

Digging deep

NCMD
NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR METAL DETECTING



All the latest news from the National Council for Metal Detecting

ISSUE 19

NEWS

European Council for Metal Detecting Proposed Conference

Following on from the postponement of the ECDM meeting last May, the ECDM Committee are pleased to announce that the meeting will now go ahead on the 16 and 17 April 2016 at the Hilton Hotel, Birmingham Airport.

Delegates from Bulgaria, Spain, Belgium, France, Czech Republic, Poland and Ireland among others have already confirmed their

attendance, and we look forward to meeting our EU cousins.

Speakers will include **Dr Michael Lewis**, who has already been making enquiries concerning other European Countries adopting the English model on Portable Antiquities, so this conference is well timed. **Professor Norman Palmer** will also be on the speakers list, along with other

representatives from the Bulgarian legal team.

The conference will be funded by Minelab International *The Searcher* Magazine and a few other private individuals.

More will follow on this at a later date.

Trevor Austin



Why are 'good' findspots important?

Garry Crace and Michael Lewis

The PAS says 'FLOs will not record finds with poor findspots (generally less than a 6-figure National Grid Reference (NGR)) as finds without good spatial information are less useful to archaeology' (see <https://finds.org.uk/getinvolved/guides/pressures>). Why is this issue so important, and what is the loss to archaeology if finds are recorded without a 'good findspot'? This short article attempts to explain...

When a find is made it is easy to get excited by the discovery and (in some cases) the mystery of what the find actually is. So much so, that the significance of its findspot is sometimes overlooked. However it can be the case that this information – where the find was found and also its context – is just as important, or even more important to archaeologists, than the find itself.

Take for example a group of three or four copper-alloy medieval finds

found in a small area of a field. If these were found individually, maybe by different finders, over a period of a few weeks or several months, would it be clear whether or not these finds might be associated with one another? It might be the case that these objects were lost as part of trading activity on a fair site in that area. But if they are not recorded precisely or accurately these clues will simply be missed. Likewise where a particular feature is already known in the landscape precise information about finds associated with it can sometimes be used to guide interpretation.

Our understanding of any archaeological find is mostly informed by where it was found and, whether it is a single object or a group, the knowledge we have of similar items found in the past, and where exactly they were discovered.

The ways in which an object might enter the ground can vary considerably. It might be lost or dropped by accident, purposefully discarded (thrown-away) or deliberately buried or concealed. These activities of deposition are of particular interest to archaeologists, and often it is only the findspot and context of the discovery that can help them properly understand the discovery. Meticulous recording of an object's exact location (the findspot) and other contextual information (such as associated items, topography, geology and stratigraphy) are what make it useful to future researchers.

Proper context provides the evidence needed to help understand not only how and why objects were made and used, but also contributes to much broader issues, such as demographics, society, culture, economy, manufacturing, trade, religion and



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NCMD Newsletter Manager: Trevor Austin
Publisher: Editor, Design & Layout:
Harry Bain, Searcher Publications Ltd
Typesetting, Production and Repro:
Tradeset Ltd
Printed and Distributed by:
Warners Midlands PLC, West Street,
Bourne, Lincs, PE10 9PH.

more. Provided there is sufficient findspot accuracy and precision in PAS data researchers will be able to interpret clues and extend their conclusions right down to the smallest geographical location in the ancient landscape. As suggested in the earlier example the past location of features, such as trackways, occupation sites, fair sites, places of worship, manufacturing sites etc, can only be pinpointed or inferred in this way.

The precise moment of discovery is therefore a pivotal and critical point in the life-story of an artefact, and one in which the finder has the ability to make that find add to archaeological knowledge, or not. If the finder does not record their find, then (to the detriment of the historic environment) all the information that potentially could have been known about it is permanently lost, and the find is therefore little more than an interesting curiosity. If however the object is found by an individual that records their finds with the PAS then the artefact enters a new stage in its life and its record becomes part of the dataset for future researchers with the potential to reveal much more about itself and the wider historic landscape.

The majority of metal-detected finds are discovered on land that has at some time in its history been ploughed and therefore have their original primary context disturbed – they have often moved from the place where they were dropped or deposited. In the past archaeologists didn't think that objects in the plough-soil were that useful to archaeology, but that view has changed radically. While objects in the plough-soil have in all probability moved, and are still moving, they nonetheless provide vital clues about past land usage and any underlying archaeology that might be in situ.

More and more research now involves a geospatial element to the analysis requiring that the findspot data is both accurate and precise. Back in the day when PAS was in its infancy providing a suitably accurate grid reference using site notes and a map could be a problem for some. Fortunately this is no longer the case, with computer, Smartphone and GPS satellite technology, the provision of an accurate and precise grid reference findspot is very much within the capacity of the majority.

Furthermore, in the early days of the scheme mutual trust had not been established and some finders were reluctant about giving accurate information. The PAS has now been in place for close to 20 years and in this time has shown there is no need for concern or suspicion from finder, tenant or landowner, and findspot accuracy has ceased to be an issue for most recorders. Cooperation has continued to flourish with over 1 million finds now recorded on the PAS database and the PAST Explorers initiative enabling many finders to record their own finds on the database.

As noted at the outset, the PAS now specify that findspot grid references are supplied to at least 6 figures, moving towards an ideal of 8 figures. A 6-figure NGR gives a precision on the ground to a 10 metre square (see Table 2). The necessity for this has been explained above and the 2014 analysis of the PAS database shown in Table 1 below indicates good progress.

4 figure	6 figure	8 figure	10 figure
0.63%	25.33%	34.47%	39.57%

Table 1: PAS database findspot precision (2014)

Moreover, the figures in table 1 only represent the precision of recording, they do not necessarily represent the accuracy in relation to the findspot. It is very easy to record a totally inaccurate findspot precisely! Accordingly, there is a need for the findspot to be identified accurately in the first instance and then for this location in the landscape to be recorded precisely. Figure 1 illustrates this point. We are striving to achieve a precise 8 figure grid reference on position 1; a level of detail that will place the record to within a 10 metre square of the actual findspot.

