, but the feet splay outwards at the ankles. The figure might represent a god whose iconography we do not recognise or an ex-voto image of a human dedicator. Mounts of this form are very unusual and only two similar examples have recently been recorded by the PAS from Barmby Moor, East Riding of Yorkshire (LVPL-549) and from near Selby, North Yorkshire (LVPL-D14396).

Two Roman vessel mounts from Broughton Hackett, Worcestershire
Two matching copper-alloy anthropomorphic vessel mounts (WAW-2F4145 and WAW-2EFFB6) were found by Brian Wright at Broughton Hackett, Worcestershire, and subsequently recorded by Angie Bolton (Warwickshire & Worcestershire FLO). Both mounts are sub-circular with semi-circular cross-sections and have very similar facial features. The almond shaped eyes are defined by a groove. The flat, wedge-shaped nose is slightly damaged on one example (WAW-2EFFB6). The mouth is indicated by a fine horizontal groove, the chin is poorly defined and the round face is bordered by a flange, which is slightly offset. The hair is depicted on the upper half of the flange by vertical and oblique linear grooves. Both mounts have a hollow reverse containing traces of lead. The facial features and the depiction of the hair resemble in style those of the horned head on the bucket mount from West Hill, Uley, Gloucestershire. Anthropomorphic vessel mounts are less common than bovine vessel mounts. Two other Roman anthropomorphic vessel mounts, along with sceptres,

Vessel mount (WAW-2EFFB6) from Broughton Hackett, Worcestershire (32.19 x 30.07 x 10.37mm) Illustrator: Candy Stevens



Furniture mount (NMS-650F10) from Beeston with Bittering, Norfolk (50 x 23mm) Illustrator: Jason Gibbons

Key handle (SWYOR-F1D5D6) from Winthorpe, Nottinghamshire (114.5 x 44.2 x 29.38mm)

were discovered in excavation of an inhumation grave at Brough, East Yorkshire, but bovine mounts have been excavated from a variety of sites including forts, temples and rural sites.

A Roman furniture mount from Beeston with Bittering, Norfolk
In July 2005 Steven Maloney discovered a Roman mount, possibly from furniture, (NMS-650F10) in Beeston with Bittering, Norfolk, which he recorded with the PAS in Norfolk. The cast copper-alloy roundel depicts the head of Medusa in high relief; the fleshy rounded face with nicely modelled eyes, arched eyebrows, broad nose and closed mouth is set within flowing ray-like locks of hair on a circular flange. Small horns spring from the forehead with wings, each decorated with a single feather motif above. There is no surviving evidence for the method of attachment. A very similar mount has recently been recorded from South Ferriby, North Lincolnshire (NLM-C8D017). Roman artefacts have been recovered from the site through field-walking (since 1969) and metal-detecting (since 1997), and it is thought to have been a small rural Romano-British settlement. The site has produced both the Medusa mount and a cockerel figurine associated with Mercury, discovered in 1997. These finds, along with an unusually high number of Roman coins discovered in the area, are changing this interpretation. It is possible that it was a much larger settlement than first thought or that it may even have been a temple. As artefacts and coins continue to be reported more may become clear.

A key handle from Winthorpe, Nottinghamshire
A fine zoomorphic key handle from a tumbler lock (SWYOR-F1D5D6) was found by Andrew Diamond at Winthorpe, Nottinghamshire and recorded by Anna Marshall (South & West Yorkshire FLO). The handle is in the form of a well-modelled recumbent lion emerging from four leaves and with the head of a ram grasped between its front paws and with its chin on the top of the animal's head. The animals are executed with considerable attention to detail, with the lion's mane, paws, back and underside pecked to represent fur – an unusual feature on keys of this general type. The ram has patches of silver in each eye. The square socket has traces of iron corrosion within it and at its edges from the missing key.

Key handles in the form of lions holding animal heads are rare, though a similar example is known from Shepton Mallet, Somerset. Key handles depicting lions in a more simplified manner are, however, relatively common. Recent finds recorded by the PAS include examples from Rodney Stoke, Somerset (HAMP225), Brundish, Suffolk (SF9345), Much Hadham, Hertfordshire (BH-E96707) and Creslow, Buckinghamshire (BUC-304A71).

Sealing (CAM-3793F4) from Godmanchester, Cambridgeshire (24 x 16 x 10mm)

Votive hearth shovel (SUR-1AC0D5) from near Guildford, Surrey (80 x 19mm)

Lucy Cramp taking samples from mortaria recovered from the River Tees at Piercebridge, County Durham

Pottery (CAM-B98242) from south-east Cambridgeshire

A Roman lead sealing from Godmanchester, Cambridgeshire
A Roman lead sealing (CAM-3793F4) found at Godmanchester, Cambridgeshire, was reported to Philippa Walton (Cambridgeshire FLO) by metal-detector user Simon Ashford. Sealings were attached to official documents or packages and were usually stamped with an inscription or seal ring motif. This example possesses a stamped rectangular panel containing the raised letters 'AL[...]//VIA'. This inscription has proved difficult to decipher. Roger Tomlin (University of Oxford) has commented that the logical interpretation would be 'ALAE VI A[...]'. However, there are no known Roman alae or cavalry units of this name in Britain and for the moment interpretation of the sealing remains a mystery.

A Roman votive hearth shovel from near Guildford, Surrey
One of the more unusual Roman finds to be reported from Surrey is a miniature hearth shovel (SUR-1AC0D5) found in the Guildford area in Surrey by Bob Stonard and reported to David Williams (Surrey FLO). The shaft swells slightly towards its centre and has a bi-conical terminal with a collar below. The shovel end is left rough internally but has prominent file marks on the outside. A miniature shovel in a similar form, but with the shovel end decorated, is known from Cirencester, Gloucestershire. Other miniature shovels recorded by the PAS were found in Witney, Oxfordshire (WMID4391) and Barton-upon-Humber, North Lincolnshire (NLM-029211).

Lipid analysis of Roman mortaria found at Piercebridge, County Durham
In September 2005 Lucy Cramp (University of Bristol) took samples from mortaria which had been recovered by divers Bob Middlemass and Rolfe Mitchinson and reported to Philippa Walton (North East FLO). The vessels were amongst more than 4,000 finds discovered by the divers in the River Tees at Piercebridge, County Durham. Lucy has begun lipid analyses on these samples to determine which foodstuffs were prepared in the vessels during the Roman period. Lipids include degraded animal fats, which may be milk or meat based, as well as plant oils and waxes. Her preliminary analysis has revealed that there is exceptionally good preservation of lipids in the samples, probably due to the waterlogged conditions in which they were found. Further work will determine their exact nature.

A Roman pottery assemblage from south-east Cambridgeshire
Len and Ben Eeles reported to Cambridgeshire Archaeology over five kilos of Roman pottery (CAM-B98242), the result of meticulous field-walking over several years on a single field in south-east Cambridgeshire. The assemblage was catalogued by Philippa Walton (Cambridgeshire FLO) and Sarah Poppy (Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record Officer). It comprises a range of fabrics including amphorae, South Gaulish samian, Nene Valley Ware and mortaria as well as locally produced coarse wares, suggesting the existence of a Romano-British settlement site of some status in the vicinity. Further investigation using the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record revealed cropmark plots of an undated rectilinear enclosure within the same field. The Roman pottery assemblage reported to the PAS has provided possible dating evidence for this enclosure.

Kiln bars (LEIC-8B7ED1) from Peckleton, Leicestershire

Spatula handle (NMGW-DED9D2) from Kington Langley, Wiltshire (56.7 x 12.8 x 17.9mm)

Vessel handle (NMGW-097C90) from Kington Langley, Wiltshire (195 x 44.5 x 35.1mm)

A new Roman kiln site at Peckleton, Leicestershire
On his way out of a field, Neil Glenister stumbled across a Roman kiln bar (LEIC-8B7ED1) at Peckleton, Leicestershire, which he instantly recognised for what it was, since he is a member of the Leicestershire Museums Fieldwork Group as well as a metal-detectorist. Neil collected as many pottery sherds and bar fragments as he could find in the hour of daylight he had left and promptly reported them to Wendy Scott (Leicestershire & Rutland FLO). Richard Pollard (Assistant Keeper of Archaeology, Leicestershire Museums) confirmed that Neil had found a new kiln site on the edge of the old Leicester Forest.

Roman finds from Kington Langley, Wiltshire
A group of interesting Roman objects found by Mike Rogers at Kington Langley, Wiltshire was reported to Mark Lodwick (Finds Co-ordinator, Wales). Included in the group was a copper-alloy wax spatula handle depicting Minerva, of Feugère Type A5 (NMGW-DED9D2), which probably dates to the second or early third century AD. The handle is complete, although the iron blade has been lost, as is almost always the case with this type of object. Minerva wears a crested helmet and is depicted with sloping shoulders, but is not wearing the aegis, representing Medusa's head, on her chest. The sides are concave and the base of the handle has a V-shaped cut to accommodate the iron blade. This is the seventeenth recorded example of a Type A5 spatula handle from Britain and is the third example recorded from the south west. Before the PAS was introduced in 1997, eight Minerva spatula handles were known from Britain and since its introduction a further nine examples have been reported.

Also found was a highly unusual copper-alloy vessel handle with escutcheon (NMGW-097C90), probably of Roman date. The back of the object has a rectangular plate with a trapezoidal knop at the base. Its interior has a sub-triangular silvered mark, presumably as a result of a lost decorative mount, which was originally soldered on to the plate. The escutcheon has little curvature, indicating a vessel of wide rim diameter. A corresponding second similar loop has been skilfully

Trial piece of Septimus Severus (LIN-EADFB6) from Washingborough, Lincolnshire (22 x 3mm)

Denarius of Carausius (NMS-784AF4) from near Hindringham, Norfolk (diameter 18mm)

Coin hoard of Carausius and Allectus (SF-E5C2D6) from north-west Suffolk

cast into the escutcheon loop. Above the loop are two upward-facing pointed projections or 'horns'. The handle comprises a curving spike, which is likely to have been inserted into an organic handle. The spike is perforated and contains a copper-alloy pin intended to secure the handle. The large handle and rim diameter may suggest a vessel similar to a bucket. The design is elaborate with a comparatively difficult two-piece casting to produce the joined escutcheon and handle. The style and form of decoration suggest a Roman date, although no close parallel is yet known.

A lead trial piece of Septimius Severus (reigned AD 193-211) from Washingborough, Lincolnshire
An unusual lead disc with the obverse of a coin type for the emperor Septimius Severus (LIN-EADFB6) was discovered by Rob Lane whilst metal-detecting at Washingborough, Lincolnshire and reported to Adam Daubney (Lincolnshire FLO). It shows the bust of Septimius Severus with the inscription SEVERVS AVG PART MAX (Severus the Greatest, Emperor and Conqueror of Parthia). The reverse is filed flat and smooth. Septimius Severus campaigned in Scotland from AD 208 until 211 when he died in York. He would have needed a great deal of money to pay his army. The resulting influx of many silver coins led to much forging in the province in the Severan period; some were base metal coins plated in silver, others were cast forgeries. This lead piece might have been used to test a die for striking a silver plated coin.

A denarius of Carausius (reigned AD 286-293) from near Hindringham, Norfolk
A rare silver denarius of Carausius (reigned AD 286-93), with mint signature RSR (NMS-784AF4) was found by Simon Gray near Hindringham, Norfolk and recorded with Adrian Marsden (Norfolk Museums Service). This is an important addition to the corpus of Carausian silver coins and was produced to pay the emperor's supporters at the outset of his revolt in 286.

A Roman coin hoard of the Emperors Carausius (reigned AD 286-293) and Allectus (reigned AD 293-296) from north-west Suffolk
A hoard of 627 coins (SF-E5C2D6, Treasure case 2005 T434) of the usurper Emperors Carausius (reigned AD 286-293) and Allectus (reigned AD 293-296) was discovered by Paul Flack in north-west Suffolk. It is the largest hoard found so far of the type which mainly comprises coins of Carausius and Allectus. The hoard was reported to Faye Minter (Suffolk FLO) and has subsequently been identified by Richard Abdy (British Museum) under the Treasure Act 1996. Paul had been undertaking an extensive metal-detecting survey in the area and plotting every find individually with his Global Positioning Systems (GPS) device when he initially found 30 coins all together and immediately reported the find. A small-scale excavation was then carried out by John Craven and David Gill (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service) to recover the other coins and any extra archaeological information. The excavation showed that the coins had been placed in a pottery jar and then buried on the edge of a Roman period ditch close to a probable farming settlement. A pile of large flints may also have been placed to mark the spot for future recovery. More recently, ploughing disturbed the hoard, leading to its discovery by Paul.

The 627 coins include 258 of Carausius and 347 of Allectus and all originally had a silver wash. They were minted at London at an unidentified mint with the mark C. The date of deposition was between about AD 293 and 296. Allectus, who was Carausius' chief minister, murdered Carausius in AD 293. He himself died in battle three years later when the legitimate emperor, Constantius I, reclaimed Britain for the Roman Empire in AD 296.

Brooch (DENO-304361) from Scopwick, Lincolnshire (38.4 x 14.22 x 15.28mm)

Finger ring (NMGW-D725C3) from Caerleon, Newport (27.55 x 9.63mm)

A third-century brooch from Scopwick, Lincolnshire
A European P-shaped brooch (DENO-304361) was found by Michael Miles at Scopwick, Lincolnshire, and reported to Rachel Atherton (Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire FLO). This unusual copper-alloy brooch belongs to a type which is very uncommon in Britain. This example has an iron spring and pin, with the pin twisted around the wings and an integral extension from the top of the head. The bow is highly arched and the lower bow has an integral bar extending from the reverse of the mid bow, joining the return of the foot, creating a large rectangular opening in the catchplate. The ancestry of this brooch form goes back to the one-piece La Tène II type. It is influential on the development of the later Roman crossbow brooch.

A third-century finger ring from Caerleon, Newport
A trawl by Dave Arnold through his box of 'junk' finds identified an object he thought might be of potential interest. The object, found in 1993 or 1994 at Caerleon, Newport, was recently reported to Mark Lodwick (Finds Co-ordinator, Wales). The object is an important inscribed Roman silver finger ring (NMGW-D725C3) and probably of third-century AD date. The finger ring is complete and is comparatively large and heavy. The ring is composed of ten concave panels or facets separated by rounded ribs. Each of the panels contains a stamped letter - V T E (rev.) R E (rev.) F E(rev.) L I X - forming the inscription Utere Felix , which translates as 'Use (this and be) happy'. There is also the suggestion of an eroded vertical column of five punched dots on the rib between the last 'E' of Utere and the 'F' of Felix.

From top: Coins of Licinius I / Constantius II / Julian / Constantine I (CORN-B6C623 / 6D9753 / 6E4CB1 / 367F46) from Phillack Towans, Cornwall (20 x 2 mm / 15.7 x 1.5mm / 16 x 2mm / 17.8 x 1.3mm)

A late third-century minim hoard from East Winch, Norfolk

Hoards of the tiny radiate imitations known as minims are unusual finds in Britain. However, an interesting group (Treasure cases 2004 T432 & 2005 T205), found by Steve Brown at East Winch, Norfolk and reported to Adrian Marsden (Norfolk Museums Service), provides a close parallel with the West Acre hoard also found by Mr Brown twenty years ago. Two of the East Winch minims were struck from the same pair of dies, suggesting that they may have been produced at the site, or at least nearby. Furthermore, other material found nearby confirms this impression. As well as plentiful amounts of copper-alloy smelting waste, a small hoard of ten sestertii and two Romano-British bracelets (Treasure case 2005 T233) were found in the immediate area of the minim hoard. These were most likely intended for melting down in order to furnish the alloy from which the minims were produced.

A number of production sites of radiate imitations have been discovered in Norfolk but to find the raw ingredients used by the forgers together with the finished products is most unusual. Also significant is the fact that these two hoards were found in the same part of Norfolk; does this mean that minim production was particularly prevalent in this part of Norfolk? More discoveries in this area, or the lack of them elsewhere, are necessary before we can say this with any conviction but it is an interesting possibility. Mr Brown has since donated these coins to Norwich Castle Museum.

A group of fourth-century Roman coins from Phillack Towans, Cornwall

Fourteen fourth-century Roman copper-alloy coins were found in Phillack Towans, Cornwall by Shaun Rogers using a metal-detector during the summer of 1998. Subsequently they had then been logged with the (then) Senior Curator of the Royal Institution of Cornwall (Roger Penhallurick) and will soon be published in his Corpus of Ancient and Early Medieval Coins of Cornwall and Scilly. Only recently have the coins been brought to the attention of Anna Tyacke (Cornwall FLO) and recorded with the PAS. The coins, not thought to be hoard, were found only a few inches down in the sand and strewn across a narrow area between the dunes where, in the past, the owners had dumped material dredged up from the nearby Hayle harbour. These finds help to confirm, along with all of the other Roman artefacts found in recent years in the area, that the Hayle Estuary was most likely a Roman port.

This is an interesting and unusual group of coins. The chronological spread is from the AD 270s, with three coins of the Tetrici (CORN-4697B1, CORN-2590F2 & CORN-2610E4), through to the House of Valentinian, AD 364-78, which is also represented by three coins (CORN-46FB61, CORN-B72518 & CORN-B73C16). Amongst the pieces, however, are coins from three mints which are rarely found in Britain: a coin of Licinius I (reigned AD 308-24) from Nicomedia in Turkey (CORN-B6C623), another of Constantius II (reigned AD 337-361) from Alexandria in Egypt (CORN-6D9753), and a piece of Julian (reigned AD 355-63) from Sirmium in Serbia (CORN-6E4CB1). It should be noted that another coin from an eastern mint was also found at Hayle by Ken Burridge, a piece of Constantine I from Heraclea in Turkey (CORN-367F46). This might possibly suggest more direct maritime links between Cornwall and the Mediterranean, rather than a cross-Channel route that would have served much of southern Britain.

A mid to late fourth-century jeweller's test piece or die from Roxwell, Essex

In 1997 Rob Abbott found what is probably a copper-alloy Roman jeweller's test piece (ESS-E5CE07) whilst using a metal-detector at Roxwell, Essex. Mr Abbott recorded his find with Caroline McDonald (Essex FLO), who was assisted in researching it by Ian Leins (Finds Adviser, Iron Age & Roman Coins). The original surface of this rectangular object survives in good condition with a dark green-grey patina, suggesting that the object may be highly leaded. It is engraved at one end with a pair of clasped hands set within a circular border of dots. At the opposite end of the same face is an engraved portrait of a Roman emperor, diademed and facing left and probably representing Julian (reigned AD 355-363). In front of the portrait is the engraved word SABATIV. The back of the object is plain. The clasped hand motif – a symbol related to the junction or marriage union – was commonly found on Roman jewellery such as finger rings and bracelets. In fact, this object may have been used for making repoussé components for jewellery by pressing gold foil to the shallow die.

Jeweller's test piece (ESS-E5CE07) from Roxwell, Essex (33.1 x 19.22 x 4.98mm) Illustrator: Iain Bell

The function of the portrait remains unclear, although a connection with coinage seems most likely. Although the manner by which the portrait is engraved makes its use in the minting process impossible, the similarity in style and size suggest it could have been copied from a coin as an 'engraving test' or perhaps even used as a draft for the production of coin dies used to strike unofficial imitations. The presence of the possible head of Julian strongly favours a mid to late fourth-century date. No parallel has been found.

Figurine of a hound (IOW-B354E4) from Newchurch, Isle of Wight (39 x 35 x 13.5mm)

Figurine of a bull (SF-DCB627) from Holbrook, Suffolk (60.6 x 22.5mm)

Cockerel figurine (BUC-D11A12) from Tingewick, Buckinghamshire (28 x 15 x 6mm)

Figurine of a hare (NARC-EA98E1) from Hackleton, Northamptonshire (41.1 x 8.5 x 15.1mm)

A fourth-century figurine of a hound from Newchurch, Isle of Wight
An almost complete Roman figurine in the form of a long-nosed hound (IOW-B354E4) was found by Alan Rowe whilst using a metal-detector at Newchurch, Isle of Wight and recorded by Frank Basford (Isle of Wight FLO).

The three-dimensional male hound is similar to the breed now known as an Irish wolfhound. It sits in a relaxed pose, resting on its haunches on a small integral rectangular plinth and its forepaws are together at its front. It glances upwards slightly with its head turned about 45° to the right and its mouth closed. The nose is elongated and its cheeks are quite pronounced. The ears are erect and pointed, although the tip of the right ear is broken off. The collared neck is slender, the torso, hips and front legs are also slender, though muscular. Its tail is curled around to the left, close to the body. Worn decorative hatching on the chest, body, hip, right shoulder, and each cheek represents hair. The front and rear paws do not appear to have received as much attention to detail as the other elements. The hatching on the hound's right side, which represents hair, may originally have been present over the entire surface but has worn off in most places, perhaps as a result of frequent handling. The Isle of Wight hound is very similar in its naturalistic style and attention to detail, but different in pose, to a hound from the Roman temple of Nodens, the god of healing, at Lydney, Gloucestershire. Other bronze dogs, all probably intended as votive gifts are recorded from Britain at Aldborough, Carrawburgh and Kirkby Thore and on the continent from Trier and Carnuntum.

The figurine was discovered on a site which overlooks a spring 300-400m to the south issuing from the base of the chalk. Other finds from this site include Iron Age and Roman coins from the Republican period to the late fourth century and a considerable number of Roman brooches and other artefacts, found intermittently since 1994. Magnetometer and resistivity surveys were carried out by the Ancient Monuments Laboratory of English Heritage in co-operation with the Isle of Wight Archaeology and Historic Environment Service in 1995. However, these did not reveal any recognisable features. The majority of Mr Rowe's finds have been acquired by the Isle of Wight County Museum Service.

A Roman figurine of a three-horned bull from Holbrook, Suffolk
A copper-alloy figurine of a three-horned bull (SF-DCB627) was found by Les Bond in Holbrook, Suffolk and reported to Faye Minter (Suffolk FLO). Three-horned bulls are a well-known Gallo-Roman iconographic symbol, with the third horn perhaps indicating increased supernatural power. The bull is standing, but its legs are incomplete due to wear. The head is triangular and in the centre of the head between two projecting horns is the remains of a third worn horn. Wrapped around the centre of the body is a broad transverse decorative band, delimited by grooves and containing moulded ovals with cross-shaped mouldings on both sides. The hindquarters of the bull are slightly rounded and the tail is to one side with its tip resting on the bull's back, as if it is being vigorously swished. The hind legs are straight and one is slightly more forward than the other, giving the appearance that the bull is walking. Martin Henig (University of Oxford) considers that the presence of the broad band, or *dorsuale*, around the body is especially interesting as it suggests that the bull has been formally prepared for sacrifice. A parallel dorsuale can be seen around the belly of a pig on a nicolo intaglio from Old Penrith, Cumbria. Other three-horned bull figurines are known from Maiden Castle in Dorset, Jewry Wall in Leicester and Devizes in Wiltshire. An additional copper-alloy three-horned bull figurine has recently been recorded by the PAS from Watlington, Oxfordshire (BUC-668F820).

Plotting metal-detected finds at Braughing, Hertfordshire

A Roman cockerel figurine from Tingewick, Buckinghamshire
Rob Cook found a Roman copper-alloy cockerel figurine (BUC-D11A12) whilst detecting in fields around Tingewick, Buckinghamshire, which he recorded with Ros Tyrrell (Buckinghamshire FLO). Most of the bird's beak is missing and it is probable that the bird was fixed to a stand as there is no trace of either the bird's legs or feet. The body and tail are decorated on one side only, the body with ring-and-dot motifs and the tail with incised transverse parallel lines. The PAS has recorded 13 cockerel and 10 goat figurines, both of which are attributes of Mercury.

A Roman zoomorphic figurine from Hackleton, Northamptonshire
A probable Roman copper-alloy zoomorphic figurine (NARC-EA98E1) was found by Glen Kirkton whilst searching with a metal-detector on ploughed land in Hackleton, Northamptonshire and reported to Tom Brindle (Northamptonshire FLO). This figurine is in the form of a stylised hare, sitting upright, with raised ears and punched rings depicting its eyes. It is well made, and shows evidence of substantial polishing to create a smooth finish. Roman zoomorphic figurines occur reasonably frequently as chance finds and 69 examples have been recorded by the PAS to date. This figurine is very unusual and no parallels have yet been found.

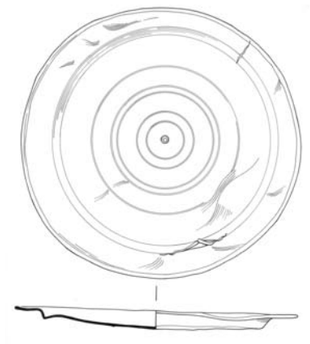
Metal-detecting survey on the site of a Roman town at Braughing, Hertfordshire
In July 2005 a metal-detecting survey took place on the site of a Roman town at Braughing in Hertfordshire. Metal-detecting on a Scheduled Monument is

not permitted without the permission of English Heritage (in England) or Cadw (in Wales). However, Stewart Bryant (County Archaeological Officer for Hertfordshire) was becoming so concerned with reports of illegal metal-detecting on the site that he contacted English Heritage who granted a special dispensation to allow an organised survey in order to recover some information from the site. The work was undertaken by the Saffron Walden Metal Detecting Club and finds were plotted using a Global Positioning Systems (GPS) device by Julian Watters (Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire FLO), Alison Tinniswood (Hertfordshire Sites & Monuments Records Officer) and staff from the Hertfordshire Sites and Monuments Record.

In total finds were recorded from over 180 separate locations. Much of the material consisted of undatable building materials such as brick and tile, but there were also several incomplete Roman brooches, forty Roman coins, and a few fragments of Roman puddingstone quern. The full results of the survey are to be published in the future.

A late Roman pewter hoard from Chelmsford, Essex
In the 1990s, Mr and Mrs Porcher were given two circular pewter platters (ESS-A66FE2) by an unknown metal-detector user who had recovered them from a site in Chelmsford. Not recognising their significance, the platters were kept in a garden shed for over ten years until the Porchers brought them to Colchester Castle Museum for identification. Here they were recorded by Caroline McDonald (Essex FLO), who confirmed that they were Roman in date.

The two platters are virtually identical, each having a short steep wall surmounted by a broad flanged rim set at 90 degrees horizontally. Each is decorated with a series of incised concentric circles. One platter is 360mm in diameter, the other 377mm in diameter. Both weigh in excess of one kilogram. Most Romano-British pewter vessels are from late Roman contexts dating from about AD 250 to 410, although they may have been in use some time before deposition. There is abundant evidence for pewter manufacture in Roman Britain from the fourth century AD, based mainly on the remains of moulds used for casting. Pewter hoards may have represented religious offerings. However, as there is no contextual evidence to accompany the platters recorded here, the reason for deposition can only be guessed at. Pewter hoards are rarer than copper-alloy hoards as pewter is very easily melted down to recast. Whilst there have been a number of single pewter finds from Essex, these two platters probably represent the first known hoard from the county and are a very significant discovery.



