Portable Antiquities Scheme

Annual Report 2003/04

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Portable
Antiquities
Scheme

www.finds.org.uk

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Cover:
Staffordshire Moorlands pan
(see page 51).

1. Metal-detecting and excavation of a site in Lincolnshire.

Foreword

I am very pleased to introduce the sixth *Portable Antiquities Annual Report*, assessing the work of the Portable Antiquities Scheme from 1 April 2003 until 31 March 2004.

In the past year the Scheme has been expanded across the whole of England and Wales and it now offers a comprehensive recording service for all finders of archaeological objects. This was accomplished largely due to the generosity of the Heritage Lottery Fund, together with funding from this Department. However, I would also like to pay tribute to the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council which has done an excellent job in both sponsoring the Scheme and in leading a consortium of 63 national and local museums and archaeological bodies in taking the project forward. It is a marvellous achievement.

Today the Portable Antiquities Scheme is the largest community archaeological project this country has ever seen. For their participation in this I would particularly like to thank the 2,376 finders who have, in the period of this report, volunteered 47,099 objects for recording. While the majority of these finds were made using a metal-detector, over one third (35 per cent) of the objects were actually discovered by other means, such as field-walking or by chance. This suggests that although the welcome support of the National Council for Metal Detecting remains absolutely vital to the ongoing existence of the Scheme, it is worth reminding people that we seek to record objects found by all members of the public, however discovered. The long-term aim of the Scheme is actually to change public attitudes to recording archaeological discoveries, so that it becomes normal practice for finders to report them.

Thanks for the many successes of the past year are also due to the staff of the Portable Antiquities Scheme itself, particularly the 36 Finds Liaison Officers who proactively meet with finders and record their discoveries. This has been an immensely exciting and rewarding year for everyone involved. Those in the Central Unit have helped to develop the Scheme's educational remit, co-ordinate and develop recording practices, and upgrade the website (www.finds.org.uk) and database – so the Scheme's standards are now higher than ever. It is also good to see that twenty-one new Finds Liaison Officers have been appointed to areas of the country with little previous tradition of liaison, and much work has already been done to build links with museums, archaeologists, local organisations and societies, metal-detecting clubs and other finders. Officers have worked hard to raise public awareness of the Scheme and its educational benefits, in addition to recording the large number of archaeological finds that are being made.

The Government would also like to recognise the essential role played by the Finds Liaison Officers in ensuring the efficient and smooth running of the Treasure Act, encouraging finders to report discoveries of potential Treasure and helping to satisfy the Government's obligations under European and international law. As demonstrated in this report the presence of a Finds Liaison Officer can dramatically increase the reporting rate of Treasure Finds by an average of five times, and in some areas the increase has been even more impressive than this: for example, in Sussex there has been a thirteen-fold rise in the reporting of Treasure finds since the Finds Liaison Officer was appointed in August 2003.

The Scheme also has an important educational role to play, encouraging both children and adults to develop an interest in archaeology and become involved. The Scheme is part of the National Grid for Learning, underlining its importance as an educational resource. Its newly developed finds database is available online (www.finds.org.uk) for public and specialist use. This data is also to be made available to Historic Environment Records, the key holders of information about the historic environment.

In the past year the Scheme's many contributions have been recognised by politicians of all parties in both Houses, and it has been warming to hear colleagues talk so supportively of the Scheme and the work of its Finds Liaison Officers. Indeed, it is true to say that the Portable Antiquities Scheme offers a vision that could benefit other areas of the historic environment. For example, in a document – *Protecting our Marine Historic Environment* (March 2004) – published by my department, the Scheme is acknowledged as a model for reporting archaeological objects from wrecks. Likewise, following a *Review of Treasure Trove Arrangements in Scotland* (April 2003) it has been recommended that Scotland should have its own team of Finds Liaison Officers, as we have in England and Wales.

The Portable Antiquities Scheme clearly offers an impressive range of benefits. Not only is it the only comprehensive and proactive mechanism to record finds made by the public, but it offers people – children and adults alike – the opportunity to become involved and learn more about our past. Its work adds to our understanding of where we come from and assists us all in preserving our heritage for the benefit of future generations.
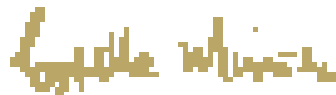
Estelle Morris
Minister of State for the Arts

October 2004

Preface

Estelle Morris (Arts Minister) launching the Portable Antiquities Scheme Annual Report 2001–03 with Chris Batt (Chief Executive, MLA), Roger Bland (Head of Portable Antiquities), Charles Lancaster and Mike Buckley (HLF).

The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) has been a key supporter of the Portable Antiquities Scheme since it was established in 1997. We co-ordinated the Scheme's successful Heritage Lottery Fund bid and are sponsoring the Scheme in this year's Government Spending Review, which we hope will be equally successful. If it is, this will secure the Scheme's future until March 2008.

I chair the Portable Antiquities Project Board & Advisory Group, which is an active consortium of national bodies that takes the project forward. The Project Board includes those that contribute directly to the funding of the Scheme, such as English Heritage, the British Museum, the National Museums & Galleries of Wales and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, and makes decisions on financial matters. The Advisory Group encompasses the above, but also includes the Council for British Archaeology, the National Council for Metal Detecting, the Society of Museum Archaeologists and the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers, and provides advice and support to ensure the Scheme delivers its aims.

On a day to day basis MLA takes the lead on financial responsibilities for the Scheme, passing the funding from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport as grants to the local partners. Each Finds Liaison Officer post is managed by a local institution, supported by other local partners. Altogether there are 63 national and local museums and archaeological bodies working together to realise the project's vision.

Museums, libraries and archives connect people to knowledge and information, creativity and inspiration. Therefore the Portable Antiquities Scheme fits in very well with our lead to unlock this wealth for everyone. The Scheme is part of our long-term vision for the future, Investing in Knowledge and also adds value to some of our other key strategic programmes, in particular Renaissance, The Knowledge Web and Inspiring Learning for All. The Scheme is already contributing to the targets set for the Renaissance programme, working with a wide range of finders, school children and community groups.

In December 2003 we were delighted that the Minister came to MLA to launch the Portable Antiquities Scheme Annual Report 2001–03. This was also an opportunity for the Minister to see some of the finds recorded with the Scheme and meet the finder of an interesting Bronze Age metalworking hoard.

We now await a favourable outcome to the Government's Spending Review which will have a major impact on whether the Scheme will have the long-term future that it richly deserves. It is therefore encouraging to read the Minister's positive words in her Foreword.

Chris Batt
Chief Executive, Museums, Libraries and Archives Council

October 2004

Introduction

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

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

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

Organisation

During the period of this report the Scheme was expanded to cover the whole of England and Wales. Previously there had been 12 Finds Liaison Officers, but by the end of this reporting period 36 Finds Liaison Officers were employed within the Scheme. The new Finds Liaison Officers were mostly appointed in three main batches, in April, August and December 2003.

The Finds Liaison Officers are based with local 'host' partner organisations, who manage the post-holder on a day-to-day basis. However the work of the Finds Liaison Officers is co-ordinated and supported by a Central Unit of ten post holders: a Head and Deputy Head, an Administrator, an ICT Adviser, an Education Officer and five Finds Adviser posts. The Central Unit is based at the British Museum, though four of the five Finds Advisers are based elsewhere.

The Portable Antiquities Scheme is managed by a consortium of national bodies led by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) which meets quarterly and is known as the Portable Antiquities Scheme Project Board & Advisory Group. Members of the Board who make financial decisions include 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 National Council for Metal Detecting, the Society of Museum Archaeologists and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. Issues discussed by this group include the transfer of Portable Antiquities data to Historic Environment Records, Countryside Stewardship Schemes, the future of the Portable Antiquities Scheme and a Code of Practice for finders of archaeological objects.

In addition there are regular meetings of the Central Unit and MLA directly involved with the running of the Scheme. This is known as the Portable Antiquities Project Implementation Team. This group discusses issues relating to the financial management of the Scheme as well as policy and makes recommendations to the Board and Advisory Group, as appropriate, for their approval.

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 its financial management, is monitored by a Project Monitor appointed by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Aims of the Portable Antiquities Scheme

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

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

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

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

• To define the nature and scope of a scheme for recording portable antiquities in the longer term, to access the likely costs and to identify resources to enable it to be put into practice.

2. Students from Truro College fieldwalking (see page 14).

Mini -FLO recording sheet!

5•mm
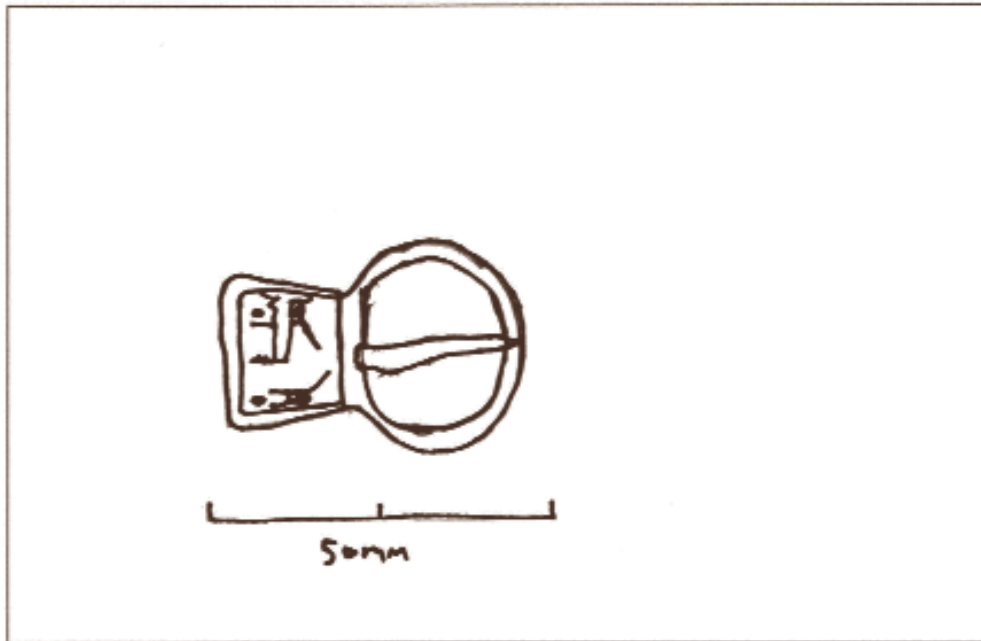
Draw your object here!

What do you think this object is?........B.uck.le..

How long is it?....44.mm...... How wide is it?....7.0mm.at.the.Strap.end
30 mm of the hinge end

How thick is it?....5.mm............. How much does it weigh?...15.g.............

If it is a coin, what is it's diameter?..

Describe your object... The Buckle has an odd Shaped hole
for the belt to go in and the Pin is still there.
The colour is black\very dark grey. Made of copper alloy.
Possibly medieval.

3. Mini-FLO finds recording form
(see page 12).

Key points

The main achievements of the Portable Antiquities Scheme in the period 1 April 2003 until 31 March 2004 can be summarised as follows:

Extent of the Scheme

During the period of this report the Scheme was extended to all parts of England and Wales, and now employs 36 Finds Liaison Officers. The central unit comprises a Head and Deputy Head, Administrator, Education Officer, ICT Adviser and five Finds Advisers.

Recognition of success

The success and contribution of the Scheme was recognised by politicians of all parties in numerous parliamentary debates during the period of this report. In *Protecting our Marine Historic Environment* (published March 2004), the Scheme is acknowledged as a model arrangement for reporting archaeological objects. Likewise, following a *Review of Treasure Trove Arrangements in Scotland* (published April 2003) it has been recommended that Scotland (like England and Wales) should have its own team of Finds Liaison Officers to proactively record archaeological objects found by the public.

Objects recorded

A further 47,099 archaeological objects have been recorded over the year, some of which are illustrated in this report. Of these, nearly two thirds have been discovered using a metal-detector, but the rest have been found by other means. This report also shows that the presence of a Finds Liaison Officer may increase the reporting rate of potential Treasure finds by an average of five times.

Liaison

The Finds Liaison Officers have liaised with 2,376 finders, attended at least 523 metal-detecting club meetings and 564 other meetings. They have maintained regular contact with at least 141 metal-detecting clubs and numerous amateur archaeological groups.

New sites discovered

Many important new archaeological sites have been discovered as a result of the finds recorded by the Finds Liaison Officers. These include a highly significant Iron Age site in East Leicestershire, a Roman cremation burial from Kent and an Anglo-Saxon cemetery on the Isle of Wight.

Findspot information

Over 91 per cent of finds recorded have been recovered from cultivated land, where they are susceptible to plough damage and artificial and natural corrosion processes. 73 per cent of finds are now being recorded to the nearest 100 square metres (a six-figure National Grid Reference) or better, and over one third of all finds are being recorded to the nearest 10 square metres (an eight-figure National Grid Reference).

Finds data

The finds data generated by the Scheme is to be 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

Outreach

302 talks (attended by 8,977 people) have been given about the Portable Antiquities Scheme. 587 Finds Days, exhibitions or other events (attended by 13,260 people) have been organised. 393 articles about the work of the Scheme have been published or broadcast.

Website

There have been 7,808,438 hits of the Scheme's website – www.finds.org.uk – in the period of this report. At the end of this reporting period the online database allows public access to 64,552 records and 21,591 images.

Publication

Several publications associated with the work of the Scheme have appeared in the period of this report, including the *Treasure Annual Report 2001* and the Portable Antiquities section of *Medieval Archaeology* volume 47 (2003).

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Education and Learning

Introduction

"The Portable Antiquities Scheme has an important educational role and helps to provide a framework for members of the public to develop an interest in archaeology and become involved." Estelle Morris, Minister of State for the Arts *(Portable Antiquities Scheme Annual Report 2001–03).* Since the last annual report, the Scheme has employed an Education Officer, Ceinwen Paynton, whose main role is to facilitate the educational work of the Finds Liaison Officers, produce an education plan and develop resources for schools and others (see fig 4).

Children

The Portable Antiquities Scheme offers a different and exciting learning experience that is based around real archaeological objects, providing a tangible link with our past. Artefact-based learning with a local focus is an ideal way to encourage children to develop an interest in and understanding of the past. Learning through the Scheme can be formal, such as part of a lesson in school, or informal, such as an activity day at a local museum. The examples below outline some of the ways the Scheme works with children (see fig 5).

Learning at school

The Portable Antiquities Scheme can support learning for children of all ages in a wide variety of subject areas, such as citizenship, geography and history among others.

Talks and object handling sessions at schools are a regular feature of the Finds Liaison Officers' work. For example in March 2004, David Williams (Surrey FLO) visited Knowl Hill School, Pirbright, Surrey, a small private school for children with dyslexia and other special needs, and gave a short talk followed by an object handling session (see fig 6). Similarly, in December 2003 Simon Holmes (North & East Yorkshire FLO) in conjunction with Linda Smith (Rural Archaeologist for North Yorkshire) gave a talk to 26 nine- and ten-year-old pupils at St Mary's Primary School, Bolton on Swale, North Yorkshire, after which there was an opportunity for the children to handle artefacts. Likewise Liz Wilson (Sussex FLO) and Deborah Speers (Education Officer, Sussex Archaeological Society) talked to pupils at Whitestyles Middle School, West Sussex, about archaeology.

4. Ceinwen Paynton (Education Officer) talks to children about finds.

All the evidence points to the tremendous popularity of handling sessions for children. Feedback from teachers and pupils suggests that being able to touch real finds encourages a far greater interest than just being able to look at them. In 2003 Andrew Richardson (Kent FLO) found great enthusiasm for his finds handling and recording sessions with classes from Charing Primary School, St. Leonard's Primary School, and Hythe and Valley Park Community School, Maidstone. He also gave a presentation to 120 pupils of Eastry Primary School about the Anglo-Saxon burial that he and Keith Parfitt (local archaeologist) excavated at Eastry, Kent.

Close involvement between Mark Lodwick (Finds Co-ordinator Wales) and Ken Brassil (Archaeology Education Officer, National Museums & Galleries of Wales) has provided a number of opportunities to talk with school groups of various ages about the work of the Portable Antiquities Scheme and the importance of recording archaeological finds to understanding the past. Preparations for the 'Buried Treasure: finding our past' exhibition at the National Museum & Gallery, Cardiff have already engaged schools throughout Wales with the exhibition. Discussions with teachers have highlighted the need for public responsibility when exploring the past and accessing archaeological material culture, and have led to the development of school teaching sessions concerning citizenship and archaeology.

The Finds Liaison Officers have developed exciting ways to bring the past to life, which is often very different to the type of education work offered by museums. For example, in April 2003 Angie Bolton (Warwickshire & Worcestershire FLO) spent a day at the Lutley Primary School in Halesowen, West Midlands. Activities included volunteers acting the death of a Roman soldier, after which the class discussed what an archaeologist or metal-detectorist might discover of his remains. The children also excavated objects from a sand-tray and recorded the finds as an archaeologist might (see fig 7). Nicola Powell (Devon FLO) has worked on the Tubulistum project at the Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter, where children have been able to dress up as a Roman soldier, handle real archaeological objects and eat pretend peacock brains!

The Finds Liaison Officers also play an advisory role. For example in July 2003, Faye Minter (Suffolk FLO) advised two local secondary school teachers on an 'archaeology week' for 12- to 15-year-olds at Farlingay High School, Woodbridge, Suffolk. The students were members of the school archaeology club, set up by the same two teachers (who are also metal-detectorists). During the week's events Faye gave a handling session

5. Children excavate a sandpit, Suffolk.

6. David Williams (Surrey FLO) talks to pupils at Knowl Hill School about the Portable Antiquities Scheme.

7. Drawing Roman pottery.

8. A small girl has a go using a metal-detector.

9. A Colchester YAC member records archaeological finds.

using real archaeological finds, while the children under-took metal-detecting and field walking, using advice provided by Faye about how to identify finds and metal-detect responsibly (see fig 8). Faye is currently liaising with teachers at Mildenhall College who are planning to start offering GCSE Archaeology to their students.

Some of the Finds Liaison Officers have taken on student placements, which has been very rewarding. For example, Philippa Walton (North East FLO) took on a pre-GCSE student from Whitley Bay High School as part of a week long placement at the Museum of Antiquities who helped catalogue a collection of finds recovered during a metal-detecting survey.

To date most of the Scheme's educational work has focused on primary schools, where there is the greatest overlap with the national curriculum. But there are now plans to work with secondary-school children in areas relevant to the curriculum, such as citizenship and geography.

Learning out of school

The Portable Antiquities Scheme is also an important informal learning tool, helping to bring the past alive for children of all ages. Much of this has involved the Finds Liaison Officers working with the Young Archaeologist Club (YAC).

In March 2004 Caroline McDonald (Essex FLO) led an informal session on the work of a Finds Liaison Officer with the Colchester branch of the YAC, where she is also an assistant leader. Titled 'mini FLO', the session addressed children who ranged in age from 8 to 14 years old, and involved recording archaeological objects from the collections of Colchester Museum and local metal-detectorists. The children used reference books and their own ideas to come up with the object's use and age (see figs 3 and 9). For many of the children it was the first time they had handled real artefacts and they asked many spontaneous questions about looking after 'precious things'. Some of the older children were also interested in the question of who was allowed to keep these objects, which led to discussion about museum collections, private collections and why we were making records in the first place. The question: 'As a mini-FLO you might have to tell other people why we record archaeology and why it's so important. What would you tell them?' got some interesting responses. A typical answer was "*So we can learn more about the past*", but other answers included: "*It is important to record finds for future archaeologists because once a find is removed from its resting place, if not recorded it (the information)*

will be eventually lost"; and "*it is important to record even the smallest of finds because they can mean more than big chunks of pot, brick and tile; for instance a piece of stone age flint or part of a sword"*, and perhaps most interestingly: "*We record archaeology so we can understand more about the past of our community."*

The Finds Liaison Officers also offer an opportunity for YAC members to get involved in archaeological fieldwork. In the period of this report, Adam Daubney (Lincolnshire FLO) has worked with the Lincoln branch of the YAC on two separate field trips designed to teach members how to carry out an archaeological survey and how to identify and record finds (see fig 10). One survey at Stow, Lincolnshire, was carried out with the help of members from the Lincoln Historic Search Society and the Lincolnshire Search Society, many of whom showed the YAC members how to metal-detect and record finds. Likewise in March 2004 Erica Darch (Norfolk FLO), also Assistant Leader for the Norwich branch of the Young Archaeologists Club, worked with members of the Norwich Metal Detectors Club who organised field walking and metal-detecting for the YAC at Reepham. Despite the poor weather the day was very successful and many finds were collected. These were recorded on the Scheme's finds database, so the YAC members will be able to see the results of their hard work at the click of a mouse.

Of course children don't have to be in the YAC to experience the Portable Antiquities Scheme. The Finds Liaison Officers have a very active programme of reaching out to children whatever their background and wherever they might live. For example, Kate Sutton (Berkshire & Oxfordshire FLO) in conjunction with Melanie Parker (Educational Officer, West Berkshire Museum) organised a 'meet an archaeologist' drop-in session held during the spring half term 2004. This was an opportunity for people to bring in their archaeological finds for identi- fication. There were also archaeological objects to handle and identify (see figs 11 and 12). Likewise 'Fun Days' for youngsters are held twice-yearly in Buckinghamshire County Museum. Ros Tyrrell (Buckinghamshire FLO) attends, encouraging children to bring in archaeological objects they have found. Wendy Scott (Leicestershire & Rutland FLO) holds similar events at Donington Le Heath Manor House, near Coalville, and also helps with period- based school holiday activities.

Philippa Walton (North East FLO) has been involved in various activities arranged by Jo Catling (Education Officer, Museum of Antiquities, Newcastle upon Tyne). Perhaps most importantly, Philippa has participated in the Reticulum project, an initiative run by the Museum

10. Adam Daubney (Lincolnshire FLO) digs alongside YAC members.

11/12. Kate Sutton (Berkshire & Oxfordshire FLO) talks about archaeological finds.

of Antiquities shortlisted for the Gulbenkian Prize for Museum of the Year 2004. Reticulum is a completely new way of engaging children's interest in the past: staff work with partner schools in Northumberland to give children the opportunity to handle artefacts and explore historical themes. In between school sessions and museum visits, the children use email to consult the museum staff and to work with other schools in the region. Philippa has worked with various schools, including Warkworth Primary School, where she talked about her job as Finds Liaison Officer; her portrait, drawn by Year 3, is already on the Reticulum website (see fig 13). Philippa also worked with 35 pupils from Corbridge Primary School who were allowed to handle metal-detector finds from the Corbridge area, which she had for recording. The children were especially fascinated by a Roman ear-scoop and nail cleaner which led on to a discussion about Roman hygiene!

In October 2003 Anna Tyacke (Cornwall FLO) was involved in an English Heritage-funded excavation project at Boden Vean Fogou, on the Lizard, Cornwall. The project was primarily intended to protect and discover the extent of the fogou (underground chamber), but previously unknown finds and structures, dating from the Bronze Age to the Romano-British period, were also discovered. Anna was in charge of fieldwalking with the local primary and secondary schools and tertiary-level students from Truro College (see figs 2 and 14). She also used one of the teaching handling collections from the Royal Cornwall Museum, along with recent finds from the site. *"Despite the cold, all the pupils from Manaccan Primary School spent a morning as archaeologists, thanks to the kind invitation of local farmer, Chris Hosken. Mr Hosken invited the children, aged 4 to 11, to his farm at Boden Vean to look at an ancient fogou. Following this, and with the help of Cornwall County Council Historic Environment Service, the children took part in the dig, and our only Year 6 pupil, with her usual flair, managed to find two prehistoric scrapers and a whetstone! This really sparked the children's imaginations and led to some interesting work back at school."* Miron Quick (Headmistress, Manaccan Primary School)

Further and higher education

The Portable Antiquities Scheme has the potential to revolutionise our understanding of the past and is an important resource for those in higher and further education. In the period of this report the research impact of the Scheme was facilitated by the appointment of five Finds Advisers (see Chapter 2). However, the Finds Liaison Officers have also had – and continue to have – an important role furthering interest and research in archaeological objects.

Further Education

Over the past year the Finds Liaison Officers have continued to provide advice to A-level students studying archaeology. For example, Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevarthen (Somerset & Dorset FLO) was interviewed twice about the Scheme in Somerset by A-level students and has supplied reports, newsletters, leaflets and other information. She also gave a talk about the Treasure Act and the Portable Antiquities Scheme to students at Strode College, Somerset. This was as part of an initiative by the Museum of South Somerset to supply materials and information about archaeology and related issues to A-level courses in the county. Likewise A-level students from Barnfield and Leagrave colleges in Luton have benefited from working with Julian Watters (Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire FLO), using the Scheme to assess material collected during fieldwalking surveys in the area and gain advice on future projects.

Colleges

People learning about archaeology in the evenings or at weekend classes have also benefited from the experiences of the Finds Liaison Officers. In April 2003 Faye Minter (Suffolk FLO) and her manager, Jude Plouviez (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Officer), ran a Roman Suffolk day school for 60 members of the Workers' Educational Association. Faye spoke about the Roman finds reported and recorded via the Portable Antiquities Scheme and material was available for handling. In June 2003 Faye also conducted a two-hour evening class on the identification of metal artefacts, their conservation and the work of the Portable Antiquities Scheme in Suffolk for the University of East Anglia's 'beginners course in the identification of archaeological objects'. It was such a success that she has been asked to return next year to do another two sessions. Similarly, Anna Tyacke (Cornwall FLO) regularly gives talks and tours to the local tertiary colleges. In December 2003 she gave a talk and tour to the Foundation and Higher National Diploma (HND) in archaeology students from Truro College, including a tour of the archaeology gallery, behind the scenes in the stores and how to access the collections through the museum's in-house database.

During October and November 2003 Steven Plunkett (Suffolk FLO) conducted a course of six weekly lectures entitled 'The Spirit of Ancient Suffolk 300–900' for about 35 adult learners who were subscribers at Gainsborough House, Sudbury, Suffolk. The lectures referred to finds recorded through the Portable Antiquities Scheme in Suffolk. Likewise, in January 2004 a lecture entitled 'The Portable Antiquities Scheme in Kent' was given by Andrew Richardson (Kent FLO) to an Archaeology Certificate class at the University of Kent, Canterbury. This covered the history of the relationships between archaeology and metal-detecting, the origins of liaison in Kent and the work of the Scheme since 1997. Lyn Palmer (course tutor, University of Kent) said: *"It's important that students of archaeology learn about current legislation and best practice, hence my invitation to Andrew Richardson to talk about the Portable Antiquities Scheme and the responsibilities of metal-detecting."*

Universities

The Finds Advisers have an important role raising the profile of the Scheme amongst university students and the wider academic community. Three of the Finds Advisers are actually based within universities and are actively involved in the educational work there, including teaching and supervising students research. In the period of this report Helen Geake (Finds Adviser, Medieval & Post-medieval Objects) talked to Cambridge under-graduate students about Anglo-Saxon metalwork and burial practice in the seventh and eighth centuries, and also to MPhil 'Archaeological Heritage and Museum' students about the Portable Antiquities Scheme. Likewise, Roger Bland (Head of Portable Antiquities) talked to students at the London Institute of Archaeology about Treasure and the Portable Antiquities Scheme. Further, Sally Worrell (Finds Adviser, Prehistoric & Roman Objects) supervised MA student theses at the Institute of Archaeology and has given advice to students in the formulation of their research topics using Portable Antiquities Scheme data.