Prolific finders who do not use a GPS system or take location notes for each find at the time of finding will very often recall or indicate the findspot incorrectly, for example at position 2. This means the findspot



Figure 1: examples of findspots that might be recorded

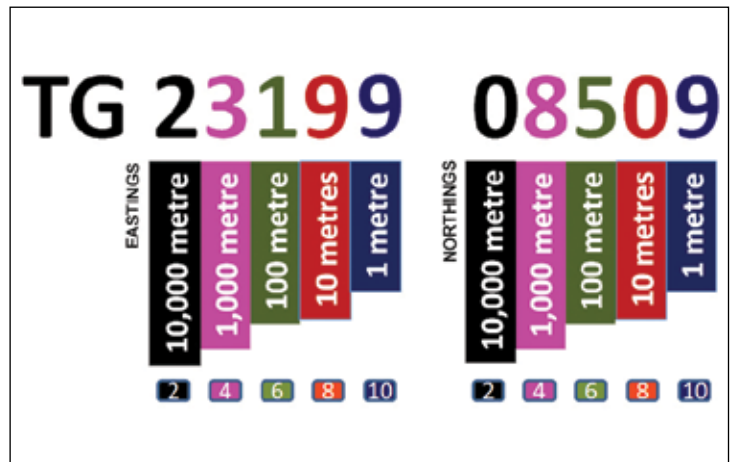


Figure 2: Explanation of how National Grid Reference precision varies with the number of digits quoted using TG 2319908509 as an example. Note; there can be some confusion over the number of figures in a grid reference. If the grid reference starts with a two letter prefix then as shown above a 10 letter reference gives 1 metre precision. If however there is no two letter prefix then 1 metre precision is represented by 12 digits.

may have already been wrongly shifted hundreds of yards without yet being recorded. If the find is then given an 8 figure grid reference at point 2 this degree of precision indicates the actual findspot was within a 10 metre square of this point, which is clearly wrong. Sometimes finders will say they found an item using a building as a fixing point (Point 3) or the centre of the parish (Point 4) both of which are in all probability too vague.

Summary

Metal-detectorists have great potential to help archaeologist transform our understanding of Britain's past, and many finders are working closely with their local FLO to this end. As discussed the first part of the process is the finder making an accurate (and precise) record of the findspot. *The Code of Practice for Responsible Metal-Detecting in England and Wales* recommends that this is done using a hand-held GPS device or map whilst in the field. The find should then be bagged and this findspot marked on the bag.

Whether the finder records the find onto the database themselves, or delivers the find to their local FLO to record, it will ensure the database record of the findspot is as good as it can be. To get this pinpointing correct on the record there is a duty on both finder and recorder; the finder to represent the actual point of finding accurately, and the recorder to reflect this level of accuracy in the precision of the grid reference assigned to the object findspot.

Garry Crace works part-time as Finds Liaison Officer in Norfolk. Michael Lewis is Head of the Portable Antiquities Scheme, based at the British Museum.

Theft offences: new sentencing guidelines announced

It has recently been announced that the Sentencing Council has published new guidelines for how offenders convicted of theft should be sentenced.

Theft is one of the most common offences that courts deal with - more than 91,000 offenders were sentenced last year. The guidelines will apply to the full range of theft offences, such as shop theft, pick-pocketing, handling stolen goods, stealing by employees or care workers and abstraction of electricity.

For the first time, the courts will have comprehensive guidance to help them to sentence the great variety of offending and offenders that come before them. Until now, some common types of theft such as theft of a motor vehicle or bicycle, have had to be sentenced using guidelines for similar offences - these guidelines now bring together specific guidance on these offences.

While the value of items stolen remains an important factor in sentencing these offences, the guidelines will bring a clear focus on the impact of thefts on victims beyond financial loss. These offences can cause emotional distress, loss of confidence and great disruption and inconvenience. The guidelines take account of this and set out a comprehensive assessment of the harm to the victim.

The guidelines also set out for the first time that if an offence involves the theft of historic objects or the loss of the nation's heritage, this can make an offence more serious. This could include damage to war memorials when thieves steal metal plaques from them, or even theft of objects from an historic shipwreck.

Other factors making an offence more serious under the new guidelines include thefts that risk harm to people. This would include offences where electrical cables are stolen, which present an obvious danger of injury to the public.

In introducing these guidelines, the Sentencing Council has not set out to change overall sentencing levels, but rather to provide comprehensive

guidance and introduce a standard approach to sentencing, ensuring that certain factors are always taken into account. They give a range of options to judges and magistrates so they can decide the most appropriate sentence for each offender, depending on the level of harm to the victim, the financial values involved, how blameworthy the offender is and what is best suited to both punish the offender and prevent reoffending.

The guidelines are being introduced following a public consultation, which was generally supportive, but led to some changes. For example, consultation respondents strongly supported the Council's decision to consider the wider impact of thefts on victims, but suggested that the process for conducting the assessment of harm could be clearer. The Council listened to this, and the assessment has been simplified.

Jill Gramann, Sentencing Council member and magistrate, said:

"Theft offences are some of the most common crimes that come before the courts, and these offences vary greatly. They range from someone stealing from shops to fund an addiction to organised gangs stealing designer goods to order, or people diverting electricity to power a cannabis farm.

"The new guidelines will help judges and magistrates deal with this great variety of offences while ensuring that the harm caused to the victim is central to the sentencing decision. Thefts are committed for financial gain, but can mean much more than financial loss to the victim and we want to ensure sentences take this into account."

Helen Dickinson, Chief Executive of the British Retail Consortium, said:

"We welcome the way in which the Sentencing Council has sought the views of retailers in developing the new Theft Sentencing Guideline. In volume terms, theft is the top crime concern for retailers and our data shows that the average cost of each theft suffered by our members soared to £241 in 2013-14. It is positive that the

new guideline allows sentencers to take into account the full impact of theft offences, which includes the non-financial consequences for businesses and their staff."