Pewter platter (ESS-A66FE2) from Chelmsford, Essex (diameter 360mm) Illustrator: Iain Bell

Buckle (KENT-BFDB96) from Headcorn, Kent (34.7 x 29.79 x 9.12mm)

Late Roman belt fittings from Kent
Finds of late Roman or early post-Roman copper-alloy zoomorphic buckles continue to be recorded in Kent by Andrew Richardson (Kent FLO), including two examples of Hawkes and Dunning Type IIIB buckles, characterised by their integral rather than hinged plate. John Park found such a buckle (KENT-BFDB96), decorated with a pair of confronting open-jawed animal heads, at Headcorn, Kent. It is very unusual for finds dating to the fourth or fifth centuries AD to be found in the Weald, but this find does indicate that there was at least some human activity in the area during that period. Paul Prenzcek found a similar buckle (KENT-DB3302) at Cliffe, on the Hoo Peninsula, in November 2005. This example is distinctive for its six open-jawed animal heads on its frame and plate and its openwork plate. No exact parallel has yet been identified. Both buckles were probably manufactured in the Meuse valley in France during the early to mid fifth century.

Two solidi of the Emperor Honorius (reigned AD 393-423) from Stubbington, Hampshire and Well, North Yorkshire
A gold solidus of the Emperor Honorius (HAMP-F927E7), struck at Milan, was found by Michael Stevens in Stubbington, Hampshire and reported to Rob Webley (Hampshire FLO). This is the first gold Roman coin recorded by the PAS in Hampshire and is in the process of being purchased by Hampshire County Council Museums and Archives Service. Another (YORYM-6F08B4) was found by Alex Fifield during a metal-detecting rally at Well, North Yorkshire and recorded with Simon Holmes (North & East Yorkshire FLO). While the reverse design on both coins – the emperor standing right holding a standard and Victory, spurning a seated bound captive with his foot – is a common one for its type, Roman gold coins are rare as stray finds. Furthermore, these pieces dates to the last years of the Roman provincial government in Britain, when one gold solidus could buy a military cloak or rations for a soldier for three months.

Buckle (KENT-DB3302) from Cliffe, Kent (33.33 x 27.56 x 4.73mm)

Solidus (YORYM-6F08B4) from Well, North Yorkshire (diameter 21mm)

Edited by Sally Worrell (Finds Adviser, Prehistoric & Roman Artefacts), Sam Moorhead (Finds Adviser, Roman & Iron Age Coins) & Michael Lewis (Deputy Head).

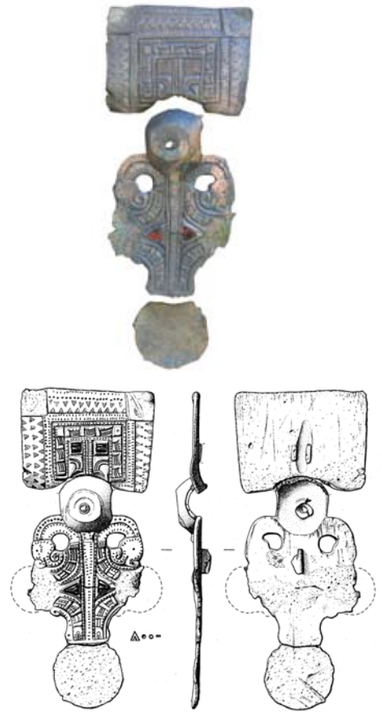
EARLY MEDIEVAL PERIOD (AD 410 – 1066)

The Early Medieval finds recorded in 2005/6 have included some remarkable and unexpected objects. A number from the earliest part of the period have emphasised links between England and the Continent at this time; among these are the brooch from Buckland, Buckinghamshire (BUC-DF45B6) and the two supporting-arm brooches from Tyringham, Buckinghamshire (BUC-SFCFC5) and Flore, Northamptonshire (NARC-E36950). When English finds of supporting-arm brooches were first studied as a group in 1977, just nine were known. Now there are 14 examples recorded on the PAS database, which probably represents about half of all English supporting-arm brooches known! The PAS examples have considerably extended the area in which these brooches have been found, and have the potential to tell us a great deal about the movement of people into England in the years following the collapse of the Roman Empire.

The number of finds of early Anglo-Saxon horse-harness equipment has continued to grow, and recent research into this area has meant that they are now far easier to identify. Literary sources have always suggested that horses were highly prized in early Anglo-Saxon society, but the PAS's unique strength in recording large quantities of casual finds has meant that we are now beginning to see the finer detail of this importance. Fashions in horse-harness seem to change quickly over time, and it also seems that horses were used further down the social scale than we had previously thought. The harness mounts from Nether Wallop, Hampshire (HAMP-408148) and Studley Roger, North Yorkshire (YORYM-832B06) show the variety, while the brooch from Bletchingdon, Oxfordshire (BUC-DF2691) suggests that women may have also gained status from wearing brooches that looked like horse-harness mounts.

Several early Anglo-Saxon items recorded this year had clearly been repaired. The silver sword-pyramid from Niton and Whitwell, Isle of Wight (IOW-7FBDB7) is broken across the bar. Although the use of these items is still not clearly understood, it helps to see that this example has clearly been under strain at this point, and that it was seen as worth repairing. The pendant from Wyke Regis, Dorset (SOMDOR-A8DD87), too, is of uncertain use – perhaps on a belt or at the end of a brooch rather than on a necklace. Its break and subsequent repair show that it had a long and active life, which may help to resolve the debates over whether early Anglo-Saxon ladies acquired new jewellery frequently or wore the same items all their lives.

A cosmopolitan range of finds from later in the period is highlighting the area over which the 'Vikings' moved (and lost) their loot. We have items of Carolingian manufacture from Sleaford, Lincolnshire (DENO-184477) and from Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk (SF-94DBC2 & SF-93D943), and of Irish origin from Sharnford, Leicestershire (LEIC-09D1C8); the dirhem from Studley Roger in Yorkshire is from even further afield. The finds from Torksey, Lincolnshire (DENO-872273 & DENO-DD64A4) in particular highlight both the acquisitiveness of the 'Vikings' and their innovative imagination; it is clear that there is still much to understand about 'Viking' society in Britain.



Brooch (NMS-733911) from mid Norfolk (152 x 64mm)
Illustrator: Jason Gibbons

Brooch (BUC-5FCFC5) from Tyringham, Buckinghamshire (33.29 x 26.1mm)

Brooch (NARC-E36950) from Flore, Northamptonshire (34 x 18.4 x 4.7mm)

At the end of the period, another range of horse accessories has contributed to our knowledge this year. We have another of the rare Class C stirrup-strap mounts, this one found at Swindon, Staffordshire (WAW-1BA854), and also a Class A mount from Potterspury, Northamptonshire (NARC-3B2C14) with decoration on the reverse. This would have been concealed when in use, and so at first sight would seem to be a fluke, or a mistake; but there are now three like this known (two of which were recorded by the PAS) and so it is beginning to look rather like a deliberate, if peculiar, addition.

A newly discovered early Anglo-Saxon cemetery site in mid Norfolk

In October 2005 a metal-detecting rally took place in mid Norfolk, organised by the Norwich Metal Detector Club, and the finds discovered were subsequently recorded by the PAS in Norfolk. Although artefacts from many periods were recorded, it was the Early Medieval finds that were of greatest interest. These included the foot of a cruciform brooch (NMS-74DE85), the head of a small-long brooch (NMS-74BA41) and nearly all of a great square-headed brooch (NMS-733911), now broken into three pieces. In addition, a gold solidus of Byzantine Emperor Anastasius I (reigned AD 491-518) with a suspension loop and an incomplete gold bead (Treasure case 2005 T474) was found. These artefacts together strongly suggest the presence of an early Anglo-Saxon cemetery on the site. Despite the loss to agriculture of the immediate funerary context, the precise recording of the objects and their findspots makes the identification of an otherwise unknown early Anglo-Saxon cemetery site possible. This site joins the approximately 40 such sites now known from Norfolk.

Fifth-century supporting-arm brooches from Tyringham, Buckinghamshire and Flore, Northamptonshire

A copper-alloy supporting-arm brooch (BUC-5FCFC5) was discovered by Mel Bannister near Tyringham, Buckinghamshire and recorded with Ros Tyrrell (Buckinghamshire FLO). The broad headplate is decorated with horizontal moulded lines, and has four points along the upper edge. The two inner points conceal two perforated lugs to carry the axis bar,

Brooch (BUC-DF45B6) from Buckland, Buckinghamshire (55 x 25 x 1.5mm)

Anglo-Saxon grave discovered at Eastry, Kent

Pendant (SOMDOR-A8DD87) from Wyke Regis, Dorset (51.44 x 40.2 x 3.45mm)

Brooch (WILT-6F2B84) from Over Wallop, Hampshire (30.8 x 2mm)

around which the spring was wrapped; these lugs are now almost obscured by rust. The two points at the corners are merely decorative. The headplate tapers into the short bow which in turn flares slightly into the foot. This is decorated with more moulded horizontal lines and has a catchplate on the reverse. The terminal of the foot is missing.

A second brooch of supporting-arm type (NARC-E36950) was found by Nick Berry while metal-detecting in Flore, Northamptonshire, and reported to Tom Brindle (Northamptonshire FLO). On the reverse the headplate has two lugs which hold the iron pin bar. The remains of the iron spring are still corroded onto the bar, but the rest of the pin does not survive. Nearly all of the catchplate survives at the other end of the brooch.

The supporting-arm brooch type takes its name from the wide headplate which 'supports' the axis bar and spring. Supporting-arm brooches date to the early to mid fifth century, which could be described as the darkest part of the Dark Ages, and are clearly derived from Roman prototypes. They are rare finds in England, but are more common in northern Germany between the mouths of the Elbe and Weser rivers – the traditional homeland of the Saxons. Arguably, therefore, these brooches are evidence for the earliest Saxon settlement in England.

A fifth- or sixth-century brooch from Buckland, Buckinghamshire

A copper-alloy object (BUC-DF45B6), found by Derrick Dunks in fields near Aston Clinton, Buckland, Buckinghamshire, was recorded by Ros Tyrrell (Buckinghamshire FLO). It turned out to be an unusual brooch of early Anglo-Saxon date, with a rounded sub-triangular head, a small bow and a sub-rectangular foot; both head and foot are embellished with flat circular knobs, some of which are now missing. It has been suggested by Barry Ager (British Museum) that a continental origin is likely for this brooch, as it shows similarities to brooch forms common in France and north-western Germany. Remarkably, however, there appear to be only two similar brooches yet known. One comes from Bremen-Mahndorf in Germany, an unsurprising findspot, but the other was found in grave 11 from the early Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Dinton, near Aylesbury, just eight miles from Aston Clinton. There is perhaps a further link with a fragmentary brooch made from gilded silver found at Shelfanger, Norfolk, and now in Norwich Castle Museum. Only the bow and half of the headplate survive, but the headplate is again of rounded form and is embellished with flat knobs. Barry Ager's work on the Buckland brooch raises the possibility that, although clearly derived from continental exemplars, the fact that three of the four known examples have been found in England may indicate that this particular type may be a local copy.

Exploring the origins of Anglo-Saxon Eastry, Kent

In May 2005, FLOs and volunteers from the PAS, along with members of the White Cliffs Metal Detecting Club, assisted Channel 4's *Time Team* at Eastry, Kent. The aim was to explore Eastry's Anglo-Saxon origins, and in particular to see if any evidence of the *villa regalis* of the Kentish kings could be located. In the event, no burials or structures of Anglo-Saxon date were found. However, a metal-detector survey during the course of filming produced a silver garnet-inlaid brooch fragment (Treasure case 2005 T16) and D-shaped buckle loop – both of sixth-century date – and the head of a cruciform brooch of the late fifth century. On the summit of the hill, the base of a sixth-century glass cone beaker was recovered from the foundation trench of a Medieval post mill.

Further discoveries at Eastry came in June, when the owners of Cross Farm became concerned that animal burrowing would disturb an early Anglo-Saxon grave that was known to be present beneath a large tree-stump in their garden. The tree had blown down in the storm of 1987, revealing the grave, but the stump had subsequently been allowed to fall back into place. An excavation by Andrew Richardson (Kent FLO) and Vince Burrows revealed a badly damaged grave with a very fragmentary glass claw beaker, dating to the mid sixth century, placed across the partial remains of a skull. Human long bones were also recovered from disturbed areas around the grave, although it remains to be seen whether these are from a single individual. Later in the year, however, a second grave, this time substantially complete, was located during the laying of a patio on the north side of the farm house. This was excavated by Andrew Richardson, Vince Burrows and David Holman. As well as the very well preserved skeleton of an adult female, this burial contained a pair of copper-alloy cruciform brooches, an iron buckle and knife, and an iron ring with copper-alloy attachment. The contents of this burial, which date to the late fifth or early sixth century, have kindly been donated to Maidstone Museum by the landowners, Mr and Mrs Stock.

A sixth-century pendant from Wyke Regis, Dorset.

An impressive sixth-century bell-shaped pendant (SOMDOR-A8DD87) was discovered many years ago by David Graham Rees during building work in Wyke Regis near Weymouth, Dorset. It was recently reported to Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevarthen and Naomi Payne (Somerset and Dorset FLOs), via Dorset County Museum, and was identified with the help of Helen Geake (Finds Adviser, Medieval Artefacts) and Kevin Leahy (Finds Adviser, Metals & Metalworking).
The pendant is made from copper-alloy, and is decorated in Bichrome Style and Salin's Style I. The upper part is gilded, and has two symmetrical Style I animals with curving necks and open jaws. Each neck is filled with a further Style I animal, this time a complete backward-looking beast. The lower part of the pendant is formed from a triangle of grey solder, which would originally have held a piece of undecorated silver sheet. The contrast between the highly decorated gilded area and the smooth shine of the silver sheet creates the distinctive Bichrome Style, which dates the pendant to the mid to late sixth century. The original means of suspending the pendant was broken during its active life, and the object was mended by riveting on a new cylindrical loop made from a single piece of copper-alloy sheet.

The Wyke Regis pendant belongs to a small but growing group of copper-alloy pendants, some gilded, which are characterised by their bell-like shape and flat profile. The PAS database includes examples from Beddingham, East Sussex (SUR-6FBE75) and Micheldever, Hampshire (HAMP3442). There are six examples known from cemetery sites, at Baginton in Warwickshire, Barrington A in Cambridgeshire, Brighthampton in Oxfordshire, Sheffield's Hill in Lincolnshire, Chessell Down on the Isle of Wight, and Worthy Park in Hampshire. A further unprovenanced find from Suffolk, now in the Ashmolean Museum, brings the total now to nine. No two are quite the same, but the Wyke Regis pendant has many similarities to the Chessell Down and Suffolk examples.

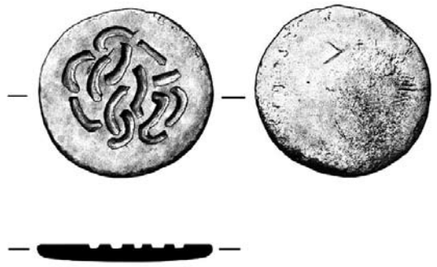
These pendants do not appear to have been used on necklaces, but perhaps as purse or belt ornaments; alternatively, they may have dangled from the foot of a florid cruciform brooch, some of which are fitted with suspension loops.

A sixth-century disc brooch from Over Wallop, Hampshire

An incomplete early Anglo-Saxon keystone garnet disc brooch (WILT-6F2B84) was discovered by Pat Lawler in Over Wallop, Hampshire and reported to Katie Hinds (Wiltshire FLO). The central circular setting is now empty, but two of the three surrounding cells retain their original garnet settings. In between the settings, each panel has identical relief decoration in Salin's Style I. The motif appears to be half of a human face, perhaps most like the face on a Class A or B button brooch. The reverse of the brooch is flat with a slightly damaged curl on the catchplate and a large amount of iron staining around the lug.

This brooch type is most often found in Kent, and so Andrew Richardson (Kent FLO) assisted with its analysis. No precise parallel could be found to the human head decoration, however; the decoration on Kentish brooches is restricted to animal or geometric

Vessel foot (KENT-0143D1) from Ash, Kent
(48.36 x 20.29 x 11.43mm)



Bracteate die (ESS-13B5E6) from the Essex/Hertfordshire border
(27.32 x 2.72mm) Illustrator: Roger Massey-Ryan

Bridle mount (HAMP-408148) from Nether Wallop, Hampshire
(width 35mm)

Hanging bowl escutcheon (WMID-6E17E0) from Osleston and Thurvaston, Derbyshire (47.1 x 19.3 x 7mm)

forms. In addition, the Over Wallop brooch is made from gilded copper-alloy, in contrast to almost all Kentish brooches which tended to be made from gilded silver. Andrew concluded that the use of gilded copper-alloy, in combination with the unusual decoration and rather basic rim form, suggested that this brooch was a copy, rather than a product, of the main east Kentish workshop. It is probably a local copy of an early Class 2 brooch, which were manufactured and worn between about AD 530 and 570.

A sixth- or early seventh-century vessel foot from Ash, Kent

In March 2006 Darren Bishopp reported a fragment of a copper-alloy object (KENT-0143D1) to Andrew Richardson (Kent FLO). The object, found at Ash, Kent, was subsequently identified as being part of the foot-ring (or 'trivet') of a type of imported copper-alloy vessel known as a 'tripod-ring' bowl, dating to the sixth or early seventh century. It comprises a short leg with expanded foot, with U-shaped loops either side, all connected to part of a large annular ring. 'Tripod-ring' bowls are thought to have been manufactured in the Rhineland during the sixth century. They vary in the design of the trivet, and only four other examples are currently known in England of this type of looped foot. Two of these are also from Ash, but found in graves in the early Anglo-Saxon cemetery a short distance away. Another is from the high-status cremation site at Coombe in the neighbouring parish of Woodnesborough, and the most recent find is from the early Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Mill Hill, Deal. Thus these vessels appear to have had a very limited distribution in England, confined to part of the easternmost part of Kent. About ten tripod-ring bowls with other forms of trivet have been found more widely spread across eastern England, with findspots in Yorkshire, Suffolk and Kent.

A sixth- or seventh-century bracteate die from the Essex/Hertfordshire border

While metal-detecting early in 2005, Robert Rogers found an early Anglo-Saxon copper-alloy die (ESS-13B5E6), which he reported to Caroline McDonald (Essex FLO). The die would have been used to make pendants of a type known as bracteates, from the Latin bractea, meaning a thin metal plate; these pendants are found in Scandinavia, Germany and England. The die is circular, with a negative design cut into one face. The design is of an entwined animal, but it is slightly garbled and perhaps misunderstood by the engraver and so the body parts are hard to identify. Morten Axboe (National Museum, Copenhagen) kindly studied images of the die, and by comparing it with known bracteate pendants he was able to establish that it was of a previously unknown design. Bracteate dies are rare finds and shed important light on manufacturing processes in the early Anglo-Saxon period.

A seventh-century bridle mount from Nether Wallop, Hampshire

An early Anglo-Saxon copper-alloy mount (HAMP-408148) was found by Peter Barker in Nether Wallop, Hampshire and reported to Jodi Puls (Hampshire FLO). The mount is gilded and is basically cruciform in shape, with a slightly convex circular centre set with a cabochon garnet. Around the garnet, the circular area is divided into two concentric rings, each decorated with diagonal lines to create a twisted effect; the twists run in opposite directions. Two of the four arms are now largely missing, and the surviving arms are of distinctly different shapes. One is mushroom- or 'pelta-' shaped, and decorated with two bird beaks with Salin's Style II interlace between; the other is a simpler asymmetric drooping shape, again infilled with Style II interlace. Both of the surviving arms retain a pierced lug for attachment on the reverse, and one of the broken arms also has evidence of an attachment lug.

A close parallel to the Nether Wallop mount was found in 2002 in Cowbridge, Glamorgan (NMGW-EA7D22). The Cowbridge mount has a similar circular centre, but this time has only one ring of twist-effect lines; it is set with a spherical blue glass bead. The arms on the Cowbridge mount are longer, but are again of two different types; one arm is pelta-shaped, but three are in the shape of a profile bird with beak, leg, wing and tail.

When the two mounts are compared, it can be seen that the surviving asymmetric arm on the Nether Wallop mount must derive its shape from the outline of the bird arms on the Cowbridge mount. It is also probable that the two missing arms were of similar shape. Chris Fern (an independent researcher specialising in animal art of the sixth and seventh centuries) has studied the Cowbridge mount in conjunction with the harness fittings from Sutton Hoo mound 17, and has concluded that it represents a development from a circular mount plus a separate pelta-shaped mount to a point where the two mounts are made in one piece. This type of mount would have been used on a bridle, at the junction of the noseband and cheekpiece where three functional straps meet a decorative terminal. The Nether Wallop mount must represent a further development from the Cowbridge mount, as its decoration is clearly derivative. It should, therefore, date to the middle or later seventh century.

Amulet (SF-9FF146) from Little Wilbraham, Cambridgeshire
(32 x 26.4mm)

Early Anglo-Saxon harness mounts are rarely found in traditional archaeological contexts, and so our knowledge of them is at present limited. The PAS's ability to record large quantities of casual losses as well means that it is beginning to make a significant contribution to the study of these items, and so is adding an extra dimension to our knowledge of the early Anglo-Saxon period.

A hanging bowl escutcheon from Osleston and Thurvaston, Derbyshire

A copper-alloy hanging bowl escutcheon (WMID-6E17E0) was found by Mark Jones while metal-detecting in the Osleston and Thurvaston area, Derbyshire and recorded with Caroline Johnson (Staffordshire & West Midlands FLO).

The escutcheon would have been attached to the shoulder of the bowl, and the hook would have joined the rim leaving a gap in which a ring would have been held. The body has a teardrop shape, which in combination with the hook would have been reminiscent of a bird with folded wings. It is decorated with an enamelled spiral design, which although now badly corroded seems to have been inexpertly made. The enamel is now a pale yellowish colour, but may originally have been red. Just two similar examples of bird-shaped escutcheons with enamelled spirals are known, from Benniworth in Lincolnshire and Faversham in Kent.

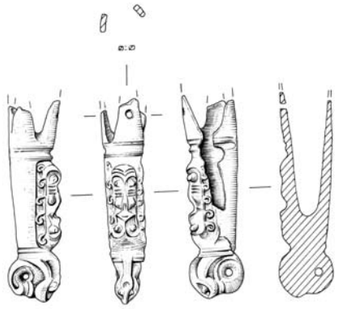
Hanging bowls are mysterious objects, combining 'Celtic' art-styles and evidence of manufacture in western and northern Britain, with findspots in early Anglo-Saxon graves of the seventh and perhaps also the later sixth centuries. There is controversy about what this may mean in terms of date and culture; are they rare evidence for continuity between Roman and Anglo-Saxon life, or do they show evidence for contacts between the Early Medieval British and the Anglo-Saxons? There is also no agreement on what they were used for, and suggestions include holding wine for feasting, water for washing or oil for lamps.

A late sixth- or seventh-century antler amulet from Little Wilbraham, Cambridgeshire

An incomplete antler disc fragment with a copper-alloy suspension loop riveted onto one edge (SF-9FF146) was found in Little Wilbraham, Cambridgeshire by Duncan Pangborn and reported to Faye Minter (Suffolk FLO). The disc was found nearly 2km from the famous large early Anglo-Saxon cemetery in the same parish, and so was not associated with this site.

Brooch (BUC-DF2691) from Bletchingdon, Oxfordshire (44.92 x 2.91mm)

Sword strap-mount (IOW-7FBDB7) from Niton and Whitwell, Isle of Wight (6.5 x 13 x 13.5mm)



Drinking horn terminal (LIN-43B873) from Lenton Keisby and Osgodby, Lincolnshire (52 x 8 x 10mm) Illustrator: Dave Watt

Tremissis (BUC-A32A07) from Aston Abbots, Buckinghamshire (12.47 x 1.39mm)

The disc is decorated on both faces by double ring-and-dot motifs. The copper-alloy loop has flattened rectangular terminals with a central copper-alloy rivet through them and the disc holding the loop in place. The loop itself is narrower and has a D-shaped cross-section.

This object has been examined by Ian Riddler (a bone and antler small finds specialist) who has identified it as a fragment from a disc of late sixth- or seventh-century date, made from the burr of a red deer antler. Discs of this type are found in seventh-century Anglo-Saxon graves, mostly from the second half of the century, and are usually found at the waist. They are too small to have functioned as the rims of bags or purses, and are thought instead to have been used as suspension rings; more complete examples have a series of perforations around the edge.

Decorated antler rings can be found in the graves of women or of children, and they seem to have been markers of female gender. They undoubtedly fulfilled a practical purpose, but Ian Riddler points out that they may also have had a symbolic function. Antlers are the fastest-growing bones within the animal kingdom and males renew them every year, allowing them to be seen as symbols of regeneration, power, fertility and immortality.

Faye was able to put Duncan in touch with Julia Park, a local archaeological conservator, who has since conserved and cleaned this object at his request.

A sixth- or seventh-century disc brooch from Bletchingdon, Oxfordshire.

Peter Knowles found what he suspected was an Early Medieval disc brooch (BUC-DF2691) while detecting near Bletchingdon, Oxfordshire, some years ago. He brought it to Ros Tyrrell (Buckinghamshire FLO) at a Weekend Wanderers' metal-detecting rally, in the hope that the piece's date could be confirmed. Chris Fern (an independent researcher specialising in animal art of the sixth and seventh centuries) has examined the brooch. The copper-alloy brooch is decorated with a central circular setting made up of a garnet set within a surround of white material, which may perhaps be shell. Around this is a ribbed collar, and then a wide panel decorated in relief with a clockwise procession of six animals, each one biting the foot of the creature in front. The whole is surrounded by a border made up of angular 'S' shapes.

Each of the animals consists of a hind leg, a triple-strand curving body, a head-frame with a curled-back top, a dot eye and jaws that open to bite the leg of the animal in front. Chris Fern comments that, although the animals are in Salin's Style II, certain details of the composition recall Style I and the brooch should therefore date to the last quarter of the sixth or first decade of the seventh century. Many of the compositional elements can be paralleled on decorative circular mounts from early Anglo-Saxon horse-harnesses, which date from the early seventh century onwards. Some of these were subsequently converted into brooches, and so it is tempting to see the use of this type of circular Style II-decorated brooch as a later seventh-century fashion drawing on the harness mount as a prototype. The discovery of the Bletchingdon brooch shows that the story is not so simple.

A seventh-century pyramidal sword strap-mount from Niton and Whitwell, Isle of Wight

A complete seventh-century pyramidal sword strap-mount (IOW-7FBDB7, Treasure case 2005 T561) was found by Dudley Holmes while using a metal-detector in the parish of Niton and Whitwell, Isle of Wight. The find was recorded by Frank Basford (Isle of Wight FLO) on the basis of a report provided by Sonja Marzinzik (British Museum).

The mount is made from silver, and is hollow. The open base has a bar across it, through which a strap could be threaded; this bar was broken in antiquity and a soldered repair added. Each of the four faces has four recessed fields which are defined by narrow grooves, originally filled with niello; a small amount of niello survives in the grooves, and the recesses are gilded. At the apex is a square cell lined with impressed gold foil; the inlay of this cell, perhaps originally a garnet, is now missing. A similar silver pyramidal strap-mount, with nielloed grooves and recessed gilded fields on each face, has been recorded from Kilham, East Yorkshire. The Isle of Wight County Museum Service is hoping to acquire the find.

A seventh-century drinking horn terminal from Lenton Keisby and Osgodby, Lincolnshire

A gilded copper-alloy terminal (LIN-43B873) from an early Anglo-Saxon drinking horn was discovered by David Robinson at Lenton Keisby and Osgodby, Lincolnshire, and recorded with Adam Daubney (Lincolnshire FLO). The terminal is oval in cross-section and tapers slightly towards the tip. The wider end is slightly splayed, and divides into three arms, one of which is pierced for attachment to the horn; the other two arms are incomplete. The tip is in the form of a bird's head, with the beak curling around to form a loop which may perhaps have held a suspension ring or cord. There is no evidence for any wear within the loop, so any suspension device was presumably made from a soft material such as textile or leather.

