

# Digging deep

**NCMD**  
NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR METAL DETECTING



All the latest news from the National Council for Metal Detecting

ISSUE 21

## NEWS

# European Council For Metal Detecting begins to take shape...

On 17 April 2016, a conference took place in Birmingham aimed at establishing the formation of a European Council for Metal Detecting (ECMD). Thirty participants from Bulgaria, France, Poland, Republic of Ireland, Spain and Jersey and the UK were in attendance.

The concept of an ECMD was the brainchild of Trevor Austin who had worked tirelessly since 2012 to try and establish a common European organisation to represent the interests of detectorists across many parts of Europe - work which was tragically cut short by his tragic death in February 2016 - and to address the challenge of regulating the laws applicable to the cultural heritage of EU countries.

The conference was organised entirely by a sub-committee of the NCMD comprising: Alastair Hackett (the then NCMD Chairman), Byron Tosh, Steve Critchley and John Rigby (Membership Secretary). The NCMD's role in the conference was confirmed at the outset as purely advisory in order to provide 'arms

length' assistance to delegates in establishing an ECMD which is expected to be based broadly on the NCMD model but which will function quite independently of the NCMD.

The conference was chaired by Alastair Hackett, assisted by the aforementioned members and by Sue Austin whose presence was particularly warmly welcomed by all attendees.

Presentations from each delegation served to bring out a common theme regarding the various laws in relation to metal detecting which ranged from being unfriendly or unsympathetic to very difficult, and (in the case of Bulgaria) criminal.

In Bulgaria, possession and use of a metal detector requires registration with the Culture Ministry and the lack of such registration is a criminal offence. Iliya Iliev, Chairman BNFMD, explained through their interpreter Tanya Dimitrova that legislation is difficult, and the very fact of ownership of a detector can, in some cases, be



cited as breaking the law although generally speaking, ownership is not considered to be a criminal offence.

By contrast, detecting in France is permitted subject to the restrictions detailed in Appendix L542 to their Code du Patrimoine. Sébastien Joly and Sébastien Potet of FNUDEM jointly gave an illustrated talk which highlighted the current situation and the problems that can still arise.

Francisco Gomez from Spain explained that there are restrictions in Valencia, Andalucia and Castilla, and laws are different in each region. In some areas, detecting bans are in place. A permit is required from the local administration but is invariably denied. There is therefore a general

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sense of fear and confusion in Spain. With the creation of the Spanish Federation for Sports Detecting and the work of DM magazine, there is thankfully an increasing recognition of metal detecting but there is a long way to go to achieve any meaningful change.

Igor Murawski described Polish law regarding metal detecting as being very restrictive or more precisely, prohibitive, as an authorisation permit is required which can be very difficult to obtain. Nevertheless, it is possible to search for artefacts or militaria. Most Poles are interested in militaria from both World wars but officials cannot yet make up their minds about how best to treat such a massive popular interest. However, provided that searching is done in a responsible manner, it is generally possible to avoid open

conflict with law enforcers.

In the Republic of Ireland, the unauthorised use of metal detectors to look for archaeological objects is against the law. Liam Nolan explained that metal detecting however is not illegal provided that you are not intentionally looking for items of historical significance.

Jersey was represented by Reg Mead who, in 2012, with Richard Miles was joint finder of the largest hoard of Iron Age coins ever discovered in Western Europe. Reg described how Jersey and the other Channel Islands are currently seeking to establish their own Treasure laws but until then, as the islands are Crown Dependencies, the current UK Treasure Act 1996 applies.

Delegates were then given detailed presentations by two guest speakers: Dr Michael Lewis,

Head of the PAS, and Vincent O'Brien, Operations Manager/Sales & Business Development Manager Europe for Minelab. Both presentations attracted a considerable number of questions from delegates.

There was detailed discussion regarding how best to address the key issues in setting up the ECMD, e.g., the drafting of an ECMD Constitution, aims, strategies and objectives, and election of a Chairman. Igor Murawski of the Polish delegation volunteered to undertake this role, a gesture which was approved unanimously. An interim administrative procedure was also agreed which will enable all interested parties to communicate with each other with the intention of finalising all outstanding details.

The conference ended on a very

positive note with delegates satisfied that significant progress had been made, and we can only hope that the enthusiasm and determination of our European colleagues will bear fruit in the coming months.