Welcoming the new guidelines, Mark Harrison, National Policing and Crime Adviser for Historic England said:

"The value of England's heritage can't be judged in pounds and pence. The impact of theft on our historic sites and buildings has far-reaching consequences over and above the financial cost of what has been stolen. Heritage crime comes in many forms. When thieves steal metal from heritage assets, such as listed churches, artefacts from the ground or historic stonework from an ancient castle, they are stealing from all of us and damaging something which is often irreplaceable."

"The new guidelines will help the courts identify all the relevant factors to include in their sentencing decisions in relation to heritage crime including 'going equipped

to steal,' 'the act of theft' and 'handling stolen goods'. It will also aid Historic England's work with the Police and Crown Prosecution Service in bringing theft cases to court where it involves loss and damage to a significant 'heritage asset'."

Richard Monkhouse, National Chairman of the Magistrates' Association, said:

"Theft is one of the most frequent offences dealt with in the magistrates' court and they are highly varied. Likewise, the impact on victims is equally as varied, ranging from financial loss to reduced confidence. It's well worth noting that shops and small businesses trying to make a living feel this the most acutely.

"On behalf of magistrates, we welcome this comprehensive and detailed guideline that will help our members sentence each offender as effectively as possible in our attempts to reduce offending and taking into account all relevant factors."

Metal Detecting Show and Conference

Tony Carter is holding his second show and conference on Sunday 15th May 2016

The Venue is: Quendon Village Hall on the B1383

The Time: 10am to 6pm

The Cost: £3 per adult under 14 free

- Displays of all types of detecting finds.
- Bring a display, get in free.
- Slide show, possible speakers.

Conference: Exploring the relationship between detectorists and FLO's and archaeology in general,

To speak to Tony phone 01799 505 836

The Robin & Karolyn Hatt Memorial Trophy Competition

Whenever I begin organising this annual competition, I never have to worry if there will be enough entries, or indeed if they will be of sufficient quality to go forward to the final heat at the National Council meeting, as I'm never disappointed.



Many thanks to those who entered such high quality finds in this year's competition held on 15 November. As far as I am concerned, once they have reached the final they are all winners, which makes judging so difficult.

The results were as follows:

Artefact Category

The winner of this category was a Bronze-Age looped and socketed spearhead, circa 1500-1100 BC which virtually swept the board. A rare item and in beautiful condition, this was found by Keith Wood, North-West MDC North-West Region. Truly an exquisite piece.



First Place: Bronze-Age looped and socketed spearhead, circa 1500-1100 BC



Keith Wood winner Best Artefact with his trophy

There was a tie for second place – A Roman statue of Mercury entered by Dave Cooper of the York Club, Yorkshire Region and a lead Roman gaming piece found by Tony Brown who is a sites officer for SHRADS, Western Region.

In third place was a Saxon strap-end belonging to Steven Mathieson, Swale Search & Recovery Club, Southern Region.



Second Place:
A Roman statue of Mercury



Second Place:
Lead Roman gaming piece



Third Place: Saxon strap-end

Coin Category

A rare silver Thistle merk of James VI gathered most votes and was awarded Best Coin. This was found by Carwyn Davies, York Club, Yorkshire Region on a club outing. A loud signal led Carwyn to anticipate a coke can – certainly not the winner of the coin category!

Second was a copper alloy Roman fraction of a nummus of Diocletian (AD 284-305) dated to AD 303, Mint: Trier, Germany and found by Ray Simpson, Coventry Heritage Detector Society, Midland Region. Found on a site Ray had been searching for years, this fraction is extremely rare with only two examples recorded. This is a significant find and it has been designated for inclusion in the British Numismatic Journal 'Coin Register'.

In third place was a Anglo Saxon silver sceatta found by Glenn Lister, North-West MDC North-West Region.

Other coins entered were: An Edward III gold noble (Fourth coinage, treaty period, 1361-1369). Finder: Robert Miller, West Kent Detector Club, Southern Region and a Charles II sixpence. Finder: Adrian Kiermasz, SHRADS, Western Region.



First Place: Rare silver Thistle merk of James VI



Second Place: Copper alloy Roman fraction of a nummus of Diocletian (AD 284-305)



Third Place: Anglo Saxon silver sceatta



Trevor Austin from the Yorkshire Region receiving Best Coin trophy on behalf of Carwyn Davies

Hoard category

This category proved to be particularly interesting this year. We had three superb entries: a hoard of gold staters, another of silver Roman siliquae and a Roman burial hoard.

The burial hoard was very unusual consisting of glassware, two bronze jugs, one with an ornate handle, and a 'to die for' pair of millefiori (thousand flowers) dishes which had been restored. One of these graced the front cover of the July 2015 edition of *The Searcher*. This entry was so different to most of the hoards we see that it was awarded a well-deserved first place.

The lucky finder was Phil Kirk of the Central Register; North Herts Charity Detecting Club who has been detecting for 12 years. After hearing an ear-splitting signal on a cold October afternoon Phil found the top of a bronze jug appearing at 12-15" depth. He contacted the local FLO and a formal excavation

then took place.

Interestingly, gold and silver inlay has only recently been found on the ornate jug handle so the hoard is now classed as treasure. Breaking news indeed ...

In second place was the 'Dutton Hoard' consisting of 36 silver Roman siliquae and one copper nummus, found by Phillip Batey and Dennis O'Brien of the South Lancs & Cheshire Club, North-West region. After finding the first few coins, an archaeological dig took place which unearthed yet more coins. Only one other hoard of siliquae of the late 4th century had been previously recorded from the North-West which makes this find extremely rare for this region.

Third place belonged to 25 Ambianae Gallic War Uniface gold staters, 60-50 BC found by David Villaneuva, Swale Search & Recovery Club, Southern Region. David has been enthusiastically detecting since 1972 with many great finds under his belt. The

coins were found on arable land over a number of weeks.

It was a pleasure to note how many rare finds had made it to the final. No wonder our hobby makes such a huge contribution to historical circles.