Many members of the Scheme are experts in their own right. Adrian Marsden (Norfolk FLO), for example, has given talks on Roman coinage to archaeology students at the University of East Anglia. Sally Worrell (Finds Adviser, Prehistoric & Roman Objects) has lectured on the aims and objectives of the Portable Antiquities Scheme to students in the MA Material Culture and MA Public Archaeology courses at the Institute of Archaeology and also to students at Bournemouth University. Kevin Leahy

13. A child's drawing of Philippa Walton and colleagues (North East FLO).

14. School children fieldwalking with Anna Tyacke (Cornwall FLO).

(Finds Adviser, Metal & Metallurgy) has been very active in lecturing and has taught three modules for the University of Hull during the last year, all of which have drawn on Portable Antiquities data. These modules included 'an introduction to Anglo-Saxon archaeology', 'Anglo-Saxon peoples of the Humber' and 'interpreting material culture'. Kevin, who has completed a PhD on 'The Cleatham Anglo-Saxon cemetery in its Regional Context' of which much of the data for the regional context was drawn from Portable Antiquities records, notes *"It is gratifying to see increasing numbers of University students drawing on Portable Antiquities Scheme data for their dissertations and theses."*

Archaeology students are the next generation of archaeologists, and so it has also been particularly important and beneficial for the Finds Liaison Officers to have the opportunity to talk about the Scheme and the benefits of liaison with the wider community. During the period of this report Philippa Walton (North East FLO) has lectured to first year and second year undergraduates reading Archaeology at Durham and Newcastle University as part of their 'Public Archaeology' modules. She also held a seminar about the Treasure Act and the Portable Antiquities Scheme for a small group of Museum Studies postgraduates at Newcastle University. Following these lectures, Philippa was asked to advise lecturers on examination questions on the Treasure Act. She has been invited to return each year to lecture at both Durham and Newcastle on the progress of the Scheme in the North East. The lectures have also led to several requests from students for work placements which took place over the summer of 2004. Tom Brindle (Northamptonshire FLO) has been approached for assistance with both undergraduate and post-graduate dissertation topics and has provided advice on the current relationship between members of the public who find archaeological objects and archaeologists.

Angie Bolton (Warwickshire & Worcestershire FLO) taught undergraduate students at Birmingham University about the Portable Antiquities Scheme and the Treasure Act (1996), and by the end of the session students expressed a more open-minded view about metal-detecting. She was also able to provide Roman coins for handling – something most of the students had not had the opportunity to do before. Students were surprised at the level of detail that needed to be recorded, and at the quantity of information that can be gleaned from a coin.

The Finds Liaison Officers do not only talk to university students about Treasure and Portable Antiquities. In March 2004 Anna Marshall (South & West Yorkshire FLO) gave a brief careers talk, including a summary of

her role as a Finds Liaison Officer, to current archaeology MA students at the University of York. Likewise, Sally Worrell (Finds Adviser, Prehistoric & Roman Objects) gave a talk at the Institute of Archaeology's Careers Day about a career in archaeology and the Portable Antiquities Scheme.

Adult Learners/Life Long Learners

The Portable Antiquities Scheme is also an informal learning resource for adults.

Rod Couper, a mental health social-worker and keen amateur archaeologist and fieldwalker, based in Caerphilly, has initiated a fieldwork project with a number of service users, supported by the Portable Antiquities Scheme in Wales. The project has provided a mechanism for mental health service users in South-East Wales to engage with the past, to develop an understanding of the archaeological process and to become familiar with a museum environment. Together, the group has developed skills in lithic identification and has become aware of the importance of precise findspot recording. Through the conscientious and detailed finds recording of the group, the Scheme has identified a previously unrecorded Mesolithic site in South Wales. *"As a mental health social worker operating within a specialist team, my main remit is to work directly with mental health service users and to encourage them in meaningful activities. This is primarily focused on utilising community education and leisure facilities with a view to accessing these independently. One of my current projects is in facilitating a small group of service users (who already have an interest in history and archaeology) in fieldwalking which allows them an inexpensive and accessible way of engaging in practical archaeology. However, the project lacked proper guidance and expertise until I accessed the Portable Antiquities Scheme, which provided the group with information and training on artefacts and how to conduct a fieldwalking survey. This has proved extremely valuable to me and I now feel confident to develop the project further. I will be accessing the Portable Antiquities Scheme for future support and guidance and will also encourage service users to do so once they are engaged in activities independently of mental health services."* Rod Couper (Mental Heath Social Worker, Caerphilly)

Metal-detector users

The vast majority of adults learning through the Scheme are the finders themselves. Although the primary aim of

the Scheme is to record archaeological objects, liaison also offers an opportunity for finders to learn more about the objects they discover and archaeologists to understand better the historical landscape. The Finds Liaison Officers continue to develop relations with metal-detecting clubs – the principal source of archaeological objects discovered by the public. The number of metal-detecting clubs with which the Finds Liaison Officers have regular contact is set out in Table 1 (see page 77).

It is particularly gratifying to see increasing numbers of people whose interest in metal-detecting is taking them back into education. This often involves reading up on history and archaeology, but some people are taking Adult Education courses which, in some cases, are eventually leading to degree level study.

Metal-detecting club meetings are often social occasions where the Finds Liaison Officers get to talk to members about their hobby, their finds and archaeology in a relaxed environment (see fig 15). The Finds Liaison Officer is often involved in the activities of the club, which can be as varied as talking about a specific type of find or judging the 'find of the month' competition (see figs 16 and 17).

Sometimes talks to metal-detecting clubs are more formal. In the period of this report Tom Brindle (Northamptonshire FLO), Kurt Adams (North Lincolnshire FLO) and Angie Bolton (Warwickshire & Worcestershire FLO), among others, have given short talks about the Scheme or recently recorded finds. Similarly, Frank Basford (Isle of Wight FLO) has given several tutorials in archaeological illustration and report writing to metal-detectorists and other finders of archaeological material. Participants soon realise that close observation and measurement of the find during illustration makes it much easier to write a report about it.

Each metal-detecting club in Norfolk has a number of finds competitions which are judged by Adrian Marsden and Erica Darch (Norfolk FLOs), other archaeologists or club members. Categories normally include 'best artefact' and 'best coin'. At the East Norfolk Metal Detecting Club they also have the category 'worst find'! To qualify objects must be recognisable but completely beyond use or repair. The prize is awarded to encourage finders to report even the 'grotty' finds, which can also be of archaeological interest.

In addition to members of metal-detecting clubs the Finds Liaison Officers maintain regular contact with a number of independent detectorists (i.e. non-club members). Indeed, a number of significant finds made in the past year in Kent have been made by 'independents', such as the Thurnham Potin hoard (found by Peter and

15. Kate Sutton (Berkshire & Oxfordshire FLO) records finds at a metal-detecting club.

16. Kevin Leahy (Finds Adviser) and Anna Marshall (South & West Yorkshire FLO) judge finds at the NCMD Yorkshire Region AGM.

17. Philippa Walton (North East FLO) judges a 'find of the month' competition.

18. Local metal-detectorists examine finds in the conservation lab at Doncaster Museum & Art Gallery.

Christine Johnson) and Roman sites at Sheldwich (found by David Button and Gill Davies) and Chislet (found by Graham Healy). Likewise, Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevarthen and Elaine Howard Jones (Somerset & Dorset FLOs) often meet with individual finders in order to view, collect and return finds. In fact, around half of the metal detectorists involved with the Scheme in Somerset and Dorset are independent of any clubs.

Most of the Finds Liaison Officers prefer to record finds in the office rather than on the spot, as this enables better study of the objects, but sometimes this is not possible. In some areas, such as Kent, the Finds Liaison Officer has helped to establish networks of Club Recording Officers, who input data and images directly onto the Scheme's database.

Liaison in the different areas covered by the Scheme

Between April and December 2003 the Portable Antiquities Scheme was extended to 21 new areas.

Established areas

In areas of the country where the Scheme has been established for a long time liaison between archaeologists and metal-detectorists is fruitful and good relations have developed. In these areas most metal-detectorists are happy for the Finds Liaison Officer to borrow their finds for recording. In some areas, such as Suffolk, finders are also lent maps of the fields they search to encourage them to plot each find while they are out detecting.

However, there is still work to be done. Working with the Welsh Archaeological Trusts, Mark Lodwick (Finds Co-ordinator, Wales) is able to offer a nationwide recording service, but the north east of Wales continues to present a challenge in outreach as some metal-detecting clubs are not regularly attended by an archaeologist. Likewise, Jodi McCrohan (Hampshire FLO) has a logistical problem getting to all the detecting clubs in Hampshire, as some of them meet on the same night.

New areas

In areas not previously covered by the Scheme the Finds Liaison Officers have worked hard to develop links and some good progress has already been made. Upon her appointment Anna Tyacke (Cornwall FLO) gave talks to each of the local metal-detecting clubs and passed on leaflets about the Portable Antiquities Scheme and now

she is able to regularly collect and return finds. Likewise, Frank Basford (Isle of Wight FLO) is welcome to attend club meetings in order to assist with the identification of finds, provide advice on conservation and storage of finds and keep members informed of developments in the Portable Antiquities Scheme.

Anna Marshall (South & West Yorkshire FLO) has found that practical sessions are a good way to encourage liaison. For example, Anna enlisted the help of Libby Finney (Keeper of Conservation, Doncaster Museum & Art Gallery) to talk to local detectorists about conservation, which was followed up with a workshop session at the conservation lab of Doncaster Museum (see fig 18).

"The workshop was really interesting and was an important step to help build bridges between finders and museums." Barry Morgan (Danum Arc metal-detecting club, Doncaster). Liz Wilson (Sussex FLO) had the novel idea of contacting 'Detecnicks', a metal-detecting shop in West Sussex, which has agreed to supply leaflets about the Scheme to customers.

Although some members of the metal-detecting clubs in Gloucestershire and Avon were initially reluctant to record their finds many are now happy to work with Kurt Adams (Gloucestershire & Avon FLO). In fact some members supplement the work they do with metal-detectors with geophysical surveys, using both resitivity and magnetometry, all of which has been recorded with the local Historic Environment Record Officer. Likewise, Paul Manning of the Milton Keynes Searchers metal-detecting club has been detecting in the Hanslope area of Buckinghamshire for some years. Having shown Ros Tyrrell (Buckinghamshire FLO) some of his finds he has acquired a scanner and now emails distribution maps and images to Ros so his finds can be published on the Scheme's finds database

Areas with some liaison in the past

Some of the new Finds Liaison Officer posts have been established as the result of the division of a much larger area. For example, the Cheshire, Greater Manchester & Merseyside Finds Liaison Officer post and that of Lancashire & Cumbria were carved out of the North West, previously covered by one post holder – Nick Herepath. Whilst Nick nominally covered the whole area, effective liaison with all the finders based in the North West was clearly impractical.

Faye Simpson (Lancashire & Cumbria FLO) is welcomed at all the metal-detecting clubs in her area, though some finders prefer to record their finds at her

weekly Finds Days at Lancashire Museum in Preston, Lancaster City Museum and Tullie House Museum in Carlisle. These have also allowed the Scheme to reach a wider audience, including independent metal-detectorists and other finders. Caroline Johnson (Staffordshire & West-Midlands FLO) visits three metal detecting clubs in the West Midlands & Staffordshire area (one of three areas previously covered by the West Midlands FLO – Angie Bolton) at which she gives a short talk on the Scheme locally, as well as helping to identify, collect and return artefacts.

David Williams (Surrey FLO) attended meetings of the Weald and Downland Metal Detecting Club long before the advent of the Portable Antiquities Scheme in Surrey and many hundreds of finds have already been recorded and information has been passed on to the Historic Environment Record. Likewise in Devon, Gary Saunders (a volunteer based at the Cookworthy Museum in Kingsbridge) liaised with metal-detectorists as part of an undergraduate dissertation and recorded archaeological finds. He still maintains these contacts and has been a continuing source of information and support to Nicola Powell (Devon FLO).

Cross-border liaison

Although the Finds Liaison Officers predominantly record finds from their own 'patch', the flexibility in the way the Scheme operates allows the recording of finds with any Finds Liaison Officer, no matter where (in England and Wales) the find was actually discovered. For example a finder who lives in London but discovers something whilst walking in Kent would probably find it most convenient to record their find with the London Finds Liaison Officer. The functionality of the database would mean that the data recorded would still be available to the Finds Liaison Officer in the area where the object was actually found.

More than 27 per cent of the finds recorded by Anna Marshall (South and West Yorkshire FLO) have come from North Yorkshire, while the Scheme in Suffolk has recorded 212 finds from Cambridgeshire, and the picture is similar in other parts of the country.

Particularly in the days before the Portable Antiquities Scheme was extended to the whole of England and Wales, some of the Finds Liaison Officers went to metal-detecting clubs outside their area. Jodi McCrohan (Hampshire FLO) still maintains contact with The Farnham and District Metal Detecting Club and the Discoverers in Surrey.

Finds Days

Finds identification and recording events, known as Finds Days, are a useful way for Finds Liaison Officers to meet independent detectorists and other finders of archaeological objects. In the period of this report 587 Finds Days were organised across the country. Often these take place in museums, but can be held in other locations, as the examples below demonstrate.

Some are regular events: for example Simon Holmes and Dave Evans (North & East Yorkshire FLOs) attend the Archaeological Resource Centre, York, on a weekly basis to identify and record the finds brought in by members of the public. Caroline Johnson (Staffordshire & West Midlands FLO) holds monthly Finds Days at the Potteries Museum & Art Gallery in Stoke on Trent, which has proved to be very popular. Finders included an elderly couple who brought in some Roman pottery, which had been found by the gentleman's father and had been kept in the attic for a number of years. Similarly, Kate Sutton (Berkshire & Oxfordshire FLO) holds regular Finds Days in West Berkshire Museum, the Museum of Reading, the Museums Resource Centre, Standlake and the Museum of Oxfordshire, Woodstock. In the mornings there are booked appointments where finders can bring collections of material, with a drop-in session in the afternoon. These have been well attended by both children and adults.

One of the primary objectives identified early on in the establishment of the Scheme in Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire was to set up an effective 'finds deposit and collection' network, which would allow objects to be deposited by finders at any local museum for collection by Julian Watters (Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire FLO). As many of the curators of these museums did not have backgrounds in finds identification it was decided that there should be a training day on archaeological objects for curators. This took place at Verulamium Museum in February 2004 and was attended by 25 museum staff from the two counties. Staff from Verulamium Museum provided advice on the identification of pottery and coins and this was followed in the afternoon by a practical session on metal artefacts, co-ordinated by Julian (see fig 19).

Case Study
George Hughes of Brentwood found a medieval coin on his school's playing field. Subsequently, George and his mother took the find to Caroline McDonald (Essex FLO) to have it identified and recorded. The coin was a long cross penny of Edward I and in quite poor condition, but still

important to record. Caroline looked up the coin, but also got George to look at the inscription with a hand lens. He correctly picked out enough letters to get the name 'Edward', which was not an easy task! George was also able to work out the National Grid Reference of the findspot. Caroline scanned an image of the coin, and eventually George left with a complete print-out of his find. The school contacted the local Brentwood press and George and his discovery appeared in the local press and on a website about museums.

Due to the fact that Sussex has so many independent detectorists it was essential that Liz Wilson (Sussex FLO) made herself available by organising Finds Days across the county. The initial sessions took place once a month at seven of Sussex's largest museums. They were attended with varying degrees of interest but it immediately became clear there was a need for events in Horsham, Littlehampton and Fishbourne, as all of these events draw large numbers of independent detectorists. "*The Horsham area is rich in archaeology, but we at the museum just don't get to see the things which are being found by metal-detectorists and the general public. Through the success of Finds Days at the museum more and more people are bringing things into the museum for Liz to look at and in turn we also get to see them*", Jeremy Knight (Curator, Horsham Museum). The other sessions were also successful because they draw in members of the public who might not have otherwise come into the museums. "*I was so overwhelmed by the popularity of Liz's Finds Days at Littlehampton Museum. The events increased visitor numbers to the museum and often the people who came, stayed to look around the exhibitions*," Rolf Zeegers (Assistant Curator, Littlehampton Museum)

Some Finds Days are organised to tie in with an existing event. In October 2003, under the auspices of the Newquay Old Cornwall Society, Anna Tyacke (Cornwall FLO) ran a Finds Day and gave a talk about the Portable Antiquities Scheme at the Hotel Bristol in Newquay (see fig 20). Anna had previously organised the loan of objects (associated with Newquay) from the Royal Institution of Cornwall's archaeology and local history collections for an exhibition at the hotel. The exhibition was opened by the Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall and the Mayor of Newquay and was a great success with local people. Objects identified ranged from flint tools to post-medieval coins. Likewise Philippa Walton (North East FLO) held a Finds Day in Marton Park, Middlesbrough, to tie in with Tees Archaeology's excavation of Captain Cook's birthplace. The event was well attended as Time Team were filming and over

200 members of the public visited the Portable Antiquities Scheme table during the course of the day. Finds recorded included an Anglo-Scandinavian finger ring and a medieval long-cross penny. Philippa was also filmed at the event for the Time Team Christmas Special. Similarly, Kate Sutton (Berkshire & Oxfordshire FLO) held a Finds Day to coincide with an 'Egyptian Fun Day' and the opening of a new exhibition in the Museum of Reading. A good range of material was brought in for identification ranging from a Palaeolithic hand axe to a cannon ball. Approximately 900 attended the Museum that day with a large proportion being children.

Most of the Finds Days in Somerset were arranged in conjunction with a series of outreach events for the Somerset County Council online Historic Environment Record. This proved a successful approach, offering joint publicity opportunities and a wider audience for both organisations. At the Finds Days objects brought in for identification included a Roman quern stone, flints and pottery (see fig 21). "*Combining demonstrations of the Somerset Historic Environment Record and Portable Antiquities Scheme Finds Days was a great success and proved a real draw for the public. People could not only bring along artefacts for identification and recording but could also investigate what else was known about the area in which the finds had been made. A context was provided for archaeological finds and more of a complete story could be told.*" Talya Bagwell (Archaeological Outreach Officer, Somerset County Council)

One of the largest events organised by the Scheme was a series of 'Finds Roadshows' run across the country to coincide with the BBC2 television series 'Hidden Treasure'. The Roadshows took place simultaneously on 11 October 2003 in Cambridge, Cardiff, Liverpool, London, Market Harborough, Taunton, Worcester and York. Over 490 people visited the Roadshow events, with the Finds Liaison Officers examining over 1,300 objects. Some events were opened by celebrities, including Bill Wyman of the Rolling Stones and Jenny Jones, the Deputy Mayor of London (see figs 22 and 23). At some of the Roadshows there were also displays of finds, activities for children and adults and lectures and talks. Interesting finds recorded included a polished Neolithic axehead, a silver Roman ring (complete with intaglio) and an Anglo-Saxon cruciform brooch.

In February 2004 the Scheme held a very successful Finds Identification event as part of a weekend of special activities around the Buried Treasure exhibition at the British Museum (see below). 38 per cent of those that reported finds were from social classes C2, D & E, who are traditionally less likely to visit museums (for

19. Julian Watters (Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire FLO) talks to local museum curators about archaeological finds.

20. Anna Tyacke (Cornwall FLO) talks about the Scheme at the Hotel Bristol, Newquay.

21. Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevarthen & Elaine Howard Jones (Somerset & Dorset FLOs) examine finds at a Finds Day.

22. Bill Wyman (formerly of Rolling Stones) opens the BBC Hidden Treasure Roadshow in Cambridge.

23. Ros Tyrell (Buckinghamshire FLO) and Nicole Weller (London FLO) recording finds at the BBC Hidden Treasure Roadshow in London.

24. Michael Lewis (Deputy Head of Portable Antiquities) is interviewed by BBC London News at the British Museum.

comparison 13 per cent of visitors to the British Museum are of these social classes). Over 80 objects were recorded from across the whole of England and Wales. Gold coins from the sponsors of the exhibition *Anglo-American* were awarded to the star finds. These included a gilded copper-alloy prick spur found in South Wales, an early Neolithic stone axe found in Sussex in 1921 and brought in by the daughter of the original finder, and an Anglo-Saxon silver penny of Athelstan found near Lewes. The event featured prominently on BBC news at 5pm on St. Valentine's Day (see fig 24), which encouraged more people to attend on the following day.

Museum displays

As in previous years, the Finds Liaison Officers have worked closely with museums, organising exhibitions and displays. These provide an opportunity for local people to learn about the Scheme and new finds in their area and also encourages more people to come forward with finds for recording (see fig 25).

In November 2003 the British Museum opened its 'Buried Treasure' exhibition which looked at finds discovered by members of the public, the Treasure Act and the Portable Antiquities Scheme. Several important finds recorded through the Scheme, including the Staffordshire Moorlands Pan and the Ringlemere Cup, were on display, as well as recent – more common – finds recorded by the Finds Liaison Officers. 36,097 people visited the exhibition in London, including 637 in school parties. Further, analysis shows that there were 51,981,795 'opportunities to see' press coverage about the exhibition. The exhibition was conceived as a partnership between the British Museum, the National Museum & Gallery of Wales in Cardiff, Manchester Museum, the Hancock Museum in Newcastle upon Tyne and Norwich Castle Museum and will be touring each of those venues during 2004/05. This will provide further opportunities to arrange events linked to the Portable Antiquities Scheme (in each area the local Finds Liaison Officer will be fully involved) and it is hoped that the exhibition will have a long-lasting role in raising the profile of the Scheme and the Treasure Act.

In 2004 Norwich Castle Museum opened its new Anglo-Saxon and Viking gallery. Adrian Marsden (Norfolk FLO) was involved with the presentation of the objects and the interactive commentary. A number of these objects had been found in Norfolk recently and recorded through the Portable Antiquities Scheme, after which their finders were kind enough to donate them to the new gallery. In this way items recorded through the Scheme

are now being actively used to illustrate the history, society and culture of Norfolk before the Norman Conquest. Likewise, Kate Sutton (Berkshire & Oxfordshire FLO) has worked with the West Berkshire Museum on their temporary exhibition '249 Paintings, 10 Gold Coins and a Mammoth's tusk'. She used the opportunity to explain the Scheme and her work.

To coincide with the establishment of the Wiltshire Finds Liaison Officer, Swindon Museum and Art Gallery designated a corner of the museum for the display of finds found by the public. Isobel Thompson (Curator, Swindon Museum and Art Gallery) and Katie Hinds (Wiltshire FLO) have been liaising with the local metal-detecting clubs in particular, who have volunteered finds for display. The finds are normally of local interest and tie in with the museum's exhibition programme. Likewise for the 'Jazzy Jewellery' exhibition at the City and County Museum, Lincoln, local metal detectorists loaned material to Adam Daubney (Lincolnshire FLO) for inclusion in the museum's temporary exhibition. The exhibition of jewellery was used as a focus for a range of events and workshops for children primarily aged 7 to 11 years.

In the summer of 2003 Kurt Adams and Caroline Johnson (North Lincolnshire FLOs) organised a large exhibition at the North Lincolnshire Museum in Scunthorpe called 'The People's Archaeology' (see fig 26). All of the objects on display had been found by members of the public in the region whilst metal-detecting, field walking or in some cases, gardening. The exhibition held 12 display cases throughout two rooms, showing over 600 artefacts. Finds on display ranged from fossil bones and Neolithic stone axeheads to modern military badges, all of which were kindly loaned to the museum for the purpose of the exhibition. As well as the displays, there was a strong educational theme running throughout the exhibition with two 'cabinets of curiosities' where adults and children were given the opportunity to identify finds made by metal-detectorists. The exhibition was a great success attracting visitors not only from Lincolnshire but from Yorkshire and East Anglia.

Metal-detecting rallies

Metal-detecting rallies take many forms: some are colossal events with hundreds of people in attendance, others are much smaller, run for just a few individuals. Whether big or small, if organised without any proper mechanism to record finds, rallies can be extremely damaging, as hundreds of finds can be recovered in a day, many of which go unrecorded. In contrast rallies at

25. Faye Minter (Suffolk FLO) talks about finds at Stowmarket Rural Life Museum.

26. The 'People's Archaeology' exhibition in North Lincolnshire Museum.

27. Kurt Adams (Gloucestershire & Avon FLO) and Caroline Johnson (Staffordshire & West Midhands FLO) record finds at a metal-detecting rally.

which finds are plotted and recorded, can provide a useful 'rapid survey' of a site, adding information to the archaeological record. Whether organised conscientiously or not – providing the landowners have given their permission and protected areas are avoided – such events are not illegal and hence the Finds Liaison Officers often attend (see figs 27 and 28). Members of the Scheme are now working with the National Council for Metal Detecting on a Code of Practice for metal-detecting rallies.

In September 2003 Simon Holmes and Dave Evans (North & East Yorkshire FLOs) attended a metal-detecting rally at Long Marston, close to the Civil War battlefield of Marston Moor (2 July 1644). The rally was organised by the Yeovil & District Bottle & Metal Detecting Club. The event was criticised in the media and by archaeologists worried about the sensitivity of the site, although the site was not protected by law. In fact, the Scheme's Finds Liaison Officers were the only archaeologists present at the event to try and record the finds discovered.

Most months see at least one metal detecting rally organised in Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire or Hertford-shire by the Weekend Wanderers, which attracts between 100 and 150 detectorists. Ros Tyrrell (Buckinghamshire FLO) and Julian Watters (Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire FLO) attend these events where possible to record finds on the day. Over the August 2003 Bank Holiday the Weekend Wanderers organised a major rally at Creslow, Buckinghamshire, which was attended by 800 detectorists (see fig 29). The scale of the event did not become apparent until just before the event which made high quality recording difficult. This said, a total of 381 artefacts were recorded, including Prehistoric worked flints, Roman and Anglo-Saxon brooches, Medieval pilgrim souvenirs, post-medieval buckles, crotal bells and 243 Roman and Medieval coins among which was a hoard of 59 early- to mid-fourteenth century silver pennies and halfpennies. Since this rally, the National Council for Metal Detecting has helped arrange a meeting with the organiser, which has resulted in great strides towards co-operation. Much more warning about forthcoming events is given and the organiser plans to provide equipment to make finds-recording in the field more efficient. Tables, chairs and a tent have been a great help towards better recording and more improvements are promised.

Katie Hinds (Wiltshire FLO) was asked by two Hampshire metal-detecting clubs to join them on sites in Wiltshire. One of these was on land owned by Wiltshire County Council and permission was granted with the proviso that Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum should keep anything they wished for their collections.

Most finds were in fact returned to the finders after recording, but Katie was able to record findspots with a Global Positioning Systems (GPS) device. Likewise, Philippa Walton (North East FLO) has accompanied metal-detecting clubs on their weekend meets throughout the North East. These outings gave Philippa the opportunity to encourage accurate findspot recording as she was able to identify and record objects as they came out of the ground.

Outreach to archaeological groups and historical societies

The Finds Liaison Officers also maintain links with archaeological groups and historical societies to talk about the work of the Portable Antiquities Scheme, the benefits of liaison and recording archaeological objects recorded by the public. Below are some examples of the many talks given to archaeological groups and historical societies over the past year.

Andrew Richardson (Kent FLO) gave talks on 'The Work of the Finds Liaison Officer' to the Isle of Thanet Archaeological Society and a talk on 'The Jutes in Kent' to Ashford Historical & Archaeological Society, Friends of Dover Museum and the Great Mongeham Society. Likewise, Steven Plunkett (Suffolk FLO) gave a talk to 50 adult members of the Aldeburgh Historical Society, which focused on 'Middle Anglo-Saxon Ipswich' and used Portable Antiquities Scheme finds and data to provide specific examples. Mark Lodwick (Finds Co-ordinator Wales) has presented lectures on 'The Celts' to Wrexham Day School and 'Archaeological finds from Glamorgan' to the Glamorgan Historical Society.

Nicola Powell (Devon FLO) is in regular contact with the Devon Archaeological Society, the North Devon Archaeological Society, the Plymouth Archaeological Group and the Tiverton Archaeological Group, at which she has given informal talks about the Scheme. Similarly Kate Sutton (Berkshire & Oxfordshire FLO) gave a talk at the Berkshire Archaeology Day School, at which several of the local archaeological and historical societies were present. Likewise, Kevin Leahy (Finds Adviser, Metallurgy and Metalworking) has given numerous talks to various societies and clubs, including Barton on Humber Civic Society, Goxhill Womens' Institute Broughton Scouts and the East Riding Archaeological Society (see fig 30).

In the period of this report Caroline McDonald (Essex FLO) was contacted by the Rochford Hundred Archaeology Society to discuss investing in a metal detector for archaeological fieldwork. Caroline arranged

for local metal-detectorist, Mick Cuddeford, to talk about metal-detecting, while she talked about the work of the Scheme. In January 2004 Julian Watters (Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire FLO) attended a meeting of Braughing Local History Society, along with Stewart Bryant (County Archaeological Officer, Hertfordshire) in order to meet the 80 or so society members and view and identify some of the material collected during recent fieldwalking surveys around the village. Anna Tyacke (Cornwall FLO) gave a talk to the St Goran Old Cornwall Society on the Portable Antiquities Scheme and used recent finds from the parish, found by members of the Restormel Seek & Search Society.