Mount (SF-93D943) from near Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk (39 x 43.7 x 5mm)

There is a single panel of relief decoration on the terminal, covering about half of the surface; the reverse is undecorated. The gilding appears to have been confined to the decorated parts of the object. The ornament is in Salin's Style I, and can be read in two ways. It may represent a pair of animal heads, each with a pair of knob eyes; alternatively, it may be a single beast facing the wider attachment end, with the 'eyes' of the other animal then becoming nostrils. The long sides of the decorated panel are filled with five or possibly six scrolls, perhaps representing a mane.

Drinking horn mounts are rare finds from the early Anglo-Saxon period, and it is thought that drinking horns were expensive items confined to the upper echelons of society. The ornament on the Lenton terminal can perhaps be seen as a cruder version of the design of the anthropomorphic clips of the drinking horn rim mounts from Sutton Hoo, dating it to the seventh century.

A seventh-century gold tremissis from Aston Abbotts, Buckinghamshire

While metal-detecting in a field near Aston Abbotts, Dave Tombs discovered a mid seventh-century pale gold coin (BUC-A32A07). This tremissis is copied from a late fourth-century Roman solidus and shows, on the reverse, Victory between two enthroned emperors. To an Anglo-Saxon, however, this motif may have appeared to show an angel enfolding two smaller figures. This tremissis type was produced in the south-east of England, and so far only eastern English findspots are known for this type, more precisely in the area from Kent to Norfolk. The present find is therefore quite a departure from the established pattern. This coin won *The Searcher* 'coin of the year' (2005) competition.

Two eighth-century Carolingian mounts from near Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk

Two copper-alloy mounts were found close together near Bury St Edmunds by Mark Frost and reported to Faye Minter (Suffolk FLO). Both are made from copper-alloy, with gilded, silvered and nielloed decoration. The first mount (SF-94DBC2) is triangular, with very worn edges which may now be incomplete. The corners may originally have had attachment holes, and there are traces of possible solder on the reverse. The front of this mount has a silvered and nielloed three-armed motif, surrounded by gilded panels filled with stylised foliage.

Sceatta (NMS-76B9A2) from Fincham, Norfolk (diameter 12.5mm)

Sceatta (ESS-6C4717) from Tiptree, Essex (diameter 11.3mm)

Terminal (BERK-07A2A4) from West Ilsley, Berkshire (24.56 x 13.59 x 10.91mm)

Possible harness fitting (LEIC-09D1C8) from Sharnford, Leicestershire (16 x 14 x 3.5mm)

The second mount (SF-93D943) is in much better condition. It is trefoil in shape, with a small central triangular silvered boss surrounded by a larger triangular gilded panel decorated with deeply grooved ovals. Each corner of this panel has a small circular hole, one of which has not been fully pierced; it seems likely therefore that these holes were decorative rather than functional. Three silvered D-shaped panels form the lobes of the trefoil, and each of these is decorated with a deeply engraved acanthus leaf surrounded by a narrow border groove filled with niello; the acanthus leaf itself has traces of gilding, and the sides of the lobes are also gilded. Projecting from each lobe is a smaller and slightly flatter trefoil, not silvered or gilded but with three perforations for attachment. Both mounts have been cast leaving the reverse slightly rough, and both have a slightly curved cross-section. The acanthus leaf motif is characteristic of Carolingian art, and these mounts were certainly made in France in the eighth century; they have been identified as sword-belt mounts. Similar mounts, however, have been found in Viking Age hoards and graves in Scandinavia, and it seems probable that the mounts from near Bury St Edmunds were lost by ninth- or tenth-century 'Vikings' rather than having been exported from France to eighth-century Suffolk. The shape of this type of mount is close to that of the late ninth- or tenth-century Viking Age trefoil brooch, and it seems that towards the end of their long life they were still providing inspiration to 'Viking' metalworkers.

The occurrence of these mounts on what previously appeared to be a predominantly Roman site is at first sight surprising. The majority of the previous finds were Roman coins; to date over 350 have been found, which date from AD 260 to 378, with 60 per cent of them dating to between AD 330 and 348. An increasing number of middle to late Anglo-Saxon finds, however, includes two eighth- or ninth-century ansate brooches (SF-B340A2 & SF-E242D4) a tenth-century strap-end of Thomas's Class E, type 3 (SF-935106), a long-cross penny of Aethelred II (SF-A74454), and several sherds of tenth- or eleventh-century Thetford Ware. This scatter of finds may indicate a middle to late Anglo-Saxon settlement, perhaps associated with the now isolated church a quarter of a mile to the east. As Mark has plotted every find with a hand-held Global Positioning Systems (GPS) device, distinct areas of activity of different periods can be highlighted and the extent and interrelationships between the finds scatters can be examined.

Eighth-century sceattas from Fincham and Briningham, Norfolk

Fincham in Norfolk is well known as a centre of Iron Age occupation, but recently two silver Anglo-Saxon sceattas have been discovered in the area and reported to Adrian Marsden (Norfolk Museums Service). Both are Continental in origin, and each is of particular interest in itself.

One, found by Michael Carlile, is a Merovingian issue (NMS-768783), which is very rare in Britain; it is similar, though not identical, to an example found at Doddington, Lincolnshire, and recorded on the Early Medieval Corpus database (EMC2002.0273). The obverse shows a diademed bust facing right with a cross in front of the face, and the reverse has a cross encircled by a serpent-like device.

The other, found by Charles Sproule, is a Series E 'Porcupine' type (NMS-76B9A2). This is a relatively common type of sceatta, but the Fincham example has an interesting and elaborate 'ring and pellet' design on the reverse. Continental sceattas are not uncommon finds in Britain but these two, found in the same parish, cast light both on the continuous nature of human occupation at Fincham and on the circulation of coins produced abroad during this early period.

Increased finds of sceattas are beginning to show that early eighth-century England had far more money circulating than was previously thought. To the Fincham examples must be added a number of others, including a group of three from the same site at Briningham found by Simon Gray (NMS-76D444, NMS-760D7 & NMS-770675). Two of these are Series R types, one with a runic inscription reading *spi* in front of the bust, whilst the third is an unusual type Q piece with a facing bust on the obverse and an animal with a long swirling tail advancing left on the reverse.

An eighth-century sceatta from Tiptree, Essex

In December 2005, Corinne Mills made an important and unusual find of an eighth-century silver Anglo-Saxon sceatta of 'monitascorum' type (ESS-6C4717) which she recorded with Caroline McDonald (Essex FLO). The obverse shows a diademed bust facing right. Normally this type has 'MONITA SCORVM' on the obverse, but in this case reads 'DE LVNDONIA', the inscription normally found on Series L coins. The reverse has a 'porcupine' motif with the inscription 'ZCORVM'. If the inscriptions are taken at face value, this is an ecclesiastical issue ('Moneta Sanctorum') from London, presumably issued for a bishop of London. This coin is only the fourth known specimen of the type. It was bought by Colchester Museums, which had previously acquired the second-known discovery (ESS-F6FC74), also from Essex and reported to the PAS in March 2004. Both coins are now on display at Colchester Castle Museum.

A late eighth-century terminal from West Ilsley, Berkshire

An Anglo-Saxon zoomorphic terminal (BERK-07A2A4, Treasure case 2005 T167) was found by Thomas McKenna in West Ilsley, Berkshire and reported to Kate Sutton (Berkshire & Oxfordshire FLO). The terminal is made of silver and is partly gilded. It is roughly pyramidal, with a socket at the wider end which presumably held a wooden object. The socket is rectangular, with two small extensions which look as if they were intended to accommodate ridges on the object; these extensions, although now quite worn, are in the form of simple animal heads. A large silver rivet across the socket would have fixed the terminal in place.

The terminal is in the shape of an animal's head, probably intended to be a dragon. It has large drop-shaped eyes, which taper into spirals which may be intended as ears. Two rounded lobes hang from each ear down the side of the terminal. The dragon's muzzle is decorated on top with gilded curving lines, and ends in two nostrils. The mouth is a bold, slightly curving line along each side of the terminal, ending above what may be a protruding rolled-up tongue. The sides of the terminal are embellished with borders of minute dots, and more rows of dots are found around the edges underneath. The bottom of the terminal sits comfortably on a flat surface. The curved lines on the muzzle and the spirals above the eyes are both also found on the animal terminal on the front of the famous helmet from Coppergate, York. There are also more distant parallels with other top-quality late eighth-century objects, such as the silver scabbard-chapes from St Ninian's Isle, Shetland. The West Ilsley terminal, although small, is a worthy addition to this widely distributed group. West Berkshire Museum hopes to acquire this item under the Treasure Act 1996.

A fragment of an eighth- or ninth-century Irish object from Sharnford, Leicestershire

A fragment of gilded copper-alloy (LEIC-09D1C8) was found by Paul Devenyi at Sharnford, Leicestershire and reported to Wendy Scott (Leicestershire & Rutland FLO). The fragment has a raised border around a panel of chip-carved interlace, which has traces of gilding. On the reverse are the remains of an attachment lug. Susan Youngs (an expert on Early Medieval Irish metalwork) has suggested that it may be a fragment of strap-union, attached to a leather strap by passing the lug through a slit in the leather and then threading a pin through a hole in the lug. This object may belong to a group of similar strap or harness fittings which includes an example recorded on the PAS database from Freckenham, Suffolk (SF8875). They date to the eighth or ninth century and have Irish affinities, but may have been spread to England by later 'Viking' activity.

Brooch (DENO-184477) from Sleaford, Lincolnshire
(32.14 x 34.2 x 14.22)

Brooch (WMID-054B67) from Ilam, Staffordshire
(90.7 x 66 x 1.6mm)

An eighth- or ninth-century brooch from Sleaford, Lincolnshire

A copper-alloy Frankish-Carolingian object, probably a brooch (DENO-184477), was found by Richard Burton near Sleaford, Lincolnshire, and recorded by Rachel Atherton (Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire FLO). The brooch is rectangular in shape, with four pierced roundels down one long edge and further perforations in the opposite corners. On the reverse are two lugs, one perforated and the other broken; these could well be the lug and catchplate for a brooch pin. The object is highly decorative, with typical Carolingian acanthus leaf moulding, silver inlay and gilding dating it to the eighth or ninth centuries. A similar object (DENO-872273), probably a strap-mount, from Torksey, Lincolnshire, has also been reported to Rachel Atherton. This is much smaller than the first object, at less than a quarter of the weight, but is clearly in the same style, with four piercings along one edge, foliate moulding, silver inlay and gilding. It lacks a lug or catchplate on the reverse, but has flattened platforms where these could either have been filed away or could have been separately soldered on. No precise parallel has yet been found for these two objects. The number of Carolingian objects found in this country is small and yet the range of forms and types is very wide; it is believed that they result not so much from trade with France during the eighth and ninth centuries as from looting and hoarding during the subsequent 'Viking' period.

A late eighth- or early ninth-century brooch from Ilam, Staffordshire

An unusual and highly decorative late eighth- or early ninth-century brooch (WMID-054B67) was found by Julian Lee while metal-detecting near Ilam, Staffordshire and recorded with Caroline Johnson (Staffordshire & West Midlands FLO). The brooch is made of copper alloy and has extensive traces of gilding. It is a lozenge shape, with a flat undecorated cross separating the design into four quarters. The centre of the cross and the end of each of the arms are expanded into roundels which, although gilded, would each originally have been fitted with a boss. Around the central cross, each quarter is decorated with a fine and tightly coiled rectangular spiral or Greek key motif. The spirals are not perfectly delineated; although there seems to be an attempt at a symmetrical design across a diagonal axis, there are quite a few mistakes. Despite this, the overall effect is of a neatly made brooch. On the back of the brooch there are substantial corroded remains of the iron pin. This was of the one-piece construction used on several brooch types in the eighth and ninth centuries; a flat metal strip was bent into a catch at one end, and shaped into a pin with a coiled spring at the other. The strip was normally attached to the back of the brooch with rivets which would have had decorative domed heads. On the Ilam brooch these rivets pass through the central roundel and two of the outer roundels,

Brooch (DENO-DD64A4) from Torksey, Lincolnshire
(19.85 x 18.55 x 7.74mm)

Runic fragment (ESS-5FBE35) from Kelvedon, Essex
(0.9 x 0.8 x 0.5mm)

but they are of iron, a metal noted more for its strength than for its decorative qualities. Perhaps these functional rivets were concealed beneath soldered-on bosses; the missing non-functional rivets to either side could have been made of a more attractive metal. In general, however, middle Anglo-Saxon brooches with intricate decoration and decorative bosses are circular. Contemporary lozenge-shaped brooches are known, but are much smaller and have much simpler stamped decoration. The Ilam brooch perhaps represents a link between the two brooch types.

An early ninth-century brooch from Torksey, Lincolnshire

A large and significant collection of metal-detected finds from Torksey, Lincolnshire, has been reported to Rachel Atherton (Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire FLO) by three finders. Ranging in date from Roman through to early Post-Medieval, the largest and most important group of finds dates from the ninth to eleventh centuries – the Viking Age. The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle documents the over-wintering of the Great 'Viking' Army at Torksey in 873-4, and the site subsequently seems to have become a market site. Although it is known that people have been metal-detecting on the site for many years, very few finds have been recorded until now. Among the finds is a Viking Age copper-alloy brooch (DENO-DD64A4) depicting a 'gripping beast', one of the most popular motifs in early 'Viking' art. The 'beast' here may be an animal, but its large head looks suspiciously human; the triangular body and upturned legs are schematic at best, but the narrow arms clearly run down to grip the legs just above the ankles. A second human-looking head sits on top, looking upwards. The brooch is a remarkable object with no precise parallel yet found. Other Viking Age finds from the site include strap-ends, fragments of Anglo-Saxon metalwork, lead gaming pieces, and a lead Thor's hammer. The weights include polyhedral, spherical and decorated lead types, and the many coins include the largest collection of Islamic dirhem fragments yet recorded in this country. Finds of earlier date include early Anglo-Saxon brooches, a girdle hanger and wrist-clasps, suggesting the presence of late fifth- or sixth-century burials. The reporting of the Torksey finds will add hugely to our knowledge of this important but little-understood site.

A ninth-century runic gold fragment from Kelvedon, Essex

An intriguing small gold fragment (ESS-5FBE35, Treasure case 2005 T298) was found in August 2005 by Corinne Mills while she was searching with a metal detector, and was reported to Caroline McDonald (Essex FLO). The small solid object, no bigger than a centimetre in any one direction, was clearly once part of a larger object, although exactly what this larger object was cannot now be established.

Leslie Webster and Sonja Marzinzik (British Museum) have reported that the fragment is engraved on both sides with runes of the Anglo-Saxon runic alphabet, or *futhorc*. Only three letters survive on each face: these may be transliterated as '[...] G D E' and 'T Æ A [...]'. It is not possible to make much sense from such truncated inscriptions, but a tentative interpretation has been offered by David Parsons (University of Nottingham) who suggests that it might be a form of the Old English *teah,* meaning 'tie', 'fastening' or, secondarily, 'box', 'case', 'casket' or 'coffer'. The small letters, cut in relief against a background possibly originally inlaid with niello, are typical of ninth-century Anglo-Saxon inscriptions, and the piece is likely to date to that period.

The fragment has been both struck and chopped up, perhaps for use as bullion. This kind of treatment of an object is characteristic of 'Viking' activity in the later ninth or tenth century, and Kelvedon is in fact on the edge of an area of Scandinavian settlement focused on Colchester. Braintree Museum hopes to acquire the fragment under the Treasure Act 1996.

A ninth-century strap-end from near Stroud, Gloucestershire
A copper-alloy strap-end (GLO-574B74) was found by Nick Pane near Stroud, Gloucestershire, and recorded with Kurt Adams (Gloucestershire & Avon FLO). The strap-end is of typical ninth-century type, with a split attachment end, a central panel of decoration panels and an animal-head terminal. The central panel has Trewhiddle-style plant ornament consisting of four pairs of leaves, but is clumsily made. What makes this strap-end so remarkable, however, is that it also bears unfinished decoration on the reverse. Gabor Thomas (University of Kent) has commented that 'The back provides a rare glimpse of the preliminary stage of applying decoration, where an incised outline was used as a guide for subsequent engraving. For whatever reason, the craftsman decided to abandon his first attempt and start afresh on the other side. From the quality of the finished product this may well have been the result of inexperience; technically speaking there is vast room for improvement; could we be looking at the work of an apprentice?' This strap-end, and the few other unfinished examples known, gives a tantalising snapshot of a ninth-century craftsman at work.

Strap-end (GLO-574B74) from Stroud, Gloucestershire (31 x 8 x 4mm)

A ninth- or tenth-century slick-stone or linen-smoother from Valley, Isle of Anglesey
A lithics collector, Herbert Jones, reported to Mark Lodwick (Finds Co-ordinator, Wales) a strange stone object (NMGW-799DA3) found many years ago at Valley, Isle of Anglesey. The stone was identified as a quartz conglomerate, and has been shaped into a dome with a flat base. An oval ring has been carved into the top, and inlaid with a powdery orange substance.

Linen-smoother (NMGW-799DA3) from Valley, Isle of Anglesey (51.35 x 97.93mm)

Analysis using a scanning electron microscope showed that the inlay was made of calcium carbonate and red ochre.

The artefact has been identified as a slick-stone or linen-smoother. These were made of glass or, more rarely, of stone, and it is commonly thought that they were used for smoothing the seams of linen; they are probably of ninth- or tenth-century date. The base of the stone displays evidence of extensive rubbing or polishing, perhaps consistent with long use as a linen-smoother. The decoration on this example, however, is remarkable, as these objects are generally of plain and utilitarian appearance.

A coin of Byzantine Emperor Leo VI (reigned 886-912) from Wedmore, Somerset
A bronze follis of Emperor Leo VI (GLO-D4B576) was found by Miss Green whilst she was digging in her back garden in Wedmore, Somerset, and brought to Bristol City Museum & Art Gallery for identification and recording with Kurt Adams (Gloucestershire & Avon FLO). The obverse of the coin shows the bust of Leo VI wearing a crown and *chlamys* (a purple mantle) and holding an *akakia* (a cylindrical ceremonial object belonging to the imperial insignia) in his left hand. The inscription reads, in normalised Greek, '*+Leon basileus Rom(aion)*' (Leo, emperor of the Romans), and on the reverse '*+Leon en Theo basileus Romeon*' (Leo, in God emperor of the Romans).

Leo, known as "the Wise" or "the Philosopher", ruled as Emperor between 886 and 912. The state he ruled is known to us today as Byzantium, though contemporaries considered themselves the direct successors of the Romans, as we can see from the inscriptions on the coin. This coin was minted at Constantinople (modern day Istanbul).

Although minted in the late ninth or tenth century, it is often believed that when coins such as these are found in Britain they came here over the last two centuries as tourist souvenirs. Recent research into coins excavated from in stratified archaeological contexts, however, is beginning to suggest that some of this movement from east to west might have occurred much earlier than this. Possible ways in which these coins could have come to Britain include pilgrimage, the Crusades, or the use of western European mercenaries in the Byzantine state.

Follis of Leo VI (GLO-D4B576) from Wedmore, Somerset (25 x 2mm)

Harness mount (YORM-832B06) from Studley Roger, North Yorkshire (51.4 x 3.5mm)

A new Anglo-Saxon 'productive' site at Studley Roger, North Yorkshire
In October a metal-detecting rally took place at Low Lindrick Farm, Studley Roger, North Yorkshire. The area is on farmland close to Fountains Abbey, and had no previous record of any existing archaeology. A total of 160 artefacts was recovered and subsequently recorded

by Simon Holmes and Dave Evans (North & East Yorkshire FLOs). It was during this recording phase that it became apparent that a previously unknown Early Medieval site had been discovered. Most of the finds appear to date from the ninth century, including pins, strap-ends and a styca coin. Several finds, however, point to slightly later 'Viking' activity; these include buckles, a strap-end, and an Arabic dirhem coin.

Sites producing large quantities of Early Medieval finds, particularly coins and dress accessories, are often termed 'productive sites', as their precise identity is uncertain, and may include market sites, high-status settlements, or monasteries. The chronological range of this site is typical, although there are hints of earlier activity, including a mount that may be related to seventh-century horse-harness mounts (YORYM-832B06). This mount can be compared with those from Cowbridge and Nether Wallop (see above).

The Studley Roger mount is hard to date, as its ornament is not chronologically distinctive, but its basic shape, and the attachment lugs on the reverse, are similar to the Cowbridge and Nether Wallop examples.

The information gathered from this new site has been shared with the Viking and Anglo-Saxon Landscape and Economy project at the University of York, which is using data from the PAS and the Early Medieval Corpus of coin finds to understand more about settlement patterns in Early Medieval England.

Penny of Aethelred II (LANCUM-EDE0E0) from Kendal, Cumbria (19.5 x 0.5mm)

Cut halfpenny of Harthacnut (SUR-46CB32) from West Clandon, Surrey

A silver penny of Aethelred II from Kendal, Cumbria
A silver penny (LANCUM-EDE0E0) of Aethelred II (reigned 978-1016) was found by Rocky Hall near Kendal, Cumbria and recorded by Lisa Keys (Lancashire & Cumbria FLA). This coin was minted by a moneyer called Oban, at the York mint. Coin finds from the Anglo-Saxon period are very rare in Cumbria, and even the products of the nearby mint of York tend to spread instead in a southerly and south-easterly direction. The present specimen joins a very small number of coins of Aethelred which had been previously recorded for the North West.

A cut halfpenny of Harthacnut (reigned 1035-42) from West Clandon, Surrey
Among the many coins in large collections from West Clandon, Surrey, being recorded by David Williams (Surrey FLO) is a silver cut halfpenny (SUR-46CB32) of Harthacnut which had been found by Chris Lacey. The coin is of the 'jewelled cross' type and was minted in 1036-1037. The moneyer can be read as Blacaman, but all signs of the mint were eradicated by the coin's cutting. However, Blacaman only minted at Guildford, and this identification is corroborated by the findspot, which was very close to the town.

A late Anglo-Saxon stirrup-strap mount from Potterspury, Northamptonshire
A copper-alloy late Anglo-Saxon stirrup-strap mount (NARC-3B2C14) was found at Potterspury, Northamptonshire by Mark Schollar while searching with a metal-detector, and subsequently reported to Tom Brindle (Northamptonshire FLO). The mount is of Williams's Class A, Type 5; this type is pentagonal, with an animal-head apex which branches into long scrolling tendrils clasping the body of the mount. Above the apex is a circular pierced terminal which, unusually, survives intact on this example; iron corrosion from the rivet now blocks the hole. The base of the mount has a single rivet hole.

The front of the mount is decorated with punched dots, perhaps with small rings around them, and with bands of stamps which may have been made using a roulette. The design appears to be geometric, but is now worn and hard to reconstruct. The use of punched and rouletted decoration is unusual, but there are parallels within Williams's corpus; two of his Class A, Type 5 mounts have punched circle decoration. These were both found in Buckinghamshire, but close to the Northamptonshire border. Williams conjectured that the Buckinghamshire mounts might have been made in the same workshop, and it is possible that the Potterspury mount may also come from this source. Another highly unusual feature on the Potterspury mount is the decoration on the reverse, comprising a vertical line of ring-and-dot motifs running between the two rivet holes. Identical decoration also occurs on the reverse of two other Class A, Type 5 mounts, both with relief decoration of an animal with tendrils, found at Bromeswell in Suffolk and at Gatcombe in the Isle of Wight. This decoration would not have been visible in use and its presence is therefore surprising; it is also remarkable that the three stirrup-strap mounts with this reverse decoration are so widely distributed.

Stirrup-strap mount (NARC-3B2C14) from Potterspury, Northamptonshire (53.6 x 28 x 3.1mm)

Buckle (WILT-BBDA52) from Shrewton, Wiltshire (51 x 27mm)

An eleventh-century buckle from Shrewton, Wiltshire
A copper-alloy buckle (WILT-BBDA52), decorated in the Anglo-Scandinavian Urnes style, was discovered in the parish of Shrewton, Wiltshire by Gordon Heywood and reported to Katie Hinds (Wiltshire FLO). The buckle has an integral plate which is concave in cross-section to accommodate a thick strap, which was held by four copper-alloy rivets; two of these have iron staining around them on the reverse. The frame is also concave on the reverse, and is angled to provide a wide surface for decoration.

The decoration consists of a single animal in high relief, which extends over both the plate and the frame. The animal has its open jaws around one of the rivets next to the pin hole. Beyond the head, the neck curls in a wide circular loop which bulges slightly beyond the

Stirrup-strap mount (WAW-1BA854) from Swindon, Staffordshire (56.59 x 46.27 x 10.75mm)

Prick spur (GLO-961A93) from Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire (40 x 8 x 10mm)

Halfpenny of Edward the Confessor (CORN-F06E11) from Phillack, Cornwall (18.6 x 0.8mm)

straight line of the plate's attachment end. The neck or body then crosses itself back up to the other side of the pin hole, where there is an oval hip, from which a limb extends to the outer corner of the plate. There is a second oval hip at the other outer corner, which does not seem to articulate with the body; this provides a second limb which curls in a circle and interlaces with the loop of the neck, before disappearing back under the hip. The body extends around the frame, interlacing with itself and with at least four curlicues which extend out of the body and beyond the edge of the buckle. The body covers the whole of the frame and continues onto the plate, to end next to the open jaw.

An eleventh-century stirrup-strap mount from Swindon, Staffordshire

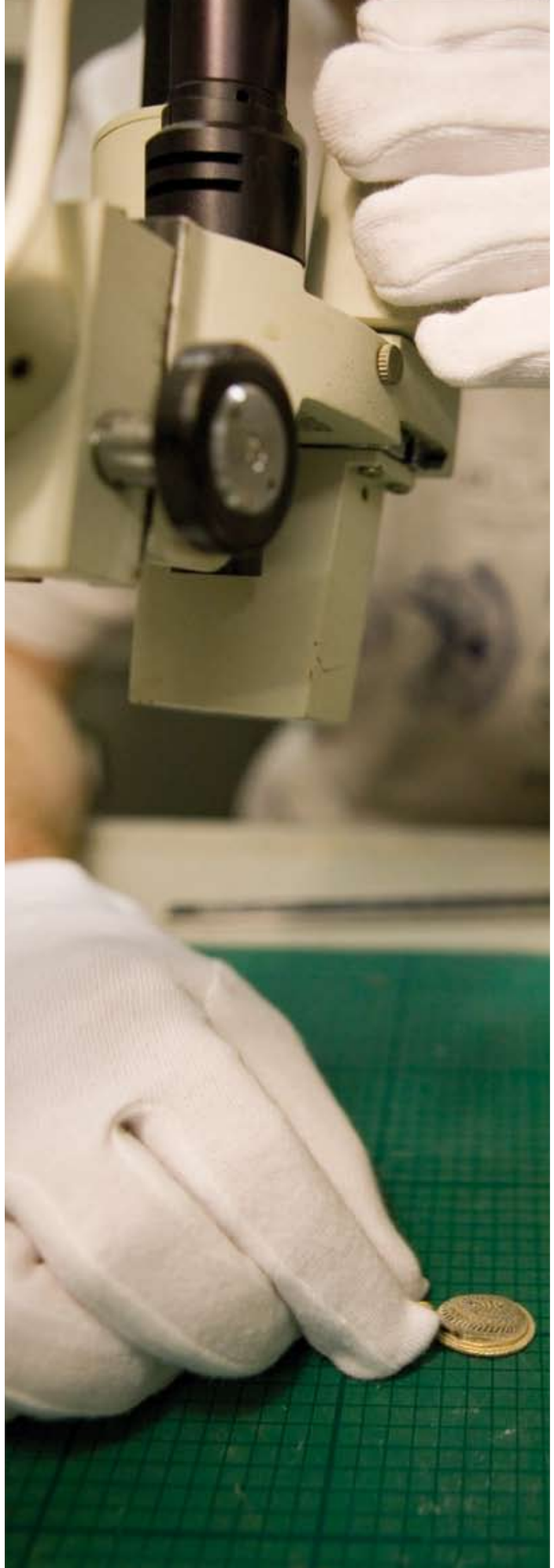
A copper-alloy stirrup strap-mount (WAW-1BA854) was found by Mr Hussey at Swindon, Staffordshire, and recorded with Angie Bolton (Warwickshire & Worcestershire FLO). It is of Williams's Class C, which is characterised by flanges on the sides of the mount. This example has no flange at all at the base of the mount, although it does have the usual two iron rivets inserted towards the lower corners and single iron rivet at the top. The side flanges do not have rivets.