Finally, I feel I must make special mention of your regional delegates. A lot of work goes on behind the scenes, and delegates are not only prepared to devote their time towards organising club and regional heats, but also to travelling considerable distances in order to submit their region's entries for judging. It is very much appreciated.

To all who sent me entry forms, details and photos in such good time before the final judging, I would like to send a big thank you for making my role a lot easier.

I hope that I can look forward to even more entries next year.

**Hilary Fagen
Competition Manager**



John Rigby on behalf of Phil Kirk



First Place:
Roman burial hoard consisting of glassware, two bronze jugs, one with an ornate handle, and a 'to die for' pair of millefiori (thousand flowers) dishes



Second Place (right): 'Dutton Hoard' consisting of 36 silver Roman siliquae and one copper nummus



Third place (below): 25 Ambianae Gallic War Uniface gold staters

PAS Conference 2015: PAST Explorers: finds recording in the local community

23 November 2015

BP Lecture Theatre, British Museum

A personal view with thoughts written by John Maloney, Central Register.

Arriving at the BM fairly early it was nice to grab a warming coffee at a well-known coffee shop nearby. Having booked the ticket a few months earlier I was able to mull over what the event would be like as the agenda showed the speakers were a great mix of volunteers, self-recording detectorists, FLO's as well as more distantly associated speakers from both the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Community Partnerships and the British Museum.

With recent, well documented, changes within PAS senior management and the changes in management structure it would be interesting to see what the latter would be discussing. The structure of the conference was also varied and interesting with a 'Question Time' style panel discussion after

both morning and afternoon sessions.

Following introductions, and an outline of where the PAST Explorers project idea was born, the irrepressible Sam Moorhead handed over to the first speakers Claire Costin, PAST Explorers Project Manager & Clemency Cooper, PAST Explorers Outreach Officer. Both spoke about the importance of the scheme and the part played by a wide range of volunteers who provide a wide range of skills and support to local FLO's. They also described how the project had to be structured in terms of implementing various policies, applying for funding and how the volunteer training programme was developed.

I will declare an interest here as, in my 'adopted' home county of Leicestershire, Wendy Scott our local FLO has been a key driving force behind the training package

which is now in four developed modules all of which I have attended.

1. Introduction to Portable Antiquities & Treasure.

2. Using the Database.

3. Finds Photography.

4. Image Manipulation.

It was nice to hear murmurings of additional modules that will hopefully include pottery and lithics. There will also be guidance notes provided on the PAS website as well as a function, loosely described by Clem as 'PASMATCH.com' where FLO's can place requests for local talents on the soon to be developed County Pages such as 'Finds Photographer needed three hours a week'.

We then listened to the experience of Stephanie Smith, Sussex FLO, of working with volunteers and one of her volunteers, Garry Crace of the Sussex Pastfinders group,

who work with a local estate as the key link between finds, PAS, Landowners and the Historic Environment Record (HER).

Sadly time was tight and with Helen Geake keeping things running to the minute we missed the latter and more detailed parts of Gary's very professional presentation. Stephanie was rightly proud of the fact that at least one member of her multi-skilled volunteer team had 'had a hand' in approximately 28,000 PAS records in twelve months. That has freed up a lot of her time to focus on the other 30% she has processed.

Halfway through the morning already and it was time for a coffee break and the chance for some networking with a wide range of BM experts, FLO's and volunteers. We then settled down for the second quarter which commenced with two more volunteers Jack Coulthard, West Yorkshire and



Julie Shoemark, Wiltshire who both work alongside their FLO's in house.

They both spoke with passion about how they had been able to gain new experiences and skills by volunteering and how their experience was definitely a two way street. All they had given was time, as it suited them, with no pressure to do more than they could. In the closing words of Jack, "Those who think small things can't make a change have never shared a tent with a mosquito!"

The final pre-lunch session was the turn of Margaret Broomfield, Surrey and Tom Redmayne, Lincolnshire. They were to speak of their experiences as remote volunteers who have less direct contact with their FLO's. Both Margaret and Tom have to fit their voluntary work alongside work and the busy lives we all lead. Margaret described how she would collect and drop off 'large brown envelopes' of work to do as and when she could at various locations where her FLO had arranged. Communication was definitely the key to the process.

Tom's presentation showed how, having started the hobby in 2007 and wondering 'What to do with finds', he had begun a journey that led to a meteoric learning curve from identifying finds on internet forums to becoming a 'Self-Recorder' in 2010. However the journey certainly didn't stop there and Tom has since become more involved with research and looks forward to future publication of research papers to the academic community supported by his FLO. I certainly get the idea that the journey has still to find its destination with Tom's passion for the hobby and the opportunities and personal development working with PAS has provided.

It was then time for the morning speakers to assemble on stage for the first panel discussion and questions from the audience. The questions mostly centered on opportunities for children and responsible MD Clubs. The eternal discussion that the hobby isn't recognised by commercial archaeology units and academic archaeologists was unlikely to be a heated debate in a room where the majority would rather we were used as an asset than a hinderance.

It was emphasised that communication and networking at a local level is what builds

relationships and trust in all sectors, something that has been happening in our County for many years, more evidence of that was to follow after lunch.

Following our lunch break we were back into how the evidence, both physical and academic, leads into new discoveries and previously hidden knowledge. Wendy Scott, FLO for Leicestershire & Rutland presented a fascinating and educational (ok...I'm biased!) paper on 'The other Battle of Bosworth'. This outlined how the Ambion Historical Archaeological Research Group, who had been used to locate the actual site of the Battle of Bosworth, had located a major Roman temple site.

Whilst meticulously recording their 7,128 wider detecting finds they began to hit a hotspot of Horse and Rider brooches with over 100 recovered. As is the forward thinking in the County a number of volunteer field working and detecting groups had then been used to properly analyse the area using the full array of skills and equipment, this in turn led to a small scale excavation on site that may develop into a major project. It was good to see the results of combined working covering the whole spectrum from the detectorists 'on the ground' who had put in many hours of work through to the academics who had pieced together the research & data and how the site fitted into the historical landscape both locally and nationally.