In March 2004 Simon Holmes and Dave Evans (North & East Yorkshire FLOs) attended the first 'York Archaeological Fair' in the medieval Merchant Adventurer's Hall, York. This allowed the Portable Antiquities Scheme and other archaeological groups to promote the archaeology of York and the city's hinterland. Likewise, in May 2003 Jane Stewart (Staffordshire & West Midlands FLO) attended a Medieval Fayre weekend event at Sarehole Mill Community Museum in Birmingham, where a Portable Antiquities stand was set up, publicising the work of the Scheme.

The Scheme has also contributed to a number of conferences about finds and related issues. In February 2004 a one-day seminar was held at the British Museum called 'The Portable Antiquities Scheme – Revolutionising Research' which looked at the way in which the systematic recording of finds made by the public has revolutionised our knowledge of artefacts and their contexts. Likewise, in December 2003 the UK Institute for Conservation Archaeological Section organised a conference entitled 'Whose find is it anyway' which examined the issue of the conservation of metal-detector finds. Subsequently the Scheme has employed York Archaeological Trust to provide conservation advice to finders. Further, in December 2003 the British Museum hosted a conference organised by the Historic Environment Information Resources Network about 'Web Portals' at which Roger Bland (Head of Portable Antiquities) and Dan Pett (ICT Adviser) spoke about the Scheme's new finds database. All were attended by archaeologists and museum curators.

Landowners and farmers

During this year, programmes of outreach to the agricultural community have been initiated. Attendance and displays at agricultural shows have highlighted the work of the Portable Antiquities Scheme

28. Jodi McCrohan (Hampshire FLO) records finds at a metal-detecting rally in Crawley.

29. Metal-detectorists at the Creslow rally.

30. Kevin Leahy (Finds Adviser, Metal & Metalworking) talks to members of a local society.

and the importance of conscientious reporting of archaeological material.

Mark Lodwick (Finds Co-ordinator Wales) and representatives of the Welsh Archaeological Trusts maintained a presence at agricultural shows in an attempt to address concerns by land owners that the reporting of archaeological material will lead to agricultural and development restrictions. At the Royal Welsh Show, Mark teamed up with Cadw (the Welsh historic environment agency) enabling a co-ordinated approach to the historic environment to be presented. Likewise Adam Daubney (Lincolnshire FLO) organised a Portable Antiquities Stall at the Lincolnshire Show, which is one of the largest agricultural fairs in the country. The stall included leaflets, posters and archaeological objects that the public could handle and ask questions about. Similarly, Frank Basford (Isle of Wight FLO) published a leaflet 'Landowners, Occupiers and Searchers for Archaeological Finds in the Isle of Wight', which has been useful in highlighting awareness of the Scheme among landowners.

Archaeological fieldwork opportunities

One of the aims of the Portable Antiquities Scheme is to increase opportunities for active public involvement in archaeology and strengthen links between archaeologists and metal-detectorists. A great achievement of the Scheme has to been to involve people in archaeological survey and fieldwork, as the examples below demonstrate (see figs 1 and 35).

The recovery of contextual information for more significant discoveries can be fundamental for our understanding of the artefact and its deposition. Over the period of this report the findspots of potential Treasure and other finds have been excavated.

During 2001 Time Team visited the Isle of Wight to make further investigation at Yaverland, near Bembridge, following the discovery of Iron Age and Roman deposits along the route of a sewer pipeline. The event created a great deal of interest within the local community and as a result Ruth Waller (County Archaeologist) and her staff, including Frank Basford (Isle of Wight FLO), organised a four-day Island community project to obtain more information from the Time Team site. The Bembridge Village Partnership and the Isle of Wight Archaeology and Historic Environment Service collaborated with the Isle of Wight Natural History and Archaeological Society, the Isle of Wight Industrial Archaeology Society, Friends of Brading Roman Villa, Brading Primary School and other

members of the community. A grant of £1,500 was awarded to the project by the Bembridge Village partnership. Part of the grant enabled training to be provided to volunteers in fieldwalking techniques and finds identification. In September, four days of fieldwalking were held in the field where the Time Team excavations had taken place. Frank was present every day to assist local volunteers with the identification of finds. A small scatter of Iron Age and Roman pottery was discovered close to the location of an Iron Age ditch previously discovered during the Time Team investigations. The Vectis Searchers Metal Detecting Club also participated in the community project and they collected 40 metal artefacts including a hoard of 21 base silver Iron Age staters (which was disclaimed by the landowner, Mrs Monck, and kindly donated to the Island's Archaeological Collection), a number of Roman coins, several Roman brooches and an Anglo-Saxon continental mimic sceatta minted between 700 and 715. The earliest metal find was a fragment of a Late Bronze Age socketed axe. The site archive will be curated by the Isle of Wight County Museum Service. The Yaverland community archaeology project proved to be very successful and a Heritage Lottery Fund bid will now be submitted to allow the County Archaeology and Historic Environment Service to employ two community archaeologists who will provide training in archaeological fieldwork techniques through the local heritage societies.

The Swalcliffe Archaeological Society uncovered a large, detailed Roman mosaic, which is now very vulnerable to plough damage. Kate Sutton (Berkshire & Oxfordshire FLO) is currently working with Oxfordshire Council to try to get the mosaic recorded, professionally lifted, conserved and then placed on display. Throughout this process Kate hopes to keep the Swalcliffe Archaeological Society involved in this professional process and to exploit the educational potential of this find.

The Roman cremation cemetery site of Beckfoot, Cumbria, is unfortunately eroding away into the sea at an increasing and worrying rate. Through liaising with local beach walkers Faye Simpson (Lancashire & Cumbria FLO) has now started to record systematically finds that have been coming up through this erosion. Local people, most notably Graham Ryan, have been invaluable in helping to monitor the rate of erosion and the areas affected and recording finds, which have all been donated to Senhouse Museum, Maryport. By working with the local community, archaeologists have also built up an understanding of the erosion process and there are plans to evaluate the area more thoroughly in the future.

David Button and Gill Davies have been detecting near Sheldwich, Kent, since the summer of 2003. The many Roman coins and tile fragments, along with a few tesserae (small cubes of tile used to make up mosaic floors) found in one field suggested the presence of a Roman building. The coins date mostly to the third and fourth centuries, although some second century examples were present, the earliest being a brass sestertius of Antoninus Pius (AD 138–161). In February 2004, Andrew Richardson (Kent FLO), David Button and Stephen Robinson (a student on a placement with Kent County Council's Heritage Team) undertook a geophysical survey, supervised by Ted Connell of the Kent Archaeological Society. A 20m grid square was surveyed revealing an area of very high resistance, suggesting the presence of a structure (see fig 32). A subsequent trial trench revealed an area of flint rubble with a pit immediately adjacent to and possibly cutting it. Excavation of the pit produced large quantities of pottery, tile, animal bone and building debris including pieces of *opus signinum* flooring (made of mortar and crushed tile or brick) and wall plaster, including some pieces of painted plaster. The pottery included one sherd of decorated Samian, many coarseware fabric sherds, and some diagnostic rims, including two 'pie dish' rims. This material has yet to be subjected to specialist study, but appears to date to the second or perhaps early third century AD. The discovery of painted plaster, tessellated floors and opus signinum suggest the site includes a high status Roman settlement probably occupied during the second to fourth century AD.

In the period of this report Oxford Archaeology continued their excavation at the Lankhills late Roman cemetery site in Winchester, Hampshire. As in previous seasons detectorists have assisted the excavation team and Jodi McCrohan (Hampshire FLO) arranged a schedule of detectorists to participate in the project. This included members from eight local metal-detecting clubs, as well as a number of independent detectorists. The detectorists spent most of their time detecting the spoil to recover any missed objects, and scanned the trenches and graves, tagging any signals so they could be excavated later. Many of the detectorists commented that they found the experience most enjoyable and extremely interesting, and John Cole of the Farnham and District Metal Detecting Club was delighted to discover a Roman buckle in the spoil, which had been missed by the archaeologists!

In October 2003 a gold seventh century Anglo-Saxon sword pommel cap was found by a metal-detectorist in North Essex. Iron Age coin finds, including a gold stater

31. Metal-detecting and excavation at Fiskerton, Lincolnshire.

32. The geophysical survey at Sheldwich.

33. A metal-detecting survey in North Essex.

34. Surveying at Fiskerton.

35. Metal-detecting on a Time Team site in Ipswich.

and a silver unit had also come from the same site. Unfortunately these finds were publicised on a website which gave a clear indication of where they were found. Caroline McDonald (Essex FLO) approached the landowner to do a controlled survey of the findspot site to discern whether there was any associated Anglo-Saxon or Iron Age material, but also to assess the site in case 'night hawking' subsequently occurred. The area to be surveyed was gridded out over two days by Caroline and Adrian Gascoyne (Essex Countryside Archaeology Officer) and total of 25 metal-detectorists participated in the survey itself. Unfortunately the area had been raided the previous night, but not to any great extent. The finds discovered were processed by Caroline and Jorge Fereirra (an archaeology graduate volunteer at Colchester Museum). Interestingly, aside from one fragment of a medieval hammered penny and a medieval jetton, almost everything found was no earlier than the eighteenth century in date. The only Anglo-Saxon object was a faceted-square pin head and no further Iron Age material was found (see fig 33).

In 2003 Liz Wilson (Sussex FLO) was approached by David Barwell (Chairman, National Council for Metal Detecting) to help with a detector survey on a large farm in East Sussex. Liz, the landowner, Greg Chuter (Historic Environment Record Officer, East Sussex) and Andrew Woodcock (East Sussex County Archaeologist) agreed a plan for the survey in an advisory manner, which took place in January 2004. Hundreds of finds were discovered and plotted using a Global Positioning Systems (GPS) device, including three items of potential Treasure. Five sites of interest were located, including two new Roman sites, a possible Bronze Age site, an Anglo-Saxon cemetery and a large medieval settlement. These sites would be unknown to the Historic Environment Record had it not been for this survey. Furthermore, as a result of the survey the landowner is now very keen to work closely with the archaeologists in the future on other events and he is hoping to build a visitor's centre to inform people about the historical importance of his land.

In June 2003 David Williams (Surrey FLO), together with Surrey Archaeological Society, organised a metal-detecting survey of land owned by Surrey County Council near Leatherhead. Those taking part included members of the Weald and Downland, West Kent, Farnham and District, Northwest Surrey Searchers, East Surrey and Guildford Discoverers metal-detecting clubs, as well as a number of independent detector-users. The survey field showed several features on aerial photographs, including a circular enclosure, several linear features including a

probable trackway and remains of an earlier field system. In addition an earlier field-walking survey had recovered Roman pottery and coins. In all, some 8,000–9,000 square metres were surveyed, resulting in the recovery of more than 400 objects. The earliest datable objects were a fragment of a mid-first century Colchester brooch and a second century lozenge-shaped plate brooch with an enamelled central panel. Up to nine Roman coins of third and fourth century date were also recovered. There is then a notable gap of about a thousand years before visible activity recommences with a medieval spur buckle, a late medieval purse frame fragment, inscribed *[O]MNIPOTENTEM* (Almighty) and a sixpence of Elizabeth I, dated 1567. Although the survey shed no light on the function of the circular enclosure, it did provide evidence for sporadic activity throughout the Roman period which, with the material recovered by earlier fieldwalking, suggests settlement on the site or nearby. It also gave many metal-detectorists a first experience of archaeological survey and best practice.

Spectacular finds have been made in the Witham Valley, Lincolnshire, for centuries. One site at Fiskerton in particular has produced a number of important discoveries, including Iron Age spearheads, axes, tools, and also the famous Witham shield. Archaeological investigations into the site in 1981 and again in 2001 revealed a very well preserved-timber causeway and two log boats. This important site is now one of a handful of excavated watery deposition sites in Europe. The finds and the nature of the site indicate that it had been in use from the Bronze Age to the medieval period, and that most of the finds were deposited as ritual offerings. Adam Daubney (Lincolnshire FLO) has been working with the Witham Valley Research Committee, which includes members from English Heritage, archaeological units, university departments and local archaeology and history groups to help research this internationally important site. The results of a borehole survey indicated that since the 1981 excavations the mean ground level had fallen by approximately 300mm due to erosion of the light peaty soil. The combined effects of soil erosion and degradation meant that the burial context of all metal (and organic) artefacts within the upper 350mm of the soil horizon had become very unstable. Consequently, a series of metal-detecting surveys involving more than forty detectorists over three days was carried out, and the finds included Iron Age tool fragments, an early Roman arrowhead and brooch, and a beautiful and rare medieval knopped mace head with part of a wooden shaft remaining in its socket. The results of the surveys have greatly contributed to our understanding of the site and

its context within the wider landscape. Furthermore the survey provided valuable information about the nature and stability of metallic small finds within the plough zone of this archaeologically and environmentally sensitive site. The finds recovered are now part of the site archive at the City and County Museum, Lincoln (see figs 31 and 34).

Cambridge County Council Archaeological field unit is currently surveying the route of a proposed by-pass around the village of Fordham, north east of Cambridge. Chris Montague (Cambridgeshire FLO) organised metal detecting clubs from Saffon Walden, Mildenhall and Ely to assist in the metal-detecting of the site prior to machining. They also searched the spoil for finds that were missed during the excavation. Evidence of late Neolithic, early Bronze Age and Roman activity on the site was discovered. Metal finds were few in number, although a fragment of a mid Bronze Age rapier, a second century knee brooch and a number of Roman coins were discovered.

Treasure

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5. Any group of two or more metallic objects of any composition of prehistoric date from the same find.

The process allows a national or local museum to acquire Treasure items for public benefit. If this happens the finder will be rewarded, and the 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.

The *Treasure Annual Report 2002* shows that 95 per cent of Treasure finds are found by metal-detectorists, which demonstrates their contribution and the importance of the need for liaison between archaeologists and finders.

Although Treasure represents less than 0.1 per cent of the archaeological finds discovered in England and Wales, the Finds Liaison Officers play an increasingly important role in the effective operation of the Treasure Act, advising finders of their legal obligations and providing advice on the process. The British Museum, which previously had the primary role of reporting on Treasure finds for coroners, is now actively encouraging Finds Liaison Officers to take over a greater role than before, including the writing of Treasure reports for the coroner.

In the period of this report, as with last year, there has been a sharp increase in finds reported as Treasure: in 2001 there were 214 cases; in 2002 there were 240 cases, in 2003 there were 429 cases and in the first six months of 2004 there were 250 cases (see Tables 2 and 3, pages 77/8). More interesting, perhaps, is the fact that in areas of the country where Finds Liaison Officers are newly appointed (in 2003) there has been an average fivefold increase in the reporting of Treasure. In some areas the overall increase has been much higher than that. For example in Lancashire there was an annual average of less than one find a year between 1997–2002, but since December 2003 – when the post-holder was appointed – eight Treasure finds have been reported. Likewise in Sussex the annual average between 1997–2002 was less than three finds a year, but since the appointment of the Finds Liaison Officer in August 2003, 26 cases have been reported. Even in areas which already had a Finds Liaison Officer in post in April 2003 there has been an increase in the reporting of Treasure. For example in Hampshire between 1997–2002 on average 11 Treasure finds were reported every year, but in 2003 the number was 18. Likewise in Northamptonshire the yearly average between 1997–2002 was two, but in 2003 it was eight. Further, in Wales between 1997–2002 an average of ten finds a year were recorded, but in 2003 it was 25.

Publicity

Publications, press and media coverage all help to promote the work of the Scheme and keep finders and the public up to date on recent discoveries and encourage more people to come forward with finds for recording and become involved.

Local newsletters

Many of the Finds Liaison Officers produce their own leaflets and newsletters to disseminate information about the Scheme and their work locally. For example, Caroline McDonald (Essex FLO) compiled a local leaflet – 'the Portable Antiquities Scheme in Essex: Archaeology for All'- which is designed to complement the main Portable Antiquities Scheme leaflet – 'Advice for Finders of Archaeological Objects', which was published by MLA in the period of this report (see fig 37). Likewise, all five regions covered by the Scheme (Midlands, East, South East and South West) produced regional newsletters (see fig 38).

Nottinghamshire Heritage News included an article on the Portable Antiquities Scheme in their Spring newsletter, and Rachel Atherton (Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire FLO) has also featured in both Nottingham and Derby City Council's in-house newsletters, which reaches thousands of council workers. The Winchester Museums Service Newsletter features a section on the Portable Antiquities Scheme in Hampshire including information about interesting objects recorded by Jodi McCrohan (Hampshire FLO) and objects acquired by or donated to Winchester Museums Service. Likewise Frank Basford (Isle of Wight FLO) regularly contributes to 'Wight Insight' which is delivered to 80 per cent of households on the Isle of Wight.

Printed media – the press

With the appointment of 22 Finds Liaison Officer posts in the period of this report, the new post-holders have been busy announcing their arrival in the printed media. At the inception of the Scheme in Surrey a number of articles appeared in the local press including a double-page spread in the *Surrey Herald* entitled 'Unearthing the History Beneath our Feet'. With the appointment of Kurt Adams (Gloucestershire & Avon FLO) articles were run in the *Bristol Citizen* and the *Gloucester News* (see fig 36). Likewise in Buckinghamshire several articles appeared in the local papers including reports in the *Buckinghamshire Herald* entitled 'Building up a picture

of life in Buckinghamshire'. Several articles have also announced the appointment of Anna Marshall (South & West Yorkshire FLO) including a piece in the *Yorkshire Evening Post* which referred to Anna as 'Indi-ANNA Marshall'.

The Finds Liaison Officers have also effectively used the press to publicise events and highlight the success of the Scheme more generally (see fig 39). For example Finds Days in Northamptonshire have been advertised in the *South Northamptonshire Council Newsletter* and the *What's On Guide* to Northampton. An article was printed in the September 2003 edition of the *Hampshire Extra*, outlining the role of Jodi McCrohan (Hampshire FLO) and the aims of the Portable Antiquities Scheme. Likewise, press releases were issued in April 2004 about the dramatic increase in the reporting of Treasure items since Liz Wilson (Sussex FLO) and Faye Simpson (Lancashire & Cumbria FLO) took up their posts. These were approved and supported by Estelle Morris (Minister of State for the Arts). Many papers across Lancashire and Sussex picked up on this story. For example the *Chichester Observer* referred to a silver sixteenth century pin which had been found in the Chichester area. Similarly, Adrian Marsden (Norfolk FLO) keeps in close contact with the local media and has contributed information on finds which have appeared in the *Eastern Daily Press* and other Norfolk papers.

Likewise there have been many media stories about archaeological finds reported through the Scheme, especially the discovery of the Staffordshire Moorlands Pan which was found by Kevin Blackburn and Julian Lee (see page 51). A press release was launched at the Institute of Archaeology, London, at the end of September 2003, which resulted in coverage in *The Daily Mail, The Times, The Daily Telegraph* and *The Guardian* and many local newspapers, as well as in *Dawn Wednesday* (Pakistan), *Mf Nnes* (Czech Republic) and *Newsweek Polska* (Poland) abroad. Similarly, a hoard of about 15,000 Roman coins found in Thornbury, Gloucestershire, featured in *The Observer, The Guardian* and *The Independent* and also generated much local interest. The British Museum's 'Buried Treasure' also generated very significant publicity in all media and much of that reflected on the work of the Scheme.

Print media - articles and books

The Finds Liaison Officers and other members of the Scheme also regularly contribute to published journals, magazines and books. For example, Helen Geake (Finds Adviser, Medieval & Post-medieval objects) edited

36. Kurt Adams (Gloucestershire & Avon FLO) discusses finds at a BBC History Day at Gloucester Cathedral.

37/38. Portable Antiquities Scheme: Advice for Finders of Archaeological Objects leaflet and the Midlands Newsletter.

the annual round-up of Medieval finds recorded through the Scheme which is published in *Medieval Archaeology*. Roger Bland (Head of Portable Antiquities) wrote an article for the *Co-ordinating Committee on Numismatics in Britain Newsletter* (January 2004) entitled *The Portable Antiquities Scheme goes National*. Likewise, Michael Lewis (Deputy-head of Portable Antiquities) wrote an article for *Practical Archaeology* (Spring 2004) on the *Portable Antiquities Scheme* and also contributed information about the Scheme to *The Searcher* and *Treasure Hunting*. The work of the Scheme was referred to and used in Kevin Leahy (Finds Adviser, Metals & Metalworking's) book on *Anglo-Saxon Crafts* which was published by Tempus in October 2003.

Articles by Andrew Richardson (Kent FLO) have appeared in the *Newsletter of the Kent Archaeological Society*; these have dealt with the Late Bronze Age metalwork hoards from Hollingbourne and Crundale, as well as the hoard of Iron Age potin coins from Thurnham. Kurt Adams (Gloucestershire & Avon FLO) has written articles about the Scheme in *Magpies*, the newsletter for the junior friends of Bristol Museum and Art Gallery. Kate Sutton (Berkshire & Oxfordshire FLO) has written six short articles including those for *The Oxfordshire Magazine* which is distributed to every house in Oxfordshire and the *West Berkshire Heritage Newsletter*. Similarly, Philippa Walton (North East FLO)

39. A feature about Rachel Atherton (Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire FLO) in the Derby Evening Telegraph.

has also contributed articles to *Countywide*, the Durham County Council newspaper. Angie Bolton (Worcestershire & Warwickshire FLO) has also contributed to many journals, including the *West Midlands Council for British Archaeology Newsletter, West Midlands Archaeology* and the *Coventry and District Archaeological Society Bulletin*. Likewise a piece on the Portable Antiquities Scheme in Essex has appeared in *The Colchester Archaeologist*, which is sold in newsagents and bookshops around Colchester. Further, Mike Pitts (Editor, British Archaeology) and Sally Worrell (Finds Adviser, Prehistoric and Roman Objects) wrote an article on the Staffordshire Moorlands Pan in *British Archaeology*. This object and the 'Buried Treasure' exhibition were also featured in *Current Archaeology*.

Radio

Radio has also been a useful medium for promoting the work of the Scheme, both nationally and regionally. In December 2003 Roger Bland (Head of Portable Antiquities) was interviewed by the *Today Programme* (Radio 4) about the work of the Scheme. Likewise the appointment of Caroline McDonald (Essex FLO) prompted a 20 minute 'live' interview on the *Tea at Three* show on *BBC Radio Essex*. This was an opportunity for Caroline to talk about her job and interest in archaeology – and to pick a record. Likewise Angie Bolton (Worcestershire & Warwickshire FLO) and Victor Round (Worcestershire Coroner) were interviewed by *BBC Hereford and Worcester* about the Treasure Act. Anna Marshall (South & West Yorkshire FLO) was interviewed on *BBC Radio Sheffield's* 'Newshour' about her work, and did similar interviews for *Traxx FM* (Doncaster) and *BBC Radio Leeds*. Similarly, *Southern Counties Radio* interviewed Liz Wilson (Sussex FLO) about the Scheme on their drive time slot at 5.20pm - just as everyone was heading home from work.

During an 'Egyptian Funday' at the Museum of Reading, Kate Sutton (Berkshire & Oxfordshire FLO) was interviewed by *Reading 107FM* about the Scheme and the sort of objects people find. During a week running up to a Finds Day at Derby Museum and Art Gallery *BBC Radio Derbyshire* ran regular trailers about the event, and then aired an interview with Rachel Atherton (Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire FLO) recorded at the Finds Day itself. Wendy Scott (Leicestershire & Rutland FLO) has given four interviews for *Radio Leicester* about local Finds Days, and Peter Reavill (Herefordshire & Shropshire FLO) gave a 15 minute interview to highlight forthcoming Finds Days on *BBC Radio Hereford and Worcester*.

Radio programmes have also featured finds recorded by the Scheme. For example, the launch of last year's *Portable Antiquities Scheme Annual Report* (2001/03), which highlighted a Roman 'Leopard Cup' found in Wales, resulted in a radio interview on *BBC Radio Wales*. Also, the discovery of an important Middle Bronze Age hoard in Wrexham sparked considerable media interest. Likewise, Adrian Marsden (Norfolk FLO) has appeared regularly on *BBC Radio Norfolk* to discuss the find of a Roman military diploma. Similarly in March 2004, Helen Geake (Finds Adviser, Medieval & Post-medieval objects) was interviewed by Radio 4's *Women's Hour* on the seventh-century Desborough necklace. Sally Worrell (Finds Adviser, Prehistoric & Roman Objects) was interviewed by four local BBC radio stations as well as *Radio Talk 3AK Melbourne* following the press launch of the Staffordshire Moorlands Pan.

Television

Over the period of this report, television has announced the work of the Scheme to many thousands of people – sometimes millions – in a very short space of time. The Scheme has featured on both national and local television in the form of interviews, expert advice and news stories. Roger Bland talked about the problems of illicit metal-detecting on *BBC1 Six O'clock News*, generating a heated discussion among archaeologists and detector-users. Likewise, Michael Lewis (Deputy Head of Portable Antiquities) was interviewed about the Treasure Act and the work of the Scheme on *Working Lunch*. At a local level Tom Brindle (Northamptonshire FLO) was filmed and interviewed during one of his Finds Days by *Anglia Television*.

The Scheme's most important contribution to television in the period of this report was its involvement in the BBC2 series *Hidden Treasure*. Roger Bland (Head of Portable Antiquities), Ceinwen Paynton (Education Officer), Kevin Leahy (Finds Adviser, Metals & Metalworking) and others were interviewed about finds discovered by members of the public and the work of the Scheme. Likewise, some members of the Scheme, especially Helen Geake (Finds Adviser, Medieval and Post-medieval Objects), have featured on Channel 4's *Time Team* as experts to talk about finds discovered during archaeological excavations.

Members of the Scheme have also provided television programme makers with off-screen advice or support. For example, in November 2003 Sally Worrell (Finds Adviser, Prehistoric and Roman Objects) identified 'archaeological' objects found by the public for

Channel 4's *V Graham Norton*. Ian Leins (Finds Adviser, Iron Age & Roman Coins) advised *Blue Peter* presenters about a hoard of Roman coins found in Gloucestershire (see back cover). Andrew Richardson (Kent FLO) helped supervise members of the Kent Archaeology Metal-detecting Support Unit who carried out a metal-detector survey for an episode for the BBC2 series *Two Men in a Trench*.

Television interviews about finds included extensive coverage of the hoards found at Thurnham and Crundale in Kent, including an appearance by Andrew Richardson (Kent FLO) on BBC *Newsroom Southeast*. However, one of the stories to generate an amazing amount of publicity was the discovery of a Viking Age site in Yorkshire (see fig 74) – at the time believed to be a ship burial – which was reported on by *BBC1, ITV, CNN, ABC* and other television channels.

Portable Antiquities website

The Portable Antiquities Scheme website – www.finds.org.uk – continues to be an effective means of communicating the work of the Scheme. In the period of this report (especially since September 2003) use of the site has increased dramatically (Table/Chart 5, see page 80). This seems to be due to the showing of the BBC2 television series *Hidden Treasure* and the launch of the Scheme's new finds database. By the end of this reporting period web usage of www.finds.org.uk is approximately ten times greater than it was a year previously.

The appointment of Daniel Pett (ICT Adviser) has ensured that the Scheme's website has been continuously enhanced. New features in the period of this report include a discussion forum, a 'meet the team' page and research topics for students. However, the major development on the Scheme's website has been the finds database, discussed below (see page 65).

The Finds Liaison Officers have also contributed to the sites of their 'host' organisations as well as other institutions. For example, Tom Brindle (Northamptonshire FLO) has advertised the Scheme and forthcoming Finds Days on Northamptonshire County Council's website, and Kurt Adams (Gloucestershire & Avon FLO) has contributed to the websites of Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery and Gloucestershire County Council. Similarly, Jodi McCrohan (Hampshire FLO) has contributed to the Arts & Heritage section of the Winchester City Council website: one section is called 'Identifications and Chance Finds' and details the service provided at Winchester Museums Service by the Portable Antiquities Scheme.

2
Understanding the Past

A selection of finds recorded by
the Finds Liaison Officers during the
period of this report. Further details of
these and some 113,000 other finds
can be found at www.finds.org.uk.
References are given to the database
records, where available.