The embryonic ECMD faces many difficult problems ahead however, particularly in its desire to influence officials and politicians who have the capacity to make changes to the law, e.g., in Bulgaria where detecting continues to be seen as an illegal activity.

The NCMD is indebted to Minelab and **The Searcher** for their generous sponsorship of this event which enabled the conference to take place in high quality surroundings with excellent accommodation and catering facilities.



The French delegation



The Bulgarian delegation



F. Gomez, I. Murawski, Liam Nolan



T. Dimitrova, A. Hackett, I. Iliev



NCMD delegates



S. Potet, S. Joly



Venue foyer



V. O'Brien (Minelab) M. Lewis (PAS)



Venue



Reg Mead (Jersey) addressing delegates



Liam Nolan, Byron Tosh, A. Hackett



Bulgaria meets Spain



M. Lewis and two Bulgarian delegates



Michael Lewis, PAS



Vincent O'Brien, Minelab



Reg Mead

# Metal Detecting Show and Conference

## Tony Carter

Tony Carter held his second metal detecting finds display and conference on Sunday 15 May 2016 at Quendon Village Hall near Saffron Walden Essex.

Many displays of items were available to view including Richard Simmons with pieces of crashed aircraft and Gordon Bailey concentrating on iron foot patterns, horse shoes, and keys whilst a memorable display of examples of detecting machines from the 70's to modern including a mine detector were also on show.

The morning was taken up with displays and competitions for the best display of artefacts and coins. The judges were advised to 'get looking'.

Whilst the judges did their viewing, noon was the time for the giant bucket lift, a metal pail full of lead musket balls to be lifted as high as possible. Many people held back from the challenge, but judge Gary Oddie stepped forward and raised the bucket above his head to be followed by 'Big Jim Patmore' who was unable to beat Gary's effort!

After that challenge it was time for the judge's decisions. The artefacts display was won by John Barker, the judges for this event being Carolyn Wingfield, Curator and Archaeologists Barri Hooper. Judge Gary Oddie selected two coin displays which were a collection of Roman denarii and 17th C traders tokens put together by Bob Spall.

Another competition, less serious was 'how many keys in the heap' this was won by Jacky Cooper who guessed 1,800 there were in fact 1,840. The competitions were followed by a presentation of finds using a projector run by Paul Sutton.

After lunch the Conference host Tony Carter opened proceedings with a tirade about how Neil MacGregor had not thanked detectorists in the 2014 PAS forward published in Treasure Hunting. Tony had written expressing his displeasure at this omission, Michael Lewis now head of PAS replied but Tony was still not impressed, finding the wording of the letter unacceptable. Tony introduced

Justin Deeks of the FID who gave his views. Some of the audience members contributed, but with no representatives from the PAS or any archaeology organisations to engage in the discussions Tony closed the conference at 5.30pm.

Summary of the day: 86 members had attended from Cambridgeshire, Essex, Kent and Hertfordshire. The afternoon projector show was brilliant though the conference was poorly attended and achieved nothing of substance due to the lack of representatives from the PAS or any archaeological organisations.

Conclusion: Metal detecting is in good shape but I fear the relationship with PAS and archaeology is fragile.

## DIARY DATES

NCMD OGM 13 November 2016

PAAG meeting 11 July 2016

## GET IN TOUCH

For membership enquiries contact the Membership Secretary:

**John Rigby**

6 Arkholme Avenue, Blackpool, Lancs, FY1 6QJ

Tel: 01253 692313 [jjrigby@sky.com](mailto:jjrigby@sky.com)

**For all other enquiries please email [NCMD@Glemsford.net](mailto:NCMD@Glemsford.net)**

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# The NCMD Robin & Karolyn Memorial Trophy Competition – 2015



## Individual members and Central Register Clubs – Time to cast your votes!

**Hilary Fagen, Competition Manager**

This amazing competition has got off to a great start again this year. In the last Digging Deep we decided to involve Individual members and Central Register clubs by printing an entry form in the last edition, inviting their entries.

I received entries in all three categories: Artefact, Coin and Hoard.

As all hoards automatically go through to the final judging, here below are the entries in the Artefacts and Coin categories and if you are an Individual Member or on the Central Register you can vote to decide which one makes it to the final judging!

### Artefact Category

Finder: John Honour.