Our second afternoon speaker was Sam Moorhead who euligised about how the data provided by PAS is leading to complete re-writes of our collective history, one of the many examples he spoke about was the route taken by the Romans into the South West and how far they actually went, the evidence being provided by coinage recorded by detectorists in the area.

It was staggering to learn that all our individual finds have led to new volumes of the RIC being published, papers written and, currently, 455 ongoing research projects. For those who have seen Sam speak you will know that is a very brief summary but I am sure he will be speaking about the ongoing work at some time near you so do your best to attend.

After a brief comfort break we moved onto the slightly heavier

The other 'Battle of Bosworth'

The discovery, recovery and recording of a Roman temple.



Thank-you volunteers!

15+ AHARG members, especially the detectorists	13 Leicester University Archaeology Students
15+ Geophysical surveyors	20+ Bosworth Survey Recording Assistants

4 PAST Explorers!

To view the finds go to www.finds.org.uk/database
In the simple search field add **knownas:Bosworth**



Parameters: Limitations & Challenges

- FLO limitations
- Access to resources
- Volunteer Experience
- Availability
- Training
- Development
- The system



subjects around funding and valuing volunteers. Sara Crofts, Head of Historic Environment at the HLF, spoke around how the decision was made to support the PAST Explorers project from 2013-2018. There are three key qualifying points to receiving the grant based around Heritage, People & Communities something PAST Explorers scores well on in all aspects. Overall the HLF had supported applications to the sum of £375million. These awards had ranged from a few thousand to local research projects through to £200 thousand to support disabled access to archaeology.

Sara was followed by Laura Philips, Head of Community Partnerships at the British Museum (BM) who spoke about making the BM less London centered and

the community benefits for all including some of the things we may not always appreciate such as health and wellbeing.

The afternoon panel was assembled and hosted by Rob Webley, PAST Explorers Project Officer. Questions from the floor were generally more heavyweight than the morning session. Our President John Wells asked if the HLF would provide a contingency fund to support PAS in advance of the government spending review due two days after the conference. Sara Crofts responded by saying that HLF grants were provided in addition to resources the government provided. John then asked if PAS and the PAST Explorers project would push out into the counties and away from London. Sam and Rob both responded to say

that, if logistically possible, there was a desire to provide regional conferences around the country.

Sam also highlighted his work in the South West around the Frome hoard and other Roman coin finds and explained how finders were like a 'bouncing ball' that, when the evidence dictates, are only one bounce away from the BM and its knowledge and resources.

Personal Reflection.

A fascinating conference with a great range of papers presented by both amateurs and academics. There was a large degree of mutual appreciation, however the sheer volume of finds and associated data is well worth some backslapping now and then.

The NCMD had a wide range of representation at the conference

from individual members, through regional representatives to members of the executive committee this is reflective that there is only one organisation working for and representing its membership.

It was equally pleasing to see Mike Heyworth, CBA Director, visiting briefly and listening intently to the immense progress made by true community based archaeology.

The PAST Explorers project is in its infancy and needs volunteers so please contact your FLO and get a taster for what is available, it isn't for everyone but it is understood that the hobby has a vast pool of knowledge and resource available and PAS need us as much as responsible detectorists need them.



New ways to enter the Robin & Karolyn Hatt Memorial Competition – UPDATE

The Robin & Karolyn Hatt Memorial Trophy Competition is the ONLY **National** competition that includes treasure items. It celebrates the hobby and is run totally by detectorists, for detectorists.

We are constantly looking at ways in which we can enhance the membership experience and to this end we can announce the facility for all those on the **Central Register and those who are Individual members** to enter this unique and prestigious

competition.

In the next issue of *Digging Deep* due to be published in February 2016, there will be an **ENTRY FORM** for all those on the **Central Register OR who are Individual members** to fill in and send in their entries for next year's competition.

Finds eligible are to be have been unearthed from **January 1-31 December 2015** and can be entered in one of three categories:

COIN ARTEFACT HOARD

If you have any queries regarding the form or competition please call Hilary Fagen NCMD Competition Manager on 01253 312176.

In the following edition published in June 2016 all Individual and Central Registrar entries will be published along with entries from the Western, Southern and Anglian regions.



There will be a facility to vote for one entry per region, per category (ie. Hoard, Coin and Artefact).

The voting form will need to be returned (to the address detailed) by August 31 enabling time to count, verify and arrange for the winning finds (or photos) be on the table for the final judging at the AGM in November 2016.

The Big Picture

Barry Freeman

To reach farmland I've detected on for many years I use the A1079, travelling in a North Westerly direction towards Market Weighton.

The road climbs steadily for a few miles then reaches the top of Arras Hill, 478 feet ASL. It is here that a panoramic vista unfolds - below, far and wide, lies the Vale of York.

Recently while taking in this wonderful view I considered some contemporary sayings, 'Look at the big picture' and 'think outside of the box'.

In the fast paced world of today, with our domestic and social commitments, entertainment on tap in the form of soap operas etc –



The Vale of York from Arras Hill

we have little time to contemplate or philosophise.

I firmly believe that we can all

benefit from occasionally having an open mind – asking questions – finding answers. Who, What, Why,

When, Where, How. This should prompt us to research, which in turn will lead us to a bigger picture.



the searcher

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Come September, busiest month in the Detecting Calendar

September, from the Roman word 'Septum' has always been a busy time for farmers and it is always a very busy time in the detecting calendar.

It's the time when farmers are busy reaping the harvest and leaving their fields in a state that is ideal for detecting. It is also the time when the Midland Federation is most active in promoting the hobby. This is done in various ways and we have to acknowledge that we mustn't just be selfish by going

out at every opportunity to detect as we love to do. We also have to attempt to promote our hobby in different ways and to different groups of people, presenting our activities in a favourable light.

To this end the Midlands Federation organises several activities. Some designed to raise money for deserving charitable causes and others to help promote the hobby in the eyes of those who may in the past have thought badly of us. Of course there is no harm in

combining the two by organising detecting rallies whilst at the same time raising cash for charity.