THE PREHISTORIC PERIOD
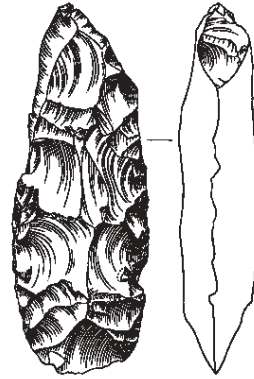
40. (ESS–C29B11) Palaeolithic implement
found on Mersea Island, Essex. 93 x 51mm.
(see page 44)

41. (NMGW–FFA443) Neolithic axehead
found in Pembrokeshire. 236 x 93.5 x 53mm.
(see page 44)

42. (SOMDOR–2992A7) Neolithic axehead
found by Mr Witts whilst landscaping at his
garden Creech. St. Michael, Somerset.
204 x 174.5 x 147.5mm. (see page 44)

43. Burton hoard, Wrexham.
(see page 45)

44. (WILT–F28F12) Rapier found near Swindon.
317 x 33mm. (see page 45)

45. (WAW-FB0A73) Late Bronze Age or early
Iron Age razor found at Brailes, Warwickshire.
36.5 x 27.5 x 2mm. (see page 45)

46. Crundale hoard, Kent.
(see page 45)

47. Late Bronze Age hoard found at Barley,
Hertfordshire. (see page 46)
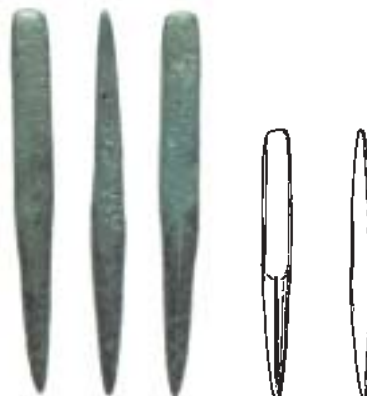
48. (SF–281237) Bronze Age awl
found in Suffolk. 54 x 5.5 x 4.5mm.
Illus: Donna Wreathall. (see page 46)

49. (SOMDOR–CF0B7) Iron Age strap-union
from Litton Cheney, Dorset. 38 x 32 x 9mm.
(see page 46)
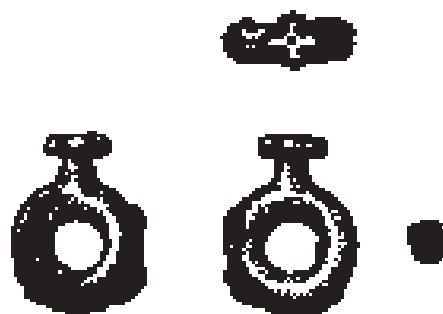
50. (SUSS–D82452) One of the baldric rings
from West Sussex recorded by Liz Wilson.
34.5 x 7 x 6mm. Illus: Dominic Andrews
(see page 46)

Coins

51. Thurnham potin hoard, Kent.
(see page 47)

52. (LVPL–A184F2) Iron Age stater of the
Corieltauvi from Cheshire. Diameter 20mm.
(see page 47)

53. (LVPL–22F746) Iron Age stater inscribed
Bodvoc from Cheshire. Diameter 17mm.
(see page 47)

54. Part of the East Leicestershire hoard in situ.
(see pages 47/8)

55. East Leicestershire hoard of Iron Age coins.
(see pages 47/8)

THE ROMAN PERIOD

56. Roman gold *lamella* from Norfolk.
(see pages 48/9)

57. Roman objects found at Chislet, Kent.
(see page 49)

58. (LIN–F68BB4) Miniature axe found
at Blankney, Lincolnshire. 19 x 23mm.
(see page 49)
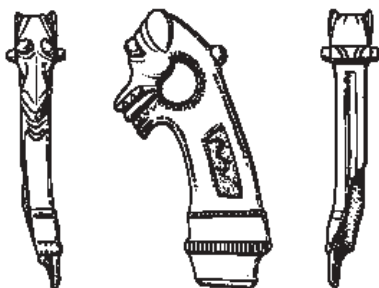
59. (SF10849) Roman knife handle
from Freckenham, Suffolk. 50 x 20mm.
Illus: Donna Wreathall. (see page 49)
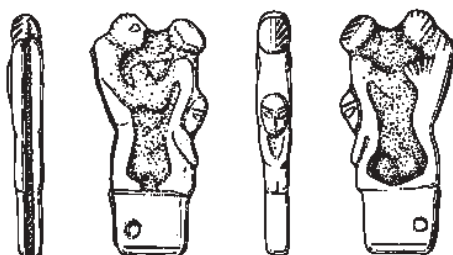
60. (SF–A23522) Roman knife handle
from Monk Soham, Suffolk. 50 x 22mm.
Illus: Donna Wreathall. (see page 49)

61. (BUC–544E73) Roman pin from
East Ilsley, Berkshire. 70.5 x 16.5 x 5mm.
Illus: David Williams (see page 50)
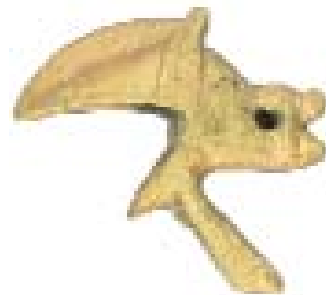
62. (NMGW–2FC205) Vessel escutcheon
in the shape of a boar from Caerwent,
Monmonthshire. 41 x 15.5 x 36mm.
(see page 50)

63. (ESS–525992) Minerva handle
from Hacheston, Suffolk. 110 x 25 x 11mm.
Illus: Iain Bell. (see pages 50/1)

64. (WMID–3FE965) Staffordshire Moorlands
pan. Diameter 89.5mm. (see page 51)

Coins

65. (CORN–DE6541) gold aureus of Nero found in Bodmin, Cornwall. Diameter 19mm. (see page 51)

66. Roman coin hoard found in a Gloucestershire garden. (see page 52)

67. (KENT–DEF360) Coin of Jovinus, found in Kent. Diameter 20.5mm. (see page 52)

THE EARLY MEDIEVAL PERIOD

68. Anglo-Saxon brooch found in north-west Norfolk by Steve Brown. (see page 53)

69. Anglo-Saxon pottery sherds found at Icklingham, Suffolk. (see page 53)

70. Anglo-Saxon objects found in the Dove valley, Suffolk. (see page 53)

71. (SUR–791CE8) Bird brooch found near Lewes, East Sussex. 23 x 13.5mm. (see pages 53/4)

72. Anglo-Saxon weapons burial discovered at Eastry, Kent. (see page 54)

76. (WILT–9D2892) Class J button brooch found in Wiltshire. Diameter 23.5 x 4mm. (see page 56)

73. Silver spoon found on the Vectis Searchers rally, Isle of Wight. (see page 55)

77. (WILT–SCB991) Button brooch found in Hampshire. Diameter 22mm. (see page 56)

74. 'Ainsbrook' hoard, found in Yorkshire. (see page 55)

78. (GLO–042AB1) Anglo-Saxon spearhead found near Quenington, Gloucestershire. 166 x 52 x 19mm. (see page 56)
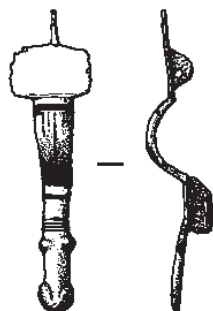
75. Anglo-Saxon cruciform brooch from near Dover, Kent. Illus: Dominic Andrews. (see page 56)

79. (BH–E649E3) Anglo-Saxon mount from South Hertfordshire. Diameter 37.8mm. Illus: Donna Watters (see pages 56/7)

80. (BUC–B1B9A6) Two fragments of the
Anglo-Saxon circular mount found at Creslow,
Buckinghamshire. (see page 57)

81. (IOW–I855E4) Gold pyramidal mount found
in the parish of Bembridge, Isle of Wight.
12 x 12mm. (see page 57)

82. Rune-inscribed lead plaque from south-west
Norfolk. (see page 58)

83. Nummular brooches found at Runhall
and Blakeney, Norfolk. (see page 58)

84. Nummular brooch at Wramplingham,
Norfolk. (see page 58)

85. (SF10754) Copper-alloy mount found at
Parham, Suffolk. 37 x 24 x 6mm. (see page 58)

86. (HAMP–476AD1) Cloisonné enamel brooch
found in Micheldever, Hampshire. 22 x 3mm.
(see pages 58/9)
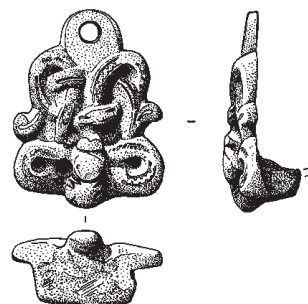
87. Stirrup-strap mount found at Old Romney,
Kent. Illus: David Williams. (see page 59)

88. (LEIC–46C372) The Anglo-Saxon bridle cheekpiece from near Melton, Leicestershire. 47 x 35 x 2mm. (see page 59)

92. (BUC–08EE42) Halfpenny of Ceolwulf II from the areas of Pitstone and Ivinghoe, Buckinghamshire. Diameter 14mm. (see pages 59/60)

89. Thrymsa from South Walsham, Norfolk. (see page 59)

93. (WILT–1110F3) Dirhem of Ahmed b. Ismail found in Oxfordshire. 27mm. (see page 60)

90. Coin of Licinius II – the model for the thrymsa (fig 89). (see page 59)

91. (DENO–160146) Sceat found in the Trent Valley, Nottinghamshire. Diameter 12mm. (see pages 59/60)
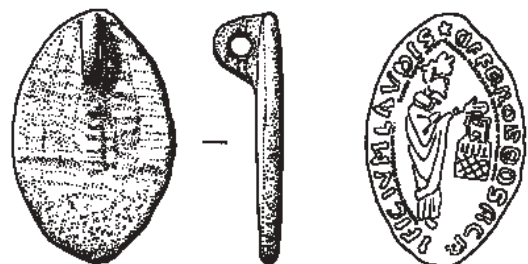
94. One of the seal matrices recorded by Liz Wilson (Sussex FLO) and Chris Whittick. Illus: Dominic Andrews. (see pages 60/1)

95. (LIN–871975) Macehead found at Fiskerton, Lincolnshire. 58 x 24mm. (see page 61)

96. (BUC–69D596) Mystery object found at Billington, Bedfordshire. (see page 61)

97. (GLO–AE4462) Copper-alloy swivel found at Olveston, Gloucestershire. 32 x 26 x 10mm. (see pages 61/2)

98. (SUR-FA2AB0) Copper-alloy vessel found at East Clandon, Surrey. 47.5 x 40.5mm. (see page 62)

99. Limoges fragment of an altar cross from the Gower, Swansea. (see page 62)

100. (SWYOR–ADD782) Limoges enamels from near Doncaster, South Yorkshire. (see page 62)

101. (NARC–C45437) Brooch depicting a knight and lion found at Pitsford, Northamptonshire. 17 x 12 x 3mm. (see page 62)

102. (LVPL–73F494) Medieval cooking vessel
from Carnforth, Lancashire. 300 x 135mm.
(see pages 62/3)

105. Diwali lamps found in the River Thames,
Berkshire. (see page 63)

103. (SF–DDA1C2) Heraldic pendant found
in Parham, Suffolk. 46 x 33mm. (see page 63)

106. (CORN–114F32) Gold noble of
Henry V from St. Columb Major, Cornwall.
Diameter 34mm. (see page 64)

104. (LIN–49FC12) Witch bottle found
at Navenby, Lincolnshire. (see page 63)

107. (CORN–7E6426) Dobla of Enrique IV from
Mounts Bay, Cornwall. Diameter 24mm.
(see page 64)

108. (CORN–9C2D35) Castellano of Ferdinand
and Isabella from Mounts Bay, Cornwall.
Diameter 24.5mm. (see page 64)

Introduction

Data collated by the Scheme has great potential to help archaeologists and others understand the past. Archaeological finds (portable antiquities) can tell us where, how and when people lived in the past. By bringing this evidence together we can gain a better understanding of the past and develop ways to preserve it for future generations.

Finds Advisers

In the period of this report five people have been appointed as Finds Advisers: Sally Worrell (Prehistoric & Roman Objects), Ian Leins (Iron Age & Roman Coins), Helen Geake (Medieval & 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 Finds Liaison Officers in finds identification and recording, support their work, validate records of finds entered onto the Scheme's finds database, talk about the Scheme and finds to the wider academic community, contribute to academic publications, such as *Britannia* and *Medieval Archaeology* and identify areas of research on material culture.

   "*Teaching and the pooling of knowledge is resulting in the development of a remarkable level of expertise within the Scheme and amongst the people who use its services. What was once arcane information restricted to a few specialists is now becoming widespread.*"
Kevin Leahy (Finds Adviser, Metals & Metalworking)

Historic Environment Records

All finds recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme are to be made available to Historic Environment Records, the key record-holders of information about the historic environment. In this way the data generated by the Scheme is made available both to inform the development control process and to advance archaeological knowledge.

   A temporary agreement on the terms and conditions upon which Portable Antiquities Scheme data is transferred to Historic Environment Records is under consideration by the Portable Antiquities Project Board and Advisory Group. This says that all the Scheme's finds data will be made available to Historic Environment Records for research and development control purposes,

but that there will be restrictions over its publication on the internet. Agreement would be by consensus of all major stakeholders (including the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers and the National Council for Metal Detecting). Data on the Portable Antiquities Scheme website (www.finds.org.uk) will not be recorded any more precisely than a National Grid Reference of four figures (one square km).

THE PREHISTORIC PERIOD

Palaeolithic implement from Mersea Island, Essex
(fig 40)
In 2003 Mr G Sparks reported a Palaeolithic implement (ESS–C29B11), found on the Essex coast at Mersea Island, to Caroline McDonald (Essex FLO). This rare artefact was identified by flint specialist, Hazel Martingell, as of probable Middle Acheulian date (400,000–200,000 BC). The implement, stained a terracotta colour, appears to have been an axe that was subsequently modified into a side scraper with a concave edge. To date, this is the earliest discovery recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme in Essex and is of a similar age to the famous Clacton assemblage. It provides evidence of our earliest ancestors' settlement.

Neolithic stone axehead from Pembrokeshire
(fig 41)
The discovery of a large Neolithic polished stone axehead (NMGW–FFA443) from Pembrokeshire farmland was reported to Mark Lodwick (Finds Co-ordinator, Wales) during a Finds Day at the National Museum & Gallery of Wales, Cardiff. It is suggested that the axe was shaped by pecking before being ground, as is evident on some less well-polished areas. Geological experts at the National Museum were able to identify the rock as a dolerite. The artefact can be confidently sourced to an outcrop of volcanic rocks at Strumble Head, Pembrokeshire, lying 30 km to the north of the findspot.

Neolithic flint axehead from Somerset
(fig 42)
A large near-complete polished Neolithic flint axehead (SOMDOR–2992A7) was found by Andrew Witts of Creech St. Michael in Somerset, while landscaping his garden. It is probably the best example of its type ever found in Somerset. Recognising it as an unusual find, Mr Witts brought it to Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevarthen (Somerset & Dorset FLO) for identification. On learning of its age and significance, he generously agreed to donate

the find to the Somerset County Museum in Taunton, where it was displayed as part of the 'Taunton 1100' exhibition centred around the anniversary of Taunton's charter.

Bronze Age hoard from Burton, Wrexham
(fig 43)

One of the more significant Treasure discoveries found in Wales during the reporting period was the Burton Hoard, Wrexham, deposited during the Middle Bronze Age. The assemblage contains fourteen artefacts of gold, bronze and pottery, and was discovered by three metal-detectorists near Wrexham and reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme in Wales. The hoard is spectacular in the quality and range of artefacts, and includes a torc (neck-ring) and bracelet, a necklace pendant and a collection of beads and rings, all of gold. The items of personal adornment were buried along with two palstave axes and a chisel within a small pot, fragments of which were found in the ground alongside. The twisted gold wire bracelet and the pendant, made of spiralled gold wire and forming a long bead shape, are unique within Britain, although a small number of similar objects have been found in north-western France. The variety of gold objects represented within this hoard makes the find of key importance to our understanding of gold working and adornment in Britain between 1300–1100 BC. Fieldwork to investigate any surviving contextual information was undertaken by Mark Lodwick (Finds Co-ordinator, Wales), Adam Gwilt (National Museum & Gallery of Wales) with the help and support of the finders, the landowner and Nick Herepath (Cheshire, Greater Manchester & Merseyside FLO). A small test pit over the area of the main concentration of finds failed to identify any archaeological features: all the finds had been recovered from ploughsoil. However, the fieldwork offered the opportunity to locate the precise extent of the scatter and to survey all the recovered finds. It is hoped that the hoard will be acquired by Wrexham Museum.

Bronze Age rapier from Swindon, Wiltshire
(fig 44)

A complete but slightly bent mid-Bronze Age rapier or long, narrow two edged sword (WILT–F28F12) was found by Mr M James near Swindon, Wiltshire, and recorded by Katie Hinds (Wiltshire FLO). It was discovered after a farmer wanted an area searched for metal obstruction before digging a new pond. The land had not, to the farmer's knowledge, been ploughed in recent years. The find was discovered on a valley bottom near to a stream in an area with no known Prehistoric

or other activity. Its discovery adds to our knowledge of the prehistory of the Swindon area as well as to the rite of depositing weaponry in the Bronze Age. Swindon Museum and Art Gallery hope to acquire the rapier.

Bronze Age or Iron Age razor from Brailes, Warwickshire
(fig 45)

In June 2003 Mr Gardner found a late Bronze Age to early-Iron Age razor (WAW–FB0A73) whilst metal-detecting near Brailes, Warwickshire. This find, recorded with Angie Bolton (Worcestershire & Warwickshire FLO), is the only Bronze Age metal artefact found on this site, although numerous abraded sherds of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery have been collected by the finder. Every object discovered by Mr Gardner on this and other sites has been plotted using a handheld GPS device. The pottery is spread over a wide area within the field and may indicate the site of a Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age midden. There are plans to investigate the site further in September 2004 by undertaking a programme of systematic field-walking.

Late Bronze Age hoards found in Kent
(fig 46)

In the period of this report, a total of six Late Bronze Age hoards from east Kent, all metal detector finds, have been recorded by Andrew Richardson (Kent FLO). Most of the six hoards comprise small scatters of cast bronze/copper ingot fragments, found together with other objects such as spears or axeheads. Two such hoards have been found at Chislet by Graham Healey and another two at Hollingbourne, found by David Button and Gill Davies. A similar hoard was also discovered at Ringlemere by Cliff Bradshaw. On a far larger scale, however, was the hoard discovered and excavated by detectorist Jim Bishop in December 2003. This was found at Crundale and included a total of 185 pieces of both near-complete and fragmentary copper/bronze objects. The hoard is made up of 48 axeheads (including fragments), 33 sword and dagger fragments, 33 cast ingot fragments, 14 spearheads, four rings, three razors, two gouges, 42 other objects and fragments and six objects inserted into the sockets of other artefacts. The ingot fragments were mainly deposited in the bottom of the pit and the other artefacts were placed above. The high proportions of axeheads, short lengths of sword and dagger blade fragments, spearheads and fragments of ingots, are typical in the late Bronze Age metalwork hoards from south-eastern England.

Late Bronze Age hoard from Barley, Hertfordshire
(fig 47)
A Late Bronze Age hoard consisting of a bronze rectangular tabbed base plate from a bucket and a fragment of a Ewart Park-type sword was discovered by Edward Collins in Barley, Hertfordshire. It was taken to the 'BBC Hidden Treasure Roadshow' at Cambridge in October 2003 (see above, page 21), where it was identified by Colin Pendleton (Suffolk County Council) and later recorded by Sally Worrell (Finds Adviser, Prehistoric & Roman objects). Buckle base plates are rare finds and examples of this type have previously only been recorded from western Britain, Wales and Ireland. A hoard of 15 Late Bronze Age axes was discovered in the same field as this find ten years ago and it is very likely that the two groups of finds were originally closely associated.

Bronze Age awls from Suffolk
(fig 48)
Over the last year there has been a substantial increase in the number of Bronze Age awls reported via the Suffolk Portable Antiquities Scheme. An awl is a simple pointed-ended tool which was in use throughout the Bronze Age. Some are double-ended, having either a pointed and 'chisel' end or two pointed ends. Colin Pendleton recently wrote an article in the first East of England regional newsletter looking at 'Bronze Age Awls in East Anglia' as part of his continuing research. Although awls are common finds in East Anglia, interestingly there is a dearth of examples from the south-east of the region.

Iron Age strap union from Litton Cheney, Dorset
(fig 49)
A study of Iron Age strap-unions in 1985 revealed a concentration of examples in Wessex, but so far only one example has been recorded through the Portable Antiquities Scheme in Wessex. A strap-union (SOMDOR–CF0B7) was found by Mr Spring in Litton Cheney, Dorset, and recorded by Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevarthen (Somerset & Dorset FLO). The copper alloy artefact has a figure-of-eight form with a bar at each side for attachment to a leather strap. The central plate has two pairs of opposing circular mouldings, the smaller pair of which are connected. The centre of each of these mouldings is likely to have been inlaid with coral, although this no longer survives.

Iron Age settlement near North Dalton, East Yorkshire
In March 2004, whilst fieldwalking near North Dalton, East Yorkshire, Dave Scott and Simon Holmes (North & East Yorkshire FLO) discovered a previously unknown mid- to late-Iron Age settlement. The field had been deep-ploughed, revealing evidence of ditches, rubbish pits and possibly the remains of at least two round house-type structures. The pits were found to contain numerous sherds of calcite-tempered pottery and very large quantities of animal bone (including a dog's mandible) most of which showed signs of butchery. In addition, Simon recovered a fragment of a shale bracelet and a complete iron brooch. Both of these objects were conserved at York Archaeological Trust's Conservation Laboratory and are now amongst the collections of the Hull and East Riding Museum. The Portable Antiquities Scheme has arranged for a geophysical survey of the site to be carried out by York University's Archaeological Department in advance of future fieldwork.

Iron Age baldric rings from West Sussex
(fig 50)
Iron Age baldric rings are not frequent finds from Britain, although three examples from West Sussex have recently been recorded by Liz Wilson (Sussex FLO). The exact function of these rings is unclear; excavated finds suggest that they were used as part of the attachment of a sword to its belt strap although other functions are also likely. Two of the rings from Sussex appear to be continental types and it is hoped that future analysis of the metal may reveal whether these artefacts were indeed made on the Continent or produced in Britain, drawing on continental exemplars. The finders, Richard Lyon, Frank Kurzajn and Malcolm Andrews, all of the West Sussex Historical Search Society, have very kindly donated the baldric rings to the British Museum, where they will go on display at the end of 2004, followed by a temporary display at Horsham Museum.

Iron Age mirror found at Bromham, Bedfordshire
At a rally of the Weekend Wanderers Metal Detecting Club in Bromham, Bedfordshire in March 2004, Mr Clifford discovered a fragment of a rare decorated bronze mirror of late Iron Age date. Such mirrors are unusual finds and excavated examples are generally found in female graves. Over the course of the day, fifteen more fragments of the mirror were recovered by club members. The locations of the heavily plough-damaged artefacts were recorded by Julian Watters using a handheld GPS device. Phil Carter (Verulamium Museum) is currently working on the reconstruction of the mirror.

Current research on the Iron Age

Sally Worrell (Finds Adviser, Prehistoric & Roman Objects) conducted research on the Iron Age artefacts recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme since its introduction in 1997 until April 2003. A total of 2,554 artefacts of Iron Age (or possible Iron Age) date were included in the survey and these finds were sub-divided into seven categories: brooches, other personal ornaments (bracelets, torcs, beads, pins), toggles/fasteners, harness equipment, miscellaneous metalwork, coins and pottery. The regions covered by this survey represent a very large and diverse area covering a selection of those counties which fall within the most heavily studied of Iron Age landscapes, as well as, perhaps more significantly, those areas which have been less intensively researched in the past, such as the West Midlands. The study has highlighted that one of the greatest potentials of the Iron Age data recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme is its contribution to regional patterns of material culture use and loss. For example, these patterns of material culture circulation and deposition appear to be radically different in the eastern counties when compared to the areas in southern England, particularly Hampshire, Somerset and Dorset which might, on the basis of earlier excavations have been regarded as Iron Age 'hot spots'. In other areas, such as the West Midlands, the presence of high numbers of items of harness equipment in particular, has revealed the need to re-consider ideas of the Iron Age in that area, since the patterns of artefact deposition identified by the Portable Antiquities Scheme data differ markedly from those that might be expected on the basis of what was already known from earlier chance finds and excavated results. This work is revealing the potential that metal-detected finds can have for the identification of regional differences in Iron Age artefact use and deposition and the possible contribution to the re-characterisation of Iron Age society.

Coins

Iron Age 'potin' hoard discovered at Thurnham, Kent
(figs 51 and 109)
In November 2003 metal detectorists Peter and Christine Johnson discovered an unusual hoard of late Iron Age cast tin-bronze coins, known as 'potins', on farmland at Thurnham in Kent. A subsequent excavation led by Andrew Richardson (Kent FLO) and Liz Wilson (Sussex FLO) and assisted by the finders and members of the Mid-Kent Metal Detecting Club resulted in the discovery of further coins. The archaeology suggests that the hoard was probably buried in an organic container, such as a

bag, and buried in a shallow pit. In total 362 substantially complete and fragmentary coins were recovered. All but two of the coins were of the common 'Flat Linear I type', depicting highly stylised, linear representations of a human head and a butting bull. Two examples, however, were of an entirely new and unparalleled type, distinguished by a much more lifelike depiction of the head with a distinctly rendered eye, ear and mouth. The discovery prompted interest from Megan Dennis, a DPhil student at Oxford, who is currently preparing a full catalogue of the find.

Iron Age gold staters from Cheshire
(figs 52 and 53)
Cheshire is not an area associated with Iron Age coinage. Their use, and hence loss and discovery, is normally thought to have been restricted to an area to the south-east of a notional watershed running between the Humber and the Bristol Channel. Recently, however, two gold Iron Age staters were found in Cheshire and reported to Nick Herepath (Cheshire, Greater Manchester & Merseyside FLO). The total number known to have been found in this county now stands at five. One of the new finds is a gold coin (LVPL–A184F2) traditionally associated with the Corieltauvi tribe and normally found further to the east in Lincolnshire and its neighbouring counties (see fig 52). The second is a gold coin (LVPL–22F746) inscribed *[B]ODVOC* (see fig 53). These coins are linked with the Western tribe, the Dobunni, and seem to have mainly circulated in Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire. This is the second coin of this type found in the county (*Portable Antiquities Scheme Annual Report 1997/98*, page 16).

Iron Age hoard from East Leicestershire
(figs 54 and 55)
The highly significant Iron Age religious site discovered in East Leicestershire in 2000 continues to produce coins and other artefacts. Wendy Scott (Leicestershire FLO) has assisted with the continued excavation of the site by University of Leicester Archaeological Services, while Ian Leins (Finds Adviser, Iron Age and Roman Coins) has been cataloguing the coins from the site. In total the site has produced around 4000 coins, consisting of at least 13 distinct deposits clustered around an entrance-way feature of Iron Age date. The site has also yielded a large number of scattered Iron Age and Roman Republican coins, a Roman cavalry helmet and an area characterised by deposits of animal bones. It seems likely that the hoards were deposited over a period of time, and that their deposition may be linked to ritual feasting suggested

109. The excavation of the Thurnham Iron Age potin hoard.

110. Bob Middlemass and Rolph Mitchinson recovering finds from the River Tees.

by the animal bone. Work into the hoard coins is ongoing but the site has already produced two examples of an entirely new type, implicitly linking the rulers Cunobelin and Dubnovellaunos, as well as numerous variants of known types. The recent identification of a Roman coin of the emperor Claudius (datable to AD 41/42) from the base of one of the hoard contexts suggests that the site was still active after the conquest of Britain had begun in the South in AD 43. As a major site, active right on the cusp of the Roman conquest of Britain, it will undoubtedly prove to be one of the most interesting Iron Age sites ever discovered. The possible association of hoarding and ritual feasting may help with the interpretation of other sites and Iron Age hoards. The site has also produced a massive quantity of all the main types of coinage associated with the Corieltauvi tribe of the North-East and is beginning to shed new light on the development of this coinage.

An Iron Age coin hoard from Henley on Thames, Oxfordshire

In 2003 metal detector user Steven Venegas discovered an unusual hoard of 30 Iron Age gold staters buried in a small flint container near Henley on Thames, Oxfordshire. The practice of burying hoards in flint containers is known from other Ancient British hoards, most notably three hoards discovered at Chute in Wiltshire between 1986 and 1994. In February 2004 Mr Venegas reported a further six coins from the same area to Kate Sutton (Berkshire & Oxfordshire FLO). These included a further two staters of the same type as those in the initial group, two Roman silver coins of the emperor Tiberius (AD 14–37) and two Iron Age silver coins. One of these silver units was of an entirely new and unrecorded type, which the British Museum hopes to acquire. The findspots of these two groups of coins were investigated by Jonathan Williams (Curator of Iron Age Coins, British Museum), who gave his opinion that they should be considered as ritual deposits made at the site, and hence are potential Treasure.