Find name: A Roman mount of the Roman wine god Bacchus.

1



### Artefact Category

Finder: Mark Duckworth.

Find Name: A copper-alloy late Viking annular buckle brooch one of a set of two worn by women, dating from 1000 AD from the Finno-Ugrian areas of Russia complete with pin and decorated triangular terminals.

2



### Artefact Category

Finder: Stephen Whitehead.

Find name: A complete 13th century post-medieval gold ring used in knightly culture. (Love Token.)

Inscribed with gothic script inside and out. The bezel is set with dark blue glass.

3



## YOU MUST UPDATE YOUR DETAILS

To be an NCMD member you have to have an NCMD card that also gives you insurance. Incorrect addresses, where you haven't let us know, will make your card and your insurance invalid. Additionally you will not receive your copy of *Digging Deep* either.

Please let your club/region know any change of address or contact the Membership Secretary as soon as possible.

**NCMD Membership Secretary:**

**John Rigby – 01253 692313 or jrigby@sky.com**

## TREVOR AUSTIN

### An Appreciation: addendum

In *Digging Deep* no. 20, we omitted to mention that John Wells, Midlands Region was also involved with Trevor Austin, Bob Whalley and John Fargher in negotiations for reform of the common of Treasure Trove and the introduction of the Treasure Act Code of Practice.

*The newsletter manager takes all reasonable steps to ensure the accuracy of statements and their content and welcomes any corrections and clarifications.*

## Changing address? Don't forget to tell us...

A significant number of copies of *Digging Deep* are returned to the NCMD by Royal Mail marked 'Gone Away' or 'Not known here'. Please make sure that the details we have for you are correct.

If you are changing address, please make sure that your Regional representative is notified or contact the Membership Secretary: John Rigby, 6 Arkholme Ave, Blackpool, Lancs FY1 6QJ or telephone: 01253 692313.

### Artefact Category

Finder: Lee Skidmore

Find name: A silver strap-end with a zoomorphic dog on it.



### Artefact Category

Find name: Cloisonne Anglo-Saxon brooch. 900 - 1100

Finder's name: Bill Brunning.



### Artefact Category

Finders name: Patrick Good

Find title: Early Anglo-Saxon saucer brooch, 5/6th century.

This cast copper-alloy brooch has a motif of three repeating stylised birds in an anti-clockwise procession, probably ducks.



### Artefact Category

Finder: Paul Hildred

Find name: A early decorated Bronze Age flat axe with some surviving herringbone pattern and several other markings.



### Artefact Category

Finder: Trevor Wright.

Find name: A rare high-status Iron-Age Celtic dagger hilt. A continental import cast in a copper-alloy. The decoration is suggestive of ram's horns, with a short length of blade and iron handle still in situ. Circa 300 BC to 100 BC.



### Coin Category

Finder: Andrew Murrell

Coenwulf silver coin

Coin Description: Coin of Coenwulf of Mercia. (796-821) by the East Anglian moneyer Wihtrud from the same die as the only other recorded coin of this type.



### Coin Category

Finder: John Hinchcliffe

Coin name: Anglo-Saxon silver penny

Issued from 805-810 by Wulfred, Archbishop of Canterbury.



### Coin Category:

Finders name: Steven Lord.

Find name: Quarter gold Edward III noble

Description: A quarter noble of Edward III (1327-1377), transitional treaty period 1361 to 1363.



## Voting Form for individual members and Central Register clubs ONLY

Please fill in your choices below and either email to:

Hilary Fagen at [alex182sa@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:alex182sa@blueyonder.co.uk)

or call Hilary Fagen on 01253 312176 for a postal address.

The deadline for votes is 31 August 2016.



Name: ..... NCMD Central Register Club No: .....

NCMD Individual Member No: .....

#### Best Artefact

1. Name & Number of Find .....

2. Name & Number of Find .....

3. Name & Number of Find .....

#### Best Coin

1. Name & Number of Find .....

2. Name & Number of Find .....

3. Name & Number of Find .....

# Seminar Report: Contaminated Green Waste

Date: 24 June 2016

Host: Doctor James Gerrard, School of History Classics and Archaeology.

Location: Newcastle University, Newcastle Upon Tyne

**Contaminated Green Waste (CGW).** These words instil anger, frustration and total revulsion in detectorists who have had the misfortune to find it in their endeavour to pursue their unique hobby in our green and pleasant land. Not so green and not so pleasant I hear you say...