Below you will see that we spend a lot of time and give a lot of thought to these activities and by so doing we seem to achieve our aims. The events described below help us to gain many friends who were at one time totally against us. Even farmers who refused us permission to detect on their land have recognised that we aren't as bad as we have sometimes been

described.

By raising money for local charities and generally presenting ourselves in a good light we can now boast a list of available farm land that many a detectorist or club would envy. Good news travels fast amongst the farming community, as does bad news. By managing to present ourselves as responsible trustworthy people we now enjoy success where once we failed dismally.

Alan Charlish

Rally September 2015

Alan Charlish

We held yet another charity detecting event on 6 September. The event, which took place in Leicestershire, was well attended with detectorists coming from as far afield as Cornwall and also

a coach load from Liverpool. As seems to be the norm for our events the weather was kind to us and everyone enjoyed a good day out in the sunshine.

This time the charity benefiting from

the event is **Hope against Cancer** a charity which was nominated by the Lutterworth Rotary Club who asked us to organise a charity rally. The Rotarians raise money for all manner of good causes and have

been very forthcoming in recent years finding land amongst their membership to allow us to stage such events.



Lutterworth Rotarians Tent



The Registration Tent



The Event Commences



Finds Identification

In partnership with the event and shared responsibilities on the day. The raffle and catering were the domains of the Rotary club. The registration and finds tent, manned by committee members, was kept very busy, initially with

the registration process and later recording and photographing the finds made.

On the spot identification of finds and the photography was carried out by members of the Coventry Heritage Detector Society. This was

necessary as unfortunately, due to illness, the local Finds Liaison Officer was unable to attend, but descriptions and photographs of notable finds were recorded and forwarded to the FLO at Birmingham Museum.

The finds were many and varied covering all eras of history including Roman, Viking, Saxon and Medieval. A small selection of the finds is shown below:



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9

- 1. Medieval clothes hook.
- 2. Medallion 600th anniversary of the birth of John Wycliffe, translator of the bible and vicar of Lutterworth.
- 3. Roman zoomorphic buckle.
- 4. James I sixpence 1624.



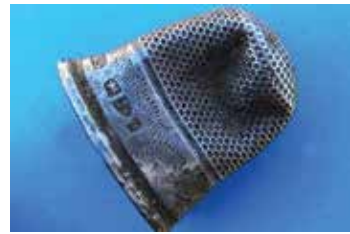
10

- 5. Anglo Saxon zoomorphic brooch.
- 6. Mary & Philip groat 1558, Philip posthumus.
- 7. Medieval ring or pennanular brooch pin.
- 8. Medieval seal, silver with a carneaean engraved with an eagle.



11

- 9. Roman Fibula 'T' brooch.
- 10. Anglo Saxon/Viking disc brooch, a jagged cross with blue quarters, a bronze/gilt. 7 outer knobs with pale blue insets.



12

- 11. Sestertius, Antonius Pius 138-161. Reverse, Salus standing at an altar feeding a snake from a patera.
- 12. Silver thimble, Chester hallmark 1882.

The Rotary Club were very generous with their raffle prize donations, a huge leg of pork being the main attraction. They also buried a bag of modern day pennies in one of the fields with a special prize on offer for the finder.

Just as everyone was preparing to leave after the day's detecting, one detectorist reported that he had found something that might be of possible interest in one of the furthest fields. Intrigued

by his description we went with him to investigate. The item of interest was in a hole that had been refilled by the finder Mark Fawkes. He said that he had dug a hole approximately two feet deep having received a very strong signal. With three spades the hole was once again excavated to reveal a large lead object that appeared to be in the shape of a bowl.

However, no amount of rocking could dislodge it and only one edge

could be seen. It soon became evident that the spades available were no match for such a large item and, in the belief that the lead could possibly be the top of a container, maybe a hoard or perhaps even a coffin, it was decided to ask the landowner for help. Within half an hour a mechanical digger was on site to assist. After a few minutes of careful excavation the full extent of the item was revealed and it was removed from the hole. It was

a lump of lead weighing almost 30lbs. Why it should have been deposited in the middle of a field is of course a mystery?

The final donation to Hope for Cancer is yet to be totalled, but the attendance amount raised by the Midland Federation is £2,800. Yet to come are the exact amounts raised by the catering and raffle held on the day, but it is anticipated that the final figure will be in the region of £3,000.



Spadework



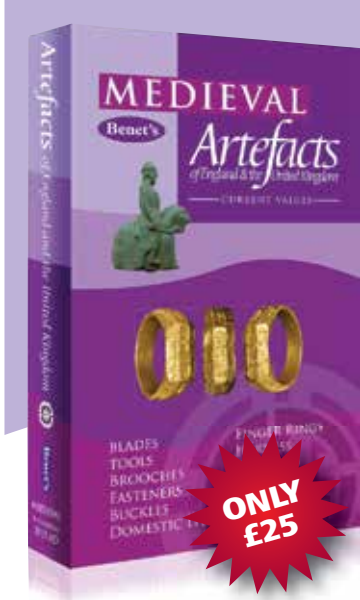
The digger arrives



Serious digging



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National Heritage Weekend

Once again we have enjoyed a very successful weekend displaying local detecting finds at one of Coventry's most prestigious venues, St Mary's Guildhall.

The Guildhall is situated within a few feet of the ruins of the old Coventry Cathedral that was destroyed during a night time raid by the German Luftwaffe on November 14 1940. On that night relays of enemy aircraft dropped bombs indiscriminately and one of the buildings hit was the 14th century cathedral.

To be invited back every year to display amongst these historic surroundings is a great privilege and we pull out all the stops to ensure that an excellent selection

of locally found coins and artefacts are on display.

Each year the visitor numbers have steadily increased, and although it has to be accepted that many come to view the historic building, many more are intrigued by the finds exhibition. Local people report that many of the items on display bring back nostalgic childhood memories, but there are so many who come from much farther afield who are stunned by the varied assortment that is on display.