THE ROMAN PERIOD

A Roman gold *lamella* from Norfolk
(fig 56)
One of the most interesting finds from Norfolk reported to Adrian Marsden (Norfolk FLO) was a sheet of gold with a magical inscription scratched onto it, invoking the protection of the eastern god Abrasax. This object, known as a *lamella*, is only the fourth of its kind from Roman

Britain. Roger Tomlin (Wolfson College, Oxford University) has translated the text which consists of two lines of magical symbols, several lines of Greek and two lines of cursive Latin at the bottom. The invocation (in the two lines of Latin) supplies the name of the dedicant, Similis, son of Marcellina. The combination of Greek and Latin is most unusual in the epigraphy of Roman Britain and the expression of genealogy through the female rather than the male line is highly unusual.

Roman cremation burial discovered at Chislet, Kent
(fig 57)
In May 2003 detectorists Graham Healy and Norman Goodman discovered fragments of copper alloy vessels on farmland at Chislet, near Canterbury, including a decorated flagon handle (KENT–6E5FE6) which they recognised as Roman in date. They then discovered and excavated the *in situ* lower half of the flagon. Realising the importance of their find, they contacted Andrew Richardson (Kent FLO), who together with Mr Healy undertook an excavation of the findspot in June. This revealed that the jug and other vessels had formed part of an elaborate cremation burial of the first–second centuries AD, centred on a wooden box with iron fittings, which contained a copper alloy dish and much carbonised material. Adjacent to this was the lower two-thirds of an amphora. As well as the copper alloy flagon, box and amphora, the excavation also recovered further copper alloy, pottery and glass vessels, as well as at least one brooch. The finders and landowner kindly donated the entire group to the Museum of Canterbury. The Museum arranged for conservation, reconstruction and analysis and the finds have already gone on public display as part of the Museum's 'Hidden Treasures' exhibition, which ran from December 2003 to March 2004.

New Roman site in East Surrey
For some years David Hunt has been conscientiously plotting the positions of finds from a farm in east Surrey and has been reporting these to David Williams (Surrey FLO) and Roger Bland (Head, Portable Antiquities Scheme). So far the site has produced over 400 Roman coins. The resulting plots, added to annually, have shown a number of remarkable concentrations of finds which clearly belong to a previously unknown site which appears to have been occupied throughout the Roman period. In November 2003, a magnetometer survey carried out by English Heritage showed a series of conjoined enclosures and a possible road line with associated activity. The site is likely to represent a

roadside settlement. Recent finds from the site include a miniature figurine of a cockerel in copper alloy; cockerels were one of the attributes of the Roman god Mercury. It is hoped that it will be possible in 2004 to organise systematic field-walking surveys which will augment the two previous surveys and contribute to the further understanding of the site's form and function.

Roman assemblage from Blankney, Lincolnshire
(fig 58)
Metal detectorist Shawn Flemming discovered a significant assemblage of Roman artefacts in Blankney which have been recorded by Adam Daubney (Lincolnshire FLO). These include a figurine of Mars, a razor handle in the form of a griffin's head, numerous finger rings and two miniature bronze axes. Miniature objects were sometimes deposited as offerings in the Roman period. One of the axes (LIN–F68BB4) is particularly interesting as it is unfinished, retaining casting flashes around its blade. It is therefore possible that it was produced locally. A search of the Historic Environment Record revealed an undated crop mark lying directly over the findspot.

Roman and Early Medieval finds from the River Tees, County Durham (fig 110)
In October 2003, divers Bob Middlemass and Rolph Mitchinson brought in thousands of Roman and early medieval finds recovered from the river Tees at Piercebridge to Philippa Walton (North East FLO). The finds represent a very substantial collection and include items of personal adornment, cosmetic and medical equipment, figurines, glass and pottery vessels, armour and weapons of the Roman period, to name but a few. Philippa is currently cataloguing all the finds and arranging for their illustration, with a view to publishing the collection in 2005.

Roman knife handles from Suffolk
(figs 59 and 60)
Over the last year a great variety of Roman knife handles have been recorded from Suffolk. Previously, the hare and hound type handles were the only type frequently reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme. This year other unusual examples include what is probably a unique copper alloy handle (SF10849) in the form of the head and neck of a horse from Freckenham, Suffolk. It is likely to be the handle of an iron knife with a curving triangular-shaped blade. Other examples of knives with this form of blade are known from England, France and Germany, but more commonly the handles have a griffin's

rather than a horse's head. A second unusual Roman knife handle (SF–A23522) was found in Monk Soham, Suffolk. This is the copper alloy handle of a folding knife with the corroded iron blade surviving inside the handle. The handle is moulded in the round and depicts a standing male engaged in sexual intercourse with a woman seated on the bent shoulders of a third person, who is kneeling. An almost identical knife handle with the same erotic scene was excavated at Verulamium (St. Albans) from fourth-century deposits.

New Roman site found near Market Rasen, Lincolnshire

It is rare that new discoveries of very large archaeological sites are made. However, the discovery of over fifty Roman brooches, hundreds of coins, including Republican denarii and Iron Age staters, as well as fragments of a sceptre head in the form of Mars and many artefacts of a domestic nature on one site in the Market Rasen area, Lincolnshire, led Adam Daubney (Lincolnshire FLO) to realise that Mr Kelway had found a very important site. A detailed search of the Historic Environment Record revealed that no previous Iron Age or Roman finds from the area had been recorded. It was very fortunate that Lincolnshire County Council was able to commission a geophysical survey and small-scale excavation of the site. The geophysical survey revealed a complex of multi-phase enclosures, with a probable kiln or oven at the south-east end of the site. When the plan of the geophysical survey results was overlain by a map of the findspots provided by Mr Kelway, the two complemented each other well. Local archaeological unit Pre-Construct Archaeology, along with Adam and Mr Kelway, investigated the site over four days in March 2004. The excavations revealed numerous ditches, gullies and pits which might be interpreted as representing a large domestic and possibly religious site. The majority of the features had been backfilled with a large volume of burnt soil and charcoal, which contained many sherds of pottery, fragments of animal bone, oyster shells, brooches and coins spanning the late Iron Age to early Anglo-Saxon period. The importance of the site in relation to its regional setting has still not been realised, and many more questions remain unanswered. Further geophysical surveys are planned for the summer, and it is hoped that additional funding will be available to continue the investigations. The dedication of Mr Kelway in meticulously searching and reporting finds from the site has dramatically added to our understanding of the archaeological landscape of the region.

Roman pin from near East Ilsley, Berkshire
(fig 61)

An unusual copper alloy artefact, probably a pin with the head and torso of a female, possibly intending to represent Venus in a very provincial style (BUC–544E73), was found by Mr D Tombs near East Ilsley, Berkshire, and recorded by Ros Tyrrell (Buckinghamshire FLO). The figure is naked, although incised lines at the hips may represent drapery and she appears to be wearing a neck-ring and a bracelet. The hair is defined by incised lines and there is a plait arranged around the head. A crest with a circular suspension loop extends from the centre of the head to the nape of the neck. Although this example is slightly larger than other pins with figurative heads and has a square-sectioned shaft which is unusual, it is most likely that this is a Roman pin.

Roman boar-shaped mount from Caerwent, Monmouthshire (fig 62)

A vessel escutcheon (or mount) in the form of a boar (NMGW–2FC205) was recovered from farmland near the Roman town of Caerwent, Monmouthshire and reported to Mark Lodwick (Finds Co-ordinator, Wales). The boar has lost one leg in antiquity and is depicted with the front legs extending forward beneath the head. The snout is perforated through the sides, beneath a moulded tusk, and this was probably to house a ring for attachment to a handle. The longer side, which is curved, has a V-shaped recess, presumably to carry solder to attach the escutcheon to a metal vessel rim. The boar is similar to other examples from Aldborough, Yorkshire, Eastcheap, London and another example thought to have been found in London. This example has naturalistic features and is similar to the Aldborough escutcheon. Unfortunately none of these escutcheons has reliable or precise dating.

Roman Minerva handle from Hacheston, Suffolk
(fig 63)

Mr P Mullinger found a Romano-British copper alloy handle (ESS–525992) in Hacheston, Suffolk, which he reported to Caroline McDonald (Essex FLO). The handle shows Minerva fully draped and wearing a crested helmet. Her left arm is by her side and would have rested on a shield, which is missing, whilst her right arm is raised and would have held a spear, also missing. She is wearing a breast plate, though in this instance it does not show the head of Medusa, as is usually the case. Minerva handles are a well-known phenomenon in Britain and France, and have been interpreted as wax spatula handles. This object is interesting as at over

110mm in length, the handle is very large, depicting not just the usual bust of Minerva but a full length figure. Secondly, the missing spear and shield simply rested in Minerva's hands and on the base, which would have made handling the object problematic as the spear and shield must have been prone to falling off, suggesting that it may not be a handle but a decorative terminal of some sort. Additionally, this Minerva is crudely rendered: she has no hair, lentoid eyes and the drapes of her robe are angular. Dr Martin Henig (Institute of Archaeology, Oxford University) suggests that this object is perhaps the work of Romano-British craftsmen producing a 'Roman' artefact in the 'native' style probably in the mid first century AD. This object has recently been acquired by Ipswich Museum.

Roman pan found in the Staffordshire Moorlands
(fig 64)
The Staffordshire Moorlands pan (WMID–3FE965) was found by metal-detectorists Kevin Blackburn and Julian Lee. Originally it would have resembled a small saucepan, although the base and handle, which is likely to have been bow-tie shaped and flat, are both now missing. It dates from the second century AD and is very unusual for several reasons. Firstly, its decorative design which consists of 'Celtic-style' curvilinear motifs inlaid with well-preserved red, blue, turquoise, yellow and possibly purple enamel draws upon long established British traditions and is unique on vessels of this type. The most exciting feature of the pan is its inscription which runs around the vessel just below the rim and has been transcribed by Roger Tomlin (University of Oxford). It lists four forts located at the western end of Hadrian's Wall: *MAIS* (Bowness), *COGGABATA* (Drumburgh), *VXELODVNVM* (Stanwix) and *CAMMOGLANNA* (Castlesteads) and for the first time suggests the correct form for the name for Drumburgh. This is the third vessel to be discovered that bears the names of forts at the western end of Hadrian's Wall, but the other two vessels, the 'Rudge Cup' and 'Amiens patera', are both decorated with stylised representations of the Wall with inscriptions cast as part of the decoration, rather than cut into, as is the case with the Staffordshire Moorlands pan. The Staffordshire Moorlands pan has further important differences from the other examples in that it incorporates the name of an individual, *AELIVS DRACO* who is likely to have owned the vessel and served as a soldier on Hadrian's Wall and the phrase *RIGORE VALI*, which Guy de la Bédoyere suggests is most likely to be translated as 'on the line of the Wall'. It is hoped that a museum will acquire this find.

Recent studies on Roman artefacts found in Cheshire
Nick Herepath (Cheshire, Greater Manchester & Merseyside FLO) wrote an article on Roman brooches titled 'A survey of Roman brooches from Cheshire' in *Lucerna* (issue 27) – the newsletter of the Roman Finds Group. Nick also wrote a note on a type of Romano-British anthropomorphic mount found in North Yorkshire in *Lucerna* (issue 27). This was the second example of a previously unknown type of bronze mount in the form of a human figure to be found in North Yorkshire and reported to Nick. It has been identified by the British Museum as likely to be Romano-British in date. The first, also from North Yorkshire, is featured in the *Portable Antiquities Scheme Annual Report, 1998/99* (fig 32).

Coins

Recent studies on Roman and Iron Age coins found in Wales
A project to record all provenanced Roman and Iron Age coins discovered in Wales has drawn on data reported through the Portable Antiquities Scheme. The aim of the project is to record all Roman and Iron Age coins, including those from hoards, site assemblages and single finds. Nick Wells (Research Assistant, University of Cardiff) has been assembling a database of this material using the record maintained by Edward Besly (Curator of Numismatics, National Museums and Galleries of Wales), which includes contributions from Mark Lodwick (Finds Co-ordinator, Wales) and his team. The data collection phase of this project is now almost complete and has produced a dataset of more than 30,000 coins. The database will eventually be linked to a Geographical Information System (GIS) package, allowing statistical and spacial analyses of the data.

Gold aureus of Nero found near Bodmin, Cornwall
(fig 65)
In August 2003 a gold *aureus* (CORN–DE6541) of Nero (dated to AD 65–68) was found by Jonathon Clemes whilst using a metal-detector in the Bodmin area of Cornwall and reported to Anna Tyacke (Cornwall FLO). Early gold coins are exceptionally rare finds, and the current example is only the second recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme since 1997. Furthermore, it represents the only example of an *aureus* dating to the first century AD to be discovered in Cornwall. Single finds of coins are normally seen as casual losses rather than deliberate deposits. An aureus is roughly one month's wages for a legionary soldier of that period. The burial of a single gold coin may represent a deliberate act of

hoarding, rather than an accidental loss. The Royal Institution of Cornwall has purchased the coin for its museum collection and it is now on display. The coin also contributes to ongoing research by Roger Bland (Head of Portable Antiquities) into finds of *aurei* from Britain.

The production of 'barbarous radiates' in Norfolk

New evidence for the production of 'barbarous radiates' – contemporary imitations of Roman coinage produced in the 270s and 280s AD – continues to be reported to Adrian Marsden (Norfolk FLO) and supplement research published in the *Portable Antiquities Scheme Annual Report 2001–03* (page 25). As a result of the work of metal-detectorists Matt Lambert, Andy Kedge and Martin Drake, several new sites have emerged in the past year that seem to be linked to the production of these coins. Sites at Little Barningham and Burgh Castle in Norfolk, and Mutford and Horringer in Suffolk are beginning to demonstrate how widespread the production of these imitations was. The co-operative approach of metal-detecting magazines such as *Treasure Hunting* has also led to the location of similar sites in other counties. Before the advent of the Portable Antiquities Scheme the significance of this material was often not recognised. Adrian Marsden and Matthew Ponting (Metallurgical Researcher) are engaged in a continuing investigation into the metallurgical make-up of these 'barbarous radiates', cut copper alloy *sestertii* (of the first to third centuries AD), cast copper alloy bar fragments and coin blanks. These often represent the only surviving evidence for the manufacture of 'barbarous radiate' coinage. The metallurgical analysis, sponsored by English Heritage as one of its Research Projects, has cast new light on the production process. The significant zinc content of the imitations analysed provides testimony to their being produced from recycled *sestertii* (which were struck in a brass-like alloy rich in zinc). Analysis of many of the cast rods, however, suggests that the melting of *sestertii* was only part of the process; many of the cast rods lack the silver content found in coin blanks and struck imitations and so it would seem that the casting of rods was a halfway process, with the silver being added later. Interestingly, these analyses have also highlighted the similar metallurgical makeup of official issues of the emperor Carausius (AD 286–293), suggesting that emperor was either employing artisans who had formerly been responsible for the manufacture of barbarous radiates or at least coin producers who had learned their techniques from such artisans.

Roman coin hoard from Gloucestershire
(fig 66)

In early 2004 a massive hoard of Roman fourth century bronze coins was reported to Bristol City Museum and Kurt Adams (Gloucestershire & Avon FLO). The find was made by Ken Allen at his home in Gloucestershire while digging a pond in his garden. Consisting of approximately 15,000 coins, a complete pottery vessel and sandstone slab lid, it represents one of the largest hoards of this period ever discovered. The hoard attracted a flurry of media interest, making the national newspapers and even an appearance on Blue Peter. The process of identification will take many months, but an initial investigation of the find by Richard Abdy (Curator of Roman Coins, The British Museum) and Ian Leins (Finds Adviser, Iron Age and Roman Coins) suggested that almost all of the coins are of types produced during the period (AD 330–341) during the reign of the emperor Constantine the Great (AD 306–337).

Rare Roman coins found in Kent
(fig 67)

Several recent coin finds recorded with the Portable Antiquities Scheme have contributed to the study of late Roman Coinage in Britain. Very little coinage had been supplied to Britain after AD 402, and eight years later, in AD 410, the province ceased to be under direct Roman control, when the emperor Honorius famously instructed the British cities 'to look to their own defence'. Despite this, Roman coins produced in those parts of the empire that were still under Roman control continue to appear in Britain in small numbers. The Portable Antiquities Scheme has recorded several rare coins of this type including those of the emperors Valentinian III (AD 425–455), Avitus (AD 455–456) and most recently Jovinus (AD 411–413) (KENT–DEF360). All three of these coins were recorded by Andrew Richardson (Kent FLO) or his predecessors. Richard Abdy (Curator of Roman Coins, The British Museum) is currently preparing a publication on the phenomenon of Late Roman coins in Anglo-Saxon contexts that draws on a variety of sources including Portable Antiquities Scheme data.

THE EARLY MEDIEVAL PERIOD

New Anglo-Saxon Cemetery found in north-west Norfolk (fig 68)

In 1932 Norwich Castle Museum recorded the discovery of an early Anglo-Saxon iron spearhead in the north-west of the county. The findspot was measured very precisely from an Ordnance Survey benchmark. The field was not then visited by an archaeologist or metal-detectorist until 2003, when by Steve Brown discovered the plough-damaged remains of an extremely exciting cemetery of the same date as the spearhead while metal-detecting. The new finds are spread across an area about 100 metres square, and include a buckle, fragments of one or more equal-armed brooches (see fig 68), an iron shield boss, a sword pommel, and a tubular strap end, all from inhumation burials. A small number of cremations are attested by the recovery of some fire-damaged objects. Normally cremations would have been contained within pottery urns, but intensive field-walking on the site has only produced one piece of early Anglo-Saxon pottery, suggesting that the cremations may have been buried in bags or wooden boxes. The site was deeply ploughed in the 1950s. The metal objects date to the fifth and sixth centuries, with a strong concentration in the early or mid-fifth century. This is surprisingly early for a group of mainly inhumation burials; early cemeteries in Norfolk tend to be large cremation cemeteries. The nature of the finds is also remarkable; they include a considerable quantity of late Roman military belt fittings and early Germanic objects, which are also found in the Rhineland. Until the metal-detecting was carried out on this site, the iron spearhead might have been thought to denote the presence of a single burial. Now we know that there is a very early Anglo-Saxon cemetery containing mainly inhumations but also a small cremation element. Field observation by Andrew Rogerson (Norfolk Finds Identification and Recording Service) has suggested a low earthwork at the original findspot of the spearhead, which seems most likely to be a ploughed-out barrow. Barrows are most common in the later sixth and seventh centuries, which may suggest a long life for this cemetery.

New Anglo-Saxon settlement discovered at Icklingham, Suffolk (fig 69)

A new probable early Anglo-Saxon settlement site has been discovered at Icklingham in the Lark valley, in north-west Suffolk. Early Anglo-Saxon pottery sherds were discovered in soil disturbed by a rabbit warren. The sherds are large and some are decorated with stamped decoration. This discovery is close to the famous early Anglo-Saxon settlement at West Stow, which was occupied from perhaps the mid-fifth century, and close by is the large early Anglo-Saxon cremation cemetery at Lackford, which seems to have begun in the early fifth century. Icklingham is also famous as the site of a small Roman town which is occupied certainly up to the early fifth century. Both the late Roman town and the early Anglo-Saxon sites may therefore have been in use at the same time, and can be interpreted as being alternative choices during the social turmoil of the early fifth century.

Such East Anglian discoveries give us tantalising glimpses into the darkest part of the 'Dark Ages' – the fifth century. The Norfolk site appears to support the picture agreed in the 1950s, that Anglo-Saxon mercenaries entered a decimated Britain at the Wash and moved south-eastwards to occupy the upper Thames. Most scholars would now prefer the interpretation of the Lark valley evidence, which appears to show a peaceful transition from one increasingly unsustainable lifestyle choice to another.

New Anglo-Saxon cemetery sites found in the Dove Valley, Suffolk (fig 70)

In the Dove valley in north central Suffolk, the number of probable or possible early Anglo-Saxon cemeteries has doubled in the last couple of years, thanks to metal-detector finds. These cemeteries are identifiable by finds of brooches and wrist clasps, which are now found every two to three kilometres along the valley or its tributaries. Most of the finds are unburnt, suggesting that the burials were inhumations, but a group of heat-distorted fragments from the Eye area indicates that cremation was the dominant rite in this particular cemetery. Eye itself is, of course, famous as the site of a large cremation cemetery, but this new find comes from a different location. The Dove valley is close to the Roman small towns of Scole and Stoke Ash, and the findspot of the very large late Roman hoard at Hoxne, which would seem to indicate a flourishing and wealthy population at the end of the Roman period. At the moment, although the density of newly discovered early Anglo-Saxon sites seems unusual, the individual finds do not show any particular evidence of wealth and, as elsewhere, links are very hard to show between the late Roman and early Anglo-Saxon periods.

Early Medieval bird brooch from near Lewes, East Sussex (fig 71)

Regular detecting by John Cole of fields on the slopes of the South Downs near Lewes in East Sussex has produced a number of sixth-century finds, which he

111. Frank Basford (Isle of Wight FLO) shows members of the Vectis Searchers how to use a handheld GPS device.

has been reporting to David Williams (Surrey FLO). Among the more unusual finds are a fine bird brooch (SUR–791CE8), perhaps of Continental origin, and a bell-shaped pendant, which may be unfinished. There are just six other bell-shaped pendants known from England, and of these one more also appears to be unfinished. In addition, an early Anglo-Saxon building (of sunken-featured type) has been found close by, during recent excavations in advance of the construction of a pipeline. The finds are spread across a distance of perhaps 1.5 km, and suggest that there may be at least one settlement and a number of cemeteries in the area.

Anglo-Saxon weapon burial found at Eastry, Kent
(fig 72)

In September 2003 an early Anglo-Saxon weapon burial, dating to the late sixth century, was discovered by Terry Rye while digging a soakaway in his garden at Eastry. Recognising the importance of this discovery, Mr and Mrs Rye contacted Kent County Council's Heritage Team, and Andrew Richardson (Kent FLO) visited the site the following day. The grave was subsequently excavated by Andrew Richardson and Keith Parfitt (local archaeologist) with the help of volunteers from the Dover Archaeology Group. The grave was orientated west-east, with the head to the west. Very little skeletal material survived, but it was clear that the burial was that of an adult (presumably male) who had been laid in an extended supine position. The grave goods included a sword, shield and spear and a copper alloy 'shield-on-tongue' buckle. Eastry is known from documentary evidence to have been one of the royal estates of early Anglo-Saxon Kent, and was therefore also probably a regional administrative centre for the area at the time. No direct archaeological evidence for the large buildings needed for this has ever been found, despite considerable efforts, and it is now thought that these must underlie the modern village centre. The village is exceptional, however, in the number of burial sites which have been found on its outskirts and in the surrounding parishes. The new burial is particularly interesting in that it was found just outside the village centre, next to the Roman road from Richborough to Dover, which passes through Eastry. On the other side of the road, exactly opposite, is Eastry House, where another late sixth century Anglo-Saxon burial was discovered in 1970. A roadside cemetery just outside a settlement is more a Roman pattern than an Anglo-Saxon one, and raises questions about whether the early kings of Kent were self-consciously trying to recreate the atmosphere of imperial Roman Britain. Mr and Mrs Rye

have kindly agreed to donate the entire contents of the grave to Dover Museum, and it is hoped that the finds can now be conserved and analysed ahead of full publication.

Anglo-Saxon cemetery found on the Isle of Wight
(figs 73 and 111)

Frank Basford (Isle of Wight FLO) attends most rallies organised by the local metal detecting club, the 'Vectis Searchers'. Two rallies were held in September and October 2003 at the same location on cultivated land in the west of the island. No sites or finds from this location had previously been recorded on the county Historic Environment Record. During the rallies two remarkable sixth-century finds were discovered, a silver spoon with a gilded bowl and a rock crystal ball. The wear on the surface of the rock crystal ball indicated that it had been slung in a cage of four metal bands, probably made from silver; the spoon was incomplete, with most of the bowl missing, and in poor condition. Rock crystal balls and perforated spoons are found together in a very few richly furnished graves of women, and their function is obscure. It has been guessed that the crystal ball may have been amuletic, and used to confer protective qualities to a drink, perhaps wine. The spoons may then have been used for skimming spices or herbs from the wine. Other finds from the site included a fragment from a miniature square-headed brooch made from gilded silver; a fragment from a silver great square-headed brooch; several D-shaped buckles made from tinned copper alloy; and a gilded copper-alloy strap-end. Barry Ager (Curator, British Museum) gave much valuable help in the analysis of the finds. Taken together, the finds very strongly suggest the presence of an early Anglo-Saxon cemetery.

All the finds were discovered from the ploughsoil and the land is still under cultivation. Careful examinations of the breaks on the finds suggest that graves have been disturbed by agricultural activities over a long period of time. The silver spoon, crystal ball and D-shaped buckles are similar to artefacts discovered at Chessell Down, Isle of Wight, an early Anglo-Saxon cemetery excavated by the antiquarian George Hillier in 1855. Like the grave-goods from Chessell, and all other burials known from the island, the finds from the West Wight are late fifth or sixth century AD. Mysteriously, there appear to be no graves on the island from the final phase of furnished burial, in the seventh and early eighth centuries. These finds demonstrate how important it is for the Finds Liaison Officers to attend rallies, even though the numbers of detectorists and discoveries involved generally make effective recording very difficult. The crystal ball was a

surface find, and was about to be discarded by the finder as a large marble when Frank identified it. The spoon, crystal ball and brooch fragments were all found reasonably close together; the high level of co-operation between members of the Vectis Searchers metal-detecting club and Frank enabled each find to be recorded using a differential Global Positioning System (GPS) device, thus giving each find a location to within a single square metre. On large rallies elsewhere, the hundreds of detectorists all finding objects simultaneously make this ideal system impossible. Many rally finders, when they have returned home, have difficulty locating the rally site on a map as they are unfamiliar with the area, and crucial findspot information is lost forever.

Viking Age hoard found in Yorkshire
(fig 74)

The most significant Early-Medieval find discovered in Yorkshire during the reporting period was the 'Ainsbrook Hoard', which was found in December 2003 by metal-detector users and reported to Simon Holmes (North & East Yorkshire FLO). The hoard contained weapons, dress accessories, a set of scales with two sets of weights and a small group of silver ingots and coins. The finds appear to date from the late ninth century. The silver within the assemblage qualified the discovery as Treasure under the Treasure Act 1996 and the objects are now at the British Museum for further study. The presence of clench nails, similar to those used in the manufacture of ships or boats, suggested that the hoard could have been from a boat burial. An archaeological evaluation of the findspot (funded by English Heritage) was carried out in February by York Archaeological Trust, and confirmed that this was not the case. A possible structure and occupation deposit were found, and there is to be further work in order to confirm these and to ascertain the true nature of the hoard's context.

It is notable that all but one of the sites in the above section are early Anglo-Saxon cemetery sites. These are highly visible to metal-detectorists, as they contain a very high proportion of metal finds. Strangely, they appear to be effectively invisible to the traditional method of fieldwalking, which aims to collect all archaeological objects from the surface of ploughsoil, as metal objects are much less visible to the naked eye than pottery, flints or ceramic building material (brick and tile). The recording of metal-detected objects over the last 30 years in Norfolk has produced enough material to allow inferences to be drawn about their location within the landscape. How do early Anglo-Saxon cemeteries relate to Roman sites, or to watercourses, or to soil types?

A doctoral research project has begun at the University of Cambridge to find out. Mary Chester-Kadwell is trying to make sense of the 3,500 early Anglo-Saxon metal-detector finds by analysing them with GIS. This sophisticated computer software allows the finds to be mapped together with other geographical information, such as geology, soil types, river systems and other archaeological sites, all as different layers on high-resolution maps. Relationships between these variables can then be studied.