Like other examples of Class C, the Swindon mount is large. Its decoration is not quite like any other stirrup-strap mount known; it is neat and simple, made up of incised lines forming a spiral at each side, a fan of rounded lobes in the centre, and a border around the base. Class C mounts are rare, and their precise function is unknown, but in common with other stirrup-strap mounts they seem to date to the eleventh century.

An eleventh-century prick spur from Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire

Part of a prick spur (GLO-961A93) was found by Nick Pane at Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire and recorded with Kurt Adams (Gloucestershire & Avon FLO). The arms of the spur, which would have fitted around the ankle, are now missing; the surviving part comprises the neck, extending out of the back of the spur, and the pointed goad. The neck is made from copper-alloy, and an iron rod runs through its centre, emerging from the end to form the goad. At the other end the corroding iron has expanded to split the copper alloy.

One end of the long neck is in the shape of an animal head, and the other would originally have fitted on to the curving arms of the spur. The animal head has long oval ears and short open jaws, with a tendril extending out from the lower jaw to end in a rounded curling lobe. The conical point of the goad is held in the open mouth.



The design of the animal head, with its large ears and curling tendril, is in the Urnes style. This is the last phase of Viking Age art, and it dates the spur to the eleventh century. Spurs of this date are very rare, and this example is the first to be recorded on the PAS database. There are two other similar fragments known, from Soberton, Hampshire and from Lewes, East Sussex. The Minchinhampton fragment combines elements from both, and so is of particular importance in tying the group together.

The spur fragment is one of a number of artefacts that have been recorded from the same area, all of which date to the end of the Early Medieval period and many of which are associated with horse harnesses. Although eleventh-century English horse harness were often decorated with 'Viking'-style art, this group appears to have very strong Scandinavian affinities, which is unusual for Gloucestershire.

Two silver halfpennies of Edward the Confessor (reigned 1042-66) from Phillack, Cornwall

A silver voided short-cross broken halfpenny (CORN-F06E11) of Edward the Confessor, was found by David Edwards, while using a metal-detector. The coin was reported to Anna Tyacke (Cornwall FLO) who identified it as a Hammer Cross type (1059-1062), the moneyer probably being Leofwine. The mint name is missing, but could be Canterbury, Derby, Exeter, Huntingdon, London, Norwich, Rochester or Stamford!

Subsequently, another silver voided short-cross cut halfpenny (CORN-635F45) of Edward the Confessor was found by Graham Dyer while using a metal-detector. Anna identified this coin as a Pointed Helmet type, dating to between about 1053 and 1056: the mint is Shaftesbury, but this time the moneyer's name is missing.

These two cut halfpennies were found about 750m apart, on either side of the village of Phillack. Early Medieval coins are rarely found in Cornwall, and these finds help to support the theory that nearby Hayle's prominence as a Roman port continued into the Early Medieval period.

Edited by Helen Geake (Finds Adviser, Medieval Artefacts), Julian Baker (Finds Adviser, Medieval & Post-Medieval Coins) & Michael Lewis (Deputy Head).

MEDIEVAL PERIOD (AD 1066 – 1500)

One of the most interesting aspects of the finds being recorded by the PAS is the links that we can sometimes make with individuals from the past. Each object was made, owned and used by someone like ourselves. For most part these people are anonymous, but sometimes objects bear the names of the individuals who used them. This is particularly true of lead and copper-alloy seal matrices which are relatively common finds. The fourteenth-century matrix from Steyning, West Sussex (SUSS-D030D2) can be linked to a 'Stephen le Power'; one of a number of individuals who bore that name. It is possible that further work will allow us to fully identify 'John Son of Robert of Massingham' whose thirteenth-century matrix was found at Sawtry, Cambridgeshire (NARC-6750A6) and 'Isabella Jane Palande' who owned the matrix from Marton, Warwickshire (WAW-7EE083); indeed, it is interesting to see how many of these seal matrices belonged to women. Many matrices bear inscriptions that show the intense piety of the Medieval period; such as 'Mother of God have mercy on me' on the matrix from Worfield, Shropshire (WMAS-84EB67) and 'thank you Jesus' on that from Fulking, West Sussex (SUSS-D18397). Other matrices bear somewhat doubtful inscriptions: 'I crack nuts' on the matrix from Creslow, Buckinghamshire (BUC-BD1FA4) is likely to be a Medieval innuendo!

Religious faith spilled over into non-religious areas; the horse-harness pendant from Barton-upon-Humber, North Lincolnshire (NLM-D8E523) shows 'a pelican in her piety', symbolising Christ. A seal matrix from Saltfleetby, Lincolnshire (LIN-375750) was cut into the face of a lead bulla. Whether this was just a convenient piece of lead or the use of an object from the papal chancellery gave the matrix additional credibility we shall never know. Lead was commonly used to make pilgrim badges like the example showing a ship from Branston, Lincolnshire (LIN-4C4706) and that showing St Thomas Becket from Frampton, Dorset (SOMDOR-29F941): both badges are likely to have come from Canterbury. Even secular objects like the little mirror case from Lewknor, Oxfordshire may have had a religious use, these mirrors were sometimes held up at a shrine to capture the 'radiant grace' coming from the relic.

While not linked to named individuals, dress fittings were very personal items and were often carefully made. The fifteenth-century strap-end from Gwithian, Cornwall (CORN-F8A740) is a lovely object and, like so many Medieval objects, bears lettering reflecting the piety of the age. On this and other objects, such as the brooches from Tydd St Giles, Cambridgeshire (CAM-249F51) and Shoeburyness, Essex (ESS-OF4B97), we see animal and human figures. The mount from Otley, Suffolk (SF-963393) bears what appears to be an ape, linked to the Marmion family. The padlocks in the form of horses from Hamstead Marshall, Berkshire (BERK-F6BF18) and Wadworth, South Yorkshire (SWYOR-DA4617) and the dog-shaped candle holder from Norton, Northamptonshire (NARC-6F6352) suggest that Medieval life was not all doom and gloom; these are clearly fun objects, made to please.

Coin finds make an important addition to our knowledge of the Medieval period. The discovery of a penny of Stephen (reigned 1135-54) near Eye, Suffolk (SF-7A2FB3) provides important evidence that the coins marked 'EIE' were in fact being struck at Eye. It is also interesting to see what is likely to be a working set of jettons from Little Cheverell, Wiltshire (WILT-E5B125). These are common as single finds but it is unusual to see what is likely to be a set used to keep accounts on the exchequer board. Accountancy is also suggested by the two weights from Southrop, Gloucestershire (WILT-057834 & WILT-054CB3) which were used to check the weight of Continental gold coins. While discussing the finds of Medieval coins made during the last year, mention must be made of the hoard of 300 groats found near Brackley, Northamptonshire (Treasure case 2005 T437) which provides a model of what can be achieved when the finder, landowner and FLO are able to work together on an important discovery.

A silver cut halfpenny of William I (reigned 1066-87) from Phillack, Cornwall

A silver short-cross cut halfpenny (CORN-642B57) of William I was found by Graham Dyer, while using a metal-detector in Phillack parish, Cornwall, only about 150 metres away from the cut halfpenny of Edward the Confessor (reigned 1042-66) that David Edwards found (discussed in the Early Medieval section). The coin was reported to Anna Tyacke (Cornwall FLO) who was able to identify that it was a 'Profile/Cross and Trefoils Type', dating between about 1083 and 1086. The moneyer was Saewine of Exeter (or possibly Northampton); half of the reverse legend was missing, so that only the inscription S[Æ?]WINE O[N..] remains.

Cut halfpenny of William I (CORN-642B57) from Phillack, Cornwall (19 x 0.6mm)

Penny of David I (LANCUM-CBC0E4) from Penrith, Cumbria (20.5 x 1mm)

A silver penny of David I of Scotland (reigned 1124-53) from Penrith, Cumbria

A silver penny (LANCUM-CBC0E4) of David I of Scotland was found by Angela Broomby near Penrith, Cumbria and recorded with Dot Bruns (Lancashire & Cumbria FLO). The finder had no idea what the coin was, but once it was identified she was truly pleased as it turned out to be quite a rare coin. On the PAS database only one other coin of David I has so far been recorded (NCL-489AF4). The specimen from Penrith is of David's last variety, with blundered and meaningless legends.

Penny of Stephen (SF-7A2FB3) from Eye, Suffolk

Swivel (NLM-81CEC7) from Hemingby, Lincolnshire (42.6 x 18mm)

Brooch (CAM-249F51) from Tydd St Giles, Cambridgeshire (55 x 26mm)

Padlock (BERK-F6BF18) from Hamstead Marshall, Berkshire (41.24 x 32.5 x 14.39mm)

A silver penny of Stephen (reigned 1135-54) from Eye, Suffolk
A rare silver penny of King Stephen (SF-7A2FB3) was found by Alan Smith near Eye, Suffolk and reported to Faye Minter (Suffolk FLO). The coin is a complete penny and was identified by Martin Allen (Fitzwilliam Museum) who confirmed that the coin is an exceptionally interesting find. To date, four Stephen type 1 pennies with the mint indication 'EI' have been known, as well as a fragmentary type 6 penny of the same ruler reading 'EIE'. This evidence suggests that they are from a mint at Eye, a locality granted to William of Blois, Count of Boulogne (1153-1159) by his father King Stephen. The findspot of this new coin supports this theory. It is the first type 1 penny of the mint with the reading 'EIE' to be found, and will hopefully be acquired by a museum.

An eleventh- or twelfth-century swivel from Hemingby, Lincolnshire
A cast copper-alloy Medieval swivel (NLM-81CEC7) was found by Kevin Wright in Hemingby, Lincolnshire and was reported to Lisa Staves (North Lincolnshire FLO). The plain hollow globular body consists of two halves joined by a rivet. Each half has an integral trapezoidal loop, one of which is turned 90° to the other. The top of the loop is narrowed and offset for a strap. The function of these swivels is unknown, though it has been suggested that they were used on dog leads. This is a particularly nice example since swivels are usually found incomplete.

A twelfth-century brooch from Tydd St Giles, Cambridgeshire
An unusual twelfth-century brooch (CAM-249F51) was reported to Philippa Walton (Cambridgeshire FLO) in March 2006. It was amongst over twenty Medieval finds, including seal matrices and coins, discovered by Kevin Hillier whilst searching with a metal-detector on one field of fenland near Tydd St Giles, Cambridgeshire. The brooch has a copper-alloy frame from which extend two arms with zoomorphic terminals, perhaps used to secure a strap or band. Although the findspot is now outside the modern village of Tydd St Giles, evidence of a Medieval settlement was observed there during the Fenland Survey in the 1980s, suggesting Tydd St Giles was once a much larger village or that its centre has moved over the centuries.

A twelfth- or early thirteenth-century padlock in the form of a horse from Hamstead Marshall, Berkshire
A twelfth- or early thirteenth-century padlock (BERK-F6BF18) was found by Dai Devonald in Hamstead Marshall, Berkshire and reported to Kate Sutton (Berkshire & Oxfordshire FLO). The padlock has a cast brass case in the shape of a horse, complete with bridle and saddle. At the rear of the horse

Buckle (SWYOR-B57064) from Saxton, North Yorkshire (29.1 x 20.44 x 15.97mm)

Buckle plate (SUR-59AED2) from Banstead, Surrey (35 x 39mm)

Cut farthing of Henry III (SUR-BE2584) from West Clandon, Surrey

are three rectangular holes for the hasp, traces of which survive. On the chest of the horse is the rectangular hole for the key to be inserted. This would have compressed sprung barbs on the hasp so that it could be released. Other zoomorphic barrel padlocks have been recorded from Codsall in Staffordshire (WMID4720), Langar cum Barnstone in Nottinghamshire (DENO-45B8B6), Wadworth in South Yorkshire (SWYOR-DA4617) and Wargrave in Berkshire (HAMP-3430). A padlock of this size would have been used to secure small chests or caskets.

A twelfth- or thirteenth-century buckle from Saxton, North Yorkshire
A Medieval buckle (SWYOR-B57064) was found by Andew Diamond at Saxton, North Yorkshire and recorded with Anna Marshall (South & West Yorkshire FLO). The object is in the form of an animal's head with horn-like protrusions that once formed the loop of the buckle. The head is hollow and its back is flat. This find is similar in form to Medieval box-like buckles which are found in the shape of a king's head. The style of this object is very similar to the animals' heads that were used to decorate Romanesque churches and it shows the cross-over between sculpture and metalwork/dress.

A twelfth- or thirteenth-century buckle plate from Banstead, Surrey
Limoges in France produced high quality enamelled objects which were mostly used to decorate religious objects such as caskets and crosses. Dress accessories decorated with Limoges enamel are rare but an example (SUR-59AED2) from Banstead, Surrey was reported to David Williams (Surrey FLO) by Daniel Whiteman. This enamelled and gilded buckle plate is of high quality with at least seven colours of enamel used together with engraved zigzag work. The object dates to the twelfth or thirteenth century.

A cut farthing of Henry III (reigned 1216-72) from West Clandon, Surrey
A cut farthing of Henry III (SUR-BE2584) was part of a large collection of finds made by Chris Lacey in West Clandon, Surrey being recorded by David Williams (Surrey FLO). The mint and moneyer on cut farthings can often be difficult to identify as only a quarter of the inscription is present. On this example the letters ROS are clear. No moneyer containing this combination of letters is known, however, and the only possible mint is Shrewsbury, which is sometimes abbreviated to SROS. This is significant as coins minted in Shrewsbury are rare; few are recorded on the PAS finds database. The identification of this coin as long cross class 3 (1248-1250), based on the particular pattern of obverse initial mark and legend, is equally certain. The example of this coin fragment shows that even with apparently little information to go by, one can sometimes come to satisfactory results.

Brooch (ESS-0F4B97) from Shoeburyness, Essex (32 x 30mm)

Seal matrix (NARC-6750A6) from Sawtry, Cambridgeshire (34.8 x 22.3 x 2.8mm)

Seal matrix (WAW-BFA280) from Waterperry with Thomley, Oxfordshire (30.9 x 19.52 x 5.65mm)

A thirteenth-century brooch from Shoeburyness, Essex
In 1999 Gifford and Partners (engineers) produced an evaluation of the Old Ranges, Shoeburyness, Essex. Early in 2005, the company's archivist contacted Caroline McDonald (Essex FLO) to provide further information on one particular copper-alloy brooch recovered from the site and subsequently the brooch was also recorded for the PAS (ESS-0F4B97). The brooch frame is formed by two opposed figures, both crowned and wearing mail. The left figure is pierced with one circular hole which holds the complete copper alloy pin, now bent. There does not appear to be a corresponding pin rest on the opposing figure. James Robinson (British Museum) suggested that the figures may be based on a heraldic design. Similar brooches have been found at Long Melford, Suffolk (ESS-849592) and Pyrton, Oxfordshire (BERK-04F7C2) which, like the Shoeburyness brooch, are made from base metal.

A thirteenth-century seal matrix from Sawtry, Cambridgeshire
A copper-alloy seal matrix (NARC-6750A6) was found by Brian Hughes whilst metal-detecting at Sawtry, Cambridgeshire and reported to Tom Brindle (Northamptonshire FLO). It has a pointed oval shape and at one end of the reverse is a pierced suspension lug. On the face of the seal is a winged creature, probably a griffin, its wings raised above the curled body. Above this is a crescent moon. The inscription on the seal starts with a five pointed star and reads S'IOHIS FIL ROBI?R DE MASINGHA which can be translated as The Seal of John Son of Robert of Massingham (spelt Masingham). The engraver evidently ran out of space and could not complete Masingham, leaving the M off the end. The seal is likely to relate to the village of Massingham in Norfolk, where the Massingham family name originated.

A thirteenth-century seal matrix from Waterperry with Thomley, Oxfordshire
A Medieval seal matrix (WAW-BFA280) was reported by Stephen Thomley at Waterperry with Thomley, Oxfordshire and recorded with Angie Bolton (Warwickshire & Worcestershire FLO). The seal matrix is a personal one, and has the inscription '* S' WILL'I DE HEREFORD', translated as 'Seal of William of Hereford'. The seal bears a figure wearing a three-quarter length garment. One arm is outstretched holding a horizontal platform with a sub-square on top, the other hand is holding, what appears to be a horn. In front of him is a book. This scene is difficult to interpret. Irene Szymanski, an expert on Medieval seals and their imagery, points out that the book does not bear a cross suggesting that it is not devotional; the horn is usually linked with hunting. Another mystery is what this Hereford seal matrix was doing in Waterperry with Thomley, Oxfordshire!

Seal matrix (WAW-7EE083) from Marton, Warwickshire (23.34 x 16.03mm)

Seal matrix (WMAS-84EB67) from Worfield, Shropshire (31.7 x 22.1 x 2.5mm)

Mirror case (BERK-C40BA6) from Lewknor, Oxfordshire (44.23 x 30.31 x 7.1mm)

A thirteenth- or fourteenth-century seal matrix from Marton, Warwickshire
A Medieval seal matrix (WAW-7EE083) was found by Wayne Powell at Marton, Warwickshire and recorded with Angie Bolton (Warwickshire & Worcestershire FLO). The seal matrix is a personal one belonging to a woman called Isabella or Isabell. The legend reads '* S' ISABELLA IANE PALANDE' ('Seal of Isabella Jane Palande'). On the face of the seal is the figure of the Virgin standing, holding aloft a wreath of three flowers in one hand. Behind her is a lily, the symbol of purity. The Virgin's other hand is outstretched to a kneeling figure who has her hands together in prayer. Behind the kneeling figure is a flower in a long stemmed flower. It could be that this is the figure of the Christ child between the Virgin and the kneeling figure. This scene, showing someone as supplicant to their patron saint is common in Medieval art. The research potential of this matrix is exciting, and perhaps the identity and name of the owner can be discovered.

A thirteenth- or fourteenth-century seal matrix from Worfield, Shropshire
A copper-alloy seal matrix (WMAS-84EB67) was found by Frank Taylor at Worfield, Shropshire and recorded by Sarah Housley (West Midlands FLA). While this form of seal is relatively common, the detail and preservation of this example is unusual. The face of the die has been elaborately engraved. The upper section contains two figures. The crowned figure on the right of the seal is probably the Virgin Mary, the crown signifying her as 'Queen of Heaven'. The figure on the right is much smaller, and is thought to represent Jesus as a child. Jesus is looking towards Mary and has his arms out in front of him. Above his head is a single star. The lower part of the motif contains a head of the supplicant (possibly meant to represent the owner of the seal), below a roof and perhaps with a book. His sleeve extends briefly into the inscription which reads '+ MATER DEI MISERERE MEI' ('Mother of god have mercy on me'), a common Medieval religious legend.

A thirteenth- or fourteenth-century mirror case from Lewknor, Oxfordshire
A copper-alloy hinged mirror case (BERK-C40BA6), dating to between 1270 and 1350, was found by Rod Calder in Lewknor, Oxfordshire and reported to Kate Sutton (Berkshire & Oxfordshire FLO). The case consists of two slightly convex cast discs, fitted with lugs that acted as a hinge. Traces of the glass mirror and the cement used to hold it in place still survive inside the case. Corrosion makes it difficult to see if there was any decoration. The glass would have been convex (to create magnification) and is backed with lead (to provide the reflection). As well as being used as a looking glass these little mirrors were sometimes held up at a shrine to capture the 'radiant grace' coming from the relic.

Tile (LON-9EFB04) from the City of London

Inscribed plate (CAM-BE8456) from Ickleton, Cambridgeshire (39 x 31mm)

Padlock (SWYOR-DA4617) from Wadworth, South Yorkshire (42.1 x 22.5 x 13.9mm)

Harness pendant (NLM-D8E523) from Barton-upon-Humber, North Lincolnshire (44.8 x 26.3mm)

A thirteenth- or fourteenth-century tile from the City of London
Terry Greenwood found a complete Medieval floor tile (LON-9EFB04) with geometric design whilst searching for pottery and flint on the Thames foreshore. The object was subsequently recorded with Faye Simpson (London FLO). The tile is a beautiful example of a Medieval floor tile, and is comparable with one found in Lambeth Palace Chapel which dates to between 1250 and 1400.

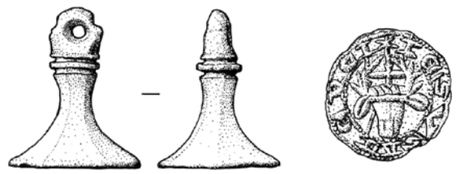
A thirteenth- or fourteenth-century inscribed plate from Ickleton, Cambridgeshire
An inscribed copper-alloy plate from a book or box (CAM-BE8456) dating to the thirteenth or fourteenth century was discovered by Stephen Fordham whilst metal-detecting in Ickleton, Cambridgeshire. The find was subsequently recorded with Philippa Walton (Cambridgeshire FLO). The rectangular plate is decorated with an incised rectangular panel containing the letters 'IHS' defined by rocked tracer work. In each corner of the plate there is a rivet hole to aid attachment to another object. The 'IHS' monogram is often found on Medieval objects and comes from a Latinisation of the first three letters of the name Jesus in Greek.

A thirteenth- or fourteenth-century padlock from Wadworth, South Yorkshire
A copper-alloy Medieval zoomorphic padlock (SWYOR-DA4617) was found by Peter Leech in Wadworth, South Yorkshire and reported to Anna Marshall (South & West Yorkshire FLO). These padlocks are often called barrel locks because of the common cylindrical shape. Unlike the more elegant example from Hamstead Marshall, Berkshire (above) this lock is in the form of a stocky pack horse. Deep grooves around it and across the front quarters perhaps indicate straps and a saddle. There is an unusual number of holes through this padlock, some may have been functional but others could be the result of wear or poor casting technique. Compared to the lock from Hamstead Marshall, this piece is poorly made and designed, and shows the varying quality of goods available in the Medieval period.

A thirteenth- or fourteenth-century horse-harness pendant from Barton-upon-Humber, North Lincolnshire
A Medieval horse-harness pendant (NLM-D8E523) was found by Margaret Allen at Barton-upon-Humber, North Lincolnshire and recorded with Lisa Staves (North Lincolnshire FLO). The cast copper-alloy pendant is shield-shaped and slightly convex. It has an integral attachment loop, which is at right angles to the pendant. The pendant shows 'a pelican in her piety'. Pelicans were thought to feed their young by pecking their breasts to produce blood. This symbolises Christ the Saviour who shed his blood to save us. The pelican has a white enamel body and a red beak. Its chicks have traces of white enamel in hollowed cells. Along the outer edge of the pendant are traces of gilding.

Harness mount (SOMDOR-A9D004) from Rodney Stoke, Somerset (45 x 40 x 3.5mm)

Papal bulla (LIN-375750) from Saltfleetby, Lincolnshire (20 x 0.8mm)



Seal matrix (SUSS-D18397) from Fulking, West Sussex (23.65 x 19.29mm) Illustrator: Dom Andrews

A thirteenth- or fourteenth-century harness mount from Rodney Stoke, Somerset
An elaborate horse harness pendant mount (SOMDOR-A9D004) was found by Maxine Palfreeman (Yeovil Bottle and Metal Detecting Club) at Rodney Stoke, Somerset and recorded with Naomi Payne (Somerset and Dorset FLO). The mount is rather more elaborate and complete than most other Medieval horse harness decorations. It is made from gilt copper alloy and is now distorted but had an 'M' shape from which hung three separately cast pendants. The two outer pendants, both shield-shaped, survive in situ. The central pendant is missing, but a parallel suggests that this was a small bell rather than another shield. This mount would have been fixed to the harness by means of one or two rivets, one of which survives. Traces of the red enamelled decoration on the fronts of the shields form parallel vertical lines. Nick Griffiths, a finds specialist with an interest in Medieval metalwork, has suggested that this type of harness decoration would have fitted either onto a horse's forehead, or perhaps at a point where a vertical harness strap met a horizontal one.

A thirteenth- or fourteenth-century papal bulla from Saltfleetby, Lincolnshire
A very interesting papal bulla (LIN-375750) was found by Denise Moncaster whilst metal-detecting at Saltfleetby, Lincolnshire and recorded with Adam Daubney (Lincolnshire FLO). This was originally a circular papal bulla but was later cut to make a seal matrix. On the back of the seal is the bearded face of St Paul, the face of St Peter having been cut away. The lower portion of the letters S and P survive, from the legend 'SPA SPE'. Perhaps the face of St Paul was kept to give authority to the seal. The seal itself shows an eight-petalled motif, with an incomplete inscription surrounding it. The seal matrix has been cut twice in antiquity to stop it being used.

A fourteenth-century seal matrix from Fulking, West Sussex
A cast copper-alloy seal matrix with a conical handle (SUSS-D18397) was found by Tony Gill (Sussex Historical Searchers Society) at Fulking, West Sussex and reported to Liz Andrews-Wilson (Sussex FLO). The face depicts an image of a stag with a cross in his antlers - the symbol of St Hubert of Liège and also St Eustace, both of whom saw a vision of a stag with a crucifix between its antlers. The legend reads '* IESVS MERCI', which translates as 'thank you Jesus'. This is a general purpose religious seal matrix and not one that was specific to an individual. The face is almost identical to a seal matrix that was found in Woodstock, Oxfordshire (BERK-EDC4A8).

Seal matrix (SUSS-D030D2) from Steyning, West Sussex (19.54 x 19.92mm) Illustrator: Dom Andrews

Harness fitting (SF-963393) from Otley, Suffolk (103 x 38.4mm)

Noble of Edward III (WMID-7698B8) from Forton, Staffordshire (27 x 0.3mm)

A fourteenth-century seal matrix from Steyning, West Sussex
A seal matrix (SUSS-D030D2) was found by Tony Gill (Sussex Historical Searchers Society) at Steyning, West Sussex and reported to Liz Andrews-Wilson (Sussex FLO). The matrix is conical in shape and has the legend '*S':STEPhANI:LE:POWER', which translates as the 'Seal of Stephen Le Power'. The face depicts a curled-up lion with centrally parted mane; the lion has a very sad, downtrodden appearance. It has a long snout, large eyes and floppy ears. Similar lions can be seen on seal matrices from Berwick, East Sussex (SUSS-222E27) and Patching, West Sussex (SUSS-5511B2), and it is possible that they were all made by the same workshop.

With personal seals it is sometime possible to find out who once owned them. A search in the Sussex Record Society found references to men called Steph Pouer (Poer, Power) in 1296, 1327 and 1332. It could be that this seal matrix once belonged to one of these men, or another member of the family with the same name.