As detectorists, you will not have received much praise for raising awareness to CGW and we are possibly the first members of the public to do so.

Our country is being insidiously turned into a colossal rubbish tip by our elected leaders because of European legislation in which very few of us have had any say - out of sight and out of mind of the ordinary man and woman.

Millions of tons of it is being ploughed in to the soil as supervised by our Environment Agency via local governments and their authorised waste processing contractors, arguably qualifying them to be labelled as common or garden fly-tippers or super-tippers!

This can only serve to devalue the legacy of life in our once pristine countryside for our children and for future generations.

The Seminar on Green Waste held in Newcastle highlighted

issues regarding the discovery of contamination in a far greater volume than currently condoned by the Environment Agency and the costs of dealing with it.

Doctor James Gerrard and colleague Martin Cooke, Archaeological and Geophysical professionals invited a representative group of Archaeologist/ Geophysical stakeholders together with a representative of the NCMD to take an active part in the meeting to discuss what could be done to combat the introduction of ferrous waste into the soil.

This one category of waste is seriously affecting the use of electronic geophysical measuring equipment as used by private, academic and government surveyors contracted to evaluate and map out sites proposed for development as well as for the archaeological prospection of historic sites and pre-groundwork searches of building and civil engineering projects throughout the UK.

The seminar comprehensive programme included presentations by professional Commercial Geophysicist /Archaeologist Orlando Castige from the South West of England who in his

presentation illustrated how the spreading of ferrous CGW had completely masked an ancient site and had eradicated the use of conventional geophysical measuring equipment.

Another example of how it had seriously affected equipment and complicated his work was given by professional Geophysicist Duncan Hale, currently working in a commercial field unit. Having worked with Countryfile in their television programme on GW, Duncan illustrated how ferrous waste had obliterated an already previously scanned historic site and prevented any further detection of hidden archaeological features buried beneath the surface.

The cost to project budgets of ruined surveys are immense, and other methods of geophysical evaluation and new methods of technological prospecting no longer based on magnetism will have to be used. The reversion to evaluation trenches, for example to locate hidden archaeology, is not always regarded as an economically acceptable option. Geophysics is generally the primary method used to evaluate buried archaeological features and a precursor to defining the next

stages of the evaluation process of a development site.

Dr Gerrard and his colleagues are currently introducing an App that can be downloaded onto a smart phone, iPad or laptop whereby members of the public, particularly the detecting fraternity, can upload information of previously found CGW without giving accurate location detail but listing where roughly the site is, what is found, quantity, whether on ploughed, pasture or heathland, and photographs may be included and uploaded too.

This App should be available soon and can be used for data capture in the future finding of this waste. All of this information will be used to build a data map of contaminated areas and where alternative methods of prospection must be used by Archaeo/Geophysical Surveyors.

**Byron Tosh**

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## Contaminated Green Waste

James Gerrard (Archaeology) and Martin Cooke (Civil Engineering and Geosciences), Newcastle University

The metal detecting community has for some time been working hard to raise awareness of the impact of contaminated green waste on the environment. Back in Issue 9 of *Digging Deep* John Wells wrote an important article on this very subject.

Over recent years archaeologists (and in particular archaeological geophysicists) have become increasingly aware of the negative impact that contaminated green waste is having on their work too. Some of you may have caught the

episode of Countryfile broadcast last year that highlighted the impact of this issue on James's archaeological work as well as the detecting community.

The recycling industry would like us to believe that contaminated green waste is a small-scale issue caused by rogue operators. The evidence from detectorists and archaeologists is suggesting that the scale of the problem is much bigger than this. However, our evidence is largely anecdotal: a field here, a field there.

At a recent event held to discuss the impact of contaminated green waste on the Historic Environment (at which the NCMD was represented by Byron Tosh) we demonstrated a simple App developed by our team at Newcastle University. This App, called '**NCL Green Waste**', will soon be available to download for Android and iOS. It will enable detectorists and others to anonymously and easily record land that has been treated with contaminated green waste.

We hope that many of the readers of *Digging Deep* will use the App to record fields that have been treated with contaminated green waste. This will allow us to build up a body of evidence that will demonstrate the scale of the problem to the powers that be.

