

**Portable Antiquities Scheme
Update**



Email: Heather.davis@lancashire.gov.uk

Date: 6th June 2023

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Return to acceptance of PAS related material from finders

I thought that it would be useful for you to receive formal confirmation that the Finds Liaison Officers, Pauline Clarke & Alex Whitlock are now accepting finds regarding the above scheme in Lancashire and Cumbria.

The present police investigation is ongoing and a great many of the finders have recently been informed of the successful recovery of items linked to this investigation. We have been working with the BM Treasure team and we have both updated processes. We have also worked with the LCC Audit team and have instigated new procedures around how we accept items and the level of documentation required when receipting of objects. Other additional security measures have been implemented.

Whenever possible we will record the finds immediately at Finds Days and events and we do encourage your members to book into these events. We have dramatically increased the number and locations of these events across the region and have tried to ensure that there is a spread of daytime, evening, and weekend slots.

We will be taking in Treasure Cases on behalf of the British Museum, and I can confirm that if a find moves from the FLO base in Preston to London the finder will immediately be informed that it has moved.

We have been formally taking in finds since the 10th April. When we accept a find we must have the full details of the finder/ depositor- unfortunately a name and phone number are not sufficient. If we are not given these details the FLO's cannot accept responsibility for finds. If we take in a find the finder will receive a pink receipt sheet which they must keep for future reference. We also recommend the finder photograph the find at the point of handover. The FLO will also take a photograph of the find/ finds to be handed over. Whenever possible the finder should indicate the number of items they are handing over. I have instructed the FLO's not to accept depositions described as 'bag of items'

Many of your finders already follow these or similar processes so hopefully this will not be too onerous. I know that both Alex and Pauline are keen to get back into a good flow of work and I hope this news will also be taken positively by your members.

Regards Heather

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