A fourteenth-century heraldic harness fitting from Otley, Suffolk
A complete copper-alloy heraldic harness mount (SF-963393) dating to around the fourteenth century was found by Richard Calver and reported to Faye Minter (Suffolk FLO). The mount consists of a rod with a heraldic shield-shaped terminal on one end; on the other is a narrower cylindrical terminal which would have fitted into a mount accommodating several such fittings. One face of the shield-shaped terminal is decorated with a heraldic design, showing a crouched animal in side profile, the head is facing forwards and it has a long tail hanging down to the bottom of the shield. The animal is white and above it there may be recessed cells containing traces of greenish-blue enamel representing the leaves and branches of a tree. There are traces of gilding in the field behind the animal and tree.

This harness fitting has been examined and researched by Edward Martin (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service) who suggests that the animal is an ape. The ape can be associated with the Marmion family. The surname of this family comes from a nickname meaning 'monkey' – hence their badge. There are two possible men who could have used this harness fitting around 1300. They were cousins: Philip Marmion of Tamworth Castle, Warwickshire and Scrivelsby, Lincolnshire, who died before the 5 December 1291, and Sir John Marmion, the first Lord Marmion of East Tanfield in Yorkshire, Winteringham in Lincolnshire and Luddington in Northamptonshire, who died before 7 May 1322. Of the two, Philip Marmion has stronger links with Suffolk, but may have died before this harness fitting was produced. Sir John Marmion would better fit the early fourteenth-century date, when such pendants were commonly produced.

Candle holder (NARC-6F6352) from Norton, Northamptonshire (52.5 x 12.3mm)

Seal matrix (BUC-BD1FA4) from Creslow, Buckinghamshire (17.84 x 15.74mm)

A half noble of Edward III (reigned 1327-77) from Forton, Staffordshire
Alfred Chatfield found a complete hammered gold half noble of Edward III (WMID-7698B8), minted between 1356 and 1361, whilst metal-detecting near Forton, Staffordshire, which he recorded with Caroline Johnson (Staffordshire & West Midlands FLO). The coin (which is in a good condition) belongs to Edward III's 'Fourth Coinage' (Pre-Treaty Series G). The obverse of the coin shows the king facing, standing in a ship. The reverse illustrates the floriated cross with a lis at the end of each limb and an ornamented compartment. Edward III was the first English king to produce a gold coinage of any significant quantity, though the importance and impact of gold in later Medieval England is yet to be fully understood. The PAS is gathering some useful data in this respect. An unexpectedly large number of Medieval gold coins have already been recorded, including more than 50 specimens for Edward alone.

A fourteenth-century candle holder from Norton, Northamptonshire
A well preserved fourteenth-century cast copper-alloy candle holder (NARC-6F6352) was found by the Reverend Rodriguez-Veglio in Norton, Northamptonshire and reported to Tom Brindle (Northamptonshire FLO). The candle holder is in the form of a standing dog with its legs cast together in pairs to form two simple legs. The dog's muzzle is elongated and is angular in style with small ears. Its tail is raised, giving the dog a cheerful, wagging appearance. Its body is well modelled with a barrelled chest, a waisted midriff and a rounded rear. Moulding around the neck suggests a collar. A vertical hole through the body holds the spike-like end of the candle holder itself, its conical socket formed from a folded strip of copper alloy. Zoomorphic candle holders are not common, but examples are known in the form of dogs and deer.

A fourteenth-century seal matrix from Creslow, Buckinghamshire
Ros Tyrrell (Buckinghamshire FLO) was recording finds at Weekend Wanderers' rally at Creslow, Buckinghamshire when Paul Willis unearthed a copper-alloy seal matrix (BUC-BD1FA4). The seal shows a squirrel, holding a nut in its paws, with an inscription reading 'I CRAKE NOTIS' (I crack nuts). A matrix with a similar motif was found in the excavations at Bedern, York in an early to mid fourteenth-century floor level. Squirrels were sometimes seen in Medieval art as women's pets, and a bawdy meaning could be read into the inscription! It should also be noted that the cracking of nuts could also be an analogy for cracking open a seal.

Jetton hoard (WILT-E5B125) from Little Cheverell, Wiltshire

Papal bulla (HESH-F307A6) from Old Radnor, Powys
(33.6 x 35.8 x 5.4mm)

Pilgrim's badge (SOMDOR-29F941) from Frampton, Dorset
(49.11 x 25.15 x 4.45mm)

A hoard of fourteenth-century jettons from Little Cheverell, Wiltshire
A hoard of jettons (WILT-E5B125) was discovered by Stuart Bailey and Nigel Wright on a metal-detector club day out in Little Cheverell, Wiltshire and reported to Katie Hinds (Wiltshire FLO). David Algar (Salisbury Museum) identified the hoard, which consists of seven English and twenty-five French Tournai copper-alloy jettons, two billon coins (one of Spain, the other of Brittany) and three blank discs. This group of thirty-seven pieces dates from the second half of the fourteenth-century. Their deposit most probably took place within a few years on either side of 1400. The presence of three blank discs suggests that this group may well be part or whole of a working set of counters. The varying patina on some of the pieces suggests that these had been overlapping in the soil after loss. In the Medieval period Little Cheverell parish was included within the lands of the Bishop of Salisbury. It is hoped the findspot will be investigated in due course.

A late fourteenth- or early fifteenth-century papal bulla of Boniface IX (reigned 1389-1404) from Old Radnor, Powys
An incomplete and damaged cast-lead papal bulla (HESH-F307A6) was found near Old Radnor, Powys by Ian Cole and reported to Peter Reavill (Herefordshire & Shropshire FLO). The front of the bulla depicts the faces of Saints Peter and Paul with a cross between them. Over the faces appears the abbreviation of St Paul and St Peter 'SPA SPE'. The reverse side has three lines of letters reading: BONI / FIATIUS: / P P: VIIII. This refers to Pope Boniface IX (VIIII), with his abbreviated title PP (Pastor Pastorum - Shepherd of the Shepherds) and the number VIIII. Boniface IX was elected Pope on 2 November 1389 and died in Rome on 1 October 1404. Bullae were used by the Popes to authenticate documents produced by the Curia in either Rome or, in this period, by the Anti-Popes in Avignon.

A fourteenth- or fifteenth-century pilgrim's badge from Frampton, Dorset
A cast-lead pilgrim's badge (SOMDOR-29F941) was found by Jeff Braithwaite in Frampton, Dorset and recorded with Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevarthen and Naomi Payne (Somerset and Dorset FLOs). The badge dates to the fourteenth or fifteenth century. Its face is moulded to represent the bust of St Thomas Becket, showing that this was a product of his shrine at Canterbury, Kent. Pilgrim badges are not common finds for Somerset and Dorset and this is the first badge of St Thomas of Canterbury to have been recorded by the PAS in Dorset.

A fourteenth- or fifteenth-century horse harness pendant from Worksop, Nottinghamshire
A copper-alloy horse harness pendant and the mount by which it was suspended (SWYOR-FB0A91) was found by William Hickey at Worksop, Nottinghamshire and recorded with Anna Marshall (South & West Yorkshire FLO). The pendant is in the form of two eagles; one eagle functioned as the mount and would have been riveted onto the harness. The larger eagle would have been suspended below this mount and would have swung freely. It bears traces of a tinned or silvered surface whilst the mount has traces of gilding. The use of two finishes on one pendant is unusual and we cannot be certain that the two parts came from one object. The two pieces were found on separate occasions, and have different patinations.

Harness pendant (SWYOR-FB0A91) from Worksop, Nottinghamshire (30.54 x 21.04 x 4.4mm & 26.12 x 16.11 x 5.12mm)

Mount (LEIC-B57590) from Cossington, Leicestershire
(39 x 32 x 27mm)

Figurine of Mary and child (NMGW-4382B2) from Coedffranc, Neath Port Talbot (39.09 x 17.81 x 10.75mm)

Coin weight (WILT-057834) from Southrop, Gloucestershire
(14.5 x 2mm)

A fourteenth- or fifteenth-century head-shaped mount from Cossington, Leicestershire
A copper-alloy head-shaped mount (LEIC-B57590) was found by Lee Birtwistle in Cossington, Leicestershire, and reported to Wendy Scott (Leicestershire & Rutland FLO). It probably came from a laver, a bowl used in washing the hands when dining or during a religious service. The elaborate hairstyle suggests a fourteenth-century date but the sort of vessel from which it came was more common in the fifteenth century.

A fourteenth- or fifteenth-century figurine of the Virgin Mary and child from Coedffranc, Neath Port Talbot
An interesting copper-alloy figurine (NMGW-4382B2) was found by Dave Hughes at Coedffranc, Neath Port Talbot and reported to Mark Lodwick (Finds Co-ordinator, Wales). The figurine is cast copper-alloy and shows the seated figure of the Virgin Mary, uncrowned, and clothed in a robe. Mary holds the Christ Child seated on her left knee. The figurine appears to be complete, and is small, having a height of only 39mm. There is a semicircular hollow at the back. Representations of Mary occur on larger composite objects such as candelabra, but there is no sign of attachments for this object to be fixed to a larger object such as a shrine, pyx or reliquary.

Two Medieval weights for foreign gold coins from Southrop, Gloucestershire
Two coin weights (WILT-057834 & WILT-054CB3), which were found in the parish of Southrop in Gloucestershire by Mark Gillett and recorded with Katie Hinds (Wiltshire FLO), illustrate the presence of foreign gold coins in the later Middle Ages and Early Modern period. The first is circular and uniface and bears the royal arms of France. Its weight (2.98g) suggests that this object was used to verify French écus from the period 1422-1475, which remained in circulation in England into the sixteenth century. Even though it is used to weigh a French coin the weight itself might well have been made in England, though this is nearly impossible to determine. The same is true for the next weight, also circular and uniface. Its design (large lis) and weight (3.2g) point to this being a florin weight.

Double patard of Charles the Bold (WMID-247696) from Croxden, Staffordshire (27.5 x 0.5mm)

Seal ring (BUC-3821D1) from Sherington, Buckinghamshire (25 x 2mm)

Hoard of groats of Henry VI and Edward IV (2005 T437) from near Brackley, Northamptonshire

The gold florin coinage was first minted in Florence in 1252, but its design was widely taken up in later Medieval Europe.

A double patard of Charles the Bold (reigned 1467-77), Duke of Burgundy and Count of Flanders, from Croxden, Staffordshire

An incomplete hammered silver double patard of Charles the Bold (WMID-247696), minted in Flanders between 1467 and 1477, was found by Alan Havers whilst metal-detecting near Croxden, Staffordshire and recorded with Caroline Johnson (Staffordshire & West Midlands FLO). The obverse of the coin contains the Burgundian coat of arms with lion in centre (double annulet stops) with the abbreviated inscription '+KAROLVS:DEI:GRA:DVX:BVRG:CO:FLA' ('Charles, by the Grace of God, Duke of Burgundy, Count of Flanders'). This coin was therefore minted at one of Charles' Flemish mints. The reverse shows the cross *fleur-de-lisée* with lozenge centre containing a fleur-de-lis with the inscription '+SIT:NOMEN:DOMINI: BENEDICTVM' ('By the name of the Lord be blessed'), with the mint mark of a fleur-de-lis for Flanders displayed in the centre. Very few foreign Medieval hammered coins have been recorded with the PAS in Staffordshire and the West Midlands, and this coin was in a particularly good condition.

A fifteenth-century seal ring from Sherington, Buckinghamshire

While detecting near Sherington, Buckinghamshire, Eve Abraham found a Medieval copper-alloy seal ring (BUC-3821D1), which she recorded with Ros Tyrell (Buckinghamshire FLO). The ring has a deeply engraved, crowned Lombardic 'T', framed by a sprig of foliage on a disc-shaped bezel. Although not in a precious metal, this ring was carefully engraved. The crowned 'T' emblem often symbolises Thomas Beckett of Canterbury and a silver gilt brooch in the form of a similar 'T' was excavated some years ago at Bradwell Abbey, Milton Keynes.

A fifteenth-century groat hoard from near Brackley, Northamptonshire

A hoard of silver groats (Treasure Case number 2005 T437) was found near Brackley, Northamptonshire by Ian Turvey and reported to Tom Brindle (Northamptonshire FLO). Mr Turvey realised that he had discovered something important when he found a few silver groats of Henry VI (reigned 1422-61 & 1470-1) and Edward IV (reigned 1461-70 & 1471-83) in close proximity to one another whilst searching with his metal-detector. After finding the initial coins Mr Turvey stopped searching and took them to the landowner, realising that there were likely to be many more in the area. The landowner notified Tom Brindle and a survey was organised to retrieve and determine the extent of the hoard. Together, Tom and Ian plotted each find as they went, recovering the remainder of the hoard, totalling over 300 coins.

Ian's quick thinking in contacting others to organise a survey of the area meant that Tom and Ian could discover the original point of burial before dispersal, and that they could search for evidence of any structures or the remainders of a container. Nothing fitting this description was found which makes it likely that the hoard was buried under a tree or in accordance with another landmark familiar to the depositor.

Strap-fitting (NMS-31D794) from Wereham, Norfolk (57 x 16mm)

Strap-end (CORN-F8A740) from Gwithian, Cornwall (81 x 25.6 x 11.6mm)

Strap-end (IOW-AD2456) from Rookley, Isle of Wight (55 x 19.6 x 4.3mm)

A fifteenth-century strap-fitting from Wereham, Norfolk

Medieval strap-fittings are one of the most common artefact types seen by the Norfolk FLOs, although complete examples are quite rare. Occasionally, complete examples are found, but few are as highly decorated as the example (NMS-31D794) from Wereham, Norfolk discovered by Stephen Brown, who regularly reports his discoveries to the PAS in Norfolk. This strap-clasp, dating to between 1400 and 1450, has an integral openwork plate depicting a window framing an acorn on a long stem. Below this is an odd-looking unidentified animal. Part of the leather strap also survives. This strap fitting shows the range and level of art that was used to decorate everyday objects.

A fifteenth-century strap-end from Gwithian, Cornwall

A cast gilt copper alloy hollow-ended strap-end (CORN-F8A740) or belt mount for a scabbard was found by Philip Steele, while using a metal-detector in Gwithian parish, and was subsequently reported to Anna Tyacke (Cornwall FLO). The strap-end terminates in a beast's head. Behind this, in the centre of the strap-end, is a thick, diamond-shaped plate on which has been inscribed the letter 'S', which could stand for 'souveniez moi' or 'sancta'. This is attached to a rectangular plate on which is incised the letters 'M' and 'R' conjoined for Maria Regina (the Virgin Mary). The end of this rectangular plate is hollow and still contains the remains of the leather strap held by two rivets. A similar example from London was dated to the fifteenth century.

A fifteenth-century strap-end from Rookley, Isle of Wight

An almost complete copper-alloy composite strap-end (IOW-AD2456), dating to the first-half of the fifteenth century, was found by Brian Masterton whilst using a metal-detector in the parish of Rookley, Isle of Wight, and recorded with Frank Basford (Isle of Wight FLO). The strap-end consists of two sheet copper-alloy plates secured to a forked spacer that held the strap. The front plate is decorated with a stylised beast with a large head, open mouth and projecting tongue, a short body and, it seems, two legs. The shape and features

Pilgrim's souvenir (LIN-4C4706) from Branston, Lincolnshire (36 x 20 x 3mm)

Dagger chape (LON-16BC28) from the City of London (measurements not given)

Belt mount (LON-1E9A80) from the City of London (diameter 16mm)

of the beast have been created by punch marks and it is surrounded with zigzag 'rocker-arm' decoration. The back plate is plain. A composite strap-end similar in shape, although without decoration on the front plate, was recovered from archaeological excavations at Billingsgate, London, and has been dated to between about 1400 and 1450.

A fifteenth-century pilgrim's souvenir from Branston, Lincolnshire

Sid Deaton discovered an unusual lead pilgrim souvenir (LIN-4C4706) in the form of a ship whilst metal-detecting at Branston, Lincolnshire, which he reported to Adam Daubney (Lincolnshire FLO). The object probably represents a ship type known as a hulc, which was to oust the cog by the early fifteenth century. The forecastle is missing but the stern is intact, and has a stern castle. Both sides of the souvenir are decorated and there are no obvious methods of attachment visible. It is likely that this souvenir is a Canterbury product, made to represent the ship that carried St Thomas Becket across the Channel to Sandwich.

A fifteenth- or sixteenth-century dagger chape from the City of London

Thames Mudlarks Andy Johnannesen and Steve Brooker found a dagger chape (LON-16BC28) on the Thames foreshore in the City of London which they recorded with Faye Simpson (London FLO). The copper-alloy chape has a cast metal front and a sheet back suggesting a date between the late fifteenth and early sixteenth century.

A fifteenth- or sixteenth-century belt mount from the City of London

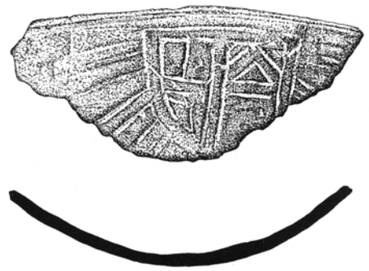
An unusual and rather comical belt mount in the form of an open-mouthed face (LON-1E9A80), was found on the Thames foreshore, near the City of London by Thames Mudlarks Andy Johanessen and Steve Brooker. This find was subsequently recorded with Faye Simpson (London FLO). The mount is hollow, with a sheet metal backing held in place by a long rivet that formed the man's nose. There are no direct parallels for the mount, although the type and style would suggest a date of between 1450 and 1550.

A fifteenth- or sixteenth-century dagger pommel from South Gloucestershire

A cast copper-alloy dagger pommel (GLO-8E3116) was found by John Taylor in South Gloucestershire and recorded with Kurt Adams (Gloucestershire & Avon FLO).

The pommel is hollow and circular in plan with a slightly domed top. In its centre is a slot where the tang would pass through. Part of the iron tang survives. This pommel comes from a rondel dagger, a weapon on which the pommel and guard were parallel discs. This was predominantly a thrusting weapon, with a long, straight, thick blade designed to be thrust through gaps and joints in late Medieval armour. This was an extremely popular combat dagger of the fifteenth and mid sixteenth century.

Dagger pommel (GLO-8E3116) from South Gloucestershire (37 x 14mm)



Vessel rim (ESS-DE58B7) from Great Tey, Essex (24.46 x 55.7mm)
Illustrator: Kirsti Bombridge

A fragment of Medieval vessel rim from Great Tey, Essex

In March 2005 metal-detector user Tony Bowyer found a fragment of cast copper-alloy vessel rim (ESS-DE58B7) probably of late Medieval date, which he recorded with Caroline McDonald (Essex FLO). The fragment is roughly semicircular in plan and is curvilinear. The rim is plain, but the outer face of the fragment is decorated with an engraved design which consists of a crude shield shape, divided into quarters. The upper right quadrant is decorated with an upward pointing chevron, the upper left with a central vertical line, whilst the lower two quadrants are incomplete and unclear. A series of roughly grooved lines radiate outwards from the shield. The inner face of the fragment is plain. The curvature of the fragment suggests that the mouth of the vessel had an original diameter of only 8cm. The profile of the fragment does not seem to fit with that of a ewer, so it is presumably from another form of vessel. Copper-alloy vessel fragments of this date are very common finds, though very few indeed are decorated in this way, which makes a fragment that appears insignificant at first sight into something far more unusual.

Edited by Kevin Leahy (Finds Adviser, Metals & Metal-working), Julian Baker (Finds Adviser, Medieval & Post-Medieval Coins) & Michael Lewis (Deputy Head).

POST-MEDIEVAL PERIOD (AD 1500 – 2006)

2005/6 was another notable year for the range and significance of Post-Medieval finds reported to the PAS. There has been a great variety of dress accessories, including further examples of the Tudor dress hooks and ornate pin heads that have come to attention largely through the Scheme, from Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk (SF-EF8898), Rodmell, East Sussex (SUSS-B98CD6), and Otterhampton, Somerset (SOMDOR-E61546). A silver cuff link with the head of Queen Anne from Calbourne, Isle of Wight (IOW-3107D3) makes up in its loyal reference what it lacks in accomplished craftsmanship. In a similar vein, a slightly earlier ornate pewter spoon (GLO-5598A7) from Mitchel Troy, Monmouthshire includes the heads of William and Mary on the handle among its decoration.
As well as some late pilgrim badges, a brooch from Shudy Camps, Cambridgeshire (CAM-466AB8) in the same tradition of manufacture, seemingly with the figure of Henry VIII, may be a rare instance of a find from the Reformation relating not directly to the destruction of the Roman Catholic Church and its institutions, but to the usually uncelebrated popular support that the monarch must have had in some quarters for his reforms. Perhaps later is a possible Catholic charm of lead (BERK-4F1A27) with a letter V (that could refer to the Virgin) from Littlemore, Oxfordshire – if so, a rare instance of an object that may relate to a form of resistance to the new English Church. A silver chalice (DENO-728934), with London hallmarks of 1632, found in Alderwasley, Derbyshire is another unusual and valuable find. A large iron bowl (NARC-0ACAB1), with several sharp bent items inside, discovered in a stream at Harlestone, Northamptonshire, is possibly a witch-countering vessel of unusual type. Perhaps another late manifestation of folk beliefs was recovered in the form of a miniature wooden shoe-shaped snuff-box (SUR-4F3CC5) found apparently concealed within a house in Leigh, Surrey.

Early toys were highlighted in the report for 2004/5, and further children's playthings have come to light this last year. The discovery of a sixteenth-century stone mould (HESH-87A116) for casting toy swords is notable for several reasons, not least that it was found in Hampton Bishop, Herefordshire – if early playthings were regularly being produced in rural areas like this, their manufacture was far more widespread than has previously been suspected. A fragment of an early toy watch (NARC-821AC0) found in Norton, Northamptonshire is the first recorded in the county, but a small potential group of toys from the seventeenth or early eighteenth century found together in Cow Roast, Hertfordshire, comprising a copper-alloy cauldron (BH-26CDF5), a lead/tin soldier (BH-1F1224) and what could be a miniature drinking glass (BH-1F0F22) (if so, the first known in England this early) appears to be the most varied multiple find of early playthings in the country. An incomplete lead shy cock (NLM-9ABB84) from Marsh Chapel, Lincolnshire illustrates a humane version of a rural sport that originally ended with the death of a tethered bird.
A high-quality mourning ring (HESH-E35784) of gold, from Bridgnorth, Shropshire, is unusual in referring to two deceased persons – a mother and daughter who are identifiable from records. Relatable from the arms of a married couple is a fine fob seal (SOMDOR-1B27F7) which belonged to John Pitt, second earl of Chatham (the brother of Prime Minister William Pitt "the Younger") and his wife; this was found on the family's estate at Curry Rivel, Somerset. A German soldier's dog-tag (LIN-CE1D45) from a prisoner-of-war camp at Wellingore, Lincolnshire tells an unusual story, while a German medal (LIN-CE8D25) found nearby is a more straightforward loss. A fine silver snuff box (LON-478590) engraved with distinctive arms featuring foxes, which was discovered in the City of London, cannot be assigned specifically, despite its heraldic device. There are similar difficulties with a bottle seal (CORN-3E4F86) found at Perranuthnoe, Cornwall, with a date and naming an individual, but these do not fit with the only traced local person of the same name.
The Civil War crops up again among finds from 2005, this time in the form of a coin hoard (2005 T386) from Tockwith, near the site of the Battle of Marston Moor, and a lead shot (LANCUM-84CFB7) probably associated with one of the smaller skirmishes of the period, at Whalley, Lancashire. Also relating to firearms, but from the nineteenth century, is an assemblage of waste (SF-8C47C2) from knapping to make gunflints at Freckenham, Suffolk where this activity was previously not known.

Relating to a specific sphere of trade beyond Europe are two finds of copper-alloy manillas (CORN-327A62 & CORN-31B3A7) – bracelets used in West Africa as currency through much of the Post-Medieval period – from St Agnes, on the Isles of Scilly. Dating and specific origin are not possible to establish, but similar items were made in foundries in London and Exeter from the seventeenth century onwards. These two are thought to have come from one or two wrecks of trading vessels bound for West Africa. Cloth seals of lead continue to feature regularly among finds. Each of these discoveries adds to the growing picture of the textile trade, the single most important branch of English commerce in these centuries.

Cloth seals (NLM-7618E3 / 752D73 / 756513) from Gainsborough, Lincolnshire (diameter 14.7mm / 37.2 x 3mm / diameter 12.8mm)

Pendant (BERK-4F1A27) from Littlemore, Oxfordshire (21.22 x 20.99 x 3.67mm)

Cloth Seals – two case studies from 2005
Once more, a variety of individual cloth seals has been recorded, helping to chart otherwise unknown details of the important cloth trade across the country, but two notable and very different groups have also been recorded.

The first, found at Cerne Abbas, Dorset by Robert Lovett, comprises twenty-three late fifteenth- or early sixteenth- to early seventeenth-century issues (including SOMDOR-EDA9E4), recorded by Naomi Payne (Somerset & Dorset FLO). All the attributable seals are local official issues of cloth inspectors from Dorset itself or neighbouring Somerset. Three others are those of weavers or clothiers, presumably local producers, while an unused blank (SOMDOR-ED8D93) suggests processing of some kind was taking place somewhere close to the findspot.

In contrast with this very localised group, thirty-two seals from Gainsborough in Lincolnshire found by John Bennett and recorded by Lisa Staves (North Lincolnshire FLO) are much more wide-ranging, both in date and in their international scope. The official seals range from unusual ones from Malines (NLM-758481) in the fourteenth century, Ypres (NLM-7618E3) somewhat later and Bruges (NLM-766E12) in the sixteenth century (all in modern Belgium) from the era when little cloth was woven in England, to commoner issues for sixteenth- and seventeenth-century imports of linens and half-linens, like a 'holland' from Haarlem (NLM-760825) and a narrow cloth from Strasbourg (NLM-752D73). There are nine of the very common Augsburg fustian seals (including NLM-3258C4), while there are none actually from Lincolnshire itself (the county was not prominent in cloth manufacture after the late Middle Ages). Other finds attest East Anglian fabrics – probably a worsted from neighbouring Norfolk (NLM-756513), as well as what is most likely to have been one of the 'new draperies' from Colchester in Essex (NLM-75A304), and from even further a field, a textile woven in Wiltshire (NLM-75AC71), again from the late sixteenth or seventeenth centuries. There are also three early seventeenth-century London dyers' seals (NLM-860B36, NLM-8606E7 & NLM-85FCC6), indicating that some of the cloths represented had passed through the capital to be coloured. Some weavers'/clothiers' seals add further details about this very varied group, but at present the places of origin of these cannot be extrapolated.

A late fifteenth- to seventeenth-century pendant from Littlemore, Oxfordshire
A small, heart-shaped lead object, possibly a charm (BERK-4F1A27) was found by David Barton at Littlemore, Oxfordshire and reported to Kate Sutton (Berkshire & Oxfordshire FLO). It could originally have been part of a pendant as there is some damage to the top where a loop may have been attached. Two points of damage at the sides may alternatively (unless recent) have been where it was held, or the recovered item may be a small part of a somewhat larger object. The front has beading around the edge and a raised 'V' in the centre with a pellet between its arms. The 'V' is further decorated with a running series of circular depressions. The back is flat and undecorated. Geoff Egan (Finds Adviser, Medieval and Post-Medieval Objects) suggests the letter may refer to the cult of the Virgin, which flourished in the late Medieval period, or the object could be some later, cryptic, post-Reformation Catholic charm.