We hope to write a longer piece about the NCL Green Waste Project and the App for the NCMD newsletter *Digging Deep* in the near future.

# Lack of storage space threatens Britain's historical heritage

A rather alarming article appeared in *The Telegraph* on 25 June suggesting that Britain risks losing a large part of its historical heritage as archaeologists are forced to dump their finds simply because of a lack of storage space.

Many coins and artefacts are reported as being abandoned or lost simply because there is nowhere to store them properly because of cuts in museum funding. The problem is understood to affect amateur archaeology groups such as the Nottinghamshire based Bingham Heritage Trail Association (BHTA) which has been forced to return finds to the owners of the land from where they were first excavated, running the risk that they will be lost forever when people move home or simply become fed up with storing the material. It is also

reported that many items are being dumped in skips.

Where museums do agree to store the archaeological finds dug up by local groups, the article states that they will usually charge anything from £20 to £600 per box for them to be stored in their archives.

Peter Allen, the chairman of BHTA, said:

*"This is a nationwide problem. Increasing numbers of museums are not accepting this kind of material due to a lack of storage space, suitably qualified staff or both."*

*"Groups have had to throw their finds away because they could not store them. In other cases the collections have been thrown away by the new owner of a property where they were being kept."*

Professor Carenza Lewis, of the University of Lincoln, said:

*"Material is being lost all the time. In many cases it has been thrown away because the people who gathered and collated the objects have moved on or died and their children or executors come across what they might regard as a load of junk and throw it out. The problem is getting worse because county councils have lost funding and museums have shut down or don't have the staff to curate and look after archaeological finds."*

There is no doubt that more people are taking part in community archaeology projects thanks to Heritage Lottery Funding (HLF) and a general interest in local history popularised by programmes such as Time Team, and it is frustrating

to hear that parts of our heritage and history are literally being thrown away.

Professor Lewis has urged community archaeology groups to designate a number of named individuals responsible for knowing where any found material is stored and liaising with the county council to ensure that an accurate record is kept of its whereabouts for future research but whether this is a viable solution to the problem remains a matter for debate.

The full text of which can be found at:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/06/25/britain-may-lose-historical-heritage-as-archaeologists-admit-the/>

**Alastair Hackett**

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# What do you do when you find ... A HOARD?

We thought that reprinting this article written by Trevor Austin (first published in *Digging Deep* No. 16) would not only serve to refresh member's memories but help advise all the new members that have since joined the NCMD.

Following on in the 'What do you do if you find ...' series I thought I would look at what to do when you find a hoard?

Sounds an easy enough question to answer, however there can be more to the question than first appears. What type of hoard is it.....is it a scattered hoard, is it buried in a pot, is it coins or collection of coins and artefacts? Is it in fact a hoard at all or just an assemblage of coins accumulated in one area over time such as on a medieval fair site?

Does it have to be reported, does it constitute treasure, if so, do you remove it from the ground if it is in a pot? These are just some of the questions that are not always obvious to the beginner which I will clarify without getting too technical.

- Before we go any further we will assume that everyone is aware of the current laws pertaining to treasure:

*The following finds are Treasure under the Act, if found after 24 September 1997 (or, in the case of category 2, if found after 1 January 2003):*

1. Any metallic object, other than a coin, provided that at least 10 per cent by weight of metal is precious metal (that is, gold or silver) and that it is at least 300 years old when found. If the object is of prehistoric date it will be Treasure provided any part of it is precious metal.
2. Any group of two or more metallic objects of any composition of prehistoric date\* that come from the same find (\*see note 3 below)
3. Two or more coins from the same find provided they are at least 300 years old when found and contain 10% gold or silver (if the coins contain less than 10 per cent of gold or silver there must be at least ten of them). Only the following groups of coins will normally be regarded as coming from the same find:

- Hoards that have been deliberately hidden.

- Smaller groups of coins, such as the contents of purses, that may be dropped or lost.

- Votive or ritual deposits.

4. Any object, whatever it is made of, that is found in the same place as, or had previously been together with, another object that is Treasure.
5. Any object that would previously have been treasure trove, but does not fall within the specific categories given above. Only objects that are less than 300 years old, that are made substantially of gold or silver, that have been deliberately hidden with the intention of recovery and whose owners or heirs are unknown will come into this category.