The Kent Anglo-Saxon brooch project
(fig 75 and Chart 4)
In Kent, we are following the success of the Kent Anglo-Saxon Brooch Project, launched in 2001. Up to March 2004, a total of 180 brooches of Anglo-Saxon date had been recorded in the county. Of these, 154 date to the early Anglo-Saxon period (400–720), seven to the middle Anglo-Saxon period (720–850) and five to the late Anglo-Saxon period (850–1066). Fourteen brooches do not currently have enough detail recorded to assign them to a period. Of the brooches dated to the early Anglo-Saxon period, the great majority (95 examples) can be broadly dated to the fifth or early sixth centuries; another 39 were of sixth century date. Only six brooches could be dated to the late sixth or early seventh centuries. None was recorded that could be dated to the mid to late seventh or early eighth centuries. This represents a clear contrast with the excavated evidence from burials in Kent, where there are very few identifiable 5th-century objects, more and more items deposited in graves during the course of the sixth century. Objects from the mid to late seventh and early eighth centuries are very well represented among the Kentish burial evidence. The breakdown of brooch types from the fifth and early sixth centuries is shown in Chart 4 (see page 79).

After the end of the early Anglo-Saxon period, when grave-goods cease to be deposited in burials, metal objects have traditionally been thinner on the ground. When one considers that DM Wilson's 1964 catalogue of the *Anglo-Saxon Ornamental Metalwork 700–1100 in the British Museum* contains 155 items, and that we are now seeing over twice this number every year, it is clear that our knowledge is being revolutionised. The settlement pattern of the middle and late Anglo-Saxon period, hitherto rather mysterious, is suddenly materialising. Research into the middle Anglo-Saxon period is at present focussing on the so-called 'productive sites', which were named some twenty years ago, but for which the evidence is only now substantial enough to test some preliminary hypotheses.

Anglo-Saxon button brooch found in south Wiltshire
(figs 76)
An unusual early Anglo-Saxon button brooch (WILT–9D2892) was found in south Wiltshire by Mr D Martin while metal-detecting and taken for identification and recording to Katie Hinds (Wiltshire FLO). It depicts a human face set between two animal limbs, and so in theory fits into the standard classification of these brooches as Avent and Evison Class J. In practice the brooch looks completely unlike any of the other examples of Class J known ; it does not resemble any of the other types of button brooch either. It is very naturalistic in style when compared to all other button brooches known, such as a button brooch (WILT–SCB991) recently found in Hampshire (see fig 77). Barry Ager (Curator, British Museum) has compared the design on the Wiltshire example to three buckles from Belgium, and suggests a later fifth- or early sixth-century date for the brooch.

Anglo-Saxon spearhead from near Quenington, Gloucestershire (fig 78)
An early Anglo-Saxon spearhead (GLO–042AB1) was found by John Whitehouse near Quenington in Gloucestershire and recorded with Kurt Adams (Gloucestershire & Avon FLO). The spearhead is almost complete, although much corroded. Nevertheless, it is clearly corrugated, with the left and right blade overlapping in the centre, giving a stepped cross-section. This increases the longitudinal strength of the spearhead while economising on metal and weight. Corrugated spearheads of this type (Swanton L) date to the later fifth or early sixth century. Relatively few iron finds are reported to FLOs (just over one per cent of the total number of non-numismatic finds are iron). This is due in part to finders setting their detectors to discriminate against iron (because so much modern ironwork is present in fields) and partly to the difficulty of dating corroded scraps of iron. The discovery and identification of this spearhead, however, shows the benefits that can come through recovering iron finds.

Anglo-Saxon mount from south Hertfordshire
(fig 79)
An early Anglo-Saxon mount (BH-E649E3) was found by metal-detectorist Mr T Burne and recorded with Julian Watters (Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire FLO). The mount is circular and made from gilded copper alloy. The decoration consists of three repeated animal motifs in Anglo-Saxon 'Style I', executed in a crisp chip-carved technique. There is a central circular cell, now empty and, between the motifs, three eye-shaped cells, two of

which still contain slightly damaged flat-cut garnets. The mount is quite thick, with gilded edges; the reverse is undecorated, but has a patch of greyish solder. Dr Tania Dickinson (University of York) kindly examined a drawing of the object and identified it as a shield-boss apex mount dating to the sixth century. Dr Dickinson is at present finishing a study of these highly decorative objects, and could assign the Hertfordshire mount to her type b. The closest parallels come from Wiltshire and Cambridgeshire, and Dr Dickinson has commented that it is a slightly enigmatic group as none has yet been found actually attached to a shield-boss. The mount was also examined by Brian Adams (Verulamium Museum) who pointed out that it is the earliest Anglo-Saxon object to have been found in south Hertfordshire, an area which is famously lacking in evidence for Anglo-Saxon settlement in the fifth and sixth centuries.

Anglo-Saxon mount found at Creslow, Buckinghamshire (fig 80)

Ros Tyrrell (Buckinghamshire FLO) attended a Weekend Wanderers rally at Creslow in Buckinghamshire, where she was able to record two fragments of an early Anglo-Saxon circular mount (BUC–B1B9A6) made of copper alloy, with settings for garnets and shell. The first piece had been found a year earlier in the same area, and happened to have been brought along on the day by the finder; he and the finder of the new fragment put the pieces together for the record. The centre of the disc has an empty circular setting, and there are two similar but smaller settings towards the edge. The central setting is surrounded by an inner field of intertwining animals, and then by an outer field filled with four-strand plait; the settings sit astride the line that separates these two fields. Between these and the ribbed edge of the disc are small rivet holes, one by each setting.

Early Medieval pendant found at Sharnforth, Leicestershire

A seventh-century gold pendant, set with a cabochon-cut garnet, was identified by Wendy Scott (Leicestershire & Rutland FLO) during a meeting at Hinckley Search Society. It was found at Sharnforth in Leicestershire and is currently going through the Treasure process. The pendant was designed to fit the garnet, which was probably originally used in high-status fifth-century military gear from the Black Sea area. The garnet is held in place by a gold collar cut into a zig-zag shape, which is rare but not unparalleled in early Anglo-Saxon jewellery. This find is a good example of the importance of the role of Finds Liaison Officer as the finder was convinced it was

Georgian or Victorian and would never have considered showing it to an archaeologist. It was only spotted as potential Treasure because Wendy happened to be at the club that night.

Anglo-Saxon pyramidal mount found at Bembridge, Isle of Wight (fig 81)

The Isle of Wight has long been noted for the rich grave-goods found in its many early Anglo-Saxon cemeteries, which testify to a flourishing and wealthy population in the sixth century. Strangely, however, there is no certain evidence for seventh-century settlement or burial on the island. Historical records confirm that the island's population did not suffer any sudden terrible fate, but the archaeological conundrum has defied valiant efforts to solve it. In September 2002 a tiny ray of light was shone on the problem by Darren Trickey, who with his metal-detector discovered a remarkable gold pyramidal mount (IOW–1855E4) from an Anglo-Saxon sword-belt. The usual kind of pyramidal mount belongs to the early seventh century; it rises at a shallow angle from a square base. The new find, from a beach in Bembridge parish, is quite different and rises at a steep angle from an octagonal base. The sides are decorated with cells for garnets, only one of which now survives. The base has the usual opening with a central bar around which a strap could be threaded. The story of the seventh century on the Isle of Wight is even more tantalising when the historical evidence is considered. The island was the last part of England to be converted to Christianity, a process which appears to have been accompanied or preceded by changes in dress fashions and other aspects of material culture. The Isle of Wight was not converted until some time between AD 661 and 686, although the kingdoms of Kent and Essex had by then been nominally Christian for nearly ninety years! The island's inhabitants do appear to have changed their burial style at the start of the seventh century, but paradoxically not to have continued with the practice of furnished burial, even though this is often thought to have pagan connotations. Might this pyramidal mount be the first evidence of the 'missing link' for the Isle of Wight? Unfortunately, the unusual form of the mount means that it is hard to date precisely. The octagonal form is so far unparalleled, but the tall proportions and the cloisonné cellwork suggest a date in the second half of the seventh century or the very early eighth. Not only that, but its beach findspot suggests that it might be a casual loss rather than originally deposited in a grave.

Rune-inscribed plaque from Norfolk
(fig 82)

A rune-inscribed lead plaque dating to the eighth-to-tenth centuries has been recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme in Norfolk and Norfolk Landscape Archaeology. Following an earlier discovery of another at St Benets Abbey in 2001, there was amazement when a second of similar size and with just as long an inscription was reported from south-west Norfolk. The inscription is in Anglo-Saxon runes, rather than the Scandinavian runes of the St Benets example. The plaque has been examined by Prof John Hines (Cardiff University), Prof Ray Page (Corpus Christi College, Cambridge) and Dr David Parsons (Nottingham University), but despite the scrutiny of this galaxy of experts the wording remains unclear. It is possible that some of the runes read *WARD* and *DESSAULE* and *GODES*, which might represent a personal name (such as Edward) and 'of the soul' and 'God'; by analogy with other similar plaques, and from these linguistic scraps, the plaque can tentatively be interpreted as a coffin plate. The findspot is very close to the edge of the modern churchyard; it has often been observed that middle and late Anglo-Saxon churchyards can be very much larger than the area which survives to the present day.

Research on Anglo-Saxon nummular brooches from Norfolk (figs 83 and 84)

One class of object that forms an interesting bridge between artefacts and coins is that of the so-called nummular brooches, which carry designs derived from coins and were made during the ninth to eleventh centuries. Several copper-alloy examples have been recorded in Norfolk by Adrian Marsden (Norfolk FLO) and other members of the Norfolk Landscape Archaeology's Identification and Recording Service. Two, from Runhall and Blakeney (NMS–5FA413), were strikingly similar and may well have been the products of the same workshop. Another particularly fine example, from Wramplingham, probably dating to the ninth century, unusually has designs derived from coin obverses on both faces. The outer face appears to be based either on pennies of Alfred's second issue (885–890) or on pennies of Edward the Martyr (975–978); both have pellet-like eyes, a tall thin bust, and no inner circles. Ultimately both of these penny types are based on late fourth-century Roman coins, so it is possible that these could also have been used as the model. The portrait on the inner face is partly obscured by the pin fixings, but appears to be a bearded bust with a sceptre. The closest parallels to this bust can be found on Byzantine coins

of the eighth to tenth century. The tenth-century parallels depict Christ, and it is possible that the designer intended the public outer face to represent earthly power (a king or emperor) and the private inner face to represent spiritual power.

Viking age mount from Parham, Suffolk
(fig 85)

A copper-alloy mount found in Parham, Suffolk (SF10754) was reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme in Suffolk. On the front, grooves depict a horse and its rider. The horse's head is bent and the reins can be clearly seen; openwork circles highlight the legs and neck. The rider has his arms raised and bent, and is perhaps holding a drinking vessel in his hands. The mount has been examined by Barry Ager (Curator, British Museum) and identified as one of a small group of Viking-period dress or belt fittings found both in England and in Scandinavia and North Germany. They often include a figure, often female and carrying a round shield, holding a drinking horn up to the rider. It seems likely that these figures represent valkyries (choosers of the slain) welcoming heroes slain in battle to Valhalla. It may be, therefore, that this horse-and-rider mount, and simpler horse brooches, are connected with the cult of Odin and the other Norse gods.

Spindle-whorl from Norfolk

A limestone spindle-whorl (NMS–F4A5E4) with incised decoration was reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme and Norfolk Landscape Archaeology by Ron Oakes, a member of the Anglian Historical Searchers metal detecting club. It has three simple crosses, each within a bordering line, with four cross-hatched triangles around the central perforation on one side and rather more random oblique radiating lines around the other side of the perforation. The style of decoration gives little clue as to the date, but a plano-convex limestone whorl in the Fitch collection at Norwich Castle Museum, apparently originally found in 'a barrow at Thetford' has double-strand interlace decoration which could be late Anglo-Saxon.

Cloisonné enamel brooches from Micheldever, Hampshire and Quidenham, Norfolk
(fig 86)

Two cloisonné enamel brooches have been reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme in the last year, one from Micheldever in Hampshire (HAMP–476AD1) found by Charles Prewitt and one from Quidenham in Norfolk, found by Ed Crick. Both are in exceptionally good

condition, with well-preserved enamel. This type of brooch was only identified as late Anglo-Saxon in 1986, when fifteen examples were published by David Buckton; the Portable Antiquities Scheme has now recorded another fourteen on the database, including these two examples.

Current research on late Anglo-Saxon horse-harness equipment (fig 87)

David Williams (Surrey FLO) has been researching eleventh-century metalwork from horse-harness for over a decade. Since the publication of his pioneering book on stirrup-strap mounts in 1997, he has concentrated on stirrup terminals. These small copper-alloy projections can sometimes be very simple, but are more often in the form of animal heads inspired by late Viking art styles; they were soldered to the corners of iron stirrups, one at each end of the footplate. The corpus now runs to nearly 200 examples, most of which are metal-detector finds. Many additional Norfolk examples have been passed on to David for drawing by Steven Ashley of Norfolk Landscape Archaeology.

One fine example of a copper-alloy stirrup-strap mount with silver inlay was found at Old Romney, Kent and recorded by Andrew Richardson (Kent FLO) who passed it to David Williams for further study. It turned out to be the first well-crafted and well-preserved example of a Class A Type 17 mount. The four examples of Type 17 known in 1997 were debased copies, and did not allow an interpretation of the design to be made; the Old Romney example is the first which enables an interpretation of the design to be made. It consists of a boldly cast animal with a serpentine body and prominent head; the tail protrudes a little on the left of the mount and there is a similar protrusion on the right made by a spur on the body. The head has small pits for eyes and engraved lines indicating flaring nostrils.

Anglo-Saxon bridle cheekpiece from near Melton, Leicestershire (fig 88)

Four stirrup terminals have been recorded in Leicestershire by Wendy Scott (Leicestershire & Rutland FLO) in the last six months. One detectorist, Mr Chris Birsnell, has found a bridle cheekpiece (LEIC–46C372), a stirrup terminal and an animal-head mount, all in the Class A Melton area. These objects just about double the number of known late Anglo-Saxon or Anglo-Scandinavian objects in the county, which shows very clearly the effect of a Finds Liaison Officer being in post for less than a year.

Anglo-Saxon thrymsa from South Walsham, Norfolk (figs 89)

A very rare Anglo-Saxon gold coin, known as a 'thrymsa', or shilling, was found at South Walsham by Terry McClenahan whilst using a metal-detector, and recorded by Adrian Marsden (Norfolk FLO). The coin was struck in pale gold around 660 AD and is among the earliest coins to have been produced in Britain after the collapse of Roman authority. Many thrymsas copy Roman prototypes, but the South Walsham example belongs to a series of East Anglian issues that carry a design generally described as a lyre-like device; no prototype for this design had been established. But Adrian has at last been able to identify a prototype; a coin issue struck at the western mints of the Roman empire for Licinius II around 320/1, and showing not a lyre but a trophy (see fig 90). The two kneeling captives under the trophy on the original Roman coin have been reduced to two crosses on the thrymsa. A motif derived from a Roman coin would fit neatly into the material culture of the seventh century, which is full of classical fashions and allusions.

Anglo-Saxon sceat from south Nottinghamshire (fig 91)

An early eighth century sceat (DENO–160146) was reported to Rachel Atherton (Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire FLO) from a site in the Trent Valley in south Nottinghamshire. Few sceattas have been recorded from Nottinghamshire, and this is the first Series C/R sceat from the county.

Anglo-Saxon sceat from south Northamptonshire

A fairly rare type of Anglo-Saxon silver sceat was discovered by Bob Kings of the Midlands Archaeological Research Society in south Northamptonshire and reported to Tom Brindle (Northamptonshire FLO). The coin has been identified by Anna Gannon (Curator, British Museum) and Martin Allen (Assistant Keeper, Fitzwilliam Museum) as being of series K/N. The coin has a figure holding a cross in both arms with a stylised vine leaf behind it on the obverse, whilst on the reverse a backward-looking crouched animal is depicted. The coin dates from the first half of the eighth century.

Half-penny of Ceolwulf II from the Pitstone and Ivinghoe area of Buckinghamshire (fig 92)

An interesting silver halfpenny of Ceolwulf II (BUC–08EE42), King of Mercia (874 to 879), has been found in the Pitstone and Ivinghoe area of

Buckinghamshire and recorded with Ros Tyrrell (Buckinghamshire FLO). As a halfpenny this is an important coin since the type was previously unrecorded in this denomination. Halfpennies of King Alfred of much the same period are well known, though not of this cross-and-lozenge issue and none are recorded for his Merican contemporary, Ceolwulf. Unfortunately the coin is in a fragile condition, though the finder is to be congratulated on rescuing it from the plough soil as it is unlikely that it would have survived much longer. The moneyer of the new coin is probably Eanred, who is known from a small fragment of a coin of King Ceolwulf but of a different type. The coin is probably of the London mint, which accounts for most of Ceolwulf's coins. The style of the bust has some similarities with other coins attributed to London, though the drapery is rather different (simpler, perhaps because the coin is smaller), and the reverse is very similar in form to London reverses. The obverse shows a diademed robed male facing right and has the inscription: *'C…L…LFREX'*. The reverse has a central cross, framed by a lozenge. Lines radiate from the corners of the lozenge to the edges of the coin. The inscription reads: *'EA NR [ED] MO'*.

Cut dirhem of Ahmad b. Ismail found in Oxfordshire
(fig 93)
A tenth century fragment (a cut third) of a dirhem (WILT–1110F3) was found in Oxfordshire and reported to Katie Hinds (Wiltshire FLO). It was identified by Luke Treadwell (Ashmolean Museum, Oxford) as belonging to the Samanid ruler Ahmad b. Ismail (908–914 AD) and from the Transoxanian mint Samarqand. Because of their fine silver content dirhems of the Islamic states had a certain presence in England.

THE MEDIEVAL AND POST-MEDIEVAL PERIODS

New multi-period sites at Bedfield, Suffolk
A fieldwalking and detecting project by Colin Ware in Bedfield, Suffolk, has revealed new multi-period sites. The fields so far investigated have produced a lot of Roman pottery, building material and coins, which range in date from the first to the fourth centuries, and concentrations of twelfth- to fourteenth-century pottery. The metal objects, however, include an earlier Aethelred II (1009–1017) cut halfpenny, suggesting that there is some pre-Norman activity.

New evidence for pottery production Honiton, Devon
Whilst taking part in Tubulistum (see above, page 11), Mr and Mrs Davidge of Honiton brought in some pottery they had discovered whilst gardening at Honiton, Devon. On advice from John Allan (Curator, Royal Albert Memorial Museum) one of the pieces, a large base sherd dating to the fifteenth or sixteenth century, was identified as a waster on the basis of its over-fired, distorted shape. It therefore becomes the first piece of waste material from a pottery kiln ever found in Honiton, and gives the first concrete information about late medieval or early post-medieval pottery production in the area.

Medieval settlement at Okeford Fitzpaine, Dorset
Kevin Barley and Gill Myers have recovered a large assemblage of pottery from a site near Okeford Fitzpaine in Dorset, which they recorded with Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevarthen (Somerset & Dorset FLO). The material dates mainly from the fifteenth to seventeenth centuries, with a few smaller pieces of twelfth- to fourteenth-century date. It includes fragments of jugs, jars and bowls, and a possible piece of chamber pot. The medieval material is in smaller and much more abraded pieces; the later pottery comprises larger sherds with fresher breaks. The evidence suggests a change in the activity on the site in the fifteenth to sixteenth century. Perhaps there was a change in the use of the land, from ploughed fields to household occupation.

Current research on seal matrices
(fig 94)
Norfolk Landscape Archaeology's Identification and Recording Service have been publishing full records of all medieval seal matrices for six years. A further 55 medieval seal matrices were recorded in the calendar year 2003. They will be published in *Norfolk Archaeology* in 2004 and bring the total number recorded and published under the Scheme to over 360. Seal matrices are tiny documents in their own right, and their analysis benefits enormously from the experience of a medieval historian. In Norfolk, Andrew Rogerson and Paul and Elizabeth Rutledge have provided historical expertise. A similar partnership has recently been set up in Sussex between Liz Wilson (Sussex FLO) and Chris Whittick (Senior Archivist, East Sussex County Council). Since Liz was appointed, in August 2003, nearly 20 seal matrices have been brought in for identification and recording. Chris soon made himself known to Liz as a person who can read Latin, and since then they have been working together on the seal matrices. Chris's knowledge is not only used to translate the Latin on the

seals. His knowledge of the medieval documents within the East Sussex Records Office, and the families living in the county in the period, has already allowed a number of seal matrices to be linked to specific families in Sussex. Liz and Chris are planning to inaugurate an annual article on the Sussex medieval seal matrices in *Sussex Archaeological Collections*. The first will highlight the sudden increase in the recording of seal matrices thanks to the Scheme, and in future it is hoped to be able to compare the Sussex examples with the Norfolk corpus. Seal matrices have never before been recorded in large enough quantities to make regional comparisons possible.

Current research on medieval mace heads
(fig 95)
The discovery of a leaded copper-alloy knopped mace head (LIN–871975) during a controlled metal-detecting survey at Fiskerton, Lincolnshire, added another example to the very small group of these objects known from England and which are currently the subject of research by Adam Daubney (Lincolnshire FLO). Knopped mace heads are most commonly found in eastern Europe, and are dated stylistically as no examples have yet been recovered from a securely stratified archaeological context. The same is true for England, where some nine examples have been recorded to date. 25 copper-alloy knopped mace heads have been found in Scotland, Ireland and Wales, and two of these have been found in stratified contexts. One comes from Perth, Scotland and the other from Dryslwyn Castle in Wales. The Dryslwyn Castle example was found buried deep within the fill of a latrine pit dated to AD 1250–60. It appears that the knopped mace head, which is clearly distinct from spiked and flanged mace head types, had both functional and ceremonial qualities. Examples from Ireland and Scotland show a development from simple plain types to elaborately decorated pieces, often with openwork shafts, that clearly would not have been used as weaponry. The upper row of knops on the majority of the plain examples is normally very worn, in keeping with being used in a downward striking motion; the decorative examples, however, are not. Interestingly, England has so far only produced the earlier plain examples and no later decorative pieces. The two principal varieties of knopped mace head that are found in Britain, the long and short types, are shown being used in battle on two illustrations of the Hungarian legend of Saint Ladislas in the fourteenth-century Anjou Legendarium, which was produced in Italy. Only the more common spiked and flanged mace heads are represented in English and

French pictorial sources, such as the eleventh-century Bayeux Tapestry and the thirteenth-century Maciejowski Bible. It is also possible that the mace could have been carried by a cleric, since there was a theoretical scriptural prohibition against men of the Church spilling blood by the use of bladed weapons; the smashing of brains was, however, apparently a theologically acceptable practice! Two examples of knopped mace heads have come from potentially votive deposits – the latrine pit at Dryslwyn Castle, Wales, and the Fiskerton example which came from the dredged area of the well-known timber causeway.

Mystery object from near Billington, Bedfordshire
(fig 96)
A object (BUC-69D596) found near Billington, Bedfordshire, and reported to Ros Tyrrell (Buckinghamshire FLO) belongs to a group of artefacts thought to be terminals from staffs. The decoration on the Billington example is a very nice example of 'Winchester Style', with paired birds on one face and animals on the other, both looking backwards towards a central plant. The plant writhes around the birds and animals before its stems end in curled tendrils; on the sides there is more curly plant ornament. At one time these objects were thought to be sword or dagger pommels, but a reconsideration by Simon Bailey in 1994 pointed out that they were unlike any other pommels known, and suggested the interpretation as staff terminals. Bailey also noticed that several had designs which could only be viewed with the socket uppermost, and so suggested that they were fixed onto the bottom of fairly short staffs. The Winchester-style design is found on several, and both this and the archaeological contexts in which some have been found point to an eleventh- or twelfth-century date. There are two types, one with the circular head and rectangular socket of the Billington example, and another with spherical openwork head and circular-section socket; both types can be found recorded on the Portable Antiquities Scheme's database, but not enough have been found in securely stratified archaeological contexts to decide whether the two types belong to different dates, different fashions, or different uses.

Romanesque swivel from Olveston, Gloucestershire
(fig 97)
A gilded copper-alloy swivel (GLO–AE4462) was found by Conrad Dorling at Olveston in Gloucestershire, and reported to Kurt Adams (Gloucestershire & Avon FLO). The swivel shows an animal, perhaps a dog, standing on all fours, with its open-mouthed head turned to look

sideways over the right shoulder. The animal is standing on a rectangular platform, which has a waisted knob on its underside which would have fitted into the other half of the swivel, allowing the two halves to turn independently. It is possible that this object belongs to a series of large and elaborate swivels with Romanesque decoration which date them to the twelfth century. It is thought that they may have had a variety of uses, including perhaps on dog leads or harnesses, and so zoomorphic decoration may be particularly appropriate. Artefacts that can be securely dated to the twelfth century are surprisingly rare, but why this should be is still a puzzle.

Holy oil container from East Clandon, Surrey
(fig 98)
A small copper-alloy vessel (SUR-FA2ABO), found at East Clandon, Surrey, by Mick Rae, and reported to Guildford Museums and then to David Williams (Surrey FLO), has been identified as a container for holy oil. The pot has two handles and a rounded base, and can be paralleled by finds from Norfolk, Suffolk and London. Their function was uncertain, although Geoff Egan (Museum of London) had observed that they ought to hold a small amount of a precious substance. The East Clandon vessel solved the mystery, however, as it bears a crudely carved inscription which reads *'OLEVM CHRISM'*, or 'chrism oil'. David and Mary Alexander, from Guildford Museum, together worked out that the vessel probably belonged to a travelling chrismatory, a set containing three holy oils used in the medieval church: *oleum infirmorum* for the sick; *oleum catechumenorum* for baptism; and *chrisma* or balm, used for confirmation, ordination and certain consecrations. From the style of the lettering, the vessel was dated to before 1200.

Limoges fragment from the Gower, Swansea
(fig 99)
A small and corroded fragment of copper alloy in the form of the head of Christ, from an altar cross made in the Limoges style, was recovered from a site on the Gower, Swansea. Prompt reporting of the mount and its findspot has led to the suggestion that the site may be that of a lost church, known until now only from a reference in a document dated to 1230 and known as 'The Confirmation of Bishop Anselm'. Other sources confirm that the church was no longer in use by 1536. The date for the head is consistent with the historical dates for this church. The mount has been donated to the National Museums & Galleries of Wales, Cardiff.

Limoges enamels found near Doncaster, South Yorkshire
(fig 100)
An enamelled fragment of copper alloy (SWYOR–ADD782) was recorded with Anna Marshall (South & West Yorkshire FLO). The enamelling is in the Limoges style, and can be dated to the thirteenth century. It shows a draped figure holding its arms open in blessing. The figure has a halo and the head is tipped slightly down and to its right. The background is dark blue and contains leaf shapes in a lighter blue, while there is green and red enamel visible on the figure. The figure may represent Christ, but there are notable similarities between it and the depiction of the soul of St Thomas Becket rising to heaven found on the enamelled Becket reliquaries produced in Limoges in the first half of the thirteenth century. Some 45 of these reliquaries still survive. The site, near Doncaster, is known to the Historic Environment Record and an aerial photograph from 1978 shows excellent survival of unploughed earthworks. These include a moat which contained standing water up until the mid-1980s, when the channel was filled in and the land drained in preparation for ploughing, which has continued ever since. Finds from the site, all very damaged, appear to indicate a wealthy medieval settlement. The very regrettable loss of the earthworks has therefore been partly mitigated by the recovery of the plough-damaged artefacts, although these do not make up for the loss of stratigraphy on the site.

Medieval brooch from Pitsford, Northamptonshire
(fig 101)
Nicky Berry discovered a remarkable thirteenth-century brooch (NARC–C45437) whilst searching with a metal-detector at Pitsford, Northamptonshire, and reported it to Tom Brindle (Northamptonshire FLO). The brooch is made of gilded silver, and depicts a knight in combat with a lion. The front paws of the rampant lion are placed upon the knight's shield, with which he is defending himself. Irene Szymanski, an independent scholar from York, has suggested that the figures represented may come from the Arthurian romance 'The Knight of the Lion', while James Robinson (Curator, British Museum) has suggested that they may be intended as Hercules and the Nemean Lion. The British Museum hopes to acquire this object.