Badge (CAM-466AB8) from Shudy Camps, Cambridgeshire (32 x 29 x 4mm)

A sixteenth-century lead/tin badge from Shudy Camps, Cambridgeshire
Barbara Spall recorded a damaged, cast lead badge (CAM-466AB8) with Philippa Walton (Cambridgeshire FLO), which she had found while metal-detecting in Shudy Camps, Cambridgeshire. The object is approximately circular and its decoration is very crude in design and execution. It appears to depict the familiar figure of Henry VIII (reigned 1509-47) surrounded by a ring of pellets. On the reverse is a rib where the pin would have been attached. The badge shows much overall similarity to pilgrim souvenirs of the later Medieval period, and Geoff Egan (Finds Adviser, Post-Medieval Objects) has commented that it may be regarded as almost a counter-pilgrim badge, signalling allegiance to the king at the time of the Dissolution of the Monasteries.

Pin head (SOMDOR-E61546) from Otterhampton, Somerset (diameter 12.31mm)

Dress hook (SF-EF8898) from near Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk (33.6 x 13.4mm)

A sixteenth-century decorative pin head from Otterhampton, Somerset
A spherical, openwork pin head of copper-alloy (SOMDOR-E61546) was found by Tim Phillips while metal-detecting at Otterhampton, Somerset. Unlike similar examples in gold and silver, the 'filigree' in this case appears to have been cast to imitate the decoration which regularly appears on precious metal pins of this date. The sphere is divided into two hemispheres by a band. Each hemisphere comprises three circles, and each of these in turn is made of three smaller circles. In the centre of the smaller circles and between the larger ones are tiny, sub-round bosses, of which there are six on each side. The stub of the pin is visible on the main band which divides the sphere. There are also traces of gilding.

A sixteenth-century dress hook from near Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk
An early sixteenth-century copper-alloy dress hook (SF-EF8898) was found by Philip Rogers near Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk and reported to Faye Minter (Suffolk FLO). Although dress hooks of this broad category are common finds in Suffolk, this one is unusual in that its plate depicts a somewhat crude Renaissance-style female bust; probably a girl or young woman shown

in profile, with thick hair. A circular dot and a line represent the eye and mouth respectively. This find furnishes yet another example of the great variety of motifs among this extremely varied series of accessories.

A sixteenth-century dress hook from Rodmell, East Sussex

A silver-gilt dress hook (SUSS-B98CD6, Treasure case 2004 T237), dating to the early sixteenth century, was found by Richard Lyon at Rodmell, East Sussex and was reported to Liz Andrews-Wilson (Sussex FLO). The hook has a triangular backplate with a cusped outline. Three hemispherical bosses are soldered onto the front with applied filigree circles; at the point where the three bosses touch is another gilded boss with petal-like tabs around it, which is attached to the backplate. On the back is an attachment bar at the broad end of the triangle. The original recurving hook is missing, but its position is visible from the break. The triangular form with three bosses is becoming widely known from finds recorded on the PAS database. This accessory was declared Treasure, and the finder and landowner kindly donated it to the Barbican House Museum, Lewes.

Dress hook (SUSS-B98CD6) from Rodmell, East Sussex (13.5 x 13.8 x 9.2mm)

A sixteenth-century toy mould from Hampton Bishop, Herefordshire

A stone mould (HESH-87A116) was found by Mr G Martin at Hampton Bishop, Herefordshire and recorded with Peter Reavill (Herefordshire & Shropshire FLO). This is an unusual survival, probably from the Tudor period, for producing lead-alloy (or pewter) toy swords. It was discovered in the garden of the finder whilst landscaping an area of waste ground. The mould is made of a sub-rectangular piece of relatively soft siltstone (a sedimentary rock). One face has been smoothed and the intricate design of the sword has been carved into it; the other faces have been roughly trimmed to form relatively uniform, flat surfaces. At one corner a small conical peg hole has been cut, to allow the two halves of the mould to be joined together and to prevent movement during casting. A series of small channels have been cut leading to the main design, to allow the metal to flow into the mould while air and gasses were released. The main feature of the mould is the negative of an ornately decorated sword. The stone is broken off beneath the guard, and so only part of the detail survives. The backhand guard is meant to represent corded, rope-like wire and the quillions are similar. The overall design is comparable with Continental, especially Italianate, sword types of the sixteenth century. To the left of the central design is a negative for casting another small object. This has not been identified certainly but it has been suggested that it is either part of a small lid or belt chape. Some broadly similar toy swords of comparable date have been found in London.

Toy mould (HESH-87A116) from Hampton Bishop, Herefordshire (88.3 x 73.2 x 18.9mm)

Copy of a Spanish escudo (WAW-3E51D3) from Bidford-on-Avon, Warwickshire (diameter 22mm)

Jetton (NMS-90BBE3) from Binham, Norfolk (diameter 29mm)

Chalice (DENO-728934) from Alderwasley, Derbyshire (171 x 102mm)

A mid sixteenth-century (contemporary) copy of a Spanish escudo from Bidford-on-Avon, Warwickshire

A contemporary copy of an early sixteenth-century Spanish gold escudo (WAW-3E51D3) was found by Robert Laight at Bidford-on-Avon, Warwickshire and recorded with Angie Bolton (Warwickshire & Worcestershire FLO). The original was produced in the name of Queen Joanna of Castile with her son Charles (reigned 1500-1558), who was Emperor Charles V from 1519, and King Charles I of Castile, Leon, Aragon, and Sicily from 1516. The gold escudo currency was first introduced in 1537. This joint issue in the name of mother and son belies their relationship: Joanna, who had been left permanently scarred by her husband's premature death, supported the uprisings against her son in 1520-1522, and was locked away by him for the remainder of her life (she died in 1555). David Symons (Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery) has noted that 'this is likely to be a mid-sixteenth-century English forgery, since Spanish gold and silver coins were made legal tender in England when Queen Mary (reigned 1553-8) married the future Philip II of Spain in 1554. They remained legal until they were demonetised in the early years of Elizabeth I (reigned 1558-1603)'.

A late sixteenth-century jetton from Binham, Norfolk

Jettons were produced in huge numbers at Nuremberg during the late sixteenth and seventeenth centuries; most of these are of the very common 'Rose/Orb' type. However, a jetton (NMS-90BBE3) found by Simon Gray at Binham is rather more unusual. This carries the obverse inscription 'QVI DNO FIDIT BONITATE EIVS CIRCVM DABITVR' (he who shows faith to God shall be surrounded by goodness), surrounding a cornucopia, a horn of plenty. The reverse inscription reads 'MVLTA SVNT MALA IMPIORVM' (many horrors afflict the impious) and there is the depiction of a man in late sixteenth-century Spanish dress standing between personifications of Famine and Death. This jetton was issued by the Protestant town of Dordrecht in Holland to 'celebrate' a plague raging in Flanders – then held by the Spanish. The piece beautifully illuminates the religious conflict between Catholicism and Protestantism in the Low Countries of the late sixteenth century.

A seventeenth-century chalice from Alderwasley, Derbyshire

A silver chalice (DENO-728934, Treasure number 2005 T320) with a tapering, beaker-shaped bowl, on a baluster stem and domed foot (now detached), was found by James Mackrell in Alderwasley, Derbyshire and reported to Rachel Atherton (Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire FLO). The hallmarks show that it was made in London in 1638, although the maker's initials are unclear.

Musket shot (LANCUM-84CFB7) from Whalley, Lancashire (diameter 11mm)

Coin hoard (2005 T386) from Tockwith, North Yorkshire

Spoon (GLO-5598A7) from Mitchel Troy, Monmouthshire (198 x 50 x 13mm)

A virtually identical chalice from a church at Boyleston (just 20 miles away) was made in 1639. The maker's mark on that vessel is a 'TS' monogram, which was registered in London in 1601-2. The Alderwasley chalice was presumably, from its style, made by the same maker. It too may be church plate, possibly buried for safety during the Civil War, or in the Commonwealth period. The closest church to the findspot is All Saints in Alderwasley (four other pieces of plate are known for this church, all dated 1849). The chalice has been disclaimed under the Treasure Act 1996 and returned to the finder.

A seventeenth-century musket shot from the Battle of Whalley, Lancashire

It is very difficult to date precisely loose finds of musket shot, but it seems to be possible for an example (LANCUM-84CFB7) found by Martyn Lucas at Whalley, Lancashire and subsequently recorded with Dot Bruns (Lancashire & Cumbria FLO). Stephen Bull (Lancashire Museum Service), an English Civil War historian, is almost certain that this particular shot is associated with the Battle of Whalley (1643), at which the decisive encounter between Royalists and Parliamentarians in Lancashire was fought. On that day in April 1643, the Parliamentarian troops had gathered in an advantageous position just above Read Hall from where they mounted a surprise attack on the approaching Royalists. The latter then had no other choice but to flee towards Whalley, pursued by the Parliamentarians on foot.

A seventeenth-century coin hoard from Tockwith, North Yorkshire

During the 2005 August Bank Holiday, Simon Holmes and Dave Evans (North & East Yorkshire FLOs) attended a metal-detecting rally that took place on farm land near Tockwith, North Yorkshire on land occupied by the Royalist Army during the Battle of Marston Moor (2 July 1644). During the course of the rally 35 silver coins, a mixture of shillings, sixpences and a half crown (Treasure number 2005 T386) were found by Colin Roberts within an area measuring 2 x 3m. The total number of pence represented by these coins comes to a total of 360 and represents 45 days pay for a foot soldier, 20 days pay for a dragoon or 12 days pay for a cavalryman.

The Battle of Marston Moor was the largest battle on English soil and a major battle in the English Civil War. It was during this battle that Oliver Cromwell's cavalry ensured a Parliamentarian victory over Prince Rupert and the Royalists. There were about 6,000 casualties on that day.

Vessel capacity mark (LIN-940385) from Dunston, Lincolnshire

Witch vessel (NARC-0ACAB1) from Harlestone, Northamptonshire (300 x 50 x 20mm)

A late seventeenth-century pewter spoon from Mitchel Troy, Monmouthshire

A pewter spoon (GLO-5598A7) from Mitchel Troy, Monmouthshire was found by Tim Denning and recorded with Kurt Adams (Gloucestershire & Avon FLO). The back of the bowl has a pair of ridges which taper towards a three-petalled flower. The stem is trapezoidal in cross section. Its upper part has the busts of William and Mary facing each other under a single crown and below these is a foliate motif with annulets. On the back are a series of marks: an incuse C for the owner is on the terminal above a moulded bell, and below these are a lion, a fleur-de-lis further down, and nearest the bowl the maker's initials TW. The oval-shaped bowl is common in the late seventeenth century. The overall condition is good, but the stem has broken away from the bowl.

A late seventeenth- or early eighteenth-century vessel capacity mark from Dunston, Lincolnshire

Metal-detectorist Rob Lane discovered a lead seal set around a handle sherd (LIN-940385) from a stoneware vessel, presumably a tavern mug, in Dunston, Lincolnshire while on a club search with the Lincoln Historic Search Society. The find was recorded with Adam Daubney (Lincolnshire FLO). The handle is ribbed and has a mottled, light brown glaze. The mark is a crown and WR below, stamped on the rectangular lead band; this is a regulatory capacity mark, to show that the particular stoneware vessel had been checked and was officially found to hold the correct volume of liquid. Usually these marks were stamped integrally near the rim and close to the handle into the ceramic before firing. The added lead versions are far less common. The phenomenon of marking began under William III (reigned1694-1702), who is referred to on this example by his royal initials. The dating is not as simple as it might seem, however, since after a few years of 'AR' stamps under Queen Anne (reigned 1702-14), it was noted that the wording of the Act specified the initials 'WR' should be used, and so the authorities reverted to these letters for some years.

A seventeenth- to eighteenth-century iron vessel from Harlestone, Northamptonshire

An iron bowl (NARC-0ACAB1) was found at Harlestone, Northamptonshire and reported to Tom Brindle (Northamptonshire FLO). This large vessel, 300mm in diameter, with walls 50mm high, was discovered in a stream by two walkers. It was possibly associated with witchcraft. Inside it, eleven small copper-alloy pins and fragments were found, along with a stud, a pin, a tack and a possible nail, all of iron. X-raying has revealed that at least ten other pins are still hidden within the corrosion. A bone handle juts out from the bowl's wall, and the X-ray plate reveals the tang and blade of the tool, which is probably a knife. Stones incorporated into the corrosion layer have hampered the penetration of

Toy glass goblet (BH-1F0F22) from Cow Roast, Hertfordshire (22.4 x 19.9mm) Illustration: Donna Watters

Toy watch (NARC-821AC0) from Norton, Northamptonshire (44.5 x 28.9 x 2mm)

Shy cock (NLM-9ABB84) from Marsh Chapel, Lincolnshire (30 x 15mm)

the X-rays, so there may be further small artefacts. The pins retrieved from the bowl all have wound-wire heads and typically date from the sixteenth to nineteenth centuries. Eight of the complete extracted copper-alloy pins, the iron nail and iron pin are bent to varying degrees. The placing of sharp, bent objects, including pins (often alongside human hair and bodily fluids) within ceramic and occasionally glass 'witch bottles', mainly in the seventeenth century, is well known. These bottles, used as protection against witches, are normally found hidden within houses, usually within walls or behind hearths, whereas the present bowl was found out of doors, in a shallow stream. Although no other 'witch' vessel of this metal has been traced, it is possible that a variety of containers were used in the prevention of witchcraft, as it is more likely to have been the contents than the material that were considered important in warding off malign magic. This bowl may have been intended to prevent the curses or spells of a witch from crossing the moving water in which it was found. Within the realm of folk magic, these suggestions can only be tentative, and there is always the possibility that the bowl was simply used as a receptacle for odds and ends. Overall, an antidote to a perceived threat of witchcraft seems a plausible theory.

A seventeenth- or eighteenth-century group of toys from Cow Roast, Hertfordshire

A Weekend Wanderers' rally provided a flurry of excitement when three of the participants, Ashley Bossendorfer, David Philips and Mr Halsey, reported miniature objects found in a limited area to Julian Watters (Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire FLO), initially thinking they might be Roman or earlier votive pieces, which are known from the area. The group comprises three early Post-Medieval toys - a tiny cauldron of copper alloy (BH-26CDF5), a damaged lead human figurine, possibly military (BH-1F1224) and what appears to be a 24mm high green-glass goblet (BH-1F0F22). The moulded glass vessel is difficult to parallel, but it could be the only child's toy of this material recorded in this country (a couple of more obvious miniature glass playthings are known in the Netherlands). These remarkable finds may represent one child's playthings from the seventeenth to early eighteenth century. They are potentially the only known assemblage of toys of different materials of such an early date anywhere.

A late seventeenth- or early eighteenth-century toy watch from Norton, Northamptonshire

A lead-alloy child's toy watch (NARC-821AC0) was found by the Reverend Rodriguez-Veglio whilst metal-detecting at Norton, Northamptonshire and reported to Tom Brindle (Northamptonshire FLO). The object is incomplete – only part of one of the original two sides was found. The outer edge has a border of small pellets and a wide flange enclosing a ring of rococo-style decoration. There is a beaded circle around the chapter ring, which is marked with the hours I to XII in Roman numerals. The numerals alternate with pellets, which indicate the half hours. The dial in the centre is plain, and the hand, which has an arrowhead pointer, indicates 12 o'clock. Toy watches reflect the contemporary designs of real timepieces in fashion at particular periods and they are therefore quite easy to date. This one can be assigned to the late seventeenth or early eighteenth century.

A Post-Medieval shy cock from Marsh Chapel, Lincolnshire

An incomplete lead 'shy cock' toy (NLM-9ABB84) was found by David Revell at Marsh Chapel, Lincolnshire and reported to Lisa Staves (North Lincolnshire FLO). Lisa identified the toy in a bag of 'scrap' metal that the finder had asked her to look through. The flat bird is decorated on both sides with cross hatching to indicate feathers. It would once have stood upright, but the flat base is missing. Toys like this were probably used for throwing sticks at to knock them down. They are quite unusual, and difficult to date accurately, with only two so far recorded on the PAS database. This game is a humane version of one which ended in the death of a real tethered bird.

An eighteenth-century glass bottle seal from Perranuthnoe, Cornwall

A circular glass bottle seal (CORN-3E4F86) was found on the surface of ploughed soil by David Edwards, while metal-detecting at Perranuthnoe, Cornwall. It is from an 'onion'-shaped bottle and is moulded with 'In° Davis 1704'. There is a boss on the back for attachment. It was reported to Anna Tyacke (Cornwall FLO), who identified it as referring to John Davis, who lived in the parish of Perranuthnoe, where it was found. It has a gold-coloured skin due to devitrification, and one edge has been broken off. It is recorded that members of the Davis family in the village married in about 1700, but the two names mentioned are Honour and Samuel. John Davis, however, died in 1737, so this seal could have been to commemorate the birth or baptism of one of his children in 1704.

Bottle seal (CORN-3E4F86) from Perranuthnoe, Cornwall (42 x 10.4mm)

Snuff box (LON-478590) from the City of London (84 x 65 x 19mm)

An eighteenth-century snuff box from the City of London

A silver snuff box (LON-478590) found by Thames Mudlarks Tony Pilson and Ian Smith on the City of London foreshore was recorded by Eleanor Ghey (London FLA). This oval container is decorated on the lid with a well-engraved coat of arms with a central shield and chevron (shaded for red) between three erased fox heads. There is a peer's helmet above the shield, with a crest of a standing fox facing left. This central motif is surrounded by acanthus leaves and garlands. 'AS' above a mullet is stamped on the

Cuff link (IOW-3107D3) from Calbourne, Isle of Wight
(12 x 2.3mm – each piece)

Finger ring (HESH-E35784) from Bridgnorth, Shropshire
(22.8 x 21.5 x 3.4mm)

Fob seal (SOMDOR-1B27F7) from Curry Rivel, Somerset
(33.81 x 28.09 x 5.24mm)

underside of the lid and base. This is the maker's mark of Thomas Ash. His mark is accompanied by a leopard's head (erased), Britannia and the letter mark for 1705. Although several families used arms like these, it has not proved possible to link them definitively with any one.

An eighteenth-century cuff link from Calbourne, Isle of Wight
An almost complete silver cuff link (IOW-3107D3) of early eighteenth-century date, was found by Philip Cave in Calbourne Parish, Isle of Wight, and was reported to Frank Basford (Isle of Wight FLO). The cuff link consists of two pieces of sheet silver, each with a down-turned bevelled rim forming a hollow underside. The rims are decorated in relief with a repeated foliate motif. The front of each is decorated in relief with a female bust facing right, and a letter A to the left of the neck and a letter R to the right. The bust is identifiable as that of Queen Anne (reigned 1702-14), though it is not an accomplished likeness. On the back of each piece is a small silver wire loop, both joined to a longer one to form the linking chain.

An eighteenth-century finger ring from Bridgnorth, Shropshire
A gold mourning ring (HESH-E35784) from Bridgnorth, Shropshire was found by Tony Baker and reported to Peter Reavill (Herefordshire & Shropshire FLO). This ring, with niello panels and a topaz stone, dates to 1735. The exterior of the hoop has five panels. Continuing across all the panels is an inscription of gold letters in the niello (a substance formed from silver, copper, lead and sulphur, which turns black when fired). The accomplished design is well executed. The inscription reads 'MARY / &: SARAH / LITTLETON / OB 7:JUNE / :1735'. The hexagonal-cut topaz is secured in the bezel by a series of crimps and claws. The front of the gold setting is relatively plain but the reverse is decorated with two scallop shells. Mourning rings were relatively popular in the Georgian and Victorian periods. Tony Baker has researched the history of the Littleton family in the parish register of the Church of St Leonard, Bridgnorth, and discovered that the ring commemorates the deaths of Mary and her daughter Sarah. It is likely that Mary died giving birth to her daughter, who was christened on 7th June 1735, but herself died on the following day. They were survived by husband and father Thomas Littleton, who is the most likely person to have commissioned this ring.

A late eighteenth-century fob seal from Curry Rivel, Somerset
Richard Hollock discovered part of a late eighteenth-century gold fob seal (SOMDOR-1B27F7) set with an oval cornelian intaglio at Curry Rivel, Somerset, which he reported to Naomi Payne (Somerset & Dorset FLO). The retaining struts and suspension loop are missing, but the arms engraved in the intaglio can be identified as those of John Pitt, 2nd Earl of Chatham (1756-1835), impaling those of his wife, Mary Elizabeth Townshend (1762-1821), daughter of Thomas Townshend, 1st Viscount Sydney. They include a coronet, supporters and the motto of the earls of Chatham 'BENIGNO NUMINE' ('by heavens' favour'). The seal must date from between the marriage of John Pitt (the elder brother of the Prime Minister William Pitt "the Younger") in 1783, and 1805, when the Pitt family sold their estate at Curry Rivel.

Spoon mould (LANCUM-EDCD76) from Kentmere, Cumbria
(240 x 55 x 41mm)

Manilla (CORN-31B3A7) from St Agnes, Isles of Scilly
(140 x 7 x 8mm, diameter 57.2mm)

A late eighteenth- or nineteenth-century spoon mould from Kentmere, Cumbria
Two parts of a copper-alloy mould for casting plain table-spoons with oval bowls (LANCUM-EDCD76) were found by Eric Bryers in different ends of the same field in Kentmere, Cumbria; there was a gap of at least two years after the discovery of the first part before the second was found! The two parts were reunited and taken to Dot Bruns (Lancashire & Cumbria FLO) to record this evidence of a local industry. It seems most likely that the products would have been of white metal, though not necessarily pewter.

Two nineteenth-century manillas from St Agnes, Isles of Scilly
Two cast copper-alloy manillas (bracelet-form ingots formerly used in West Africa as a sort of money to trade for goods, including slaves) have recently been found on the Isles of Scilly. Both could have come from a nineteenth-century wreck off the islands. Manillas were used on the Nigerian coast from the sixteenth century right up until World War II. They are hard to date as they were made in the same way over several centuries, using the same metals and with the same decoration.

One manilla (CORN-327A62) was found about three feet down by William Berresford-Smith while laying drains on the island of St Agnes. It was brought to the local museum on St Mary's, who then took it to Anna Tyacke (Cornwall FLO) to record. It is in the form of a penannular arm band or bangle made up of a curving, flattened rod, convex in section, with expanded, flat-ended terminals. The terminals and the band are decorated with punched dots and incised rouletting in radiating lines on the terminals, and criss-cross hatching across the band gives the decoration an appearance like cording.

The other manilla (CORN-31B3A7) was found on the surface near the coast by Alfred Trevellick Jenkins in 1945, only about 75m away from the first one. It was brought to the attention of Anna Tyacke (Cornwall FLO) at the 'Fabulous Finds Day' held in Liskeard in April 2005. This manilla is of similar basic form to the other, though the rod is circular in section, again with

Shoe model (SUR-4F3CC5) from Leigh, Surrey (105 x 31 x 44mm)

Identity tag (LIN-CE1D45) from Wellingore, Lincolnshire

Badge (LIN-CE8D25) from Wellingore, Lincolnshire (length 66mm)

expanded, flat-ended terminals, but here of drop-shaped section. This particular type of manilla could have been made in Birmingham for trade between Britain and West Africa in the eighteenth or nineteenth century, though a mould for casting a similar one came from an excavation at a seventeenth-century foundry in Exeter. The first manilla is like one in the Royal Institution of Cornwall's collections that came from the shipwreck of the Portuguese schooner, the Duoro, which sank en route to Africa and was lost with all hands off Crebawethan, Western Rocks, Isles of Scilly in 1843 (to the southwest of the findspot of the second manilla described above) and so it is plausible that that one too may have also come from this wreck.

A nineteenth-century model wooden shoe from Leigh, Surrey

A model shoe (SUR-4F3CC5) was reported to David Williams (Surrey FLO) by Brian and Vivienne Boustred who found it pushed into a hole in the wall of their late seventeenth-century house at Leigh in Surrey, which was altered in 1893. The shoe is decorated with scores of tiny brass pins which form the pattern of studs on the sole, the lace holes, and the pattern on the instep and toe. The shoe has within it a rectangular void and appears to have started life as a box, possibly for snuff. There is a long folk tradition of secreting shoes inside houses for magical or superstitious reasons and it seems likely that this deposit of a shoe is a late memory of that tradition. The shoe itself cannot be very closely dated but it is certainly from the nineteenth century.

A new nineteenth-century gunflint production site in Freckenham, Suffolk

A local farmer in Freckenham, Suffolk, has discovered a new production site of platform gunflints (SMR number FRK 086), which was identified by Colin Pendleton (Suffolk SMR Officer) and recorded (SF-8C47C2) by Faye Minter (Suffolk FLO). Colin explained that platform gunflints were produced in Brandon and Icklingham, Suffolk, for the British army from the late eighteenth century. Certainly these were the main production sites between about 1800 and 1850. Other than at these sites there was very little production, due to the specialised nature of gunflint manufacture, so finding a large group of gunflint production waste at Freckenham is important. This new production site was indicated by the discovery of manufacturing waste as well as finished gunflints. Its presence could be due to a Brandon knapper perhaps living in Freckenham, making gunflints for the locals, but it does indicate a wider network of production sites than previously thought. More historical research is now needed to discover why production was taking place there and who was doing it.

A twentieth-century identity tag and medal from Wellingore, Lincolnshire

Two Second World War artefacts were discovered next to a former prisoner-of-war camp at Wellingore, Lincolnshire by metal-detectorist Ron Teather.

The first is the upper half of a German identity tag (LIN-CE1D45). It is D-shaped, with two holes near the curved edge. Two tabs of metal protrude from the straight edge and these would originally have been attached to the lost opposite side. The tag is stamped with the soldier's details: 'STAMM KOMP I.E.B. 348,' below which is a letter 'O,' indicating his bloodgroup, and the number '16', indicating his serial number. In full the first line reads 'Stamm Kompanie Infanterie-Ersatz-Bataillon 348' (Muster Company Infantry Draft Battalion 348). The upper part of an identity tag was normally buried with the soldier if he died in service, whilst the lower part was sent back to the records office. An image of the tag was sent to the Deutsche Dienststelle (German Service Office), who wrote back to say that the wearer of this tag had turned up in Germany in 1956, showing that despite being the upper portion, this was not part of a burial.

The second artefact discovered is an incomplete infantry assault badge (LIN-CE8D25), which was awarded to German infantry soldiers who participated in three campaigns. The badge is moulded in the form of a rifle with strap within a wreath, at the top of which an eagle is perched. The hinged pin on the reverse is intact.

Edited by Geoff Egan (Finds Adviser, Post-Medieval Artefacts), Julian Baker (Finds Adviser, Medieval & Post-Medieval Coins) & Michael Lewis (Deputy Head).

All finds recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) are entered onto its finds database – www.findsdatabase.org.uk[1]. 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 version of the database does not provide finders' details or precise findspot information.

The PAS website and finds database

In the period of this report the Scheme's website (www.finds.org.uk) has been enhanced with a new accessible template, which was recognised by its inclusion on the shortlist for the prestigious Jodi Mattes award for accessibility. Features include valid HTML code, custom style sheets and appropriately labelled links. The site has also benefited greatly from the inclusion of a gallery of pictures and a web diary (blog), allowing the public to participate in the work of the Scheme.

The finds database (www.findsdatabase.org.uk) has also seen some radical changes, which have been overseen by Dan Pett (ICT Adviser). Oxford ArchDigital (the development team behind the database) has introduced some important new concepts to our recording process, including a download facility for transferring our data to local Historic Environment Records (in MIDAS XML and Excel formats), an interactive image tool for high resolution viewing of objects, and enhanced tools for data capture and validation by specialists. The web presence of the PAS was further enhanced by PASTexplorers (www.pastexplorers.org.uk) – a children's website aimed at 7-11 year olds and teachers – which was launched by David Lammy (Minister for Culture) in October 2005. It is hoped that this facility will be developed to enhance the teaching of archaeology within the National Curriculum.