- Note:

1. An object or coin is part of the 'same find' as another object or coin if it is found in the same place as, or had previously been together with, the other object. Finds may have become scattered since they were originally deposited in the ground.
2. Single coins will not be treasure, unless they are found in association with objects that are treasure, or unless there is exceptionally strong evidence that they were buried with the intention of recovery. Section 3 (2) of the Act defines the term 'coin' as including any metal token that was, or can reasonably be assumed to have been, used or intended for use as or instead of money. This definition only includes coins and tokens made after the introduction of the first coinage into this country during the Iron Age period and excludes objects made earlier such as iron currency bars. Jettons or reckoning counters are also excluded from this definition.
3. "of prehistoric date" means dating from the Iron Age or any earlier period.

So in this scenario, you are having a nice days detecting when you





suddenly come across a couple of silver coins in close proximity, the coins are obviously Roman and therefore from roughly the same period, no more coins turn up and therefore good reason to believe that the coins were lost together and under the Treasure Act would indeed constitute treasure and should be reported at the earliest convenience to your local Coroner/ Finds Liaison Officer; quite simple and straightforward.

However let us go one step further and assume that other coins similar to the two you have just found start turning up in large numbers scattered in an area of about 50 square yards/metres. Again the coins are similar in appearance and all look to be made of silver, as with the other two in all probability they were deposited together a constitute a scattered hoard and there is a good chance they are treasure.

If there are no signs of any container and the coins are in the plough soil it is advisable to collect up the coins recording their findspots with a GPS if one is available. It should be remembered that if you are in any doubt about their age then assume they are older than 300 years old and may constitute treasure. Once you have reported the coins the Finds Liaison Officer (FLO) may wish to visit the site to examine the context of the find and the findspot.

We have looked at this as it is the easiest type of hoard to deal with, a scattered hoard on the surface. But what if you detect signs of further coins buried deep below the plough soil and in all probability in a pot. This confronts the detectorists with a new set of problems. If it is possible the best option is to locate the findspot

with a GPS and re-cover the pot until it can be excavated by more experienced persons. This will ensure that any existing context is not destroyed by careless removal of the pot and coins.

However, there may be occasions whereby it is impractical to cover over the pot and await expert help, which could take several days. There could be numerous reasons for this, you may be on a rally with lots of prying eyes, you may be on a building site which is due to be bulldozed that day or the landowner may be insisting it is removed immediately.

If the find must be excavated at once then great care should be taken to try to remove the container in its entirety, with as much of the surrounding soil as possible. The find should then be taken to the nearest Coroner/FLO. **Do not be tempted to empty the pot or container;** there may well be organic material inside that needs careful removal under controlled conditions and the sequence in which the coins were deposited inside the container can often provide as much information as the coins themselves.

Of course hoards do not necessarily need to be comprised of coins, take the Staffordshire hoard for example, the largest hoard of Anglo Saxon gold ever recovered. The finder however merely discovered a number of artefacts, some of which were visible on the surface, and from the number of similar artefacts that he discovered below the surface it soon became obvious that there were more to be found at a greater depth; in this case the finder acted correctly and telephoned the local FLO who arranged for the hoard to be expertly excavated by a



© PAS

team of specialists in Anglo Saxon metalwork.

What is important to remember about the Staffordshire Hoard is that the finder recognised the need for expert help in the removal of the items from the ground; and unquestionably any such large assemblage of potential treasure should be treated in the same way, whenever possible.

There may of course be occasions whereby a number of coins, more than two, from the same period which may appear to be a scattered hoard, but are not a hoard at all. Market sites, Roman occupation sites etc. turn up coins in large numbers, but because they were not deposited at the same time or lost at the same time, do not constitute a hoard as defined in the Treasure Act.

How do you tell? Well generally this will come with experience, but if you were to walk onto a field you have never detected before and you suddenly started to find Roman bronze coins for instance, the first thing to do would be to locate the findspot using a GPS, then working around the area where the coins were found see how many more you can find, look at the type of coins, are they from the same period, are there a mixture of types of coins e.g. silver and bronze, are there also artefacts, brooches and other small Roman military fittings etc., if the answer is yes, then the chances are you have come across a Roman settlement or some kind of military installation and the coins etc. are probably losses over a long period of time and would



Never be tempted to empty the contents of a container without expert help. © PAS

not be treasure, unless of course there were any artefacts over 300 years old which contained more than 10% precious metal, this would make those items treasure in their own right.