Medieval cooking vessel from Carnforth, Lancashire
(fig 102)
A complete and unused medieval copper-alloy cooking vessel (LVPL–73F494) was found in a field in Carnforth,

Lancashire and reported to Nick Herepath (Cheshire, Greater Manchester & Merseyside FLO). The vessel, known as a posnet, dates to the fourteenth to sixteenth centuries. It was examined by Roderick Butler (Antique Metalware Society) who concluded that it was probably buried soon after manufacture, without being used. This suggests that it is likely to have been cast locally. We know surprisingly little about the production of copper-alloy cooking vessels of this date. Most of the surviving examples, and the excavations of foundry sites where they were made, come from south-west England, so the Carnforth posnet represents an important addition to our data. The reason it was buried is uncertain, but contemporary documents record that large cooking vessels such as cauldrons, posnets and skillets were valuable possessions. It is possible that it may have been buried for safekeeping during troubled times, the owner, for whatever reason, never returning to dig it up.

Heraldic pendant from Parham, Suffolk
(fig 103)
The number of medieval harness mounts and pendants being reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme in Suffolk continues to increase. Many examples are heraldic, and several unusual examples have been discovered this year. For example, a copper-alloy heraldic shield-shaped harness mount (SF–DDA1C2) was discovered in Parham, Suffolk. It has unusual circular attachment loops at the top and bottom. The front bears impaled arms. On the dexter side is a lion rampant with traces of gilding, on a white enamelled background. On the sinister side are two triple-turreted castles, gilded, on a red enamelled background. A gilded charge on a white field breaks the rules of heraldic tinctures, which is odd; it would have been easy enough to produce a mount with the correct colours. The blazon reads, in heraldic language, *argent a lion rampant or impaling gules two triple-turreted castles or*. These arms are probably intended as the arms of the Kingdoms of Leon (which should be *argent a lion rampant gules*) and Castile (which should be *gules a triple-turreted castle or*). These impaled arms should theoretically represent King Alfonso IX of Leon (reigned 1188–1230) and his wife Queen Berengaria of Castile (reigned 1214–17). If it were indeed contemporary with their marriage, it would be an early instance both of impaled arms and of the use of harness pendants. However, Alfonso and Berengaria were the grandparents of Queen Eleanor of Castile, wife of Edward I (married 1254, died 1290), and so perhaps the mount was made then.

Witch-bottle from Navenby, Lincolnshire
(fig 104)
In Lincolnshire, one of the most unusual finds of the year was a witch-bottle (LIN–49FC12) from Navenby, recorded with Adam Daubney (Lincolnshire FLO). The glass bottle has a wide flat base and a narrow neck, and is broken around the rim. The size and form of the bottle indicates that it was originally an inkwell or, less probably, a small ornamental candle-holder. There is a seam running up the side, indicating that it was made in a mould; taken together, the evidence suggests a date of about 1820 onwards. Inside the bottle were some iron pins, some bent, and two small copper-alloy loops with hooked projections. The objects were all corroded together in a mass with a short leather strap with four holes; the strap may have originally bound the metal objects together inside the bottle. Although called witch-bottles, these bottles were in fact used as antidotes to witchcraft, and were most popular in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The most common form of vessel used for this purpose in the second half of the seventeenth century was the so-called 'bellarmine' or 'bartmann' jug or bottle, with a bearded mask on the shoulders. In the eighteenth century, however, they were replaced by a wider variety of bottles, such as small glass phials and glass wine bottles. These containers were often filled with varying quantities of bent nails or pins, cloth, human hair, fingernail clippings and urine. Once the bottles were prepared they were normally buried under buildings, usually under the threshold or the hearth; other examples have been found under boundary walls and placed in roof spaces. This witch-bottle was found underneath a floor surface of a demolished building. It was believed that the contents of the bottle were an effective counter-measure to witchcraft, protecting the victim by throwing back the evil spell onto the witch who cast it. The new find from Lincolnshire is remarkably late in date.

Diwali lamps from the River Thames, Berkshire
(fig 105)
In December 2003 Janet Kennish discovered 22 lamps stacked up in the mud during a low tide of the Thames in Berkshire. Thinking these lamps may possibly be Roman, she contacted the Museum of Reading for help with identification, but the museum staff felt that they did not look right for any archaeological period. When Kate Sutton (Berkshire & Oxfordshire FLO) took up her post, the Museum passed this enquiry to her. Consultation with Nicole Weller (London FLO) revealed that the Museum of London had also had similar lamps brought in for

identification. Eventually they were identified as Indian lamps, used in festivals such as Diwali or Kartikai. Kate is now working with Nikola Burden (Museum of London) and the local Hindu community to discover more about these lamps and their deposition in rivers.

Coins

Sterling imitation penny found in Staffordshire
A sterling imitation of an Edward I silver penny was found by metal-detectorist Julian Lee at Ilam in Staffordshire. This silver hammered pollard depicts a bare-headed Gui of Dampierre (1279–1305) Count of Flanders and marquis Namur. The obverse inscription reads *'MARCHIO NAMVR C'* and the reverse legend is *'FLA/DRE/GCO/MES'*. Just as English pennies of the Edwardian type (post-1279) circulated in other areas of northwestern Europe, so a number of their continental imitations found their way to this country. The Portable Antiquities Scheme has added significantly to the quantity of known stray finds, with the issues of Gaucher of Chatillon (1318–22), count of Porcien in Hainaut (present-day Belgium) the most prolific with specimens from Suffolk, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire and Cheshire.

Gold Noble of Henry V from St Colomb Major, Cornwall
(fig 106)
About five years ago, a farmer near St Columb Major found a Henry V (1413–22) gold Noble (CORN–114F32) under one of his cabbages (see fig 106)! The find was recorded by Anna Tyacke (Cornwall FLO) in January 2004. Despite being in acidic soil for almost 600 years, the coin has survived remarkably well and the gold has retained most of its original details. The king is shown standing in his ship, crowned and wearing armour and holding a sword in his right hand and a shield quartered with the arms of England and France in his left. This obverse design probably commemorates Edward III's naval victory at Sluys, in Flanders in 1340, but it was used on the noble and other gold coins until the reign of James I.

Medieval Spanish coins from a wreck in Mounts Bay, Cornwall
(figs 107 and 108)
Half a century later, many more gold coins were lost at sea when the vessel, Le Kateryn Van Arunde went down in Mounts Bay in 1478. This boat was probably named after Katherine of Arundel, who died in 1479 and was the wife of Sir John Arundel, Vice Admiral of Cornwall

and a general serving in France at the time. Some of these coins have made their way to the shores of Praa Sands, and the Receiver of Wreck has kindly donated them to the Royal Institution of Cornwall. There are fifteen gold coins, from the Iberian peninsula and minted by a number of authorities and at a range of mints, but this assemblage includes one coin of pope Sixtus IV from the Rome mint. The main mint for Castile was at the time located in the city of Seville: one of the coins minted there is a dobla of Enrique IV, who reigned from 1454 to 1474, depicting his castle (fig 107), and the other is a castellano depicting his successors, Ferdinand and Isabella, who reigned from 1474 to 1497, looking at each other (fig 108). These are the two most common rulers represented in the group, with six coins of Enrique IV and three of Ferdinand and Isabella having been uncovered in the sand. Attempts have been made to uncover the wreck, but its final resting place has yet to be discovered. Undoubtedly more of its contents will wash up on to the beach, and we will rely on the finders, as in this case, to report them to the Receiver of Wreck, and in turn the Portable Antiquities Scheme.

Current research on Medieval Coins
The 'Coin Register' is published annually in the *British Numismatic Journal* and provides a vehicle for the publishing of unusual/remarkable single coin finds made in Britain and Ireland. As such, Portable Antiquities Scheme staff are in a position to make a considerable contribution. To cite one example for which precise comparative figures are available, in the West Midlands' museums there have been a number of numismatists who have contributed to the Coin Register, namely David Symons and Philip Wise. As the Portable Antiquities Scheme became established Angie Bolton (Warwickshire & Worcestershire FLO) was able to bring forward coins from finders who had not previously recorded their finds. Therefore the number of finders who contributed, ultimately, to the Coin Register has increased, with a parallel increase also in the number of coins being included there: 31 coins for the period 1998–2000 compare with 22 from 1994–96. Julian Baker (Finds Adviser, Medieval and Post-Medieval Coins) is systematically collating the records of all coin finds recorded by the Scheme's Finds Liaison Officers. Likewise, Nick Herepath (Cheshire, Greater Manchester & Merseyside FLO) conveyed some information to Martin Allen for his paper 'English Coin Hoards, 1158–1544' published in the *British Numismatic Journal* 72, (2002) and Anna Tyacke (Cornwall FLO) contributed the gold coins from Praa Sands (above).

3

Recording Finds

All finds recorded by the Finds Liaison Officers are entered onto the Scheme's 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 protecting archaeological sites from damage. Therefore, only a restricted version of the database (without finders' details and precise findspot information) is published on the Web.

Finds database

In December 2002 Oxford ArchDigital were commissioned to design and implement a new finds database for the Scheme. This was up and running in April 2003 (for internal use and development trials) before being launched to the public in September 2003. The new system, which has been designed on cutting-edge Open-Source products (Linux and PHP), now allows the Scheme's staff to work from any computer with an internet connection and this data is automatically transferred to the central database: as soon as any find is recorded (and approved by the Scheme's Finds Advisers) it can be made available online.

The use of this new technology has facilitated an expansion in the quantity and quality of data generated by the Finds Liaison Officers. In this reporting period a further 24,000 images and around 20,000 new records have been added to the database (some records can include details of more than one object). Further, the image to find ratio has risen sharply from around 10 per cent (before April 2003) to 95 per cent (by 31 March 2004) allowing more people to make use of the data.

The database uses technology which has many additional benefits. For example it is now possible to produce detailed analysis of how people use the dataset; where they come from, when they access the database, and what objects/records they look at. Among many other features available to the public, visitors are now able to produce detailed distribution maps and group multiple images.

The success of the new database, can be measured in the significant increase in user hits (Table/Chart 5, see pages 80/1) and by the worldwide audience the database now reaches, including people from Bermuda, Chile, Kazakhstan, Mexico and Oman.

1. The exception is Norfolk, where substantial paper records are kept. In the period of this report the Scheme in Norfolk recorded 18,732 objects of which only 1,090 were recorded on the finds database.

Quantity of objects recorded

Objects recorded by recording area

During the period of this report (1 April 2003 to 31 March 2004) a further 47,099 objects have been recorded by the Finds Liaison Officers, in addition to 49,500 in 2001/03 (a year a half), 37,518 in 2000/01, 31,783 in 1999/2000, 20,698 in 1998/99 and 13,729 in 1997/98. Table 6 (see pages 80) sets out the objects recorded in each area covered by the Scheme.

As in previous years, significant numbers of finds have been recorded by the Finds Liaison Officers in Norfolk and Suffolk. Also, in areas where the Scheme has been established for some time, such as Hampshire, Kent, Somerset & Dorset, Wales and Warwickshire the quantity of finds recorded remains high, which demonstrates the success of the Finds Liaison Officers in encouraging finders to report their discoveries. Similarly, it is the case that in some areas where Finds Liaison Officers have only just been appointed, such as in Lincolnshire and Wiltshire, there have also been significant numbers of objects recorded and this is very encouraging for the future. In some of the newest areas covered by the Scheme the numbers of objects recorded are less dramatic, but it is important to remember it takes time for Finds Liaison Officers to make contacts and develop the trust of finders.

Monthly average of objects recorded

The monthly average of objects recorded by the Finds Liaison Officers (Table 7, see page 82) varies from region to region and reflects the archaeological diversity of the country. It is therefore no surprise, for example, that the Finds Liaison Officers in the East record more finds than those in the North West.

Given that many new posts were established in the period of this report it is impossible to draw meaningful conclusions about the numbers of finds recorded as there is little in the way of comparison. However, in most areas previously covered by the Scheme there have been steady rises in the numbers of finds recorded, which have been most impressive in Wales. Interestingly in the North West the recording rate has dramatically increased, particularly in Cumbria and Lancashire and this no doubt thanks to the efforts of the new post-holder there.

Class of objects recorded

As in previous years the Finds Liaison Officers mostly record metal objects (including coins) which represent over 56 per cent of the finds recorded (Table/Chart 8, see pages 82/3). However, it is encouraging to see that over one third of the finds recorded are pottery. This may reflect the fact that the Finds Liaison Officers encourage metal-detectorists, amongst others, to pick up pottery whilst they are searching as all finds add vital clues about the site being searched. In the most part all regions follow this trend, though it is notable that pottery finds seem to be less commonly reported in the North and Wales, whereas they are much more plentiful (in relation to other finds discovered) in the West Midlands. The latter might be explained by the fact that this is the traditional heart of pottery production in post-industrial Britain, and local people might have a particular appreciation of the historical importance of pottery finds. Likewise, in Wales a significant number of worked stone objects are recorded, and this is due to good liaison with local fieldwalkers interested in lithics.

Chronological distribution of objects recorded

Table/Chart 9, (see pages 84/5) outlines the chronological distribution of finds recorded (by region) in the reporting period. As in previous years the quantity of Roman finds is significantly the highest, followed by medieval and post-medieval finds. Generally, the Finds Liaison Officers will not record finds less than 300 years old, unless they are particularly interesting or significant, hence the numbers of post-medieval and modern finds is less than might be expected.

There are notable regional differences. For example in Wales Prehistoric finds are recorded in larger quantities than Roman finds, and again this is probably due to the good liaison that exists between Mark Lodwick (Finds Co-ordinator, Wales) and local fieldwalkers, who search for lithics. Similarly, in the East relatively large numbers of Iron Age objects and coins have been recorded, and this is probably due to the fact the region is heavily cultivated and there is good liaison between archaeologists and metal-detectorists.

Findspot precision

Table 10 (see page 84) shows the precision of findspot recording in the period of this report. Table 11 (see page 86) shows that 73 per cent of findspots are now being recorded to a National Grid Reference of six figures (precise to 100 metres) or greater, and nearly 36 per cent of the total number of findspots are now being recorded to a National Grid Reference of eight figures (precise to 10 metres) or greater. This said it is disappointing to see that for more than 20 per cent of all findspots the finders have been unable to provide a National Grid Reference.

There are regional differences. In some parts of the country findspots are being recorded to a high level of precision. For example in Devon, 85.58 per cent of findspots are being recorded to a National Grid Reference of 8 figures or greater. The story is similar in other areas covered by the Scheme such as Suffolk (68.06 per cent), the Isle of Wight (76.74 per cent) and Wiltshire (82.74 per cent). However, in other areas covered by the Scheme finders seem to be less willing to give precise locational information. For example in North & East Yorkshire, 83.49 per cent of finds are recorded without a National Grid Reference being provided. The story is similar in the North East (71.06 per cent) and Leicestershire & Rutland (72.33 per cent).

Case Study
Frank Basford (Isle of Wight FLO) has access to a Differential Global Positioning System (GPS) device, which belongs to the Isle of Wight Council. The equipment consists of a base station (situated at Frank's office) and a small hand-held unit that is taken out to collect satellite data. Data collected in the field with the hand-held unit can be merged with the base-station data to give more accurate grid references to within an area of 1 square metre (a National Grid Reference of 10 Figures). The Finds Recording Officers of the local metal-detecting clubs have been given instruction on how to use this system for recording the location of their finds.

Finders

In the period of this report (1 April 2003 until 31 March 2004) 2,376 individuals recorded finds with the Scheme's Finds Liaison Officers. Nearly 73 per cent of these were metal-detectorists, who proactively search for archaeological material. However, the Finds Liaison Officers are meeting increased success in recording finds discovered by other finders, through Finds Days and other events (discussed above). Indeed, in some areas,

such as Leicestershire & Rutland and London, more non-detectorists than detectorists are recording their finds (Table 12, see page 86).

Method of discovery

Table/Chart 13 (see page 87) shows that over 64 per cent of finds have been found using a metal-detector, which means that over one third of all finds have been discovered by other means.

The regional trend broadly reflects that seen nationally, but some areas have seen higher than average recording of finds found by other means. For example in London and the South East nearly one third of the finds recorded were discovered whilst fieldwalking. Likewise in the South West a relatively high percentage of finds recorded (3.5 per cent) were found during controlled archaeological excavation. Similarly, in Wales over 28 per cent of finds were other chance finds or found whilst gardening.

Date of discovery

Table/Chart 14 (see page 88) shows that most finds recorded by the Finds Liaison Officers were discovered in recent years. Of the finds recorded in this reporting period over 71 per cent were found since January 2003. The Finds Liaison Officers concentrate their efforts on recording the most recently discovered finds, since these are more likely to have a higher level of findspot precision. This said the Finds Liaison Officers are happy to record all archaeological objects, no matter when they were found. The fact that several hundred finds were actually discovered before the advent of the Scheme demonstrates this.

Landuse

Table/Chart 15 (see page 88) shows that over 91 per cent of finds recorded by the Finds Liaison Officers are found on cultivated land, which reflects the trend of previous years. This means that most finds are being recovered from the ground where they are especially vulnerable to agricultural damage and natural and artificial corrosion processes.

Appendices

Ceinwen Paynton (Education Officer) talks
to children about finds.

1 Postholders in the period of this report

Post	Postholder	Employer & Local Partners	69

Central Unit

Post	Postholder	Employer & Local Partners
Head	Roger Bland *(existing)*	British Museum
Deputy Head	Michael Lewis *(existing)*	MLA
Administrator	Claire Costin *(existing)*	MLA
Education Officer	Ceinwen Paynton *(from Sept 2003)*	MLA
ICT Adviser	Daniel Pett *(from Apr 2003)*	British Museum

Finds Advisers

Post	Postholder	Employer & Local Partners
Prehistoric & Roman Objects	Sally Worrell *(from May 2003)*	Institute of Archaeology
Iron Age & Roman Coins	Ian Leins *(from Dec 2003)*	British Museum
Medieval & Post- medieval Objects	Helen Geake *(from Aug 2003)*	University of Cambridge
Medieval & Post- medieval Coins	Julian Baker *(from Mar 2004)*	Ashmolean Museum; Fitzwilliam Museum.
Metals & Metalworking	Kevin Leahy *(existing)*	North Lincolnshire Museum

Finds Liaison Officers

Post	Postholder	Employer & Local Partners
Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire	Julian Watters *(from Oct 2003)*	Roman Museum of Verulamium; Bedfordshire County Council.
Berkshire & Oxfordshire	Kaye Sutton *(from Dec 2003)*	West Berkshire Museum; Museum of Reading; Museums' Resource Centre, Oxfordshire.
Buckinghamshire	Rod Tyrrell *(from Apr 2003)*	Buckinghamshire County Museum; Milton Keynes Council.
Cambridgeshire	Chris Montague *(from Dec 2003)*	Cambridgeshire County Council; Peterborough Museum.
Cheshire, Greater Manchester & Merseyside	Nick Herepath *(existing)*	Liverpool Museums; Manchester Museum; Cheshire Museums Service.
Cornwall	Anna Tyacke *(from Aug 2003)*	Royal Cornwall Museum; Cornwall County Council; Cornwall Archaeological Unit.

Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire	Rachel Atherton (from Jan 2004)	Derby Museum & Art Gallery; Nottinghamshire County Council; Derbyshire County Council; Brewhouse Yard Museum of Nottingham Life.	
Devon	Nicola Powell *(from Dec 2003)*	Royal Albert Memorial Museum (Exeter City Council); Devon County Council; Torbay Council; Dartmoor National Park Authority; Exmoor National Park Authority; the Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon; the City of Plymouth Museums & Art Gallery.	
Essex	Caroline McDonald *(from Aug 2003)*	Colchester Museum Service; Essex County Council.	
Gloucestershire & Avon	Kurt Adams *(from Jan 2004)*	Bristol City Museum (Bristol City Council); Gloucestershire County Council.	
Hampshire	Sally Worrell *(until Apr 2003)* Jodi McCrohan *(from May 2003)*	Winchester Museums Service; Hampshire County Museums Service; Hampshire County Planning Department; Southampton City Museums; Portsmouth City Museums; Test Valley Borough Council.	
Herefordshire & Shropshire	Peter Reavill *(from Dec 2003)*	Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery (Birmingham City Council); Hereford Museum & Art Gallery – Hereford Heritage Services; Shrewsbury Museum Service; Shropshire County Museum Service; The West Midlands Archaeological Collections Research Unit.	
Isle of Wight	Frank Basford *(from Oct 2003)*	Isle of Wight Archaeological Centre	
Kent	Andrew Richardson (existing)	Kent County Council	
Lancashire & Cumbria	Faye Simpson *(Dec 2003–Oct 2004)*	Lancashire County Museum Service; Tullie House Museum & Art Gallery, Carlisle.	
Leicestershire & Rutland	Wendy Scott *(from Aug 2003)*	Leicestershire County Council; Jewry Wall Museum.	
Lincolnshire	Adam Daubney *(from Apr 2003)*	Lincolnshire County Council; City & County Museum (Lincoln).	

London	Nicole Weller *(July 2003–Apr 2004)*	Museum of London.	71
Norfolk	Katie Hinds *(until Aug 2003)* Adrian Marsden *(existing)* Erica Darch *(from Oct 2003)*	Norfolk Museums Service.	
Northamptonshire	Rhiannon Harte *(until May 2003)* Tom Brindle *(from Sept 2003)*	Northamptonshire County Council; Daventry District Council; Wellingborough District Council; Kettering Borough Council; South Northamptonshire District Council; East Northamptonshire District Council; Northampton Borough Council.	
North East	Philippa Walton *(from Aug 2003)*	Museum of Antiquities, University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Durham County Council.	
Northern Lincolnshire	Kurt Adams *(until Dec 2003)* Caroline Johnson *(May–Dec 2003)* Lisa Staves *(from Mar 2004)*	North Lincolnshire Museum (North Lincolnshire Council).	
Somerset & Dorset	Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevarthen *(existing)* Elaine Howard Jones *(existing)*	Somerset County Museum (Somerset County Council); Dorset County Council.	
Staffordshire & West Midlands	Jane Stewart *(Apr–Sep 2003)* Caroline Johnson *(from Jan 2004)*	Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery; West Midlands Regional Museum Council; Potteries Museum & Art Gallery; The West Midlands Archaeological Collections Research Unit.	
Suffolk	Helen Geake *(until Aug 2003)* Faye Minter *(existing)* Steven Plunkett *(from Oct 2003)* Donna Wreathall *(from Sept 2003)*	Suffolk County Council.	
Surrey	David Williams *(from Aug 2003)*	Surrey County Council; Surrey Archaeological Society.	
Sussex	Liz Wilson *(from Aug 2003)*	Barbican House Museum (Sussex Archaeological Society); East Sussex County Council; West Sussex County Council.	

Warwickshire & Worcestershire	Angie Bolton *(existing)*	Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery; Warwickshire Museum; Worcestershire County Museum, Worcester City Museum Service; The West Midlands Archaeological Collections Research Unit.
Wiltshire	Katie Hinds *(from Aug 2003)*	Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society; Salisbury & South Wiltshire Museum; Swindon Museum & Art Gallery; Wiltshire County Council.
Yorkshire (North & East)	Simon Holmes *(existing)* David Evans *(from Aug 2003)*	Yorkshire Museums Trust; York Archaeological Trust.
Yorkshire (South & West)	Anna Marshall *(from Dec 2003)*	West Yorkshire Archaeology Service Advisory Service; Doncaster Museum & Art Gallery; Wakefield Museums Service; Bradford Museum Service; Kirklees Museum Service; Leeds Museum Service; Calderdale Museums Service; Sheffield Museums Trust; Rotherham Museums Service South Yorkshire Archaeology Service.

Wales

Finds Co-ordinator	Mark Lodwick *(existing)*	Council of Museums in Wales; National Museums & Galleries of Wales; the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales; Cambria Archaeology; Clywd Powys Archaeological Trust; Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust; Gwynedd Archaeological Trust.

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3 Tables/Charts

1 Metal-detecting clubs with which the
   Finds Liaison Officers have regular
   contact (see page 17).

	No. of Clubs	No. of Clubs visited regularly
Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire	5	4
Berkshire & Oxfordshire	9	4
Buckinghamshire	5	5
Cambridgeshire	6	4
Cheshire, Gtr Manchester & Merseyside	11	9
Cornwall	3	3
Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire	14	5
Devon	5	3
Essex	9	4
Gloucestershire & Avon	4	3
Hampshire	9	8
Hereford & Shropshire	1	1
Isle of Wight	2	2
Kent	10	10
Lancashire & Cumbria	6	5
Leicestershire & Rutland	6	3
Lincolnshire	5	3
London	1	1
Norfolk	5	5
Northamptonshire	5	5
North East	9	7
North Lincolnshire	2	2
Somerset & Dorset	8	5
Staffordshire & West Midlands	4	3
Suffolk	3	3
Surrey	6	2
Sussex	7	7
Warwickshire & Worcestershire	2	2
Wiltshire	5	5
Yorkshire (North & East)	4	3
Yorkshire (South & West)	11	6
Wales	8	9
Total	**190**	**141**

2 Number of Treasure cases reported
   1988 to 2003 (see pages 29/30).
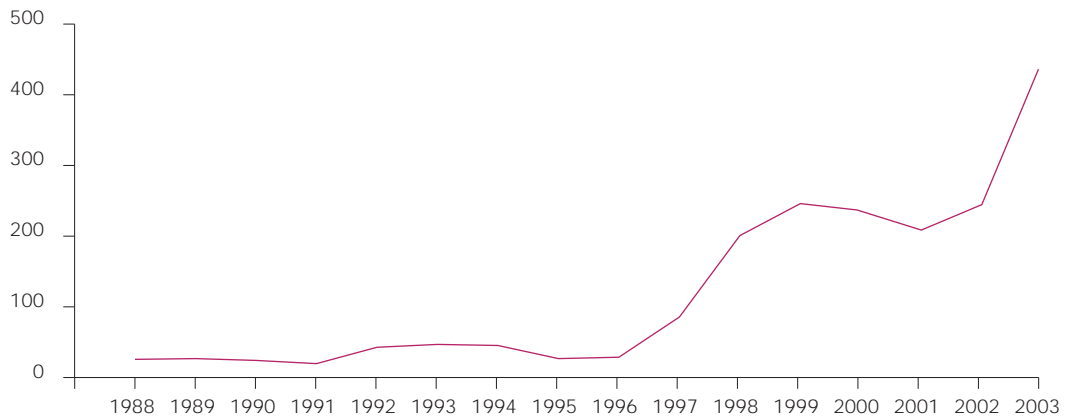
3 Number of Treasure cases reported
  since 1997 (see pages 29/30).