As always Lady Godiva pops in to see us. Pru Poretta has been an ambassador for the City of Coventry for many years dressing as lady Godiva. This might seem a bit odd as the good lady Godiva

is best known for riding naked around the city streets!

The exhibition always receives praise from local historian and author David McGrory who actually uses photographs of many of the finds on display to illustrate his books. The Coventry Heritage Detector Society has been meticulously recording and photographing finds from their digs for over 35 years so he will no doubt be able to write and illustrate many more interesting books for many years to come.

Apart from the static displays there are also some exhibitors who put on demonstrations and games for the children. A favourite this year was guessing the number of

musket balls in a jar with special prizes for those coming close and a lollipop just for taking part.

There is also a 'guess the use' area where visitors are invited to guess the use of various items from the past. Many enquiries are made regarding joining local clubs and although there is a waiting list locally they are still keen enough to want to put their names on the list.

It has to be said that these exhibitions go a long way towards living up to the NCMD's motto: *To promote, to protect and to encourage the hobby.*

Alan Charlish



Excellent displays in a medieval setting



A Roman Grot!



Statue of Godiva



Godiva talking to visitors



Tour Guide Pru Poretta



Visitors at the 2015 exhibition topped 2,500

Midland Federation talk on The Magna Carta

On September 8 a very well attended talk on the Magna Carta was delivered by Peter Huxford who is the head of history at Coventry's King Henry VIII School. The school which was founded in July 1545 is an independent school that today serves the needs of over 1,300 pupils between the ages of 3 and 18.

Peter soon revealed his extraordinary knowledge of his subject as he described the history leading to the signing of the famous document by King John at Runnymede on the 15 June 1215.

The Midland Fed tries to host several talks on various historical topics throughout the year and, apart from federation members, invites history groups and individuals from the local area.

As most enthusiasts of the hobby will know, detecting has in the past often been frowned upon and in many cases challenged

with hostility by members of the archaeological profession. However, through the efforts of the NCMD and local events such as those mentioned here the cause has been greatly helped to bridge the divide that at one time existed.

Many archaeologists now recognise that detecting has an important role to play in helping to unravel the mysteries of the past and have accepted that the many important finds of recent years have provided much historical information previously unknown. It is without doubt the success of the Portable Antiquities Scheme that has been instrumental in this process.

Nowadays, by hosting talks by prestigious speakers such as Peter Huxford we are attracting audiences consisting of detectorists, historians and archaeologists and it is good to see these once warring factions drawn together in a common interest. Detectorists are no longer



Peter Huxford, Head of History at King Henry VIII School, Coventry delivers his talk

regarded with contempt as it has been recognised that we are not just treasure seeking mercenaries, but that we actually share an interest in history and have a lot to offer by bringing many items to light that may otherwise never have been discovered.

Peter's talk was very well received and I am sure that everyone present left with a much better understanding of one of the country's most valuable historical

documents.

Very generously, Peter declined payment for his talk and instead asked that the fee should be donated to the **Myton Hospice**, a local hospice which provides high quality, specialist care to people whose condition no longer responds to curative treatment, from diagnosis to death.

Alan Charlish

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We Change People's Fortunes



North West Finds Exhibition

Over a year in the planning, this bi-annual exhibition organised by the North West region of the NCMD has been hailed as a huge success by participants, guests and visitors alike. Upwards of 1400 visitors passed through the Historic Chester Town Hall where six North West clubs set up home to exhibit the fruits of many years of detecting.

Apart from the dozens of showcases containing thousands of finds, the visitors were treated to Viking coin strikers and storytellers in full glorious regalia. Officers from the NCMD were there, as

were the hard working FLOs from the PAS who were on hand to identify and record finds from both the detectorists and the general public, there were people from all areas of the hobby ready to assist the visitors.

The trade was represented by Joan Allen and Minelab, two of the biggest names in the hobby, this wealth of experience, knowledge and know-how was invaluable to both the participating detectorists and the wannabees who were struck by what they saw on show, a broad variety of detectors were on the stand, with the ever willing

staff ready to help with expert advice and freebie handouts.

The guests of the exhibition included three judges who were asked to select the best overall stand, best themed showcase, best coin and best artefact, not an easy task, no matter how experienced.

Steve Critchley chose the stand of North West club as his winner of the overall best stand. A rare Massachusetts pine tree three pence took the eye of Vanessa Oakden as the winner of the coin section and the trophy went to Garry Birchall of the West Kirby Club. Mark Oly chose a votive

Bronze Age axe head found by Dave Dickenson of the HSS Mold club as his artefact winner and finally the best themed showcase was a collective choice of all three judges and the trophy went to the Wrexham Club.

A huge thankyou to the participating clubs Blackpool & Fylde, HSS Mold, North West, South Lanc's & Cheshire, West Kirby and Wrexham. Also to Dave Owens for the photos and all the individuals that made this a most enjoyable day.

Kev Gorman
Secretary. North West region





Killiecrankie Battlefield

SARG Detecting Club were asked to take part in the Battle of Killiecrankie survey, working alongside GUARD Archaeology with whom the club has worked on a number of Battle field surveys including 'The Quest for Bannockburn'.

The aim of the metal detecting survey was to try to build up a clearer picture of the battlefield through identifying and accurately mapping the distribution of metal artefacts associated with the battle.

The results of the survey will also be used to inform the development and assessment of the route options that are currently being undertaken by Jacobs for Transport Scotland as part of the design process for duelling the section of the A9 between Killiecrankie and Pitagowan – part of the Scottish Government's ambitious A9 project.

The battle was fought at the head of the Pass of Killiecrankie, south of Blair Atholl, the main change has been the construction of the A9 across the line of the Highlanders' charge.

Background

In the Glorious Revolution of 1688 in England the catholic James VII

(II) was ousted and replaced by William of Orange and Queen Mary. In 1689 the Scottish parliament voted to give the crown of Scotland to William and Mary. In response Viscount (Bonnie) Dundee raised mainly Highland forces under the standard of James VII (II) in the first Jacobite rebellion against the newly installed monarch. They were supported by a small force of Irish troops.