However, on the other hand if after searching the rest of the field and the answer is no, or only a few more are found, the likelihood is that you have discovered a small hoard, either scattered, or a small purse loss and as such should be recovered and reported to the coroner/FLO as soon as possible.

So basically once you have established the nature of your find; is it a hoard or not, scattered or a buried assemblage in a container. You have to decide whether to excavate the find yourself or report the find for expert excavation. Either way, **the important thing to remember is to preserve any contextual material and do nothing that will damage what could be a potentially important site which may result in the abatement of any reward.**

Trevor Austin



A Hoard as large as the Frome Hoard obviously needs expert excavation. © PAS

# Western Region update

We are pleased to announce that we have had a revival after a few years in the doldrums. A few years ago we sadly lost Bob Whalley, who had been a stalwart of the NCMD, and of the Western Region. Then two other representatives of the clubs had to stand down, so we had lost three real strong detectorists who had held the committee together, and then nobody else came forward to help. So all in all the Region slowed to

a crawl, and by the time the last Regional Rally took place in 2010 only about 40 detectorists turned up. Even though we had provided a great site, hammered, Roman and Saxon, had been found previously. The fields were huge, some rolled flat and seemed to go on forever, but there was just a lack of interest in the Region.

But we are back with a vengeance, with two new committee members; Lorraine and Andy Stanley as

Treasurers, from the Ischem Relic Society. Dave Philpott's had been doing this job on top of doing the NCMD accounts for many years and deserved a well-earned rest, although he is still a Regional committee member. Keith Arnold is still going to do an excellent secretary's job and myself as chairman. We also have a new delegate to the committee Dave Rees also like me from the Trowbridge Club.

I said at the last meeting in June "We were going to awake the sleeping princes", and I meant it; so this is also to the clubs that are in our area that don't belong to the region why not think about joining us and have your voice at the National Council meetings. We shall be getting in touch with all of the non-member clubs later by e-mail, asking them to consider joining us, but I am taking this opportunity in this issue of *Digging Deep*.

This Region covers a large area roughly from Bristol, up to Gloucester, Wiltshire and most of Hampshire. By going to the NCMD website and clicking on the Region/Club tab you can see the map and



Three old members, Duncan, Steve, and Abigail at the Region Rally

from there contacts of clubs and the Region itself.

So as I said we are just getting reorganised, and if anybody has any suggestions or ideas that can benefit the Region, please get in touch. We hope to hold a rally at the end of the year, if we can find some central land, and maybe some sort of social event/display. What would you like to see done? Maybe you would like to represent your club at the Regional level?

Also as a matter of interest does anybody know the whereabouts of our bronze statue of a horse which used to be awarded to a club at the Regional Rally. It has been misplaced since before 2007/8. If you know or have any information at all please get in touch.

**Dave Crisp** (Chairman).  
067DRC@AOL.COM



Two detectorists hard at work, at the last rally.

One large field and one lone detectorist, what a waste



# Update: Assessment of the Extent and Character of Hobbyist Metal Detecting in Scotland

In issue 20 of *Digging Deep*, I gave details of the above project which is aimed at gathering quantifiable data on the extent and character of hobbyist metal detecting in Scotland.

The project unfortunately fell well behind its original timescale but I am pleased to say that the project has now reached its conclusion and the final report will shortly be made available. At the time of writing however it has yet to be published but I can give a brief summary of the main recommendations as follows:

- **Provision of Continual Professional Development events to provide opportunities for heritage professionals (such as archaeologists) to attain skills in metal detecting surveys and in active engagement with metal detectorists.**
- **Encourage more active engagement by heritage professionals with metal detectorists and vice versa.**
- **Promote the use of proforma methodologies for survey and recording as the most responsible practice for metal detecting digs.**
- **Promote official reporting to the Treasure Trove Unit, or a network of TTU approved heritage professionals on discovery of reportable finds.**
- **Promote responsible detecting on any and all sites of archaeological potential.**
- **Arrange for hands-on participatory workshops for heritage professionals and metal detectorists at neutral venues/ sites.**

- **Promote the production of Discovery and Excavation Scotland entries by metal detectorists for significant finds.**

It is acknowledged from this project that there are a number of areas that would benefit from further research on the subject of hobbyist metal detecting, and the report contains a number of proposals aimed at enhancing the relationship between heritage professionals and detectorists.