	1997a	1997b	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Total
Bath & N E Somerset	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Bedfordshire	0	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	13
Berkshire	1	0	7	0	0	2	1	0	11
Bristol	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Buckinghamshire & MK	1	0	2	5	2	2	1	10	23
Cambridgeshire & P'boro	0	3	2	2	5	4	3	6	25
Cheshire	0	1	3	1	3	3	5	6	22
Cornwall	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	4
Cumbria	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	0	5
Derbyshire	0	1	3	0	1	1	0	3	9
Devon	0	0	5	4	5	1	3	9	27
Dorset	0	3	5	9	3	6	7	15	48
Durham	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	4
Essex	2	0	8	8	8	8	9	19	62
Gloucestershire	0	2	2	6	3	2	2	3	20
Gloucestershire, South	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	3
Hampshire	0	1	5	10	10	11	10	18	65
Herefordshire	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Hertfordshire	0	1	5	5	5	4	3	3	26
Isle of Wight	0	0	3	0	1	0	3	9	16
Kent	1	1	12	18	18	12	11	35	108
Lancashire	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	3	6
Leicestershire & Rutland	0	1	4	2	2	5	0	6	20
Lincolnshire	2	0	8	9	13	13	16	29	90
Lincolnshire, North	0	2	2	1	1	1	1	5	13
London, Greater	0	1	3	2	1	1	1	5	14
Norfolk	5	8	40	49	43	43	46	58	292
Northamptonshire	0	1	1	3	6	0	1	8	20
Northumberland	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	4
Nottinghamshire	0	3	2	4	4	3	3	6	25
Oxfordshire	1	1	2	1	3	4	5	4	21
Shropshire	0	0	0	5	2	1	3	3	14
Somerset	0	0	3	4	3	4	6	4	24
Somerset, North	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	3
Staffordshire	0	2	3	1	2	2	2	2	14
Suffolk	2	6	18	15	32	23	30	47	173
Surrey	0	0	3	7	1	3	3	8	25
Sussex, East	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	8	14
Sussex, West	1	0	2	1	3	0	2	5	14
Teeside	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Tyne & Wear	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Warwickshire	1	1	4	8	10	9	7	8	48
West Midlands	0	0	2	2	0	0	1	0	5
Wiltshire & Swindon	1	5	9	10	4	7	9	8	53
Worcestershire	0	0	2	3	0	1	0	4	10
York, City of	0	0	2	0	3	1	3	2	11
Yorkshire, East	0	2	3	7	6	10	7	12	47
Yorkshire, North	3	3	9	8	12	5	6	22	68
Yorkshire, South	0	0	0	4	1	5	1	2	13
Yorkshire, West	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	2	5
England total	**22**	**54**	**191**	**223**	**221**	**202**	**226**	**403**	**1,542**
Carmarthenshire	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Denbighshire	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Ceredigion	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Flintshire	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Gwynedd	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Isle of Anglesey	0	2	2	2	1	3	3	0	13
Monmouthshire	0	0	4	1	2	0	1	0	8
Neath, Port Talbot	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Newport	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1
Pembrokeshire	0	0	1	2	2	1	1	0	7
Powys	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	5
Swansea	0	0	0	2	1	0	3	0	6
The Vale of Glamorgan	0	1	0	0	2	3	2	0	8
Wrexham	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Wales total	**0**	**3**	**9**	**12**	**12**	**8**	**13**	**25**	**82**

4 Brooch types in Kent – 5th to early
6th century (see page 56).

- Cruciform
- Small Long
- Button
- Disc
- Saucer
- Small Equal Armed
- Large Equal Armed
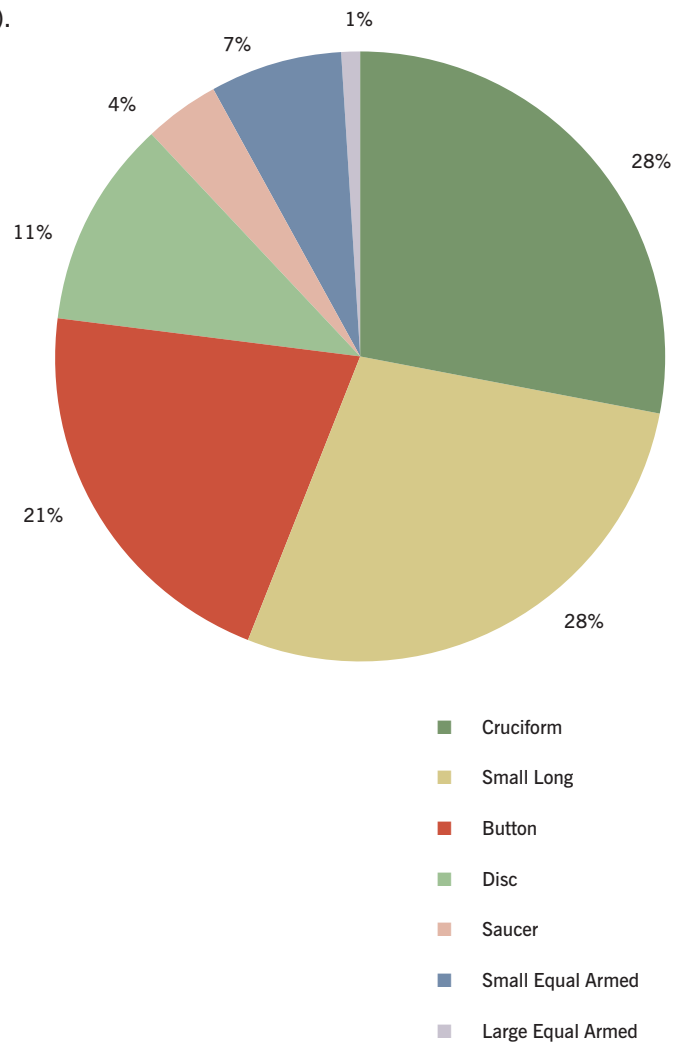
5 User hits on www.finds.org.uk
October 1999 to March 2004
(see page 65).

Also see chart opposite.

	1999–2000	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04
April		42,148	57,592	106,952	268,925
May		35,917	61,245	108,380	202,665
June		34,090	59,787	84,821	268,778
July		42,545	64,916	90,736	244,912
August		68,976	103,358	69,592	234,736
September		51,033	96,274	79,531	754.996
October	29,995	58,344	77,215	124,818	769,796
November	29,248	59,512	76,233	108,058	939,510
December	29,619	57,143	68,594	114,929	740,560
January	35,219	61,498	84,387	178,419	1,096,389
February	29,179	59,351	81,132	137,839	1,145,334
March	37,302	62,089	90,279	127,497	1,141,837
Total	**190,562**	**632,646**	**921,012**	**1,331,572**	**7,808,438**

6 Objects recorded by recording area
(see page 66).

	Months	Objects Recorded in 2003/04	
Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire	6	532	
Berkshire & Oxfordshire	4	32	
Buckinghamshire	12	610	
Cambridgeshire	4	34	
Central Unit	12	820	
Cheshire, Gtr Manchester & Merseyside	12	385	
Cornwall	8	100	
Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire	3	37	
Devon	4	106	
Essex	8	304	
Gloucestershire & Avon	3	26	
Hampshire	11	3,507	
Herefordshire & Shropshire	4	18	
Isle of Wight	6	373	
Kent	12	1,138	
Lancashire & Cumbria	4	454	
Leicestershire & Rutland	8	270	
Lincolnshire	12	1,730	
London, Greater	9	115	
Norfolk	12	18,732	
Northamptonshire	8	902	
North East	8	540	
Northern Lincolnshire	10	990	
Somerset & Dorset	12	1,199	
Staffordshire & West Midlands	9	196	
Suffolk	12	6,591	
Surrey	8	693	
Sussex	8	465	
Wales	12	2,605	
Warwickshire & Worcestershire	12	1,968	
Wiltshire	8	1,061	
Yorkshire (North & East)	12	429	
Yorkshire (South & West)	4	137	
Total		**47,099**	

User hits on www.finds.org.uk October 1999 to
March 2004.

April

May

June

July

August

September

October

November

December

January

February

March

- 1999–2000
- 2000/01
- 2001/02
- 2002/03
- 2003/04

7 Monthly average of objects recorded
in 2001–03 and 2003–04
(see page 66).

	Average 2001–03	Average 2003–04
Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire	n/a	87
Berkshire & Oxfordshire	n/a	8
Buckinghamshire	n/a	51
Cambridgeshire	n/a	9
Central Unit	n/a	68
Cheshire, Gtr Manchester & Merseyside	whole North West = 28	32
Cornwall	n/a	13
Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire	n/a	13
Devon	n/a	27
Essex	n/a	38
Gloucestershire & Avon	n/a	9
Hampshire	275	319
Herefordshire & Shropshire	n/a	5
Isle of Wight	n/a	62
Kent	83	95
Lancashire & Cumbria	whole North West = 28	114
Leicestershire & Rutland	n/a	34
Lincolnshire	n/a	144
London, Greater	n/a	13
Norfolk	1,408	1,561
Northamptonshire	80	113
North East	n/a	68
Northern Lincolnshire	62	99
Somerset & Dorset	116	100
Staffordshire & West Midlands	whole West Midlands = 178	22
Suffolk	301	549
Surrey	n/a	87
Sussex	n/a	58
Wales	57	217
Warwickshire & Worcestershire	whole West Midlands = 178	164
Wiltshire	n/a	133
Yorkshire (North & East)	whole Yorkshire = 166	36
Yorkshire (South & West)	whole Yorkshire = 166	34

8 Objects recorded in the period
of this report (by region) – by class
(see page 66).

Also see chart opposite.

	Finds Liaison Officers	Metal Objects	Coins	Worked Stone	Pottery	Other	Total
North West	2	55.42	26.58	05.61	11.20	01.19	839
North East	1	59.08	29.07	02.41	06.11	03.33	540
Yorkshire & the Humber	4	41.19	49.04	04.50	05.27	00.00	1,556
West Midlands	3	17.42	27.64	03.39	51.10	00.45	2,182
East Midlands	4	36.41	37.29	05.21	20.14	00.95	2,939
East	6	27.38	25.09	09.32	38.13	00.08	25,661
South West	6	35.19	24.44	06.90	32.59	00.88	2,492
London & South East	9	27.80	30.79	03.69	34.50	03.22	8,285
Wales	1	20.23	23.15	46.95	09.36	00.31	2,605
Total	36	13,608	13,044	4,449	15,614	384	47,099
Percentage		28.89	27.69	09.45	33.15	00.82	100

Objects recorded by class.

Legend:
- Metal Object
- Coins
- Worked Stone
- Pottery
- Other
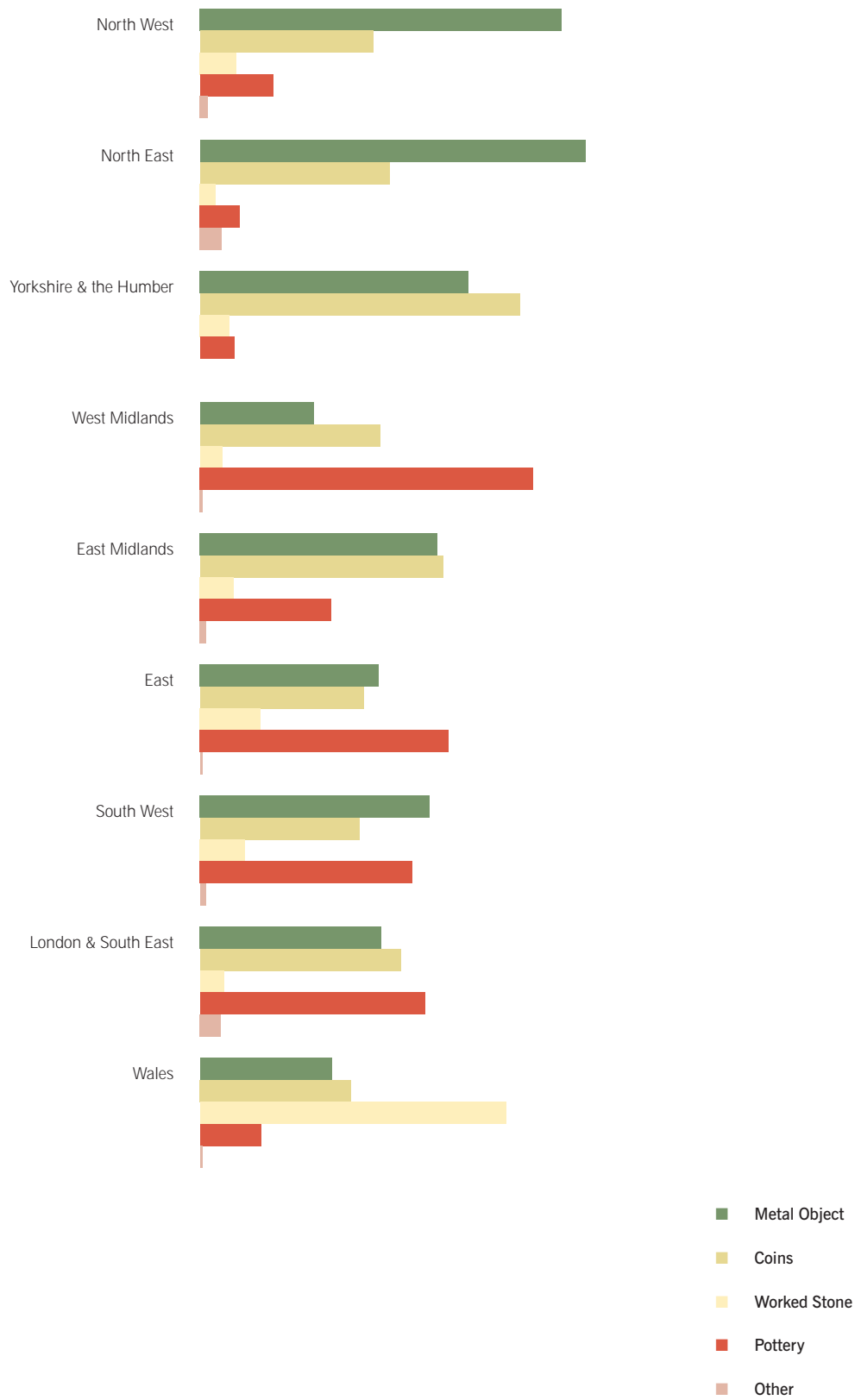
9 Objects recorded in the period of this report (by region) – by chronological quantity (see page 66).

Also see chart opposite.

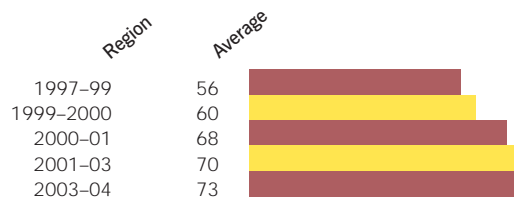|	Stone Age	Bronze Age	Iron Age	Roman	Early Medieval	Medieval	Post Medieval	Modern	Not Recorded	Total
North West	02.74	01.43	00.83	32.90	01.43	26.10	31.95	00.12	02.50	839
North East	01.30	02.04	01.66	45.75	08.15	29.81	09.81	00.00	01.48	540
Yorkshire & the Humber	04.24	00.64	01.74	55.72	08.42	23.01	04.95	00.00	01.28	1,556
West Midlands	03.36	02.25	00.60	63.43	01.01	20.58	07.20	00.01	01.56	2,182
East Midlands	04.83	01.16	02.31	57.30	06.91	18.95	07.69	00.07	00.78	2,939
East	09.67	00.65	04.58	37.93	06.86	26.62	12.41	00.01	01.27	25,661
South West	06.66	03.21	01.12	39.41	00.88	22.23	25.01	00.00	01.48	2,492
London & South East	01.80	01.01	02.55	46.59	04.18	19.25	22.29	00.39	01.94	8,285
Wales	47.18	01.80	00.65	26.72	00.77	13.09	08.83	00.08	00.88	2,605
Total	4,337	496	1,554	19,730	2,561	11,064	6,665	40	652	47,099
Percentage	09.21	01.05	03.30	41.89	05.44	23.49	14.15	00.09	01.38	100

10 Findspot precision in the report of this report – by percentage (see page 67).

	Findspots	No NGR	4 Fig	6 Fig	8 Fig	10 Fig	12 Fig
Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire	241	05.81	03.32	12.03	78.42	00.42	00.00
Berkshire & Oxfordshire	18	44.44	05.56	38.89	11.11	00.00	00.00
Buckinghamshire	413	26.39	05.09	53.99	07.51	06.78	00.24
Cambridgeshire	31	32.26	00.00	61.29	06.45	00.00	00.00
Central Unit	406	11.58	04.19	74.14	10.09	00.00	00.00
Cheshire, Gtr Manchester & Merseyside	386	27.20	13.21	56.22	03.37	00.00	00.00
Cornwall	100	00.00	00.00	19.00	79.00	02.00	00.00
Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire	32	25.00	03.12	28.13	43.75	00.00	00.00
Devon	104	02.88	00.96	10.58	85.58	00.00	00.00
Essex	257	35.41	06.61	55.64	02.34	00.00	00.00
Gloucestershire & Avon	26	26.92	00.00	69.23	00.00	03.85	00.00
Hampshire	1,050	19.05	07.52	63.62	09.81	00.00	00.00
Hereford & Shropshire	18	05.56	16.67	11.11	66.66	00.00	00.00
Isle of Wight	215	02.33	02.33	18.60	30.69	46.05	00.00
Kent	1,099	15.83	07.10	40.77	35.03	01.27	00.00
Lancashire & Cumbria	259	39.38	02.32	55.60	01.54	01.16	00.00
Leicestershire & Rutland	253	72.33	00.39	23.72	02.77	00.79	00.00
Lincolnshire	1,324	11.25	03.47	47.36	37.84	00.08	00.00
London	112	49.11	00.00	39.29	10.71	00.00	00.89
Norfolk	848	14.27	42.69	02.24	39.15	01.65	00.00
Northamptonshire	592	01.52	01.52	73.82	08.11	15.03	00.00
North East	463	71.06	07.99	14.47	06.48	00.00	00.00
Northern Lincolnshire	649	32.51	02.47	49.77	15.25	00.00	00.00
Somerset & Dorset	622	29.26	19.78	33.28	17.68	00.00	00.00
Staffordshire & West Midlands	179	54.75	07.82	37.43	00.00	00.00	00.00
Suffolk	3,866	01.60	00.39	29.95	67.85	00.18	00.03
Surrey	598	01.67	16.89	54.35	27.09	00.00	00.00
Sussex	261	26.82	06.90	55.17	06.90	04.21	00.00
Wales	1,573	40.31	02.23	34.58	16.02	06.80	00.06
Warwickshire & Worcestershire	918	23.86	01.52	44.88	08.39	21.35	00.00
Wiltshire	724	12.15	00.00	05.11	77.49	05.25	00.00
Yorkshire (North & East)	424	83.49	00.71	15.33	00.00	00.47	00.00
Yorkshire (South & West)	86	55.81	25.58	12.79	05.82	00.00	00.00
Total	18,161	3,718	1,104	6,845	5,875	615	4
Percentages	100	20.47	06.08	37.69	32.35	03.39	00.02

Objects recorded by period.

Legend:
- Stone Age
- Bronze Age
- Iron Age
- Roman
- Early Medieval
- Medieval
- Post Medieval
- Modern
- Not Recorded

Regions (top to bottom):
- North West
- North East
- Yorkshire & the Humber
- West Midlands
- East Midlands
- East
- South West
- London & South East
- Wales
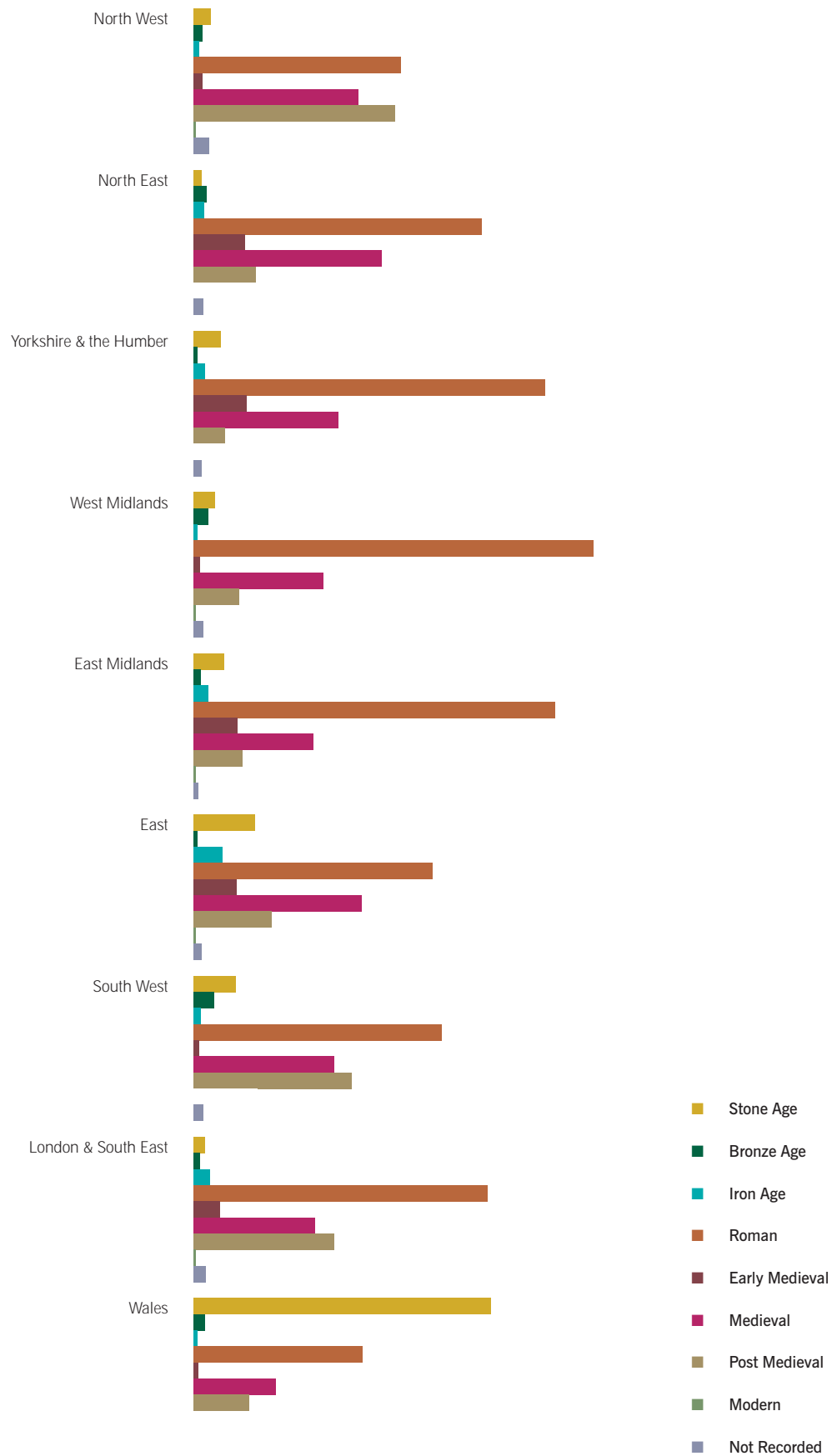
11 Change in findspot accuracy since
   1997 – proportion of findspots with
   at least a six-figure National Grid
   Reference by region (see page 67).

Region	Average
1997–99	56
1999–2000	60
2000–01	68
2001–03	70
2003–04	73

12 Number of individuals recording
   finds in the period of this report
   (see page 67).

	Metal-detectorists	Others	Total
Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire	112	50	162
Berkshire & Oxfordshire	27	24	51
Buckinghamshire	153	10	163
Cambridgeshire	13	0	13
Cheshire, Gtr Manchester & Merseyside	53	2	55
Cornwall	14	4	18
Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire	8	3	11
Devon	15	8	23
Essex	63	12	75
Gloucestershire & Avon	3	2	5
Hampshire	45	5	50
Hereford & Shropshire	4	0	4
Isle of Wight	43	12	55
Kent	100	20	120
Lancashire & Cumbria	75	20	95
Leicestershire & Rutland	21	62	83
Lincolnshire	32	20	52
London	19	41	60
Norfolk	165	50	215
Northamptonshire	29	15	44
North East	50	40	90
North Lincolnshire	73	1	74
Somerset & Dorset	28	20	48
Staffordshire & West Midlands	27	2	29
Suffolk	115	10	125
Surrey	47	6	53
Sussex	100	100	200
Warwickshire & Worcestershire	43	11	54
Wiltshire	60	25	85
Yorkshire (North & East)	68	48	116
Yorkshire (South & West)	35	15	50
Wales	86	12	98
Total	**1,726**	**650**	**2,376**

13 Method of discovery (where recorded)
    in the period of this report, by area
    (see page 67).

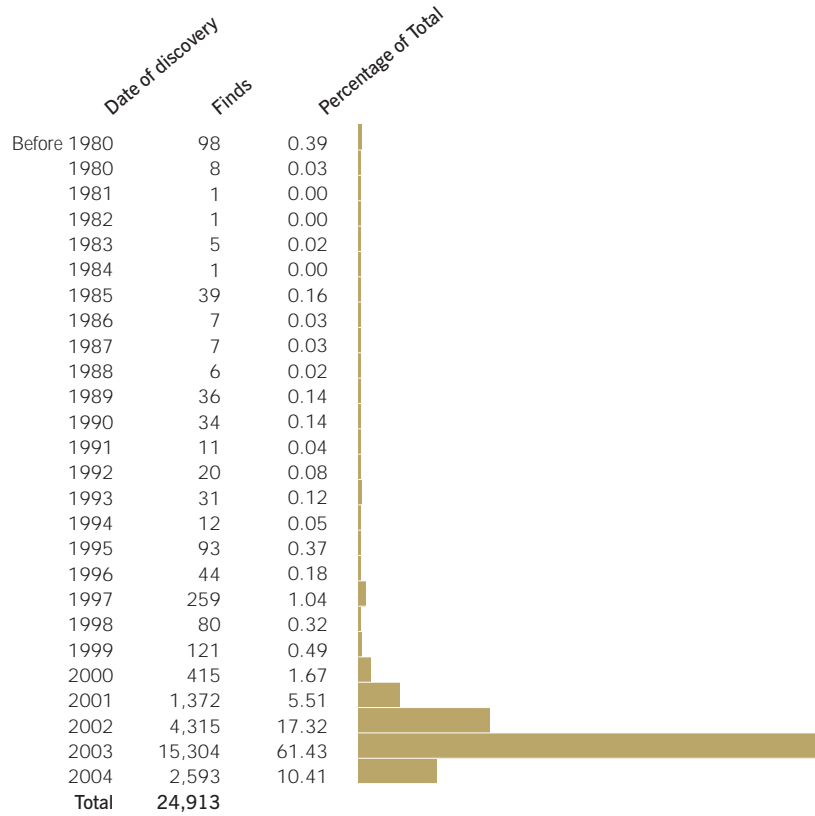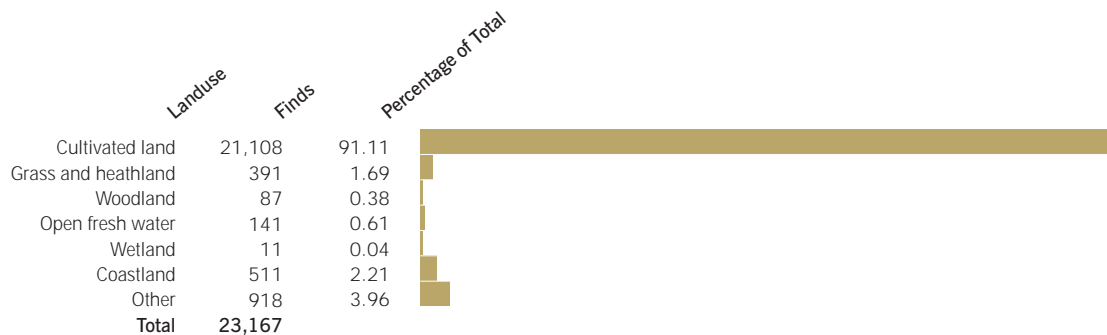|	Metal-detecting	Chance find during Metal-detecting	Field-walking	Other chance find/Gardening	Controlled Archaeological Investigation	Building/Agricultural Work	Total	
North West	669	21	106	18	0	4	818	87
North East	451	37	1	24	4	0	517	
Yorkshire & the Humber	1,345	101	36	8	0	0	1,490	
West Midlands	935	247	888	3	11	1	2,085	
East Midlands	2,076	572	25	132	1	32	2,838	
East	5,412	410	1,776	129	17	11	7,755	
South West	1,394	606	80	177	80	5	2,342	
London & South East	4,605	286	2,585	313	88	26	7,903	
Wales	1,091	296	39	577	0	2	2,005	
Total	**17,978**	**2,576**	**5,536**	**1,381**	**201**	**81**	**27,753**	
Percentage	64.78	09.28	19.95	04.98	00.72	00.29	100.00	

- Metal-detecting
- Chance find during Metal-detecting
- Field-walking
- Other chance find/Gardening
- Controlled Archaeological Investigation
- Building/Agricultural Work

North West

North East

Yorkshire & the Humber

West Midlands

East Midlands

East

South West

London & South East

Wales

14 Date of discovery of objects recorded
in the period of this report – where
the date of discovery is known
(see page 67).

Date of discovery	Finds	Percentage of Total
Before 1980	98	0.39
1980	8	0.03
1981	1	0.00
1982	1	0.00
1983	5	0.02
1984	1	0.00
1985	39	0.16
1986	7	0.03
1987	7	0.03
1988	6	0.02
1989	36	0.14
1990	34	0.14
1991	11	0.04
1992	20	0.08
1993	31	0.12
1994	12	0.05
1995	93	0.37
1996	44	0.18
1997	259	1.04
1998	80	0.32
1999	121	0.49
2000	415	1.67
2001	1,372	5.51
2002	4,315	17.32
2003	15,304	61.43
2004	2,593	10.41
Total	24,913	

15 Landuse of findspots in the period
of this report – where landuse was
determined (see page 67).

Landuse	Finds	Percentage of Total
Cultivated land	21,108	91.11
Grass and heathland	391	1.69
Woodland	87	0.38
Open fresh water	141	0.61
Wetland	11	0.04
Coastland	511	2.21
Other	918	3.96
Total	23,167	

Back cover:
Ian Leins (Finds Adviser, Iron Age
& Roman Coins) talks to Simon
Thomas (Blue Peter presenter)
about a Roman coin hoard.

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