A Scottish government army was raised to counter the rebellion. This army comprised Lowland Scottish, English and Dutch forces, under General Hugh Mackay of Scourie. On 27 July 1689 they intercepted the rebels just to the north west of the Killiecrankie Pass, on the key strategic communications route into the Highlands from Perth to Inverness.

This was the first and most significant of the battles of the first Jacobite rebellion. Although it was an important victory for the Jacobites, it also resulted in the death of the rebel leader, Viscount Dundee, a major factor in the subsequent collapse of the uprising. Only 2,500 Jacobites annihilated a force of 4,000 redcoats.

The Survey

The day of the survey SARG members were met by Maureen Kilpatrick, GUARD Archaeology Ltd who arrived with site access passes, accompanied by Dr Iain Banks, senior lecturer at Glasgow University in history and battlefield archaeology.

The survey on Day 1, took members on a long hard trek to the dig site, climbing over rough ground, through boggy areas and over barbed wire fences. A lot of encouragement was given to members to arrive at the site earmarked for detecting, everyone worked very hard under the extreme detecting conditions. Much of the area we were asked to detect was very uneven, with long grass, nettles and thistles everywhere, most reaching knee high, and some coming up to chest height.

Day 2. Our walk that day was much easier – shorter, over cropped grass and via gates which opened! This was more like it! Detecting was very much easier than on the first day and produced far better results, yielding buttons, musket and pistol shot and even a few coins.

Maureen and her crew are always very professional and helpful (and grateful!). It was really good to meet the project representative from Jacobs. He was genuinely interested in the history of the site, spending quite a while watching finds being dug up and even fetching bags to put them in for those who had run out.

We certainly hope that Warren Bailie, Project Manager GUARD Archaeology Ltd, lets us know the final list of finds, including the ones which were unidentifiable at the time by our untrained eyes, but which proved archaeologically interesting.

Lesley Sleith SARG

Thanks to Carol Dick, Club secretary for her support in organising the Survey Teams and also to Alex Reston (SARG) for photos, Hilary Maxton (SARG) for her help in producing this report.

Next projects; Scottish Canals- Victorian Foundry, Cambuskenneth Abbots' Causeway, Kings Knott event CfA training metal detecting (SARG) and artefact identification

References: Martin, David E. The Battlefields of Scotland.



Detectorist Appointed as Lay Member of SAFAP

Paul Macdonald was appointed as Lay Member of the Scottish Archaeological Finds Allocation Panel (SAFAP) with effect from 15 October 2015. The appointment lasts for four years.

Paul is a professional armourer and

his website www.macdonaldarms.com/armoury/ makes fascinating reading. He is one of a very few who have aspired to the titles of Sword Maker and Master at Arms.

Paul is also a member of the Edinburgh based Scottish Detector

Club and has a keen interest in researching the areas where he detects.

Appointments to SAFAP are by Ministerial approval and it is a big step forward to have representation on the Scottish Panel for the first

time by a metal detectorist.

We wish Paul all the very best in his new role.

Alastair Hackett



What Fun?!

The winter months can be quite tough
When cold winds blow and ground is rough
When frost is nipping at your toes
And icicles form from your nose

And at those times when fields lie bare
And you can dig to see what's there
When, even though you've been before
There's still the hope you'll find some more

You trudge across the muddy land
Detector and your spade in hand
Just listening for the smallest sound
That tells of something in the ground

The digging's hard, it starts to rain
And just more lead for all your pain
But undeterred you're off once more
To see what this field has in store

And when you finish for the day
You pack your gear and go your way
Whilst driving home you sit reflecting
There's nothing quite like going detecting!

Carolyn Brocklebank
Grantham Search Club

DIARY DATES

Next NCMD meeting: 21 February 2016

European ECMD Conference: 16-17 April 2016

GET IN TOUCH

For membership enquiries
contact the Membership
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6 Arkholme Avenue
Blackpool, Lancs, FY1 6QJ
Tel: 01253 692313
jjrigby@sky.com

For all other enquiries please
contact the General Secretary:
Trevor Austin
51 Hilltop Gardens
Denaby, Doncaster, DN12 4SA
Tel: 01709 868521
trevor.austin@ncmd.co.uk

Have you moved recently?

Could I remind members of the importance of keeping their membership details up-to-date.

If you happen to change your address could you please let the General Secretary know, the contact details are on your membership card.

Trevor Austin

NCMD

DATA PROTECTION PRIVACY POLICY

DATA PROTECTION PRINCIPLES

There are eight main principles within the Act. Specifically, the Principles require that personal data:

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- 2) shall be obtained only for one or more specified and lawful purposes and shall not be processed in any manner incompatible with that purpose or those purposes;
- 3) shall be adequate, relevant and not excessive in relation to the purpose or purposes for which they are processed;
- 4) shall be accurate and where necessary, kept up to date;
- 5) shall not be kept for longer than is necessary for that purpose or those purposes;
- 6) shall be processed in accordance with the rights of the data subject under the Act; and that:
- 7) appropriate technical or organisational measures shall be taken against unauthorised or unlawful processing of personal data and against accidental loss, destruction or damage to personal data;
- 8) personal data shall not be transferred to a country or territory outside the European Economic Area unless that country ensures an adequate level of protection for the rights and freedoms of data subjects in relation to the processing of their personal data.

The National Council for Metal Detecting is a registered Data Controller under the Data Protection Act 1998. Registration Number Z1802485

PURPOSE

An essential activity within the National Council for Metal Detecting (hereafter known as The NCMD) is the requirement to gather and process information about its members in order to operate effectively. This will be done in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 (the Act), and other related government legislation.

The NCMD - acting as custodians of personal data - recognises its moral duty to ensure that all such data is handled properly and confidentially at all times, irrespective of whether it is held on paper or by electronic means. This covers the whole lifecycle, including:

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NCMD 2009

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