This can be achieved through workshop and training events arranged, in discussion with detectorist individuals and group representatives, and provided by the heritage profession. Both heritage professionals and detectorists stand to benefit from this exercise, through meaningful engagement aimed at instilling

mutual respect and understanding.

The greatest potential benefit from all of this will be the setting of new standards of responsibility in hobbyist metal detecting, which will lead to a greater understanding of the archaeological record and reassertion of the need for its stewardship by all for all.

**Alastair Hackett**

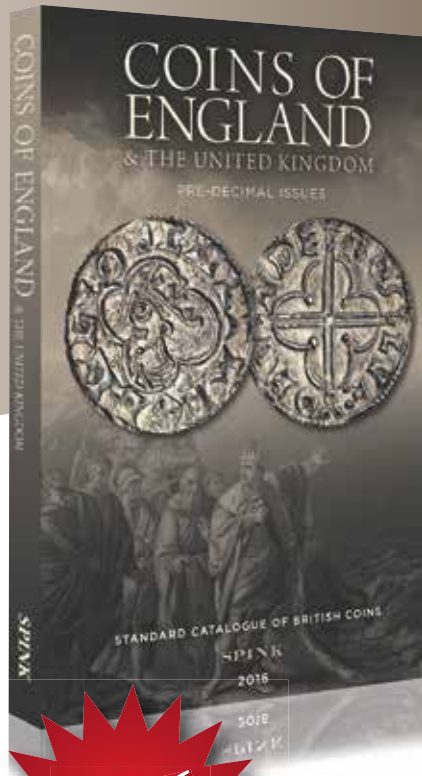
## SCRAN – Free if you join the NCMD

Scottish Region NCMD has managed to negotiate with SCRAN for special rates again for the Region, which we have passed on to all Scottish Region members for FREE. If you had to buy an individual membership for SCRAN it would cost you £15. Join the Scottish Region and it's FREE.

What is SCRAN? SCRAN is an online learning service of the charity Historic Environment Scotland. It contains over 490,000 images and media from museums, galleries, and archives. It aims to advance public education by enabling access to Scotland's culture, heritage and related material. Scran was also listed as one of the top ten NGfL sites in the BECTa/Guardian Awards, one of the Top Ten Online Museums in the world by The Guardian newspaper, Scottish Museum of the Year award for multimedia, British Archaeological Society / Channel 4 award for multimedia.

As a detectorist this is a great research database on Scotland, with lots of images and information and maps.

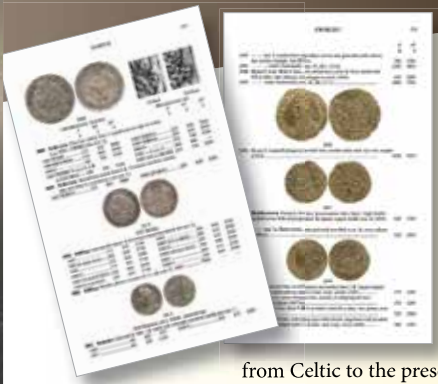
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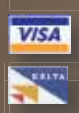
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## NCMD

### DATA PROTECTION PRIVACY POLICY

#### DATA PROTECTION PRINCIPLES

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

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

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

#### PURPOSE

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

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

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- The storage and security of personal data;
- The use of personal data;
- The disposal / destruction of personal data.

The NCMD also has a responsibility to ensure that data subjects have appropriate access - upon written request - to details regarding personal information relating to them.

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- Phone number
- Mobile phone number
- Email address
- Membership number
- Club and or Region

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- 2) The information we hold may be used by the committee members for the purpose of NCMD duties.
- 3) Your personal data will, on occasion, be made available to third parties who perform services (e.g. solicitors, auditors, its insurers Hiscox Insurance Company Ltd etc) or communicate on behalf of The NCMD to its members via newsletters or other printed matter (e.g. Warners Plc etc).
- 4) Any such disclosures will be subject to written contracts, confidentiality requirements and/or security arrangements where necessary in order to protect your personal data.

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The NCMD may disclose Personal Data if required to do so by law or in the good-faith and belief that such action is necessary to:

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- 2). protect and defend the rights or property of the NCMD

#### JURISDICTION AND CHOICE OF LAW

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NCMD 2009

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