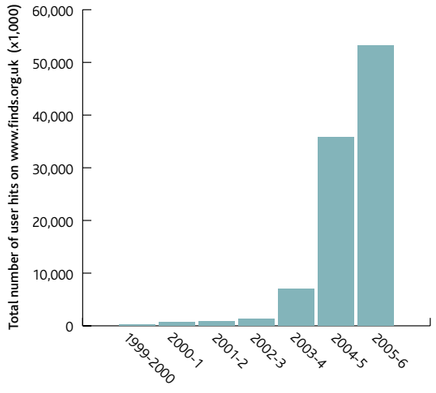
The development of these resources has led to increased use of the PAS website and finds database. In 2005/6 user hits on the website/database increased dramatically from almost 36 million in 2004/05 to over 53 million (Table 2a). The PAS websites are now receiving over 12,000 more visitors per calendar month than in 2004/5; visits have gone up on average by 300%, and over 1 million pages are viewed each month, with an average of 19 page views each visit (Table 2b). The PAS User Survey 2006 shows that 69 per cent of people use the PAS website to find out about finds in their local area (Table 2c). PAS is now regularly checking where it ranks for keywords searched on major search engines; the PAS website is now number one on Google for the keywords 'antiquities', 'portable antiquities' and 'finds' which has undoubtedly helped to increase web traffic to the site in 2005/6.

[1] A further 22,408 finds (paper records) were recorded by the Scheme in Norfolk, and there is a commitment from Norfolk Museums & Archaeology Service that all finds will be recorded on the database in the future.

Table 2a: User hits on www.finds.org.uk – October 1999 to March 2006

Month	1999-2000	2000-1	2001-2	2002-3	2003-4	2004-5	2005-6
April	-	42,148	57,592	106,952	268,925	2,025,978	3,861,520
May	-	35,917	61,245	108,380	202,665	1,985,003	3,813,346
June	-	34,090	59,787	84,821	268,778	2,624,770	5,023,172
July	-	42,545	64,916	90,736	244,912	2,128,634	4,132,458
August	-	68,976	103,358	69,592	234,736	987,309	4,119,401
September	-	51,033	96,274	79,531	346,042	3,951,582	3,834,717
October	29,995	58,344	77,215	124,818	327,555	3,959,589	5,483,918
November	29,248	59,512	76,233	108,058	939,510	3,440,933	3,651,337
December	29,619	57,143	68,594	114,929	740,560	2,529,853	4,604,073
January	35,219	61,498	84,387	178,419	1,096,389	3,739,255	6,164,792
February	29,179	59,351	81,132	137,839	1,145,334	3,924,317	5,297,039
March	37,302	62,089	90,279	127,497	1,141,837	4,572,750	3,270,043
Total	**190,562**	**632,646**	**921,012**	**1,331,572**	**6,957,243**	**35,869,973**	**53,255,816**

2a



2b

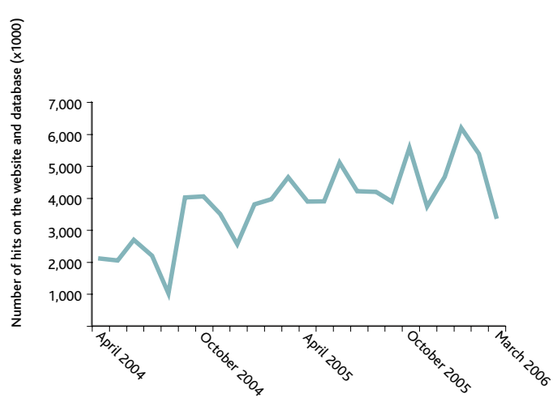


Table 2b: Visitors, visits, page requests and user hits on the PAS website and finds database April 2004 to March 2006

Month	Unique Visitors	Number of Visits	Page Requests	Hits	Average Page Views per Visit
April 2004	7,002	21,641	341,784	2,025,978	16
May 2004	7,006	23,089	392,178	1,985,003	17
June 2004	7,429	23,473	460,562	2,624,770	20
July 2004	7,574	25,317	363,102	2,128,634	14
August 2004	5,371	17,130	178,782	987,309	10
September 2004	8,566	29,557	637,456	3,951,582	22
October 2004	8,030	30,629	667,988	3,959,589	22
November 2004	7,912	31,097	620,459	3,440,933	20
December 2004	7,256	30,326	484,497	2,529,853	16
January 2005	9,892	37,650	670,101	3,739,255	18
February 2005	10,789	42,487	680,634	3,924,317	16
March 2005	9,887	39,824	810,655	4,572,750	20
April 2005	9,594	39,722	704,053	3,861,520	18
May 2005	10,710	42,264	799,373	3,813,346	19
June 2005	11,206	42,289	932,994	5,023,172	22
July 2005	11,553	47,298	766,300	4,132,458	16
August 2005[2]	12,590	45,398	846,374	4,119,401	19
September 2005[2]	12,386	43,801	871,472	3,834,717	20
October 2005	20,624	68,566	1,037,937	5,483,918	15
November 2005	16,716	47,950	752,726	3,651,337	16
December 2005	16,764	58,040	767,002	4,604,073	13
January 2006	18,777	71,171	1,416,044	6,164,792	20
February 2006	18,827	69,268	1,131,619	5,297,039	16
March 2006	13,116	29,696	829,173	3,270,043	28
Total	**269,577**	**957,683**	**17,163,265**	**89,125,789**	**18**

[2] The PAS website was offline for some time in these months.

Table 2c: 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%

Objects recorded by quantity

57,556 archaeological objects were recorded on the PAS finds database in 2005/6: Table 3a shows objects recorded by geographical area, whilst Table 3b shows objects recorded by recording area. Differences between the two tables are explained by the fact that several FLOs cover more than one county and all FLOs record finds from other parts of the country. For example, whilst the North & East Yorkshire FLOs recorded 1,032 finds in 2005/6, at least another 384 finds from North & East Yorkshire were recorded by FLOs in other areas. The fact that people may find objects away from where they live means that FLOs need to be willing to record objects found outside their area. It is important that recording is convenient for finders to ensure maximum participation in the Scheme.

Most finds recorded came from the South East (including London), followed by the East of England, East Midlands and Wales. The five areas where most finds were recorded were Wales (8,492), Suffolk (6,054), Lincolnshire (3,991), Norfolk (2,857) and Essex (2,523). Those with most by recording area were Wales (9,291), Suffolk (6,161), Sussex (2,933), Lincolnshire (2,834) and Norfolk (2,733). Many diverse and complicated factors influence the numbers of finds recorded, including archaeology, land use and traditions of liaison between archaeologist and finders.

The monthly average of objects recorded in 2005/6 by recording area (Table 3c) shows geographic variation. The most productive areas are Wales (772 finds recorded a month), Suffolk (513), Sussex (244), Hampshire and Lincolnshire (both 236) and Norfolk (227). Again various factors explain this 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 3d shows the month-by-month average number of finds recorded in 2005/6. This reflects when recording work takes place, not when finds are discovered. Interestingly most finds were recorded in March (8,251) – at the end of the reporting period (!) – and during October (6,886) and November (6,053), when most cultivated fields do not have crops and are available for metal-detecting.

Table 3a: Objects recorded by geographical area in 2005/6

	Records	Finds Recorded
Avon	173	311
Bedfordshire	450	535
Berkshire	248	253
Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes	846	1,129
Cambridgeshire & Peterborough	610	1,161
Cheshire	117	130
Cornwall	359	378
Cumbria	156	158
Derbyshire	233	282
Devon	159	168
Dorset	364	393
Durham	776	792
Essex	911	2,523
Gloucestershire	610	2,218
Greater London	926	1,047
Greater Manchester	3	3
Hampshire	1,323	1,395
Herefordshire	224	279
Hertfordshire	664	700
Isle of Wight	728	1,934
Kent	1,894	2,037
Lancashire	373	385
Leicestershire & Rutland	1,724	1,845
Lincolnshire	2,772	3,991
Lincolnshire, North	754	797
Merseyside	12	12
Norfolk	2,765	2,857
Northamptonshire	1,720	1,819
Northumberland	23	49
Nottinghamshire	596	696
Oxfordshire	805	1,178
Shropshire	380	492
Somerset	498	626
Staffordshire	344	659
Suffolk	3,090	6,054
Surrey	774	1,000
Sussex, East	1,246	1,450
Sussex, West	692	1,441
Teesside	10	10
Tyne & Wear	131	131
Warwickshire	920	1,354
West Midlands	40	173
Wiltshire & Swindon	1,047	1,679
Worcestershire	273	384
Yorkshire, East	212	249
Yorkshire, North & City of York	1,154	1,167
Yorkshire, South	205	312
Yorkshire, West	92	179
Wales	2,389	8,492
Other	249	249
Total	**37,064**	**57,556**

Table 3b: Objects recorded by recording area in 2005/6

	Posts	Months	Records	Finds Recorded
Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire	1	12	1,126	1,245
Berkshire & Oxfordshire	1	12	1,097	1,469
Buckinghamshire	1	12	691	972
Cambridgeshire	1	7	414	964
Cheshire, Gtr Manchester & Merseyside	1	12	290	303
Cornwall	0.5	12	365	384
Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire	1	12	1,286	1,476
Devon	1	8	142	151
Essex	1	12	869	2,454
Gloucestershire & Avon	1	12	544	2,272
Hampshire	1	9	1,022	1,081
Herefordshire & Shropshire	1	12	458	572
Isle of Wight	0.3	12	728	1,934
Kent	1	12	1,975	2,116
Lancashire & Cumbria	1	12	661	675
Leicestershire & Rutland	1	12	1,762	1,880
Lincolnshire	1	12	1,627	2,834
London	0.5	12	1,085	1,215
Norfolk	1.5	12	2,643	2,733
Northamptonshire	1	12	1,670	1,765
North East	1	8	1,003	1,045
North Lincolnshire	1	12	1,519	1,606
Somerset & Dorset	1.5	12	853	1,006
Staffordshire & West Midlands	1	12	639	1,208
Suffolk	1.5	12	3,191	6,161
Surrey	0.5	12	851	1,079
Sussex (East & West)	1	12	1,955	2,933
Warwickshire & Worcestershire	1	12	988	1,430
Wiltshire	1	12	928	1,383
Yorkshire (North & East)	1.5	12	1,023	1,032
Yorkshire (South & West)	1	12	429	599
Wales	1	12	2,913	9,261
Other	-	-	317	318
Total			**37,064**	**57,556**

Table 3c: Monthly average of objects recorded in 2004/5 and 2005/6 by recording area

	Posts	Average 2004/05	Average 2005/06
Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire	1	129	104
Berkshire & Oxfordshire	1	68	122
Buckinghamshire	1	53	81
Cambridgeshire	1	21	138
Cheshire, Gtr Manchester & Merseyside	1	28	25
Cornwall	0.5	21	32
Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire	1	58	123
Devon	1	47	19
Essex	1	129	205
Gloucestershire & Avon	1	142	189
Hampshire	1	97	121
Herefordshire & Shropshire	1	30	48
Isle of Wight	0.3	76	161
Kent	1	121	176
Lancashire & Cumbria	1	115	56
Leicestershire & Rutland	1	114	157
Lincolnshire	1	94	236
London	0.5	121	101
Norfolk	1.5	39	227
Northamptonshire	1	106	147
North East	1	68	131
North Lincolnshire	1	115	134
Somerset & Dorset	1.5	203	84
Staffordshire & West Midlands	1	103	101
Suffolk	1.5	504	513
Surrey	0.5	69	90
Sussex (East & West)	1	156	244
Warwickshire & Worcestershire	1	164	119
Wiltshire	1	133	115
Yorkshire (North & East)	1.5	36	86
Yorkshire (South & West)	1	34	50
Wales	1	217	772

Table 3d: **Month-by-month breakdown of objects recorded in 2005/6 for the whole Scheme**

	Records	Finds Recorded
April 2005	2,350	3,833
May 2005	2,856	3,714
June 2005	3,473	3,824
July 2005	2,203	2,881
August 2005	2,934	5,058
September 2005	2,876	3,441
October 2005	3,221	6,886
November 2005	3,847	6,053
December 2005	2,008	3,481
January 2006	3,196	4,954
February 2006	2,897	5,180
March 2006	5,203	8,251
Total	**37,064**	**57,556**

Objects recorded by class

Table 4 shows the number of objects record by class (where known) in 2005/6 by English Government region and Wales. Most objects recorded are metal objects (34.68 per cent) and coins (26.46 per cent), closely followed by worked stone (22.19 per cent), but there are notable regional variations. For example in Wales and the South West more worked stone is recorded (91.86 and 36.35 and per cent respectively) than any other object class. Likewise in the East and West Midlands relatively high numbers of pottery finds are being recorded (30.15 and 28.58 per cent respectively). In general these statistics reflect differences in the archaeology and extensive liaison with field-walkers in these areas. In the North East, 60.78 per cent of finds recorded are coins.

Table 4: **Objects recorded by class when known in 2005/6 - Percentages in brackets (%)**

	FLOs	Metal Objects		Coins		Worked Stone		Pottery		Other/ unknown		Total
North West	2	362	(51.49)	201	(28.59)	39	(5.55)	90	(12.8)	11	(1.57)	703
North East	1	293	(30.08)	592	(60.78)	3	(0.31)	69	(7.08)	17	(1.75)	974
Yorkshire & the Humber	4	1,256	(46.90)	820	(30.62)	379	(14.15)	212	(7.92)	11	(0.41)	2,678
West Midlands	3	1,011	(30.32)	929	(27.87)	394	(11.82)	953	(28.58)	47	(1.41)	3,334
East Midlands	4	4,396	(47.93)	3,493	(38.08)	413	(4.5)	728	(07.94)	142	(1.55)	9,172
East	7	5,101	(41.06)	3,105	(24.99)	413	(3.32)	3,746	(30.15)	60	(0.48)	12,425
South West	6	1,530	(26.65)	1,202	(20.94)	2,087	(36.35)	408	(7.11)	514	(8.95)	5,741
South East & London	8	5,603	(40.27)	4,610	(33.14)	1,253	(9.01)	2,392	(17.19)	54	(0.39)	13,912
Wales	1	316	(3.73)	240	(2.84)	7,777	(91.86)	120	(1.42)	13	(0.15)	8,466
Other	-	79	(69.29)	28	(24.56)	3	(02.63)	2	(1.76)	2	(1.76)	114
Total	**36**	**19,947**	**(34.68)**	**15,220**	**(26.46)**	**12,761**	**(22.19)**	**8,720**	**(15.16)**	**871**	**(1.51)**	**57,519**

Table 4 (cont.): **Objects recorded by class when known in 2005/6**

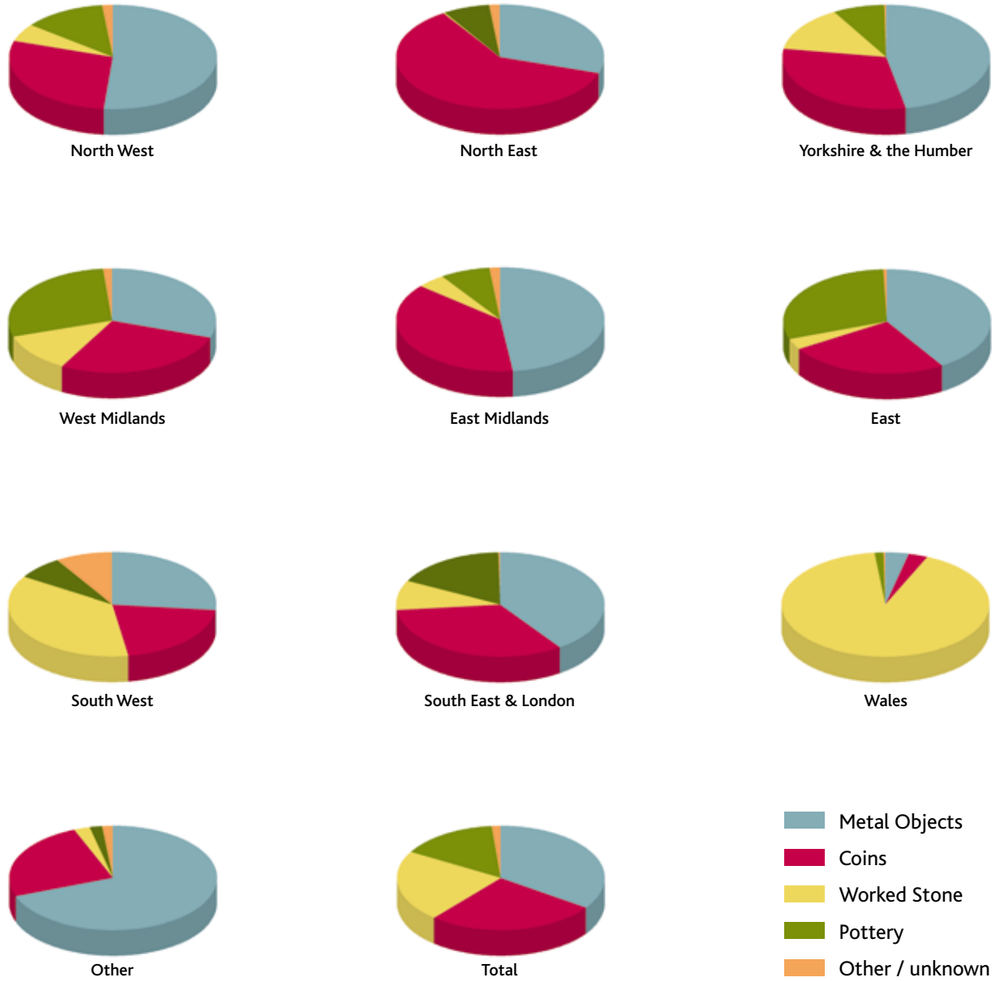
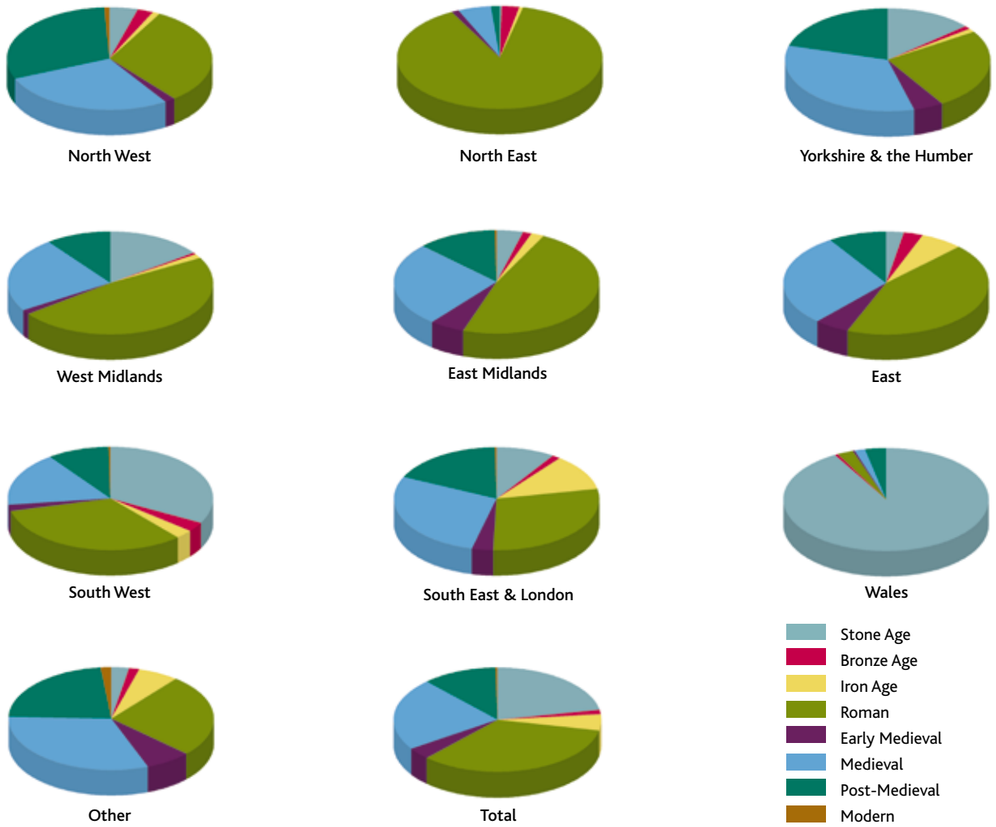


Table 5 shows the number of objects recorded by period in 2005/6 by region. Roman finds account for the highest percentage of finds of any period (33.66 per cent), followed by Medieval (22.68 per cent) and then Stone Age (21.90 per cent) finds. FLOs are more selective recording Post-Medieval and later finds, which accounts for the relatively low proportion of Post-Medieval (11.66 per cent) and Modern finds (0.16 per cent) recorded.

There are regional differences, which mostly reflect the diverse archaeology of England and Wales. For example, high percentages of Stone Age objects are being recorded in Wales and the South West (91.56 and 32.68 per cent respectively) compared with elsewhere. Bronze Age finds are proportionally highest in the South West (3.12 per cent), whereas Iron Age finds are commonest in the South East & London (11.33 per cent). Roman finds account for the largest proportion of finds recorded in the North East, followed by the East and West Midlands (88.65, 47.92 and 47.72 per cent respectively). The highest proportion of Early Medieval finds comes from the East Midlands and East (5.56 and 5.53 per cent respectively). The proportion of Medieval finds is highest in Yorkshire & the Humber (33.45 per cent). Post-Medieval finds are the commonest objects recorded in the North West (30.78).

Table 5: **Objects recorded by period when known in 2005/6 - Percentages in brackets (%)**

	Stone Age	Bronze Age	Iron Age	Roman	Early Medieval	Medieval	Post-Medieval	Modern	Total
North West	300 (4.42)	17 (2.50)	8 (1.18)	211 (31.07)	11 (1.62)	188 (27.69)	209 (30.78)	5 (0.74)	679
North East	2 (0.21)	28 (2.86)	6 (0.61)	867 (88.65)	9 (0.92)	52 (5.32)	14 (1.43)	0 (0.00)	978
Yorkshire & the Humber	366 (13.74)	23 (0.86)	30 (1.13)	675 (25.35)	127 (4.77)	891 (33.46)	550 (20.65)	1 (0.04)	2,663
West Midlands	510 (14.92)	24 (0.70)	44 (1.29)	1,631 (47.72)	49 (1.43)	806 (23.58)	353 (10.33)	1 (0.03)	3,418
East Midlands	389 (4.28)	104 (1.14)	184 (2.02)	4,361 (47.92)	506 (5.56)	2,381 (26.17)	1,161 (12.76)	14 (0.15)	9,100
East	364 (2.91)	273 (2.19)	843 (6.75)	5,497 (43.99)	691 (5.53)	3,685 (29.49)	1,140 (9.12)	2 (0.02)	12,495
South West	1,747 (32.68)	167 (3.12)	156 (2.92)	1,739 (32.52)	90 (1.68)	917 (17.15)	517 (9.67)	14 (0.26)	5,347
South East & London	1,215 (9.17)	191 (1.44)	1,502 (11.33)	3,782 (28.54)	454 (3.43)	3,705 (27.96)	2,354 (17.76)	49 (0.37)	13,252
Wales	7,748 (91.56)	46 (0.54)	6 (0.07)	225 (2.66)	7 (0.08)	157 (1.86)	268 (3.17)	5 (0.06)	8,462
Other / Unknown	3 (2.70)	2 (1.80)	7 (6.31)	29 (26.13)	8 (7.21)	35 (31.53)	25 (22.52)	2 (1.80)	111
Total	12,374 (21.9)	875 (1.55)	2,786 (4.93)	19,017 (33.66)	1,952 (3.46)	12,817 (22.68)	6,591 (11.66)	93 (0.16)	56,505



Findspot precision

FLOs ask finders to record finds to at least a six figure National Grid Reference (NGR) – accurate to 100m². With the ready availability of handheld Global Positioning Systems (GPS) devices, it is increasingly common for finders to provide eight or ten figure NGRs. There are regional differences (Table 6a), but in very general terms finders in the South and East of England record finds to a greater degree of precision than those in the other parts of the country. The reasons for this are diverse, complex and controversial! In 2005/6 the areas with the highest proportion of finds recorded to an NGR of six figures or more were the Isle of Wight (99.74 percent), Cornwall (99.47 per cent) and Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire (98.46 per cent). The lowest were Lincolnshire (61.04 per cent), Devon (71.43 per cent) and Herefordshire & Shropshire (72.99 per cent). Table 6b shows that the improvement in findspot precision continues to rise, from 75 per cent of all finds recorded to a NGR of 6 figures or better last year to almost 86 per cent in 2005/6.

Table 6a: **Findspot precision by recording area 2005/6**

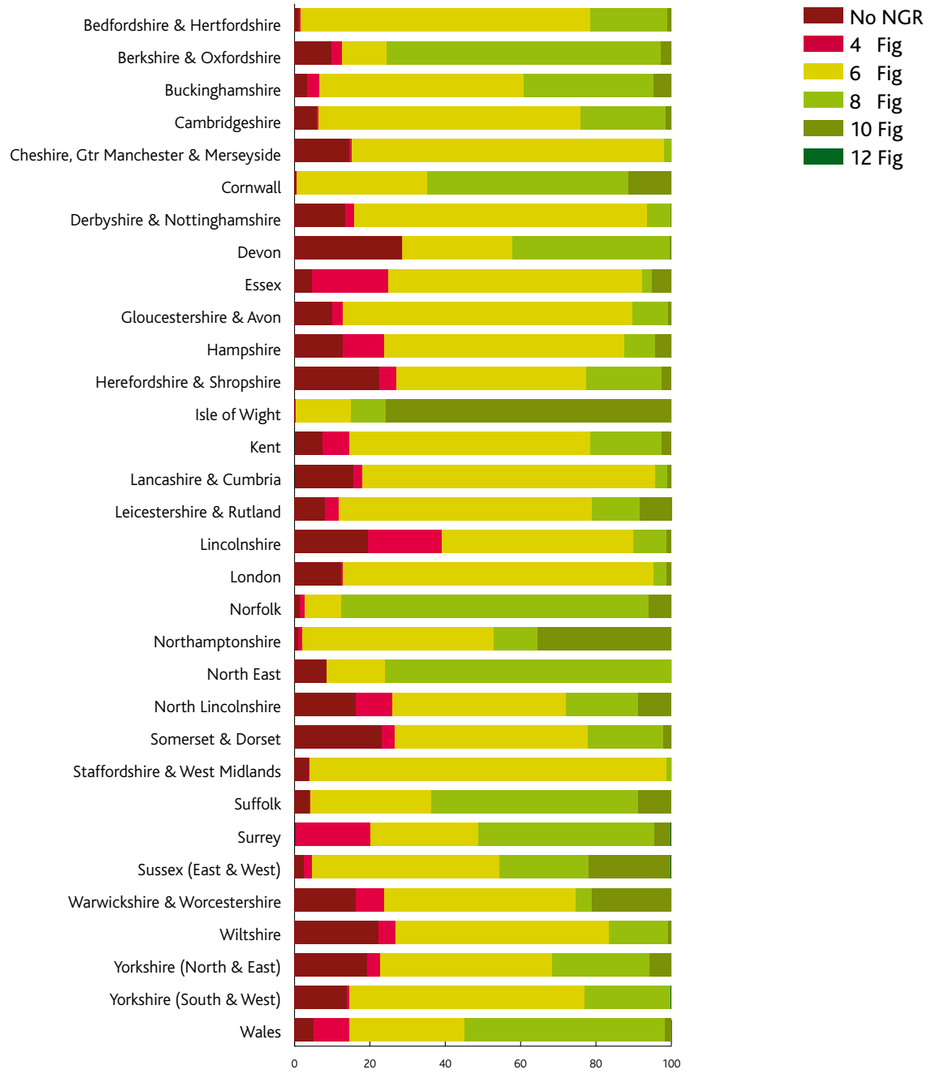


Table 6b: **Change in findspot precision since 1997 – percentage of findspots with at least a 6 figure NGR**

Year	Average
1997-1999	56
1999-2000	60
2000-2001	68
2001-2003	70
2003-2004	73
2004-2005	75
2005-2006	86

Finders

Table 7a shows that 5,855 individuals offered finds for recording with the PAS in 2005/6. Of these, 58.74 per cent were metal-detectorists[3]. The FLOs continue to visit metal-detecting clubs regularly as metal-detectorists are responsible for discovering the majority of archaeological finds found by the public.

Table 7a: **Number of individuals offering finds for recording in 2005/6**

	Metal Detectorists	Others	Total
Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire	281	94	375
Berkshire & Oxfordshire	123	38	161
Buckinghamshire	305	14	319
Cambridgeshire	42	60	102
Cheshire, Gtr Manchester & Merseyside	51	2	53
Cornwall	48	51	99
Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire	151	33	184
Devon	35	150	185
Essex	80	140	220
Gloucestershire & Avon	42	14	56
Hampshire	41	23	64
Herefordshire & Shropshire	150	310	460
Isle of Wight	80	15	95
Kent	150	67	217
Lancashire & Cumbria	75	30	105
Leicestershire & Rutland	105	51	156
Lincolnshire	70	13	83
London	36	138	174
Norfolk	188	50	238
Northamptonshire	45	100	145
North East	130	50	180
North Lincolnshire	84	53	137
Somerset & Dorset	69	144	213
Staffordshire & West Midlands	51	20	71
Suffolk	165	10	175
Surrey	81	17	98
Sussex (East & West)	197	83	280
Warwickshire & Worcestershire	51	41	92
Wiltshire	161	124	285
Yorkshire (North & East)	190	224	414
Yorkshire (South & West)	75	50	125
Wales	87	207	294
Total	**3,439**	**2,416**	**5,855**

[3] In previous years only the finders whose finds have been recorded have been calculated in the statistics presented in the Portable Antiquities Scheme Annual Report.

Table 7b shows that of 173 clubs known to exist, the FLOs have contact with 165 of them on a regular basis. 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**[4]

	No. of clubs (membership)	No. of clubs in regular contact (membership)
Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire	3 (145)	3 (145)
Berkshire & Oxfordshire	4 (230)	3 (170)
Buckinghamshire	4 (100)	4 (100)
Cambridgeshire	2 (70)	2 (70)
Cheshire, Gtr Manchester & Merseyside	8 (296)	8 (296)
Cornwall	3 (86)	3 (86)
Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire	8 (265)	8 (265)
Devon	5 (110+)	4 (110+)
Essex	6 (310)	6 (310)
Gloucestershire & Avon	5 (175)	5 (175)
Hampshire	3 (120)	3 (120)
Herefordshire & Shropshire	3 (85)	3 (85)
Isle of Wight	3 (130)	3 (130)
Kent	11 (415)	11 (415)
Lancashire & Cumbria	5 (220)	5 (220)
Leicestershire & Rutland	4 (155)	4 (155)
Lincolnshire	4 105)	4 (105)
London	2 (90)	2 (90)
Norfolk	5 (195)	5 (195)
Northamptonshire	6 (77+)	6 (77+)
North East	15 (361+)	15 (361+)
North Lincolnshire	2 (77)	2 (77)
Somerset & Dorset	4 (120)	4 (120)
Staffordshire & West Midlands	4 (290)	4 (290)
Suffolk	2 (230)	2 (230)
Surrey	8 (215)	8 (215)
Sussex (East & West)	11 (260)	11 (260)
Warwickshire & Worcestershire	3 (85)	3 (85)
Wiltshire	5 (127)	3 (80)
Yorkshire (North & East)	5 (115+)	4 (115)
Yorkshire (South & West)	11 (295+)	8 (290)
Wales	9 (260+)	9 (260+)
Total	**173 (5,814+)**	**165 (5,702+)**

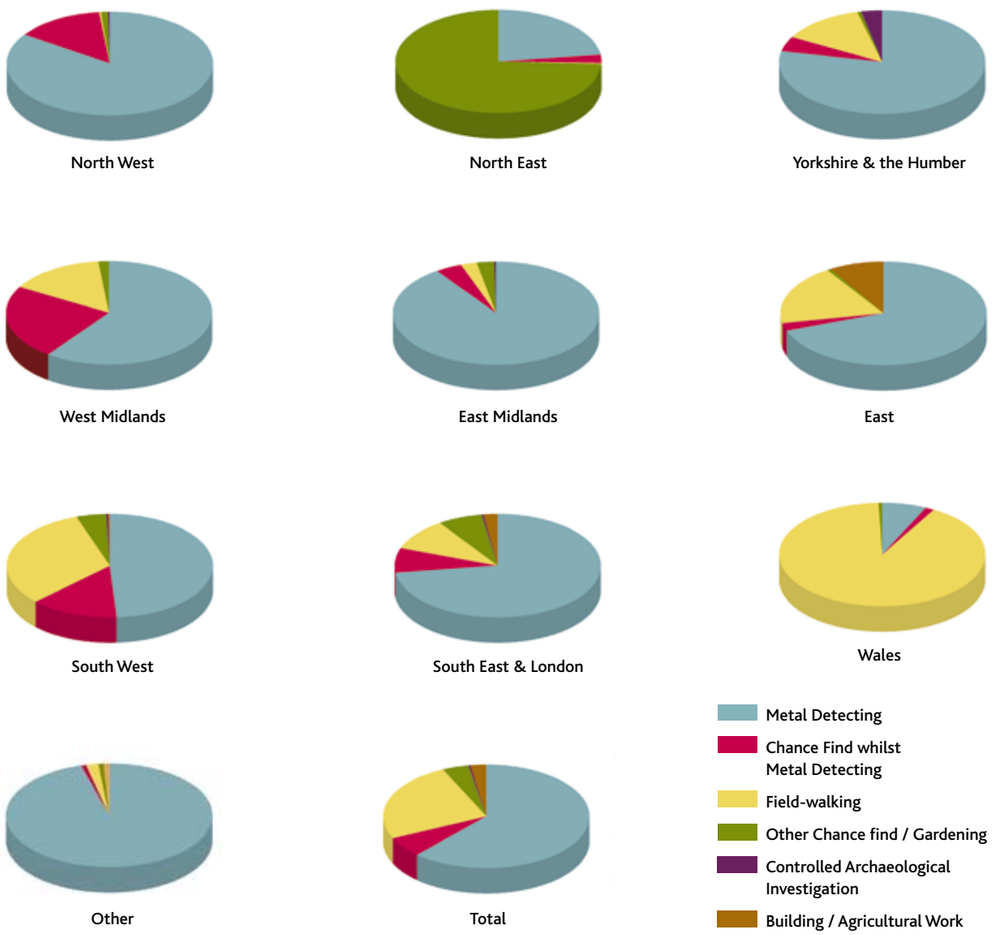
Method of discovery

68.02 per cent of the finds recorded in 2005/6 were found by metal-detectorists, of which 6.48 per cent were chance finds (such as pottery and worked stone) spotted whilst out metal-detecting (Table 8). The regional trend broadly reflects the national one, but there are some notable differences. In the West Midlands proportionally high numbers of objects are found by chance by finders whilst out metal-detecting (23.42 per cent). In Wales 90.9 per cent of finds were recovered by field-walkers, compared to a national average of 25.07 per cent. Other chance finds accounted for 74.24 per cent of the finds recorded in the North East; this is primarily explained by divers recovering Roman finds from the River Tees. Proportionally, the highest number of finds recovered during controlled archaeological investigation is in Yorkshire & the Humber, accounting for 3.44 per cent of finds recorded, whilst finds recovered through building work are highest in the East (8.56 per cent).

[4] 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 (1200 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 2005/06 - Percentages in brackets (%)**

	Metal Detecting	Chance Find whilst Metal Detecting	Field-walking	Other Chance find/Gardening	Controlled Archaeological Investigation	Building/ Agricultural Work	Total
North West	578 (84.38)	96 (14.02)	2 (0.29)	7 (1.02)	2 (0.29)	0 (0)	685
North East	223 (22.71)	29 (2.95)	1 (0.1)	729 (74.24)	0 (0)	0 (0)	982
Yorkshire & the Humber	2,121 (78.44)	122 (4.51)	355 (13.13)	13 (0.48)	93 (3.44)	0 (0)	2,704
West Midlands	1,993 (59.85)	780 (23.42)	500 (15.02)	51 (1.53)	1 (0.03)	5 (0.15)	3,330
East Midlands	8,274 (90.27)	389 (4.25)	233 (2.54)	254 (2.77)	14 (0.15)	2 (0.02)	9,166
East	8,736 (69.37)	324 (2.57)	2,366 (18.79)	80 (0.65)	10 (0.08)	1,078 (8.56)	12,594
South West	2,817 (48.84)	810 (14.04)	1,838 (31.87)	274 (4.75)	7 (0.12)	22 (0.38)	5,768
South East & London	9,859 (72.88)	1,028 (7.6)	1,377 (10.18)	934 (6.91)	19 (0.14)	310 (2.29)	13,527
Wales	580 (6.85)	135 (1.59)	7,702 (90.9)	49 (0.58)	0 (0)	7 (0.08)	8,473
Other	107 (95.54)	1 (0.89)	2 (1.79)	1 (0.89)	0 (0)	1 (0.89)	112
Total	**35,288 (61.54)**	**3,714 (6.48)**	**14,376 (25.07)**	**2,392 (4.17)**	**146 (0.25)**	**1,425 (2.49)**	**57,341**



Date of discovery
Most finds recorded by the FLOs were discovered in recent years. Table 9 shows that 74.39 per cent of finds recorded in 2005/6 were found since January 2005. The FLOs concentrate their efforts on recording the most recently discovered finds, since these are more likely to have more precise findspot information.

Landuse
90.15 per cent of finds recorded by the FLOs are found on cultivated land (Table 10), and are therefore especially vulnerable to agricultural damage and natural and artificial corrosion processes.

Table 9: **Date of discovery in 2005/6 (where known)**

Date of Discovery	Finds	Percentage of Total
Before 1980	694	1.4
1980-9	1,046	2.11
1990-9	1,032	2.08
2000	382	0.77
2001	478	0.97
2002	1,664	3.36
2003	1,280	2.59
2004	6,105	12.33
2005	33,429	67.52
2006	3,402	6.87
Total	**49,512**	

Table 10: **Landuse of findspots in 2005/6 (where known)**

Landuse	Finds	Percentage of Total
Cultivated land	44,777	90.15
Grass and heathland	621	1.25
Woodland	321	0.65
Coastland	621	1.25
Open fresh water	1,708	3.44
Wetland	7	0.01
Other	1,613	3.25
Total	**49,668**	

Treasure
Under the Treasure Act 1996 there is a legal obligation to report all finds of potential Treasure. The process allows a national or local museum to acquire Treasure items for public benefit. If this happens the finder will be rewarded; this reward is normally shared equally between the finder and landowner. The reward is fixed at the full market value of the finds, which is determined by the Secretary of State on the advice of an independent panel of experts known as 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 506 in 2004 to 595 in 2005. Particularly significant is the impact of FLOs on the reporting of Treasure. Since 2003, when the PAS was expanded to the whole of England and Wales, there has been an average increase of 154 per cent in the reporting of Treasure. The most significant increases have been in the Isle of Wight and Sussex (1,186 and 953 per cent respectively): both areas had an FLO for the first time in 2003. The area with the lowest increase was Warwickshire and Worcestershire; but even here there was an increase of 23 per cent.

"The PAS plays a major role in supporting the Treasure Act through its network of Finds Liaison Officers. It is largely down to their work that we have seen a substantial rise in the reporting of Treasure finds."
David Lammy, Minister for Culture

Whilst the reporting of Treasure has continued to increase there is concern about the number of unreported finds of potential Treasure being sold on the Internet and elsewhere. The Department of Portable Antiquities & Treasure (British Museum) has been monitoring the trade, and (with MLA and the Metropolitan Police) agreed with eBay a Memorandum of Understanding, whereby eBay will remove finds from their website if there are grounds for believing them to be potential Treasure. To date there have been a number of successes, with sellers removing such items from sale and having them properly reported. The PAS has also produced guidance for people buying archaeological objects suggesting five questions that should be satisfactorily answered before they buy (see www.finds.org.uk/treasure/advice.php).

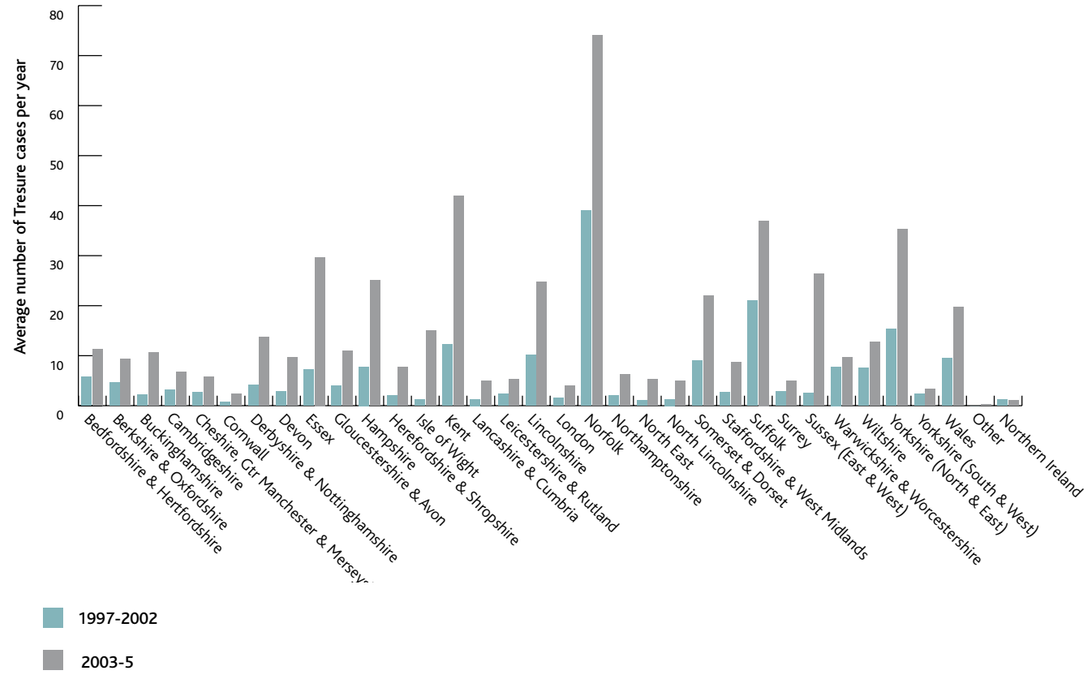
Table 11a: Number of Treasure cases reported 1988-2005

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

Table 11b: Treasure reporting: 1997 to 2003 and since 2003

	Treasure cases 1997-2002	Average per year 1997-2002	Treasure cases 2003-5	Average per year 2003-5	Average increase (%)
Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire	35	5.8	34	11.3	94.3
Berkshire & Oxfordshire	28	4.7	28	9.3	100
Buckinghamshire	13	2.2	32	10.7	392.3
Cambridgeshire	19	3.2	20	6.7	110.5
Cheshire, Gtr Manchester & Merseyside	16	2.7	17	5.7	112.5
Cornwall	4	0.7	7	2.3	250
Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire	25	4.2	41	13.7	228
Devon	17	2.8	29	9.7	241.2
Essex	43	7.2	89	29.7	314
Gloucestershire & Avon	24	4	33	11	175
Hampshire	47	7.8	75	25	219.1
Herefordshire & Shropshire	12	2	23	7.7	283.3
Isle of Wight	7	1.2	45	15	1,185.7
Kent	73	12.2	126	42	245.2
Lancashire & Cumbria	8	1.3	15	5	275
Leicestershire & Rutland	14	2.3	16	5.3	128.6
Lincolnshire	61	10.2	74	24.7	142.6
London	9	1.5	12	4	166.7
Norfolk	234	39	222	74	89.7
Northamptonshire	12	2	19	6.3	216.7
North East	6	1	16	5.3	433.3
North Lincolnshire	8	1.3	15	5	275
Somerset & Dorset	54	9	66	22	144.4
Staffordshire & West Midlands	16	2.7	26	8.7	225
Suffolk	126	21	111	37	76.2
Surrey	17	2.8	15	5	76.5
Sussex (East & West)	15	2.5	79	26.3	953.3
Warwickshire & Worcestershire	47	7.8	29	9.7	23.4
Wiltshire	45	7.5	38	12.7	68.9
Yorkshire (North & East)	92	15.3	106	35.3	130.4
Yorkshire (South & West)	14	2.3	10	3.3	42.9
Wales	57	9.5	59	19.7	107
Other	0	0	1	0.3	-
Northern Ireland	7	1.2	3	1	-
Total	**1,205**	**200.8**	**1,531**	**510.3**	**154.1**

Table 11b (cont.): Treasure reporting: 1997 to 2003 and since 2003



CONTACTS

Central Unit
Portable Antiquities Scheme,
Department of Portable Antiquities & Treasure, British Museum,
Great Russell Street, London, WC1B 3DG

Head of Portable Antiquities & Treasure
Roger Bland
+44 (0)20 7323 8611
rbland@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk

Deputy Head of Portable Antiquities & Treasure
Michael Lewis
+44 (0)20 7323 8611
mlewis@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk

Resources Manager
Claire Costin
+44 (0)20 7323 8618
ccostin@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk

ICT Adviser
Daniel Pett
+44 (0)20 7323 8618
dpett@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk

Education Co-ordinator
Ceinwen Paynton
+44 (0)20 7323 8618 / +44 (0)7792 145 801
cpaynton@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk

Treasure Registrar
Fi Hitchcock
+44 (0)20 7323 8546
fhitchcock@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk

Assistant Treasure Registrar
Caroline Barton
+44 (0)20 7323 8546
cbarton@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk

FINDS ADVISERS

Prehistoric & Roman Artefacts
Sally Worrell
+44 (0)20 7679 4730
s.worrell@ucl.ac.uk

Iron Age & Roman Coins
Sam Moorhead
+44 (0)20 7323 8432
smoorhead@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk

Medieval & Post-Medieval Artefacts
Helen Geake
+44 (0)1223 333323
hg260@cam.ac.uk

Medieval & Post-Medieval Artefacts
Geoff Egan
+44 (0)20 7566 9333
gegan@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk

Medieval & Post-Medieval Coins
Julian Baker
+44 (0)1865 278061
julian.baker@ashmolean-museum.oxford.ac.uk

Metals & Metalworking
Kevin Leahy
+44 (0)1724 843533
kevin.leahy@northlincs.gov.uk

FINDS LIAISON OFFICERS

Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire
Julian Watters
+44 (0)1727 751826
j.watters@stalbans.gov.uk

Berkshire & Oxfordshire
Vacant at time of printing
+44 (0)1635 519534 / +44 (0)7795 092524

Buckinghamshire
Ros Tyrrell
+44 (0)1296 624519
rtyrrell@buckscc.gov.uk

Cambridgeshire
Philippa Walton
+44 (0)1223 717573
philippa.walton@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Cheshire, Greater Manchester & Merseyside
Nick Herepath
+44 (0)1514 784259
nick.herepath@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk

Cornwall
Anna Tyacke
+44 (0)1872 272205
anna@tyacke.fsbusiness.co.uk

Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire
Rachel Atherton
+44 (0)1332 716665
rachel.atherton@derby.gov.uk

Devon
Danielle Wootton
+44 (0)1392 665983
danielle.wootton@exeter.gov.uk

Essex
Caroline McDonald
+44 (0)1206 506961
caroline.mcdonald@colchester.gov.uk

Gloucestershire & Avon
Kurt Adams
+44 (0)117 922 3571 or
+44 (0)1452 425705
kurt_adams@bristol-city.gov.uk

Hampshire
Rob Webley
+44 (0)1962 848558
rwebley@winchester.gov.uk

Herefordshire & Shropshire
Peter Reavill
+44 (0)1584 813641
Peter.Reavill@shropshire-cc.gov.uk

Isle of Wight
Frank Basford
+44 (0)1983 823810 / +44 (0)7970 009508
frank.basford@IOW.gov.uk

Kent
Andrew Richardson
+44 (0)1622 221544
andrew.richardson@kent.gov.uk

Lancashire & Cumbria
Dot Bruns
+44 (0)1772 532175
dot.bruns@mus.lancscc.gov.uk

Leicestershire & Rutland
Wendy Scott
+44 (0)116 265 8325
wscott@leics.gov.uk

Lincolnshire
Adam Daubney
+44 (0)1522 552361 / +44 (0)7717 303680
adam.daubney@lincolnshire.gov.uk

London
Kate Sutton
+44 (0)20 7814 5733 or
+44 (0)7766 303057
ksutton@museumoflondon.org.uk

Norfolk
Erica Darch
+44 (0)1362 869289
erica.darch@norfolk.gov.uk

Nellie Bales
+44 (0)1362 869289
nellie.bales@norfolk.gov.uk

North East
Robert Collins
+44 (0)191 222 5076
robert.collins@ncl.ac.uk

North Lincolnshire
Lisa Staves
+44 (0)1724 843533
lisa.staves@northlincs.gov.uk

Northamptonshire
Vacant at time of printing
+44 (0)1604 237249

Somerset & Dorset
Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevarthen
+44 (0)1305 224921 / +44 (0)1823 320200
chtrevarthen@somerset.gov.uk
c.h.trevarthen@dorsetcc.gov.uk

Naomi Payne
+44 (0)1305 224921 / +44 (0)1823 320200
ncpayne@somerset.gov.uk
naomi.c.payne@dorsetcc.gov.uk

Staffordshire & West Midlands
Caroline Johnson
+44 (0)121 303 4636 or
+44 (0)7766 925351
caroline_a_johnson@birmingham.gov.uk

Suffolk
Faye Minter
+44 (0)1284 352449
faye.minter@et.suffolkcc.gov.uk

Jane Carr
+44 (0)1284 352449
jane.carr@et.suffolkcc.gov.uk

Donna Wreathall (Illustrator)
+44 (0)1284 352449
donna.wreathall@et.suffolkcc.gov.uk

Surrey
David Williams
+44 (0)1737 247296
david.williams@surreycc.gov.uk

Sussex
Liz Andrews-Wilson
+44 (0)1273 405731
flo@sussexpast.co.uk

Warwickshire & Worcestershire
Angie Bolton
+44 (0)1905 721130
abolton@cityofworcester.gov.uk

Wiltshire
Katie Hinds
+44 (0)1722 332151
katiehinds@salisburymuseum.org.uk

Yorkshire (North & East)
Simon Holmes
+44 (0)1904 687668
simon.holmes@ymt.org.uk

David Evans
+44 (0)1904 687668
david.evans@ymt.org.uk

Yorkshire (South & West)
Amy Cooper
+44 (0)1924 305359
acooper@wyis.org.uk

Wales
Finds Co-ordinator Wales
Mark Lodwick
+44 (0)2920 573226
mark.lodwick@nmgw.ac.uk

Cambria-Dyfed Archaeological Trust
Richard Jones
+44 (0)1558 823121
cambria@acadat.com

Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust
Richard Hankinson
+44 (0)1938 553670
trust@cpat.org.uk

Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust
Steve Sell
+44 (0)1792 655208
curatorial@ggat.org.uk

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust
Nina Steele
+44 (0)1248 352535
nsteele@heneb.co.uk

ORGANISATIONS

The following are national and/or local partners in the Portable Antiquities Scheme

Ashmolean Museum (Oxford)
Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers
Barbican House Museum (Sussex Archaeological Society)
Bedfordshire County Council
Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery (Birmingham City Council)
Borough Council of Wellingborough
Bradford Museums Service
Brewhouse Yard Museum of Nottingham Life (Nottingham City Council)
Bristol City Museum (Bristol City Council)
British Museum
Buckinghamshire County Museum
Calderdale Museums Service
Cambria Archaeology
Cambridgeshire County Council
Cheshire Museums Service
City of Plymouth Museums & Art Gallery
Clywd Powys Archaeological Trust
Colchester Museum Service
Corby Borough Council
Cornwall Historic Environment Service (Cornwall County Council)
Council for British Archaeology
Council of Museums in Wales
Country Business & Landowners Association
Dartmoor National Park Authority
Daventry District Council
Department for Culture, Media and Sport
Derby Museum & Art Gallery
Derbyshire County Council
Devon County Council
Doncaster Museum & Art Gallery
Dorset County Council
Durham County Council
East Northamptonshire Council
East Sussex County Council
English Heritage
Essex County Council
Exmoor National Park Authority
Fitzwilliam Museum (Cambridge)
Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust
Gloucestershire County Council
Gwynedd Archaeological Trust
Hampshire County Museums Service
Hampshire County Planning Department
Hereford Museum & Art Gallery (Hereford Heritage Services)
Hull & East Riding Museum
Institute of Archaeology
Isle of Wight Archaeological Centre
Jewry Wall Museum, Leicester
Kent County Council
Kirklees Museum Service
Kettering Borough Council
Lancashire County Museum Service
Leeds Museum Service
Leicestershire County Council
Lincolnshire County Council
Liverpool Museums
Manchester Museum
Milton Keynes Council
Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA)
Museum of Antiquities (University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne)
Museum of Barnstaple & North Devon
Museum of London
Museum of Reading
Museums Resource Centre, Standlake
National Council for Metal Detecting
National Museums & Galleries of Wales
Norfolk Museums Service
Northampton Borough Council
Northamptonshire County Council
North Lincolnshire Museum (North Lincolnshire Council)
Nottinghamshire County Council
Oxfordshire County Council Museum Services
Peterborough Museum
Portsmouth City Museums
Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent
Rotherham Museums Service
Roman Museum of Verulamium
Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter
Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales
Royal Institution of Cornwall
Salisbury & South Wiltshire Museum
Sheffield Museums Trust
Shrewsbury Museum Service
Shropshire County Museum Service
Society of Museum Archaeologists
Somerset County Museum (Somerset County Council)
Southampton City Museums
South Northamptonshire Council
South Yorkshire Archaeology Service
Suffolk County Council
Surrey Archaeological Society
Surrey County Council
Swindon Museum & Art Gallery
Test Valley Borough Council
The Collection, Lincoln
Torbay Council
Tullie House Museum & Art Gallery, Carlisle
University of Cambridge
Wakefield Museums Service
Warwickshire Museum
West Berkshire Museum
West Midlands Archaeological Collections Research Unit
West Midlands Regional Museum Council
West Sussex County Council
West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service
Wiltshire Archaeological & Natural History Society
Wiltshire County Council
Winchester Museums Service
Worcester City Museums
Worcestershire County Museum
York Archaeological Trust
York Museums Trust

Photographs on cover and pages 3, 5, 7, 8, 20, 39, 41, 79, 116 and 125 by Benedict Johnson

11/2006

The Portable Antiquities Scheme is managed by a consortium of bodies led by the British Museum on behalf of the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council. The Scheme is funded by DCMS with contributions from local partners.

Portable Antiquities Scheme

www.finds.org.uk

THE BRITISH MUSEUM

A Partnership UK project

department for culture, media and sport